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**Railway Progress**

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**How to reach us:**  
Our offices are located at 1291 Shuyland Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below:

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

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**News items:**  
The Progress provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and day time phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 5 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for clarity and style.

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**To place a classified ad:**  
The Progress has a large, well-ventilated classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept VISA and MasterCard. A classified representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please bring your office during regular business hours or call 908-686-7700, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For classified, please call 201-763-2597. For all other transmissions please dial 908-686-7700.

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## Internet course sparks interest

(Continued from Page 1)  
The class was paid for by the left-over money from this training course, which was announced through fliers that were sent home to parents. "We had a little money and we decided we owe the community," said Martin. Two of these parents included Maria and Richie Oliver. They have three children, one of whom has already graduated. When asked why they were at the class, Maria said, "Just to find out what the school had for computer training and what computers they have." "I just want to use it," replied Richie. "We have one at home and it doesn't hurt to learn more." Maria said she was the one who needed the training most. She had just started a new job and was working a lot with databases. "So I need to learn a lot," she said. "Hopefully they'll continue to offer more." "I just wanted to get to computers and administrators to secretaries and custodians." "Custodians, I think they're interested," said Martin.

## RECREATION

**Winners drawn in youth competition**  
Recently, the Railway Division of Parks and Recreation held its local Hershey Track and Field Youth Competition at Railway River Park. This competition is open to girls and boys 9 to 14 years of age.

Railway winners Sara Backof, Jennifer and Melissa Servadeo, Garlin Gray, Jeff Marable, Michael Atkinson, Vincent DeLuca, Sayuri and Deepani Jindas, Lamar and Daniel Johnson, and Jesse Campanelli will advance to the District III meet on June 6, 1997, rain date June 7, at Tanglewood Field in Summit, where they will compete against other Union County youth winners. Events will include 50, 100, 400, 800 meters, standing long jump, and the softball throw for distance.

Starting in 1976 & for the next 16 years Tae & Chin Hwang & Oak Cha Hwang had a dry cleaning business on Walnut Avenue in Clark. Tae & Oak had a great love for golf & pursued it whenever he could. In 1993 he closed his dry cleaning business & opened Century Golf Center, 5 Westfield Avenue (Corner of Madison Hill Road) Clark. Tae & his wife have created a friendly and welcoming environment to all who enters his store. Due to it being a family owned business...

with low overhead he tries to offer the lowest prices possible. Tae & Oak have a great selection of golfing merchandise to offer. The golf club selection is very impressive: Powerbilt, Callaway, King Cobra, Titleist, Taylor Made, Tommy Armour, Lynx, Yonex, Hogan, Cleveland, Wilson, Spalding & Dunlop, Golf Bags for Ladies & Men, Shirts, Accessories, Shoes, Golf Carts, Balls, This store is truly a golfer's delight. A practice net is also available if desired when checking out the golf clubs. This Catholic couple is very accommodating to any golfing need you might have & the store is Clark's Best Kept Secret & worth a trip.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ask Dr. Posner**

ROBERT POSNER, DDS

**LEGENDS OF HISTORY**

Q: Is it true that George Washington had wooden teeth?

A: Probably not. At the National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore, an exciting place that spotlights the advances in our profession through the ages, you can find four sets of dentures crafted for our first President. Three were carved from ivory and the fourth was made with real teeth, both human and animal.

The history of dentistry is fascinating. Besides Washington's teeth, the museum has collections of historic implements used through the ages as well as some old-time chairs and other equipment.

An especially popular exhibit is the Toon Juchuck, a large TV screen mounted between overhead upper and lower teeth. Push a tooth and you'll find many of the "golden oldie" commercials of yesteryear such as popovers singing jingle. "You'll wonder where the yellow went."

Brought to you as a public service by:

**DR. ROBERT POSNER • 53 Westfield Ave., Clark, N.J.**

**(908) 388-7600**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the *Railway Progress* to inform residents of various community activities and governmental meetings. To give your community events the publicity they deserve, mail your schedule to *Railway Progress*, Attention: Chris Suswal, managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

**Sunday**  
• Allstamps of 38 North Main Street, Milltown, will hold an open house and special sale on Sundays, June 1, 8 and 15. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone interested in stamp, postcard or sports card collecting is welcome, as are collectors of political, World's Fair, entertainment, historical, sports and other memorabilia. Also invited are those interested in old engravings and famous illustrations as well as general ephemera and other collectibles.

Personnel will be on hand to answer questions on all aspects of the paper collectibles field, as well as to appraise and/or purchase any collectible materials from the public. There will also be a special assortment of Father's Day and Graduation gifts. Allstamps has been serving metropolitan area collectors since 1969 and is an accredited member of both the American and New Jersey Stamp Dealers' Associations, subscribing to those strict codes of ethics. Further information may be obtained by calling (908) 247-1093.

**Wednesday**  
• City Council will hold its pre-conference meeting in the council's chambers at City Hall at 7:30 p.m. Coming events:  
• June 5  
• The Concerned Citizens of Union County will meet at the JFK Community Center, 796 East Hazelwood Ave. in Rahway. For time call Bob Carson at 381-7290 or Kerry Blanchard at 396-3722.

The Concerned Citizens are currently involved in examining such issues as the hazards of a toxic waste incinerator. The group uses the model of participatory democracy in their organization and state there is no single person who makes all the decisions, the group decides action.  
The Concerned Citizens invite all to join their meetings on the first and third Thursday of every month.  
June 8  
• The Union County Historical Society will present

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## RAHWAY PROGRESS - CLARK EAGLE

### Exxon appreciates volunteer work

By Sean Daily  
Staff Writer  
According to Karen Qualter, her company, Exxon Chemical in Linden, is often seen as a faceless corporation, with its eyes only on the bottom line and on profits.  
On May 9, Exxon Chemical celebrated a number of people who she said put a "human face" on her company.  
Exxon Chemical held its Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on May 9 in line with President Bill Clinton's volunteer summit in Philadelphia. The celebration, held in the Dayway Chemical Plant in Linden, was to celebrate the approximately 150 members of Exxon Chemical's Community Outreach program and also included a number of people who benefited from the program, including Linden Superintendent of Schools James B. Clarke Jr.  
"It's already national news and we do it day to day so we waited to bring it down to a local level," said Qualter of the timing of the celebration.  
The program, begun in New Jersey by the company in 1993 with about 50 members, has grown to the present 150 or so members. These include salespeople, public relations people, accountants, marketing people and engineers and technicians in mechanical, electrical and chemical engineering, volunteering their time — after work and often on Saturdays — to organizations in Linden, Rahway, Clark, Staten Island, Elizabeth, Summit, Newark and other municipalities in and outside the state.  
These include volunteers building homes for Habitat for Humanity, teaching science and technology in Linden's schools and volunteering for YMCA summer programs. The employees are not paid for this volunteer work and often the work is done on their own time or away from work.  
"We're glad how it's grown, especially when times are tight," said Qualter. "It's nice to know people still care about the community."  
The Community Outreach program is an in-house program, at Exxon Chemical. This does not mean that volunteers in the company are restricted to this program, said Qualter. Employees will often go off on their own and start their own programs or volunteer for organizations on their own. These employees can recruit other employees and their organizations can eventually be supported by the outreach program.  
All employees are also able to apply for a \$1,000 grant for the organization that they are volunteering for. This can go toward the organization's costs or for anything that the organization needs on.

### Division crowns Miss Recreation

Recently, the Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation held its 37th Annual Batons Twirling Exhibition of Rahway Intermediate School.  
The program began with 13 individual groups performing their routines to the audience. All routines were instructed by 11 instructors who gave their talent and time preparing their routine to the theme "Holidays."  
After completion of groups, the Division held its 1997 Miss Rahway Recreation Batons Twirling Contest. This contest is open to 7th and 8th grade girls competing in categories such as variety and difficulty of twirls, showmanship, speed and control. Amy Cron was crowned 1997 Ms. Rec. Runner-up were Cheryl Wynski and Christine Holenscak.  
Chosen one of three, Amy is entering 8th grade in September at St. John Vianney School. Amy has been twirling in the after-school baton program for eight years, instructing groups for two years and taking solo lessons for six years. Amy is a member of the Rahway Debate/Dance/Twirl team and currently competes in the Dues Champion with Lauren LaPelle. As St. John's Amy is a member of the Student Council, Girl Scouts and the Newspaper Club. Her interests include volleyball, cheerleading and twirling.  
At the conclusion of the program there were Memorial Awards presented to Christine Sauer for the Marian Thorne Devotion Trophy. The Mary Ann Zambel Trophy for competition was presented to Amy Cron and the Richard Grishick Teaching Trophy was presented to Phyllis LaPelle.  
Special thanks to all the volunteers through out the season and to the Rahway Board of Education for its cooperation in sponsoring the event and have the use of their gymnasiums in which twirling instructions were given.

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### Dancing up a storm



During the rainy weather, the dance floor gets some attention this past holiday weekend at the Duetscher Club in Clark on Sunday. The club's premises, which holds many festivals, is located on Featherbed Lane.

## EVENTS

**Open house sale**  
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**Stamp and postcard show**  
New Jersey's Premier monthly stamp and postcard show since 1974, The Original Clark Show, will be held on June 22. The event will take place at the Holiday Inn, 36 Valley Road in Clark, right at Garden State Parkway Exit 135. Show hours will be 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission and parking will be free.  
A wide range of choice United States and worldwide stamps, postcards and related memorabilia will be on display and sale. The public is urged to bring any material they may have for sale, as the participating dealers, which include members of the American and NJ Stamp Dealers' Associations, will be ready to purchase anything they need for their stocks.

This is the original Clark Show, formerly held at the Ramada Inn and Howard Johnsons. A souvenir card issued at the show in 1976 will be given free to all attendees participating in a free drawing. Further information may be obtained by calling (908) 247-1093.

**Blood screening**  
A free blood pressure screening will be offered for residents of Rahway at the Rahway Public Library every month. For further information contact the Department of Health, Welfare and Recreation at 827-2085.

Save your newspaper for recycling.

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## COMMUNITY FORUM

### The time to listen is now

June 21 will mark the official beginning of summer. For most people, especially teen-agers, the warmer weather means more time to spend outdoors. Once high school releases students, youth activities on the streets and in the neighborhoods will increase dramatically.

For the communities of Rahway and Clark, this should be a concern. It is up to parents and guardians of teen-agers to keep in mind the risks of allowing these young people have complete freedom. Everyone wants to have a "good time" during these summer months and that's fine. But the fact is there are dangers involved in letting teen-agers attend social gatherings. Specifically, drug and alcohol use has increased significantly among teen-agers during the last five years.

We are not suggesting there can be no trust given to teen-agers — they are responsible in many regards. We do suggest, though, to allow an open line of communication when it comes to drug and alcohol use. Parents and guardians must be known that talking about substance abuse is more than OK, it's necessary. The schools can only do so much to drive home a message that there are serious health risks involved with a drug- or alcohol-oriented lifestyle. A small problem can balloon into an addiction and rationality can become a casualty when drugs and alcohol overtake priorities.

### Money equals quality?

Just when the Board of Education thought it was safe to formulate a school budget, the state Supreme Court threw a wrench into the works.

Although Gov. Christine Whitman's Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act wasn't perfect, it did offer a real attempt to supply a thorough education to all students — throughout the state. The Supreme Court, instead, ruled that it did not do enough, sending the Legislature back to square one.

In a 5-3 decision, the court ruled the funding plan, which would have required each district to spend at least \$7,036 per pupil to achieve the constitutionally mandated "thorough and efficient" education, as insufficient in supplying the state's "basic educational standards with an adequate education." According to the ruling, the financing act "does not adequately address the unique educational disadvantages facing children attending the poor, urban districts."

This may be a valid point, but the implications are clear — in the eyes of the court, more money equals a superior education. Countless students, parents and teachers would agree that money is only one portion of the equation. If the students aren't motivated by their parents to have a respect for education and a desire to learn, teachers face a herculean task. Likewise, if a student cannot be reached by an ineffective educator who only cares about putting in a few more years so that he or she can retire with a cushy benefits package, then that student is merely doing time in a state-run facility.

On a good note, the Supreme Court did not reject the governor's core curriculum plan. Although there may still be some areas in which the plan can be improved, it represents a positive step toward uniform standards for public schools throughout the state. This, more than money, is what is needed for educational parity to be achieved.

This is not to say that money isn't important. Books need to be bought; teachers must be paid a competitive wage, and the facilities must be in good condition. In addition, as the wealthier communities throughout the district can't their needs, districts, as well as those middle class districts that seem to have been lost in this debate, need to devise a method to guarantee competitive computer instruction for their own students. Private sector grants would be ideal, but the state should provide support in this area.

The future implications of the court's rejection are not clear. There is a possibility that the court will hold a hard line on the theory that equal spending brings equal quality. If this proves to be true, taxes will spiral as the state continually hike their per-pupil spending, or the state will impose even greater restrictions on the amount that any school district can spend. This second option would appear to be the most likely, but it would also be an example of horribly intrusive government. Wealthy districts rely almost completely on locally raised revenue, and severe restrictions that would limit the quality of education would be an interference with the right of a community in determining how their property taxes are spent.

Assemblyman Richard Baggett, R-Union, suggested that the Legislature seek to amend the state constitution to modify the "thorough and efficient" education requirement. While this may seem drastic, it may be the only way in which numerous districts will be spared Supreme Court-imposed limitations on educational standards.

### Rahway Progress

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IMPRESSIVE CLASSES — Instructors Sandy Gjersten and Sharon Young of the Division of Parks and Recreation FunTime Class gather at the Claude Reed Center. The classes for Rahway children ages 3 to 5 are held each Thursday morning. For more information, call 827-2045.

### Myths reveal much about women's nature

Around the time Odysseus' ship and crew mates were being sucked, one by one, into a great, horrible maw of a whirlpool, Channel Four began running weather alerts across the bottom of the TV screen, warning of terrible thunderstorms with deadly lightning and hurricane force winds. This was entirely appropriate for a broadcast of Homer's "Odyssey." Indeed, awaiting the arrival of the storms became a real life addition to the program's plot. The gods are still doing their mischief.

The "Odyssey" was a very good, if truncated, telling of the old story. Hopefully, kids will want to read the book. Odysseus had a home. His problem was simply that he could not get back to it. The great and appalling wonders that Odysseus encounters on his journey are obstacles he must overcome and tasks he must complete in order to find his home again. He will truly marvel at them only after he arrives home and recounts his adventures to his wife.

Meanwhile, Odysseus' wife, Penelope, is having an adventure of her own. She is discovering that she is nearly powerless in a man's world, and that the great and appalling wonders that Odysseus encounters on his journey are obstacles he must overcome and tasks he must complete in order to find his home again. He will truly marvel at them only after he arrives home and recounts his adventures to his wife.

### Free Form

By Bob Rixon

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son motorcycles. No doubt she's also delighted at the advancement of women in the armed forces. An educated woman cop on a Harley is one embodiment of Athena.

Philosopher Alan Watts liked to point out that money isn't wealth. To illustrate this, he described a delicious meal he had eaten. The wealth is the enjoyment of something that looks and tastes good, preferably shared with others, not the price one has paid for the experience. Millions of unhappy people have learned that the suburban house filled with plush furniture, new cars in the driveway, and a lawn mower yard do not constitute a home. Perhaps they expected to enter a certain and impressive friends of raising children in an environment completely free of suffering and want.

By the time Odysseus is dropped, exhausted by years of war and wandering, on the shores of Ithaca, he knows that he may have nothing left to save his own life and the gifts that the Poseidons have left with him. Penelope might be dead, or remarried, or not love him. His son, Telemachus, may hate him. His kingdom could be in ruins. It is difficult to be sure what Odysseus would settle for at this point in terms of his lifestyle, but we feel that nothing is possible for him without love, without Penelope and Telemachus. Love is his wealth. The true symbolic center of his world is the bed he carved for himself and Penelope from a living tree, a bed that could no more be sold than it could be moved.

The story of Odysseus begins in what we know only in Synopses. In this story, when King Menelaus arrives in Ithaca to recruit Odysseus for the Trojan expedition — to conquer, they claim the beautiful Helen, our noble hero tries to dodge the draft by feigning insanity. He is found out, and off he sails. But one almost wishes the Fates had been kinder to him and that his ruse had succeeded.

By the way, the thunderstorms never arrived at my surge.

Five residents of Rahway and Joseph A. Noelle, Jr. of Clark are among 50 students of Union County College, Cranford, Elizabeth, Plainfield and Scotch Plains who are candidates for one-year diplomas in practical nursing at the College's Commencement ceremonies today at 6 p.m. at the Cranford Campus.

Elizabeth Brown, Kim D. Faigao, Doreen Salvador, Wendy C. Thomas and Robert T. Valasco of Rahway and Joseph Noelle of Clark are majoring in practical nursing. There are about 900 Union County College students who are candidates for Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degrees, certificates or diplomas. The Practical Nursing Program is accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and the Nation No. 1 League for Nursing. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN examination.

A subscription to your newspaper keeps your college student close to hometown activities. Call 908-686-7733 for a special college rate.

Clark resident Christopher Doss, a sophomore at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, recently spent a weekend at the Hugh O'Brien Youth Conference of New Jersey. Doss, selected by ALJ teachers and guidance counselors as the sole representative to this prestigious leadership conference, said he applied for the honor because "I want to be a leader in my community. Also, it's a great way to meet people."

The weekend was sponsored by corporations and philanthropists who want to foster leadership qualities in promising sophomores in high schools across the nation. 500 sophomores from New Jersey began the three-day conference with lectures and then attended seminars on ecology, entrepreneurship, business and leadership.

Through interactive sessions, students respond to the needs of the business interests we hope to bring to the county.

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Donald Gonçalves, of Elizabeth, is serving his first year on the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

### Advocacy on behalf of business is needed

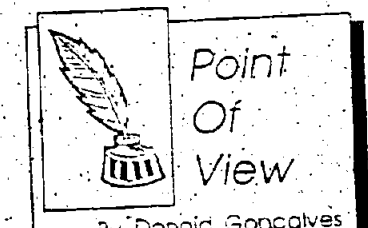
Editor in Chief Tom Canavan's May 8 column criticizing the county's plan to spur economic development merits a response.

His assertion that the freeholders' plan is somehow a duplication of the efforts of the Union County Development Corporation is not accurate. In the final analysis, there is a difference between the two. The Corporation is a public entity, and its actions are subject to public scrutiny and oversight. The freeholders' plan, on the other hand, is a private effort to improve economic development in the county. This is a laudable goal, and the freeholders' plan is a necessary step toward achieving it.

During my campaign for freeholder last year, I pledged to work to improve the economic plight of Union County. While there had been some positive new business projects, double digit unemployment in certain areas, the failure to exploit the advantages of our transportation network and Newark Airport were very troubling.

If opposition to the new initiatives indicates satisfaction with the current state of economic development in the county, then we do have a disagreement.

The economic plan that I and other freeholders support, is to emphasize one-stop shopping to encourage new development and keep the businesses we currently have. A key aspect of my economic initiative is to develop a sophisticated cost-benefit analysis with the county in the lead position determining what is the best package of incentives which can be produced.



By Donald Gonçalves

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We should keep up

I am encouraged, but not getting my hopes up, over the news of the study to consolidate the Sheriff's Department with the County Police. This seems to make perfect sense. That may dawn in right away, given the relatively restricted responsibilities of the Union County Police.

Actually, I hope reductions will be affected by attrition, assuming the consolidation could happen. The fully loaded cost of any employee, especially one living in a highly equipped vehicle, inflates an already too-high county tax. For as little as the county returns, for what they take, I hope the study is completed, the proposal found feasible and implemented. Please keep us current on this story.

Frank D. Marchese  
Westfield

Send your letters via e-mail

The Rahway Progress accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is WCN22@localnet.com. Letters and guest columns must be received by 9 a.m. on Mondays to be considered for publication in Thursday's edition.

Letters received via e-mail must be on topics of interest, preferably in response to content that appeared in the newspaper. They should be double-spaced and no longer than two pages. For purposes of verification, all letters must include a name, address and daytime telephone number. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

Money won't make anyone smarter

To the Editor:

In fairness to the bearers of the burden — the middle-class taxpayers — the identity of the state Supreme Court justices should be made available. In all probability, these individuals have never known real poverty, as many did in the 20's and '30's.

Responses will be published next week. Polls close Monday at noon. Calls are free. Touch tone phones only.

Is the city doing a good job with its tree-planting program?

YES — 51%  
NO — 49%

## EDUCATION

### Bridging generations



Alyssa Faide and her grandmother Trudy Sbarro partake in school events at Valley Road School in Clark. The school recently held a Visitor's day in which grandparents and relatives were allowed to join students in a day of activities.

### Students complete nursing program

There are about 900 Union County College students who are candidates for Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degrees, certificates or diplomas.

College students who are candidates for Associate in Arts, Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degrees, certificates or diplomas. The Practical Nursing Program is accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and the Nation No. 1 League for Nursing. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN examination.

### STUDENT UPDATE

Doss represents ALJ

Clark resident Christopher Doss, a sophomore at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, recently spent a weekend at the Hugh O'Brien Youth Conference of New Jersey. Doss, selected by ALJ teachers and guidance counselors as the sole representative to this prestigious leadership conference, said he applied for the honor because "I want to be a leader in my community. Also, it's a great way to meet people."

The weekend was sponsored by corporations and philanthropists who want to foster leadership qualities in promising sophomores in high schools across the nation. 500 sophomores from New Jersey began the three-day conference with lectures and then attended seminars on ecology, entrepreneurship, business and leadership.

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### Holocaust survivor speaks

Recently, Maurice Shainberg, a survivor of the Holocaust, addressed the fourth and fifth grade students at the Valley Road School in Clark. He explained the events of the Holocaust and shared his personal experiences while living in the Warsaw Ghetto and while fighting the Nazis, as a member of the Polish KGII.

After Shainberg's opening remarks, the children asked him a number of questions. Foremost in their mind was how we could avoid future holocausts. Shainberg stressed the only way to do this was to wipe out hatred.

The Valley Road students were appreciative of the fact that Shainberg took time out from his busy schedule to come and share his first-hand knowledge of the Holocaust with them. Shainberg has authored two books on the subject, and he has also written a play.

The assembly was an outgrowth of a Holocaust unit that was taught by Miss Kocopada, a Kean College student teacher, who was working with Mr. Young's fifth grade class. Mrs. Mack, a parent of one of the students, was instrumental in arranging for Shainberg to come to Valley Road School.

### Attention schools

This newspaper encourages school organizations to inform the editors about scheduled events and activities. Releases should be typed, double-spaced, and include a phone number where a representative may be reached during the day. Send information to: C.J. Savatelli, managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J. 07083.

A subscription to your newspaper keeps your college student close to hometown activities. Call 908-686-7733 for a special college rate.

### Maestro please



Grades two and three students at Grover Cleveland School in Rahway practice perform violin pieces at the Merck Day Care Center in Rahway. From left are Cynthia Matos, Jaron Haynes, Crystal Colbert, Robert Bloudeau and instructor Grace Lee.

Christopher Doss

Doss learned more about "America's Incentive System" including democracy, free enterprise, volunteerism and service to the community.

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## NEWS CLIPS

### Horseback riding lessons

The opportunity to learn to ride a horse exists this summer at the county's Equestrian Camp.

Equestrians of all abilities, especially beginners, are invited to enroll in one of two of the week-long sessions which includes instructional riding, trail rides, learning general care of a horse and a barbecue. Campers will also be able to participate in a Horse Show at the end of the summer.

Camp is open to boys and girls ages nine to 17.

Enrollment is limited to a maximum of two weeks per child. Scheduled sessions will be held beginning the week of June 24 and ending the week of Aug. 19. Sessions are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., except for the week of June 30-July 3 when camp will be held Monday through Thursday.

Participants may register on or after June 7. On the seventh, registration times will be 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Applications are accepted on a

first-come, first-served basis. The fee is \$220 per session for Union County residents; \$260 for out-of-county. All registration must be performed in person. Proof of residency and a birth certificate will be required.

For further information, contact the Union County Office at (908) 789-3665.

**Free flags available**  
Free American flags for the graves of veterans buried in any cemetery in the county are available again through the County Manager's Office, the Office

of Veterans' Affairs, and the Union County Flag Guardian Committee. Jim Daly of the Flag Guardian Committee and his veterans committee will be at Graceland Memorial Park Cemetery on the Boulevard, Kenilworth, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, with members of the American Legion, V.E.W., Catholic War Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, and the D.A.V. to offer assistance.

**Conti will run again**  
Union County Surrogate Ann Conti has announced that she will seek reelection to her fourth term.

"I'm very proud of my record of efficiency and fairness in the Surrogate's Office," Conti said. "At the same time, I would like to continue to expand my work with guardianship issues, particularly in the area of establishing greater protection for minor children and adult incompetents."

Conti recently received an award from the New Jersey Coalition for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults for her work in the establishment of a Union County guardianship monitoring program.

She worked with the Superior Court of New Jersey to develop a pilot program, and her office was the first Surrogate's Office in New Jersey to administer this program, which has

now been adopted by surrogates throughout the state.

During her past term, Conti oversaw the establishment of a computerized document preparation program, a promise she made in her last campaign.

"For years, these forms were done manually. This new procedure saves a tremendous amount of time, and it will enable us to avoid the need for greatly expanded office staff in the future."

Conti has received awards and honors for her work as surrogate. She serves on the executive board of the National College of Probate Judges. She is a resident of Mountaintop and is married to Dr. Ralph Conti.

### Showing the money



Key Club members from Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark display a check for \$2,000 for the Robert Wood Johnson Pediatric Trauma Center in New Brunswick. The club recently won an award at the recent New Jersey Key Club Convention as the club which raised the second highest amount in the state for this project.

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## SPORTS

### On the right track



Johnson Regional High School senior Mirjana Banic captured first place in both the shot put and javelin events at the Union County girls' track and field championship held May 14 at Williams Field in Elizabeth. Banic hurled the shot put 35-34 and threw the discus 123-10 for Johnson, which finished seventh out of 14 teams competing at the event.

### Rahway advances to sectional semifinals

7-2 win over Parsippany sets up showdown with Mt. Olive

By Andrew McGann  
Assistant Sports Editor  
The Rahway High School Indians, the third seed in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 state tournament, defeated Parsippany 7-2 last Thursday in the tournament's quarterfinals in Rahway.

With the win over Parsippany, their fifth in a row and fourth in as many days, the Indians improved to 18-4 and earned the right to play second-seeded Mt. Olive in the semifinals in Mt. Olive last Tuesday.

Senior centerfielder Kerry Shine continued her torrid hitting as she went 3-4 with four RBI. Shine hit a two-run single in the first inning and drove in two more runs with another single in the fifth inning that helped ice the game for Rahway.

Dana Sides was strong on the hill as the sophomore right-hander allowed just three hits and two walks. Sides ran her record to 11-4 with the victory.

Kim Gustafson also had a big day at the plate, going 3-4 with two RBI



Johnson Regional High School senior Pat Qualshie, who helped the Crusader soccer team to a 53-2 mark during his three-year varsity career, will bring his talents to Lehigh University in the fall.

### H.S. Softball

A day earlier, Rahway shut out Henry Hudson behind another stellar performance by Sides, who pitched a one-hitter and struck out 11 batters. Shine put Rahway on the board with a two-run single in the first inning.

In their four games last week, the Indians outscored their opponents 45-3.

A win against Mt. Olive and another Cranford victory would give Rahway an opportunity to avenge two regular season defeats against the top-seeded Cougars.

### Tennis star



Linden High School tennis player Steve Kohut gets set to serve during a May 12th match against Rahway. The Tigers won the match 4-1.

### Crusaders fall to G.L. in state quarterfinals

The Johnson Regional High School Crusader soccer team was ousted from the NISIAA state tournament Friday after a 2-1 defeat by Governor Livingston in Berkeley Heights.

Fifth-seeded Johnson's record fell to 12-6 and fourth-seeded G.L. improved to 18-6.

Seven Mark did his best to bring Johnson back with a dramatic solo home run in the top of the seventh inning, but the Crusaders were unable to place to tying run. G.L. scored the go-ahead run on a two-out RBI single in the fifth inning. Prior to the Friday game, the Crusaders had split a pair of games against G.L. Johnson was defeated by G.L. 2-0 on April 8 in Berkeley Heights and came evened the series with an 8-1 romp over the Berkeley Heights school on May 1.

Earlier in the week on Tuesday, Johnson was edged out by Immaculate to 6-7 on a game-winning home run in the bottom of the seventh.

Keith Jurick, who took the loss, blasted a solo shot and Paul Fenick knocked in three runs in the game, but the Crusaders were unable to overcome the incredible performance of Immaculate's Scott Allan, who belted three home runs and drove in six runs. Allan now has 13 home runs this year.

**H.S. Baseball**

The Central Jersey Basketball Camp, co-directed by Neil Home, Wayne, Everly and Kathy Matthews, will be held for two six-day sessions in July.

The camp, located on the campus of the Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, is in its 24th year of operation and has proven to be one of the most successful resident basketball camps in the area, with over 400 boys and girls attending the camp last summer.

The camp staff is composed primarily of high school coaches and college players from Union, Somerset, Hunterdon, Monmouth, Middlesex and Mercer counties.

Again this year, the Central Jersey Camp will offer a camp session for girls during the week of July 13-18 along with the boys.

Mathews, the highly successful girls basketball coach at Union Catholic, will direct the girls program.

The camp has featured many outstanding college coaches as guest lecturers in the past, including Rolfe Massimo of UNLV, Rich Adubato of UMass, Everly and Pete Carrol of Princeton College to name just a few.

Other features of the camp include: two-hour drill session each day where each camper is taught and then practices basketball fundamentals in small groups; outstanding basketball facilities including five full indoor courts; team and individual contests and each camper plays two or three games a day.

The camp is divided into three different age and skill level groups for both drill sessions and games — elementary, junior and senior high school age groups.

The first week of the camp for boys and girls ages 9-17 will be held from Sunday, July 13 to Friday, July 18. The second week will run from Sunday, July 20 to Friday, July 25.

More information may be obtained by calling Home at 908-654-5691 or Everly at 908-654-5424.

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## SPECIAL ELECTION NEWS

B-2

Vol. 1 No. 1

May - June 1997

### 20th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Elizabeth • Linden • Roselle • Rahway

#### Democratic Primary Election June 3, 1997



Senate Candidate Stan Moskal



Assembly Candidate Bob Jaspan



Assembly Candidate Bob Griffith

- Retired Safety Coordinator from Engelhard Industries
- Stan Moskal, Democratic Committee Man for many years
- Candidate for United States House
- Well known activist in city affairs
- Veteran of the Korean War
- A leader of the anti corruption, citizens group, "We The People"
- Chairman of the Ward Griffin Clean-Up Team
- Honor Guard, St. Gen's Church
- Married to the former Mary D'Addesa, they have two children

- Bob Jaspan a second term Democratic Councilman
- Past Chairman of the Planning Board
- Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board Member
- Charter Member of the Elizabeth Development Company
- A leader of "We The People"
- Business owner of Jaspan Brothers Hardware store in Elizabeth
- Member of the Union County Heart Association
- Elmora Kiwanis Club Member
- Married to the former Barbara Kirk. They have four children and three grandchildren

- Legislative Aid to Union County Assembly Delegation
- Bob Griffith, Democratic Councilman for eighteen years
- Council President, served on the Planning Board, ABC Board and the Mayor's Advisory Committee
- Democratic Committeeman for over thirty years
- Active leader in "We The People"
- Pres. O'Donnell Insurance Agency Elizabeth
- Elizabeth's Chairman, March of Dimes
- Elizabeth's Chairman, Cancer Fund
- Married to the former Mary Byrne, father of six children

### Our Platform On The Issues

**Auto Insurance**—State Department of Banking and Insurance should hire immediately 200 new investigators to reduce the \$2 billion a year in fraudulent insurance claims. Increase criminal penalties for insurance fraud. Press insurance companies to pass savings on to policyholders.

Bear bones auto insurance policy for workers making minimum pay. Would not support confiscation of car of any person who could not afford auto insurance.

**\$2.75 billion State bond proposal**—Firmly opposed to this record bond issue. Will cost taxpayers \$12.5 billion over a 38 year period. In its place use \$500+ million in additional tax revenues generated by very strong economy in '96 and '97.

**Partial Birth Abortion**—Strongly support Assembly Bill which bans this barbaric procedure.

**Airplane Noise**—No tolerance for the unbearable air traffic noise.

### June 3, 1997 Vote Line "C"

Stan Bob Bob  
**✓ 2C MOSKAL ✓ 3C JASPAN ✓ 4C GRIFFITH**  
 New Jersey State Senate New Jersey State Assembly

**✓ Mary Varona ✓ Paul Pickton ✓ James Garvin**  
 Union County Freeholders

## The Candidates Speak out

B-3

### LOWER AUTO INSURANCE RATES, NOW!

Numerous excuses for high auto insurance rates—the highest in the nation—are being propagated by politicians during this election year. The fact is that over half of auto insurance revenue goes to lawyers, doctors and insurance companies. These factious spend exorbitant sums lobbying New Jersey politicians NOT TO REFORM the system. The problem therefore lies within a small group—two dozen, to be exact—of lawmakers who receive millions of dollars for maintaining this wasteful and costly system.

Fortunately, New Jersey residents can lower their rates without gathering signatures, filing petitions, or congregating on the governor's steps. During the Democratic primary, on Tuesday, June 3, 1997, VOTE.

The incumbents are spearheaded by Senator Raymond Lesniak (D-Union) whose law firm has received \$2.1 million in auto insurance business. His running mate, Neil Cohen (D-Union), has reportedly earned nearly a million dollars from similar sources. Lesniak has been in office for 20 YEARS! Any semblance of auto reform initiative on his part is pure, political rhetoric aimed at retaining his profitable Senate seat.

On line "C", Stan MOSKAL, Bob JASPAN and Bob GRIFFITH are running under the slogan, "Stop Corruption and Profiteering in Government". They believe in auto insurance reform. They are NOT LAWYERS and will not accept contributions or conflict of interest business from those who make auto insurance so difficult to afford.

### 'LOAN SHARK' BOND RATE

#### Oppose Plan

Democratic candidates challenging the incumbents in the 20th legislative district (Elizabeth, Linden, Rahway and Roselle) announced their opposition to Gov. Whitman's proposed \$2.75 billion State bond issue. The democratic challengers call upon their opponents to "let the public know, before the June primary election, whether they are for or against, the revised version of the costliest bond issue in New Jersey history."

#### Moskal, Jaspan and Griffith

The three-member legislative team includes state senate candidate Stan Moskal of Elizabeth who is opposed by Sen. Raymond Lesniak. Bob Jaspan and Bob Griffith also of Elizabeth are opposed by Assemblymen Neil Cohen of Roselle and Joseph Suliga of Linden.

#### Challengers Joint Statement:

"They are called Pension Obligation Bonds but only a small percentage of the \$12.5 billion cost of the \$2.75 billion bond issue will find its way into the State's various pension funds. Of the \$12.5 billion cost \$9.75 billion will be used to pay 'loan shark' interest rates that will be charged to New Jersey taxpayers over the 38-year life of the bond issue.

#### \$5.5 Billion Too Much

"The extremely high interest rates are the result of the bonds not being backed by the full faith and credit of the State. Only bond issues approved by voters carry this guarantee. The lack of such a guarantee adds \$5.5 billion in interest payments.

#### Let our People Vote!

The NJ constitution which prohibits the creation of a debt of this type. The pertinent constitutional provisions reads, in part:

"The Legislature shall not, in any manner, create in any fiscal year a debt, or debts, liability or liabilities of the State, until it shall have been submitted to the people at a general election, and approved by a majority of the legally qualified voters of the State voting thereon." (Article VIII, Section 11, Par. 2)

### INCINERATOR PROTEST



Senate Candidate, Stan Moskal attends recent rally with The Concerned Citizens of Linden at the 200 Club Luncheon held at the L'Affaire Restaurant, Mountainside. The rally was in opposition to the turnpike ramp into the proposed Medical Incinerator site in Linden. Also present are Linden Councilmen, Ralph Strano (left) and Doc Niemeck (far right).

### PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTIONS

In a statement issued this week the three legislative candidates challenging the present democratic incumbents in the 20th Legislative District left no doubt where they stand on the issue of partial birth abortions. They support legislation currently before the NJ State Senate that would place a total ban on the procedure, except where necessary to save the life of the mother.

#### A Three Way Split

The 20th legislative includes Elizabeth, Linden, Rahway and Roselle. The three democrat challengers in favor of the ban are democrats Stan Moskal, Bob Jaspan and Bob Griffith. Moskal is opposed by Senator Raymond Lesniak whose position is unknown as of this date. Assembly candidates Jaspan and Griffin are opposed by Assemblyman Neil Cohen who voted against the ban; and Assemblyman Joseph Suliga who voted in favor. The primary election will be held on Tuesday, June 3.

#### POSITION PAPER

##### by Moskal, Jaspan and Griffith.

The prime sponsor of the bill to ban partial birth abortions is assemblywoman Clare Farragher (R-Monmouth). When she addressed the state assembly she held up a poster board to demonstrate the procedure. It showed an infant being pulled from the womb to its shoulders minutes before the fatal blow to the skull is struck. The assemblywoman called the procedure "the culture of death," others called it "gruesome". (See illustration in adjoining column).

#### Overwhelming Support for Ban

The position we have taken on this issue has numerous supporters. Last week the State Assembly supported the ban by a lopsided 57 to 12 vote. A majority of both parties voted in favor. Among the small handful of dissidents who voted for this gruesome, and we believe unconstitutional procedure, was Roselle resident Assemblyman Neil Cohen from our own 20th legislative district.

### AIRPLANE NOISE

The citizens of our district should not have to put up with the unbearable air traffic noise we do. The P.A. should be attacked for their lack of concern for the quality of life we suffer.

The problem has intensified because of the air traffic patterns they have put in place.

**"Stop Corruption and Profiteering in Government"**

**Vote Line C**

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF MOSKAL, JASPAN & GRIFFITH

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF MOSKAL, JASPAN & GRIFFITH



## "Legalized Corruption"

### THE POLITICS OF GREED

CONTRACTS AWARDED NOT TO THE LOWEST BIDDER BUT TO THE HIGHEST CONTRIBUTOR

The following is part of a reprint of a four part series published by the News Tribune and the Record (Hickens) in February 1990.

#### THE INSURANCE BILLS

In the mid-1980's as Senator Lesniak's law practice began to grow dramatically, additional banking and insurance work, he was the sponsor and chief advocate for a series of bills that brought enormous benefits to the insurance industry.

In 1984, he sponsored a package of bills that sharply restricted the rights of accident victims to sue. This legislation was sponsored by Lesniak's law firm.

Blamed for securing costs, insurance officials pushed hard to pass the bills. Lesniak was the main force in getting this legislation through the Senate. He became the chief expert on the floor for this legislation.

The insurance industry also sponsored compromise legislation in an insurance through the upper house.

Ray Lesniak openly admitted that he worked with Dorothy Light, a Prudential lobbyist on the state legislature right in his own law office.

At the same time the Lesniak law firm was defending Prudential in many auto negligence cases. How could anyone handle 600 or 700 cases for one insurance company?

These cases could bring in up to \$2,000 each, and often more with the more complicated cases.

The Senator gave the insurance industry what it had asked for and his law firm prospered with a record number of cases.

While the insurance companies paid 20% more for auto insurance in 1986, Senator Raymond Lesniak was making his first million as the darling of the insurance industry.

How could any New Jersey state legislator use his public office to gain great personal wealth and not be charged with CONFLICT OF INTEREST or worse?

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

In 1987, legislation was pushed through Trenton that relaxed state regulation of second mortgage companies, his law firm handled scores of closing for the Money Store, a second mortgage lender that was a major proponent of the legislation.

They called him "Rat" Moberg, Lesniak's in the Elizabeth office of State Senator Raymond Lesniak began calling him that in 1985, when business started pouring in from some of the state's largest banks and insurance companies.

HELPING THE BIG BANKS

When New Jersey's two biggest banks needed help with their plans to grow in 1988, they turned to Lesniak.

At around the same time, according to Lesniak, his law firm was hired by those two banks.

Imagine a country where normal people are allowed to defend themselves against criminals and in the process, accidentally cause a few deaths.

Imagine there could be less of a need for those occasionally tough-talking politicians, like our president, to pretend they want more cops on the beat to protect us from the animals they won't keep in prison.

How will a carpenter in Newark deal with the anxiety caused by the fear of knowing his next target will be a politician?

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Senate President's statement

Although he declined to be interviewed, Senate President Donald DiFrancesco sent a written statement, dated Jan. 6, to the Courier-Post:

Your letter of December 14 indicates that the Courier-Post is doing a series of articles on automobile insurance, an issue that affects every member of the New Jersey Legislature, as well as every resident of New Jersey who owns or drives a car.

Your letter requests an explanation as to how any member of the Legislature whose livelihood involves insurance could "ethically" participate in legislative discussion or vote on this subject matter.

If legislation were made to excuse themselves from any or all issues that involve their outside means of employment, they've seriously doubt there would ever be enough legislation in a position to vote on any legislative issue, auto insurance or otherwise.

As you well know, the New Jersey Legislature has always been by definition a part-time Legislature. One consequence of this tradition is that members, by necessity, must earn a living outside the halls of the State House.

We have among the Senate delegation individuals whose primary source of income comes from their employment as lawyers, business owners, members of the licensed professions, corporate executives and many other pursuits.

The make-up of the Legislature is not unlike that of our state. In fact, it is this diversity of experience and knowledge that is the strength of New Jersey's Legislature.

The people of New Jersey have elected representatives who, like themselves, work for a living and thus, best reflect their interests and needs in Trenton.

FROM BAD TO WORSE!!

Since the mid-1980's, the law firm of Senator Raymond Lesniak has grown almost as fast as the state's insurance industry.

The Senator practices very little law but manages to bring in an unbelievable amount of legal work which ranks his law firm among the biggest in the state, just in the area of insurance.

Unusually, this bill will not be signed into law.

It is confident it will make it out of committee and will be passed by the General Assembly. The hard part is passage in the Senate, where even the most conservative members will balk during this election year.

Regardless of its success in the Legislature, this bill will not be supported by our governor, who is a Republican and has pushed for corporate tax breaks and other measures to attract business.

By rejecting Governor Whitman's education spending plan, the court finally made it obvious that it is more interested in the redistribution of private wealth than it is in anything educational.

No content to legislate by decree, the court now wants to muscle in on the Legislature's power to tax. Such an encroachment should motivate the Assembly and Senate to protect their turf and exercise their constitutional duties to keep the branches' powers separate.

To be on the safe side, the constitution also should be amended with the deletion of that "thorough and efficient" clause.

Special interests would seek out the law firm of State Senator Raymond Lesniak, because of his position, a lawyer who had worked with him said.

And speaking of looking to the Legislature for leadership, I hope the lack of canceling the state constitution to make Supreme Court justices accountable to voters becomes bills that will be signed into law.

It is essential that environmental policies and economic growth in Union County support — and not hinder — one another," said Freeholder Donald Gonsalves, chairman of the county's Economic Development Committee. The forum he explained, is part of the Board of Chosen Freeholders' efforts to secure the county's position in the emerging world economy through sustainable economic development, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the requirements of future generations.

Established in 1987 by the Environmental Protection Agency, HEP is a major initiative to clean the Port of New York and New Jersey while sus-

taining businesses in the area. Because much of the port is located in Union County, the program has had far-reaching environmental and economic impacts on the region and will continue to be a major factor.

The forum is the latest in a series of citizen education programs begun in 1995 to address Union County's diverse economy and environment. Three such award-winning programs, established by former Freeholder Linda Lee Kelly, were recognized by the National Association of Counties, Kelly now serves on the Union County Alliance's Environmental Reform Committee, which holds increased education and involvement of more public sectors as a primary goal.

Noting that there will be speakers from the public and private sectors — many recognized nationally as experts in their fields, Gonsalves said public participation is crucial.

"This forum will be an opportunity to share information, exchange ideas and showcase environmental conservation and economic development in our diverse county," he said, explaining that the county has been "energizing" the Spanish and Portuguese communities to attend because of their growing business interest in the area.

Freeholder Henry Kurz, liaison to the Environmental Health Advisory Board, said the forum will address issues that "impact all facets of our lives."

"Economic and environmental matters are of crucial importance," Kurz said. "The roadmap we will make for the HEP and sustainable economic development will directly impact our economic opportunities and quality of life today, with far-reaching implications for future generations."

Among HEP's initiatives are to

reduce pollution at its source, preserving the sensitive creek, stream, river and watershed ecosystems in Union County as well as monitor sewage treatment plants that discharge material into the Arthur Kill waterway.

The Union County Alliance has been a driving force in sponsoring meetings and conferences to address economic growth and environmental issues. As part of its Long-Range Strategic Plan, the Alliance has worked with the Board of Chosen Freeholders to establish environmental priorities for Union County. This working relationship helps to strengthen partnerships with community, environmental and economic development groups.

"The problems of balancing economic growth and environmental preservation are challenging," said David Pierce, chairman of the Alliance's Environmental Reform Committee. "This forum will enable us to address these issues under the broad umbrella of sustainable economic development."

The committee, comprised of representatives from local businesses, economic development organizations and county staff, has been working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding HEP and economic development. Seeking to strengthen the vital link between environmental protection and economic development while stressing the importance of retaining manufacturing jobs in Union County, the committee in 1993 has made recommendations, including:

Using that environmental regulations should not be more stringent than those established by the federal government, except under unusual circumstances.

Requesting that public entities such as the Port Authority of New Jersey and sewage authorities join with Union County's environmental reform efforts.

While praising regulations that have resulted in reducing air and water pollution, Gonsalves noted that pending HEP efforts could have far-reaching impacts on businesses of all sizes.

"We are living in an age when it is crucial for people to learn how environmental efforts will affect them," he said. "This forum is important for people who are interested in attending this session and the more information on this county initiative, should call the Union County Alliance at (908) 525-2042."

Expo features police activities

Drug Alliance, the Union County Comprehensive Traffic Safety Unit, communications equipment, police bicycle and police vehicle competitions. Food, refreshments, commemorative T-shirts, souvenirs, rides and amusements will also be available.

Union D.A.R.E. Officer Nick Andio said the event last year was a big success but this year is expected to be an even bigger success with more participants. "The reason we chose the police academy this year was because a lot of children ask questions about it," Andio said.

An added plus will be 30-minute tours made available to parents and the children of the police academy.

"Children are always asking us what police officers do and what it is like to be an officer," Andio said. "Here is a chance to see what we do every day and other support services we provide." Andio continued, "This is a way to say thank you to all of the children in the D.A.R.E. program. It is an event in which they can come out, enjoy themselves and see what policing is all about."

In case of rain, the event will be held June 8. For more information, contact the Union Police D.A.R.E. Unit at (908) 851-5252.

## Freeholders appoint Lapolla to replace Baran

By Sean Dally Staff Writer

The county government will be getting a new county manager next month.

Michael Lapolla, acting first assistant prosecutor for the Union County Prosecutor's Office, was appointed last Thursday by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The vote was 8-0 for Lapolla with affirmative votes from both the Democratic majority and Republican minority on the board. Republican Freeholder Henry Kurz abstained on the vote; he could not be reached for comment.

Lapolla, who will be paid an annual salary of \$119,500, will move into the county manager's office on June 16. He will be replacing Ann Baran, who announced her resignation on May 6.

All those who know and have worked with Michael share his enthusiasm for his impressive qualities, said Democratic Freeholder Chairman Linda Stender. "We were very fortunate to have someone with his unique background willing to step into the county manager's post at this critical time of transition."

"Like his predecessor, Ann Baran, he brings to this position superb administrative skills, in-depth experience in the operations of Union County government, extensive knowledge of our problems and — perhaps most of all — bipartisan respect and confidence."

Lapolla said he already has a close working relationship with Baran and predicted a "seamless and painless transition."

"I appreciate the fact that the freeholders have given me this wonderful opportunity and I look forward to working with them," said Lapolla.

Stender had said that a formal search for a replacement was to take place after Baran had handed in her resignation, something that did not happen.

Stender explained that the county saved time and money not convening a search committee for Baran's replacement and that the freeholders' legal counsel had said the regular search process could be waived.

She added that, with the nomination of a new, permanent county prosecutor, namely Thomas V. Manahan of Westfield, Lapolla had received a number "very attractive offers to leave county government."

"We could not risk losing a man whose experience included six years as a member of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, including its chairmanship, and six years as first assistant Union County prosecutor," Michael also gained invaluable knowledge at the state and federal levels as assistant counsel to Governor Florio and state director of the office of Senator Bill Bradley."

When asked about this, Lapolla said he had started hunting for a job before Manahan's nomination.

"I enjoy county government in particular and I think county manager is a great position and I look forward to giving it my best shot," he said.

Lapolla said a top priority for the county is to build a new Juvenile Detention Center. Funds for a new center were defeated by the Democratic minority on the freeholder board last year because of money concerns with the UCUA incinerator — specifically, the fact that the county may have to pay the UCUA's debt service if it defaults on its bonds.

Who would be named to succeed Baran had been circulating in political circles around the county since the Democrats became the majority party on the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Lapolla, a Democrat, was once the youngest county freeholder in the state. He was elected to the Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1983 and served two three-year terms. He was made chairman in 1988.

Lapolla, 40, is a resident of Elizabeth. He is married and has a 5-month-old son.

He is a graduate of Rutgers University and a Phi Beta Kappa member. He received a law degree from Washington College of the American University in Washington, D.C., and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1981.

Lapolla served briefly as assistant counsel to Gov. Jim Florio in 1990 and then served as director of the New Jersey Office of Senator Bill Bradley. He was named first assistant prosecutor of Union County.

He has also been an adjunct professor at the Graduate School of Public Administration at Kean College and is an instructor at the John H. Stander Police Academy in Union County.

Common Sense

By Jay Hochberg Regional Editor

Imagine a country where normal people are allowed to defend themselves against criminals and in the process, accidentally cause a few deaths.

Imagine there could be less of a need for those occasionally tough-talking politicians, like our president, to pretend they want more cops on the beat to protect us from the animals they won't keep in prison.

How will a carpenter in Newark deal with the anxiety caused by the fear of knowing his next target will be a politician?

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The right to carry is a must

If a few state legislators have their way, New Jersey would become the 22nd state to adopt right-to-carry legislation, allowing law-abiding citizens to carry firearms. I wish them the best of luck, and urge them to ignore the impending storm of hysteria and misinformation about the consequences, courtesy of the Star-Ledger and area broadcast media.

On the morning of May 22, Assemblyman Kevin O'Rourke, of Union and Essex counties, was among about a dozen other Democratic assemblymen and senators who gathered at the State House to announce the introduction of such legislation.

The Citizens Protection Act is intended to allow a New Jersey resident the freedom to carry a concealed firearm for self-protection.

Pretty radical idea, huh?

Common Sense

By Jay Hochberg Regional Editor

Imagine a country where normal people are allowed to defend themselves against criminals and in the process, accidentally cause a few deaths.

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## Family discount cards set for county's pools

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced that family discount cards for the Union County pools in Rahway and Westfield are available for purchase.

The cards, which will be honored at either pool, offer each immediate family member the opportunity to obtain a 30-visit card at a substantial discount over the regular daily admission price," said Freeholder Chairman Linda Stender. "For a Union County family of four, two adults and two children, there could be a savings of 50 percent."

"Family discount cards will only be on sale until June 20. After that time, individual discount cards will be sold at the pool in 10 and 30 visit quantities," continued County Manager Ann Baran. "Although there is a savings to be realized when purchasing an individual discount card, it is definitely in the best interest of families to be part of the advance sale."

All people who purchase discount cards should note that admission to the pools is on a first-come, first-served basis. Possession of a discount card does not guarantee admittance and is not considered to be a reservation of club membership. For safety reasons, when the pools have reached capacity, there will be no further admissions, regardless of whether or not a person has a discount card.

The county's pools, which are outdoor facilities with heated pools, will be opening June 21. John Russell Wheeler Pool is located on Simpson Avenue in Linden, off Route 1 South. Walter E. Ulrich Memorial Pool is in Rahway River Park, off Valley Road, Clark, and St. Georges Avenue, Rahway. Sessions at the pools vary as to day and times, so the public is urged to contact the pool they wish to attend, or the Division of Parks and Recreation, for an information sheet. A schedule of swim lessons and classes can also be obtained by calling the Parks office.

To obtain a family discount card, patrons must complete and return an application form, in person, to the Union County Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, through June 21.

Forum to address economic development in county

Union County business owners and executives are scheduled to join with county, state and federal officials for a "mandate" meeting, Monday to exchange ideas on the important relationship between a New Jersey/New York Metropolitan Area environmental plan and Union County's economic development initiatives.

The Interactive Public Forum to be held from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the Tossco Refining Company, 1400 Park Ave., Linden, will address the efforts of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Plan, which is a key focus of the county's evolving long-range plans for sustainable economic development.

Cosponsored by Union County, the Union County Alliance/Gateway Center, the Union County Chamber of Commerce, the Linden Industrial Association and Tossco Refining Company, the forum will feature dialogue with experts in addition to updating participants on the activities of organizations such as the Departments of Commerce, Environmental Protection and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

"It is essential that environmental policies and economic growth in Union County support — and not hinder — one another," said Freeholder Donald Gonsalves, chairman of the county's Economic Development Committee. The forum he explained, is part of the Board of Chosen Freeholders' efforts to secure the county's position in the emerging world economy through sustainable economic development, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the requirements of future generations.

Established in 1987 by the Environmental Protection Agency, HEP is a major initiative to clean the Port of New York and New Jersey while sus-

taining businesses in the area. Because much of the port is located in Union County, the program has had far-reaching environmental and economic impacts on the region and will continue to be a major factor.

The forum is the latest in a series of citizen education programs begun in 1995 to address Union County's diverse economy and environment. Three such award-winning programs, established by former Freeholder Linda Lee Kelly, were recognized by the National Association of Counties, Kelly now serves on the Union County Alliance's Environmental Reform Committee, which holds increased education and involvement of more public sectors as a primary goal.



## COUNTY NEWS

## Horseback riding lessons

The opportunity to learn to ride a horse exists this summer at the county's Equestrian Camp.

Equestrians of all abilities, especially beginners, are invited to enroll in one or two of the week-long sessions which include instructional riding, trail rides, learning general care of a horse and a barbeque. Campers will also be able to participate in a Horse Show at the end of the summer.

Waichung Stables, 1160 Summit Lane, Mountaineer, is the site for this opportunity for fun, fitness and learning. Camp is open to boys and girls ages nine to 17.

Enrollment is limited to a maximum of two weeks per child. Scheduled sessions will be held beginning the week of June 24 and ending the week of Aug. 19. Sessions are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., except for the week of June 30-July 7 when camp will be held Monday through Thursday.

Fundations may register on or after June 7. On the seventh, registration times will be 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Applications accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The fee is \$220 per session for Union County residents, \$240 for out-of-county. All registration must be performed in person.

Proof of residency and a birth certificate will be required. For further information, contact the Waichung Stables at (908) 789-3665.

## Conti will run again

Union County Surrogate Ann Conti has announced that she will seek reelection to her fourth term.

"I'm very proud of my record of efficiency and fairness in the Surrogate's Office," Conti said. "At the same time, I would like to continue to expand my work with guardianship issues, particularly in the area of establishing greater protection for minor children and adult incompetents."

Conti recently received an award from the New Jersey Coalition for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults for her work in the establishment of a Union County guardianship monitoring program.

She worked with the Superior Court of New Jersey to develop a pilot program and her office was the first Surrogate's Office in New Jersey to administer this program, which has now been adopted by surrogates throughout the state.

During her past term, Conti oversaw the establishment of a computerized document preparation program, a

promise she made in her last campaign.

"For years, these forms were done manually. This new procedure saves a tremendous amount of time, and it enables us to avoid the need for greatly expanded office staff in the future."

Conti has received awards and honors for her work as surrogate. She serves on the executive board of the National College of Probate Judges. She is a resident of Mountaineer and is married to Dr. Ralph Conti. They are the parents of five children.

Friends of Ann Conti, the campaign committee, is sponsoring a cocktail party on Wednesday at 6 p.m., at the Galtop Hill Caterers. Anyone wishing information about the event should contact Edward J. Palmieri at (908) 353-1036.

## Elder law advice

Benjamin D. Eckman, a local elder law attorney, has produced a brochure called "Understanding Advance Directives: A Guide to Living Wills and Health Care Proxies" in anticipation of National Elder Law Week, which ends Saturday.

"Elder law is intended to broadly assist 'extended living' and elder law practitioners provide the legal information necessary for persons whose lives will extend or have already extended beyond the time when all children are usually out of the house and when regular employment ceases. After the elder law attorney and client complete their work, legal documents have been drafted, tax considerations have been analyzed, and a plan to protect the elder's estate has been implemented."

Eckman is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the New Jersey State Bar Association, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, the Elder Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association, and the Union County Bar Association.

## COAH reform

Gov. Christine Whitman has signed into law a bill sponsored by Assemblymen Richard Bagger and Alan Augustine, both R-Union, that changes the definition of vacant land when used in calculations for affordable housing.

Under the law, vacant land will include property leased to a municipality, county or nonprofit entity for recreation or open space. This land no longer can be used by the state Council on Affordable Housing to determine a municipality's fair share of affordable housing.

Previously, the law stipulated that when calculating a municipality's fair share affordable housing obligation, COAH could not designate as vacant land any property owned by a county, town or nonprofit agency.

Bagger said, "Because that land is not available for development, it shouldn't be considered vacant for COAH purposes," he added.

"The law does not change the intent of the Fair Housing Act," Augustine said. "Rather, it balances the demands for affordable housing with the need for preserving land for conservation, parks and open space."

The Bagger-Augustine bill will help guard against overdevelopment in communities already hard-pressed to obey state directives for affordable housing.

## Battleship efforts

Not only can citizens become involved in bringing the USS New Jersey home by purchasing a "battle-

ship license plate," but also by participating in the voluntary tax check-off on the 1996 state income tax forms. This year's tax form include a special check-off for the Battleship New Jersey. Funds collected through the check-off will be directly applied to bringing the ship back to our state and opening it as a museum.

The ship is rich in history. It has served through four major conflicts, World War II, the Vietnam War, the Korean Conflict and the Desert Storm. The USS New Jersey also has the distinction of being the most decorated warship in U.S. Naval history, boasting 16 battle stars and 13 ribbons.

The USS New Jersey is now situated in Drennon, Wash., where she is being maintained by the Navy. An application for her acquisition has been submitted to the secretary of the Navy by the USS Battleship Commission, which is a state-sponsored commission.

Questions about the project and information about making donations outside of the check-off can be mailed to Ellen Amato, director of the Battleship Foundation, at 1715 Highway 35, Suite 103, Middletown, NJ 07748, or call (908) 671-6488.

## SCHOOL LINES

WASHINGTON SCHOOL PRE-K THROUGH 4TH GRADE, UNION

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7320 Main Menu

## SENIOR CITIZENS

4000 Senior Citizens Information Line

4001 Senior Citizens Travel

4002 Senior Medical Courtesy And Dental Programs

## SOAP OPERAS

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3282 Days Of Our Lives

3283 The Young & the Restless

3284 The Bold & the Beautiful

3285 The Young & the Restless

3286 One Life To Live

3287 General Hospital

3288 Sunset Beach

3289 Wheel of Fortune

3280 Wheel of Fortune

3281 The Young & the Restless

3282 Days Of Our Lives

3283 The Young & the Restless

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**Stepping Out** is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing send information to Associate Editor Jacquie McCarthy, Worral News, P.O. Box 3189, Union, New Jersey, 07093.

# ART SHOWS

**ABRAHAM CLARK HIGH SCHOOL** student art work will be displayed at Mae's Place for Flowers on Chestnut Street in Roselle through tomorrow. Fine Arts students in grades 9-12 under the direction of Laura Brown painted striking water-colors from still life assemblages of tulips, lilies, and hostas and other spring varieties.

**CHINESE BRUSH PAINTINGS** by Michele Santoro will be on display through Saturday at The Common Ground Cafe in Summit.

The Cafe is located in Ahn's Coffee Roastery, 50 Maple St., at Union Place in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-2131.

**SKULSKI ART GALLERY** of the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark will present an exhibition of paintings by Wojciech Spranger through July 4.

Spranger has had a lifelong relationship with the work of Breughel of Brabant as well as early 17th century Dutch floral painters, and manages to incorporate their concepts into a most interesting contemporary approach.

The Polish Cultural Foundation is located at 177 Broadway, Clark. Just off Exit 135 from the Garden State Parkway. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call Alexandra K. Nowak, director, at (908) 382-7157.

**VOX GALLERY** will host art work by Brazilian artist Iva Potvin through June 2.

Potvin's subject matter involves homes, a man's love of her life. She has been studying their anatomy, movement and behavior for more than thirty years.

Vox Gallery is located at 444 Springfield Ave. in Summit. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call (908) 273-2551.

**BACK IN HAVANA**, an exhibit by artist Enrique Flores-Galbis, is on display at Swan Galleries in Plainfield.

The artist's oil paintings portray his native Cuba with political wit aimed at the myth and dominance of Fidel Castro.

The show continues through June 7, weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Swan Galleries is located at 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For information, call (908) 755-7107.

**NEW JERSEY TAPESTRY OF ART** exhibition is being presented at New Jersey Center for Visual Arts through June 6.

NJCCA is located at 68 Elm St. in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

**THE BEST OF KEAN**, an exhibition of photographs by students in the Department of Technology at Kean College of New Jersey, will be on display at Les Mamant Art Gallery in the Union Library.

The exhibit will continue through June 12. Union Library is located on Morris Avenue in Union. For information, call (908) 686-0420 or (908) 686-4506.

**SUNNYSIDE BRANCH** of Linden Library will feature 11 works by artist George Jarvis. Jarvis' work is bright, colorful and whimsical, frequently featuring children. Jarvis is a painter and illustrator who also designs greeting cards and teaches art to children at the Linden Multi-Purpose Center.

The library is located at 100 Edgewood Road in Linden. The exhibit may be viewed during the library branch's regular hours, 1-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 9 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

# MAHEM

MAHEM, a who-dunnit of paintings, sculpture and photography, will be displayed in the main gallery at Gallery 37 in Summit on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Gallery 37 is located at 37 Union Place in Summit. For information, call (908) 277-5322.

**MARIA R. LUPO**, mixed media artist, will have a display of artwork at Watchung Arts Center from Monday through June 28. A reception will be held on June 8 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays. Watchung Arts Center is located on the Watchung Circle. For information, call (908) 753-0150.

**UNION COUNTY ANNUAL JURIED ART AND CRAFTS** Exhibition will take place at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, 68 Elm St., Summit, from July 20 through Aug. 17.

For information, call (908) 273-9121.

# AUDITIONS

**UNION COUNTY COLLEGE** is holding auditions for a Christopher Durang one-act play. Auditions will be held on

Monday, June 2, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the P.O. Box 3189, Union, New Jersey, 07093.

The campus is located at Springfield Ave. in Union.

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**NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS** will have "Color, Line and Form," an exhibit of works by Alice Bryan Hordis in the Members' Gallery from Saturday through June 28.

An opening reception will be held on June 1 from 1 to 4 p.m. NJCCA is located at 68 Elm St. in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

**DONALD B. PALMER** Museum of the Springfield Public Library will present "Protecting the Finest Through Art," an exhibition of botanical illustrations by Robin A. Jess, opening Sunday at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library and continuing through July 10.

The exhibit consists of twenty watercolor illustrations of fascinating Pine Barrens plants including orchids and carnivorous plants.

The Donald B. Palmer Museum is located in the Springfield Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Roselle. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. For

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The exhibit consists of twenty watercolor illustrations of fascinating Pine Barrens plants including orchids and carnivorous plants.

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# MAHEM

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**UNION COUNTY ANNUAL JURIED ART AND CRAFTS** Exhibition will take place at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, 68 Elm St., Summit, from July 20 through Aug. 17.

For information, call (908) 273-9121.

# AUDITIONS

**UNION COUNTY COLLEGE** is holding auditions for a Christopher Durang one-act play. Auditions will be held on

Monday, June 2, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the P.O. Box 3189, Union, New Jersey, 07093.

The campus is located at Springfield Ave. in Union.

**NEW JERSEY TAPESTRY OF ART** exhibition is being presented at New Jersey Center for Visual Arts through June 6.

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# YOUR Home INSIDE & OUT

## Study group reports findings

The only force that drives consumers to spend more money on furniture purchases is entertaining in the home, according to a study conducted by American Research Group.

After two years of conducting consumer interviews and surveys, ARG has discovered that entertaining, not income, is the force that motivates consumers to spend more on their furniture.

"Our research proves that the more frequently consumers entertain at home, the more they will spend on furniture," said Britt Beemer, founder and chairman of ARG.

"Contrary to popular belief — especially in the furniture industry — shoppers with high levels of disposable income and expensive homes do not represent the best prospects for up-end furniture purchases," he said.

Evidence shows that people who entertain in their homes 10 times a year or more expect to spend \$1,568 for their next sofa. Those who entertain six to nine times a year say they will spend \$916 on a sofa. When entertaining three to five times a year, the amount spent on a sofa drops to \$683 and to \$534 when people entertain three times a year or less.

The study also found that those who entertain frequently:

- Are more likely to have specially ordered furniture and would do so again.
- Are willing to wait longer for delivery of special orders.
- Are eight times more likely to have used an interior decorator than those who rarely entertain within the home.

"Entertaining in the home is the most reliable indicator — and the only common denominator — of those who will spend more on furniture," Beemer said.

High income is not a reliable indicator as to which Americans will spend more on home furnishings. More than 95 percent of the people surveyed who entertain at home often will spend more on furniture, as compared to 65 percent of high-income Americans who will spend more on home furnishings.

The richest folks in town are lower furniture prospects if they don't entertain at home," Beemer said.

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## Polar-Air lives up to its name with efficient air conditioner

Lennox' new Elite 14 air conditioner features quiet, high efficiency, and quiet operation in a compact design, according to Joseph DiGangi, president, Polar-Air Inc., Union.

Providing energy-saving efficiencies up to 15.60 SEER, the Elite 14 operates at sound levels "almost as quiet as a refrigerator," DiGangi said. "An insulated sound compartment traps compressor noise and allows operating levels as low as 72 decibels.

Less refrigerant is required to operate the Elite 14 air conditioner, thanks to the corrosion-resistant 5/16 inch copper tubing. An aluminum fin coil provides excellent heat transfer and low air resistance for high efficiency operation. DiGangi also pointed out that the air conditioner's scroll compressor provides high efficiency and reliability.

Durability is enhanced by a heavy-gauge, corrosion-resistant cabinet. Polyethylene support feet keep the unit off of the mounting surface to protect it from

damaging moisture. And DiGangi explained, high and low-voltage pressure switches protect the Elite 14 against damage during abnormal operating conditions. "These safety features will give the homeowner that extra peace of mind," DiGangi said.

DiGangi added that the Elite 14 air conditioner is available in a wide range of models to provide the best matches for homeowners and is backed by a 10-year compressor and five-year limited parts warranties.

"And while you can count on the Elite 14 air conditioner to give you quieter high efficiency cooling," DiGangi indicated, "you can also count on Polar-Air Inc. for promptness, courtesy and expert professional service, since they are part of Lennox' unique Quality Dealer Standards Program."

Call DiGangi at (908) 686-3601 about the Elite 14 air conditioner today. With a history of more than 100 years of quality and innovation, Lennox give one less thing to worry about.

## Take the plunge, install a pool

By Jacquie McCarthy  
Associate Editor

Now that it's finally getting warm outside, most of us want to think about warming up rather than cooling down. This is the perfect time, however, to consider options for dealing with the other weather extreme, according to Charlie West of C&M Pools in Roselle Park.

The pool business since 1971, and operating locally since 1981.

C&M Pools offers installation of both above and in-ground pools, as well as a complete service and retail supply departments. Each year at this time, West kicks off pre-season pool sales, which includes new installations as well as existing pool up and running in time for the hot weather.

According to West, C&M Pools specializes in chemical supplies for above ground pools.

"Our biggest specialty item is

## Rahway store has found some real country charm

By Jacquie McCarthy  
Associate Editor

Looking to add a little country charm to your home this season? Stop in to see Debbie Dobrjenski at Woodwork & Tile, conveniently located on St. George Avenue in Rahway. As described by Debbie herself, this store has "a little bit of everything you need to add a country feel to your home."

Woodwork & Tile provides hand-made pine and oak items, such as tables, curio and china cabinets, and buffets, as well as entertainment units and benches. Dobrjenski will customize furniture according to size, and does custom painting and decorating of the wood to specifications. To accentuate your new furniture, hand-

woven rugs and cloth items are available, including chair pads.

Spring is a booming season for the store, according to the owner. This season, the store is introducing a new line of country pine furniture. Delivery service is available. Woodwork & Tile is located at 978 St. George Ave., Rahway. The store is open Monday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday by appointment. For information, call (908) 815-1123.

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**Rahway Lumber Company**  
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611 E. Hazelwood Ave. Hours: Mon - Fri 7:00 - 5:30  
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908-388-0700 Sunday 9:00 - 2:00

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# YOUR Home INSIDE & OUT

## Do-it-yourself projects have become a popular form of home improvement

When it comes to home improvement, two-thirds of consumers plan to do the work themselves, while personal taste continues to be the top reason to undertake a home improvement project. These are just two of the many trends driving the boom in this \$135.4 billion industry, according to the ongoing popularity of the home improvement.

The findings were revealed by a recent American Express Retail Index survey.

Thirty-one percent of consumers report they are planning some form of home improvement this year, with the average budget set at \$2,660, according to the American Express Retail Index, which monitors consumer spending trends in retail and is based on a random national poll of more than 1,000 consumers including single family home owners and apartment dwellers. This year's home improvement projects range from interior decorating, 31 percent, to renovation and remodeling, 33 percent. Of those planning a home improvement project in the spring, 70 percent will start the project before Memorial Day. Half expect it will take at least two months to complete the job.

"Consumers continue to drive high volumes for the home improvement industry, particularly the home superstore," said Emily Smith, vice president, Retail Marketing Group, American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc. "Among the leading trends fueling steady growth for retailers are the growing number of do-it-yourselfers."

According to a research and consulting firm, the home of the 90s is taking on more multi-functional uses with consumers making their home a focal point as they design and decorate for optimum stage and personal satisfaction. Supporting this trend, the American Express Retail Index found that close to half — 42 percent — of those surveyed say a change in personal taste is their primary motivation for making home improvements. This was far ahead of most other reasons, including maintenance at 32 percent, and increasing their home's resale value at 10 percent.

In addition, the American Express Retail Index found that refurnishing and redecorating are among the top forms of home improvement. Americans say they plan to make more than one-third redecorate — 34 percent — say they plan to re-furnish at least one room this year. Cited by 46 percent, the living room, followed by the master bedroom at 22 percent, were mentioned by 16 percent, were third and fourth most popular rooms to receive a facelift. The kitchen and bathroom were being re-furnished by 12 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

When it comes time for shopping for home decorating supplies, the American Express Retail Index found that

one in five home improvement planners will purchase special tools or equipment for their home project. Cited 55 percent of respondents, vs. 38 percent in 1996, home superstores were the top choice for those shopping for home items and supplies. Hardware stores, citing 18 percent of those surveyed was second, followed by lumberyards, 16 percent; department stores, 12 percent and home furnishings/decorating stores, 11 percent. The top reasons for choosing a home retailer were: fair prices, 69 percent; selection, 50 percent; quality, 49 percent and helpful knowledgeable salespeople, 23 percent.

Cost appears to be a primary driver of do-it-yourself trend. The American Express Retail Index revealed that two-thirds of consumers — 66 percent — say they plan to undertake home improvements projects themselves. However, when asked if cost were no object, 52 percent of home improvers said they would hire an outside contractor to do the job, while only 35 percent said they would still prefer to do the work themselves. The number of women who said their spouse would performing the work this year, 44 percent, dropped to only 12 percent when asked the same question.

"While men are the most likely do-it-yourselfers at 78 percent, more than half of women surveyed, 54 percent, say they are planning to do the work themselves. Nineteen percent say they are getting help from friends, neighbors and relatives, while 26 percent plan to hire a professional contractor."

In 1996, sales in the home improvement industry totaled \$135.4 billion, according to the Home Improvement Research Institute, which keeps statistics on the industry. The American Express Retail Index also found that consumers are setting higher budgets this year compared to 1996. Close to half — 45 percent — of those planning home improvements in 1997 say they will spend \$1,000 or more. This is up 7 percent compared with those saying they would spend the same amount last year.

Overall budgets are based on planned projects, with 19 percent saying they will spend up to \$500, and 16 percent budgeting \$5,000 or more, up to 5 percent from 1996. In addition, 1997 saw a six percent shift away from cash to credit cards, which was cited by 18 percent of respondents as the way they would pay for home improvement expenses. It appears that part of the attraction to credit cards comes from the growing number of consumers who receive credit cards through their retailers. Nearly one-third of credit card users, or 19 percent, say having a credit card linked to a reward program influences their usage of that card. Sixty-six percent of those using a credit or charge card to pay for their home improvement purchases say they will have their expenses paid off within six months, up 17 percent from 1996.

## It's time to 'flip the switch' to cool down

By Jacquie McCarthy  
Associate Editor

The impression given by the name Reel-Strong Fuel Company has been more than supported by more than 70 years of service to Cranford and the surrounding area.

Owners Clint and Peter Crane have taken a seasonal business and kept it thriving through the ups and downs of unpredictable weather conditions. Now that spring is here and warmer weather is just around the corner, Reel-Strong Fuel is gearing up to "flip the switch" on the heat for their summer standby — air conditioning.

Since Reel-Strong has been providing quality heating service and products since 1925, it is not widely known that they also have a line of products and services for summer temperature needs as well. According to Peter Crane, the focus turns from heating to cooling in May, when Reel-Strong "flips on its AC hat" to install new central air conditioning units and tune-up existing ones.

Crane said that now is the perfect time to call for installation or service on central air conditioning.

"It's great — there's no backing when the hot weather hits, that's when the backlog develops."

If your schedule doesn't permit thinking about summer concerns right now, Crane said that there is no need to rush. There is no set time frame on an air conditioning tune-up — they can be done at the customer's convenience.

"It doesn't have to be done before you flip the switch," he said.

Reel-Strong has been installing and servicing air conditioners for 25 years. They offer several makes and models for residential customers. In addition to air conditioners, oil heat customers can take advantage of the summer season to have their oil burners cleaned and serviced.

"Service is what we sell," said Crane.

Reel-Strong Fuel Company is located at 549 Lexington Ave., Cranford. For information, call (908) 276-0900.

A subscription to your newspaper keeps your college student close to hometown activities. Call 908-686-7753 for a special college rate.

## Shades 'N Things in Union offers tips to decorate the home and update decor

By Jacquie McCarthy  
Associate Editor

unique decorative items, store accessories can help customers accessorize their homes.

According to Barbara Korlof of Shades 'N Things, the show room offers a wide variety of home decor items. With a large showroom filled with

and candleholders to flower arrangements, and silk trees and plants — and, of course, shades.

"We hand-pick everything," Korlof said. "We try to select different, unusual items that you don't see

everywhere else. To help customize each customer's look, the store provides complete in-home decorative services and custom window treatments. Many accessories, in styles ranging from country to con-

temporary to traditional are available in the showroom.

Shades 'N Things has been located at 1064 Morris Ave. in Union since 1977. For information, call the store at (908) 686-9661.

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## Fences are springing up



Spring is a popular time for new fencing, according to Carlos Milanes, president of Delta Fence in Elizabeth. Located at 541 Spring St., the company provides installation services and a wide variety of fencing. For information, call (908) 355-9066.

## Do-in-yourself, professional woodworkers can find what they need at Interstate

With a comprehensive stock of unfinished woods and accessories, Interstate's Interstate Hardwood is one of the area's leading suppliers to both professional woodworkers and homeowners.

Founded in 1953, the family-owned business has been an Elizabeth tradition passed down to owner Neil Slattery from his father.

Interstate specializes in hardwood and has drawn brisk business from clients interested in using that wood to construct home-cabinets, bookcases and wall-hung shelving.

"That's still the core of our business — the hardwoods — but we also do a lot of business in cedar and pine," he said.

A smaller — but rapidly growing — market is that of

Spanish cedar customers interested in creating humidors to store cigars. To accommodate this clientele, Interstate sells humidifiers, hygrometers and even cigars.

"Elizabeth obviously has large Cuban and Mediterranean populations and those customers supply a lot of the demand for cigar-related products," Slattery said.

Customers looking for exotic woods can choose from a selection that includes locust and cocobola, as well as a host of tropical varieties.

Interstate Hardwood, located at 820 Flors St., is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday and is closed on Sunday. They can be reached at (908) 353-5663.

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# HEALTH/FITNESS & MEDICINE

## Information on senior care is at your fingertips

Saint Barnabas Senior Health was awarded a grant from the Grotta Foundation for Senior Care to establish the Grotta Resource Center on Aging. The resource center provides visitors with information on health and lifestyle issues of special interest to older adults and their families. All are welcome to stop by and browse through the Center's collection of books, magazines, journals, audiovisuals and computer equipment. Topics available for access information include Exercise, Diet, Caregiving, Travel, Safety, Medical Issues, Stress Management, Women's Issues, Men's Health, Osteoporosis, Heart Disease, Strokes, Hearing, Vision and much more. Books can be borrowed for up to two weeks should visitors choose to take home a read.

The Center also offers a computer which is connected to the OVID system which can access volumes of information in the Saint Barnabas Medical Center library. Brochures, news clippings and a resource file containing information on housing and other topics also can be found in the Center. A variety of video tapes and a VCR are available to any visitor interested in information that can be found in the extensive video collection.

The resource center is presently located in the Senior Health Office at 101 Old Short Hills Road, Suite 102 A, West Orange. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (201) 325-6503.

Senior Health's free membership program for people age 50 and older is an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. The program currently has over 46,000 members and enjoys a variety of programs, lectures, trips, discounts and services throughout the year at both the Saint Barnabas and Union Hospital locations. For more information, call (201) 325-6503 or (908) 964-0444.

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## A citizen's affair



Members of the Union Hospital Foundation 1997 Citizen of the Year Dinner honoring Joseph and Jeannette Cantalupo of Union put the finishing touches on this year's agenda. From left to right: Board Member Juliette Trumbull of the honorees, Connie Fitzsimons of Short Hills and Judy Carpin of Point Pleasant, daughter of the honorees. The Foundation presents its award annually to the person or persons whose work or efforts have improved the quality of life locally and statewide. This year's dinner will be held on June 6 at L'Affaire in Mountainside. Additional information on the dinner can be obtained by calling (908) 697-1900, ext. 2020.

**Jacquie McCarthy, Editor**  
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Anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer, their families, friends and healthcare providers.

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- Free hair weaving demonstrations
- Free hair extensions demonstrations
- Free hair treatments demonstrations
- Free hair massages demonstrations
- Free hair styling demonstrations
- Free hair coloring demonstrations
- Free hair straightening demonstrations
- Free hair curling demonstrations
- Free hair braiding demonstrations
- Free hair weaving demonstrations
- Free hair extensions demonstrations
- Free hair treatments demonstrations
- Free hair massages demonstrations

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE LIFE.

Saint Barnabas  
Cancer Center

## Watch out, baby boomers — glaucoma is on the rise

Men and women over age 50, at an increased risk of going blind from glaucoma, can almost always avoid this danger with a simple test from an eye doctor, according to Jordan Burke, M.D., F.A.C.S., ophthalmologist at Summit Eye Group.

"Everyone knows someone with glaucoma," says Dr. Burke, who notes that the disorder causes damage to the cells comprising the optic nerve, which is responsible for transmitting visual information from the eye to the brain. "As the baby boomers join the 69 million Americans already over the age of 50, the incidence of glaucoma will reach unprecedented levels."

With more than 17 million baby boomers moving into the blindness danger zone by the year 2000, the need for this simple test becomes more critically important than ever, notes the ophthalmologist.

Recent worldwide research has developed new treatments, and current studies in the U.S. and overseas are focusing on optic nerve protection and regeneration.

"Because glaucoma leads to blindness, yet has no symptoms, a simple eye exam is the only way to protect vision from this insidious disease," says John W. Corvick, executive director of the Glaucoma Foundation.

In addition to aging, other risk factors for glaucoma include nearsightedness, family history, diabetes and race. African Americans are six times more likely to have glaucoma than Caucasians.

"Anyone can get glaucoma, from babies to senior citizens," says Dr. Burke. "There are virtually no signs or symptoms. That is why regular eye check-ups are the key to preserving sight."

The Glaucoma Foundation's free worldwide services include literature, information, and medical referrals, all available by calling (800) GLAUCOMA.

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463 Valley Street, Maplewood  
170 Scotland Road, Orange  
266 Liberty Street, Bloomfield

**UNION COUNTY**  
1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union

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Contract Rates Available  
Blind Box Number.....\$12.00 per insertion  
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**UNION COUNTY**  
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Clark Eagle • Northwood Leader  
Mountainide Echo • Roselle Spectator  
Hillside Leader • Roselle Park Leader  
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Business Directory 4 PM Thursday  
Display • Space reservation 5 PM Friday  
Ad Copy 12 noon Monday  
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Adjustments: We make every effort to avoid mistakes in your classified advertisement. Please check your ad each time it appears, should an error occur please notify the classified department within seven days of publication. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. shall not be liable for errors or omissions in cost of actual space occupied by item in which error or omissions occurred. We can not be held liable for failure, for any cause, to insert an ad. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. reserves the right to reject, revise or reclassify any advertisement at any time.

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SALARY TO HIGH TEENS  
Union, NJ company seeks articulate/ personable individual to assist customers over phone. Must be detail oriented. PC skills a plus. Returns welcome! Excellent phone skills a must. Call: 908-351-9341.

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Drivers: Road Testers needed for new car delivery. Must drive stick, no points or license suspensions. Must have own vehicle. Benefits. Call: 201-375-5155 after 6pm.

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# Real Estate

## Weichert posts top dollar sales

At Weichert Realtors' Westfield office, sales dollar volume rose 20 percent during the first four months of the year, compared to 1996, announced James M. Weichert, president.

The office also recorded a 14 percent rise in the number of sales and a 16 percent increase in the number of marketed listings. The figures correspond to the best first quarter in Weichert Realtors' history and a record April, based on revenue units.

According to branch manager Bob Albanese, high consumer confidence, a moderate rate of inflation and continuing demand for homes are responsible for the near-record level sales activity at the Westfield office.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Antone nets awards

Joyce Antone, a sales associate with Weichert Realtors' Westfield office, has earned an office listing award for the month of April.

For Antone, it is the latest in a growing list of honors that includes membership in the 1996 New Jersey State Million Dollar Club and Weichert's Million Dollar Sales and Marketing Clubs.

Antone, a licensed real estate professional for five years, is a member of the Westfield and North Central Jersey Association of Realtors. Antone is a longtime resident of Mountaineer, where she is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and a volunteer at Overlook Hospital. She is married and has two sons.

For real estate transactions, Antone can be contacted at Weichert's Westfield office, (908) 854-7777, at 155 Elm St.

### Weimer honored

Linda Weimer, a sales associate with Weichert Realtors' Westfield office, has been honored for her listing accomplishments in April.

It is the most recent award for Weimer, who has qualified for the New Jersey State Million Dollar Club and Weichert's Million Dollar Sales and Marketing Clubs in 1996.

Weimer has been a licensed real estate professional since 1994. She is

## RENTAL

"All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or to discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or to discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin."

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BELLEVILLE LARGE 1 bedroom second floor apartment. Bath, kitchen, laundry, central air conditioning, pet friendly. Available June 1st. Call 201-782-1831.

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2 bedrooms, dining room, 1st floor, modern 2 family, large eat-in kitchen, dining room, finished basement, laundry, central air conditioning. \$1,100 month. 201-336-1381.

### BLOOMFIELD NO. 100

1 bedroom, 1st floor, modern 2 family, large eat-in kitchen, dining room, finished basement, laundry, central air conditioning. \$1,100 month. 201-336-1381.

### ELIZABETH

#### UNUSUAL APARTMENT 1-BEDROOM EFFICIENCY

Neighborhood Water included. Call 201-782-1831.

### BRIDGEWATER

1 bedroom, 1st floor, modern 2 family, large eat-in kitchen, dining room, finished basement, laundry, central air conditioning. \$1,100 month. 201-336-1381.

### LINDEN

1 bedroom, 1st floor, modern 2 family, large eat-in kitchen, dining room, finished basement, laundry, central air conditioning. \$1,100 month. 201-336-1381.

### SPRINGFIELD

1 bedroom, 1st floor, modern 2 family, large eat-in kitchen, dining room, finished basement, laundry, central air conditioning. \$1,100 month. 201-336-1381.

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## APARTMENT WANTED

UNION AREA. 1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## FURNISHED HOMES FOR RENT

UNION AREA. 1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## MAPLEWOOD PRIVATE HOME

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## WEST ORANGE LUXURY HOME

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## GARAGE FOR RENT

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## HOUSE TO RENT

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## MAPLEWOOD BEAUTIFUL 4 bedrooms

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## MAPLEWOOD 3-BEDROOM COLONIAL

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## UNION HOME

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## OFFICE TO LET

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## GOETHALS PARK

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## NEW OFFICE SPACE

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## CALL ANDREA RICHARDSON

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## LAND FOR SALE

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

## SPRINGFIELD PROFESSIONAL SPACE

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1 car garage. Call 201-782-1831.

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## REAL ESTATE

1000 sq. ft. or more. 2 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. 1



