



### Campus notes

Several residents were named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

They are Daniel B. Deegan of Scotch Plains, a freshman majoring in biology in the College of Science; Shawn D. Doyle of Scotch Plains, a junior majoring in general engineering in the College of Engineering; and Anthony S. Agresta of Westfield, a junior majoring in electrical engineering in the College of Engineering.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

Numerous area residents were named to the dean's list for the fall semester at the University of Delaware after maintaining grade point averages of 3.33 or better.

They are Danielle Hirschhorn,

Malina Marie Milonnet and Michelle Elizabeth Trimpin of Fanwood; Kathryn Ann Benski, Stephen Alexander Carroll, James Christopher Healy, Kimberly Ann Lorenzini, Jessica Ellen Neuringer, Rebecca Erin Novorro and Hana Celia Pardon of Scotch Plains; and Leah Ann DiMatteo, Kayli Hana Spialter, Alexandra Wende Devlin, Deanna Goldner, Andrew Gregory Baum, Brian Robert Flynn and Bryan Kevin Schneider of Westfield.

Two local students enrolled in the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University were named to the dean's list for the fall semester. To qualify for the honor, students must achieve at least a 3.4 grade-point average.

The students are Daniel Banker of Scotch Plains, a junior majoring in information management and technology; and Alex Regenstreich of Westfield, a sophomore majoring in information management and technology.

Scotch Plains resident Theodore Francis Sensor was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Sensor is a 2004 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. He is the son of Tim Sensor and Connie Sobon Sensor of Scotch Plains.

Sean Richard Callahan of Westfield was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard John Callahan, he also earned a Gold Star for a grade-point average of 3.7 or higher.

## Special ed costs cause concern for board

(Continued from page A-1)

the cost of special education, but really we are being critical of the way special education is being funded," said Russo. Last year the district spent 18 percent of its budget on special education, said board member Betty Anne Woerner.

The district's proposed increase in out-of-district tuition costs is \$749,232, leading to a total proposed cost of \$4.7 million. Of that, nearly \$4.4 million is being proposed for special education, with the remainder for vo-tech programs.

In response to the high cost of out-of-district programs, Beese said a new in-district special education program is being proposed for the 2006-2007 school year. Although some board members said they were pleased to hear of the addition, others said such services could be both a blessing and a burden. About 21 new students moved to the district last year and were enrolled in

the special education program, school officials said. Board members said that although such a number is impressive, "you also have to think that's a significant cost when it (the program) gets too big."

When board members questioned the proposal to add 2.5 special education teachers to the budget, Beese said the need was even higher than what he was asking. "We need more than what I'm asking," he said. "I am not requesting enough teachers, quite honestly."

One area of tuition that left several board members frustrated was the fee the state dictates to be spent on students in "state facilities." These are students who are incarcerated or otherwise in state facilities, said Beese. There are currently five students who fit this description in the district, and the proposed cost of their tuition for 2006-2007 is \$109,020. "We're supposed to be paying just the educational portion... and this is what the state is telling us it costs?" said

Russo.

The board also continued its review of the entire budget, which calls for an increase of 5.48 percent, or \$3.6 million. About 50 percent of the proposed \$69.8 million budget is for classroom programs, said assistant superintendent Margaret Hayes. That section includes teacher salaries, textbooks, and athletics programs.

In a review of the curriculum and instruction budget, Hayes said many new textbooks are being proposed, and "the majority are for replacement" and to deal with increased enrollment. Science courses in particular require a steady replacement in textbooks because of constant new discoveries and research, said Hayes. Although textbooks do not make up a large portion of the budget, Hayes said their value exceeds their cost.

"(The textbook section) is very important, although the dollar amount pales in comparison to some other items on the budget," she said.

The issue of class sizes was brought up again by Scotch Plains resident Clancy Warren, who said she came to remind the board about parent concerns. Warren thanked Del Sordi for meeting with school administrators to discuss the problem. "It's good to be heard," she said, and asked what else parents could do.

Choye said it was important for parents to vote this year, and again said that defeating the budget would not solve parents' concerns about class size, but would only make them worse.

"(Voting down the budget) will not help with class size," she said.

"And it will not affect negotiations (with the teacher contract)," added Russo.

"My concern is we have 5,300 students... 800 parents voted (last year)," said Choye.

The next budget meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. March 2. The Board of Education will meet tonight at 8:00 p.m. for an agenda meeting.

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**BROOKS CRANDALL/ CORRESPONDENT**

At the Super Science Saturday held over the weekend at Coles School in Scotch Plains, Florence Nightengale (played by Margaret Ames, at left) enlightens children on some of the many innovations pioneered by the most famous nurse in history. Above, Clara McParland helped deliver an anatomy lesson.

## 'Anthrax letter' intercepted at Wf. post office

(Continued from page A-1)

tal in Freehold. The mail room was shut down and several workers were decontaminated as a precaution, according to the agency, which added, "An additional 19 letters were located in an outgoing mailbox at 200 Deal Lake Drive, Asbury Park." About 200 additional letters from Brodie's Deal Lake address in the same format have been intercepted since June 10, authorities said.

According to the FBI, the letters were addressed to people in "all levels of government agencies, media personalities, actors

and actresses, businesses, and a hospital." A letter addressed to "President George Bush, Abilene, TX" was intercepted from the same outgoing mailbox on or about Sept. 21.

The investigation was conducted by the Joint Terrorism Task Force of the Newark field office of the FBI, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the United States Secret Service, the New Jersey State Police and the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey. The letters were tested by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, with negative results for anthrax.

When FBI agents searched Brodie's apartment they allegedly found 11 additional letters in the same format, with one sealed and ready to be mailed. Blank envelopes, colored pencils, a hole-punch and papers with handwritten names of some of the individuals to whom the letters were addressed were also found, authorities said.

"The arrest made today showcases the continued commitment of law enforcement in its efforts to protect the American public from threats that emanate from within and beyond our borders," said Special Agent in Charge Leslic G. Wiser Jr. "This arrest

should serve as a warning to anyone who would put the public in danger through their own irresponsible actions."

According to the criminal complaint against him, Brodie was interviewed by law enforcement agents on Nov. 14, 2005 and admitted sending the letter to the president and preparing the 11 more found in his apartment, as well as "two additional letters to the King Abdullah of Jordan and the Russian Interior Minister."

Brodie's initial court appearance before Judge Mark Falk was in Newark at 11:30 a.m. Friday

## What's there to watch on local television?

### Mayor Mahr's program focuses on proper treatment of stroke

FANWOOD — What would you do if you thought you were having a stroke? That's the subject of Mayor Colleen Mahr's monthly television show for February. Recently the mayor taped her interview show at Overlook Hospital to learn about the newest life-saving emergency stroke treatments, which are now available in the hospital. Mahr's special guest on the half-hour show is Dr. Shalini M. Bansil, who speaks about the critical three hours when revolutionary new drugs can be administered to save lives. Bansil is one of the leading authorities on stroke prevention and treatment in the region.

The program offers advice about what to do and what not to do. Many people mistakenly believe that stroke victims should immediately take a full-size aspirin, and then call 9-1-1. Bansil strongly advises stroke victims not to take an aspirin, but to simply call the local first aid squad. If able to, patients should ask to be transported to a hospital that offers a specialized stroke treatment unit. In many cases, taking an aspirin would be the worst thing to do, said Bansil, who cautions patients about self-medication. There are different types of strokes, and the patient should be thoroughly evaluated before any medications are given.

Strokes are the third leading cause of death in the United States, but new drugs and procedures have given hope that more lives can be saved.

The mayor's show, "Inside Fanwood," can be seen on Fanwood's municipal access cable Channel 35 at 8 p.m. Feb. 9, 9 p.m. Feb. 11, 8 p.m. Feb. 13, 9 p.m. Feb. 15 and at 8 p.m. Feb. 17. Channel 35 can be seen in Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Westfield by Comcast subscribers.

### Blue Devils TV36 presents 2 new programs in February

WESTFIELD — Now airing on Westfield High School Blue Devils TV36 through February 28 are two new productions. Superintendent William Foley's budget presentation to the public on Jan. 30 titled "Understanding the Numbers" is on the Blue Devils TV36 schedule through the end of the month. Foley described how tax dollars are currently allocated in the local school budget, discussed the decision-making process and constraints that the district faces in developing a budget and answered many questions about the budget itself.

This taping is being shown on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursdays at 2:30 and 10:30 p.m., Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 4:30 p.m.

Also, a new video entitled "Westfield High School - A Tradition of Excellence," produced by the high school staff, highlights the many features of the school. The program also includes footage on the town of Westfield and other schools in the district.

Many sequences in the high school video were first shown to the Middle States Accreditation Committee, which unanimously renewed Westfield High School's accreditation earlier this year. The schedule for "Westfield High School - A Tradition of Excellence" is: Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Thursdays at 2 and 10 p.m., Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m.

Westfield Board of Education meetings will continue to be shown on Tuesdays at 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m., Thursdays at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m., and Sundays at 10 a.m.

For a complete schedule of Blue Devils TV programming, check the Westfield Public Schools Web site at www.westfield-nj12.org.



**Obituaries**

**George J. Ross; received Bronze Star**

WESTFIELD — George J. Ross, 87, died Feb. 5, 2006 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Elizabeth, he lived in Westfield the last 51 years.

Mr. Ross was the assistant plant manager for Kentile Flooring in South Plainfield for 30 years before retiring in 1983.

An Army Air Force veteran of World War II, he was awarded the Bronze Star while serving as a staff sergeant with the 9th Air Force in England, France and the Rhineland.

He was a member for 55 years of Loyalty Lodge F&M in Union and a longtime member of Azure Masada Lodge F&M in Cranford.

Surviving are his wife of 64 years, Ann; two daughters, Noreen Saunders and Elaine Malayter; a brother, Charles; and four grandchildren. He is predeceased by a grandson, Darrin.

Services will be 11 a.m. Friday at the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Ave., Westfield. Visitation will be 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Thursday.

**Julius Lantz**

WESTFIELD — Julius Jacob Adam Lantz was born and died Jan. 28, 2006 at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

He is survived by his parents, Crisol Howard of Plainfield and

Kenneth Lantz Jr. of Westfield; and grandparents, Jacque and Lidia Howard of Plainfield and Gail and Kenneth Lantz of Westfield.

Graveside services were held Friday in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

**Charles S. Crow Jr.**

WESTFIELD — Charles S. Crow Jr., 80, died Feb. 6, 2006 at his home in Newtown, Pa.

Raised in Highland Park, he lived in Westfield for 38 years and then Jefferson, Maine before moving to Pennswood Village in Newtown in May 2004.

Mr. Crow was an engineer and manager at Public Service Electric and Gas in Elizabeth and Newark for 39 years.

He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

Mr. Crow studied electrical engineering at Rutgers University, graduating with honors in 1949. In 1957, he received his master's degree in electrical engineering, again with honors, from the Newark College of Engineering (now New Jersey Institute of Technology). He was a member of the Plainfield Engineer's Club.

While they lived in Westfield, Mr. Crow and Alice Christine Henne, his wife 57 years, were members of Redeemer Lutheran Church. After moving to Maine, they were active members of Prince

of Peace Lutheran Church in Augusta.

Mr. Crow was also involved in a number of volunteer projects in Maine, including an AARP tax aide program and the Clary Lake Association. He also served on the board of directors of the Sheepscott Valley Health Center and was a member of the Maine State Museum and the Round Top Society for the Arts.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Charles S. Crow III; two daughters, Patricia C. Koch and Heidi C. Crow; a sister, Eleanor Crow Houyeux; and six grandchildren. He is predeceased by a son, Donald A.

Services will be 10:30 a.m. Friday at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Interment will be in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield. Arrangements are by the Dooley Colonial Home, Westfield.

Donations may be made to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, 1034 Salem Rd., Union, NJ 07083 or the Westfield Rescue Squad, 335 Watterson St., Westfield, NJ 07091.



David Sutter of Lancaster Ltd. is retiring after 21 years in business downtown.

**Lancaster Ltd. is closing up shop**

WESTFIELD — After more than two decades as the owner of Lancaster Hallmark Ltd., David Sutter has decided to close the downtown store and retire "on his terms."

"It's been a wonderful 21 years," said Sutter Monday, taking a quick break from the hectic activity surrounding the store's closing sale, which began Feb. 2. "The town's been wonderful to me."

Though Sutter's tenure lasts "only" two decades, Lancaster Hallmark Ltd. has actually been in business for 45 years. The Elm Street store was opened in 1961 and later purchased by Westfield resident Bob Haines in the early 1970s. Sutter, a former Hallmark executive, purchased the store in 1985 and the building in 1997.

Sutter said that most of all, he will miss the area residents he has come to know through the years. "I'll miss the people, the customers... they've been wonderful to me," said Sutter. "I've watched the kids grow up." He has been a part of many families' cherished moments, providing wedding invitations and birth announcements.

Still in good health, Sutter said this is the right time for him to give up his business. "You have to pick a good time to retire," he said. He

stressed that "not being forced out" but moving on to a new phase of his life "on his own terms."

A member of the Downtown Westfield Corporation promotions committee, Sutter has several plans for his future — and they involve remaining involved in the community in several capacities.

Sutter said he plans to renovate the two upstairs apartments in the building. He will lease the first floor space only to retailers. "We have enough banks in town," he said, and also noted there is already a plethora of local restaurants. And in addition to his business interests, he plans to remain active as a volunteer.

When it came time to close the store, Sutter said he wanted to do it the right way. To accomplish this goal, he called in the professional marketing team of GA Wright from Denver, Colo. "If you want a professional sale, you hire professionals," he said.

On the personal side, Sutter, who is married and has two grown daughters, said he plans to travel and spend more time with his family.

In a statement, Sutter said he "has derived great pleasure and satisfaction serving (my) customers and the community. (I) will miss them all."

**WACC plans series of events for business owners**

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce invites all local business people to a series of upcoming events.

From 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, business people from throughout Union County will gather at the NJ Business and Industry Association (NJBIA) Employer Legislative Committee Breakfast held at the Galloping Hill Inn, 325 Chestnut St., Union. Visitors will get briefed on the latest legislation and reg-

ulations affecting business while they enjoy breakfast and connect with area business leaders.

The next Chamber Speed Networking meeting will take place from 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Chamber office, located at 173 Elm St., on the third floor of the Bank of America building. The

Chamber's Speed Networking meetings provide businesspeople with an opportunity to network to find a client, mentor or strategic partner.

The meetings will be offered in March, also, and will be facilitated by Debra Hirsch, a business and personal coach, who will lead the group through exercises and activities designed to add depth and variety to the networking process. WACC members can participate for \$12 and non-members for \$15. Seating is limited, so please call to reserve participation.

The Small Business Development Center, North Fork Bank, and the Chamber have teamed up to offer an informative workshop, "Unlocking the Power of Your Employees," from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Feb. 22 at North Fork Bank, 138-142 Central Ave. Attendees will be able to immediately start implementing strategies designed to improve employee productivity and retention. There is no fee to attend, but call the Chamber to confirm your attendance.

For more information, check the Chamber's Web site at [www.WestfieldChamber.com](http://www.WestfieldChamber.com) or call (908) 233-3021.

**Moms to get nutrition tips**

FANWOOD — At its Wednesday meeting, the Union County chapter of Mothers & More will host Len Glassman, a certified personal trainer, who will speak on exercise and nutrition for the whole family.

Glassman, the owner of Personal Best Fitness Center in Garwood, will offer tips on how to incorporate fitness into a busy lifestyle and how to make exercise fun for the whole family.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held at 8 p.m. at the Fanwood Recreation Center, located in Forest Road Park. Refreshments will be provided.

The meeting will also be an opportunity for interested persons in the area to find out more about the Chapter's activities, which include mom and tot outings, mom's night out, playgroups, a book club, a craft club and more.

Mothers & More is a national, non-profit organization that champions the value of all mothers' work to our society, paid and unpaid, within and outside of the home. For more information about this meeting or the organization, call Stacy at (908) 928-9841 or Marilyn at (908) 568-2633 or log on to [mothersandmore.org](http://mothersandmore.org).

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**The University Hospital in Newark Radio Shows**

**What's New in the World of Infectious Diseases.**  
Dr. Patricia Kloser talks about illnesses you can catch on public transportation, while traveling or through risky social behaviors.  
Saturday, Feb. 11 on WMTR 1250AM at 9:30AM  
This is a call-in show!

**Time Is Brain**  
Dr. Adnan Qureshi talks about the two main types of stroke and the potential for recovery.  
Sunday, Feb. 12 on WFDU 89.1 FM HealthLink Radio at 8:30AM or at [www.TheUniversityHospital.com](http://www.TheUniversityHospital.com)

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# Police: Guard was assaulted by teenager

## Police Log

### WESTFIELD

Police arrested 18-year old South Bound Brook resident Matthew R. Tuck Friday and charged him with third degree aggravated assault of a Beadleston School security guard.  
 Tuck hit the security guard repeatedly in the chest and abdomen, according to Sgt. Scott Rodger. Tuck was processed and released on his own recognition.

\*\*\*

Police charged Wall resident Zachary Rosenberg Friday with possession of under 50 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.  
 Rosenberg was subsequently released on a summons pending a Feb. 8 court date.

\*\*\*

Police charged Cranford resident Emilia Laface with driving while intoxicated Saturday. She was subsequently released.

\*\*\*

Westfield residents Frederick Cooper Jr. and Kyle Clark were charged with possession of marijuana Saturday.

\*\*\*

A Carleton Road resident reported his car was burglarized sometime over the weekend.

\*\*\*

A Clark Street resident reported his car was stolen sometime between Feb. 3 and Feb. 5, while parked in a South Avenue municipal lot.

\*\*\*

A Delaware Street resident reported an unlawful entry into her 2000 Ford minivan Monday, with \$30 in change stolen. On the same day, a Connecticut Street resident reported an unlawful entry into his 2003 Ford minivan. In that case, a "Rent" DVD and \$15 cash was stolen.

\*\*\*

A Boynton Avenue resident reported an unlawful entry into her 2001 Lexus SUV Monday. The contents of her car were strewn about the car, but nothing appeared to be missing, she told police. Another resident of 1600 Boynton Avenue reported someone entered her locked car and stole her wallet, cell phone and credit cards Tuesday.

In addition, a Boynton Court resident reported an unlawful entry into her 2000 Ford Focus Monday. The contents of her car were rummaged through, but nothing appeared, she told police.

\*\*\*

Christopher Boals was stopped by officers Tuesday after he allegedly attempted to hide from them by ducking into a group of bushes. After Boals was identified, police discovered open warrants in his name. He was also allegedly found to be in possession of cocaine and burglary tools after a search.

\*\*\*

After being stopped for motor vehicle violations, Roselle Park resident Morie Clastiel was charged Tuesday with possession of under 50 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

### SCOTCH PLAINS

Police charged 35-year old Plainfield resident Alex Paredes with driving while intoxicated Saturday. Paredes was issued a summons for DWI and careless driving and was subsequently released to a family member.

\*\*\*

A resident of Country Club Lane reported being the victim of theft Saturday when he left his vehicle in front of his house and someone removed a tire.

\*\*\*

A patron of a Route 22 restaurant reported being the victim of theft Saturday when he parked his car in the lot and an unknown suspect broke the window and stole a cell phone and charger valued at \$300.

\*\*\*

A resident of Harding Road reported being the victim of harassment Feb. 2 when a cleaning woman verbally harassed him after they argued over the quality of work she performed.

\*\*\*

A resident of Willow Avenue reported being the victim of harassment Friday when an individual who rode past her on his bike yelled at her.



The Rake and Hoe Juniors participated in a safari to adventure at Duke Gardens in January. Members and their brothers were fascinated by the dinosaur topiary they saw in the topiary garden, one of 11 gardens to be seen there.

## Juniors enjoy Duke Gardens safari

WESTFIELD — The Rake and Hoe Juniors brightened the doldrums of winter with a trip to Duke Gardens on Jan 21. Brothers and moms of the Juniors also joined in the fun of the "Children's Safari Adventure Game", an interactive tour with a guide. This proved to be an imaginative way of teaching kids about plants and flowers by becoming insects or animals in the garden. The Juniors explored the 11 indoor display gardens and had a great time.

Tours take place every Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and children must be accompanied by an adult. For more details or to purchase

tickets, contact Duke Gardens in Hillsborough at (908)722-3700.  
 Membership in the Junior club is rising fast due to the innovative and exciting programs coordinated by Rake and Hoe member Alice Cowell. Currently, the Junior members are preparing for the State Flower Show run by the Garden Club of New Jersey, "A Floral Odyssey," to be held Feb. 16-19 at The NJ Convention and Expo Center in Edison. Visit the Web site [www.macevents.com](http://www.macevents.com) for more information.  
 To join the Rake and Hoe Juniors, contact Pam Kolb at (908) 233-3596.

## Board: Proposed building is too big

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ  
 THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Ralph Rapuano came before the Planning Board Monday for a second hearing on his proposal to demolish the buildings on three lots on Central Avenue and construct a three-story, mixed-use building in their place. After several hours of testimony that centered mostly on parking deficits and building mass, the hearing was continued to March 6, as board members requested revised drawings to scale down the building once again.

The issue of shrinking the proposed building has been brought up several times over the past few years. Rapuano originally had Planning Board approval in 2002 to renovate the existing structures into a 14-unit mixed-use building, but said he realized the building had to be demolished and built from scratch instead. He came back to the Architectural Review Board in 2004 with plans for a larger building that included about 20 residential units in 2004, but was asked to make it smaller.

The current proposal has eight apartments each on the second and third floors, underground parking and about 9,000 square feet of retail space for four stores or offices on the first floor. Variances are required for parking, building height, and yard setbacks.

Representatives for the applicant had been asked to speak with the county after the first hearing to see if there were plans to widen Central Avenue, a county road, in the area of 430 to 510 Central Ave., the location of the proposed building. At Monday's hearing, the representatives told board members the county expressed no immediate interest in widening that area of the road.

Rapuano's planner Ken Bowers testified Monday night and explained his calculations for the parking deficit, which had differed from those of town planner Blaise Brancheau, at the last hearing. Bowers said the application provides 22 spaces underground in the parking garage for the residential units, and 23 spaces for commercial space on a surface lot in the rear. Each apartment is allowed one spot, with the six additional spots allowed for guests or extra cars, said Bowers.

He said his calculations, which rely on studies of transit neighborhoods, showed a parking deficit of about 14 spaces without counting any on-street parking. Bowers added there were six on-street parking spaces available on Central Avenue, reducing the deficit to eight. Statistics from

the 2000 census showed one quarter of households in Westfield have one car, while 4 percent have none, said Bowers, arguing the residential parking provided would be sufficient. About 50 percent of people who would live in the building would likely drive to work, said Bowers, and others would walk to the train station or downtown. "So that demand (of parking spaces) is often overstated," he said.

Regarding the building's size, Bowers said a smaller building would create financial difficulties and would not allow for an underground parking garage, which would result in more impervious coverage because those parking spots would have to be provided above ground.

But board members said they did not understand how the benefits of the application outweighed the detriments caused by a large parking deficit and the mass of the building. "So you feel the ordinance is improperly written requiring that amount of parking?" asked board Vice Chairman, Robert Newell.

"No, I feel this application does it better," said Bowers, adding the zone allows mixed-use buildings and is designed to promote more retail space. Construction at the site should foster a downtown atmosphere, said Bowers.

"You're saying the benefit of this building is it might be a cornerstone of the business district and then people can walk to other (locations)," said Jim Foerst, the Town Council's liaison to the Planning Board. Bowers agreed, and said the building would promote more business for the Central Avenue area, which is run-down in places. But Foerst said if that were the case, then the parking demand would intensify, causing a larger parking deficit.

Other concerns arose over the rise in the parking deficit if medical offices were allowed on the first floor. Medical offices would cause about a 44-space deficit, according to Brancheau.

Board members also had a problem with the mass of the building and again asked the applicant to consider reducing the size. "Would you agree all the violations could be reduced or gone if you went to a smaller building?" asked board member Danielle Walsh. Bowers agreed, but said, "It would be a very different building, economically."

Rapuano, who owns several other buildings in the Central Avenue area, spoke about his hopes for a continued revitalization of the area. "For whatever reason, the political body of this town has not considered that (a priority)," said Rapuano.

Foerst disagreed, "The governing body of this town wants nothing but to promote the business corridor of Central Avenue... but we want to do it responsibly."

"At the end of the day we want a better building that is smaller," said Foerst.

Rapuano said he would compromise by prohibiting medical offices on the first floor, and would also reduce some of the residential units from two to one-bedroom units, decreasing the size and parking deficit.

"We're probably five spaces away from making this work," said board Chairman Vincent Wilt. The applicant will revise the designs and present a scaled-down building at the next hearing March 6.

# Director will speak to Woman's Club of Wf.

## Club news

WESTFIELD — Mark Spina will speak at the Monday meeting of the Woman's Club of Westfield at 1:30 p.m. following the club's business meeting.

Spina is founding artistic director of the Theater Project, a semi-professional theater at Union County College, and the Eugene O'Neill Center's National Theater Institute. Founded in 1944, the Theater Project is an award-winning member of the New Jersey Theater Alliance and the recipient of the Geraldine Dodge Foundation grant. It offers three full productions a year, script development workshops, staged readings of new plays, bilingual productions for children and young playwright competitions.

The public is invited to attend Spina's presentation. The club's business meeting is at the Masonic Lodge on Central Avenue. A tea will follow the program. For information, call (908) 789-1045.

## Enjoy a Thai dinner with the Welcome Club

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Welcome Club will enjoy its monthly dinner on Feb. 22 at Thailand Restaurant in Clark.

The WWC aims to extend a friendly welcome to new people moving into the area and to those in the area that have experienced recent life changes.

If interested in joining or to learn more about the club, contact Lorian Botsakos at [lrianbotsakos@yahoo.com](mailto:lrianbotsakos@yahoo.com).

## Social club to hear about Helping Hands

WESTFIELD — The next meeting of the Holy Trinity Sr. Social Club will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday in the school gym. The speaker will be Eileen Fox, who heads up the Helping Hands volunteer group at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church.

Fox will explain how volunteers help seniors by supplying rides, running errands or helping with small chores around the home. This service is available to Holy Trinity parishioners only.

Refreshments will be served after the general meeting. St. Valentine decorations will be displayed on the tables, making for a festive mood.

The next trip for the club is planned for Doolan's in Spring Lake. The feast of St. Joseph's will

be celebrated then.  
**Explore the life of Mary Todd Lincoln**

SCOTCH PLAINS — The public is invited to attend the 12 O'Clock Club luncheon and program Tuesday at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, when Laurie MacDonnell-Gaulke will impersonate Mary Todd Lincoln.

Visitors will learn about the impact this woman had on the lives of her family and the Washington, D.C. community during a pivotal time in our nation's history. Was she, or wasn't she, a strong, capable First Lady in the White House years? What was she really like?

The 12 O'Clock Club, a gathering of senior citizens, meets at noon on the second Tuesday of each month in Ryno Hall of Willow Grove, 1961 Raritan Rd., across the street from the Scotch Plains south side firehouse. The facilities are handicap accessible. Following a 10-minute time of devotions and a substantial meal, there is always an interesting program. Newcomers are welcome.  
 To make reservations call (908) 232-5678 or (908) 889-6661 by Feb. 10. The luncheon donation is \$5.

## Newcomers plan a Welcome Tea

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers Club invites new residents and those who have been through a recent lifestyle change such as a marriage, a new baby, or change of employment to attend the annual February Welcome Tea. It will be held at 8 p.m. Feb. 16 at a member's home. Contact Lee Robertson if interested at (908) 889-7860 or [leesquaw13@yahoo.com](mailto:leesquaw13@yahoo.com).

At the Welcome Tea, current club members will highlight the year's upcoming activities such as book discussions, playgroups, Bunko, pot luck lunches, toddler adventures and scrap booking.

The Newcomers Club, a non-profit social organization, offers daytime and evening activities for women and their children. For more information about the club or the upcoming Welcome Tea, see the Web site at <http://scotchplains.com/newcomers/>.

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**Briefs**

**JCC presents flea market for kids**

SCOTCH PLAINS — The JCC of Central NJ will be holding a "Tchotchkes and Treasures" flea market for kids from 2-4 p.m. Feb. 26.

Kids in grades 2-8 are welcome to reserve a table from which they can sell their gently used books, video games, toys and more. The sellers get to keep all of the proceeds from their sales. All participants must be accompanied by an adult and provide their own change for sales.

The deadline for reserving a sale table is Feb. 22. Only 27 tables are available. To reserve a table or for more information, contact Jodi Baxter at (908) 889-8800, ext. 235, or [jbaxter@jccnj.org](mailto:jbaxter@jccnj.org).

The JCC of Central New Jersey is located at 1391 Martine Ave.

**WNC to honor Natalie Lark**

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Neighborhood Council will hold a brunch honoring longtime employee/volunteer Natalie Lark from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Feb. 20. The brunch will take place at the council office, located at 127 Cacciola Place.

The prices for the brunch are \$7 for seniors, \$10 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 8 years of age. Call the WNC to make a reservation at (908) 233-2772 by Feb. 15.

Lark was employed by the WNC for several years as senior coordinator. Due to a loss in funding dating from January 2005, Lark and other employees were dropped from the payroll. Since then, she has continued to work as senior coordinator on a volunteer basis.

Lark's work is emblematic of the organization's volunteer base. Since funding was cut, people of the community have volunteered to mow the grass, shovel snow, fix broken windows and keep the center clean. WNC officials also expressed thanks to the teens of PANDA for their volunteer services, the Westfield Fire Department, St. Paul's Church, Bethel Baptist Church, and the town of Westfield for continued support.

Donations are appreciated and may be sent to: Westfield Neighborhood Council, 127 Cacciola Place, Westfield, NJ 07090.

**Grace Church offers program on Narnia**

WESTFIELD — Grace Church of Westfield will present a program on "The Deeper Meaning of *The Chronicles of Narnia*" by Gradie Frederick.

The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the church, 1100 Boulevard. For more information, email [narnia@gracewaves.net](mailto:narnia@gracewaves.net), call (908) 222-0322, or visit <http://gracewaves.net>. The church's Web site is [www.westfieldnj.com/gopc/](http://www.westfieldnj.com/gopc/).

Refreshments will be served. The program is free of charge.

**Church to host fellowship luncheon**

SCOTCH PLAINS — The missionary ministry of St. John's Baptist Church invites local residents to a love and fellowship luncheon at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church, 2387 Morse Ave.

The spiritual menu will consist of praises, worship and testimonial. The guest speaker will be Deaconess Doris Bryant, president of the women's auxiliary of Christian Fellowship Missionary Baptist Association. She is from the Zion Hill Baptist Church in Newark.

Lunch will be served. For more information, call (908) 232-6972.

**Explore God's wonders at First Baptist Church**

WESTFIELD — The First Baptist Church of Westfield, located at 170 Elm St., continues its kids' programming with an outer space theme from 7-8 p.m. Feb. 15 with "God's Wonders in Science."

Certified school teacher and church member Katie Virzi will lead grade school children through hands-on experiments related to rockets and planets. The class is open to all students from kindergarten through fifth grade, and parents are welcome to stay and observe.

The \$10 materials fee covers supplies used in the class. If you would like to bring your child, phone the church office at (908) 233-2278 or email [firstbaptist.westfield@verizon.net](mailto:firstbaptist.westfield@verizon.net).



Author Louise Borden (center) poses with, from left, Tyler Debbie, Una Heinzerling, Siniah Wallace and Ming Bauer during a recent visit to McKinley School.

**Children's book author visits McKinley School**

WESTFIELD — Renowned children's book author Louise Borden visited with the students at McKinley Elementary School recently to share with them stories of her life as a writer. Borden spent the entire day at McKinley, greeting each age group in the school's Performing Arts Center and entertaining them with stories about her writing experience, which she compared to their own experiences starting out as young authors.

Borden brought slides that involved a trip she took to Europe to research her book, *The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey*. In this non-fiction book, Borden tells the fascinating story of how the well-known children's book authors escaped the Nazi occupation of France by traveling from Paris to Spain on bicycle. They were not able to take very many belongings, but the manuscript for the beloved *Curious George* book made it into their backpack.

Borden is the author of many picture books and has also written historical fiction about such subjects as the American Revolution and World War II. She has also written several picture book-biographies, including *Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman*, which she wrote with Mary Kay Kroeger, and *Sea Clocks: The Story of Longitude*.

In 2000, her book *Good Luck, Mrs. K*, a school story about a third-grade class and their teacher, won a Christopher Award.

During her visit, it was clear that Borden enjoys her writing and research and was more than eager to share with the children at McKinley. She frequently visits schools to speak about her writing, having visited over 500 schools across the country.

Later in the day, before leaving McKinley, Borden spent time autographing copies of her books for the McKinley students. It was a special "Author Day" at McKinley and one the kids won't soon forget!

**Youth volunteer with Mobile Meals**

WESTFIELD — Many young people from around the area gave up part of their vacation time this past holiday season to volunteer with Mobile Meals of Westfield, helping to deliver meals to residents in need.

Mobile Meals expressed thanks to the following student and parent volunteers for their hard work and dedication: Emily Lubin, Jake Lang, Mrs. Lang, Rob Castelo, Aimie Schaefer, Chelsea Moxley, Evan Eisenberg, Lauren Eisenberg, Lisa Eisenberg, Garth Sandiford, Mike Sandiford, Morgan Sandiford, Rob Costelo, Lindsay Tishberg, Renee Feldman, Samantha McCarthy, Elizabeth Shannon, Kristen Koepfler, David Warner, Maresa Hughes, Arielle Wogbrite, Taylor Manetti, Kim Berke, Sara Birkenthal, Chris Shearer and Stephen Koepfler.

These students got up early, reported to work at 8:30 a.m. and stayed until 11. Everyone pitched in to make the dessert, prepare the sandwiches, wrap the bread and pack the lunch. They also filled the hot food containers and packed the goodies for delivery. More than 425 meals were prepared and delivered by these volunteers over the five-day period.

Mobile Meals is always in need of volunteers



Many local students gave of their time over the holiday break to volunteer for Mobile Meals of Westfield. Pictured are several student volunteers helping Mobile Meals' cook, Margaret Cox (center), prepare and pack meals for delivery.

to pack or deliver meals in Westfield and the surrounding communities. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at Mobile Meals, call (908) 233-6146 or send an e-mail to [MobileMealsWestfield@hotmail.com](mailto:MobileMealsWestfield@hotmail.com).

**Red Cross will offer lifeguard classes**

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross, in collaboration with the JCC of Central New Jersey and the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, is offering a lifeguard training course.

Individuals 15 years of age and older are eligible. The course teaches students the

skills and knowledge needed to prevent and respond to aquatic emergencies and provides them with a Lifeguard Certificate upon successful completion. It also includes certification in CPR for the Professional Rescuer and First Aid. The course will be held at JCC of Central NJ and the YMCA, both

on Martine Avenue.

There will be three different sessions held. The first session will run through Feb. 28. The second session will run from April 3 through April 26. The third session will run from May 11 through May 25.

Call (908) 756-6414, ext. 10 to register or for more information.

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**This week**

**THURSDAY**

**FEB. 9**  
**GENEALOGY TALK** — Steve Yautz will address the Genealogist Society of the West Fields. 1 p.m. Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad St. (908) 276-7104.  
**THE RIGHTS CATHOLICS HAVE** — and The Rights they Should Have. A talk by the Rev. Patrick Connor for Voice of the Faithful of Union County. 7:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 1 East Broad St., Westfield. For more information, visit [www.votfnj.org](http://www.votfnj.org).

**FRIDAY**

**FEB. 10**  
**TALK BY BISHOP LEROY HOLMES** — the executive director of the Community Network in Roselle will discuss his life's work of assisting prisoners. 7:30 p.m., preceded by potluck supper at 6:30. Osceola Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Road, Clark. Open to the public. (908) 276-1279.  
**GREAT AMERICAN BAKE**

**SALE** — the Club Mid After School program at the Westfield Y will participate in this national program to stamp out childhood hunger. 4-6 p.m. 220 Clark St., Westfield. (908) 233-2700, ext. 270.

**SATURDAY**

**FEB. 11**  
**RESOLUTIONS SCRAP-BOOKING EVENT** — the all-day program in Fanwood will feature mini-classes throughout the day and an opportunity for drop-in participants. Register early at (908) 889-5954 or [mm\\_scrappers@comcast.net](mailto:mm_scrappers@comcast.net).  
**VALENTINE'S DANCE AND DINNER** — hosted by the Sunday Nite Youth Group at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. 6-8:30 p.m. \$25. (908) 233-2278.  
**QUEEN NUR'S SWEET POTATO TALES** — children age 4 and up can hear stories in the African oral tradition. 10:30 a.m. Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad St. (908) 789-4090.  
**LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON** — a program hosted by the missionary ministry at St. John's Baptist

Church. 11 a.m. 2387 Morse Ave., Scotch Plains. Open to the public. (908) 232-6972.

**SUNDAY**

**FEB. 12**  
**'A DAY AT THE THEATER'** — check out *Jesus Christ Superstar* at CDC Community Theater in Cranford, along with the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council. \$30. (908) 232-3236, ext. 1221.  
**VALENTINE'S DAY PROGRAM** — kids can make crafts at the Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. 2-4 p.m. (908) 232-1776.

**MONDAY**

**FEB. 13**  
**WOMAN'S CLUB MEETING** — the Woman's Club of Westfield will hear a talk by Mark Spina of the Theater Project at Union County College. 1:30 p.m. Masonic Lodge, Central Avenue, Westfield. Open to the public. (908) 789-1045.  
**SENIORS CLUB MEETING** — Eileen Fox of Helping Hands will speak to the Holy Trinity Sr. Social Club. 1:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church.

**TUESDAY**

**FEB. 14**  
**PARK SCHOOL TOUR** — residents can tour the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Middle School. 9 a.m. (908) 889-4918.

**WEDNESDAY**

**FEB. 15**  
**MEDICARE PART D TALK** — Conrad Nadell will explain the new drug benefit program to the HAZAK group of Congregation Beth Israel, 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains. 1 p.m. Free for members, \$2 for non-members. Register at (908) 889-1830.  
**STROKE RISK ASSESSMENT** — Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center staff will be on hand at the Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Ave. 7 p.m. (908) 322-5007, ext. 204.  
**'GOD'S WONDERS IN SCIENCE'** — the kids' programming continues at the First Baptist Church of Westfield. Open to grades K-5. \$10. 7-8 p.m. 170 Elm St., Westfield. (908) 233-2278.  
**'HELPING CHILDREN TO SUCCEED'** — a program for parents of special education students, hosted by CHILD of Scotch Plains-Fanwood. 7:30 p.m. Park Middle School, Scotch Plains. For more, go to [www.childorgsp.org](http://www.childorgsp.org).  
**HEALTHY LIVING FOR**

**THE WHOLE FAMILY** — a talk by personal trainer Len Glassman for the Union County chapter of Mothers & More. 8 p.m. Fanwood Recreation Center, Forest Road Park. (908) 928-9841.

**THURSDAY**

**FEB. 16**  
**POETRY READING** — Garwood poet Amanda Berry will read selections from her new chapbook, *Second Sight*. 8 p.m. Patricia Kuran Arts Center, Watson Road, off Martine Avenue, on the grounds of Fanwood Borough Hall. (908) 889-7223.  
**VIOLET SOCIETY WORKSHOP** — the county chapter of the African Violet Society will host a program led by Jan Riemer. 1 p.m. Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Ave. Open to the public.  
**WELCOME TEA** — the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers' Club invites new residents and those who have been through a recent lifestyle change to join them. 8 p.m. at a member's home. For more, call (908) 889-7860 or email [leesquaw13@yahoo.com](mailto:leesquaw13@yahoo.com).  
**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION** — the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and PTA Council will discuss topics of interest in an informal setting. 7:30 p.m. Park Middle School. (908) 889-4918.

**FRIDAY**

**FEB. 17**  
**'LIFE BEFORE SUPER-MARKETS'** — a slideshow/lecture presented by Hollace Hoffman for the Westfield Historical Society. 7:30 p.m. Community Room of the Westfield municipal building, 425 E. Broad St. (908) 233-6360.

**SATURDAY**


**FEB. 18**  
**COLLEGE CARAVAN** — a chaperoned visit to four Pennsylvania universities, led by the JCC of Central NJ. Runs through Feb. 20. (908) 889-8800, ext. 218.

**COMING UP**

**HONORING NATALIE LARK** — the Westfield Neighborhood Council will pay tribute to a longtime employee and volunteer. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Feb. 20. \$10, with reduced prices for seniors/children. RSVP by Feb. 15 at (908) 233-2772.  
**PRESIDENTS' DAY PROGRAMS** — with the kids home for the day, the JCC is offering various offerings from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 20. (908) 889-8800, ext. 235. 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains.

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## Parents urged to be on lookout for pediatric asthma

Fall and winter are the peak seasons for childhood respiratory infections such as nasal congestion, coughing and wheezing. During this season, parents are encouraged to pay special attention to a child who has persistent or lingering cough after a cold or has frequently recurring episodes of respiratory symptoms. The possibility of asthma should be strongly considered, according to Sushmita Mikkilani, M.D., director of the Division of Pediatric Pulmonology at Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

Asthma is the most common childhood disorder, responsible for many missed school days and hospitalizations, and Mikkilani points out that many children suffer frequent and repeated respiratory problems often mistaken for common cold symptoms before being diagnosed with asthma and receiving the correct treatment.

"Most people think of asthma as an illness associated only with wheezing. Asthma often conjures up an image of a person clutching at their throats in severe respiratory distress." Although these symptoms may occur in severe asthma, the majority of people have mild to moderate asthma, she says.

The most common symptom of asthma is coughing. In fact, coughing can be the only symptom of asthma in children, said Mikkilani. "Coughing and/or wheezing after exercise or at night are other symptoms associated with asthma. Besides respiratory infections, allergies can also trigger asthma."

Research shows that household pets, particularly cats and dogs, and dust, cockroaches and rodents also can pose a year-round trigger for asthma. Ragweed pollen and mold spores are common triggers in the fall, whereas grass and trees can trigger spring allergies. Cold air and exercise, considered nonspecific factors, can trigger asthma symptoms as well. And smoke is an irritant which makes asthma worse.

"All asthma triggers cause inflammation of the airway lining — an increased mucus production that blocks the airway, causing spasms of the muscles surrounding the airway. This squeezes the airway lining shut," said Mikkilani. "Coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath are caused only when there is a lot of blockage of the airways. But even if there are no symptoms, it is possible to have ongoing inflammation of the lungs."

Anti-inflammatory medications must be taken regularly to control inflammation and asthma symptoms even if a child is symptom-free. "Once asthma is diagnosed, if a child has daytime asthma symptoms more than twice a week or nighttime symptoms more than twice a month, regular use of anti-inflammatory medications is recommended," she said. "Bronchodilator medications are used to relieve blockage only when the child has worsening of symptoms. In addition to taking medications, avoidance of triggers is important in managing asthma."

For children affected by asthma, parents and physicians must work together to develop and follow a written plan for managing asthma on a daily basis as well as during flare ups. It is important to know the medications prescribed and why they are prescribed.

"Being empowered to manage one's own — or your child's — disease improves quality of life for the entire family," said Mikkilani.

For more information on pediatric asthma care, call Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center at (800) THE-BETH or visit The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey Web site at [www.pacnj.org](http://www.pacnj.org).

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, is a 673-bed regional referral teaching hospital with specialized programs including heart and kidney transplantation, cardiac surgery, robotic surgery, oncology, and maternal/child health services. Children's Hospital of New Jersey treats ill and injured children from newborn through adolescent years, including more than 30 pediatric specialties.

SPOTLIGHT ON  
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**A HEAVY BURDEN**

Being overweight poses a number of health issues, one of which may have escaped the attention of parents. It is the fact that overweight and obese children recover more slowly from ankle sprains. New research shows that overweight and obese children report greater symptoms six months after an ankle injury. In fact, the overweight children (ages 8 to 10) were more than twice as likely as the non-overweight study participants to report pain with activity, persistent swelling, and weakness. In light of these findings, overweight and obese children should be targeted for close follow-up and rehabilitation after an acute ankle injury.

This is one more reason for anyone to keep his or her weight within normal limits.



Children have high energy requirements because they are growing. However, like adults, if they take in more energy in the form of food than they use up, the extra energy is stored in their bodies as fat. To schedule an appointment for physical therapy, contact BELL REHABILITATION & SPORTS MEDICINE at (908) 272-5955. We are conveniently located at 777 Walnut Ave in Cranford. Auto Insurance Claims our specialty, and we will submit your bills for compensation. No faults & Medicare. New patients are welcome.

P.S. According to the study mentioned above, children's risk of experiencing long-term ankle problems in step with increasing body mass index.

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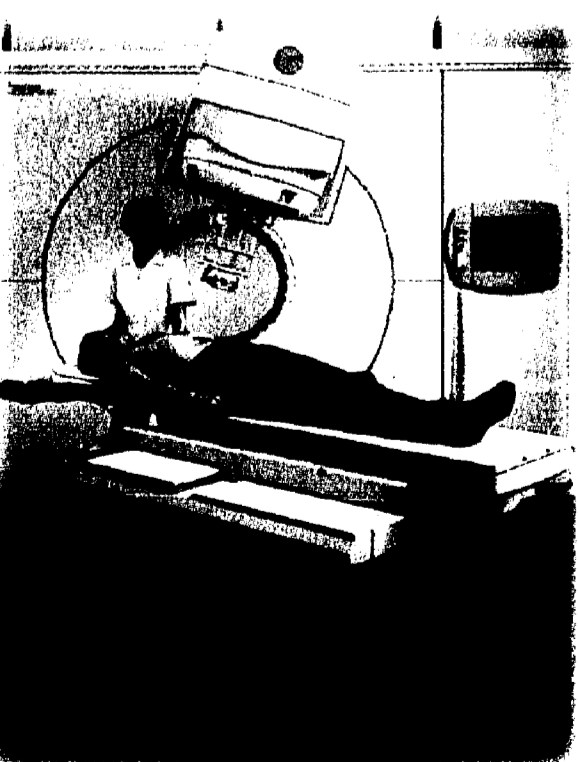
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About Dr. Karp:

- ◆ Founder and Director of Rahway Regional Cancer Center
- ◆ Board Certified Radiation Oncologist Trained at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
- ◆ Awarded American Cancer Society Fellowship in Clinical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
- ◆ Established Central New Jersey's 1st Prostate Seed Implant Program
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# Community Life

## Briefs

### Club Mid members join bake sale effort

WESTFIELD — The members of the Westfield Area Y's Club Mid After School program will be participating in the Great American Bake Sale to help end childhood hunger in America from 4-6 p.m. Friday in the lobby of the Y building at 220 Clark St.

The Great American Bake Sale is co-presented by Parade Magazine and Share Our Strength, one of the nation's leading anti-hunger organizations. Now in its third year, the event encourages all Americans to take a stand against childhood hunger by hosting bake sales in their communities. Proceeds are submitted to Share Our Strength and distributed to the nation's most effective childhood hunger organizations annually.

The Club Mid program is for sixth to eighth graders and meets Monday through Friday from 2:45-6 p.m. Participants enjoy sports, the Cardio Arcade, computer lab access, team building, leadership activities, community service projects, life skills, cooking and homework time.

On Thursday and Friday, the teens will be baking various items for the sale. In addition, several Y staff members will be baking to support the event.

For more information, call Chrissy Krasovsky at (908) 233-2700, ext. 270 or e-mail ckrasovsky@westfieldnj.org.

### Colonial valentines at Miller-Cory House

WESTFIELD — Love is in the air this weekend at the Miller-Cory House Museum, where local families can enjoy a Valentine's Day celebration from 2-4 p.m. Sunday.

Evelyn Kennelly will demonstrate how early Americans made valentines, and a variety of lovely valentines will be on display. Children will be able to make two valentine crafts to take home and give to that special someone. Light refreshments will be served.

The 18th-century farmhouse, located at 614 Mountain Ave., is staffed by docents dedicated to bringing the past to life. The museum's gift shop carries a wide variety of colonial reproductions, toys, crafts, cookbooks and educational materials.

Future programs include "A Spot of Tea" on Feb. 26 and "Maple Sugar Sunday" on March 5.

For more information about the museum, its calendar of events or volunteer opportunities, call the office at (908) 232-1776.

### Wilson families compile their favorite recipes

WESTFIELD — The families of Woodrow Wilson School have recently published a cookbook of favorite recipes. The book contains over 275 "tried and true" recipes gathered from the elementary school community. Recipes include modern dishes such as smoked salmon bruschetta, spaghetti with peppers, proscuitto and herbs, red snapper with a mustard crust and a caramelized pear tart with sweet whipped cream. The collection also includes updated classics such as mustard-glazed pork tenderloins, carrot soufflé, Oriental cole slaw and peanut butter pie.

The Wilson Family Favorites cookbook is priced at \$15 per copy and is available at the Town Book Store, 255 East Broad St., as well as Tiffany Drugs, 1115 South Ave. West.

### Some residents can get free tax help

SCOTCH PLAINS — Federal and state income tax forms will be prepared free of charge for senior citizens, and disabled and low income persons at the following locations from February to April by appointment: Scotch Plains Library, 1927 Bartle Ave., (908) 322-5007; St. Helen's Parish Center, 1600 Rahway Ave., Westfield, (908) 232-1867; Westfield Community Center, 558 West Broad St., Westfield, (980) 232-4759.

A form must be filed to obtain a homestead or tenant rebate, even if you have no taxable income.

## Cardholders now have access to 43 more libraries

WESTFIELD — Westfield Memorial Library cardholders can now borrow books from 43 other libraries in Union and Middlesex counties. Recently, the library became a member of the Middlesex, Union Reciprocal Area Libraries (M.U.R.A.L.), a consortium of libraries in those two counties that work with one another to share resources.

"Since no library collection can meet the needs of all of its patrons; it is helpful to have access to the resources of multiple libraries," said Library Director Phil Israel.

Participating in M.U.R.A.L. permits Westfield cardholders to check the online card catalogs of other M.U.R.A.L. libraries to determine the status of a desired item. If it is on the shelf, the person can go directly to the participating library to borrow the item.

It will still be possible to request materials via the state's inter-library loan program, but cardholders may find that the

### Westfield library joins regional consortium

reciprocal borrowing privileges that M.U.R.A.L. affords are preferable to waiting the several days or weeks for an inter-library loan.

Each participating library sets parameters on what they permit non-residents to borrow. Before traveling to an out-of-town library, patrons are encouraged to call to find out what restrictions apply. Libraries will not permit someone with fines and other library obligations in their hometown library to register as a non-resident until those obligations have been satisfied.

The library's programs this week include, for the children:

**Preschool Story Time** — kids from 3½ to 5 years old can visit at 10 a.m. Tuesday or 1:30 p.m. Wednesday to listen to stories and do an activity.

**Mother Goose Group** — Walking tod-

dlers up to 2½ years with caregiver will enjoy rhymes, songs, movement activities and stories from 10-10:20 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 16.

**Baby Rhyme Time** — Babies who are not yet walking and their caregivers participate in rhymes, lap bounces, songs, and claps from 10-10:20 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17.

**Book Discussion: The Enormous Crocodile** — At 4:45 p.m. Monday, kids are invited to join with other young readers in a discussion of this zany book by Roald Dahl.

**Valentine's Day Party** — Wear something red to this celebration at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday. Children from kindergarten through third grade will hear stories, do an activity and enjoy refreshments.

Programs for adults include: **Puzzled by the Internet I** — At 10 a.m.

Tuesday, this beginners' class will cover basic skills such as how to use a browser, Internet addresses, selecting a search engine and printing from the Internet. This is the first of a two-part session. Puzzled by the Internet II meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21.

**Sundance Film Festival: Ruby in Paradise** — Enjoy this award winning film at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Through some poor choices, including ones involving men she dates, Ruby learns some hard lessons that force her to develop inner strength and confidence.

**TGIF: Made of Wood: Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy** — At 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, learn about the life of the brilliant actor, radio entertainer and ventriloquist.

For more information, call (908) 789-4090, visit the library's Web site at www.wmlnj.org or stop by the library at 550 East Broad St. for a copy of the quarterly newsletter.

## Ring in the New Year



Teacher Tassie Becker and her pupils at the JCC Preschool in Scotch Plains found an especially colorful way to celebrate the Chinese New Year — by making a class-sized dragon and parading it around the building. Registration for the 2006-07 preschool and kindergarten classes are ongoing, and the JCC will host an open house at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. For more information, contact Nancy Kovacs at (908) 889-8800, ext. 204 or nkovacs@jccnj.org. The JCC of Central New Jersey is located at 1391 Martine Ave.

## Society explores life in an earlier age

WESTFIELD — "Life Before Supermarkets" will be the topic of Hollace Hoffman during a slide show/lecture for the Westfield Historical Society at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 in the Community Room of the Westfield municipal building, 425 East Broad St.

In her program, Hoffman, a former director of the Trailside Nature and Science Center in Union County, will return to colonial times and show life as it was long before the development of large supermarkets and before the choices of tremendous quantities and variety of goods that are now available to most Americans.

In those days, when a man often hunted alone, he was far different from contemporary American men, who may have to use cell phones to get directions from their wives in order to locate the right aisle and shelf in the store.

Through her talk and pictures, Hoffman will show there was a time when forest and field provided housing, food, medicines, tool handles, dyes and more. She will show how early farmers utilized nature's storehouse to supplement meals from cultivated crops and domestic animals. Many old-time crafts, machinery and tools will also be shown.

Originally from Massachusetts, Hoffman came to New Jersey to attend graduate school at Rutgers and received a degree in plant ecology. She worked for Somerset County as a park naturalist and then for Union County as the director of the Trailside Nature and Science Center before retiring. She is currently the coordinator of Operation Archaeology for the county, a program for fifth graders.

The public is invited to attend at no charge, and light refreshments will be served at the end of the program. For any questions regarding the program, call (908) 233-6360.

## 2 teens will attend leadership conference

SCOTCH PLAINS — Two township teens have been selected to participate in the National Young Leaders State Conference from Feb. 9-12 in Princeton.

The local participants are Jeremy Busch, an eighth grade student at Terrill Middle School who was recommended for the conference by his sixth grade science teacher, Ms. Ginny Conway, and Patrick Clancy, a freshman at Seton Hall Preparatory School in West Orange, who was nominated by Mrs. Christiano, his eighth grade math teacher last year at Terrill. An honors student and athlete, Patrick resides in Scotch Plains with his parents, Pat and

Carol Clancy, and younger brother, David.

Themed "Courageous Leadership," the conference is designed to help attendees take an introspective and highly personalized assessment of their leadership skills and abilities.

Throughout the four-day program, participants will build a working "toolkit" of strategies to help them dream, create, and implement plans that will change how they view their role as leaders in their communities.

"The steps each person takes in discovering his or her own leadership strengths can be a very personal process," said Mike Lasday, executive director

of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), the organization that sponsors NYLSC. "The National Young Leaders State Conference will help students get at the heart of their innate talents and skills, and will also help them identify how best they can serve within their communities."

The NYLSC curriculum focuses on an introspective and highly personalized assessment of each participant's leadership skills and abilities. The students will be challenged to step forward in a manner that is decisive and confident, to grasp the concepts of leadership that will be taught and to act upon their

dreams of making a difference in the world while maintaining the courage of their convictions.

The Congressional Youth Leadership Council is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization. Founded in 1985, the Council aims to inspire young people to achieve their full leadership potential. More than 400 members of the U.S. Congress serve on the CYLC Honorary Congressional Board of Advisors. In addition, more than 40 embassies participate in the Council's Honorary Board of Embassies.

For additional information, visit the organization online at www.cylc.org.

## 'Mozart' visits with students at Franklin

WESTFIELD — Students at Franklin Elementary School recently enjoyed a musical performance and dramatized character portrayal of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart by Dennis Kobray of Meet the Musicians in Millburn.

Donning his powdered wig and period costume, Kobray brought the story of the child prodigy to life. He not only shared the history of the famous classical musician, but stressed important values such as continued hard work, practice and determination by which Mozart was able to achieve success.

After enjoying Kobray's live piano performances as well as recorded excerpts of Mozart's famous symphonies and concertos, students sang "Happy Birthday" and presented "Mozart" with balloons to mark the 250th anniversary of his birth, which occurred on Jan. 27, 1756.

The event was sponsored by the Franklin PTO Cultural Arts Committee.



Franklin Elementary Students enjoyed a live musical performance and character portrayal of Mozart by Dennis Kobray of Millburn.

## Film takes harsh look at the food industry

WESTFIELD — Deborah Koons Garcia's award-winning documentary *The Future of Food* will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the First United Methodist Church, 1 East Broad St.

*The Future of Food*, which premiered to sold-out audiences at Film Forum in New York City last September, offers an investigation into many aspects of the proliferation of genetically-modified foodstuffs on grocery shelves around the county. GM ingredients can be found in meat, fish and dairy products and are especially prominent in processed foods, including more than 75 percent of soy products, over half of corn products and virtually all canola products.

No one knows what the long-term health and environmental impacts of this change will be, but the documentary raises questions and provides intensive examination of some key areas. According to the Christian Science Monitor, "There is a stunning revelation in almost every scene."

With on-scene locations ranging from Canadian Saskatchewan prairie to remote fields in Oaxaca, Mexico, the film features interviews with affected farmers, as well as scientists, agricultural and

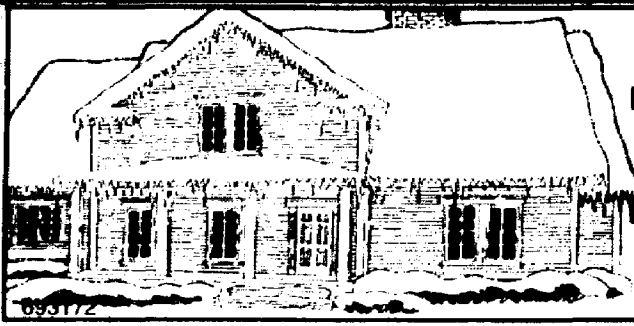
policy experts and consumer advocates. The movie takes a critical view of the corporate biotech industry, particularly Monsanto, and the push for globalization.

The filmmaker, Deborah Koons Garcia (widow of Grateful Dead founder, Jerry Garcia) offered to debate Monsanto corporate representatives in any public forum of their choice when they challenged the facts of her film.

"Everything in *The Future of Food* has been very carefully documented," said Koons Garcia. "In making the film we relied on a tremendous group of prestigious advisors from many walks of life, including scientists, professors and farmers. It's disingenuous for Monsanto to allege that the movie is not telling the truth without backing up the claims."

There will be a post-film discussion and refreshments. The church's parking lot is accessible from Ferris Place, off Prospect Street; enter by the side door.

This film is sponsored by Union County Peace Council, The First United Methodist Church of Westfield, and Word Out! For more information call Diane at (908) 233-7344 or e-mail unioncountypeacecouncil@gmail.com.



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# NJWA to play at Green Lane

The NJWA Concert Band will perform a concert at 2 p.m. Sunday at the YM-YWHA of Union, 501 Green Lane.

The NJWA, affectionately known as the Green Lane "House Band," is directed by Howard Toplansky, author of the *Essentials of Bassoon Technique*.

Toplansky, in a constant quest for different band music, has made worldwide connections with Russian conductors and is particularly looking forward to the band playing the "Slavic Woman's Farewell March" by Vasily Agapkin. Composed in 1912, this song reflected the concern about the impending Balkan war. Although the war never materialized, the visions of Slavic soldiers parting from their wives and families struck a chord with the populace and later this piece became the most popular military march during World War I, when new words were written for it.

Nonetheless, the piece was prohibited from being performed at the victory parade in 1945 because of political feuding. However, by 1957 "A Slavic Woman's Farewell" appeared in the movie *The Cranes Fly*. By the 1990s many well-known Russians petitioned Boris Yeltsin to adopt "The Slavic Woman's Farewell" as the national anthem of the new Russia. In 1996 the Russian anti-war film *Prisoner of the Caucasus* used as the piece as its main theme. To this day the march evokes strong feelings even though another official Russian hymn has been adopted as the national anthem. In fact, the march has given its name to a brand of vodka.

In addition to this march, "The Lamb's March" by Sousa and "The Leshetinsky Kovar March" by Stolic will be featured during the Sunday concert. The band will also feature waltz music by Kalman, highlights of "Exodus" by Gold, the haunting "I Will Wait for You" by Legrand, Brahms' "Hungarian Dance #5," the ever-popular ragtime feature "One for the Road" by Morath, and a mix of other eclectic musical selections.

For more information, call (908) 964-1793 or e-mail njwa-band@att.net.



The students at the Newark Boys Chorus School will be featured in a Feb. 16 Black History program at Union County College.

## Newark Boys Chorus to sing at UCC

On Feb. 16, in observation of Black History Month, Union County College will be hosting an evening of beautiful music, soul food, and an African-American market during the third annual Frederick Douglass birthday celebration.

The celebration will be held from 5-9 p.m. in The Victor M. Richel Student Commons and the Roy Smith Theater on the college's Cranford campus at 1033 Springfield Ave. The highlight of the evening will begin at 7 p.m. when The Newark Boys Chorus will gather with the veteran North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club to perform songs such as "This Little Light of Mine" and "Let There Be Music."

Prior to the musical performance, attendees will have the opportunity to sample soul food for a fee of \$5 and shop in the African-American market in the Victor M. Richel Student Commons. The market will consist of vendors and crafts and will end at 6:45 p.m.

The Newark Boys Chorus School (NBCS) was originally founded as the New Jersey Symphony Boys Choir in 1966. The original chorus was formed with the New Jersey Symphony, who needed "angels' voices" for the

"Dance of the Snowflakes" in their production of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. James R. McCarthy who undertook the task and found 66 "angels" for use in the production. On Dec. 26, 1966, the chorus joined the New Jersey Symphony and the Garden State Ballet in a complete production of *Nutcracker*.

The chorus's debut performance was so successful and received such critical acclaim that additional performances were demanded, which ultimately led to the opening of the Newark Boys Choir School on Sept. 15, 1969. In September 1972, the school adopted the name Newark Boys Choir, and later became the Newark Boys Chorus School.

The more mature North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club was established in 1939 by Delores Collins Benjamin. The young male singers were all from Newark's old Third Ward. The Philharmonics saw singing as a powerful cultural artifact. During the early years of the glee club, singing was used as

a vehicle for expression and a manly ritual. It was a way to preserve style, discipline, and camaraderie. It was also a way to keep alive old traditions from the time of slavery and at the dawn of African-American freedom. The club's current music director is J. Hamilton Grandison and the assistant director and accompanist is Philip Field.

The Glee Club has appeared in programs that included Harry Belafonte, Smokey Robinson, Ben Vereen, and Savion Glover. Some of their more recent performances were at the White House, Lincoln Center, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Smithsonian Institution, the National Cathedral and the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Newark.

This evening of celebration on Feb. 16 is free, with the exception of the food charge, and members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Dr. Lawrence Hogan at (908) 497-4235 or Hogan@ucc.edu.

# Wf. Art Association to visit with Parker at Palmer Museum

The Westfield Art Association has reserved Sunday for a visit with the photographer Robert A. Parker at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield.

Parker is featured in a current exhibition, "New Jersey Images" at Palmer Museum. He will on hand from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday to answer questions about his works. If members bring a small photo, Parker will also offer them some helpful hints.

Parker is a self-taught photographer who belongs to the Tri-County Camera Club, where he has picked up many hints over the years. He has traveled around the country doing portraits and write-ups and was writer and editor for *Corporate World*.

Winning a prize in *Americus* magazine was his first step into entering many photographic shows. Parker won prizes in magazine competitions such as *Photography and Travel, Adventure*, and *Saturday Review*, which encouraged him to have numerous exhibits of his own.

Parker's subject matter varies from natural habitats to man-made architecture, from athletic events to still life, from quiet portraits of birds or animals to blurred action photos. His on-location shots range from Giants Stadium to Cape May, Sussex County in winter to summer at the Jersey Shore.

Grouping these photographs into one exhibit has allowed Parker to show how varied the photographic possibilities are all over the Garden State. He likes to capture an entire scene but also employs the use of close up or zoom lenses to isolate an eye catching pattern, whether it be a man-made or natural creation.

He has shown in many group and juried shows in Winchester, Mass.; Watchung; Hackensack; Bergen Museum of Arts and Science; Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside; the Meadowlands Center for the Arts and the Kodak Gallery in Paramus.

For directions and other open hours, call the library at (973) 376-4930 or Tobia L. Meyers at (908) 687-2945.



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# Jesus Christ Superstar opens this Friday at CDC in Cranford

*Jesus Christ Superstar*, the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical by composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyricist Tim Rice, opens Friday at the CDC Community Theatre in Cranford for a three-weekend run.

The two-act rock opera features high-powered choreography and an energetic score, including several hit songs such as "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Everything's Alright" and the title song. The show was the first collaboration for Lloyd Webber and Rice, who later worked together on *Evita* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. The musical tells the story of the last days in the life of Christ.

CDC's production team has updated the setting of the musical to place it in a modern urban environment. Veteran CDC producer Elizabeth Howard heads up a team stocked with talent from around the area. Howard herself has many award-winning productions under her belt, having produced virtually every musical at CDC over the last several years. Director Jeffrey Fiorello has extensive directorial experience at area theaters and is a veteran performer who has been seen at CDC in *Smoky Joe's Café* and *Kiss Me Kate*.

Music director Joe Elefante also is well known throughout New Jersey, having served as musical director for dozens of area theatres, high schools and colleges, as well as heading up the Joe Elefante Big Band, a 17-piece jazz orchestra that performs at Cecil's Jazz Club in West Orange. He is also on faculty at the Paper Mill Theater School and the NJPAC Jazz for Teens program. The

show's choreographer, Q, studied with the Princeton Ballet and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and has performed in and choreographed countless highly regarded area productions.

The 30-person cast blends CDC regulars with a large group of talented performers who are newcomers to CDC but have an impressive list of credentials elsewhere in the area. Scotch Plains resident Juan Pascual, who portrays Jesus, has performed extensively in NYC and internationally and is co-founder of the Little Opera Company in Westfield. Husband and wife Jeffrey Jackson and Kathleen Campbell Jackson take the roles of Judas and Mary Magdalene. In addition to local and national stage performances, Kathleen originated the role of Sybil Vane on both the cast recording and staged reading of the Dorian Gray-based *The Flowering Thorn* and has appeared on film in the musical, *Frankenstein*. Jeffrey, an award-winning writer and director, was one of three co-authors of the *Frankenstein* musical. Playing other lead roles are area veterans Frank Andrews, Bobby Selig, Jeffrey Dopson, Brian Merrill, Leo da Silva, Melissa Loderstedt, and Aimee Mitacchione.

*Jesus Christ Superstar* will be presented on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. through Feb. 25. Tickets are \$20 on a reserved seat basis and can be obtained by calling the box office at (908) 276-7611 or online at [www.cdctheatre.org](http://www.cdctheatre.org). The CDC Community Theatre is located at 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford, off of Centennial Avenue.



Kathleen Campbell Jackson, Jeffrey Jackson and Juan Pascual in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at CDC Community Theatre.

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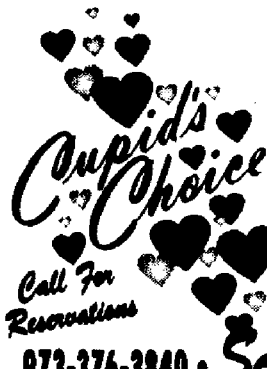
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## Auction planned at UCC

The Union County College Foundation and the UCC Alumni Association will co-host an art auction benefit on Friday, Feb. 17, in The Victor M. Richel Student Commons on the college's Cranford campus, located at 1033 Springfield Ave.

Ross Galleries of Holbrook, N.Y. will conduct the auction, which will feature more than 150 custom framed and matted works of art, lithographs, watercolors, original oils signed by the artists, documented sports memorabilia, pottery and estate jewelry. Featured artists will include Wooster Scott, Delacroix, Chagall, Ansel Adams, Boulanger, Neiman, Shaviko and Fauchere.

Tickets for the event are \$15 each or 2 for \$25 and include wine and cheese, hors d'oeuvres, desserts and coffee. All attendees will be included in a drawing for a custom-framed piece of art. Funds raised by the event will support the UCC student scholarship fund.

The art preview will begin at 6 p.m., with professionals on hand to answer questions. The fast-paced live auction will start at 7 p.m. The majority of the art will have opening bids ranging from \$45 to \$300. Opening bids are generally 50 percent less than framed gallery prices.

For tickets or further information, contact the UCC Foundation office at (908) 709-7505 or [uccfound@ucc.edu](mailto:uccfound@ucc.edu).

## WCB seeks musicians

The Westfield Community Concert Band, under the direction of Maestro Thomas Connors (above), is preparing for their 94th Season of music in Westfield.

This year, the community band is initiating a spring concert performance to be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 2 at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield. This summer, the band will continue with their tradition of summer concerts on the gazebo in Mindowaskin Park. Concerts are scheduled to take place on Thursdays from June 22 to July 20 at 7:30 p.m.

In preparation for these concerts, the band is seeking experienced musicians on the trumpet, oboe, bassoon, and keyboard/percussion to fill potential vacancies. Musicians must be available for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Community Room in the Westfield Municipal Building along with the above noted concerts.

This season marks the second season of concerts under the direction of Connors, who is director of instrumental music studies and assistant professor of music education at Kean University.

Interested musicians should contact Connors at (908) 737-4327. For future concert updates, go to the band's Web site at [www.westfieldcommunityband.com](http://www.westfieldcommunityband.com).

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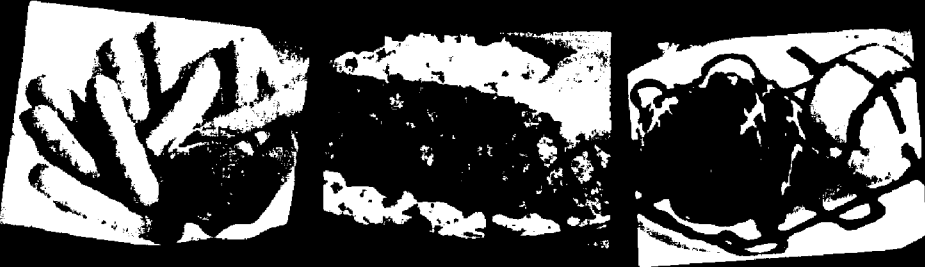
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SPORTSCENE

Boys Hoops

Linden 87, Westfield 34
Sophomore Desmond Wade steered Linden to a 45-19 halftime lead with 13 of his 21 points in Linden last week.

time period for Shabazz with eight of his 22 points in Newark last week. Sean Young forced the OT for Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 64-64, on a basket with two seconds remaining in regulation.

rebounds and five assists. Scotch Plains-Fanwood got 11 points from Robert Lewis.

Westfield 58, Roselle Catholic 53
Tied at 43-43 after three periods, Westfield took command as junior guard Mike Venezia threw in eight of his game-high 18 points in the final quarter of the John Butch Kowal Scholarship Tournament in Rahway over the weekend.

yesterday at the John Butch Kowal Scholarship Games over the weekend in Rahway.

The loss dropped Roselle Catholics record to 8-9 and kept the school from qualifying for the state tournament as teams needed to have a record of .500 or better after yesterday's games.

Sophomore Danielle Infantino and junior Katie Cronen each had seven rebounds for Westfield.

Hockey Wrap

Montgomery 3, Westfield 1
Michael Tuoito scored 3:17 into the first to give Montgomery a 2-0 lead at the Woodbridge Community Center.

100 IM and the 50 Fly, Anthony Gurrieri garnered 1st in the 100 Free and 50 Breast, Luke McGrory placed 1st in the 50 Back and 2nd in the 100 IM, Max Shin garnered 2nd in the 100 Free and 50 Fly, Tyler Lessner tied Shin to get 2nd in the 50 Fly and got 3rd in the 100 Free, Garrett Williamson earned 2nd in the 50 Breast, Aran Barmakian earned 2nd in the 50 Back, Daniel Myers placed 3rd in the 100 IM, and David Adsit achieved 3rd in the 50 Breast. The team of McGrory, Shin, Daniel, and Gurrieri won the 200 Medley Relay.

A Division gymnast, Patty Matejek, placed 2nd on balance beam.

Performing for the first time at the B Division level, Katie Buchbinder, Kaitlyn Frey, Lisa Matrale and Alexa Untivo competed in the 12 and under age group, with Buchbinder taking first place on balance beam. Top scorer for the FSPY team, Alivia DeMaria earned the 2nd place all-around award, as well as 1st place on floor exercise, 3rd place on vault and 4th place on uneven bars. The 4th place ribbon on vault went to Olivia Dunham who is just back from an injury.

Among the six veteran gymnasts competing in the 13 and over age group, Hannah Kronick was awarded 1st place all-around honors, as well as 3rd place on uneven bars and 4th place on vault, balance beam and floor exercise. The 3rd place all-around ribbon went to Kristen Schmicker, who also placed 1st on floor exercise and 2nd on vault.

Open Registration is currently underway at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA for the Early Spring Session. At the Y's Martine Avenue facility, the gymnastics program includes parent-toddler and preschool classes, as well as progressive skills classes for school-age girls.

On Saturday, January 21, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA 'C' team competed in its first gymnastics meet of the 2006 season.

While this meet did not include a team competition, the FSPY team, consisting of five second-year competitors and five new members, turned in solid performances to begin the competitive season.

In the 10 and under age group, Zee-Nicole Stein took first place honors in the all-around competition, placing first on floor exercise, second on uneven bars and vault, and fourth on balance beam. Kacie Bumiller finished second all-around, earning first place ribbons on uneven bars and vault, as well as second place on floor exercise and third place on balance beam.

Jackie Fabricatore topped the 11 year old age group, competing for the first time in several years. In addition to placing first all-around, Fabricatore earned first place honors on floor exercise and balance beam, and second place honors on vault.

The team's next competition will be on February 26th at the Madison YMCA, where the girls will compete alongside the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA 'A' team.

Applications are available for men, a minimum of 30 years old, who want to join a great softball league. They may be picked up in Scotch Plains at Standard Pest Control or Sideline Sports and in Fanwood at Family Investors Company.

Year 2006 will mark the league's 28th year. The league started with 4 teams and has grown to 10 teams. Much of the league's success can be attributed to the fact that new teams are chosen each year during a draft ala the NFL's college draft.

There are a few more openings for children or adults who would like to be paid scorers.

If you have any questions about the league call Commissioner Dom Lawrence at 908-322-1697 or Publicity Chairman Dean Talcott.

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# Real Estate

## Pending sales down; expectations up

Pending home sales continue to decline but are expected to recover in the months ahead, according to the National Association of Realtors. The Pending Home Sales Index, based on contracts signed in December, was down 3.0 percent to a level of 116.4 from 120.0 in November, and is 5.5 percent below December 2004. Pending sales have trended steadily down from a record index of 129.2 last August.

The index is based on pending sales of existing homes. A sale is listed as pending when the contract has been signed and the transaction has not closed, but the sale usually is finalized within one or two months of signing. An index of 100 is equal to the average level of contract activity during 2001, the first year to be examined, and was the first of five consecutive record years for existing-home sales.

David Lereah, NAR's chief economist, said momentum in the housing market shifts slowly. "Changes in the over-

all direction of the housing market are akin to a large ship making course corrections — it takes some time for the driving factors to materialize as a change in the sales level," he said.

"In many recent transactions we're looking at a delayed effect of mortgage interest rates that peaked in November but are now lower than expected. Mortgage applications have trended up in recent weeks, so we shouldn't be surprised to see pending home sales rise in the next couple months."

Even with an upturn in sales, Lereah expects the housing market to stay below last year's record. "We're going through a period of adjustment. As home sellers recognize a return to more normal rates of price growth, some that have been holding out for higher prices will be more willing to negotiate terms that are acceptable to buyers but still provide them a solid return on their investment."

In the Northeast, the index increased 1.5 percent to 90.7 but was 11.1 percent below December 2004. In the South it rose 2.3 percent to 135.9, 4.1 percent above December 2004. The index in the West fell 8.1 percent to 117.1 in December and was 11.8 percent lower than a year ago. The index in the Midwest dropped 9.3 percent to a level of 105.8 and was 11.0 below December 2004.

## Choi is again named office's top associate

WESTFIELD — For the 11th time in her illustrious career, Hye-Young Choi has been named the number one sales associate in the Westfield Coldwell Banker office.

Choi earned this prestigious award by having the highest level of sales success in 2005. She has also received top honors from the New Jersey Association of Realtors by achieving the Platinum designation for 2005 and from Coldwell Banker National for being named a Premier Agent. This puts Hye-Young Choi within the top 1 percent of all agents throughout the country.

According to the Garden State Multiple Listing Service, there were 405 Westfield homes sold through the service in 2005. The average sale price was \$781,507, and the average home was on the market for 52 days. The homeowners who selected Choi to market their properties in Westfield realized an



HYE-YOUNG CHOI

average sale price of \$1.2 million.

"Hye-Young Choi completely outperformed one of the best real estate markets ever recorded," said Michael Scott, the office manager. "Her approach is so professional and so caring that she has made clients for life."

Contact Hye Young Choi at the Westfield office or log onto [HyeYoungChoi.com](http://HyeYoungChoi.com).



*Radiating elegance, this Center Hall Colonial in Cranford's Heathermead section envelops you with a classic ambiance derived from hardwood floors, moldings, archways & sun-catching windows. Entertain graciously in the living room with fireplace & formal dining room with walk-in bay window. Warming your heat are lovely private spaces including a family room and newer eat-in kitchen. The master bedroom with side-by-side wall closets, main bath and generous bedrooms craft a delightful second floor. Enhancing this handsome setting is a marvelous backyard with deck a rec room with built-ins and a picturesque cul-de-sac location. Presented for \$619,500.*

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**Elegant and Enchanting**, this 1910 Colonial Revival home, known as the A.I. Nichols House occupied the entirety of what is now Nichols Court. Woven into Fairwood's history, the interior spellbinds you with exquisite chestnut trim, grand entry hall, leaded glass windows, Butler's Pantry, custom built-ins and hardwood floors. Beautiful antique artistry blends today's conveniences including central air conditioning. A possible guest suite, marvelous cul-de-sac location plus the convenience of being minutes from town, school, and NYC trains, enhance the allure of this majestic home ..... Offered at \$799,900

For additional information or a private tour of this home, please contact:

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To Place an ad in the Realtors' Showcase, contact Maggie Chess at 732-396-4905

# COLDWELL BANKER



## 30 BROWN TERRACE CRANFORD

**Cranford...** Nestled on a dead end street; this four bedroom home is located within minutes to schools, parks, and bus transportation. Boasting an open and airy floor plan, this home's living room (24'x14') with its cathedral ceiling, corner fireplace, and oversized picture window is perfect for formal entertainment. The grade level family room (23'x16') is ideal for more casual recreation. The master bedroom has its own full bath and walk-in closet. 3 more bedrooms, an eat-in kitchen and dining room round out this wonderful home.

Spring into action... available for \$569,900!!



## CASUAL ELEGANCE

**Cranford...** Ideally located near downtown and NYC train. Boasting an excellent open floor plan, this lovely 5 bedroom residence is filled with period details including a corner fireplace, fluted columns, alcoves with window seats, and high ceilings. Honed granite counters, a center island, and sunny breakfast nook add function, as well as style to the recently renovated eat-in kitchen. And to top it all off, this home has a finished basement with a family room, updated powder room, laundry room and storage room.

Truly a rare find... for only \$719,900!!



## NEW LISTING!

**Scotch Plains...** Conveniently located on a cul-de-sac, this cute and clean home is located within minutes to NYC transportation. Boasting four bedrooms, this expanded Cape Cod offers a flexible floor plan. A first floor bedroom could easily double as a den or office and the eat-in kitchen opens to the family room and deck which overlooks a wonderfully deep backyard. Well proportioned bedrooms and a full basement provide plenty of room for playing and relaxing.

Sure to sell quickly... this home won't be available for long at \$479,900!!

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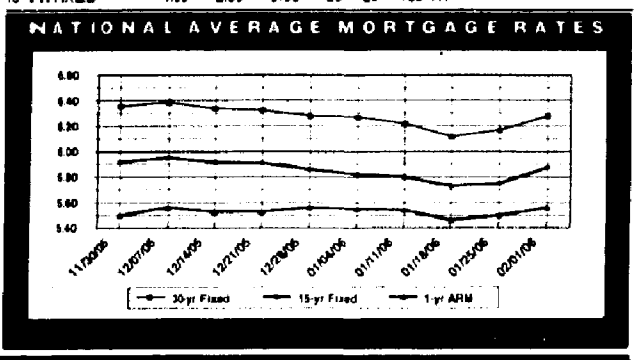
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DANA HUTCHINSON



CINDY MCGRATH



ELLEN MURPHY

## Agents obtain senior certification

WESTFIELD — Prudential New Jersey Properties Westfield sales associates Dana Hutchinson, Cindy McGrath and Ellen Murphy were recently awarded the Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES) professional designation by the Senior Advantage Real Estate Council.

As Seniors Real Estate Specialists, the sales associates are specifically trained to help seniors make informed decisions about selling a family home, buying rental property, managing capital gains and estate tax implications of own-

ing real estate, obtaining a reverse mortgage, moving to a senior community and other pertinent issues.

"By taking the time to obtain the SRES designation, Dana, Cindy and Ellen have proven their desire to better serve the specialized needs of their senior clients," said Marge Cuccaro, manager of Prudential New Jersey Properties' Westfield office. "Each of these sales associates is dedicated to providing the very best customer service."

Named Prudential New Jersey Properties' Westfield office's 2004 Sales Associate of the Year and Sales Associate of the Month for June 2005, Hutchinson specializes in residential properties in Westfield, Cranford, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside, and Summit. A lifetime resident of Union County, she has spent the last 14 years in Cranford. She attained Silver Level membership in the New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence in 2004 and was also appointed to Prudential Real Estate's prestigious President's Circle.

A real estate professional for more than three years, McGrath is a lifetime resident of

Cranford. She is a member of the National, New Jersey and Greater Union County Associations of Realtors as well as the Garden State Multiple Listing Service. A consistent top producer, McGrath has been honored by Prudential Real Estate's 2004 Honor Society and Prudential New Jersey Properties' 2004 Multi Million Dollar Club and was named the Westfield office's Sales Associate of the Month for January 2005. She specializes in marketing homes throughout Union County.

Specializing in new and resale residential real estate, Murphy is a member of the Greater Union County Association of Realtors and the Garden State and Middlesex Multiple Listing Services. A lifetime Union County resident, Murphy is an expert on area communities, including Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside and Cranford. Before joining the real estate industry, she spent 20 years in retail and education sales. A consistent producer, Murphy was named the Westfield office's Sales Associate of the Month for the months of February, March, April, October and December 2005.

Hutchinson, McGrath and Murphy can be reached at the Westfield office of Prudential New Jersey Properties, located at 215 North Ave. West, or by phone at (908) 232-5664.

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## Burgdorff is collecting donated prom dresses

WESTFIELD — The Burgdorff ERA Westfield office is once again a designated drop off point for the non-profit organization Catherine's Closet, Inc., which collects donated gowns for inner-city girls to dress in style and elegance for their proms.

The Burgdorff ERA Westfield office, located at 600 North Ave. West, will collect the Catherine's Closet dresses through March 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Catherine's Closet asks that donated prom dress be less than two years old, cleaned, preferably worn once, and fashionably up-to-date.

"For the past three years, we have helped Catherine's Closet with this important cause, and we must thank the Westfield community for their continued assistance," said George Kraus, vice president and manager of the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office. "The prom is one of the most memorable events for young men and women. It is only fitting that we provide closet space

*"The prom is one of the most memorable events for young men and women... We are happy to assist Catherine's Closet."*

— George Kraus

for dresses that will be worn for such a special occasion. We are happy to assist Catherine's Closet."

Catherine's Closet honors the memory of Catherine Johnson, a senior, who was tragically killed by a 14-year old in a stolen vehicle. Catherine was an honor student and valedictorian of her class at Clifford Scott High School in East Orange. She was aspiring to be a doctor. Catherine was buried in her prom dress. In an essay she once wrote Catherine said, "People will know my name not for fame or fortune or out of Vanity, but they will know me because I have helped someone."


Over 5,000 girls in New York / New Jersey benefited from Catherine's Closet, which has helped to provide designer dresses from Armani, Ralph Lauren, and Jessica McClintock. A new development for the organization is that it incorporates community service and entrepreneurial skills. Fourteen students have received \$1,000 scholarships for completing 60-100 hours of service with the organization.

For more information call the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office at (908) 233-0065. Catherine's Closet now works with over 225 schools and organizations. To learn more about Catherine's Closet, visit [www.catherinescloset.org](http://www.catherinescloset.org), or contact Dr. Sandra Kessler by phone (973) 628-1818 or email at [sandy@catherinescloset.org](mailto:sandy@catherinescloset.org). Charitable contributions can also be made to: Catherine's Closet, Inc., P.O. Box AR, Paterson, New Jersey, 07509.

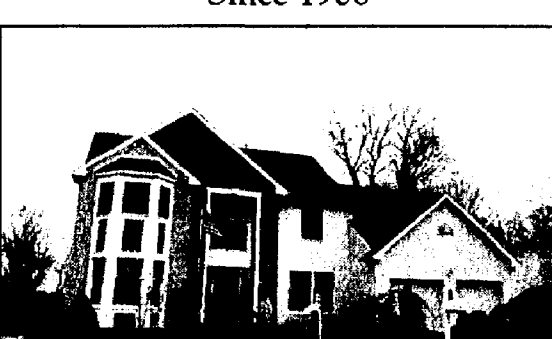
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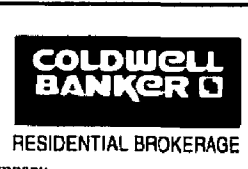

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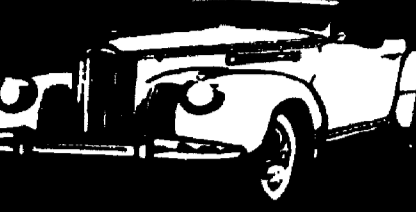
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<b>\$17,995</b>	<b>\$17,995</b>	<b>\$24,595</b>	<b>\$19,995</b>	<b>\$15,995</b>
<b>2003 FORD ESCAPE XLS</b> 4 dr. v-6, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cd, changer, alloy wheels, 44,000 miles. VIN#3RB43993	<b>2004 GMC DENALI</b> 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, 3 seats, tilt, cruise, cd, navigation, iv, dvd, moonroof, chrome wheels, 44,000 miles. VIN#4J183317	<b>2005 CHEVY TAHOE LS</b> 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, 3 seats, dual air, tilt, cruise, cd, base, running boards, alloys, 25,000 miles. VIN#53223704	<b>2004 NISSAN FRONTIER XE</b> extra cab, 4x4, v-6, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, only 14,000 miles. VIN#4C350263	<b>2001 PONTIAC SUNFIRE GT</b> 2 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, moonroof, alloy wheels, only 12,000 miles. VIN#1N633809
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<b>2004 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO</b> 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 24,000 miles. VIN#4C12290	<b>2004 FORD F-150 EXTRA CAB</b> 4x4, 6.4 off road package, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cd, moonroof, alloy wheels, bedliner, 30,000 miles. VIN#4NB04698	<b>2003 FORD F-250</b> 4x4, long bed auto, air, p/s, p/b, tilt, cruise, cass, only 25,000 miles. VIN#4E33271	<b>2004 GMC SIERRA</b> 1500, 5 spd, air, p/s, p/b, tilt, cruise, bed liner, chrome wheels, only 15,000 miles. VIN#44231049	<b>2001 GMC SONOMA PICK-UP</b> auto, air, p/s, p/b, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 41,000 miles. VIN#1K167124
<b>\$17,950</b>	<b>\$23,995</b>	<b>\$16,995</b>	<b>\$12,995</b>	<b>\$8,995</b>

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# Automotive/Classified

## Production milestone for Toyota

On Feb. 2, Toyota announced it has reached the 15 million mark in North American production. The milestone marked 20 years of manufacturing in North America, supported by a \$16 billion investment in North American operations.

"This is a great accomplishment for Toyota in North America," said Seiichi Sudo, president and CEO of Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc. "This milestone has been reached because of the total team effort given. Every member of the manufacturing and design team has contributed to this phenomenal growth and success. I also want to thank our suppliers, sales teams, and our loyal customers who have contributed to making Toyota one of the most popular brands in America and Lexus the most popular luxury brand."

Toyota operates 12 vehicle manufacturing, powertrain, and components facilities in North America. The company says it will continue to further its commitment to build vehicles in North America with two more plants under construction — in San Antonio, Texas and Woodstock, Ontario.

Toyota now manufactures 10 vehicles in North America: Avalon, Camry, Corolla, Matrix, Sequoia, Sienna, Solara, Tacoma, Tundra, and Lexus RX330. Production of the Camry Hybrid begins in the fall of 2006 in Kentucky, and the RAV4 in 2008, in Ontario.

Toyota first began conducting business in North America in 1957 and began manufacturing parts in 1972 in California. In 1986, Toyota expanded operations to manufacture vehicles in a joint venture with GM at New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. in Fremont, California. Toyota now directly employs 27,000 jobs in manufacturing, and there are an additional 95,000 supplier jobs dedicated to Toyota business in North America.



Chrysler is counting on the new Dodge Caliber to make a big impact in the compact market.

## Chrysler off to strong start in '06

With new products coming, January sales rise 5 percent over 2005

With the company poised to launch a record 10 new products this year, Chrysler Group last week reported January 2006 U.S. sales increased 5 percent, to 155,465 units. January 2005 sales were 148,111 units. All figures reported have the same number of selling days this month versus January one year ago.

"We strengthened our leadership position in key segments such as minivans and large cars with our sales in January," said Gary Dilts, Chrysler Group senior vice president of sales. "Our car business is up 20 percent, and our LX products are up 62 percent. The Dodge Caliber (began) production (Feb. 1) and gives us a strong entry into the small car segment with an attractive price starting at \$13,985. We are now a full-time car player."

Sales of the Chrysler 300 totaled 12,746 units, an increase

of 26 percent over January 2005 sales of 10,112 units and continuing its leading position in the luxury large car segment, eclipsing its closest competitor by a 2-to-1 margin. January marks the 20th month the Chrysler 300 has surpassed the 10,000 units sold mark since its world introduction in 2004.

The Chrysler PT Cruiser posted sales of 11,406 units, an increase of 45 percent compared to previous year sales of 7,887 units. Since its introduction in 2000, the PT Cruiser has sold nearly 975,000 units worldwide. Jeep brand sales rose 8 percent to 29,773 units in part on the strength of the Jeep Wrangler which posted sales of 3,830 units.

Chrysler Group minivan sales continue to be driven by the Dodge Caravan, which posted sales of 16,273 units, an increase of 18 percent over January 2005 sales of 13,797

## GM announces construction of new hybrid transmission

General Motors announced on Feb. 1 that the first light-duty integrated hybrid transmission to be designed and built in the U.S. will be produced at GM's Baltimore transmission plant. The new two-mode hybrid transmission will go into production next year and will initially be used in GM's all-new full-size SUVs, the Chevrolet Tahoe and GMC Yukon. The vehicles will be assembled at GM's Arlington, Texas plant.

The only other U.S. designed and built hybrid transmission from a major auto manufacturer is also produced by GM. A heavy-duty two-mode transmission for urban transit buses began production in 2003. GM has provided 388 hybrid propulsion systems, designed and built in Indianapolis, Ind. for transit systems in 29 cities in North America and Yosemite National Park. GM begins 2006 with orders for an additional 216 hybrid bus systems.

GM will invest up to \$118 million to upgrade its GM Powertrain transmission facility in Baltimore for building a new, rear-wheel drive two-mode hybrid vehicle transmission. The investment will create up to 87 new jobs, according to the company.

"Our two-mode hybrid transmission is a leap forward in hybrid technology and a key part of GM's unique strategy to offer several different hybrid systems in a range of popular vehicles," said GM Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner. "Our multi-pronged

hybrid program is in addition to our many other efforts to minimize the impact of our cars and trucks on the environment, including the 1.5 million GM vehicles already capable of using ethanol/gasoline blended E85 fuel, and our cutting edge advances in hydrogen fuel-cell technology.

Two-mode hybrid technology uses a variable transmission with two electric motors and two hybrid modes of operation. The addition of a second mode to the drive system improves efficiency and reduces the need for exceedingly large electric motors. The second mode is used mostly when the vehicle is at higher speeds, such as on the highway, so fuel economy will be optimized in both city and highway driving.

The technology's advantages include: capturing electrical energy through regenerative braking, shutting the engine off (and fuel) at idle and during deceleration, and providing an all-electric launch and drive capability.

GM is launching a broad range of hybrid models, providing customers with several levels of fuel economy savings at different price points on vehicles from cars to full-size SUVs. GM already builds and sells the industry's first and only hybrid pickups, the Chevrolet Silverado Hybrid and the GMC Sierra Hybrid, which use a light hybrid system and deliver the highest city fuel economy in their segment. The trucks became available nationally as of the 2006 model year.

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<p><b>'03 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT 4X4</b></p> <p><b>\$16,895 / FINANCE \$291.80</b></p>	<p><b>'03 VW PASSAT SEDAN</b></p> <p><b>\$16,995 / FINANCE \$293.83</b></p>	<p><b>'04 DODGE NARVO CC 4X4 PICK-UP</b></p> <p><b>\$17,895 / FINANCE \$308.50</b></p>	<p><b>'04 NISSAN MAXIMA SE</b></p> <p><b>\$23,595 / FINANCE \$422.09</b></p>

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Advertisement for a Mercedes-Benz CL55 AMG with price \$83,990/mo and MSRP \$91,295.

Advertisement for a Mercedes-Benz SL65 AMG with price \$170,490/mo and MSRP \$190,275.

Table listing various Mercedes-Benz models (C-Class, CLK-Class, E-Class, S-Class, M-Class, SLK-Class, SL-Class) with their specifications, prices, and MSRP.

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**Chevy Malibu LS 2000** 121K, 4dr, auto, very good cond, navy blue ext, neutral cloth int, full equip, all power, AM/FM cassette, CD. Orig. owner, well maintained. \$5,000 OBO. Call 908-232-6729

**Transmissions**

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**Pontiac Bonneville 97** Fully loaded, runs great. \$1600. 908-296-0183

**Pontiac Montana Minivan '00** Loaded, electric door, good cond, reg maint, 95k miles. Asking \$2500. 908-370-6186

**Saab 9-3 Convertible 2000** 41K, \$17,000 OBO Cert. Pre Owned. \$18,000. Like New! 908-708-1731

**Saturn Ion-3 2003** Gm w/ tan lthr int, spt pkg, 5 spd 6 disc cd, 7,000 miles must sell. \$995.00/OBO 908-497-1190

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**TOYOTA CAMRY 2004** - 4 Door Sedan, 3.0 V6, AM/FM CD player and Cassette, AC, Cruise Control, Lock, driver Seat electrically adjustable \$16,250.00. Excellent condition. 908-377-8033

**VW Beetle GLS '02**, silver, Sunroof, ABS, 42K, auto, AC, exc. cond., \$9,500. 908-654-5563

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**INFINTI 130 1999** 63K mi, white w/ beige int., CD, sunroof, exc. cond. 908-233-6703

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**MITSUBISHI EVOLUTION '03** 29K, loaded, candy apple red, \$22,500 Call Dave 908-966-0122

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Ford NEW '06 FORD EXPLORER LEASE FOR 24 MOS. \$28,988 BUY FOR \$29,988 SAVE \$5,967 OFF MSRP

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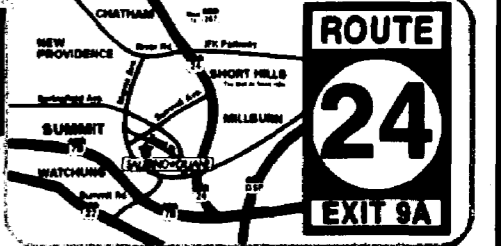
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Table listing various pre-owned vehicles including Chevrolet Cavalier, Mitsubishi Lancer, Ford Focus, Mazda3, Volkswagen Golf, and others with prices and specifications.

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Table listing various Chevrolet vehicles with prices and specifications, including models like Cobalt, Impala, Silverado, Express, Trailblazer, and Corvette.

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