

# THE CLARK EAGLE

CLARK, N.J., VOL. 15 NO. 13

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2004

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TWO SECT

## Schwarz Farm property sparks spirited debate

By David Krewson  
Managing Editor

Temper flared at Monday night's Township Council meeting's public hearing to establish an age-restricted affordable housing overlay district for Schwarz Farm.

Mayor Sal Bonaccorso had heated exchanges with William Fidurski, former chairman of the Clark Environmental Commission, who opposed the ordinance to create the district.

"Bill, let's not start with scare tactics that a Trump Tower building will be built there," Bonaccorso shouted at Fidurski. "You debated this on Election Day, and you lost and I won, and I have had enough of you," he said.

Fidurski is a Democrat and Bonaccorso,

who won re-election on Nov. 2 is a Republican. Fidurski supported Bonaccorso's Democratic mayoral opponent, Sheree Bosze.

Council President Alvin Barr interrupted Fidurski, who was attempting to speak during the hearing.

"You may speak now but I will not allow anymore debate between either of you," Barr said.

Fidurski, responding to Bonaccorso "Here me out, I will not be taken advantage of."

Fidurski added that the ordinance for the age-restricted overlay district stipulates that 30 housing units per acre would be built at the 4-acre Schwarz Farm property on Old Raritan Road. The council unanimously adopted the ordinance.

"My concern is that 30 units per acre is such a high rate of development that we will lose the quality of life in Clark," Fidurski said.

The exchanges between Bonaccorso, Barr and Fidurski continued with Barr stating to Fidurski "don't insult my intelligence, and we understand you object."

At one point, Barr told Fidurski to return to his seat in the audience.

"Please sit down, you are now being disruptive to this meeting."

Before the vote, Bonaccorso said that it was his belief that only 15 to 20 units of townhouses could be built on the property.

After the meeting, Fidurski said if that is the case, "why zone the property for 30 units per acre and expose the township to a potential

application for 120 units on the property, which would be a disaster."

Bonaccorso explained that the issue of an age-restricted overlay district is not new and has been carried over from former Mayor Robert Ellenport's administration.

Several other objectors also spoke against the ordinance.

"I thought when we had Zoning Board hearings we were rezoning the property," said Marge Berson of Winters Court.

Township Administrator John Laezza added that "the developer wanted to put more on this property, and they didn't comply with this overlay."

In a response to questions posed by Democratic Municipal Chairwoman Nancy Sheri-

dan, Laezza said the ordinance is a mediation agreement with the state Council on Affordable Housing on the Schwarz Farm and the former Tyco Submarine facility on Terminal Avenue is a response to COAH.

According to the ordinance, the purpose of the district is to permit construction of an age-restricted, multi-family residential development with 20 percent affordable housing set-asides in accordance with the township's adopted Housing Element and Fair Share Plan which is a requirement of COAH.

The ordinance further stipulates that the development of an age-restricted, multi-family development will be an option available to a developer or property owner.

See **TEMPERS**, Page 2

## Westfield Avenue targeted in '05

Streetscape program in the works

By David Krewson  
Managing Editor

The Township Council is in the preliminary stages of developing an area to be designated as a "downtown."

"We are going to continue the beginning of streetscape to make a real downtown for Clark," said Mayor Sal Bonaccorso.

The proposed project is expected to be a 10-year effort to give the township a "downtown" core, according to Council President Alvin Barr.

Township Administrator John Laezza said the proposed project will focus on the Westfield Avenue corridor from Brant Avenue to Madison Hill Road.

"Plans call for upgrading the Westfield Avenue corridor," Laezza said.

He added this is expected to involve new street lighting and an emphasis on attracting new businesses.

Bonaccorso said during his re-election campaign in the fall that he wanted to rezone the commercial area on Westfield Avenue in order to attract new businesses, such as restaurants to create a downtown for Clark.

Barr said that the council "has and still is looking into a downtown area."

He added that constructing new facades on some of the township's business establishments is something the council is considering.

Barr said the council is still pondering what the "downtown" should look like. He explained that this will take some time and it is going to be a slow process.

Attracting new businesses is a key element to the plan.

"As any new business comes in to the designated 'downtown' area they would have to adhere to the codes for that section of the township," Barr said.

"We are looking forward to extending the existing streetscape program," Barr said.

The cost of the long-term project has not been determined, according to Barr. "It is going to be an ongoing process, and there is no dollar amount put on it yet," he said.

He noted that the reason the council has not come up with a cost for the project is because of the length of time that it will take to make a "downtown" area.

Barr noted that the township is continuing to look to upgrade the area for new businesses to locate in the area designated to be downtown.

He noted that the township has already adopted rezoning ordinances



Photos By Barbara Kokkalis

The township is working to develop a downtown area along Westfield Avenue as a major project for 2005.

for commercial uses for a downtown area. Barr noted that the planning and zoning boards have held hearings to rezone the area.

Currently there are grocery, drug stores, an ice cream establishment, doughnut shop and delicatessens in that part of the township.

Laezza noted that property owners be willing to work with the township in the effort.

"We hope the property owners are willing to cooperate in this effort to make it work," he said.

Laezza added that "public and private dollars are needed for it to be successful."

## District faces 22% hike in gas bills

By David Krewson  
Managing Editor

The cost to heat three of the district's four school buildings is going up.

At a Board of Education meeting on Dec. 13, the board extended its contract with its natural gas supplier, Woodruff Energy, containing a 22-percent increase.

According to Superintendent of Schools Glenn Tillou, the Clark School District is one of 12 districts to participate in the Union County Cooperative Purchasing Association, a countywide purchasing agreement.

School Business Administrator William Takacs said that three of the district's four schools are heated by natural gas.

Arthur L. Johnson High School primarily uses oil heat.

But, he said, the district has brought in a high-pressure natural gas line in anticipation of converting the building from oil to natural gas within two years.

Takacs noted that the only room within ALJ to have natural gas for heating is the guidance office. He said the Board of Education had budgeted for an anticipated utility increase.

The 22-percent hike in gas rates is expected to cost \$15,000 to \$18,000 more than last year's gas consumption, according to Takacs.

"Was this the best deal we could get?," board member Karen Amalfé asked.

Tillou said it was the best price for natural gas that the district could get at the present time.

Takacs said that the agreement with Woodruff Energy runs from December to April. The previous agreement with Woodruff Energy, up to December, was for a 33-percent increase in natural gas rates.

Meanwhile, Takacs said the district hopes to break ground in March to construct a "powerhouse" building at Arthur L. Johnson High School.

He said the "powerhouse" building will house the district's electrical distribution for the high school as well as the gas-fired hot boilers for heating.

Takacs said that ALJ does not have a generator in the event of an electrical outage. He added there is no backup for electricity in the building in the event of a power failure.

The high school is not a township-designated emergency shelter in the event of an outage.

## Offices closed for holidays

The offices of this newspaper will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 in observance of Christmas and Friday, Dec. 31 in observance of New Year's Eve. We will reopen on the following Mondays.

The deadlines for the Dec. 30 and Jan. 6 editions are as follows:

- Lifestyle, including church and club news, etc. — Today, noon.
- Legal advertising — Monday, noon.
- Letters to the editor — Monday, 9 a.m.
- What's Going On — Monday, 4 p.m.
- Display ads — Monday, 5 p.m. for Section A and noon for Section B.
- Sports news — Monday, noon.
- General news — Monday, 5 p.m.
- Classified advertising — Tuesday, 3 p.m.

We wish all of our readers and advertisers happy holidays and a Happy New Year.

## School board restores \$4,000 in funding for Student Council

By David Krewson  
Managing Editor

The Board of Education granted \$4,000 for Student Council initiatives at Arthur L. Johnson High School during its meeting on Dec. 13.

On a motion by board member Thomas Lewis, the school board voted 7-3 to have the Student Council receive the money from commissions from the Coca-Cola Corporation.

Board President James Rooney, board member Linda Koenig and board member Wendy Griffin voted against the motion.

Superintendent of Schools Glenn Tillou said the district previously had a contract with the Coca-Cola Corporation which had Coke vending machines in the high school.

During the meeting he said that Coca-Cola provided \$2,500 as a payment which was then given to the Student Council for the first two years.

"Unfortunately, Coke provided it for only two years, and we defaulted on the contract," Tillou said.

He added the reason the district defaulted was that the contract terms stipulated only Coke products be sold in the school's vending machines.

Tillou said that this violated some of the district's contracts with food vendors.

According to Lewis, the school system still receives a portion of the profits from the vending machines.

However, those profits have been directed for scholarships instead of initiatives for the Student Council.

For the first two years, the Student Council received \$2,500 that they were promised as part of the agreement, according to Lewis.

Lewis said that in the last three years the Student Council has received nothing.

In the past three years the \$2,500 went for scholarships.

"I just feel we righted a wrong," said Lewis.

Lewis added that the Student Council is the "backbone of the high school, and the good things that they do."

"I do believe the \$4,000 is something they deserve and it is only fair that they are entitled to it," he said.

Board member Jessica Kinsella said she is also pleased that the board voted to grant the Student Council the funding.

"I'm thrilled that the Student Council is getting the funds that they deserve, and I am confident that they will do beneficial things for the district and our students," Kinsella said.

Student Council President Mike Monagle addressed the subject during the meeting's public portion.

Monagle, a senior, said that in the first two years of the deal regarding the payout from the Clark Board of Education, the \$4,000 was earmarked for initiatives for the Student Council.

"We are really happy that the board is willing to work with us, and happy that they support us and realize the work we do for the school," Monagle said.

Jenna Small, a senior and student liaison to the board's Public Relations Committee, said she "is very pleased that the Student Council received the money."

"It has been a long time coming and we are very thankful that the board recognizes the efforts that the Student Council makes to better the school," she added.

The Student Council in past years has given out three scholarships for students.

Student Council Advisor Kurt Epps praised the board for its decision.

"I am happy that the board decided to keep its promise with respect to the Student Council funding," said Epps.

He added that the "board did the right thing."

Epps noted that "the board made a deal with the Student Council and they lived up to their end of the bargain."

Epps, who has been advisor to the Student Council since 1981, said he "was very happy that the majority of the board voted the way they did."

## Brownies' Christmas visit to town hall



Clark Brownie Troop 799 members, from left, Kelly Sweeney, 7; Kaitlin Collins, 7, and Alexandria Ianco, 8, check out the decorations on the Girl Scout Tree at the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building on Westfield Avenue. The Brownies are second-graders at Frank K. Hehnly School.



Welcome to THE EAGLE

**How to reach us:**  
*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:

**Voice Mail:**  
Our main phone number, 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system to better serve our customers. During regular business hours, a receptionist will answer your call. During the evening or when the office is closed, your call will be answered by an automated receptionist.

**To subscribe:**  
*The Eagle* is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$26.00, two year subscriptions for \$47.00. College and out-of-state subscriptions are available. You may subscribe by phone by calling 908-686-7700 and asking for the circulation department. Allow at least two weeks for processing your order. You may use Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover.

**Missing newspaper:**  
If your *Eagle* did not get delivered please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation.

**Back issues:**  
To purchase back issues of *The Eagle* please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation. Additional charges may apply.

**News items:**  
News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Pictures should be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news story, call 908-686-7700 and ask for Editorial.

**Story reprints:**  
For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper you must call Tom Canavan at 908-686-7700. All material is copyrighted.

**Letters to the Editor:**  
*The Eagle* provides an open forum for opinions and welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and daytime phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

**e-mail:**  
*The Eagle* accepts news releases and opinion pieces by e-mail. Our e-mail address is Editorial@thelocalsource.com e-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising is also accepted by email under certain guidelines at ads@thelocalsource.com

**To place a display ad:**  
Display advertising for placement in the general news section of *The Eagle* must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the B section must be in our office by Monday at noon. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Call 908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

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

**To place a public notice:**  
Public Notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers. *The Eagle* meets all New Jersey state statutes regarding public notice advertising. Public notices must be in our office by Monday at noon for publication that week. For more information, call 908-686-7700 and ask for the public notice advertising department.

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

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Visit our Web Site on the internet at <http://www.localsource.com>. Find all the latest news, classified, community information, real estate, and hometown chat.

**Postmaster Please Note:**  
**THE EAGLE** (USPS 005-988) is published weekly by Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc., 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. Mail subscriptions \$21.00 per year in Union County, 75 cents per copy non-refundable. Periodicals postage paid at Union, N.J. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **THE EAGLE** P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J., 07083.

Tempers flare at council meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

Resident Joseph Seebode, a member of the Clark Environmental Commission said he was also opposed to the ordinance for 30 units per acre for the Schwarz Farm. "I am very much opposed to an ordinance for 30 units per acre for the Schwarz Farm; this is the wrong place for this," he said. He suggested that soccer fields might be a better alternative than townhouses. In other action, the council adopted an ordinance establishing an age-restricted affordable housing overlay district for the former Tyco Submarine facility. Clark Developers LLC, a subsidiary of Garden Homes is proposing a \$40-million senior citizen development on the site. During the public hearing on this ordinance, Fidurski also raised objections. "You should not expose seniors with potential respiratory and cardiovascular impairments to multiple stress conditions that would include industrial air emissions, round the

clock truck traffic, noise from manufacturing operations, vibrations from increased railroad usage and garbage odors moved through by rail," Fidurski said. Bonaccorso asked Fidurski why he didn't object to a kindergarten daycare center also located on Terminal Avenue when it came before regulatory boards. Approximately 20 percent of the 300 units will be set aside as affordable housing which is in accordance with the township's previously adopted Housing Element and Fair Share Plan. This is also a requirement of COAH. Andy Abramowitz, a 22-year Summit Court resident said she is in favor of the ordinance. "Seniors need housing and they will come, knowing it is in an industrial area," she said. Sheridan, who also objected to this ordinance, added, "I think it is a bad mix putting seniors and industry together." Councilwoman Angel Albanese said the council "worked hard to get senior housing for our community and this is a win-win situation, and I welcome it."

EVENTS

Blood drive today

New Jersey Blood Services will conduct a blood drive, in cooperation with the American Red Cross/Tri-County Chapter, today from 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.

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.

Exhibit on display through December

The Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, Clark, will present the works of Ilona and Andre Bugla through Dec. 31. 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.

AT THE LIBRARY

Holidays are better with chocolate and cheer

Celebrate the upcoming holidays and the beauty of winter with Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, on its day of Hot Chocolate and Holiday Cheer. Today, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., patrons will be treated to holiday goodies and delicious hot chocolate. The event is free, and all are welcome. For more information, call the reference desk at 732-340-1551, ext. 224 or 212.

Celebrate Kwanzaa with crafts and stories

On Wednesday at 2 p.m., elementary school students are invited to celebrate Kwanzaa at Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza. Vanessa Rozzelle, a member of the library's board of trustees, will present a program about Kwanzaa, a cultural celebration for all children. Come hear a story, learn about the symbols of Kwanzaa and their meanings, and make a craft. Seating is limited, and tickets will be distributed at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the Children's Department. Children younger than 8 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.

Make a time capsule to remember 2004

The Rahway Public Library invites teens, ages 12 to 18, who are residents of Rahway or Clark, to make a time capsule. The year is almost over — how will you remember 2004? Don't forget it — make a time capsule. The library will provide the capsule and the crafts, you bring the memories.

Here are some examples of things you might want to include: a letter to your future self; photographs of yourself, family, and friends; ticket stubs from your favorite movies; headlines clipped from 2004 newspapers; pictures from magazines showing the hottest celebrities or fashion trends; a journal or diary entry; photographs — put them in a plastic baggie; pages from magazines; a paragraph about what you want to be; a tape of your favorite song and pictures of your room. Everything must fit inside a coffee can. Once you've made your time capsule "bury" it deep in your closet or in another safe place...and, no matter how tempting it is, do not open it for 10 years.

Learn basic Internet, computer skills

Rahway Free Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, 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. 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.

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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**Today**

- New Jersey Blood Services will conduct a blood drive in cooperation with the American Red Cross/Tri-County Chapter at Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, 875 Raritan Road, from 3 to 8:30 p.m.

**Monday**

- The Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet from 8 to 11 p.m. in Council Chambers, behind the Police Department, 315 Westfield Ave.

**Tuesday**

- The Planning Board will meet at 8 p.m. in council chambers, behind the Police Department, 315 Westfield Ave.

**Upcoming Jan. 1**

- The Clark Township Council reorganization meeting will be held at noon in Council Chambers, behind the Police Department, 315 Westfield Ave.

**Ongoing**

- Diversity Art Gallery in Union County Baptist Church, 4 Valley Road, will feature the exhibit, "Water-Escapes," through Sunday. Regular gallery hours are from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays, with special tours for individuals, schools and organizations also available by appointment. For more information, call 732-574-1479, send e-mail to diversit-yart@aol.com or visit the gallery online at [www.ucbc.net](http://www.ucbc.net).
- The Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, will present the works of Ilona and Andre Bugla Friday through Dec. 31. The 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.

OBITUARIES

Lynn Margolis

Lynn Margolis, 78, of Los Angeles, Calif., a retired English teacher at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, died Dec. 12 in Skyview Villa Assisted Living, Los Angeles. Born in Hanover, Germany, Mrs. Margolis lived in Westfield and Edison before moving to Los Angeles. She was an English teacher at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark before retiring in 1991. Mrs. Margolis received a bachelor's degree in education from Michigan State University and a master's degree plus 30 credits in English from Montclair State University. Surviving are a son, Steven Preliss; a daughter, Nancy Preliss; two stepsons, Robert and Richard Margolis; a stepdaughter, Myra Katz; six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Carmela Campana

Carmela J. Campana, 90, of Clark died Dec. 15 in the Westfield Center Genesis ElderCare, Westfield. Born in Italy, Mrs. Campana lived in Jersey City before moving to Clark 48 years ago. She was a member of the Gran Centurions of Clark. Surviving are two sons, Joseph P. and Peter M. Jr.; a daughter, Maria C. Nesgood; two sisters, Mary DelGiudice and Gaetano D'Anna; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Barbara Foster

Barbara R. Foster, 68, of Clark died Dec. 16 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway. Born in Newark, Mrs. Foster lived in Toms River before moving to Clark

four years ago. She was an administrative assistant at Lab Corp., Cranford, for seven years before retiring in 1997. Earlier, Mrs. Foster had worked in the same capacity at the Clara Maass Medical Center, Belleville, for eight years. Surviving are a daughter, Donna Frankovsky; a son, Elmer Jr., and two grandchildren.

Pauline Sawicki

Pauline H. Sawicki, 94, of Clark died Dec. 17 in the Ashbrook Nursing Home, Scotch Plains. Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Sawicki lived in Clark. She was a supervisor at Proctor & Gamble, Staten Island, N.Y., for many years. Surviving are two sons, Leon and Adam; a daughter, Geraldine Tomchek; a sister, Anna Kundyla; seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

John Esposito

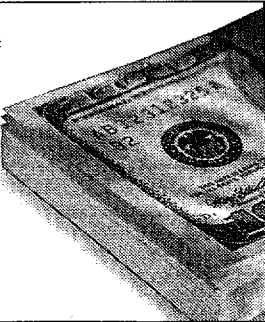
John Esposito of Clark died Dec. 19 in the Genesis ElderCare Center, Westfield. Born in Keyport, Mr. Esposito lived in Clark since 1917. He worked for the Elizabethtown Water Co., Plainfield, for many years before retiring in 1985. Mr. Esposito was a Marine Corps veteran. He served during World War II in Okinawa and China and received an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal. Surviving are his wife, Hilda; two sons, John and Richard; a daughter, Judith Eberhardt, and three grandchildren.

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## Firefighters extinguish Dumpster fire

The Clark Fire Department was dispatched to a Terminal Avenue manufacturing facility Dec. 18 at 6:46 a.m. for a report of an automatic fire alarm activation. Upon arrival, it was determined that a large garbage Dumpster and compactor, connected to the building, were fully engulfed in flames with impingement of flames into the interior of the building.

The initial attack on the fire quickly suppressed the flames and resulted in only minor damage to the building. The fire was not fully extinguished until the Dumpster was pulled away from the building and the contents emptied with the use of a heavy duty wrecker.

The building was ventilated to remove smoke and heat. Garwood provided fire protection services in Clark while Clark's fire crews were working at the fire scene.

The Fire Department responded to a Dorset Drive residence for a report of a carbon monoxide detector activation on Dec. 20 at 4:45 a.m. Investigation determined that there was an electrical problem and PSE&G was requested to respond to the residence to determine whether any repairs were required.

Union County Mutual Aid requested one engine company to

### FIRE BLOTTER

respond to the City of Elizabeth to provide fire protection services while their crews were busy at a structure fire Dec. 18 at 7:52 p.m.

The Fire Department was dispatched to a Madison Hill Road residence for a report of a carbon monoxide detector activation Dec. 17 at 8:54 a.m.

Investigation did not identify elevated carbon monoxide concentrations and Elizabethtown Gas was requested to the scene to determine whether any repairs were necessary.

The Fire Department was dispatched to a Harding Avenue residence for a report of a carbon monoxide detector activation at 8:42 a.m. on Dec. 17.

Investigation did not identify elevated carbon monoxide concentrations and Elizabethtown Gas was requested to the scene to determine whether any repairs were necessary.

The Fire Department was requested to respond to the intersection of Walter Drive and Thomas Drive for a brush fire Dec. 17 at 7:43 a.m. A small fire was extinguished.

The Fire Department responded

to the rear of a Joseph street residence for a report of a tree on fire Dec. 17 at 6:06 p.m.

Investigation determined that the flames also impinged upon a metal shed in the backyard of a Liberty Street residence. The tree fire was extinguished as well as the lumber contents of the shed.

A Liberty Street resident had removed ashes from a wood-burning stove and placed them behind the shed prior to fire department arrival.

The Fire Department responded to the scene of a motor vehicle that struck a utility pole at Lake Avenue and Raritan Road Dec. 17 at 2:51 p.m. Upon arrival, the occupants of the motor vehicle had exited the vehicle.

There was a light smoke condition in the engine compartment. The vehicle's battery was secured and absorbent was applied to a small fluid spill. The Fire Department remained on scene until the electric utility arrived to assess the safety of the utility pole.

The Fire Department was dispatched to an Alan Court residence for an odor of natural gas at 10:27 p.m. Dec. 16. Investigation identified gas leaking from the piping of a barbecue grill which was stopped by turning off the gas supply to the grill.

## Story of the first Christmas



The 4-year-old Chipmunks class at Osceola Church Nursery School in Clark recently presented the story of the First Christmas for parents and friends.

## Ellenport recognized by golf commission

At its October meeting, the Hyatt Hills Golf Commission recognized Bob Ellenport for eight years of service as a commissioner and co-chairman of the commission. The most recent term of Ellenport, a former mayor and councilman in the township of Clark, ended in September. Ellenport was not reappointed to the commission.

"I enjoyed my time on the commission," said Ellenport. "I was privileged to be involved from the beginning; from the design concept, through clean-up and construction and into our first profitable years of operation."

Ellenport, who took office as mayor of Clark in January 1993, said it was his suggestion that ultimately resulted in the creation of the Hyatt Hills Golf Complex.

"In March of 1993, I met with some representatives from General Motors. They were talking about cleaning up the property and making it into a park-like setting, and I suggested, instead of doing that, let's make it into a golf course facility," Ellenport said.

Hyatt Hills Golf Complex sits on 81 acres off Raritan Road in Clark and Cranford.

"With Cranford, we formed the Hyatt Hills Golf Commission in 1996 and it's the only one of its kind in New Jersey," he said. After having served two terms as a commissioner, Ellenport, 55, steps down as the current mayor of Clark, Sal Bonaccorso, appointed Clark Councilman James Ulrich to take Ellenport's seat.

Ellenport's father, brother and uncles all played golf, and he took up the sport when he was 13, while working as a caddy at Suburban Golf Club in Union.

He was graduated from Amherst College and New York University's School of Law. He works as a lawyer in private practice in Clark.

As mayor of Clark in 1996, he appointed himself to the unique, bi-municipal agency charged with overseeing construction — and now operations — at the Hyatt Hills Golf Complex. The complex includes a nine-hole regulation length golf course, a miniature golf course, snack bar, restaurant, pro shop, locker rooms,

driving range and short game practice area.

"We had to clean up the land where the old GM factory was first," he explained, "and one of the first choices we had to make once it was cleaned up was whether to build an 18-hole executive course or a nine-hole regulation length course."

Ellenport and current Hyatt Hills Golf Commission Chairman Robert Hoefler think they and others from both towns made the right decision in choosing to build a nine-hole regulation-length golf course.

Asked what he's most proud of during his tenure, Ellenport said it's simply the realization on the part of all the golf commissioners that a big part of their job is to let Director of Golf Dan Hollis and Superintendent of Greens Joe Flaherty do their jobs.

"As commissioners, we have to defer to their expertise and allow these guys to do what they were trained to do. We have to let them do their jobs and set their own standards. I think the commission has followed that philosophy to a great degree."

The Hyatt Hills Golf Commission includes four members from Clark and three members from Cranford. Even though he is stepping down after two terms on the commission, Ellenport plans to stay involved at Hyatt Hills.

His personal best at the course was a 91 from the back tees the summer it opened in 2002.

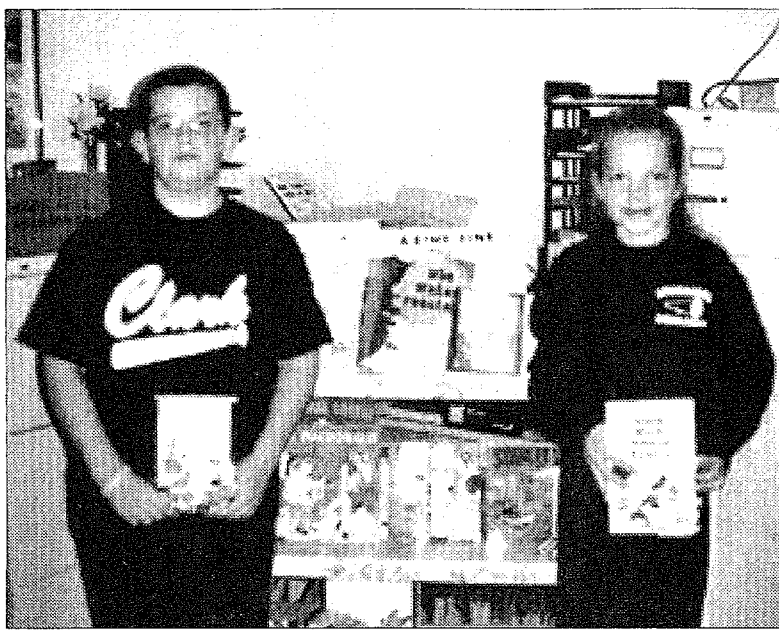
"I haven't been able to duplicate that score since then, and that's a compliment to greenskeeper Joe Flaherty," he said.

"That first year, the greens were a bit softer and they would hold more to allow you to make your putts. As the trees grow in and the golf course matures, I think it will play much more challenging from the back tees. Yet, it still will be an enjoyable course for the beginning and weekend golfer."



Ellenport

## Birthday books at Valley



Wesley McManus and Stephanie Greenhill, students at Valley Road School in Clark show off birthday books, one of many events the PTA offers. On their birthday, each student receives a book and a bookmark.

## Pets must be registered by Jan. 31

The township is reminding residents that any dog and/or cat owned, kept, harbored or maintained by residents or any household member must be licensed within the Township of Clark by no later than Jan. 31. After Jan. 31, a \$5 late fee will be assessed.

Proof of spay/neuter and rabies vaccination valid through October 2005 is required to purchase a license.

Note that for safety reasons, only checks and money orders payable to the Township of Clark will be accepted. No cash transactions.

Persons may purchase a license in person Monday through Thursday,

between Jan. 3 and 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Jan. 29 from 9 a.m. noon.

Persons may also purchase a license through the mail anytime before the deadline of Jan. 31. If residents no longer own an animal, notify the Health Department so that the records can be updated.

Important changes: effective January 2006, all animal licenses will only be renewed/purchased through the mail.

If residents have any questions, call Nancy Raymond, health officer, at 732-388-3600, ext. 3045.

## Volunteers are needed on holidays

Mobile Meals of Westfield, a private, non-profit meal delivery service is calling for volunteers to help pack and/or deliver hot, nutritious meals to the elderly and disabled of Westfield, Cranford, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Clark and Garwood on the morning of Christmas Eve and the morning of New Year's Eve.

Many of the elderly and disabled clients serviced by Mobile Meals are alone on the holidays. Especially on these two days, and the week between Christmas and the New Year, many of volunteers are away, creating a volunteer shortage.

This holiday season, give of yourself by volunteering your time to help members of the community who are unable to shop and cook for themselves to enjoy the holidays with a hot, nutritious meal. As always, the time commitment is small, but the rewards are great.

Volunteers of all ages are welcomed.

If you can spare one hour to drive, or two hours to pack on these mornings, call 908-233-6146.

## Snow blowers reported stolen

### POLICE BLOTTER

Police responded to thefts of snow blowers from sheds at two neighboring houses along the 100 block of Delia Street in the past week.

An unknown female, who fell ill at a Clarkton Drive residence, was transported by the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad to Rahway Hospital on Monday.

Officer John Ehling was the investigating officer.

Police responded to a report of criminal mischief to a business along the 1100 block of Raritan Road on Sunday.

Officer Alex Yanes was the investigating officer.

A go-ped was reported stolen from a Wheatshaf Road residence on Monday. The incident is under investigation by Officer Keith Meehan.

Police responded to a report of criminal mischief to a motor vehicle parked at a Fairview Road residence on Saturday.

The incident is under investigation. Officer John Young was the investigating officer.

Police responded to a report of a burglary at a residence on Terhune Road on Friday.

The incident is under investigation. Officer John Young was the investigating officer.

Police and Fire Department personnel responded to a report of a fire at a residence on Joseph Street on Friday.

On arrival, a shed had caught fire and the scene was turned over to the Clark Fire Department, who extinguished the blaze.

Officer Andy Wagner was the investigating officer.

Police took a report of fraud at a Brant Avenue residence on Friday. The incident is under investigation.

Carmelo Ayala Jr., 33, of Perth Amboy, was arrested on Friday on outstanding warrants for contempt of court violations totaling \$325. He was transported to the Union County Jail in Elizabeth. Officer Keith Meehan was the arresting officer.

Jamella McNeil, 27, East Orange was arrested on Dec. 16 on an outstanding warrant from East Orange

totaling \$2,034 for contempt of court for motor vehicle violations. She was released from custody after posting bail.

Officer Ken Sarnecki was the arresting officer.

An unknown male, reportedly in distress at a Lexington Boulevard apartment, was transported by the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway on Dec. 16.

Officer Ken Sarnecki was the investigating officer.

Julio C. Lopez, 52, of Brooklyn was arrested on Dec. 14 for shoplifting at the Target department store on Central Avenue. He was released on his own recognizance pending a court date.

Officer Bill Buczynski was the arresting officer.

Philip Scott, 42, of Richmond, Va., was arrested Dec. 14 on an outstanding warrant for contempt of court for motor vehicle violations. He was transported to the Union County Jail in Elizabeth. Officer Gary Yoffredo was the investigating officer.

Police responded to a report of a motor vehicle accident with no injuries in the vicinity of the 600 block of Raritan Road. On arrival, there were no injuries and an appropriate accident report was filed. Officer Steve Francisco was the investigating officer.

An elderly female, reportedly in distress at a Franklin Street residence, was transported by the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad to Rahway Hospital on Dec. 16. Officer John Young was the investigating officer.

### Attention churches and social clubs

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

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

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# COMMUNITY FORUM

## EDITORIALS

### A settlement at last

In the end, it all worked out, didn't it? Collective bargaining can be a very difficult and tedious mechanism, but when it works, neither side is overjoyed and no one usually comes out too far ahead. Rather than one side robbing another blind, each side gives a little and at some point a compromise is reached.

The Clark Board of Education and the Clark Education Association, the union representing approximately 240 employees in the school district, reached a contract settlement this month, ending a nearly six-month stretch without a new accord.

The new agreement, approved last week by the Board of Education and members of the teachers' union, will include average salary increases of approximately 4.3 percent the first year, 4 percent in the second year, and 3.7 percent in the third and final year. Perhaps more importantly, the school board expects to save almost \$130,000 by increasing employees' copayment for prescription drugs.

The move toward copayments, or increasing copayments in this case, is a trend that's finding its way around the Garden State. The cost of providing health benefits for employees, in both the public and private sectors, continues to increase year after year. More and more school districts and teachers' unions are agreeing to increase copayments just to help contain the cost to provide the status quo.

In a district such as Clark, where millions of dollars are needed just to repair schools, saving \$130,000 can mean the difference between offering a particular course to students, hiring three teachers, or providing repairs or renovations.

The board could not have done this alone, as the union had to agree to it. That's the point of collective bargaining. Congratulations to both sides for reaching a settlement on a new deal.

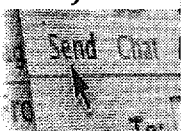
#### What is your opinion about this subject?

Send us an e-mail and let us know.

Responses will be published next week.

Send e-mails to:

Editorial@thelocalsource.com



### Faith, hope and love

Christmas isn't like it used to be.

Oh sure, you've heard these sentiments expressed before, especially when we're buried under a deluge of crass marketing from which there is no escape. You nod your head and note this as one more symptom of a free society rampant with commercialism, but that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Families still get together to stuff themselves with food and drink while the children can hardly contain themselves from tearing into the piles of presents under the Christmas tree. We enjoy hearing carolers at our door and savor a little time off from work, but in today's politically correct United States, what seems to be missing most from Christmas is Christ.

We fear that any recognition of a particular faith will in some way chastise or exclude another religion and its followers, but this very freedom is what our nation is founded on. Acknowledging another faith doesn't in any way diminish our beliefs; if anything, it should help us to better understand what it is we believe. Like food, movies or any number of things with a wide array of categories, what is not for you might be for someone else. We should experience other races, cultures and, yes, religions, or else we fall prey to the very prejudice we're trying to prevent.

On this holiday, try to imagine the world 2,000 years ago. Caesar Augustus had decreed that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world, so everyone had to go to his own town to register. Joseph took his pregnant wife, Mary, from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. Because there was no room in the inn, they took shelter in a manger with their firstborn, a son named Jesus.

For some, Jesus would become a great prophet and speaker of truths; for others, he was the one foretold, the son of God. Regardless, Christmas is the story of his birth, and it is a story of hope. On this Christmas, rejoice and give thanks to the birth of the savior; rejoice and give thanks in this season of faith, hope and love.

*"Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations."*

— Henry David Thoreau  
Author  
1854



**HATS AND GLOVES FOR THE NEEDY** — Students at St. John the Apostle School in Clark purchased gloves and hats for needy children. The fourth-graders earned the money by helping family and friends with chores.

### Christmas traditions still alive and well today

On Saturday, Christians will observe and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem.

Christ derives from the Greek Christos, meaning Messiah, or Anointed. The first name Jesus is Greek for the Hebrew Joshua, meaning Savior.

In Christian theology, Jesus is the Son of God, who came to save the world from sin, was crucified on a cross, and was resurrected and will come again to save mankind.

Peace and good will toward men and women is the greeting Clark and Cranford residents as well as all Americans say to each other at this time of the year.

At one time long ago, neighborhood children would ring your doorbell and sing Christmas carols.

Christmas in 2004 is very much alive with the voices of millions of Christians singing hymns at Christmas Eve services.

Church choirs perform beautiful renditions of the most spiritual hymns.

Christmas Eve church services at midnight were common once, but now some churches hold their services in the early evening hours.

#### Editor's Notebook

By David Krewson  
Managing Editor

Fundamentally, Christmas is the same as it has always been with traditions being carried out, including gift giving and receiving Christmas cards which are mailed to friends and relatives, and decorating the tree with beautiful ornaments.

The centuries-old custom of hanging mistletoe above a doorway is probably gone in 2004. Mistletoe means peace and good fortune. It also means that when a man and woman walk under a doorway at the same time, they kiss.

Holly represents ancient beliefs that plants blossomed at Christmas.

It was the 17th Century when the first Christmas tree was set up in Germany. In the 21st Century, artificial trees are set up in some homes.

Live evergreen trees are available for sale on street corners and in parking lots.

Colonists from New York City introduced the name of Santa Claus.

The Claus name is somewhat a corruption of the Dutch name, St. Nicholas. The tradition is that Claus has his toy workshop at the North Pole. He and his wife, Mrs. Claus, get the toys ready for a world-wide trip in a sleigh on Christmas Eve.

The tradition is that Claus drives the sleigh with eight reindeer leading the way through the sky to chimneys of homes.

Reportedly, he is carrying a large red sack of toys and then drops down through the chimney. He then places the neatly-wrapped packages around the tree.

After he spreads the packages around, he drinks a glass of milk and eats some cookies that were left for him.

Reportedly, he climbs back up the chimney for his next stop.

Rudolph is the lead reindeer and he has a large red nose.

Claus has no problem in coordinating the toys because children have already provided him with a list.

Announcers on radio stations and anchor men and women on the 11 p.m. newscasts report on Claus' journey giving updates on where he is.

Claus, if you don't know, has a large white beard, usually a red nose and rosey red cheeks. His attire is a red suit.

After Claus leaves a residence, sleepy-eyed children get up real early and race over to the tree to open the packages left for them.

The tradition goes that if a boy or girl has been naughty and not nice, he or she will get a lump of coal as a gift.

In Clark and Cranford, some traditions are still intact after all these centuries.

The towns have Christmas tree lighting events and homes are decorated with lights and now some lawns have air blow-up type plastic Santas and snowmen.

The customs of Christmas are still here and will always be here for centuries to come.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### The wrong plan for Clark

To the Editor:

There has been a tremendous amount of misinformation concerning a proposed new senior citizen development on the former Tycom site on Terminal Avenue in Clark.

We strongly believe in the need for affordable housing for Clark's senior population. Our objections to this proposed development are based on serious concerns we have about Clark Developers LLC's plan, which will harm the welfare of seniors who would live on this site, not serve Clark's senior housing population, and seriously hurt the long-term economic base of Clark.

In our opinion, the objective is right, but the site, size and plans are all wrong. It is wrong to put this site in a commercial/ industrial zone, adjacent to railroad tracks, truck traffic and noise. While there are no smokestacks at the adjacent industrial facilities, the site is still in an industrial/commercial zone. The site has also been the subject of an investigation regarding the presence of radioactive cesium. The potential for lawsuits from residents is enormous and something Clark cannot afford.

It is wrong to create conflicts between citizens and businesses along Terminal Avenue who may be forced by these new circumstances to leave Clark, taking countless jobs and rates with them. Clark cannot afford to lose its vital job force and economic base.

The size and scale of this proposed development is wrong. Clark Developers LLC is planning to develop only 60 units of its 300 total units, at a density of 30 dwelling units per acre, as affordable housing. This super-sized residential complex will maximize the developer's profit, not necessarily solve the real senior housing needs of the community, and is not necessary to meet the Council on Affordable Housing obligations.

It is wrong not to meet Clark's affordable senior housing needs. The proposed plans for the site represent a community that will not be exclusive to Clark residents and only 20 percent of the units will be designed as affordable under COAH guidelines. Under COAH guidelines, the 60 affordable housing units must be offered to residents 62 and older of five New Jersey counties, in a competitive process; they cannot be promised to Clark residents first.

The right thing to do is help meet Clark's senior housing needs. Alternative sites and plans need to be explored further. The Terminal Avenue site will simply put seniors in direct conflict with commercial tenants. As a member of the Clark community for more than 60 years, we are very concerned that seniors in Clark are not getting the whole story and that this currently proposed plan is too large and does not meet Clark's actual senior housing needs. There needs to be an honest and open dialogue on what is best for them and what is best for Clark. Reasonable people should be able to arrive at a reasonable solution.

Brenda Villa Weiss  
Villa Contracting Company

#### Surprised and annoyed by columnist

To the Editor:

Though it's hard to be sure, since he frequently seems to lose all track of himself between the beginning and end of a paragraph, I have always felt that Frank Capece is a man with his heart in the right place.

I was, however, surprised and annoyed by his attack on Union County Jury

Manager Walter Garthwaite on Page B1 of the Dec. 16 edition.

I am not a personal friend of Garthwaite's, but have always found him a pleasant, funny and personable guy, who seems to genuinely care about those of us suffering through the fulfillment of our civic duty.

I have heard plenty of horror stories about jury duty in other counties, have always said, no, we don't seem to have that problem here, and have always suspected that a large part of the difference has been Walt Garthwaite.

I think Capece ought at least to explain his attack.

Jules Small  
Railway

#### Bear hunting ban is appalling

To the Editor:

I am appalled at the recent court decision not to allow the bear hunt in Sussex County. Their comment about "the lack of a comprehensive plan" is inscrutable and in its brevity irresponsible. The best way to control the bears is hunting. The best way to control the deer is hunting. The best way to control the Canada geese is to trap and euthanize. For the record I am not a hunter, not that it should matter.

Bears are unpredictable and dangerous, especially a mother bear with cubs. They can run 35 mph and climb a tree as fast as a squirrel. Deer destroy property and are dangerous. I almost hit one when it suddenly crossed Meisel Avenue in Springfield. If the timing had been slightly different, I could not possibly have stopped in time. I do not drive an SUV, which might have absorbed the collision. Canada geese are unsanitary. A gaggle of them regularly grazes and defecates on the athletic field next to Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield.

All the talk about non-lethal methods of control ends up in doing nothing effective. The candidates for governor should state their position on this issue clearly. Acting Gov. Richard Codey should fire Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley Campbell. The animal activists are being presumptuous in the extreme. It is they and the Sierra Club who are thumbing their noses at the people of New Jersey and not as they say the hunters.

John Hyde  
Springfield

#### Our policy on letters and columns

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

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

Letters may be sent via U.S. mail to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, 07083. All letters and guest columns must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication in Thursday's edition.

The Eagle reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content, style and matters of libel. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification.

We also welcome regular columns submitted by members of the community. If you are interested in writing a column for The Clark Eagle, call 908-686-7700.

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Your Best Source for Community Information  
Published Weekly Since 1999

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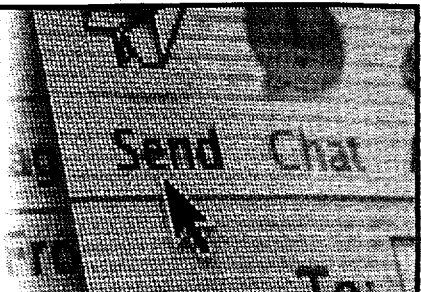
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## CLUBS IN THE NEWS

### VIA has busy month

The GFWC Cranford Village Improvement Association held a general meeting Dec. 14 at B.G. Fields in Westfield.

The Arts Performing Group with Dolores Clarke and 16 members performed a holiday musical program, an annual event, at the veterans home in Menlo Park.

The music was piped into the rooms for those who could not attend the performance. Patriotic songs were also rendered and personal notes were given to all. Marilyn Troiano was a featured entertainer.

The program was also presented at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights where filled holiday goody bags, made by Elaine Hamilton's evening group, were given to all the residents.

Mary Stine, home life chairwoman, hosted a luncheon where children's birthday party supplies were gathered to be donated to the "Kids Club" at the Community FoodBank in Hillside. In November the group made wheel chair totes to be given to local nursing homes.

Marie Knoeller sent the "Skip A Meal" funds to the Community Food-Bank.

Each dollar donated enables the FoodBank to purchase \$8 to \$11 worth of food. A Christmas donation will also be sent.

Public Affairs Chairwoman Marilyn Troiano collected boxes of clothing, magazines, and playing cards to be given to the Menlo Park veterans home.

Clothing was also donated to the Union County Social Services. Chairwoman Jackey Ellis donated collected funds to a needy family in Cranford.

The December program, arranged by Sybil Limon, was holiday songs, featuring Dolores Clarke, vocalist. It closed with several patriotic numbers.

The McGreevey Reading Club, under the chairmanship of Andi Augustyn, could use more readers. Interested persons can call her at 908-276-6920.

The Cranford VIA meets on the second Tuesday and the evening department meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

For information about daytime meetings, call 908-276-6920, or for evening meetings, call 908-272-1022. New members are also welcome.

### Medicare the topic at Wednesday club

President Sandy Pells will preside at the Wednesday Morning Club business meeting on Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. in the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

Don Kalem, coordinator for SHIP — State Health Insurance Assistance Program — will speak to the group on the changes occurring in Medicare.

The monthly philanthropic tea will not be held during the month of January.

Upcoming department meetings include:

- The Antiques Department will meet at the home of Terry Klein on Monday at 1 p.m. Florence Peredes will give a report on Collectible Angels.
- The Applied Arts/Home Life Department will not meet during December because of the Christmas holiday.

## NEWS CLIPS

### Students, staff help to 'share the warmth'

'Tis the season for giving, and for those who participated in the "Share the Warmth" project, that is what was done. Sponsored by the New Jersey Educational Association, the Cranford Educational Association and the PTA, a breakfast was held Dec. 4 at Cranford High School. The event was funded by the PRIDE Project, which promotes community unity in school districts throughout New Jersey.

The attendees of the "Share the Warmth" breakfast were asked to donate women's and children's hats, scarves and gloves in exchange for a hearty meal catered by the Gourmet Deli in Cranford.

The chosen recipient of the donations was the Interfaith Council for the Homeless in Union County. Mary Robinson, director of external affairs, spoke to those gathered about her

organization. Interfaith provides emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing, education and support services to individuals, families and children of Union County.

There are an estimated 2,000 homeless families throughout the county with the average age being a 9-year-old child. Through donations and the support of congregations, these families are able to rebuild their lives. The winter clothing collected will be given to the families living in Interfaith housing and shelters.

Cranford High School students, along with the Art Department, volunteered their time to decorate and help serve the breakfast.

The high school runs a Service Learning Project in which students provide community service throughout the year at events such as this.

Al Berke, vice president of the Cranford CEA, who organized the breakfast, said students are already

asking about planning the next event which is presently slated for the spring.

### St. John's soup kitchen collects hats, gloves

The fourth annual hats, gloves and scarves collection for St. John's Soup Kitchen is going on through Sunday. They also will be accepting adult sweaters and coats, as well as blankets. A collection box will be placed in the Cranford Post Office.

### 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 center during normal hours.

## RELIGION

dleighting. At 11 p.m. there will be a service of candlelight and communion. On Sunday, the sermon will be entitled "Christmas Hangover."

### 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.

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.

### United Methodist offers three holiday services

Cranford United Methodist Church, at the corner of Lincoln and Walnut avenues, invites all to three Christmas services on Friday.

The 4:30 p.m. service will be geared to youth and will have the children participating in creating "The Story."

At 6:30 p.m., there will be a 30-minute concert where several of the church members will share their musical talents to help prepare for the 7 p.m. service, where there will be can-

### PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD  
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-351

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

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford that there exists a need to engage an expert to provide professional mechanical engineering services for the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system installed during the construction of the Cranford Community Center; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A.40A:11-1 et. seq.) requires that a resolution of the governing body authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised;

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

1. The Mayor and Township Clerk of the Township of Cranford be, and hereby are, authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Technical Associates, Inc., 1640 Vauxhall Road, Suite 1B, Union, New Jersey 07083 for said services;
2. Technical Associates, Inc. shall receive fees not to exceed \$22,720.00
3. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because the professional services contemplated are of such a nature that they do not lend itself to competitive bidding; and
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published as required by law within twenty (20) days of its adoption.

Certified to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held December 14, 2004.

Rosalie Hellenbrecht  
Township Clerk  
Dated: 12/23/04  
U97422 CCE Dec. 23, 2004 (\$23.25)

### LEGAL NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board, Township of Cranford, County of Union, New Jersey has rescheduled the reorganizing meeting on Wednesday, January 5, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 107 of the Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey with the following agenda:

1. Statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.
2. Roll Call
3. Swearing in of Members
4. Election of Officers
5. Appointment of Board Attorney
6. Appointment of Scribe
7. Appointment of Planning Consultant
8. Designation of Official Newspapers
9. Time Schedule of Meetings
10. Adoption of By-Laws
11. Communications
12. Resolutions of Memorialization
13. Minutes
14. Old/New Business

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

15. Discussion: Goals and Objectives for year 2005

Any interested party may appear at said hearing and participate therein in accordance with the rules of the Planning Board.

Edward M. Schmidt  
Secretary  
U97449 CCE Dec. 23, 2004 (\$13.50)

### CORPORATION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the following Ordinance was duly adopted and approved on final reading at a Regular Meeting of the Municipal Council, Township of Clark on December 20, 2004.

**ORDINANCE 04-20**  
**CHAPTER 34 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGE-RESTRICTED AFFORDABLE HOUSING OVERLAY DISTRICT AT BLOCK 57 LOT 1 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK**

Kathleen Leonard  
Township Clerk  
U97967 CCE Dec. 23, 2004 (\$8.83)

### TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-350

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

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, at a meeting held June 28, 2004, authorized expenditures in the amount of \$9,300.00 for historical architectural services in connection with improvements to the Cranford Canoe Club; and

WHEREAS, said work is a "Professional Service" as shown on the attached purchase order number 89320; and

WHEREAS, additional expenditures, in the amount of \$2,250.00 for painting and signage, were authorized by the Township Committee at its meeting of September 13, 2004, and have been encumbered on purchase order number 89329; and

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

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

1. Starks & Associates, pc, 8 Ardley Road, Yardley, Pennsylvania 19067 is hereby retained to provide the additional services necessary in connection with the Canoe Club Improvement Project.
2. Stark & Associates, pc shall receive fees not to exceed \$9,750.00;
3. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because the professional services contemplated are of such a nature that they do not lend itself to competitive bidding; and
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published as required by law within twenty (20) days of its adoption.

Certified to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held December 14, 2004.

Rosalie Hellenbrecht  
Township Clerk  
Dated: 12/23/04  
U97412 CCE Dec. 23, 2004 (\$25.50)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

THE CLARK TOWNSHIP

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

ANNOUNCES THE CANCELLATION

OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY,

DECEMBER 27, 2004

Janet Gentry, Secretary, Bd. of Adj.  
U97641 CCE Dec. 23, 2004 (\$6.00)

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD  
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-349

WHEREAS, at a meeting held February 24, 2004, the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford adopted Resolution No. 2004-113, authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with Maraziti, Falcon & Healey LLP for legal services in connection with the Riverfront Redevelopment Project at an amount not to exceed \$34,500.00; and

WHEREAS, at a meeting held September 14, 2004, the Township Committee adopted Resolution No. 2004-266, which authorized additional funds in the amount of \$12,000.00 to complete tasks relating to the developer selection process; and

WHEREAS, per a proposal dated November 24, 2004, Maraziti, Falcon & Healey LLP has requested additional funding to facilitate the evaluation of responses to the Riverfront Redevelopment RFP; and

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

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A.40A:11-1 et. seq.) requires that a resolution of the governing body authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids must be publicly advertised;

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

1. The contract with Maraziti, Falcon & Healey, LLP, 1501 John F. Kennedy Parkway, Short Hills, New Jersey 07078, dated March 25, 2004 is hereby amended as follows:
2. Maraziti, Falcon & Healey shall receive fees not to exceed \$5,000;
3. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" under the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law because the professional services contemplated are of such a nature that they do not lend itself to competitive bidding; and
4. A copy of this resolution shall be published as required by law within twenty (20) days of its adoption.

Certified to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held December 14, 2004.

Rosalie Hellenbrecht  
Township Clerk  
Dated: 12/23/04  
U97411 CCE Dec. 23, 2004 (\$26.25)

### CORPORATION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the following Ordinance was duly adopted and approved on final reading at a Regular Meeting of the Municipal Council, Township of Clark on December 20, 2004.

**ORDINANCE 04-21**  
**CHAPTER 34 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGE-RESTRICTED**



At the National Arts and Humanities month celebration are, from left, Joan Fridlington, society volunteer; Union County Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski; society costume curator Maribeth Lisnock; society President Lori Hoffner and society education chairwoman Christine Glazer.

## Historical society recognized

The Cranford Historical Society made a great showing at the National Arts and Humanities month celebration hosted by Schering-Plough Corp. and the Union County Board of Freeholders.

Christine Glazer was recognized for an individual HEART grant to pursue further research on the life of Alice Lakey. Robert Fridlington was recognized for an individual HEART grant to write a children's history of early Cranford.

Maribeth Lisnock was recognized with a Union County history grant to upgrade the storage and display of Cranford's historic costume collection.

Cranford Historical Society President Lori Hoffner accepted recognition for a general operating support grant. Hoffner also accepted a certificate on behalf of the society for the Crane-Phillips House Museum's participation in the four centuries in a weekend.

"Four centuries in a weekend...a journey through Union County History" is sponsored by the Union County Board of Freeholders and funded in part by grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## RECREATION

### Registration for yoga, kids' sports classes

The Cranford Recreation & Parks Department is taking registration for a second Yoga class and second All-Sports for Kids class.

Yoga will be Fridays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., starting Jan. 7 and ending March 11. The fee is \$60. The maximum participants for the class are 25.

All-Sports for Kids will be Thursdays from 11 to 11:30 a.m., starting Jan. 6 and ending March 10. The fee is \$30. The maximum participants for the class are 15.

You can register Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Proof of residency is required.

Limited space available. For Cranford residents only.

### Draft lottery Jan. 28

The Cranford Recreation and Parks

Department will hold a draft lottery for the summer pre-school programs Tots & Tiny Tots at 3 p.m. Jan. 28. The program is also for 2005 Kiddie Kapers and Pee Wee Kapers programs.

The Recreation Department will begin taking names for the lottery on Jan. 4. When residents put their child's name on the lottery list they must provide a birth certificate and proof of residency. Without those items, the child's name will not be put on the list.

This is for Cranford residents only. For more information, call 908-709-7283.

### Youth bowling program

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department, in conjunction with the Nationwide Bowling Association, will sponsor the second session of its youth bowling program at Linden Lanes. The 12-week session will start Jan. 11 and meet every Tuesday until March 29.

The program starts at 3:45 p.m. Children ages 6 to 14 are encouraged to join. The cost is \$6 per week.

Bowling provides an opportunity for youth to participate in a sport enjoyed by countless numbers of Americans on a daily basis. Bring the registration form on the bottom of the bowling flier to Linden Lanes during the program time to register.

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

### 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 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.

## WORSHIP CALENDAR

### PENTECOSTAL

TRINITY PENTECOSTAL

HOLINESS FELLOWSHIP

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

Pastor Frank Sforza  
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Traditional Worship Service: Sunday - 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.  
Youth Group: Sunday - 6-8 p.m.

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

Connie Sloan

Worral Community Newspapers

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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**

## Cranford Boys' Basketball

The Cougars defeated Neptune 66-56 last Saturday at the Tipoff Classic at the Dunn Sport Center in Elizabeth. Cranford was scheduled to play at Shabazz Tuesday.

Dec. 26, 28, 30 Rahway Tournament  
Jan. 4 at Scotch Plains, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 6 Linden, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 8 at Westfield, 1 p.m.  
Jan. 11 at Union, 4  
Jan. 13 at Plainfield, 7  
Jan. 15 Newark East Side, 1  
Jan. 18 Kearny, 4  
Jan. 20 Irvington, 4  
Jan. 27 Shabazz, 3 p.m.  
Jan. 29 at Elizabeth, 1  
Feb. 1 Scotch Plains, 7  
Feb. 3 at Linden, 4  
Feb. 4 Bernoskie Games, 7: 30 p.m. at Rahway Recreation Center  
Feb. 6 Prime Time Shootout, 10:30  
Feb. 8 Westfield, 4  
Feb. 17 at Bridgewater-Raritan, 7

## Cranford Girls' Basketball

The Cougars defeated visiting Union Hill by an overtime score of 45-41 last Saturday. Cranford was to host Shabazz Tuesday.

Dec. 27, 28, 30 Randolph Tournament  
Jan. 4 Scotch Plains, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 6 at Linden, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 8 Westfield, 1  
Jan. 11 Union, 4  
Jan. 13 Plainfield, 4  
Jan. 15 at Newark East Side, 1  
Jan. 18 at Kearny, 4  
Jan. 20 at Irvington, 4  
Jan. 22 Elizabeth, 1  
Jan. 27 at Shabazz, 4  
Jan. 28 Montville, 7  
Feb. 1 at Scotch Plains, 4  
Feb. 3 Linden, 4  
Feb. 8 at Westfield, 4  
Feb. 17 Bridgewater-Raritan, 7

## Cranford Wrestling

Dec. 29 Bloomfield Tournament  
Jan. 5 at Union, 5 p.m.  
Jan. 7 Plainfield, 5  
Jan. 12 Scotch Plains, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 14 at Kearny, 5  
Jan. 17 Brearley, 7  
Jan. 19 Elizabeth, 5  
Jan. 22 at Hudson Catholic, 3 p.m.  
Jan. 26 Westfield, 5  
Jan. 28 at Shabazz, 5  
Jan. 29 Roselle Park, 7  
Feb. 2 at Irvington, 5  
Feb. 4-5 UCT at UHS  
Feb. 8 at North Bergen, 7  
Feb. 10 at Newark East Side, 5  
Feb. 16 at Northern Valley, 7  
Feb. 19 at Par. Hills Quad, 10 a.m.

## Cranford Ice Hockey

Jan. 5 at MKA, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 10 Chatham, 6 p.m.  
Jan. 12 Ridge, 3:30 p.m.  
Jan. 14 at B-Raritan, 7:50 p.m.  
Jan. 17 St. Joseph's, 6  
Jan. 18 at Old Bridge, 3:45 p.m.  
Jan. 22 at Ridge, 7:45 p.m.  
Jan. 24 MKA, 6  
Jan. 26 at St. Joseph's, 8 p.m.  
Jan. 31 West Essex, 6  
Feb. 5 at Morristown, 8:15 p.m.  
Feb. 7 Montclair, 6  
Feb. 9 Bridgewater-Raritan, 3 p.m.  
Feb. 13 at Lakeland, 8:45 p.m.  
Feb. 15 at Summit, 8:30

## Cranford Swimming

Dec. 23 at Gov. Livingston, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 5 Rahway, 4  
Jan. 6 Westfield, 4  
Jan. 11 at Union, 3 p.m.  
Jan. 14 Roselle Catholic, 4  
Jan. 18 Elizabeth, 4  
Jan. 20 at New Providence, 4  
Jan. 21 West Orange, 4  
Jan. 27 Boonton, 4  
Feb. 1 at Hudson Cath./St. Dom., 4:30  
Feb. 2 at Union Catholic, 5:15 p.m.

## Cranford Bowling

Jan. 4 Kearny, 3:15 p.m.  
Jan. 6 at Newark East Side, 3:15  
Jan. 11 Irvington, 3:15  
Jan. 13 at Linden, 3:15  
Jan. 15 Central Jersey Classic, 1 p.m.  
Jan. 18 Summit, 3:15  
Jan. 20 at Westfield, 3:15  
Jan. 25 at Livingston, 3:15  
Jan. 27 at Shabazz, 3:15

## Cranford Winter Track

Dec. 23 Drew Invitational, 4:30 p.m.  
Dec. 27 Drew Invitational, 9 a.m.  
Dec. 28-29 Seton Hall Invitational  
Dec. 29, 31 Drew Invitational, 9  
Jan. 3 UC Girls' Relays, 4 p.m.  
Jan. 5 UC Boys' Relays, 4  
Jan. 9 State Relay Championships  
Jan. 12 Drew Invitational, 4:30  
Jan. 16 State Group Meet  
Jan. 19 Drew Invitational, 4:30  
Jan. 22 Varsity Classic  
Jan. 24-26 UC Girls', Boys' Relays, 4  
Feb. 14 Varsity Classic, 4  
Feb. 27 Meet of Champions

## Soccer standouts



The Clark Thunder MNJYSA 11-and-under traveling boys' soccer team finished as unbeaten champions with an outstanding 8-0-2 record. Sitting, from left, are Jeremy Corson, Matt Gray, Brian Sheridan and Pat Bonner. Kneeling, from left, are Tyler Faede, Brian Gallagher, Russel Weschler, Shane Pyar and Domenico Petracca. Standing, from left, are Anthony Trani, Nick Wroblewski, Matt Reed, Andrew Stigliano and Joe Rubano. Coaches, from left, are Henry Trani, Chris Bonner and Jeff Corson.

# Johnson girls' basketball very familiar with Hillside

## Battled conference rival to end in season-opener

By Jeff Wolfrum  
Staff Writer

CLARK - Having played each other six times the past two seasons, there wasn't any surprise in how the outcome would play out last Friday afternoon as the Johnson High School girls' basketball team opened its season with a 39-36 setback to Mountain Valley Conference-Mountain Division rival Hillside.

"We definitely know each other well," Johnson head coach Steve Kaelblein said. "When we don't turn the ball over against them, we win. When we do, we lose. It's as simple as that."

Close games are another staple in the series, evidenced by two close final scores last year.

In last year's first round of the Union County Tournament at Linden, Johnson took a 50-48 decision, while in the team's first regular-season matchup, the Comets nipped the Crusaders 44-42 at Hillside.

In their next meeting in Clark, Hillside took a 62-42 decision.

Another similarity between the two clubs was the fact each went deep in the state playoffs last season.

The fourth-seeded Crusaders reached the Central Jersey, Group 2 semifinals before falling to top-seeded and eventual champion Rumson-Fair Haven 46-26.

The third-seeded Comets reached the final of North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2, falling by a 44-31 decision to top-seeded Chatham.

"We lost three of our five starting players from last year to graduation," Kaelblein said. "We're going to miss the inside presence of Lauren Tomasovic, Lyndsay Molloy and Stephanie Parrott, but we're going to have a more flexible rotation that's interchangeable."

Hillside also suffered a major loss in the off-season, having leading scorer Kateemah McLean transfer to Bloomfield Tech.

Those absences were felt early in the game as sloppy play, combined with turnovers, had Hillside take a 6-5 lead after sophomore guard Kanisha Brockington made a pair of two-point baskets.

However, after Johnson junior forward Jillian Whiting nailed a three-pointer from the top of the key to give the Crusaders an 8-6 lead, Hillside junior guard Porscha Isom

responded with a "three" of her own to give the Comets back the lead at 9-8. Johnson senior guard Kerry Sullivan then popped a "trey" before teammate Samantha Parin, a junior forward, made one free throw to give the Crusaders a 12-9 edge.

Hillside junior point guard Hassanah Oliver then evened the back-and-forth affair at 12-12 with a three-pointer from the top of the key before Johnson sophomore forward Kelli Pflug ended the quarter by following her own miss to give the Crusaders a 14-12 advantage.

"One of our strengths this season is we have better ball-handlers," Kaelblein said. "That will only help our offense in transition with the fast break."

The second quarter was much of the same as the first, with no team taking more than a three-point lead.

That came with 4:28 left before halftime as Hillside senior center Michelle Oshiokepkhai nailed a five-foot turnaround jumper to make it 20-17.

However, the Crusaders responded with a 4-0 run to give Johnson a 21-20 lead at intermission.

Kerri Pflug ended the first half by following a shot by her older sister, Jamilee, a junior guard, at the buzzer.

"Their center was 6-2, so we were only able to get off a few quality shots from the inside," Kaelblein said. "Since Hillside was such a quick team, we switched from zone to man and that paid off because we were able to grab a one-point lead at halftime."

That one-point lead turned to be a one-point deficit after the third quarter as Oshiokepkhai heated up in the period.

Oshiokepkhai had five of her 11 points in the third quarter, including consecutive layups, as Hillside led 27-26.

The fourth quarter was a see-saw affair that had Johnson cut the lead at a score of 37-36 with under a minute left as Parin hit a high rainbow jumper off a miss by Whiting. However, Oliver made three free throws down the stretch to close out the contest.

"We played well at times, but not on a consistent basis," Kaelblein said. "However, we played hard throughout and that's the main thing."

**NOTES:** Johnson was scheduled to host Oak Knoll Tuesday afternoon.

The Crusaders will participate in the Roselle Park Tournament Monday and Tuesday.

# Cranford skaters excel at 3-2-1

By Jeff Wolfrum  
Staff Writer

ROSELLE - After moving up to the Central Conference's Red Division from the White, Cranford High School ice hockey coach Rich Hurley didn't know what to expect coming into this season.

The results so far have been up and down as Cranford sports a 3-2-1 record as of Monday's 5-5 tie with Westfield at Warinanco Rink.

"If you told me before the season we would be 3-2-1 at this point in the year, I would be ecstatic," Hurley said. "We've played some really good games and a few where we made some mistakes. We made a lot of mistakes in the tie against Westfield. I know we can play better than we did in that game."

Last season, Cranford finished with a very impressive 17-8-2 record and qualified for the state playoffs.

After defeating 47th-seeded Parsippany Hills 5-2 at Warinanco in a prelim game, the Cougars topped 15th-seeded Bayonne 6-1 in the first round at Rich Korpi Arena in Bayonne. Cranford was then defeated by second-seeded Morris Knolls 8-2 in second round play.

"I have an experienced crew back this season," Hurley said. "However, we do have some new faces on defense."

One player that moved from defense to offense this season is senior Sean Guthrie. He centers the starting line consisting of senior wings Neil DellaValle and Paul Milonas.

The Cougars' second line is a scoring machine featuring the likes of Joe DellaSerra, Joe Conte and J.J. Hoeffler.

"We have a nice combination that has the J-line scoring the goals and the first line not giving up too many," Hurley said.

"It's a nice balance that has worked out well for us."

Cranford's goaltending duties have been split between two siblings.

Senior Tom Streko has started three games, including Monday's tie, while younger brother Ben, a junior, has also started three games, including the season-opening 4-1 victory over host Montclair at Clary Anderson Arena.

In the win, Conte scored two goals and assisted on another, while Milonas and DellaSerra scored one goal each.

Streko was sharp between the pipes, doing well to make 21 saves.

The rest of the Cranford roster includes Dominic Conte, Michael Ozolnieks, Eric Duemaler, Pat Alvarez, Greg Gazzelli, Mike Bottino, Corey LaForte, Kevin Shopp, Tom Connolly and Eric Pasternack.

"We just need to cut down on our mistakes," Hurley said.

"We've been giving up the puck a lot, especially in our zone. Some of that is because of inexperience and some is because the higher level of play due to moving up in the division."

# Johnson boys' keep composure Best UC in season-opener

By Jeff Wolfrum  
Staff Writer

SCOTCH PLAINS - Keeping its composure.

That's what the Johnson High School boys' basketball team did as it took a 60-45 decision over Mountain Valley Conference rival Union Catholic last Saturday night in its season-opener.

"We wanted to run our stuff and keep it a basketball game," Johnson head coach Anthony Calandra said. "We didn't want it to turn into an up and down, diving all over the place, type of affair. I told them that I don't want them to not play hard, but I don't want them to get caught up in the extra curriculum stuff because that takes us out of our game."

That almost happened just before halftime as UC cut a 27-8 Johnson lead to 28-18 at intermission.

After Johnson senior forward Drew Serden nailed a seven-foot turnaround jumper to give the Crusaders a 19-point advantage with less than five minutes left before halftime, UC got back into the game thanks in large part to an over aggressive Johnson defense that put the Vikings in the bonus.

All but two points in UC's ensuing 10-0 run came from the free throw line.

Johnson junior guard Chris Greet then brought the contest to intermission by making the front end of a one-and-one to give the Crusaders a 10-point advantage at the half.

"They (UC) seemed to be getting a lot of the foul calls," Serden said. "The momentum was swinging their way, but after calling a timeout, I told my teammates to calm down, keep their composure and stay in the game."

Even though UC picked up where it left off to start the third quarter with a run of 4-0 to cut the deficit to six at 28-22, that was as close the Vikings would get as Serden showed his leadership and athletic ability when he tipped in consecutive shots to spark a 6-0 run and give the Crusaders a 34-22 lead.

"The key to the game was getting offensive boards," Serden said. "They were a little bit bigger than we were, but we did a great job of boxing out."

Serden finished with a team-high 21 points and 15 rebounds.

After UC cut the lead to 34-27 on a putback by Chris Esperon minutes later, Johnson put any hopes a comeback on hold as it went on another 6-0 run to up its lead to 40-27. Senior forward Andrew Murin capped the surge by hitting a pair of free throws on a technical foul called on Rob Downer off a steal.

"Defensively, I think we played really well," Calandra said. "All of their outside shots were contested."

After UC went on a 4-0 run to make it 40-31, Murin closed out the quarter by following his own miss to make it 42-31.

"I've got Andrew back this season, along with seven others with varsity experience," Calandra said. "Senior forward Mark Washington is also back this season after missing last year with a knee injury."

The rest of the Johnson roster includes senior guard Dan Castaldo, senior center Youseff Amer, junior guards Kevin Loalbo, Dustin Pflug and Dan Chavez and sophomore forward Bryan Kelly.

"We have some juniors and a sophomore with experience," Calandra said. "I have a nice cohesive group that works well together."

That group stuck together in the fourth quarter and built a 50-37 lead with under two minutes left as Kelly nailed a five-foot turnaround jumper off the right block.

Kelly, who finished with 13 points, scored his last point with 50 seconds remaining on a free throw to make it 57-43.

Serden tallied on one free throw to make it 58-43 before a layup by UC's Brandon Brown cut it to 58-45.

Washington then brought the contest to a close as he tallied on a layup.

"This team has been our rival for a while," Serden said. "We played them in the summer league and got into a big fight. We wanted to keep our composure because we knew if we beat them it would give us some good momentum entering the season."

Johnson was scheduled to host Dayton Tuesday night and next week will participate in the Panther Pride Tournament at Roselle Park.

The Crusaders are scheduled to play Metuchen Monday, while Roselle Park faces Hanover Park. The consolation and championship games are scheduled for Tuesday.

"Our No. 1 goal is to qualify for the state playoffs," Calandra said. "We want to take it game by game and keep building on it and get better."

Johnson will seek to make the grade in Central Jersey, Group 2 after not qualifying last year.

## Cranford hoop teams win

Both Cranford High School varsity basketball teams were victorious in season-opening play last Saturday.

The boys' team, sparked by the stellar play of standout senior guard Terrence Grier, defeated Neptune by a 66-56 score at the Tipoff Classic at the Elizabeth Dunn Sport Center.

Cranford is out to rebound from a 9-14 season that saw the Cougars fail to qualify for the North 2, Group 2 playoffs after winning North 2, Group 3 the year before and eventually reaching the Group 3 state championship game.

Cranford is out to make the grade in Central Jersey, Group 2 this season.

The girls' went to overtime in overtaking non-conference foe Union Hill by a score of 45-41. Cranford outscored the Hudson County school by a 7-3 margin in the extra session.

Sophomore standout Lisa Levonas paced the Cougars with a 15-point effort. Courtney Koellner also scored in double figures with 10 points. Amanda Porter netted seven points, Rebecca Flanagan six and Samantha Cartwright four.

The boys' were to play at Shabazz Tuesday afternoon in Watchung Conference-National Division play. They will participate in the Rahway Tournament next week, with games scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The girls' were to host Shabazz Tuesday in conference play. They will participate in the Randolph Tournament next week, with games scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

## Cranford 'A's' hockey team ices two impressive victories

The Cranford Squirt 'A's' were not in a "giving" holiday mood last weekend as they came up with their two most lopsided victories of the season.

A flu bug hit the team on Saturday, causing some line-up changes and leading to Andrew Miller's debut behind the bench as coach. His inspirational leadership led to a dominating 9-2 victory over Southern Division rival Brick.

A goal by Sal DeMarzo, assisted by Russ Harvey, and another from Tommy Fitzgerald, combined with a diving stick save by goalie Theo Ballas, staked Cranford out to a 2-1 lead after the first period.

Three more goals by DeMarzo, the last assisted by James Potter, gave Cranford a 5-2 lead going into the final period.

Ballas shut the door in the third, while Cranford added four more goals, two of them from Harvey and one each from Alex Plick and Jake Zimmerman. Assists were provided by Fitzgerald, Zimmerman, DeMarzo and Nick Palmieri.

Cranford built on its momentum Sunday in an NJYHL 5-2 win over the Morristown Colonials' Red squad. Anthony Mandraccia scored on an early power play from Palmieri, followed by an unassisted goal from DeMarzo to give Cranford a 2-0 lead.

Ballas made a highlight-reel diving glove save to keep Cranford out in front with a 2-1 lead after the first period.

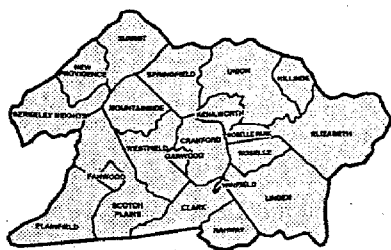
DeMarzo added his second of the game before the game tightened to 3-2 late in the second.

Then, in the final minute of the middle period, Mandraccia added a second power play goal and DeMarzo added his third of the night off an assist from J.P. O'Malley to give Cranford a 5-2 lead going into the third.

Ballas again shut the door in the final period as Cranford took home another league victory.

The Squirt 'A's' hope to keep up the momentum in next week's Holiday Tournament at Mennen Arena.





# Union County

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2004 - SECTION B

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## A solvable problem

Way back in law school, Professor Robert Feinberg would lecture, not all problems can or should be solved via the legal process. Something like Paul McCartney singing "Let it be."

Last week the county's Bureau of Transportation sponsored a meeting in the musty conference room at the Annex Building in Westfield. They unveiled a report by Abrams-Chernony consultants about the need for an enhanced shuttle program so commuters can leave the car at home and still get to the train station. Some pretty smart public officials also took part.

## Left Out

By Frank Capece

The idea of shuttle vans to enhance mass transit seems like a pretty obvious approach. Couple this with the release of a federal environmental report last week finding Union and 12 other counties in the state failed to meet new air quality health standards, and project seems very much like a solution.

David Robinson is the state's climatologist. Most people didn't know we even had such a profession. Robinson toils at Rutgers and said of the federal report, "It's a serious issue. There's a lot of junk thrown into the air from factories and cars."

The county study even has the spiffy name, "Community Shuttle Efficiency Project." It was funded by the North Jersey Transportation Authority which swims upstream in terms of funds for transit. The report made a pretty good case on paper.

There is a demand to use train stations. Roselle Park's station has a 94 percent occupancy at the parking lot. Most locals think a space is harder to find than tickets to a Springsteen concert. Cranford comes in at 87 percent and Plainfield's Netherwood stop is at 91 percent.

The report also reveals a whole lot of people use the railroad to go primarily to Newark and New York City. There are 786 daily borders at Roselle Park, 882 at Cranford and 1,797 at Westfield.

Most interesting, the actual percent of the working class who use the train is 5.8 percent for Roselle Park, 8.4 percent in Cranford and 11.4 percent in Westfield. The problem is that while there is a need for mass transit options, the ability to make it happen is still elusive.

As an example, Roselle Park's shuttle service is so successful it serves 1,100 monthly users. The grant funding which has been decreasing is about to run out.

A representative from the state Department of Transportation seems almost proud to announce that they "wean communities off funding." It's estimated that the yearly cost of one shuttle operation is \$60,000.

It turns out there are a host of other problems. The vans breakdown frequently, if the town's self insured it couldn't pick up out of town, kids can't use it without seatbelts and route selection can mean making tough choices.

The consultant with his red light beam said they have to "start small to be successful." Despite the obvious good idea, it turns out there are not many shuttle services operating. Transit advocates will say that's because all the subsidies go into preserving the automobile like new road construction and fighting wars in places like Iraq.

Still the transit wonks fight is a very necessary battle. Robinson also said, "New Jersey counties have long failed pollution standards. We produce our own pollutants here and have pollutants delivered to us by wind from Pennsylvania and as far off as the Ohio River Valley."

Maybe it's just about a problem we chose not to solve.

An attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

## Freeholders adopt lead ban at range

### New ban to take effect next month

By A. E. Gualtieri  
Staff Writer

Trap and skeet shooting enthusiasts came from as far away as North Bergen, Old Bridge and Middlesex to ask the freeholder board to reconsider both the wording and the intent of an ordinance to ban lead shot from the Lenape Park Trap and Skeet range.

"The new proposed ordinance represents an extreme overreaction and goes too far in criminalizing the mere possession of lead ammunition," said Scott Bach, the executive vice president of the Association of New Jersey Rifle and Pistol Clubs and self-described "Second Amendment activist."

"How can the county criminalize something that is perfectly legal to own?" Bach asked. "That's like criminalizing the possession of cigarettes where the county bans smoking."

A presentation by Jim Johnson of PMK Group, an environmental engineering firm hired by the county to assess the trap and skeet range, said

there were no alternatives to banning lead shot at the range.

"In order to stay in compliance with the environmental regulations, the minimum would be to change from lead shot," he said.

The trap and skeet range, which was built in 1929, is now in the Rahway River floodway and impacts protected wetlands, according to Johnson.

Alternatives to lead shot currently available are bismuth, steel and a tungsten/iron alloy, which could all be used in compliance with current state and federal environmental regulations.

The seven freeholders present all voted for the final adoption of the ordinance that bans lead shot at the range. The ban would take effect the weekend of Jan. 8.

Opponents of the ordinance cited several problems with using alternative shot.

First, that steel shot damages shotgun barrels, meaning that the barrels would need to be replaced very frequently and at a great cost, especially

### Shot material

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Tungsten/iron | \$62.50            |
| Bismuth       | \$37.50 to \$62.50 |
| Steel         | \$8 to \$12.95     |
| Lead          | \$5                |

### Approximate cost per 25-round box

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

on more expensive shotguns. Second, the price of alternative shot is much higher than lead and the cost of ammunition would quickly become prohibitive.

Ralph Lossman of West Orange said that to continue shooting at his current level with bismuth shot, it would cost him \$14,000 annually for ammunition, which he said would severely limit his ability to keep shooting.

Freeholders said they are trying to find the best way to satisfy both the environmental agencies concerned with the lead shot, the state Department of Environmental Protection and the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and the sportsmen.

in place at the range. Currently, shooters are limited to sizes of shot that are not made for steel shot, limiting their alternatives to lead. Freeholders members expressed surprise at the regulations, and Mingo asked if the regulations should be changed by ordinance.

County Counsel Robert Barry informed the freeholder board that the regulations could be changed without another ordinance and are under the jurisdiction of the county's Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Department of Parks and Recreation later confirmed that the regulations are being reworked.

"The ordinance was not passed to prevent shooting," a county spokesman said. "It was passed to prevent the use of lead shot, and we are working on the regulations so that steel shot may be used at the range."

While the sportsmen made their case, freeholders reminded the audience that they are trying to keep the trap and skeet range open.

"We were on the verge of closing this range," said Proctor.

## Speaker escorted out of freeholder meeting

By A. E. Gualtieri  
Staff Writer

A Union County resident was escorted from the building during the freeholder board meeting after her public comment last week.

Tina Renna, wife of former county employee and freeholder candidate Joe Renna, went over the five minutes allotted to members of the public for comments.

After she was informed that her time was up and asked twice to finish her comments by Freeholder Chairman Angel Estrada, and when she did not comply and continued with her

statement, he had her removed by two Sheriff's officers and escorted out of the building.

Renna's prepared statement focused on the problems with the county's juvenile detention center and the responsibilities of the freeholder board in that situation.

"You steadfastly denied responsibility for the deplorable, dangerous conditions," she said during her statement. "If the boy's mother had kept him under the same conditions and he was found dead, she would have been investigated by DYFS and punished."

See FREEHOLDERS, Page B2

## Rahway freeholder to lead board in 2005

By A. E. Gualtieri  
Staff Writer

After the goodbyes to Freeholder Lewis Mingo and the thanks to outgoing Freeholder Chairman Angel Estrada, a new board chairman will soon take over.

Rick Proctor, currently vice chairman of the board, will be taking over the seat as of January.

While the office will not officially be voted on by the board until its annual reorganization meeting on Jan. 2, Proctor has been referred to as the man for the position.

Proctor was appointed to the board in February 2002 by the Union County Democratic Committee to fill the unexpired term of Linda Stender, who left the board after her election to the Assembly in 2001. Stender resigned her position as freeholder after officially being sworn in as a member of the Assembly in January 2001.

Proctor ran and won the freeholder seat later that year, becoming the second freeholder from Rahway. Credited with the Democratic Party's resurgence in Rahway during his tenure as Democratic municipal chairman, Proctor has also served as a member of the Rahway school board for four terms, during which time he was board president once and vice president twice.

Proctor is especially committed to issues of public health. A former direc-

tor of the Department of Health and Human Services in Bloomfield, Proctor currently serves as the health officer for four Union County towns: Rahway, Hillside, Winfield and Scotch Plains.

Union County's Committee on Homeland Security can also claim Proctor as a member. The committee works with law enforcement and emergency management services to inform county residents as well as implementing safety and emergency response procedures.

He has also worked with the state Department of Health, Public Health Preparedness, and Response for Bioterrorism Task Force. In addition to his policy work, he has also published articles on terrorism and public safety.

Proctor's term on the freeholder board expires at the end of next year, and there has not been word as to whether he will seek another term at that time.

Until then, however, Proctor will hold the gavel as he takes over for Estrada, whose term also expires at the end of next year.

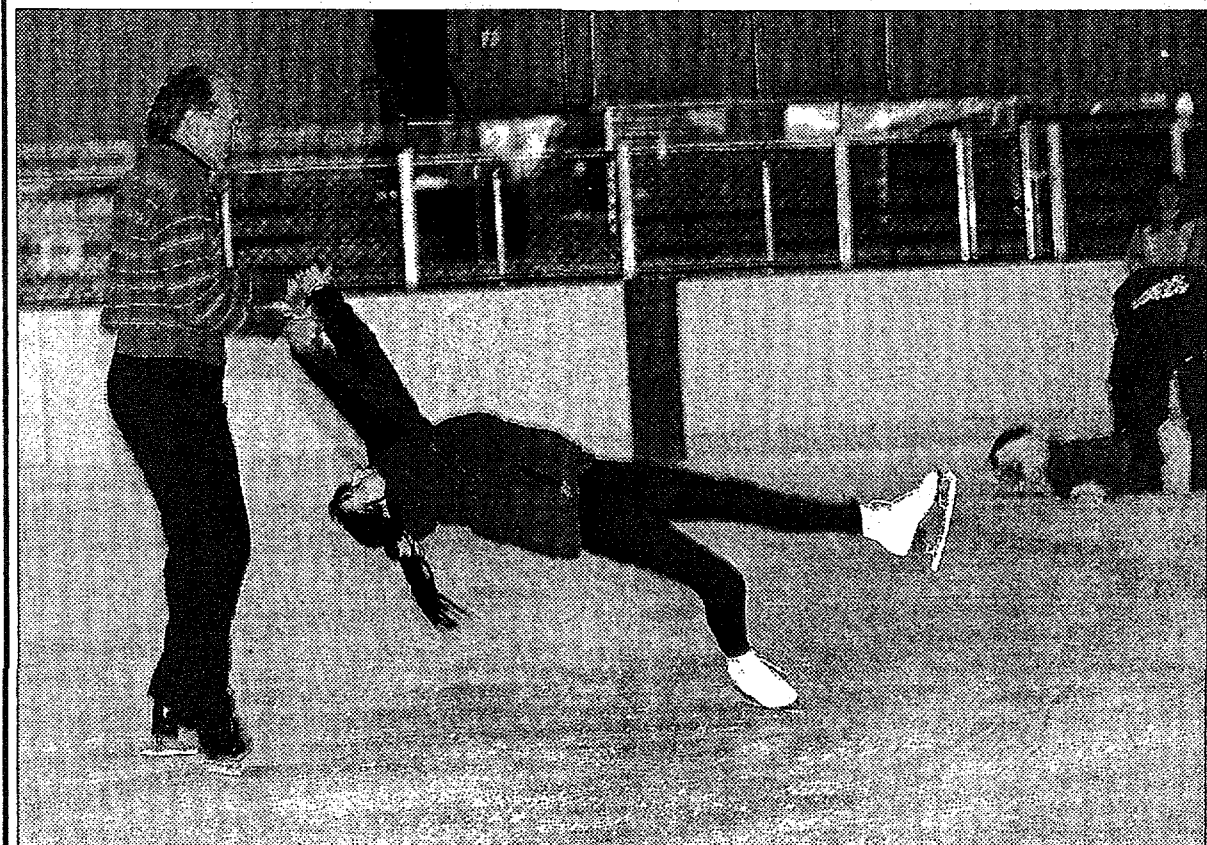


Proctor



Photos By Barbara Kokkalis

SKATING WITH SANTA — Santa took time on the ice and off to talk and have his photo taken with Eve Crandall, 4, above, during Skate with Santa at Warinanco Ice Skating Center in Roselle on Saturday. Below, rink regulars Ray Paterek and Karen Mogielnicki of Roselle get fancy with their moves as Santa hits the ice.



## Sheriff's Office aids in arrest of fugitive on run for three years

By A. E. Gualtieri  
Staff Writer

The New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force scored a major victory last week when Union County Sheriff's Sgt. George Marmarou took Jamaie Fitzgerald, a fugitive since January 2003, into custody.

"He's been on the run for three years," said Sheriff Ralph Froehlich.

Fitzgerald, an Elizabeth resident, was wanted on charges of possession and distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, eluding and contempt of court, dating back to October 2001.

Fitzgerald had been last seen in South Carolina, where the coordinated efforts of a SWAT team and a helicopter search failed to bring him in. Back in Elizabeth, however, Marmarou and two other task force officers took him into custody without incident, a credit to the planning and perseverance of the members of the task force, Froehlich said.



Freeholder Chairman Angel Estrada and Sheriff Ralph Froehlich recognize U.S. Marshal James Plousis, center, for his work with the regional fugitive task force.

"One thing that I like about all these appre-

hensions is that there have only been a few shooting incidents," he said. "We've been able to really plan out these apprehensions, which is difficult to do."

Froehlich praised the task force as being instrumental not only in this particular apprehension, but for all the work they do.

Between June 2002 and June 2004, Union County law enforcement officers attached to the task force arrested 189 fugitives.

"Marshal Plousis has sworn in some of my officers, which has been a real luxury for us," Froehlich said, explaining that it allows his officers to move outside their jurisdiction as a part of the Sheriff's Office, since they have been deputized by U.S. Marshal James Plousis.

To celebrate that success, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders honored the creator of the task force, Plousis, with a resolution last week.

Froehlich led the presentation, which includ-

ed the officers involved with Fitzgerald's arrest.

"It doesn't say enough," said Froehlich of the resolution. "We in law enforcement can't do enough to work together to provide better services for the people."

Froehlich also credited Plousis as the facilitator of the coordinated services, which he says increased the effectiveness of the Sheriff's Office.

The information on the federal level and federal access to information is very important in apprehensions and is a welcome consequence of their cooperation, Froehlich said, but the local officers "have informants here, and have a relationship with the street," something federal officers do not.

Fitzgerald was nearby during the presentation, as he is being held without bail at the Union County Jail, across the street from the county Administration Building.



## COUNTY NEWS

## Registration for riding lessons to begin

Spring will be here before you know it, and Union County's Watchung Stable is busy preparing for the start of riding lessons.

All applicants must be 9 years of age or older. Class and troop assignments are based upon riding ability as determined by the stable management. Applicants with previous experience may be asked to demonstrate their riding ability in order to be placed in the appropriate class.

Classes are held Tuesdays through Saturdays. Spring troop will last for 10 weeks beginning March 22, and will culminate with the spring troop horse show.

The Watchung Stable also features adult lessons, for people 18 years of age and older, beginning the week of March 20. Classes for adults are available on Sundays at 12:45 p.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

The cost to participate begins at \$200 for 10 classes, and varies with Union County residency status and troop assignment. Uniforms and helmets are required and must be provided at the rider's expense.

Registration forms and fees must be submitted in-person beginning Jan. 4 at Watchung Stable, 1160 Summit Lane, Mountainside. Office hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. daily.

For more information, and to obtain registration materials, call 908-789-3665.

## Free passport, photo IDs for kids under 16

The Union County Clerk's Office is offering free passport and identification photos for children aged 16 and younger through the end of the year.

The photos can be taken at the main Office of the County Clerk in Elizabeth and the annex office in Westfield. The normal processing fee for the photos is \$7.

The Westfield annex, 300 North Ave. East, processes County Identification cards, passport applications, swearings-in of notary publics, and clerk certificates.

Normal annex hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The phone number there is 908-654-9859.

The Union County Clerk's Westfield Annex, 300 North Ave. East, will be closed on Friday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for technical servicing.

The annex will be open from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., its normal Thursday hours, today. It will be closed on Friday for the Christmas holiday and will reopen on Monday. The annex will also be closed on Dec. 31 and will reopen on Jan. 3.

The main Office of the County Clerk is located at the Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad St., Room 1134, Elizabeth.

Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The main office can be reached at 908-527-4966.

## '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](http://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.

## Relatives of immigrants sought for centennial

Union County is seeking relatives of immigrants who became naturalized U.S. citizens in Aug. 1, 1903 as part of its observances of the centennial celebrations of the Union County Courthouse.

Immigrants from Ireland, Italy, Russia, Great Britain, Austria, Germany, Romania and Denmark who settled in Union County and became

U.S. citizens in the naturalization ceremony at the then-under construction Courthouse will be honored in memoriam next year.

Their descendants will be invited to participate in a re-creation of the 1903 ceremony as part of the events celebrating the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Courthouse. Related events and exhibits will showcase the Courthouse as the center of law in Union County.

Those who believe they are a relative of one of those people listed are urged to call the Union County Clerk's Office at 908-527-4787.

## Freeholders blasted for juvenile center

(Continued from Page B1)  
Yet the County of Union...not only have they not been punished but have refused to take any blame for his death."

Renna, who was clearly angry during her statement, pointed to the salary ordinance passed earlier that evening as a reward for failing performances by county officials.

During his comment at the end of the meeting, Estrada said, "I think we all need to look at the realities of society that get people to where they are. I by no means believe that this board is

the cause and effect of his death."

Renna called for greater attention to be paid to the problems of the county's juvenile detention center where Eddie Sinclair, a 17-year-old detainee committed suicide in May 2003.

"The county has a million-dollar public information department which churns out hundreds of laudatory press releases, there isn't one which mentions Edward Sinclair or the conditions at the juvenile detention center and what you will do to protect the children under your care," she said.

"Society and the individuals in

society have to take responsibility for the things they do that may cause harm to other individuals in society," Estrada later said of the situation with the county facility.

Estrada said that his role as chairman required him to maintain order and decorum, which he did by having Renna escorted out.

Citizens are allowed five minutes to speak during the public comment sessions held at regular meetings. There is a red, yellow and green light above the dais where freeholders sit that indicates how much time is left,

and it is clearly visible to both the speaker and those attending the meeting.

During the discussions over the trap and skeet range, several speakers were allowed to speak past their time, as the freeholders responded to some of their concerns during that five minutes.

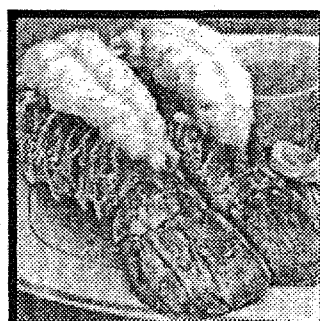
Renna said she was aware her time had elapsed.

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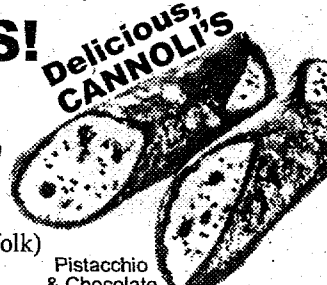
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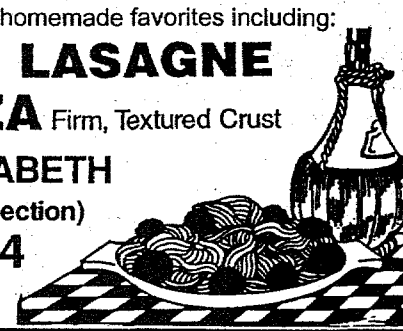
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## New Jersey Ballet's 'Nutcracker' a triumph

By Jeff Cummins  
Associate Editor

From the outset, there was an air of authenticity to the New Jersey Ballet's production of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" at the Paper Mill Playhouse last Saturday. So much authenticity, in fact, that the air was briefly filled with the pungent aroma of gunpowder from one of the pyrotechnic blasts used during the production.

Granted, "Nutcracker" has always been a holiday tradition, but quite frankly, even those who've seen it numerous times owe themselves a visit to the Paper Mill to see how the show is performed by the New Jersey Ballet Company. Several patrons nearby noted the performance was the best version of "Nutcracker" they'd ever seen, and a couple even pointed out they felt the show was better than any of the performances of "Nutcracker" offered in The City.

When it comes to dancing, make no mistake about it, the dancers of the New Jersey Ballet are true masters of their craft.

David Tamaki, appearing as the Snow King, and Tuvshin Bold, in the role of Cavalier, displayed remarkable agility, grace and balance. And, in truth, those two were among many superior dancers in the Livingston-based troupe, which showed considerable depth throughout the performance.

Much of the credit should go to Joseph Carow, who choreographed Act 1, Scenes 1 and 2, and resident choreographer George Tonal, who choreographed Act 1, Scene 3, and Act 2. Tonal has performed as a soloist with American Ballet Theatre, Roland Petit's Ballet, and Igor Schwetoff's Ballet Concerts Company. He's appeared on TV in "The Ed Sullivan Show," and he's choreographed over 100 dance works, including such productions as "Carmina Burana," "Dance of the Hours," "Beethoven," "Carmen," and "Winterset." The choreography left its mark on the performance, giving every dance movement a creative, yet polished feel.

In addition to the talented ballet performers, the ballet company reached out to bring in a renowned actress who added legitimate star power to the performance, Celeste Holm, whose resume includes an Academy Award for her performance in "Gentlemen's Agreement," as well as two nominations for Academy Awards for her performances in "Come to the Stable" and "All About Eve."

If there was a chink in the armor of this performance, it was the use of strobe lighting during the battle scene involving the Mice and the Toy Soldiers. More than anything else, the lighting made the scene difficult to view.

Nonetheless, it was a minor point,

at most. Each production of the play varies slightly, and most of the nuances added to this production made it more enjoyable.

For the most part, scenic designer Michael Anania used color to tremendous effect throughout the performance.

As the show began, the stage was outlined in a regal combination of blue and gold.

The use of real gunpowder for the cannon blasts, and the use of steam, which rolled into the first few rows of the orchestra, simulating the clouds, added to the ambience of the production.

For those who've seen the New Jersey Ballet before — or never seen ballet at all — this performance of "Nutcracker" offers an opportunity to see dancing that will leave even the casual observer awestruck.

There's a reason many modern athletes employ ballet training for their sports, because the fact is that dancers rank among the most graceful athletes in the world.

Don't be fooled by the group's name, the New Jersey Ballet includes many of the elite ballet artists from around the world.

Artistic advisor Edward Villella was a star with the New York City Ballet, and also performed as a guest artist with the Bolshoi Ballet.

And Villella isn't the only one in this company with a connection to these groups; fellow artistic advisor Leonid Kozlov performed as a principal dancer with the Bolshoi until 1979, when he defected from the Soviet Union.

He then became a principal dancer in the New York City Ballet, and his performance in the 1983 musical production "On Your Toes" earned him considerable acclaim.

Eleanor D'Antuono, another artistic advisor, performed as a principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre, dancing critical roles in "Swan Lake," "Sleeping Beauty," "Giselle," "Coppelia," and "Les Sylphides."

With the presence of these three veterans, the New Jersey Ballet is a formidable force in dancing and creativity.

As for the theater itself, the holidays may just be the best time of year to visit the Paper Mill, though there's never a bad time. The theater looked as sharp as ever, and its classic look was accentuated by an old car placed in front of the F.M. Kirby Carriage House, with the words "New Jersey Ballet" on the door of its red body. With an ever-so-slight nip in the air, the Paper Mill was clearly on its "A" game for this performance.

New Jersey Ballet's production of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" continues at the Paper Mill through Monday. For tickets, call 873-376-4343 or order online at [www.papermill.org](http://www.papermill.org).

## Dance group pursues artistic challenges

By Jeff Cummins  
Associate Editor

When you listen to Kathy Wood, the first thing that hits you is her Southern drawl; you just can't envision this woman running a hip hop dance company.

Then again, that's just another sign that you can't always trust first impressions.

Woods has always had considerable experience in the dance world, and then one day, she saw these guys dancing in the street ...

"I taught dance for 25 years, and I was retired. I saw these guys dancing hip hop in street, and I became fascinated in the movement, and I invited them to my studio," said Wood. "We collaborated on the movement. There's a big generation gap with me, I'm 61 and they were 17, but I just love the dance movement. It's so male. It takes a lot of upper body strength to do it. There aren't a lot of women who can do it. Mostly, it's guys doing it, and I don't think we've had a lot of guys dancing in a long time. It takes a lot of strength to do this."

So, Wood promptly un-retired, and started working with the young hip hop dancers, who were a couple of generations younger than she was. Still, their mutual enthusiasm for dance proved to be a powerful mix, and they forged ahead, honing their mastery of the art that brought them together.

"We do word-of-mouth auditions, but I've had the same dancers for five years," said Wood. "I'd have to kick 'em out; they love this job. We have to find someone who fits in with the four dancers I have, who works as hard as they do. So far, we haven't found that person the last few years." Woods acknowledged that the group has four dancers, and the choreography is done for four people. However, if one dancer is injured, there's isn't anyone who will take his place, and there's no extra person to give any of the "starting four" a breather if they're tired.

How successful has the troupe been thus far? A good indication might be the variety of places they've performed at.

"We were at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in May, and it was beautiful," said Wood. "We did 10 concerts; and they were sold out in November. Then we toured Alaska for five weeks in January. It was 32 degrees below zero, but it was a wonderful adventure." Wood added that the group has also performed in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New England.

Then again, it's not as if the world just took the group's dancing immediately. As good as the FLY dancers were, they still met their fair share of skeptics along the way.

"At first, they didn't take hip hop dancing seriously," Wood said. "It was difficult because the dancers weren't aware what it took to develop good choreography."

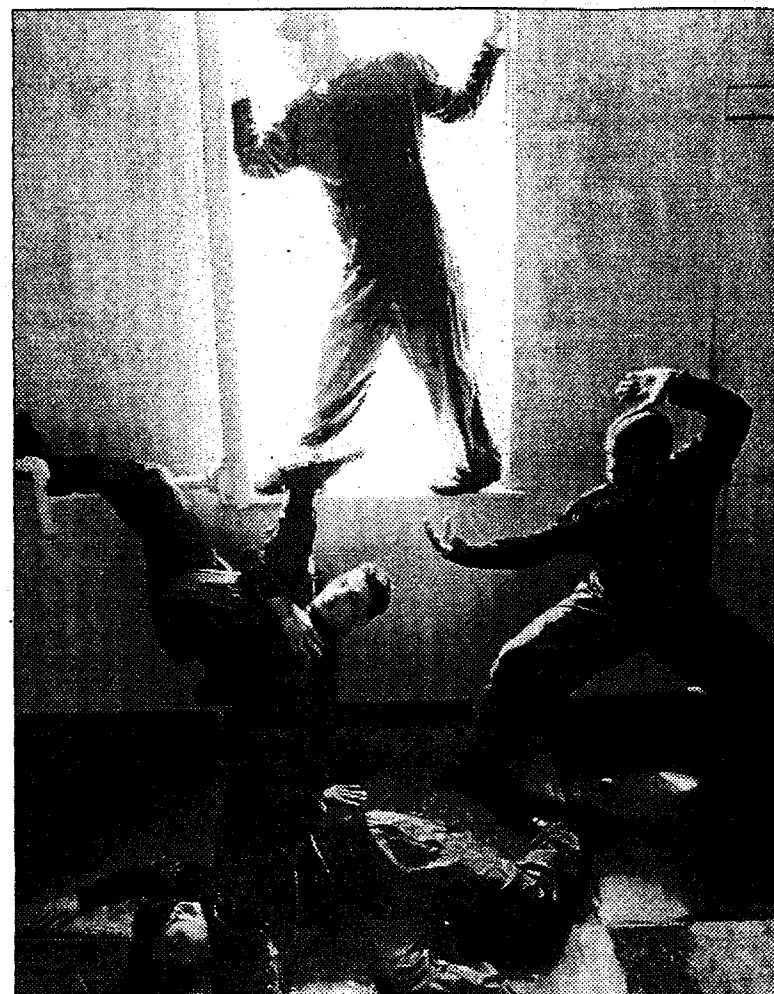
So, Wood worked with the dancers, and began to develop choreography. As time went on, the dance world began to take hip hop dance more seriously.

"In fact, I see a lot of hip hop movement in contemporary dance," said Wood. "The dance world should take us seriously, because it's one of the freshest forms of dance I've seen in my lifetime. Everyone loves this, from the kid in her mother's lap, to the grandmother with season tickets. We did 61 concerts last year, and we got 61 standing ovations."

If Wood had a particular advantage in building up the group, it was her diverse experience in dance. She'd taught many different forms of dance, including jazz, tap, ballet and ethnic dancing.

Not that there weren't some things about hip hop that are different from other forms of dance.

"It's very different in that I had to learn a new vocab," said Wood. "A lot of those forms of dance are very disciplined; the whole thing about hip hop is very individual. They think if you've done a movement



Members of FLY, an all-male dance company, will perform at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway on Jan. 15 at 8 p.m.

once, you need to throw it away. On the other hand, my dancers have learned they need a warmup. Movement is movement, and you've got to warm up before you do it."

Wood said the group now has a European agent, and it looks as if they'll be touring Europe, something they've already done.

"Estonia was very interesting, they liked us so much they wouldn't let us off the stage," said Wood, who acknowledged that her dancers stood up to a challenge from the dancers in Paris. "Paris was like the American audience, only a little rougher. The audience was making some catcalls,

and some of the other hip hop dancers invited us up on the stage for a 'Breaker Boy battle.' That's generally what they do in clubs. The French people yelled, but the French dancers had already battled my guys, and my guys proceeded to take 'em out. It was a crowning moment of achievement for my guys. Definitely only happened once in our careers. The French dancers took the liberty of taking the lead, we would never have done that."

So, together, FLY and Wood have tackled new challenges. Where the dance takes them from here, is up to them.

## Artist's work displayed in children's hospital

Parents of young patients at Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center see a beautiful source of inspiration when they visit the hospital's Family Learning Center, thanks to Scotch Plains photographer Lorenzo LaVerde.

LaVerde recently donated an original work titled "Hope" that now occupies a permanent space in that area of the hospital.

"Hope" is a framed print that captures the delicate beauty of a butterfly. It is part of his collection titled "Butterflies and Flowers" that was

recently on display at The New York Open Center in Manhattan. To create the photographs in this collection, LaVerde has traveled to remote locations in North and South America. The result is a series of photos of various species of butterflies and varieties of flowers, each depicted closeup and in living vibrant color.

"We are so pleased that Mr. LaVerde has chosen Children's Hospital of New Jersey as a recipient of this beautiful piece of art. It is so comforting to our parents and children and its title reflects a feeling they all share," said Anne Theisen,

director of Child Life Services at Children's Hospital of New Jersey.

Lawrence Green, aka Lorenzo LaVerde, was a past employee of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, where he served as chief medical photographer for a number of years. LaVerde donates to the pediatric wards at Newark Beth Israel and other hospitals to give the sick children a bit of hope for their future and their cure. In addition to CHNJ, he had donated original prints to JFK Medical Center in Edison; Children's Hospital of New York-Presbyterian and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Can-

cer Center, both in New York City; Morristown Memorial Hospital; The Hospital for Sick Children in Ontario, Canada; Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center in LaVerde's hometown of Niagara Falls, N.Y.; Bradford Regional Medical Center in Bradford, Pa.; and Mount St. Mary Hospital in Lewiston, N.Y.

Children's Hospital of New Jersey is the state's premier hospital, caring for children with specialized services to treat ill and injured children from newborn through adolescent years, including more than 30 pediatric specialties.

## Artist uses paintings to create a form of chaotic precision in art

By Jeff Cummins  
Associate Editor

Odds are, if you're an art novice, you'd never guess how Tim Murphy paints.

Go ahead, one of his paintings is right on this page. Take a look.

Give up? Well, Murphy pours paint on the painting while it's on the floor. That's right, he pours it, though it doesn't look that way. The fact is that

there's little about his painting that's haphazard.

"No one really does their work the way I do," said Murphy, a Montclair resident whose work will be on display at the Tomasulo Gallery at Union County College in Cranford through March 17, 2005. "Jackson Pollack did it on the floor, but it was of the moment. My work is very planned." Murphy added that he has an idea

what he wants the painting to look like, but he's able to "create the illusion of movement without throwing paint around the way he (Pollack) did."

What might help facilitate his success with this approach is that he uses aluminum sheets, in the interest of getting a perfectly flat surface to paint.

For some, aluminum might sound a little unusual for painting, but Murphy

explained that it's actually a very common technique.

"I see mostly Latex paint on large sheets of aluminum. It's a very flat surface," said Murphy. "The aluminum is more of a solution to a technical problem. It's not unlike the sign aluminum that you'd see outside a parking lot in the city. When you pull up and it says 'Park here.' You'll realize it's on painted aluminum." Murphy

added that familiarity was also a reason he chose aluminum, saying, "Mostly it was about me. I had to do an art sculpture and one of the most important traits for a sculptor is to be familiar with the materials, different types. If you want to build something, you decide what the best material for it is. It's similar to being familiar with what's seasonal for an architect."

While Murphy's paintings are abstractions, the fact is that they're tempered somewhat. He noted that even though his paintings are abstractions, they reference real structures and forms, giving them a basis in reality. Murphy pointed out that he pours paint from a jar or bucket, searching for the form that he wants.

So Murphy winds up with a painting that, in his own words, is a blob, something that has no straight lines. This may be made even more unique by the fact that straight lines and order would seem to be right up his alley, because Murphy is a captain in the United States Marine Corps Reserve unit, adding another twist to his story. He's been in the Marines for a total of 19 years, including active duty "on and off over the last six or seven years," he said. Murphy acknowledged that he's in a deployable unit that could be called up if things remain the way they are.

And yet, Murphy's abstract art may not be all that different from his very ordered life as a Marine. Even though his work is abstract, he's quick to point out that it features "very detailed landscapes, very specific imagery. It's detailed, yet it's still blob-like." Murphy described his work as "lots of little pieces of chaos, all planned in a specific format."

"If you see the work, you'll see that it's extremely layered," he said. "As I

move forward with the paint, it comes to the foreground."

Murphy's work has been displayed in a lot of shows around Jersey City, as well as the Visual Arts Gallery in Soho, and at the JP Morgan/Chase headquarters.

Murphy said that he really hasn't been influenced by any artists in particular — "Influenced is a hard word," he acknowledged — but he admitted that he did enjoy the work of Thomas Hart Benton.

Three paintings that will be on display at the Tomasulo Gallery will be "Panorama," which is on this page, a painting that was finished this year; "Aloha," which was completed in 2001, and "AutoBio," which was finished in 2003. Each of these paintings is mixed media on aluminum.

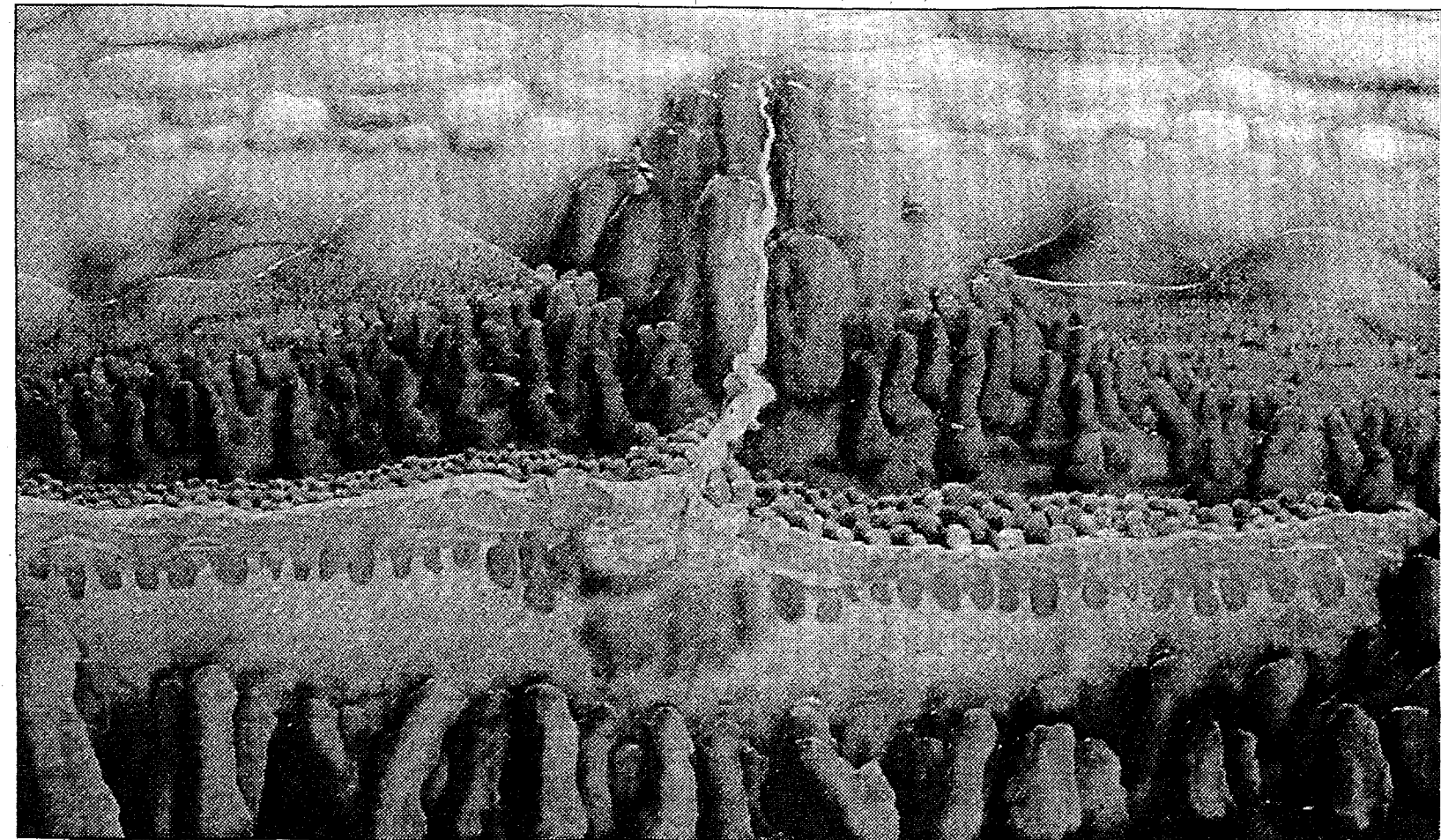
Murphy also possesses the requisite academic credentials, having earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Rutgers, and a master's degree in fine arts from the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

He's lectured on art and served as a teaching artist throughout his career, at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and at Symphony Space, also in New York.

In 2000, he served as a visiting artist at the sculpture department of the University of Iowa, and he was a teaching artist at Studio in a School, in New York City.

Finally, he was on the installation/design team for Planet Hollywood, working with the chain's New York, London, Vancouver, Prague, Amsterdam, Paris and Los Angeles locations.

For more information, contact Union County College at [www.ucc.edu](http://www.ucc.edu), or call the school at 908-709-7000.



'Panorama,' one of the paintings by Montclair's Tim Murphy, which will be on display at the Tomasulo Gallery at Union County College in Cranford through March 17.



ACROSS

1 Federal factory inspectors, for short

5 Barbershop leftover

9 Selling point

14 A horse of different colors

15 Horrors!

16 Barbershop request

17 Southern specialty

19 Calculator button

20 Secondly

21 Timeline division

22 Slitherer

24 Vacation souvenir

26 Chew the fat

27 What ecce means

30 Dressing gown

35 Escape by trickery

36 Leg up

37 Auctioned off

38 Wallace, of Reader's Digest

39 Tuna or potato

40 Johnny-\_\_\_\_lately

41 Nursery need

42 Sitcom equine

43 Largest country in Africa

44 Skin diving devices

46 UFO crew

47 LPN's group

48 Anwar, of Egypt

50 Hollywood Bowl performance

54 Coal unit

55 Rice Krispies sound

58 Matching

59 Strawberry \_\_\_\_

62 Discussion group

63 Stellar

64 Fearsome fellow

65 Last name in civil rights

66 Saxophone, e.g.

67 Wheel's companion

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| 65 |    |    |   |    |   |    | 66 |    |    |    | 67 |    |    |

COPYLEFT NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

DOWN

1 Shamu, e.g.

2 In a minute

3 Challenging

4 "That Girl" girl

5 Abominable

6 Coming up

7 One-million link

8 Anwar, of Egypt

9 Starlike

10 Hardtack

11 Likewise

12 Flush

13 Trial balloon

18 Miss Scarlett, e.g.

23 Goaded, with on

24 Chili go-with

25 "\_\_\_\_ Summer": Beach Boys album

27 Bible and Borscht

28 Lake Geneva resort

29 Greeting from Pooh

31 Holy mackerell

32 "Johnny B. \_\_\_\_"

33 Violinist Mischa \_\_\_\_

34 Chicago expressway, with the

36 Prince Edward's title

39 Kind of campaign

43 Viewpoint

45 Prepares to propose

46 Held dear

49 Make up for

50 Massachusetts peninsula, with 61

51 Norway's patron saint

52 Telephonic WXY

53 Royal Russian

55 Call to the phone

56 Stew pod

57 Compost deposit

60 Weed killer

61 See 50 Down

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B12

REUNIONS

The following schools will conduct reunions in the coming months:

- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Dec. 31.
- Westfield High School Class of 1994, 10-year reunion, Dec. 31.
- Westfield High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, May 21.
- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, June 11.
- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1975, 30-year reunion.
- Union High School, Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, 2005.
- Union High School, Class of 1995, 10-year reunion, 2005.
- Union Hill High School, Class of 1975, 30-year reunion, 2005.
- Union High School, Class of 1976, 30-year reunion, 2006.
- Union High School, Class of 1981, 25-year reunion, 2006.

• Union High School, Class of 1986, 20-year reunion, 2006.

• Westfield High School, Class of 1980, 25-year reunion, 2005.

For information on any of the above reunions, write to Reunions Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 150, English-town 07726 or call 732-617-1000.

• Hillside High School, Class of 1965, is holding its 40th reunion on June 25.

If anyone has information regarding former students or would like to join the committee, contact Barry Zins at BZins1111@aol.com.

• Hillside High School, class of 1955, is planning a reunion on May 20 at the Grand Summit Hotel in Summit.

Contact Paul Ladell at 973-715-7688.

• Hillside High School will hold a reunion for alumni in Florida on Feb. 26, 2005 at the Country Club at Boca Raton.

Contact Marvin Kaleky at 954-720-0125 or send an e-mail with pertinent information to hhaafla@yahoo.com.

Or call Rhoda Lubetkin at 973-886-6480.

Orchestra to perform on holiday

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra will present a series of Viennese-styled programs over the New Year's holiday weekend, a program of waltzes of Johann Strauss, as well as arias and overtures by Franz von Suppe, Franz Lehar and other operetta composers. A sampling of selections to be presented include von Suppe's "Morning, Noon and Night in Vienna," Strauss' "Blue Danube Waltz," along with arias and duets from Strauss' "Gypsy Baron," and Lehar's "The Merry Widow" and "The Land of Smiles." Featured on this program will be soprano Lyubov Petrova and tenor Gregory Turay under the baton of conductor Julius Rudel.

Performances will be presented on

- Wednesday at Richardson Auditorium, Princeton at 8 p.m.
- Dec. 30 at Bergen Performing Arts Center, Englewood, at 8 p.m.
- Jan. 1 at the Count Basie Theater, Red Bank, at 8 p.m.
- Jan. 2 at The Community Theatre, Morristown, at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$62, \$49, \$37, \$28 and \$22/only in Princeton and Morristown, \$62 and \$49. Call NJSO Ticket Office at 800-255-3476, Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or online at [www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org).

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TIME: Indoors & Outdoors 9-5PM

DETAILS: New merchandise, collectibles, crafts and a special tag/garage sale section!

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ORGANIZATION: Sponsor by: BHS Cheerleaders

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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HOROSCOPES

Dec. 27 to Jan. 2

ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Turn your attention toward career concerns this week. Embrace creative opportunities that come your way to really make an impact.

TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: Welcome experiences that will take you away from your routine and allow you to expand your world. Partnerships play an instrumental role.

GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: You are likely to move a lot farther toward financial success with the help of others. Pool your resources and extend your buying power.

CANCER, June 22 to July 22: Expect extraordinary or creative individuals to cross your path and bring excitement and enlightenment into your world. Keep an open mind.

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Hard work results in enormous achievements. Put your nose to the grindstone

and, with focus and perseverance, you will accomplish great things.

VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: Keep in mind that if nothing is ventured, nothing is gained. Take a chance on a long shot and be prepared to live happily with the consequences.

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Plan to take a mini-vacation without ever having to leave the house. Pamper yourself this week with music, candlelight and long hot baths.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Unexpected information or news could drastically change your outlook or point of view. Position yourself to clearly discern the truth.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: After saving, skimping and sacrificing, permit yourself to go on a shopping spree. Splurge on a luxury item.

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: Do not hesitate to show off your skills

and talents. Step on stage in front of friends and associates and express your individuality.

AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: There are several recent lessons that have yet to be recognized or appreciated.

Take time to review and reflect on your recent accomplishments.

PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: Peer pressure is all around you.

Do your best to resist temptation and embrace the positive opportunities made available by your friends.

If your birthday is this week, work during the coming year to establish a stronger social presence in your world.

Be prepared to let down your hair and have fun. Your friends hail from many different backgrounds or walks of life and are especially influential.

Take advantage of a speculative opportunity and expect to break the bank.

Third book of poetry from author

"A Poetic Twist of Fate" is more than poetry, since author Craig Garner, has a unique way of not only describing some of the most pressing issues of our time, but also prescribing solutions to them.

His unique blend of rhyme and story-telling ability work together to caress the reader's eyes while simultaneously daring the reader to see the truth.

Poem titles in this book include, "If You Could Only See What I Feel," "Motherhood ... The Reality," and "The Loss of Innocence" and are just a few of his dynamic pieces.

However he places emphasis on understanding technology and embracing change with other notable poems.

This book will make an excellent Christmas gift for your children or friends in the family.

It not only has more than 40 poems but also has more than 10 quotes from famous African-Americans.

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This is Garner's third book of poetry and one of his best.

For information, call 973-493-9578.

Happy Holidays

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On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve all offices will close at 3 pm. THE WALK-UP/DRIVE-IN WINDOWS WILL ALSO CLOSE AT 3 PM.

For your convenience, both the 61 Broad St., and the 320 North Broad St. offices in Elizabeth will be open Thursday evenings, December 23 and December 30 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

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# New year will offer plenty to look forward to at Newark Museum

Here is a current listing of The Newark Museum programs for children and families. All programs are free with suggested museum admission unless otherwise noted. Visitors may confirm event locations at the South Wing Information Desk, 973-596-6544.

**Newark Museum Performances**  
 "Barynya": Russian Folk Dancing and Music, Sunday at 2:30 p.m. This lively performance of folk songs and dance from this Russian ensemble is presented in connection with "Nicholas and Alexandra: At Home with the Last Tsar and His Family." Traditional musical instruments such as the balalaika, garmoshka, lozhki, kugikly, treshotki and the vertushki will be heard. Fee: members \$10, non-members \$12, children are free.

"Ivan and His Three Wishes," Wednesday, at 1 and 2:30 p.m. The Catskill Puppet Theater brings this favorite Russian folktale to life with large rod puppets and special effects.

This public program was designed to complement The Newark Museum's current exhibition, "Nicholas and Alexandra: At Home with the Last Tsar and His Family."

"Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir," Jan. 2 at 2:30 p.m. This performance by choir directors and singers from Orthodox parishes of various jurisdictions through New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania is in both English and church Slavonic. This music presentation is designed to complement the current exhibition, "Nicholas and Alexandra: At Home with the Last Tsar and His Family."

**Science**  
 Whimsical and wacky holiday week, Sunday to Dec. 31, 1 to 4 p.m. During this week, visitors can learn scientific magic tricks, play a "Who Done It" mystery game involving the Ballantine jewels, sculpt magical creatures and partake in a scavenger hunt with prizes. The Dreyfuss Planetarium will be open during this week, featur-

ing "Mystery of the Missing Seasons," "Tis the Season" and "Oceans in Space." Visitors are also invited to explore the Ballantine House's Christmas installation, "Feasting With Family and Friends," open until Jan. 9.

"It's All Tax-ing", Sunday, for ages 7 and up, space is limited. This workshop, part of the "Once Upon A Dime" exhibit, teaches children the reasons behind the government's taxation system.

Dreyfuss Planetarium admissions: Adults \$3, children under 12, seniors and college students \$2. Purchase tickets at the front desk before proceeding to the planetarium. The planetarium will be closed on Christmas Day.

Dreyfuss Planetarium programs:  
 New — "Oceans in Space", for ages 10 and up, through Jan. 2, Wednesdays through Fridays, 2 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 4 p.m. This production is a journey of exploration that seeks out places where conditions are favorable for life to exist, traveling

back 5 billion years to the origin of the solar system. Audiences are introduced to the diversity of life on Earth even as humans embark on the search for life in the universe. They then join the hunt for extrasolar planets.

**Exhibits:**  
 JP Morgan Chase presents "Once Upon a Dime: The World of Money," through Aug. 14, Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. Designed to strengthen the financial literacy of school-aged children, this highly interactive exhibition involves visitors in the full story of money's role and importance in our society and other societies throughout history. In an especially designed environment, youngsters and their families participate in a wide variety of multi-sensory, hands-on activities. While having fun, visitors can learn about the universal themes of money, from how it evolved to how it is used today. There are various forms of money featured in the exhibit from places throughout

the world, including Africa, China, India and the islands in the South Pacific. Pieces selected from the museum's renowned numismatic collection are integrated throughout the exhibition.

"Impacts: Asteroids, Comets and Meteorites," ongoing, Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. Asteroids and comets are the most numerous, yet enigmatic objects in the solar system. They are leftover debris from its formation and may be the key to unraveling the mystery of how planets are born. These fascinating objects are on display in the Planetarium Gallery. "Impacts" features photos, models and meteorites. Visitors can observe a real chunk of Mars, play the Meteorite/Meteor Wrong game and discover the dangers of cosmic impacts.

"Dynamic Earth: Revealing Nature's Secrets" ongoing, Wednesdays through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. "Dynamic Earth: Revealing Nature's

Secrets," the first permanent natural science exhibition in New Jersey, allows visitors to peek into the very core of the planet, see a volcano blow its top, feast their eyes on the chromatic splendor of a tropical rain forest, watch a lioness "shop for dinner" on the African Savannah, and view a polar bear hunting its prey in the Arctic Tundra. The interrelated areas also allow visitors to explore an eerie bat cave, discover a pre-historic mastodon, or study a living bee colony.

**Jeff Cummins, Editor**

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

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## ART CLIPS

## Ori to display t Bouras

Five time Heart Grant recipient, Nancy Ori of Berkeley Heights will be exhibiting her Union County historical photographs at Bouras Galleries 25 DeForest Ave., Summit, Jan. 5 through February. The Galleries are open to the public by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Linda Cole 908-277-6054.

Ori created a large body of photographs that were used in a historical guidebook put together by the county. She spent months doing research on the 38 sites and numerous interiors

throughout Union county. Her artistic selection of subject matter is determined by the best summary of images to depict the lifestyle of the people who lived throughout the county during different time periods in our history. Ori refers to these images as "portraits" of the architecture and artifacts.

"Since 1970, I have traveled throughout the world working on various photographic and video projects which has given me the opportunity to explore many popular and cherished places. I have discovered that right here in my own backyard there are wonderful sites to photograph and

images to share. I proposed the grant project in order to best volunteer my skills to benefit my own community and have since been inspired by not only the interesting subject matter and history of New Jersey, but also by the many volunteers I have met while doing my research and photographing the sites."

The body of work will provide a balance of images between the architecture, furniture, costumes and artifacts of by-gone eras to reflect those who lived, worked and played in Union County at earlier times. Some images are romantic in style and pro-

vide a contrast to the playful antique dolls and toys, some are bold forms of tools and objects presented almost as sculptures and some are planned or contain artistically composed room set ups to provide more formal images.

Bouras Galleries is located in Bouras Properties at 25 DeForest Avenue, Summit.

## Kean will present a new theater program

Kean University announces Premier Stages, a new professional Actor's Equity Association theater program. Actively engaging and enhancing the professional theatre 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. 4-410, or send an e-mail to jwooten@kean.edu.

## Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated at Ritz

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 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 Players

The Westfield Community Players membership drive for their 2004-2005 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. Naomi added that these special events are another way of drawing audiences to WCP who might not be familiar with the players.

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.

The remaining plays of the season are to begin in January.

The British Farce "There Goes the Bride" by Ray Cooney and John Chapman runs 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.

The play runs 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. The play runs 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 this 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.

## Arts camp lets students home acting skills

Stars Of Tomorrow Performing Arts Camp of Cranford will have a free dance and improv workshop at its winter open shop, which is scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 16 at the Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 E. Lincoln Ave., Cranford, at the corner of Walnut. In case of inclement weather, the open house will be held on Jan. 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Workshops are geared to children ages Kindergarten and up. For more information, call 908-276-5053 or visit the Web site, www.StarOfTomorrow.com.

## Ballet at the Paper Mill



The Sugar Plum and her dashing Cavalier from New Jersey Ballet's 'Nutcracker' playing at Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, now through Monday. For information and tickets call the Box Office at 973-376-4343.

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Whether it is a fine antique, collectable to just a great bedroom or kitchen set you will find a treasure trove that brings back memories of rummaging through Grandmas attic and basement. Antique tavern back bars, tall case clocks, jewelry, 1820's sewing tables, toys, phone booths, great furniture from oak to mahogany, from solid to veneer and retro 50's, 60's to present all can be found hiding at 1551 Main street. But tools, records, fine glass and items from gorgeous to gaudy to shabby chic can be seen entering the shop. However, perhaps you may need to empty out Grandmas house or you want to downsize, then Jack and Michele can bring their sales expertise to your door -- where they can either run Estate/contents of house sales or even an on site auction as well.

But if the estate, contents or auction is not your bag then Holiday Sales can do a house cleanout, or whole/partial contents purchase. So when you need to sell or cleanout, give these professionals a call or after you dine downtown next Saturday come by and have some exciting fun and try and make the gavel sing you're the lucky bidder.

Jack & Michele can be reached at either their "brick and mortar" store or by calling them there at 732-381-0881 from Weds. through Friday (11am-5pm) and Saturday (11am-11pm). Or visit their virtual store on the internet to view & bid for current treasures on eBay -- just do a search on the seller name "Auctionem" -- or visit them on there website [www.rahwayauction.com](http://www.rahwayauction.com). There's more than one way you can get in on the fun!! Jack & Michele (Emma) will be looking forward to seeing and hearing from you.

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And  
Happy New Year**

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## Life of the Tsar



'Portrait of Alexandra Feodorovna,' above left, and 'Portrait of Nicholas II,' above right, part of the exhibit, 'Nicholas and Alexandra: At Home With the Last Tsar and his Family,' on display through Jan. 9 at the Newark Museum.

## Orchestra set to celebrate holiday season

Wassail is defined as a joyous celebration, especially one held at Christmas time.

The holiday season is a feast of music — from works as profound as "The Messiah" to inspirational carols like "Silent Night" to pop songs like "White Christmas" to whimsy like "Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer."

And, of course, the magnificent compositions of the whole array of the greatest composers: Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Bach, Brahms, and Beethoven.

The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey, under the direction of Robert W. Butts, with its annual Wassail Concert, extends the glorious festival of sound to Jan. 9 at Grace Church, Main Street at Kings Road, Madison.

The concert will begin at 3 p.m. As both a fitting close to the holiday season and a celebratory beginning to the new year, the orchestra and its guest artists will bring to its audience music of Mozart, Donizetti, von Weber, Barber, Mendelssohn and Haydn.

Violinist Susan Heerema, a Juilliard-trained artist who has toured Europe with the Philharmonic Virtu-

osi, has performed under such distinguished conductors as Rostropovich, Rampal and Menuhin.

A highlight of her achievements was conducting the orchestra and sitting as concert master for "Prayers for America," the memorial service held on Sept. 23, 2001, for victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

Heerema will perform Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto." Dan Sagi, who thrilled von Weber's "Concertino," a work filled with flash and lyrical splendor.

Tenor Daniel Foran, making his fourth appearance with the ensemble, will sing arias of Donizetti; and soprano Virginia Hicks, who sings regularly with Harmonium, and who has made a specialty of Baroque selections with the orchestra at its annual VivaldiFest, goes beyond Baroque to sing Mozart's "Batti, Batti" and "Barbers' Shining Sun." Finally, under the baton of Butts, the orchestra will perform Haydn's Symphony No. 9.

Butts has distinguished himself internationally, conducting a highly diverse repertoire of operatic, symphonic and choral works.

He has spent parts of the last four years in Canada, Romania, Russia, and France, conducting with Opera Constanta, Filharmonica de Stat Botosani, Philharmonic de Stat Sibiu, and Philharmonic de Stat Rm. Valcea, all in Romania; the Philharmonic Society Orchestra of St. Petersburg, Russia; the Royal Conservatory of Music orchestra in Toronto, Canada; and the Medieval Music orchestra in Provence, France. In 1996 the maestro founded the Baroque Orchestra of Boonton, a community orchestra dedicated to the music of the 15th and 16th centuries.

In 2003, embracing the larger community of northern New Jersey, the orchestra renamed itself The Baroque Orchestra of North Jersey as Butts took it in a new direction to include the music of the classical and romantic eras, as well as the early 20th century.

In 1999 he formed the Little Opera Company Orchestra which he has directed for productions of "Le Nozze Figaro," "Don Giovanni," "L'Elisir d'Amore," "Il Piacere," "Cavalleria Rusticana," "Tosca," "The Magic

Flute," "Turandot," and "Un Ballo in Maschera." Since 1998, the orchestra's Wassail and VivaldiFest concerts which he initiated have been the highlights of each season.

Franz Joseph Haydn, often called the "Father of the Symphony," was one of the great representatives of the late 18th century.

His Symphony No. 99 is very much part of the classical tradition, yet contains many elements foreshadowing composers of a succeeding period.

Felix Mendelssohn was a leading figure of the romantic period. They do, however, share a musical relationship — one heard in their use of melodic phrases and lyricism common to German folk song and in a shared interest in the contrast of dramatic tension that is eased with the comfort of song.

This is heard in the slow movements of both the symphony and the violin concerto.

Tickets for the Jan. 9 Wassail concert are \$18; seniors and students pay \$15.

For further information about this and other concerts, call 973-366-8922.

## Gallery celebrates second anniversary

As the holiday season fast approaches, we find many reasons to be thankful and to celebrate our common good fortune. The trustees and staff of Aljira are especially pleased to mark the second anniversary of opening their new galleries at 591 Broad St., Newark. The past two years have given many reasons to celebrate: Aljira mounted a series of remarkable exhibitions, consistently achieving high levels of regional and national recognition; it held The Aljira 20th Anniversary Celebration Fine Art Auction in its new space, an event it counts among its greatest successes; and it has established exciting collaborations with civic and community organizations.

Most important is that with its street level venue in the heart of Newark's downtown arts district, thousands of people have now discovered how excellent Aljira's programs are. They have attended the festive openings of Aljira Emerge, the innovative program for up-and-coming

artists. They have experienced the great works of under-recognized master artists in the Bending the Grid series: Frank Bowling, Judith Brodsky and Donald Locke. They are enjoying Aljira's commitment to the artistic excellence of the state's multi-ethnic populations. Civic leaders are applauding Aljira's contribution to the city, perhaps most beautifully expressed in the generous words of Barbara Bell Coleman and Judge Claude Coleman, "Claude and I deeply believe in and share a passion for the city of Newark. In our view, Aljira is of equal importance to Newark as is the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and The Newark Museum. We are thrilled and hopeful that together you will continue to work to build a viable arts community in Newark."

Feel free to contact either Victor Davson at Aljira 973-622-1600 or 201-997-9477 for additional information.

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# Register now for winter arts classes

Registration is under way for the winter session courses being offered by the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts in Westfield.

The new session of the Music Studio begins on Jan. 3 for private vocal and instrumental lessons for children and adults.

Thirty-five professional performers and music educators instruct students in a 30-, 45- or 60-minute format.

The Music Studio is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Additional arrangements can be made for Sunday lessons.

Kids 'n Arts, for children ages 3 to 5, offers sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, beginning Jan. 4 at 9:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.

These two-hour classes, taught by Valerie Pineda and Diane Burkam, focus on encouraging students to express their talents in art, music and drama.

Creative Art Classes, also taught by Diane Burkam, will begin on Jan. 8 for 10 weeks.

Students in kindergarten and grade

one will attend at 9 a.m., grades two, three and four at 10 a.m., grades five to seven at 11 a.m. and grades seven to nine at noon.

A new course being offered at the workshop this winter is Knitting and Crocheting.

Classes start on Jan. 8 at 1 p.m. for children older than 10, and at 2 p.m. for adults.

Instructor for this course is Janet Hrindo, Arts and Crafts II department chairwoman at the Westfield Summer Workshop.

The Musical Theater Workshop, directed by veteran Broadway actor Juan Pineda, will begin on Jan. 13 and run for 10 sessions from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Intended for students ages 10 to 18, this course will focus on scene preparation, audition and performance preparation, solo and ensemble work and acting training, giving students a solid training.

For information on any of these programs, call 908-789-9696 or visit the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, located at office at 150-152 E. Broad St. in Westfield.

## Side by side art



'Renard Twins,' completed by Rainer Gross this year, will be displayed from Jan. 4 to Feb. 5 at the Simon Gallery, 48 Bank St., Morristown. A reception will be held on Jan. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m.

# HEALTHY LIVING

## Avoid stress during the holidays

While the holiday season can be filled with joy, the perils of anxiety, depression, unrealistic expectations, and stress may be close behind. Experts in the family services profession report that distress calls from parents seeking help decline during the months of November and December but peak immediately with the arrival of January. This trend may be caused by parents' preoccupation with holiday preparation and shopping, followed by a startling return to reality following the holidays.

To keep the holidays merry and avoid a post holiday "crash and burn," Prevent Child Abuse, New Jersey, offers parents suggestions to help ease holiday tension:

- Keep spending levels realistic to avoid the overwhelming debt that can contribute to stress in the new year. If purchasing gifts results in financial distress, consider presents that can be created at home. Low-cost gift alternatives include baked

goods, knitted items, or picture frames. A "Secret Santa" exchange, commonly used in the workplace, requires each family member selecting one person to receive a gift. Purchasing one gift rather than five or 10 can be a particularly useful suggestion if you have a large family.

- Seize every opportunity to attend free or low-cost community events. An added benefit will be the time you and your loved ones spend planning the outing together. You may even get to meet neighbors.

- Reaffirm the true meaning of happiness and joy for you and your family — celebrate your home and each other.

- Volunteer to work with those less fortunate. This experience will teach children the true holiday spirit of appreciation and giving.

- Plan all outings thoughtfully; stores and roads are more crowded than usual. Poorly planned shopping sprees can trigger holiday stress. Shopping trips that include children

require age-appropriate preparation. If younger children are included, parents should limit the time spent in each store and total time spent at all stores. Older children require limits too — particularly on spending. Trips to see friends and relatives may overstimulate young children and disrupt schedules. Pack a "survival kit" that includes snacks, drinks, a pillow, and a blanket for resting in between trips.

For more information on successfully coping with the stress of the holidays, call 800-CHILDREN or 732-246-8060 or visit the web at [www.PreventChildAbuseNJ.org](http://www.PreventChildAbuseNJ.org). PCA-NJ maintains a resource center that provides tips and suggestions for a hassle-free holiday.

Prevent Child Abuse, New Jersey, is a statewide, nonprofit agency that is guided by the mission of eliminating child abuse and neglect in all of its forms.

The year 2004 marks the 25th year of service to New Jersey.

## Local trainer named Mr. Fitness

Richard Tuma on Nov. 13 won the 2004 WNB World Mr. Fitness title. Tuma competed in the Mr. Fitness shows from 1992 to 1996 and the best he had ever placed was fifth, in 1992 in Atlanta. After an eight-year layoff, Tuma came back at 32 years of age in the best shape of his life. Tuma competed against quality competitors, including four-time Mr. Fitness champion Radek Hadrovsky, Czech Republic; Steve Eckert, 2004 Mr. Exercise winner; Peter Pellegrino, Mass Bodybuilding champ/fitness model; Dave Goodin of Austin, Texas, top rated WNB Men's bodybuilding champion; Charles Justo of Miramar, Fla., fitness model/personal trainer; Antonio Mitchell of Atlanta, Ga., model and former NCAA star; Sean Madden of Maryland, fitness model; and David Baburek, Switzerland, fitness model and second-place finisher in the 2003 Mr. Fitness contest. All these men are winners and deserve credit for their training, nutrition and contest preparation. They all looked great and deserve lots of exposure.

A Mr. Fitness show is not a bodybuilding competition. It is judged on two things. In the morning, prejudging is done in the symmetry round which looks for a combination of definition but not too much, symmetry and proportion, looks, face, skin, tan, hair and overall presentation and appearance. In prejudging, the judges look at contestants from all sides, making them do quarter turns to the right to see them from every angle. Then at night is the formal-wear round in which contestants do a model walk in a tuxedo. They take the scores from the morning and night and give each contestant an overall score.

When Tuma compete back in 1992 to 1996, there was also a talent round to music which would be a combination of strength, flexibility, aerobic, martial arts, appearance and creativity. Today for most people it is hard to find the time to put some kind of routine like this together with all the priorities and responsibilities. This time all you have to concentrate on is two things: static contractions from all relaxed

positions in your quarter turns, symmetry round, and how you look and walk in a tux.

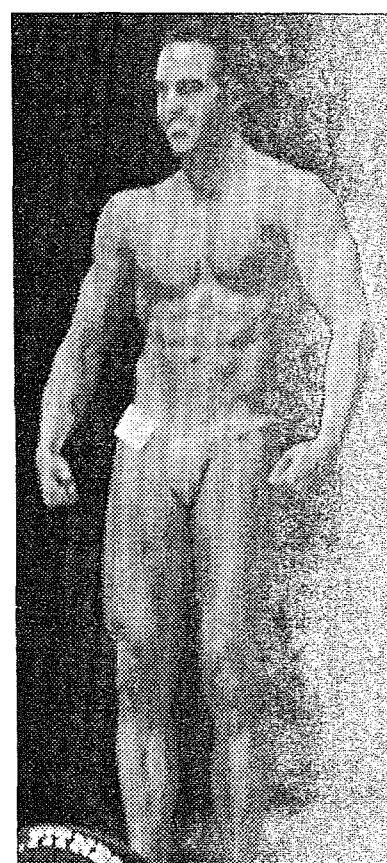
Here are 2004's top 10 Mr. Fitness contest winners:

- No. 1 - Richard Tuma, \$1,000
- No. 2 - Charles Justo, \$750
- No. 3 - Antonio Mitchell, \$500
- No. 4 - Peter Pellegrino
- No. 5 - Dave Goodin
- No. 6 - David Baburek
- No. 7 - Radek Hadrovsky
- No. 8 - Sean Madden
- No. 9 - Edward Figueroa
- No. 10 - Steve Eckert

Tuma has been involved in health and fitness since the age of 13 and has become one of the most diversely trained through ACE, AFAA, and NESTA. He has more than 10 fitness certifications, including speed, agility and quickness trainer, mind-body fitness specialist, golf conditioning specialist, senior fitness trainer, resistance training/weight room specialist, kickboxing aerobic instructor, tae bo intensive, primary aerobics, biomechanics specialist and anti-aging fitness specialist.

Tuma is a nationally certified massage therapist NCBTMB with more than 10 years experience. He has more than 10 massage certifications in neuromuscular therapy NMT, Swedish, Shiatsu, sports massage, geriatric massage, Thai yoga bodywork, therapeutic touch, advanced techniques of the neck, rotator cuff specialist, and pathology for massage therapy. Tuma is a first-degree black belt in tae kwon do, and has studied Jeet kune do, Aikido, and tae chi.

In college, Tuma studied nutrition and worked toward a degree in dietetic technology. He is a certified fitness nutritionist. He is the president and CEO of Revolutionary Technology Nutrition, a company that delivers supplements that stand the test of time and that are natural, safe, and effective. Tuma has written articles on exercise, nutrition and health in several magazines and newspapers. Tuman likes to spend his free time lecturing on fitness and nutrition at schools, offices, companies, organizations, tel-



Richard Tuma

evision, radio, gyms, retirement homes and other functions in the tri-state area. For more than 15 years Tuma has helped thousands of people achieve their goals and his clients are true believers in him.

Since 1996, Tuma has been co-owner of Elite Fitness Center with business partner Marc Napoliello. Elite Fitness Center is located in the Clark Village shopping center on Raritan Road. The two owners have a concept they feel is unique and long overdue. They made their fitness center small and unimposing with a family atmosphere. The center's main objective is total customer service.

If you are interested in working with Richard Tuma or working out at Elite Fitness Center, feel free to call at 732-827-8663. For ordering products from Revolutionary Technology Nutrition, call 800-506-0786 or visit online at [www.revolutionarynutrition.com](http://www.revolutionarynutrition.com).

## Children's Hospital opens satellite

The Children's Specialized Hospital, Fanwood Plaza facility, 313 South Ave., on Dec. 6 hosted an open house. Attendees of the event were able to tour the entire facility while observing the ribbon cutting and presentation of a proclamation by Deputy Mayor Paulette Coronto of Scotch Plains. Another presentation of the proclamation was televised live from the Town Council meeting on local access Channels 34 and 35 on Dec. 14.

This open house was in recognition of the expansion of services in the Educational and Outpatient Fanwood Plaza center. Expansions include child study teams, feeding team evaluations and ambulatory care services. With these expansions in place, Children's Specialized Hospital is able to treat even more children. The highly trained and friendly staff at Children's Specialized Hospital continuously sends families home pleased with the outstanding services. The Fanwood Plaza expansion will only continue to show why Children's Specialized Hospital is the No. 1 pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the United States.

Lisa Zimmerman, on the executive board for the Learning Disabilities Association of Scotch Plains and Fanwood and a parent of two children who have been patients at Children's Specialized Hospital for 3 1/2 years, is extremely

happy with the patient care and extended services. Most of all, she loves the Children's Specialized Hospital staff and is forever grateful for the services they have provided for her two children. At the open house, Lisa spoke to the crowd and stated, "Like most people, I chose to come to Fanwood Plaza because of the intimate, person-centered way my family was treated. Now with the beautiful expansion, we thankfully can continue to enjoy that feeling of a small-individualized setting but with the added bonus of an increased variety of services."

During the ribbon cutting, Lisa's son, Zachary, helped do the honors and cut the ribbon with Deputy Mayor Coronto. Expansion of services at Fanwood Plaza was made possible with help from JMK BMW, Kohl's and U.S. Rep. Jeff Ferguson. Key donations include this past summer's JMK BMW especially created Children's Specialized Hospital charity-driven program of \$100 for every purchase or lease of a new or certified pre-owned vehicle.

The initial plan was to raise more than \$50,000, but the final total exceeded \$64,000. Ferguson and Kohl's Care for Kids continuous support and involvement also raised a considerable amount of money toward making this worthwhile expansion possible.

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*Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to: Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, 07040. Faxes may be sent to 973-763-2557.*

## ART SHOWS

**SWAIN GALLERIES**, 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call 908-756-1707.

**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.

**BRIGHT, BOLD LANDSCAPES** will be the focus of Mountainside resident Cynthia Smith Weiss' work, which will be on display at Bouras Galleries on DeForest Avenue in Summit. The galleries are open to the public by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Linda Cole at 908-277-6054.

**THE SKULSKI ART GALLERY** of the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, Clark, will present the works of Ilona and Andre Bugla through Dec. 31. 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.

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.

**ELISSA F. MERKL** is scheduled to exhibit a series of serigraph prints at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 165 Hobart Ave., Summit, from Jan. 5 to Feb. 14, 2005. An artist's reception will be held Jan. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Wisner House. Wisner House is wheelchair-accessible and open to the public, free of charge, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information on the exhibition or Reeves-Reed Arboretum, call 908-273-8787.

## AUDITIONS

**AUDITIONS FOR "INTO THE WOODS,"** will be held on Jan. 8 at 1 p.m., and Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. Callbacks will be on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. Performances will be on May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. All tickets will be \$20. For tickets, call 908-276-7611.

**"HOW TO EAT LIKE A CHILD"** will hold auditions in Cranford for children between the ages of 8 and 13 on Jan. 9 at 2 and 6 p.m. at the Cindy Smith Dance Studio, 98 North Ave. in Garwood. Rehearsals begin on Jan. 16. For further information, call 908-245-2339.

## BOOKS

**THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOOK GROUP** will meet at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

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

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

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

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

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

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS** meets the second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 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.

**PAGE TURNERS DISCUSSION GROUP** will meet the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

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

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

**WOMEN'S READING GROUP** meets the last Wednesday of the month at

Village Methodist Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights. For more information, call 973-376-4946, or visit the Web site, [www.sanctuaryconcerts.org](http://www.sanctuaryconcerts.org).

**MEET THE ORCHESTRA** concert series continues at the Suburban Community Music Center, 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill. 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.

**BLUES LEGENDS** Paul Geremia and Ernie 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](http://www.sanctuaryconcerts.org). Admission includes dessert and coffee at intermission.

**"A NIGHT WITH THE STARS OF ROCK & ROLL"** featuring Speedo & The Cadillac, Frankie Lyman's Teenagers, The Del Vikings, Charlie Thomas' Drifters, The Chantels, and

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

**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. "The response to the HEART Grant program in past years has been exciting," said Freeholder Chairman Angel G. Estrada. 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](mailto:culturalinfo@ucnj.org).

and participate in an original poetry reading, a stand-up comedy routine or a musical number. There's no cover charge, and patrons can come in, make new friends, surf the Web, or play a game of Diablo2, NeverWinterNights, WarCraft or Counter-Strike. To ask about a schedule of events, call 908-490-1234 or visit its Web site: [www.theinternetlounge.com](http://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,

call the box office at 973-408-5600 or online at [www.ShakespeareNJ.org](http://www.ShakespeareNJ.org). There are substantial discounts for groups of 10 or more.

**"PROOF"** by David Autumn will be performed on Feb. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. Seating is reserved, all seats are \$15. For tickets, call 908-276-7611.

**"PASSION" ALBORADA SPANISH DANCE THEATER**, will be performed at the Union County Arts Center on Feb. 5 at 8 a.m. A steamy Havana nightclub in the 1950s is the setting for this exotic blend of Tango and Flamenco dances driven by powerful Cuban rhythms. Regular tickets are \$25, student tickets are \$18. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, [www.ucac.org](http://www.ucac.org). Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway.

**"YOUR ARMS TOO SHORT TO BOX WITH GOD"** will be performed at the Union County Arts Center on Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. Regular ticket prices are \$40 and \$35. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, [www.ucac.org](http://www.ucac.org). Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway.

## VARIETY

**THE BACK PORCH** in Rahway will present Open Mic Night every Thursday night, a disc jockey every Friday night and solo artists and bands on Saturdays. Happy Hour is 4 to 7 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, with \$1 drafts and \$3 Long Island iced teas. Mondays are Mexican Mondays with \$2 shot specials, \$2 Coronas, \$2 margaritas and \$1 tacos. Wednesdays are Ladies Nights and karaoke. The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St., Rahway. For information, call 732-381-6544.

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

Every Sunday: Live comedy, funk and poetry; "Live at Instant Coffee," 8 p.m.

Every Monday: Open Mic Night, Happy Hour all night

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

Every Wednesday: Karaoke Night; Miller Lite and MGD, \$2 all night

Every Thursday: Fiesta Night; Corona, Cuervo and margaritas, \$2 all night. For information, call 908-232-5666 or visit [www.xxroads.com](http://www.xxroads.com).

Tonight is Groove Therapy, with Odd Man Out, and No Gone.

Sunday is a football Sunday, with the Sundaze Invitational Jam.

Monday is open mic night.

Tuesday is the Jazz Jam.

Wednesday is karaoke night.

Dec. 30 is The Dap.

Dec. 31 is the New Year's Eve party,

with Buster Cox, and Hot Monkey Love.

**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](mailto: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, 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.

**THE 50-VOICE RUTGERS UNIVERSITY CHORUS**, Newark Campus, will be making a nine-day concert tour in Scotland in May. Newspaper reviews of the chorus' 2003 performances in England praised the singers: "They are a truly magnificent group of vocalists" — *Slough Observer*, Slough, England. **The Watford Observer** of Watford, England, lauded them as "well disciplined singers ... did an excellent job." For information, call 973-353-5119, ext. 28 or [jfloren@earthlink.net](mailto:jfloren@earthlink.net).

## WORKSHOPS

**STARS OF TOMORROW PERFORMING ARTS CAMP OF CRANFORD** will have a free dance and improv workshop at its winter open shop, which is scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 16 at the Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 E. Lincoln Ave., Cranford, at the corner of Walnut. In case of inclement weather, the open house will be held on Jan. 19, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Workshops are geared to children ages kindergarten and up. For more information, call 908-276-5053 or visit the Web site, [www.StarOfTomorrow.com](http://www.StarOfTomorrow.com).

# Stepping Out

## Winnie was here for Christmas!



The Cranford Dramatic Club recently produced 'A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Carol.' In front, from left, are Alan Gershenson, Bill Chamis, Jake Forrestal and Debra Bassin. Back row, from left, are Kevin Kessler, John Duryee, Marc Ricci and Madge Wittal.

7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

**WRITERS WORKSHOP** meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

## CLASSES

**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 on Jan. 17, 2005, call: 908-757-7171, fax: 908-757-2626, or visit the Web site at [www.ducet.edu](http://www.ducet.edu) for details.

## 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, a headliner and a feature performer. Ticket price includes light refreshments after the show. The show begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, 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](http://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.

**GEORGE CARLIN** will bring his irreverent humor to the Union County Arts Center in Rahway on Jan. 22 at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and \$40. For tickets or information, call 732-499-8226.

## CONCERTS

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

Concerts are presented at Union

Emil Stucchio and the Classics, will be presented by LAR Enterprises on Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center. Tickets are \$35. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, [www.ucac.org](http://www.ucac.org). Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway.

**LOU RAWLS** will play at the Union County Arts Center on Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$65 and \$50. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, [www.ucac.org](http://www.ucac.org). Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway.

**FELIX CAVALIERE'S RASCALS** will perform on Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center. Cavaliere founded The Rascals and had hit songs including "A Beautiful Morning" and "Good Lovin'." Tickets are \$40 and \$30. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, [www.ucac.org](http://www.ucac.org). Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway.

## CRAFTS

**THE MILLER-CORY MUSEUM** will reopen on Jan. 9 at 2 p.m. with "The Legend of La Befana—Italy's Santa Claus." For information about the museum, its winter schedule of events or volunteer opportunities, call the museum office at 908-232-1776.

## DANCE

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

**"COOKIN,"** performed by the Fly Dance Company on Jan. 15 at 8 p.m., will feature the rhythmic sophistication of Debussy, Vivaldi and even B.B. King with the physicality and bravado of break dance and hip-hop. Regular ticket price is \$25, students pay \$18. For tickets, call the box office at 732-499-8226. For more information, visit the Web site, [www.ucac.org](http://www.ucac.org).

## 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.

## 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.

**"THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI"** will be shown on Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. All tickets are \$5. For ticket information, call 732-499-8226. For general information, visit the Web site, [www.ucac.org](http://www.ucac.org).

**"1941"** by Stephen Spielberg, will be shown on Jan. 29 at 2:30 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. All tickets are \$5. For ticket information, call 732-499-8226. For general information, visit the Web site, [www.ucac.org](http://www.ucac.org).

**"THE GREAT ESCAPE,"** starring Steve McQueen, James Garner and Richard Attenborough, will be shown on Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. All tickets are \$5. For ticket information, call 732-499-8226. For general information, visit the Web site, [www.ucac.org](http://www.ucac.org).

**"FROM HERE TO ETERNITY,"** starring Burt Lancaster, Montgomery Clift, Deborah Kerr, Frank Sinatra and Donna Reed, will be shown on Jan. 30 at 2:30 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. All tickets are \$5. For ticket information, call 732-499-8226. For general information, visit the Web site, [www.ucac.org](http://www.ucac.org).

## HOBBIES

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

**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 on Jan. 2 at 7 p.m. Join the group for a cup of gourmet coffee and a wide variety of organic foods

1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

## RADIO

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

## SINGLES

**DINNERMATES** and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant; wine and mingling is at 8 p.m., dinner is at 9 p.m. Two age groups are available. For information on dates and locations, call 732-822-9796 or visit [www.dinnermates.com](http://www.dinnermates.com).

**INTERFAITH SINGLES**, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at 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](http://www.njactors.org).

**"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.

**"ILLYRIA"** will be performed at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's Kirby Theatre on the Drew University campus for three final performances, tonight at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. For information and tickets,



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Orange Transcript • The Glen Ridge Paper  
Nutley Journal • Belleville Post  
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The Independent Press of Bloomfield

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## ADJUSTMENTS

Adjustments: We make every effort to avoid mistakes in your classified advertisement. Please check your ad the first day it runs! We cannot be responsible beyond the first insertion. Should an error occur please notify the classified department. Worral Community Newspapers, Inc. shall not be liable for errors or omissions in cost of actual space occupied by item in which error or omissions occurred. We can not be held liable for failure, for any cause, to insert an ad. Worral Community Newspapers, Inc. reserves the right to reject, revise or reclassify any advertisement at any time.

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All classified ads require prepayment.  
Please have your card and expiration date.



**SEARCH YOUR LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS ON THE INTERNET**  
[www.localsource.com](http://www.localsource.com)

E-Mail your ad to us at  
ads@thelocalsource.com

## CLASSIFIED SPECIALS

### GARAGE SALES

30 words \$31.00 or \$45.00 combo  
Garage Sale signs, price stickers, balloons,  
helpful hints, inventory sheet and Rain  
Insurance.

### ECONOMY CLASS

20 words \$8.00 or \$12.00 combo items for  
sale under \$200.00 One item per ad price  
must appear.

### AUTOS FOR SALE

20 words - 10 weeks \$39.00 or \$59.00  
combo no copy changes

## EMPLOYMENT

### HELP WANTED

\$1,000 WEEKLY possible mailing promotional letters for our company. Real earning potential. Work 100% from home. No selling or envelope stuffing. Call 1-708-231-7400 (24hrs) www.HBNBizOpp.com

\$525 WEEKLY income possible mailing sales letters. Genuine opportunity working with our Wellness Company. Supplies Provided. No selling. ET/PT. Call 1-708-536-7040 (24 hours).  
www.CardonaConsulting.com

\$990-\$2,320 WEEKLY POSSIBLE! Mailing our letters from home. Easy. Free info. Genuine opportunity. 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed. Call now! 1-800-679-6857. 24hrs.

**ADVANCE YOUR driving career!** Increase in pay package. Contractors and Company needed. Flatbed - Refrigerated - Tanker. Over-the-road. Some Regional. Commercial Driver's License Training. 1-800-771-6318. www.primeinc.com

**ANNOUNCEMENT: NOW Hiring** For 2005 Postal Jobs \$16.40-\$59.00/hour. Paid Training. Full Federal Benefits. No Experience Necessary. Green Card OK. Call 1-800-606-5049 ext #1000

**ATTENTION: LIVING Paycheck to Paycheck?** Earn Great \$\$\$ At Home Complete Training. Free information.  
www.gd-homebiz.com/ 1-888-718-1935

**AUTO MECHANIC:** Experienced in general repairs (on foreign cars). English speaking. Good opportunity for a career position. 908-272-8708.

**CONSTRUCTION INSPECTORS:** Craig Testing needs experienced soils, concrete, steel inspectors statewide. Pay commensurate with experience. Health insurance. Vacation. Call 1-800-258-3787 or fax resume 1-809-625-1798.

**DRIVERS:** YOU probably entered the driving profession so you could make an honest wage doing what you love, but is 25 cpm really an honest wage? To quote an article from the December 6 issue of Transport Topics, smaller fleets pay about 25 cents per mile compared with an average of 40 cents by larger carriers like J.B. Hunt Transport Services. Wouldn't you rather be averaging 40 cpm for the exact same job? At J.B. Hunt you can. J.B. Hunt drivers start at 34 to 36 cpm, and with guaranteed pay raises earn 37 cpm in just two to six months. That's 12 cpm more than you may be earning with a smaller carrier. And J.B. Hunt pays up to 43 cpm with a full benefits package plus many other extras: time off every 14 days, new Freightliner conventionals you can take home, 98% no touch freight, monthly bonuses and a career path featuring thousands of dedicated jobs and a zero-down lease opportunity. It's time to fulfill the goal you set out with - make an honest wage doing what you love. 1-800-2JB-HUNT Class A and 3 months experience required. EOE, subject to d/s.

**Data Entry:**  
Full Time Data Entry Clerk/Paginator.  
Excel & Word prof. Computer experience a must. 401K + benefits.  
Fax resume attn: Pete 908-686-4169.

**DRIVERS - REGIONAL** Runs. Home Weekly Available Midwest & Northeast. Also hiring OTR company-owner operator solo-teams. 1-800-CFL-DRIVE  
www.cfdrive.com

**DRIVERS- NORTHEAST** Regional \$42/Mile to start. Great benefits. Requires 1 year tractor trailer experience and clean motor vehicle record NAPA Transportation. 1-800-332-0263 extension 222.

**DATA ENTRY** could earn \$15/ Hour and up! Medical Billing. Training provided. PC required! Call 7 days 1-800-935-1311 extension 308

### HELP WANTED

**DATA ENTRY** Flexible Hours! \$\$\$\$ Great Pay \$\$\$\$ Serious, responsible Applicants with personal Computer. Work from Home, 1-800-913-2823 Ext #63

**DATA ENTRY** work from home. Flexible Hours! \$\$\$\$ Great Pay \$\$\$\$ Personal Computer Required. 1-800-913-2823 Ext#100

**DRIVER** To provide occasional transportation for retired gentleman in Mountainside. About 2 hours, 3 times weekly. Flexible. Call 908-232-1671

**DRIVERS WANTED:** Suburban Essex Cab company seeking part/full time help. 30-50 hours week. Good pay. Steady work. 973-762-6700.

**EARN \$1,000-\$3,500 WEEKLY** Answering Surveys Online! \$25.00-\$75.00 Per Survey! Free Registration! Guaranteed Paychecks! Process E-mails Online! Earn \$25.00/E-mail! Free Government Grants! \$12,000-\$500,000! Everyone Qualifies!  
www.RealCashPrograms.com

**\$\$\$\$EARN \$3200 WEEKLY! \$\$\$** Processing E-mails Online! Make \$25.00 per E-mail! No limit. Answer survey Online! Make 15.00+ per survey! Guaranteed. Paychecks! Amazing Employment Opportunities!  
http://www.processmail.com

**GOVERNMENT JOBS!** Wildlife/Postal \$16.51 to \$58.00 per hour. Full Benefits. Paid Training. Call for Application and Exam Information. No Experience necessary. Toll Free 1-888-269-6090 ext. 200

**GUY/GAL FRIDAY:** hard working motivated multi tasker, data entry/customer service. Computer/phone skills essential. Dental lab experience a plus. Maplewood. 973-761-0032.

**HELP WANTED** Earn up to \$409 a week assembling CD cases at home. No experience necessary. Start immediately! Call 1-800-267-3944 extension 119  
www.easywork-greatpay.com

**HAIRSTYLIST** for Montclair Salon. Must have licenses, experience with black hair and clientele. Opportunity to be in magazine and work with celebrities. Call 973-783-1353

**HIRING** for 2004 Postal Positions \$15-\$45/Hour. Federal Hire with full benefits. No experience necessary. Green card ok. Call 1-866-317-0558 ext. 319.

**LOOKING** for someone who is detail oriented, responsible and familiar with general office procedures. A/P & A/R. To work part time 10 hours per week. Tuesday thru Friday. Call 908-687-1335.

**NANNY, FULL TIME/ Part Time.** Must have car and valid driver's license, non-smoker, excellent references. Call 973-912-8346.

**NO BOSS!** No Commute! Learn to Earn \$2,000-\$4,000/Week. From home. Call for Free Message 1-800-259-0519.

**OFFICE HELP:** Receivables/Payables, Bank Reconciliation, Quick Books, Some Computer Experience, Answer phones. Tuesday thru Saturday. Call Cal Deckert & Sons, 908-688-4746

**ONE-MAN** Cabinet shop in Kenilworth, NJ looking for apprentice. Must have knowledge of trade, and eager to learn. Full or part time. Own transportation a must. 908-259-0599

**PART TIME** help needed for storage company. Flexible daytime hours. Inquire Monday thru Thursday, 9am-5pm. Come in for application 1229 Rt22 East, Mountainside, N.J. or call for an appointment 908-928-1400

## ADVERTISE

### HELP WANTED

#### Switchboard Operator, Per Diem

Union Hospital, an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, is seeking a Per Diem Switchboard Operator to work Nights, Weekends and Holidays. High School diploma (or equivalent) required and minimum one year experience with NEC phone system preferred, but will train the right candidate. Bilingual in English/Spanish a plus. We offer competitive pay rates - visit sbhscareers.com to learn more. Please forward resume to: Human Resources, Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union, NJ 07083. Fax: 908-851-7535; Email: unhjobs@sbhcs.com. EOE

Union Hospital. An affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System

**SECRET SHOPPERS** needed for store evaluations. get paid to shop. Local stores, restaurants and theaters. Training provided. E-mail required. 1-800-585-9024 ext. 6252.

**TELLER POSITION:** Full time teller needed: Looking for highly motivated person for a fast growing credit union, friendly work environment and great benefits. Experience preferred but not required. Fax resume to 908-771-9349. Attention: Patti.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**EACH WEEK** hundreds of Public Notices are published in New Jersey's daily and weekly newspapers! The New Jersey Press Association has created a Internet database where these notices are posted. [njpublicnotices.com](http://njpublicnotices.com). You have access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to statewide sheriff sales, foreclosures, Rep. bids for schools, town meetings, variances, plus many other types. Search for notices manually or subscribe to Smart Search and have notices sent to your email address automatically. Go to: [www.njpublicnotices.com](http://www.njpublicnotices.com) for more information and to subscribe.

**INVENTORS -PRODUCT** Ideas Needed. Davison is looking for new or improved product ideas or inventions to prepare/present to corporations for licensing. Free information package. 1-800-544-3327

**REACH OVER** 1.5 million households! The New Jersey Press Association can place your 2x2 Display Ad in over 130 NJ weekly newspapers for ONLY \$1050. Call Diane Trent at NJPA at 609-406-0600 extension 24 or e-mail drent@njpa.org for more information. (Nationwide placement available).

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### PERSONALS

**ADOPT:** A loving childless married couple wish to adopt newborn. Eager to share life-time of love. Full time mom and devoted Dad. Expenses paid. Liz and Ed. 1-800-922-3372 (Pin#00)

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### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

**ABSOLUTELY NO** cost to you. new power wheelchairs, Scooters, hospital beds, and diabetic supplies.. Call 1-800-843-9199 to see if you qualify. NJ location.

**BED-VISCO** Elastic memory Foam. New Queen set, as seen on TV, Value \$1500, sell \$375 can deliver. 732-259-6690.

**BEDROOM SE-** Queen, triple dresser w/mirror, 2 night stands. New in box, sell \$695, can deliver. 732-259-6690.

**BED:** King size mattress set w/warranty. New in plastic. Sell \$225. 732-259-6690.

**COMPLETE HOME FITNESS** Room -gym, treadmill, elliptical, weight bench. Never used \$5000. Must sell or each. Call 888-397-3529 for details. Looking for offers.

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www.dtv2day.com

**DINING ROOM -Cherry** set, double pedestal table, 2 piece hutch, 6 chairs, new in boxes. List \$3000, sell \$1425. 732-259-6690.

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### PETS

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**A free press is the strength behind democracy.**

At Worral community Newspapers, reporters learn what it takes to become good reporters. Why? Because reporting for one or more of our weekly newspapers means becoming involved in the communities we serve. From news stories to features, from council coverage to police blotters, from community events to the Board of Education, reporters are the eyes and ears of all of our readers. Worral Newspapers, which publishes 18 newspapers serving 26 towns, has openings for reporters in its Essex and Union County regions. If you think you have what it takes to be a reporter, send resume and clips to Tom Canavan, P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J. 07083, or fax to (908) 686-4169.

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# REAL ESTATE

## RENTAL

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## Many different kinds of mortgages, since no two buyers are alike

Are you half-heartedly looking at houses in one price bracket, while fervently wishing you could afford your dream home? Would you rather pay off a mortgage quickly, or get your monthly payments as low as possible? Will you put all of the equity from your present home into your next one, or would you rather take cash out for a child's college expenses, a wedding, or a vacation home?

"No two borrowing situations are alike," said Fred Watkins, president of Weichert Financial Services. "Every home buyer has different circumstances, different financial goals, and a different psychological make-up that will affect the type of mortgage loan that will work best for that individual. Our role is to help home buyers understand their options and get the mortgage whose rates and terms are right for them."

According to Watkins, few consumers appreciate the enormous diversity of mortgages available and that the type of mortgage they choose has all kinds of financial ramifications, starting with the price level of home they can afford.

"Take a hypothetical couple who qualify for a \$2,000 a month mortgage payment," he said. "Depending on interest rates on any given day, that \$2,000 a month might enable them to purchase a home in the mid-\$300,000s under one mortgage plan. Under another, the couple's \$2,000 a month could represent first payments, subject to adjustment later, on a \$700,000-plus home. In other words, for the same monthly payments, that couple might be able to forgo an interim house and move right into their dream house."

To make finding the right home financing easier, Weichert Financial Services offers loans for virtually any situation, more than 370 mortgage products in all. These range from the traditional 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage that offers rate stability and predictable payments, to the newer "interest only" adjustable rate mortgages and other innovative financing products that help people stretch their home buying dollars as never before.

Weichert's mortgage products run the full gamut of customer needs. There are no-down-payment loans for buyers with little savings but incomes

that can easily handle mortgage payments, as well as mortgages for people with less-than-spotless credit. For high income, high net worth buyers, loan amounts can go all the way up to \$2 million.

An affiliate of Weichert, Realtors, Weichert Financial Services has experienced mortgage professionals serving every Weichert office. Called gold services managers because they can facilitate a host of home-related services, these financing experts can provide pre-purchase mortgage credit approvals virtually on the spot, help

buyers find the mortgage that constitutes "the best fit," and greatly streamline the mortgage process. A "one stop, many solutions," customer resource, Weichert gold services managers can also help expedite homeowners' insurance, title insurance, the moving process, and many post-move needs that come up.

As for finding a mortgage solution, the Weichert Financial Services president said, "People have only to sit down and tell us what their situation is. We'd be surprised if we didn't have a mortgage for them."

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Taylor is named to President's Council

Joyce Taylor, a top-producing sales associate from the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office, was recently awarded inclusion into the prestigious Burgdorff ERA President's Council for 2004. Recognizing only the top 17 sales associates out of Burgdorff's over 700 member sales force, membership in the Burgdorff ERA President's Council is the company's highest and most distinguished honor. She ranks 11th in the company.

Announced during the recent Burgdorff ERA Annual Awards Breakfast, Joyce was recognized by Burgdorff ERA President Pat Hoferkamp for outstanding sales production for the year 2003.

"Joyce's dedication to the highest principles of professionalism and integrity have earned her the respect and admiration of the real estate community," said Hoferkamp.

"A strong negotiator and well known locally for her work ethic and ease of style, Joyce continues to serve the needs of her clients with uncommon loyalty and responsibility."

Taylor has been a member of the NJAR Circle of Excellence since 1977 and has been a member of Burgdorff's President Elite, Leaders Circle, and President's Club.

A dedicated professional in every sense of the word, Joyce has a reputation for giving 100 percent, and she is a great asset to Burgdorff. Her family-oriented and straightforward approach has earned her many loyal and repeat customers.

Taylor has lived in Westfield for more than 39 years. She and her husband, Bill, have raised seven children — all of whom graduated from Westfield public schools. She is also the proud "Nana" of 20 grandchildren.

To contact the award-winning professional, call her at 908-233-6417, e-mail her at [Joyce-Taylor@burgdorff.com](mailto:Joyce-Taylor@burgdorff.com), or visit the Westfield office at 600 North Avenue West.

### Kiss goes the extra mile for buyers and sellers

"I have no family in the area,"

explained Lisa Viola. "And, I needed to find a comfortable home for myself and my two children that was near their school and friends."

Recently divorced, Viola spent four months with Lenore Kiss, sales associate with the Summit office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, N.Y., looking for a home in Florham Park. "We looked at tons of home together," said Viola.

"The market in Florham Park has been very aggressive; homes would be on the market one day and sold the

next. Lenore contacted me by phone or e-mail as soon as she saw something that fit our needs and price range.

Finally we found a lovely split level that needed some cosmetic work, but had a huge backyard and was close to my kids' school. It was perfect."

But Kiss did not stop there. On moving day, she dressed in her jeans and showed up at Viola's front door to help with any last minute packing. She loaded her car, delivered boxes to the new home, pitched in with anything else that needed to be done.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: SANDRA EPPS, her heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and her, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest;

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon ZUCKER, GOLDBERG & ACKERMAN, ESQS., plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 200 Sheffield Street, Suite 301, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092-0024, telephone number 1-908-233-8500, an Answer to the Complaint and Amendment to Foreclosure Complaint filed in a civil action, in which MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. is plaintiff, and MARIA EPPS, et al., are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, and bearing Docket F-20067-04 within thirty-five (35) days after December 23, 2004 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint and Amendment to Foreclosure Complaint. You shall file your Answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex-CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, together with your check in the sum of \$135.00 representing the filing fee in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a Mortgage dated 06/19/2003 made by Maria Epps and John Epps mortgagors, to American Business Mortgage Services, Inc. recorded on 07/15/2003 in Book 10198 of Mortgages for Union County, Page 0058 which Mortgage was assigned on 09/14/2004 to the plaintiff, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. by Assignment of Mortgage recorded on 10/18/2004 in Book 01336 of Assignments of Mortgages for Union County, Page 0440; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 619-621 West 3rd Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060. If you are unable to obtain an Attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey Bar Association by calling 609-394-1101. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 908-353-4715. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services office of the County of venue by calling 908-354-4340.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and his, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest;

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon ZUCKER, GOLDBERG & ACKERMAN, ESQS., plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 200 Sheffield Street, Suite 301, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092-0024, telephone number 1-908-233-8500, an Answer to the Complaint and Amendment to Foreclosure Complaint filed in a civil action, in which Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. is plaintiff, and SHEILA G. ARMSTRONG, et al., are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, and bearing Docket F-20742-04 within thirty-five (35) days after December 23, 2004 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint and Amendment to Foreclosure Complaint. You shall file your Answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex-CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, together with your check in the sum of \$135.00 representing the filing fee in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a Mortgage dated 11/22/1989 made by Sheila G. Armstrong and William Armstrong as mortgagors, to Travelers Mortgage Services, Inc. recorded on 11/30/1989 in Book 4028 of Mortgages for Union County, Page 0714 which Mortgage was assigned on to the plaintiff, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by Assignment of Mortgage which is unrecorded at this time; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 129 Lafayette Place, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

If you are unable to obtain an Attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey Bar Association by calling 609-394-1101. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 908-353-4715. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services office of the County of venue by calling 908-354-4340.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: DONALD F. PHELAN, CLERK SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY TO: COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. File XC2L 66119 U97361 WCN Dec. 23, 2004 (\$64.50)

demanded against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint and Amendment to Foreclosure Complaint. You shall file your Answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex-CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, together with your check in the sum of \$135.00 representing the filing fee in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a Mortgage dated 11/22/1989 made by Sheila G. Armstrong and William Armstrong as mortgagors, to Travelers Mortgage Services, Inc. recorded on 11/30/1989 in Book 4028 of Mortgages for Union County, Page 0714 which Mortgage was assigned on to the plaintiff, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by Assignment of Mortgage which is unrecorded at this time; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 129 Lafayette Place, Plainfield, NJ 07060.

If you are unable to obtain an Attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey Bar Association by calling 609-394-1101. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 908-353-4715. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services office of the County of venue by calling 908-354-4340.

William Armstrong, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and his, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest are made party defendants to this foreclosure action because he executed plaintiff's obligation and mortgage being foreclosed herein and may be liable for any deficiency and because he is the owner of record of the mortgaged premises being foreclosed herein and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

DONALD F. PHELAN, CLERK SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY TO: COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. File XC2V 42722 U97442 WCN Dec. 23, 2004 (\$61.50)

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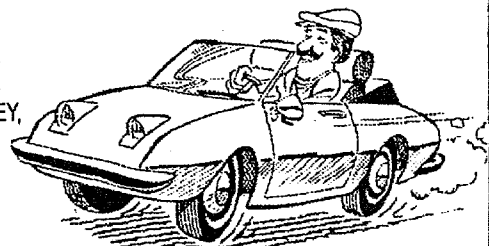
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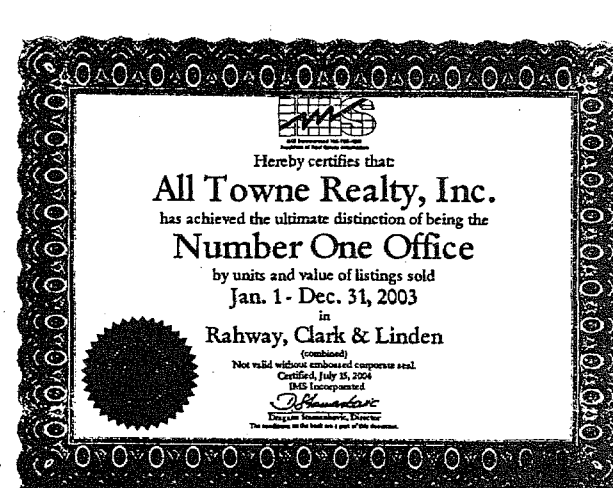
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# REAL ESTATE

## Know your market, every step of the way

Buying or selling a home can be a challenging experience for both new and experienced homebuyers and sellers. As a result, approximately 90 percent of American homeowners work with a real estate professional who has access to valuable information, and the background and skills to make the process faster and easier.

Even if you have bought or sold a home before, you may still be unclear about the value and timing of several components of the real estate process, namely, the market analysis, the inspection and the appraisal.

A market analysis is conducted shortly after you decide to put your home up for sale, when you need to establish the right asking price. ERA's Comparative Market Analysis supplies sellers with information on comparable homes that have sold or gone under contract in the area and provides a realistic estimate of a home's fair market value based on the most important features of the real estate market.

"The CMA educates our customers about the local market," according to John C. Nuss, broker/owner, ERA Best Choice Realtors. "We look at a range of homes in the same town which fall into an equivalent category. In addition to features such as bedrooms, bathrooms and total square footage, we also factor in the condition and location of the home in determining a price range. As part of our service, we also suggest to the homeowner what improvements they can make to their home in order to increase the value."

After a buyer makes an offer on a

home, he or she generally calls an inspector to examine the house. A professional home inspector will check things such as the plumbing, heating, cooling and electrical systems, and look for structural problems. The inspection report will describe repairs that are recommended or needed. With full information, a buyer can then decide whether to negotiate with the seller to make the needed repairs or change the price. Real estate agents can refer buyers to qualified inspectors in their area.

A real estate appraisal comes later in the process, when you apply for a mortgage. Lenders hire professional real estate appraisers to evaluate properties under consideration for a mortgage. The appraisal is an unbiased opinion of the property's value based on its style and appearance, construction quality, usefulness and the value of comparable homes in the area. "Appraisers generally belong to the local Multiple Listing Service in order to assess a home for sale with similar ones that have sold," added Nuss. The appraiser will report whether the home is priced fairly, helping the lender decide whether to accept the mortgage.

For more information on CMAs, inspections and appraisals, contact your local ERA office or visit ERANJ.com. ERA is a global leader in the residential real estate industry with more than 30 years of experience in developing consumer-oriented products and services. The ERA Real Estate network includes more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 30 other countries and territories.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Berger named top seller for month of October

Lois Berger, a consistent top achiever in the Burgdorff ERA, Westfield office, has been honored as Sales Agent of the Month for October.

Berger is a 27-year veteran of the real estate profession. A broker since 1984, she has earned the NJAR Circle of Excellence Sales Award yearly since 1981. She is an original member of NJAR's Distinguished Sales Club. She has many achievements in her association with Burgdorff Realtors ERA. These include Membership in the President's Club, membership in the President's Elite, and a seat on Burgdorff's special President's Council. She has also been awarded ERA's Leader's Circle for 1997, 2000-2001 and 2003.

A believer in continuing real estate education, Berger has earned her certification as a certified real estate specialist, recognition as a historic homes specialist and Candant Mobility marketing specialist. Berger holds a Bachelor or Arts degree from Douglass College and a Master of Science Degree from Queens College. She has held many positions on the Board of Realtors. Lois has lived with her husband, Joseph, in Westfield for more than 30 years.

George Kraus, vice president and manager of the Westfield office, stated, "Lois' outstanding efforts in service to her clients needs are what distinguishes her as a top agent in our industry. Mrs. Berger has a vast knowledge of Union County and has a comprehensive understanding of the area."

You may contact Berger at her

direct line 908-233-6366 or e-mail her at Lois-Berger@burgdorff.com.

### Westfield Weichert lists September awards

Sales associates in Weichert, Realtors' Westfield office, received the office's top awards in September. In addition, the entire office won the regional award for top resale listings during September. Harvey Tekel, branch manager, made the announcement.

Frank Silletti led the office in sales. Silletti is a member of Weichert's 2003 Million Dollar Sales Club. He also holds membership in the New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence at the bronze level.

Niki Fry earned the office's award for top listings.

She is a member of Weichert's 2003 Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs, and Weichert's 2003 President's Club, an honor that places her in the top 1 percent of the company's 13,300 sales associates. In addition, Fry is a 2003 member of the NJAR Circle of Excellence at the silver level.

Holly Cohen was named top producer for the month. She is a member of Weichert's 2003 Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs and Weichert's 2003 President's Club. In addition, Cohen is a 2003 member of the NJAR Circle of Excellence at the silver level.

Invite the fine sales associates from Weichert's Westfield Office in to learn about the real estate services that Weichert has to offer. They can be reached for real estate at 908-654-7777, located at 185 Elm St.

## 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, there by 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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| MORTGAGE CORP      | 5.75+0/5.779(jbo)       |                         | 3.0+0/3.009(1yr)       | www.anfedmty.com                                 |
| 888-321-4687       | 5.375+0/5.379(FHA)      |                         |                        |  |
| COLUMBIA BANK      | 5.000+3/5.294           | 4.750+3/5.145           | 4.125+0/5.290(1/1)     | 20yr fix 5.500+0/5.532 to IMM / 10yr fix         |
| 800-962-4989       | 5.250+2/5.455           | 5.000+2/5.274           | 4.250+0/5.128(3/1)     | 4.875+0/4.931 Ask about our construction-perm    |
|                    | 5.500+1/5.615           | 5.250+1/5.403           | 4.500+0/5.071(5/1)     | 2nd & invest homes. Affordable housing discount  |
|                    | 5.750+0/5.774           | 5.000+0/5.839           | 5.125+0/5.274(7/1)     | 80/10/10 no PMI prog reduced doc & many more     |
| FLEET MORTGAGE     | 5.5+0/5.883             | 4.75+0/5.425            | 4.375+0/4.338(5yr)     | Call 1-800-9FLEET-1                              |
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|                    | 5.875+0/5.92(jbo)       | 5.25+0/5.32(jbo)        | 5.5+0/5.5(10/1)        | more details and rates.                          |

\*E-mail questions to the lenders  
\*Hyperlinks to all lender Web sites

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Information is current as of December 20, 2004 and believed to be accurate but can not be guaranteed and can change without notice. Credit history, FICO Score and other factors may affect program terms. Rates based on \$165,000 single family loan. Jumbo rates (loans over \$359,650) based on a \$375,000 loan. Minimum downpayment requirements, and other restrictions, may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. R = refinance program only. Pts = points include origination and discount fees. Lock = rate lock period. 30 - 60 day lock unless specified. APR = Annual Percentage Rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. ARM (pgm) = Adjustable Rate Mortgage program. Copyright 2004 Consumer News Systems, Inc.

### 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 5.68 percent, with an average 0.6 points, for the week ending December 16, 2004, down from last week when it averaged 5.71 percent. Last year at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 5.88 percent.

The average for the 15-year FRM this week is 5.11 percent, with an average 0.6 points, down as well from last week when it averaged 5.14 percent. A year ago, the 15-year FRM averaged 5.24 percent.

One-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 4.18 percent this week, with an average 0.7 point, up from last week when it averaged 4.15 percent. At this time last year, the one-year ARM averaged 3.77 percent.

(Average commitment rates should be reported along with average fees and points to reflect the total cost of obtaining the mortgage.)

"The Commerce Department report on housing starts showed a considerable drop in starts in November," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac vice president and chief economist. "However, with December's mortgage rates continuing to dip even further, we expect housing starts will bounce back fairly quickly."

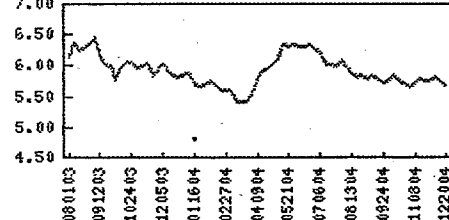
"There is no doubt now that 2004 will be a record year for single-family construction. That said, because of low mortgage rates, we feel confident that 2005 will not be very far behind this year."

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

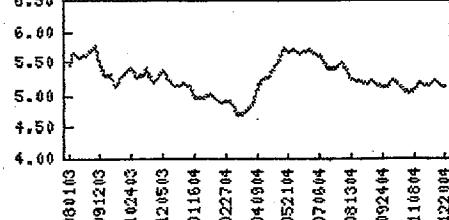
#### 30-year mortgage

National Average: 5.68%



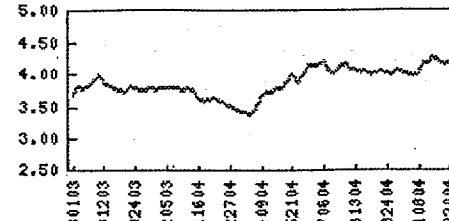
#### 15-year mortgage

National Average: 5.11%



#### 1-year ARM mortgage

National Average: 4.18%



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### AUTOMOTIVE

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