

GOLF

ASHBROOK WOMEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS
(July 31)

Member Member
1st Place — Natalie Pines, Alice Kehler, Estelle Miller, Miss Federici 57
2nd Place — Nancy Bowers, Ronnie Budd, Elaine Baker, Cynthia Smith 59

2nd Place (tie) — Sue Mills, Anna Chung, Kim Goodson, Shirley Casarola 59
Low Puts — Gina Sandhagen 59
Chip In — Miss Federici 57 Miss Hoerner 61
4th, Alicia Kehler 613

SHIPPEN TOURNAMENT
Results of the 7th annual John Shippen Memorial Golf Tournament held June 23 at the Shackamaxon Golf and Country Club.

Men
1st low gross — Jim Checchio 74
2nd low gross — Steve Cicara 80
3rd low gross — Davey Lyons 81
1st low net — Gary Bechell 72
2nd low net — Steven Mills 72
3rd low net — Norman Longo 72
Longest Drive — Tom Lewis
Closest to the Pin — Jack Schaffhauser

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JOB WELL DONE

The four-week Cranford PAL Track and Field Program concluded on July 28 with age-group championship medals awarded to 11 participants. Pictured are, front row L-R, Elizabeth Woglom, Garrett Dickson, Mackenzie Dow; Middle row, Matthew Bashaw, Patrick Mula; Back row, Brian Styler, Kevin Holmes, Mike Dow (Program Director). Missing from picture are Hope Zanko and Sarah Maler.

SPORTSCENE

SPRIGGIO JOINS SU TRAINING STAFF

Syracuse University Director of Sports Medicine, Don Lowe, recently named Cranford native, Theresa Spriggio, new assistant athletic trainer.

Spriggio, who earned a B.A. in Physical Education with an option in Athletic Training from Kean College in 1995 and an M.E. in Supervision and Administration from Saint Peter's College, worked as a graduate assistant athletic trainer at Saint Peter's for two years.

CARD & MEMORABILIA SHOW

The Kenilworth Inn Sports Cards and Memorabilia show will be held Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at The Kenilworth Inn. The show will be hosted by Collectors Showcase in conjunction with Schenker Promotions.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. Appearing at the event will be Bobby Richardson and Cleo Boyer, both of whom starred for the New York Yankees in 1961. Second baseman, Richardson, played in seven World Series, led the American League in double plays four times, won five consecutive Gold Gloves (1961-1965) and was named Most Valuable Player of the 1960 World Series. Boyer played in the majors for 16 years, eight years with the Yankees where he was part of five World Series championships. Boyer is considered one of the best fielding third basemen of all time.

Both players will be available to sign autographs from noon-2 p.m. The fee to sign a flat item is \$10. Signatures on all other items will cost \$15.

In addition to the outstanding sports line-up, approximately 50 prominent vendors from the tri-state area will be available to the public. They will be selling, buying, trading and talking baseball cards, sports cards, non-sport cards and memorabilia.

The Kenilworth Inn is located immediately off exit 138 of the Garden State Parkway on Boulevard and South 31st St. For further information, call (732) 291-1632. For mail-order autographs, call (732) 223-1917.

LIGHTNING ALL-STAR
The NJ Lightning AAU baseball team is seeking 13 and 14-year-old all-star teams to play on weekends in the fall.

The Lightning would like to start a fall league if enough teams are interested.

For further details, call Frank at 750-5506 after 9 p.m.

BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT
On Saturday, Aug. 24, Sandy Hook Food and Fuel will host a Bluefish Tournament. The tournament will be open to a 200 boat limit with a total of \$10,000 in prizes. Entry fee for the tournament is \$65 per boat.

The tournament will begin at 6 a.m. at the Leonardo State Marina, on Concord Avenue in Leonardo. NJ applications will be available at local bait and tackle shops, or by calling (732) 291-3444 or (732) 872-1291.

The captain's meeting will be held on Aug. 23 at the Leonardo State Marina on the Sandy Hook Food and Fuel dock at 7 p.m. The boating/fishing public is cordially invited.

If you are unable to drop items off but would like to participate, call Gordon Braunwell at 709-1569 to arrange pickup at your home.

The cost to attend is \$3 per person. No glass or alcoholic beverages are allowed. For more information, call 709-7270 or 709-7260.

THE ASSOCIATES
The Cranford Swim Pool Utility has announced The Associates will perform at Orange Avenue Pool 8-11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22.

The Associates is a six-piece band that features music from the Big Band era.

The cost to attend is \$3 per person. No glass or alcoholic beverages are allowed. For more information, call 709-7270 or 709-7260.

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CRANFORD • GARWOOD • KENILWORTH

Thursday, August 14, 1997

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Briefs

'Reading hours' due at library

'Reading hours' for the summer reading club of the Cranford Public Library must be turned in by 2 p.m. tomorrow.

A carnival for reading club members will be 9:30 a.m.-noon Wednesday.

Tickets may be picked in the children's department of the library Monday and Tuesday. Raindate for the carnival is Thursday, Aug. 21.

Garwood women planning reunion

Members of the former Garwood Woman's Club will hold a reunion, noon Saturday, Sept. 20 with an international buffet lunch at The Westwood.

The reunion committee is looking for names and addresses of former members. For reservations, send a check for \$20 by Wednesday, Sept. 10 to Fran Harris, 235 Locust Ave., Garwood, N.J. 07027.

For more information, call Mary Guare at 789-0598.

CHS Class of 1992 plans reunion

The Cranford High School Class of 1992 is looking for members to attend its fifth-anniversary reunion Saturday, Sept. 6 in Nonahagan Park.

For more information, call Kieran Healey at 272-0934. The cost is \$25.

Brearely Boosters to meet tonight

David Brearely High School Athletic Booster Club meeting will be held at 7 tonight in the high school cafeteria, on Monroe Avenue in Kenilworth. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Debbie Paster at 272-8416.

Boy Scouts to collect recyclables Saturday

Cranford Boy Scout Troop 178 will collect newspapers and aluminum cans 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday at the conservation center on Birchwood Avenue to help support troop activities.

If you are unable to drop items off but would like to participate, call Gordon Braunwell at 709-1569 to arrange pickup at your home.

The Associates to perform at pool

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Township flooded with complaints

Officials unveil steps to solve problem

By SHEA THOMAS

THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — "You did a good job handling the flood, but what needs to be discussed is preventing them," said Edgar Avenue resident Fran Boyer at Tuesday's Township Committee meeting.

Other residents were in attendance to encourage township officials to take stronger actions concerning Cranford's tendency to flood. In response, the township unveiled steps to solve the problem.

This meeting was a followup

for many residents who attended the township engineer's Aug. 5 meeting to discuss the problem in-depth.

During this meeting, Cranford Place resident George Wit, which in part asked for the dismissal of Township Engineer Richard E. Brown.

The affidavit stated Mr. Brown had failed to fulfill his job responsibilities, and Mr. Wit asked for a "letter of reprimand" to be placed in his file because of the severe financial losses and great inconveniences suffered by residents caused by the Oct. 19, 1996

flood, and more recent floods. In a letter written by Edgar Avenue resident Liz Fiume, she blasted township officials for what she considered their lack of concern for Cranford's flood problem and encouraged residents to band together in an effort to get officials to make a stronger effort in solving the problem.

"If it were not for our neighbors who got up at 4 a.m., we would have been unaware that we had to move our cars. In order to get away from the floods, we have to go through our neighbor's yards by foot," Mrs. Fiume said at

(Continued on page A-2)



New in town

Cranford Mayor J. Robert Hoeffler and A. Clothes Call owner Justine T. Bantang cut the ribbon officially opening the store last week. At right is assistant manager Jackie Haddock. The store, which is adjacent to the post office, features misley and junior apparel. Ms. Bantang has 10 years' experience in retail and a degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.



Dan Bartone of Antone's and Elizabeth Youngs of the Cranford Historical Society pose next to the historical photos of Cranford.

Old photos give restaurant new look

By SHEA THOMAS

THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — When Antone's owner Dan Bartone wanted to get the restaurant remodeled, he got more than he expected. "I was interested in having the restaurant upgraded, so I contacted design consultant Liz Youngs," Mr. Bartone said.

Mrs. Youngs is also on the Board of Trustees of the Cranford Historical Society and suggested Antone's use some historical township photos for the interior of the South Avenue bar/restaurant.

"I thought a Cranford theme throughout the restaurant would be nice for people to see," Mrs. Youngs said.

Historical Society President Larry Fuhr

gave them photos from the Hanson House archives of policemen and firefighters from the 1920s.

"This was great because they used to come here for lunch when they were done with their shifts," Mrs. Youngs said. "They got a lot of help from many area business owners."

Dreyer's Farms in Cranford designed the custom-made planters on the outside of the building and Bergen Camera restored and enlarged the photos donated by Historical Society President Larry Fuhr.

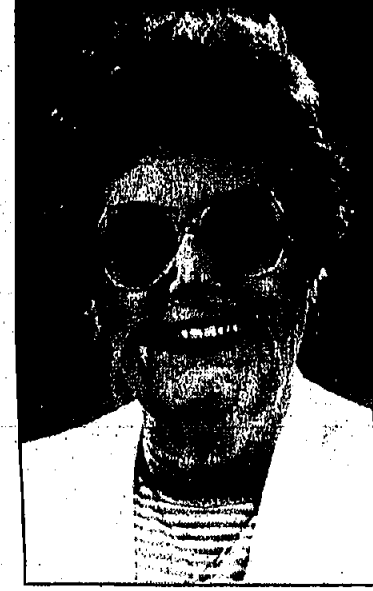
Mrs. Youngs said the cost to have the work done, giving the restaurant an "English pub" look, was moderate and gives the bar and grill a lot more personality. Patrons seem to agree.

Longtime resident Molly Crane Rudd was recently having dinner at the restaurant with her husband, Channing. She liked the new look.

"I'm so happy because it's so nice and pleasant, the people here do a really great job and the new look is wonderful," Mrs. Rudd said.

The new look seems to appeal to the younger crowd, too. "I like the new photos and the new theme. It's interesting," said 28-year-old patron Victoria Masculi of Cranford.

Along with work to the building, there has also been an addition for beer lovers. "We recently added our own specially brewed beer to the menu called Antone's South Avenue Amber," Mr. Bartone said.



ANNE M. SANTULLI

Santulli 'loved this job'

'Chamber Lady' served 20 years

By MAUREEN FOYE

CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

CRANFORD — After more than 20 years, Anne M. Santulli has resigned as executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

"The time has come for me to pursue other interests," she said. "I will remain behind the scenes and involved in chamber events."

She officially resigned May 30 but has spent the past few months training Mayor J. Robert Hoeffler, who will become executive director of the chamber and assume her responsibilities with assistance from his daughter-in-law, Cheryl Hoeffler.

"I have really loved this job," Mrs. Santulli said, "and I dearly love Cranford."

"I have enjoyed the challenge of resolving problems for many people, assisting retailers and helping new residents settle in Cranford."

She moved to Cranford 39 years ago from Hudson County with her husband George, the chamber's longtime accountant who is now deceased. The Santullis raised a son, Sandy, and two daughters, Susan and Joan.

"Cranford and the chamber has meant so much to my family and I over the years," Mrs. Santulli said.

"As we would go through downtown and pass the Cranford Hotel, George would say to me, 'Gee, honey I'm glad we live in Cranford — I love it here.'"

During the time she was with the chamber, she worked with 11 presidents and more than 200 people on the Board of Directors.

In recent years, the chamber has really taken off," she said. "The directors have really

(Continued on page A-2)

Garwood teacher honored with governor's award

By MAUREEN FOYE

CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

GARWOOD — Former resident Virginia Hansen, a physical education and health teacher in the borough's schools, has been honored with a Governor's Teacher Recognition Award.

She received a plaque and certificate during a recent breakfast at L'Affaire in Mountainside honoring teachers in Union County.

"There are so many good, quality teachers in Garwood that I am quite pleased and honored with this recognition," said Mrs. Hansen, who lives in Middlesex

with her husband George, also a physical education and health teacher in Garwood.

She has been teaching for 34 years at Lincoln School, Franklin School and Washington School. The Garwood native attended school in Garwood and returned to the borough for her teaching career when she graduated from college.

"I have always enjoyed working in Garwood all these years," she said. "I love teaching and I want the children to be physically fit."

Other towns throughout Union County and the state can

select several teachers to receive this award, but because of Garwood's size it was only designated by the governor, Mrs. Hansen was presented with a plaque from the Board of Education.

The Garwood Parent-Teacher Association gave her a monetary award on graduation night in June to be used toward her curriculum this fall.

"This sure has been an honor, I am quite surprised and pleased after 24 years," she said.

The Hansens have two sons, Stephen, 15, and Michael, 7.

(Continued on page A-2)

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Commentary

Politicians pulling insurance frauds

Auto insurance rates are like the weather. Everybody talks about them, but nobody does anything about it. Auto insurance is turning out to be the hot issue in this year's gubernatorial race. Both Gov. Christine Todd Whitman and Democratic challenger James McGreevey are exchanging promises to cut rates for New Jersey voters, who pay the highest premiums in the country.

Gov. Whitman, whose proposal to reform rates was smothered earlier this year in the Legislature, promised Monday that rates would decrease between 5-25 percent under her plan. The cornerstone of her plan is a provision that would allow motorists to trade the right to sue for pain and suffering for lower rates.

Mr. McGreevey, who has criticized the incumbent for rate increases granted by her administration, has called for a special legislative session to handle the auto insurance problems. The challenger said he will lower premiums by 10 percent by cracking down on fraud, though he has not given details of his plan.

The candidates, faithful to their respective political philosophies, are taking on the usual villains. Gov. Whitman is demonizing trial lawyers, while Mr. McGreevey is targeting the insurance companies.

It's disappointing to see the two candidates resorting to political clichés, rather than substantively addressing the issue. There's a horrible truth about auto insurance rates — there's not much the government can do.

In a free market economy, auto insurance rates should be determined by the vagaries of the market. That's the American way. Government interference usually distorts the market forces and leads to inflated prices. Decades of Trenton politicians fiddling with the arcane provisions of auto rates have only worsened the situation. Few outside the insurance industry can untangle the strangling bureaucratic thicket of regulations.

Auto insurance companies — funded by private investors and employing thousands of New Jersey residents — have the right to make a profit. And the more auto insurance companies are allowed to compete and offer alternatives, the more insurance premiums will eventually come down.

What is needed is a simplification of the whole industry. Everyone should be able to understand an auto insurance policy without having to consult a lawyer. In true reform, nobody would be forced to sign away their rights in exchange for lower rates and the government would keep its meddling fingers out of the insurance business. There is no quick fix for high auto insurance rates. But between now and Election Day we will be bombarded with sound bites and commercials from both candidates promising quick and easy rate reductions.

These promises are an insult to the intelligence of New Jersey voters. We have to demand more from Gov. Whitman and Mr. McGreevey.

Craig Taggart will be missed

It's always sad when a young person loses his or her life, but it's even more painful when that person made such an impact by helping others.

Craig Taggart of Cranford, who was killed earlier this month in a Jet Ski accident, was one of those special people.

Mr. Taggart was a U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class who seemed to be doing all the right things. Besides excelling in the military, he had been a lifeguard in Cranford and down the shore.

While lifeguarding in Belmar, he received the Rookie of the Year award for making 18 saves. The 26-year-old was known as a man who cared about other human beings.

Mr. Taggart and his love for others will be missed by a lot of people.

Send us your news

Andrew Simpson is the editor of the *Cranford Chronicle*. Please call him at 722-3000, Ext. 6322, with story suggestions, questions or comments. Shea Thomas is the reporter. Please call her at 722-3000, Ext. 6306.

To send us your news, our address is: P.O. Box 699, Somerville, N.J. 08876, our fax number is 526-2509.

Cranford Chronicle

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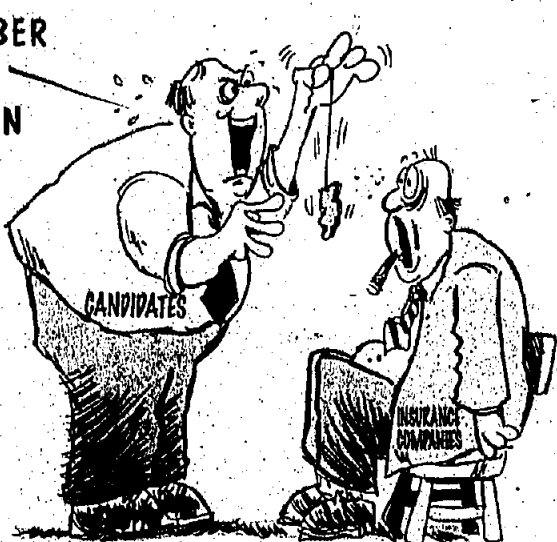
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Phyllosophies

Phyllis
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It's time to become mad as hell

Several questions have been running about in my head. Perhaps if I share them with you they will go away; perhaps you have the answers.

The first: In every plane crash, whether it be a fall down on the runway, a crash into a mountain or a dive into the ocean, the black box remains intact.

Often it is found hundreds of feet away from the plane's final resting place, buried by rocks or sand or sea. Always, it is whole.

What is the box made of? And if that material is so strong, why are not planes made of it? Or at least grided with it?

I am sure the reason has to do with some physics problem I don't understand, but in this day and age of always doing the impossible, wouldn't you think they could make those planes stronger?

And how about cars? Studies show that a minor bump can cause major damage to a car. Those dummies get crunched pretty good when their cars hit a wall at only 25 mph.

If bumpers and frames were made of black box stuff, would they not survive with only minor damage?

Speaking of cars, that's the crux of another question. For every road that is repaired, permits have to be submitted.

Whose job is it to examine those permits? And why aren't they doing it so two major highways, running parallel, are not under repair at the same time?

One could argue one may be a state or federal road, the other a county or municipal and so there is no coordination of permits.

But shouldn't someone somewhere have a big map of the state with all the roads on and little colored push pins marking roads under repair or about to be repaired, so no there is no overlap in any one part of the state?

Or, in this wonderful age of computers, could not the state Department of Transportation have a file, so that every road about to undergo repair is entered in the file and when one overlaps or interferes with another, a "Warning! Warning!" alert is sounded or flashed on screen.

Drivers of Route 287 from Bridgewater through Bedminster have been enduring interminably long, incredibly tedious rides as roads are widened on both sides simultaneously leaving tiny corridors to inch through, and extraordinarily ugly baffle walls are erected to the gods of silence.

That one side at a time could be worked on, through the night, seems not a possibility.

So, on must withstand the delays in the name of progress, and someday the rush-hour hostages shall be rewarded with a multilane highway that gets them through quickly, never mind the consequences to nerves.

The permits for all this work is on file somewhere. Someone gave an OK to the job before it began. Why then was the parallel Route 206 through Bedminster allowed to be expanded at the same time?

Why didn't the permit person say, "Repairing two highways running parallel through one town will cause the people of that town an intolerable inconvenience; therefore I will not OK the permit for the second road until the first one is completed?"

I happen to know about the Bedminster road because I have to traverse it when visiting a son.

I know some of you are going through the same ordeal in other parts of New Jersey. Why must it be so?

It's time for each of us to decide to stand up and yell, "I'm mad as hell and not going to take it anymore!"

Until we do we shall continue to have permits not held from braving the broken blacktop in a single lane.

How come?

ANN MARIE MAHON
Cranford

Letters to the editor

Cranford flooding brings out worst in officials, newspaper

To The Chronicle:

Cranford recently faced its worst flooding crisis since the early 1970s. CBS News and other television news programs showed new reporters floating down Riverside Drive in row boats. The last time this happened Jim Jensen was the news anchor on CBS Evening News. How many of us even remember Jim?

For many years, river improvements and Township Committee actions on flood control kept the community safe, kept real estate values high and kept us off TV. Recently, all this changed. The Township Committee has neglected its duties to the community regarding flood control.

This was made abundantly clear in public statements by former township engineer Guy Sgroi. For his troubles, Mr. Sgroi was unceremoniously removed by the police from a Township Committee meeting on the mayor's order. He was removed because he tried to get the committee to take some action on flooding.

As the storm over flooding continues to brew, I turned to the July 31, 1997, edition of the *Cranford Chronicle* to get all the news that's fit to print on the flooding crisis. I found one story of 11 paragraphs in 2 1/2-inch-wide, kept real estate values high and kept us off TV. Recently, all this changed. The Township Committee has neglected its duties to the community regarding flood control.

Directly below the flooding story is a great story on a Cranford balloonist. It had 25 paragraphs in 2 1/4-inch columns. Obviously, this story is almost three times more important than the flooding issue.

I then turned to the editorial page where I was sure I would find some comments on this critical matter. Instead, there was a boiler plate editorial on the Union County crime rate which was obviously written so that only one editorial need be written for all volumes of the North Jersey Newspaper Company's Union County papers.

What should I expect from "the area's best source for local news"? How about some in-depth reporting of the flood situation? An article on the history of flooding in Cranford would have been great. An analysis of Township Committee actions on flood control over the past several years would enlighten all of us on its performance.

A piece on what actions could be taken to improve flood control would be an invaluable community service. A hard-hitting editorial on the perils of political inaction in critical community issues would have helped frame the political debate on flood control that is about to ensue. Your paper did none of these and therefore you are negligent in your duty to the community you claim to serve.

Citizens of Cranford, it's time to pull together to solve the issue of street flooding. The first thing we have to do is prod the Township Committee into action to relieve flooding. We need a new and dynamic flood control plan now.

At the same time, the community should look at what actions we can take to assure that the *Cranford Chronicle* is more responsive to the needs of the community. At the very least we should consider the benefits of renewing our subscriptions.

ANDREW VARNANELLI JR.
Cranford

Since when is loving trees a bad thing?

To The Chronicle:

I would like to address remarks and accusations made by Mr. Coe and Mr. Sugalski in response to my letter published July 24.

Mr. Coe, I've never really considered myself a liberal. In fact, the older I get, the more conservative I become. As far as "buzzwords" are concerned, Mr. Coe drops quite a few of his own in his response. Using the word buzzword at all is a little bit too condescending for me.

Mr. Coe's perception of the "real" reason I urged the township to take action is just his mistaken impression. I resent his accusation that I am only concerned with my property values.

I am here in Cranford for the long haul. I plan to remain for the duration and it is for this reason that I could no longer remain silent when I felt so strongly about an issue.

Yes, Mr. Coe, there are things beyond our control that negatively affect the environment. I can't stop a volcano from erupting or acid rain from falling but I can try to do what I can locally to protect our environment and the quality of our lives. (The key word here is *our*.)

The "few trees that homeowners take down" need to be multiplied by hundreds every year. Yes, there are plenty of trees left, but will that be the case in 20 years?

Look ahead, Mr. Coe, common sense and simple math will show you the answer. I only suggest that homeowners and the township stop and think before they cut down healthy trees.

ANN MARIE MAHON
Cranford

Cranford Police Department responds to letter writer

To The Chronicle:

Editor's note: The following is the Cranford Police Department's response to Gregory J. Imbricco's letter that appeared in last week's newspaper.

Concertgoers blocked our residents' driveways, parked too close to intersections, too close to crosswalks and in other ways to cause unsafe conditions for the pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic near Cranford High School on July 2, 1997.

Police responded to complaints from residents and issued a total of 10 parking summonses. No vehicles were towed.

LT. THOMAS E. KANE
Traffic Safety Division

Letters to the editor

Legislation called poorly written, ambiguous

To The Chronicle:

Again we have legislation that is poorly written, ambiguous and difficult to understand, although it probably does accomplish some of its intentions.

I refer to Ordinance No. 97-10 which many of us received a copy of with our tax bill.

First it says that they are repealing Chapter 55 and then it says that we are responsible for conforming "thereof" in accordance with (squeggly squiggly) Chapter 55-5 and 55-57 heretofore, which not having a copy of, I'm not sure what it means.

Then they give us a few definitions, some of which seem to be all inclusive, so that if a neighbor can hear my smoke alarm or barking dog and alert the police, I can be liable.

Other definitions such as "Designated Representative" — A representative designated by the Township seem to be self-evident and superfluous since it is not mentioned further in this ordinance or chapter, whatever it is.

Under regulations, one might think that an automobile alarm set off "on or within the premises of the Township of Cranford" is subject to the provisions of this chapter.

Under fees, I am not sure what is considered.

I have at least six alarms on my windows and doors that alert me if someone tries to open them. I have three smoke alarms in different parts of my home that will alert me if there is a fire.

I have a regular and cellular phone that can be used to alert anyone including the local police and fire department if I dial 911. I have a ham radio station that can be used to call my neighbor who could then call emergency services as required.

My invalid wife carries a pager that will call a person in case she falls down and can't get up. I also have an infrared sensor that will alert someone if there is motion in the house while I am away.

I also have a small but noisy dog that is my best alarm.

Since none of my alarms are directly connected to the police or fire department, I may have in fees or I may have lots of fees depending on interpretation of this ordinance.

Then I come to the indemnity clause.

That reads that I might have to indemnify and hold harmless the township of Cranford for any and all claims.

My insurance company may refuse to defend me should I have a claim and might not even issue me a homeowners policy if such a waiver is in effect.

Is such a waiver really necessary to protect the township? Or, is it just to cover the deficiencies of the township officials who don't seem to write good ordinances?

I think the citizens of Cranford deserve better legislation.

GEORGE B. SKIDMORE
Cranford

It's sad when government ruins residents' property

To The Chronicle:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. Elpidio Rivera, who own and reside in the house at 247 Walnut Ave. in the township of Cranford.

I am looking for someone to act as their advocate regarding a situation that has arisen as a result of the Lincoln Avenue bridge renovation/restoration project.

The situation that has arisen is that, as a part of this project, sidewalks located on Lincoln Avenue and destroyed as a result of the construction were redone.

As it turns out, a portion of the sidewalk belonging to my in-laws' property was affected.

My in-laws had their entire sidewalk renovated in gray concrete several years ago and paid for it of their small fixed income and savings.

Well, the portion of the sidewalk that was recently restored by the bridge construction crew was done in brown concrete.

Now my in-laws' sidewalk is a combination of the original gray color and the newly laid brown concrete. It looks atrociously horrible and detracts from the property value.

My wife (the River's daughter) immediately went to the Cranford township engineer located in the Cranford municipal building, where she was given the name of Mr. Louis Antao, state DOT engineer in charge of the Lincoln Avenue bridge project, as the person to deal with.

Upon calling Mr. Antao, she was told that Cranford decided on the brown concrete and when he was asked by my wife as to why the remaining portion of her father's sidewalk was not done in brown at least to make it all one color, she was told that the project had to stop where it did due to a lack of funds.

When he was asked as to who was above him that could be spoken to, he said nobody.

I think that when hard-working people like the River's take their limited funds to upkeep and maintain their property, only to have the government come along and arbitrarily destroy and ruin it, it is a sad state of affairs.

It is my hope that some government authority reads this and contacts my wife so that a mutually agreeable resolution of this matter can be achieved.

FRANK DELGADO
Cranford

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FRANK DELGADO
Cranford

Edwards foe didn't like editorial on freight trains

To The Chronicle:

I am writing to correct an inaccuracy contained in your editorial "Let freight trains roll in Cranford" that appeared in the Aug. 7 issue.

Your editorial implied that a new freight train, which will cross South Avenue near the proposed Edwards site at 555 South Ave., will supply goods to Edwards, thereby decreasing Edwards's reliance on truck deliveries.

You also imply that general truck traffic on local roads would decrease.

According to Edwards, this is not the case. Edwards has publicly stated that they can not receive deliveries by train.

All deliveries will be made to Edwards by truck.

Since South Avenue will be the terminus of the new train, we may expect more trucks to traverse South Avenue. While truck traffic might decline on major highways, local truck traffic is bound to go up.

As your editorial stated, then, we may expect eight trucks on our local roads for every box car unloaded in Cranford.

Therefore, the new freight train will increase the impact of truck traffic, not decrease it.

ROGER S. COHEN
Cranford

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Making the smart choice when choosing a home PC

For millions of people, the advent of the computer age means convenience and accessibility on a world-wide scale. For others, the intimidation of selecting the right PC, learning how to use it, or finding extra money in a tight household budget can make the dream of owning their first home computer seem like a distant reality.

Today's families don't view a PC as a luxury item, but as a necessity in managing households and businesses, helping educate their children and keeping in contact with family and friends.

With all the uses for a PC, many families are discovering that there is no time like the present to make an additional PC purchase or to buy a first model.

To help make the right selection, here are some tips from Compaq Computer Corporation on choosing the smartest home PC for your household:

Figure out your PC needs. Discuss with each family member what they are looking for in a PC.

Will it be used to stay in touch with the office? Play games? Explore the Internet?

One determined, make a list of the computer programs you will need in order to implement these activities.

You can also take the Compaq PC Personality Test to determine which computer is right for you and your family.

To get a copy of the test, send a postcard with your return address to: "Get Smart" with Compaq PC Personality Test, P.O. Box 8557, St. Louis, MO 63101 or call 1-800-759-1533.

For those with access to a computer, the test can be taken online at: <http://www.compaq.com/us/at/home/pctest.html>.

Visit your local library and research current/back issues of computer and consumer magazines for product reviews.

Many libraries also offer access to the World Wide Web where you can visit sites such as Compaq's (<http://www.compaq.com>) to get product and retail location information.

Use your friends. Talk with friends, neighbors and colleagues about their experience with computers.

Ask which brands and models they prefer, and what their PC does — and does not do —

for them.

Shop around. PCs on display at retail stores often have demonstration programs that show the computer's features.

Take a test drive; see it, feel it, hear it — get a personal sense of what PCs are all about.

Be sure to quiz retailers on upcoming sales, financing options, warranties, service and support, and in-stock models.

Register your PC and software. Once your purchase is made, complete and return all registration information requested by the manufacturer.

For insurance purposes, technical support, and service needs, being registered will provide you security, protection and assistance in using your new PC.

And finally, enjoy your new home PC. (NAPS)

Is your family CyberSavvy?

Families interested in exploring the Internet can help each other learn about Cyberspace.

For many parents, understanding cyberspace isn't a luxury, it's a necessity.

A recent study shows that 72 percent of U.S. adults believe children know more about the Internet than parents.

As children fearlessly bound through the Internet, parents often find themselves playing catch-up in unfamiliar territory.

Fortunately, with a little help, parents can become just as "cyber savvy" as their kids.

What can you do to help your family get "cyber savvy"? Learn about the online world.

There are a number of educational resources available in schools, libraries and book-

stores, which walk families through the online world and provide easy-to-follow instructions for navigating cyberspace.

Spent time online with your family. Exploring the Internet together gives families the opportunity to talk about online behavior, and it lets parents learn first-hand what children do and see online.

Today, many of the sources you trust for information — teachers, libraries and parenting magazines — provide information about Web sites designed specifically for families and children.

Establish rules for online behavior. Just like the real world, it is important for families to develop their own set of clear, understandable rules for the Internet.

Families should also discuss possible situations you may encounter online, such as what to do if a stranger asks for personal information online.

Look for software that can help you control your children's time online. Software packages exist today that can help parents manage online activity.

They keep children from sending out personal information online, control access to specific Internet sites and manage time spent online.

Can you answer the following questions? If not, you may want to become more cyber savvy.

1. Is talking over the Internet the same as having a private conversation?

2. Are people able to talk to us directly online, even if we don't know them?

3. Are there places on the Internet that are designed specifically for children? How can we find them?

4. What kind of information can a Web site automatically read about our family when we first click onto that site?

5. How do I know if a World Wide Web site belongs to a business?

To answer these questions and develop family rules for the Internet through hands-on activities, parents can get "CyberSavvy!" The DMA's Guide to parenting Skills for the Digital Age: Online Basics, Behavior and Privacy.

The guide is produced by the Direct Marketing Association in cooperation with the Children's Advertising Review Unit (CARU) of the Council of Better Business Bureaus and Call for Action: single copies are free from The DMA, 1111 19th St. NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20036-3603, or at the DMA web site, www.thedma.org.

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Your kids are ready for college. Are you?

Your child is set for school. You've gotten sheets, blankets, a microwave, notebooks, pens, highlighters, a tool kit, laundry detergent, and all the other essentials necessary for your child's first year at college and away from home.

But are you ready to send your child off to college?

Have you thought about the transition which will take place in your life as you send your first, or your last, child off to school?

It's not uncommon for parents to feel relief that a child is going off to college, then as the time draws closer, or on the day they actually take them to campus, feel depressed. It often doesn't hit the parents until they drop the child off at school, "according to MaryAnn Benninger, associate professor of psychology at The College of New Jersey."

Parents often suffer an emotional sense of loss when their child goes off to college, adds Elizabeth Paul, assistant professor of psychology at The College of New Jersey.

It can be a tough transition, but parents need to view it as a time to begin building a new relationship with their child. It is the time that the parent needs to begin to see the child as a peer.

Parents need to think of this time as a transformation of their relationship with their child. Both the child and the parent have a sense of uniqueness, but are tied to one another. It is individual, not separation," adds Paul.

"Parents should move to a supportive role of their child's new identity instead of trying to maintain the same type of relationship. Instead of talking a child to bring the laundry home or to come home for a home-cooked meal, parents should ask questions about what a child is doing in school and support choices and decisions a child is making," Paul adds.

This is not always an easy task. Letting a child make his or her own choices, and mistakes, can be difficult for a parent.

It is often a time which parents view as the first real "evidence" of whether they did a good job of raising their child. Will he or she make the right decisions, will they manage their time well.

If a child fails in something, parents often feel they have failed as a parent. Parents need to realize they have done the best they can and that their child needs to make his or her own mistakes in order to continue to learn and grow, Benninger adds.

Although it is difficult to do, parents should not pressure their child too much, or meddle into his or her life while the child is away at school.

Parents need to be supportive of their child, but must realize they cannot always be there when the child faces crises, says Ruth Hall, a former staff psychologist at the University of

Pennsylvania, and an associate professor of psychology at The College of New Jersey.

"There is a fine line between being supportive of your child and being intrusive," said Hall.

"Parents also need to appreciate the transition their child goes through when going to college. They are sharing a room with someone, have rigorous academics and written assignments, no curfews and sometimes mixed gender dorms. They don't need the added pressure from parents about grades and finances," adds Hall.

Agreement on a major can also be an additional area of friction between parents and children, notes Hall. In this instance, Hall counsels parents to let their child figure out what it is they want to do.

Many factors can influence the emotions which parents feel when they send a child off to school.

For example, whether it is the first or last child they are sending off to college, the parents' financial situation, how close they are to retirement, and whether both parents worked outside the home can all play a part in the types of emotions parents feel, says Hall.

And, it's not always just the child going to college which raises these new emotions in parents.

Sending a child off to college is the first big juncture in many people's lives and can trigger

other feelings such as thinking about retirement or a new phase in life and can contribute to a mid-life crisis.

According to Benninger, this can be a time in a parent's life when they realize that they have spent so much time and energy on their children, that they have neglected themselves. Or, they can wonder what is left in their lives now that their children are gone.

Parents need to use this time to concentrate on themselves and their marriage. They need to find new topics of conversation and new interests which they can share together.

It is a time when parents need to re-establish their own identity which does not relate to solely being a parent.

Parents should look at this time positively, and use it to do something constructive. Become computer literate to e-mail back and forth with your child or take up new hobbies you never had time for before.

Every person's situation is different, but it is important to begin to let your children make their own decisions and choices and to begin to refocus your energies on yourself. You've raised good children; they've made a smart decision to go off to college. They may make mistakes now and then, but if you let them know you are there to support them when they need it, they will become responsible adults, and possibly your new best friend.

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Our Gift To You!
\$7.50
Worth Of Accessories
With any instrument rental

Hand Instruments
Sales • Rentals
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With any instrument rental
With this ad. Not to be combined with any other promotions. Exp. 11/30/97
Summer Hours: Tues & Thurs 10-9
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(ue) to Centennial (Avenue) to make it
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