

Record-Press

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Friday, July 4, 2003

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Verizon application is approved

By CATHERINE MANGAN
CORRESPONDENT

FANWOOD — After a year of hearings and dissatisfaction from frustrated community members, the Planning Board on June 25 finally approved Verizon's application to build cellular antennas in the residential neighborhood near Elm and North Avenues with a 5-2 vote.

Council Chambers was full for the seventh and final hearing in the Verizon application as residents were given an opportunity to comment before the board.

"Contrary to what Verizon has told us, this will have a negative impact," said Elm Avenue resident Tom Bradow, who previ-

ously addressed the board about cell antennae negatively affecting property values.

Verizon attorney testified that the cell antennae were necessary to fill a gap in cell coverage in the borough and that if additional coverage weren't added, a high percentage of calls — including 911 emergencies — would be dropped in the next couple of years. He urged board members to base their decisions on fact and not on the emotions of residents, citing the

numerous positive criteria of the proposed site.

"We are using an existing utility power and we are also using a property that is owned by PSE&G and 10 times larger than any residential lot," said Stanzione.

Stanzione spoke at length about the advantage of flush mounting the antennae to existing towers instead of building new towers in the industrial area between South Avenue and the train tracks, as was suggested in previous hearings.

"We're simply placing utilities on a utility corridor on a utility tower."

— Richard Stanzione
Verizon attorney

"A new tower on South Avenue will be closer to residents than anything built here," Stanzione said in his closing argument. "We're simply placing utilities on a utility corridor on a utility tower."

In addition to the antennae, Verizon will build a 10½-ft. by 25-ft. concrete slab equipment area and a 7-ft. board-on-board fence around the existing cell tower. The nearest house is 80 feet from the cell tower.

"If that were a residential lot, someone could easily build a storage shed bigger than that," said Stanzione.

In an effort to compromise with resi-

(Continued on page A-2)



Settling the score

Greg Matthews fields a groundball during the Westfield Senior American Legion team's 15-13 loss to Cranford Friday. Despite the defeat, Westfield has started its summer campaign strong, posting a 5-2 record. For the story, see Page C-1.



Farm fresh

In Scotch Plains

Asprocolas Farms in Hightstown was one of the vendors represented at the weekly farmer's market near the Scotch Plains Municipal Building Saturday. For more about the program, see Page A-3.



At home

In the classroom

After succeeding in several professional fields, Michael Chodroff has settled into a career as a teacher at Ramapo School in Westfield. To find out why Chodroff plans to stay in the education field, turn to Page B-1.

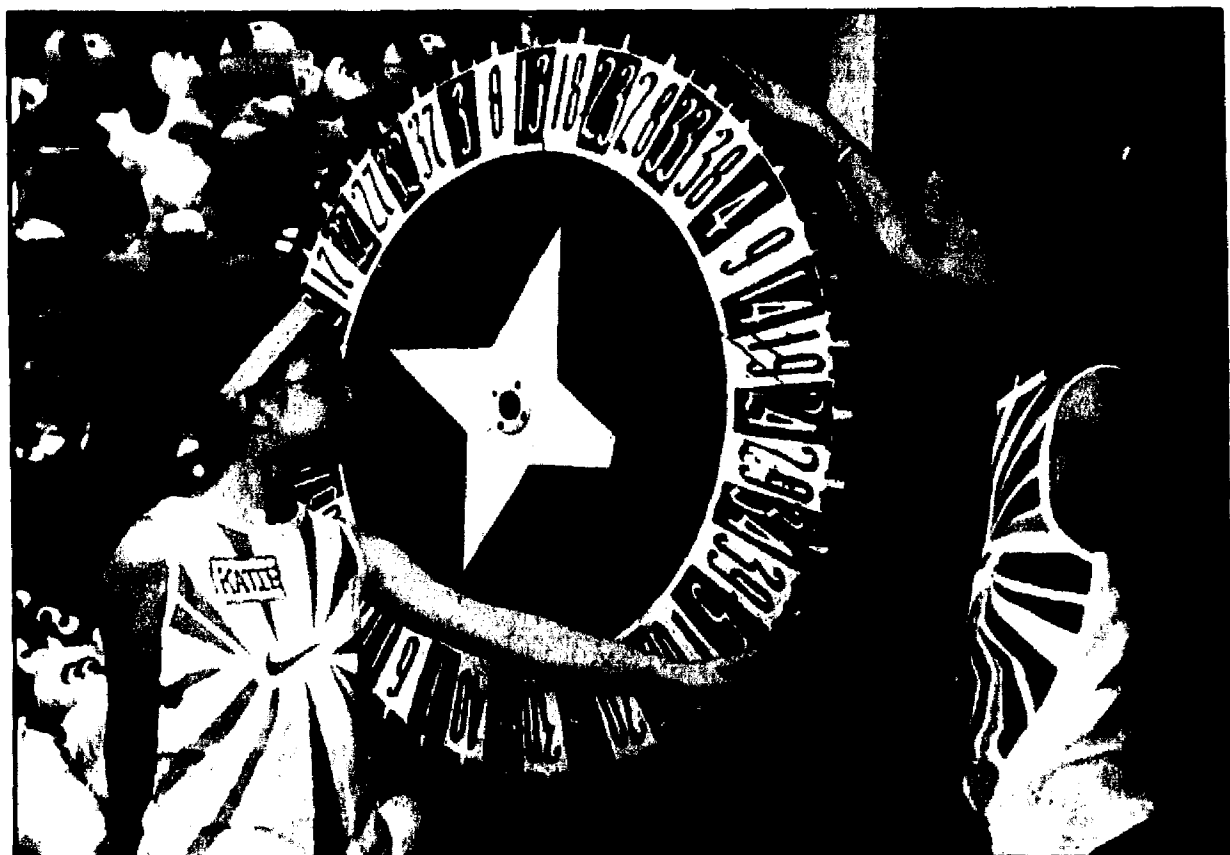
REMINDER

Sweet Sounds Downtown

The downtown jazz festival returns to Westfield Tuesday. Performers will be at several locations throughout town from 7-9 p.m. For more information, call the Downtown Westfield Corporation at (908) 789-8444.

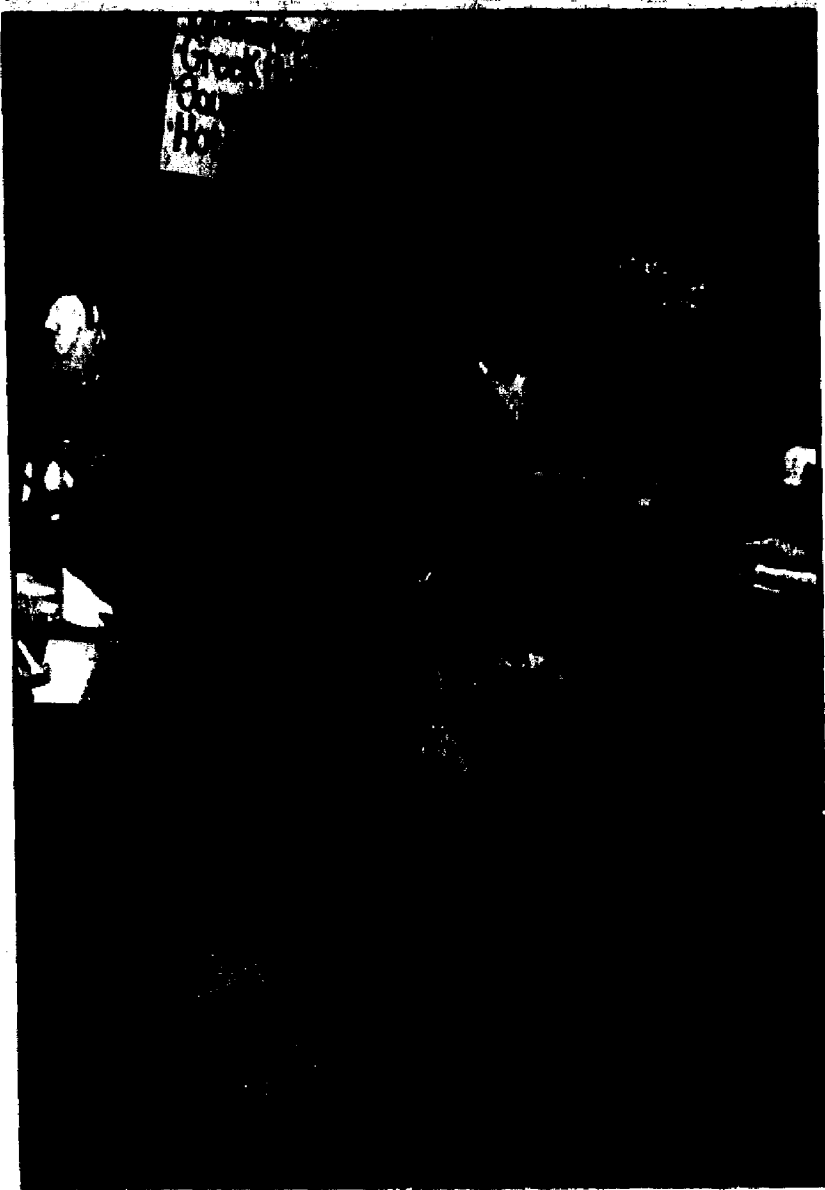
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A Big, Fat Greek Festival

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Westfield held its Greek festival June 27-29 at the church property on Gallows Hill Road. The festival returned after taking a year off during building renovations last year. This year's event was "big and fat" with rides, games, gifts and loads of Greek food, including gyros, souvlaki and pastries. Above, 10-year-old cousins Katie Youlios and Kelly Manos spin a prize wheel. Below, George Youlios prepares a gyro with sour cream.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

County has plans to destroy geese at several sites

By LAUREN TRAINER
STAFF WRITER

Union County residents might find themselves dodging fewer landmines around the parks this summer. This week, officials said, the count was set to be lowered by the thousands, as Union County's Division of Parks and Recreation planned to destroy Canada geese in seven different undisclosed county parks and recreation locations.

About 2,700 adult geese were to be ushered into on-site trucks in the early hours of the day and asphyxiated using carbon dioxide gas, said Charles Sigmund, director of Union County's parks and recreation department. According to Sigmund, the project was scheduled to last about three days, with two or three sites being targeted each day.

The geese are considered health hazards because of the large amount of feces they deposit in parklands and waterways.

Sigmund was loquacious when describing the extensive measures the county has taken to prevent geese overpopulation over the past 10 years, but tight-lipped when asked to describe more specific information about the \$20,000 contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Fish and Wildlife Services.

"We have a contract with the USDA who has been performing this for years, and we are not allowed to talk about this under that contract," Sigmund said.

When asked which locations the county would target,

(Continued on page A-2)

4 hearings planned on Westfield decks

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Though most municipal councils take a break during the summer, Council Chambers is sure to heat up here with public hearings on the proposed parking deck developments.

Four meetings are scheduled in the coming weeks at which HKT Nassau Associates, the town's developer, will hold forums to explain the developments and take suggestions from residents.

Meetings will be held on four consecutive Tuesdays, July 15, 22, 29, and Aug. 5. The first two meetings will be at 8 p.m., and the last two will start at 8:30 p.m., following Town Council meetings.

James Gildea, town administrator, said at the first meeting the developers will present the redevelopment plan, redevelopment law and financial aspects of the project.

Each development site will

have separate forums: the South Avenue site July 22 and the Prospect and Elm streets site July 29. Gildea said more meetings could be scheduled for the fall if necessary.

The council was expected to pass two ordinances at its meeting Tuesday, adopting the redevelopment plans, which the Planning Board has already approved. The ordinances were introduced on first reading two weeks ago, with First Ward Councilman Sal Caruana voting against the Prospect and Elm streets plan. Caruana said he wants to see how the first deck turns out before proceeding with the second one.

Though there are no hard financial figures for the project until the final design is approved, the town released preliminary figures it discussed in April. Gildea expects final numbers in September.

Based on a report by Gerard Gioia of Wiley Engineering, a

(Continued on page A-2)

When public service came calling, she answered

Fanwood resident Marian Achor collected discarded cell phones to help protect battered women

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — As cell phone companies dazzle consumers with the need to have the latest Internet-accessible, digital camera-equipped cell phones, many people have little use for their older, less-fancy phones lying somewhere around the house.

Marian Achor will take them.

In fact, she has. Achor has collected somewhere in the ballpark of 700 phones, according to Fanwood Police Sgt. Tom Jedic. Her cause was Union County's "Call to Protect" program, which provides cellular phones to victims of domestic abuse. The phones are programmed to dial 911 in the event of emergency.

"I thought maybe I would get 100 or 200 phones," Achor said. "I had no idea I would have that many. So many people had one or two unused phones."

Achor read about the program in the newspaper and said she felt the need to participate. She called Jedic for more details, and began contacting individuals, organizations and businesses. She said everyone was receptive, and she made routine drives to collect the phones.

"I felt that it was a user-friendly project. People are always looking for ways to get involved that don't take a lot of time. I told people, 'It might be your phone that saves a woman's life.' It can be an amaz-

ing contribution in a simple way," Achor said.

One of Achor's biggest donors was Schering-Plough, in Kenilworth. She said she picked

"I told people, 'It might be your phone that saves a woman's life.' It can be an amazing contribution in a simple way."

— Marian Achor

up phones from the company on a regular basis, and estimated it donated more than 100 phones.

About 1,700 phones were collected in the area, and Jedic said Achor was responsible for

nearly half of them. For her efforts, she was honored with the Citizen of the Year award from the Fanwood Police Department.

"Marian has truly gone above and beyond the call of duty to care for local people in crisis," Jedic said in a press release. "By reaching out to others, she collected more than half of all the donations in our area. Her strong commitment to our community serves as shining example to everyone in Fanwood."

Achor has always been active in community service. She is finishing her second year as president of the county Mental Health Association; she also serves on the Board of Directors of the YWCA of Plainfield and

North Plainfield, and works with the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains. The Mental Health Association also has a domestic violence service.

The cell phone collection took about five months, but Achor emphasizes that it's easy to make time for volunteering.

"It's possible to be involved in the community, be a volunteer and still work a full-time job," said Achor, who works as manager of psychiatric home care at Visiting Nurse and Health Services. "It's important to outreach to people in the community and find a niche in volunteer organizations. We all can make a difference in our community. The community is the fabric of our civilization."

Verizon application approved

(Continued from page A-1)

dents and reduce the amount of noise in the lot, Verizon modified its original plan, which included an additional equipment shelter with a generator and an air conditioning unit. Stanzione said that Verizon would donate money to the town for landscaping the private property.

The modified plan meets every major requirement for its zone, except the site is 43 feet instead of the mandated 50 feet from a gas transition line.

"There are no negative criteria," said Stanzione, who cited testimony from his expert witness Robert Vance, an appraiser for Verizon

who testified at an earlier hearing that cellular antennas do not negatively impact residential property values.

After borough residents and Stanzione presented their final arguments, the board discussed the matter at length.

Members agreed that the borough has already taken a very active role in following the Telecommunications Act of 1996. "We've passed at least two cell towers in the past," said Board member Regina Tenzer, one of two members to vote against the application.

"For a town one square mile, we already have three antennae," said Richard Hopkins, who also voted against the application.

Tenzer also questioned the validity of Verizon's expert witness, who spoke at length about property values. Since cell phones are so new, and there hasn't been much turnover in Fanwood real estate, there isn't much data to go by, she said.

But Board Chairman Gregory Cummings summed up the general sentiment of the rest of the board. "Our expert confirmed the need to fill a gap, and this site was justified in filling that. Putting an antenna on an existing structure will have very little visual impact."

After the application was accepted, about 40 residents filed out of chambers disgusted and disappointed.

Leo Danik, a resident of Oak Court, said he and his family decided to move to Fanwood because it seemed to have a unique sense of the importance of family and community. "For the community to take a back seat to what the residents want is a travesty," he said.

Cummings said that everyone on the board is concerned with Fanwood but needed to consider the facts. "For using a product, we have to pay a price. In this case we have to put up with some kind of physical intrusion."

Fanwood teen will attend tech forum

FANWOOD — Borough resident Justin Eusebio recently enrolled in the prestigious National Youth Leadership Forum on Technology (NYLF/TECH). Eusebio will join 1,500 high school students from around the country for the Forum in San Jose, California from July 27 through Aug. 5.

Throughout the 10-day exploration, Eusebio will engage in both group and independent projects, including workshops led by industry insiders, product demonstrations, campus visits and tech-industry encounters. The Forum's curriculum also consists of animated debate and discussion.

"In their young years, many bright individuals like Justin Eusebio have already become a dynamic part of the industry — writing software, building systems networks, managing web hosting companies and developing the next generation of cutting-edge technology," said Donna Snyder, Executive Director of NYLF. "The National Youth Leadership Forum on Technology provides a virtual summit whereby tomorrow's innovators build upon

and add to their skills while also receiving inspiration and direction from current technology industry leaders."

Dr. Craig Barrett, CEO of Intel Corporation and Dr. Vance D. Coffman, Chairman & CEO of Lockheed Martin Corporation are slated to be among the guest speakers at NYLF/TECH. Participants will visit a number of Silicon Valley's technology companies, including: Cisco Systems, Inc.; Hewlett Packard Labs; Oracle Corporation; Silicon Graphics, Inc.; The Tech Museum of Innovation and many others. In addition, San Jose State University, Santa Clara University, Stanford University, University of California Berkeley and University of California Santa Cruz provide an educational background to the Forum.

NYLF is a nonprofit educational organization that brings various professions to life, empowering outstanding young people with the confidence to make well-informed career choices. NYLF has provided programming to more than 50,000 young people. For additional information, visit www.nylf.org.

County has plans to destroy geese

(Continued from page A-1)

Sigmund refused comment. "The towns have been notified,

but they don't know the specifics," he said.

County recreation facilities in local towns include Nomahegan, McConnell and Sperry parks in Cranford; Lenape Park in Cranford; Kenilworth and Westfield; Black Brook Park in Kenilworth; Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth; Echo Lake Park in Westfield; Ash Brook Reservation and Golf Course in Scotch Plains; and Unami Park in Garwood.

The mayors of Cranford, Kenilworth and Scotch Plains said they had not heard anything from the county about plans to destroy geese within their municipalities. Westfield Mayor Greg McDermott could not be reached at press time.

"I can tell you as a golfer and as someone whose home abuts the (Ash Brook) golf course, it

is a problem," said Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks.

According to Hallie Pickhardt, spokesperson for the Wildlife Services program under the USDA, "Before we do this, we make sure a lot of non-lethal ways of controlling the population have been tried... after we provide the clients with alternative options that we recommend."

"We have tried everything from border collies to chemical spraying and motorized motor boats to deter the geese population, and yet the health threat caused by the birds and the complaints from the public about the mess caused by the droppings have continued to increase," Sigmund said.

It was not clear why the precise locations were not disclosed. According to Sigmund, the USDA's contract prevents the county from announcing specific details like exact place, date, and time of the roundup.

But, said Pickhardt, "The USDA used to have an injunction that limited us and prohibited us from identifying certain things, but ultimately it is up to the client."

While disagreeing about that issue, both agreed that Canada geese overpopulation can be a nuisance and a health problem.

"The geese are abundant in this habitat because people feed them and they have no natural predators, so they've adapted very well to urban and suburban areas in the United States. As a result, the population in New Jersey and the United States has proliferated," said Pickhardt.

New Jersey has roughly 96,800 geese, according to an estimate of the resident Canada geese population by the USDA. In a state as small as New Jersey, that averages out to about 13 Canada geese per square mile.

4 hearings

(Continued from page A-1)

parking finance consultant, the decks will cost \$16,000 per space. Estimating 1,060 spaces for the South Avenue deck and 430 spaces for the Prospect and Elm streets deck and adding construction expenses, the projects will cost about \$26.5 million.

Giosa proposed that the decks be funded with a 30-year bond and revenues from parking fees. The lots where the decks will be currently generate net revenues of \$413,760 per year.

By raising parking fees at the decks, the town could realize a surplus of up to \$806,280 at those locations per year over the first five years, according to Giosa's report.

The town can also offset costs by selling a portion of the Prospect Street lot to the developer for \$680,000, according to Giosa's estimates.

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\$13,995

2001 Mercury Sable
LS Premium

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\$19,995

2001 Mercury Grand
Marquis LS

V8, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/trunk/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, tilt, cruise, r del, tilt, cruise, leath, moonr, SIK #3A17, VIN #3ZJ30084, MSRP \$47,460. 39 Month Red Carpet Option w/10,500 mi/yr; 20¢ thereafter. Payments based on \$0 cash, \$1750 customer rebate, \$1000 renewal rebate if qual & \$0 1st pymnt = \$0 due at lease incept. Purch op=\$19,459. Ttl pymts = \$19,722. Ttl cost = \$39,181

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2000 Lincoln Town
Car Signature

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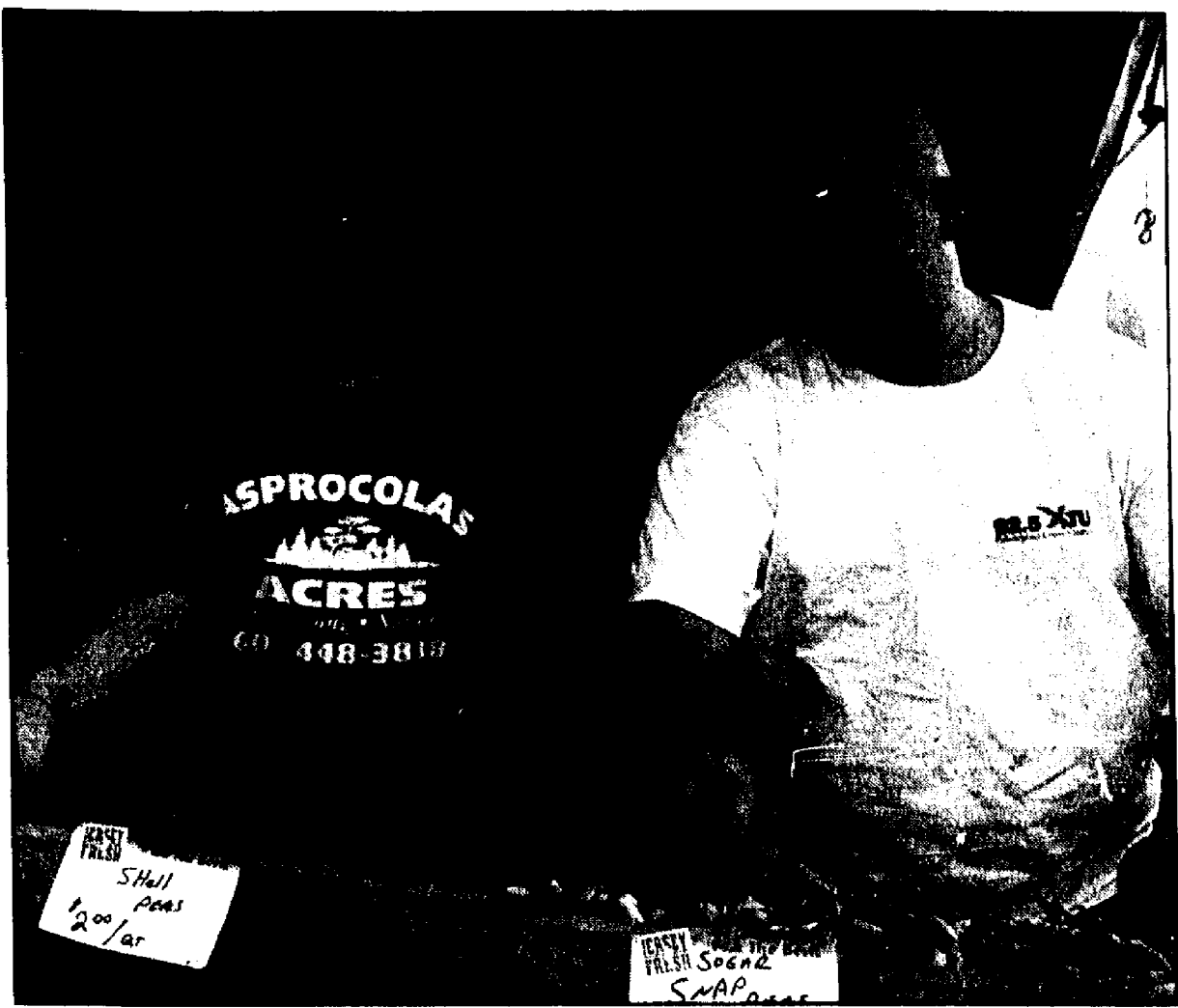
Get fresh produce in downtown

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association (SPBPA) has once again, for the 10th year running, organized the New Jersey Fresh Farmers Market. The market is held 8 a.m.-2 p.m. every Saturday in the parking lot next to the Municipal Building on Park Ave. in Scotch Plains. All produce sold is "Jersey Fresh" and helps to support the New Jersey farming community. The market runs through October, and possibly later, depending upon crop availability.

This is just one of many events that the SPBPA organizes or participates in throughout the year to make Scotch Plains a more enjoyable and active community.

The SPBPA, which recently organized the very successful and enjoyable Family Festival and Classic Car Show, hopes residents will make the market a regular stop on your shopping schedule and asks you to please support your local merchants during these difficult economic times.

Any Scotch Plains community groups who may want to participate in the market in some way should contact Barry Gaunt of Vitamin Express at (908) 322-0093.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Georgette Asprocolas and Steven Pinhas of Asprocolas Farms in Hightstown put out more produce at the farmer's market in Scotch Plains Saturday.

'Working Youth' volunteer for week in New Hampshire

WESTFIELD — On June 24, 26 With Our Working Youth (WOWY) ambassadors left Westfield for Geneva Point Center on the shore of Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire.

Young people and adults from both the First Congregational Church in Westfield and the United Church of Christ in Plainfield spent the week assisting with building and trail maintenance at Geneva Point Center, helping at a local senior center, serving meals at the nearby Salvation Army, meeting with the youth at the Pemi Youth Center, and assisting in a homeless shelter.

On their return trip, June 29, they visited the International Fair at Overlook Farm, a Heifer Project working farm in Rutland, MA. The trip was organized by First Congregational Church member Allison O'Hara, a Garwood resident.

The young people demonstrated their enthusiasm for this trip and their commitment to making it a success. They gave them-

selves the name Camp WOWY, which stands for With Our Working Youth and they called themselves ambassadors.

Together the churches raised about \$5,000 to make this mission trip a reality. In addition to grant writing, a successful fall Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser was followed by members of the partner churches buying shares in the project.

Both congregations look forward to what promises to be dynamic presentation by the multi-talented participants.

Camp WOWY Ambassadors include Matt Bierman, Alex Bromley, Ben Colvin, Quinn Cassaro, Andrew Deweever, Christina Henry, Anthony Johnson, Paul Johnson, Dan Kelman, Emma Laird, Eric Linger, Emily Ortuso, Jonathon Pizer, Duke Threadgill, Christine Wicks, Sara Woods, and Annie Yingling.

Camp WOWY Leaders are Jill Adams, Laura Berzofsky, Rev. Jim Colvin, Lyn Kelman, Marc Kelman, Alice Kelman, Tim Kelman, and Bruce Linger.

Hearing to resume on subdivision request

Planning Board offered two alternatives for development on Wood Brook Circle

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Planning Board will resume its hearing on an application to subdivide a lot at 33 Wood Brook Circle into two single-family building lots Monday, as the application was carried over from its initial hearing last month.

The applicant, Needle Point Homes, has presented a primary proposal for the subdivision and a back-up plan if the first one is rejected. The alternative plan includes a cul-de-sac and would not require any variances, while the

primary plan requires six.

At the first meeting, board members expressed concern about being forced to approve the alternative plan if they rejected the primary one. Members wanted to know whether they could reject the plan based on the cul-de-sac, which the applicant admitted is a less favorable solution. The board and the applicant were each expected to seek a legal opinion on the issue.

The application calls for the demolition of an existing home and construction of two new homes on flag lots, which are narrow at the front of the property. Each lot

requires variances for lot width, frontage and front yard setback.

Several residents in the area, including Cranford residents whose homes abut the rear of the property, are opposed to the subdivision, mainly because of flooding concerns.

Following discussions at the last meeting, the applicant agreed to put yard inlets in the rear yard to help with drainage. But some residents were still concerned with water runoff, even after the applicant's engineer, Ed Dec, and Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh said there is no flooding problem in the area.

The applicant also agreed to plant more trees in the rear of the property and along the driveway. The applicant's planner, Michael

Tobin, said that with the cul-de-sac plan, there will be more tree loss, more impervious coverage, and smaller side yards for neighboring homes.

In addition to an answer to the legal question, the hearing will address traffic concerns of the application as well.

Kehler Stadium upgrade planned

Project includes construction of athletic complex for female athletes

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — There won't be as many bulldozers, forklifts and cement trucks stationed at the district's schools this summer, as the main construction project on the high school is almost complete after a year of work. But some improvements remain, including a 4,600-square-foot girls' athletic complex at Kehler Stadium.

At its June 24 meeting, the

Board of Education awarded the contract for the project to low-bidder G. Pacillo Mechanical of Hillside for \$1.2 million.

The athletic complex will include a locker room, shower area, bathrooms, coaches' offices, a weight room and utility room. Female athletes have never had a facility at the stadium before.

The complex was scheduled to be done last year, but the district encountered legal issues with the previous contractor.

The board also awarded a contract to Two Brothers Contracting, Inc. of Clifton for asbestos removal from the second floor science rooms at the high school. The contract is for \$69,900.

Also, board member Kimberly Rhodes reported at the meeting that Roosevelt Intermediate School's field would be closed during the summer for restoration. Tamaques School's field will also be closed after the Recreation Department's summer playground program concludes, and it will reopen in August for varsity soccer camp.

Other district improvement projects include indoor bleachers and gym floor refinishing at the high school, roof maintenance at Edison Intermediate and Franklin schools, heating and air condition renovations at McKinley School and window replacement at Roosevelt.

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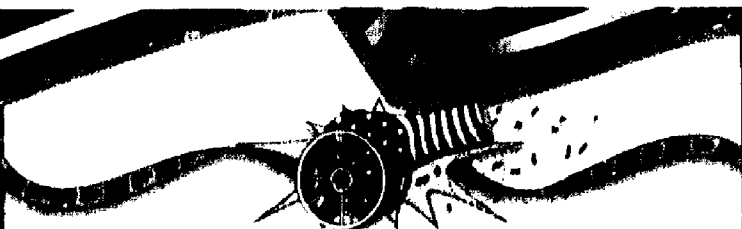
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Commentary

Responsibilities of independence

Millions of Americans are looking forward to a long three-day weekend of fun. We will barbecue, play softball, swim in the ocean, get sunburned and watch glorious fireworks displays. Yet, in the midst of these distractions, few of us will take the time to think about the meaning of Independence Day.

July 4, 1776 was not only a turning point in this country, but also a momentous day in the history of the world. On that historic day was laid the political foundation for a government whose authority rested on the respect and protection of the inalienable rights of individuals.

The document signed that day in Philadelphia has proven to be the most revolutionary manifesto in the history of western civilization; it is as relevant today as it was more than 200 years ago. There are still many nations in the world where the citizens do not enjoy the freedoms we take for granted. They do not have the power of self-determination that is at the heart of the American experience. For them the Declaration of Independence is a beacon of freedom.

The rights outlined in the Declaration of Independence are precious and must be preserved. But they can be threatened if we become apathetic and take them for granted. The continued health of our democracy depends on all of us taking an active role. If we do not exercise our rights as responsible citizens, our democracy will atrophy and wither like a muscle that's never used.

To live in a free and open society carries a burden of many responsibilities for the normal citizen. Yet there are too many people in our country who shirk their responsibilities. They do not vote, they do not keep up with current events and they do not become involved in their communities. That sort of apathy has an insidious negative impact on the health of our democracy.

That's why it is important for us to take a few moments of time this fun-filled long, long weekend for many and read the Declaration of Independence. It's a homework assignment over summer vacation for all citizens; for extra credit, we should all read the Bill of Rights too.

Just as we make personal resolutions on New Year's Day, we should make resolutions as citizens on Independence Day. It could be as simple as resolving to vote in the November general election. It could also be as demanding as resolving to volunteer for a municipal board or becoming involved in a local political party.

In those simple ways we can guarantee the continued strength of our democracy and we can keep alive the Spirit of '76. It is a good way to celebrate the 227th anniversary of the Revolution.

The Record-Press is here for you

The following information should help you get your ideas and community news into *The Record-Press*:

Call Editor Gregory Marx at (732) 396-4219 with story suggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Daniel Murphy at (732) 396-4202.

Our address: *The Record-Press*, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ, 07066.

Our fax number is (732) 574-2613.

Our e-mail address is union@njnpublishing.com.

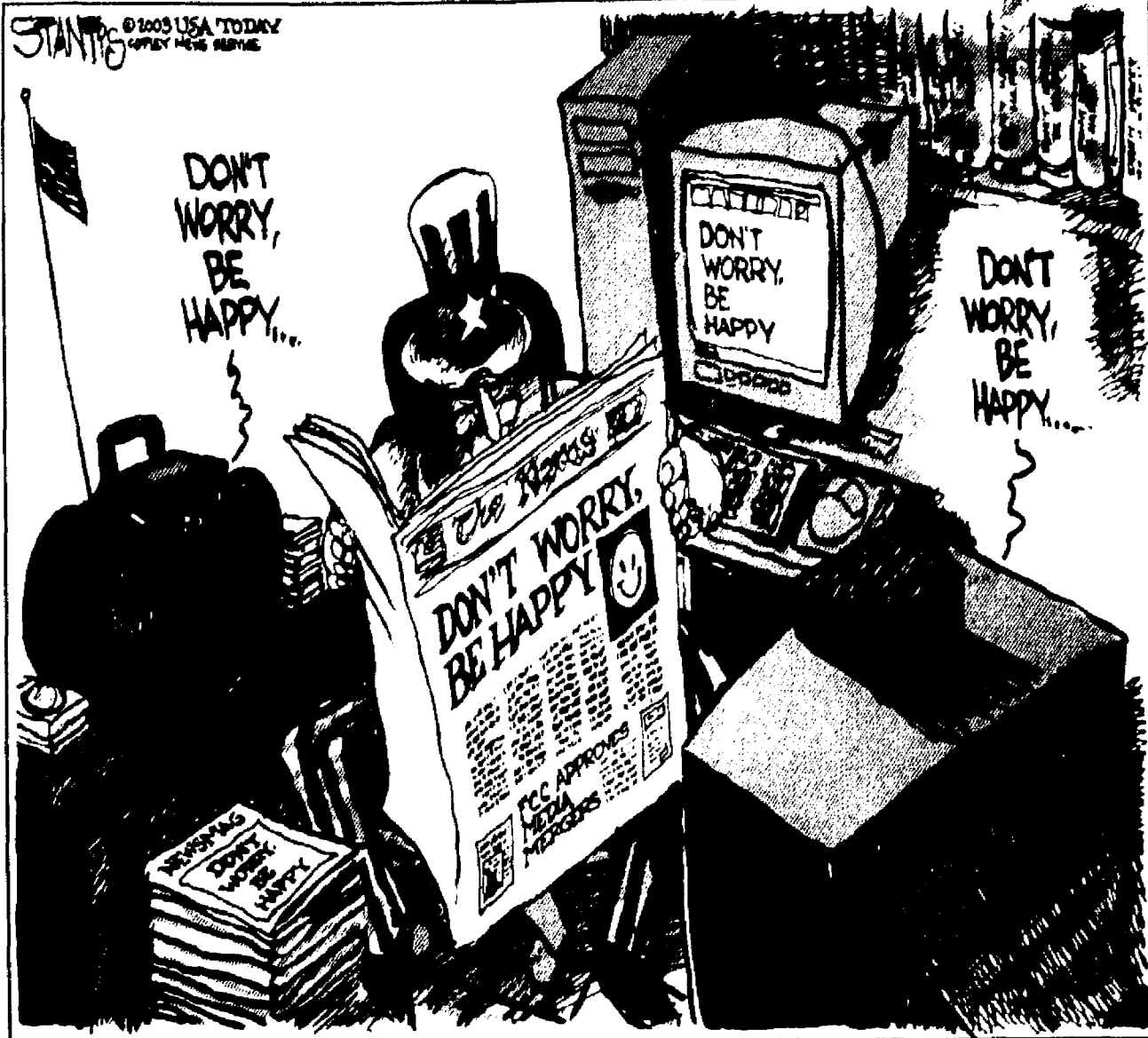
Deadlines

The deadline for submitting articles and press releases to *The Record-Press* is 5 p.m. Friday.

The deadline for submitting letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday.

Correction policy

The Record-Press will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to Editor Greg Marx at (732) 396-4219.



Jersey Boy

Mike Deak

How to be a soul survivor

During those interminable hours in Sunday School, I located my soul somewhere between my groin and my kidney.

On anatomical charts that area would be blank out of deference, like those areas of Outer Mongolia marked "unexplored" in my grandparents' encyclopedia.

The soul, I imagined, was shaped like an inflated sausage; cut it open and out comes a material that resembles Ovaltine. I don't know what it would taste like.

Nowadays most people don't think about their souls. Sure, there are many people who believe their souls live on long after they're dead; the soul is beamed up to heaven at the moment of death and that's a comforting thought. But it's not something you think about while you're stuck on Route 287 or going to the mall.

I don't believe my soul has a separate existence; when I'm pushing up daisies, that's it. I prefer to think of my soul as where the truth about myself is really located. Peel away the layers of identities and self-deceptions and there you have it.

Call it a conscience.

That's a word you don't hear too much outside Sunday school. The dictionary defines "conscience" as a sense of right and wrong. The conscience is also a repository for the philosophical foundation of life. However, like the appendix, the soul and its maintenance have been neglected in modern society. Evolution may wither the soul and render it, like the appendix, useless.

It is an unfortunate characteristic of our culture that we spend too much time thinking about means, not meanings. The demands of daily survival rob us of the time to reflect upon the texture of our lives. What time do we spend pondering the possibility that the traffic on Route 287 may be the perfect metaphor for our existence in the early years of the 21st Century? Do we ruminate over the sociological and economic consequences of cruising the mall? How do we resolve in our own minds unanswerable questions of race and ethnicity. Those are issues the soul forces us to consider.

But we do not listen to the soul. The grumbling that we hear sometimes is not pangs of hunger or a sausage sandwich making its way through the system; it's the frustration of the ignored soul. It is the primitive growl of an animal searching for the key to survival.

Few of us have the patience to agonize over the subtleties of a moral dilemma. We have been conditioned by television not to see life situations in shades of gray; we feel incompetent or frustrated if we can't resolve a problem in 30 minutes (Whatever happened to the phrase, "you can't hurry love." We take the easy way out, using guidance that has been homogenized through the porous filter of pop culture.

The advice of "do the right thing" is not as simple as it sounds. Most of us do not know what the "right thing" is. Like a doctor analyzing a patient's symptoms, we should have the ability to conduct a thorough moral examination of a situation and come to the right conclusion. But it's too much work. We're lazy; we use distraction as an excuse and fuzzy words to hide fuzzy thinking.

It's time to save our souls from extinction.

That doesn't mean we suddenly take a spoonful of religion every Sunday or rely upon God to make all the decisions.

What I'm suggesting is that we take better control of our lives, like a horseman taking the reins to break in a rough young filly. The course of our lives should not be determined by the winds beyond our control, instead, like the skipper of a sailboat, we should learn to tack and yaw with the voice of the soul giving the corners. We can be the master of the fate and the soul can be our captain.

Letters to the editor

Don't forget true meaning of July 4

To The Record-Press:

With the July 4 holiday approaching, this day represents many things to many people, including family barbecues, picnics, fireworks, the start of a long weekend vacation from work, swimming pools to cool off, a trip perhaps to the New Jersey shore, or whatever our celebration intentions may be.

July 4 also represents the freedom and independence that we, as veterans, have fought for, and we ask our fellow Americans to bear in mind the many sacrifices that were made to achieve

independence and not take the privileges we share today for granted.

I, as a fellow legionnaire, would like to see every member of your family, your post, your neighbors and all the business establishments in our community hoist the American flag and display its colors during this patriotic holiday to show the world we are proud to be Americans.

Happy Birthday, America.

EDWARD J. MILLER

Sergeant-at-Arms

Kenilworth American Legion Post 470

Make summer car trips safe for kids

To The Record-Press:

Millions of moms and dads will get ready for summer road trips by packing snacks for the kids, taking plenty of sunscreen and planning interesting stops along the way. Many will take 10 or 15 minutes to check their car's tires, fluids, belts and hoses to keep the car from breaking down. Far too few will take the 5 minutes or less that could save their child's life by making sure their child's car seat is installed properly.

Last year 980 children ages 7 and younger were killed in car crashes, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. This number is a historic low, partially attributable to increased use of child safety seats. Yet American children can't afford for their parents to get complacent about their safety. The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club reminds parents to use a child seat every time they transport a youngster in a vehicle and to regularly check that the seat is installed correctly.

Before you take your next family road trip — or even just a trip to the grocery store — make sure your child is still the appropriate size for his or her car seat and that the seat is installed properly. Check the harness straps and clips to be sure they're used properly and in the correct position. Check the car seat owner's manual if you're unsure. If you want additional help, you can locate a AAA-certified child passenger safety technician by visiting www.aaa.com or calling (973) 245-4860.

So before you pack your trunk and top off your gas tank for that trip down the shore, to Six Flags Great Escape or some other great summer destination, take some time to make sure your youngest travelers will be safe. Check their car seats and do it regularly.

PAM FISCHER

Vice President, Public Affairs,
AAA New Jersey Automobile Club
Florham Park

WHICH OF YOUR FREEDOMS DO YOU VALUE THE MOST?



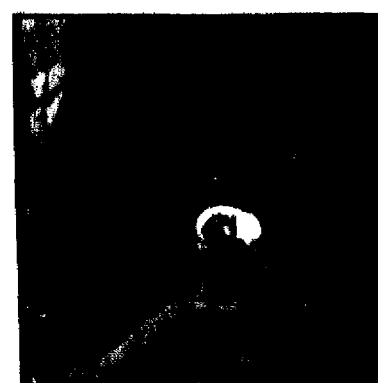
CHRISTIANE REZA
Office manager in Cranford
Freedom of religion — the freedom to be able to pray when you want, to worship when you want, and to raise your kids how you want.



JANET SILCOX
Cranford
Freedom of speech.



CHRIS HOEY
Clark
To make your own decisions — without if you're sort of trapped and a prisoner.



GRIFFITH HOEY
Clark
The freedom to eat ice cream.



DAVID JOHNSON
window washer in Cranford
I like the freedom to be alive, because I just like to have fun and laugh and talk with people.



MARIO HADDAD
Owner, Cranford Golden Touch Jewelers
Freedom from work, because when you have your own business there is a lot of pressure and a lot of responsibility. I like to get away from it.

Record-Press

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Woman's clubs hear literacy talk

On June 24, Ann Quinn, President of the New Jersey State Federation of Woman's Clubs (NJSFWC) addressed the Sixth District club leaders at the Westfield Memorial Library. Chris Sienkiewski, 6th District Vice President, lead the meeting; and Westfield Woman's Club was host.

Quinn spoke about literacy and the need for better reading scores in schools. "If a child does not learn to read by the third grade, all his or her future studies will suffer," she told the group. Quinn supports the Governor's "Book Club," a program that sends books to classrooms to be read by teachers and students. The Women's Clubs help to raise funds to buy these books; Quinn encourages club members to continue raising funds, to visit schools and to read to students, where possible.

The other speakers discussed membership issues. Mary Jane Singer encouraged debates among members that might bring in new thoughts and actions. But, she cautioned, "Leadership is not dictatorship. Listen to suggestions."

And Deen Meloro spoke about a decrease in membership throughout the state. She believes the reasons are there are more organizations to join today, and more women are working and don't have time to be active in them.

The Scotch Plains Woman's Club, Fanwood Woman's Club and Cranford Village Improvement Association are all members of the Sixth District.



At the annual meeting of the United Fund of Westfield, the following slate of officers was elected for 2003-2004: from left, Matt Forstenhausler, president; Carolyn Fleder, first vice president; James McCabe, second vice president; Stan Ciemniecki, treasurer. Not pictured is Danielle Walsh, secretary.

United Fund ready for new year

At the 45th annual meeting of the United Fund of Westfield, Board of Trustees President Matt Forstenhausler noted that since its inception, the United Fund has contributed \$18 million to member agencies.

Now numbering 22, the human care agencies supported by the United Fund campaign help high-risk infants and children with disabilities, train the disabled for jobs, provide mental health and counseling services, offer aid and shelter to the homeless or abused, support youth development programs, and continue to help the families of the Sept. 11 tragedy, according to Executive Director Linda Maggio.

Agencies represented at the annual meeting to describe the services provided to local residents included Contact We Care, which has a 24-hour hotline for those in crisis; Westfield Y, which highlighted its teen program that focuses on healthy lifestyles, nutrition, recreation, and college/career preparation; Westfield Community Center, which

extends an evening program for at-risk youth; and ARC, an agency that enriches lives of those with developmental disabilities.

Newly elected members of the Board of Trustees include Richard H. Bagger, Scott S. Bond, Scott Cassie and John R. Ripberger.

Recognition of Appreciation certificates were presented to four retiring trustees, who as a group offered 46 years of service as trustees: Marilyn Gulotta, Alan Gutterman, Tina Leshner and Roger Love.

The following slate of officers was elected for 2003-2004: Matt Forstenhausler, President; Carolyn Fleder, First Vice President; James McCabe, Second Vice President; Stan Ciemniecki, Treasurer; and Danielle Walsh, Secretary.

In acknowledging the officers, Maggio said, "We are indeed fortunate to again have these individuals for the Westfield United Fund leadership in 2003-2004. They each have a sincere commitment to our goals."

Man charged with trespassing after breaking his leg

WESTFIELD

John Jenkins, 35, of Scotch Plains was charged with defiant trespass Sunday night after allegedly hopping the fence at Memorial Pool and breaking his leg.

Meghan Walsh, 21, of Marlboro Street was charged with driving while intoxicated on Boulevard June 24.

Patrick Reed, 18, of Summit Avenue and a 16-year old male were charged with underage possession of alcohol on South Avenue June 24.

Paul Michaels of Rahway Avenue was picked up on a warrant out of Clark for \$949 June 25.

Tiffany Evans of East Brunswick was picked up on a contempt of court warrant out of Atlantic City June 26.

Kimberly Speller, 22, of Westfield was charged with possession of marijuana under 50 grams and picked up on a warrant out of East Orange June 27.

Wanda Delgado of Union City was charged with drug possession June 27.

Jeneice Rodriguez of Jersey City was charged with drug possession June 27.

Police Log

Noel Morgan of Scotch Plains was picked up on warrants out of Westfield and Newark Saturday.

A resident of Rolling Hill Way reported Saturday that a male suspect began punching the driver's side door of his vehicle until the window broke and then fled.

Marvin Stith of Newark was picked up on an Essex County Sheriff's warrant Sunday.

FANWOOD

A First Street resident reported she discovered BB gun holes on the side of her house June 25.

An automotive store on South Avenue reported a car on the lot was broken in to and a CD/car radio was stolen. The incident occurred June 26 at about 10:50 p.m.

A resident of St. John's Place reported June 27 that someone put her wheelbarrow on her plants in the front yard by the driveway.

Kevin Flores-Avila, 24, of Plainfield was charged with driving while intoxicated after a motor vehicle stop June 27 at 4:41 a.m.

St. Paul's begins campaign for renovations

WESTFIELD — Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, located at 414 East Broad St., began a capital campaign on June 1 to fund renovations and the renewal of their worship space. A key feature of the project is a new 54-rank pipe organ being built by Cornel Zimmer Organ Builders of North Carolina. Plans for parts of this project date back 20 years; yet, the leadership of the church feels that the parish has grown sufficiently in numbers and in spirit to meet this challenge.

At a forum after services June 1, Winifred Livengood, the widow of the beloved late assistant rector, The Rev. Hugh Livengood, provided the parish with an historical perspective of the project. She spoke of how changes in the liturgy required some renewal of thinking in worship space. The marble altar, a feature of the chancel which retains much authority, will be dismantled and reassembled where the temporary free-standing altar currently sits. Additionally, the former altar rail, with hand-made needle point cushions, will return.

The Rev. Andrew C. Hamersley, rector of St. Paul's

since June of 2000 said recently, "This is an exciting campaign which seeks to honor the past, rejoice in the present, and build for the future. We are honoring the traditions of this fine parish by using the very best of what already exists in the space and enhancing it for contemporary worship needs. We are a eucharistic community which has a fabulous music program. The altar and the new organ are natural features of this proposal."

The Campaign for St. Paul's is being chaired by William and Anne Shepherd, a couple active since the 1950s, and Drew and

Betsy Vaden, a couple who joined the parish in the last three years. The Shepherds and the Vadens point out that in the initial interviews of more than 60 parish leaders, 100 percent felt that it was time to move ahead with the campaign and were ready to support it. The campaign counsel has reported that this is a unique level of support in their experience.

In addition to liturgical renewal and renovation, the sanctuary will receive a new heat and air conditioning system, improved acoustics, and a redesigned chapel. "We hope to

break ground this summer," said Fr. Hamersley "and be able to conduct Christmas liturgies in the sanctuary. Pray for us!" Charles Banks, the director of music, says that the new organ is due to be installed next June.

Campaign leaders are very encouraged and hope the initial response will motivate others so that the campaign will meet its goal.

Fibromyalgia?

Clark, NJ - A new, free 16 page report has been published that reveals the "Untold Story" behind Fibromyalgia pain. Fibromyalgia misdiagnosis and mistreatment is rampant and may lead to countless years of unnecessary suffering. This free report reveals a natural, drugless procedure that is giving new hope to these patients with miraculous results for many. If you suffer from fibromyalgia you need this no B.S., no gimmicks free report that is giving hope to fibromyalgia sufferers everywhere. To order your copy of this free report, call toll free 1-800-278-5388 (24 hr. recorded message)

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Church offers Vacation Bible School

SCOTCH PLAINS — All Saints' Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains welcomes children ages 5 and up to its Vacation Bible School, July 14-18, from 4-6 p.m.

Using the Heifer Project curriculum, "Read to Feed," the program includes glimpses of children in other countries where Heifer projects provide assistance, Bible stories, crafts and other activities. On Friday, the last day, there will be a picnic.

Call the church at (908) 322-4477 for more information and to get enrollment forms. Beth Okello is Sunday School Director; Claire Okello is Vacation Bible School coordinator. There is a charge of \$15 per child (\$10 for additional siblings.) Most of this will go toward a Heifer Project contribution that the children will select. The rest will help pay program costs.

All Saints' is at 559 Park Ave.

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This week

FRIDAY

JULY 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY — traditional celebration in Cranford. Features Jaycees' Firecracker 4-Miler in the morning, as well as canoe races at the Canoe Club. Activities for children throughout the day at Nomahegan Park include face painting, egg toss and bike decorating contest. Fireworks display begins at approximately 9:15 p.m.

SATURDAY

JULY 5

FARMERS' MARKET — Jersey Fresh produce comes to downtown. Parking lot adjacent to Scotch Plains Municipal Building on Park Avenue. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. To participate in any way, call Barry Gaunt at (908) 322-0093.

SUNDAY

JULY 6

MUSEUM TOURS — led by costumed docents at the Osborn Cannonball House. 1840 Front St., Scotch Plains 2-4 p.m. Free.

MONDAY

JULY 7

'LIZARD GUYS' — educational entertainment group brings live exotic animals to help kick off summer reading program. Scotch Plains Public

Library, 1927 Bartle Ave. For more information, call the Children's Department at (908) 322-5007.

TUESDAY

JULY 8

SWEET SOUNDS — downtown jazz festival. Performances throughout downtown Westfield. 7-9 p.m. For more information, call the Downtown Westfield Corporation at (908) 789-9444.

WEDNESDAY

JULY 9

REGGAE CONCERT — at Echo Lake Park, border of Westfield/Mountainside. Performance by Verdict kicks off Union County's Summer Arts Festival. 7:30 p.m. Free. For more information, (908) 527-4900.

JEWISH HUMOR — program featuring comedian Joel Chasoff, followed by kosher lunch. Wilf JCC, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. 11 a.m. JCC members \$15; non-members \$20. Register in advance at (908) 889-8800 ext. 207.

THURSDAY

JULY 10

COMMUNITY BAND — of Westfield continues its 91st season. Mindowaskin Park, East Broad Street. 7:30 p.m. Free. The public is encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. For more information, call (908)

789-4080.

CONCERT SERIES — featuring "Stretch the Silly Man" and Motown act "Smooth." The Village Green, Scotch Plains. Kids' concert 7-7:45 p.m.; main performance 8-9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

JULY 12

CHARITY CUP — to benefit the Peggy Coloney House, an effort of the Center for Hope Hospice. Softball challenge between Scotch Plains' fire and police departments. Brookside Park, Hetfield Avenue, Scotch Plains. 11 a.m. opening ceremonies. \$10 adults; children under 12 free; admission includes food and beverages. To purchase tickets contact Fire Chief Ellis at (908) 322-6866 or Officer Ernie Hernandez at (908) 322-7100.

FARMERS' MARKET — Jersey Fresh produce comes to downtown. Parking lot adjacent to Scotch Plains Municipal Building on Park Avenue. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. To participate in any way, call Barry Gaunt at (908) 322-0093.

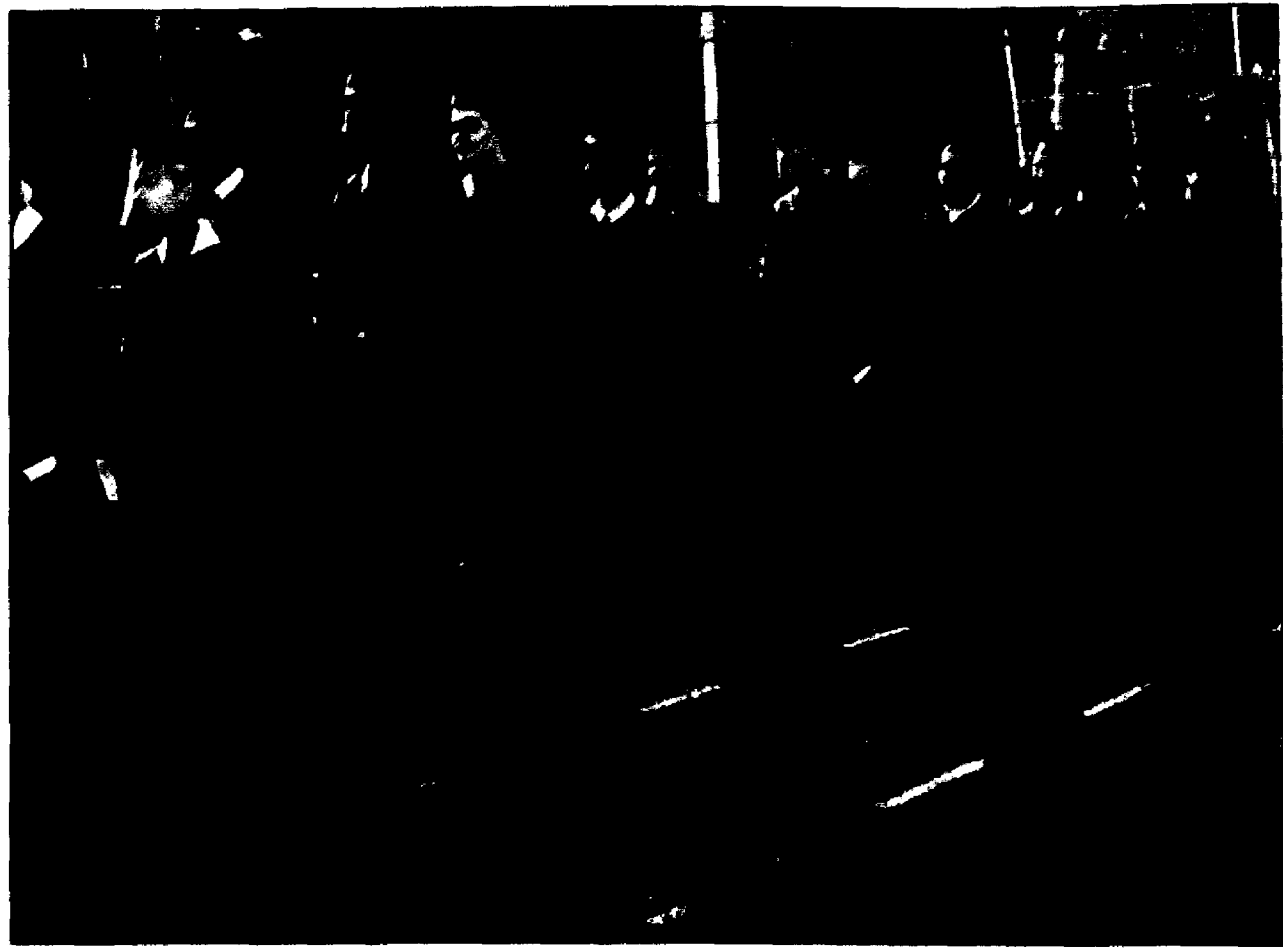
COMING UP

COUNTY CONCERT — at Echo Lake Park, border of Westfield/Mountainside, featuring performance by horn band "Don't Call Me Francis." 7:30 p.m. Free. For more information, (908) 527-4900.

Don't Call Me Francis (horn band).

CONCERT SERIES — featuring Irish dance of Marie Moore and a tribute to Garth Brooks. The Village Green, Scotch Plains. July 17. Kids' concert 7-7:45 p.m.; main performance 8-9:30 p.m.

5K FUNDRAISER — to benefit CONTACT We Care, the 24-hour crisis hotline. Event also features a KIDS Spring and wheelchair division. LaGrande Park, Fanwood. Aug. 16. For more information about participation or sponsorship opportunities, call CONTACT We Care at (908) 490-1480.



Members of the Class of 2003 enter the football field for graduation ceremonies at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School June 24.

SP-FHS honors Class of 2003

SCOTCH PLAINS — The following students graduated from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in a ceremony held 6 p.m. June 24:

Brian Abbott, Kyle Adams, Richard Adeyemo, Michael Allen, Rocco Aloe, Kendra Andrews, Leslie Argueta, Lauren Baines, Miriam Bamberger, Jacqueline Barnas, Joseph Bartolotta, Peter Bassman, Lauren Baum, Jacqueline Bekiaris, Kathryn Benski, Jonathan Bezruczyk, Lauren Bianco, Walter Biner, Nicole Bodenstern, Dalila Bouchakjian, Schuyler Boyda, Justin Brennan, Timothy Brodersen, Anthony Bruno, Jessica Bruntel, Kerri Bujnowski, Jamie Buteas, Emily Cabellero, Paul Cacciuto, Marc Calello, Nancy Callahan, Pamela

Cameron, David Campbell, Eva Candia, Christine Cardinale, William Cardoza, Anthony Caruso, Alexandre Celius, Mary Cerchio, Rhea Chakraborty, David Chang, Evan Chinoy, Jeremy Chisamore, Phillip Cho, Thomas Cho, Daniel Choe, Taylor Cole.

Nicole Colon, Andrew Costello, Keith Costello, Colleen Coyle, Breanne Crawford, Alicia Cristiani, Erica Crouch, David Dariani, Alyssa David, Christina DeLussant, Jillian Demair, Stephanie DeMarco, Christopher DeProspero, John DeVall, Joseph DeVico, Steven Dickey, Jessica DiFiore, Justin DiFiore, Raymond DiNizo, Eve Donovan, Steven Doremus, Katie Downey, Shawn Doyle, Candice Draper, Kevin Dukelow, Kaitlyn Durso, Jasmine Elliot, Deniz Evins, Christina Fabino, Brian Faltoute, Nicole Fallon, Frank Fasano, Sofia Fayngold, Christopher Feighner, Andrew Ferguson, Gianna Ferrante, Eric Fields, Nickcoy Findlater, Sara Finkelstein, Benjamin Flath, Richard Fleissner, Steven Fowler, Samory Fritz, Adam Garrity, Elizabeth Gassler, Jeanne Gibbs, Sarah Ginsberg, Roy Gipson, Michael Gleason.

Andrew Goetz, Jamie Gold, Christian Gray, Samantha Grzwacz, Joshua Haggan, Megan Halma, Desire Hanlon, Tonya Hardy, Markell Harrison, Ryan Hauptman, Stephanie Heath, Jody Heavey, Joshua Heffler, Jeffrey Hensal, Daniel Heppert, Lauren Hernandez, Jonathan Heyman, Jason Hipp, Danielle Hirschhorn, Alex Hofer, Steven Horn, Jennifer Howell, Katherine Howell, Gina Hruska, Scott Hyman, Nicole Impellizzeri, Dustin Jefferson, Nicole Johnson, Jovonne Jones, Stefanie Katz, Samantha Kaufman, Ryan Keogh, Arthur King, Laura Klastava, Annmarie Klimowitz, Yevgeniy Klyushnichko, Roark Koch, Elise Koerner, Sarah Konzelman, Holly Kramer, Lisa Kress, Daniel Kurtter, Rachel Kurtter, Aimee Lamastra, Robert Lamberston, Robert Lange, Alicia

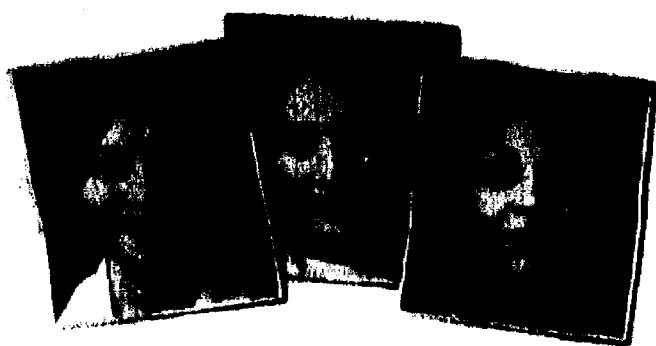
Lazur, Monique Lemus, Jeremy Lipstein.

Christopher Loblance, Matthew Loomis, Kevin Louison, Joseph Lubinski, John Lucy, Kelly Lusk, Andrew Machrone, Edward Madan, Catherine Makely, Anthony Malczanek, Domenic Mancuso, Matthew Markowitz, Julie Marks, Michelle Marr, Felipe Martinez, Kevin Martins, Daniel McCruden, Ashley McDonald, Lenore McMillion, Caitlin McNelis, Kelly McVey, Charles Mecca, Adam Melber, Drew Miller, Michael Miller, Heather Mills, Malina Milonnet, Kristen Miner, Angela Minio, Melissa Mollen, Erica Morgan, Christine Morris, Raymond Moskal, Larry Moten, Xavier Moyna, Patricia Mullarkey, Deanne Mustachio, Kimberly Myers, Subani Nanayakkara, Syreeta Nelson, Heidi Nielsen, Jason Noon-Damiani, Mpho Notoane, Emily O'Connor, Megan O'Leary, Jennifer Ochaner, Charles Ortiz, Adam Ortyl.

Melinda Palomares, Melissa Palomares, Yeojin Park, Danielle Passarelli, Vernecia Paynter, Joseph Pearson, Lindsay Pennella, Robert Percoco, Antonio Perez, Chelsea Perkins, Justina Pettifre, Sonali Phatak, Zennie Piedad, Steven Pietrucha, Elizabeth Pilkington, John Piniat, Sarah Poplynsky, Simoa Poplynsky, Eric Pratt, Abby Price, Kimberly Pudlak, Aaron Quade, Karlene Quigley, Sean Quinn, Megan Reddington, Daniel Reedell, Keleigh Reyes, Galen Rice, Matthew Rodriguez, Roxana Rodriguez, Steven Rodriguez, Racquel Romans, Daniel Rosenkrantz, Chaela Roshetar, Alexandra Rosloff, Amy Ryan, Joshua Sanders, Timothy Sanders, Krystie Sanguiliano, Philip Saraceno, Edward Saridaki, David Senatore, Jessica Seto, Nicholas Sette, Ramprasad Shankar, Patrick Shevlin, Neal Shukla, Adam Siegal, Arthur Silber.

Dwight Simms, Delsa Slaugh, Bruce Smith, Jacquelin Smith, Ahmed Soliman, Erica Speer, Christopher Sprague, Angela Stanford, Kristin Stiffler, Michael Sullivan, Nisha Tamhankar, Amber Temchus, Tedwick Theodore, Sydney Thorne, Michael Toffolo, Fabian Toro, Marlon Van Pelt, Sarah Van Wagner, Richard Villane, Timothy Voelker, Kevin Watson, Caroline Webb, Amanda Wells, Melissa Wergland, Joshua Wexler, Diana Wilks, Kristin Williams, Terrell Williams, Laura Wittish, Scott Wojcio, Trevor Wolff, Kristen Wuest, Harry Yang, Guangya Yao, Michael Zatoraki, Gershon Zebowitz, Kristin Zelenitsk, Christopher Zidonik, Lauren Ziegler, Jillian Zuber.

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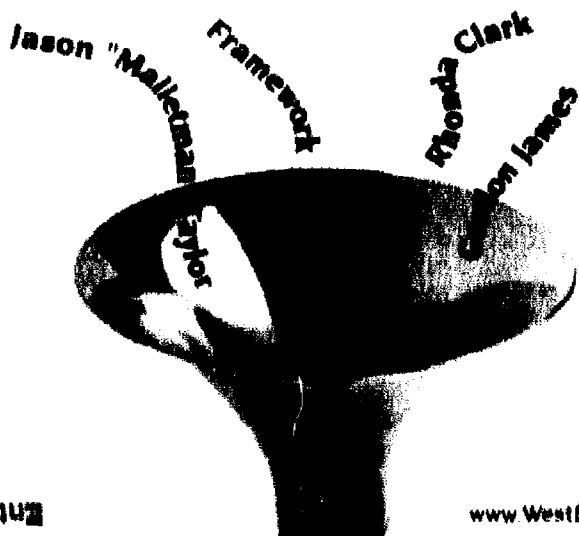
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Community Life

Briefs

'Lizard Guys' visit Scotch Plains Library

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library will host a kick-off party for its Summer Reading Club 10:30 a.m. July 7 featuring The Lizard Guys, an educational entertainment group.

The group will bring live exotic animals to excite and enlighten young guests and encourage them to read while having fun.

The Lizard Guys will teach youngsters where the animals come from, what they eat, how they hide and protect themselves, and how they differ from humans. They will introduce children of all ages to the vast world of exotic animals and educate in the proper care and handling of these animals. They will bring bugs, frogs, lizards, turtles and snakes to the presentation, which will run about one hour.

For more information, call the Children's Department at (908) 322-5007.

Group offers support, friendship for singles

WESTFIELD — Singles who are over 45 and widowed, divorced, or never married don't have to be alone.

At 9 a.m. each Sunday in July enjoy coffee a group will meet to enjoy cake and lively discussion dealing with single issues, how to cope on one's own and learn from each other.

It's not group therapy; it's friendship, a sharing of experiences, and good company.

Other activities include winter movie nights, summer picnics, holiday get-togethers, and more.

Visit the group at First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm St., in the lower level meeting room. A \$2 donation is requested, and all are welcome.

For more information call (908) 889-5265 or (908) 889-4751.

Library to remain open on Saturdays in July

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Library will remain open for Saturdays throughout July.

Summer hours will be 9 a.m.-3 p.m. for Saturdays during this month. The library will be closed for Saturdays in August, reopening with normal hours the Saturday after Labor Day.

The Scotch Plains Library is located at 1927 Bartle Ave., one block from Park Avenue in the center of town.

For further information or directions, call (908) 322-5007.

Osborn House open for July 4 celebration

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Osborn Cannonball House, located at 1840 Front Street, will be open for visitors 2-4 p.m. Sunday.

This will be the 4th of July weekend when participants celebrate another birthday of America.

Come visit the Osborn Cannonball House, circa 1760, a museum filled with local history and maintained by the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Costumed docents will be available to give tours of the museum and surrounding gardens.

There is no admission fee.

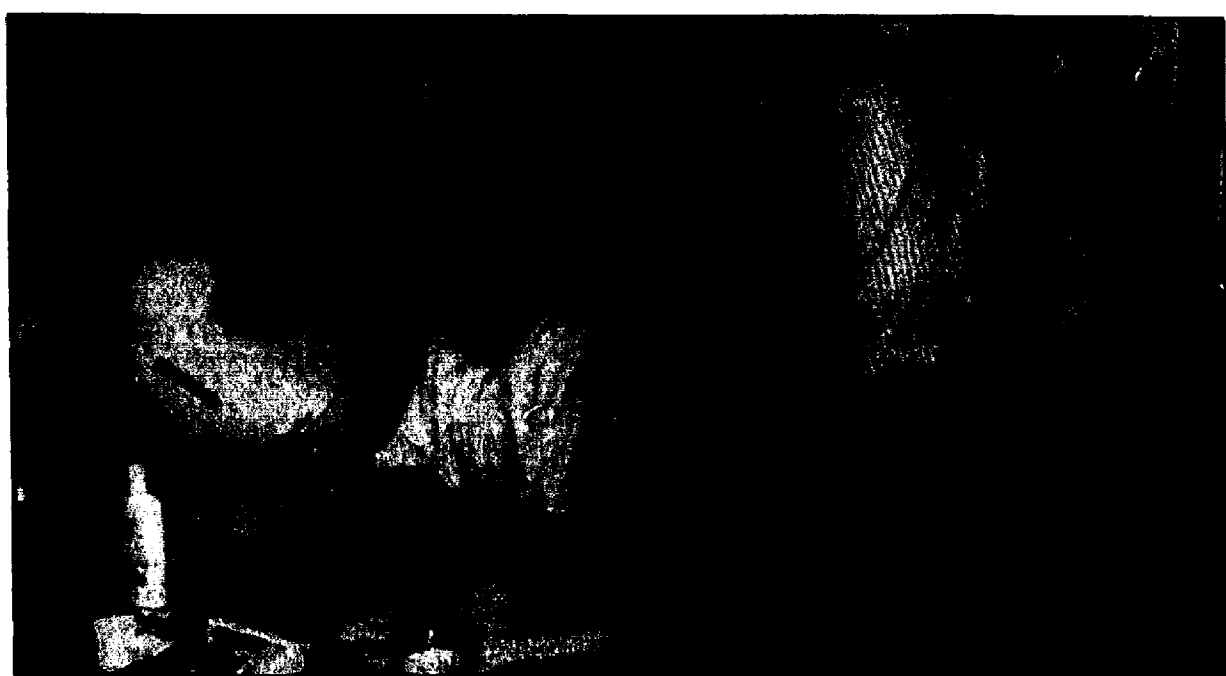
Support group continues over summer

WESTFIELD — St. Helen's Church will continue its Separated and Divorced group through the summer.

The focus will be "where do we go from here," as well as a social component. The group will meet 7:15-9 p.m. Tuesday evenings in the church annex. Refreshments will be served before the discussions begin.

The group provides discussions on life changes and the support everyone needs.

For more information call Grace M. Lane at (908) 301-9114; Mickey Hamilton at (732) 381-7801 or Father Don at (908) 232-1214.



Michael Chodroff of Tamaques School in Westfield came to teaching after achieving success in several other fields.

Tamaques teacher considered a rising star in the classroom

WESTFIELD — Michael Chodroff, a fifth-grade teacher at Tamaques School, is the recipient of the 2003 Commissioner's Distinguished Teacher Candidate Award.

Chodroff received a personal letter of recommendation and a certification of recognition from Dwight Pfenning, Deputy Commissioner of Education, at an awards ceremony in Trenton in early May.

The award annually recognizes the 15 top graduates of teacher preparation programs administered by New Jersey colleges and universities.

Chodroff recently completed his first full of teaching at Tamaques School. He received his teaching certificate from Kean University in December 2001. Chodroff also brings to the classroom his knowledge and experience gained from careers held prior to his entry into teaching.

His first career undertaking was in television, following graduation from Rutgers University in 1996 with a degree in journalism and communications.

His familiarity with television production, which he gained as an intern for Channel 13, has brought positive results to his classroom in Westfield, where Chodroff's students make I-movies on the computer to enhance their studies.

Of particular influence to Chodroff during his television years was Professor Richard Hefner, pro-

ducer of Channel 13's "Open Mind." According to Chodroff, Hefner viewed television as a "classroom of the world" and a vehicle to communicate human values. The problem, as Chodroff saw it, was that "most TV wasn't teaching the right stuff."

Chodroff subsequently undertook other business ventures, all successfully, but "not quite the reward I was looking for," he said. As a financial planner, he was the most successful rookie in his branch. "But financial success is not (enough) for everyone," he said.

Chodroff also has experience as an author; he penned the "Rutgers Students' Unofficial Guide to College," based on student surveys. The volume became the fastest-growing trade book and is still being sold. The popularity of the guide prompted the publication of other "unofficial guides" written by Chodroff, including texts for Pennsylvania State University and the universities of Maryland, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Chodroff now brings his experiences in writing, finance, television, marketing and dealing with people with classroom. "I really love it," the Tamaques teacher said. "I absolutely know I made the right decision. Of all the things I've done, it's the most meaningful."

Chodroff summed up his decision by quoting the educator John Dewey: "Education is not the key to life. Education is life itself."

Brunner teacher honored for work with kids' garden

SCOTCH PLAINS — AT&T has recognized Bernadette Hoyer as a Champion of the Environment for her significant contribution in protecting the environment through her work with the Brunner School Children's Garden.

The award brought \$1,000 to help maintain and expand the garden. AT&T has also supported the garden through its AT&T Cares grants.

Hoyer and her Pre-K classes broke ground for the children's garden in 1996. Sandra Cepparulo, Brunner parent and AT&T employee, has been an active assistant in the project for five years and her commitment to the garden has made the AT&T grants possible.

AT&T also recognized the Brunner School parent volunteers for their involvement in the garden.



Sandra Cepparulo, Brunner parent and AT&T employee, presents Bernadette Hoyer, Pre-K-Title 1 teacher, with the AT&T Champion of the Environment Award during the garden work day held at Brunner School in Scotch Plains.

Farewell, good fairy: Doll museum closes its doors for good

Unusual collection once drew visitors from across New Jersey

By BJ KOWALSKI
CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of toy lovers jammed 205 Walnut Avenue in Cranford two weekends ago with more visitors than the Good Fairy Doll Museum had seen in a decade.

Thousands and thousands of dolls of every size, shape, and nationality lined the floor-to-ceiling shelves and cabinets. There were colonial-styled dolls with shiny porcelain heads and calico dresses.

Madame Alexander-style dolls from the 1950s and 1960s with elaborate satin gowns and lacy underskirts, delicate Japanese geisha dolls in red brocade kimonos, and an entire shelf of Hopi kachina dolls of painted leather and feathers from the American Southwest. A dainty doll in a pink party dress from the Philippines jostled a figure of an Indian raj in pointed slippers and a knight in silver and black armor.

What was once a cultural jewel of Union County has permanently closed its doors. Of course, the museum had not been open much in the last 10 years, since Elizabeth Beck Connors, who founded the museum with her husband, became ill. She passed away earlier this year at age 89.

"I feel sad," said Terri Kalyn of Cranford. "I've brought dolls here to be fixed, and she was always so nice. It's unbelievable how much stuff she accumulated."

Mary Christie, another shopper, will miss the museum too. She was impressed by the excellent condition of the dolls. "Look at this — the music box works!" she said of a 10-inch doll with blond ringlets perched on a windup box that played "Tea for Two." "Usually, when you find these, they're broken."

Also lined up and begging to be bought were an Aztec warrior, a satin-suited Blue Boy (styled after the Gainsborough painting), Pierrot in black and white,

Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn in checked shirts and battered jeans, and dozens of clowns. There were even political figures: Abraham Lincoln, severe in a black tuxedo, and George Washington, wearing a blue velvet jacket and gold brocade vest.

James Calabrese of American Antiques Auction in New Brunswick, which ran the estate sale, said that in her heyday Connors was known throughout the state. He said she had been honored with a plaque from the Cranford Township Committee for her service to the community. "Years ago, she had really high quality dolls, worth thousands of dollars," he said. "She used to lend dolls to every library in the area."

Connors and her husband James, who died in 1987, sometimes took dolls from their collection to visit churches and charities, free of charge. They invited Girl Scouts and other groups to come and see the dolls. A scrapbook in the attic was



PHOTOS BY BJ KOWALSKI/CORRESPONDENT
Included in the collection of the Good Fairy Doll Museum were figurines of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

filled with newspaper clippings from when the Connors' first opened the museum. In December 1967, they received approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a variance allowing a museum in a residential zone. Right away, they began to prepare the museum to hold the collection that Elizabeth Connors had been gathering for 20 years. In 1971, the Good Fairy Doll Museum opened to the public.

At one time, the collection included a valuable German doll from the late 18th century. Other highlights were a Dutch doll with wooden shoes from 1865, a Simon and Halbig doll from 1890, and a wax figurine of Madame du Pompadour in authentic period costume of pink silk with white lace and ribbons.

Elizabeth Connors' devotion to her dolls showed in the way she repaired them, too. She had an extensive supply of doll-sized wigs — straight and curly, blonde, red, black, and brown. She could fix their hair, their makeup, their worn bodies. When the dolls' clothing wore out, she made clothes for them



The sign outside the Good Fairy Doll Museum came down for good after a recent estate sale. The museum had been in sporadic operation for the last decade, and owner Elizabeth Beck Connors passed away in May.

with lace trim and buttons, all scaled to size.

About 10 years ago, Terri Kalyn took an old Thumbelina

(circa 1962) to the doll museum for repair. Thumbelina was a baby doll with a soft body and a molded plastic head and limbs. This particular doll had a wire sticking out of it. "She repaired it and sewed it all back up," said Kalyn. "She wanted to buy the doll from me."

But Kalyn meant to give the doll to her own daughter and couldn't part with it. When she got the doll back, Connors had put a satin bow in Thumbelina's hair. "She was very sweet," said Kalyn. "She knew that the doll was for my daughter. And she gave me some little toy dishes for free."

The people running the estate sale said they'd heard stories about Connors all weekend. "Every single person who's come in (who knew Connors) has such wonderful memories of her," said one woman as she rearranged the shelves. "She used to give little toys to the children."

Now, the shelves where the dolls stood are nearly empty. And doll lovers of all ages will have to go elsewhere to seek a kind-hearted fairy to repair their treasures.

George T. Krevet

WESTFIELD — George T. Krevet, 87, died June 26, 2003 at his home.

He was born in Elizabeth and lived in Westfield since 1957.

Mr. Krevet retired in 1972 after 37 years as a laboratory technician with the Esso Research Co. in Linden. He was a member of the Old Guard of Westfield; the Exxon Annuitants Club; and the Monsignor Vatterson Council, Knights of

Columbus.

His wife, Helen, is deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Arlene K. Burgess of Westfield; a son, George of Wharton; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Higgins & Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Walter G. Thompson

SCOTCH PLAINS — Walter G. Thompson, 87, died June 27, 2003 at his home in Lavallette.

He was born in Elizabeth and lived in Scotch Plains before moving to Lavallette in 1975.

Mr. Thompson retired in 1975 after 25 years as the owner of the Central Conditioning Co. in Scotch Plains. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Marie

Nolte Thompson; a son, George W.; two daughters, Maryellen Kasper and Patricia; and a grandchild.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Monday at St. Bonaventure Roman Catholic Church, Lavallette, following services at the Timothy E. Ryan Home for Funerals in Lavallette. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Toms River.

Ruth M. Morris

Ruth M. Morris, 79, died June 29, 2003 at Kent General Hospital in Dover, Del.

Mrs. Morris was born in Jersey City and lived in Hasbrouck Heights before moving in 1993 to Felton, Del.

Surviving are her husband, Frank O.; a daughter, Kathleen of Glassboro; two sons, James of Fanwood and Thomas of

Phoenix, Ariz.; four sisters, Margaret Hartmann, Theresa Blauvelt, Doris Cook and Marilyn Garafano; a brother, Frederick Hartmann; and five grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday at the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

Susan Elizabeth Davis

WESTFIELD — Susan Elizabeth Harley Davis, 50, died June 27, 2003 at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pa.

A native of Phoenixville, Pa., she lived in Westfield before moving to Ephrata, Pa.

Mrs. Davis was a project administrator with Groundwater Technologies in Chadds Ford, Pa. She earned an associate's degree from Wesley College in Dover, Del., and a

bachelor's degree in business administration from Appalachian State University.

Surviving are three brothers, Thomas Harley, Robert Harley and John Harley.

Services were held Tuesday at the Liberty Baptist Church in Ephrata with Rev. Guy Mosebrook officiating. Burial was private.

Arrangements were by the Stradling Funeral Home in Ephrata.

Marian Carlton

WESTFIELD — Marian Romayne Edwards Carlton, 88, died June 26, 2003 at the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care facility in Elizabeth.

Born in South Sterling, Pa., she lived in Westfield for 64 years before moving to Elizabeth in March.

Mrs. Carlton was a member of the Westfield Women's Club, the Second Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Association

and the First United Methodist Church of Westfield.

Surviving are a daughter, Linda Walker; a son, Harold; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Sunday at the McCricken Home for Funerals, in South Plainfield.

Donations may be sent to Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care, 176 Husa St., Linden, NJ 07036.

Mary M. Hanley

SCOTCH PLAINS — Mary M. Hanley, 87, died June 26, 2003 at the Monroe Village Health Care Center in Monroe Township.

A native of New York City, she lived in Jersey City before moving to Scotch Plains in 1959.

Mrs. Hanley retired in 1983 after 15 years as a secretary with the Boyle-Midway Co. in Cranford.

Her husband, William V.,

died in 1989.

Surviving are a daughter, Marie Hanley Vincent of Freehold; a son, William of Metuchen; and three grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at the Memorial Funeral Home, Fanwood, followed by a funeral Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Obituaries

Janette Wietsma

FANWOOD — Janette C. Callaghan Wietsma, 56, died June 28, 2003 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Scotch Plains, she was the daughter of the late Raymond J. and Eleanor Reeves Callaghan.

Mrs. Wietsma lived in Fanwood since 1977 and also had a home in Cold Spring. She was a substitute teacher in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school system the past 15 years.

She earned an associate's degree from Union County College in 1968 and a bachelor's

degree in sociology from Seton Hall University in 1970.

She enjoyed reading, gardening, traveling and antiques. Mrs. Wietsma was a parishioner of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains.

A brother, David Callaghan, is deceased.

Surviving are her husband, Laurence A.; a son, Christian David, and a daughter, Jessica Leigh, both of Fanwood.

Services were held Tuesday at the Memorial Funeral Home. Burial was private.

Winifred Janet Silver

Winifred Janet Silver, 73, died June 27, 2003 at ManorCare Health Services in Mountainside.

She was born in Jersey City and had lived for more than 35 years in Cranford.

Mrs. Silver was once the executive secretary to the chief executive officer of the Kimberly-Clark Corp. She worked at its Manhattan and Sayreville offices until her retirement in 1990. She graduated from the Katharine Gibbs School.

An animal welfare advocate, Mrs. Silver worked with the Noah's Ark and Best Friend

animal shelters in Union County. She was active in the Masonic Scholarship Fund sponsored by the New Jersey Masonic Home. She was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Silver accompanied her husband, Charles J., on functions related to the history of the Titanic. He died in 1994.

Surviving are a brother-in-law, John; two nieces; a nephew; and two close friends, Ann and Joseph Ward of Mountainside.

Services were held Tuesday at the Gray Memorial Funeral Home. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Patricia Hogan

Patricia Venezia Hogan, 63, died June 24, 2003 at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in Manhattan.

She was born in Irvington and lived in Union before moving to Kenilworth in 1963.

Mrs. Hogan was an administrative assistant for Dr. Martin Fox in Springfield the past 12 years.

Surviving are her husband, Richard M.; a son, Patrick M.,

and a daughter, Jill Weber, both of Scotch Plains; and four grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated June 27 at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, of which Mrs. Hogan was a parishioner. Entombment was in the Hollywood Memorial Park mausoleum, Union.

Arrangements were by the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood.

Wilson Krayer

Wilson A. Krayer, 92, died June 30, 2003 at Rahway Hospital.

He was born in New Providence and lived in that borough before moving to Cranford in 1999.

Mr. Krayer was part of an AT&T Corp. unit that developed microwave relays. He also worked on transoceanic cables in a 45-year career with AT&T that ended on his retirement in 1974.

A needlepoint artist, Mr. Krayer was in the National Guard before World War II and a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America. He was a parishioner of Our Lady of Peace

Roman Catholic Church in New Providence.

His wife, Dorothy Mary Krayer, died in 1999.

Surviving are a son, Peter of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; three daughters, Jeanne K. Pitz of Richardson, Texas, S. Deanna Jagusak of Cranford and Elizabeth K. Smith of Lorton, Va.; and seven grandchildren.

Graveside services will be 2 p.m. Thursday at St. Theresa Cemetery in Summit.

Arrangements are by the Gray Memorial Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to Mobile Meals of Westfield, 170 Elm St., Westfield, NJ 07090.

Margaret Kilgannon

FANWOOD — Margaret C. Kilgannon, 66, died June 25, 2003 at her home in Bridgewater.

Born in the Bronx, she lived in Fanwood for 35 years before moving to Bridgewater in 1999.

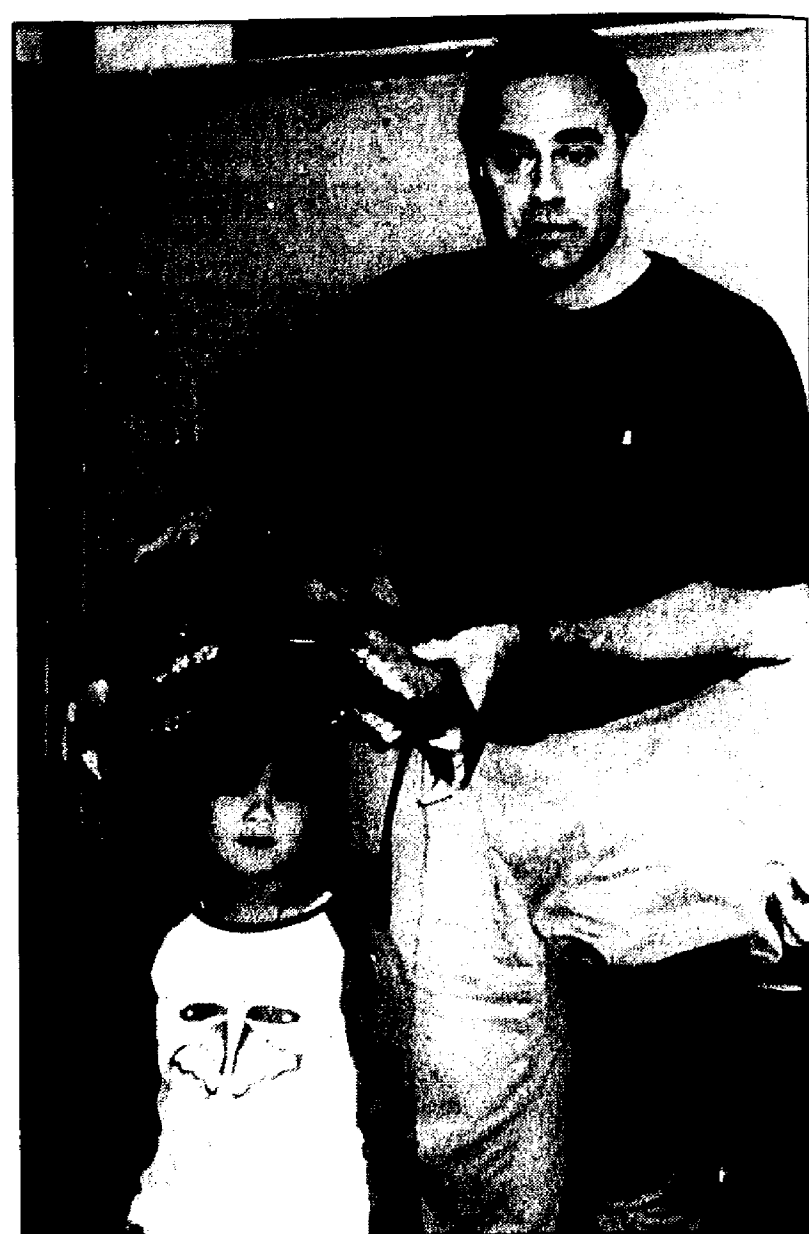
Mrs. Kilgannon retired in 1996 after 28 years as an elementary teacher at Coles School in Scotch Plains. She received a bachelor's degree in education from Fordham University in

1957.

Surviving are a daughter, Susan B. of Bridgewater; and two sons, Thomas O. of Fanwood and Robert J. of Little Falls.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

Arrangements were by the Memorial Funeral Home.



Dino-mite

The 4-year-old classes at Wesley Hall Nursery School in Westfield learned all about dinosaurs through stories, songs and interactive lessons. As a culmination of their unit, they were visited by a traveling dinosaur museum and were able to see and touch a genuine dinosaur egg, footprints, teeth and bones. Above, Chanel Shum, left, and Neil Brown demonstrate how a T-Rex might gobble up his prey. Wesley Hall is located at 1 E. Broad St., in the First United Methodist Church. The school has classes for children ages 2½-5 years old. Call (908) 233-9570 for more information.

County urges caution against West Nile Virus

County news

The Union County Health Officers Association's West Nile Virus Task Force advises residents that as warm weather approaches, so does mosquito season and the possible re-emergence of West Nile Virus.

West Nile virus is a disease which is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has contracted the virus by feeding on an infected bird. The virus is not transmitted to humans by the bird nor is there person to person transmission.

West Nile Virus disease generally causes flu-like symptoms, but the elderly and immune compromised are at risk of more severe reactions.

In 2002, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services identified 25 New Jersey residents with acute West Nile Virus infection. West Nile Virus activity was also noted in the avian, mosquito and horse population.

Union County residents are urged to take the following mosquito control measures:

— Eliminate sources of stagnant or standing water where

mosquitoes breed.

— Monitor backyard pools and pool covers.

— Remove old tires (contact Union County Environment (908) 654-9889 regarding tire disposal program).

— Empty buckets, flowerpots and containers that are outside.

— Clean clogged house gutters.

— Change water in bird baths and pet bowls every three days.

— Cover garbage cans and recycling containers when stored outside.

— Properly maintain open compost piles (for more information contact Union County Cooperative Extension Agency at (908) 654-9854).

— Curb outside activity at dusk and dawn and when outdoors wear clothing that covers the skin and use appropriate insect repellent.

— Repair any tears or holes in screen doors or windows.

— Local Health Departments in Union County will be collecting and submitting for testing bird specimens (crows) and will be investigating any diagnosed human cases of the disease.

The West Nile Virus Task Force of the Union County Health Officers Association asks that if any Union County resident is experiencing a problem with mosquitoes or has any questions regarding mosquito control or West Nile Virus they contact their Local Health Department or the Union County Bureau of Mosquito Control at (908) 654-9834.

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BEST BETS

Jewish humor show at the Wilf JCC

A Jewish humor program featuring comedian Joel Chasnoff will be held at the Jewish Community Center of Central NJ, 1391 Martine Ave. in Scotch Plains 11 a.m. July 9. A kosher lunch will follow.

Chasnoff is considered one of the smartest, wittiest and downright funniest stand-up comedians. He has performed around the globe and brings to the audience a unique brand of positive, Jewish humor based on traditional aspects of Jewish living.

Explore the role of humor throughout Jewish history, from the rebbe of the Talmud to the characters of "Seinfeld."

Historical events, Jewish law, the role of stereotypes, and humor during the Holocaust are just a few of the issues incorporated into the program.

Lunch will consist of chicken chow mein, vegetables, rice, and dessert. Fee for JCC members is \$15; non-members pay \$20.

Advance registration is required; call (908) 889-8800 ext. 207.

'Sweet Sounds' come to Westfield

The Seventh Annual "Sweet Sounds Downtown" Jazz Festival, sponsored by the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), kicks off next week. The performances will take place on sidewalks and street corners 7-9 p.m. Tuesday evenings beginning July 8 and will run through August 19. Rain dates are not scheduled.

The July 8 performances include Jason "Malletman" Taylor on Central Avenue in front of Bombay, Rhonda Clark on the lawn in front of North Avenue train station at Elm Street, Framework at the corner of E. Broad and Prospect Streets, and Gordon James on Elm Street in 3C Park.

James, a newcomer to the series, "plays a contemporary but funky set that is sure to please all," Courtney Neme, promotions coordinator.

For more information about Westfield and other downtown events taking place, call the DWC at (908) 789-9444 for a Discover Westfield Kit, Events Calendar and Jazz Brochure. In the event of rain July 8, call the DWC office for a recorded message or visit their website at www.westfieldtoday.com for further details.



From left, Matt McCarthy, Jessie Gill, Harry Patrick Christian, Rose Pedone, Gary Glor, Terri Sturtevant and Rick Delaney in "A Wilde Night at the Rockies" at the Theater Project at Union County College.

Strong cast of 'Wilde Night' rocks the theater at UCC

By ELLEN DOOLEY
PRIMETIME

Whenever you take a 12-year-old boy to the theater, there's a risk involved. Adolescents are so accustomed to entertainment that is primarily special effects, with plot, dialogue and character development secondary, if not tertiary, considerations, that it's impossible to predict such a creature's reaction to live theater that is not, say, "Stomp" or "Blast."

But my son enjoyed "A Wilde Night in the Rockies" so much that, on the way home, he talked about the possibility of becoming involved in local theater. Maybe auditioning for a role in a comedy. Now that's the kind of effect you want from the live theater experience, audience members having so much fun and feeling such an integral part of the show that some of them start dreaming about becoming involved in such an endeavor themselves. And that's the kind of experience offered consistently at The Theater Project at Union County College.

"A Wilde Night in the Rockies," by New Jersey playwright Jewel Seehaus-Fisher is a fast, funny farcical romp that takes place entirely in the Hell-in-a-Hand-Basket Saloon in Leadville, Colo. in 1882. Oscar Wilde has come to town to lecture on aesthetics, and

THEATER
REVIEW

everyone winds up learning a lot about life, love and loyalty.

Harry Patrick Christian* plays the elegant, witty, urbane Mr. Wilde with ease, somehow always managing to remain above the fray even when spanking the saloon keeper. Christian is so at

"A Wilde Night in the Rockies," by New Jersey playwright Jewel Seehaus-Fisher, is a fast, funny farcical romp.

home on stage, his natural effortlessness flavors the part to perfection.

Terri Sturtevant as Mme. Augusta and Rick Delaney* as Sheriff Willie are two of the biggest cartoon characters I've seen on stage in some time, and I mean that in the very best way. Their use of voice, accent, gesture, facial expression and physical comedy bring broad, campy brilliance to the roles. Both are thoroughly enjoyable if not entirely savory characters.

Lillie Langtry is portrayed by Rose Pedone* with petite charm spiced with snippy superiority. Pedone is a consummate professional playing a consummate "professional

beauty." Not to underplay her skills as an actress, but Pedone is delightful to watch, just from an "aesthetic" standpoint.

Matt McCarthy as Charlie and Jessie Gill as Frenchie, the star-crossed lovers, are well matched and handle their less flamboyant roles with steady comic grace.

Gary Glor* plays Bertie, the Prince of Wales, and his arrival on the scene is as surprising as the hilarious delivery of his lines. His performance offers another splendid use of voice, accent and timing.

The show is directed by Theater Project Artistic Director Mark Spina, who always handles his cast and materials deftly. Costumes by Daaimah Tally also deserve mention, along with the lighting design by Mark Reilly.

"A Wilde Night in the Rockies" will run through July 13, with performances 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday (no show on July 4) and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$15; \$7 on Thursdays and for students at all performances. Call the box office at (908) 659-5189. The show is clever, fast-paced, slapstick fun—a riotous evening out for the whole family.

The Theater Project is a semi-professional group in its ninth season in the Roy Smith Theater at Union County College in Cranford. *Indicates Equity affiliation

County names performers for summer concerts

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced the Summer Arts Festival concert series line-up.

"Each Wednesday through Aug. 27, the Freeholders invite the public to the natural amphitheater area of Echo Lake Park for exceptional, free entertainment," said Union County Freeholder Chairwoman Deborah P. Scanlon. "The concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., but many concertgoers get there early to find the ideal spot to listen and perhaps to enjoy a picnic in a lovely pastoral setting."

Those who would like to buy snacks or dinner while at the concert may do so at the full-service refreshment stand on site. Concertgoers should bring a blanket or a comfortable lawn chair to sit on.

"The season's concert line-up includes some favorites and a few new ones that will have you moving to the beat all evening," said Freeholder Chester Holmes.

This summer's free concert series includes:

July 9: Verdict (reggae), sponsored by First Union Bank.

July 16: Don't Call Me Francis (horn band).

July 23: Walter "Wolfman" Washington (blues).

July 30: Mustang Sally (country).

Aug. 6: The Brass Tacks Big Band Orchestra, sponsored by Schering-Plough.

Aug. 13: The Sensational Soul Cruisers (Motown), sponsored by the Union County Education Association.

Aug. 20: De Sol (Latin).

Aug. 27: The Party Dolls, sponsored by ConocoPhillips.

Echo Lake Park is located off Route 22 Eastbound between Springfield Avenue, Mountaintop and Mountain Avenue, Westfield. The rain site for all concerts is Westfield High School. In case of rain, call (908) 352-8410 for information after 3 p.m. on the day of the concert.

Call 908-527-4900 for additional information.

Artist/Teacher group on display works at Skulski Art Gallery

The Art Educators of New Jersey Artist/Teacher Network is happy to return to the Skulski Art Gallery located in the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway in Clark.

Over the years of its existence, the quality, variety and distinctiveness of the artists who have shown at the gallery have made it one of the most prestigious in the tri-state area.

The exhibit will be held from July 11-25, with the artist's reception scheduled for 7:30 p.m. July 11. Refreshments will be served and all are invited.

The A/T Network consists of artists who also happen to be full- or part-time teachers of art, with pupils ranging from kindergartners to adults, in schools throughout the state.

Many have exhibited in other galleries in the area. Many have won awards, written articles or had articles written about them.

They work in a variety of media from light, tight drawings to impasto paintings. In the group, viewers will find photographers, potters,

painters and printmakers. Some have combined their passion with their research in other cultures and combine them in unique ways.

Many travel around the world and share their experiences through their art. Mixed media techniques, digital computer graphics, whatever the composition, based on imagination, research or a combination, the artwork reflects a personal statement that those who teach also "do" art.

The show features Mark Ensslin, photography; Larry Grinch, painting; Frank Gubernat, painting; Mildred Kaye, printmaking; Maxine King, painting; Linda V. LaStella, ceramics; Stephen Marotta, painting; Roberta Martin, painting; Marietta Hayes-Hicklin, mixed media; Patricia Mueller, mixed media sculpture; Miriam Untoria, mixed media; Barbara Weskot, painting.

The Skulski Gallery is open to the public Tuesday-Friday 5-9 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Aleksandra K. Nowak at (732) 882-7197.

what to do!

Theater

NOW PLAYING

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

Brookside Dr., Millburn
(973) 376-4343;
www.papermill.org

"Grease," touring production of Broadway/movie musical. To July 27. Admission \$66-\$34; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

PLAYS IN THE PARK

Stephen J. Capastro Theater
Roosevelt Park, Edison
(732) 548-2884; www.playsinthepark.com

"Mack and Mabel," lesser-known musical by Jerry Herman of

"Mame" fame. 8:30 p.m. July 2, 3, 5, 7-12. Adults \$3, under 12 free; bring lawn chairs for seating.

ROY W. SMITH THEATER

Union County College
1033 Springfield Ave.
Cranford
(908) 659-5189

"A Wilde Night in the Rockies,"

Old West comedy by Jewel Seehaus-Fisher. 8 p.m. July 3, 5, 10-12; 3 p.m. July 6, 13. Admission \$15; discounts available.

VILLAGERS THEATRE

475 DeMott Lane, Somerset
(732) 873-2710;
www.villagerstheatre.com

"Not Waving," mother-daughter

ter "dramedy" by Gen LeRoy. 8 p.m. July 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26; 2 p.m. July 13, 20. Admission \$12.

Concerts

GREG ALEXANDER

8:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 9

Third Reformed Church

10 W. Somerset St., Raritan
(908) 722-1287; www.thirdreformedchurch.org

Onetime finalist at the New

Jersey Folk Festival. Free admission.

PAT BENATAR

8 p.m. Tuesday, July 8

State Theatre, 15 Livingston

Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatre.nj.org

80's rock guitarist. Admission \$45-\$20.

CONNIE TARANTINO

CONCERT SERIES

Borough Hall

Route 28, Somerville
(908) 541-1600

Shows on the lawn 7 p.m.

Friday (weather permitting). Free

admission.

The Somertones, June 27.

TOMMY DAVIDSON

8 p.m. Thursday, July 10

Crossroads Theatre, 9

Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatre.nj.org

Comedian who was in the

90's TV comedy show "In Living

Color" alongside Jim Carrey. Admission \$38.

SIMPLY SHANIA

7 p.m. Sunday, July 13

Duke Island Park

Old York Rd., Bridgewater
(908) 722-1200, Ext. 351;
www.park.co.somerset.nj.us

Shania Twain tribute band.

Free admission.

BET WILLIAMS

8 p.m. Thursday, July 3

Watchung Arts Center

Watchung Circle, Watchung
(908) 753-0180;
www.watchungarts.org

Folk singer with a rock lean. Admission \$10.

Galleries

DIVERSITY

ART GALLERY

4 Valley Rd., Clark
(732) 574-1479;
www.diversityart.com

Open to the public 1-3 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays and by

appointment.

"Vacation Dreams," June 8-

July 27

"Dimensional Art," begin-

ning Aug. 3.

THE THEATER PROJECT/UNION COUNTY COLLEGE
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Oscar Wilde goes West - Colorado will NEVER be the same!
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Thursday, July 24
Friday, July 25
Saturday, July 26
Sunday, July 27

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Westfield High names honor roll students

Westfield High School Principal Dr. Robert Petix has announced the following students were named to the third marking period honor roll for the 2002-2003 school year:

Distinguished Honor Roll

Grade 9: David Ackerman, Kristin Aguero, Dana Barrasso, Miriam Becker-Cohen, Kevin Block, Krista Burslem, Christopher Byrne, Lisa Chen, Raymond Chen, Jesse Cohn, Samantha Coulson, Christine DeSero, Monica Doss, Jane C. Ellbacher, Alissa Eisenberg, Lindsay Ellbaum, Marykate Flannery, Allison Fleder, Alan S. Futran, Jesse M. Garfinkel, Diana Goodman, Kaitlin Gorman, Jessica L. Graham, Erica R. Greene, Amanda H. Gross, Ben Harel, Jessica Heo, Minkyu Jang, Matthew R. Kamel, Matthew Leong, Rachel Leopold, Peng Kevin Liang, Kari L. LaBrutto, Rachael Louie, Caroline Lupescu, Jonathan Maimon, Joann M. Mathew, Daniel McGrory, Jennifer Metz, Jessica Moskowitz, Ravenna Neville, Carly D. Oliff, Gianna Palumi, Carrie L. Palumbo, Sarah Patankar, Annie Peyton, Christopher Pinheiro, Jason Rea, Nadine G. Reitman, Richard Scialappa, Benjamin Shiffman, David Scott Shottland, Stoytcho Stoytchev, Jennifer Urciuoli, Kevin Wicks, Brian Thomas Yee, Michael Yee, Yuchen Zhang, Jennifer Zhu.

Grade 10: Jeffrey Bayne, Jake P. Brandman, Jacqueline Burns, Gene Chen, Amanda Cohen, Christina Cordeiro, Ashley Current, Jacqueline De La Fuente, Mark Doss, Gilad

Edelman, Allison Feldman, Scott B. Fishberg, Meghan Fitzpatrick, Lauren Gelmetti, Camille Hausheer, Bryan M. Kahn, Henry H. Koehler, John Marks, Michelle Morawski, Taylor Mulvey, Tara O'Donohue, Brian Oxman, Giovanna Palatucci, Abigail Rosenstein, Rebecca Schulman, Kirsten Selert, Neda Simaika, Anne E. Siwulec, Kayli Spialter, Monica C. Sull, Mikala Tidswell, Elizabeth Trimble, Benjamin Wieder, Qiaozi Yang, Lisa Zhang.

Grade 11: Ryan Bartholomew, Rebecca Bellovin, Youri Choi, Stefanie Courtney, Suzanna Fowler, Claire M. Ganley, Sarah M. Hoban, Sabrina L. Hurley, Anthony Johnson, Paul Johnson, Meghan Limaye, Brian Mahoney, Richard Moran, Amanda C. Reider, Shari Thomashow, Christina Tonges, Kathryn Yoo.

Grade 12: Gil Arbtsman, Raj Bhandari, Sean M. Devaney, Samantha Hermann, Christa Jensen, Christina Kozlowski, Heather A. Lane, Joshua Lerner, Albert Lin, Gregory Matthews, Beth Mokrauer, Tyler Padla, Katlyn M. Ropars, Vincent Shen, Anna Tabachnik, Jill Woodbury, Alexis Yateczyszyn, Alison Yuhas.

Regular Honor Roll

Grade 9: Casey Ackermann, Allein Alexander, Jason Anderson, Katharine Anderson, Kevin Anderson, James Arbes, Joshua Barer, Rachel Barrett, Erin C. Beck, Julie Bennett, Lauren Bentivegna, Norite Bercovitz, Caitlyn Berkowitz,

Lee J. Bernstein, Amy Bourke, George Braun, Kristy Britt, Nicholas Brownstone, Andrew Brunhofer, Brian Burdulia, Michael A. Burns, Bryan Callahan, Megan Camillo, Dakota Carey, Jonathan Chananier, Rachel Charatan, Abby Chazanow, Emily Cleaves, Brendan Cline, Stephen Cruikshank, Patrick Daurio, Daniel DeCorral, Brian F. Debbie, Kevin J. Devaney, Louis DeVita, Timothy R. Dohm, Monica Dreyer, Margaret Driscoll, David Dunn, Matthew Early, Rachel Fallig, Laura Fernandez, Kristina Fietkiewicz, Christine Fitzpatrick, Kyle Fleming, Michael Fontenelli, Kristen Fortino, Harrison M. Fox, Courtney Fox-Sherman, Daniel Freire, Thomas Fringer, Lucy Frontling, John Gagliano, Muping Gan, Pierce T. Gaynor, Sarah Gerber, Kyle D. Gillyard, Arlene Gil-Moleiro, Jeffrey Goldstein, Andrea Gordon, Ryan A. Gundrum, Kunal Gupta, Lauren Heffernan, Brent Hewitt, Meaghan Higgins, Samantha Hirtler, James J. Hoban, Jillian Hobson, Alexander Hodara, Andrea C. Hollander, Benjamin Holt, Cristina Insinga, Katherine Itz, Erik Jacobsen, Kristopher Kagan, Noelle Kandigian, Alexander Kao, David Kaplow, Angelina M. Kozak, Jennifer Ann Lane, Guglielmo Laurenzi, Thomas W. Layton, Stephanie Lederman, Andrew Lent, Bryan Levine, Alexander Lewis, Matthew Liebowitz, Xiao-Yang Lin, Jessica Lipschutz, Caitlin Lisooy, Brianna E. Lojo, Caitlin P. Mahoney, Samantha Manetti, Melissa McCloskey, Kaitlin McGovern, Anna McGrath, Matthew Melino, John R. Meredith, Callie Meserole, Thomas Meylor, Lauren Micelli, Norman Michalek, Kimberly Milan, Jessica Minsky, Samantha Mooney, Kyle Murray, Julia M. Nelson, Neal Nemiroff, Alexandra Nish, Victor Nolasco, Thomas O'Brien, Jillian Olsen, Eunice Park, Danielle Partenope, Robert Pavleszek, Steven Pazzdro, Stacey Perlman, Jeffrey Perrella, Kara Petersen, Jessica Porter, Alexandra Psychojios, Kathryn Read, Caitlin Reilly, Luke A. Ricci, Thomas J. Ricciuti, Sarah K.

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Grade 10: Jeremy S. Berk, Amy Bernstein, Brooke L. Bernstein, Diego Betancourt, Evan Bilheimer, Samuel J. Brenner, Lauren Campo, Rebecka Candelore, Caroline Cariste, Rebecca Cass, Allison M. Clancy, Garrett Cockren, G. Chadwick Cook, Lyndsay Couture, Brent S. Davis, Casandra DePalma, Urmi Dedhiya, Lyndsay Degiralamo, Thomas Del Duca, Leah DiMatteo, Amanda Dickson, Carina C. Don, Athina Douts, Jeffrey Dresely, Brian Dunstan, Lauren Eisenberg, Jessie El Koury, Jamie Elbaum, Shaun Elwell, Katherine Fahrentzhold, Evan Falk, Michael J. Fantini, Jenna Federgreen, Michael J. Feniger, Patrick D. Fleming, Megan Fowler, Kristina Fraites, Courtney Franko, Jennifer Gerkens, Keivan Ghorbanzadeh, Deanna Goldner, Justin Goncalves, Julia Gormley, Michael Gorski, Julie Gralla, Emily Rose Greenberg, Jeffrey Greenlaw, James R. Hanas, Mark D. Harbaugh, Max Heitner, Alexandra Hermann, Craig H. Hewitt, Meisha J. Hill, Katelyn Hoens, Jeffrey Hogan, Peter Hrinewski, Richard Hughes, Max Kaplan, Edward Kerins, John Kerr, Valerie Kerr, Samuel Kim, Sarah L. Klass, Rebecca Korn, Edward Kramkowski, Jeremy N. Krell, Michelle Kuppertsmit, Sara Lesko, Andrew R. Levy, Abigail M. Lewis, Elizabeth MacKay, Emily Rose MacNeil, Michelle Markowski, Sarah Masel, Kristen Materek, Mary McCall, Suzanne Merkelson, Jared M. Messina, Jared S. Moloshok, Joel Neme, Barrett Newell, Katherine Newingham, Hillary Nicoll, Lauren E. Nolan, Lisa H. Novick, Roshan Nozari, Katharine Okamoto, Michael S. Oliff, Annie Onishi, Adrienne O'Rourke, Emily R. Ortuso, Danielle Parkinson, Brett Paulan, Rebecca Perch, Sarah Perch, Bryan Power, Elizabeth Purcell, Dina Ragab, David P. Reinhardt, Patrick G. Rizk, Alison Beth Rodino, Gregory Ryan,

Jr., Perry Sacks, Julie Sadick, John Sawicki, Willa A. Schaefer, William Schoenbach, Lindsay Seagull, Sasha Sharif, Emily K. Sheehan, Andrew Skoller, Katherine Smith, Lisa Smythe, Dana Brett Spass, Brad Speck, Amanda Spector, Matthew Statton, Brian Stotter, Brendan Sullivan, Jessica Sussman, Jonathan Tannenbaum, Allison Tiedrich, David Torres, Christopher Tropeano, Justin Tullo, Allison Turitz, John H. Velasco, Christopher Velderman, Ashvin Vijayakumar, Alec Wasserman, Jacqueline Weidman, Elizabeth J. Werner, Lauren Winchester, Cameron Wong, Michael Woods, Anne Yingling, Zoe Zachariades, Michael Zahler, Lorena Zamarelli, Dana Zichlin, Nicole Zubizarreta.

Grade 11: Stephen Adamo, Katherine Albino, Stephen Anderson, Brooke Austin, Carolyn Avis, Leigh Mary Bannworth, Emily L. Barnes, Christopher Barrasso, Kevin M. Behr, Sabrina C. Bengali, Nicole Brunetto, Erica Bucciarelli, Jennifer Buccino, Hannah A. Burke, Ryan Burslem, Thomas Byrne III, Sean Callahan, Matthew Calvaruso, Brian Ciacciarelli, Jessica Conner, Alex C. Crawford, Samantha B. Davis, Joshua Dennerlein, Dianna DePalmer, Alexandra Devlin, Brendan J. Egan, Rebecca Fallon, Kathleen Ferio, Daniel Francis, Konry Freundlich, Jennifer Frost, Ariel Garfinkel, Beverly Gee, Katherine Geenber, Danielle Gelber, Amanda Genova, Adam Gerkens, Nicholas Gismondi, Erin Goldberger, Christopher Gonzalez, Alyson Goodman, Scott Grobstein, Samuel Gurdus, Christina Hamway, Carolyn Harbaugh, Erika Hasenfus, David Hedman, Christian F. Heinen, Simone Heist, Kevin Hobson, Michael K. Huber, Peter Itz, Michael J. Ivan, Steven Jacobsen, Elizabeth K. Joyce, Jack H. Joyce, Elizabeth Keating, Somi Kim, Wai-Ching Kong, Joseph Korfmacher, Hrvoje Lundeka, James Leong, Kaitlin Lipe, Cassandra Lo, Jourdan Loffredo, Caitlin L. Lojo, Jeremy MacKechnie, Gabrielle Mahar, Dana Ann Marra, Jennie T. Mathew, Robert M. Mench, Jason Mesches, Stephen Meyer, Jacob Mirsky, Celine Mogielnicki, Lyndsey D. Mroz, David A. Muroff, Lauren C. Musacchia, Pamela Musat, Jennifer Napiorski, Amanda Nehring, Katherine J. Nicol, Adam Seth Novick, Theresa Nowicki, Yasmin Nozari, Polina Opelbaum, Stacy Osborn, Vladimir Oukhmylenko, David Palma, Ryan E. Palumbo, Pooja Patel, Carolyn Pecoraro, Sean Perlman, Alison Petrow, Laura Pietruski, Brian J. Pirot, Callin Przybylski, Eadaoin Quinn, Erica S. Raiff, Alex

Regenstreich, Katherine O. Riddle, David B. Riggs, Catherine Rimondi, Aurora Rivendale, Melissa Rosen, Matthew F. Rowe, Andrew Royston, Meredith Rucinsky, Alice Ryan, Rebecca Sabreen, Carolina Safar, Neril Sandeep, Christina Santilli, Angelika Schmidt, Joshua Schoenfeld, Tyler A. Seeger, Laura Shelman, Irina Sheremeteyeva, Caroline Sheridan, Andrew Sinnenberg, Caitlin Stanley, Jaclyn Steinbach, Lauren Steller, Anne Tabachnick, Lee J. Tomasso, Caitlin Towey, Tovah Tripp, David Urban, Kristen G. Valla, Shanna Vella, Emily J. Warren, Allison Wicks, Donald E. Williams III, Christopher Wolski, Alex Wright, Ashley A. Yarusi, Laura M. Yee, Kyle Yost, Jenna Zorn.

Grade 12: Francine D. Agnone, Anthony Agresta, Michael Babetski, Alison Bennett, Sarah Bhagat, Beniam Biftu, Keith Bodayla, Mary L. Bogatko, Andrew Bridgman, Jenna Britt, John Joseph Burns, Karen Castaldo, Douglas Chananie, Angelina Chaplygina, James Charatan, Emily Chen, Shelby E. Cherin, John Chiesa, Vanessa Church, Megan Connors, Jennifer Dalrymple, Dominique Diaz, Allison M. Edles, David Eisenberg, Gregory Engel, Jennifer Fleck, Christopher Ford, Vivian J. Futran, Mara Ganz, Maryanne Garry, Eileen Gessner, Kelly A. Gibbons, Mollie O. Gibbons, Megan Gonnella, Thomas J. Greene, Timothy Heine, Charles D. Hely, Toby Hershkowitz, Ryan Hoens, Zontee Hou, Dean Jan, Emily Kahn, Matthew Kahn, Daniel R. Kane, Lawrence Kao, Ariel B. Kaye, James Kennedy, Susan E. Kennedy, Angela W. Kim, David Koepfel, Whitney Laird, Elizabeth Latulippe, Marisa K. Lau, Joshua Lawrence, Jessica Lee, Christine Leiz, Daniel Lynes, Michele Madorma, Orlee Maimon, Benjamin Masel, William Masket, Sarah Masterson, Gregory W. Mathews, Alexandra Maus, Christina McCabe, Joseph McCabe, Paul Meierdieck, Ryan T. Mench, Jenise Morgan, Darcy O'Brien, Adam Osborn, Alexander Pinho, Jacqueline Ramalho, Daniel N. Rea, Angela Ricci, Cari-Nicole Rock, Jordan Rodriguez Dunn, Tracy Rood, Alexa Rose, Matthew Rothstein, Chad Rubin, Andrew Ruotolo III, Kenny Sanocki, James Scariati, Kelly Schmidt, Douglas E. Shineman, Julian D. Siano, Lindsay-Rose Sinclair, Martha Strickland, Emily N. Suda, Christopher Thayer, Christian Urban, Alexa Vantosky, Christine Velasco, Matthew Velderman, Patricia Veltri, Lisa Venezia, Melissa Walsh, Alison Weinstein, Susan Williams, Joshua Zucker, Joseph Zulewski.

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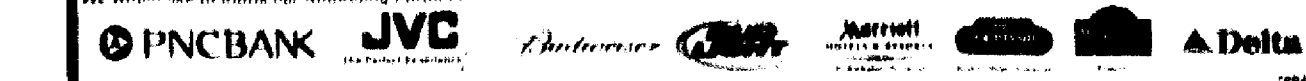
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Sports

MURPHY'S LAW Attention span wilts under the heat

by DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

Now that the weather appears to be clearing and summer is nally upon us (knock on wood) it is becoming increasingly difficult to sit in front of a computer and maintain focus on any one particular subject for very long.

Baseball has taken center stage in the sports world, but here are still plenty of off-season happenings that deserve some attention.

— The University of Miami and Virginia Tech finally joined the ACC, quickly transforming it into one of the top football conferences in the nation, if not the best. Don't feel the least bit bad for the Big East, who once coached the Atlantic 10 and is hinking about doing the same to Conference USA in much the same fashion it's suing the ACC or going after the Big East. If you want to feel bad for somebody, feel bad for the players who are once again collateral damage in the big business of college sports. Now look for the ACC and Big East to battle over Louisville.

— Here's a little way to spice up the NBA Draft: Instead of only being able to select a player with your pick, how about allowing teams to cut a player with minimal or no salary cap ramifications during the first round. Example: Instead of the Knicks having to select a player with the ninth pick, they could have released Latrell Sprewell, entering his name into the draft, and clearing his entire contract, or lets say around 75 percent of it, off the books.

How much drama would that create? All of a sudden Washington, picking behind the Knicks has a choice between drafting Georgia guard Jarvis Hayes or picking up Sprewell. Teams would be trading up or back to get their hands on a newly available veteran player, and college or high school players, entering the draft early hoping to be a first round pick to get the guaranteed contract, would be more hesitant to enter and would stay in school longer, boosting the college game.

— Knicks GM Scott Layden got extremely lucky in this year's draft, lets hope he doesn't ruin it by trading for Antoine Walker.

— Jason Kidd will end up in San Antonio, but the Kings will beat the Pistons in next year's NBA Finals.

— Early prediction on this year's draft class: In 10 years Carmelo Anthony will be the best player, not King James.

— Did anyone else get a weird Ahmad Rashad-Michael Jordan vibe during ESPN's Stewart Scott's interview with LeBron James?

— Most recent sign that the end is near: The Chicago Bears sold naming rights to Bank One, and will now be referred to as "Bears football presented by Bank One." I don't expect to read that in print too many more times, but their poor radio and PA announcers will have to say it plenty.

— Is it now a compliment when somebody tells me I hit my tee shots like a 13-year old girl? Michelle Wie, a 13-year old from Hawaii finished 2-over at the ShopRite Classic in Galloway Township this past weekend. Wie, who can reportedly drive the ball 300 yards, will play in the U.S. Women's Open in Oregon next weekend after becoming the youngest winner of a USGA event for adults when she won the U.S. Amateur's Women's Public Links title.

— It's good to see New Jersey Nets 12th man Brian Scalabrine has gotten himself a summer job, appearing on HBO's Project Greenlight. And does anybody else think those directors are just a little creepy?

— The New York Mets being 14-46, 17.5 games out of first place is bad, but not as bad as losing all six games to the Yankees.



Westfield's Greg Matthews scoops up a grounder against Cranford Friday. The Post 3 squad fell 15-13 but has gotten off to a 5-2 start this summer.

LARRY MURPHY/CORRESPONDENT

Westfield off to strong start

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

It's almost difficult to use the term senior when describing the Westfield Post 3 American Legion squad, but the young team is continuing to play like seasoned vets.

The collection of underclassmen, which relied heavily on the contributions of freshman and sophomores to finish the Westfield High School varsity season with eight victories in the final 10 games, has gotten off on the right foot this summer.

Westfield stands at 5-2 in Union County American Legion play, having defeated Springfield, Berkeley Heights, Summit, Union Catholic and Rahway while dropping a 15-13 slugfest to defending Union County American Legion champ Cranford Friday. Westfield only other loss of the season came when its game at Springfield was cut short due to darkness as they were beginning to slice into the Springfield lead.

Westfield faced Scotch Plains yesterday, will host Berkeley Heights 10:30 a.m. Sunday and faces Clark 5:45 Monday.

"The kids are playing really well," said Head Coach Bob Gardella. "They are playing very hard."

"We were down early (against Cranford) but didn't give up. They kept battling and playing hard and we eventually got a lead, but just couldn't hold them off long enough."

Westfield has relied both on pitching and hitting to earn its five victories. A deep pitching staff carried Westfield through the first few games but the bats have been coming on as of late, exemplified in the 13-run outburst against Cranford.

"Everybody has been hitting," said Gardella. "The kids have been swinging the bats real well. The first couple of games the pitching it was the pitching that was carrying us."

"They're a young team and the future looks very good for (Westfield High) Coach (Bob) Brewster. I'm having a lot of fun coaching these kids."

With the rain wreaking havoc on the early portion of the schedule and the team needing to play 22 games between the end of June and the end of July, Gardella has had few opportunities to practice with the club. Instead he's focused on improving their understanding of game situations and overall chemistry.

"My main focus coming in was to get them to play together and to gel as a team because they are the future of Westfield High School baseball," said Gardella. "Fundamentally, we just haven't had a lot of time to practice."

"We just want to win as many games as we can and make the playoffs. Moral is up, everyone seems to be working hard and playing well."

John Boyd has been the squad's top pitcher early in the year, with Billy Hearon and Mike Streamon also seeing quality time on the hill. Second baseman Mike Diaz has provided one of the best bats. Catcher Mike Murray has been playing mostly with his AAU squad early in the summer and has seen limited time with the club. One of Westfield's best hitters in the spring he'll provide a major shot in the arm to the squad when he joins them on a more full time basis following the completion of the AAU season next week. WHS grads Mike Dubitsky and Greg Matthews have been providing the leadership for the squad.

Martins' walk-off homer lifts Patriots to .500 mark

Eric Martins' three-run homer in the ninth inning capped a five-run rally Monday and gave the Somerset Patriots a 6-3 triumph over the Long Island Ducks in an Atlantic League of Professional Baseball game as 4756 fans looked on at Bridgewater's Commerce Bank Park.



ble, moved up on a sacrifice bunt and the next two batters were walked intentionally by reliever Mike Gray, loading the bases for Meran (who'd entered the game for defensive purposes an inning earlier). Meran sent the first offering from Gray (1-3) into center field to end the game, lifting the Surf's record to 26-27.

After the Pats had managed just one hit and faced a 3-1 deficit going into their final at-bat, Michael Warner got things started with a bunt single. Matt Dryer singled to right and Emiliano Escandon's hit brought in a run. Luis Lopez delivered another run-scoring single and Martins belted a shot over the left-field fence for his first homer of the year, also putting Somerset at the .500 level (27-27) for the first time.

Ryan Radmanovich's sixth homer, coming in the second stanza, was the Pats' lone hit until the big last inning.

Starter Rick Krivda pitched 7 2/3 innings for the Pats, allowing seven hits and three earned runs, before Mike Oquist (2-3) finished up to earn the victory.

The Patriots are playing at Bridgeport (Conn.) tonight and tomorrow and will be in Nashua (N.H.) during the weekend, before the ALPB All-Star break. The season resumes 7:05 p.m. Friday, July 11 when the Pats face Bridgeport to begin a nine-game homestand at CBP.

Patriots 3, Long Island 1 — Justin Jensen threw eight innings of shutout ball and Escandon delivered what turned out to be the deciding hit Sunday afternoon in front of 4336 fans at Commerce Bank Park.

Jensen (2-1) allowed six hits and one walk while striking out two before he was relieved in the final inning by Scott Navarro and Kirk Griffin. Escandon's single through the middle sent home two runs in the eighth, staking the Pats to a 3-0 lead.

Somerset broke up a scoreless battle in the seventh when Alex Hernandez singled through the right side of the infield with two out, stole second and third and came in on an error by Ducks catcher Javier Cardona.

Former Immaculata High standout and Hillsborough resident Tony Gsell started his fourth straight game at shortstop for the Pats, going 1 for 3 and again playing flawlessly in the field.

Atlantic City 5, Patriots 7 — Jorge Meran's ground-ball single through the middle sent in the winning run Saturday night when the Atlantic City Surf edged the Pats in an 11-inning contest in front of 2626 fans at The Sandcastle in Atlantic City.

Gsell had three hits, including a game-tying solo home run in the ninth inning and a two-run single in the sixth. AC's Juan Thomas led off the 11th with a dou-

ble, moved up on a sacrifice bunt and the next two batters were walked intentionally by reliever Mike Gray, loading the bases for Meran (who'd entered the game for defensive purposes an inning earlier). Meran sent the first offering from Gray (1-3) into center field to end the game, lifting the Surf's record to 26-27.

The Pats were up 5-0 until AC rallied to tie it in the sixth and the home team went ahead 6-5 in the eighth on a squeeze bunt. But Gsell, an ex-Chicago Cubs draftee, homered in the ninth to pull the Pats even.

Radmanovich's homer with two out in the 10th put Somerset in front 7-6 before the Surf pulled even in the home half of the inning with a pair of hits.

Patriots 10, Atlantic City 5 — Lopez had three hits, including a solo home run, and three other Patriots also belted homers Friday night as 3695 fans looked on at The Sandcastle.

Dryer (2 for 5) got the scoring started by connecting for a homer to left field on the first pitch from Dave Carroll in the opening inning for a 1-0 lead. With Somerset in front by one, the visitors padded their lead to 6-2 in the fourth when Hernandez (2 for 4, three RBI, three runs, three steals) cracked a two-run homer and Radmanovich added a solo shot.

Gsell went 0 for 3 but drove in a run.

Matt Schwager, who relieved starter Brett Jodie in the fifth and went 3 1/3 innings, earned his second victory in three decisions (three hits, one run, four Ks). Jodie allowed six hits, five walks and four runs (all earned) in 4 2/3 innings.

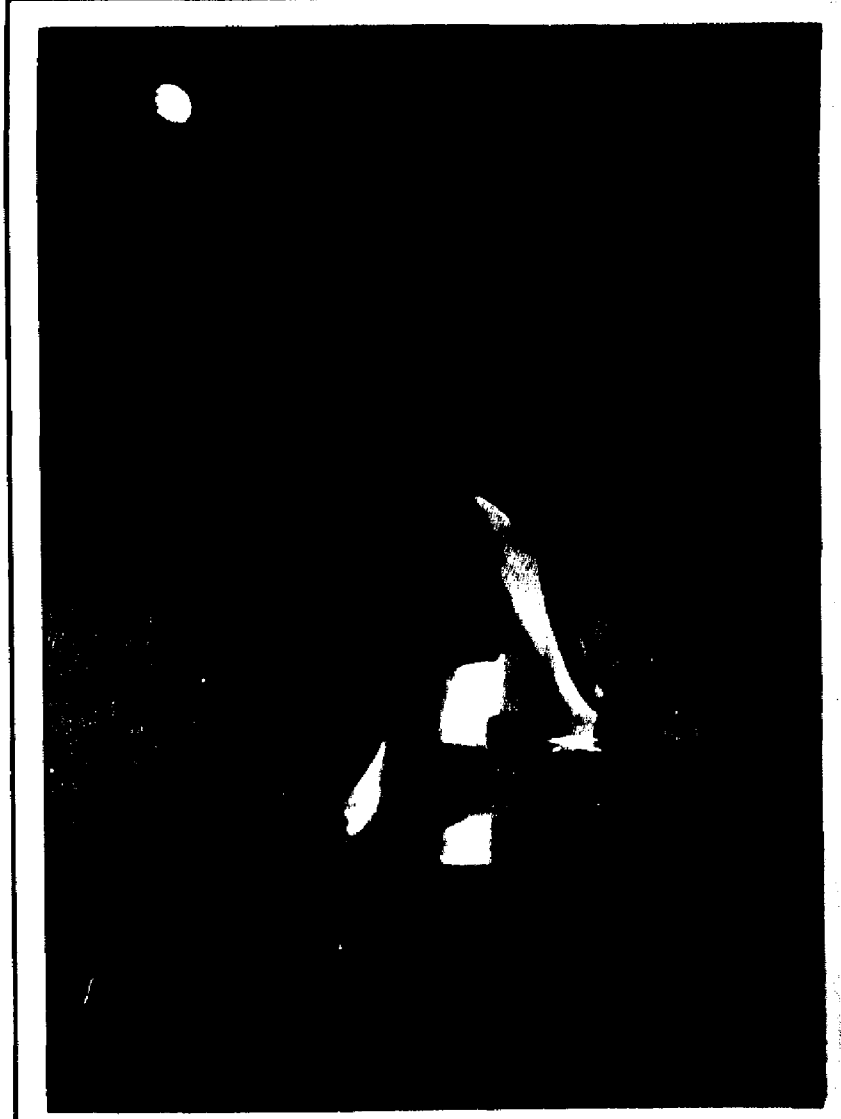
Patriots 3, Atlantic City 1 — Radmanovich belted a pair of solo homers and Gsell, hitting in the No. 2 slot in the order, singled and doubled Thursday night as the Pats topped AC in front of 2425 fans at The Sandcastle.

Radmanovich, who missed the previous game because of a sore shin, led off the second inning with a home run and added another one in the eighth to boost the Somerset lead to 3-1.

Jeremy Luster had an RBI single in the fourth and Tom McClee went 2 for 4.

Winning pitcher Steve Faltelack (3-2) gave up five hits and three walks while striking out three before Leali Brea came in for the final scoreless inning to earn his fourth save.

Newark 7, Patriots 4 — Michael Coleman's grand-slam homer in the seventh gave the Bears a 6-3 lead and they held on to win the June 25 game at Commerce Bank Park with 6422 fans looking on.



DAVE DENICHILO/FIRE

Staring down the barrel
Dave DeNichilo fires a strike for The Baseball School in Scotch Plains, who defeated the Branchburg 13-year olds 3-1 Friday in North Jersey Baseball League action. Scotch Plains rallied for two runs in the top of the ninth to clinch the win.

SPORTSCENE

WESTFIELD "Y" DEVILFISH SWIM TEAM TRYOUTS

The Westfield "Y" will hold tryouts for the 2003-2004 Devilfish Swim Team on Monday, July 21. Warm up begins at 4:00pm, tryouts will be held from 4:30 to 5:30pm.

The Devilfish Swim Team is a competitive team for children and teens ages 8 to 15. The team competes against other YMCA's in the area in both dual and invitational meets. Swimmers who meet qualifying standards have the option of participating in regional and national meets. The team is composed of approximately 150 swimmers, two girls' teams and one boys' team. Swimmers practice between four and nine times per week. Parent involvement is expected.

The swim team tryout consists of the following: 8 and under swimmers are expected to swim one lap each of butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle. The 15 minute swim is optional. 9 and over swimmers are expected to swim a 200 individual Medley and the 15 minute swim. The 15 minute swim is an endurance test for freestyle. YMCA coaches will count the number of laps that swimmers can complete in 15 minutes. The individual Medley is composed of two laps each of butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle.

butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle. The Westfield "Y" hosts two invitational meets per year, the Devilfish Classic in October and the Boys & Girls Junior Championships in February.

A \$100 deposit is required to tryout, and is refundable if the child does not make the team. For more information, call Paul Casanova, Westfield "Y" Director of Competitive Aquatics at 908-233-2700 x253.

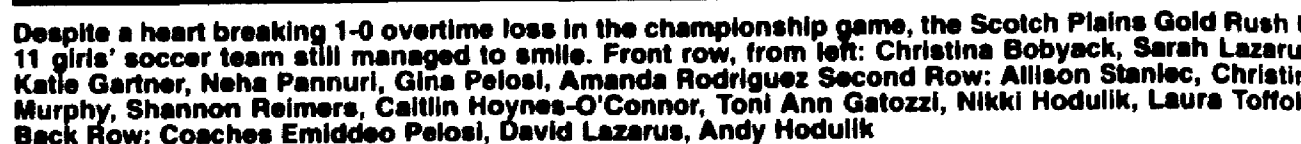
AEROBIC CERTIFICATION

The Farwood Scotch Plains YMCA and the National Dance Exercise Instructors Training Association (NDEITA) are co-sponsoring two public training events on July 26 and 27, July 28 features primary aerobic certification and July 29 features continuing education credits. This will consist of a workshop on nutrition. The workshop will give participants American Council on Exercise continuing education credits.

Space is limited! For registration information call (1-800) AEROBIC. NDEITA is a non-profit agency dedicated to offering education and certification to all who are interested and, in the process, help to improve the quality of fitness instruction to the public.

goalie Rachel Parker and she made several acrobatic saves to keep the game scoreless. After the trickle goal which was credited to Katie Comacchia, the Lightning exploded with each goal seemingly more impressive than the last.

Rodriguez played her usual solid game at fullback and halfback, Cheryl Monteiro set up some chances as a forward, and Kristen Thompson completely dominated her opposing players. Jessica Nacournev was injured for the game.



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Real Estate

Realty website proves to be a useful resource

Last year, the ERA Brokers of New Jersey launched their own web site, ERANJ.com, to provide valuable NJ-specific information and services for all homeowners. Today, the site is a reliable source of information about the state, properties for sale, financing options, schools, taxes, neighborhoods, and other related topics.

According to Scott Lauri, Broker/Owner of ERA Absolute Realty, who developed and continues to enhance the site, "This year, we have added new options for visitors to our site. For example, the ERA Mortgage section now contains a Learning Center where consumers can find information on different loan programs (e.g. fixed, adjustable and balloon mortgages) and mortgage tools such as amortization, refinance, affordability, monthly payment and rent vs. buy calculators."

"We are especially pleased to offer both existing homeowners and buyers the option to finance their homes using our web site as well," said Lauri. After checking on ERA Mortgage, applicants complete a quick and easy online form, and within minutes receive a loan decision, which is valid for 90 days. The decision letter can even be printed to show to a Realtor. "This new service gives buyers the confidence of knowing they are pre-approved for a mortgage at the best rate possible," added Lauri.

ERA Mortgage reviews an

applicant's credit history online, and then uses its underwriting technology (provided by industry leader Fannie Mae) and decades of experience to make a decision.

In addition to providing mortgages and refinancing for homeowners, the ERANJ.com web site can also help consumers through the real estate process. For example, customers can go online to locate and contact an ERA real estate professional in a particular geographic area. Consumers can search ERA listings, view listings from local multiple listing systems and obtain demographic, school, housing, crime and other information on NJ communities.

All of the aforementioned services are part of the ERA Select Services program, in which ERA offers valuable savings from national and local vendors that can be used throughout the lifetime of homeownership in addition to recommendations for local attorneys and home inspectors. Services include the ERA Home Protection Plan, AIT security systems, North American Vanlines movers and much more. Coupons and significant discounts are available to consumers by either visiting a local ERA office or the national ERA web site at www.era.com.

For more information on ERA Mortgage and other services provided by ERA, contact a local ERA office or visit www.ERANJ.com.



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BRIDGEPORT
— D2460

The Bridgeport (D2460) farm/ranch house is a spacious four-bedroom home.

Perfect house for a big lot

By SCOTT ALEXANDER
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Several dormers and a front covered porch accent the beautiful Bridgeport (D2460) farm/ranch house, a spacious four-bedroom home that would be ideal for a large-acreage setting.

One enters the Bridgeport and straight ahead sees the staircase. To one side of the stairs is the dining room, with its built-in hutch and large windows that look out onto the porch. To the other side of the stairs is the living room, which features built-in bookshelves.

The downstairs master suite has a cathedral ceiling with a door opening to the porch. The master suite bathroom is through the walk-in closet and wall closet and has a large spa tub, dual sinks and a shower.

The large great room has 10-foot ceilings and a fireplace that is surrounded by book-

shelves. There are three windows facing the back yard.

Next to the great room is the bayed nook, which is lined with windows for admitting natural light. A door opens to the back yard.

The large kitchen's highlights are a wall pantry, island and a window over the sink.

Off the kitchen is a half bathroom. Just beyond the kitchen is the utility room with a door that opens into the large garage.

There are three bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs. Each bedroom has a wall closet and access to a private bath. Bedrooms 2 and 3 both have dormers that bathe the rooms in light from the great outdoors.

Bedroom 3 and 4 share a full bathroom with a tub and dual sinks. Bedroom 2 has a private bath with a shower, making it ideal for a guest room or in-law suite.

The hallway has a large linen closet and a gallery for showing off sports trophies or other knickknacks. The middle dormer in the front has a planter underneath and is over the entry below.

This 2,695-square-foot home would be great for a family that needs lots of space. The unfinished basement of 1,881 square feet provides potential for a recreation room, family room, exercise room, storage or even more bedrooms.

For a study plan of the design mentioned in this article, send \$24.95 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Road E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. (Specify name and number for study plan.) A catalog featuring hundreds of home plans is available for \$12.95, or save by ordering both for \$29.95. For faster processing, call (800) 562-1151 or visit www.landmarkdesigns.com.

Local banks best bet for a mortgage

The whole process of applying for and getting a mortgage can be a bit intimidating, especially for first-time home buyers. However, once you know what to expect, it becomes much easier. A community bank is a great place to start. What better place to get a mortgage than one that is familiar with your community?

"Many people turn to their community bank when looking for a mortgage for a reason — it's usually your best bet," says Mercedes Pedrick, Vice President of Mortgage Originations at Spencer Savings Bank. "Community banks have a vested interest in their communities. Therefore, they offer competitive mortgages in order to make sure they do more business in their communities. One will also receive better service from a bank with established roots in your community."

These tips will help speed up your approval process:

— Save three to six months of potential monthly housing expenses.

— Look for and correct inaccuracies on your credit report before applying for a mortgage.

— Bring two months of bank statements and two years of W-2 forms when you apply.

While getting a mortgage does take some work, your community bank is ready to help you along the way. Listen to the advice of your loan officer and most importantly, keep in mind that when it's all over you will be the proud owner of your own home.

Spencer Savings Bank, headquartered in Elmwood Park, New Jersey, is a community bank that has been serving its local communities with integrity and pride for over 60 years.

Hibiscus can turn a problem wet area into a beautiful garden

By JEFF RUGG
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: I read with interest your article regarding flooding in the garden. I have a spot in my garden that will be soggy for a day or two after heavy rains.

Currently, there are hibiscus plants in this area, which forms a privacy border between our home and our neighbors. They haven't died, but are not thriving either. Is there another plant you might suggest that can tolerate having its feet wet? Thanks for your help.

A: Some hibiscuses are tolerant of wet soil. Hibiscus moscheutos (many common names include rose mallow, swamp mallow and wild cotton) is a 3-foot-to 8-foot-tall shrub in the southern states and a 3-foot-tall perennial in the northern states. It has red, white or pink flowers that grow as big as dinner plates. If you have a wet area, this is a great plant.

Hibiscus syriacus (Althea or Rose-of-Sharon) is a hardy shrub that does not tolerate wet or very dry soil.

There are many shrubs, trees and perennials that will easily grow in a soil that stays wet for a few days or weeks at a time. Your local nursery will have many suggestions for native plants.

The following trees are good for wet locations and most can be grown just about everywhere in the country: red and silver maples, alder, serviceberry, birch, larch, sweet gum, sycamore, poplars, swamp white and pin oak, willow and bald cypress. Shrubs include: chokeberry, some bamboo, buttonbush, red-twig dogwood, several hollies, bayberry, some azaleas, arbovitae and some viburnums.

Some common wetland perennials include: monkshood, sweet flag, astilbe, marsh marigold, elephant's ear, several iris, lobelia, monkey flower,

forget-me-not, cattail and some violets.

Any homeowner or commercial property owner shouldn't have any trouble turning a problem wet area into a beautiful, easy-to-maintain area. Wet areas from downspouts, basement sump pump outflows or low drainage can be turned into a rain garden. If it is occasionally too wet to mow, try turning it into a benefit.

Q: Please help! I just read, with great interest, your column. You answered a question about sycamore trees with a "leafing out" problem.

My husband and I are having the same problem with our two Red Sunset Maple trees. They have not yet leafed out. Both have tiny buds, and one tree has just three or four miniature leaves. The other tree has four places on the lower trunk where new branches are trying to form with new growth about 1 or 2 inches long. Even though they formed

tiny buds over the winter, some of the small branches appear to be dry/dead. We had the trees planted when our house was built. They were planted in the fall of 1999, as 2 1/2-inch diameter parkway trees. Each year since then they have dropped their leaves early in the fall and leafed out late in the spring, but never this late. About a month ago, we pounded tree fertilizer stakes around them, but it hasn't seemed to help. Any suggestions would be much appreciated.

Q: I have the same problem with a Cleveland Pear. The tree is planted adjacent to my septic tank. It started having this problem of not leafing out real well about three years ago and I haven't been able to locate a good description/solution on the Internet. I don't know whether to put something in the soil, on the tree, or if it's sick, cut it down.

Q: I have a question about my Hibiscus syriacus. It's the

centerpiece of one of my gardens and has yet to develop leaves. Last year about one third of it died, but the rest did OK. I cut off the dead parts. I know it's a late bloomer, but this seems too late. Do you have any advice or know where I can go for help? I don't want to remove it yet.

A: Wow, so many questions and so little space left to answer them. Actually, I grouped them together because they are all related. The likely current cause of each of the tree's problems is an incurable fungal infection systemic throughout the tree. The maples and pear probably have verticillium wilt, the hibiscus probably has cotton root rot.

Fungal disease organisms infected the tree and have clogged the vascular tissue within the tree. The small areas that are getting water and food are valiantly trying to survive and are sending out new growth, but the end is near for these trees.

Fungal infections are difficult to treat, even if you discover them early. Cutting off dead branches several inches lower than the visible symptoms and cleaning the cutting tool with alcohol or bleach

between cuts might help. A licensed arborist can tell you if the tree can be saved and how to best treat it.

The likely initial cause for each of these tree's problems was the drought weather conditions we have had for the last few years. As listed above, red maples are great wetland trees. It is unlikely that the parkway is a wet location. It probably got too hot and dry for their best health. Once established (about a year for each inch in trunk diameter when planted), the pear can tolerate dry soils, but it should be watered regularly during drought conditions. The hibiscus does not tolerate being dry, but don't overwater it either.

E-mail questions to Jeff Rugg at jlrugg@pondsupplies.com.
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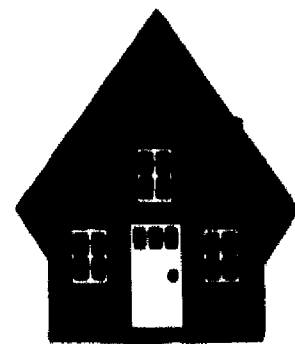
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\$15,995	\$20,995	\$14,995	\$11,995	\$13,995
2000 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, moonroof, only 29,000 miles. VIN#YC325688	2001 JEEP CHEROKEE LAREDO 4 dr, 4x4, V-8, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, moonroof, 35,000 miles. VIN#JC3242	2003 INFINITI QX-4 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, wood package, moonroof, 15,000 miles. VIN#J1008121	2000 LEXUS SC-300 2 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather heated seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, moonroof, alloy wheels, VIN#YSC30981	2000 LEXUS ES-300 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather heated seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, moonroof, alloy wheels, only 22,000 miles. VIN#Y2300250
\$18,495	\$22,595	\$28,995	\$27,995	\$22,995
2000 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE SE 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, only 17,000 miles. VIN#YB366212	2000 BUICK PARK AVENUE 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, 43,000 miles. VIN#Y935081	2000 TOYOTA TUNDRA 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, v-8, 4x4, cap bedliner, only 29,000 miles. VIN#Y5048831	1999 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER Express, 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, captain's seat, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, child seat, 45,000 miles. VIN#353212	1998 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, 3 seats, tilt, cruise, 41,000 miles. VIN#WY98112
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Automotive/Classified

Toyota Gen Y cars are nimble, but not radical

BY JERRY GARRETT
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Hype and hyperbole in abundance accompanied Toyota's announcement a couple of years back that it would soon launch an all-new, youth-oriented Scion car line.

Anything up to and including the re-invention of the wheel was anticipated. Bland is banned, the ad campaign decreed. Prepare for the unconventional.

But when Scion finally begins its limited rollout this summer, prospective customers will find the wheels are still round, the engines are in their usual places, and humans sit inside in normal seats, not beanbag chairs.

In fact, there's nothing much new at all about Scion's first two models: the xA and the xB; they've each been for sale in Japan for some time - as Toyotas!

What's unexpected is that Scions will be sold in the United States at Toyota dealerships.

The idea of a separate dealership network, which Toyota commissioned when it spun off its Lexus luxury division 12 years ago, was initially appealing. But two obstacles prevented that:

Scion's rollout is going to happen so slowly, fledgling dealers would likely starve before the first true Scion product emerges from the pipeline in a year or so.

It will be hard to make much profit off cars priced as cheaply as Scions will be.

Overall, the pricing's got to be the best news for anyone interested in a Scion. The cute xA carries an MSRP of just \$12,480; the quirky xB goes for \$13,200 more (or \$13,680 for readers without a calculator).

More good news: those prices include air conditioning, a premium audio sys-

tem, power amenities and ABS brakes.

As Toyota is quick to point out: "...this is the same level of equipment found on ... the Camry LE."

The biggest differences are that the ubiquitous Camry is about twice as big, has a V-6 and there are at least six of them waiting at any given time at any intersection in the United States.

The Scion, meanwhile, has it all over the Camry when it comes to "hip," "rad" or "tight." Or at least Toyota hopes it does.

If indeed the Scion proves to be all those things, however, that's where the trouble might begin. Will dealers see an opportunity to mark them up a little (or a lot), as history has shown us can happen with must-have rides such as the Mini, the PT Cruiser, the Hummer H2 or almost any Harley-Davidson?

To participate in selling Scions, some 104 (out of 133) Toyota dealers in California, where the yearlong national rollout begins this summer, had to sign the "Scion Covenant."

It reads more like a peace treaty between Toyota and its dealers, but it's really a guarantee of Zen-like sales practices between Scion and its buyers.

Toyota is delicately trying to keep the sales process on track by promising shoppers the chance to "build" their dream Scion on the Internet, print out the pricing, and take it to a dealer who will cooperate on transaction price and options.

Although Scions will come fairly well loaded, plenty of options are available



When Scion finally begins its limited rollout this summer, prospective customers will find the wheels are still round, the engines are in their usual places, and humans sit inside in normal seats, not beanbag chairs.

(although neither as many nor as much fun as those for the Mini) to personalize each car.

To make sure Scions remain affordable to their target audience - and that option pricing stays close to MSRP - Scion will offer something of an industry first: dockside installation.

That will be done by the manufacturer rather than the dealer, although the dealer can still do installations; the process is just something designed to help keep pricing consistent.

But why is all this tippy-toeing with buyers so important?

Because Toyota figures most Scion customers will be Gen Y or female first-timers. Surveys show that these people are skittish as raccoons in daylight when it comes to the sales process.

To soothe those fears, Toyota promises a separate "Scion Discovery Zone" (paintball rounds not included) within Toyota dealerships. Shoppers can go explore without being approached by salesmen. And salesmen are supposed to be Scion-specific, distinguished, perhaps, by their multiple piercings and body art.

And Scion buyers can actually apply for their loans online.

If all that works harmoniously, Scion owners can expect an enjoyable owner-

ship experience. In our recent short test drive, both Scion models proved to be nimble and peppy.

The attention-getter (garnering almost too much attention on our ride) was the cubist creation, the xB, which is like a shrunken Honda Element sans the cladding.

In Japan, where it's known as the bB, this quintessential Tokyo econobox is inexplicably considered highly fashionable. No telling how it will play in Peoria. The xA, called the 1st in Japan, is an appealing, if somewhat generic package that is guaranteed to turn far fewer heads.

Each is powered by the same 1.5-liter motor that comes in the underloved Toyota Echo. Despite only being capable of generating 108 horsepower and 105 foot-pounds of torque, the cars feel zippy (the xB more so) because they're so small and light.

The xA and the xB each get mid-30s in miles per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline. And isn't this a clever time to be introducing a car with this kind of economy?

"When these cars were introduced in Japan," noted chief engineer Tetsuya Tada, "sales went crazy - nearly double the number (48,000) we had projected."

2004 Scion

Body style: Sub-compact four-door hatchback
Drive system: Front-wheel
Engine size & type: 1.5-liter, 4-cylinder, DOHC, with VVTi
Horsepower: 108 at 6,000 rpm

Torque: 105 foot-pounds at 4,200 rpm

Transmission: 5-speed manual (4-speed automatic optional)
Acceleration: 0 to 60 mph 8.7 (xB manual), 8.9 (xA manual)

EPA fuel economy estimates: 30 mpg city, 33 highway xB manual; 30/34 xB automatic, 31/37 xA manual

Fuel tank capacity: 11.9 gallons; regular unleaded recommended

FEATURES

Standard equipment: Air conditioning, premium audio system, tilt wheel, rear defogger/wiper, ABS brakes and power windows, mirrors and door locks.

Safety features: ABS, dual power front air bags, side curtain air bags, first-aid kit and 3-point belts with pretensioners, force limiters, height adjusters and retractors.

CHASSIS

Brakes: front disc, rear drum with ABS, EBD (plus traction control, xB)

Steering: Power rack and pinion

Suspension: Front - independent with MacPherson struts. Rear - independent with torsion bars, trailing arms, stabilizer bar

Tires and wheels: P185/60 R15-inch, with steel wheels

PRICING

Base price: xA: \$12,480 (automatic, \$13,280);

xB: \$13,680 (automatic, \$14,480).

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