

Record-Press

Serving Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood
Friday, January 9, 2004

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50 cents

INS



Over-Powered

Bryan Power scored 13 points off the bench Saturday to help spark the Westfield High boys basketball team to a 62-57 victory over Cranford Saturday. For story see Sports, Page B-1.



Women of the Year

Westfield resident Rose Bauman was recently named Hadassah's "Women of the Year" for Northern New Jersey. The honor recognizes Bauman's volunteer efforts, especially in the area of public health advocacy. See the story on Page A-6.



This Scout soars

Boy Scout Michael Sherry, a Westfield resident, recently earned his wings. Sherry became an Eagle Scout in a ceremony held last fall. For more on Sherry and his community service efforts, see Page A-7.

REMINDER

Genealogy program is Saturday

Larry Fermi will present the program "Crossing the Pond — Finding Immigrant Origins" to the Genealogical Society of the West Fields 10 a.m. Saturday at the Westfield Memorial Library. The program is open to the public.

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Westfield High grad jumps to his death

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Tragedy struck the town Monday when a graduate of Westfield High School who was attending Rutgers University committed suicide in New Brunswick. The student, a 2002 alumnus of the high school, jumped to his death from the top

floor of a New Brunswick parking garage, according to New Brunswick police.

Michael Charmatz, 19, a sophomore at Rutgers University, was pronounced dead at 8:56 p.m. Monday at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Newark. His body was discovered by a Middlesex County sheriff's officer who was walking nearby around

5:45 p.m. and responded to the incident.

Police said Charmatz had left a note on the seat of his Range Rover, which he drove into the parking deck at 120 New St. The note was not addressed to anybody, but indicated his regrets. Charmatz jumped from the sixth floor of the parking garage and fell to the Wellington Street side

of the building.

Charmatz' motive was not immediately known, and police declined to elaborate on the contents of his note.

At Rutgers, Charmatz was a pre-business major and a member of the class of 2006.

According to Lorre Korecky, spokeswoman of the Westfield school district, Charmatz was

president of his senior class at the high school and was a four-year player at tackle and defensive end on the high school football team. He was a member of the National Honor Society, received the president's education award, and graduated with a high grade-point average.

(Continued on page A-2)



Colleen Mahr is sworn as Fanwood mayor by Assemblywoman Linda Stender at Sunday's reorganization meeting. By her side is her husband Geordy Mahr.

NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mahr takes office, lays out her agenda for 2004

New mayor plans public meetings on redevelopment

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — Amid applause and cheers, new borough mayor Colleen Mahr took the oath of office Sunday before an enthusiastic, standing-room-only crowd at Borough Hall. The oath was administered by former mayor and current state Assemblywoman Linda Stender.

Mahr became the 26th mayor in the borough's history, and is now the fourth woman to hold the office, which carries a four-year term. She was joined by new Borough Council members Jack Molenaar and Donna Dolce, who will serve three-year terms. All three newly-elected members are Democrats.

"Being your mayor carries with it a responsibility I will hold proudly and honorably," Mahr said in her address, in which she thanked her supporters and commended Fanwood's departing mayor and councilmembers.

Mahr and the new council members prevailed in November's election by criticizing the Republican-led plan to redevelop much of down-

town; since the election, the new officials have been circumspect about the future of the project.

At Sunday's reorganization meeting, Mahr said, "It is my intention to move forward with the downtown. It will be a priority."

After the meeting, Mahr said that she intends to speak with Landmark Communities, the developer selected by the previous administration. She added that the plan and agreement would serve as a framework for a redevelopment project, but said that she wanted to build public consensus before proceeding.

"During the campaign, it became evident that people felt they did not have enough information pertaining to redevelopment," she said.

In her address, Mahr said she hopes to hold public information meetings about downtown redevelopment over the coming months, the first of which will be held in the first quarter of 2004. The meetings will be held at different venues across the borough, she said.

Mahr also outlined two measures designed to

"During the campaign, it became evident that people felt they did not have enough information pertaining to redevelopment."

— Colleen Mahr

(Continued on page A-2)

Redevelopment, traffic safety top Westfield agenda

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — In his annual state of the town address at the town's reorganization meeting Tuesday, Mayor Greg McDermott connected the past with the future in the course of highlighting issues Westfield will confront in 2004. McDermott addressed the proposed redevelopment projects, and also discussed improving pedestrian safety and town infrastructure.

McDermott noted Westfield organized as a town in 1903, and that the principal issues then were physical improvements to the town such as constructing parks and playgrounds. "One hundred years later, Westfield's priorities have not changed," he said, adding that parking improvements represent a philosophical connection to the past.

The town has selected HKT Nassau as the developer for the project, which includes parking structures at the south side train station and in the Prospect Street parking lots near Trader Joe's. In addition, the town has hired the PMK Group for environmental studies; it has hired McManimon and Scotland as bond counsel; and it has also hired Desmond and Associates to oversee the engineering, negotiations and construction, he noted.

"In 2003 we gathered together the pieces to this very large puzzle. In 2004, we will put the pieces together," McDermott said, "in a way that ensures that the final product is both financially and aesthetically beneficial to our town and to all its residents."

The town will be conducting a traffic study for the project by the

(Continued on page A-2)

Township requests hunt in Watchung

Deer census in Ashbrook set this month

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — By a 4-1 vote, the Township Council passed a resolution Tuesday which may lead to a deer hunt in the township's portion of the Watchung Reservation. The move, which had been requested by Union County officials, came at a special meeting Tuesday night.

In order for Union County to conduct a deer hunt in the reservation, Scotch Plains must authorize the county to submit a formal application to the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife in the township's name. Scotch Plains officials had been

waiting for confirmation that Union County will conduct a deer census for the Ashbrook Reservation before requesting the permit for a hunt in the Watchung reservation. Union County officials said last month the census will be conducted in January.

Inside

Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks again pushes property tax reform at the township's reorganization meeting. See the story on Page A-2.

Scotch Plains is one of five municipalities which border the Watchung reservation.

The others — Summit, New Providence, Mountainside, and Berkeley Heights — are required to pass similar resolutions in order for the hunt to be conducted within their borders.

(Continued on page A-2)

Investigation continues into threat against temple

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — More than a week after Temple Emanu-El closed its doors due to safety reasons, the nature of the threat it received remains unclear. Officials from both the Union County Prosecutor's Office and the Westfield Police Department said that an investigation is continuing into the threat.

According to a report in the Star Ledger Saturday, a letter containing a general threat to Temple Emanu-El was mailed directly to the FBI. Little has been revealed about the contents of the letter except that officials have said that the letter did not include a bomb threat.

After consultation with police, the temple was closed and was under police guard between Dec. 30 and Jan. 2. On Jan. 2, Union County Prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow held a press conference in which he said that there was no credible threat to the safety of the temple or its congregation.

"Police took all of the prudent measures," Assistant Prosecutor

Robert O'Leary said. "We take these matters seriously."

Westfield Police Chief Bernard Tracy said that officials conducted a 48-hour investigation and are confident that normal activities can resume at the temple. "The FBI believes there is no threat at this time," he said. Tracy said that he believes the letter represented an isolated threat and was not likely connected with a bomb threat against the temple in 2000.

Tracy added that during the current orange alert, police have an added presence both at the temple and at other important elements of area infrastructure such as the railroad station. "When an orange alert comes down there are certain things we do, and we step up certain measures," he said.

Neither police nor the Union County Prosecutor's Office would speculate on the motive behind the threat. But according to the New York Times, federal and county officials speaking on the condition of anonymity said they believed that a domestic dispute,

(Continued on page A-2)



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westfield police officers stand guard outside Temple Emanu-El Saturday.

Marks advocates tax reform

By BRAD SHROP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — At the township's reorganization meeting on New Year's Day, Mayor Martin Marks outlined several basic goals for 2004 and discussed the Township Council's achievements over the course of 2003.

As in the previous year's address, Marks identified property tax reform as the most significant issue facing township residents. Marks, recognized statewide as an advocate on the issue, favors a referendum to create a constitutional convention to reform the state's "overreliance" on property taxes. He said the state should shift to some other form of revenue collection to pay for municipal, school and county services. Currently, approximately 50 percent of property tax revenues are devoted to school budgets, and the remaining 50 percent of property taxes are divided between municipal and county budgets.

"If anything of substance is going to be done to achieve a stabilization or reduction in property taxes, our state legislators need to hear from citizens via phone calls, letters, emails, and ultimately at the polls that this is a matter critical to us," Marks said.

Marks cited the establishment of additional recreation fields, the acquisition of a bus for senior citizens, and the approval of the Broadway project near Jerusalem Road as major achievements in 2003.

He said that creating a Special Improvement District (SID) in the township's downtown should be a priority for 2004. A SID would establish a professional manage-

ment organization able "to attract new and innovative businesses to town, retain existing businesses, and then market our Towne Centre to potential patrons both... in Scotch Plains and from surrounding communities," Marks said.

The municipal budget was a contentious issue in Scotch Plains in 2003 as the township saw an 18-point tax increase, its largest ever. "Because of a lagging economy, a second consecutive year of state aid being frozen, and a lower-than-hoped-for budget surplus that simply could not be tapped again to offset property tax increases, this council was forced to make some difficult decisions," Marks said. He added that the township weighed eliminating essential services and personnel against raising taxes and ultimately decided to hike taxes.

Marks said the budget surplus may be more robust this year with the economy on the rebound, and said if Gov. James C. McGreevey freezes state aid for a third consecutive year, the council intends to "return to the kind of property tax adjustments we achieved in the first three years of the decade." Between 2000 and 2002 the Marked council adopted budgets that reflected an average municipal tax increase of less than 3 percent. But last year's tax increase still remains a sensitive issue, as was evident in Marks' address.

Marks accused Democratic opponents, not represented on the Township Council in 2003 or 2004, of choosing to "deliberately mislead our citizens with scare tactics mailings that made many believe that our property taxes were going up higher than in actuality."

That assertion annoyed Ken

Lipstein, chairman of the township's Democratic party. He denied Marks' claim and said that Marks' use of the New Year's address to make political accusations was unprecedented and inappropriate. "I was upset about what he said — it's obvious to me that he was concerned about the local elections this year," Lipstein said. In November, the mayor's seat and one council seat are up for municipal election. There was no municipal election in 2003.

Lipstein added that Scotch Plains has seen a higher average increase in taxes during Marks' tenure as mayor than was seen during the administration of Geri Samuel, the township's last Democratic mayor. Unsurprisingly given the static composition of the council, there were no major changes with respect to appointments. At the conclusion of Marks' address, the council re-elected Paulette Coronato as deputy mayor, and retained the legal team of Douglas Hansen as township attorney, Lawrence Woodruff as assistant township attorney, Michael Blacker as municipal prosecutor, and Randolph Brause as public defender.

Also, Chris Abeel was re-appointed to the Board of Adjustment for a four-year term.

WHS grad

(Continued from page A-1)

The death of a young man with such a bright future saddened high school officials who knew him. "Michael will be fondly remembered," said Westfield High School principal Robert Petix. "He was an athlete and a scholar, and a pleasure to know."

Petix remembered Charnatz as a leader at the high school, and remembered an "eloquent" speech given by Charnatz at his graduation. "I remember him as a wonderful young man," said Petix, who said that the death of any young person is a shock.

The Charnatz family could not be reached for comment, and information on memorial services was not available at press time.

Mahr lays out her agenda for 2004

(Continued from page A-1)

secure more assistance from Trenton. She said that the borough will apply to the state for extraordinary aid for only the second time in its history. "We need property tax relief, and I will try to bring that home," she said. In order to qualify for extraordinary state aid Fanwood must submit a budget by the end of February.

Also, Mahr said the borough will apply for Transit Village designation in 2004. Such a designation would give Fanwood increased access to state planning and engineering experts and a higher priority for project review. Mahr said she has established communications with New

Jersey's office of Smart Growth, which is responsible for Transit Village designation, and said she believes the office is committed to improving Fanwood's downtown.

Molenaar said he would focus on downtown redevelopment, traffic calming, and broadening community input and consensus in 2004. "I'm optimistic about the future of Fanwood, and it's an honor to represent Fanwood here," he said.

Dolce, who will chair the Administration and Finance Committee, called on residents to embrace public service. "I think the greatest benefit you can do is to help a human being and help make your community the place you want it to be," she said.

Despite a contentious campaign season and the transfer of political power from Republicans to Democrats, the meeting was for the most part smooth. The only dissenting votes came with respect to the borough's insurance providers, but even those resolutions did not draw much opposition.

The council even voted unanimously to appoint a new borough attorney, with Republicans Stuart Kline and Andrew Calamara voting along with the Democrats.

Dennis Estis, of Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith, Ravin, Davis & Himmel LLP, replaces former borough attorney Mark Peck. Estis previously served as borough attorney from 1988-2000.

Traffic safety top Westfield agenda

(Continued from page A-1)

firm Edwards and Kelcey, and will hire a second firm to review the study. The study will be extended beyond the proposed location of the parking decks and will become the town's master traffic plan for the next decade.

On the subject of traffic, McDermott said that speeding cars are one of Westfield's biggest safety concerns. He noted the police department has increased the number of moving violations written each year. In 1999, 400 traffic summonses were written, but in 2000 that number increased to 1,500. McDermott attributed the enforcement

increase to the SOS program.

In addition, McDermott said that a new neighborhood traffic enforcement program called TEAM will allow residents to use radar equipment to monitor speeding cars and report offenders to the police department. When notified, police will send warning letters to the drivers of speeding cars.

In the spring, work will begin at the circle between North and South avenues and the intersection between North Avenue and Elm Street to ease congestion at the north side train station. McDermott added that additional traffic-calming measures, such as those seen on Rahway Avenue

and in the ShopRite grid, will be researched in 2004.

"We will continue to maintain and upgrade the town infrastructure and properties," McDermott said. He mentioned the sidewalk repair program and said the town will work with the police and fire departments to obtain additional equipment for homeland security and town safety.

McDermott said that while Westfield officials in 1904 could not have imagined the issues the town faces today, they did know that progress was to be embraced. "We are a town that has truly reached maturity, but not yet its full potential," he said.

Township requests hunt in Watchung

(Continued from page A-1)

Township officials have said that there were 70 deer-related auto accidents in the township last year, the bulk of occurred in the Ashbrook Reservation area at the south end of the municipality. To date, no official deer hunt has been conducted in Ashbrook. In order to conduct such a hunt, the county must determine that the deer population is higher than the definition of a standard healthy population — about 20 deer per square

mile. In past years, deer censuses have been conducted by helicopter, using spotlights and infrared technology. However, Union County officials said the census in Ashbrook will be conducted by experts on the ground. The census will take place at night, since deer are more active at that time. Officials will count deer by sight and by counting deer scats.

The New Jersey Fish and Game Council may approve the permit for a deer hunt in the Watchung Reservation at its Jan. 13 meeting and would likely conduct the deer hunt in March. According to the 2004 Deer Management Program Guidelines submitted by Union County, the hunt will cease after three days or after the removal of 100 deer, whichever occurs first.

Licensed hunters will conduct the hunting with telescopic sights, and will hunt at baiting stations selected to provide the shooters with a clear and open view of the deer. All shooting will occur during daylight hours and from tree stands to ensure an elevated angle, which reduces the danger of stray bullets.

Harvested deer will be studied to determine age, sex, and weight, and then transported to a USDA approved butcher for processing. Sharpshooters who participate in the program will receive a portion of the venison. The remainder will be distributed to the needy and the homeless through the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

"There aren't any other realistic options," Mayor Martin Marks said

at the meeting. Councilwoman Nancy Malool voted against the resolution. "I'm not comfortable with people (firing) 12-gauge shotguns so close to peoples' homes," she said, noting that two dozen township homes directly abut the Watchung Reservation.

"I think the method is inhumane," Malool added.

"In the summertime, we have to think of the potential of deer ticks and the spread of Lyme disease," Councilwoman Paulette Coronato countered. Coronato noted that in absence of wild predators, the deer population cannot be controlled by natural means.

Deer hunts were conducted in the Watchung reservation between 1995 and 1999 as part of the County's five-year plan for deer management in the reservation. Between 2000 and 2002 Union County conducted a similar, abbreviated plan. Administrative difficulties prevented a deer hunt in 2003.

Temple threat

(Continued from page A-1)

possibly a contentious divorce, had led someone to write a letter to the FBI's office in Newark, claiming that something malicious was going to happen at the temple this week.

Members of Temple Emanu-El were shocked to find armed guards in front of their house of worship. "I've lived in Westfield for 40 years and I feel very uncomfortable here now," said Natalie Becker, a member of the temple since 1964. "It's very frightening to see (an incident like this) happen in your backyard," said Amy Milberger.

Other temple congregants felt secure, despite the threat. "We did what was asked of us," said Jonathon Bass. "Our temple is very prudent about security."

Rabbi Douglas Sagal said that the temple reopened on Friday and resumed religious activities on Saturday. He said that members are discussing measures to improve security at the temple, but felt that current safety measures were sufficient. "The building is well-protected as it is," he said, "but we will look to see what we can do to enhance the safety (of our congregation)," Sagal added.

Sagal said that Temple Sha'arey-Shalom in Springfield offered its space to Temple Emanu-El's congregants for Friday night services last week. "Even though our building was closed, we decided to go ahead and worship with our brothers and sisters," Sagal said, and expressed gratitude on behalf of his congregation, which consists of 1,100 families.

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Attention 8th Graders

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Thursday, January 15

1776 Raritan Road
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Rev. Porter tapped for King address

WESTFIELD — The Rev. Kelmo C. Porter, Jr., pastor of St. John's Baptist Church of Scotch Plains, will be the keynote speaker at Westfield's Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative service on Monday, Jan. 19.



REV. KELMO PORTER

Porter to the New Jersey Drug Utilization Review Council.

Porter has earned both bachelor's and master's degrees from New York University. He is the recipient of a Doctor of Divinity degree from Trinity Hall College and Seminary in Springfield, Illinois.

Born and raised in Jersey City, Porter is married to the former Shirley Green of Jersey City. They are the parents of three children and three grandchildren.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield also announced that patrons are still welcomed to sponsor the commemorative event Jan. 19. A list of patrons will be printed in the program's bulletin.

Anyone interested in becoming a patron should respond by January 17 to Patricia Faggins at (908)-301-1556.

The Jan. 19 service at the United Methodist Church will also include the announcement of student essay and art contest winners.

The service will take place at the United Methodist Church on North Avenue in Westfield at 1 p.m., following a procession from Bethel Baptist Church on Trinity Place through downtown Westfield.

Prior to assuming the pastorate of St. John's Baptist Church in 1966, Porter was a traveling evangelist and also served as pastor of the Trinity Temple Church of God in Christ in Montclair from 1954 through 1963, following a year as pastor of the First Church of God in Newark.

In addition to his numerous involvements in church-related activities, including local councils and associations as well as state and national conventions, Porter is considered to be an expert on gerontology and senior citizens' activities.

He was the Executive Director of the Newark Senior Citizens Commission's "Golden Age Project" for nearly 23 years and also served as a social worker for the Housing Authority of the City of Newark.

He was elected vice president of the New Jersey Council of Senior Citizens and was a member of the Executive Board of the National Council of Senior Citizens. He also served in an official capacity with the National Council on the Aging and the National Elderly Urban Coalition. Governor Brendan Byrne appointed

Mary Magdalene is topic of church forum

WESTFIELD — The public is invited to a forum on Jesus and Mary Magdalene at First Congregational Church 7:30 p.m. Jan. 27.

Mary Magdalene has been referred to as the "Apostle to the Apostles." Though her relationship with Jesus is only hinted at in the scriptures, early extra-biblical writings and early traditions provide additional information.

What was the relationship between Mary and Jesus? How might a close relationship between Mary and Jesus change or enrich traditional Christian notions of Jesus' divinity and resurrection? How would interpretations of Jesus' teachings change? Since scholars cannot ascertain with certainty their relationship, the session will apply relational theology to what we do know of Jesus and Mary.

Relational theology views the reality of the universe and of God as thoroughly interdependent. All of creation, human and non-human, and God are inter-

dependent in a dynamic process of growth.

Relational or process theology attempts to integrate this notion into how people live and express faith. This theology arose from Whitehead's process philosophy in the 20th century and is rooted in evolution and consilience. This modern theology is designed to provide an interdependent basis that allows people to look at many faith traditions with fresh eyes.

In subsequent sessions, relational theology will be applied in three other areas.

At 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24, the reality of Satan will be explored. On March 30, during Lent, original sin will be explored. And on April 27, after Easter the truth of the resurrection will be discussed.

The sessions will be facilitated by Rev. John A. Mills.

First Congregational Church is located at 125 Elmer St. For more information about the programs, visit <http://wislit.home.att.net>.



Flying high at Evergreen School

Third grade students at Evergreen Elementary School in Scotch Plains took to the skies last week in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first flight. Students in Mrs. Hutchison's, Mrs. Franco's, and Mrs. Keller's classes made paper airplanes and took to the air in the school's gym. The students also created edible model airplanes using graham crackers, frosting and pretzels. It was a wonderful, high-flying day for all who participated.

Sign up soon for Y programs

WESTFIELD — Child care registration for Westfield YMCA's 2004-2005 programs begins next week, with full-day child care registration opening Wednesday. Half-day preschool and school-age child care registration begins Saturday, January 24.

Westfield "Y" full-day child care programs are available for children ages 12 months to 5 years. The program offers a well-balanced blend of social interaction and self-discovery through free play, art, music and learning centers. Gym, music and art are incorporated into each classroom's daily schedule. The program runs year-round.

The Westfield "Y's" half-day preschool program is accredited by the National Association for

the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This accreditation means that the Westfield "Y" has voluntarily undergone a process of internal self-study and has sought external professional review. The program runs from September-June for children 2½ to 5 years old.

Westfield "Y" after-school programs provide children in Grades K-5 with fun, safe and supervised activities two to five days per week during the after-school hours. Programs are available at the Westfield "Y" as well as in the Tamaques, McKinley, Jefferson and Washington Schools. Before-school care and kindergarten wraparound are also available.

For more information on full day child care, call Shannon

Cleveland at (908) 654-8460.

For more information on preschool child care, call Eileen Rooney at (908) 233-2700, ext. 230.

For more information on after-school care, call Missie Sheehy at (908) 233-2700, ext. 273.

Open house at St. Bart's

St. Bartholomew Interparochial School has announced that it will hold an open house for its new full-day Pre-Kindergarten program 9-11 a.m. and 12:30-2 p.m. Thursday.

The open house will offer an informal opportunity to tour the classrooms for the program, as well as meet with teachers who can answer questions about the Pre-K that will begin in September 2004. Registration for the program will be held on Thursday, January 22.

The program for four-year olds will feature academic readiness skills in reading and math, art and music classes, a library and story time program, and religious education. Certified teachers will conduct the program and a nursing staff will be available for the students.

To accommodate parents' schedules, drop-off and pick-up periods from 8 to 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 3 p.m. have been planned.

Students registered in the Pre-K program will be priority registrants for entering St. Bartholomew's Kindergarten. The Pre-K pupils will have access to a fully-equipped pre-kindergarten homeroom, an arts/crafts classroom, an indoor gym, resource room, and library/media center.

St. Bartholomew Interparochial School, which was established in 1952, currently serves kindergarten through eighth-grade pupils and is staffed by Religious Teachers Filippini and a lay faculty.

For more information about the Pre-K program and registration, call the school office at (908) 322-4265.

Attend a Free Seminar Everything You Need to Know About Divorce

The law firm of Dughi, Hewit & Palatucci is pleased to announce that Mario C. Gurrieri, head of its Family Law Department, and April L. Katz will present to the public a free Seminar entitled "Everything You Need To Know About Divorce" at The Westwood in Garwood on Tuesday, January 27, 2004; Thursday, January 29, 2004 and Saturday, January 31, 2004. Mr. Gurrieri, who has specialized in matrimonial law for over thirty-one years and Ms. Katz, for over eleven years, will review the law, explain the legal process and answer your questions concerning separation, divorce, custody, visitation, alimony and division of assets as well as need for post-divorce Court review of alimony and child support.

Information will also be provided on the developing concept of Divorce Mediation, an alternative to the traditional contested proceeding. Divorce Mediation offers the potential for significant savings while assuring that your rights are fully protected by avoiding the expense, stress and delay involved in Court proceedings.

If you are experiencing marital difficulties and contemplating divorce, or if you are simply curious about your rights in a separation or divorce, this Seminar will be of value to you. If you are already divorced, the Seminar may be of value in explaining post-divorce rights and obligations of former spouses.

Where: The Westwood
438 North Avenue
Garwood, New Jersey 07027
(908) 789-0808 (www.westwood.com)

When: Tuesday, January 27, 2004 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 29, 2004 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 31, 2004 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Reservations required (no names needed)
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Commentary

A to-do list for local government

At reorganization meetings held over the past week in local towns, officials were full of good feelings — buoyed by election victories, congratulatory (and self-congratulatory) about past accomplishments, and hopeful for the coming year. Here are some recommendations for what must be achieved in 2004 to make sure that good feeling stays:

In Westfield, of course, the top priority will be the proposed redevelopment sites at South Avenue and Prospect and Elm streets. These projects can improve what is already the strongest downtown in the area by bolstering retail opportunities on the south side, adding diversity to the housing stock, and easing what is a real parking problem. But it is essential the Town Council moves deliberately, and cautiously, on the projects, and continues to make every effort to take public opinion into account. The series of public forums held in 2003 led to valuable adjustments to the project design. Continued opportunities for public input may help win over some of those who are opposed to redevelopment, but more importantly, will result in a better final product.

At the same time the Town Council works to get these projects built, it must deal with one of the negative consequences to development — the risk to pedestrian safety posed by ever more cars, and people, on local streets. There were efforts in this direction in 2003, but the deaths of two people in three days on North Avenue last month shows how much remains to be done. The council should continue with its traffic-calming measures in residential neighborhoods — and when a modification is warranted by science and sound engineering, should not reverse course at the first sign of public opposition. It's also incumbent upon Westfield officials to advocate for pedestrian safety measures on county and state thoroughfares.

In Fanwood, as well, redevelopment tops the list of priorities. November's election results revealed public opposition to the current proposal, and it is appropriate for the new administration to take a few steps back, re-evaluate the project and make sure the interests of residents, existing merchants and downtown property owners are protected.

At the same time, new Mayor Colleen Mahr and the Democrats on the Borough Council cannot allow themselves to be trapped by an "anti-development" position. Fanwood's downtown should be improved, and the redevelopment process is the best way to do it. If the new administration decides to reject the current proposal or replace Landmark Communities as the developer, it must be prepared to present an alternative.

In Scotch Plains, where there is no single project on the scale of downtown redevelopment, the Broadway housing development and the continued efforts to establish a Special Improvement District will rightly command the Township Council's attention. But the issue local residents are most concerned about in 2004 is a familiar one — taxes.

Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks stumps for statewide property tax reform at every opportunity, and his arguments have much merit. But the political reality is that such reform is unlikely to happen anytime soon. The financial straits facing the township, and every other municipality, are real. But homeowners will not — and should not — accept a tax increase in 2004 that matches the one they saw in 2003.

In all three municipalities, there are some hefty challenges awaiting local officials in 2004. It will be interesting to see how they measure up.

The Record-Press is here for you

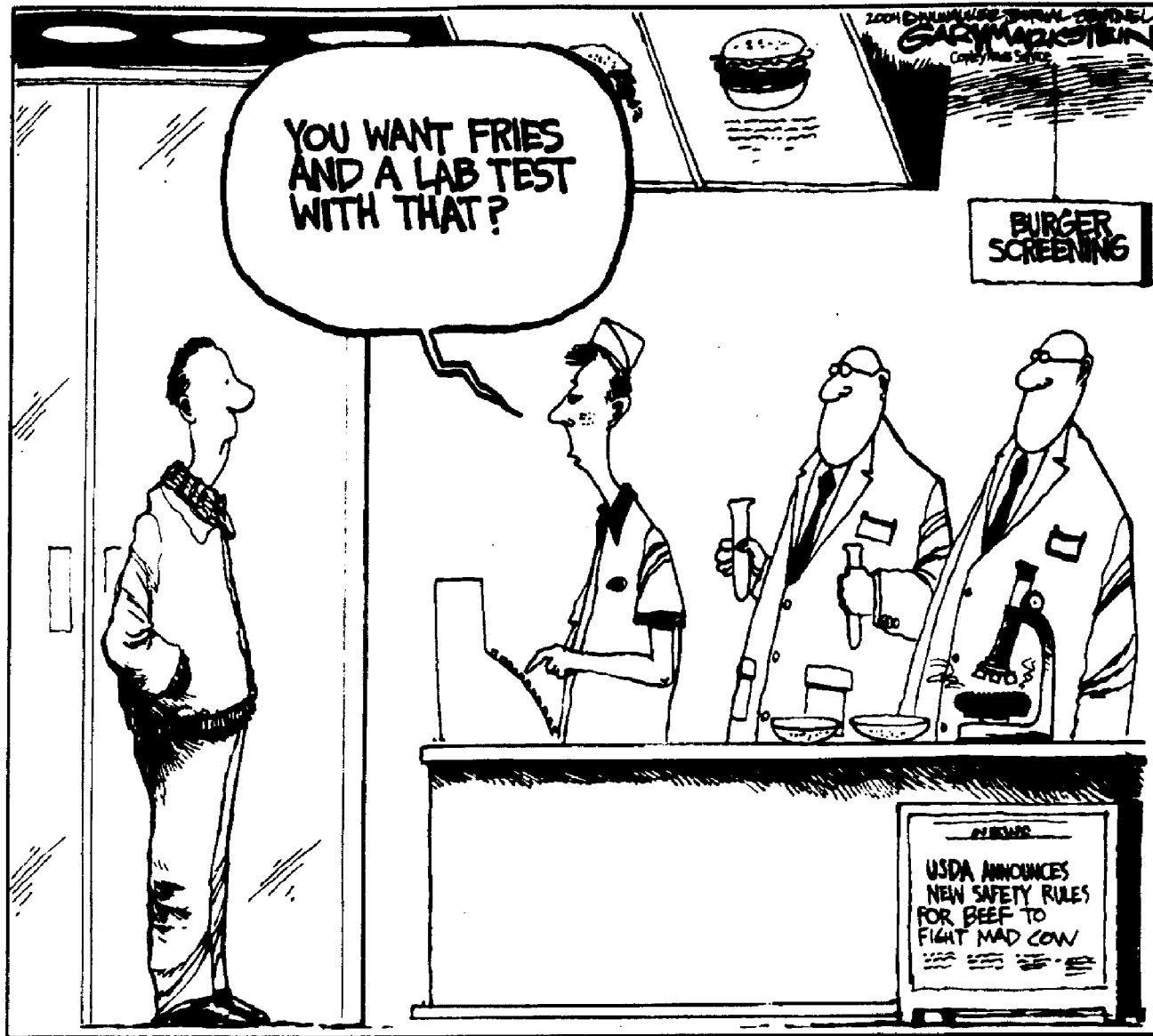
The following information should help you get your ideas and community news into *The Record-Press*:

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.



Letters to the editor

S.A. offers thanks, but needs more

To The Record-Press:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the people who so generously contributed to our red kettle campaign during the holidays. Although we didn't meet our financial goal, we were able to help more than 200,000 people with food and children's toys. Your generous support all year long, allows us to help needy people throughout New Jersey.

But, I am worried. Our donations are down at this time by more than 10 percent, yet there are so many people in our state who are struggling. Our economy is on the rise, however it will be awhile before the improvement is felt by many of the people we serve. Still, there are many people in dire straits due to loss of employment and salary cutbacks. And costs for services are on the rise. Many people are struggling to pay their bills, hoping something will be left over for food.

Others, the homeless, are simply struggling to survive through the winter.

Salvation Army shelters have been consistently full and often people are turned away for lack of room. Safety laws forbid overcrowding and limit the number of homeless in shelters. But where are they to go? And who will feed them? My heart is heavy knowing that The Salvation Army cannot help everyone. At least not without more financial support. I ask you to continue and even increase your donations to The Salvation Army this year since it is needed more than ever.

For more information, I invite you to visit our website, www.salvationarmynewjersey.org or please call Tricia Pellegrini at our Divisional Headquarters, (908) 851-9300.

MAJOR STEPHEN BANFIELD
NJ State Commander

UC focus: Health care, youth sports

By ANGEL ESTRADA
FREEHOLDER CHAIRMAN

The following is an edited text of the remarks Chairman Estrada offered after being sworn in as the leader of the Union County Board of Freeholders for 2004. The speech was given in Elizabeth during the county's reorganization meeting Sunday.

... As chair of this great board, I am proposing to my colleagues on the Freeholder Board and to Union County Government that we focus on programs and initiatives that will define our upcoming year as a year for Building Better Communities.

My first initiative is the implementation of a 211 Info Line.

Recently, we completed a gaps assessment of social services, and we learned that access to information and services needs improvement.

I have learned that the questions and the needs of the community must be answered in a more direct fashion. There are gaps that need to be bridged. For example, seniors that are looking for transportation assistance, families looking for daycare, people in need of mental health services, and citizens requesting essential services such as food and shelter. This need may strike at any time. It affects all aspects of our community, including those who experience language barriers and even the hearing impaired.

In hopes of providing direction through the maze of social service agencies, residents will have one easy-to-remember number. 2-1-1...

... We will also focus on helping Union County families stay healthy...

... Last year we developed a pharmaceutical assistance program to help residents over age 55 or those with disabilities to purchase drugs at a lower cost. I'm proud to say that more than a thousand households in Union County have signed up for this program and have saved money on life improving and life saving pharmaceuticals.

This year we will make our prescription drug plan available to all Union County families.

Many families don't have adequate medical coverage. While some county residents live just above the income poverty level set for state and federal prescription assistance. Other families struggle because they are self-employed and can't afford to pay for their own insurance. This plan is now available to those families. There will be no income barrier for this initiative.

This initiative will help participating families save money and afford them greater peace of mind. Moreover, it will be accomplished at no cost to taxpayers. It is based on a user fee which is offset by the savings they receive.

Our third initiative is an investment in the arts that builds on the economic development successes we supported over the past five years.

The arts enrich our lives. They bring new energy to our communities and our families. They also bring new visitors to our communities, and with them, economic activity.

Guest commentary

Similar endeavors have realized tremendous success. In fact, communities such as Red Bank and New Brunswick have seen their downtowns turn around because of investing in the arts. This year we will make such an investment in the City of Rahway, where Mayor James Kennedy plans to use the historic Union County Arts Center as the centerpiece of an arts district in that city's downtown.

Our goal is to further elevate and establish the Union County Arts Center as a premier Northern New Jersey performing arts establishment. This initiative will include the purchasing of this living landmark and several adjoining spaces and transforming this developed property into a year-round cultural center. The Arts Center's insightful Board of Directors and professional management team would continue to run the programs and day-to-day operations of this facility...

...Our next initiative is directed towards helping Union County's children. Motivating our younger generation to engage in physical activity helps children battle obesity. Recreational and Athletic facilities are important to eliminating the couch potato syndrome.

That's why we are developing the Kids' Recreational Trust. This trust, funded through a public-private partnership, will have three components:

First, we will help low income children participate in athletics with scholarships to Pop Warner, the Little League, Pee-Wee athletics and the other non-profit recreation programs throughout the county. We will provide funds to those recreation programs for children whose families meet our financial guidelines. Low-income children will be able to play soccer, baseball, softball, football or any other group sport without worrying about the expense to their family.

Second, we will help youth leagues in every town to purchase new, safer equipment.

Third, through the Kids' Recreation Fund we will assist every municipality in making field and recreation center improvements...

...All of these initiatives share a common theme of building better communities. My last initiative is no exception. Greening Union County will help us improve the environment of this county, literally from the ground up.

By planting trees in urban areas, we can lower air pollution, improve the air that we breathe, lower energy costs, and improve the overall quality of life. In short, trees can make a community healthier.

We hope to plant almost 4,000 trees in our 21 municipalities this year through the Greening Union County initiative. Every tree will come with a one-year warranty to ensure that the trees take to their new environments.

We will give every town the opportunity to apply for a Greening Union County Grant. Union County will match that municipality's investment and provide the municipality with the forestry professionals to make their communities greener and healthier.

Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

Lessons every man must learn

At a certain point in every man's life, it is his biological and cultural duty to pass on the knowledge necessary for survival.

From my ever-expanding library of first aid for the middle-aged soul in crisis, I learned that becoming a mentor to a younger man also helps to deal with the craziness of second adolescence. The hope — a prayer, perhaps — is that by transferring your accumulated "wisdom" you are reminded of the true and proper path that, to paraphrase the first lines of Dante's "Inferno," will lead you out of the woods of mid-life.

But most young men don't need advice. Magazines such as Maxim and Men's Health do a decent job at filling in the blanks, though the rhetoric seldom rises above the towel-snapping wit of your favorite gym teacher. But knowing what's the appropriate wine to order with a Whopper or what exercise to perform to better define your pectorals isn't enough.

You need to know the answers about things that defy glib one-liners. You need to know how to properly grieve a dead relative you never liked. You need to know how to throw the tennis game so you lose graciously to the boss's wife. You need to know what to say when ancient Aunt Wilhemina asks if you're still having trouble with arithmetic in the sixth grade. Most importantly, you need to know how to recognize love.

Most men recognize the physical and mental symptoms of lust. Lust is the seasoned salt on the rim of the margarita glass and the olive in the extra dry martini. It is the howl of the wolf at midnight and the quarter that makes the motel bed vibrate. But can men accurately recognize the moment in an evolving relationship when, if you're under 25, love replaces lust or, if you're over 25 and supposedly more mature, friendship morphs into love? Can they recognize when it's a mutual transformation or, more importantly, when it's not?

W.H. Auden, in "O Tell Me The Truth About Love," has more insight on the issue than the metrosexuals at GQ:

"When it comes, will it come without warning

Just as I'm picking my nose?

Will it knock on my door in the morning.

Or tread in the bus on my toes?

Will it come like a change in the weather?

Will its greeting be courteous or rough?

Will it alter my life altogether?

O tell me the truth about love."

Poets may not have the answers, but they have such nice clues.

I don't have the answer either, though it's the most perplexing and enduring issue among men and women. If the characters on "Friends" haven't figured it out in 10 years, why should I even try?

The playing field between love and friendship is a minefield. The slightest misstep can cause the whole relationship to explode and leave you impaled on the barbed wire of mistranslated signals. It is a seemingly impossible labyrinth to be navigated. Do you dare risk everything because you know the potential pain can be doubled because you could lose both a friend (or forever alter the nature of your friendship) and the sweet anticipation of love? It's a gamble, perhaps even the risk of a lifetime.

In the corner of my heart where teddy bears smile, strawberries swim in milk chocolate and Gene Kelly dances in the rain, there is still a guileless optimism in the curative and restorative powers of love. Lust is fleeting, like a violent thunderstorm on a summer afternoon. But love survives whatever outrageous acts of fate are slung at it. Those are the lessons I like to pass on to a younger generation — if I'm not too busy learning them myself.

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Elizabeth Fesken

SCOTCH PLAINS — Elizabeth M. Venutolo Fesken, 54, died Dec. 28, 2003 at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in Manhattan.

Born in Jersey City, she was a daughter of the late Anthony and Florence Venutolo.

Mrs. Fesken lived in Jersey City before moving to Scotch Plains in 1995. She was a teacher for 36 years at Public School 16 in Jersey City, where her daughter, Mary Elizabeth, is an English teacher. The Jersey City Education Association honored Mrs. Fesken as a Teacher of the Year for P.S. 16.

She also was a member of the New Jersey Education Association, the National Education Association and the Modern Academy of Fine Arts in Scotch Plains. Mrs. Fesken earned a bachelor's degree in education from Jersey City State

College in 1974. Mrs. Fesken received an associate's degree from Miami-Dade Community College in 1970.

Also surviving are her husband, John G.; a son, John William; two brothers, Timothy Venutolo and Michael Venutolo; three sisters, Antonia Reo, Susan Venutolo-Montovani and Jeannie Giordano; and many aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A funeral Mass was held Friday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington.

Donations may be sent to St. Joseph's School and Home for the Blind, 253 Baldwin Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07306 or Matheny School and Hospital, Peapack, NJ 07977.

Richard Coll

FANWOOD — Richard Coll, 66, died Dec. 29, 2003 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Manhattan, he lived in Fanwood before moving to Plainfield in 1971.

Dr. Coll retired in 2000 from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, where he was a professor of computer science. He earlier was a computer science instructor at Seton Hall University in South Orange, St. Peter's College in New Brunswick and Fordham University in the Bronx.

He earned a master's degree and a doctorate in psychology in 1985, both from the Newark campus of Rutgers University. Dr. Coll received a master's degree in industrial engineering from the

University of South Florida in 1973. He received a bachelor's degree in physics from Fordham University in 1958.

Surviving are his wife of 43 years, Dr. Joan Hannigan Coll; two daughters, Catherine-Antoinette and Stacey-Jo; a son, John-Peter; two sisters, Marjorie Coll Prepon and Ashley; a brother, Dr. Samuel Hoisington; and nine grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at the Higgins Home for Funerals, in Plainfield. Burial was in Holy Redeemer Cemetery, South Plainfield.

Donations may be sent to International Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia Foundation, 3932D Swift Road, Sarasota, FL 34231-6541.

Linda Dolce

WESTFIELD — Linda Dolce, 54, died Dec. 30, 2003 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Brooklyn, she lived in Westfield before moving to Mountainside in 1986.

Mrs. Dolce retired in 2001 after 20 years as a motivational speaker for Weight Watchers International. She was a teacher from 1971-75 at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School in Brooklyn.

She earned a master's degree in education in 1975 from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. Mrs. Dolce received a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from the City College of New York in 1971.

She was a past president of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Suburban Golf Club in Union. In addition, Mrs. Dolce raised funds for the scleroderma research foundation at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Surviving are her husband, Anthony; a daughter, Denna Dolce O'Connor; a son, Peter Michael; and two sisters, Maria Buffa and JoAnn Cosentino.

A funeral Mass was held Saturday at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, Mountainside, following services at the Higgins & Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

John S. Cusmano

SCOTCH PLAINS — John Salvatore Cusmano, 76, died Dec. 31, 2003 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Manhattan, he lived in Plainfield and Scotch Plains before moving to Warren in 1965.

Mr. Cusmano was with RCA Corp. for 30 years, retiring in 1988 as an accounting manager at its Clark plant. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and a member of the RCA Retirees Club.

He was formerly an usher for Masses at Our Lady of the Mount Roman Catholic Church in Warren.

Surviving are his wife of 53

years, Rose Marie Gianfrancesco Cusmano; a daughter, Adele Loigu and husband Andy of Washington; three sons, John J. and Kenneth A., both of Warren, and Thomas A. and wife Linda of Thorndale, Pa.; a sister, Marie Lipiro of Brunswick, Ohio; and three grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at the Higgins Home for Funerals, Watchung, followed by a funeral Mass at Our Lady of the Mount Church.

Donations may be sent to St. Jude Shrine, 512 W. Saratoga St., Baltimore, MD 21201. To send a condolence, visit www.higginsfuneralhome.com.

Salvatore Ferrara

SCOTCH PLAINS — Salvatore N. Ferrara, 78, died Dec. 31, 2003 at Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Born in Newark, he lived in Scotch Plains and Bedminster before moving to Hamilton.

Mr. Ferrara was the former owner of Accurate Refrigeration in Scotch Plains. He earlier spent 23 years with Admiral Corp. before leaving in 1978 as a service manager.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II and a member of the Knights of Columbus in Scotch Plains.

Surviving are his wife, Louise Lucarelli-Luzzi Ferrara; seven sons, Gregory, Nicholas, Paul, Salvatore Jr., Peter, Steven and

Mark; two daughters, Laura and Joan; a stepson, Ferdinand; four stepdaughters, Rosanne, Diana, Marissa and Jody; a sister, Phyllis Ferrara; and 30 grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Monday at St. Elizabeth's Roman Catholic Church, Far Hills, following services at the Dangler Funeral Home in Morris Plains.

Donations may be sent to Matheny School and Hospital, Main Street, Peapack, NJ 07977.

Obituaries

James R. Williams; longtime teacher

James R. Williams, 76, died Dec. 29, 2003 at his home in Plainfield.

Mr. Williams was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and lived in Woodbridge before moving to Plainfield in 1971. He also had a home in Brielle.

He retired in 1990 after 35 years teaching science classes at Park Middle School in Scotch Plains, where Mr. Williams helped produce musicals and variety shows. He was a science teacher at Fords Junior High School before taking his Scotch Plains post. Until 2000 he gave workshops for teachers on the Madison campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Mr. Williams held a master's degree in science from Antioch University and a master's degree in creative arts from the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University. He received a bachelor's degree in education from King's College in Wilkes-Barre.

A saxophone player with Billy Mann's Band, Mr. Williams was a co-founder of Theater 65 in Woodbridge and a director for its productions. He was a dealer at the Antique Emporium in Point Pleasant and a refinisher as well as

a collector of antiques.

He was a member of the Union County Education Association, New Jersey Education Association, National Education Association and National Science Teachers Association. Mr. Williams was a yeoman first class with the Navy in World War II and the Korean War.

A grandson, Joseph, died in 1995.

Surviving are his wife, Gail Muccilli Williams; two sons, Thomas P. and James M., both of Rhode Island; three daughters, Anne M. Robinson and Patricia G. St. Amant, both of Rhode Island, and Kathleen M. Rose of Connecticut; and 13 grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Saturday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Scotch Plains, following services at the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood.

Donations may be sent to Haven Hospice, JFK Medical Center Foundation, 80 James St., Edison, NJ 08818 or Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, NJ 07834.

Gloria Brown Ryan

WESTFIELD — Gloria Brown Ryan, 79, died Dec. 29, 2003 at her home.

Mrs. Ryan was born in Brooklyn. She lived in Great Kills, Staten Island, and Edison before moving to Westfield in 2002.

She was with Chemical Bank for 15 years and retired in 1986 as an assistant branch manager in Staten Island. Mrs. Ryan was an associate to the Sisters of Mercy at Mount St. Mary Academy in Watchung.

She was a longtime volunteer at the Roosevelt Care Center in

Edison and St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen.

Surviving are two sons, Christopher of Westfield and Anthony G. of Brooklyn; and two grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Friday in St. Catherine of Siena Chapel at McAuley Hall, Watchung, following services at the Dooley Colonial Home. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Donations may be sent to Mount St. Mary Academy, McAuley Hall, 1645 Route 22 West, Watchung, NJ 07069.

Betty Volckmann

SCOTCH PLAINS — Betty M. Volckmann, 89, died Dec. 30, 2003 at Bayonne Medical Center.

Mrs. Volckmann was born in Brooklyn. She lived in Bayonne, Chatham Township and Scotch Plains before moving to Cranford in 1962.

She worked for Western Electric in South Kearny for three years and the RCA Corp. in Harrison before that. Mrs. Volckmann was active in the Altar Guild at Calvary Lutheran Church in Cranford, where for 30 years her family was a host for coffee hour held between services.

In bowling Mrs. Volckmann participated in the Inter-Church League and Cranford Senior

League.

A brother, Walter "Sonny" Moser, is deceased.

Surviving are her husband of 45 years, Robert P.; a daughter, Ronda Moser of Bayonne; two stepsons, William of Peachtree City, Ga., and James of Cranford; two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, a niece and a nephew.

A memorial service will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17 at Calvary Lutheran Church, 108 Eastman St., Cranford.

Arrangements are by the Gray Memorial Funeral Home in Cranford. Donations may be sent to the Memorial Fund of Calvary Lutheran Church.

Emil Hoffman

SCOTCH PLAINS — Emil E. Hoffman, 84, died Dec. 28, 2003 at ManorCare Health Services in Easton, Pa.

Born in Elizabeth, he lived in Scotch Plains for 46 years before moving to Pittstown in 1968.

Mr. Hoffman retired in 1984 as an automobile body specialist with Foreign Cars of Hunterdon, located in Lebanon. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

A son, Kenneth A., died in 2002. A brother, John, is deceased.

Surviving are his wife of 64 years, Anne K. McClymont

Hoffman; three daughters, Carol A. Badore of Alpha, Nancy Donchetz of Hellertown, Pa., and Suzanne DeShaw of Marshalls Creek, Pa.; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at the Bloomsbury United Methodist Church. Burial was in Bloomsbury Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Manchester Memorial Funeral Home in Whiting. Donations may be sent to Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, 99 Sparta Ave., Newton, NJ 07860.

Rosemarie Craft

SCOTCH PLAINS —

Rosemarie G. Barber Craft, 75, died Jan. 1, 2004 at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

Born in Scranton, Pa., she lived in Newark before moving to Scotch Plains in 1955.

Mrs. Craft was a volunteer in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school system and worked with the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA. She was active in bowling leagues

at Clark Lanes.

Surviving are her husband of 55 years, Raymond R.; three sons, Raymond Barry, Robert Bruce and Roger Brent; a sister, Janet Timlin; two brothers, Francis Barber and Donald Barber; seven grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

A funeral Mass was held Monday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home.

Ruth E. Pflug

SCOTCH PLAINS — A memorial service will be held for Ruth E. Pflug, 92, who died Dec. 28, 2003 at her home.

Born in West New York, she lived in Westfield before moving to Scotch Plains in 1960.

Mrs. Pflug was a member of the Women's Association at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church.

Her husband, Werner, died in

1996.

Surviving are two daughters, Evelyn P. Dugan and Barbara; a grandchild and a great-grandchild.

Arrangements are by the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Donations may be sent to the Memorial Fund of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

Catherine Smith

FANWOOD — Catherine M. Smith, 91, died Dec. 25, 2003.

She was born in Fanwood and lived in North Plainfield before moving in 2002 to Venice, Fla.

Mrs. Smith was a member of the North Plainfield Senior Citizens Club and the Altar Rosary Society at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church.

Her husband, Louis, died in 1980.

Surviving are a daughter, Dianne R. DiElio of Venice; a grandson, Christopher M. DiElio of Worcester, Mass.; and a granddaughter, Michele D. Ruetsch of Woodstock, Md.

Arrangements are by Lemon Bay Funeral Home in Venice.

Frances Samer

WESTFIELD — Frances Nufrio Samer, 76, died Jan. 3, 2004 at Genesis ElderCare-Westfield Center.

Mrs. Samer was born in Elizabeth and lived in that city before moving to Westfield in 2002.

Her husband, John H., is deceased.

Surviving are two daughters, Lorraine Schmitt and Lisa

Carroll; two sisters, Malfada Rumbauskas and Theresa Nufrio; four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday at St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church, Elizabeth, following services at the Petrucci Funeral Home in Elizabeth. Burial was in Rosehill Cemetery, Linden.

Lois Traphagen

SCOTCH PLAINS — Lois V. Lambert Traphagen, 86, died Jan. 5, 2004 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She lived in Scotch Plains, Somerville and her native Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield.

Mrs. Traphagen was a secretary with Mack Truck in Bridgewater and the Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield. She was a descendant of Abraham Clark, who signed the Declaration of Independence as a New Jersey delegate to the Continental Congress of 1776.

A charter member of the Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield, Mrs. Traphagen also was a member of the Spring

Lake Park Restoration Committee and Cherry Dell Garden Club in South Plainfield. She was a Cub Scout den mother.

Her husband, Edward, died in 2000.

Surviving are a daughter, Virginia Adams and husband Larry of Spofford, N.H.; a son, David and wife Janet of Glen Gardner; and three grandchildren.

Services were held yesterday at the Wesley United Methodist Church. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the McCriskin Home for Funerals, in South Plainfield. Donations may be sent to Wesley United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 1500 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

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Community Life

Briefs

Balladeer to perform for West Fields S.A.R.

WESTFIELD — The West Fields Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will meet 8 p.m. Tuesday in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building. The meeting will feature Linda Russell, a prominent performer of 18th-century ballads.

Russell will present a concert of folk music of colonial times, accompanying herself on hammered and mountain dulcimers, guitar and penny whistle. In addition to ballads, her program will include love songs, broadsides, marches, drinking songs and dance tunes.

William Miller, president of the West Fields Chapter, noted Russell's presentations explore history through music and drama. Having served for many years as a balladeer for the National Park Service at Federal Hall on Wall Street, the site of Washington's inauguration, she now takes her music to historic sites, schools and festivals throughout the country.

Russell's New York appearances have included Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. She has recorded "The Good Old Colony Days," an album of the 18th-century songs, as well as a number of other albums of traditional and popular music of America's past.

The meeting is jointly sponsored by the SAR and DAR and is open to the public.

County club plans two hikes for weekend

The Union County Hiking Club has scheduled the following activities:

Jan. 10 — Pyramid Mountain, Montville. The leader is Micky Siegel, (201) 797-7054. The group will meet at 10 a.m. at the Pyramid Mountain Visitor's Center parking lot. This will be a five-mile moderate hike on the orange trail along the reservoir and then up to Tripod Rock. Call Siegel if in need of additional information or in doubt about the weather.

Jan. 11 — Mills Reservation, Cedar Grove. The leader is Lynn Gale, (973) 763-7230. The group will meet at 10 a.m. in the reservation parking lot. This will be a casual to moderate hike.

Fanwood Seniors Club plans casino trips

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Senior Citizens Club recently announced results of the club's 2004 election. Elected members are: president, Helen Boguslawski; first vice president, Eileen Waldron; treasurer, Jean Rossiello; secretary, Gerry Inman and sergeant-at-arms, Frank Inman.

The club is sponsoring an overnight trip to the new Borgata Resort and Casino in Atlantic City on March 18 and 19. The second casino is Bally's.

Club meetings take place at All Saints Episcopal Church, 599 Park Ave. in Scotch Plains. The meetings are on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 11 a.m., with a speaker to follow.

For more information and reservations call Art Badala at (908) 889-4494.

Colonial shoemaking at Miller-Cory House

WESTFIELD — The Miller-Cory House Museum will begin its winter season with a program on the 18th- and 19th-century shoemaker and his craft. The program will be presented on 2-4 p.m. Sunday at the museum, located at 614 Mountain Ave.

Ellen Hess of Cranford will explain and demonstrate the work of the shoemaker or cordwainer, who first introduced the art of making shoes to the colonies from Europe. Shoes were made in various shapes and sizes; and as clothing styles changed, so did the shoes and the art of creating them.

Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults, 50 cents for students and children under 6 years of age are free. On Jan. 18 the museum will celebrate Snowflake Sunday, a program ideal for young children.

For information about the museum's upcoming winter events or its many volunteer opportunities, call (908) 232-1776.

Bauman is Hadassah's 'Woman of the Year'

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — After 12 years of serving her community as a volunteer for Hadassah, Rose Bauman has been selected as Woman of the Year by her peers in the Northern New Jersey chapter of the national organization. She will be honored at the Northern New Jersey Region's Myrtle Wreath luncheon to be held Jan. 25 at the Venetian in Garfield.

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer women's organization whose members strive to strengthen their partnership with Israel, ensure Jewish continuity, and contribute to their communities. The organization was founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold.

In the United States, Hadassah promotes health awareness, and conducts fundraisers to benefit their communities and communities in Israel.

Hadassah is also an advocacy group, focusing on school curriculum and wider political issues such as the relationship between the United States and Israel, the Palestinians and Israel, and the role of

the United Nations.

"We're a worthwhile organization which puts efforts into helping people," Bauman said. "We don't discriminate," she added, noting that the organization's clinics welcome Arabs and Muslims in Israel.

Money raised by Hadassah goes to the group's two major hospitals and 90 clinics, helps women's advocacy groups, funds camps to assist children at risk, and funds a career counseling institution designed to help children find an avenue to become successful.

Bauman served as the president of Hadassah's Westfield chapter from 2000-2002, and is currently the coordinator for the Women's Health Advocacy Committee, part of the Northern New Jersey Region, which oversees 42 local chapters.

She says her local chapter consists of a harmonious group of women, some of

which are young and in their 30s; others are in their 80s and many more fall somewhere in between. "I think it's terrific when you have a diversity of age groups. You learn a lot from different people," Bauman said. "We have an excellent chapter where everyone works together."

Bauman has been an active participant in Westfield Hadassah's two major fundraisers — the annual Celebration of the Arts and the Godparents Gala. The arts event will be held on March 27 at the Montclair Art Museum. Hadassah invites people to

donate art or become patrons and sponsors at the event. "Anyone who wants to make a donation is welcome to," Bauman said.

Last year's event was held in Newark and was a success, generating revenue for various projects in Israel.

The Godparents Gala was held in November. Usually the event consists of a

dinner prepared by organization members, but last year Westfield Hadassah held the fundraising event on a cruise ship. "We're always looking for something new and different," Bauman said, "It keeps people involved."

As coordinator for the Women's Health Advocacy Committee, Bauman has been involved in the "Check It Out" campaign, which seeks to teach children how to detect breast and testicular cancer. "Kids are taught to take care of themselves and be responsible for their bodies," Bauman said. The campaign is also intended to address the confusion and misconceptions children have about their bodies, an important aspect of teaching children how to perform self-examinations.

When she found out she was going to be honored at the Myrtle Wreath luncheon, Bauman and her husband Larry — who have been married for 37 years — altered their vacation plans so they can attend the event.

"I couldn't believe it," Bauman said. "We always try to do something for someone else without looking for anything in return. I think everyone who's a volunteer knows the feeling of giving."

"We always try to do something for someone else without looking for anything in return. I think everyone who's a volunteer knows the feeling of giving."

— Rose Bauman



'Dance Alive' at Jefferson

Students and Jefferson Elementary School were introduced to a different side of ballet at a recent assembly performed by the American Repertory Ballet titled "Dance Alive Ballet Rocks." The children were shown some traditional moves and dances and were given a brief history of the movements. They were given a look at the basics of how a ballet dancer copes with the incredible athleticism needed to become a fine artist. The dancers also demonstrated a more progressive flare to ballet as they performed an exciting and quick moving routine to a medley of Elvis songs.

Michael Sherry earns Eagle Award

WESTFIELD — Michael T. Sherry, a member of Boy Scout Troop 77 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, recently earned the prestigious Boy Scout Eagle Award. Sherry joins the ranks of only 4 percent of all Boy Scouts who receive the Eagle Award.

On Nov. 3, 2003, Sherry was presented with honor and received accolades and praise from Scouting leaders, officers within Troop 77, New Jersey legislative representatives, and his family, friends and fellow Scouts.

The Eagle rank is the highest to which a Scout can aspire. It requires the development of several skills, the application of continued industry and initiative, and the exercise of the highest qualities of character and citizenship.

To fulfill the requirements for the Eagle rank, Sherry completed a demanding Eagle project in which he restored and computerized records at Rahway Cemetery. The project was to hand-copy the text of each tombstone (there were more than 1,000), take digital photos of each gravesite, and then have a grid made of the cemetery showing rows and columns.

Sherry recruited the help of a computer programmer to write an expandable program which stores and cross references the data of the

Revolutionary War section. With this program, the rest of the cemetery can be entered in the same format, creating the possibility for future Eagle projects or community service projects for historical societies. This Eagle project demonstrated the Scout's leadership, creativity, and concern for his community.

Sherry started his Scouting career as a Tiger Scout and worked his way up to Boy Scouts and joined Troop 77.

While working towards his Eagle Award, he served as both Senior Patrol Leader and junior Assistant Scoutmaster, and is now an Assistant Scoutmaster. Sherry is an Ordeal member of the order of the Arrow. Bruce Mellen is his Scoutmaster, and Barbara Mellen was his Eagle Scout Adviser.

A member of Holy Trinity Church, Sherry has throughout the years volunteered at the historic Miller-Cory House. He has also always been interested in music and the dramatic arts, and is currently a section leader in the Westfield High School Marching Band. He has spent many years as a member of the Westfield Fife and Drum Corps. He has also been in numerous vocal groups and dramatic productions for school and community theaters.

A senior at Westfield High School, he hopes to study theatre arts next year.



Westfield resident Michael Sherry became an Eagle Scout at a ceremony in November.

County Magnet School wins Governor's award

SCOTCH PLAINS — Union County Magnet High School earned the Governor's School of Excellence Award recently at a ceremony in the Governor's mansion that recognized some of New Jersey's most successful school programs.

Magnet High School was one of five high schools in the state that received the state's first School of Excellence Awards, as well as a \$25,000 prize for its outstanding achievement in areas such as academic performance, professional development and the use of technology.

"Today, we are celebrating schools that provide great examples for every other school in the state," Gov. James E. McGreevey said in presenting the awards. "These schools represent the best of all we are doing to improve education in New Jersey."

Union County Magnet High School was one of 94 schools statewide who competed for the Excellence Awards. The district earned the prize for showing outstanding performance in:

Creative and increased involvement with partnerships and/or the community.

Creative and increased use of technology as a tool for learning.

Demonstrated improvement in the quality of professional development of teachers.

Meaningful improvement in parental involvement in school matters.

Demonstrated success in providing better learning opportunities for gifted and talented students.

Superintendent of Schools Thomas J. Bistocchi said the Governor's award is not only gratifying for the district, but also serves as an inspiration to do more.

"We're honored to receive this recognition from the Governor for the hard work and innovative thinking that takes place at Magnet High everyday," Bistocchi said. "But more importantly, in being recognized we're also called upon

"In being recognized we're also called upon to not only continue in this tradition, but also do more, to strive for more, and I know we are up to the challenge."

— Thomas Bistocchi
Magnet School superintendent

to not only continue in this tradition, but also do more, to strive for more, and I know we are up to the challenge."

The Governor's School of Excellence program provides awards to schools that demonstrate significant improvement during a two

year period. The schools can use the \$25,000 for educational purposes which they decide. Schools that receive awards will serve as demonstration centers for exemplary programs.

Union County Magnet High School is part of the Union County Vocational-Technical School district located in Scotch Plains. The competitive high school, which opened in 1997, today serves more than 270 students from throughout Union County and boasts a 100 percent college placement rate.

For more information about Magnet High School, visit the school website at www.ucvts.tec.nj.us or call (908) 889-8288, ext. 201.

Newcomers remain busy

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Newcomers Club has planned numerous activities for the coming month.

The Social Committee offers a post-holiday party at the Stage House Restaurant Wine and Bar in Scotch Plains 8-11 p.m. Jan. 16. The cost is \$50 per person. Contact Meredith Bridge at (908) 789-1887 for information.

The Children's Committee has planned a Children's Winter Craft Party at the Crafty Kitchen in Garwood 4-5 p.m. Jan. 27. The cost is \$5 to \$7 per child.

The Activities Committee has planned a night at the movies Jan. 28. Participants will enjoy a new flick at the Cranford Theater along with some coffee and dessert at Café Rock.

The book group will come together at a member's home on Feb. 2 to discuss the best selling novel "The DaVinci Code" by Dan Brown. There will also be a book swap.

The Newcomers Club is open to residents who are new to Westfield or surrounding communities, or established residents who have experienced a change in lifestyle, such as the birth or adoption of a baby, a marriage, a job change or a move within the town.

For more information, contact Sandra Alfano at (908) 232-7151 or Jennifer Beke at (908) 317-8431.

County seeking help with Teen Arts

Do you like working with artists, teachers and students? The Union County Teen Arts Festival provides an opportunity for volunteers to get involved.

The Union County Teen Arts Festival, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, is a two-day celebration of the arts held annually at the Union County College campus in Cranford. The event, scheduled for March 18-19, is open to all students from public, private and parochial middle and high schools in Union County.

"At the Teen Arts Festival, more than 3,000 students participate in performances, critiquing seminars, master classes and workshops with a staff of 50 professional artists in every discipline — visual art, music, writing, theater and dance," said Freeholder Chester Holmes, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board.

"Volunteers are needed to assist artists with workshops, manage performance sites and staff information stations," Freeholder Holmes added. "We appreciate the invaluable assistance of Union County residents with this exciting program."

Residents interested in any of these activities should contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 633 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202; (908) 558-2550. Relay Users call (800) 852-7899, or email healy@ucnj.org.



A wild and Woolley night

The Second Saturdays Concert Series continues Saturday night with a performance by married folk duo Danzig & Woolley. Kevin Danzig and Cat Woolley have been touring for the past six years, performing a mix of musical styles they call "Dysfunctional Folk." The performance takes place 8 p.m. at the Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave. in Summit; doors open 7:30. Tickets are \$12, and proceeds will benefit the Keith Knost Special Needs Trust. For more information on the performers, visit www.danzigandwoolley.com.

WCP pays visit to 'Mr. Green'

Director Peter Clark and producer Kay Macrae of Westfield Community Players (WCP) are in rehearsal for the Saturday opening of Jeff Baron's drama "Visiting Mr. Green" at the WCP Theater at 1000 North Avenue West, Westfield.

Baron, originally from Linden, will be attending the opening night performance and is excited about seeing his play performed locally.

The cast includes Stan Kaplan (Westfield) as Mr. Green, an elderly widower who wanders into Manhattan traffic and is almost hit by a car driven by a rising young corporate executive.

David Neal (Fanwood) plays the driver, charged with reckless driving. As restitution, he is given a community service sentence of helping Mr. Green once

a week for six months.

The play follows the two men's growing and changing relationship over several months, beginning with the first of these weekly visits. A comic clash of cultures becomes gripping drama as the unlikely partners force each other to re-examine their lives and beliefs.

The show opens on Saturday and continues Friday and Saturday evenings January 16, 17, 23 and 24, with all tickets \$12.

To purchase tickets, call the box office at (908) 232-9568. WCP now offers reserved seating for all shows.

Opening night patrons are invited to stay after the show for a reception with coffee and light dessert to meet the cast, crew and the author Jeff Baron.

A watercolor workshop set in Westfield

Robert Heyer, renowned watercolorist, will be demonstrating his unique, clean style of painting at the Sunday meeting of the Westfield Art Association. The meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Municipal Building at 425 East Broad St. Westfield, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Heyer received his education from the Montclair Art Museum and is a graduate of the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Art. He has studied with Frank Webb, Tony van Hasselt, Tony Couch and Betty L. Schlemm, among other artists.

Heyer has held an artist-in-residence fellowship at the Highland Park and Metuchen Public Libraries. He has done watercolor workshops and demonstrations stretching from Long Beach Island to Succasunna, and in Staten Island, N.Y. His work has earned him finalist standing in "The

Artist's" magazine competitions and has appeared in "Watercolor" (1996), "The Best of Watercolor" (1997), "International Artist" (1999), "American Artist's" magazine, (1999) and "The Collected Best of Watercolor" (2002).

Heyer is a member of New Jersey, Garden State and Pennsylvania Watercolor Societies, among other professional organizations. He has judged shows at the Ocean County Artist Guild in Island Heights, the 20th Annual Senior Citizens Art Exhibit in the Ocean County College Fine Arts Gallery and the Jane Law's LBI Studio and Gallery.

Heyer has had solo shows at the Ocean County Artists Guild, Island Heights, The Ramada Renaissance Techworld, in Washington, D.C. and the Sun Bank in Lanoka Harbor.

Heyer has received numerous awards over the years, his most

recent being The Silver Medal of Honor and the Doris D. Schoonmaker Memorial awards from the NJWCS, the Ida Wells and Clara Stroud award and the Pauline Wick award from the NJ-American Artist Professional League, the Garden State Watercolor Society Award, and the Ocean County Artist's Guild Judges Choice award.

Heyer currently teaches watercolor painting to advanced, interme-

diated and beginning students. He likes to spend as much time as he can painting outdoors, sketching profusely to familiarize his imagination with the essence of the subject and its surroundings to make his paintings more interesting and exciting.

The meeting is free and open to the public, and the room is wheelchair accessible. For information, contact Tolia L. Meyers at (908) 687-2945.

Auditions for CDC show begin Sunday

The Cranford Dramatic Club is holding auditions for its spring production of Kiss Me Kate. Production dates are 8 p.m. May 7, 14 and 21; 8 p.m. May 8, 15 and 22; and 3 p.m. May 9 and 23 (a benefit show).

Drude Roessler is the director, Jonathan Flowers the music director and Alyson Pemoulie is choreographer. Tryouts are scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Callbacks are 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15, if necessary.

Auditioners should come prepared to sing and dance; bring music from the show or any Cole Porter song. The club is looking for a cast of 26-30 actors/singers, some of whom have major or ensemble dancing to do.

Cast members are sought for the following parts:

Fred Graham/Petruccio — 30s-40s, writer, producer, director, actor, egotistical ex-husband of Lilli, strong baritone.

Lilli Vanessi/Kate — 30s-40s, star stage and screen actress, feisty, ex-wife of Fred Graham, strong soprano/mezzo.

Louis Lane/Bianca — 20s, a night club singer in her first featured role on the stage, ditzy, plays up to Fred. Strong dancer, mezzo/alto.

Bill Calhoun/Lucentio — 20s, a Broadway hooper, Louis' partner, a chronic gambler always in debt, strong dancer, tenor/baritone.

Hattie — any age, Lilli Vanessi's dresser, mezzo, lead in "Another Opening, Another Show."

Paul — any age, Fred Graham's dresser, lead singer/dancer in "Too Darn Hot."

First Man — Any age, gangster, gunman enforcer, baritone, does

"Brush Up Your Shakespeare."

Second Man — Any age, gangster, gunman enforcer, baritone, does "Brush Up Your Shakespeare."

General Harrison Howell — 40s-50s, career military officer, politician, Lilli's "new" man, baritone, does "From This Moment On."

Flynt/Gremio — 20s-30s, aide to General Howell/first suitor to Bianca, strong dancer, baritone.

Riley/Hortensio — 20s-30s, aide to General Howell/second suitor to Bianca, first male solo in Cantiamo D'Amore, strong dancer, tenor.

Harry Trevor/Baptista — 50s veteran character/Kate and Bianca's father.

Many small parts will feature singing and dancing.

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Madrigal Singers show rescheduled for this Sunday

The Madrigal Singers directed by Elaine Fiorino will present "From Heaven High," a program of words and music for the Christmas and Epiphany seasons, 4 p.m. Sunday at The First United Methodist Church, 1 East Broad St., Westfield.

The program was originally scheduled for Dec. 14 but had to be canceled due to snow. Selections from the Bible and Shakespeare read by Judy Sullivan tell the Christmas story and introduce groups of carols and motets spanning six centuries sung a cappella or with flute accompaniment by Jenny Cline and Clarissa Nolde.

The rescheduled date of Jan. 11 falls appropriately on the first Sunday after Epiphany, which traditionally marks the visitation of the wise men.

A single voice announcing "The Truth from Above" ushers in a processional with varied harmonizations of "Once in royal David's city," followed by Healey Willan's 20th-century setting of the Latin proclamation "Hodie, Christus natus est." Like a church bell, the 15th-century carol "Nova, Nova" rings out the exciting news contained in Gabriel's announcement to Mary, and motets by Byrd and Grieg provide Renaissance and modern settings of ancient prayers to the Virgin Mary, "Beata viscera" and "Ave maris stella."

Nanino's motet "Hodie nobis coelorum Rex," and the French carol "Noel Nouvelet" provide two 16th-century responses to the angel's good news to the shepherds, and a contemporary echo is heard in Elliot Z. Levine's "From Heaven

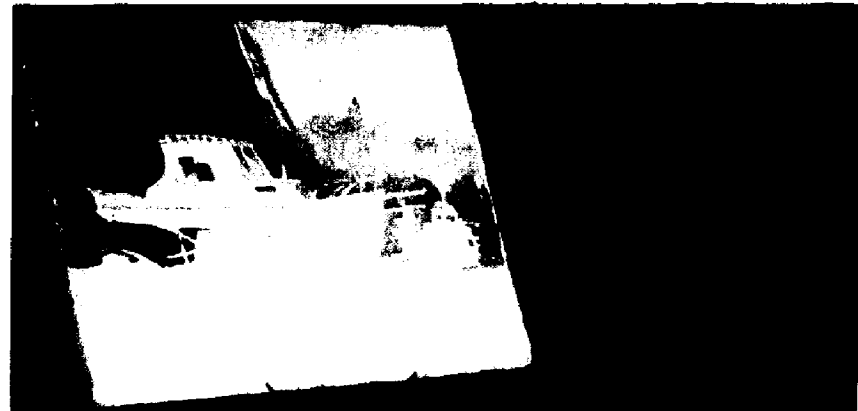
High." The awe and wonder inspired by the sight of the child find expression in Jacob Handl's "Pueri, concinite" and in 19th- and 20th-century offerings by John Goss, "See amid the winter's snow," and Kodaly, "Ave Maria."

The wise men's search for a great king, as they followed a bright new star with their gifts, is celebrated in the 16th-century "Magi videntes stellam" by Blasius Anon, while a more personal response to the birth is explored in Gustav Holst's lovely setting of the Christina Rossetti poem, "In the bleak midwinter."

The strains of "Resonet in laudibus" then break forth in Johannes Eccard's joyous Renaissance setting, followed by two lovely meditations — the 16th-century "If ye love me" by Thomas Tallis and the modern "There is a flower" by John Rutter. The program closes with two lively modern pieces on traditions which have grown up around the Christmas season: "Sir Christemas" by William Mathias and "Wassail" by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Founded in 1948, The Madrigal Singers are dedicated to exploring the a cappella traditions that grew out of the musical flowering of the European Renaissance. Singing this season are Martha Desmond, Richard DeVaney, Pamela Johnson, Heather Keith, David Lawrence, Roberta Lichtenberg, Jennifer Melick, Sarah Riffel, Kirk Robbins, John Sichel, Lynn Sichel, George Stralkus, and Margaret Thompson.

Admission is by donation at the door. For further information, call (908) 233-1570.



Robert Heyer will lead a watercolor workshop at the Sunday meeting of the Westfield Art Association.

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Parents can meet school faculty

SCOTCH PLAINS — Superintendent of Schools Carol B. Choye has scheduled two coffee hours for the parents of pre-k and kindergarten students who will enter the Scotch Plains-Fanwood public schools in September 2004.

The meetings are set for 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 21 at McGinn School on Roosevelt Avenue and for 7-8 p.m. Jan. 28 at School One on Willow Avenue.

These informal meetings are designed to provide basic information for the parents of incoming students and to help alleviate their stress regarding the screening and registration processes.

Elementary principals, a curriculum supervisor, kindergarten teachers, and school secretaries will be on hand to answer questions and give helpful advice.



Global flavor at L'Academy

SCOTCH PLAINS — The International Parade was hit at L'Academy Montessori's Holiday Show this year. All the children dressed in costumes from other countries or places such as Africa, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, France, India and Ireland.

The program included songs in French and Spanish, as well as holiday favorites. The children performed several dances including a ballet number by the girls.

Each child marched proudly around the room waving a flag representing his or her country. After the parade the children held hands and sang "The World is a Rainbow."

The parade is an annual event that reflects the diversity of the children attending the school and their vast range of cultures.

After the show there was pizza for the children and a buffet featuring desserts from around the world and then Santa arrived bringing gifts.

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750 CROWN ROYAL 18.99	1.75L WHITE HORSE Scotch 21.99	1.75L TANQUERAY Sterling Vodka 80 24.99	1.75L JOSE CUERVO Gold • Classico 32.99
750 KNOB CREEK Bourbon 24.99	1.75L BLACK & WHITE Scotch 21.99	1.75L SKYY Vodka 80° 23.99	1.75L SEAGRAMS GIN Regular • Lime Twist 14.99
750 BELVEDERE or CHOPIN Vodka 80° 24.99	1.75L JOHN BEGG Scotch 15.99	1.75L SMIRNOFF Vodka 80 18.99	1.75L GORDONS Gin 13.99
750 FINLANDIA Vodka 80° • Cranberry 15.99	1.75L CLAN MacGREGOR 15.99	1.75L SVEDKA Vodka 80 17.99	1.75L FLEISCHMANN'S Gin 11.99
750 SMIRNOFF Vodka 80° • Flavors 9.99	1.75L INVERHOUSE Scotch 14.99	1.75L WOLFSCHMIDT Vodka 80 13.99	1.75L POPOV Vodka 80° 10.99
750 PINCH DIMPLE 23.99	1L JOHNNIE WALKER RED 24.99	1.75L GORDONS Vodka 80 13.99	1.75L FLEISCHMANN'S Vodka 80° 10.99
10.99 Cans	10.99 Cans	16.99 Cans	16.99 Cans
NATURAL LIGHT 8.99 Cans	RED DOG 30-Pack 10.99 Cans	TECATE 15.99 Cans	HEINEKEN Regular • Dark 20.99 Bottles
COORS LIGHT 9.99 Cans	SCHAEFER 30-Pack 10.99 Cans	MOLSON Golden • Ice 16.99 Bottles	CORONA Regular • Light 20.99 Bottles
MILWAUKEE'S BEST 30-Pack 9.99 Cans	MICHELOR or YUENGLING Lager 14.99 Bottles	DAB Regular • Dark 17.99 Bottles	BECK'S Regular • Dark 20.99 Bottles
BUDWEISER Regular 18-Pack 10.99 Bottles	HEINEKEN Nips 15.99 Bottles	AMSTEL LIGHT 20.99 Bottles	SMIRNOFF Ice • Triple Black 21.99 Bottles
CORDIALS	CHAMPAGNE	AMERICAN WINE	WORLD OF WINE
750 EMMETS Insh Cream 9.99	750 BOSCA Spumante 3.99	1.5L BLOSSOM HILL White Zinfandel 4.99	1.5L CANE! White • Rose 6.99
750 ALIZE PASSION Gold • Red • Wild Passion 13.99	750 COOKS Brut • Dry 4.99	1.5L FOXHORN White Zinf. Cabernet • Merlot • Chard 4.99	1.5L CITRA Montepulciano • Trebbiano • Chard • Merlot 6.99
750 KAHLUA Coffee Liqueur 14.99	750 TOTTS Brut • Dry 5.99	1.5L ARBOR MIST Zinfandel • Chardonnay • White Zinf 5.99	1.5L CONCHA Y TORO Cabernet/Merlot • Chardonnay Blend 7.99
1.75L DEKUYPER Peachtree Schnapps 15.99	750 CINZANO Asil Spumante 6.99	1.5L GALLO Twin Valley Chard • Cab • Hearty Burg • Merlot • Sauv Blanc • Cab Zinf 6.99	1.5L LANCERS Rose • White 7.99
750 AMARETTO DI SARONNO 16.99	750 NANDO Asil Spumante • Fragalino 7.99	1.5L BERINGER White Zinfandel 8.99	1.5L BLACK TOWER Liebfraumich 8.99
750 FRANGELICO Hazelnut Liqueur 16.99	750 KORBEL Brut Rose • Brut • Dry 9.99	1.5L R. MONDAVI Woodbridge Cabernet • Chard • Merlot 11.99	1.5L FOLONARI Soave • Bardolino • Valpolicella 8.99
1.75L HIRAM WALKER Blackberry Brandy 16.99	750 MOET & CHANDON White Star 23.99	1.5L FETZER Sundial Chardonnay • Eagle Peak Merlot • Valley Oaks Cabernet 12.99	1.5L BOLLA Valpolicella • Bardolino • Soave • Chardonnay • Merlot • Sang • Pinot Grigio 10.99
1L BLACK HAUS Liqueur 18.99	750 MUMMS Cordon Rouge Brut NV 25.99	750 R. MONDAVI Woodbridge White Zinfandel 3.99	750 MOUTON CADET Red • White 4.99
750 CHAMBORD Raspberry Liqueur 19.99	750 ROEDERER Brut Premier 29.99	750 SUTTER HOME White Zinfandel 3.99	750 LINDEMANS Shiraz • Cabernet • Merlot • Chardonnay • Pinot Noir 5.99
750 HPNOTIQ Liqueur 19.99	JUG WINE	750 SUTTER HOME Cabernet • Chard • Merlot 4.99	750 JABOULET PAR 45 Cotes du Rhone 6.99
1.75L SOUTHERN COMFORT 750 B & B Liqueur 24.99	3L LIVINGSTON CELLARS Chablis • White Zinfandel • Burgundy • Red Rose 6.99	750 FOREST GLEN Shiraz • Merlot • Cabernet • Chard 6.99	750 LOUIS JADOT Beaujolais Villages 6.99
BRANDY & COGNAC	4L CARLO ROSSI Chablis • White Grenache • Burg • Rhine • Vin Rose 7.99	750 NAPA RIDGE Cabernet • Chard • Merlot • Red Zinfandel • Pinot Noir 6.99	750 WYNDAM Cabernet • Chard • Shiraz 6.99
750 E & J Brandy 7.99	4L PAUL MASSON Chablis • Burgundy • Rose 7.99	750 VILLA MT EDEN Chardonnay 6.99	750 ANTONORI Santa Christina 7.99
1.75L STOCK 84 Brandy 15.99	4L ALMADEN Chablis • Burgundy • Rhine • Rose • Gold 8.99	750 BERINGER Founders Est Cab • Chard • Pinot • Merlot 7.99	750 CASA LAPOSTOLLE Cabernet • Sauvignon Blanc 7.99
1.75L CHRISTIAN BROS Brandy 16.99	4L OPICI Homemade Barberone 11.99	750 HESS SELECT Chardonnay 8.99	750 LUNA DI LUNA Pinot Grigio • Red Bottle • Sang Merlot 7.99
750 MEUKOW VS Brandy 19.99	5L BOX FRANZIA Chablis • Burgundy • Chianti 8.99	750 KENDALL JACKSON VR Chardonnay 9.99	750 MARQUES DE CACERES Rioja 7.99
750 HENNESSY VS Cognac 23.99	5L BOX PETER VELLA Chablis • Burgundy • Blush • Delicious Red • White Gren 8.99	750 J. LOHR Cabernet 11.99	750 HARVEYS Bristol Cream 9.99
750 COURVOISIER VSOP Cognac 27.99		750 SIMI Chardonnay 11.99	750 RAMOS Pintos Collector 10.99
SODA		750 SIMI Cabernet 14.99	750 BROLIO Chianti 13.99
1L SCHWEPES Mixers 79.99		VERMOUTH	750 SANTA MARGHERITA Pinot Grigio 17.99
2L PEPSI Regular • Diet 99.99		1L CINZANO VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 4.99	750 RUFFINO Ducale Gold 27.99
24-12 oz cans COKE • SPRITE • DIET COKE 5.99		4L G & D VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 11.99	

This week

SATURDAY JAN. 10

'CROSSING THE POND — Finding Immigrant Origins, subject of a program by Larry Fermi for the Genealogical Society of the West Fields. 10 a.m. Westfield Memorial Library, 425 East Broad St. Open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

SUNDAY JAN. 11

ADULT FORUM — discussion of "Justice and Capital Punishment," first part of a three-week program. 9:45-10:45 a.m. Calvary Lutheran Church, 108 Eastman St., Cranford. (908) 276-2418.

OLD-FASHIONED SHOE-MAKING — Cranford resident Ellen Hess will demonstrate how shoes were made in the 18th and 19th centuries. 2-4 p.m. Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. (908) 232-1776.

MONDAY JAN. 12

HADASSAH MEETING — first of the New Year for the Westfield Chapter. Board meeting at 11:15 a.m., followed by regular meeting. Temple Emanu-El, East Broad St., Westfield. Holocaust survivor Clara Kramer will speak at the regular

meeting. **'STERLING FOREST: BI-STATE OASIS' — slide program presented by photographer George M. Aronson for the Women's Club of Westfield. 1 p.m., preceded by the club's business meeting at 12:30 p.m. First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elmer St. (908) 654-3946.**

CAMERA CLUB MEETING — Cranford/Millburn group holds first meeting of the winter, with a program by Dorothy Otto on Still Life and Glass. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 12. Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. (908) 272-1434.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP — meets 1:30 p.m. Parish House at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield, 140 Mountain Ave. Free and open to the public. For more, call (908) 322-9214 or (908) 233-0301.

TUESDAY JAN. 13

18th-CENTURY BALLADS — performed by Linda Russell, at a meeting of the Westfield Fields Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. 8 p.m. Community Room, Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad St.

'HOW TO START A HOME-BASED BUSINESS' — free program provided by SCORE. 7:30 p.m. Cranford Library/Community Center, Walnut Ave. For more informa-

tion, call John Malar, library director, at (908) 709-7272.

THURSDAY JAN. 15

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION — between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and PTA Council. Residents are invited to learn more about current issues in the school district. 8 p.m. Board offices, Evergreen and Cedar streets, Scotch Plains. For more, call PTA Council Vice Presidents Gale Miller at (908) 889-7934.

OPEN HOUSE — for new full-day Pre-K program at St. Bartholomew Interparochial School. 9-11 a.m. and 12:30-2 p.m. At the school campus on Westfield Avenue in Scotch Plains. Interested parents can tour the classrooms and meet with teachers. (908) 322-4265.

FRIDAY JAN. 16

POST-HOLIDAY PARTY — hosted by Social Committee of Westfield Newcomer's Club. 8-11 p.m. Stage House Restaurant, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains. \$50. For more, call Meredith Bridge at (908) 789-1887.

COMING UP

COFFEE HOURS — for parents of Pre-K and Kindergarten students who will enter the Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools in Septer. 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 21 at McGinn School, followed by second session 7-8 p.m. Jan. 28 at School One.

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Program offers tips on family research

WESTFIELD — The Genealogical Society of the West Fields will meet 10 a.m. Saturday, in the Program Room of the Westfield Memorial Library.

Larry Fermi will speak on "Crossing the Pond — Finding Immigrant Origins." He will discuss how to use United States records to determine the city and country of origin of an immigrant ancestor or relative. This covers documents like birth, marriage and death certificates, Census records, naturalization forms, Social Security death records and passenger lists.

Fermi has been a member of the Monmouth County Genealogy Society's Education Committee for several years and is currently vice president of that organization. He is a popular speaker on basic and advanced genealogy related subjects in the greater New York area and has been performing in-depth family history research since 1989, with a focus on European immigration during the peak periods of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The public is invited, and refreshments will be served.

Sports

MURPHY'S LAW

A couch potato's dream weekend

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

Heat up the salsa con queso, stock the fridge and put Dominoes on speed dial because, until March Madness rolls around, this is going to be the last great couch-potato weekend for two months.

With two doubleheaders of fantastic NFL action on tap, this weekend will be your last opportunity to veg out for six or seven straight hours Saturday and Sunday in front of the tube. Lawns don't need to be mowed, leaves don't need to be raked and snow shouldn't need to be shoveled — it's Divisional Playoff weekend, the last great weekend of the football season. With just two games scheduled for the following weekend and a week off before the Super Bowl (which, for all of its glitz and glamour, is still just one game), this is as good as it gets.

For me and the rest of my Dish-deprived brethren, it was great to have a full slate of football games that matter this past weekend, after suffering through Jets-Giants doubleheaders all fall. But the NFL certainly knows how to ruin all the momentum with 15 commercial breaks between the first seven plays of the game. The playoff games had more delays than a Cranford-Westfield boys basketball game.

In the words of Don Cheadle (and I'm so glad they continued those commercials this season) they took commercial interruption and turned it into Commercial Interruption.

I couldn't imagine being in the stands at Green Bay and Baltimore or Philadelphia and New England this weekend, standing in the freezing cold, waiting for the player introductions to conclude, cheering wildly during the opening kickoff, then sitting and waiting and waiting and waiting for the gentleman with the giant orange oven mitts to step off the field and signal the end of a commercial break. It takes all the life out of watching the game, both live and on television.

But the commercials weren't nearly as draining as the play of Dallas and Denver. Maybe it was an afternoon of indoor tailgating talking, but Saturday night's Carolina-Dallas game was a snooze fest. All day Sunday I looked forward to the Indianapolis-Denver game but the Colts put that one out of reach before I finished my between-game visit to the growler. Maybe, this weekend, if a game gets out of hand early they can cut to a roundtable discussion among Don Cheadle, Joe Namath, Suzy Kolber and a giant bowl of egg nog. That would be entertainment. Maybe we can throw Matt Hasselback in there, just so he can predict things then mess them up himself. A little note to Hasselback — predicting a win over the PA system was a bold move. Doing it at Lambeau against Brett Favre was a little silly.

This weekend I'm rooting for the Panthers and Packers, just so Sports Illustrated's Peter King can have sleepless nights, trying to decide whether to root for his preseason Super Bowl pick (Panthers) or his wanna-be best friend's (Brett Favre) team. But I don't think it's going to happen.

(Speaking of King, in announcing his Associated Press All-Pro selections in his Monday Morning Quarterback column for cnsi.com, he said choosing two running backs like every other voter instead of a running back and fullback "is dumb" because it is unrealistic. Sound reasoning, until he picked 12 players on defense...but I digress)

I wonder if Mike Martz will be smart enough to make sure Marshall Faulk touches the ball at least 30 times. Having Martz as my coach would just scare me.

Anyway, I don't really care about the results (other than the Eagles losing). I just want one last weekend of lounging on the couch watching quality football.



GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS
Bryan Power provided a huge lift off the bench for the Blue Devils Saturday, scoring 13 points in a 62-57 win over Cranford.

Devils 'Power' past Cranford

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

CRANFORD — The Westfield High boys basketball team is more than happy to play the role of underdog. But if the Blue Devils keep up their current pace, they're going to have to forfeit that moniker soon enough.

On the strength of a balanced team performance, utilizing precision execution of its half-court sets, Westfield defeated Watchung Conference nemesis Cranford 62-57 Saturday afternoon.

With the Cougars focusing their defense on Westfield's leading scorer Jan Coccozzello, Westfield found four other players to score in double figures, led by Eric Hayes with 14 points and sixth-man Bryan Power who had 13 off the bench, including six in a decisive 13-3 run at the end of the third quarter. Terrence Bryant added 13 and Joe Korfmacher scored 11.

Terence Grier led Cranford, scoring 32 of his team's 57 points. Chris Drechsel added 11 points and J.J. Occi scored seven off the bench.

"People are sleeping on us a lot," said Hayes. "People are sleeping on us because we're in such a good conference and we didn't do so well last year, but we're going to surprise a lot of teams."

"We're upsetting teams, but it's still an upset. I like being the underdog."

Westfield has clearly grown up quite a bit from last year and has become a much more cohesive unit on the offensive end. The growing pains the Blue Devils went through last year may be what a Cranford team that returns just two starters and

only three players that saw significant time last season needs to battle through this season, at least for a little while.

"(Westfield) earned that victory today," said Cranford Head Coach Tom Johnstone. "They played hard and they played smart. What you're seeing is they have a big senior influence on that team. We really don't have a big senior influence, we're a little younger. Where they were last year is where we are right now — trying to find roles and things like that."

"If that is an upset, I don't agree with that. That is two pretty evenly matched teams. I thought Westfield played a great team game today. They are a solid team, with senior leadership and guys that know their roles."

The experience factor between the two clubs was evident as Westfield ran all of its offensive sets to precision, often scoring on open layups and backdoor cuts. Cranford, on the other hand, struggled to knock down perimeter shots, got few opportunities in the lane and looked unsettled on the offensive end.

"We work well together as a team because we've played together for a while," said Hayes. "If everybody in the starting five is scoring we should win every game."

"All we do in practice is go over the offense. That's all we do. Our coach drills it into us every day."

Behind eight first quarter points from Drechsel the Cougars came out of the gate strong and led by three points after the first quarter. Westfield grabbed its first lead with a minute remaining in the first half, 24-23, on a

(Continued on page B-2)

Tougher schedule will make Raiders tougher

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

After two highly successful seasons ended in postseason disappointment, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High girls basketball team is using this winter's regular season as preparation for the postseason.

The Raiders have been nearly unbeatable in the past two regular seasons, registering a 24-3 record last year, but have twice lost in the Union County Tournament semifinals and the North Jersey Section 2, Group 3 final. With the corps of the team back for its third go around together, the Raiders are focused on lifting a championship trophy at the end of the season.

With a 5-3 record, Scotch Plains has already lost as many games this as it did last year. But regular season victories aren't nearly as important as postseason wins, and an upgraded schedule should make the Raiders tougher and better prepared for late February.

"We've had a hard time winning the tough games and I think that's because we haven't been used to being in those types

of games," said junior point guard Jenny Burke, a three-year starter. "Every tough game we play now, even if we're losing them, it will help us out in the long run. We'll be more experienced in tough games. I think we're getting more mentally tough."

Scotch Plains dropped a 40-36 decision to a very talented Paterson Eastside squad, led by Essence Carson, as part of the Hoop Group Tip-Off Classic and fell by a point 57-56 to Good Counsel of Maryland in the KSA holiday tournament in Orlando, Fla. The Raiders also two more games in Orlando to finish fifth in the tournament. The Raiders will also take on Nazareth, one of the best teams in Pennsylvania, Jan. 17.

"Going to Orlando was a great trip," said Head Coach Brian Homm. "We played some very good competition. We need to get that experience of playing against good competition. I think it showed a little bit when we played Hillsborough (a 62-38 win)."

"We wanted to play against good teams so when we get into big games they're used to that level of competition. When

you have a good team you have to play good teams."

Scotch Plains main focus this season is the Union County Tournament, after suffering disappointing semifinal losses the past two years. The players still want to settle the score with Shabazz, who they've lost to in the sectional final the past two years and suffered an 82-37 loss to Tuesday. Shabazz returns four starters from last year's Tournament of Champions title team and is clearly the best team in the state.

Preparing for and winning the Union County Tournament is the first order of business for Scotch Plains, but in the back of their minds their competitive spirit has the Raiders yearning for another shot at Shabazz.

"We really want to win counties," said junior center, three-year starter and 1,000 point scorer Hillary Klimowicz. "Our team as a whole realizes we are one of the better teams out there."

"Our main goal is to win counties," said Burke. "This year we want to step up in counties. That's our primary goal, but it would be great to beat Shabazz in section-

als. We're after that too."

As much as the Raiders have looked toward improving their mental game, they've also improved their physical skills. Klimowicz has developed a baby-hook with her right hand to compliment her soft lefty touch. Burke and three-year shooting guard junior Maura Gillooly have improved their jump shots and are taking the ball to the hoop more aggressively. Senior forward Jen Russell, the fourth-returning starter and the Raiders best rebounder, defender and overall athlete, has improved her offensive game.

Elizabeth DeCataldo has moved into the starting lineup and has performed well on the defensive end and can knock down the open three. Katie Feeley has provided toughness and rebounding in the paint and can shoot the mid-range jumper. Mareike Freiss backs up at small forward and can hit the jumper and take the ball to the hoop.

"We're still basically the same team, but we're more aggressive offensively," said Homm. "We're driving the ball to the hoop more, still not as much as I'd like, and we're a little more physical."

Klimowicz scores in grand fashion

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

With soft hands and a delicate touch around the hoop, Hillary Klimowicz has been scoring points in bunches since she started her first game as a freshman two years ago for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High girls basketball. With her 26th points of the game Dec. 23 she eclipsed the 1,000 point mark, the first of many scoring plateaus the junior will surpass before her Raider career is over.

But, while the 6-foot junior center is proud of the accomplishment, eclipsing one milestone and closing in on the school's girls scoring record is only a product of her doing the job she was put on the court to do.

"I get easy shots," said Klimowicz, who is averaging 18.3 points per game this season and now has 1,095 for her career. "All I have to do is stand under the basket and make layups. If my teammates get me the ball inside I need to make those shots."

"I didn't think about (reaching 1,000) until one of our coaches told me I was in the 900s. It is a good feeling because I get my name on the banner and people will remember after I leave Scotch Plains."

According to Head Coach Brian Homm, the Scotch Plains girls all-time career scoring record is in the low 1400s, a milestone Klimowicz could surpass before the end of this season. But she wasn't even aware of how close she is to setting the record, more concerned instead with leading the Raiders to the Union County Tournament title and trying to overcome nemesis Shabazz.

"If I'm able to set the record I'd be really happy," said Klimowicz. "But I've played so many games I don't really think about how many points I'm scoring. If I get the ball I should be making those shots."



Lending a helping paw

Somerset Patriots mascot Sparkee visited patients at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountalnside recently, spreading holiday joy and well wishes. Sparkee is the six foot, one inch tall mascot named after Patriots manager and New York Yankees great Sparky Lyle. Sparkee presented patients with Somerset Patriots mementos and gifts and posed for photos including this one with nine-month-old patient Me'Kal Walker.

Devils

(Continued from page C-1)

three pointer by Korfmacher and took a 26-23 lead into the break. Cranford rallied back in the third quarter and regained the lead 35-33 on deep three by sophomore Chris Brown, but the game turned when Drechsel was called for a technical with 3:07 remaining in the third period.

Hayes converted three of four free throws and then a layup for a five-point possession to ignite an 13-3 run, that included six-points from Power and allowed the Devils to take a six-point lead into the final period, 46-40.

Westfield began the fourth with baskets on its first five possessions, opening up a 57-47 lead with 4:49 remaining and was able to run chunks of time off of the game clock down the stretch to keep Cranford at arm's length.

"We played 12 bad minutes in the middle of the game," said Johnstone. "We played hard at the end and at the beginning. We were just sloppy with the ball and we just didn't do a lot of good things in the middle of the game."

Westfield (62)
Hayes 4-0-6-14, Cocozziello 2-0-0-4, Bryant 4-1-2-13, Korfmacher 4-1-0-11, Blackmon 1-0-1-3, Power 6-0-1-13, Hearon 2-0-0-4. Totals: 23-2-10-62.
Cranford (57)
Drechsel 1-3-0-11, Grier 11-2-4-32, Brown 1-1-0-5, Markowitz 0-0-0-0, Snyder 0-0-0-0, Kelleman 1-0-0-2, Occi 2-1-0-7. Totals: 16-7-4-57.
Westfield 9 17 20 16 - 62
Cranford 12 11 17 17 - 57



GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS
Jan Cocozziello and Cranford's Dave Snyder scramble for a loose ball in Westfield's 62-57 win over the Cougars Saturday.

Balanced Blue Devils capture indoor relay title

The Westfield High girls track team won the Union County Relay Championships Monday at the Dunn Center in Elizabeth, edging arch rival Scotch Plains 50-40 with an impressive display of depth.

The Devils won just one event, but had 20 different athletes contribute to the scoring, placed no worse than fourth in the eight events and set school records in the two field events.

Mike Cruz, Jennell Carter, Annie Onishi and Emily MacNeil teamed to win the sprint medley in 4:38.7, almost 16 seconds faster than runner-up Summit. Westfield was edged by Scotch Plains in the one-mile relay, taking second in 4:35.5, finished third in the two-mile relay (11:12.1) and the distance medley (13:59.1) and fourth in the 880-yard relay (2:04.0) and shuttle hurdles (37.1).

In the field events, Caroline Sheridan (32 feet 4) and Alison Petrow (31-10 1/2) set a school record in the shot put, combining for a 64-2 1/2 total to place third. Britany Mironovich (4-10) and Amanda Nehring (4-8) took third in the high jump with a school record 9-6.

The boys county relay championship was held Wednesday.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Westfield fell behind 26-7 at the end of the first half and was defeat-

WRAPUP

ed by Linden 46-28 Tuesday. Melissa Rosen led Westfield with 13 points.

Westfield (28)
Ekoury 2-0-0-4, Sinnerberg 2-0-2-6, Rosen 4-1-2-13, Fietkiewicz 0-0-0-0, Judd 2-0-0-4, Pena 0-0-1-1. Totals: 10-1-5-28.
Linden 17 9 10 10 - 46
Westfield 4 3 14 7 - 28

Cranford 51, Westfield 29 — Amanda Mitchell and Melissa Montalvo each had 10 points for Cranford in a 51-29 win over Westfield Saturday.

Cranford (51)
Mitchell 5-0-0-10, Brady 1-0-0-2, Flanagan 3-0-0-6, Porter 1-0-0-2, Minelli 4-0-0-8, Montalvo 4-0-2-10, Koelner 2-0-1-5, Dolan 1-0-0-2, Lovanos 1-1-1-6. Totals: 22-1-4-61.

Westfield (29)
Church 2-0-2-6, Ekoury 2-1-0-7, Sinnerberg 2-0-1-3, Rosen 1-0-1-3, Flannery 0-1-0-3, McGrath 1-0-3-5. Totals: 6-2-7-28.
Cranford 15 14 9 51
Westfield 9 11 9 9 - 29

Lawrence 48, Westfield 34 — Casey Elkoury scored 16 points and Melissa Rosen added 11 for Westfield in, a 48-34 loss to Lawrence in the seventh-place game of the War of the Worlds Tournament in West Windsor Dec. 30.

Lawrence (48)
McMullen 2-0-4-8, Hendrix 0-0-2-2, Reagan 2-0-3-7, Krawczyk 3-0-1-7, Gregory 4-0-6-14, Bottori 2-0-0-4, Brame 1-0-4-6, Nofal 0-0-0-0. Totals: 14-0-20-48.

Westfield (34)
Church 1-0-0-2, Elkoury 4-2-2-16, Sinnerberg 2-0-1-5, Rosen 2-1-4-11, Zucker 0-0-0-0, Simons 0-0-0-0, Chazanow 0-0-0-0.

Flannery 0-0-0-0. Totals: 6-3-7-34.
Lawrence 11 12 9 16 - 48
Westfield 2 6 11 15 - 34

BOYS BASKETBALL
Westfield was tied with Linden, ranked 14th in the state, with just seconds remaining Tuesday, but the Tigers Ariel Garcia drilled a 15-foot jump shot with one second left to lift Linden to a 45-43 victory in Westfield.

Billy Hearon and Jan Cocozziello led Westfield with nine points each.

Westfield (43)
Hayes 3-0-1-7, Cocozziello 4-0-1-9, Bryant 1-0-2, Korfmacher 2-0-2-6, Blackmon 3-0-0-6, Power 0-0-4-4, Hearon 3-1-0-9. Totals: 18-1-8-43.

Linden 13 17 7 8 - 45
Westfield 6 15 12 10 - 43
Westfield 75, Colonia 69 — Eric Hayes converted all eight free throw attempts in overtime to lift Westfield to a 75-69 win over Colonia in the fifth-place game of the John Koval Tournament in Rahway Dec. 30.

Jan Cocozziello scored 15 points and Billy Hearon added 12 for the Blue Devils.

Westfield (75)
Hayes 5-1-8-21, Cocozziello 7-0-1-15, Bryant 1-1-2-7, Korfmacher 3-0-0-6, Blackmon 3-0-0-6, Power 1-1-1-6, Hearon 4-1-1-12. Totals: 24-4-15-75.

Colonia (69)
Rosen 3-0-4-10, Baakel 0-1-0-3, Ford 2-0-0-4, Spreizer 1-0-2-4, Allan 0-0-0-0, Tempenny 0-1-0-3, Gardella 5-1-0-13, Vance 3-0-0-6, Uzuwa 2-0-2-6, Smith 6-2-2-10. Totals: 22-5-10-69.
Westfield 14 21 17 12 - 75
Colonia 16 18 16 14 - 69

Fuller, Character, Thomas pace Raiders to two wins

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High boys basketball team cruised to another conference win Tuesday, defeating Shabazz 74-33 Tuesday.

Sean Fuller and Lance Thomas led the Raiders, who were ranked fifth in the state and highest among public schools this week, with 16 points apiece. Derrick Character finished with 13 points and five blocks.

Scotch Plains (74)
Fuller 7-0-2-16, Character 4-0-5-13, Thomas 6-0-4-16, Johnson 3-0-0-6, Walker 4-0-0-8, Lockery 0-0-0-0, Ford 1-0-2-4, Marable 0-0-0-0, Gates 1-0-4-6, Gilliam 1-1-0-5. Totals: 27-1-17-74.

Shabazz (33)
Hoggard 1-0-0-2, Blackmon 0-1-0-3, Barnono 4-0-0-8, McGloster 2-0-0-4, Smith 3-0-4-10, Hill 0-0-0-0, Reynolds 3-0-0-6. Totals: 13-1-4-33.

WRAPUP

Scotch Plains 17 16 19 22 - 74
Shabazz 9 8 11 5 - 33

Scotch Plains 67, Hillsborough 45 — The Raiders raced out to 44-19 halftime lead on their way towards defeating Hillsborough 67-45 Saturday. Sean Fuller and Derrick Character each scored 12 points to pace the Raiders.

Scotch Plains (67)
Fuller 4-1-1-12, Character 4-0-4-12, Thomas 5-0-0-10, Johnson 0-2-5-11, Walker 2-0-0-4, Lockery 0-0-0-0, Ford 2-0-0-4, Marable 0-0-0-0, Gates 2-2-2-12, Young 1-0-0-2. Totals: 20-5-12-67.

Hillsborough (45)
Majko 2-0-3-7, Sierra 0-3-0-9, Anderson 2-0-

0-4, Shamy 1-0-1-3, Demetriou 0-0-0-0, Z. Smith 3-0-3-9, Miller 1-0-0-2, Vargas 1-1-0-5, J. Smith 2-0-0-4. Totals: 12-4-9-45.

Scotch Plains 20 22 19 6 - 67
Hillsborough 12 7 13 13 - 45

TRACK
The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High girls track team placed second at the Union County Relays Monday night at the Dunn Center in Elizabeth.

The Raiders finished with 40 points, 10 behind first-place Westfield, winning two events and scoring in five of the eight events.

Meaghan Kelly, Michelle Regg, Amanda Bobyack and Aja Bundy placed first in the 880-yard relay in 2:01.2. Kelly and Bundy joined

Samantha Gates and Kim Apazato to win the one-mile relay in 4:34.9.

Scotch Plains placed second in the two-mile relay (11:10) and distance medley (13:54.7) and place fourth in the sprint medley (4:59.4).

GIRLS BASKETBALL
The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High girls basketball team couldn't find away to overcome Shabazz Tuesday, falling to their conference nemesis 82-37.

Scotch Plains (37)
Klimowicz 3-0-3-9, Burke 5-0-0-10, Gillooly 2-1-0-7, Russell 0-0-0-0, DeCataldo 0-0-0-0, Fress 3-0-0-6, Maines 1-0-1-3, Zazali 1-0-0-2. Totals: 15-1-4-37.

Shabazz (82)
Ajavon 7-1-0-17, Williams 10-0-2-22, Zackery 5-0-0-10, Sims 4-2-0-14, Harris 2-1-0-7, Evans 1-0-0-2, Hemingway 4-0-0-8, Rainey 1-0-0-2. Totals: 34-4-2-82.

Shabazz 15 23 21 8 - 82
Scotch Plains 7 10 13 7 - 37

Scotch Plains 62, Hillsborough 38 — Hillary Klimowicz poured in 28 points, grabbed six rebounds, had six assists, made three steals and had a block to lead the Raiders past Hillsborough 62-38 Saturday. Jenny Burke had 14 assists to go with eight points.

Scotch Plains (62)
Russell 3-0-0-6, Klimowicz 13-0-2-28, Burke 2-0-4-8, Gillooly 4-0-2-10, Fress 2-0-0-4, Benovengo 2-0-0-4, Smith 1-0-0-2. Totals: 27-0-8-62.

Hillsborough (38)
Rainey 6-0-6-18, A. Kutch 1-1-0-5, Cohesack 2-0-0-4, McManara 1-0-0-2, DeLuca 0-0-1-1, K. Kutch 2-0-2-6, Poulter 1-0-0-2. Totals: 13-1-4-38.

Scotch Plains 19 12 15 16 - 62
Hillsborough 4 6 11 17 - 38

Scotch Plains 55, Lake Branch 40 — Scotch Plains captured fifth place in the KSA

Tournament in Orlando with a 55-40 win over Lake Brantley Dec. 30.

Hillary Klimowicz scored 14 points, grabbed eight rebounds and had three steals to lead the Raiders. Jenny Burke added 15 points, seven assists and one steal and Maura Gillooly had 15 points, four assists and two rebounds for the Raiders.

Scotch Plains (55)
Russell 0-0-0-0, Klimowicz 6-0-2-14, Burke 6-0-3-15, DeCataldo 4-1-0-11, Gillooly 1-3-4-15, Feeley 0-0-0-0, Fress 0-0-0-0, Makely 0-0-0-0. Totals: 17-4-8-55.

Lake Brantley (40)
Broom 2-0-0-4, Konopka 2-0-1-5, Nkic 2-0-0-4, Kroker 2-0-0-4, Livino 0-1-0-3, Monroe 1-0-0-2, Dixon 6-0-2-14. Totals: 15-1-7-40.
Scotch Plains 17 15 9 14 - 55
Lake Brantley 3 12 12 13 - 40

WRESTLING
In its home-opener Scotch Plains defeated Parsippany Hills 48-12, as Derek Francavilla, Stephen Mineo, Marc Fabiano and Andrew Silber won by pin.

118: Fama, S, dec. Godhari 7-3.
125: Francavilla, S, pinned Gaipeau, 4:36.
130: Mineo, S, pinned McNeal 0:50.
135: Mineo, S, dec. Corigliano, 10-6.
140: Connelly, S, dec. Krag, 4-0.
145: Kunzel, P, dec. Watson, 4-1.
152: Coyt, S, dec. Deisem, 4-0.
160: De Vincenzo, P, dec. Mucelli, 8-1.
171: Silber, S, pinned Shea, 5:25.
180: Bachi, S, dec. Hesse 18-3 (TF: 5:32)
215: Fabiano, S, pinned Simms, 1:09.
HWT: Loomis, S, won by forfeit.
103: Femini, P, pinned Fleissner, 1:29.
112: Gano, S, dec. Macnell, 8-2.

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

(all times p.m. unless otherwise noted)

FRIDAY, JAN. 9
Swimming
Scotch Plains at Pingry, 4
Wrestling
Scotch Plains at East Side, 8
Westfield at Kearny, 5:30
Track
Westfield at Cliff Back Invitational, 4:30 at Drew University

SATURDAY, JAN. 10
Boys Basketball
Scotch Plains at Union, 7
Westfield at Kearny, 1
Girls Basketball
Scotch Plains vs. Union, 1
Westfield vs. Kearny, 5:30
Wrestling
Scotch Plains at Patriot Duals, 9 a.m.
Boys Swimming
Pirate Invitational

SUNDAY, JAN. 11
Girls Swimming
Pirate Invitational

TUESDAY, JAN. 13
Boys Basketball
Westfield vs. Elizabeth, 4
Girls Basketball
Westfield at Elizabeth, 4
Bowling
Scotch Plains at Shabazz, 3:20
Westfield at Kearny, 3:30
Girls Swimming
Westfield vs. Bishop Ahr

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14
Wrestling
Scotch Plains vs. Cranford, 7
Westfield at Elizabeth, 5:30
Ice Hockey
Westfield vs. Johnson, 8:30

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Prevention Links elects president, plans CAP

Dr. Michel Bitritto of Summit was sworn in recently as president of the board of trustees of Prevention Links, the non-profit substance abuse prevention education agency that services all of Union County.

Bitritto is a community leader, elected municipal official, and a New Jersey Chemical Industry Executive. In 2001, she ran for public office on Summit's City Council. She was elected to the New Jersey State Democratic Committee in 2003. In addition to serving as president of the board of Prevention Links, Bitritto also is on the boards of Runnells Specialized Hospital, the Cultural and Heritage Program Advisory of Union County, and the Stanford Executive Women's Leadership Forum. She has been the vice chairwoman of Summit's Municipal Alliance and served on the TWIN Management Forum.

Bitritto received the Star Award from the Women's Resource Center for community service and is an honoree of the Plainfield YMCA Twin Program for contributions to industry and women. She is currently the director of marketing communications at Celanese Corporation in Summit. She holds a

Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut.

Also elected to serve as officers on the board were Geri Samuel of Scotch Plains, Fred Chemidlin Jr. of Westfield and Susan Dimetros Ucci of Elizabeth. Other members of the Prevention Links Board are Ron Allen, Howard Becker, Ray Jajko, Susan McCrea, Dot Teller, and Larry Williams.

Among Prevention Links' upcoming programs is a two-day Congregation Assistance Program (CAP) training which was developed to assist congregations of all denominations and faiths in helping individuals and families with drug and alcohol problems.

The CAP training will take place 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 and Jan. 17 at 35 Walnut Avenue, Suite 17, Clark.

CAP is a structured prevention and intervention ministry within a congregation for which selected individuals — core teams — are trained to become a resource to the community regarding alcoholism and drug dependence as well as promotion healthy lifestyles.

The presenter of the training will be Scott

Sechrist. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. During the training, participants will learn how to cultivate a Congregation Assistance Program within their own congregation. Persons attending both days of the training will become certified to provide this resource to their congregation.

To attend this free workshop, which is open to all Union County residents or would like more information, call Prevention Links at (732) 381-4100. Register immediately.

Prevention Links is an affiliate of the New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN) and is one of 19 independent community based nonprofit organizations serving all 21 counties in New Jersey.

The network is dedicated to prevention and early intervention for alcoholism, tobacco, drug abuse, and other related problems.

Last year, more than 23,000 people throughout Union County were serviced by an agency program or event and over 118,000 educational materials were distributed. For more information about the agency or for volunteer opportunities, call (732) 381-4100 or check out www.preventionlinks.org.

Blood donations needed

The Blood Center of New Jersey is asking residents to start the new year off by making a blood donation. "Donations are very low right now," said Judy Daniels, spokeswoman for the Blood Center of New Jersey. "The weeks surrounding the holidays are traditionally times of low collections and this year was no exception," she continued. "Now as more surgeries are being scheduled and emergencies continue, we seriously need to build up a very low supply of blood."

The Blood Center of New Jersey needs to have 160 local residents donate every day to adequately meet the needs of the 30 hospitals it provides blood to in the area. Over the holidays, the numbers dip to less than half of that amount. Blood must then be shipped in from other states, but this is only possible if other regions collect more than they need for their own constituents.

An entire blood donation generally takes under an hour and

includes a mini-physical check of blood pressure, iron, pulse, health history check, the actual blood donation, and a short rest and cookies. The actual donation takes less than 10 minutes. For more information or to sign up for a blood drive, call the blood center at 1-800-652-5663, ext. 140 or log onto www.bloodnj.org.

Upcoming drives are scheduled on: Jan. 10, Moose Lodge #91, 43/115 Luttgan Place, Linden, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Jan. 10, St. John the Apostle Church, 1805 Penbrook Terrace, Linden, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Jan. 10, Deutscher Club, Featherbed Lane, Clark, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Jan. 11, Temple Beth Israel, 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Jan. 11, St. Mary's Parish, 232 Central Avenue, Rahway, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Jan. 12, Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park & Randolph Roads, Plainfield, 4-8 p.m.; Jan. 12, Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard, Kenilworth, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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Roundtable featuring PTA, Board of Ed open to residents

SCOTCH PLAINS — Area residents are invited to attend the annual roundtable discussion between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood PTA Council next week.

Less formal than a traditional Board of Education meeting, this forum offers a valuable opportunity to learn more about current

topics of interest in the SP-F district.

The roundtable discussion will be held 8 p.m. Thursday at the Board of Education offices, which are located at Evergreen and Cedar Streets in Scotch Plains.

For more information, contact PTA Council vice president Gale Miller at (908) 889-7934.

LEGALS

TOWN OF WESTFIELD WESTFIELD PLANNING BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2004

In compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8D (Open Public Meetings Act), the Westfield Planning Board wishes to advise the public of its meetings dates. Meetings at which formal action will be taken are on first Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise stipulated and are held at the Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey in the Council Chambers on the following dates:

January 8, 2004 (see below)
February 2, 2004
March 1, 2004
April 5, 2004
May 3, 2004
June 7, 2004
July 5, 2004 (see below)

The Board will also meet at 7:30 p.m. on the above meetings dates in the Mayor's Conference Room for a work session which the public may attend but may not participate in. The regular Planning Board meetings for the months of January, July, September and November 2004 will be held on a Thursday, at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey.

Applications and plans to be considered at these meetings will be on file in the office of the Secretary of the Planning Board, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey and may be seen Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Kenneth B. Marsh, Secretary
Westfield Planning Board
425 38
137 04

August 2, 2004
September 9, 2004 (see below)
October 4, 2004
November 4, 2004 (see below)
December 6, 2004
January 6, 2005
February 7, 2005

TOWN OF WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING DATES FOR 2004

In compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-8D (Open Public Meetings Act), the Board of Adjustment wishes to advise the public of its meetings dates. Meetings are on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise stipulated and are held at the Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey in the Council Chambers. The Board will also meet at 7:00 p.m. on those dates in the Mayor's Conference Room for a work session which the public may attend but may not participate in. Meetings dates are as follows:

January 12, 2004
February 9, 2004
March 8, 2004
April 12, 2004
May 10, 2004
June 14, 2004
July 12, 2004

Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. with work session starting at 6:30 p.m.

Colleen Mayer, Secretary
Board of Adjustment
412 92

August 9, 2004
September 13, 2004
October 19, 2004
November 8, 2004
December 13, 2004
January 10, 2005
February 14, 2005

Pair arrested on weapons charges

WESTFIELD

Katie Sheeler, 29, of South Bound Brook was arrested for driving while intoxicated and possession of a prohibited weapon Saturday. At police headquarters, Sheeler was additionally charged with disorderly conduct and refusal to submit to a breath test. Police reportedly found a knife in Sheeler's purse.

A passenger in the vehicle, Ronald Labella, 32, of Cranford, was charged with possession of prohibited weapons when police searched him and found three knives. The illegal weapons included a prohibited stiletto and switchblade style knives, police said.

On Dec. 31, a Forest Avenue resident reported the theft of a Hitachi brand jackhammer from the basement of an apartment building.

Officers arrested Tobera Lane of Plainfield for shoplifting at a North Avenue business Dec. 31. The alleged theft was in the amount of \$1,117.

Lane was also held on several outstanding arrest warrants from several jurisdictions.

A resident of Shadowlawn Drive reported that someone threw eggs at her house Jan. 1.

A 21-year-old Nutley woman reported being assaulted in the 400 block of Beechwood Place Jan. 2.

Police Log

On Saturday, a Scotch Plains woman reported being the victim of a theft while at a business on North Avenue.

Officers arrested Raymond Stark of Fanwood on the 200 block of Central Avenue for alleged theft of a credit card and fraudulent use of a credit card Monday. Stark was released on bail.

SCOTCH PLAINS

On Dec. 31, a Plainfield resident reported being harassed while at work at Complete Care. The victim reported that a former employee has been calling the office and harassing her.

Karen Kulpa, 49, of Paff Place and William Hatze, 36, of Plainfield were arrested and charged with possession of marijuana Jan. 1.

According to police, the arrest came after someone dialed 911 from inside the home and police arrived and smelled what they believed to be burnt marijuana. The two were arrested and released.

A Lamberts Mill Road resident reported that sometime between 7 p.m. Dec. 31 and 8:45 a.m. Jan. 1 someone cut the inflated Christmas ornament on his front lawn.

County gets grant for housing subsidies

Freeholder Deborah P. Scanlon announced last month the County of Union has received a \$3.67 million competitive federal grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The monies will be used to fund the county's existing Continuum of Care strategy to assist families with children find affordable housing and services.

"The demand for subsidized housing increases each year," stated Chairwoman Scanlon. "With this grant we will be able to provide transitional housing for persons moving from homelessness."

The Union County Department of Human Services applied for the competitive grant, with applications received from throughout the country. This year's grant is the second largest ever won by the county.

"With the national economy struggling, it is so important to take advantage of any program that brings federal funds to the

county," Scanlon added.

"Finding the money to fund important projects such as these is always difficult," said Angel Estrada, the new chairman of the freeholder board. "But due to the hard working individuals in our Department of Human Services this competitive grant will go a long way in helping provide relief for the homeless."

Along with subsidized housing, permanent affordable housing through family homes and condo units for individuals and families will also be made available thanks to the grant.

The grant money will be distributed to the following agencies and organizations: Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth, \$1,219,680; Community Access Unlimited, \$59,464; American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter, \$57,901; New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, \$121,968; Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County, Inc., \$738,838; YMCA of Eastern Union County, \$1,476,424.

Paul Deroo honored for aerospace outreach

WESTFIELD — Dr. Paul Deroo of Westfield, an associate professor in the Drexel University Goodwin College of Professional Studies, has been honored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Bureau of Aviation with its annual Outreach/Awareness Award. Deroo is being recognized for his service in the field of aviation, awareness, education and achievement in getting the university's aviation management program off the ground.

"Before Drexel introduced the program, individuals would have to attend colleges and universities in distant states," said Deroo, who initiated the aviation management program in 2001.

Deroo, who also manages Goodwin College's homeland security and emergency management programs, earned his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Ottawa and his master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Western Ontario. He has spent over three decades in the aerospace, chemical and biochemical process industries as a director, trainer, technical editor and consultant.

The program consists of three areas of specialization — aviation management, aviation safety and aviation security — and offers bachelor degrees for those wishing to enter the aviation industry and master of science degrees for those interested in career advancement in the field.

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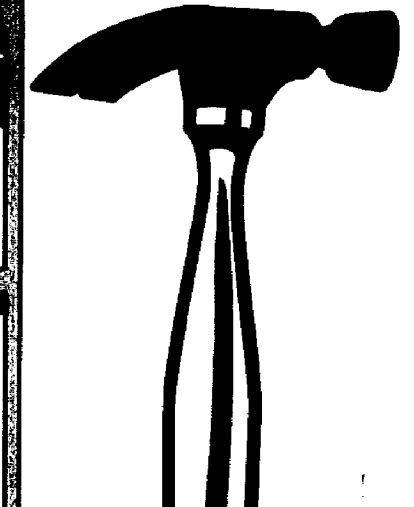


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Real Estate

UCC courses offer residents entry into Real Estate

CRANFORD — The Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education at Union County College is once again offering courses for those in the Real Estate industry through its Institute of Real Estate and Appraisal. Those interested in learning about the many aspects of the Real Estate industry can take advantage of "Principles of Real Estate." Topics covered in this course include property interests, mortgages, deeds, title closing, liens, real estate law and ethics, agency relationships and real estate calculations. This course meets the Real Estate

Commission requirements for the New Jersey Sales Licensing Examination. It will be offered during the Spring 2004 semester beginning on Feb. 2. In addition, the New Jersey State Board of Real Estate Appraisers has approved Union County College to offer the following courses to satisfy the requirements for licensed, residential and general appraisers. "Introduction to Real Estate Appraisal" covers the Appraisal Profession, Real Estate and its Appraisal, the Real Estate Marketplace, the Appraisal Process, Building Construction, Data Collection,

Site Valuation, and the Cost Approach, Part I. This course begins on Feb. 3, and costs \$325, which includes the cost of the book. Another class, "How To Complete the Uniform Residential Appraisal Form," covers Site Valuation, Purpose of Separate Site Value, Sources of Data, Specific Data, Collection of Data, Income and Expenses Data, Applying Data, Improvements, Description, Construction, Internal and External Data, Cost Approach Part 2, Income Approach, and Direct Sales Comparable Approach. Students must complete a

final examination. This course begins March 4 and costs \$325, including the book fee. "Preparing a Small Residential Income Appraisal Report" covers Subject, Neighborhood, Site, Comments, Description of Improvements, Additional Comments, the Cost Approach, Comparable Rental Data, the Direct Sales Comparable Approach, the Income Approach, and Reconciliation. Students are required to pass a final examination. The course begins on April 1 and costs \$325, including the book fee. "Valuation Principals and

Procedures" covers Site Valuation, Purpose of Separate Site Value, Sources of Data, Specific Data, Collection of Data, Income and Expenses Data, Applying Data, Improvements, Description, Construction, Internal and External Data, Cost Approach Part 2, Income (GMRM) Approach, and Direct Sales Comparable Approach, and Reconciliation. This course begins on April 29 and costs \$300. For more information or to register, call the Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education at (908) 709-7600.

These ten tips can help make moving easier on children

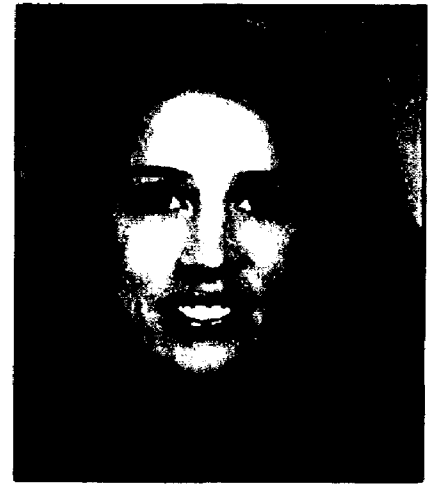
- (NAPSI) — When considering a move, a recent survey found, a parent's top concern is how that move will affect their family. Fortunately, guidance is now available on how to make the move easier for children. Here are 10 tips from the real estate professionals at Century 21:
1. Make a positive goodbye to the old home and community. Before you move, host a get-together with close friends and neighbors to say goodbye. Visit special places your family loves. When your home is empty, walk through the rooms and see how empty they are without your possessions.
 2. Plan a welcoming ritual for your new home. Walk through it together. Gather to hang a family photograph or find a place for an object that is special to your family.
 3. Have survival necessities that you can find immediately in your new home. This includes the "blankie" for baby, toys for kids, favorite pajamas for your preschooler, essential CD for your teen and the coffee pot for you.
 4. Re-establish family routines right away. Once you've moved in, get back to your normal schedule as quickly as possible.
 5. Prioritize the unpacking process. Make your first priority setting up the kids' rooms. Take time to enjoy getting to know your new home.
 6. Allow the kids some say in setting up their bedrooms. Let them claim their new space.
 7. Help your children feel comfortable in their new rooms. Some children have problems sleeping in a new bedroom. Take time to talk about how this room is similar to the child's old room and how it's different. Pay special attention to things that were in the old room to encourage a sense of familiarity.
 8. Get familiar with the new neighborhood. Talk to your kids about where they can go and where they can't. To make a game of it, print out the Scavenger Hunt on www.C21SmoothMoves.com.
 9. Help your pets settle in. Kids will feel more comfortable when they see that their four-legged friends are doing okay. Cats do best when you confine them to one room in the new home. Keep dogs on a leash until they get to know the new neighborhood.
 10. Make new friends but keep the old. Help your children make friends in the new community by finding activities for them, including clubs, lessons and classes. At the same time, support their need to hold on to their old friends.
- For more tips, visit the web site at www.C21SmoothMoves.com.

Bataille named top Listing Agent

WESTFIELD — Elizabeth Bataille, a consistent top achiever in the Burgdorff ERA Westfield Office, was recently honored for the third time in 2003. Bataille was recognized twice with Listing Agent of the Month, in February and March, and was recently awarded in November 2003 with Sales Agent of the Month. A New Jersey native, Bataille is eager to share her personal knowledge of the area with clients. As a resident of Union County, she can give firsthand information about local school districts, neighborhoods, commuting, shopping, recreation and more. Bataille's caring, respectful service is combined with integrity and professionalism. Bataille was named to the prestigious 2003 President's Council at Burgdorff ERA annual

awards luncheon held in March. This is the company's highest honor given to the top seventeen agents based on production. Bataille is also a member of the New Jersey Association of Realtors (NJAR) Circle of Excellence Sales Award from 1989 through 2002 and achieved Bronze Level in 1989-96 and Silver in 1997-2002. She also attained the Burgdorff ERA Awards for Leaders Circle in 1999-2003, President's Elite for 2003 and the Distinguished Sales Club in 1999-2003. Bataille can be contacted on her direct line at (908) 518-5294 or by email at Elizabeth.Bataille@burgdorff.com. George Kraus, vice president and manager of Burgdorff ERA's Westfield Office, stated, "Elizabeth's most recent accomplishment is another example of

her continuing commitment to conduct her business with the highest professional standards. Everyone benefits from her expertise, the company, the office, and most importantly, her clients." The Burgdorff ERA Westfield Office is a full service real estate center located at 600 North Avenue West. For real estate assistance, or to inquire about a career in real estate, call the office at (908) 233-0065. Visit on the web at www.burgdorff.com to learn more about the Westfield office and the market area served and view individual web pages for each sales associate, electronic listings and directions to the Burgdorff ERA office. Founded in 1958, Burgdorff ERA is the nation's top producing ERA real estate firm in sales dollar volume. The company consists



ELIZABETH BATAILLE

of 700 sales associates and 15 offices. The international ERA real estate network includes more than 2,500 independently owned and operated brokerage offices with more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates in all 50 of the United States and 28 other countries and territories.

Gina Suriano Barber named county's Associate of the Month

WESTFIELD — Gina Suriano Barber, broker/sales associate in the Westfield Office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, has been named Associate of the Month for Union County for having the highest production for the month of November. A seasoned real estate veteran of 14 years, Barber has been awarded the New Jersey Association of Realtors Million Dollar Club Silver Level each consecutive year from 1996 through 2001. Prior to receiving the Silver Level, she received the NJAR Million Dollar Club Bronze Level from 1989 through 1995. Representing both buyers and sellers, Barber is a full-service agent. "I really feel the success of

my business is attributed to my devotion to customer service — customer service is an extremely important component in this business. "I'm very attentive to my customers' wants and needs, and I strive to provide my clients with the best possible service and real estate information available," she said. Born and raised in Scotch Plains, Barber is extremely knowledgeable about the communities of her service areas including Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Westfield, Cranford, Mountainside, Clark and Summit. "A great percentage of my clients base is from referrals," she said. "I know many people in the area and am now work-

ing with their children and friends. It's a great feeling to be able to fulfill my clients' dreams and be part of the process." Barber is a member of the Garden State Multiple Listing Service and the Middlesex County Multiple Listing Service. For information on buying or selling a home in the Westfield area, call Barber at the Westfield Office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage at (908) 301-2012 or visit her website at www.ginasellsnjhomes.com. The Westfield office is located at 209 Central Ave. Alternately view listings on the Internet at www.ColdwellBankerMoves.com. And for a no-obligation mortgage pre-approval, call Coldwell Banker Mortgage at (888) 317-5416. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey/Rockland County, N.Y., is a member of the Coldwell Banker system, which has 3,500 offices and more than 106,000 Sales Associates worldwide.



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30-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.63	5%	35	5.394	30-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%	30	5.620	30-yr. Fixed	5.625	0.00	5%	45	5.750	30-yr. Fixed	5.625	0.00	5%	60	5.640	
15-yr. Fixed	4.500	1.00	5%	35	4.798	15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.00	5%	30	4.880	15-yr. Fixed	5.000	0.00	5%	45	5.130	15-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%	60	4.890	
30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	1.50	5%	35	5.679	30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	0.00	5%	30	5.910	30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	0.00	5%	45	6.000	30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	0.00	5%	60	5.890	
CODI	1.870	0.00	5%	35	4.880	30-yr. FHA/VA	6.500	0.00	5%	30	6.980	15-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	5%	45	5.250	30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.00	5%	60	5.540	
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30-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%	30	5.790	30-yr. Fixed	5.750	0.00	5%	45	5.810	30-yr. Fixed	5.625	0.00	5%	30	5.710	30-yr. Fixed	5.250*	0.00	5%	60	5.290	
30-yr. Fixed	5.250	1.00	5%	30	5.610	15-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	5%	45	5.240	15-yr. Fixed	5.000	0.00	5%	30	5.050	15-yr. Fixed	4.625*	0.00	5%	60	4.670	
30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	0.00	10%	30	6.080	30-yr. Jumbo	6.125	0.00	5%	45	6.240	30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	0.00	10%	30	5.970	30-yr. Jumbo	4.500*	0.00	5%	60	4.540	
15-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%	30	5.070	3/1 ARM	3.625	0.00	10%	45	3.910	15-yr. Jumbo	5.375	0.00	10%	30	5.560	15-yr. Jumbo	4.750*	0.00	5%	60	4.790	
15-yr. Jumbo	5.125	0.00	10%	30	5.210	*All applicants must meet credit requirements. Apply online at www.loansurvey.com or call 800-887-8106. All credit.					Consistently Low Rates. Open 7 Days a week 9-9.					* = All quotes are the "Guaranteed Rate Program" Free Refinance forever. Partners Mortgage.com								
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30-yr. Fixed	4.875	3.00	5%	30	5.188	30-yr. Fixed	5.875	0.00	5%	60	5.870	30-yr. Fixed	5.750	0.00	5%	60	5.810	30-yr. Fixed	5.625	0.00	5%	60	5.730	
15-yr. Fixed	4.375	3.00	5%	30	4.910	15-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%	60	5.254	15-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%	60	5.186	15-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%	60	4.990	
30-yr. Jumbo	5.375	3.00	5%	30	5.698	10-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%	60	4.880	30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	0.00	5%	60	5.910	30-yr. Jumbo	5.750	0.00	5%	60	5.890	
30-yr. FHA/VA	5.000	2.75	3%	30	5.443	Reserve your rate for 30 days while you shop. Ask about our "Great Start Program" as little as 5% down. Visit our Website at www.firstsavings.com					5/1 Jumbo	4.500	0.00	5%	60	4.221	30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.00	5%	60	5.540		
5-yr. ARM	3.250	3.00	10%	30	3.550	All Rates and Fees are Guaranteed in Writing! www.afmldg.com					Specializing in Commercial Loans from \$500K to \$5 million and Property Types. Res. Loans as low as 1.95%.					3/1 ARM	3.750	0.00	5%	60	3.830			
American Mortgage, Inc. 800-234-5659					Investors Savings Bank 800-252-8119					National Future Mortgage 800-291-7900					Lenders wishing to participate call 800-939-NEWS									
30-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%	45	5.620	30-yr. Fixed	5.875	0.00	5%	90	5.920	30-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%	45	5.710	Check mortgage rates daily at: www.nj.com Updated 3:00pm Monday thru Friday						
15-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%	45	5.060	30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	0.00	20%	90	5.920	15-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%	45	5.186							
30-yr. Jumbo	5.750	0.00	5%	45	5.800	15-yr. Fixed	5.000	0.00	5%	90	5.030	30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	0.00	5%	45	6.083							
30-yr. FHA/VA	5.500	0.00	3%	45	5.920	5-yr. ARM	4.500	0.00	5%	90	4.410	15-yr. Jumbo	5.250	0.00	5%	45	5.330	Check mortgage rates daily at: www.nj.com Updated 3:00pm Monday thru Friday						
Interest Only	1.750	0.50	10%	45	3.800	10-yr. ARM	5.375	0.00	5%	90	4.810	3-yr. ARM	1.950	0.00	10%	45	4.460							
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Automotive/Classified

Kia moves uptown with a full-size offering

By MARK MAYNARD
Copley News Service

As with most import groups who have set up shop in the United States, growth and prosperity lead to a move uptown. And after 10 years in America, Kia is moving up in image and size with the Amanti sedan.

It's a full-size offering, but don't call it a sedan, says Kia. It's a "big car." A full-size sedan is something your father or grandfather drives, even though the potential buyers for Amanti might already have received their AARP memberships.

The typical customers for a big car are 67-year-old men, more than half of whom are retired — and the rest are set in their ways and loyal to their existing brand of car.

It's not that there is a great margin of opportunity in selling cars to drivers in their mid-60s, but for Kia there is another message in going big: "We don't just sell small cars for college kids," says marketing chief Wally Anderson.

"These people want a big car with prestige," Anderson says. "Their attitude is: 'I'm not getting old!' They are changing the definition of what it means to be old: It's stylish to be 50."

Moving into dealerships any day now, Amanti competes in size with the Toyota Avalon, Chrysler Concorde and Buick LeSabre, but it is taller, with 40 inches of headroom, and can cost up to \$4,000 less.

The base Amanti starts at \$25,535 and comes with a 200-horsepower, 3.5-liter double overhead cam V-6 and a five-speed automatic transmission with manual shift mode.

If that seems pricey, consider that the typical Sorento SUV transaction price — not suggested



Kia is moving up in image and size with the Amanti sedan.

retail price — is \$24,000, and the average transaction price across the seven-vehicle Kia line is \$19,000.

Amanti has a substantial list of features and only these three option packages:

Leather (\$1,805) includes leather seat trim, two-position memory for driver's seat, two-position memory for outside mirrors, Infinity AM-FM-cassette-6-disc CD audio system, 4-inch monitor with trip computer.

Kia expects about 50 percent of the cars will be sold with this package.

Convenience (\$900) includes sunroof, heated front seats, auto-dimming inside mirror with integrated garage opener.

ESP package (\$550) includes Electronic Stability Program,

Traction Control and Brake Assist.

As the company's new flagship, Amanti also will be the South Korean company's technology showcase. Standard equipment includes eight air bags, including side curtains, and a range of electronic driver aids, such as brake assist and electronic brake-force distribution, electronic stability program and traction control.

Amenities include an eight-speaker audio with CD, automatic climate control, power front seats with power lumbar for driver, one-touch up and down windows and a full-size spare and alloy wheel.

Attention to detail will be important to the owner, too.

Look for a fully trimmed engine bay and trunk, rear

underbody cover, chrome and covered door strikers, gas struts for hood and trunk lid, stainless steel door sill plates; dampened glove box/ashtray/sunglass holder, assist grips and dual level center console, electronic trunk release (and a keyhole tucked under the grab handle), and window frame interior cover so the exterior color doesn't show inside.

And, of course, it has the Kia 100,000-mile warranty.

The platform is borrowed from parent company Hyundai — the XG350 sedan — but it's four years newer, improved and larger.

It's a perfectly nice car to drive. Very quiet on the road, quieter at idle and at highway speeds than the Toyota Avalon, Kia says.

There's decent acceleration

from the V-6, which is fairly sophisticated with 24 valves, double overhead camshafts and drive-by-wire throttle.

It is tuned for smoothness and quietness of operation — and so thoroughly accomplished that I ground the starter after the engine had already fired. I can see a starter disengagement feature being added in the future.

The five-speed automatic shifts with luxury-class refinement, allows manual shifts and resists seeking between fourth and fifth on low uphill stretches. Fuel economy is just average at 17 mpg city and 25 highway — using regular unleaded — but the sedan is heavy at 4,021 pounds.

The rather mainstream styling is referred to as "neoclassical" with influences from "Euro and American large-car themes." In

other words, there's a little Jaguar, Mercedes and Town Car to the shape, but consumers in the focus surveys liked the lines.

And the hefty shape allows for a spacious cabin with plenty of storage areas, of which Kia believes you just can't have enough — and packs 'em in with a dual-level front center armrest, a lockable, dual-level glove box, adjustable map pockets in the front doors and more.

From the early days of the Sephia — with its paint drips and misaligned doors — to this is a remarkable progression of quality.

Only time will tell how well it holds together, but I saw nothing to give concern, except maybe the Hankook tires, which don't have the cachet of Michelin or Pirelli.

Announcements

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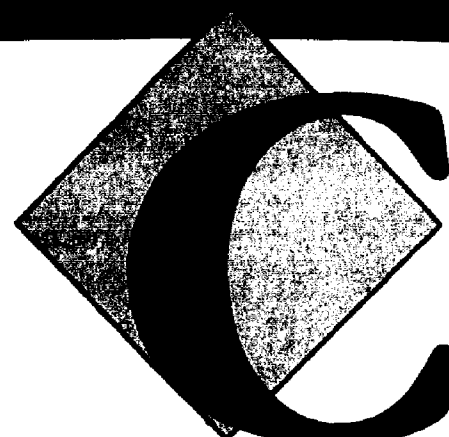
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Auto trans, 6 cylinder, air cond, power steering, p/w, dual airbags, roof rack, leather, cruise, tilt, tint, power windows, power locks, CD, keyless entry. MSRP: \$41,144. Vin#83210186. Stk#4057. Price includes \$3500 GM Rebate, \$1000 Oldsmobile Loyalty rebate (if qual), \$400 College Grad Rebate (if qual), \$750 Active Military rebate (if qual), \$4815 Dealer Discount.

2000 CHEVROLET Cavalier \$7000




4 cylinder, automatic, power steer, power brakes, air conditioning, rr defrost, airbags, am/fm/cass, tint. 39,788 mi. Vin#77439507. WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2001 CHEVROLET Malibu \$8850




6 cylinder, auto trans, p/steering, p/brakes, air cond, p/windows, p/locks, airbags, cruise, tilt, tint. 34,008 miles. Vin#16143739. WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2001 CHEVROLET \$11,605




Auto trans, 6 cylinder, power steering, power brakes, air cond, p/locks, p/w, rear def, airbags, cruise, tilt. 24,822 mi. Vin#19179035. WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2002 CHEVROLET VENTURE \$15,570




Auto, 6 cylinder, p/steering, p/brks, air cond, p/winds, p/locks, p/mirrs, roof rack, dual airbags, tint, cruise, tilt. 18,301 mi. Vin#2D185521. WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2003 CHEVROLET EXPRESS CARGO VAN \$15,600



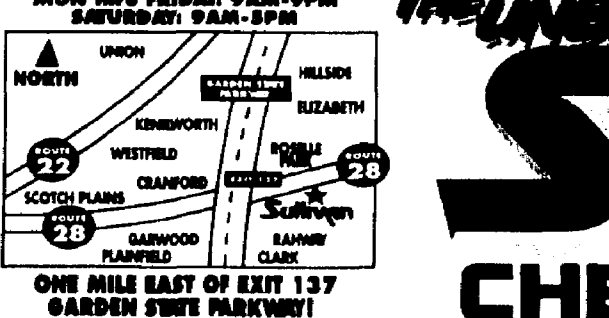
Auto, 6 cylinder, p/steering, p/brakes, air cond, airbags, tint, am/fm/cass. 13,645 mi. Vin#31154703. WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER \$21,900



Auto, 6 cylinder, 4WD, p/steering, p/brakes, air cond, airbags, keyless entry, roof rack, p/w, pdl, pmirrs. 14,607 mi. Vin#2261126. WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

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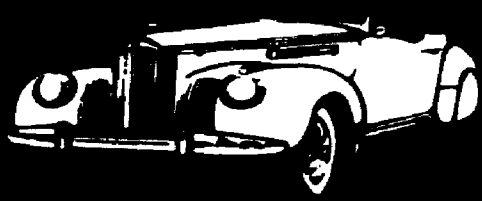
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- Leather Trunk
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- Leather Door Panels
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- Power Brakes
- Power Windows
- Power Seats
- Power Locks
- Power Trunk
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- AM/FM Stereo CD
- CD Changer
- Leather Interior
- Leather Seats
- Leather Trunk
- Leather Steering Wheel
- Leather Door Panels
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- 2001 Mercury Mountaineer Monterey SUV** \$19,995
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- 1999 Lincoln Navigator 4x4** \$22,995
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- 2002 Lincoln LS** \$25,995
 V8, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo CD, leath, moonr, chrome whls, tilt, cruise, r def, tint, 28,378 mi, STK #3P132, VIN #2Y634152
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