

THE CLARK EAGLE

CLARK, N.J., VOL. 15 NO. 10

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TWO SECTION

Clark native killed while on patrol in Iraq

A. E. Gualtieri
Staff Writer

"If he didn't have a smile when he walked into class, he was smiling by the time he left it," said one of his favorite teachers, Kurt Epps.

"He was a bright face and a lot of fun," said his former wrestling coach, Robert Taylor, now principal of Arthur L. Johnson High School.

"He thought we were doing the right thing and he wanted to serve his country," said his former boss, Cranford Fire Chief Leonard Dolan.

Stephen Benish is, in some ways, like so many everyday heroes who have now become statistics on the evening news: many people that are or were part of his life will now realize how much he meant to them.

The missive from the Department of

Defense is stark, simple, and clear. "Pfc. Stephen C. Benish, 20, of Clark, N.J., died Nov. 28 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq," it says in black and white. Which, as usual, does not begin to tell the story of Stephen C. Benish. He lived in full color.

Taylor first met Benish while he was a middle school student wrestler. Taylor remembers him as a bright kid, full of life. Benish continued wrestling during his high school career, Taylor said, and was interested in electrical engineering, an interest he explored through the vo-tech program.

"It's so hard to deal with the reality of something like this happening," Taylor said.

Benish received enemy fire while on a dismounted patrol in Ar Ramadi, which is about 75 miles west of Baghdad along the Euphrates River.

Ar Ramadi is the capital of the Al Anbar province, considered the southwest point of Iraq's Sunni Triangle, and has been a focal point of resistance to the U.S. occupation of Iraq. On April 6, at least 12 U.S. Marines were killed by guerilla forces in an apparent effort to relieve the ongoing siege of nearby Fallujah, further south along the Euphrates.

Benish was an Explorer with the post at the Cranford Fire Department. As soon as he turned 18, he joined their call department,

according to Dolan. After he enlisted in March 2003, Benish let his company know that although he missed them, he thought he was doing something right. His resignation letter said that he had a strong desire to serve his country during these troubling times, Dolan said.

He also sent regular letters to his friends in the Fire Department during boot camp and while he was stationed in Korea. Dolan said he found Korea "boring" and that he was excited to be deployed to Iraq.

"Never once, in any of his letters, did he express fear or concern. I don't think he was afraid for a second," said Dolan.

Benish was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, Korea.

Benish was once assigned to Epps' class-

room, where he presented an oral report dressed in his fireman's uniform. He, like many of Epps' former students, had a standing invitation to visit after he graduated in 2002, and he last stopped by earlier this year. Epps kidded him about being rough and tough now, to which he laughed shyly.

"I told him to be careful over there, and I gave him a hug before he left," said Epps. "That was the last time I saw him."

Epps described him as a great kid, an honest kid who was an average student, but a joy to have in class.

To really know Stephen Benish, ask those who knew and cared about him. Their stories paint a much brighter picture of a man who loved both his country and those he left behind.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Walter J. Johnson Funeral Home in Clark.

Festival kicks off holiday season

A. E. Gualtieri
Staff Writer

One small resident's holiday dream came true Sunday afternoon when Santa came to town, thanks to the efforts of Advocates for a Better Clark and Mayor Sal Bonaccorso.

"One boy requested snow," said Santa, also known as Clark resident Steve Kulbaba.

And snow it did - at least, at the front doors of Brewer Municipal

Building, where there was a snow machine hidden that made at least one child's day.

There was music in the air as well, courtesy of carolers and a band, who filled the afternoon with holiday tunes as children entered town hall to whisper their secrets to Santa.

Apart from the snow, Kulbaba said, there were no other unusual requests: girls in the 5 to 9 age group wanted the Nellie doll from the popular American

Girl collection, and boys of the same age were angling for the Playstation PSP handheld. There were a few bike and snowboard requests as well from the 700 children Kulbaba sat on his lap throughout the day at both the Breakfast with Santa and the Winter Festival.

Kulbaba is used to the job. He's been playing Santa for a long time, complete with his own handmade and specially fitted suit, which he said he's

changed and updated over the years. While a few younger children were scared, Kulbaba said, he invited their parents to sit with them so that way a photograph could be taken.

Children also had their pictures taken as elves, poking their faces through the cutouts. Some of those same faces also took advantage of the face painting project, or decorated antlers with their initials.

The other major project of the day were the Christmas trees set up inside Brewer. Different groups and organizations each decorated a tree, with the Boy, Girl and Cub Scouts, the ALJ Key Club, and groups from St. Agnes, Featherbed Lane School, Osceola Presbyterian, Zion Lutheran Church, Valley Road School and Hehnlly School all participating.

"I heard from people that they were happy that there was an event to bring the community together," said Jill Curran of Advocates of a Better Clark, which sponsored the event along with the mayor's office.

Bonaccorso said that he saw many faces he recognized. "It was overwhelmingly, I'd say 90 percent, Clark residents," he said. Having the event at Brewer instead of on Madison Hill Road, he added, attracted more township residents.

"I walked out of there totally, totally elated," Bonaccorso said. "They did nothing short of an outstanding job. There was an air of class and elegance."

Part of that elegance was attributable to the horse and carriage rides, as close as could be to actually having a one-horse open sleigh of the song.

"It was like the handsome cabs in



Photos By Reena Rose Sibayan

Clark residents were treated to a hayride on wagons pulled by a pair of Belgian Draft horses from Greyhorse Carriage Co. Inc. at Sunday's winter festival.

New York," said Curran.

There was also a wagon ride, a Toys for Tots collection run by the Boy Scouts, food, and a hat and mitten tree run by ABC. All the events and projects were free, with help from some generous community members.

"We had a lot of support for the businesses in town, who donated money and food," said Curran. "The

only thing sold at the event were souvenir ornaments," the profits of which went to a good cause, the Clark Education Foundation.

The great response has already got Bonaccorso thinking about doing it again. "Next year will be even better!" he said Tuesday.

"It was Clark at its best."

Township will take over Cellar Avenue

A. E. Gualtieri
Staff Writer

Clark will soon have one more street to plow, pave and keep in repair, as Cellar Avenue ceases to be private and becomes the township's responsibility.

Straddling the border of Scotch Plains and Clark off Lake Avenue, Cellar Avenue is home to residential complexes. While the Scotch Plains half is already owned by that municipality, the part across the border has been private.

Under a new ordinance passed by the Township Council on Nov. 18, Clark will start the process to acquire the street under eminent domain.

"We have been thinking about this for a number of years," said 1st Ward Councilman Frank Mazzarella, whose ward encompasses Cellar Avenue. "It makes sense that the township own the road."

The road has been private since it was built in 1961, though the township took over a portion of Cellar Avenue at its intersection with Lake Avenue, which is a county road, in 1989. Since then, the developer and Union County have butted heads over the use of that intersection, with the county denying the developer the ability to enter and exit Cellar Avenue from Lake Avenue.

According to Council President Al Barr, the county requested the township's action. The current owner has been contacted but has not responded, he added.

As a result, the township will go

forward with its plan to acquire the street under eminent domain. The township must now formally condemn the property, then the street will be assessed for its fair market value and the owners paid for the property.

If the township can reach the owner, another option is that the street could be signed over to the township, which Mayor Sal Bonaccorso sees as a better process, as it will save the township on legal fees and the owner on the cost of maintaining the road, particularly the cost of having it plowed.

"We have reached out, but he hasn't reached back," Bonaccorso said.

Even if the township proceeds with the condemnation and purchase under eminent domain, township officials say it won't be an expensive project either in terms of outright cost or in maintenance.

"We don't expect it to be any large amount of money," said Bonaccorso. "It's in excellent shape. It's not like we'd have to go in and do any road construction there."

After the township acquires the property, it will also acquire the responsibilities of maintaining the road as it does all municipal streets. Leaf and snow removal, the filling of potholes, and the maintenance of storm drains on Cellar Avenue will become the responsibility of the township.

The Clark Tax Assessor's office lists Cellar Avenue as being owned by Ricien Associates. A representative could not be reached by press time Tuesday.

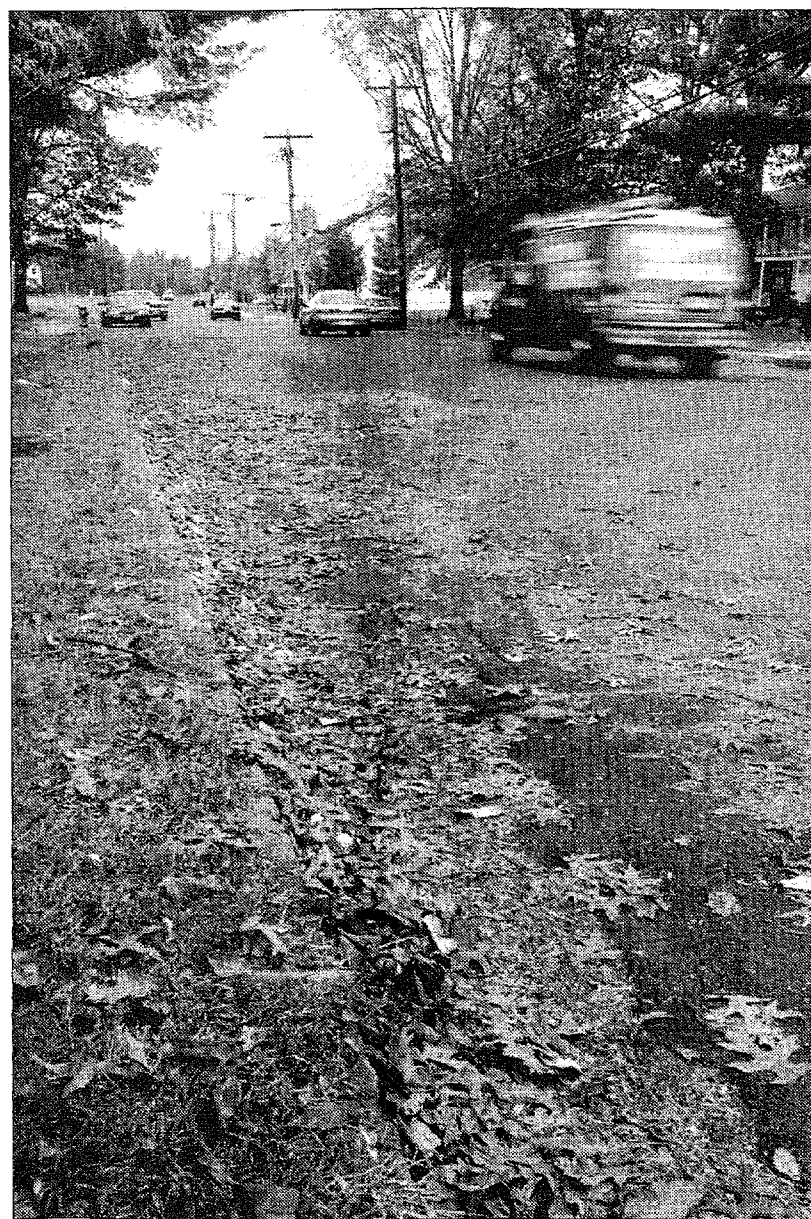


Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

Cellar Avenue, off Lake Avenue near the Scotch Plains border, eventually will become the responsibility of the township. The street currently is privately owned.

Contracts become a bone of contention

A. E. Gualtieri
Staff Writer

"Are any of you happy with average?" asked Clark resident Craig Allen at last week's Board of Education meeting. "You cannot achieve greatness if you aim for average. Why then do we have a school board holding on to below average?"

Allen, the parent of a child attending Hehnlly School, was one of four public comments about the ongoing teachers' contract negotiations made at the meeting, prompting a spirited response from board member Michael Timoni.

"This is very much a two-way street. Give us a break and let us get back to the table," he said. "Don't come here and make us look bad on television."

Timoni also faulted the teachers for failing to attend the fall play at Arthur L. Johnson High School though they passed out what he termed "propaganda" to parents and friends attending the show.

Timoni's statement came after a call for a motion to adjourn by board President James Rooney. There was some confusion over the end of the meeting as a result of the call for a motion, as board members usually comment before the meeting is adjourned.

Some audience members had risen to leave after hearing the call for the motion, mistakenly thinking the meeting was over. Timoni chastised them for doing so in his statement.

When one started to argue from her seat in the audience that the meeting had been adjourned and that the teachers were being unfairly attacked, she was told that her comments could not be heard as the portion of the meeting designated for public comments was closed.

The public comments had all been about the stalled contract negotiations. "Clark is the only district in Union County whose contract is still not settled for this year," Sheryl Johnson, president of the Clark Education Association, told the board. "The fact that I am here again tonight makes me wonder whether any of my comments have done any good."

Carl Young, a Clark resident and a teacher at Valley Road School, said, "Staff morale in the district has suffered as a result of protracted negotiations."

In addition to the parent and teacher concerns expressed by Allen, Johnson, and Young, the board also heard from a group of five students. Amanda Mazzolenis, Shumita Basu,

See TEACHER, Page 2

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

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Teacher contracts still unsettled

(Continued from Page 1)
Sabrina Hayes, Fred Walck and Matt Calo, who are all involved with Kumpf Middle School's KTV, told the board how their daily program was being affected by the contract negotiations.
The KTV crew, the students claimed, had previously been allowed to work before and after school to complete their assignments for the 40-minute KTV workshop class and its program.
"To lose more than 2½ hours every day, 15 days a week, you can imagine how our grades have dropped severely," said Hayes. "All that the KTV participants ask is to be supervised in the morning and for a short period after three o'clock."
On Monday, Timoni said he was comfortable with the comments he made at the meeting. "Over the past 11 months, the bargaining unit has made it seem like it's the board" that has stood in the way of resolving the contract, he said. "The meetings have been congenial, friendly — you go out of the meeting, and things fall apart."
Timoni was not the only one frustrated after Tuesday's

meeting. Board member Karen Amalfi, chairwoman of the negotiating committee, said that both sides are anxious.
"One or two items seem to keep us apart. It seems so close, but not close enough," she said, citing the current repair project, the payments to Garwood and Mountainside, and new state-mandated budget caps as three major financial issues that affect the negotiations.
"We all want to settle now," said board member Jessica Kinsella. "We all want the same thing — happy staff and a good learning environment for our students."
This week, to mark their sixth month working under an expired contract, teachers have started working to contract, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Their current actions include holding "Settle Now!" signs outside school in the mornings and during neighborhood walks past board members' homes, and handing out fliers.
Despite the frustration on both sides, Timoni is still optimistic about a settlement.
"It's my prediction that there will be an agreement this week," he said.

Polish University Club will meet on Dec. 15

The Polish University Club's presentations vary monthly and touch on a variety of subjects. Last month's speaker, Dr. Mark Skrzypczak, spoke to the group on a variety of medical subjects, followed by a question-and-answer session with the meeting attendees.
Next month's meeting, scheduled for Dec. 15, will be a Wigilia celebration with all the accompanying traditions and foods.
The club welcomes guests and potential new members. If you are of Polish ethnicity and proud of your heritage and background, have a degree from an accredited university, and are willing to pay a \$25 yearly dues fee, you are invited to inquire about membership in the Polish University Club.
The group was founded in 1925 by a group of Polish-American college graduates. Its mission is to promote

cooperation and good will among its members and to propagate American and Polish ideals in order to foster patriotic sentiments.
The main purpose of our organization is to provide deserving students of Polish ancestry with scholarship opportunities to the college or university of their choice. All the efforts are focused on accomplishing this task. To date, more than \$368,000 in scholarship money has been awarded to 3,040 students.
Club officers are Wes Warchol, president; Wojciech Andrzej Welenc, first vice president; Audrey J. Lewandowski-Foley, second vice president, and James Barwick, treasurer.
For more information, call Walter Pietrocha at 732-477-6413.

SENIOR NEWS

AARP meets second second Friday of month

Clark AARP Chapter 3733 will meet at 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month at the Brewer Senior Center, 400 Westfield Ave.

The annual Christmas party will be Friday at a cost of \$20 for members and guests. There are a limited number of reservations left.

Paul Hadsall Sr. of Community Affairs requests each member to bring in a contribution of a non-perishable food at the November meeting for distribution at Thanksgiving.

Dan Flynn is collecting teddy bears, puzzles, games and toys for the homeless children. He also collects knitted infants hats, baby bath supplies, etc for the Visiting Nurse Service.

Joe and Jean Olterzewski will be collect soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, new socks, sweatpants, books etc., for holiday packages for the veterans' hospitals and nursing homes.

Ongoing activities include the volunteer programs at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights, under the leadership of Marian Connally. There is a need for knitted lap robes, shrugs, and hats.

The following trips have been scheduled:

- Dec. 7 — Three Little Bakers "2004 Christmas" \$72.
- June 14-18 — Cape Cod, Mass. \$369 double, triple, quad occupancy; \$453 single occupancy.

For more information on trips, call Ann Miskovich, AARP trip coordina-

tor, at 732-388-4033.

Ongoing projects include knitting lap robes and shrugs, collection of pennies for expenses; magazines, jigsaw puzzles, etc. for the Veteran Hospital; VNA Layette items for needy infants and collection of small gifts for bingo prizes at the Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County, located in Berkeley Heights.

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.

Senior classes offered

The Clark Department of Senior Citizens meets at 1 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the cafeteria of the Brewer Municipal Building.

The senior dinner-dance party is planned Dec. 16 at The Westwood, 438 North Ave., Garwood.

Line dancing is offered Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon in the gym with instructor Phyllis McGarry through December.

Union County College LIFE Class will be offered Mondays through December from 1 to 3 p.m. in the cafeteria with instructor Anthony Troncone teaching HIS 091-131 Contemporary American Issues.

Exercise sessions will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. through December in the cafeteria or gym with instructor Mary Jane Yurick.

Arts and crafts will be offered

Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon in the cafeteria with instructor Catherine LaBruno.

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

Senior bus service

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

Call the same number if it becomes necessary to cancel a reservation. The schedule is subject to change.

• Mondays: morning, ShopRite; afternoon, Rahway library, until Clark is open. No food shopping.

• Tuesdays: first Tuesday, morning, Pathmark/National Wholesale Liquidators in Linden; afternoon, Watchung/Blue Star; second Tuesday, Garwood Pathmark and Garwood mini-mall; third Tuesday, Garwood Pathmark/mini-mall/Home Depot. fourth and fifth Tuesdays, Pathmark/National Wholesale Liquidators in Linden; fifth Tuesday, Pathmark/National Wholesale Liquidators in Linden, and afternoon, Blue Star Shopping Center, Watchung.

• Wednesdays, morning and afternoon: first Wednesday, Woodbridge Mall; second Wednesday, Menlo Park Mall; third Wednesday, Woodbridge Mall; fourth Wednesday, Woodbridge Mall; if a fifth Wednesday, Menlo Park Mall.

• Thursdays: morning, ShopRite; afternoon, Aviation Plaza.

• Fridays: morning, A&P, Linden Plaza; afternoon, Target, Clark stores, no food shopping.

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.

Friday

- The Arthur L. Johnson High School football bonfire, postponed by rain last week, will be at 6 p.m. to celebrate the successful fall season, including the state championship girls' soccer team, and kick off the upcoming winter season.
- The Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, will present an opening reception from 8 to 10 p.m. for the works of Ilona and Andre Bugla. The public is welcome, admission is free and refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Aleksandra K. Nowak, gallery director, at 732-382-7197.

Saturday

- The Parents' Guild of Mother Seton Regional High School on Valley Road will sponsor a craft fair from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shoppers and browsers are invited to join in the Christmas festivities. Admission is free.

Sunday

- The Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care will sponsor a fur sale and holiday bazaar from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gran Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Road.

Admission is free. Payment can be made by cash, check or major credit cards. All proceeds help to provide terminally ill patients with natural, humane care known as hospice and their families or loved ones with physical, emotional and spiritual support during their time of need.

For more information, call the center at 908-889-7780.

Monday

- The Department of Public Works will collect newspaper, magazines, junk mail, catalogs, notebooks, office paper and telephone books bundled together in a paper bag or tied with string. Corrugated cardboard must be flattened.

Food and beverage containers made of glass, aluminum and steel will be collected, as will plastic pop, water, milk, juice and detergent bottles. All these items can be mixed together in a sturdy metal or plastic reusable container no larger than 32 gallons. Rinse all containers thoroughly.

- The Township Council will meet at 8 p.m. in Room 16 of the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 450 Westfield Ave.

Tuesday

- Mother Seton Regional High School on Valley Road will hold an informal open house from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. for all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade girls and their parents.

The program will be informational and enjoyable for girls who are planning to enter high school is near future. Parents and students will have an opportunity to tour the school, examine the curricular and co-curricular programs, investigate transportation and meet with administration, guidance and faculty members. An informal social will follow at which parents and daughters may mingle with faculty and students.

Wednesday

- Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah, 111 Valley Road, will hold a special Hanukkah menorah lighting for its neighbors and residents of all the surrounding communities at 6 p.m. The ceremony will be followed by traditional Hanukkah refreshments, including jelly doughnuts and latkes, or potato pancakes.

For more information, call the temple at 732-381-8403.

- The Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet from 8 to 11 p.m. in Room 16 of the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 450 Westfield Ave.

Upcoming Dec. 10

- Clark AARP Chapter 3733 will meet at 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month at the Brewer Senior Center, 400 Westfield Ave.

Dec. 13

- The Blood Center of New Jersey will sponsor a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Deutscher Club, 787 Featherbed Lane. For more information, or to sign up, call 1-800-BLOOD-NJ.

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Geico Indemnity	\$957	\$957	\$957
State Farm	\$1,508	\$1,508	\$1,508

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Criteria: Six month premiums. Married couple, 34/32, both with a clean driving record. Vehicles: 2000 Ford Taurus, 12,000 annual miles, 2000 Dodge Caravan, 12,000 annual miles. Coverage: BI-PD 100/300/50, personal injury 250,000 with 250 deductible. UMBI 100/300/50, comp. deductible 500 coll. deductible 500. Quotes obtained Nov. 2004, and are from sources we believe are reliable, but we cannot be responsible for their accuracy. All quotes are based on the criteria listed above. Rates are based on drivers insured for the past five years with no losses. Premiums for companies other than Mercury do not reflect any rate adjustments made after these quotes were obtained.

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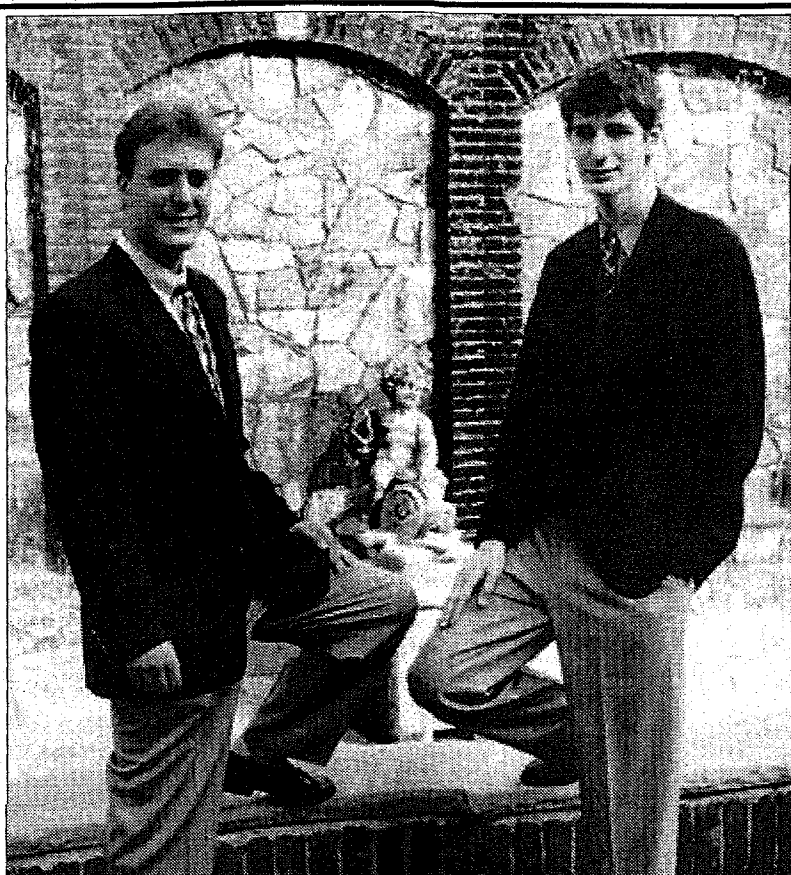
Fleyzors gain accolades

Drew M. Fleyzor, a senior at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa., will graduate in May with a double major in marketing and psychology.

He was elected captain of Muhlenberg Volunteer Emergency Medical Services, a Dana Scholar, and was recently inducted into Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges 2005. This is in recognition of his participation and leadership in academic and extracurricular activities, citizenship and service to Muhlenberg College. He was also inducted into Who's Who in American High Schools in 2001.

Dean G. Fleyzor, a junior at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, participated in the National Student Leadership conference at American University, Washington, D.C.

Students are selected to participate from across the U.S. and more than 35 different countries based upon their academic excellence, extracurricular involvement and demonstrated leadership ability. He attended the Mastering Leadership program.



Drew Fleyzor will graduate Muhlenberg College in May while Dean Fleyzor, a junior at Arthur L. Johnson High School, recently participated in the National Student Leadership conference at American University.

During this six-day leadership development program, he had the opportunity to participate in a variety of leadership exercises and simulations which explore the nature of

leadership and the skills that define the great leaders.

Drew and Dean are the sons of Michael and Angela Fleyzor of Clark.

Cops respond to Parkway accident

POLICE BLOTTER

Police and Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad members responded to an ambulance request on the Garden State Parkway South Saturday at 10:41 a.m. A motor vehicle accident left a victim with facial injuries, who was transported to the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway.

• Damage to the windows of a residence on Picton Street at 2:40 p.m. on Saturday led to a report of criminal mischief. The incident is still under investigation.

• Police responded to a motor vehicle lockout on Brookside Terrace on Friday at 1:23 p.m. Officer Steve Francisco gained entry to the vehicle.

• Cash was reported stolen from a business along the 100 block of Westfield Avenue on Friday at 9:03 p.m. The incident is still under investigation.

• A car stolen in Philadelphia was recovered near 13 Ginesi Drive on Nov. 25 at 9:42 a.m.

According to police, a resident called in to report a suspicious vehicle, and the responding officer, Glenn Griffin, ran the license plate numbers and discovered it had been stolen on Nov. 14.

Police said the car had probably been dumped, but did not know why it had been left at that location.

• A purse was stolen from a motor vehicle parked at a Featherbed Lane residence on Nov. 23 at 8:42 p.m. The

incident is still under investigation.

• Michael Campion, 36, of Basking Ridge, was arrested at headquarters on Nov. 23 at 3:38 p.m. Campion had outstanding warrants totaling \$800 for contempt of court for motor vehicle violations. He was released after posting bail.

• Police officer John Young arrested Roberto Lavin, 72, of Lexington Boulevard on Nov. 22 at 8:11 p.m. in the vicinity of the Clarkton Shopping Center. Lavin was charged with driving under the influence and released on his own recognizance pending a court date.

• A laptop computer was reported stolen from a business along the 100 block of Central Avenue on Nov. 21 at 2:35 p.m. The incident is still under investigation.

• Police are still investigating a report of a theft of from a shed on Sherold Road. The leaf blower was reported stolen on Nov. 21 at 1:44 p.m.

• Tools were reported stolen from a shed at a residence along the 100 block of Hayes Avenue on Nov. 19 at 6:18 a.m. The incident is still under investigation.

• Police responded to a motor vehicle accident near the 200 block of Westfield Avenue on Nov. 19 at 8:09

a.m. Upon arrival, the Cranford First Aid Squad was responding for the injuries, and the appropriate report was filed.

• Police are still investigating an incident of fraud/bad checks reported at Bartell Farm and Garden Center, 277 Central Ave. The incident occurred on Nov. 17 at 12:24 p.m.

• Clark police officer Glen Griffin arrested Jazar G. Lewis, 23, of Asbury Park at the Bradley Beach Police Department on Nov. 17 at 9:25 p.m.

Lewis had an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$1,500 for contempt of court for motor vehicle violations and was transported to the Union County Jail.

• Items were reported stolen from a motor vehicle parked at a residence along the 1100 block of Forest Drive on Nov. 17 at 8:43 p.m. The incident is still under investigation.

• George Williams, 44, of Edison was arrested by officer John Young on Nov. 16 at 4:39 p.m. at Somerset County Jail. Williams had an outstanding warrant for contempt of court from Clark and was also detained on a warrant from Elizabeth for \$341. He was released after posting \$250 bail.

• An accident involving four vehicles at Valley Road and Union County Parkway was reported on Nov. 16 at 2:58 p.m. Clark police and Cranford First Aid Squad responded and the appropriate accident report was filed by officer Susan Ricci.

NEWS CLIPS

Y-Squares members share dance bug

Y-Squares Square Dance class of Clark meets from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Frank K. Hehnly School on Raritan Road.

For more information, call Janice Ubhlig at 732-381-2535 or Don Maden at 908-241-9492.

Homebound can get food via Mobile Meals

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

Volunteers deliver nutritious dinners and lunches to homes Monday to Friday at a cost of \$30 per week or dinner-only for \$20 per week.

Meals are prepared at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield.

They are packed and delivered by volunteers in reheatable aluminum trays.

Mobile Meals is looking for drivers, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., for routes in Westfield, Clark and Cranford, and packers to work one day per week or one day every other week from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Volunteer scheduling is very flexible.

For more information, call Jean at 732-233-6146 or contact via e-mail at mobilemeals@westfieldnj.com.

Bulky material pickup offered by appointment

The Department of Public Works will collect used appliances by appointment only on Mondays.

Appliances that will be collected include refrigerators, cast iron radiators, hot water heaters, air conditioners, dryers, dishwashers, washing machines, stoves and other metal items.

Call the DPW at 732-388-5305 or at 732-388-3600, ext. 3096, to schedule a pickup appointment.

Take used motor oil to DPW to recycle it

The Department of Public Works will accept used motor oil to recycle from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the last Saturday of each month.

The DPW facility will be closed holidays and on Saturdays before Monday holidays.

The DPW is located behind the Police Department, 315 Westfield Ave.

Play bingo Saturdays, Tuesdays at foundation

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

For more information, call 732-382-7197.

Building relationships



Members of the Carl H. Kumpf Middle School's Builders Club get snacks and juice ready for the residents who played Bingo with them on Nov. 20 at the Genesis Eldercare Facility in Scotch Plains. Under the leadership of Builders Club co-Presidents Phyllis Lee and Brynne Falkowski, the students have planned a number of events with people of all ages. The Builders Club is sponsored by the Clark Kiwanis Club. For more information about the adult philanthropic club, call 732-382-0910.

Menorah lighting on Wednesday

Temple Beth O'r Beth Torah, 111 Valley Road, Clark, will hold a special Hanukkah menorah lighting for its neighbors and residents of all the surrounding communities on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

The event coincides with the second night of Hanukkah, the eight-day festival that celebrates the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem after the victory by the very small Jewish army of Judah and the Maccabees over the much larger and better armed Hellenist Syrians in 165 B.C.E. Antiochus, the Greek King of Syria, outlawed Jewish rituals and ordered the Jews to worship Greek gods. He had seized the holy Temple and dedicated it to the working of Zeus.

After three years of fighting, the Jews defeated Antiochus' army and retook the Temple. They decided to have a celebration, which included lighting the menorah. But, there was only a small flask of oil, enough to kindle the menorah for one day.

Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days. This gave them enough time to obtain new oil to keep the menorah lit.

Today, Jews celebrate Hanukkah for eight days by lighting candles in a menorah every night, thus commemorating the eight-day miracle.

AT THE LIBRARY

A very special holiday concert with Yosi

Do you like Raffi? Then you'll like Yosi! On Dec. 11 at 11 a.m., the Rahway Public Library will present Yosi in concert in the library auditorium.

Children ages 2 to 8 will especially enjoy this holiday show and must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. Tickets will be distributed in the Children's Department beginning at 10:30 a.m. that morning, and seats are limited.

Calling all teen poets

Rahway Public Library is hosting a poetry contest for teens who are residents of Rahway or Clark. Three winners will be chosen by the staff of the library.

Winning entries will be sent to VOYA magazine, where they will be entered in VOYA's nationwide poetry contest.

To enter, pick up a form at the reference desk. You may also type your own form, just be sure to include your name, age, phone number, and city. Entries should be submitted to the library by Dec. 10.

Winners will be announced on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. in the library's cafe. Everyone will have a chance to read their poems aloud.

For more information, see the ref-

erence desk, or call 732-340-1551, ext. 212.

Learn basic Internet, computer skills

Rahway Free Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, now offers free computer classes. Current classes include Intro to the Computer, Intro to the Internet, Intro to Word Processing and Intro to E-mail.

For dates and times, call the Reference Department at 732-340-1551.

Registration is required. You must be a resident of Rahway or Clark to attend.

Contact librarians

Even with the Clark facility closed, Clark librarians can be contacted via e-mail about events at the Rahway library during the closing.

Library Director Maureen Baker Wilkinson can be reached at mbwilkinson@clarklibrary.org

Youth Services librarian Kathy Percoco can be reached at kpercoco@clarklibrary.org

General reference questions can also be sent by e-mail to ref@clarklibrary.org or general information inquiries to info@clarklibrary.org.

Wireless Internet

Rahway Free Public Library is

offering a wireless hot spot.

This hot spot allows computer users to access the World Wide Web with a laptop computer or PDA equipped with a wireless 802.11b or 802.11g network, also known as WiFi or Airport card.

There is no charge for access.

Clark residents have full access to the Rahway library's programs, resources and staff while the Clark library is under construction.

The wireless network is firewalled from the existing library network to maintain security.

Users cannot access e-mail or other online services such as FTP, VPN and telnet, with the wireless network.

Use of a library computer terminal is required to print out Web sites or to access the library's automated card catalogue; these services cannot be conducted over the wireless network.

The library, although it currently maintains limited hours, also has several computers available to the public with Internet access.

Those who wish to use the Internet must show a valid library card.

Return library materials to Municipal Building

Residents can return library materials borrowed from either the Clark or Rahway public library to a drop box in

the front of the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building.

The drop box will be emptied several times a day, with material taken to Rahway Free Public Library for check-in.

Clark residents who reserve library material will be called as soon as the requested item becomes available. Reserved items can be picked up at the circulation desk at Rahway Free Public Library, Milton Avenue and Main Street.

The Rahway library is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays.

Clark residents have full access to the Rahway library's programs, resources and staff while the Clark library is under construction.

For more information, call Clark library Director Maureen Baker Wilkinson at 732-388-5999 or via e-mail at mbwilkinson@clarklibrary.org.

Rahway Library hours

Rahway Free Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, currently offers the following hours of operation:

- Monday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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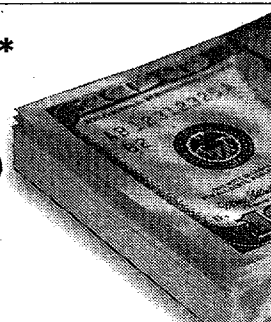
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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Shop locally this holiday season

December is the season of holiday shopping. There are parties, of course, and the huge family dinners to prepare. Homes must be decorated, both inside and out, with garland, lights and maybe even figurines. Greeting cards are criss-crossing the country. And the presents! Few are those individuals who don't participate in the annual gift exchange.

It is indeed a season of shopping. And for this year, may we suggest that you make several trips downtown to see what our local merchants have placed on sale for these special days.

These are the familiar retailers with whom we have dealt all year. They know our town, know our schools and know our neighborhoods. They are the professionals who also know their markets, and their choices of what to display this year may be exactly what you are seeking.

Remember, too, that these are the establishments where your family routinely shops and dines. Gift certificates to a local restaurant, a service center or gift shop, or perhaps even a membership to a local fitness club might be the perfect gift. Maybe something as simple as seven free rentals at the nearby video store would be just the right thing for the youngster who is not yet of driving age.

One more point. The town soon will be "dressed" for the occasion. Holiday lights, festive music and colorful decorations should make the district that much more attractive. This might be an excellent time to walk the aisles of a new store that has recently opened but which you haven't yet taken time to visit. Make an afternoon of it. Plan to stay for lunch. Invite a friend. The downtown district never looks so good as during the holidays, when stores are filled with new merchandise and the December magic is circulating in the air. This season, we urge you not to miss it.

Festival of lights

As we approach the winter solstice, which signifies the first day of winter, the holiday season is upon us with feelings of good spirit and camaraderie. With much of the same commonality, the Festival of Lights, or Hanukkah, begins Tuesday evening and runs through Dec. 14. Following the annual tradition, in Jewish homes and temples and synagogues throughout the country, menorahs are lit to celebrate the eight-day diurnal climb to complete luminescence.

The festival was instituted by Judas Maccabee in 165 B.C. to celebrate the purification of the Temple of Jerusalem. It had been desecrated three years earlier, when Antiochus IV Epiphanes, king of Syria and overlord of Palestine, dedicated the temple to the worship of the pagan god Zeus Olympius and forbade the practice of Judaism. When Judas Maccabee recaptured Jerusalem three years later, only a one-day supply of nondesecrated olive oil could be found for the rededication, but the small quantity burned miraculously for eight days. Jews commemorate this event by lighting candles for the eight nights of Hanukkah.

But Hanukkah is more than just a time for ceremony; it is a festive family occasion, with special foods and songs. Each evening, after the candles are lit, children usually receive small gifts of money, known as Hanukkah gelt. Foods that have been fried in oil, such as latkes, or potato pancakes, and doughnuts, commemorate the miracle of the oil. Sweet foods are also popular, and children may receive chocolate coins in place of Hanukkah gelt. Songs also play an important part in the festivities and remind each family of the events that are being remembered and celebrated.

Hanukkah is a reminder that peace and hope may be found even from war. When humanity puts aside its suspicions and embraces the difference of our various cultures, then trust and good will can find a place to grow and spread. The Festival of Lights reminds us that, whatever our culture or beliefs, our faith in God will help to unite us and that, through this faith, anything is possible. As our Jewish readers celebrate this holiday, may God bless them with solidarity and peace.

"The fundamental precept of liberty is toleration."

— Calvin Coolidge
30th U.S. President
1925

The Eagle

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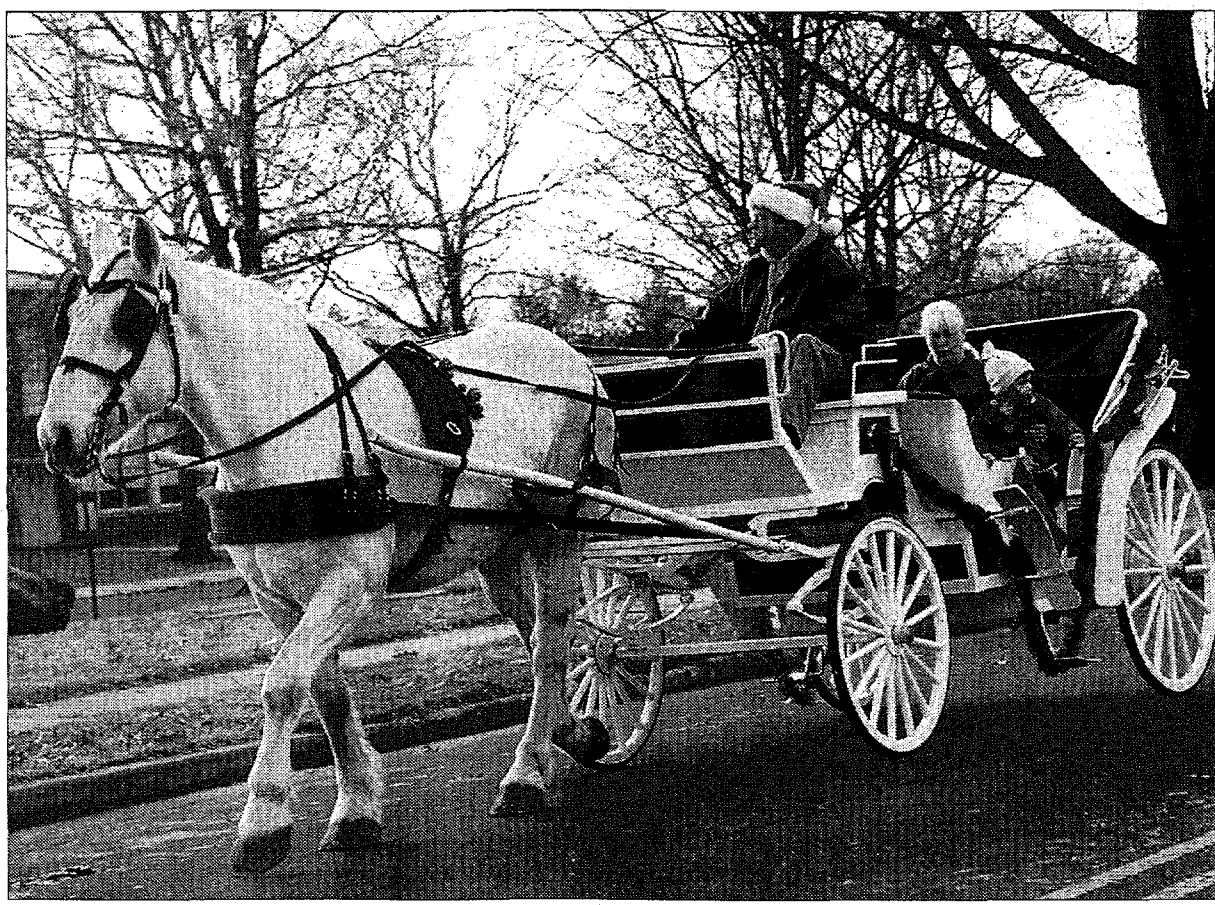


Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

CLIPPITY CLOP — Clark residents enjoy a horse and buggy ride along Westfield Avenue during the winter festival sponsored Sunday by the mayor and Advocates for a Better Clark.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't assume affordable housing

To the Editor:

The Nov. 18 article about the developer who wants to build 300, age-55-and-up apartments on Terminal Avenue for \$40 million, but couldn't come up with a rental rate was very informative, especially since the apartments would have "amenities no other facility in Union County has."

For comparison, The Club at Autumn Ridge in Union, an age-55-and-up complex in Union County, advertises that it rents at \$1,300 and up. It would seem unlikely that apartments in Clark with more "amenities" would rent for any less.

As far as eligibility for any affordable apartments is concerned, seniors might want to know that the state calculation of an applicant's income includes more than just retirement, Social Security, rents, interest and dividends. For affordable housing, the state regards equity in a home as an income-producing asset, even though no cash changes hands. According to the state Council on Affordable Housing, approximately 3 percent of the value of equity in a home will be added to an applicant's other income to determine eligibility for affordable housing. In addition, COAH is anticipating an imminent change in regulations that would make an applicant ineligible for affordable housing, if the applicant owns a home outright and has significant equity. Significantly, COAH will not allow preference to be given to Clark residents for affordable housing units. COAH will require advertising throughout Essex, Union, Morris and Warren counties, and require that qualified applicants be selected at random from all who are eligible.

Seniors should therefore not assume that they will be guaranteed an affordable apartment, or they may be forced into renting expensive market-rate apartments. According to COAH, seniors who do not want to rent at market rate may want to consider taking a reverse mortgage on their current home to supplement income, or moving to a smaller home as an option. Above all, seniors should not let anyone talk them into selling their homes until they know where they are going and exactly how much the costs will be. Especially before moving to an area near a facility where the Environmental Defense Scorecard has calculated that health risks have increased 38,125 percent since 1988.

William T. Fidurski
Clark

Thanks for letting me serve again

To the Editor:

There are many I must thank for my recent successful bid for re-election to Township Council. First I want to say thank you to all of the citizens of Clark who voted for me. These four years have passed very quickly. I am pleased with what we have accomplished, the projects we have in process and I look forward to working on our new agenda and addressing important issues as they arise. As always please don't hesitate to call upon me to discuss any issues or concerns you may have, at work, 732-669-8788 or at home, 732-396-4241.

I wish to also thank my friends, members of council, and the members of the Republican club who worked tirelessly to obtain our re-election and supported our campaign financially. I want to congratulate and thank my running mates on their election, the great Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, Councilman At-large Al Barr, Councilwoman-elect Sheila Whiting and 2nd Ward Councilman Pat O'Connor. It was a pleasure to work with such a hard working team of great candidates. I look forward to working with all of them these next four years.

Special thanks to my husband, Bob Kobryn, for all his hard work on the campaign and at home 24x7 and for the support of my two sons, Taylor and James.

I thank you all for this opportunity and will do my best to serve the people of the great Township of Clark.

Councilwoman At-large Angel Albanese
Clark

Township needs senior housing

To the Editor:

While most of our surrounding communities have senior citizen housing, we, in Clark, do not.

With our income remaining the same our landlord has raised our rent four percent — because of this, our rent is now one and-a-half times it was when we moved in 15 years ago.

There is a new property on Terminal Avenue for senior housing, but one of the companies next to this property is putting up a strong objection to it.

We believe we deserve some consideration and support to see that this project comes to a successful conclusion.

Morris Steinberg
Beverly Steinberg
Clark

Why has Clark lagged behind?

To the Editor:

After many years, there is finally land available on Terminal Avenue in Clark for senior housing. Yet, there is one company and his landlord ready to stand in the way of this coming to be.

Linden, Rahway, Scotch Plains, Union and Westfield have all taken care of their seniors. Why has Clark lagged so behind?

Homes are getting too much to handle and with our children in the area, we want to stay in Clark and not have to go to another town for housing.

Betty Kaplan
Clark

Thanks for your votes of support

To the Editor:

Running for the office of Union County freeholder has been an unforgettable life experience, one that we feel privileged to have had as part of a team. We were blessed to have found each other and from the start of this campaign each has been a compliment to the other as we fell into a comfortable working relationship forming a bond.

However the strongest bond has been formed with the residents of Union County who regardless of their political views made us feel welcome in their towns.

We wish to thank each of you for your kindness and generosity as well as your words of encouragement.

Finally we thank all those who participated in the election process municipal, county and federal: the candidates and their families, the campaign staffs, the poll workers, the forum leaders, the media and lastly but certainly not the least the voters. You are all to be commended.

Frank Arena
Bruce Paterson
Pat Quattrocchi
Joe Renna

It's about time we had senior housing

To the Editor:

We've been longtime residents of Clark and waiting many years for senior housing in Clark. Finally there is a strong possibility that our dreams may come true — as it has for many seniors in surrounding towns. Unfortunately, there are several groups that are opposed to this project.

Our homes and apartments are getting much too expensive to handle, yet we still want to remain in Clark. Please help the seniors of Clark get their new home.

Thank you.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Weisholtz
Clark

Who votes for these people?

To the Editor

For five years, Union County has been promising to build a new juvenile detention center. Edward Sinclair Jr. while being detained in the detention center hung himself on Mother's Day, May 10, 2003. After a year-long probe of the death of the 17-year-old the state Office of the Child Advocate has concluded that the county's "persistent violation" of laws and regulations "suggests a fundamental disregard of basic human rights" and set the stage for his suicide.

As many as three youths spent 18 to 20 hours at a time in each cell, eating and sleeping on the floor of the 8-by 10-foot cockroach-infested rooms. The shower head which Sinclair hung himself on, damaged and unrepaired for 17 months, was one of a litany of deplorable, dangerous conditions cited in the advocate's report. The office hasn't ruled out a suit or criminal charges.

In the campaign season that immediately followed Sinclair's death the three incumbent Democratic freeholders who were up for re-election — Deborah Scanlon, Chester Holmes and Al Mirabella — had several campaign mailers, some of which were taxpayer funded, that focused on: Who do Union County families turn to for services, safety and results? Services; Providing the quality services our families depend on. Safety; Making security priority no. 1 in our homes, neighborhoods and cars. Results; Delivering results by making county government work for us.

Now that's arrogance. Who votes for these people?

Tina Renna
Cranford

Send us stuff from around the U.S.

To the Editor:

The fourth grade at Aviston Elementary School in Aviston, Ill., is learning about the United States. The kids in the class think it would be fun to receive some postcards, souvenirs, resources, or any information about our great country from each of the 50 states.

We hope that people who read this letter will be interested in mailing our class items pertaining to their state.

Our address:
Mrs. Lisa Niemeyer's fourth grade
Aviston Elementary School
350 S. Hull St., Aviston, Ill., 62216

A sincere thank you to anyone who is able to contribute. We appreciate the excitement you will add to our learning experience.

Lisa Niemeyer's fourth grade
Aviston, Ill.

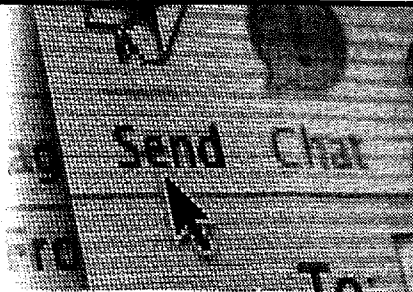
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Annual Applefest



Adrienne Dubitsky's afternoon kindergarten class is all smiles as they celebrate their annual Applefest. Each student brings in apple themed items to sell to the students in grades one through five. The students purchase the apple items with non-perishable foods which the school donates to the Community FoodBank in Hillside. Participating are, from left, front row, Gina Strumolo, Morgan Bothe, Alexander Wilson, Gina Ferdinandi and Adrienne Dubitsky; middle row, Alexander Hamp, Lauren Petite, Meaghan Gallagher, Stephanie Bartkus and Alexandra Coccoaro-Lamb; and top row, Vincent Crisafi, Nadia Szilagyi, Christina Hoening, Natalie Carnovale and Thomas Jennings.

OBITUARIES

Carmen Mangiavillano

Carmen P. Mangiavillano, 84, of Clark died Nov. 24 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in Newark, Mr. Mangiavillano moved to Clark 25 years ago. He was a clerk at ShopRite in Union and Millburn for many years before retiring many years ago.

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

Surviving are two sisters, Fay Romero and Jean Palumbo.

Mary Garbinski

Mary A. Garbinski, 84, of Clark died Nov. 24 in Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth.

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Garbinski moved to Clark 41 years ago. She was a cable former for Western Electric, Kearny, for 20 years before retiring 20 years ago.

Surviving are her husband of 62 years, Adam; three daughters, Barbara D'Amico, Patricia Pistorius and Mary Ann Timko; a brother, Stanley Pasternak; a sister, Helen Dobiszewski; 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Liesel Krehan

Liesel "Soccer Grandma" Krehan, 81, of Clark died Nov. 24 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in Glandbach, Germany, She lived in Riverdale, N.Y., and moved to Clark many years ago.

Mrs. Krehan was an assistant designer for Adele Designers of New York City for 35 years before retiring in 1990. She and her husband of 62 years, John H. Krehan, co-founded the Clark Youth Soccer Club. The township's soccer field is named the Leisel and John Krehan Soccer Field in recognition of the couple's contribu-

tions to the sport. Mrs. Krehan also instituted the Mid-New Jersey Soccer Association and served on its board of directors. Recently named honorary president of the Clark Youth Soccer, she was a member of the New Jersey Youth Soccer Hall of Fame and an officer of the New Jersey Youth Soccer Association. Mrs. Krehan was active with the Girl Scouts for 30 years. She was an instructor of scout trainers and leaders and also traveled to Mexico and Bermuda.

Also surviving are a daughter, Katrine Cohen; a brother, Artie Strauss; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Richard Verrastro

Richard Adam Verrastro, 45, of Jackson Township, formerly of Clark, died Nov. 26 at home.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Verrastro lived in Clark before moving to Jackson Township two years ago.

He was a laser technician for Lockheed Martin, Moorestown, for many years.

Mr. Verrastro was a graduate of Union County College, Cranford.

Surviving are his wife of 10 years, Georgeanne; his parent, Sylvia and Thomas Verrastro; a sister, Susan DeFazio, and three brothers, Robert, Guy and Thomas.

Craft fair Saturday at Mother Seton school

The Parents' Guild of Mother Seton Regional High School on Valley Road, near Exit 135 of the Garden State Parkway, Clark, will sponsor a craft fair Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shoppers and browsers are invited to join in the Christmas festivities. Admission is free.

Open house Dec. 7

Mother Seton Regional High School, Valley Road, Clark, will hold an informal open house on Dec. 7 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. for all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade girls and their parents. The program will be informational and enjoyable for girls who are planning to enter high school is near future.

The evening is designed primarily for parents and for students who are interested in attending Mother Seton Regional High School or in exploring some of the high school options available to them. Parents and students will have an opportunity to tour the school, examine the curricular and co-curricular programs, investigate transportation and meet with administration, guidance and faculty members. Parents or students are invited to come alone if the evening is not convenient for both.

An informal social will follow at which parents and daughters may mingle with faculty and students of Mother Seton Regional High School, located near Exit 135 of the Garden State Parkway in Clark.

Fur sale benefits Center for Hope Hospice

The Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care will sponsor a one-day only fur sale and holiday bazaar on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gran Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Road, Clark.

Madison Avenue Furs, one of New York's largest sellers of new and pre-owned furs, will have on show, fur-trimmed capes, ponchos, scarves and more at 50 to 60 percent off regular store prices. All furs are labeled to show country of origin.

Admission is free. Payment can be made by cash, check or major credit cards.

All proceeds from this fund-raiser

help to provide terminally ill patients with natural, humane care known as hospice and their families or loved ones with physical, emotional and spiritual support during their time of need.

For more information, call the center at 908-889-7780.

Try the town's tastes at booster club festival

The Arthur L. Johnson High School Booster Club will hold a Santaguida Taste of the Town Festival on Dec. 13.

Proceeds will support the booster club scholarships, including the Thomas Santaguida Scholarships and Saint of the Year Award.

The festival will run from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Gran Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Road.

For more information, call Principal Robert Taylor at 732-382-0910.

Current events discussed weekly

What is the latest news from Israel, and how does it impact our local community? What does Judaism have to say about stem cell research, the political process, war and other topics being discussed in the media? How do today's political, social and religious issues impact on the Jewish community here and elsewhere?

All these issues and more are discussed every Monday from 10 to 11 a.m. in an open format led by Rabbi Michael Klayman, the new spiritual leader of Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah, 111 Valley Road, Clark.

The "Jewish Current Events" class is free and open to the public.

For more information, call the synagogue at 732-381-8403.

Art gallery hosts opening reception

The Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, Clark, will present the works of Ilona and Andre Bugla Friday through Dec. 31, with an opening reception Friday from 8 to 10 p.m. The public is welcome, admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Ilona and Andre Bugla, a husband and wife team, were born in Poland

and both graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow. They live and work in Jever, Germany.

Ilona Bugla received her master's degree in painting and tapestry in 1982. Her art has met with widespread recognition around the world. Today her paintings and tapestries may be found in the homes of art aficionados in Japan, France, Germany, Poland and the United States.

Andre Bugala received his master's from the sculpture department in 1981. Andre's sculptures and paintings have been sold to art enthusiasts in Poland, Germany and the United States. In addition to sculpture and painting Andre also specializes in frescoes and restoration of antiques.

The Skulski Art Gallery is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m., on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call Aleksandra K. Nowak, gallery director, at 732-382-7197.

Blood drives planned

New Jersey Blood Services will conduct blood drives in cooperation with the American Red Cross/Tri-County Chapter on the following dates:

• Dec. 15, 2:30 to 8 p.m., at ShopRite of Clark, 76 Central Ave.

• Dec. 23, 3 to 8:30 p.m. at Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, 875 Raritan Road.

Blood donors must be between the ages of 17 and 75, over 110 pounds and in good health. Most medications are acceptable.

Blood donors should eat before giving blood and must have identification. A passport is acceptable.

'Water-Escapes'

"Water-Escapes," an art exhibit at Diversity Art Gallery in Union County Baptist Church, 4 Valley Road, will present the beauty of water environs and how people enjoy water tranquility through Dec. 26.

"Water-Escapes" will feature Burton W. Longenbach, Ray Sternesky, Ralph Garafola and Jan Bogdanski.

Regular gallery hours are from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays, with special tours for individuals, schools and organizations also available by appointment.

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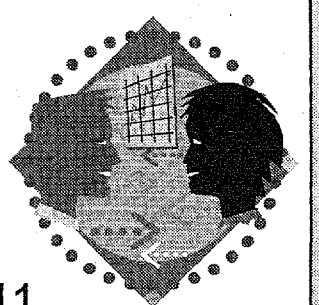


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EDUCATION

What students like about Brookside Place School

By Analisa Stankus, grade three

At Brookside I like the playground equipment at recess. At lunch I like that third grade has second lunch. Also that Brookside has great assemblies like plays and concerts.

I also like all of the specials like gym, art, music, library and spanish. At hal-loween time I like that you get to dress up as your custome and have parties and parades. I love snowdays in the winter.

By Kaitlin Chan, grade three

What I like about Brookside is that its colors are my favorite which are blue and gold.

My favorite memory about Brookside, was when I learned a lot from my past teachers, Mrs. Lennon, Mrs. Quinones, Mrs. Stansoik, and my teacher in 3rd grade is Mr. Callaghan.

What I also like about Brookside is that our school had alot of kids after Brookside was built.

My favorite memory about Brookside was when in gym class when we swung on the rope and doing acrobatics on the mat. My other memory about Brookside was when we made turkeys in art.

By Cameron Kutzer, grade three

One of my fun memories of Brookside Place School is in Mrs. Quinones first grade class when we hatched chicks and met with the other first grade classes to have an assembly on how to take care of chicks.

By Kevin Kaiser, grade three

1. I like that Brookside provides us with almost every book.
2. I like that we have gym class once a week.
3. I like that we go outside at recess and play with our friends on the play-ground.
4. I like Brookside because they give you computers to play on.
5. I like Brookside because you are with your friends.

By Kasey Donahue, grade four

Brookside is the best school ever at the end of the year, we always have a fun day called the Olympics. The students get assigned to a team, and the team name is always a country.

On that specific day you have to wear the colors of the flag you are assigned to at lunch time on the Olympics day, you get to have pizza and soda. Also the parents get to participate with the Olympic events.

Our teachers are the best! Our teachers come in the greatest packages! They are so generous in every way because they treat the students with care. They are

highly recommended because they are very smart.

Student Council special days are the most exciting ever! We have days like Slipper Day. It feels so delightful and comfy on your feet when you walk in the halls. We also have favorite team day to celebrate your favorite team. Our school has many other special days, like wacky clothes day, crazy hair day, and so much more! But we only have these special days when the Student Council plans it.

So now you know why Brookside is the best. We have the Olympics where we get to play for almost the whole day. Our teachers are the best because they are considerate and smart. Student Council special days rock because they are so much fun and we get so many of them! Brookside is the best school I'll ever go to!

By Nick Fredrani, grade four

I think Brookside rocks. I think Brookside rocks because Mr. Johnson is our principal. Mr. Johnson is a great principal because he's very considerate. For example, two years ago my brother and his friend got in trouble for playing football and had to go to Mr. Johnson's office, but he just said, "So who won?." Another reason is Mr. Johnson has many school assemblies, such as the science assembly. He has fun events such a the Fall fest.

Another reason Brookside rocks is because we have respectful teachers. Teachers always help us when they can, so we get better at things. Teachers don't make fun of ideas because if we're wrong we have to learn from our mistakes.

If somebody didn't understand something a teacher would explain it in a less confusing way.

Also Brookside rocks because of all the fun things we do here. At recess we have many things to do, such as playing badminton. There is always something to do at Brookside. There are fun activities for us, such as afterschool sports.

In conclusion, Brookside rocks because Mr. Johnson is our principal, we have fun things to do, and we have respectful teachers.

By Abby Levinton, grade four

Brookside is the best. Brookside is the best because we have the best teachers, like Mrs. Starkey and Mrs. Calhoun. Mrs. Starkey loves to sing dazzling songs and she has a good voice. They are fantastic teachers and they help me understand more things because they say it slower for me. It makes me feel daz-zled when they tell me that I did excellnet.

We have a great music teacher. Mrs. Rapach sings a lot of great songs. Chorus people have concerts during the holidays. We do a concert in the spring too. We do it because it's fun.

We have some nice lunch aides. The lunch aides are kind and care for you when you are hurt. When you are upset, they care. They do that because that is

their job. Last, but not least, we do a lot of fantastic things with the lunch aides, some of them are our best friends.

Finally, Brookside is the best because of our nice and pretty teachers that teach us a lot of things. The best part about music is we get to sing and do cool things. Last, the best thing about lunch aides is they play games with us and they are nice to us.

By Klaus Rocha

Brookside is the best. Brookside is the best because we have great friends. A lot of my friends have always had super ideas. At recess we always play really cool games because a lot friends at Brookside are really good athletes. A lot of kids have Game boys or games like that. That's why friends at Brookside are fun to be with.

Brookside is the best because we have great times. As you know no school is better than Brookside. On ACES day we have so much fun because we go outside and exercise. A really fun time is gym. Everybody loves gym because it's so exciting. Something I really like is pumpkin painting.

I don't just like it; I love it. It's so much fun because you get to hang out with your friends and paint.

Brookside is the best because we have great books since people always took good care of them. Brookside's books are never ripped. If people ripped them they would be in trouble.

Brookside is the best because of these reasons great friends, fun times, good books. I learned a thing or two on this 4-square. Brookside was the best, Brookside is the best, and Brookside will always be the best. I'm not saying this because I have to, it's because I want to.

Facts about 2004

By Ms. Cannon's class

Sports

The Red Sox won the World Series and broke the Curse of the Bambino.

Fashion

Ponchos were a very popular fashion trend.

Movies/TV

The Incredibles is a new popular movie.

News

The election this year was a big challenge between John Kerry and George Bush

Music

Good Charlotte was a popular band.

Top 10 things about Brookside

- By 3 Mastice
10. Holiday Boutique
9. Book Fairs
8. Outside equipment
7. Cubby Kids & Dolphin Awards
6. Student Council
5. Teachers
4. Whiteboard
3. Specials — Gym, Art, Music and Library
2. Buddies
1. Special Days — slipper day, hat day, Olympics

'Project Warmth breakfast at CHS

A breakfast will be Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. in the cafeteria at Cranford High School, 201 West End Place, sponsored by the New Jersey Education Association, Cranford Education Association and the PTA.

Dubbed, "Project Warmth" admission to the breakfast will be a donation of a hat, gloves or scarf. The clothing will be donated to the Interfaith Homeless Council in Union County, to be distributed to women and children living in their shelter.

Breakfast is being catered by the Gourmet Deli in Cranford and will be a hot and cold breakfast buffet.

Anyone interested in coming can call 908-272-3306 or 908-497-1780 for tickets.

CHS yearbooks sought

Last year, Cranford Public Library sent out a call for Cranford High School yearbooks to help fill gaps in its collection.

Thanks to a positive response from the public, the library was able to add 11 yearbooks. However, the library is still looking for volumes for the following years: any years prior to 1927; 1929 through 1931; 1933; 1935 through 1937; 1939; 1941; 1950 through 1956; 1958 and 1959.

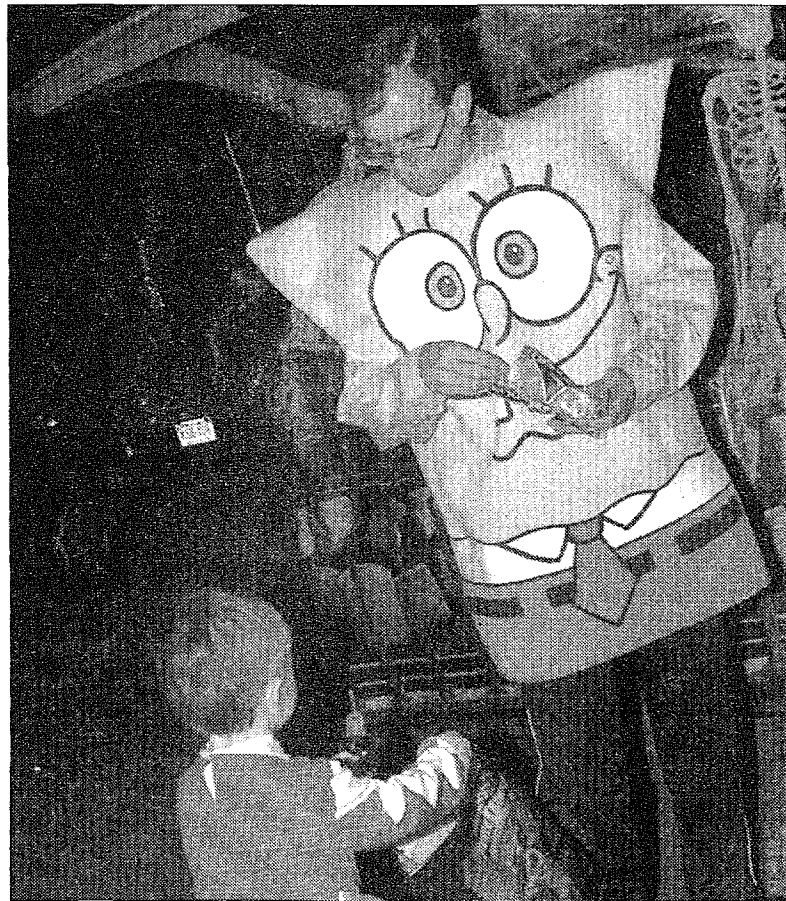
If you have a volume, or volumes, to donate, drop them off at the main desk of the library, 224 Walnut Ave. The library is also interested in receiving additional copies of yearbooks it already owns.

For more information, call the library at 908-709-7272 and ask for Ben Stanley, Fran Houston or John Malar, or e-mail the library at library@cranfordnj.org.

Student Council collecting for coat drive

The Elementary Student Council coat drive will continue through Dec. 10. Donations of coats/jackets, boots, mittens/gloves, scarves and hats that are clean and in good condition are sought.

Items should be brought to Miss Henn in Room 37 at Hillside Avenue School, 125 Hillside Ave., Cranford.



TRICK OR TRUNK — Bloomingdale Avenue School families dance to the sounds of 'Chris the DJ' at the BAS Trick or Trunk event, above, while Sponge-Bob, a.k.a., Chris Reiber, spreads Halloween cheer to the Red Ranger.

The masks



Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

As part of a project in art class, students at Walnut Avenue School in Cranford created these masks.

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SENIOR NEWS

Cranford AARP

The Dec. 17 AARP meeting will be at Hillside Avenue Middle School, 125 Hillside Ave., Cranford, at 10 a.m. The Hillside Avenue band will entertain. The annual holiday celebration will be Dec. 3 from noon to 4 p.m. at The Westwood caterers, 438 North Ave., Garwood. A buffet-style luncheon will be served. The cost is \$25 per person. Family and friends are invited to attend. George Fitzsimmons "The One Man Band" will entertain.

For more information call 908-241-4746 or 908-245-3479.

Trip tours chairman Mike Doncrank is taking reservations for a day trip to Mohegan Sun in Connecticut May 11. Cost is \$27 per person. A \$10 coupon for the buffet and two \$10 coupons for games will be given to each person. The bus will leave Cranford Centennial Pool at 8:30 a.m.

Chapter trips to the Showboat Casino in Atlantic City take place the fourth Wednesday of every month. The cost is \$18 and receive a \$17 bonus. Trips are scheduled for Dec. 15, Jan. 26, and Feb. 23. Buses leave from the Cranford Centennial Avenue Pool at 8:45 a.m.

For more information on trips, call Doncrank at 908-486-6679.

'Stepford Wives' shown for seniors on Monday

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department will present senior movies at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., on Monday and Dec. 20. Cranford seniors are invited to enjoy the following new movies that begin promptly at 11:10 a.m.:

Monday: "The Stepford Wives", 1 hour, 32 minutes: This comedy, science fiction/fantasy movie stars Nicole Kidman and Matthew Broderick as husband and wife. Needing some time to start over, they pull up stakes and move to the peaceful suburban community of Stepford. What they slowly discover is a terrible secret lurking beneath the all-too-perfect surface.

Dec. 20: "The Terminal", two hours, eight minutes: Shot almost entirely on a two-and-a-half story recreation of a full size operating airport terminal, this romantic comedy revolves around an Eastern European man played by Tom Hanks. Stranded in the airport terminal for months, he becomes acquainted with many of the employees including a beautiful flight attendant played by Catherine Zeta-Jones.

Senior movies will resume in February.

Thursday Club

The Cranford Seniors Thursday Club meets at the Community Center, 222 Walnut Ave., at 1 p.m.

Programs:

- Today, business meeting, followed by birthday and anniversary recognition, plus Christmas trivia.
- Dec. 9, launching the Christmas spirit, Christmas grab bag fest.
- Dec. 16, Christmas party at The Westwood, noon.
- Dec. 23, no meeting. Merry Christmas to all.
- Dec. 30, no meeting. Happy New Year to all.
- Jan. 11-13, Foxwood's Two Trees Inn Casino resort. Breakfast and dinner daily. Visit new New London and Groton and USS Nautilus and Museum, while taking a rest from the casino. Deluxe Motorcoach with escort on board will host complimentary cocktails, soft drinks and snacks. \$198, double occupancy per person. Call 272-5375 for reservations.

Happy birthday to Linda Rispoli, Mary Schott, Dot Mikus, Herman Occi, Marge Ahimovic, John MacWhirter, Isabelle Hamilton, Helen Darcy and John Ritsko.

Happy 46th anniversary to Rose and Anthony Delle Donne.

Program participants will learn the proper handling of a cue, care of equipment, rules and regulations of the game, the different types of games and more.

Billiards instruction. The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department is sponsoring a free billiards instruction class for Cranford seniors 60 and older.

The class runs from 1 to 2 p.m. in the air-conditioned game room at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

Program participants will learn the proper handling of a cue, care of equipment, rules and regulations of the game, the different types of games and more.

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ter, 220 Walnut Ave., at 1 p.m.

- Friday, business meeting/social.
- Dec. 10, holiday party at Robert's Steakhouse, Garwood, at noon.
- Dec. 18, social/bingo.

December birthday is Wally Scarfuto, Dec. 24.

The following trips are planned:

• Wednesday: Atlantic City, leaving from Centennial Avenue pool parking lot at noon. Cost is \$18. Other trips scheduled are Jan. 12, Feb. 9 and March 9.

• Dec. 14: Lily Langtry-Christmas Show, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Show and meal included, for a total \$63 cost.

• March 15: St. Patrick's Festival, Woodlock Pines, Haley, Pa., leave Centennial Avenue pool parking lot at 8:30 a.m., returning at 6:15 p.m.

Cost is \$54 and includes hot and cold buffet, including corned beef and cabbage, lamb stew, Irish soda bread, and more.

• May 25-26: Lancaster, Pa. Trip includes breakfast and dinner. Cost is \$178 for a double, or \$206 for a single. The trip includes guided tours of Niagara and Toronto, cruise on the Maid of the Mist, Casino Niagara, four breakfasts, four dinners and more.

• Sept. 19-23: Niagara Falls and Toronto. Cost \$410 double, \$515 single. The trip includes guided tours of Niagara and Toronto, cruise on the Maid of the Mist, Casino Niagara, four breakfasts, four dinners and more.

For reservations and/or more information, call Helen at 908-276-2849.

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First Presbyterian offers alternative Christmas

First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., will present its yearly alternative Christmas service for those who have encountered loss and are grieving, on Sunday from 7 to 9 p.m., along with the support group's meeting on the topic of "dreams."

The service will be held in the chapel and will include scripture readings, songs, poems and a short meditation, with candle lighting. Feel free to bring a friend. The group will meet in the Mettman Lounge, followed by the

service. The next six-week Journey to Wholeness Seminar will start Jan. 23.

For more information, call Patti Williams 908-709-1341 or Virginia Waters 908-276-2226. Everyone is welcome.

Annual Carol-Sing Sunday at St. Michael's

St. Michael's Church will hold its annual Christmas Carol-Sing Sunday featuring performances by the Parish Choir, Women's Choir and Children's Choir. The concert will begin at 5:30 p.m. at St. Michael's Church, 40 Alden St., Cranford.

Admission is free, and the public is invited to bring families and friends to join in the celebration of the season in song.

Labyrinth Walks

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., is sponsoring a series of open Labyrinth Walks. All walks will be held in Bates Hall. The Cranford community and surrounding towns are invited to attend.

The next Labyrinth Walk is scheduled for Sunday. Participants are invited to walk the Labyrinth any time


between 1 and 4 p.m., but begin the walk by 3:30 p.m. Subsequent walks will be held the first Sunday of every month, unless otherwise specified.

Walking the Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice of prayer and meditation that is experiencing a reawakening in our time.


The 11-ringed pattern painted on canvas is modeled after the 13th century Labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France. In Medieval times, walking the Labyrinth symbolized the Christian pilgrimage to Jerusalem for those who could not personally make the journey.

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One Coupon per Customer • Not valid on advertised items or with any other coupon offer or case discount. Discount not available on Sparkling Wine. Good Thru 12/12/04. Limit 24 bottles.

Coupon

\$2.00 off

909 Macanudo Cigar purchase of \$10 or more

Limited to store stock only. Good thru 12/12/04.

SURGEON GENERAL WARNING: Quitting Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Smoking. Alternative To Cigarettes.

Holiday Hours	Essex Green	River Edge	Union
Fri 12/17/04	9am-10pm	9am-10pm	9am-10pm
Sat 12/18/04	9am-10pm	9am-10pm	9am-10pm
Sun 12/19/04	9am-9pm	12pm-9pm	12pm-9pm

Coupon

Premium Wine Savings

\$3.50 off

Per 750ml bottle of wine priced \$30 or more

One Coupon per Customer • Not valid on advertised items or with any other coupon offer or case discount. Discount not available on Sparkling Wine. Good Thru 12/12/04. Limit 24 bottles.

Coupon

Bordeaux Savings

\$5.00 off

Per 750ml bottle of Bordeaux wine priced \$24.99 or more

One Coupon per Customer • Not valid on advertised items or with any other coupon offer or case discount. Discount not available on Sparkling Wine. Good Thru 12/12/04. Limit 24 bottles.

Coupon

Australian Wine Savings

\$1.50 off

Per 750ml bottle of Australian wine priced \$9.99 or more

One Coupon per Customer • Not valid on advertised items or with any other coupon offer or case discount. Discount not available on Sparkling Wine. Good Thru 12/12/04. Limit 24 bottles.

PERENNIAL FAVORITES

Kendall-Jackson Chardonnay 9.17	Bogle Chardonnay Merlot 6.67	Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio 18.07	Meridian Cabernet, Merlot Chardonnay 7.77
J. Lohr Riverton Chardonnay 9.17	Beringer White Zinfandel 4.27	Yellow Tail Cabernet Merlot Chardonnay 5.97	Ruffino Ris Ducale Tan 16.07
Beringer FOUNDER'S ESTATE Cabernet Merlot Chardonnay 7.37	Mondavi PRIVATE SELECTION Cab Merlot Chard 7.67	Rosemount Shiraz 8.87	Gallo Sonoma Cabernet Merlot Chardonnay 8.17

CALIFORNIA / WASHINGTON

BV Coastal Cab, Chard, Merlot	1.07	Estancia Red Meritage	21.57
BV Napa Cabernet	11.37	Estancia Cabernet, Merlot	11.07
BV Rutherford Cabernet	18.57	Fetzer Sundial Chard, Mer, Cab, Gewurz	6.47
Babich Sauvignon Blanc	8.57	Forest Glen Cab, Chard, Merlot	12.07
Berger Chardonnay Cerneros	8.57	Franciscan Cabernet	18.07
Berger Chardonnay Napa	10.67	Franciscan Chardonnay	12.07
Berger Chenin Blanc	4.37	Franciscan Merlot	30.07
Berger Knights Valley Cab	18.67	Franciscan Magnificat Meritage	30.07
Bogle Petite Sirah	7.37	Frei Brothers Chardonnay	11.37
Bogle Zinfandel Old Vine	8.07	Gallo Sonoma Cab, Chard, Mer	8.17
Bonterra Chardonnay	10.07	Geyser Peak Sauvignon Blanc	8.07
Ca del Solo Big House Red, Wit	7.17	Glen Ellen Cab, Chard, Merlot	9.07
Cambria Chard, Cab, Merlot	12.07	Hess Select Cabernet	13.37
Ch Souverain Cabernet	14.07	Hess Select Chardonnay	8.27
Ch Souverain Merlot	13.37	Hogus Chardonnay	6.67
Ch St Jean Cabernet Sonoma	18.67	J. Lohr Cabernet Seven Oaks	11.07
Ch St Jean Chardonnay	18.67	Kendall Jackson Pinot Noir	9.07
Ch St Michelle Chardonnay	7.67	Kendall Jackson Sauv Blanc	7.37
Ch St Michelle Cabernet, Mer	11.37	Kendall Jackson Cab, Merlot	12.17
Charles Krug Cabernet	14.97	La Crema Chard Sonoma Coast	13.37
Cline Zinfandel California	21.17	La Crema Pinot Noir Sonoma Coast	13.37
Clos du Bois Cabernet	12.07	Liberty School Cabernet	10.07
Clos du Bois Chardonnay	8.37	Marinella Old Vine Red	8.27
Clos du Bois Merlot	13.07	Markham Chardonnay	11.57
Columbia Crest Chard, Mer Cab	13.37	Markham Merlot	14.07
Columbia Crest Gr Est Chard, Cab	8.67	Maryvale Chard Starmont	13.67
Coppola Diamond Chardonnay	11.17	Mondavi Napa Cab, Chard, Merlot	5.67
Coppola Diamond Merlot	12.17	Mondavi Cabernet	5.57
Coppola Diamond Cab, Mer	12.17	Murphy Goodie Cabernet	14.07
Dynamite Cabernet	13.37	Napa Ridge Cab, Chard	5.07
Edna Valley Chardonnay	10.07	Peppercorn Pinot Noir	7.07
Estancia Chardonnay	8.07	Rabbit Ridge Cuvee Cab, Merlot	6.37

ITALY

Antinori Santa Cristina Sangiovese	8.07	Rancho Zabaco Zin Dancer Bull	6.67
Banfi Chianti Classico Riserva	12.17	Rancho Zabaco Zin Heritage	9.37
Bella Sera Pinot Grigio	5.77	Ravenswood Vintner's Zinfandel	7.77
Cavit Pinot Grigio	6.47	Rodney Strong Chalk Hill Chard	12.07
Ecco Domani Merlot, PG, Gioia	7.17	Rodney Strong Sonoma Chard	8.07
Falasco Vintano	7.07	Sebastiani Sonoma Cabernet	12.07
Laguarda Pinot Grigio	10.37	Sebastiani Sonoma Chardonnay	8.07
Luiano Chianti Classico	10.37	Simi Cab Alexander Valley	16.77
Monte Antico Rosso	7.37	Simi Chardonnay	12.07
Ruffino Chianti	6.17	Smoking Loon Cab, Mer, Chard	7.07
Ruffino Chianti Ris Ducale Gold	27.07	St Francis Cabernet	13.07
Tredinger Pinot Grigio	9.37	St Francis Chardonnay	9.07

FRANCE

Pat Bastard Chard, Shiraz	7.47	Stutter Home White Zinfandel	3.17
Jadot Parallel 45	7.57	Toasted Head Chardonnay	10.07
Jadot Beaugues	7.07	Turning Leaf Cab, Chard, Merlot	

NEWS CLIPS

Toys for Tots drive

The Cranford Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association, along with the Cranford Post Office, and The Cranford Deli has once again joined forces with the United States Marine Corps Reserve for their annual Toys for Tots toy drive. This annual drive has been bringing joy to millions of children at the holiday season for over 50 years.

Toys for Tots in Northern New Jersey makes a tremendous difference in the lives of less fortunate children in the communities. Last year more than 2,500 toys were distributed to area children through the collections made in Cranford alone.

New, unwrapped toys can be brought to Fire Headquarters, The Cranford Post Office, or the Cranford Deli. Toys are being collected from Saturday through Dec. 20.

For more information, call Dean Russamano at Cranford Fire Headquarters at 908-709-7360.

Winter hours at Conservation Center

The Conservation Center will be open on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. from December through March.

Christmas trees should not be left at curbside. They can be taken to the Conservation Center during normal working hours without a permit. Residents can call their garbage hauler to see if they will remove the trees as in previous years.

The Conservation Center is located on Birchwood Avenue, off Orange Avenue.

The following materials are accepted from Cranford residents and businesses and a permit is not required: aluminum cans; tin cans, glass bottles/jars, plastic PETE & HDPE bottles, newspapers, corrugated cardboard, office paper and mixed paper — magazines and junk mail — household batteries, motor oil, motor oil filters, and leaves. Branches and other yard waste require a permit. Leaves do not need a permit.

Youth choirs to perform at temple

Three youth choirs including Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim's "Koleinu" Youth Choir in Cranford led by Hazzan Frank Lanzkron-Tamara will be joined by Congregation Beth Israel of Scotch Plains, led by Hazzan Matthew Axelrod, and Congregation Agudath Israel of Caldwell, led by Hazzan Joel Caplan, for a concert Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim, 338 Walnut Ave., Cranford.

Beautiful Israeli and Hanukkah music is planned including the Koleinu Youth choir singing a three-part round called "Candles Burning," Avinu Shebashamayim, "Prayer for Israel," with all of the choirs, performing Haneirot Halalalu, "Hanukkah song," a Shalom Haverim/Heveinu Shalom medley.

"Youth choirs provide a way to get children to build an appreciation for choirs and Jewish music," Frank said. "I envision the concert to have a lot of audience participation."

"The Hazzanim and I will sing some spirited songs that the audience will sing along to, including Yism'chu V'malchut'cha, Rom'mu, Shomer Yisrael, and an Argentinian L'cha Dodi."

Caplan's youth choir is rehearsing several lighthearted tunes including a funny story about the poor latke, named "I am a Latke" and Oy Hanukkah, a Yiddish version of O Hanukkah. All of the choirs will sing Mah Tovv, Halleluyah, and Avinu Shebashamayim, "a prayer for Israel," together.

All those who play or enjoy listening to beautiful music are encouraged to come and enjoy the afternoon. Holiday desserts are included. A Tzedakah donation will be made to One Family Fund of Israel.

"We're leaning toward the One Family Fund, which gives financial and emotional aid to the families of victims of terror in Israel," said Axelrod.

Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem in 165 B.C.E., and is also known as the festival of lights. This eight-day festival begins on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev.

According to tradition as recorded in the Talmud, at the time of the rededication, there was very little oil left that had not been defiled by the Greeks. Oil was needed for the menorah in the temple, which was supposed to burn throughout the night every night. There was only enough oil to burn for one day, yet miraculously, it burned for eight days. The Hanukkah festival was declared to commemorate this miracle.

Tickets cost \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door, or \$25 for the whole family. Sponsors cost \$18 and receive a preferred show seat with a listing in the Program Book.

For more information, call 908-276-9231 or visit www.tbemc.org.

Krinzman participates in business forum

Lee Krinzman, a member of Cranford High School's DECA, was among a number of high school students from throughout Central New Jersey who were given insights into the career world from a panel of top business professionals, at a recent business forum, sponsored by Berkeley College.



Krinzman

Krinzman, and Sherene Joseph, president of Future Business Leaders of America at Carteret High School, had the opportunity to meet with the business leaders at the conclusion of the forum.

This is the seventh year the college has hosted a business forum and the

STUDENT UPDATE

first year a forum was held in central New Jersey. Approximately 450 students from 18 high schools attended the business forum.

A lively question and answer session, which gave students the opportunity to ask the panel about a typical work day, balancing work and family obligations and advancement in the workplace, followed the panel presentation.

The forum, held at Hilton Garden Inn in Edison, featured commentary and insights from Cal Hodock, a pharmaceutical consultant for the Rainbow Consulting/Hodock Group; Pam Hufnagel, senior director, Market Strategy and Planning, Cingular; Carol Knauff, former chair and chief executive officer, Worldwide Web Network Corp.; Hady Mendez, vice president, Chase Home Finance; Kevin Pollack, assistant vice president of Marketing and E Commerce, JP Morgan Chase, and Giancarlo Negovetti, account manager, Hot97 RM Radio.

Baker plays viola for F&M orchestra

Sophomore Rachel Baker, a 2003 graduate of Cranford High School and the daughter of Barbara and Jonathan Baker of Cranford, plays viola for the Community Orchestra.

Now in its 19th season, The Franklin & Marshall Orchestra, under the direction of Brian Norcross, the college's director of instrumental music, is a 60- to 70-piece ensemble of musicians.

The orchestra consists of Franklin & Marshall students, faculty and staff. Community members include teachers, outstanding high school students and retirees. The orchestra welcomes players, regardless of age.

The orchestra's repertoire spans a wide variety of music from the classical masters through the romantic composers and even features world premiere performances.

RECREATION

Get your Santa suits

As the holiday season descends upon us the Cranford Recreation and Parks Department announces that Santa Claus has called and he has sent suits for his helpers.

To reserve a suit, send a letter to the Cranford Recreation & Parks Department, Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., with your name address, phone number, date of use, time of pick-up and drop off time. There is no charge.

Due to the popularity of this service, promptness is of the essence as there are only a few suits available for Cranford residents only.

The suit consists of the jacket, trousers, belt and black spats. If you have any questions, call the department at 908-709-7283 and one of

Santa's Elves will be happy to help you.

Teen center open Fridays and Saturdays

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department offers a teen center for seventh- and eighth-graders every Friday from 7 to 10 p.m. and for ninth- to 12th-graders every Saturday from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

Enjoy basketball, billiards, ping-pong, air hockey and more, or just come down to hang out and watch TV with your friends.

For more information, call 908-709-7283.

Cranford residents only.

Volleyball and field hockey registration

The Cranford Recreation & Parks Department has openings in volleyball and field hockey, for Cranford residents only.

Volleyball is co-ed for grades seven to 12. The program is held on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m., starting on Jan. 6 and ending on April 7. The fee is \$15.

Field hockey is co-ed for grades three through eight. The program is held on Saturdays from 8:30 to 10 a.m., starting on Jan. 8 and ending on March 5. The fee is \$20.

Call the Recreation Department at 908-709-7283 for more information.

Teen dances at center

The Recreation and Parks Department will sponsor seventh- and eighth-grade teen dances at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., from 7 to 10 p.m.

Teen dances will be Friday and Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 4 and April 8. Dances are for Cranford residents only.

Separate picture ID cards of incoming seventh-graders and new Cranford eighth-graders were recently taken at Orange Avenue and Hillside Avenue Schools. The picture IDs will be available to purchase for \$2 at these schools during lunch. St Michael's School and other private school students can come to the Cranford Community Center on Wednesday or Thursday between the hours of 4 and 5:30 p.m. to purchase their IDs.

EVENTS

campus, in a holiday choral concert on Sunday at 4 p.m.

The program will feature works of Brahms, Telemann, Praetorius, Howells and Bryan Kelly, as well as special arrangements of Advent and Christmas carols, Hanukkah Folksongs and African-American spirituals.

The program is under the direction of John E. Floreen, conductor of the chorus since 1979. The accompanist will be Harvey Burgett.

General admission to the concert will cost \$10. Preferred seating will be available for \$25. Student and senior citizen tickets will cost \$5. All tickets will be sold at the door.

The 50-voice chorus has been well-received in its tours of Europe, where reviewers have called them "a truly magnificent group of vocalists, who sing with musical sensitivity, warmth of expression and high levels of technical skill." The group will be making a nine-day concert tour of Scotland in May.

Their holiday concert tours will keep them closer to home. Besides the Cranford appearance, they will perform on Dec. 12 at 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 528 Dr. M. L. King Blvd., Newark, and at a noontime concert in the lobby of the PSE&G Building, Park Place, Newark on Dec. 13.

For directions to Calvary Lutheran Church or for more information about the program, call the church office at 908-276-2418.

Calvary Lutheran Church is a congregation of the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving the Cranford-Westfield area and surrounding communities for 76 years.

Holiday events planned downtown

The Cranford Chamber of Commerce, co-sponsored by Commerce Bank, will host the following holiday events:

• Dec. 11, Santa on Sled, Eastman Plaza.

9 to 10 a.m., photos with Santa on Sled, \$3 each.

10 a.m. to noon, free movie at Cranford Theater. Children younger than 8 only. Parents must sign in children at the door. Live music. Hot chocolate and goodies during the day.

Noon to 2 p.m., photos with Santa on Sled, \$3 each.

• Dec. 18, gazebo North Union and Springfield avenues, trolley rides with Santa

9 to 11 a.m., photos with Santa, \$3 each.

Noon to 1 p.m., photos with Santa, \$3 each.

2 to 4 p.m., trolley ride through town with Santa Popcorn and hot chocolate.

In case of inclement weather, call the chamber office 908-272-6114 for updates.

Holiday wreath sale

Brighten your home with a 24-inch balsam fir wreath decorated with your

choice of bow color.

Each wreath is beautifully hand-decorated with holiday ornaments and snow-tipped pinecones. Add the special touch of a bow in your choice of red, gold, red & green plaid, burgundy, winter white, mauve or slate blue.

Wreath pick-up is Monday. Each wreath is only \$18. All proceeds go toward college scholarships for Cranford High School Seniors who show a financial need.

Call Nancy at 908-276-1308 to order your special wreath.

The parent Teacher Council, which is a 30-year-old townwide organization, thanks you for your continual support.

Jaycees Christmas party will be Saturday

Santa Claus will make an early visit to the township for the Cranford Jaycees annual Children's Christmas Party from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

The jolly old elf has agreed to pose for a free picture with every child, and is eager to hear what presents are expected under the tree this year. There will be an assortment of games to entertain children of all ages and prizes for all participants. Refreshments will also be served. Admission is free.

The event is one of many community service activities organized and sponsored year-round by the Cranford Jaycees. Following the morning party, Santa's reindeer will whisk him and the Jaycees away to host a holiday party for Cranford Family Care to help spread holiday cheer and gifts to those less fortunate in our community.

The Jaycees meet on the second Thursday of the month at 8:30 p.m. at the Cranford VFW on South Avenue.

For more information, call Matt McDermott at 908-931-9062.

Cops will be making 'Home Deliveries'

The Cranford Police Department is sponsoring its fifth annual "Home Deliveries" to young children throughout the town.

Santa will be making the deliveries to children age 10 and younger Dec. 14-17.

To participate, drop off a wrapped gift with the child's name, address, and phone number to the Cranford Police Department between Dec. 8-10.

For more information, call Detective Frank Williams 908-272-5922, ext. 7.

Annual concert series kicks off on Dec. 12

The ninth annual "Music in a Sacred Place" Concert Series will begin with an advent program by the Adult Choir of Trinity Episcopal Church, North and Forest avenues, at 4 p.m. on Dec. 12.

Each performance will be followed by a reception at Sherlock Hall. The suggested donation is \$10.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Board of Adjustment (Zoning), Township of Cranford, County of Union, New Jersey will hold a regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, December 20, 2004 at 7:45 p.m. in Room 107 of the Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey and to hear the following case which have been to the agenda:

3. Application #240-04: Juan and Patti Moreno, Applicants, 10 Mendell Avenue, Block 549, Lot 18, Zone R-4. To permit construction of an above ground pool with less than the minimum required distance from the pool to the principal structure (136-24-B).

4. Application #243-04: Gary Patti, Applicant, 201 High Street, Block 483, Lot 5.01, R-4 Zone, To permit construction of a single-family dwelling that will exceed the maximum allowable height (136-30-11).

All maps and papers relative to said application are on file in the Planning/Zoning Office, Cranford Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cran-

PUBLIC NOTICE

ford, New Jersey and are available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M.

Any interested party or person or persons affected by this application will have an opportunity to present any objections to the proposed development. The Board does, however, have the right to exclude repetitious testimony in accordance with the rules of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Barbara Ginsberg, Secretary
U95942 CCE Dec. 2, 2004 (\$17.25)

Public Notice

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF CLARK
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2004
430 WESTFIELD AVENUE
ROOM 16 - 7:45 PM
CLARK, N.J. 07066

ADDENDUM: Resolutions to authorize the advertising of Bids for Library Shelving and Installation of Computer lines for the Library.

Kathleen Leonard
Township Clerk
U95951 CCE Dec. 2, 2004 (\$6.00)

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Editor: JR Parachini
Can be reached in
Maplewood at 973-763-0700

SPORTS

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

THIS IS H.S. FOOTBALL

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

Nine teams finished over .500, two at .500 and nine qualified for the state playoffs.

Only one Union County team is still playing.

That is New Providence (10-1), which will play at Florence Saturday at 1 p.m. for the Central Jersey, Group 1 championship.

Florence (11-0) won the section last year and has a 23-game winning streak. Among those 22 wins is a victory over visiting New Providence 7-3 in last year's semifinals. Florence won at Riverside 54-6 last Thursday.

Florence's last loss came in the 2002 South Jersey, Group 1 championship game where it fell to Paulsboro 50-0.

New Providence last won a sectional title in 1989 when it captured North 2, Group 1 for the third consecutive year.

After losing to Union on Thanksgiving or the holiday weekend eight consecutive years from 1991-1998, Scotch Plains has now won on the holiday six years in a row. The Raiders downed Elizabeth at home for the second consecutive year last Thursday, coming back to gain a 13-12 win.

Scotch Plains defeated Union three straight years from 1999-2001 and has now bested Elizabeth three years in a row from 2002-2004.

Roselle Park defeated Roselle for the second straight year, downing the Rams 35-6 behind a stand-out performance by senior running back Elliott Fidali, one of the top players in Union County.

Roselle Park now leads the county's second-longest holiday series by a 44-38-5 count.

The 88th consecutive game in the series is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 24, 2005 at Arminio Field in Roselle.

Plainfield blanked visiting Westfield 40-0 at Hub Stine Field in the 100th meeting between the Watchung Conference schools on Thanksgiving.

Westfield still leads the series at 50-43-7.

It was the most one-sided victory for Plainfield in the series since a 39-0 victory in 1917.

Plainfield did well to end the season with a three-game winning streak to finish at 5-5. Summit also won its last three to conclude 5-5.

Cranford won eight games for the second consecutive season and is 22-9 the past three years. That includes a 1-3 playoff record.

Brearley won nine games for the second time in three years. The Bears are now 24-7 under head coach Scott Miller, including a 1-3 playoff mark.

The most improved teams this year were Rahway, Linden, Roselle and Governor Livingston. Last year, Rahway was 2-8, Linden 2-8 (with only one win on the field), Roselle 2-8 and GL 4-6.

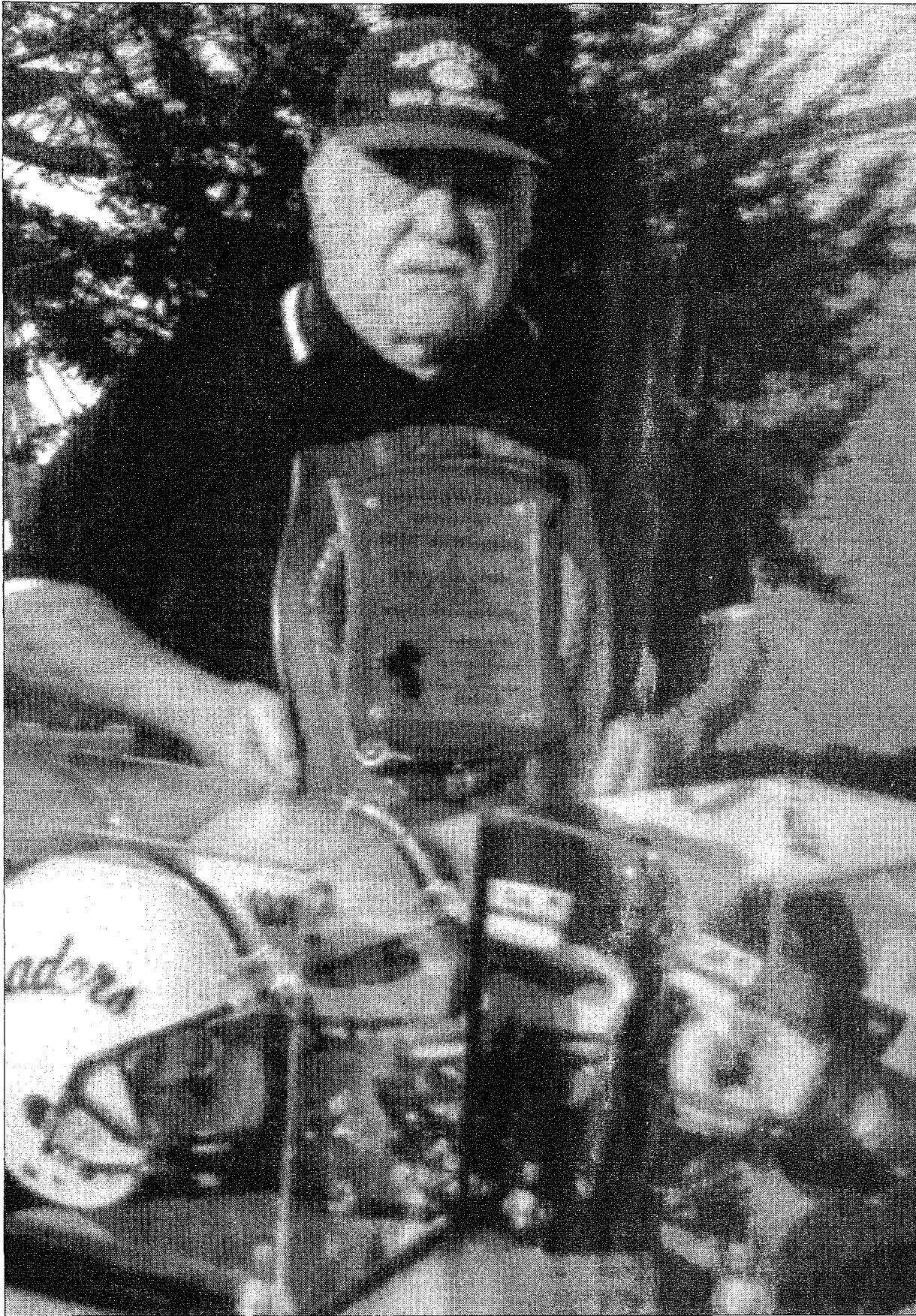
Unbeaten county teams at home included New Providence (6-0), Brearley (5-0), GL (5-0), Elizabeth (5-0) and Rahway (5-0).

WEEK TWELVE GAME
NJSIAA Final (1)
Central Jersey, Group 1
Saturday, Dec. 4, 1 p.m.
 4-New Prov. at 2-Florence

WEEK ELEVEN SCORES
THANKSGIVING
Thursday, Nov. 25 (8)
 Scotch Plains 13, Elizabeth 12
 Linden 13, Union 0
 Plainfield 40, Westfield 0
 Cranford 38, Kearny 0
 Rahway 14, Johnson 6
 Brearley 33, Hillside 0
 Roselle Park 35, Roselle 6
 New Prov. 19, Gov. Liv. 7

WEEK TWELVE PICK (1)
 Florence over New Providence
Last week: 7-1
This year: 94-35 (.729)

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



Vince Albano has had a distinguished coaching career on the high school football level in Union County. He has been a big part of the success attained by Brearley and Johnson. Albano was honored by Johnson Nov. 6 for completing 50 years of coaching.

Albano has seen plenty in 50 years of coaching

A big part of Johnson, Brearley gridiron success

By Jeff Wolfrum
Staff Writer

Johnson High School football will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next year and assistant coach Vincent J. Albano has been a huge part of that.

Albano, who's been coaching at the Clark-based school since 1994, just completed his 50th year of coaching.

Albano's story starts after returning from the Korean War where he joined the staff of Barringer in Newark for three years (1954-1957), coaching the freshman team.

He then moved on to coach at Dayton for 10 years (1957-1967) before joining the staff at Brearley for the next 27 seasons (1967-1993).

"I started coaching at Brearley the second year it was open under coach (Nelson) Gible," Albano said. "Bob Taylor then took over and I coached under him until he retired from coaching."

Albano followed Taylor to Johnson in 1993 and has been coaching there ever since.

Taylor retired from coaching after the 2002 season after leading Johnson to the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 championship.

"I met Vinny in 1973 and got along with him from the start because we both have roots in Newark," Taylor said. "I was immediately impressed by his fire and excitement for the game. Vinny has an amazing feel for the game and still carries that same enthusiasm today."

In addition to his accomplishments on the field, Albano was an outstanding educator for 40 years.

"I started teaching biology at Dayton before going on to teach English and science at Brearley," Albano said. "I was also teaching the slower students biology along with some science."

Albano retired from teaching after the 1993-94 school year after his wife passed away from kidney problems.

For his dedication as an educator in teaching science and "how to live skills," Albano was honored by receiving the State of New Jersey DOE Governor's Teacher Recognition Award from then Governor Jim Florio while at Brearley in 1992.

"It was an honor to receive that award," Albano said. "I have had the great fortune to teach a lot of wonderful kids over the years."

That list includes former NFL defensive lineman and current Fox Network sideline reporter Tony Siragusa.

"I coached and taught Tony at Brearley along with current Brearley coach Scott Miller and his older brother Peter," Albano said. "I was also fortunate enough to coach and teach my son Vincent for two years. That doesn't happen too much for a father and son."

Legend has it that Albano was the first to give Siragusa the nickname of "The Goose."

"Tony has done a wonderful job of giving back to the community," Albano said. "I think that goes a long way with how coach Taylor molded his players as just not athletes but good citizens as well."

That philosophy, which Albano played a big part of, was teaching students how to work well in groups and learn by failure.

"Life is about survival," Albano said. "Learning is living and if you get knocked down, you must get up and correct the things that went wrong. That philosophy parlayed between coaching football and teaching because you need discipline to prepare for life's big game."

With so many memories from a half century of coaching, Albano recalled some of the best teams and moments he was a part of.

Albano felt the best team he ever helped coach was Johnson's 1995 squad that went 11-0, outscored the opposition 424-24 and captured its first North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 championship. That Crusader squad shut out seven teams, while the starting defense gave up only six points in the 21-6 win at two-time defending champion Summit in the final.

"That was a really good football team," Albano said. "It was a special unit that had great size, speed and substitutes. We could run and pass the ball in addition to playing top-notch defense. The coaching staff was always able to stay on top of the players and keep the team focused."

Albano's favorite game was Brearley's come-from-behind 14-13 win at Mountain Lakes in the 1991 North 2, Group 1 championship game.

The Bears trailed 13-0 before scoring late in the fourth quarter to close to within 13-7. Brearley then recovered an on-sides kick and scored another touchdown with less than two minutes left. A second Jonathan Chango extra point proved to be the difference.

"That year we went on to win a sectional title," Albano said. "We tied Johnson the week before the playoffs at home and then went on the road and beat them in the first round."

Albano concluded his 50th season this year under first-year head coach Gus Kalikas, who returned to the Crusader staff after spending last year as an assistant at Rahway.

Albano was honored for 50 years of service by Johnson Nov. 6 when the Crusaders hosted Pequannock. He received a plaque and two helmets.

"We were in a lot of games this season and just missed out on winning some," Albano said. "I retired from coaching after the season because my legs and body said it was enough. However, come August, my love for the game will return and we'll see. Coaching is just in my blood."

Mark down Sept. 17, 2005

The date has been set for next year's Johnson Football 50th Anniversary Celebration.

That date is Saturday, Sept. 17, 2005.

Johnson will host Brearley at 1 p.m. at Nolan Field in Clark and then a dinner for current and former players, coaches and team members will follow that evening at a location to be determined.

This preliminary information has been posted on the "50th Anniversary Celebration" page of Johnson's website: ALJFootball@yahoo.com.

Over the next several months, this page will be updated regularly, especially with information on what kinds of festivities will be taking place.

Winter sports are just few days away

ALJ ice hockey opens Dec. 10

The winter sports season is just a few days away, with the Johnson High School ice hockey team scheduled to commence its season Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. against Bernards.

The Crusader home-opener against West Morris is scheduled for Dec. 14 at 3:30 p.m. at Warinanco Ice Rink in Roselle.

The varsity basketball teams will open the weekend of Dec. 17-18, as well as the wrestling team.

The boys' basketball team is set to open at Union Catholic Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. The girls' are scheduled to open home against Hillside Dec. 17 at 4 p.m.

The wrestling team will open at Colonia on Dec. 18 and also face Newark West Side that day, competition beginning 11 a.m.

The basketball teams will be competing in Roselle Park tournaments Dec. 27 and 28, while the wrestling squad will participate in the Rahway Tournament Dec. 29 and the Elizabeth Tournament Jan. 8.

The boys' home-opener is scheduled for Dec. 21 against Dayton at 7 p.m. The wrestling team is set to open home Jan. 12 against Bound Brook at 7 p.m.

Before that, the Crusaders will open with meets away from home against Colonia, Newark West Side, Roselle Catholic, Roselle Park and Rahway, in addition to the Rahway and Elizabeth tournaments.

Here's a look at Johnson's winter schedules:

Johnson Boys' Basketball

Dec. 18 at Union Catholic, 7 p.m.
 Dec. 21 Dayton, 7
 Dec. 27 Roselle Park Tournament
 Dec. 28 Roselle Park Tournament
 Jan. 4 at Roselle, 4 p.m.
 Jan. 6 Iselin Kennedy, 7
 Jan. 7 at Newark Central, 4
 Jan. 13 Ridge, 7
 Jan. 15 at Brearley, 7
 Jan. 18 at South Amboy, 7
 Jan. 20 Roselle Park, 7
 Jan. 21 Rahway, 7
 Jan. 25 Hillside, 4
 Jan. 27 St. Mary's, 7
 Jan. 28 Pequannock, 7
 Feb. 1 at North Plainfield, 4
 Feb. 4 at Gov. Livingston, 7
 Feb. 8 Roselle Catholic, 7
 Feb. 15 Delaware Valley, 7

Johnson Girls' Basketball

Dec. 17 Hillside, 4 p.m.
 Dec. 21 Oak Knoll, 4
 Dec. 27 Roselle Park Tournament
 Dec. 28 Roselle Park Tournament
 Jan. 7 at Union Catholic, 7 p.m.
 Jan. 11 at North Plainfield, 4
 Jan. 13 Gov. Livingston, 7
 Jan. 14 at Roselle Catholic, 7
 Jan. 20 Roselle, 4
 Jan. 21 at Rahway, 7
 Jan. 25 at Hillside, 4
 Jan. 27 at Oak Knoll, 4
 Jan. 28 Union Catholic, 4
 Feb. 1 North Plainfield, 4
 Feb. 5 at Roselle Catholic, TBA
 Feb. 7 at Gov. Livingston, 7
 Feb. 11 at Dayton, 7
 Feb. 15 at Roselle, 4
 Feb. 18 Rahway, 4

Johnson Wrestling

Dec. 18 at Colonia
 and vs. Newark West Side, 11 a.m.
 Dec. 21 at Roselle Catholic, 4 p.m.
 Dec. 23 at Roselle Park, 7 p.m.
 Dec. 29 Rahway Tournament, 10 a.m.
 Jan. 7 at Rahway, 7
 Jan. 8 Elizabeth Tournament, 10
 Jan. 12 Bound Brook, 7
 Jan. 19 New Providence, 7
 Jan. 22 Ridge/Manville, 10
 Jan. 26 Brearley, 7
 Jan. 29 Highland Park, 11 a.m.
 Feb. 2 at Gov. Livingston, 7
 Feb. 4-5: UCT at Union
 Feb. 9 Westfield, 7
 Feb. 11 at Millburn, 7
 Feb. 12 Newark Central, 11
 Feb. 16 Edison, 7
 Feb. 17 at Iselin Kennedy, 7
 Feb. 19 North Plainfield, 11

Johnson Ice Hockey

Dec. 10 at Bernards, 8 p.m.
 Dec. 14 West Morris, 3:30 p.m.
 Dec. 17 at South Brunswick, 3 p.m.
 Dec. 21 at Summit, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 22 Verona, 6 p.m.
 Dec. 29 Pequannock, 6 p.m.
 Jan. 2 at Nutley, 6:50 p.m.
 Jan. 5 Nutley, 6 p.m.
 Jan. 10 Madison, 6 p.m.
 Jan. 12 at Westfield, 8:30 p.m.
 Jan. 15 at West Orange, 6 p.m.
 Jan. 19 Westfield, 6 p.m.
 Jan. 26 West Orange, 6 p.m.
 Feb. 2 South Brunswick, 6 p.m.
 Feb. 3 at Verona, 5 p.m.
 Feb. 7 at Pequannock, 8:30 p.m.
 Feb. 9 Summit, 6 p.m.
 Feb. 16 Point Pleasant, 6 p.m.

Crusaders hung tough

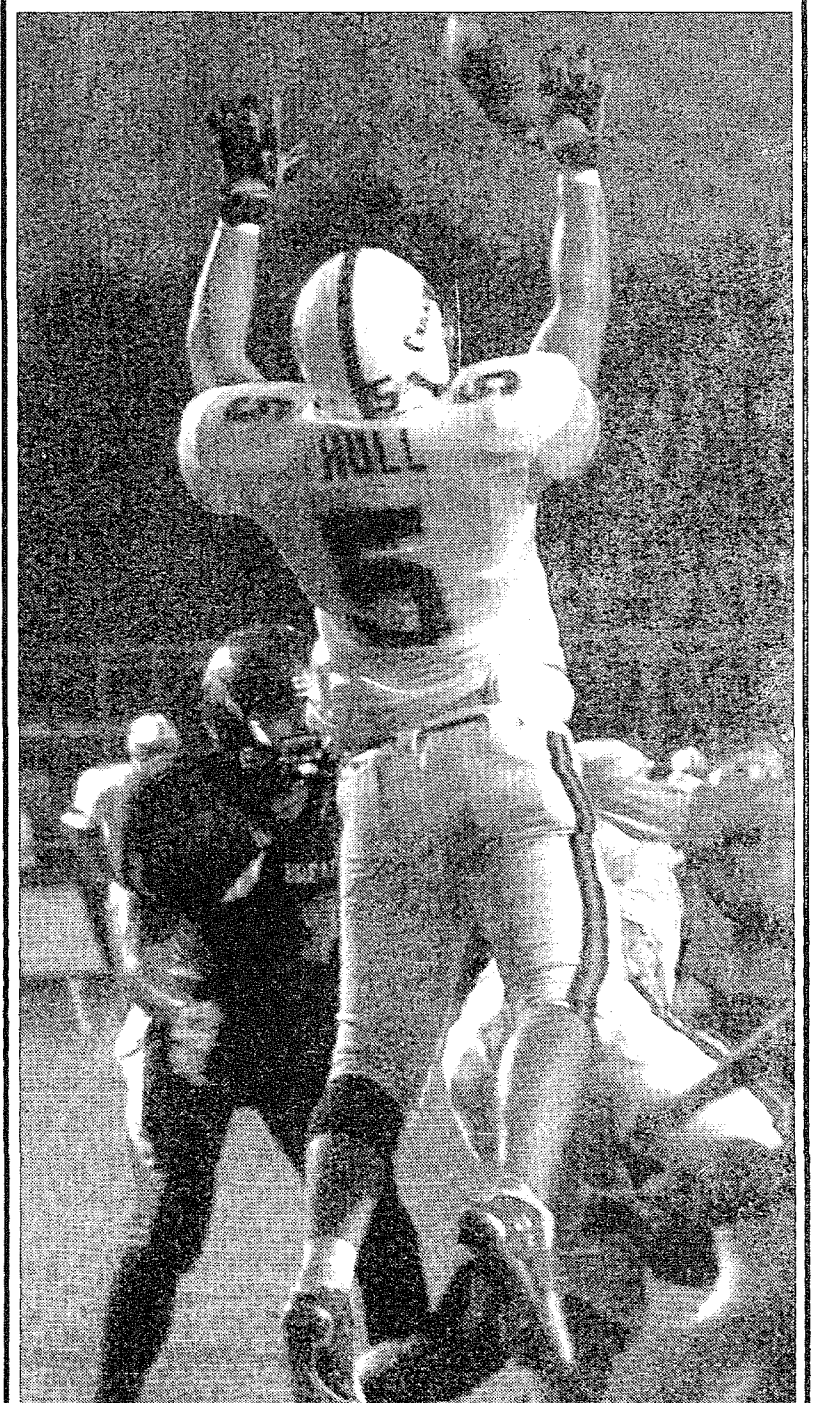


Photo by Barbara Kokkalis

The Johnson High School football team, sparked by the play of sophomore Paul Hull (No. 5), may have been the best 1-9 team in the state this year. The Crusaders were in most of their games and were only outscored 168-117, not bad for a team that won only one game. Johnson lost at home to Rahway 14-6 last Thursday.

OBITUARIES

James McGowan

James McGowan, 84, of Cranford died Nov. 28 in the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-University Hospital, Newark.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. McGowan moved to Cranford 12 years ago. He was the owner of Colby and McGowan Inc., a family printing company, in Elizabeth for many years before retiring in 1992. After retiring, Mr. McGowan wrote articles for the *Elizabeth Reporter*. He was a member of the Assembly, representing Union County from 1958 through 1963. After his third term, Mr. McGowan was a Democratic nominee for the state Senate in 1963.

He was part of a lawsuit with the *Daily Journal* to overturn a 1972 ruling that allowed state Senate and Assembly members to collect more than one state pension. He also assisted in the development of a law that provided financial assistance to nursing students who attended hospital-sponsored schools of nursing.

Mr. McGowan was a trustee emeritus of Union County College, Cranford, for sponsoring a program that provided assistance to students attending two-year junior colleges.

He was a member of the Union County College Board of Trustees from 1967 through 1992 and the Union County College Foundation Board of Trustees from 1984 through 2000.

Mr. McGowan also was a member of the Statewide Federal Savings Board of Directors, a member of the St. Elizabeth Hospital Advisory Board, Elizabeth, for 21 years and chairman of the Union County March of Dimes.

He was an infantryman in the Army during World War II and served in the Battle of the Bulge.

Surviving are two sons, William and John; three brothers, Paul, Kenneth and Richard, and a sister, Mary Berzen.

Joanne Sweeney

Joanne D. Sweeney, 57, of Cranford died Nov. 19 at home.

Born in Belleville, Mrs. Sweeney lived in Cranford for 28 years. She was a teacher of English as a Second Language and remedial reading for the Union County Educational Services Commission. Earlier, Mrs. Sweeney worked at Union County College with the welfare-to-work program and had been a teacher in the Belleville school system for 11 years. She also taught English as a Second Language at Columbia High School, Maplewood, and Union County College for adults in the evening programs.

Mrs. Sweeney was a 1968 graduate of Newark State Teachers College. She received a master's degree in reading from Kean University, Union, in 1976. Mrs. Sweeney was past president of the Orange Avenue Parent-Teachers Association and the College Women's Club, both in Cranford, and a religious instructor for the youth at St. Michael's Church, Cranford. She was active with the Girl Scouts of America Troop 35, Council 141, of Washington Rock.

Surviving are her husband, Edward Sr.; three daughters, Mary Ellen, Elizabeth Anne and Catherine; a son, Edward Jr., and four sisters, Claire Reilly, Eleanor Anne Ryan and Barbara Wyciskala.

John Taggart Sr.

John J. Taggart Sr., 57, of Cranford died Nov. 21 in Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

Born in Newark, Mr. Taggart lived in Elizabeth before moving to Cranford 20 years ago. He was a foreman at East Coast Truck Parts, Newark, where he worked for 27 years.

Surviving are two sons, John Jr. and Kirk; three daughters, Roxanne Kallensee, Samantha and Jacqueline Taggart; two brothers, Donald and Charles; two sisters, Edna Mitricka and Kathy Dunn, and four grandchildren.

Archie McGhee

Archie McGhee, 87, of Middletown, formerly of Cranford, died Nov. 21 in Frey Village, Middletown.

Born in Philadelphia, Mr. McGhee lived in Cranford for nearly 30 years before moving to Middletown in 1989. He was a faculty member at Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, for 10 years before retiring in 1989. Previously, Mr. McGhee was an accounting instructor at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, and an adjunct professor at New York University, New York City. From 1962 to 1970, he was a managing director at the Institute of Internal Auditors, New York City.

Mr. McGhee was a 1949 graduate of the Wharton School of Finance, University of Pennsylvania, and completed a master's degree at Florida University at Boca Raton, Fla. He was an Army Air Corps veteran and served during World War II in the China-Burma-India theater.

Mr. McGhee was the church superintendent in Trinity Episcopal Church, Cranford, where he was a church school teacher, licensed lay reader from the Diocese of Trenton and choir member. He also was a youth advisor at the church summer camp. Additionally, Mr. McGhee was a 50-year member of the Masons, Mercer Lodge 050.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Betty; a daughter, Carolyn Jackson; two sons, John and Gregory, and two grandchildren.

Leroy Albert

Leroy Albert, 95, of Barnegat Light, formerly of Cranford, died Nov. 21 in Southern Ocean County Hospital, Manahawkin.

Born in Staten Island, Mr. Albert lived in Cranford before moving to Barnegat Light in 1968.

He was a business administration teacher with the Roselle Park Board of Education for 35 years before retiring in 1967.

Mr. Albert was a graduate of Rider University, Lawrenceville. He served

on the Barnegat Light Planning Board. Surviving are a daughter, Virginia Tatlow, and a son, Robert W.

Anthony Merlo

Anthony C. Merlo, 96, of Cranford, formerly of Elizabeth, died Nov. 23 in Union Hospital.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Merlo moved to Cranford in 1994. He was an insulator with Exxon in Linden for 40 years.

Mr. Merlo was a member of the Exxon Quarter Century Club, the Knights of Columbus Council in Elizabeth and the Holy Name Society at St. Anthony's Church, Elizabeth.

Surviving are two daughters, Rosalie Weseloski and Josephine DePetris; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Virginia Buonaguro

Virginia Buonaguro of Cranford died Nov. 26 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick.

Born in Queens, N.Y., Mrs. Buonaguro lived in Cranford for 44 years.

She was past president of the Wednesday Morning Club and the Garden Club, both in Cranford.

Surviving are two sons, Paul M. and Michael J.; four daughters, Eileen Buonaguro-Ray, Dr. Antonia Buonaguro-Ward, Patricia Buonaguro-Laidig and Jane Buonaguro-Maloney, and 11 grandchildren.

Rose Cetera

Rose Cetera, 87, of Cranford died Nov. 27 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Union City, Mrs. Cetera lived in North Bergen before moving to Cranford three years ago. She was a seamstress with Mildred Fran Co., West New York, before retiring in 1984. Mrs. Cetera was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local 148 in Union City.

Surviving are her husband of 66 years, John; two sons, John and Carl; a daughter, Rosalie Spósito; a sister, Adeline Koerner; a brother, James Acinapura, and seven grandchildren.

Amateur Astronomers set to meet Dec. 17

Amateur Astronomers Inc. will conduct its monthly membership meeting Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. in the lecture hall of the Nomahegan Building at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

Immediately following the business meeting at approximately 9 p.m. the club will present a lecture free to the public on "Space is Really Big..." given by Lonny Buinis, a current AAI member and instructional designer at Raritan Valley Community College.

He will discuss humorous topics in astronomy including the Great Moon Hoax, the most costly punctuation error ever, odd names, crazy star maps and the reason why "Space is really big."

Following the lecture, members and guests will be invited to the William Miller Sperry Observatory that is located nearby on campus and will have the opportunity to speak with club members and tour the facility.

Refreshments will be served.

If weather permits, a celestial viewing focusing on two star clusters, the Pleiades and Hyades, will be conducted using the club's two large telescopes.

Free parking is provided by Union County College.

In addition to the monthly meetings on the third Friday of each month from September through May, more informal meetings that are free to the public are held on the remaining Fridays at Sperry Observatory.

At 7:30 p.m., a program for younger audiences is held with topics that include the solar system and the constellations.

Arrangements can be made for groups to attend at 7:30 p.m. by contacting bigdyl@netzero.com.

At 8:30 p.m., programs for the general public are presented that include topics such as "Astronomy Software" and "How to Choose a telescope."

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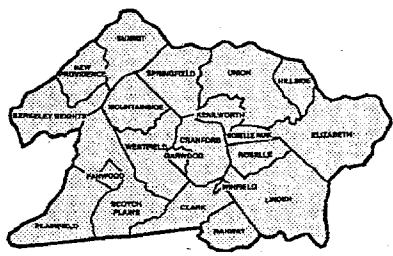
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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2004 - SECTION B

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Political will

The Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving Frank Guzzo leaned back in his chair at his second-floor office in the county Administration Building to reflect on the new focus on neglect of the state's mentally ill youth. As the county's Director of Human Services, he got to respond to publicity generated by the state's Office of the Child Advocate over the sick kids who languish behind and the "pace of reform."

The impetus was a year-long study that found a quarter of the state youth held in overcrowded detention centers are mentally ill and don't get needed treatment. Hardly earth-shattering, though tragic for those who deal with the problem yearlong.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

State Child Advocate Kevin Ryan made the rounds of press and TV telling the story. Not coincidentally Ryan even found time to talk about his own reappointment chances.

In Union County the report concludes the current juvenile facility "is substandard and unacceptable." Ryan less-than-subtly threatens he "intends to monitor the county's progress carefully and to take other steps as necessary and available by statute if significant progress is not forthcoming."

The verbiage in the press was hot and heavy. *The Record* said, "the child advocate report points a shameful picture that no one in New Jersey should feel complacent about." *The Home News-Tribune* wrote, "The State needs at the very least to require counties to hire well-trained mental health professionals to work in all the detention centers, clinicians who can assess and treat the children while they are awaiting permanent placement." *The New York Times* wrote, "with no where else to go, they're packed behind bars."

Missing among the selective outrage is the problem facing Guzzo and other county officials — the cost. The outrage was silent as to the incredible difficulty in citing a facility in an accepting community. If the City of Linden hadn't stepped up to the plate with a site, you wonder what would have happened as the county plans a new facility.

Most difficult is the maze of state-inspired regulations as to location and sites which might be OK in Hunterdon County but are downright impossible and add huge dollars to any urban facility. Even the \$10.5 million set aside by the county for local acquisition, demolition and design may not be enough. In regard to the current substandard facility located over a garage in Elizabeth, Guzzo in a rare unguarded moment says, "I'd like to meet the guy who planned that in 1968."

Ryan said he doubted if there was the political will to complete the reform. Such a shame Ryan pulled that punch. It's not a political will deficit. Rather, what Ryan skirts is citizens don't share his concern. Talk about property tax relief, locating a new freight line or giving some department head a raise and you'll see political will and indignation. The truth for advocates is the tragedy of their kids isn't high on the radar of people who pay the freight.

Add to that efforts by the county, including the depopulation of the current facility and an exciting program to use video conferencing are of little interest to opinion makers.

So Guzzo and other county officials endure threats by the advocate and the oversight Juvenile Justice Commission, as well as their own concern to give the kids the care they need. They move forward even though the overwhelming majority of the constituents don't approve. Seems like Guzzo and friends should be doing the lecturing on political will.

An attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

State threatens action on new youth jail

By Anna Kreyman
Staff Writer

The Office of Child Advocate is urging Union County to launch its five-year-old promise to build a new detention center "within the next 60 days" or else.

In their complete report, the OCA describes the George W. Herlich Juvenile Detention Center, located on the top of a parking garage in Elizabeth, as being a "substandard and unacceptable facility."

"The OCA strongly recommends the county take immediate, significant and affirmative steps to launch its proposed construction project within the next sixty days," the report, released last week, states. "OCA intends to monitor the county's progress carefully and to take other steps as necessary and available by statute if significant progress is not forthcoming."

County officials said they are making progress toward the new detention center, but added that it may not be realistic to put the shovel in the ground within 60 days.

"It didn't take the report to have the

county move on with the building of the new detention center," said Frank Guzzo, director of Union County Human Services. "We are well on our way, we have cited the facility and purchased it."

He added that the new facility, which will be at least 65,000 square feet, "is not like an office building, it requires specific implementation of designs."

"We had to explore the relationship between how kids move and the square footage number," Guzzo said.

The state requires at least 40,000 square footage for detention facilities, according to Guzzo.

"One of the reasons why it takes so long to build a detention center is because 80 percent of the type of land that's needed is already used up and becomes very hard to find," he said.

Guzzo added that the county is unaware of what the cost will be for the new, 80-bed facility.

"We're building for the future," he said. "We don't want to find out the day of completion that we don't have enough room to house all of the kids."

The county has purchased a 4-acre site in Linden, off Routes 1&9, for \$4.3 million. According to the \$1.7 million contract with RicciGreene Associates, the design development phase is scheduled to be completed by February with the bidding and award phase scheduled for next summer, and construction tentatively scheduled to begin in August and finish in November 2006.

The county's goal is to accommodate fewer youngsters than the maximum capacity to ensure that overcrowding will not be an issue.

OCA's year-long probe confirmed that detention centers across the state have common, festering problems of "overcrowding and untreated mental and behavioral needs."

"The state needs to do their job as well as the county," Guzzo said. "The Juvenile Justice Commission approved our plans for the new center. There needs to be more communication between the OCA and the JJC."

The Juvenile Justice Commission seeks to improve mental health matters and overpopulation in detention

centers across the state by partnering with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

According to JJC Executive Director Howard Beyer, the hiring of physicians, nurses and other personnel, and through relationships with area treatment centers, the JJC will begin providing "in-house" health care services for juveniles starting in January.

"The JJC is not a mental health agency, nor is it a child welfare agency," he said in a written statement. "However, the reality is that young people with mental health issues are sometimes inappropriately placed and end up in county detention or state-run juvenile justice facilities. Through our partnership with UMDNJ, we are strengthening our ability to identify their needs and address them. It is, simply put, the right thing to do."

Guzzo said that construction for the new detention center will hopefully begin in the new year, "but we cannot predict any environmental problems that may occur to push that date back."

"There is a shortage of concrete and steel," Guzzo said. "It is not readily available and that is the type of materials that we need to construct the building."

Salaam Ismail, chairman of the United Youth Council Inc., a youth advocacy group in Elizabeth, said the only way to guarantee a new detention center is if the state takes over and builds one.

The state Office of the Child Advocate initiated its investigation into Union County's detention center following a 17-year-old boy's suicide last year.

"The county's persistent violation of state laws and regulations, suggests a fundamental disregard of basic human rights, led directly to the conditions that allowed Edward Sinclair's suicide," OCA's initial report stated.

Sinclair hanged himself with a bedsheet he attached to a broken sprinkler head in a room at the Gerald W. Herlich Juvenile Detention Center in Elizabeth, on May 10, 2003. He was arrested for failing to appear in court for allegedly stealing a bicycle.

Guns for butter

Incentives offered for turning in firearms

By Anna Kreyman
Staff Writer

This holiday season residents are exchanging guns for gifts.

Handguns and rifles are being wrapped in brown, paper bags, tied with colorful string and handed to Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow in exchange for \$50 worth of food or sporting goods.

In the one month since its inception, the gun surrender program has put roughly 20 weapons into police custody that will be destroyed and melted down into manhole covers and wire fasteners.

"I'm pleased that residents are responding to our offer of free groceries or sports merchandise and the chance to get rid of a dangerous weapon," said Romankow.

Last year, about half of the murders in the county were committed with guns, while in 2002, 10 of the 15 murders were shootings and eight of 18 in 2001 involved guns.

"By surrendering the guns, people will ensure that they will not be used in the commission of a crime," said Romankow. "Often guns are inherited from family members, while others are purchased. Many of these guns can become the reason of an unfortunate accident."

The Prosecutor's Office arrested

about 500 people on weapons charges, of which almost 150 charged were youth, so the prosecutor said the goal of this program is maximizing safety and minimizing arrests.

"The office successfully prosecuted about 200 people on gun charges two years ago," Union County Chief of Detectives Robert Buccino said.

According to Union County Manager George Devanney, the program is the perfect way to reduce crime without using local tax dollars.

The funding comes from a state grant of \$23,000 to combat gun violence, "so it is really costing very little to rid homes and neighborhood streets from weapons," said Romankow.

He added that New York City officials tried a similar program several years ago and received more than 10,000 guns.

County officials said Romankow could have used the grant for billboard advertising to promote strict gun law enforcement, "but he decided to take a more aggressive stance by actually offering a surrender program."

The county is accepting firearms from citizens in good will, said Union County Police Chief Daniel Vaniska. "We know there are citizens who have guns in their homes somewhere and have been looking for a safe way to

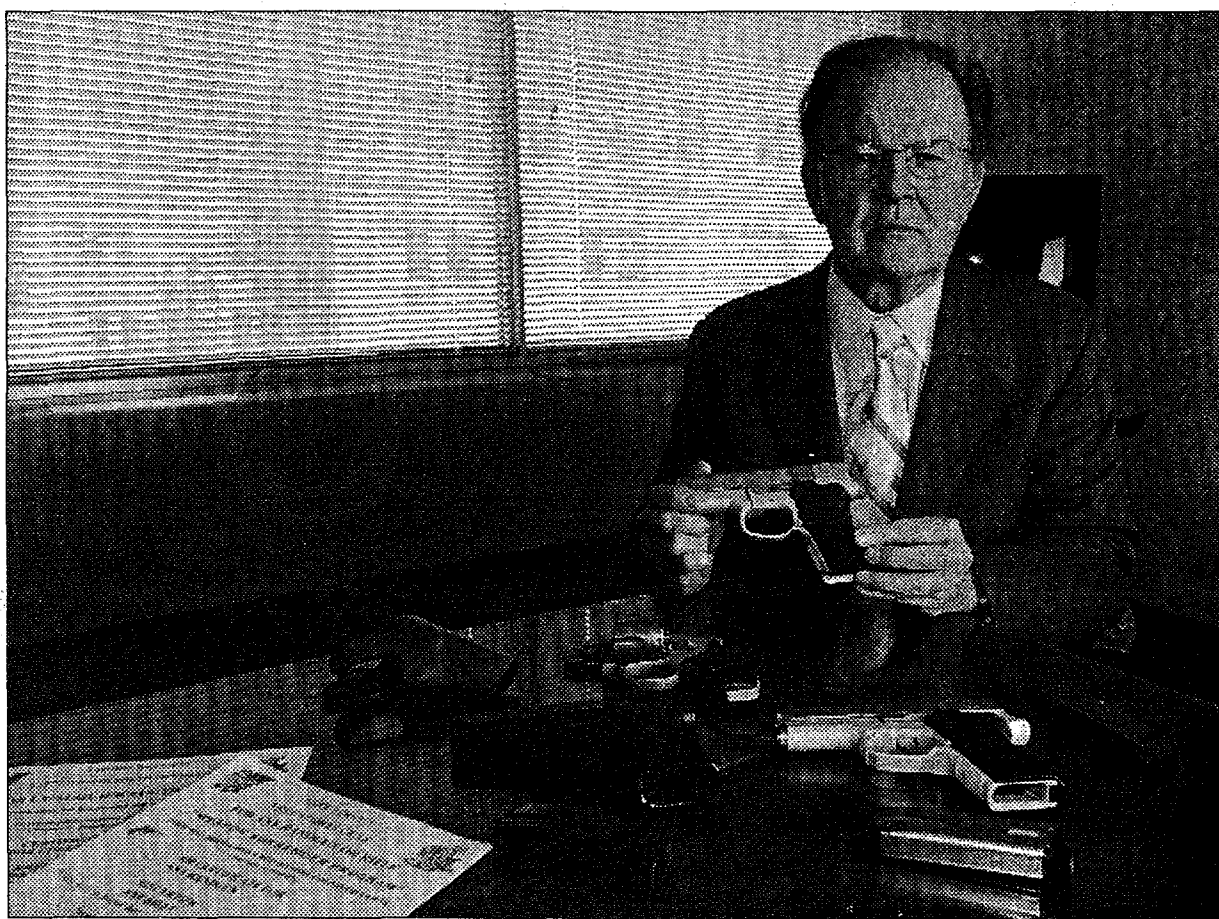


Photo By Joseph A. Sorrentino

Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow is offering \$50 gift certificates for food or sporting goods in exchange for any firearms. So far the Prosecutor's Office has collected 20 weapons. The last day to turn in a weapon in exchange for a gift certificate is Dec. 18 at the Save-A-Life-Today Office, 511-513 W. Sixth St., Plainfield, or call 908-753-3112 for free pickup.

turn the guns in without repercussions."

The last day to turn in a weapon

this year will be Dec. 18 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Save-A-Life-Today Office, 511-513 W. Sixth St., Plainfield, or call

908-753-3112 for free pickup. The program will continue in the spring.

Smoke-free legislation likely not going anywhere

By Anna Kreyman
Staff Writer

Many business owners in Union County are bringing a breath of fresh air into their establishments by putting a No Smoking sign on the door.

According to Ruth Boorujy, spokeswoman for the Summit-based New Jersey Group Against Smoking Pollution, more and more food establishments are becoming smoke-free.

"We have been in the hospitality business of restaurants and bars throughout the state that have decided to keep cigarettes out," she said. "Every town in Union County has about 20 food places that do not allow smoking."

A recent survey conducted by Zagat's, critics on dining, has shown that roughly 80 percent of Garden State residents are non-smokers and about the same amount of businesses are too.

"We have been in the hospitality business since 1981 and we have been a smoke-free establishment since 1994," Josephine Deal of Joe's Pizzeria and Restaurant on Springfield Avenue in Summit said in a letter to NJ GASP. "In 1994, we opened our new building contain-

ing a restaurant — featuring fresh, made-to-order, daily specials and at that time our father also quit smoking. We noticed lots of other people quitting smoking and liked to go to smoke-free places. So we thought it would be more attractive to customers."

Deal added that making her restaurant free of cigarettes has been her best business decision ever because "tables no longer have filthy ashtrays, nor do the plates have butts all over them."

"Even though many of my employees smoke, they are happy being able to eat without the smoke in their face," Deal said.

Joe's Pizzeria and Restaurant is still in business and according to Deal it is "booming more than ever." She said she hopes lawmakers will help to keep smoke out of "people's food."

There is legislation that has been introduced that would prohibit smoking in indoor public places and workplaces.

Boorujy said that although she hopes the law is passed, she realizes that because of the many loopholes in New Jersey's law on smoking that "it will be very difficult to get the smoke out the door."

State law allows smoking in certain spots in public places, "so it will be hard to over turn those laws," she said.

Governing bodies in Garwood, Hillside, Union, Kenilworth and Westfield have passed resolutions urging approval of the smoke-free bill.

Union Township officials said that people deserve to relax in places where they do not have to worry that they might get lung cancer.

"Local governing bodies, organizations and businesses throughout the state are asking for local and state smoke-free air laws to protect employees and the public," Boorujy said. "The governments and other entities have passed 392 resolutions asking for state legislation to restore local government authority to enact smoke-free air laws."

States like New York, California, Florida, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maine, South Dakota, Utah, and Idaho are all ahead of New Jersey in making public places and workplaces free of air pollution.

If the smoke-free law is not passed in New Jersey, state residents will continue breathing the

fumes from nicotine sticks like Marlboro and Parliament in private schools, doctor's offices, child care centers, nursing homes, taxis, charter buses, bowling alleys and dance halls, according to Boorujy.

New Jersey's Smoke-Free Air Act, S-264, was introduced in January and referred to the Senate's Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. The measure's prime sponsors are John Adler, D-Camden, and Thomas Kean Jr., R-Union. Among the co-sponsors is Sen. Nicholas Scutari, D-Union.

According to NJGASP Executive Director Regina Carlson, the smoke-free law is lagging in the Garden State. "New Jersey is just a black hole, so far behind the eight ball." She doesn't expect the bill to be voted on this year.

"It takes about 30 minutes of cigarette smoke exposure to get heart disease," Boorujy said. "Do we really want to take that chance? Why not make this bill stronger by telling our legislators that we care about our health and want to pass a law to ensure a longer and better quality of life."

To find a smoke-free dining experience or to advertise becoming one, go to www.njgasp.org.

Brown to lead presidents of state's community colleges

New Jersey's community college presidents have elected Union County College President Thomas Brown as their chairman for the 2004-05 academic year. As chairman, Brown will oversee all monthly community college presidents meetings until his term expires in September.

In addition to his duties as chairman of the Community College Presidents, Brown serves on the New Jersey Council of County Colleges Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee consists of four community college trustees and three community college presidents. It meets every other month

throughout the academic year and serves as the leadership body of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges.

The New Jersey Council of County Colleges is the state association representing New Jersey's 19 community colleges. As an independent, trustee-headed organization that joins the leadership of trustees and presidents, the council is the voice of the community college sector before the state legislature and other branches of government.

Brown has served as president of Union County College for 14 years. He was appointed in 1990 and, under

his leadership, the college has grown to include four campuses in Cranford, Elizabeth, Plainfield and Scotch Plains serving over 35,000 credit and non-credit students.

Brown came to central Jersey in 1990 from Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, N.Y., where he had served as acting president and vice president for instruction.



Brown

Prior to his New York experience, he was dean of instruction and department chair at Cumberland County College in the southern part of the Garden State.

He has also served on the faculties of Seton Hall University, Hunter College of the City University of New York, Glassboro State College — now Rowan University — and William Paterson College Graduate School. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland and earned both a master's and Ph.D. from New York University.

Brown was recently re-elected chairman of the New Jersey Historic

Trust. He currently serves or has served on the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition, the Governing Board of the Alliance for Minority Participation, Union County Human Relations Committee, Union County Workforce Investment Board and the Executive Board of the Presidents' Council of the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education.

He has received many honors and awards in his career, including being named Northeast Regional Chief Executive of the Year by the Association of Community College Trustees.

Brown is a resident of Plainfield where he resides with his wife, Tressa.

COUNTY NEWS

Tree lighting on Sunday

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will sponsor the annual holiday tree lighting and nature craft show Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine, at Watching Stable, 1160 Summit Lane, Mountain-side.

Throughout the afternoon, visitors can enjoy barn tours, a petting zoo, horseback riding demonstrations by the Watching Mounted Drill Team, and strolling holiday singers. Children will delight at lead-line horse rides and children's crafts. Also, the Union County Police Department will be available for children's fingerprinting throughout the afternoon.

The highlight of the afternoon will be the arrival of Santa Claus at 1 p.m. Children can visit with Santa from 1 to 5 p.m. The afternoon's festivities will culminate with the tree lighting finale at 5 p.m.

There is no admission, however, it is suggested that patrons bring a donation of a dry or canned food item, or a new, unwrapped toy. All items collected at the event will be distributed through local charities. Refreshments will be available for purchase throughout the afternoon.

For more information or directions, call the Trailside Nature and Science Center at 908-789-3670; Watching Stable at 908-789-3665, or the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at 908-527-4900.

Tree sought for rotunda

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Division of Building Services are searching for an evergreen tree to decorate the Courthouse Rotunda for this year's holiday season.

Each year, the county asks its residents for help in supplying a 20- to 25-foot tall evergreen tree. The tree will be on display inside the courthouse, located at 2 Broad St. in downtown Elizabeth.

To donate a suitable tree, call the Union County Division of Building

Services at 908-327-4240. Workers will come to one's property to cut, transport and grind the stump at no cost.

UCLSA holiday party

UCLSA, the association for legal professionals will have its annual holiday party Dec. 14 at BG Fields Restaurant on Springfield Avenue in Westfield. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. There will also be a \$10 grab bag gift exchange along with a collection for UCLSA's charitable cause, cystic fibrosis.

For reservations or more information, call Judy Reed at 908-355-4892 or send an e-mail to j.reed1@att.net.

All legal professionals who either live or work in Union County are invited to attend UCLSA meetings. Members include legal assistants, legal secretaries, paralegals, judicial secretaries, as well as local, county and state government employees. In addition, student memberships are available to those individuals attending school on a full-time basis.

In addition, UCLSA presents an annual scholarship to a qualified individual living in Union County who is pursuing a law-related career at its annual Installation of Officers banquet in May. This year, the scholarship award will be in the amount of \$1,000. The recipient of this local scholarship award may also be eligible to participate in the state association's scholarship contest for an additional scholarship award.

For more information regarding UCLSA, call UCLSA's membership chairman, Susie Mack at 973-849-2543, or send an e-mail to legalangel@hotmail.com.

Gun surrender program

A unique gun surrender program that will allow Union County residents to turn in handguns and rifles in exchange for certificates good for up to \$50 for food or sports equipment has been launched in an effort to remove dangerous weapons from

homes and neighborhoods.

Seven handguns and three rifles were brought in off the streets on the first week and six more handguns turned in along with ammunition during the second pickup.

The program began in Plainfield, where officers from the Union County Police Department will hand out \$50 grocery store certificates or merchandise coupons for each handgun turned in or \$25 coupons for any rifle.

Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow said New York City officials tried a similar program several years ago and received more than 10,000 guns. More than 10 years ago, a countywide effort to acquire weapons also yielded several hundred guns.

Often guns are inherited from family members, while others are purchased. Many of these guns are taken out of the home by family members and friends and used in the commission of crimes. These are all good reasons why handguns and other firearms should be surrendered, with the person turning in the weapon receiving the added benefit of a certificate for groceries or merchandise, Romankow said.

Romankow said the grant monies could be used for leaflets or billboard advertising to promote strict gun law enforcement, but he decided to take a more aggressive stance by actually offering a surrender program.

The monies used in the program are part of a Safe Neighborhoods Media Outreach Grant.

The surrender site will be open in Plainfield at the Save A Life Today on Dec. 18.

If citizens cannot bring the weapon, wrapped in a paper bag and tied with string, the local police department is willing to offer pickup of the gun and delivery service of a gift certificate if residents call the Plainfield Police Division at 908-753-3112 to make arrangements.

For more information, call Executive Assistant Prosecutor Robert O'Leary at 908-527-4505.

Mothers & More has open meeting Dec. 15

The Mothers & More group will meet Dec. 15 for an open forum meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Westfield YMCA, 220 Clark St.

Bring your holiday chores and enjoy some eggnog, snacks and a movie. This would be the perfect time to catch up on whatever you might need to do this busy time of the year or just come and unwind with those who can relate — moms.

The meeting will also be an opportunity for mothers in the area to find out more about the chapter's activities, which include mom and tot outings, mom's night out, playgroups, book club and more.

The Union County chapter holds meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Westfield YMCA.

For more information, call K.C. at 908-789-8626 or Kim at 908-889-2286 or log on to www.geocities.com/mothersand-more10.

Blood drives scheduled

The Blood Center of New Jersey will sponsor the following blood drives:

• Today, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard, Kenilworth.

• Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Knights of Columbus Council, 1034 Jeannette Ave., Union.

• Dec. 12, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Fatima Church, 403 Spring St., Elizabeth; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Union Catholic High School, 1600 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Holy Trinity Parochial School, 336 First St., Westfield.

• Dec. 13, 4 to 8 p.m., Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Deutscher Club, 787 Featherbed Lane, Clark.

For more information, or to sign up, call 1-800-BLOOD-NJ.

'Women of Excellence' nominations available

Nominations are now available for the 13th annual "Women of Excellence" awards program sponsored by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women.

The commission seeks outstanding women nominees from Union County who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following categories: Arts and Humanities; Business/Entrepreneur; Community Service; Education; Government; Law; Law Enforcement; Medicine/Health Care; and/or Women's Advocacy. The commission will accept nominations until Jan. 5.

The women selected from the nominees will be honored at The Westwood, 438 North Ave., Garwood, on March 18, at 7 p.m.

For an official nomination form, call Sean Faughnan at 908-527-4107 or go to www.ucnj.org to download the form.

Once the form is completed, mail to Joan Abitante, 322 Dietz St., Roselle, 07203.

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

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

UCC trip to South America in January

Are you ready for a vacation? Join Union County College on a trip to Argentina and Uruguay from Jan. 4-16. The vacation includes three nights in Montevideo and seven nights in Buenos Aires for a total of \$1,950, based on a double occupancy room.

In addition, there is a three-credit seminar course offered in the spring semester that corresponds to the trip, Spanish 116: Civilization of Argentina/Uruguay (Foreign Study).

For more information about the

trip, call Adrienne Hawley at 908-497-4223.

Prepress, design certificate available

The Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education of Union County College will be offering courses this month on how to prepare design jobs for printing. The courses are part of the certificate programs in PrePress and Print Media offered by the college.

"Preparing Design for Prepress" has two sections being offered in December. The course will teach how to bring the whole job together using QuarkXpress, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Illustrator. Students will review the leading software packages and understand the difference between page layout, vector and pixel-based applications. Students will learn the basics of preparing a job for output for a printer, including collecting fonts, graphics, and document files. The prerequisites for this course are QuarkXpress, Photoshop, and Illustrator.

One section of "Advanced Prepress" is also being offered in December. The course will enhance the skill acquired in "Preparing Design for Prepress" with hands-on analysis of electronic prepress files for trouble-free output.

Students will learn trade troubleshooting techniques used during the Preflight Process. The class will also cover often overlooked problem areas with files created for digital output, including CMYK vs. RGB, trapping, imposition, incorrect use of desktop software applications and font conflicts. Students will review when to use a vector versus a pixel graphic. Computer-to-Plate, Direct-to-Press and PDF files will also be discussed.

The fee for each course is \$105 and both will be held on the College's Cranford campus at 1033 Springfield Ave.

To register, call the Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education at 908-709-7600.



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A WINNIE THE POOH CHRISTMAS CAROL

PERFORMANCE DATES

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7:30 pm.

Saturday • December 11
1:30, 4:30, and 7:30 pm.

Sunday • December 12
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Tickets \$8.00

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December 15, 2004, 7:30 p.m. • St. Theresa's Church, Kenilworth

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All in the lush acoustics and beautiful setting of St. Theresa's Church.

See and hear the Orchestra that has filled the church at St. Theresa's in previous years!

Call 908-709-1930 for ticket reservations

Tickets: \$15, \$25, \$50. All Seats are reserved for your convenience.



HOLIDAY EVENTS IN SUMMIT

SANTA ARRIVES!

Friday, December 3, 6:30pm

SANTA PARADE

FLOATS MUSIC REFRESHMENTS
(Along Springfield Ave., Beechwood Rd., Union Pl.)
Bring a can/box of non-perishable food or diapers
for the Community Food Bank.

HOLIDAY MOVIES
Saturday, December 11, 10:30 & 11:15 AM
Beacon Hill 5 Cinema
FREE, but bring a can or box of food for the Community Food Bank.

HOLIDAY PUPPET SHOWS
Sunday, December 12, 12:30 & 2:00 pm
The Square Yard, 343 Springfield Ave.
Info and Tickets - 908-522-1700

HORSE AND CARRIAGE RIDES
Sundays, December 5, 12, & 19 12:00-2:30 pm
Climb aboard at corner of Beechwood Rd. and De Forest Ave.
FREE, but bring a can/box of food or diapers
for the Community Food Bank.

BREAKFASTS WITH SANTA
Saturdays & Sundays in December
@ The Office Restaurant (908-522-0550),
Wineries Restaurant (908-277-4224),
Broadway Grill (908-277-6222)
(Call each for exact times & to make reservations.)

THURSDAY EVENINGS
The Stores are Open Late! Enjoy Musical Entertainment!

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Buy a gift for the less fortunate; look for the Angel Signs
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Information: Call 908-522-1700

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Community musical club shines in music and scholarships

By Jeff Cummins
Associate Editor

The Musical Club of Westfield has always had quite a following. So much so, in fact, that George Toenes and his wife knew of the club even when they lived in the South.

"We knew people who knew about the music club, and so forth," said Toenes. "We were in North Carolina at the time, and we came here and I tried out."

Ahh, that's an important point. Everyone is welcome at the Musical Club of Westfield, but prospective performers are required to pass a tryout.

The club prides itself on the quality of its music, which will be on

display at the upcoming Holiday Concert on Wednesday, 1 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. The public is invited, free of charge.

"Basically, it's romantic music, some modern, some piano concertos, but not what we'd call 'Pop' stuff," said Toenes. "Beethoven, Mozart, usually what we'd call the better numbers, or the 'high class stuff.'"

"Sometimes we do lighter things, too. I play the clarinet classics, ones that have been around a long time, like the Mozart Clarinet Concerto."

For the uninformed, the Musical Club, which holds a big scholarship concert every two years, is nothing

new to Westfield. Toenes noted that it started in 1915 with just 10 members.

The club hosted its first "chorale" that year, and has grown steadily through the years, expanding to the current number of 119 members, who comprise two membership categories, active and associate, said Toenes.

"To be active, to perform, people have to be at a certain level of performance, which means they have to try out," said Toenes. "The associates are basically listeners. Everybody pays annual dues, and every two years, they have a big scholarship concert."

"The purpose of this club is it

gives people a chance to perform, and we give scholarships," said Toenes. "We had 11 this year, and they go to music students, and they have to try out."

The dues assist in another area: financing scholarships provided by the club.

"Scholarship members do not have to be members of the club," Toenes pointed out. "It's open to all kinds of musicians, as long as the committee thinks they need it, and they're good enough. They have to keep the level up, we're not playing games with the quality of the music."

If there's one thing that club members take seriously, it's the

quality of the music they perform.

Toenes, for one, takes his craft seriously, and he left the impression that every member does.

"They have a big banquet at the end of the year, and each pick a time of year when they'd like to perform," said Toenes. "Mine is usually in October, so I play one or two pieces in October. This year we're doing a 15-page arrangement of music from the Opera 'Carmen,' by Bizet, with a flute, a clarinet and a piano. I play the clarinet, Mary Beth McFall plays the piano, and Jenny Cline plays the flute."

Toenes insists he's just one of the players in the club, although he's on the publicity committee.

And, if that wasn't enough, he writes a lot of the text that goes into group's programs for its concerts.

"In the old days, it was involved with the Concert Artist Series," said Toenes, who pointed out how many serious musicians had taken turns playing with the club during its history.

"Fritz Kreisler, the Austrian violinist, Benjamin Gigli, the tenor, the Bethlehem Bach Choir, Don Cosacks, they all came to Westfield in those days," said Toenes.

Certainly, the club's had an impressive past.

To be part of its future, contact Evelyn Bleeke at 908-232-2173 for a tryout.

Havens to sound the echoes of Woodstock in local performance

By Jeff Cummins
Associate Editor

Richie Havens really dislikes the music production process known as "overdubbing." Can you blame him? The fact that he used less equipment at a critical occasion might just have contributed to the development of his own fame.

Havens said the reason he was chosen to be the first act at Woodstock was — drum roll, please — that he brought less equipment than any other musician there.

"The truth is that there almost wasn't a Woodstock," said Havens, who will perform in Bloomfield on Friday as part of the Cozy Concert Series at 12 Miles West Theatre, "because they had all the bands meet seven miles away with their equipment. The back road they wanted to use to get us there was clogged by parked cars, and they finally got a helicopter to bring the

musicians in.

"I had the least equipment, so they approached me. They didn't have any one else, so they chased me around and finally convinced me to go on first." Havens said that he was scheduled to do a 25-minute set — no longer than any other performer's set. But things worked out just a little bit different for him.

"I did my 25 minutes and they said, 'Nobody's here. Could you do another set?' So that happened a few more times. Finally, after two hours and 45 minutes, they asked me to sing one more song. The long intro to that song is me figuring out what I'm going to play. Then I said 'Freedom' because I looked out into the crowd, and I thought, that's what this is, freedom."

So began the legendary, rhythmic, almost tribal-sounding song — which was based on the old song "Motherless Child" — that may well have put

Havens on the map. Havens noted that he hadn't sung "Motherless Child" in 15 years when the time came to sing that final song.

Did he have any idea that the song would achieve almost mythic status?

"Absolutely not," said Havens, chuckling. "It wasn't until nine months later that they showed me the film and I saw myself for the first time. I didn't even remember that I sang that song."

"What came over me was that we finally won. The underground, my generation, had won, because if people could see the amount of who were there, peacefully, then we were now above ground," said Havens.

But Havens is quick to disagree with the notion that members of the "underground" were against soldiers who served in Vietnam.

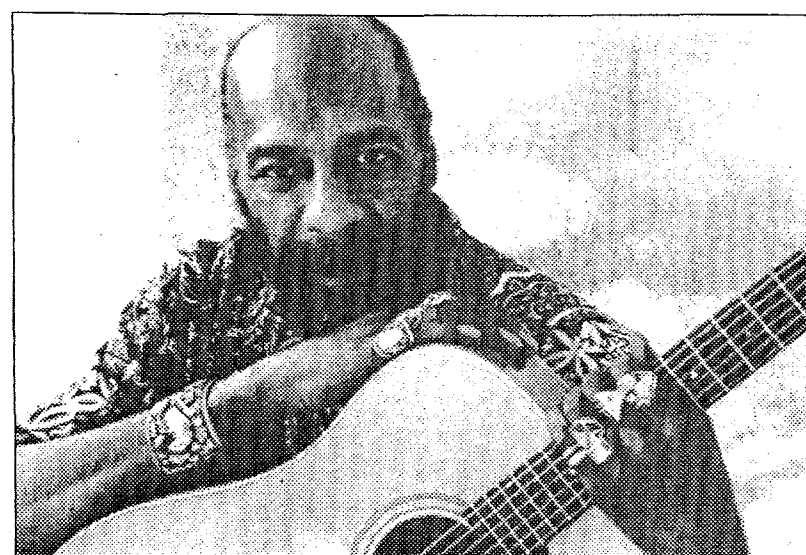
"How could we be? They were our cousins, uncles and brothers,"

explained Havens. "In fact, if the U.S. Army wasn't at Woodstock, there would not have been a Woodstock. We were against the war, not the soldiers. But it's easy to stick an anti-military label on people protesting for world peace. They use the same tricks today."

Havens, who currently lives in New Jersey, started out with doo-wop groups while growing up in Brooklyn. Ultimately, poetry led Havens to jazz, and he began to follow Miles Davis, noting that he, like many others, wound up enjoying the same music his parents always had.

Havens has produced many of his own recordings, including "Grace of the Sun," which he released in July. And make no mistake about it, when it comes to album production, Havens' approach is the simpler, the better.

Havens will perform two shows on Friday at 12 Miles West Theatre, 562



Richie Havens

Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield, one at 8 p.m. and one at 10 p.m., with each show scheduled to last an hour and 45 minutes. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by the box office at 973-259-9187.

Luna Stage dusts off a classic play with stellar performances

By Ruth Ross
Correspondent

Although the company is best known for new plays and world premieres, the current production of Henrik Ibsen's "Ghosts" proves that the folks at Luna Stage can perform the classics very well, thank you.

This old warhorse of modern drama classes is rarely performed nowadays, but director Jane Mandel found the play timely "because family or societal secrets continue to bring destruction to the most innocent victims."

In our era of frankness, it's difficult to understand the scandal that surrounded "Ghosts" at its opening and subsequent performances. This tale of love, betrayal and hypocrisy inexorably unfolds as ghosts from the past haunt the living. On the eve of opening a founding hospital commemorating her respected husband, Helena Alving is forced to reveal his degeneracy and the real state of their marriage in the face of her beloved son's deteriorating physical condition and his plans to wed the maid Regina. As Mrs. Alving, Mona Hennessy

struggles mightily to contain her fear as "the sins of the father are visited on their children." To her credit, Hennessy never overplays her previous attachment to the clueless Pastor Manders, with whom she sought refuge as she fled her husband; her torment at living in such a restricted world of faith and moral duty is evident in the constant wringing of her hands. Her final heart-rending scream reverberates off the walls of the black box theater.

Was there ever a minister so obtuse as Manders? Kenneth Boys plays him

so well that one has to refrain from getting up to throttle the man. He's so wrong-headed on everything, but one never has the feeling that he's malicious. Frankie Faison's carpenter, Jacob Engstrand, is part naïf and part master manipulator, and Bethany Butler is appropriately impressed with her French phrases and girlishly infatuated with the handsome Oswald Alving, played so touchingly by Michael Aquino. From the moment Aquino enters, we're aware that something is wrong with him. As his mother peels away the lies about his father, we —

and he — gradually lose our illusions about the illustrious man and understand that the old man's dissolution probably caused his death and most certainly that of his budding artist son.

Fred Kinney has designed an interesting set with floorboards that curve up and hover over the Victorian-style drawing room like a malignant spirit. Amy Riechings' costumes point up the repression of the era, and Joseph Galione's sound design and Jill Nagle's lighting are appropriately atmospheric.

Arthur Kopit's translation of

Ghosts drips with irony, especially when it comes to gender issues, which will probably drive modern audiences mad. Venereal disease and incest are still taboo subjects today, however, and many a mother struggles to keep intact a child's idealistic vision of his father. Luckily, antibiotics have all but wiped out the malignant curse of syphilis, but nothing can cure the fear and hurt one suffers from living a lie.

Ruth Ross is a frequent contributor to Worrall Community Newspapers.

It's that time of the year to be merry, even if you're somewhat harried

Christmas is nigh. 'Tis the season to be jolly — whether you feel it or not. The season to put out holly and poinsettias, even though they're dangerous to pets. The season to commit an eggnog-induced folly you'll regret the rest of the year.

Ah, Christmas, when red bows festoon everything and the natural green of fir trees is covered up by so many glass balls and garlands they become Go-Go trees — the Britney Spears of their species. In short, this holiday does an extreme makeover of everything. Including you.

Don't panic! Obliging newspapers and television shows will pitch in to instruct you through this changeover. Begin the festivities with the first step: kill a turkey. Weaklings can have supermarket butchers do that for you. Next, stuff it! The stuffing you choose reveals where you live.

The Southwest proudly plugs its background with hot Tex-Mex stuffing. California touts its health and laid-back lifestyle with avocados and tofu. New Jersey follows its well-known motto with an ethnic mix

The Art of Laughter

By Helen Argers

because everything here is perfect together.

But here's a general tip for harried housewives: stuff the turkey with a fruit cake. That way you get the main course and dessert over in one. But the answer is no stuffing. That not only lessens the risk of bacterial contamination but concurrently demonstrates your innate delicacy. For sticking stuff up the turkey's private parts is something to be done only by a licensed doctor or police strip searcher.

On to holiday home decorating tips. What about replacing pictures of your family in Santa suits instead of the same old Santa photos? Aren't you tired of that old man with his white beard staring at you?

Let's face it, no matter how jolly old St. Nick is said to be, with his red

nose he looks like a reformed drunk heading for your Christmas punch. And if he suddenly came down your chimney, without all that advanced publicity and spin, you'd run and call 9-1-1.

What really wins us over is his red velvet and white fur suit. In business attire, we'd demand his ID. But, hey, he's wearing his ID. Who else could get away with that outfit? So we open our dampers and invite him down our chimneys. More, we even put out milk and cookies for him. Although with that red nose, he obviously prefers something stronger and gives the milk and cookies to his reindeers, using as an excuse that he's on a low-carb diet. But fat or slim, he's the official spokesperson of the season. His "Ho-Ho-Ho" sets the jolly tone. So, yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

Actually, there are a lot of Santa Clauses — on every street corner ringing their bells, on television selling cell phones. And every one of them knows whether Virginia has been naughty or nice. So you'd better watch out or you'll get a large lump of

coal in your stocking — one that your parents saved from barbecue season just for this purpose. Although, I can't think what kind of misdeed merits coal. Unless you've hacked into your mother and father's Buddy List and sent an embarrassing e-mail to all — such as one of Mom in a Janet Jackson moment or of Dad being propositioned by a desperate housewife from next door. But, generally, every stocking gets stuffed with nice things. Depending on the definition of "nice." It could mean "so-so" — like "nice enough." My mother always put a nice orange at the bottom of my stocking. But my father saved my Christmas with crispy dollar bills, always apologizing that Santa was too busy to go shopping. Loved that shopping-challenged Santa. I knew best what I wanted, although, of course, the snow suits and robes were much appreciated.

Other happy holiday memories: the smell of a real Christmas tree — since replaced by the wonderful smell of pine-scented deodorant spray wafting throughout the house to give the illu-

sion that the fake dead tree is really alive.

Once again, the kind of tree you choose reveals your true self. Look and see whether you are a fir, pine, fake fir, fake pine, aluminum revolving on a stand, a tree with a stake stuck through the heart of its trunk to make it stand, a white Saks-type tree with glamorous golden balls each embedded with your self portrait, or an old-fashioned tree with garlands of paper or popcorn made by children. To all, I say "Merry Christmas" and "Mazel-tov." Especially if you have a menorah with lights.

Of course, some people carry Christmas too far such as really eating the fruit cakes you get with all those hard green things inside that stick to your teeth. Scandinavia, for instance, goes way over the line. Every eldest daughter is dressed in a long white gown and plopped on her poor little head is a wreath with large candles — LIT UP! Balancing those, she goes from bedroom to bedroom bringing St. Lucia's holiday wishes. In the United States, the authorities would call that

"child endangerment" and arrest the parents. Or at least order them to follow the girl with a fire extinguisher. Of course, we have our own holiday punishments — such as forcing children to sit on store Santas' laps, seeing "The Nutcracker" for the 13th time, or "A Christmas Carol" — straight or musical versions — for the 20th. Or being forced to learn all the lyrics to "The Twelve Days Of Christmas."

No, no, the worse is thinking of gifts for those to whom you'd rather give coals. Why not really give a piece of coal and tell them it's a paper-weight?

Aw, forget the negatives, let's think positive moments. Choirs singing. Children tearing open presents. The smell of a real Christmas tree flashing images of our Christmases past. So turn off all advice shows. Tear up all columns, including this one. And get as weepy as you want.

'Tis the season for sentimentalists. Bless you all.

Helen Argers is an award-winning playwright and novelist.

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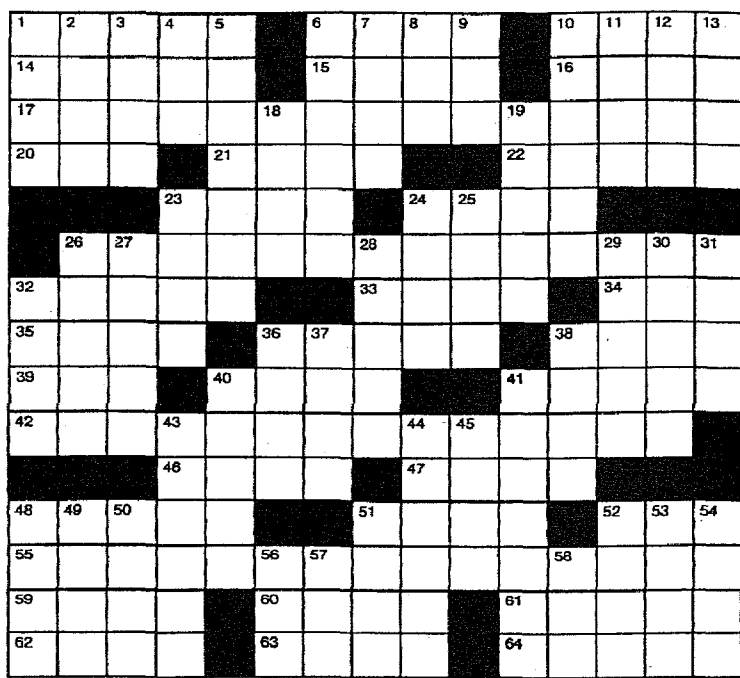
ACROSS

- 1 Trite
6 Pant
10 Mata
14 Heavenly hunter
15 Wild disorder
16 Verve
17 Ella Fitzgerald
20 Yentl actress Irving
21 Kentucky Derby winner, Ridge
22 Musical composition
23 Trick
24 Paté de gras
26 Patti Page
32 Concede
33 Microwave
34 Word with fish or small
35 Corrode
36 Gives out
38 —dieu: kneeling bench
39 Addams Family member Cousin
40 Ars longa, brevis
41 Condemns
42 Bette Midler
46 March 15
47 Brickyard race, for short
48 Purview
51 Oklahoma Indian
52 Egyptian cobra
55 Bobby Vinton
59 Kent's coworker
60 Indolent
61 Instrument
62 Aroma
63 Indigent
64 Pours

DOWN

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2 Compact
3 Blithe
4 Alamos
5 Give for safekeeping
6 Carved

SING SING



COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

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12 "The Fountainhead" author
13 "Come Back, Little Sheba" author
18 Italian actress Verna
19 Pretend
23 Lease
24 "Easy Pieces" author
25 Wallet items
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28 Heights
29 '60s do's
30 Fairy tale brothers
31 Looks at
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- 36 Submarine command
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ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B10

What's Going On?

FAIR

SATURDAY

December 4th, 2004

EVENT: "Peppermint Boutique" Craft Fair
PLACE: Mother Seton RHS, Valley Road, Clark
TIME: 9AM-5PM
PRICE: Free Admission
ORGANIZATION: Mother Seton Parent Guild

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 4TH 2004

EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: 140-144 Bloomfield Ave., Montclair, NJ
TIME: 8am-4pm
PRICE: VENDORS WANTED. For more information call 973-673-7975 or 973-746-5914 or 973-678-8339
ORGANIZATION: Bright Hope Baptist Church.

SATURDAY

December 4th, 2004

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

SUNDAY

December 5th, & 19th, 2004

EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: St. Mary's High School, 237 South Broad Street, Elizabeth
TIME: 8am-3pm
INFORMATION: Over 100 tables of bargains. Limited space. For more information call 908-352-4350
ORGANIZATION: St. Mary's High School.

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY/ SUNDAY
December 4th, 5th, 2004

EVENT: 2 Day Giant Flea Market, Craft & Collectible Show
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue, Belleville, NJ (off Joralemon Street)
TIME: Saturday Dec. 4, 9AM-4PM Outdoors, 4PM-10PM Indoors
Sunday Dec. 5, 9AM-5PM In & Outdoors
DETAILS: Pictures with Santa indoors Saturday 5-8PM & Sunday 11AM-3PM. New merchandise, gifts, crafts, collectibles, garage and tag sale section. Free mini Trick Tray for customers indoors Saturday night & Sunday. Drawing held Sunday at 3PM
For information Call: 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Sponsor by BHS SEppo & Celebration Graduation

OTHER

SATURDAY

December 4th, 2004

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

SATURDAY

December 4th, 11th, 18th, 2004

EVENT: Dicken's Village
PLACE: Ricalton Square, Maplewood Village
TIME: 1:30pm-4:00pm
PRICE: FREE -Horse & Wagon Ride, Photos with Santa, Caroline miniature houses open for viewers, Petting Zoo.
ORGANIZATION: Maplewood Chamber of Commerce

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

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Theatre Alliance wins state award

The New Jersey Theatre Alliance, the consortium of professional, not-for-profit theaters in New Jersey, has been awarded the Governor's Tourism Award for the Arts for the online ticketing program, njArtsTix.org.

The award was presented to the New Jersey Theatre Alliance for demonstrating that it is "instrumental in advancing New Jersey Arts and promoting the quality and diversity of New Jersey's arts community."

Joining then-Gov. James E. McGreevey and Nancy Byrne, director of the Office of New Jersey Travel and Tourism, in presenting the Arts Award at the gala luncheon attended by tourism professionals from across the state was Nina Stack, director of arts marketing and external affairs for the New Jersey State Council of the Arts. NJTA Executive Director John McEwen and Director of Marketing Dee Billia accepted the award on behalf of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.

Under McEwen's leadership, NJTA has developed innovative programs that serve the arts community and the theatergoing public. Flagship programs include www.njArtsTix.org, the nation's first statewide discount ticketing Web site for the performing arts, and AT&T Family Week at the Theatre, a statewide week-long festival of free and discounted tickets for young people and their families that takes place during the first week of March, along with many other audi-

ence development/marketing initiatives that benefit the public and the professional theaters across the state.

It was the njArtsTix.org program that won NJTA the prestigious Governor's Tourism Arts Award. The program and Web site serve the more than 8 million residents of the state of New Jersey and enhances tourism to New Jersey by assisting customers from New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Connecticut in finding out about the richness of New Jersey's performing arts.

It's an affordable solution for everyone and a way for travelers to experience New Jersey arts as they are able to search for upcoming performances on the site 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This online "ticket booth" provides additional information about the theaters and performing arts centers, offers nearby restaurant suggestions, and directions. The site, njArtsTix.org, provides an all-inclu-

sive "snapshot" image of the performing arts in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Theatre Alliance offers a variety of publications and resources to the public that are available through the Alliance's Web site, www.njtheatrealliance.org, or by calling the office at 973-540-0515.

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HOROSCOPES

Dec. 6 to 12

ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Avoid making a judgment call during a crazed or insane moment. Keep your head and get all of the correct facts before voicing your opinion.

TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: It is time to get aggressive with your investment plans. Do not procrastinate or delay a bid for a promising new stock.

GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: A close relationship explodes with

excitement. Play up the romance and woo your partner with a variety of surprises.

CANCER, June 22 to July 22: Your patience tends to wear thin. Excuse yourself from a tedious task or refuse to wait for a co-worker who continuously holds you back.

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Children will play an important role in your life. Plan for periods of time spent together this week filled with sporting or other entertaining activities.

VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: Avoid losing your temper and in doing so, losing control of an emotional situation. Do your best to stay calm and candidly talk about your feelings.

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Play it smart, pay attention and think before you act this week. One incorrect or immoral move in the wrong direction could spell disaster.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: You have a tendency to spend more money than you make. Work to turn this habit

around or be willing to accept the long-term consequences.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Your peers or contemporaries are in dire need of direction or motivation. Follow your heart and step up to take on a leadership role.

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: Pay attention to an important message from your subconscious mind. Meditate and discover the core of ideas that form your beliefs.

AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18:

Club or group activity lead to exciting and fun-filled moments. Make some great new friends among the people you will meet.

PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: Examine your career or status achieved and if you do not like what you see, this is a great time to make changes.

Utilize your strengths.

If your birthday is this week, communicate your ideas with power and conviction and really get your point

across during the coming year.

Your focus or mental discipline is very strong and will lead you to some highly intellectual triumphs.

Do not hesitate to travel or explore previously uncharted terrain.

Play a steering or pioneering role and get a new project off the ground with tremendous success.

Also born this week: Teri Garr, Emily Dickinson, Kirk Douglas, Lee J. Cobb, Louis Prima and Dave Brubeck.

'Wonderful Life' in Cranford

Join the actors as they recreate the Lux Radio Theater circa 1947 and enjoy all the laughs and thrills as twelve actors, a musician and one extremely over-worked sound technician prepare for the great broadcast of the story made famous in the Frank Capra film, "It's a Wonderful Life."

"So much of what we do is adult oriented," said artistic director Mark Spina, "and we wanted to do something the whole family could enjoy for the holidays. It's a 'thank you' to our patrons for their support over the last ten years."

This year marked The Theater Project's 10th anniversary.

"It's a Wonderful Life" brings together many of the professional actors who regularly appear with The Theater Project, such as Gary Glor, Rick Delaney and Daaimah Talley.

"It's a Wonderful Life's" director, Liz Zazzi, has been named one of New Jersey's outstanding actors; she has acted and directed with most of the state's professional companies.

"It's a Wonderful Life" can be seen on Sunday at 3 p.m. at The Theater Project, Union County College's Professional Theater Company, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

A \$10 donation is suggested for adults; children are admitted free.

For reservations, call 908-659-5189.

Auditions set for Agatha Christie play

Director Maurice Moran of Westfield Community Players, is holding auditions for the Agatha Christie murder mystery, "Witness for the Prosecution."

The open casting call is for Dec. 12 and 14 at 7 p.m. in the WCP Theater at 1000 North Ave. West, Westfield.

The show opens at 8 p.m. on March 5, and continues March 11, 12, 18 and 19.

For audition scripts and other information, call Linda Giuditta at 908-232-8934.

In this classic Christie tale, a wealthy middle-aged spinster is

touchingly helped, and subsequently charmed, by an engaging but impetuous young man.

Since he is her only visitor on the night that she is discovered bludgeoned to death, he becomes the prime suspect.

His fate depends on the testimony of his German wife — the witness for the prosecution.

In a riveting series of increasingly dramatic scenarios, we are swept back to the 1950s in this clever and complex tale of murder, deceit and betrayal that represents Agatha Christie's writing for the stage at its most accomplished.

The principal cast requirements are as follows:

Leonard Vole, the accused, actor in his 30s.

Romaine Heilger Vole — actress must be in her 30s, a foreign woman of "great personality, but very quiet" with German and Cockney accents.

Janet Mackenzie, Scottish housekeeper — actress must be in her 50s or older; actor must effect an accent.

Sir Wilfrid Robarts, Queen's council — actor must be in his 30s or older.

Mr. Meyers, Queen's council — actor must be in his 30s or older.

Greta, Sir Wilfrid's typist — 30s or

older.

Carter, chief clerk — 30s or older

John Mayhew, solicitor — actor must be in his 30s or older.

Inspector Hearne — must be 30s or older.

Dr. Wyatt, police surgeon — must be 30s or older.

Thomas Clegg, Scotland Yard forensic assistant — must be 30s or older.

Mysterious other woman — blonde, must be late teens, early 20s.

Various jurors, guards and barristers are also needed.

Note that several roles will be doubled.

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SUN., DEC. 19 th 10 PM	BANTRY BOYS
SAT., DEC. 25 th 10 PM	CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS
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ART SHOWS

EDGE ART GALLERY, which opened its doors in Rahway's arts district is presenting its third series of exhibitions. Gallery one will feature Alejandro Anreus, a Cuban born artist who examines the nexus between Christianity and politics as it relates to the Cuban-American identity. Gallery two will feature Julio Nazario. In a series of photographic portraits, Julio Nazario reveals the inner spirit and individuality of ordinary Hispanics. **EDGEArt Gallery** is located at 1571 Irving St. in downtown Rahway. The current exhibits runs through Dec. 31. The gallery is open from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number is 732-669-0112. **EDGEArt Gallery** is dedicated to artists who have worked outside the mainstream and who have not followed the latest trend but stuck to their vision against all odds.

NEW EXHIBIT OPENS AT ARTS GUILD OF RAHWAY. The Arts Guild of Rahway will present "Illusions: Collisions/Collisions by Patricia Cudd, Anuradha Das and Erena Rae." The show will run until Dec. 10. There will be free admission.

The gallery hours are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. and Thursday, from 1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. at the Arts Guild, 1670 Irving St., Rahway. For more information, call 732-381-7511, or visit the Web site at www.rahwayartsguild.org, or e-mail artsguild1670@earthlink.net.

THE DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART in Plainfield is holding its annual Miniature Art Show and Sale in the school gallery Sunday through Dec. 10. There will be a variety of paintings, prints and drawings available for sale, none larger than 12 inches square. "This show has always been the perfect opportunity to purchase affordable, original art for holiday gifts," said instructor Judi Banyas, curator. The opening reception and sale will be on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. The public is welcome.

The duCret School of Art is located at 1030 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in an historic residential area of Plainfield. The school offers full-time and part-time day and evening classes in fine art, graphic design/computer graphics and illustration. For information about the spring term that begins Jan. 17, call 908-757-7171, fax: 908-757-2626, or visit the Web site at www.duCret.edu for details.

"CHRISTMAS MINIATURES" will be the focus of an exhibit by 19 noted gallery artists at Plainfield's Swain Galleries. Fifteen of the artists are from New Jersey, three from New York City and one is from North Carolina. Christina Debarry, a first-time exhibitor in the show, is from Florham Park. Featured artists included Judy Banyas of Roselle Park, Kat Block of Springfield, S. Allan Schaeffer of Fanwood, Max Sang of Westfield and Cheryl McLeod, formerly of Plainfield.

"Miniatures opens Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m., and continues Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday to 4 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Swain Galleries is located at 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For more information, call 908-756-1707.

BOOKS

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

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

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

COMEDY

THE WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER presents Comedy Night on the third Saturday of each month. The Comedy Night series at the Watchung Arts Center has managed to build a following in its suburban location by drawing from a mix of New York City comedy club stand-ups. Each show features new faces and fresh material.

Host Phil Hochman will present master of ceremonies John McMinna-men, a headliner and a feature performer. Ticket price includes light refreshments after the show. The show begins at 8 p.m. Saturdays, and tickets are \$15.

The seating at the Watchung Arts Center is in an intimate art gallery, with limited capacity. Reservations may be made by e-mail at www.watchungarts.org or by phone, calling 908-753-0190 and leaving a message if necessary. Tickets will be held at the door.

The Watchung Arts Center is located "on the circle" in Watchung, reached from Route 22 or Interstate 78. There is free parking adjacent to the building or around the corner at Best Lake.

CONCERTS

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

Concerts are presented at Union Village Methodist Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights. For more information, call 973-376-4946, or visit the Web site, www.sanctuaryconcerts.org.

MEET THE ORCHESTRA concert series continues at the Suburban Community Music Center, 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill, 07974. For the 18th year, the Suburban Community Music Center, in cooperation with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, will host the Meet the Orchestra series for children ages 3 to 8. For more information, call 908-790-0700.

SINGER-SONGWRITER PATTY LARKIN will perform at a folk concert Saturday at 8 p.m. as part of Sanctuary Concerts, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights. A stunning songwriter whose sensual, passionate music has caused critics to say, "Patty Larkin makes music like a mango tastes." A dazzling guitarist who is known for "rich open tunings; blurry-fast arpeggios, and dazzling fingerwork." Adding to this evening of guitar wizardry will be roots musician Andrew McKnight, who cooks up an energetic and eclectic blend of original folk, oldtime, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, and great storytelling from the Appalachian tradition. Tickets are \$20 and doors open at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 973-376-4946.

ISLE OF KLEZBOS, made up of the six female members of the award-winning Klezmer troupe Metropolitan Klezmer, are a six-woman, high-octane klezmer band from New York City. Isle of Klezbos will perform on Dec. 18 at 8 p.m. as part of the Sanctuary Concert Series at the Union Village Methodist Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley

Heights. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at www.sanctuaryconcerts.org. Admission includes desserts and coffee at intermission.

BLUES LEGENDS Paul Geremia and Emie Hawkins will perform as part of the Sanctuary Concert Series on Jan. 8, at 8 p.m., at the Union Village Methodist Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at www.sanctuaryconcerts.org. Admission includes dessert and coffee at intermission.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR will present a special Christmas concert at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church on the corner of Stuyvesant Avenue and Chestnut Street on Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. Admission is free. For further information, call 908-688-3164.

ORCHESTRA OF ST. PETER BY THE SEA will perform at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway, on Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. For tickets or information, call 973-499-8226 or visit the Web site, www.uccac.org.

THE CHORAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY announces its annual Messiah Community Sing, which will take place on Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, 1600 Rahway Ave., Westfield. For tickets or further information, call 908-654-3260.

CRAFTS

PREPARE FOR THE HOLIDAYS by attending "Home and the Holidays," a winter craft and gift boutique that will extend through Sunday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and admission is free. The boutique will take place at The Hetfield House, Constitution Plaza, Mountainside. For more information, call 732-239-7018.

DANCE

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

DISCUSSION

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

THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS invites local nonprofit organizations, individual artists and scholars to apply for funding from the 2004 Union County HEART — History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands — Grant program. Recognizing the importance of culture and the arts to the economy and quality of life, the freeholders established the HEART Grants in 1998. This innovative program supports projects related to history, the arts, and humanities, and demonstrates a commitment to the artists and nonprofit organizations of Union County.

To request HEART Grant information, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202; call 908-558-2550, Relay users dial 711; or send inquiries via e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

FILM

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

HOBBIES

THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INC. meets at 295 Jefferson Ave., Union, behind Home Depot on Route 22 East. The club is open to the public Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. For information,

call 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via e-mail to TMRCInc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INC., was founded in 1949 in the basement of the late Paul Mallery, who was a pioneer in the hobby of model railroading. The club occupies a building on Union County park land designed, built and maintained entirely by the members, under a unique arrangement with the Union County park system.

The club building is located off Route 22 East, behind The Home Depot in Union. Free parking is available on site and the building is wheelchair-accessible.

For more information, call 908-964-9724 Saturdays from noon until 4 p.m., or 908-964-8808 for a recorded message, or visit the club's Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

THE ANCIENT ART OF DRUMMING will be the focus at The Internet Lounge, 256 South Ave., Fanwood, on Sunday at 7:30 p.m. There is no cover charge, come enjoy a cup of gourmet coffee and a wide variety of organic foods and try your hand at drumming. For more information, call 908-490-1234 or visit the Web site, www.theinternetlounge.com.

THE HARVEST QUILTERS OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY will meet the first Monday of each month at Cozy Corner Creations quilt shop, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.

INTERNET

THE INTERNET LOUNGE, 256 South Ave., Fanwood, hosts an Open Mic/ Karaoke Night. Join the group for a cup of gourmet coffee and a wide variety of organic foods and participate in an original poetry reading, a stand-up comedy routine or a musical number. There's no cover charge. To ask about a schedule of events, call 908-490-1234 or visit its Web site: www.theinternetlounge.com.

KIDS

TALES FOR TOTS PRESCHOOL STORYTIME will be offered at Barnes and Noble, Route 22 West, Springfield, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., and the Kids' Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

POETRY

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

OPEN 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.

RADIO

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

SINGLES

DINNERMATES and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant; wine and mingling is at 8 p.m., dinner is at 9 p.m. Two age groups are available. For information on dates and locations, call 732-822-9796 or visit www.dinnermates.com.

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call 908-889-5265 or 908-889-4751.

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING, for 45-

year-olds and older, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Yankee Buffet Grand Ballroom, 2660 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is \$7. For information, call 908-688-8816.

THEATER

THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL OF DRAMATIC ARTS announces its partnership with 12 Miles West Theater Company at 562 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield. For more information, call 973-566-9700 or visit the Web site, www.njactors.org.

WILKINS THEATRE is the setting for "The Chanukkah Story," featuring The Western Wind and narrator Annabelle Gurwirth. "The Chanukkah Story," on Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m. is comprised of 25 songs that weave together ancient Ladino songs of the Spanish Jews, Yiddish melodies of Eastern Europe, and modern Israeli and Mexican tunes along with insightful and informed commentary. Tickets are \$25, call 908-737-7469 for more information. Wilkins Theatre is located on the campus of Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union.

"VOICE OF THE DRAGON," composer Fred Ho's newest action blockbuster, is a groundbreaking multicultural, cross-genre performance epic in a never-before-seen explosive fusion of music and theater with pyrotechnical martial arts, set during the early Ching dynasty in China. The show features a cast of elite champion martial artists and Fred Ho's Afro-Asian Music Ensemble. Tickets are \$25. For more information, call 908-737-7469. Wilkins Theatre is located at 1000 Morris Ave., Union. "Voice of the Dragon" will be performed on Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

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., Gar-

wood, 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, \$2. Every Wednesday: Karaoke Night; Miller Lite and MGD, \$2 all night. Every Thursday: Fiesta Night; Corona, Cuervo and margaritas, \$2 all night. On Dec. 2, see Smaller Than Life and Ground Level. On Saturday, see The Broadcasters. For information, call 908-232-5666 or visit www.xroads.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 an 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. The cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday concerts, unless otherwise noted.

On Sunday, Groove Apparatus will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. On Dec. 12, The Experimental will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. On Dec. 19, Howard Parker and the Hot Take Out Band will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. On Dec. 26, Roamin Gabriels will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. On Jan. 2, John Playaz will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. On Jan. 9, the Danny Crum Trio will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. On Jan. 16, the Guitar Jazz Trio will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. On Jan. 23, the Joe Knipes Quartet will perform from 8 to 11 p.m. A \$3 cover is in effect for the aforementioned performances. For information, call 908-810-1844.

Gallery to host reception

The Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, Clark, will present the works of Ilona and Andre Bugla Friday through Dec. 31, with an opening reception Friday from 8 to 10 p.m. The public is welcome, admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Ilona and Andre Bugla, a husband and wife team, were born in Poland and both graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow. They live and work in Jever, Germany.

Ilona Bugla received her master's degree in painting and tapestry in 1982. Her art has met with widespread recognition around the world. Today her paintings and tapestries

may be found in the homes of art aficionados in Japan, France, Germany, Poland and the United States.

Andre Bugala received his master's from the sculpture department in 1981. Andre's sculptures and paintings have been sold to art enthusiasts in Poland, Germany and the United States. In addition to sculpture and painting, Andre also specializes in frescoes and the restoration of antiques.

The Skulski Art Gallery is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m., and on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call Aleksandra K. Nowak, gallery director, at 732-382-7197.

www.localsource.com

Internet Directory

Agape Family Worship Center.....	http://www.agapecenter.org
American Savings Bank.....	http://www.americansavingsnj.com
Burgdorff ERA.....	http://www.burgdorff.com
Crossroads Christian Fellowship.....	http://www.ccfou.org
ERA Village Green.....	http://www.eravillagegreen.com
Eye Care Center of NJ.....	http://www.eyecarenj.com
First Night of Maplewood/So. Orange.....	http://community.nj.com/cc/firstnight-soma
Forest Hill Properties Apartments.....	http://www.springstreet.com/propid/389126
Grand Sanitation.....	http://www.grandsanitation.com
Holy Cross Church.....	http://www.holycrossnj.org
Hospital Center at Orange.....	http://www.cathedralhealthcare.org
JRS Realty.....	http://www.century21jrs.com
LaSalle Travel Service.....	http://www.lasalletravelservices.com
Mountainside Hospital.....	http://www.AtlanticHealth.org
Nutley Pet Center.....	http://www.nutleypet.com
Pet Watchers.....	http://www.petwatchersnj.com
Rets Institute.....	http://www.rets-institute.com
Skincare Products.....	www.marykay.com/chandrac
South Orange Chiropractic.....	http://www.sochiro.com
Summit Area Jaycees.....	http://www.angelfire.com/nj/summitjic
Suburban Essex Chamber of Commerce.....	http://www.suburbanessexchamber.com/secc
Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad.....	http://www.summitvol.org
Synergy Federal Savings Bank.....	http://www.synergyonthenet.com
Trinitas Hospital.....	http://www.trinitashospital.com
Turning Point.....	http://www.turningpointnj.org
Union Center National Bank.....	http://www.ucnb.com
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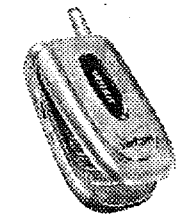
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Dance studio celebrates anniversary

Debbie Coury, director of the Yvette Dance and Fitness studio in Cranford, announced the opening of the studio's 50th season.

The studio, founded and directed by Yvette Cohen in 1954 and then passed on to Debbie Coury in 1984, has enjoyed many years of quality training for its students.

Whether the goal is a professional career, the development of grace, coordination, fitness or dancing just for fun, a total range of training is available.

The large facility has three dance studios, dressing rooms, offices and a kitchen available for the students.

Classes offered at the school include tap, jazz, ballet, pointe, hip hop, and modern, for pre-school through adult.

In addition, classes in step, body sculpting, relaxation and pre-dance for 3-year-olds are available.

Returning to the dance faculty will be Debbie Coury, Bernadette Baron, Irene Ulesky, Julie Gale, Colleen Belliot, Danielle Wegryn, Carol Straffi and Joan Guarino.

In addition, two teachers have been

added to the fitness faculty. Brenda Werneiwski is no amateur when it comes to working out, staying fit and keeping the beat.

For the past 15 years, she has kept up with the trends of the fitness scene with great aerobics and great music.

She has packed step aerobics and body sculpting classes for previous health clubs such as Bally's Fitness, Living Well Lady, and more.

Werneiwski is certified in CPR and a Club Health Industry member.

Ewa Jackson-Feldt, before working in the fitness field, was assisting a pulmonary specialist in California.

With her knowledge of the medical field, and her dedication to nutrition and fitness, she has developed a program, "Mind over Matter."

This class is a relaxation class which includes assisting in self-esteem, healthy eating, increasing energy and helping insomnia.

Currently working at a fitness facility, she enjoys working with clients in physical fitness as well as heading their new weight-loss program. All teachers are qualified professionals who are dedicated to the art

of dance and fitness, ensuring the students of the best quality in education by attending national conventions, workshops, and seminars to keep up with the latest trends.

Master teachers are invited to the studio occasionally for one-day workshops.

During the past 50 years, the studio has produced students who have gone on to Broadway, television commercials, Atlantic City and Las Vegas shows, New York industrial shows, print ads for newspapers, ballet company dancers, national touring companies, board of directors of national dance organizations, judges for national dance competitions, choreographers for local theater and school productions, Radio City Rockettes, and more.

Recently, the studio was voted the best dance studio in Union County by the readers of local newspapers and was given the Readers Choice Award for 2004 by the Suburban Style magazine.

For further information about the school, call 908-276-3539 or come in person from 4 to 7 p.m.

Discounted tickets provided

New Jersey Theater Alliance, the consortium of the state's professional theaters, has launched a discount ticketing Web site dedicated solely to New Jersey's performing arts. With the nation's first Web site of its kind, bargain-hunting arts patrons can now go online for an overview of performances across the state and to purchase "hot tickets," deeply discounted tickets for same-day performances. Hot tickets are available 24 hours in advance of a performance and can only be purchased at www.njArtsTix.org.

Plays, dance performances, symphonies and classical concerts, jazz and pop performances, family events and more will be sold through the site. In addition to the professional theaters, many of the state's presenting organizations and dance companies have joined with NJTA's membership to give customers access to as many types of performing events as possible.

Searching for events in theater, musical theater, dance, classical music, folk/pop/jazz, family events and free events is easy, and customers

will have the ability to create their own accounts and receive e-mail alerts on a weekly basis. They will also find directions and information about parking and nearby restaurants for each venue.

Once a purchase is made, the customer will receive a confirmation by e-mail. This confirmation can then be printed out and the purchaser can take it to the theater box office to pick up their tickets. A 10-percent service charge will be added to the cost of the discounted ticket to help support the site.

"New Jersey is one of the richest performing arts states in the country, offering world-class theater, dance, music and legendary performers. The launch of njArts Tix.org is a win-win partnership between arts patrons and arts organizations. It provides a one-stop shopping address for discounted tickets and a great vehicle for theaters to attract new audiences while selling any remaining seats on performance days," says Barbara Andrews, director of marketing at Princeton's McCarter Theater. "This is an important new initiative that will help the arts to contin-

ue to flourish in our great state."

Thanks to leadership grants from The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and Verizon, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and many other funders, NJTA was able to develop the site which promises to break down economic barriers to the performing arts. After interviewing several candidates, NJTA hired Plumb Design of New York City, an award-winning Web design firm, to develop the project.

Artist exhibits work in Summit

Cynthia Smith Weiss of Mountaintop will be exhibiting her bright, bold landscapes at the Bouras Galleries in Summit on DeForest Avenue.

The exhibit will be at Bouras Galleries through December.

The galleries are open to the public by appointment only.

To make an appointment, call Linda Cole, 908-277-6054.

Once a nurse, Weiss has shifted gears and she now devotes herself to painting.

Her passion is landscapes, perhaps because she was raised on a farm in the New England state of New Hampshire.

When painting, Weiss bids the artist within to take over.

Her colorful paintings are considered finished when they "sing" to her.

She paints mostly with oil on paper, but she also works in many other media, as well.

Weiss also is a book artist, printmaker and makes her own paper.

She has attended many art classes and workshops here and in New York, Vermont and Italy.

Her work is widely exhibited and in many permanent collections, including the Museum of Modern Art Library, New York City.

Bouras Galleries is located in

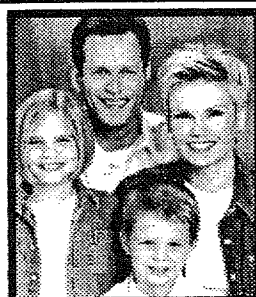
Bouras Properties at 25 Deforest Ave., Summit.

Bouras, owner of the building, is very community oriented and has supported many charitable and civic organizations in town and throughout the country.

Bouras Properties has also been the location for various city-sponsored events.

Along with the idea of a venue for New Jersey artists goes the added bonus that part of the proceeds from any sales at the Bouras Galleries goes to benefit Overlook Hospital.

Call Linda Cole for appointments at 908-277-6054.



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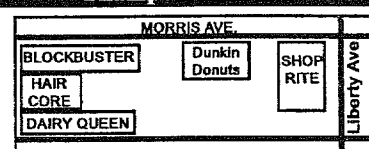
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Roberts Steakhouse

For fine dining at an affordable price that will have you coming back again and again, look no farther than Roberts Steakhouse in Garwood. Located at 99 Center St., this fine establishment celebrated its first year of business on Oct. 6, and things have never looked better. Friday and Saturday nights are standing room only at this popular eatery, but it is clearly well worth the wait.

Robert DeStefanis, the owner and creator of the steakhouse bearing his name, has a long history in the restaurant business. Robert used to manage the Red Baron in Clark and he also owned Garfield's Sports Lounge and Restaurant in Garwood. His family used to own the Charlie Brown Steakhouse, when it was called the Glenview Manor, and the family of his wife, Ilona, owned the restaurant, the Lodge, that would later become the Office in Cranford. Taking this experience and knowledge, Robert looked at that building in Garwood which had been abandoned for nine years and knew he could turn it into someplace special. And he did.

One of the most important elements for any restaurant to have are highly qualified chefs working in the kitchen, and in this aspect, Robert surpassed his expectations. Dave Costello formerly of Westfield, has been working as a chef at Roberts Steakhouse for the past five months, but has a wealth of experience in his 20 years serving in the culinary arts. This includes serving as the head chef for about eight years at Giovanna's in Plainfield and at the convent station of the Morris County golf club for 3½ years.

Brian Kirpan of Kenilworth has been working in the kitchen since the restaurant opened. He brings with him more than eight years in this profession, including two years as the banquet chef at the Plainfield Country Club, the executive chef at Ciro's Trattoria and Alper's in Clark.

While both Brian and Dave pride themselves in being versed in a wide variety of foods, they are specially skilled with Italian cuisine, giving those who dine at Roberts Steakhouse a multitude of entrees to choose from. Entrees include flounder Florentine, veal chop Milanese, chicken Napoleon, pappardella, capellini and rigatoni, in addition to such succulent treats from the steak menu as New York strip, filet mignon, T-bone, Delmonico and their specialty, cowboy. House specials are changed week to week so, although the favorites are always available, there's also the promise of something unexpected.

"We like to keep everything in house," explained Brian. This is how they keep the quality of food as high as it is while still maintaining a distinctive taste.

"We're getting more into making our own desserts," added Dave, just one more reason your meals will be unique to only Roberts Steakhouse.

But the No. 1 reason most people go to a steakhouse is for the steak, and Roberts does not disappoint. "I think we're the only restaurant in the area to sell certified Angus beef," said Robert proudly. This is later butchered in-house, to keep the taste fresh, unlike some establishments that reheat meat cut elsewhere and either frozen and then defrosted or else cut in blocks, with the veins still needing to be cut out. At Roberts Steakhouse, everything is done right there, so you get the best steak around.

When I walked into Roberts Steakhouse on a Friday, my mouth was already watering in anticipation. I had arrived in the afternoon to have some time to speak to the chefs and Robert himself, but by the time I was ready to eat, the restaurant was already beginning to fill up.

Walking through the front door, the bar is situated on the right side, complete with two large televisions above it. To the left is a room with ample seating and, including a room to the rear, Roberts Steakhouse can serve just under 100 at a time. Although a restaurant of this size is only required to have one smoke eater to get rid of smoke from cigars and cigarettes, which are only allowed at the bar, Roberts Steakhouse has two smoke eaters. And for those who want it, the rear room, which comes with a fireplace for those cool winter evenings, is also non-smoking and seats 24.

I took a seat near the front window, where Dan, my waiter, recommended shrimp Robert and an appetizer, and I was not disappointed. In fact, Roberts Steakhouse has an extensive wine list, ranging from white wines like the Pepper Wood Grove Chardonnay, California, or Cavit Pinot Grigio, Italy, to red wines like the Sterling Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa, or one of my favorites, the Cline Zinfandel, California.

There are also numerous champagnes and sparkling wines to add to a list of nearly 200 varieties, enough to please even the most selective wine connoisseur.

When given the choice of entrees, I selected the cowboy steak, and I was truly amazed. Despite how trite the phrase might seem, this steak literally melted in my mouth. It was just that good. And the side dishes of mushrooms and fried potatoes were delectable. A frothy glass of Samuel Adams was perfect to wash this delicious meal down.

Still feeling I wasn't quite done, I had a superb chocolate molten cake, a chocolate fudge cake they heat up, top with vanilla ice cream, chocolate and caramel sauce for dessert, with an espresso to finish the evening off.

Roberts Steakhouse has something for everyone. Whether it's salads, the deli or something for the grill, their variety is only surpassed by their excellence. An early bird dinner is available every day from 3 to 6 p.m. with entrees in the \$12 to \$15 range, including soup or salad, potato, vegetable, coffee and dessert. You can book parties, complete with a party menu customized to suit your occasion. Reservations are taken, but only for parties of six or more and usually not on Saturdays. Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. Tuesday through Friday and dinner is served from 5 to 10 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday and 5 to 11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Robert repeated what many people had told him about his steakhouse: "Finally, you don't have to drive to New York City for a great steak anymore."

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ART CLIPS

DJ Tamir in schedule for Dusty's in Roselle

Dusty's Place, Union County's newest nightclub, will present DJ Tamir on Saturday nights this fall. Tamir will present a light and music show starting at 9 p.m. and continuing until 3 a.m.

Admission to Dusty's place is free before 10 p.m.

Thursday and Sunday nights are karaoke nights.

In coming weeks, Dusty's will host jazz nights, comedy nights and Monday night football.

Dusty's Place is located at 112 Chestnut St. in Roselle at the site of the former Cove Jazz Club.

For more information and directions call 908-241-1224.

Kean will present a new professional equity theatre program

Kean University announces Premier Stages, a new professional Actor's Equity Association theater program. Actively engaging and enhancing the professional theater academic programs at Kean, Premiere Stages will also serve a culturally diverse audience, children-at-risk, and a broad pool of artists.

Premiere Stages features four uniquely conceived projects that will nurture and encourage the work of students, introduce children to the arts, attract high-profile artists to the institution and provide a forum for the development of new plays. The Premiere Stages Play Festival will present the work of emerging dramatists living in the greater metropolitan area through readings, workshops, and fully-produced world-premiere productions. For more information on Premiere Stages at Kean University, or to get on the mailing list, call 908-737-6397, ext. 4410, or send an e-mail to jwooten@kean.edu.

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated at Ritz Theatre

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, The Ritz Theatre recently hosted an interactive art lesson for 100 elementary school students from Harrison Elementary School and The Shim Academy of Roselle.

"I created the Ritz Arts Council to celebrate art in its many forms," said Ritz Theatre owner George A. Castro II. "In the future, we will host a variety of events at The Ritz Theatre featuring fine art, music, dance and more, to bring the arts to the community and

Correction

The photograph identified as a scene from "Macbeth" in the Oct. 28 edition of the Union County Arts & Entertainment section was taken from a scene from "Tosca," performed at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Kean artist debuts CD

Kean University affiliate artist in piano Allison Brewster Franzetti last month released a new double CD, titled "Reflexiones," on the Amapola label.

CD No. 1 was produced in Prague, the Czech Republic, earlier this year. Brewster Franzetti is performing Piano Concerto No. 1, composed by husband Carlos Franzetti, with the city of Prague Philharmonic conducted by Adam Klemens.

CD No. 2 was recorded in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2003, and Brewster Franzetti is playing "Concerto del Plata" for piano and chamber orchestra and the suite from the French/Spanish film, "Dans le Rouge du Couchant," by Carlos Franzetti and recorded with the Orquestra del Buen Ayre conducted by Franzetti.

"The director of the film, Edgardo Cozarinsky, has been a fan of Carlos' work for many years," Brewster Franzetti explained. "We sent him "Tango Fatal," which won the Latin Grammys in 2001, and "Poeta de Arrabal," which was nominated for two Grammys in 2003. Cozarinsky loved both. As a result, he licensed several selections of music from "Tango Fatal" — some of the original CD and some of the "Reflexiones," and used them throughout the film. So, Carlos is the composer and conductor, and I am the pianist for what is the film's underscore. Though we're not on screen, we are in the credits," Brewster Franzetti said. "The film has been played at all of the major film festivals and is currently playing in Europe."

A new, yet untitled, Argentine movie project is in the works. Music from "Poeta de Arrabal" for that film is in the process of being licensed.

educate children."

The students learned about fine art techniques of Hispanic artists Jorge Posada from Colombia, Franck de la Mercedes from Nicaragua, and Rene Mayorga from El Salvador.

The artists exhibited some of their own work and engaged the children in art lessons, offering them the opportunity to use their imaginations while creating portraits and collages.

The Ritz Theatre was built in 1865 and originally opened as Drake's Opera House.

After a variety of incarnations, surviving near destruction and years of vacancy, the Ritz Theatre is once again being recognized as a first class showplace for top entertainers.

Season is under way for Westfield Community Players

The Westfield Community Players membership drive for their 2004-05 season is now under way, with a four-show season price of \$45, a savings of 30 percent off the price of individual tickets.

The Box Office is open at 908-232-1221 and ready to take your reservations for the opening show or for the full season.

New President Naomi Yablonsky, who has directed and performed at WCP, announced the new season of drama, comedy, murder and song.

For the upcoming 2004-05 season, WCP membership director Letty Hudak notes that a \$45 membership gives you tickets to all four of the new season's shows as well as a newsletter and notification of special events.

Individual season subscriptions can be obtained for \$45 each with checks payable to Westfield Community Players, sent to Letty Hudak at 409 Harrison Avenue, Westfield. All shows open on a Saturday night and

run Friday and Saturday evenings for 3 or 4 weekends, making it easy to have a local night out to experience live theater.

Three shows remain in the current season.

The British Farce "There Goes the Bride" by Ray Cooney and John Chapman is the next entry in the series, in January, as an antidote to the winter blahs.

A society wedding is disrupted by the father of the bride, who lapses into fantasy about the roaring '20s at the Savoy Hotel in London.

Show dates are Jan. 8 through 22 with all tickets priced at \$15.

Agatha Christie's courtroom drama, "Witness for the Prosecution" is the March show.

True to form, confusion, doubt and double-cross are skillfully presented by the author in this Tony Award Winning play.

Show dates are March 5 through the 19 with tickets priced at \$15.

WCP ends the season in May with the James Valcq and Fred Alley musical "The Spitfire Grill."

With a score inspired by American

folks music, this story of redemption and hope takes place at a restaurant in a small town that serves up more than food to weary souls. Show dates are April 30 through May 21, with all tickets priced at \$20.

Westfield Community Players, founded in 1934, is one of the oldest continuously operating community theaters in the state of New Jersey and has brought to life more than 190 comedies, dramas and musicals in its 150-seat theater in Westfield.

With four productions for the upcoming season, it continues to be a vibrant part of the cultural scene in Union county.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Musicians meet at workshop to hone their craft

Area musicians who are looking for an opportunity to fine tune their

skills and share their talents have several options available provided by Westfield's New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Music Studio.

The Music Studio's String Ensemble, a highly successful program this summer, will return for the fall and winter. Intended for violin, viola, cello and string bass players, the Ensemble will meet on Saturdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at 150-152 East Broad Street. The hourly sessions, under the direction of Janet Lyman, will run from October through March at a fee of \$100 for Music Studio students and \$175 for non-students. Participants must have one year playing experience.

Another course, for brass, percussion, strings and woodwinds, is the Symphony Orchestra, also directed by Lyman. Intended for musicians of all ages, this group will meet on Satur-

days from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church on Raritan Road in Clark, also from October to March. The fee for this program is \$100 for Music Studio participants and \$175 for others.

Requirements include one year ensemble playing experience, but on a more advanced level than the String Ensemble. Musicians must bring a music stand to rehearsal.

Lyman, a faculty member in the Tenafly school system, has both a bachelors and masters degree from the Manhattan School of Music. She founded and conducts the Tenafly Symphony Orchestra and is the music Director at Zion Lutheran Church, where she established a brass and string ensemble, directs the hand bell choir, and conducts the adult and youth choirs.

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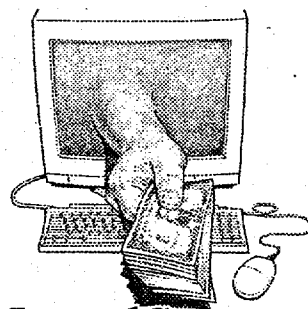
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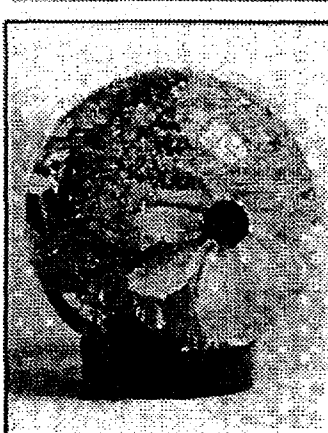
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Murphy is the best sales agent in September

Julia Murphy, a consistent top achiever in the Burgdorff ERA, Westfield office, has been honored as Sales Agent of the Month for September 2004.

Murphy has received many distinguished awards and has been a recipient of the New Jersey Association of Real-

tors Circle of Excellence Sales Award 2003. She has been a New Jersey real estate professional for 14 years and resides in Cranford. Murphy is an active member of the Cranford Junior Woman's Club, the Garden Club of Cranford, the Crane-Phillips House Restoration Committee and a trustee of

the Cranford Historical Society. She completed the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Historic Real Estate Program in 2001 and is a certified historic home specialist.

George Kraus, vice president/manager of the Westfield office, said, "Julie is an extremely knowledgeable agent in

our office and has served as a mentor for new agents. She has consistently attained new business from past clients who recommend her services without reservation."

She may be contacted at her direct line, 908-233-2488, or her e-mail address, JulieMurphy@burgdorff.com.

Let's Ask Jill

by Jill Guzman

Look for the R and the MLS Signs of Success!!

If you are a homeowner thinking of the possibility of selling your home, you want the best Ethics, professionalism, honesty, service, and consumer exposure are all the factors that will open the doors to a successful Real Estate transaction.

The "R" represents "Realtor". Knowing that a Real Estate professional proudly wears the "R" symbol next to the name, is as reassuring as MD, next to your physician title. The "R" signifies that your Real Estate Agent and Brokerage are members of the local, state, and National Boards of Realtors. It means they follow and subscribe to the highest rules of Ethics and are well educated professionals in their field.

The "MLS" signifies Multiple Listing Services and assures you as a home owner that your home will be offered to all Real Estate professionals in the MLS ensuring top activity and then many more offers which lead to a better price!

Caveat Emptor - let the consumer beware! Make certain when listing your home that the Brokerage will offer you the type of activity you deserve by placing your home on the MLS. Many discount brokers do not offer that opportunity for your home, they promise to save you money in the long run, cause you to sell your home under its value, thereby costing you a substantial amount! We at Jill Guzman Realty, Inc. now proudly celebrating our 15th year of success, pride ourselves on the "R" that stands next to

our name and the Garden State MLS in which we place our homes as per owners request. We take pride in ourselves for having received the honor of being the #1 in Elizabeth in value brought to homeowners.

Thinking of selling? Look for the "R" and the MLS and make your decision the right one. We look forward to seeing you!!!

Jill Guzman has achieved the ultimate distinction of being among the TOP 1% of more than (approx.) 7,040 Active Real Estate Professionals by units of listings sold in the year 2003!

P.S. The professionals at Jill Guzman Realty are achieving honors and distinctions year after year. They offer personal service, true knowledge of market value, and a marketing program to enhance your home together with honesty and integrity. Their best reference is, and always will be, your neighbor.

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Another one of "Our Success Stories" Congratulations: Meet Darlene & Rick Shellhouse, Former Home Owners of 26 Hill Street, Bloomfield, NJ Thanking Jill Guzman Realty, Inc.

"Dear Jill:

Writing to thank you and our agent, Melanie De Bella for all of the help-making the fast sale of our home happen. We got exactly the price we wanted and Melanie was always there to make the process simple and painless. Thank you for everything!!!

Sincerely,
 Darlene & Rick Shellhouse

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Weekly Mortgage News

McLean, VA - Freddie Mac (NYSE:FRE) today released the results of its Primary Mortgage Market Survey in which the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) averaged 5.72 percent, with an average 0.6 points, for the week ending November 24, 2004, down a little from last week when it averaged 5.74 percent. Last year at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 5.83 percent.

The average for the 15-year FRM this week is 5.15 percent, with an average 0.6 points, unchanged from last week. A year ago, the 15-year FRM averaged 5.17 percent.

One-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 4.27 percent this week, with an average 0.7 point, up from last week when it averaged 4.17 percent. At this time last year, the one-year ARM averaged 3.72 percent.

(Average commitment rates should be reported along with average fees and points to reflect the total cost of obtaining the mortgage.)

"At this time last year, our forecast called for interest rates for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages to exceed six percent by this time this year," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac vice president and chief economist. "Today's annual average mortgage rates are below even that projection thanks to the spring 'soft-patch' in economic growth."

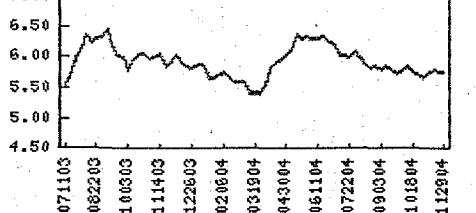
"Nevertheless, our outlook is that long-term rates are destined to rise to a still homebuyer friendly range that will most likely cause home sales to cool relative to their current record highs."

Freddie Mac is a stockholder-owned corporation established by Congress in 1970 to create a continuous flow of funds to mortgage lenders in support of homeownership and rental housing. Freddie Mac purchases mortgages from lenders and packages them into securities that are sold to investors. Over the years, Freddie Mac has made home possible for one in six homebuyers in America.

National Averages

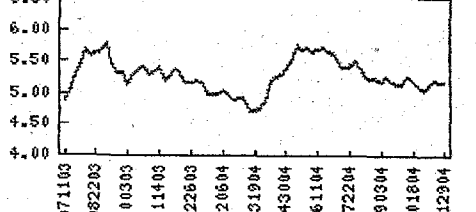
30-year mortgage

National Average: 5.72%



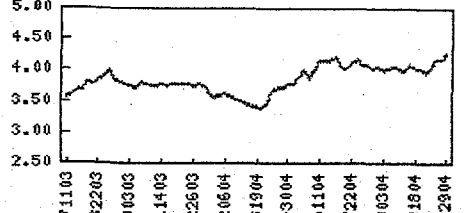
15-year mortgage

National Average: 5.15%



1-year ARM mortgage

National Average: 4.27%



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AUTOMOTIVE

Infiniti Q45 is worth a second look

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

I've just spent a week in an '04 Infiniti Q45 sedan and I'm showing no signs of plague, as far as I can tell.

This robust flagship of luxury is large and lean, richly attired in the finest interior appointments and electronic advancements. Yet, buyers avoid it like the plague.

Sales in May reached just 126 units. Even Infiniti's seldom-seen M45 sport sedan sold 177 that month, a slight bump from April, and sales of the shapely G35 sedan totaled 3,394.

And while the Q45 is a much better representation of Infiniti luxury than the mighty QX56 SUV, the sport utility attracted 1,240 buyers, a slight increase over April.

The Q might look a little like a stretched Ford Taurus, but the Q's horsepower, braking and steering inputs are ideal and luxury class.

And there should be few complaints about the 340 horsepower, 4.5 liter V-8 that returns a respectable 16 mpg combined fuel mileage.

While the styling is nondescript, there are no swoopy lines that obstruct vision, and Q has a trim, 36.1-foot turning circle, the tightest in the class. The interior quality and assembly are immaculate and the colors and textures harmonious.

All I can gripe about is the clumsy, multifunction command center for audio and HVAC. It's an early version of the human-computer interface and not particularly logical.

After a week of driving, I still wasn't sure how to adjust fan speed except by lowering or raising the temperature. But after pushing buttons until something happened, I'd learned enough functions to keep myself comfortable. Owners would, too.

At a starting price of \$52,945, it's not a sport sedan in the class of a BMW 5- or 7-Series or the all-wheel-drive Audi A8, but stepping up to the Premium model with its adaptive suspension firms up the ride.

For \$62,145, the Premium comes with a navigation system, rear power sunshade, Intelligent Cruise Control, heated and cooled front seats and heated power reclining rear seats.

Updates for 2004 include a five-

speed automatic transmission with revised manual-shift mode. The rearview backup camera is standard equipment.

Other standard features include a sunroof, leather-trimmed seats, dual zone automatic climate control, Infiniti Voice Recognition, Vehicle Information System with 5.8-inch color LCD monitor, tire pressure monitor system and a Bose 8-speaker, 300-watt audio system with in-dash six-disc CD changer.

The Q45 gets a mild freshening for 2005, but it's difficult to note the exterior differences except for a slight change to the grille, which is an improvement.

Other changes will include standard active suspension and rain- and speed-sensing wipers.

In its defense, the Q is the oldest model in the line, but what's the real problem? Some would say it's a matter of bad marketing.

"The Q is a dud, because Infiniti blew it with this car several times," says Gordon Wangers, president of Automotive Marketing Consultants in Vista, Calif.

It was a matter of styling more than performance or value, he says.

"Several unsuccessful restyles later, they have a good if not near-great car," Wangers says. "Unfortunately, it's still rather homely, and as good as the Q is, the LS 430, BMW 7-Series, S-Class and Audi A8 are all better automobiles."

"The success of the G35 proves that you don't necessarily need a flagship to succeed. Just look at Acura. The RL is more lame than the Q," he says.

2004 Infiniti Q45

Body style: Full-size five-passenger, rear-wheel-drive sedan

Engine: Aluminum, 4.5 liter, DOHC, 32-valve V-8 with continuous variable valve timing control

Horsepower: 340 hp at 6,400 rpm

Torque: 333 foot-pounds at 4,000 rpm

Transmission: Driver-adaptive, shiftable five-speed automatic

Acceleration: 0 to 60 mph, 6.4 seconds

EPA fuel economy estimates: 17 mpg city, 23 highway; 91 octane recommended

ommended

Trunk space: 13.6 cubic feet

Front head/leg/shoulder room:

38.4/44/58.2 inches

Rear head/leg/shoulder room:

36.4/37.3/57.2 inches

Length: 199.6 inches

Wheelbase: 113 inches

Curb weight: 3,977 pounds

Standard equipment includes remote locking sunroof, leather-trimmed seats, dual zone automatic climate control, Infiniti Voice Recognition, Vehicle Information System with 5.8-inch color LCD monitor, RearView monitor, tire pressure monitor system, Bose eight-speaker, 300-watt audio system with in-dash six-disc CD changer

Safety equipment includes traction control and vehicle dynamic control with shut-off switch

Brakes: Power-assisted four-wheel vented discs, 11.4-inch front, 11.5-inch rear, with Electronic Brake force Distribution, Brake Assist and four-channel ABS

Steering: Electrically controlled vehicle-speed-sensitive power-assisted rack-and-pinion; 36.1-foot turning circle

Suspension: Front — independent strut with stabilizer bar and coil springs, optional driver selectable suspension mode with active damping; rear — independent multi-link with stabilizer bar and coil springs

Tires and wheels: 225/55R 17-inch V-rated all-season radials on aluminum alloys, full-size spare and alloy wheel

The competition: Audi A8, Cadillac DeVille, BMW 5-Series, Mercedes-Benz E-Class, Lexus LS 430, VW Phaeton

Where assembled: Japan

Base: \$52,945, including \$545 destination charge; price as tested, \$53,005

Options on test car: trunk mat, \$60

Pluses: Power, Infiniti refinement, interior proportions.

Minuses: Quirky computerized climate and audio interface; smallish trunk but of good proportions.

Mark Maynard is driving in cyberspace at mark.maynard@uniontrib.com

AUTOMOTIVE

AUTO FOR SALE

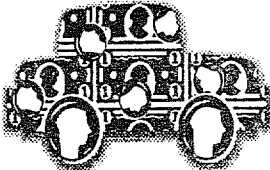
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MERCEDES ML 500, 2002. Must See! Mint condition, lots of extras, 15K miles. Best offer. Call 973-313-9869.

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6 CYLINDER • AUTO • AC • LOADED!

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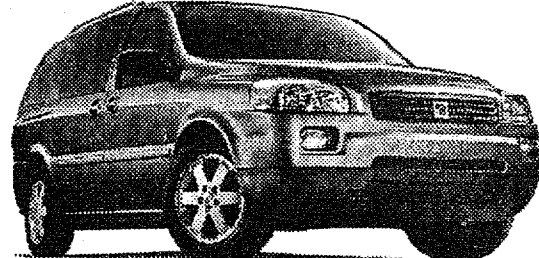
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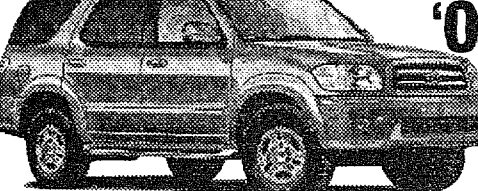
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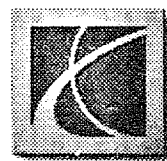
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\$20,802

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\$24,902

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\$17,902

2002 CHEVROLET IMPALA 4 DR
6 cyl. auto, p/st/ABS/winds/lks, air, cd, sunrt, leath, security sys. 4.957 demo miles. Slt#40384. VIN#49242893. MSRP \$28,365. Price Includes \$3500 Factory & \$1500 in Instant Value Certificate Rebates.

\$12,202

2002 SATURN ION200 WAGON 4 DR
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\$12,402

2000 NISSAN XTERRA 4X4 4 DR
6 cyl. auto, p/st/ABS/winds/lks, air, cd, sunrt, leath, security sys. 4.957 demo miles. Slt#40384. VIN#49242893. MSRP \$28,365. Price Includes \$3500 Factory & \$1500 in Instant Value Certificate Rebates.

\$13,302

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\$16,702

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\$16,902

2002 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN 4X4 4 DR
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\$24,902

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\$18,902

2002 CADILLAC DEVILLE 4 DR
6 cyl. auto, p/st/ABS/winds/lks, air, cd, sunrt, leath, security sys. 4.957 demo miles. Slt#40384. VIN#49242893. MSRP \$28,365. Price Includes \$3500 Factory & \$1500 in Instant Value Certificate Rebates.

\$20,902

2002 CHEVROLET TAHOE 4X4 4 DR
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\$23,702

2002 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LS 4 DR
6 cyl. auto, p/st/ABS/winds/lks, air, cd, FWD. Slt#50365. VIN#5102142. MSRP \$21,700. Price Includes \$1000 Factory & \$500 in Instant Value Certificate Rebates.

\$23,802

2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT 4 DR
6 cyl. auto, p/st/ABS/winds/lks, air, cd, rear TV & DVD, remote starter. Slt#50400. VIN#5D15812. MSRP \$30,465. Price Includes \$1500 Factory Rebate.

\$25,902

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6 cyl. auto, p/st/ABS/winds/lks, air, cd, sunrt, leath, security sys. 4.957 demo miles. Slt#40384. VIN#49242893. MSRP \$28,365. Price Includes \$3500 Factory & \$1500 in Instant Value Certificate Rebates.

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