

Cranford Chronicle

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Thursday, January 13, 2005

50 cents

INSIDE

Town trims three proposals for Riverfront

By GREG MARX

THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — The field of developers competing for the right to build at the township's Riverfront Redevelopment Area is down to four.

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Johnstone reaches 100 wins

By GREG MARX

CRANFORD — Tom Johnstone reached 100 wins with a win over Summit this year and he has the Colts back on track, winning two games this week. See Sports, Page C-1.

Cranford may raise rates for parking

By GREG MARX

CRANFORD — The field of developers competing for the right to build at the township's Riverfront Redevelopment Area is down to four.

Town: Eastman bridge is too low to river

By GREG MARX

CRANFORD — The new Eastman Street bridge is being built by county as part of a multi-year project to replace four aging bridges in the area.

Kapering about at the Community Center

By GREG MARX

The weather outside has been cold, wet and dreary this week, but these 3-year-olds were having a good time indoors Tuesday in Pee Wee Kapers, a pre-school program at the Cranford Community Center.

Zucker, Myers step down from Cranford school board

By GREG MARX

Two of the longest-serving members of the Cranford Board of Education officially resigned their seats Monday.

Students lead way raise money for tsunami victims

By GREG MARX

The response from the students, parents, faculty, and staff, was well beyond Opatsky's expectations.

Library sets circulation record

By GREG MARX

The Kenilworth Public Library met its ambitious circulation mark by checking out its 50,000th item of the year on Dec. 28. The 70-year-old library set a new circulation record for the year, and hopes are high that future years will bring even more activity.

MLK service is tonight

By GREG MARX

The Cranford Clergy Council will award the Martin Luther King Jr. Award to Al Forsythe and Jean Ross at a service 7:30 p.m. tonight at the First Presbyterian Church, 11 Springfield Ave.

Reminder

By GREG MARX

Thus far, \$120 million of private donations have been received by the U.S. branches of the Red Cross, Oxfam, Save the Children, and Catholic Relief Services to help victims of the tsunami in South Asia.

INSIDE

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Commentary

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Community Life

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Sports

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Prime Time

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Obituaries

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Real Estate

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Police Log

By GREG MARX

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Real estate listings and services including AAA-1 Snow Removal, CAFFREY TREE SERVICE, DON'T STOP SERVICE, NEW CREATIONS TREE SERVICE, RICH LEBY & CO., and various home improvement services.

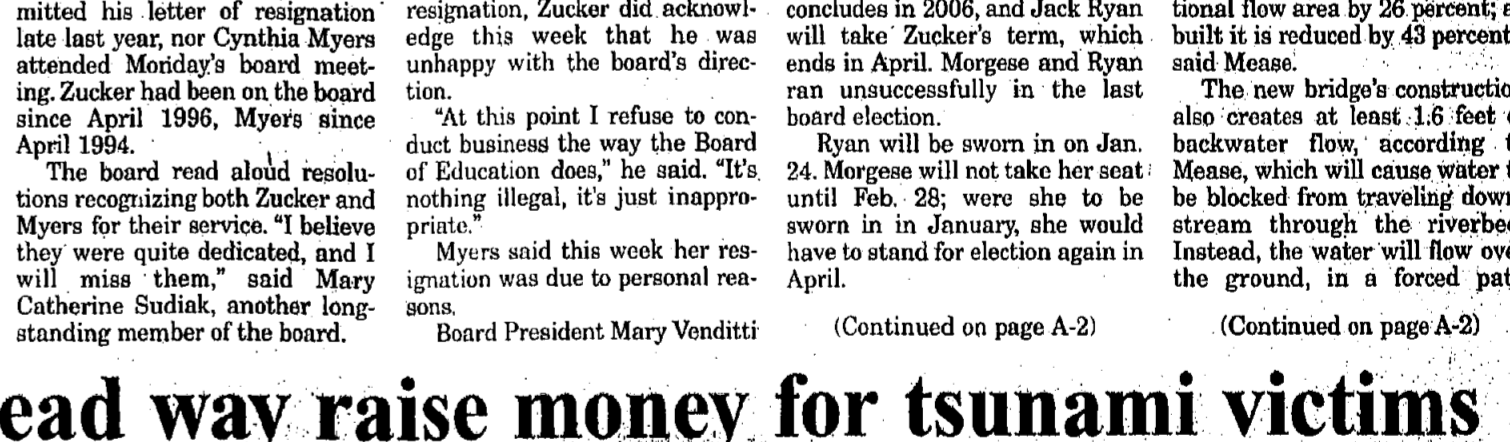
Chevrolet advertisement for Multi-Chevrolet featuring models like Equinox, Avalanches, Cavaliers, Aveos, Trailblazers, Colorados, Tahoees, and Malibus. Includes contact information for 2675 Route 22 West Union, NJ.



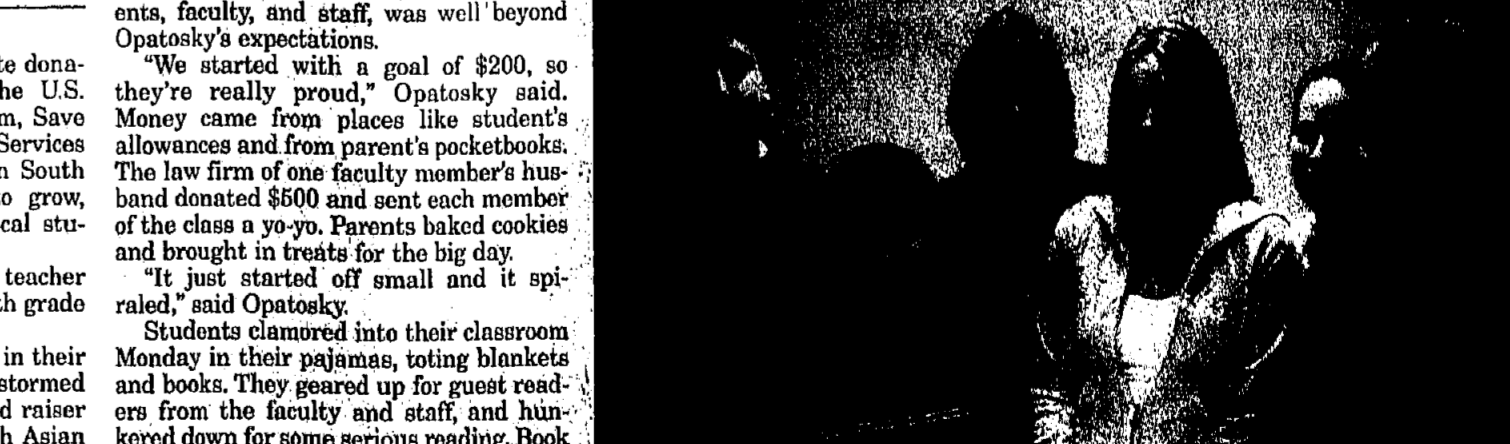
Kapering about at the Community Center. The weather outside has been cold, wet and dreary this week, but these 3-year-olds were having a good time indoors Tuesday in Pee Wee Kapers, a pre-school program at the Cranford Community Center.



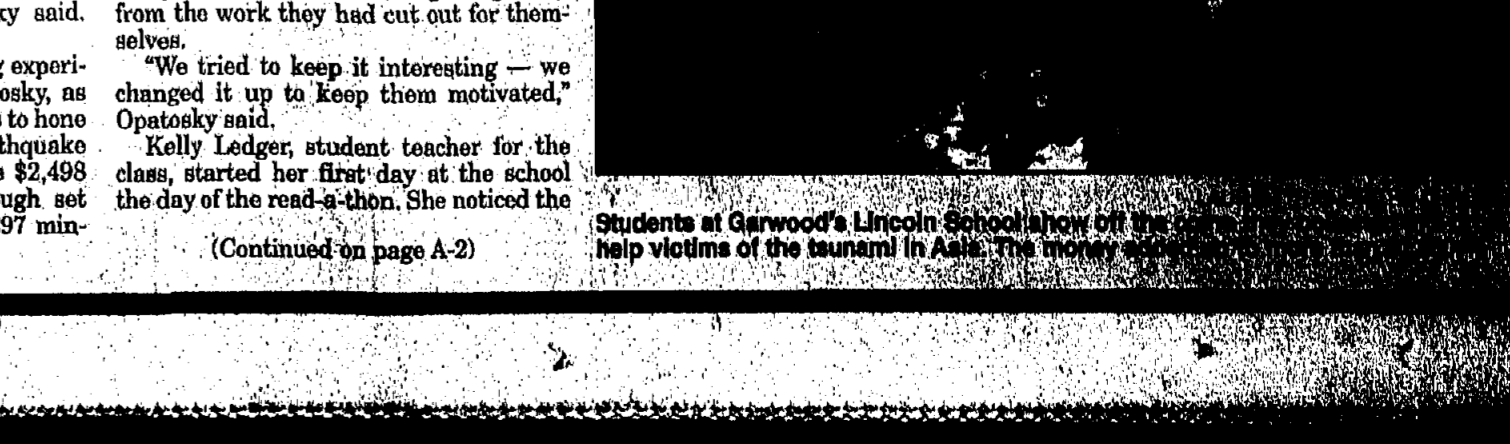
Students at Garwood's Lincoln School show off help victims of the tsunami in Asia. The money...



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Students raise money for victims

(Continued from page A-1) Students' enthusiasm before she met any of them. "In their welcome letters they all said that I was going to be there for the rest-of-thon," she said. "They were so excited to do something to help..."

In Kenilworth, police keep the focus on pedestrian safety

By LAUREN TRAINOR THE CHRONICLE KENILWORTH — Although motor vehicles did not cause any fatalities in the borough in 2004, local police looking ahead to help curb what they see as a county-wide increase in deaths from motor vehicle accidents.

Town trims three proposals

(Continued from page A-1) South and High, with 28 condominiums above. Also included was another mixed-use retail/residential building on South Avenue East and a townhouse section to the south. Like all the developers, Pulte envisioned a parking deck and a park along the river.

Most fatalities have occurred in Elizabeth, Grady said, and most occur on highways, where cars travel at higher speeds. Kenilworth's last pedestrian fatality occurred in 1998. Grady attributed the infrequency of incidents in the borough to an increased effort to make clear pedestrian signs, enforce traffic laws, and improve visibility.

Eastman St. bridge is too low

(Continued from page A-1) through Hampton Park and between the houses at 3, 5, 7 and 9 Central Avenue, he said. "The old bridge was not lower than Eastman Street, so the water could flow under at the 65.1 foot elevation without creating extra backwater," he said.

Cranford may raise parking rates

(Continued from page A-1) branches and leaves, for those services. Currently, the center charges each person who uses the center the same fee regardless of the materials brought to the center.

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First Presbyterian Church 11 Springfield Ave in Cranford

Gas station asks to see restrictions removed

By GREG MARX THE CHRONICLE CRANFORD — The owner of a controversial gas station property at the edge of the downtown has filed an application asking the Board of Adjustment to remove a pair of conditions related to the delivery of fuel to the site.



Donated books for Hillside Ave. students

The Hallmark Company selected Hillside Avenue School for its promotion of collaboration, innovation, and excellence to receive a donation of seasonal books.

Union Center sets sights on Cranford

By GREG MARX THE CHRONICLE CRANFORD — Union Center National Bank has plans to open a branch in the township at 44 North Ave. East, the current home of Swan Cleaners.

Garwood police help to deliver a baby girl

GARWOOD — A borough couple welcomed a new baby girl into the world, and into the hands of a police officer, Jan. 5. Police responded in less than one minute when Adam Loffredo called with the news that Holly Ambrose-Loffredo was in labor and would not make it to the hospital.

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Survey says success for borough schools

By MATT DEEGAN CORRESPONDENT KENILWORTH — Though the district's budget has been defeated two years in a row, parents are satisfied with the quality of education their children receive, according to a survey by the National Survey of School Evaluation that was presented to the Board of Education on Monday.

Bullying is listed among top concerns

The National Survey of School Evaluation, a non-profit educational research organization, developed the survey, which supplied parents with 60 responses they could choose about various statements about the schools. Evaluation, a non-profit educational research organization, developed the survey, which supplied parents with 60 responses they could choose about various statements about the schools.

WITTEYS Discount Wines & Liquors LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED

Commentary

Don't let the dream die

On Monday this country will celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King, perhaps the most influential American of the second half of the 20th century. Yet, aside from the stock market and government offices being closed and a scattering of stories in the media, there will be little to separate Monday from the other drab days of January.

That's unforgivable. The legacy left by Dr. King should never be underestimated or forgotten. It is inconceivable to a younger generation that just 40 years ago segregation was the rule in many parts of this country. African-Americans were forced to sit at the rear of the bus and to drink from separate water fountains. They were not allowed to stay at many hotels and they were refused service at many restaurants. This country's treatment of African-Americans was truly shameful.

The courage demonstrated by Dr. King and his followers brought about the most sweeping change in this country's history. Centuries of injustice ended with historic Supreme Court rulings, often enforced by federal troops, and the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Most of these changes were prompted by Dr. King's insistence on non-violent protest; the peaceful demonstrations that he led delivered the message to all Americans that all men are created equal and, more importantly, should be treated equally. And Dr. King never gave up the struggle, despite the ugly hatred of ignorant racists and despicable and inexcusable harassment by a rogue FBI.

Dr. King's achievements should not go unappreciated. By achieving equal rights for African-Americans, he made all of our lives better. Though his life was tragically ended by an assassin's bullet, the struggle for racial justice continued. And it continues to this day. There is still too much racism and intolerance in this country, and the stench of discrimination still lingers. To properly remember Dr. King, we should dedicate ourselves once again to the principles he espoused — the pursuit of justice for all through non-violent means. That dedication should be the root of how we celebrate this national holiday.

Protecting our troops

The United States is the richest country in the world. It is also has the most powerful military in the world.

Yet private donations are being sought to help protect American soldiers stationed in Iraq. It's a national disgrace.

Acting Governor Richard J. Codey announced Thursday the start of a statewide drive to collect used bulletproof vests that U.S. troops in Iraq will use to line their vehicles to protect themselves against bombs.

"We are establishing regional drop-off points at our National Guard Armories to collect used bulletproof vests to give our troops every possible protection," Codey said.

Codey urged all local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to donate used vests to strengthen armor on military vehicles in Iraq. Some groups have already begun campaigns to collect vests.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, said the drop-off sites will be located at the Atlantic City Army (1008 Abcon Boulevard), the Lawrenceville Army (151 Eggert Crossing Road) and the West Orange Army (1315 Pleasant Valley Way). Collections began Tuesday.

Rieth stressed the vests are only needed for use on military vehicles. "Every soldier being deployed to Iraq has his or her own personal body armor," he said.

As a show of support for our soldiers, this is heartening. Still, the vision of the most powerful military in the world relying upon donations from police departments on the homefront to bolster protection for the troops is shameful.

It truly is a national disgrace. And someone needs to be held accountable.



Jersey Boy

Mike Deak
A sort of homecoming

Until Saturday I had not been inside the Neshanic Methodist Church for more than three decades.

The church had been a large part of my childhood — doing Sunday school homework on Saturday nights while watching "Saturday Night at the Movies" on NBC and then getting dressed up in a starry sports coat and tie on Sunday morning. I liked the hymns and the Bible competitions; if I hadn't been forced to attend, I would have been a champion Bible verse finder.

On special days after Sunday school, I would stay for the regular 11 a.m. service and imagine the Holy Ghost floating and shimmering like Casper around the ankles around of everyone in the sanctuary. I enjoyed the choir, though it was always small, their voices rising through the sanctuary to the outskirts of Heaven. I watched the flicker of the flames on the altar and on winter and fall days, I listened to the unkept tree branches scratch against the stained glass windows. It was as if the fingertips of God were tapping on the windows. On Palm Sunday I liked getting palms and hitting everyone in my class.

But I was a rebel-angel, and the times were ripe for rebellion. I left after my freshman year in high school because the church — like any church — was standing still in the face of change in the world. In the 1970s, I was sick of the conservative Old Testament (the one still favored by Republicans) and began to like the liberal New Testament (the one still favored by Democrats) and I began, at least vicariously, to appreciate the liberating theology of Jesus to the intolerance of the Old Testament that still mars thumping American Protestantism.

Then there was an argument over the My Lai massacre in a Sunday school class and suddenly found myself an outcast. There was a growing schism over the type of material taught in Sunday school, my best friends all dropped out and I succumbed to the adolescent practice of needing more sleep on weekends.

Sometimes I thought about returning, but by that time my disgruntlement had been replaced by cynicism and Sunday mornings recovering from Saturday nights. The times were more important than church bells. Faith, if I had any at all, was practiced on a one-on-one basis with no passing of the plate. For me it was more important to practice every day the principles of the New Testament than to believe in the existence of a perch in Heaven by going to church on Sunday and shaking the ritualistic Etch-a-Sketch to cease the hypocrisy of the other 6 days and 22 hours of the week.

It's been only relatively recently that I fully realized the purpose of going to church was more than just a place where you could meet God for a weekly session. A friend who recently started attending church again summed it up when someone asked her why: "Because it makes me feel better." She finds comfort and joy in the fellowship and the sense of community. And that is what I found Saturday when I walked into the Neshanic Methodist Church.

It was a memorial service for someone who knew me all my life and who everyone in my hometown knew. The warmth of the sanctuary, full of the unbreakable kinship of a small town, sucked the chill out of a miserable wet winter day. We shared memories of the departed and the choir was just as angelic as long ago days. There was joy in the shared memory of the dead and there was comfort in the fellowship we shared.

"This is the way it should be," somebody said to me. He was right. Without the dogma, that church service was a celebration of life and community, a communion of common souls. Which is, if you think about, the whole point.

KATE AND ANNIE McGEE
Cranford

Letters to the editor

A new home for borough students?

To The Chronicle:
After reading the recent article in the Star-Ledger with regard to the send/receive relationship between Garwood and Clark, I failed to see the logic behind the comments made by the Clark mayor.

First, Garwood's students are an educational and financial benefit to the town of Clark. Second, Clark's high school infrastructure problems have no financial bearing on Garwood whatsoever. They are the sole responsibility of the Clark Board of Education. State inspection records will support this claim.

Third: For a mayor who doesn't want an adversarial situation with Garwood, why would the mayor say "If they want to stay here, they have to pay more money"? If that's not adversarial, I don't know what is.

Fourth: Our former Union County superintendent is absolutely right when he says the mayor of Clark's numbers don't add up. The \$1.4 million in student

fees that Garwood pays, plus state transportation and special education money, more than cover Garwood's costs. And the 176 Garwood students multiplied by \$8,700 per pupil falls \$300,000 short of the mayor's \$2 million claim.

Fifth: Maybe Garwood should speak to other districts for a possible new send/receive contract. Make no mistake, I would love to see Clark's mayor explain the \$1.7 million tax increase to his residents. That's one hell of a price to pay for political grandstanding and numbers that don't add up.

This is a perfect example of why town governments and boards of education need to get all their ducks in a row.

VICTOR DeFILIPPO
Garwood

Community supports clothing drive

To The Chronicle:
Thanks to all those who contributed to another successful collection for the homeless of St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark. This year we added coats to our collection and through the compassion of the people of Cranford, were able to collect more than 20 bags filled with coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves and other warm items. These clothes are greatly appreciated by the homeless who are preparing for a cold winter.

I would like to thank TV-35 for placing an ad on their channel for another year; the Cranford Chronicle for placing a notice in their newspaper; St. Michael's Church for placing an announcement in their bulletin; and the stores that allowed us to place notices in their windows advertising the drive. Each of these efforts

helped tremendously, and we greatly appreciate it.

Ever since I began this drive four years ago, the Cranford Post Office has been an incredible help. A huge thank you goes to Postmaster Wayne Orshak and the Cranford Post Office for their continued help over the years.

Without the generosity of the people of Cranford, this drive would never be able to continue as it has. Every year we are more successful than the last, which gives us a chance to help more and more people in need. We can only continue this collection with your help. Thank you to all who participated. Have a happy New Year!

KATE AND ANNIE McGEE
Cranford

Post home's roof has been repaired

To The Chronicle:
We the members of the Post and Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW Baylent Post 6807, 221 South Ave., Garwood would like to thank all our friends, neighbors, business people and organizations etc., who donated to the VFW Post 6807 Roof Fund in 2004.

We mailed and also hand-delivered approximately 500 letters asking for help because our post home roof was leaking. It had been patched over the last few years and could no longer be repaired. The inside of the hall ceiling tiles had been damaged, we desperately needed a new roof. Our roof has been replaced and new gutters and

leaders were also installed. We are grateful to all who donated. We look forward to the future and being able to host programs for our veterans and the community when the work inside the hall is completed.

For those who want to donate and perhaps misplaced their letters or haven't received one, make checks payable to the VFW Post 6807 Roof Fund, Garwood, NJ 07027. Thank you.

ROBERT SPRINGSTED, Commander
CATHERINE M. MADARA, President
ANNIE LEONARD, Trustee
VFW Post 6807, Garwood

Knights thanks donors to toy drive

To The Chronicle:
On behalf of the children of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey and the Garwood Knights of Columbus, Council 5437, I'd like to thank everyone who donated to our annual toy drive.

Our special thanks goes to the members of the Church of St. Anne's Rosary Society and President Joan Lembo for their generous donation of toys. These gifts are very much appreciated by the

children who are valiantly fighting life-threatening and terminal illnesses and are often hospitalized or recuperating at home.

Your generosity will certainly bring a smile to the faces of these children during the holidays and throughout the year.

Our best wishes to everyone for a healthy and happy New Year.

KEITH M. GALLAGHER
Garwood

The Chronicle is here for you

The following information should help you get your ideas and community news into *The Chronicle*:
Call Editor Gregory Marx at (732) 396-4219 with story suggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Chad Hemenway at (732) 396-4202.
Our address: *The Chronicle*, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ, 07066. Our fax number is (732) 574-2613. Our e-mail address is union@njpublishing.com.

Letter policy

Letters may be edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. Letters should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime telephone number for verification, if necessary. Send letters to the above address or fax number.

WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT OR INSPIRING MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT?



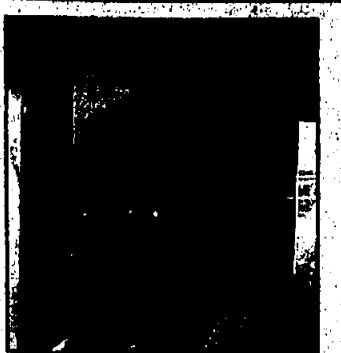
FRANK CONNOR
works in Garwood
Brown vs. the Board of Education — there were fights and riots before then.



ROSA RODRIGUES
works in Garwood
Overall, what Martin Luther King, Jr. did — he had great accomplishments in what he did.



JOHN REBMAM
works in Garwood
When Robert Kennedy was attorney general, he used his phone-tap on Martin Luther King. That's not what this country's about — it shouldn't have happened.



CRAIG ALLEN
Westfield
When Johnson signed the Civil Rights Bill, I watched it on television.



MARK MECCA
Scotch Plains
When Rosa Parks got thrown off the bus. Everyone got to sit wherever they wanted on the bus after that.

Letters to the editor

Kids should be required to wear school uniforms

To The Chronicle:

Is everyone at school dressing inappropriately? I am writing to address the issue of the tight clothing people are wearing in the Cranford School District and my school, Hillside Avenue School. People today take wearing clothes for granted. At school people are wearing short skirts and inappropriate and tight clothing. Staff members try to tell them to stop wearing this sort of clothing, and every morning there are constant announcements about people wearing inappropriate clothing. Well, I think school uniforms will be a good thing for Hillside Avenue School.

Our school staff members are watching every student each day to see if they are wearing inappropriate clothing. If we had uniforms, it would solve the problem. Instead of sending kids home, calling parents from work to bring them clothes, or having children become wary about what to wear to school, we would have uniforms. If one day we do have uniforms, they should be custom-made so the uniform skirts aren't too long or too short.

We should have uniforms because if you wake up late and have to be at school in about 15 minutes, you just slip on the uniform, do your hair and you're ready to go.

People today don't understand that we have the dress code for a reason. If people don't stop violating it and keep on getting stopped in the hallway, I think uniforms are the best way to solve the problem.

Finally, with uniforms people can't judge you on what you wear. Everyone would look the same. I think everyone would look like a garden of flowers sweetly, learn. No one could say, "Eww look at what she is wearing," because anyone who said that about the uniforms would be making fun of himself.

In conclusion, I think uniforms would be a great idea for the Cranford School District. Kids would understand that they had a chance to wear what they wanted, but they took it for granted. Thank you for taking my issue into consideration.

KRISTINA MORGE
Grade 8, Hillside Avenue School

Air conditioning needed in Cranford's schools

To The Chronicle:

Many students in our school district feel discomfort due to the temperature in our classrooms. If the school board put air conditioning in schools, then the students wouldn't have to worry about their discomfort and could focus more on their work. As a result, their grades would go up. Eventually we will become intolerant of the extreme temperatures and not want to go to school, and if we don't put air conditioning in schools soon, the students' academic averages are going to go down.

Now, students worry about how hot they are and don't concentrate on doing their work at all. They just want to get out of school because they are so hot and they don't want to sweat like pigs anymore. If we had air conditioning, this wouldn't happen because it would be nice and cool; everyone would be comfortable and happy and wouldn't mind doing their work.

The lack of participation is caused by the students' discomfort and lack of concentration. This is because they are too hot and tired to do anything, so they don't raise their hands at all. That's why if we install air conditioning, students will work harder and be able to concentrate better.

If the board put air conditioning in schools, then students wouldn't be as miserable, but participate more, and could concentrate more on their work. We

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Federal grant to help pay for new ferry terminal

The Federal Transit Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, has awarded Union County a \$9.6 million grant to construct a terminal and related capital improvements to establish ferry service between Elizabeth and lower Manhattan.

"This project isn't just good for Union County, it's good for the entire region," said Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Rick Proctor. "This project will allow commuters to bypass the transit and road choke points as they head in and out of Manhattan, and will be time and cost competitive with similar modes of transportation."

The ferry terminal will be located on the Newark Bay a short distance from the Jersey Gardens Mall. Plans call for a direct connection to the proposed light rail line which will run between Midtown Elizabeth and Newark Liberty International Airport, servicing the new commercial developments located on the Elizabeth waterfront.

"This is a great location that has direct access from Exit 13A of the New Jersey Turnpike. Donations of food and money have been well behind those of past years when the Sheriff's Office put out an urgent call for help in early December.

"Despite their own difficulties and economic uncertainties, the people of Union County and the business community rallied to help their neighbors in need, as they always have," Sheriff Ralph Froehlich said. "Along with our dedicated officers, they gave their

County news

Elizabeth Mayor Christopher Bollwage.

The proposed ferry will be run by a private operator using facilities developed and maintained by the county. The Union County Improvement Authority will provide financing to purchase the land, expected to cost approximately \$10 million. Plans call for ships accommodating two ferries, a passenger waiting area and a 1,000-space parking lot to be built on the site.

Dredging would be required at the site. Departing from a slip at the end of Jersey Gardens Boulevard, the ferry will cross the Newark Bay, the Kill Van Kull and the Upper New York Bay. The ferry is expected to serve 1,000-1,200 commuters a day, running between Elizabeth and lower Manhattan with service every half-hour during morning and evening rush and hourly thereafter.

The Ferry Project is part of an initiative by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Union County Improvement Authority and the City of Elizabeth to develop a series of infrastructure projects to new

Jobs and development projects.

Late donations make efforts a success

Thanks to a generous outpouring of support from individuals and businesses throughout Union County, more than 250 families received extra food baskets through the Union County Sheriff's Office's "Operation Breadbasket" program this holiday season. Also, the "Tree of Hope" initiative provided holiday gifts for more than 100 sick and abused children.

Boxes of donated and purchased food were assembled and delivered in the week before Christmas. The food baskets included about \$100 worth of food, including turkeys and chickens, orange juice, milk, bread, eggs, butter and more.

Donations of food and money had been well behind those of past years when the Sheriff's Office put out an urgent call for help in early December. "Despite their own difficulties and economic uncertainties, the people of Union County and the business community rallied to help their neighbors in need, as they always have," Sheriff Ralph Froehlich said. "Along with our dedicated officers, they gave their

tax-deductible, toys and clothing throughout the year. Donations have done an incredible job of providing for suffering children during the holidays."

"Tree of Hope" continues to accept contributions of money (tax-deductible), toys and clothing throughout the year. Donations can be sent to: Tree of Hope, P.O. Box 4, Kenilworth, N.J. 07033. For more information, call the Tree of Hope Hotline at (908) 658-2574.

Six-week seminar offers strategies to handle grief

Cranford, located at 11 Springfield Ave.

The focus of the support group is to equip those who have suffered loss or change within their lives with useful tools for the journey toward wholeness and healing. The ongoing support group meets every week and new members are welcome at any time.

A six-week seminar is offered twice a year in the fall and the spring. The next seminar will be held Jan. 23-Feb. 27, at the First

Presbyterian Church in Cranford. Areas covered include the nature of grief and grieving, the tasks of grief and redefining yourself, how to take care of yourself and cope with loss, how to make choices and handle holidays and special occasions, creating a meaningful memorial, and examining your spirituality.

The last session includes a special remembrance service and opportunity to walk the labyrinth. This enriched seminar has helped many people from the community and surrounding area in coping with their grief

and moving on to find meaning and joy in their lives. This seminar and support group was created by Patti Williams in response to her late husband's concern for those who have suffered loss. He was the Rev. Bruce Williams, the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford.

To register for the seminar or for information about the seminar or support group, call Patti Williams at (908) 708-1341, Dr. Virginia Waters at (908) 276-2226, or the church office at (908) 276-8440.

AN EXPERIENCED AND CARING STAFF

Sandy Slattery, MSPT has specialized in orthopedic physical therapy. Patients benefit from Sandy's advanced manual skills, focused experience and personal compassion. Her area of clinical interest is spinal rehabilitation. She includes Pilates principals in treatment to emphasize core stability and spinal stabilization.

Martha is Cookin' Again

Martha enjoys her yearly trip to South Jersey to pick apples. Unfortunately, she noted a twinge of back pain while carrying the apples, but dismissed it as her mind was on making fresh apple crisp for her bridge club a few days later.

On the drive home, Martha stopped to pick some wild flowers. As she stooped for the daisy, she felt a "pop" in her lower back and immediate burning on the right. The ride home was unbearable as every bump and stop increased her back pain.

Martha consulted her family physician and was referred to Sandy Slattery at ADVANCED Physical Therapy Associates. Sandy listened to Martha's history and examined her movements. She began a treatment of manual mobilization and modalities to relieve her acute pain. Spinal stabilization through core strengthening gave added support to Martha's spine. Sandy explained ways to move, lift and bend to reduce spinal stress and prevent re-injury.

Martha made remarkable progress. She was virtually pain-free within a few days. She was diligent with her home exercise and practiced proper body mechanics. Martha returned to her many activities and her apple crisp was the talk of the bridge club.

Sandy was happy to assist Martha to a full recovery. Success stories like Martha's demonstrate why ADVANCED Physical Therapy Associates is the finest private practice in the state.

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Golden Nuggets SENIORS

Thursday Club
The Cranford Senior Citizens Thursday Club meets 1 p.m. at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Activities:
Jan. 13 — Bingo.
Jan. 20 — TV stars at The Westwood.
Jan. 27 — Trivia.

Friday Club
The Cranford Senior Citizens Friday Club meets 1 p.m. at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Activities:
Jan. 14 — Social/bingo.
Jan. 21 — Social/bingo.
Jan. 28 — Social/bingo.

Trips sponsored by the Friday Club:
Jan. 19 — to Atlantic City. \$18, leave from Hillsdale Avenue School parking lot at noon. Additional trips are planned Feb. 9 and March 9.

March 15 — St. Patrick's Festival at Woodlock Pines in Hawley, Pa. \$54. Hot and cold buffet features corned beef and cabbage, lamb stew, Irish soda bread and more. The event includes Irish entertainment, bingo and a bar available throughout the day. The bus will leave Centennial Avenue Pool at 8:30 a.m. and return to Cranford and approximately 6:15 p.m.

May 25-26 — to Lancaster and Dutch Country, Pa. \$178 double, \$206 single. Includes one breakfast, one dinner and a trip to the Sight and Sound Theatre to the new show, "Ruth." Also a guided tour of Amish country, Lands Valley and a museum.

Sept. 19-23 — to Niagara Falls and Toronto. \$410 double, \$515 single. Includes guided tours of the falls and the city, a cruise on the Maid of the Mist, trip to Casino Niagara, four breakfasts and four dinners.

For reservations or additional information, call Helen at (908) 276-2849.

Wednesday Club

The Cranford Senior Citizens Wednesday Club meets 1 p.m. at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Activities:

Jan. 26 — Karl Henze, author of *Baltic Sagas*, will present an audio-visual history of the Baltic nations at 1 p.m. at the Community Center. He will recount the heritage of the Baltic region from the days of the marauding Vikings to recent times.

Trips sponsored by the club include:
Feb. 14 — to Atlantic City. Bus leaves from Meeker Avenue at 11 a.m. The cost is \$16 with a \$20 return. Additional trips are scheduled the second Monday of each month on March 14 and April 11. For more information, call Arleen Borden at (908) 272-54415.

Cranford AARP Chapter 4269

May 11, 2005 — to Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. \$27 per person; a \$10 coupon for the buffet and two \$10 game coupons will be given to each person. Bus will leave from the Centennial Avenue Pool at 8:30 a.m.

For trips information or to make reservations, call trips chairman Mike Donerack at (908) 486-6679.



Students in Shannon Norton's class designed roller coasters in a recent physics project.

Physics class an up-and-down experience

Cranford — Eighth-grade students in Shannon Norton's physical science class at Orange Avenue School recently completed a hands-on roller coaster design project. Groups of students collaborated to create a three-dimensional model of a roller coaster they would like to see built at Great Adventure. With materials ranging from Styrofoam to chopsticks to clay, students designed an impressive exhibit of looping, twisting cre-

ations. Elementary and younger science classes rushed into the eighth-grade science classroom to view the rides and ask the builders questions. Norton explained, "The project was a summative assessment of the concepts my students learned in our physics unit, including motion, force, and energy. The students did an outstanding job with the project, but most importantly it engaged them in many dimensions of learning: cre-

Programs for families will begin soon at CCHD

Cranford — Programs are about to begin at the Counseling Centers for Human Development, located at 201 Lincoln Ave. East. The group is a non-profit counseling center located in Cranford for over 30 years, with satellite locations in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Below is a list and description of the groups:

Children Helping Children: Children are unavoidably impacted by the break-up of their parents' marriage. Through artwork, storytelling and discussion, children can learn to understand and express their feelings, drawing strength from one another. Mondays and Tuesdays after school starting Jan. 24, for six weeks. Open to ages 5-18, grouped by age. \$75 per child. Pre-registration is preferred. Call (908) 276-0590. Susan Koslowsky, facilitator.

Divorcee 101: Contemplating Separation or Divorce: Many adults reach a point where they recognize that their marriage is at a critical impasse. This group will allow participants to explore feelings, fears and needs, as well as the legal process, to find ways to handle the prospect of significant life changes and help us make positive decisions for our future. Mondays starting Jan. 24, 7:30-9 p.m. for six consecutive weeks. \$50. Gail Katz and Karen Sales, co-facilitators. Call (908) 276-0590 for registration.

Divorcee 102: Alumni & Friends/Surviving Divorce: New problems and unresolved issues can deter adults as they forge our new lives after separation/divorce. This group aims to help participants face issues including guilt, feelings of failure, dealing with the children, resolution, learning to trust again, dating and more. Friends who have taken any of the divorce groups/workshops will have an opportunity to meet together again to raise new questions, share new experiences and continue mutual support through this ongoing "alumni" group. Wednesdays starting Jan. 26, 7:30-9 p.m. for six consecutive weeks. \$50. Annette Herrmann, facilitator.

Anger Management Group: Participants will work to identify sources of triggers to their angry feelings, as well as to identify alternative coping skills for use when feeling this way. 7-8:30 p.m. for eight consecutive weeks beginning Feb. 8. \$240, \$120 payable at first session, \$120 payable at fifth session. William E. Merritt, facilitator.

Institution ceremony planned Jan. 30 at Trinity

Cranford — The Rev. Patricia A. Eustis will be instituted as the 16th rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Forest and North avenues, at 3 p.m. Jan. 30. The Right Rev. George E. Council, Bishop of New Jersey, will officiate. Eustis is a 1998 master's of divinity graduate of the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass., where she was awarded the Preaching Excellence Award and the Alison Cheek Feminist Liberation Theology Prize. She was ordained in 1990 and has served parishes, as rector and associate rector, in Massachusetts and Maryland. Prior to seminary, she was the owner of Eustis Consulting. She served as a construction and move management consultant with private and non-profit organizations. She is also the author of "Honor You, Honor Me," a community youth violence prevention and peer development manual.



REV. PATRICIA EUSTIS

Along with Dr. Mary Lou Ashur of Carney Hospital, Dorchester, Mass., she is author of "Domestic Violence and the Healer's Response: Strategies for Identity and Treating People Who Experienced Domestic Violence," presented to the Ohio State Medical Society in 1996, and "Intimate Violence and the Healer's Response," presented at the Medical Issues Leadership Forum at Harvard Medical School in 1995. She is married to Augustus W. Eustis. They have five grown children, ages 23 to 27. She began her ministry at Trinity in October 2004. For more information, call (908) 276-4047 or go to www.trinitychurchcranford.com.

Blood drive at VFW Post

Cranford — It's a brand new year — start it off right by giving blood from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday at the VFW Post 335, 479 South Ave. East. There will be a complimentary cholesterol screening for all blood donors. For more information, call the Blood Center of New Jersey at (800) NJ-BLOOD, ext. 140. All donors must present a signed or picture I.D. and know their Social Security number and are encouraged to eat a meal before donating.

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Schools & Camps

Make baby bilingual at Noah's Ark

WESTFIELD — The product of a French father, an Italian mother, and an American preschooler, 4-year-old Alessia Borzaro is fluent in three languages. She illustrates the remarkable capability of young children to learn languages — an ability Noah's Ark Preschool owner Danielle Marino is ready to utilize with "Bilingual Babies," a full language immersion program for children 2 years old that is modeled after successful programs in Europe and Canada.

Spanish is not a subject in Bilingual Babies, rather the medium through which a standard preschool curriculum is taught. Spanish is introduced with a multi-sensory approach using creative arts, language arts, storytelling, music and games. Alessia's mother, program advisor Marieanne Merendino, grew up in Canada where immersion programs are not the exception but the rule. She said, "I am currently fluent in four languages, and I do not remember learning one."

According to the National Institute of Health and Human Development, high quality

"Within 3-5 years of a child's life, they could learn two languages. Can you imagine that?"
— Danielle Marino

care for children ages 0 to 3 results in higher levels of cognitive and language development later in life. Furthermore, a child's brain is most receptive to acquiring sounds during the first few months of life, and language in the first few years of life. This is due to the explosive increase in the number and complexity of neural connections in the first few years.

Without stimulation, however, those connections disappear. Author and developmental psychologist Dr. Kathryn Young, Ph.D., writes that, "If synapses aren't used, they die, and there's no chance to revive them."

This situation creates an incredible window of opportunity for picking up new languages, which Marino has witnessed first hand. "At Noah's Ark, we've had children from Russia, China — they come speaking no English. It's an incredible thing to see how fast they catch on."

Marino sought an immersion program for her own newborn child, Lucia Bella, only to realize the closest programs were in Manhattan — thus, the creation of Bilingual Babies.

"Within 3-5 years of a child's life, they could learn two languages," Marino said. "Can you imagine that? How incredible that is? This program is for parents who want that for their child, but can't give it themselves."

For further information about toddlers and language, the Bilingual Babies program or traditional Noah's Ark classes in English, call Danielle Marino at (908) 232-7027.



Stars of Tomorrow Junior Campers participate in Costume Day, just one of the many specialty days included in the program.

Sign up for Stars of Tomorrow

Cranford — It seems like summer just ended, and yet it's time once again to start thinking and planning for next summer. Summer gives children of all ages considerable free time and also gives parents the challenge of keeping children fulfilled and busy with constructive yet fun activities.

Stars of Tomorrow Performing Arts Camp, located in Cranford, is an exciting summer theater program for campers ages 3 through high school. It offers intensive theater arts with an emphasis on the creative process and group experience in a warm, supportive, and fun environment.

This is a camp where young performers learn how to work and create together. Stars of Tomorrow campers experience all aspects of theatre including auditioning techniques, musical theatre, scenic design, make-up, and much more. There will be weekly workshops, special guest artists, and a musical revue at the end of camp. Each department and program

Registration is upcoming at Baldwin

Cranford — The Helen K. Baldwin Nursery School will begin registration for the 2004-2005 school year in February. The school is located at the First Presbyterian Church, 11 Springfield Ave., and offers classes for children aged 2½ through pre-kindergarten.

The teachers at Helen K. Baldwin Nursery School are dedicated to creating a warm, loving atmosphere in which children will grow and develop as unique and capable individuals. The school's purpose is to offer valuable educational and social experiences in large, well-equipped classrooms.

The school is fully licensed and accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. For the children of families of former students, registration will take place Feb. 10 and 12 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the church's youth center. Open registration will take place Feb. 17 and 18 from 9-11:30 a.m., also in the youth center. For more information, call the nursery school office at (908) 276-1166.

Some spots left at Miss Nancy's Center

Cranford — The unique teaching style at Miss Nancy's Learning Center makes learning an enjoyable, fun activity.

Circle time is an important daily feature, giving each child an opportunity to experience learning in a special way. It is used to teach educational and social skills that are linked together in all the day's activities, and each child learns not only colors, shapes, letters, beginning phonics, which readines and number recognition, but how these things relate to their daily lives.

Classes give each child a chance to develop socialization skills, including the give and take of a group, verbalizing problems, sharing, taking turns, and good manners. The daily schedule also includes play time, snack time, exercise, music, songs, crafts and a Bible story.

Miss Nancy's Learning Center offers a program for children who will turn 3 by Oct. 1, 2005. The class meets Monday and Tuesday. Parents may choose either the 9 a.m.-noon or the 1-4 p.m. session. The program is designed to enhance a child's growth, build self-esteem, improve socialization skills and lay a foundation for math, reading, science, art and music. The goal is to

establish the awareness that learning is fun.

Miss Nancy also offers a special pre-K class for children who will turn 4 by Oct. 1, 2005. The class meets Wednesday through Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. It is equivalent to a 4½-plus program and has additional learning goals in math readiness, reading readiness, learning addresses and phone numbers, color mixing, months, seasons, nature, science and music. The class prepares children for kindergarten and builds self-esteem.

The school is located in the Cranford United Methodist Church next to the Cranford Library. The Christian environment provided by the center is designed to help young children to grow and develop into secure and independent individuals. The staff is committed to building a positive self-image for every child.

There are also a few spaces available in the January to May 2005 classes. If you're new to town and your child turned 3 by Oct. 1, 2004, you can enroll now for this year.

For more, call (908) 276-9668. Nancy Boyle, director of the center, will reserve a place for your child, send a brochure, or schedule a visit to a class in action.

Give Your child the gift of language.
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Stars of Tomorrow Performing Arts Camp, Cranford
Where a Star is Born Everyday
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Programs for children ages 3 thru high school!
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Open House
Sunday, Jan. 16, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Cranford United Methodist Church
www.StarsofTomorrow.com
StarsofTomorrow@tomecast.net
908-276-5053

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Wardlaw-Hartridge students celebrate the completion of our new Middle School.

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Timothy Cox, UCC '94
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This week

THURSDAY

JAN. 13

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SERVICE — honoring the civil rights leader and two recipients of an award given in his name, Al Forsythe and Joan Rose. Hosted by the Cranford Clergy Council. 7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Springfield and North Union avenues, Free.

TRICKY TRAY AUCTION — at the monthly meeting of the St. Anne's Rosary Altar Society of Garwood. Following the 7:30 p.m. recitation of the Rosary in the church on North Avenue.

FRIDAY

JAN. 14

'THE GOOD FAIRY' — encore screening of the 1935 comedy classic starring Margaret Sullivan, the first in a series at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. 7:30 p.m. (908) 709-7272.

SATURDAY

JAN. 15

BLOOD DRIVE — for the Blood Center of New Jersey, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. VFW Post 335, 479 South Ave. East, Cranford. Complimentary cholesterol screening for all donors. (800) NJ-BLOOD, ext. 140.

SUNDAY

JAN. 16

OPEN HOUSE — a free dance and drama workshop with the Stars of Tomorrow Performing Arts Camp. 6:30-8 p.m. Cranford United Methodist Church, Walnut and Lincoln avenues. (908) 276-8053.

MONDAY

JAN. 18

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT FOR KIDS — the beginning of a 12-week program for children ages 9-13, hosted by: Summer

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WEDNESDAY

JAN. 19

MONTHLY MEETING — for the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 6807. 7:30 p.m. at the Post Home, 221 South Ave. Garwood. There will be a special election to vote for a trustee.

TAX DEDUCTION TIPS — presented by accountant and author Jennifer Mooney for the Union County chapter of the American Association of Mothers & More. 7:30 p.m. Westfield YMCA, 220 Clark St., Westfield. (908) 789-8626.

COMING UP

'MR. AND MRS. SMITH' — a screening of the 1941 comedy featuring Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25. Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. 7:30 p.m. Encore presentation 2 p.m. Jan. 28. Free. (908) 709-7272.

OPEN HOUSE — at the Oceola Church Nursery School, 1889 Raritan Rd., Clark. 9-11 a.m. or 12:30-2:30 p.m. Jan. 25. Registration for fall classes begins by mail Feb. 1. (908) 272-3668.

DESIGNING AN INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO — a talk for the New Jersey chapter of the American Association of Individual Investors. 6 p.m. The Westwood, North Avenue, Garwood. (908) 276-7337.

CIGAR NIGHT — an annual event hosted by the Cranford Knights of Columbus. 8 p.m. Jan. 28. Garwood Knights of Columbus Hall, South Avenue in Garwood (across from Pathmark). \$40 admission includes food, drinks, cigars and a cigar-rolling demonstration. (908) 497-7300.

PRE-SCHOOL LOTTERY — draft lottery for summer programs offered by the Cranford Recreation and Parks Department. 3 p.m. Registration is now open. (908) 709-7283.

INSTITUTION CEREMONY — for the Rev. Patricia A. Eustis, 16th rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford. 3 p.m. Jan. 30. Forest and North avenues. (908) 276-4047.



A sweet time for Harding pre-school students

Pre-kindergarten students in Angela Marinaro's classes at Harding School in Kenilworth recently made gingerbread houses to celebrate the holiday season. Parents assisted the children in decorating the houses. Students listened to several versions of "The Gingerbread Man" and "The Gingerbread Baby" by Jan Brett. The class also enjoyed making gingerbread people as decorations.

Teens arrested for hanging Nazi flag over GSP

Cranford

Two juveniles and two 18-year-olds were arrested after police observed them allegedly hanging a Nazi flag over the Garden State Parkway.

Ernest Magrys of Linden and Jakob Musial of Clifton, along with a 16-year-old from Linden and a 16-year-old from Clifton, were charged with harassment after a Clark police officer observed them using shoelaces to hang the three-foot by five-foot flag over the parkway on Raritan Road at 12:33 a.m. Sunday.

The Clark officer detained the suspects and called Cranford Police, who made the arrests. The case is under investigation by the Union County Bias Crimes Unit.

Stephen Ferrer, 27, of Westfield, was arrested at 11:19 p.m. Saturday after police pulled him over after he allegedly hit his vehicle to the curb without using his blinker on South Avenue near South Union Avenue.

He was charged with driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to a breath test and careless driving.

Kenilworth

Bernard J. Coyle, of

Police log

Cranford

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Kenilworth

Bernard J. Coyle, of

Garwood VFW Ladies Auxiliary to meet Jan. 19

GARWOOD — The Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 6807 will hold a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19 at their Post Home, 221 South Ave. Programs in the Garwood schools will be discussed.

All officers and members are asked to attend. There will be a special election to vote for a trustee. The Charter will be drafted for deceased member

Ann Klimas.

Community Chairwoman Lena Cummings will send her report to the department this month. The Auxiliary Senior Vice President, Lottie Sworen, and President Madara delivered bingo gifts and holiday decorations to Runnels Hospital for the residents' enjoyment.

The Post and Ladies Auxiliary had a Veterans Day program for the Garwood Senior Citizens in November. Americanism Chairwoman Ann Marie Guerrero planned the program, and Commander Bob Springstead and Chaplain George

Kondresewic took part in the program.

Commander Springstead and President Madara presented a floral arrangement to Gold Star Mother Marge Steets. A cake was donated by the Auxiliary and members served refreshments.

VFW National Home for Children Chairwoman Lottie Sworen sent 100 Carepak labels to the home for equipment for the children. Donations were made to the New Jersey Cottage at the home.

Other monetary donations were sent to the Department for the Lyons Veterans Hospital and

East Orange Veterans Hospital, the three state Veterans Homes, and cancer aid and research.

Christmas cards were sent to the troops through the program Friends of Our Troops, and a donation was sent to the troops through the USO. The Auxiliary continues to save Campbell labels and pennies to fight cancer.

A trip is planned for Feb. 13 to the Resort Casino in Atlantic City. Call Anne Leonard, chairperson, at (908) 789-0670 to reserve a seat. The public is welcome. The bus will leave from the Post Home.

MLK Award service set for tonight

Cranford

The 24th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service will be held 7:30 p.m. tonight at the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford, located at 11 Springfield Avenue.

The service celebrates King's ministry of non-violence and dedication to civil and human rights.

Featured guests will be the Maplewood High School Gospel Chorus.

This program also celebrates people in the Cranford community who continually work in quiet and unselfish ways to foster better relations among all people, and who have represented in their own lives the ideals and commitments of Dr. King.

Al Forsythe, coordinator of youth ministry at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, is being honored for his work with young men and women to develop them

spiritually, morally, psychologically and socially. Forsythe's work with youth has focused on providing them with firsthand experiential understanding and combating the problems of homelessness and poverty.

Jean Rose is receiving the King Award posthumously for her work in the field of gerontology and developing programs for seniors. Rose was a long time member of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, and is being honored for her work with young men and women to develop them

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Cranford

Union County College's Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education now offers an IT Security Specialist Certificate Program. The course is an 80-hour training program for network professionals designed to maintain the security and integrity of computers and computer networks.

In the spring 2005 semester, it will begin on Jan. 25 and will be held on the college's Elizabeth

campus at 12 West Jersey St. from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays until May 12.

The program is an excellent next step for MCSEs, CNEs, Network professionals, as well as CNA's.

The cost for the course is \$2,618 and includes the cost of the books. For more information or to register, contact the Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education at (908) 709-7600.

Community Life

Free reading of 'Whitey Ford' in Cranford

Briefs

Library collection now at two locations

GARWOOD — Due to construction, Garwood Public Library book collections have been divided into two locations. Juvenile fiction, non-fiction and reference are in the Lincoln School on Second Avenue. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number is (908) 769-0831, ext. 2114.

Adult collections, fiction and non-fiction, best sellers, magazines, and young adult books (sixth grade and up) are located at the Annex at 57 Center St., which is in the JFK Plaza parking lot. Hours at the Annex are Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hours are posted on the annex door and may change depending upon staffing. The phone and fax at the Annex is (908) 817-8146. The photocopy machine is also located at the Annex.

The anticipated opening of the new Garwood Public Library is late 2005.

The outdoor book drop is located at the JFK Plaza Annex. Any item, either juvenile or adult may be returned at either location or to the book drop if the library is closed.

Lottery upcoming for pre-school programs

Cranford — At 3 p.m. Jan. 28, the Recreation and Parks Department will hold a draft lottery for the summer pre-school programs Tots and Tiny Tots, as well as the fall 2005 Kiddie Kapers and Pee Wee Kapers programs.

For Kiddie Kapers, a child must be 4 by June 1, 2005. For Pee Wee Kapers, child must be 3 by June 1, 2005.

The Recreation Department has been taking names for the lottery since Jan. 4. When putting a child's name on the lottery list, provide a birth certificate and proof of residency. Without those items, a child's name will not be put on the list. These programs are for Cranford residents only.

For additional information on these programs, call (908) 709-7283.

Knights again will host Cigar Night

Cranford — Cranford Knights of Columbus Council 6226 will host its annual Cigar Night 8 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Garwood Knights of Columbus Hall.

Admission is \$40 and includes food, drinks and cigars. There will also be a cigar-rolling demonstration by Martinez Cigars.

For tickets, call Jim at (908) 497-1780.

One-stroke painting classes at the library

Kenilworth — The Friends of the Kenilworth Library have announced a new series of one-stroke painting classes to be offered during the months of January, February and March.

The classes will be taught by Dawn Colicchio and Eileen Calo, certified one-stroke instructors who will teach the Donna Dewberry one-stroke technique.

The fee is \$30 per session payable at the start of each class, with a portion of the fee going to support the Friends of the Kenilworth Library. No previous painting experience is required, and all supplies and equipment for each class will be provided.

Participants may sign up for individual or single classes.

The schedule is as follows: Jan. 24 is a beginner's class at which students will paint a penguin on a photo album; Feb. 28 is an advanced class featuring the painting of a rose on a watering can; March 7 is a beginner's class with an assignment of a hydrangea on a lamp shade; and March 21 is an advanced class at which students will paint an ocean scene on a photo box.

All classes will start promptly at 6:15 p.m. and run until about 8:30. Samples of these projects are on display at the library.

Because class size will be limited to 15 participants, pre-registration is required. If demand is high, additional classes may be added.

Registration can be done at the library or by calling (908) 276-2451. The Kenilworth Public Library is located at 548 Boulevard.

Cranford — "We Beat Whitey Ford," a play by Millburn playwright Kai Wagenheim, will be presented in a staged reading at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Theater Project, Union County College's professional theatre company, at 1033 Springfield Ave. The presentation will be followed by discussion with author and cast.

In the play, two former high school baseball teammates — one black (Mitch), one white

(Hal) — meet 20 years later at Newark Airport and seek to restore what once was. The play has been described as a moving, often funny, tale of friendship, and of the chasm between youthful dreams and reality — between what we want and what we get.

The script-in-hand performance of "We Beat Whitey Ford" is a presentation of one of the new plays being generated by the

Theater Project's Playwrights Workshop for New Jersey-based authors. Those in attendance will be encouraged to share their feedback with the playwright, and fellow audience members.

Playwright Kai Wagenheim, born in Newark, is a former The New York Times journalist and the author and translator of eight books and nine plays and screenplays. His biography of Babe Ruth was adapted for an

NBC-TV film. He is also adjunct associate professor at Columbia University's Writing Division, School of the Arts and directs a monthly creative writing workshop at the State Prison in Trenton.

The admission is free thanks to the support of The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Union County College

Foundation, a HEART Grant (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and by the generosity of Mr. J. Edward Cecilia and Mrs. Marion Ciska.

For further information, contact Mark Spina, director of The Theater Project at 1033 Springfield Ave. Call (908) 669-5189 or visit www.TheTheaterProject.com.

Breaking 50,000: Boro library sets circulation record

Kenilworth

For the first time in its 70-year history, the Kenilworth Public Library checked out more than 50,000 items during the course of a single year, with 50,249 items checked out as of the close of business on Dec. 30, 2004.

This milestone also reflects a 24.69 percent increase in circulation from the previous year.

Longtime Kenilworth resident and library patron Avi Kiriakakis was the winner of an afghan donated by the Friends of the Kenilworth Public Library when she checked out the 50,000th item a few minutes before 1 p.m. on Dec. 29.

Kiriakakis said at the time that she has been coming to the library for the past 31 years and currently enjoys bringing her grandchildren to the library on a weekly basis for storytime.

When asked about future goals for the library, Library

Director Dale Spindel just smiles and shrugs. "We've come so far in just a few short years, but I think there's still a lot of potential for additional growth," said Spindel.

"It's an ongoing challenge to figure out ways we can keep taking things to the next level, but one goal that never changes is finding ways to bring people through our front door so they can see what a great place the library is."

The Kenilworth Public Library is located at 548 Boulevard. Residents of Kenilworth as well as people who work or attend school in the borough are eligible to register for library cards.

In addition, residents of 42 other communities are eligible to register for borrowing privileges through a reciprocity agreement.

For more information, call the library at (908) 276-2451.



Tina McCormick, associate pastor for youth at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, fulfills her promise to kiss a pig — in this case, 800-lb. John Henry of Rock 'n' Roll Animals — in recognition of the successful conclusion of the Heifer Mission Project.

With a kiss, church marks completion of mission project

Westfield

On Jan. 9, The Presbyterian Church in Westfield celebrated the successful conclusion of a special mission project organized and run by children participating in the church's Sunday School program.

More than \$10,000 was collected for Heifer International and will be used to purchase two arks full of animals that will be distributed to poverty-stricken families throughout the world.

This unique mission project was launched in September 2004, when director of Christian education Kathy Genus introduced the idea to the children and encouraged them to come up with ways to raise \$5,000 to underwrite one ark.

Through creative sales and marketing techniques, which included a craft fair prior to the holiday season, the children raised enough funds to meet their original goal and to purchase a second ark.

As they worked on securing support for the project, the children also learned about the animals they would help to purchase, and the families who would benefit from the project.

In October, a group of children and adults

traveled to work on a farm and learn more about poverty and hunger around the world.

As added incentive for the children to meet their goal, interim senior pastor Roland Perdue and associate pastor for youth Tina McCormick offered to kiss a pig if \$5,000 was raised by the end of December. The ministers fulfilled their promise at a celebration reception on Jan. 9, where they both kissed an 800-pound pig in front of hundreds of delighted congregation members who helped to make the Heifer project a success.

For 60 years, Heifer International has provided millions of struggling families with the tools needed to become self-reliant for food and income. Through the gifts of livestock and training, a family can obtain food products and other income-producing benefits to feed, clothe, and educate their children. Each gift multiplies because every family that receives a Heifer animal promises to "pass on the gift" by giving one or more of their animal's offspring to another family in need.

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Westfield plans to dedicate new memorial to Dr. King

By BRAD BISHOP
STAFF WRITER

WESTFIELD — The site of a forthcoming new stone monument will be incorporated into the upcoming observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

A commemorative boulder bearing a bronze inscription and quotes from King will be installed on town-owned land sometime in May, said Pat Fagnas, treasurer and co-founder of the Martin Luther King Association of Westfield.

The association selected a site off South Avenue, just west of the Route 28 traffic circle and near the Town Bank, to honor the civil rights leader. The stone monument will be located across the train tracks from

the town's World War I, September 11, and Korean War memorials.

"It's going to be a quarry-type stone — that's what we have in mind right now, but we haven't finalized it yet," Fagnas said.

Fagnas said the monument was originally envisioned by association co-founder Bill Jeremiah and is being prepared by Tim Doerr of Master Memorials, who assisted resident Kevin Deveney with his recently installed Korean War memorial.

Funding for the memorial came in part from a \$1,750 grant from the Westfield Foundation, and another \$1,850 in donations from Association members. The town has assisted the project as well, said the Rev. Leon Randall of St. Luke's AME Zion

Church, who also serves as president of the Martin Luther King Association.

"In Westfield, we're coming up on the 18th commemorative service, and the mayor and council have been very cooperative for these 18 years," Randall said.

"We thought it would be a good idea (to install the monument) because Westfield has been working for some of the things that Dr. King stood for."

This year's commemorative service will take place at Temple Emanuel-El on East Broad Street, following a procession on Monday beginning at 12:30 p.m. from the future site of the monument. At noon the Martin Luther King Association will assemble at the site to consecrate the ground.

Longtime Cranford resident pursuing musical dream in CA

Cranford

Performing Arts Studio ready for new semester

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Performing Arts Studio is gearing up for a new semester of acting, musical theatre and improvisation workshops.

"We take pride in motivating our students to explore their inner talents, physically express themselves through pantomime, sharpen their minds by participating in improvisations and experience the fun of creating characters," said Robin Gerson, Wong, director of The Performing Arts Studio. "By participating in our classes, our students' confidence and self-esteem grow. In a nurturing environment, we allow our students to take creative risks. Many times the results are amazing, and the children far exceed our expectations."



Teen students at the studio pose before taking the stage in the murder mystery *Whodunnit!* Pictured: (back row) Liz Hammonds, Chelsea Pech, Lindsay Gerrity, Jenny Briganie, Christine Figueora; (front row) Samantha Tralman, Alex Poage, Mary Kate O'Connell.

"The studio is dedicated to teaching children's lyrics through the arts. Classes are designed to reach out to the shy as well as precocious student and channel his or her talents."

"Our professional staff is trained to encourage the most talented child to come to his or her shell. In turn, the 'little hams' in our classes learn to develop their natural gifts," said Gerson Wong. "Our curriculum is geared for both the professional track student as well as the child who just wants to explore his or her natural talent."

The Performing Arts Studio begins its spring registration this month. Acting classes are offered to children from kindergarten through high school. Advanced scene study class is available to students in grades 7-12. Musical theatre classes are offered to students in grades two through six and grades 6-12. Improvisation classes are offered to middle school through high school students. Classes

begin the first week of February and are held at The Jewish Community Center (JCC) and Terrill Middle School. Both are located in Scotch Plains. The spring session consists of 14 lessons taught by theatre professionals. At the end of the semester, students perform in a summer production complete with costumes, make-up, lights, microphones, and music. This

production is staged for family and friends at Terrill Middle School theatre. The Performing Arts Studio will also be running a summer theatre camp at Terrill Middle School. For more information and to receive a spring and/or summer brochure, call (908) 412-6665 or visit the website at www.theperformingartsstudio.com.

Open house planned Jan. 25 at the Osceola Church Nursery School

CLARK — Osceola Church Nursery School which meets at the Osceola Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Road, Clark, will hold an open house on Jan. 25. Parents and their children are invited to come to visit the facility and meet with the teachers anytime between 9-11 a.m. or 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Registration for classes for September 2005 will be completed by mail, beginning on Feb. 1. All registration materials will be distributed at the open house. Osceola Church Nursery School offers developmental, appropriate learning activities for pre-school children to foster social emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual growth. The school begins its 41st year; they offer twice-weekly classes (morning or afternoon) for 3-year-olds and three-day-a-week classes (morning or afternoon) for 4-year-olds. To be eligible, children must be 3 or 4 years old by Oct. 1. A staggered dismissal schedule in the afternoon facilitates dismissal times at local public schools.

The licensed teaching staff members know that children learn through play, and the goal is to provide each child with socialization opportunities, creative outlets and exciting play experiences that teach them that school is a fun, safe and nurturing place. It is the only co-operative nursery school in the area where parents work in the classroom, and are thus able to take part in their children's education.

The program includes musical experiences, physical activities and visits to special "child-oriented" places in the community. Osceola Church Nursery School is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, a branch of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which has found the school to be in compliance with its standards for high quality early childhood programs.

For further information about the school's programs or about registration, contact Judith Burlew, director, at (908) 272-3665.

Holiday spirit

In the spirit of giving and sharing, the GWFC Cranford VIA and the students in Lisa Ventura's fourth-grade class at Brookside Place School prepared six baskets of turkeys with all the trimmings prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. The baskets were donated to Cranford Family Care to be distributed to families in need. The students decorated the baskets with pictures of turkeys and their good wishes for the families. Pictured are Ventura and her class with VIA Evening Chairperson Elaine Hamilton and member Judy D'Ambola.



Magnet School wins Blue Ribbon County news

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Union County Magnet School in Scotch Plains is one of eight New Jersey schools to be selected by the United States Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School. The Blue Ribbon Schools award places the Union County Magnet School among the best in the nation.

"We are very proud of all of those involved, including administrators, teachers, students and parents. To be selected among 289 public and private schools nationwide is indeed a great honor and shows the commitment to excellence shared by all," stated Union County Freeholder Chairman Angel G. Estrada.

Of the schools submitted by each state, at least one-third must meet the first criterion of having 40 percent of the students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program allows both elementary and secondary schools to be recognized in the same year.

There are more than 100,000 public and private schools in the country. Of these schools, fewer than 300 claim to be Blue Ribbon Schools, which is less than one-half of one percent.

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Health & Fitness

Volunteers are needed at Runnells Specialized Hospital

With the holiday season now past, think about giving a gift that's always the right color and never has to be returned — volunteer your time at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

There is a great need for volunteers, particularly in the coffee shop. These individuals are responsible for making and serving coffee, tea and hot chocolate, buttered rolls and bagels, as well as serving pastries, muffins and muffins. They also keep the coffee shop clean and the supplies full.

Currently, the shifts for coffee shop volunteers are Monday through Friday and Sunday from 8 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. The shop is not open on Saturday due to the lack of volunteers. However, if individuals step forward who wish to volunteer on Saturdays, residents, patients, staff and visitors could be served on that day as well.

Profits from the coffee shop go to the hospital's Volunteer Guild, Runnells' fundraising arm, which uses the money combined

with the profits from the Guided Care gift shop, for the benefit of the hospital's residents and patients. The Guild purchases birthday and holiday gifts, as well as DVDs, CD players and TVs, sponsors entertainment throughout the year and sponsors and hosts a monthly ice cream social, in addition to supporting tickets to the theater, prizes for bingo games, the annual carnival and many other activities.

In addition to the Guild's need for volunteers for the coffee shop, the hospital's

Office of Volunteer Services is seeking volunteers for other activities. These include extending the hand of friendship to residents who don't have family or friendship contacts via the Friendly Visitor Program and assisting handicapped persons to swim and exercise in the "Y" pool as part of Swim, Inc.

Students who are at least 14 are needed as junior volunteers, with opportunities ranging from field trips where they may escort residents, bringing them from their

rooms to the lobby (and back upon returning) and playing cooperative games like bingo.

The Volunteer Guild and the Office of Volunteer Services of Runnells Specialized Hospital are always interested in recruiting volunteers. Flexible hours and a variety of opportunities exist, with resident contact as well as performing other tasks.

Anyone who would like further information should call the Office of Volunteer Services at (908) 771-5847.

Group helps those who care for elderly

SAGE Eldercare, a major community resource for elders, offers a monthly support group for caregivers of the third Wednesday of each month at SAGE's Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center, 550 Springfield Ave. in Berkeley Heights.

PREP - People Responsible for Elderly Persons - provides caregivers with emotional support, a community resource, effective

problem-solving and coping strategies, and the chance to share common concerns with others who are caring for their aging loved ones.

PREP's next meeting will be 7-9 p.m. Wednesday. For more information, call Ellen McNally, SAGE InfoCare director, at (908) 273-4558.

SAGE Eldercare serves as a major community resource in the

establishment and delivery of innovative services for older adults and their caregivers, providing them with dignity and choice. These services allow the elderly to remain independent and living in their own homes.

Present SAGE programs include HomeCare, Meals-on-Wheels, SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) of Union County, bill-paying, a shop-

ping service, chore service, InfoCare, a Resale Shop and Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center, currently located in Berkeley Heights.

SAGE serves 5,000 older people and their families annually in Essex, Morris, Somerset, and Union counties.

For more information contact 908-273-4550 or log onto www.sage-nj.org.

Progress made in arthritis treatment

(ARA) — Cutting-edge biologic therapies and a predictive marker for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are among the top 10 arthritis advances of 2004, according to the Arthritis Foundation.

Exciting discoveries of the past year also include a novel treatment that slows bone erosion and a common genetic link to autoimmune disorders such as RA, lupus, diabetes and thyroid disease.

Arthritis advocates also scored successes in 2004 with the introduction of the first arthritis-specific legislation in more than 30 years and the implementation of a Medicare pilot program allowing thousands of Americans with RA and psoriatic arthritis to obtain life-changing biologic medications at a reduced cost.

"As the number of people with arthritis reaches epidemic proportions, advances in research, public health and public policy are more important than ever to preventing, controlling and eventually curing the nation's number one cause of disability," said John H. Klippel, M.D., president and CEO of the Arthritis Foundation.

"Breakthrough advances in 2004 offer hope to people with arthritis and provide a glimpse of what is possible in the future."

Other advances include:

- Effectiveness of weight loss and physical activity confirmed
- First-ever set of quality indicators for arthritis developed
- Measures to prevent wrong-site surgery mandated
- Antibiotic shown to slow progression of knee osteoarthritis (OA)

To develop its annual list of the top 10 arthritis advances, the Arthritis Foundation sought input from clinicians with expertise in different forms of arthritis, scientists from various research disciplines, and the American College of Rheumatology, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Advances in 2004 showed that in the near future, people might benefit from therapies targeted at the root causes of serious forms of arthritis rather than those aimed at treating disease symptoms. It also could become routine to screen patients to determine who is at risk for severe disease progression and, therefore, who is most likely to benefit from early and aggressive treatment.

The foreseeable future also promises a greater quality of life for patients with arthritis and related diseases through increased government funding for research and public health activities, advances in quality care standards for people with arthritis, and improved pre-operative processes to screen patients. An improved understanding of the benefits of weight loss and exercise in reducing pain and improving physical function, as well as promising research into antibiotic treatment to slow disease progression, will lead to relief for millions of Americans suffering from debilitating knee OA.

With one in every two Americans over 50 facing fractures from osteoporosis or low bone mass by 2020, advances that slow the progressive loss of bone and increasing bone mass have never been more important. Research conducted in 2004 will serve as the launching pad for bone health advances in the coming year, with researchers poised for more breakthroughs in the future.

The Arthritis Foundation is the single largest nonprofit contributor to arthritis research in the world and the only nationwide, nonprofit health organization helping people take greater control of arthritis by leading efforts to prevent, control and cure arthritis and related diseases — the nation's number one cause of disability. For free arthritis information, contact the Arthritis Foundation at (800) 283-7800 or www.arthritis.org.

This article is courtesy of ARA Content.

Library to host talk on treating varicose veins

SCOTCH PLAINS — At 7 p.m. Jan. 26, the Scotch Plains Public Library will present "New Treatments for Varicose Veins: A Minimally Invasive Approach" in cooperation with Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Dr. David Richmond will discuss symptoms and the newest treatments for dull pain, itch or heavy sensations in legs.

Richmond has been in clinical practice since 1982 and is affiliated with John F. Kennedy Medical

Center and Somerset Medical Center, as well as Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

He is also a member of the Eastern Vascular Society of New Jersey, the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery and the Union County Medical Society.

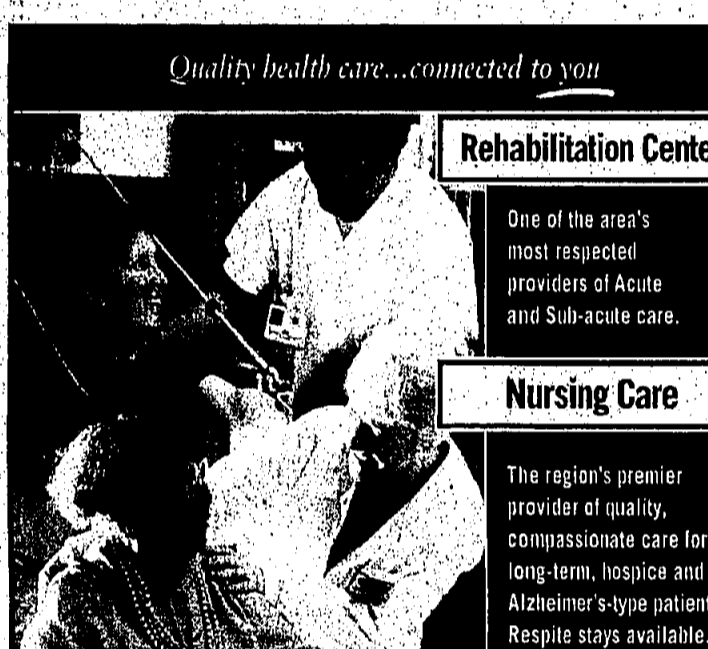
New treatments for vascular problems are often non-invasive.

Participants will hear about current treatments and services available to relieve problems associated with varicose veins.

Pre-registration is optional. The program is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served.

The Scotch Plains Library is located at 1927 Bartle Ave., one block from Park Avenue in the center of town. For further information or directions, call (908) 322-5007.

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Targeting kids' weight loss

Summit Medical Group pediatrician Ellen Ganek, M.D., is offering a 12-week weight management program for children ages 9-13 beginning Tuesday.

For information, call the office of Dr. Ganek at (908) 228-3620 or Summit Medical Group's Pediatric Clinical Coordinator, Kelly Pereira, at (908) 277-8742.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS MEDICINE

Presented by William Bell, R.P.T.

BOARDING SCHOOL

Novice snowboarders, in particular, are prone to injuring themselves on the slopes. The combination of fixed bindings and the fact that snowboarders ride sideways means that they most often try to break their falls with their arms, injuring their wrists and shoulders. Unlike skiing, where risk increases as people become more proficient and ski faster, studies have shown that snow boarding is most dangerous during the first few days on the slopes. Some studies say that the risk of injury in snowboarding is 20% in the first five days of starting the sport, which is quite high. Injuries include very bad fractures of the wrist, requiring casts, pins, or P.S. Helmets are strongly recommended for snowboarders.

Novice snowboarders, in particular, are prone to injuring themselves on the slopes. The combination of fixed bindings and the fact that snowboarders ride sideways means that they most often try to break their falls with their arms, injuring their wrists and shoulders. Unlike skiing, where risk increases as people become more proficient and ski faster, studies have shown that snow boarding is most dangerous during the first few days on the slopes. Some studies say that the risk of injury in snowboarding is 20% in the first five days of starting the sport, which is quite high. Injuries include very bad fractures of the wrist, requiring casts, pins, or P.S. Helmets are strongly recommended for snowboarders.

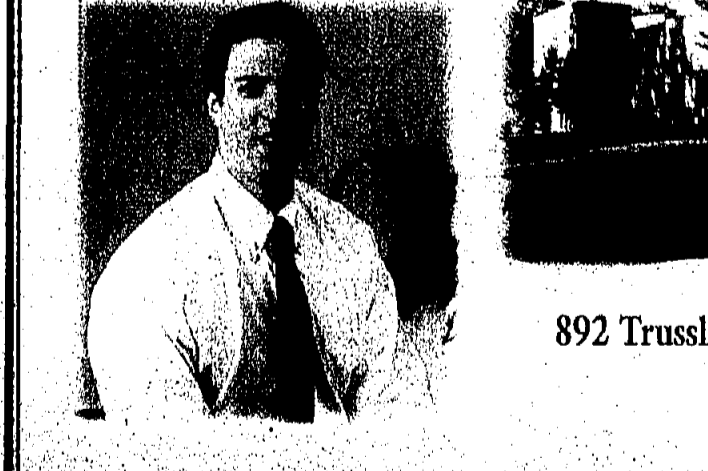
Proper stretching before and after snowboarding to increase flexibility, good instruction and wearing protective gear are effective ways to decrease the risk of serious injuries. If you would like further information about today's topics or to schedule an appointment for physical therapy, call BILL REHABILITATION & SPORTS MEDICINE at (908) 272-9955. We are conveniently located at 777 Walnut Ave in Cranford. New patients are welcome. Auto Insurance Claims are our specialty, and we will submit your bills for compensation. No faults & Medicare.

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RAHWAY

The program will begin at 10 a.m. and will feature Dr. Calin Moucha, an orthopedic surgeon at Overlook Hospital. Attendees will receive a free Reader's Digest Book, An Action Guide to Managing Arthritis.

The program is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m. To RSVP, please call Suzanne Lyon at (908) 273-6550, ext. 22.

SAGE Eldercare serves as a major community resource in the establishment and delivery of innovative services for older adults and their caregivers; providing them with dignity and choice. These services allow the elderly to remain independent and living in their own homes.

For more information contact 908-273-6550 or log onto www.sage-nj.org.

Free Door to Door Transportation Available

'Arthritis Answers' at SAGE

SUMMIT — Do you or someone you know suffer from arthritis? Do you have questions about the disease and want to learn how to live more comfortably?

If so, plan to join SAGE Eldercare's Women's Issues Group for the program "Arthritis Answers" on Jan. 20 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 567 Springfield Ave. in Summit.

The program will begin at 10 a.m. and will feature Dr. Calin Moucha, an orthopedic surgeon at Overlook Hospital. Attendees will receive a free Reader's Digest Book, An Action Guide to Managing Arthritis.

The program is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m. To RSVP, please call Suzanne Lyon at (908) 273-6550, ext. 22.

SAGE Eldercare serves as a major community resource in the establishment and delivery of innovative services for older adults and their caregivers; providing them with dignity and choice. These services allow the elderly to remain independent and living in their own homes.

For more information contact 908-273-6550 or log onto www.sage-nj.org.

Johnstone hits century mark

Cougars boys basketball head coach Tom Johnstone got the 100th win of his coaching career at Cranford High School with a victory over Summit in the Rahway Tournament. Johnstone is in his eighth year as coach. Athletic Director Marc Tagliari and Principal Carol Gressel presented Johnstone with a commemorative ball and trophy before the Cougars took on Linden in Cranford last Thursday.

Sports

Breareley lets one slip away vs. Dayton, 63-59



Terence Grier played a large role in getting the Cougars back on track this week after losing three straight. He scored 39 against Westfield Saturday and then registered 33 in a win over Union Tuesday.

Grier's 39 lifts Cougars past Westfield, 69-51

By CHAD HEMENWAY
THE CHRONICLE

WESTFIELD — After winning their first four, Cranford's boys basketball team was wallowing in a three-game losing streak heading into Westfield Saturday.

And at 2-4 against teams like Shabazz, Linden and Scotch Plains, the Blue Devils were showing signs of turning things around against some heavy competition.

When the teams met Saturday in Westfield, the Blue Devils were not able to overcome 39 points and 13 rebounds from Cranford's Terence Grier in the Cougars' 69-51 victory, dropping Westfield record to 2-5 and lifting Cranford to 5-3.

"We're coming off a loss in a championship game (to South Plainfield in the Rahway Tournament) and two other games where we just played bad," said Grier after the Westfield game. "I think more than anything we just wanted to get back to playing good ball."

Grier led the Cougars in the first half 17 points, sparking a 10-0 run in the first quarter, but Westfield remained in striking distance heading into the locker room trailing, 29-20, thanks in large part to the performance of point guard Eric Hayes.

"We found out shots early," Grier said. "I think we did a good job of moving the ball around."

Hayes finished with 16 points for the Blue Devils after scoring seven in the first half but he would remain Westfield's only scorer in double-digits. Cranford's pressure style of defense forced turnovers and subsequent fast break scoring opportunities.

In the third quarter, Cranford took over the game with a 26-point output while holding Westfield to 1-1 to jump out to a 65-32 lead.

After a foul shot by Westfield's Billy Hearson (4

BOYS BASKETBALL

Cranford went on a 12-0 run as Grier connected on consecutive three-pointers followed by long-range shots from Chris Drechsel and Chris Brown (6 points each). The Blue Devils' Hayes hit a jumper followed by one from Terrell Shaw (8 points) to make the tally 45-28 in favor of Cranford. Grier avished in another quick five points and Drechsel dialed long distance at the third quarter buzzer for the 23-point lead.

"In the first half I took the ball inside but in the second half I backed away to work outside because they were collapsing in the paint when I drove in," Grier said.

Cranford's Dave Snyder couldn't find his stroke from the outside and finished with five points but contributed defensively and on the boards, as did Steve Caprio, who chipped in six points.

Westfield's Bryan Power had seven points Mike Venezia contributed four.

Last Thursday the result was not so pleasant for Cranford, suffering a 71-51 loss to Linden. Cranford hung around for much of the game, down 10 after three quarters, before a 22-12 fourth quarter in favor of the Tigers. Grier was able to muster six points in the second half and 13 for the game. Drechsel (12 points) and Snyder (15 points) hit shots from the outside to keep Cranford in it. Brown finished with six. Linden's Mike Henderson finished with 25 points.

Cranford 68, Union 55 — Cranford attempts to put together a winning streak as Grier stays hot, with a victory over Union Tuesday in Union. Grier had 33 points, Simon Smith scored 14 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Chris Brown contributed seven points.

Cranford travels to Plainfield tonight before facing Newark East Side and Kearny at home Saturday and Tuesday.

Cranford 68, Union 55 — Cranford attempts to put together a winning streak as Grier stays hot, with a victory over Union Tuesday in Union. Grier had 33 points, Simon Smith scored 14 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Chris Brown contributed seven points.

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Breareley lets one slip away vs. Dayton, 63-59

By CHAD HEMENWAY
THE CHRONICLE

KENILWORTH — After the game against Dayton Tuesday night, Breareley boys basketball coach Gene Melleno spoke for a long time to his squad before dismissing them and his coaching staff for the time along to himself.

One might presume he was wondering what went wrong and how to fix it. Which Bears basketball team is the real one? The one that held a commanding 61-40 lead after three quarters against the Bulldogs at the one that let it all slip away, losing a key conference contest by a score of 63-59.

Breareley (2-4) hit just one shot from the floor in the fourth quarter and couldn't get an offensive flow started or stop Dayton's sudden offensive onslaught. Dayton's 6-foot, 3-inch center, Michael Mason, scored 12 points in the final quarter to lead the charge

BOYS BASKETBALL

though he was limited to just five points up until that time. Breareley was outscored 23-8 in the fourth quarter.

The Bear's shooting simply went cold after scoring 37 points in the first half, led by Dennis Hoag's 16 thanks in part to his four three-pointers in the half. Hoag finished with 22 points.

Hoag missed on three consecutive three-point attempts to start the second half but a shot from beyond the arch by Kevin Rodriguez, a steal and conversion by Dorron King (10 points) and another jumper by Rodriguez kept the Bears ahead 44-30. Some time later in the third, Hoag would hit a three pointer and his last shot from the field as the third quarter ended to put the Bears up 51-40.

Dayton then embarked on their fourth quarter comeback starting with a 10-1 run ending with about five to bring minutes to play to bring within two points, 62-50. A shot by Breareley's Ryan Hoag (six points) increased the lead to four but Dayton kept inching back thanks to Mason. Finally, with about a minute left in the game, the Bulldog's Raul Farnaguera sunk two free throws to put them ahead, 66-57, for the first time since a 3-2 advantage they held briefly at the start of the game.

Corey Dixon (13 points) of Breareley sunk two free shots of his own to get the Bears back on top but Dayton's David Steinman hit three free throws on two trips to the line to put the Bulldogs ahead, 61-59, with about 30 seconds left. A three-point attempt by Rodriguez trimmed out and the game was decided with just four seconds remaining.

DAYTON
BREARELEY 12 14 14 09 — 59
BREARELEY 19 14 09 — 59

Cranford boys win Group II relays

By CHAD HEMENWAY
THE CHRONICLE

PRINCETON — The Cranford boys won both the 4x800-meter relay and the distance medley relay to propel the team to a third place finish Sunday at the NJIAA Group II indoor track relay championships at Jadwin Gym in Princeton.

"With two events to go, we were actually eight points up," said head coach Ray White. "I'm very proud with the way we finished this year. The kids did a nice job."

Camden finished first with 36 points followed by Matawan (30) and Cranford (26).

Ryan McMahon (2:05 leg), Nate Thompson (2:03), Joe McKenney (2:03) and Brian Mahoney (2:06) recaptured the 4x800-meter relay record with a time of 8:18.27, just .02 seconds faster than the previous mark set by Morris Hills last year when they took it from Cranford.

"We like to get the fastest runners out front in this race," White said. "There's just less accidents that way. We had an 8 or 9 second lead by the final lap but were actually third after the first leg. (Thompson) put us out in front for good."

Kevin Brown joined Thompson, Mahoney and McKenney to win the medley relay in 10:51.37, about 12 seconds ahead of the second place finishers.

"Brown got us off to a great lead," White said. "McKenney was just able to cruise."

Cougar high jump team Tom Plante and Rob Chisarra took third with jumps of 6-2 and 5-8. White said Cranford almost scored more points by placing for the first time in the sprint relay, where they were less than two seconds from placing. Juniors

Jeff Savage and Danny Manuyag, senior Tom Hennen and freshman Ed Krov competed in that race.

CRANFORD Wrestling
Cranford 54, Plainfield 30 — Only one match went into the third period and six points were awarded in each match to either team Friday night in Cranford.

Cranford received forfeits in the 135, 152, 160, 189 and 215 weight classes. Plainfield took six points by sending a wrestler out to accept a forfeit at heavy-weight.

Anthony Crecca pinned Plainfield's Anthony Bomar in just 22 seconds in the last wrestled match, beating out teammate Jesse Hynes (1:03), who pinned his man in 24 seconds, for the fastest pin of the night. In the only match to reach the third period, Cranford's Frank Krov (1:25) pinned Sal Orellana in 5:15. C.J. Furrera recorded a pin at 1:71 points in 42 seconds.

Girls basketball
Cranford 33, Union 30 — Cranford surged above .500 (5-4) with a win over Union in Cranford Tuesday as the Lady Cougars came back to win in the last minute of the game. Lindsay Dolan (seven points, 11 rebounds, three steals) hit a shot with 16 seconds remaining to put Cranford ahead. Rebecca Flanagan had 10 points followed by Lisa Levonas' eight.

Cranford 45, Westfield 18 — The Lady Cougars forced Westfield to commit 25 turnovers Saturday in Cranford as Lisa Levonas scored 11 points. Courtney Koellner chipped in eight points and forward Rebecca Flanagan contributed six points.

Linden 46, Cranford 35 — Levonas had 18 points last Thursday in Linden for the Lady

BREARLEY
Boys basketball
New Providence 65, Breareley 47 — Dixon scored 20 points but it wasn't enough to overcome the Hoagsters Friday in Kenilworth. Ryan Hoag contributed 10 points for the Bears (2-3).

Girls basketball
Breareley 54, Newark Central 40 — Jennifer Vitale bucketed 19 points to lead all scorers Tuesday in Newark. Rose Dotro chipped in with nine points. Nicole DeValle and Monica Itturriale each had eight points.

New Providence 54, Breareley 36 — Friday in New Providence Vitale led the Bears with 12 points. Candice Elmanny hit two shots from beyond the arch on her way to 10 points.

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Anthony Crecca, a senior-captain on the varsity wrestling team in the 130 pound weight class, was instrumental in leading the Cougars to a win against Union on Jan. 5, beating one of their top wrestlers by a score of 10-6. Crecca also pinned his opponent against Plainfield in just 22 seconds on Friday.

Presented in conjunction with Cranford High School and the Cranford Chronicle

Real Estate

These tips can have your home looking chic, on the cheap

(ARA) — Looking to change the style of your home while sticking to a budget? Get ready to roll up your sleeves. Here are some inexpensive, practical ideas that will save you time and money in your quest to add some personal style to your home.

Start by deciding on a budget. Figure out how much money you can afford to spend, and then set aside about 20 percent of that for your "safety budget." Save this for the unexpected details that are sure to arise during your project. Most importantly, stick to your budget!

Second, do your homework. Spend quality time doing some research by looking through magazines, visiting home improvement shows, or watching showrooms and retail home improvement stores. Once you have an idea of what you would like to change in your home, take a step back and decide what's really neces-

sary and what fits into the budget you set. Breathe new life into old pieces. Use furniture and accessories that you already have. Moving items from one room to another can dramatically change the appearance of your room décor. Don't assume that you need to toss a piece of furniture that has seen better days. A quick and inexpensive way to give furniture a facelift is by refinishing, painting, or reupholstering it.

Fix it with fixtures. The most popular rooms in the house to remodel are the kitchen and bath. If you can't afford to completely transform your existing kitchen or bath, or if you're still waiting to hear from "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," don't worry. There's a simple way to change the look of your room without breaking your budget. Think about replacing your faucet fixtures. You can re-define

your space and create a new focal point for the room with a new faucet.

Value-priced faucet brand Peerless recently updated its product line with several new decorative styles. The new kitchen faucets from Peerless now include a more rounded spout and taller handles. Consumers also have the choice of adding a vegetable sprayer. In the bath, faucet handles have new decorative accents such as cross handles, which can be just enough to create an updated look.

A couple coats of paint go a long way. No matter what room of the house you are looking to transform, make sure you add "paint walls" to your to-do list. "Paint is the most cost-effective and dramatic way to change the appearance of a room," said Mary Rice of BEHR Paints. "Don't be afraid to try something different or bold. You have the flexibility of choosing from

literally thousands of color combinations." Use mirrors and lighting to alter your room. Adding mirrors not only makes your room appear larger, but it will also add depth and dimension to the room. Get creative: choose different sizes and shapes to make arrangements on your wall. Try using different types of lighting to highlight certain rooms or specific areas of a room. Use different levels of lighting as well (put a 60 Watt bulb in one lighting fixture, but put a 75 Watt bulb in another).

Don't forget to accessorize. Soft, muted finishes around your home add the perfect final touches. It's common to find stainless steel or nickel finishes in the kitchen or bath. There's a reason why these finishes are so popular in home décor right now. They are extremely easy to maintain and they hide scratches and

watermarks, keeping your home looking like new. Peerless has added a stainless steel and a brushed nickel finish to its color palette.

Personalize it. Finally, create your own personal touch with family photos in uniquely styled frames. Accent your rooms with inexpensive vases, flower arrangements and candles for a fresh atmosphere. You can find most of these items for under \$10 at a local craft or retail store. And don't forget garage sales — you can find slightly used items that would normally sell at high prices for a fraction of the cost.

Now that you are finished with the transformation, take what's left in your "safety budget" and treat yourself to something special. You've worked hard — you deserve it!

This article is courtesy of ARA Content.

Prudential New Jersey launches revamped website

Recognizing the rapidly evolving needs of homebuyers and sellers in today's real estate market, Prudential New Jersey Properties has launched a new website. The online address remains www.PruNewJersey.com.

The new site offers access to more than 14,000 available property listings throughout New Jersey.

"Today's real estate clients are looking for direct access to information on the real estate market, available proper-

ties and communities, and our new website offers all of this," said Chris Bryson, co-president of Prudential New Jersey Properties. "From the site's ease of navigation to the enhanced virtual tours, both sellers and buyers will be impressed by the range of services employed to achieve their real estate goals."

One of the primary benefits of the site is the "Property Watch" feature, which provides instant notifications to buyers when properties that meet their specific criteria become available. Buyers can make the criteria as general or particular as they like, and can choose to opt in or out of the feature at any time.

"Our technology team has worked tremendously hard to develop a site that meets the needs of our technologically-savvy consumers," says William O. Keleher, Jr., chairman and CEO of Prudential New Jersey Properties.

ERA Meeker Realty Co.

CRANFORD - This sprawling 8 room Split Level in Brookside section Lw/Pl. FDR, EIK, 2nd floor includes MBR w/bath plus 2nd and bath. Ground level includes Family room w/wet bar, 1/2 bath and office. Full bsmt, 2 car tandem garage. Call for appointment today! Asking \$638,900

SPRINGFIELD - Just listed! Spacious Split Level includes 1 FDR, EIK, Den, 2nd floor, three bedrooms and full bath. Third level features MBR and full bath. Ground level Family room, 1/2 bath, laundry room, 1 car garage. Over-sized lot in quiet setting. Won't last! Asking \$428,000

CRANFORD - 9 room Ground only level Split offering family room, laundry room, 1/2 bath, living rm, FDR, EIK, four large BRs and two full baths. Finished bsmt includes rec room and laundry room. Great pool. See for yourself! Asking \$549,900

KENILWORTH - Be the first to see this adorable Cape Cod 1 1/2 floor. L, FDR, EIK, or and full bath. 2nd floor has bedroom plus additional room. Finished basement includes rec room and laundry room. Great potential. Asking \$315,000

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Agents earn certificate in preservation

CRANFORD — Local real estate professionals Vita Zoltak, Tim O'Leary and Matte Scuro of ERA Meeker Realty recently completed a program geared toward protecting historic properties. The public-private educational program is offered through a partnership between global residential real estate leader ERA Franchise Systems, Inc. and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

After completing the one-day course, Zoltak, O'Leary and Scuro received memberships in the National Trust and a certificate of completion. The Historic Real Estate Program offers a comprehensive look at architectural styles from early colonial through art deco. It also provides education on historic preservation legislation and ordinances, tax incentives and the requirements for inclusion of a property in the National Register of Historic Places.

"The Historic Real Estate Program aim is twofold," said Zoltak. "It enables us to better serve the needs of buyers and sellers in this niche market while preserving history. Also, it helped us learn about different architectural structures and the qualities that make them unique."

ERA Meeker Realty is located at 124 South Ave. East, Cranford. Zoltak, O'Leary and Scuro can be reached at (908) 272-2570 and at www.cranford-home.com.

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Browne named top associate

WESTFIELD — Marion Browne of Prudential New Jersey Properties Westfield office has been named the office's Sales Associate of the Month for November 2004.

Marion is very dedicated to providing only the highest level of quality services, said Margie Cucaro, manager of the Westfield office. "Her clients appreciate her genuine concern, and Marion is most appreciative of the many referrals she has received from her satisfied customers. In this business, a referral is the best thank you."

With nearly 20 years of real estate experience, Browne serves buyers and sellers throughout Union County. She belongs to the New Jersey Association of Realtors' Distinguished Sales Club.

A resident of the Elmora section of Elizabeth, she can be reached at (908) 232-5664 ext. 101.

For more information visit www.PruNewJersey.com.

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Automotive/Classified

Shopping Around For Car Loans Can Boost Buying Power In '05

(ARA) - More than 17 million new vehicle sales are forecasted in the U.S. in 2005, according to Automotive News. And while most consumers know they should comparison shop for vehicle features and purchase price, many will overlook one of the most important parts of their purchase: their auto loan.

"Picking out your new car can be an exciting and emotional experience, but consumers should remember that their car loan is probably the single-biggest factor in determining the overall value of their purchase," says Brian Reed, vice president of Capital One Auto Finance. "It really pays to shop around for your loan the same way you do for the vehicle itself."

Failing to pay close enough attention to the terms of your loan can be a costly oversight. For example, a consumer who obtains a \$20,000, 60-month new car loan with a 7-percent APR will pay \$1,116 more over the life of the loan, compared to the same loan secured at a 5-percent APR.

"Many consumers don't realize it, but they have more choices than ever today when it comes to securing their car loan," Reed says. "The Internet has reinvented the way people finance their cars. You can now go online to comparison shop for interest rates, and even secure your own loan before you arrive at the dealership. It has tipped the balance of power in favor of informed consumers."

By educating themselves before shopping and mapping out a game plan, consumers can gain the upper hand when negotiating their vehicle loan. To help put consumers on the



Courtesy of ARA Content

road toward a smart financing deal, Capital One Auto Finance offers the following tips:

Verify your credit rating.

Order a copy of your credit report to ensure it's accurate and in the best shape possible before applying for a loan. Credit score plays an important role in determining the interest rate you'll receive. Make sure your lines of credit are in good standing and be sure to correct any errors promptly. You can order a credit report from one of the three major credit reporting bureaus: Equifax, Experian or TransUnion.

Comparison shop for loans.

Many people know they can get a car loan from the dealer's finance department — but it pays to research other options. For example, Internet auto lenders such as Capital One Auto Finance provide a combination of low rates, convenient application process and fast response. Those approved by Capital One Auto Finance receive a no-obligation Blank Check, which they can use like a personal check at the dealership. Whether you choose an online lender, bank or credit union, be sure to comparison shop for interest rates first, so you know you're getting a competitive rate.

Arrive with financing in your pocket. Having approved, no-obligation financing in hand gives you a competitive advantage when you go to buy your car. That's because you know your interest rate and monthly payment in advance, which gives you an idea of the price range of cars you can afford. This approach also lets you buy with the power and flexibility of a

cash buyer.

Approach your purchase as three separate transactions.

Buying a car usually involves three different transactions and it's best to treat each of them separately: 1) financing; 2) trade-in; and 3) vehicle purchase. This strategy will help isolate each act, keeping them clear and simple, while maximizing your negotiating opportunities.

Weigh your purchase incentive options.

Many auto manufacturers will offer a choice between a cash rebate or a discounted financing rate as a purchase incentive, but usually not both. Even if you're among the minority who qualifies for a 0-percent rate, don't assume it provides the most savings. Sometimes you'll come out ahead by applying the rebate to the purchase price and using your own low interest rate loan. Bring a calculator or laptop to

the dealer to see which option is best for you.

Match length of loan to expected length of ownership.

Select your loan term based on how long you plan to own the vehicle. Buyers who take out longer-term loans to keep their monthly payment low can find themselves "upside down" on their loan — that is, owing more money on the car than it's worth in trade when it's time for a new car.

Take your time reviewing the contract.

Don't put pen to paper until you know the following: your interest rate, monthly payment, amount you are financing, the length of your loan and your trade-in value. Also, make sure unwanted after-market "extras" haven't been added to the deal. Additional car financing information and resources can be found by visiting the help center at www.capitaloneauto.com.

AAA Offers Tips For De-Icing Your Vehicle

With severe winter weather predicted, there's a possibility that you might wake up to find your vehicle coated with ice.

"You often get frozen locks and icy windshields when temperatures drop below freezing after rain has fallen," said Marty Koone, a certified master mechanic and manager of the Approved Auto Repair Program for the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park.

In order to prevent damage to your vehicle, AAA offers the following de-icing tips:

Be sure to remove all de-icing materials from your vehicle, and store them in a warm, dry place. These tools will be of no use to you if they are frozen inside your vehicle.

If you have access to a garage or a covered area, park your vehicle there overnight.

If you must park your vehicle outdoors,

try to park in an area where the morning sun may hit it.

Keep in mind that ice adds extra weight to trees and branches so park your vehicle away from anything that could possibly fall and cause damage.

Have a good ice scraper on hand. If you don't own one, pick one up as soon as possible.

When scraping your front and back windshield, side windows and mirrors, make sure to remove all ice from the entire surface to allow for the best visibility and safest driving.

Windshield washer fluid with antifreeze can speed up the de-icing process. Consider applying it manually to an icy windshield to prevent damaging wipers.

Don't force door, handles or locks open. Repairs for damaged locks can be costly.

It might be easier to open frozen locks by

warming the key with a match or lighter before trying it on your vehicle.

Consider using a hairdryer on your locks and door frame if they won't budge. However, remember — never put electrical appliances close to water.

Once you can open your doors, warming up the vehicle for 3-5 minutes will help the windows defrost faster.

Remember — never put hot water on an icy vehicle. Hot water can damage glass and paint.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, through offices in Clark, Florham Park, Randolph, Springfield and West Orange, provides automotive, travel, insurance, financial and educational services to residents of Essex, Morris and Union Counties.

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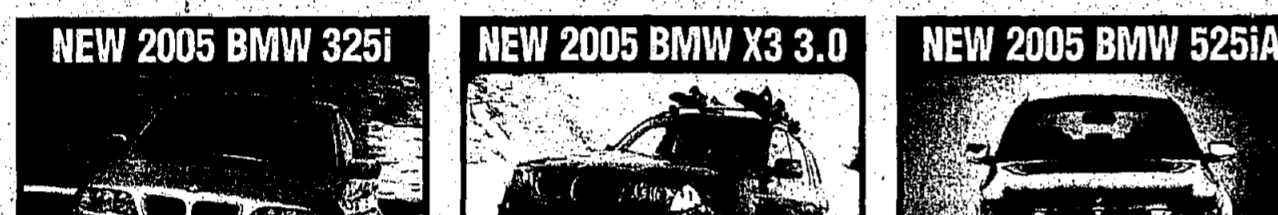
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Table with columns for car models and prices, including '75 CAR INDOOR DISPLAY AREA!' and '75 CAR INDOOR DISPLAY AREA!'.

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