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 WESTFIELD

Hayes 'unanimous' choice as superintendent

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
 THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Though an extensive search for a new superintendent drew applicants from around the country, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education has chosen someone from its own backyard to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Carol Choye.

Board members announced at their July 26 meeting that current Assistant Superintendent Margaret Hayes will become the district's new leader upon Choye's departure.

"We were basically very much impressed with only one particular candidate," said board President Thomas Russo. "She was the cream of the crop."

Choye, who is leaving the district

after 13 years at the helm, announced her retirement last spring. School officials have held several public input meetings since,

Inside

Last week's school board meeting featured a fond farewell for retiring Superintendent Carol Choye. See the story on Page A-3.

and hired a consultant to help them review the two dozen serious applicants. Two rounds of interviews were held during the summer months.

Hayes has been the assistant

superintendent for four years and has experience both as a teacher and a principal prior to that, according to district spokeswoman Kathy Meyer. Hayes came to Scotch Plains in 2002 after serving as an elementary school principal in the Old Bridge school system. Prior to that, she worked as the supervisor of social studies and then as an elementary school principal in Parsippany-Troy Hills.

Hayes's contract will become effective Sept. 1 and extends to June 30, 2011. She will be paid an annual salary of \$175,000.

Russo called the decision to hire Hayes "unanimous."

"I consider this (choosing a superintendent) to be the most important job the board has to do," said Russo. "Obviously, she has very difficult

shoes to fill," he added. "We know her work ethic."

Board members spoke highly of Hayes' commitment to the district and her hard work over the past four years.

"I don't know when she ever goes home," joked Russo. "She's practically always the last person to leave the building... She's a very hard-working person and very familiar with the district."

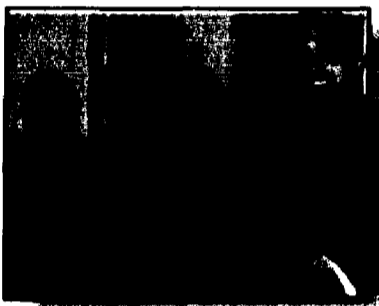
Choye, who gave a tearful goodbye earlier in the meeting, said she was proud to see Hayes take over her role and announced her confidence in her replacement's ability to continue moving the district forward.

"I can't tell you how very proud I am to have worked with Margaret,"

(Continued on page A-2)

Running for the pizza

More than 1,500 runners ran through Westfield July 26 during the annual 5K and Pizza Extravaganza. To find out more about the race, and for a recap of the Highland Swim Team's season, see Sports, Page C-1.



Unusually good music

The eclectic David Glukh International Trio will perform Friday night at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield. The playlist will include classical masterpieces and world music, including pieces in the Klezmer, tango and jazz styles. For more on the concert, see PrimeTime, Page B-2.



Thanks for the badges

The Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council recently honored Westfield residents June Chernetz and Merry Wisler with the Thanks Badge, one of the highest awards given to adult volunteers. To read more about the two women and their accomplishments, see Community Life, Page B-1.

REMINDER

Hearing those sweet sounds

The Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival continues 7-9 p.m. Tuesday at several locations in downtown Westfield. Next week's bill will feature the David Aaron Quartet, Scarlett Moore, Taino, the Mirage Quartet and Swingadell. In the event of rain, the concerts will take place Wednesday.

INDEX

- CommentaryA-4
- Community Life.....B-1
- SportsC-1
- Prime TimeB-2
- Obituaries.....B-4
- Real EstateC-3
- Police LogA-3

Borough receives \$350K in state aid

By PATRICK BOYLE
 CORRESPONDENT

FANWOOD — After receiving the very welcome news last week that the borough will be getting \$350,000 in extraordinary aid from the state, Mayor Colleen Mahr and the Borough Council met Tuesday night to incorporate that aid into the 2006 municipal budget.

The extraordinary aid award, though less than the roughly \$500,000 the borough had asked for, was the largest granted to any municipality in Union County and will go a long way toward offsetting the increase in municipal property taxes.

Under the draft budget the Borough Council introduced in March, the municipal portion of the tax bill would have gone up \$51.50 per quarter on the average home, or \$206 for the year, said chief financial officer Fred Tomkins. With the aid factored in, borough taxes will rise only \$17.75 per quarter, or \$71 for the year.

That translates to an increase of 4.7 percent, which in the current climate is "not that bad," Tomkins said.

"The bottom line is, taxes aren't going up as much as we thought they were," he said prior to the meeting.

According to the state Department of Community Affairs, "Extraordinary Aid is awarded to municipalities who, because of extreme circumstances, would not be able to provide essential services to the community without a substantial increase in their property tax rate." In their applications, municipalities must demonstrate their efforts to contain costs.

In addition to accepting the extraordinary aid, borough officials made a few other changes to the budget. Among those amendments, \$17,000 was added to the gas

(Continued on page A-2)

COMFORT AND FOOD



The Westfield Downtown 5K and Pizza Extravaganza, held in downtown Westfield last Wednesday, brought out more than 1,500 runners and many more supportive family members (above). The race's unique feature is the free pizza pies provided for runners; while last year the pies were delivered via sports car, this year they rode in on Vespas (left). To see more pictures and read about the race results, see Sports, Page C-1.

BROOKS CRANDALL/CORRESPONDENT

Wf BOE submits plans for Lincoln

More talks needed about Roosevelt cafeteria, library

By GREG MARX
 THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Board of Education on Tuesday submitted preliminary plans to the state Department of Education for a centralized kindergarten facility at Lincoln School, but board members declined to take a similar step for a proposed expansion of the cafeteria and library at Roosevelt Intermediate School.

The plans for Lincoln, which until recently had been the home of an alternative high school for Elizabeth teens, are the result of a report issued earlier this year by a Citizen's Advisory Committee on Enrollment. (See the related story on this page about the fate of the alternative high school.) With the district facing a space shortage at many elementary schools due to rising enrollment, the advisory committee recommended the creation of a centralized kindergarten facility.

Pulling the kindergarten classes out of the six elementary schools would alleviate some large class sizes at that grade level, and more importantly would free up classroom space for the other elementary grades.

Under the proposal, students from throughout town would attend kindergarten at Lincoln School, located on Westfield Avenue; the district would have to run up to four bus routes to transport children from the edges of town to the facility, said Superintendent William Foley. Upon entering first grade, children would return to their neighborhood elementary school.

Preliminary plans prepared (Continued on page A-2)

As Hillcrest awaits decision, resident defends school

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
 THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — An administrative law judge was scheduled to make a key decision regarding the fate of Hillcrest Academy South's request for a one-year lease extension after press time this week, according to Randy Bloom, a spokesperson for the Office of Administrative Law.

Judge Caridad Rigo will be deciding whether or not the Union County Educational Services Commission's request for emergent relief is within her jurisdiction, or if it is a matter that should be forwarded to state Superior Court.

Bloom said the judge was in the

process of writing her decision Tuesday afternoon, but that it would not be complete until Wednesday or Thursday, after press time.

Superintendent William Foley decided in June not to renew Hillcrest Academy's lease for Lincoln School on Westfield Avenue for the 2006-2007 year, citing the safety concerns expressed by residents in the neighborhood. He also noted that after the next year, the district hopes to begin work converting Lincoln School to an early childhood center, meaning the program would have been asked to leave anyway.

But the Union County Educational Services Commission, which operates the school for troubled Elizabeth

teens, filed an appeal with the state Department of Education arguing it needed one more year in Westfield to have enough time to find a new home. The case has since been referred to the state's Office of Administrative Law.

If Rigo rules it is simply a landlord/tenant dispute, the issue will be moved to state Superior Court. But if the judge decides the issue is, in fact, under her review, she will rule on whether to grant the UCESC's request for a lease extension.

If the extension is not granted, it could spell the end for Hillcrest Academy South, UCESC Superintendent William Petrino has said in the past.

Last week, the judge decided to accept testimony from two of the most outspoken residents, Susan Hopper and Lisa Stern, who hired attorney Nelson Wolf and submitted various documents supporting the district's decision.

The issue has been a lightning rod for the neighborhood all spring, and especially since a May 3 incident in which four Hillcrest Academy students reportedly stole a neighbor's bicycles, drove them to the train station and stole a car. They were arrested the next day after the car was spotted parked by the school. While being pursued by police, one of the

(Continued on page A-2)

Hillcrest awaits decision

(Continued from page A-1)

students reportedly ran through a neighbor's backyard, causing more anxiety for residents.

But not everyone is pleased to see Hillcrest leaving. In fact, at least one resident is hurt by the way in which the community has responded.

Cynthia Meryl is the artistic director of the WYACT theater program, which has been offering a dance program for Hillcrest Academy students as well as an after-school program for local residents at Lincoln School. Meryl says she understands the frustration neighbors have felt, especially regarding the May 3 incident, but she believes the UCESC should be given more time to find a new home for the program.

"These kids have value," said Meryl in a phone interview Tuesday. "I have seen those kids in the dance classes... They're not all criminals."

As Meryl read through some letters of Hillcrest Academy students who took the WYACT dance courses,

she said she feared the students would be "thrown out into the street" and would have no other place to turn to if a new location is not found.

After attending the dance program, one student wrote, "Now I'm not scared to show what I've got, I'm not scared to speak up." Another wrote, "I've learned to keep a straight mind and stay in school," said Meryl.

And Meryl says she is not alone in her viewpoints. "There are a lot of people in this town whose perspective is that what happened is wrong," she said. "There has been no reasonableness about it... You can't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Meryl emphasized she is grateful that the Board of Education has been helpful in finding ways for WYACT, a non-profit organization, to continue its programming. School district business administrator Robert Berman has "bent over backwards to help us," Meryl said. Still, with Hillcrest Academy South leaving either sooner or later, Meryl said WYACT will be negatively affected because fewer dance classes will be offered.

First Baptist presents Youth in Action

WESTFIELD — The First Baptist Church of Westfield will again present its Youth in Action program, which engages youth participants in a fun week of social service projects from Aug. 7-11.

The projects include a nature conservation initiative with the Union County Parks Department, sorting food at the Community FoodBank in Hillside, serving lunch to the homeless with Goodwill in Newark, and painting a home for a local resident.

This program is primarily designed for middle school students, but is open to all teens entering grades six through 10.

The cost is \$25, which includes a themed t-shirt, all lunches, a pool party and snacks.

This year's theme, "It's Not About Me," aims to get participating youth to focus on other people and their needs by devoting their time and energies to serve others.

"It was our heart-felt attempt to encourage these teenagers to explore ideas and ways that they can do good to those they have the power to help," said the Rev. Jeremy Montgomery. "Many youth today feel powerless and hopeless due to social stress and pressures, and

we desire for them to realize that they have an incredible amount of power to perform positive acts of service."

The teenagers will also manage to sneak in a little recreation during the week, such as a trip to Dorney Park on Aug. 9. Other recreation will include group-building games and activities that teach teamwork, communication, and self-worth.

Early registration is required and can be made through the church office at (908) 233-2278. Ask for Montgomery to request information and the week's schedule of projects.

Westfield BOE submits plans for Lincoln

(Continued from page A-1)

by the district's architect call for nine kindergarten classrooms at Lincoln School; at 20 students per room and two sessions per day, those rooms could accommodate 360 kindergartners every year. Foley said a 10th room could be used for kindergarten if needed, bringing the capacity to 400 students.

The facility would also include space for the district's various pre-kindergarten programs, which are currently located at Edison Intermediate School.

The project would not involve gutting the building but would require the removal of some interior walls; the installation of new doors and windows, as well as an air conditioning system; and the purchase of new classroom furniture. The cost is estimated at approximately \$5.8-6 million. That money would have to be approved by local voters in a special referendum, which would most likely be held in January. If work proceeds according to the board's planned schedule, the facility could be ready by September

2008, Foley said.

While board members were united in support of the plan for Lincoln School, resident Ralph Steinhart said they'll need to make a strong sales pitch to win community support. "I think you've got some real public relations work to do," Steinhart said. "...There's a lot of skepticism" about the centralized kindergarten.

Board members themselves voiced some skepticism about a separate proposal to expand the cafeteria and library at Roosevelt. Among its other recommendations, the advisory committee on enrollment cited the need for improvements to the facilities at the school, which dates to the 1920s and currently suffers from some of the most severe crowding problems in the district. But the plans presented Tuesday struck some board members as delivering more than they had asked for.

Currently, the cafeteria at Roosevelt measures 3,160 sq. ft., about 700 sq. ft. smaller than the cafeteria at Edison, though Roosevelt has about 200 more students. The Roosevelt library, at 2,850 sq.

ft., is also about 700 sq. ft. smaller than its Edison counterpart.

The proposal presented to board members Tuesday called for the removal of a wall that separates the Roosevelt cafeteria and library and the expansion of the cafeteria throughout that space. That step would bring the cafeteria's size up to about 5,500 sq. ft., plus storage space. The new lunchroom would be big enough to meet the school's needs, and there would even be enough space to carve out a new classroom suitable for large-group instruction, such as a health class.

In turn, the district would construct a new, 5,000 sq. ft. library in the courtyard between the original school building and the cafeteria, extending toward Clark Street. The cost of the full project would be about \$2.6 million, with about \$2 million dedicated to the new library. Those funds would also have to be approved by voters in a separate special referendum, to be held on the same day as the Lincoln School vote.

But before the Roosevelt

project goes to voters, board members must decide they are in favor. They weren't at that point Tuesday night. "My gut reaction was this was a much larger scale than we had discussed," said Beth Cassie. "... I have not heard that this was a prevailing need, to have a library that's double the size of an existing library."

Cassie's colleagues on the board agreed on the need to expand the cafeteria, and they were sympathetic to comments from Roosevelt media specialist Moira Abraham, who called the library "the crux, the hub" of the school. Foley also noted that state standards for new construction suggest the library be even bigger, at 5,600 sq. ft. Still, board members were unprepared to submit the plans to the state without further review.

The library/cafeteria proposal will now be sent to the board's facilities committee for further study. It will likely be on the board's agenda again at the Aug. 29 meeting. Board members will have to approve preliminary plans by that date if they hope to hold a referendum on funding for the project in January.

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Hayes 'unanimous' choice as superintendent

(Continued from page A-1)

said Choye. "Her commitment to excellence is unparalleled.... Who better to do it than Dr. Hayes?"

Hayes spoke fondly of her

years in the district and thanked the board members for their confidence. "It is truly an honor to be selected as your next superintendent," she said. "I certainly would not be in the position to assume this

position if it were not for the mentoring and coaching Dr. Choye has given me through the years," Hayes added. With tears in her eyes, she said to Choye, "I only hope I'm able to accomplish half of what you've

accomplished in the past 13 years."

Anna Bogdanowicz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or abogdanowicz@njnpublishing.com.

Borough receives \$350K in state aid

(Continued from page A-1)

and diesel fuel account, on

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account of rising gas prices. Tomkins noted that in the first six months of the year, three-quarters of that account had already been used. "It's an account we have to keep an eye on," he said.

A public hearing on the budget amendments will be held at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

Though the grant was less than the borough had requested, local officials were pleased. Mahr said the governing body had been "very successful in obtaining some property tax relief."

Council members also noted they had not had to eliminate programs from the spending

plan. "We have not cut services," said Katherine Mitchell. "We are in very good shape here in Fanwood."

Borough officials also addressed the concerns of residents who have not yet received their tax bills. They estimated that the bills would go out to residents in two or three weeks; the bills could not be sent out until the budget was finalized, which could not be done until the state announced the grant awards. The date for bill payment has been extended to 25 days after the bill is received.

"We are not that far behind" neighboring towns in getting the bills out, said Mahr.

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Discussion continues about field upgrades

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Talks about improvements to local athletic fields continued at last week's Board of Education meeting, as school district officials weighed the importance of installing artificial turf and gave an update on their efforts to address field maintenance.

In recent months, residents have packed Board of Education meetings, urging the board to devote more resources to maintenance and install artificial turf at the high school and perhaps elsewhere. Members of the local soccer and baseball associations have argued, with substantial support from the community and Mayor Martin Marks, that the district's fields are in desperate need of attention.

Though no decisions were made last week, district business administrator Anthony Del Sordi did offer some optimistic news, saying a potential solution has been developed by the board's facilities committee and representatives from local youth leagues.

"We've come up with a plan that hopefully will meet their needs and can hopefully use the funding they've provided," said Del Sordi. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Soccer Association has offered \$25,000 toward field improvements at School One.

But Del Sordi declined to offer details of the proposal until after the outcome of a facilities committee meeting Monday night, when members of local athletic organizations were to consider signing on to the plan. That meeting was closed to the public, and the participants could not be reached for comment by press time.

Board President Thomas

Russo said he was pleased to see some headway being made. "I have had numerous phone calls about fields over the past few months," he said. "I'm glad to see there are plans going forward with respect to maintenance."

Russo said he had toured various district fields and was shocked at their deteriorating condition. "I saw baseball fields that had puddles in some areas and were like concrete in others," he said.

"I also saw tracks, from motorcycles... dirt bikes are being ridden (on the fields)," he added, and suggested the fields might have to be secured to prevent such activity.

Regarding artificial turf, Russo said at the board meeting that the discussion would have to be tabled because a shared services committee session that had been scheduled to discuss the issue earlier that day had been canceled. But board members did express their interest in, and some support for, the project.

"We recognize our playing fields are community resources," said Russo.

"I think it's fair we entertain the idea of it... I am open to hearing how it's progressing and how it would affect the board," said Betty Anne Woerner.

And Linda Nelson said she felt the members of TurfIt, a citizens' organization that has advocated for the installation of artificial turf, had made some "excellent points" during a recent presentation.

"I will go on the record that it's a project that will benefit the community," said Nelson, though she added she would like more information about the specifics of the proposal.

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. Aug. 24.

Board members, Choye share tearful farewell

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — As she reminisces about the highlights of her 13 years as superintendent of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district, Carol Choye can't help but describe just how proud she is of the students and colleagues she has seen grow through the years.

Choye's readiness to praise others has become something of a signature trait, and something those who worked with her will sorely miss.

Choye will be sticking around for the rest of the summer to help her successor, Margaret Hayes, get acclimated to the post. But at last week's Board of Education meeting, district officials bid a tearful goodbye to a superintendent they said has been a leader, an educator and a friend.

"Carol is very much someone who lets her staff shine," said board member Linda Nelson. "We've been very blessed having Carol for 13 years."

Nelson and her colleagues on the board spoke of Choye's involvement in the community and her never-ending commitment to helping students become "life-long learners."

"I saw how much she cares about people... I have learned a lot from her, and I will value her friendship in the future," said Nelson.

And board member Donald Parisi spoke of Choye's selfless leadership style. "I can't remember one occasion when you spoke about yourself," said Parisi.

Betty Anne Woerner echoed that praise. "I don't have the words... and I don't know how to thank you," said Woerner. "It's important for you to know that (your work) hasn't gone unnoticed... You are going to be really missed. You've given your heart, your soul and certainly you've given 99 percent of your time."

Choye held back tears as she thanked board members and district administrators for their support and reflected upon her years in the district. "These 13 years have been the dream of every superintendent, where all the board members care about every single student," she said.

Choye reflected at greater length about her experiences in a "dream" district during an interview last spring, after

she announced her retirement. At the time, she spoke of her pride in students who went beyond the classroom to serve their community and their country, whether donating hundreds of backpacks stuffed with supplies to Hurricane Katrina victims or taking part in Relay for Life, a 24-hour fundraiser for cancer research.

That's an example Choye herself has tried to set. At the Relay for Life event, she walked not just as a supporter of the fundraiser, but as an inspiration to others.

"I am a survivor," Choye said during the interview. As with other events in her life, she worked to turn the hardest of situations into something positive: a learning experience.

"When I first found out I had cancer, there were teachers who wrote notes that said it's okay to talk about it," Choye said. "But it's more than okay... now people

"Carol is very much someone who lets her staff shine. We've been very blessed having Carol for 13 years."

— Linda Nelson
school board member

stop me and say 'I have what you had'... You may think it's a large brick on your shoulder, but it's not."

Inspired by an educator in her hometown of San Francisco, Choye knew from an early age she wanted to pursue a career in education. "My sixth grade teacher, Miss Fried, was such a wonderful teacher. I always thought I wanted to be a teacher," she said.

That is exactly what Choye became, first teaching in the San Francisco school district for 14 years before becoming a principal and then an area superintendent. The relationships she formed in San Francisco have lasted until today, and she still visits the teachers she befriended years ago.

With the guidance of her friend and mentor, Carroll Johnson, Choye took a job as superintendent in the Princeton school district 20 years ago. In 1993, after seven years at Princeton, Choye became super-

intendent in Scotch Plains-Fanwood. "I am so fortunate to be chosen by the board to be here," Choye said, smiling. "Every educator who is committed to education should come to Scotch Plains-Fanwood."

The task has not always been easy, she acknowledged. When she first entered the district, there were just 3,717 students. Today that number has grown by over 1,600 students. With the help of her colleagues, including Hayes and business administrator Anthony Del Sordi, Choye worked to add classroom spaces and turn the two local middle schools into fifth through eighth grade buildings.

"On the first day (of the change), both schools had parents clustered everywhere because they were concerned... by the second day there were very few," Choye said. "What I learned is you can make changes if you take the time so people understand them and that you understand what their concerns are."

There have been other hurdles as well. When she first came to the district, Choye worked with local religious officials to ensure students of all religious faiths are treated equally, using the schools to explain the significance of different religious symbols such as Christmas trees and menorahs.

Before she knew it, she had received 300 furious letters and postcards from people throughout the country. A religious magazine had asked readers to send letters protesting Choye's actions. "One person wrote 'You better have your board policy with you when you get to Saint Peter at the gate,'" she remembered.

Choye was shocked, but again decided to turn the unfortunate situation into a learning experience. She framed the magazine article and two of the angry letters.

"Why? Because I want to always be reminded to educate children so they never make such erroneous assumptions," she said.

As she looks ahead to retirement, "I will miss the people I work with, the community... and the kids," Choye said, "and being part of a school community that really is committed to each child's learning experience."

Anna Bogdanowicz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or abogdanowicz@njnpublishing.com.

POLICE LOG

WESTFIELD

Police arrested Asbury resident Donald Freiday Sunday on charges of possession of under 50 grams of marijuana following a motor vehicle stop on the 100 block of North Avenue.

A juvenile passenger was also taken into custody and subsequently released to a parent. Freiday was released on his own recognizance on a summons pending an Aug. 10 court date.

Police arrested 18-year old Mountainside resident Anthony Mazzilli and 19-year old Westfield resident Joseph Buontempo July 25 at the intersection of Rahway Avenue and Burgess Court. The two were charged with criminal mischief for allegedly damaging items located on a field on Lamberts Mill Road.

Police received several com-

plaints about damage to vehicles over the weekend.

A resident of the 600 block of Norwood Drive reported criminal mischief to his car Saturday. Also, a resident of the 1300 block of the Boulevard reported the rear window of his 2004 Jeep was broken Saturday.

In addition, a resident of the 700 block of Dorian Road reported the rear window on her 2003 BMW was broken Saturday. Finally, a resident of the 1700 block of Boynton Avenue reported Sunday the rear window of his 1989 Oldsmobile was smashed by a rock that was found on the rear floor of the car.

SCOTCH PLAINS

A resident of East Second St. reported a burglary July 26, stating someone had entered his shed by force and stolen copper wire valued at \$5,000.

A resident of Westfield Road reported a theft July 26. He said someone took items valued at \$100 from his car, which was parked in the Park Avenue municipal lot.

A resident of Raritan Road reported criminal mischief July 27; he said someone damaged his fence and mailbox. According to police, it appears the damage was caused by a car hitting the fence.

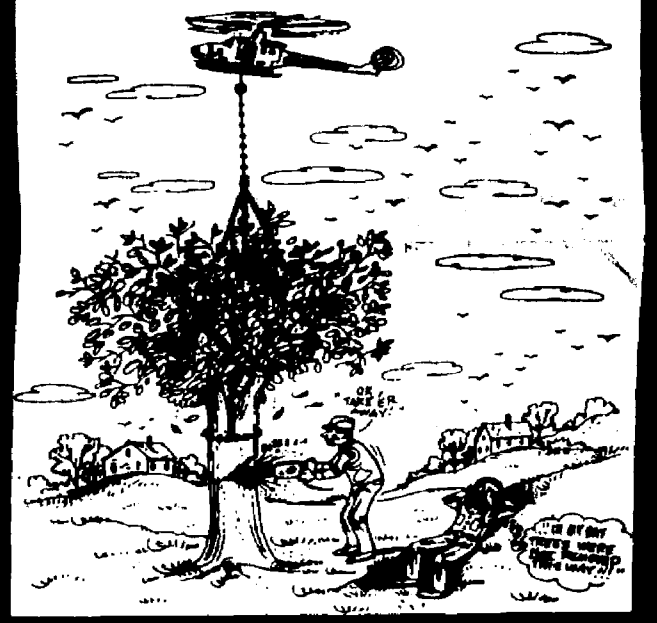
A resident of Henry Street reported suspicious activity Saturday. When police responded to the call, they found minor damage to the street and a telephone pole.

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Commentary

A good start on tax reform

Whether or not his bold words amount to anything remains to be seen, but Gov. Jon Corzine established a sound framework for lasting tax reform as state officials kicked off a special summer session last Friday.

In a blunt speech that helped re-establish his credentials as a financially-savvy outsider, Corzine challenged the Legislature to deliver real property tax relief, and he unveiled specific proposals that will help drive the debate.

Some of those specifics are largely cosmetic, such as transforming the existing rebate system into a tax credit program. And some, especially his ideas on how to generate alternative revenue sources, are questionable. But he offered plenty of worthwhile proposals on how to control spending.

One of those worthwhile proposals, unfortunately, amounts to putting the squeeze on the pension and health benefits of government employees. Anyone who puts in an honest life's work should be entitled to those benefits, but the expenses involved are becoming increasingly unaffordable. There's a powerful need for the federal government to provide affordable, comprehensive health care to all Americans. But as we wait for that day to arrive, it's becoming unrealistic to ask state taxpayers to support the benefits now offered to public employees.

More compelling were a proposed cap on property taxes, so that no bill could rise by more than 4 percent annually, and incentives to promote consolidation of school districts and municipalities. A tax cap is the sort of drastic measure that often creates unintended consequences, but over a four-year trial period, as Corzine has proposed, it may be worth trying. And as for simplifying the crazy-quilt of local government agencies stretched across the state, it's about time. If taxpayers opt instead to pay extra to maintain "home rule," that's their prerogative, but such a choice would undermine the steady complaints about the property tax crisis.

Also praiseworthy is the governor's proposal to change the school funding formula to apportion more state aid to suburban districts, which are struggling with the high cost of special education. Special-needs children are every bit as entitled to a thorough education as their mainstream peers, but with annual costs rising into the six figures for some students, the expenses involved can be a burden to even the most affluent districts. Increased assistance from the state is the only way to solve that problem.

Of course, special education is not the sort of problem that's amenable to cost-cutting — the only solution is to find a more equitable funding approach. Several of the financial obstacles the state faces fall into this category, and Corzine acknowledged as much when he told legislators, "We are kidding ourselves if we pretend we can fundamentally alter the property tax equation entirely on the spending side."

Unfortunately, some of his proposals for new revenues fall short. During Friday's speech, the governor floated an expansion of municipal taxing powers; on Monday, he said local sales taxes are worth a look. But more local taxes aren't the solution. The chief problem with the property tax is that it is often arbitrary and regressive — it doesn't always fall most heavily upon those with the most ability to pay. Sales taxes aren't any better on this score, because poor and middle-class people spend a higher percentage of their income than more affluent individuals.

Tax reform has two key components: reducing the overall tax burden as much as is practical, and redistributing the tax burden so that it is more predictable from year to year and is borne most heavily by individuals who can afford it. The easiest way to achieve the second goal is by raising the upper income tax brackets, a suggestion the governor has not yet embraced. But he and our legislators in Trenton should look again at that option. There are limits to how progressive the tax code should be, but somewhere between the current system and a "confiscatory" approach lies a happy medium.

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Letters to the editor

SPF Project Grad was a success

To The Record-Press:

On Thursday, June 22, the graduating seniors of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) enjoyed a fun-filled overnight celebration hosted by the SPFHS PTA. This annual event provides a safe, alcohol- and drug-free night of socializing on what is statistically the most dangerous night of the year for high school students.

Project Graduation 2006 was made possible through a lot of volunteer support, as well as donations from parents and guardians, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SP-F) school district PTAs, the SP-F board of education, the SP-F Municipal Alliance, and local businesses and civic groups.

This year's senior class spent the night at the Sports Academy in Millburn, playing bas-

ketball and arcade games, competing in pedestal jousts and racing remote-controlled mini-NASCAR autos. They had their caricatures created and T-shirts designed by graffiti artists. A DJ entertained throughout the night, leading up to an hour-long show by the ever-popular hypnotist. A variety of delicious food was provided by parents and local merchants from start to finish.

Without the generosity and support of our wonderful community, Project Graduation 2006 could not have happened. On behalf of the Project Graduation Committee and the entire SPFHS Class of 2006, we thank you for helping us bring about this memorable event!

AMY CAROW and MARIANNE DEVLIN
 SPFHS PTA Project Graduation 2006
 Co-Chairs

Fw. candidates thank supporters

To The Record-Press:

On behalf of the Fanwood Democratic Club, we would like to thank all of our friends, relatives and sponsors who helped to make our first miniature golf outing at the Hyatt Hills Golf Club in Clark such a huge success.

Your support of our efforts while enjoying a round of golf, a cookout and great camaraderie were appreciated very much.

Individuals interested in becoming a member of the Fanwood Democratic Club should contact Tom Plante, club president, at (908) 889-5298, or Bill Populus at (908) 789-7577.

DONNA M. DOLCE
 DAVID VALIAN
 Fanwood

The authors are the Democratic candidates for Fanwood Borough Council in the Nov. 7 general election.

How do you spell property tax relief? C-o-n-s-o-l-i-d-a-t-i-o-n

By JOAN VERPLANCK
 NJ CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

GUEST
 COMMENTARY

The elephant in the room during the recent state budget battle was property taxes and how to provide relief to people just trying to make ends meet. As July turns into August, our state leaders are rolling up their sleeves at a summer session, hopefully producing long-term solutions and ending our dubious distinction of having the highest per capita property taxes in the nation.

Everyone involved in this debate knows that in order to enact real change, radical ideas will have to be accepted and the status quo will no longer be acceptable. Property tax reform will only happen when there is consolidation of some of the more than 1,000 layers of government — county freeholder boards, local township councils and boards of education — that currently have taxing authority. The rationale for this system is to allow for mass democratic involvement of our citizenry. But we do not have mass involvement, only mass redundancies and the costs associated with them. Consolidation, however, would mean fewer schools, fire and police departments and municipal governments and more shared services — a frightening and confusing concept for residents accustomed to the way things have always been.

At the conclusion of the budget battle, Governor Corzine won about \$600 million to help balance the budget through the imposition of a one-cent sales tax increase, with half of that money used to offset operations. The other half of that penny earned has been earmarked for property tax relief, which clearly means different things to different people.

I am concerned that the \$600 million will become just another redistribution of funds, spread so thin that the impact will be nearly meaningless. Certainly senior citizens, those on fixed incomes and the working poor can well use any dollar they get. But is that the

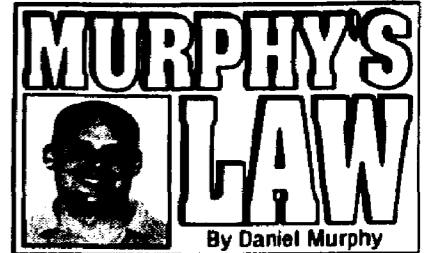
best use of the \$600 million? We're getting to the point in New Jersey that the rebates offered in October constitute a single-digit reduction or our ever-rising taxes, if that. Used more creatively, the money could get at the heart of what really drives property taxes: school and municipal services.

If the money were put into a fund to incentivize municipal and school consolidations, as Governor Corzine and some in the state Legislature have suggested, we'd see a significant and sustainable decrease in property taxes. The concept of "home rule" seems to be the bogeyman that everyone points to when saying that consolidation will never happen. But I, for one, don't care what community's name is on the side of the fire truck when it arrives to douse the flames engulfing my home. I suspect that most would vote for consolidation if we were to quantify the cost of maintaining and growing our fiefdoms.

Let's get real about who we are and what can be done to make New Jersey more affordable for all of our families and employers. Let's provide significant amounts of money to those brave communities looking for ways to maintain quality services without driving taxpayers out of their homes and businesses. Other states have done it. In theory, we all want to control everything in our hometown. In practice, how many of us actually do anything to control our local destiny? Take a look at the turnout for the school board elections if you're looking for a clue.

We work hard, take care of our kids and are bright, successful people. It's hard to believe that we can't grasp what every large bank in the country has figured out: There are, indeed, economies of scale. Is it worth an additional \$2,000 a year in property tax to be sure that the fire truck has your community's name on it?

The author is president of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce.



Keeping one eye out for the axe

I found out last week what it's like to work for the Yankees.

And now I'm even happier to be a Mets fan.

Time and time again we see first hand what it can be like to work in the pressure cooker that is known as George Steinbrenner's Yankees — just look at the shell of a man Alex Rodriguez has become and the erosion of Brian Cashman's hairline over the past decade.

For years I've seen this, watched it, read about it, laughed about it. But not until last week did I have to live it and go to work everyday to a place where the guillotine was sharpened and ready to go, and heads had already begun rolling. The reminders of how quickly and easily one could be fired were everywhere.

Once-messy desks were now bare. The door codes were being changed. Closed-door meetings were being held. Nobody could look a co-worker in the eye. Everyone was whispering. Non-smokers were ferociously trying to bum cigarettes. And pink Post-It notes were used to mark the areas on the walls where the paint needed to be touched up.

I walked out the door last Monday on what would be the hottest day of the year, was sweating bullets halfway into my walk to the subway and destroyed any evidence of my morning shower before I even passed through a turnstile. I look back on those 20 minutes as the best part of last week.

Rumors of layoffs and firings had originally hit the water cooler circuit the previous Friday afternoon, and now I was greeted with more as I was stepping out of the elevator, before I even made it through the office doors. And I was told I'd be wise to update my resume.

It wasn't even 8 a.m. Monday morning. I hadn't unpacked my laptop and already I was worrying about when I was going to be asked to pack up my desk. My iced venti Americano wasn't going to make this day any better. Not even with a splash of Bailey's.

Cost containment was the buzz word — the new mission statement, apparently. Two men with the two highest salaries and grand offices adorned with the nicest furniture were suddenly interested in pinching pennies. Guess that wasn't an issue when the company was paying for their season tickets.

So maybe we weren't the Yankees. But the Oakland A's? As the minutes slowly ticked off the clock, the rumor mills spun faster, the names of the recently canned became official and the week rapidly became a stomach-churning exercise in paranoia.

Every few hours there were closed-door Q-and-As with anybody and everybody who might be in the know. Slowly, as answers were revealed, the cloud of paranoia began to lift, but it never went away.

This is my first foray into the world of corporate layoffs — err, cost containment — and it's been more than a little unsettling. The most comforting part is knowing I don't make enough to affect the bottom line.

Historically, the company I work for isn't one that wields the axe freely. The recent layoffs were born out of necessity, which means as long as I survive the massacres (and I think I have) they may be for the better in the long run.

I just wish I was working for a company that didn't worry about those things.

Like the Knicks.
 Daniel Murphy was sports editor of the *Record-Press* and *Cranford Chronicle* from 1999-2004, winning five New Jersey Press Association awards for his writing. He currently lives in Arlington, Va. You can email him at daniel.murphy@yahoo.com.

Cell tower proposed at Westfield firehouse

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

Editor's Note: This story should have appeared on Page A-3 of last week's edition. It is printed here because Pages A-3 of the Record-Press and its sister publication the Cranford Chronicle were inadvertently switched last week. The staff of the Record-Press apologizes for the error.

WESTFIELD — The Town Council has agreed to allow Verizon to test wireless phone coverage in the area surrounding Fire Station Two on Central Avenue in order to obtain information about the size, scope and necessity of a potential cell tower.

Council members unanimously agreed to Verizon's request to investigate the coverage area around the firehouse at their July 25 conference meeting. Mayor Andy Skibitsky and the council discussed several benefits to having new wireless antennas at the location, but said they would not make any decisions until Verizon comes back with the results.

One reason for the study is that the town has received some complaints from local fire officials who say they have "intermittent interruptions" on police and fire radios, said Councilman Jim Foerst.

The tests will determine if there is indeed a service gap in the area and how large of a structure might be needed to remedy the problem.

Though there had previously been talks about a cell antenna on the roof of the

historic firehouse on North Avenue, those plans fell through, said Foerst. If a wireless structure were built at Fire Station Two, it would not be atop the building's roof, but on the ground, said Town Administrator Jim Gildea.

If a cell tower were to be built, it could become a revenue-generator for the town, which could lease space to various cell phone carriers, said Foerst.

Though council members said they understood the concerns of the fire department, most said they were concerned about the size and scope of a possible tower, and asked that Verizon be made aware the town might still deny its request, regardless of the test results.

"I think it's important that we let Verizon know we may still say 'No,' because if they come back with (plans) for an 80-foot tower..." said Councilman Dave Haas.

Gildea stressed the town had no obligation to allow the company to do any work, unless the mayor and council decide the project is appropriate.

"They're at their own risk," said Gildea. "We're not committing to this... it's just procedure to test first."

Gildea added that if the council decides against installing a structure to support wireless antennas at Fire Station Two, other areas of town with service gaps will likely be tested and considered in the future.

Anna Bogdanowicz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or abogdanowicz@njnpublishing.com.

Westfield police officer could face dismissal

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

Editor's Note: This story should have appeared on Page A-3 of last week's edition. It is printed here because Pages A-3 of the Record-Press and its sister publication the Cranford Chronicle were inadvertently switched last week. The staff of the Record-Press apologizes for the error.

WESTFIELD — Police Officer Gregory Kasko faces possible dismissal after being suspended indefinitely with pay following charges resulting from a previous disciplinary hearing, Town Administrator Jim Gildea confirmed.

Kasko was suspended July 7, said Gildea. The story was first reported in the Westfield Leader, which stated the new charges are a result of "false statements of material facts to superior officers" while Kasko was under oath.

Gildea and officials from the police department said they could not confirm or provide details of the charges because the matter is a personnel issue.

Gildea did say, "The new charges were brought by the police chief as a result of information discovered in a prior hearing on different charges. Because of the nature of these charges, the chief felt suspension was warranted."

Chief Jon Parizeau was on vacation last week and could not be reached for comment. Kasko's attorney, Julien Neals, also could not be reached for comment.

As of press time, a hearing had not yet been scheduled for the latest charges. Kasko has opted for a public hearing, as is his right. Initial plans to hold the hearing Aug. 4 have been changed, but the hearing will likely occur sometime this month, said Gildea.

If he is found guilty of the charges, Kasko may lose his job at the police department. "Dismissal is part of what's being sought," said Gildea.

The suspension is the latest in a string of disputes between Kasko and the town. The officer was previously charged with failure to back up another patrol car during a motor vehicle stop and was accused of sleeping in his car during the call. Kasko has said he is innocent of those charges. A verdict has been reached in that case, said Gildea, but it is confidential.

Rotary hears presentation on Web safety



Dwight Leeper, former president of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary, presents a plaque to presenter Karen Positan as co-presenter Sgt. Andre Banks looks on.

At a recent meeting, members of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club heard a special program about cyber-safety presented by Karen E. Positan, assistant public information officer for the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

Assisting Positan was co-presenter Sgt. Andre Banks of the prosecutor's office's High Tech Unit. Banks is the supervisor of the Union County High Tech Force and a highly demanded forensics expert.

The cyber-safety presentation was designed to alert adults to various online dangers and to educate them on what to do to keep their children and their families safe from cyber-predators.

Banks and Positan have teamed up to alert as many students, parents, and educators as possible to online risks, and to offer tips about how to minimize those risks. The most important tip they offered was to tell children never to physically meet someone they first encountered online unless they are in the company of a trusted adult.

Traffic patterns near McKinley under review

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Following some neighborhood complaints about temporary traffic safety changes near McKinley School, the Town Council has decided to thoroughly study the area for a 30-day period after school starts in September.

Though Town Council members discussed suggestions from residents to eliminate a 24-hour one-way designation on Osborn Avenue from West Broad Street to First Street, officials said they would wait until further research is done in September before making that change.

As part of improvements at eight traffic hot spots identified in late 2004, the town decided to explore temporary solutions in the area around the school, said Town Administrator Jim Gildea. During that process, there was "extensive" resident outreach, said Gildea.

Recommendations from the outside traffic consultant and then the police department led to the installation of temporary striping for drop-off and pick-up areas near the school, the one-way designation on Osborn Avenue between West Broad and First streets, and a one-way restriction on Pierson Street during drop-off and pick-up hours.

In addition, the police department recommended angular parking stripes be painted because of the one-way designation, but those lines were removed two weeks after they were installed in April because of resident complaints.

New perpendicular stripes were painted on the streets near neighbors' homes to try and solve the problem of parked cars spilling over into residents' driveways, said Gildea. But that move also has angered neighbors, and the Town Council last week decided to remove the stripes immediately, without waiting for traffic evaluation results in September.

"They should be removed this week," said Gildea on Monday.

A few residents showed up at last week's council conference meeting to complain about the one-way streets and added they were displeased with the parking stripes near their homes. A teacher at McKinley School who spoke as a resident told council members that "making this a permanent one-way street doesn't work," and added he was afraid children could get hit by the dozens of cars that turn down the street the wrong way.

But council members stressed they would not make any decisions about one-way streets that night, instead say-

ing they would take the 30-day period after school starts to study traffic in the area and come up with permanent solutions.


"We're very concerned about safety," said Councilman Dave Haas, who added any

traffic changes require some time for people to get used to them.


Anna Bogdanowicz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or abogdanowicz@njnpublishing.com.

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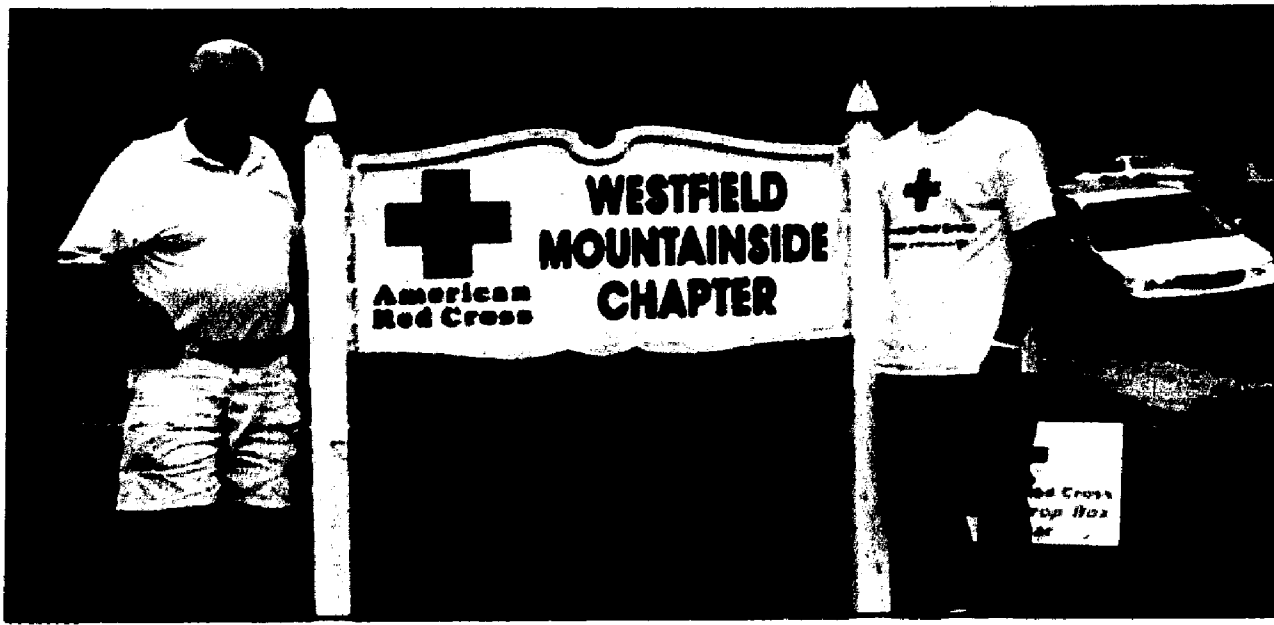
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Handyman program offers help to seniors

The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross has announced that Christopher Franks is the chapter's summer youth handyman for 2006. This program, which is made possible by a grant from the Westfield Foundation, will run until the end of August. Christopher will be working for seniors in Westfield, helping with small tasks inside and outside of their homes. For further information or to request help with a project, call the chapter at (908) 232-7709.



Board rejects plans for home on Midway Ave.

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — After more than a year of aggravation for both neighbors and board members, the Planning Board has denied a controversial application on Midway Avenue because the applicant failed to take down an illegal seven-foot wall on time and violated the construction code.

The applicant, Alexander Segal, was seeking several yard setback and wall height variances for a home at 453 Midway Ave., but he failed to follow the board's requests in recent months. Segal did not show up at the final hearing on July 26, prompting the board to weigh

the proposal as it stood and vote down the contentious application.

The board's attorney said he had spoken with Segal's representatives earlier that day, and they had informed him they would not appear at the meeting because they still had not come up with plans to safely take down the seven-foot wall that was illegally constructed in the backyard of the property. The representatives said the delay was caused by the time it took to locate a certified engineer to come up with plans for taking down the wall, according to the board attorney.

After Segal failed to prove the wall was constructed to code, the Planning Board in March

ordered it be taken down by June 1. Segal's representatives have argued the wall was built before the borough's construction code changed, requiring a variance for the structure.

The application has drawn countless complaints from neighbors. In addition to concerns about the wall's safety and the trees that were uprooted when it was constructed, the anchors for the wall are on the property of Segal's rear neighbor, Marsha Gelfand. Also, due to Segal's decision to use preliminary, unapproved architectural designs, a permit was obtained to build an addition to the house too close to a neighboring lot. When the error was discovered, a stop work order was immediately issued March 10, 2004. Segal has been appealing the stop work order to the county board of appeals, according to construction official Bruce Helmstetter.

At last week's final hearing, board members decided to render judgment on the proposal, with several saying they had never come across such a problematic application in their years on the Planning Board.

"Anybody who goes ahead and builds what he wants, is then given the chance to amend it... comes before the board and is still given more time, but doesn't do anything, doesn't deserve the variances he is seeking and should take it all down and start over again," said a

frustrated Daniel Zucker. His colleagues on the board echoed those thoughts.

"I think it's a no-brainer... it's shocking to me," said board member Bruce Walsh. "I haven't seen anything even close to this before."

"This is egregiously worse by a factor of some number of times," than any other application he has seen, said board member Andrew MacDonald.

And the fact that neither Segal nor his representatives showed up at the meeting also angered board members. "I think the guy has a heck of a lot of brass to do this... and to not show up to the meeting!" said William Lee.

"We would be derelict to approve this application," concluded board Chairman Gregory Cummings.

After the unanimous vote to deny the application, neighbors said they were relieved, but many remained skeptical of how Segal would respond to the order to take everything down.

"What troubles me to begin with is it had to go to this point," said neighbor Richard Leone. Gelfand added she too was hesitant to believe Segal would adhere to the ruling.

Cummings said Segal will now face enforcement for being in violation of the borough's zoning ordinances. The matter will be forwarded to the construction official for further action, he added.

NEWS BRIEFS

'Summer of Fun' concludes Aug. 16

SCOTCH PLAINS — The JCC of Central New Jersey's "Summer of Fun" program for adults ages 60 and up will conclude on Wednesday, Aug. 16 with a luncheon and a double-header of music. The festivities will be held at Congregation Beth Israel, 18 Shalom Way.

The day's events will start at 11 a.m. with area favorite Ruth Kaye performing her nostalgic musical show, "We're Still Here." After Kaye's performance, a luncheon will be served.

The double-header will conclude in the afternoon with a light opera concert featuring the noted mezzo-soprano Susan Glanzberg.

Everyone is welcome to attend part or all of the day's programs. Tickets for both concerts and the luncheon are \$30 for JCC members and \$38 for the community at large. To attend only the Susan Glanzberg concert, a donation of \$5 is requested.

Reservations are required; the deadline to register is Aug. 14. To make a reservation or for more information, contact Nan Statton at nstatton@jccnj.org or (908) 889-8800, ext. 207. More information is also available at www.jccnj.org.

Cannonball House open Sunday

SCOTCH PLAINS — The circa-1760 Obsorn Cannonball House, located at 1840 Front St., will be open from 2-4 p.m. Sunday.

On display will be a collection of combative items which have been acquired by the museum since its founding in 1972. The most recent acquisition is a large tablecloth depicting the embroidered names of all members of the former Scotch Plains Women's Club.

Costumed docents will give tours of the museum and surrounding gardens. There is no admission fee.

WHS commencement on TV36

WESTFIELD — Westfield High School Blue Devils Television will broadcast the commencement exercises of the Class of 2006 on Channel 36 through Aug. 29.

The graduation ceremony will be shown at 8 a.m. and 3 and 11 p.m. Tuesdays, 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. Sundays.

Singles Group meets Sundays

WESTFIELD — Are you widowed, divorced, or never married? You may be interested in the Singles Group that meets at 9 a.m. every Sunday at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St.

It's not group therapy, but a discussion group that deals with single issues and fosters friendships and a sharing of experiences. Other activities include winter movie nights, picnics and holiday get-togethers. Coffee, cake and bagels are served, and a \$2 donation is requested.

The group is non-denominational and all are welcome. For more information, call Lil at (908) 889-4751 or Ed at (908) 232-4159.

Vall-Lobera chosen to lead

WESTFIELD — Joseph Vall-Lobera, son of Mr. and Mrs. Humberto Vall-Lobera and a Westfield High School incoming junior, was chosen by his school to attend Hoby, the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Program. This three-day weekend of seminars and workshops took place in June and was held at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

The mission of Hoby is to seek out, recognize and develop the leadership potential of high school boys. This leadership training curriculum and the university setting provides a prelude to college life while offering the participants knowledge and life skills.

A solid student and active athlete at WHS, Joseph found Hoby to be a worthwhile learning experience.

Hope Chest to hold \$1 sale

WESTFIELD — The Hope Chest Thrift Shop, located at 26 Prospect St., will be holding a \$1-per-item sale on all women's and children's clothing from Aug. 12-Aug. 19.

The unique shop features designer clothes for women, children and men and a great selection of fine jewelry and accessories. The new extended store has a wide collection of crystal, china and household items, all at reasonable prices.

The Hope Chest is operated by volunteers from the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Auxiliary. All proceeds help to provide terminally ill patients with the natural, humane care known as hospice and their families or loved ones with physical, emotional, and spiritual support during their time of need.

The Hope Chest is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For directions, call the shop at (908) 233-9973.

Nature Center needs volunteers

FANWOOD — Recent heavy rains have washed away wood chips on the Fanwood Nature Center trails. Groups of volunteers are needed to place wood chips on the trails.

If interested, call Nature Center Caretaker Dean Talcott at (908) 322-6577. The work can be scheduled on any day this summer or fall.

Music worship at First Baptist

WESTFIELD — Out of town for the weekend? Looking to further connect to God and each others over the summer? You may want to consider attending two unique, music-filled evening worship opportunities, scheduled 6 p.m. this Sunday and again Aug. 20 at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St.

For more information, call the church at (908) 233-2278 or e-mail firstbaptist.westfield@verizon.net.

Bono helps family in need

SCOTCH PLAINS — Chris Bono, financial service manager at the local branch of Unity Bank, recently pitched in to help construct a new house in Bernadsville for a family in need.

Bono joined a work crew of about a dozen people on July 19 to help build a new home for a family anxiously waiting to move into the community. The house was built under the auspices of the Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity.

"By simply donating our time and skills we're able to help someone else, which is a really great feeling," said Bono.

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Community Life

Free summer activities at Wf Library

WESTFIELD — Local children are invited to design and decorate t-shirts at 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10 and again Aug. 17 at the Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad St.

"This was such a popular way to wrap up our summer activities last year that we decided to expand it this year. To accommodate more children, we have added a second decorating session," said Assistant Director Kathy Muhm.

Children should bring their own t-shirt and lots of creativity. For best results, the t-shirt should be a cotton and polyester blend.

This free event is open to children of all ages who are Westfield Memorial Library cardholders. Pre-registration is required and can be done in person at the Children's Desk or by calling (908) 789-4090, ext. 4114.

Other upcoming programs at the library are listed below. Adult pro-

grams are free and open to Westfield Memorial Library or M.U.R.A.L. cardholders:

Nina's Tragedies. Shown at 2 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, the movie tells the tale of 14-year old Nadav, who must cope with the ups and downs of divorce, illness and love, all as he enters puberty. This emotional and bittersweet film, touched with comedy, won Best Film and Best Actress honors at the 2003 Awards of the Israeli Film Academy.

The Tempest. This performance by the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey at 7 p.m. Wednesday takes up the story of a storm, a shipwreck and an enchanted island haunted by spirits and ruled by an embittered sorcerer. Young love will bloom, evil plots will be thwarted and revenge will be transformed to reconciliation and rebirth.

TGIF: Frieda Kahlo. At 1:30 p.m. Aug. 11, learn about her paintings, her marriage to Diego Rivera and her fasci-

nating lifestyle.

Additional programs for children and teens are listed below. The programs are open to all full-service Westfield Memorial Library cardholders:

Movie for teens entering grades 6-12. At 7 p.m. Monday, teens will love this fun favorite about the paranormal. Stop by or call the library for a complete schedule of teen events.

Chess. From 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, kids are invited to bring a friend and play some chess.

Movie for children entering K-fifth grade. At 3 p.m. Wednesday, children will be enthralled by this lovable tale about three irresistible pets. Call the library for additional information about movie screenings.

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

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY, AUG. 4

DAVID GLUKH INTERNATIONAL ENSEMBLE — the eclectic musical group joins the Friday Night Concerts series at First United Methodist Church, 1 East Broad St., Westfield. 7:30 p.m. \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. (908) 233-4211.

SATURDAY, AUG. 5

BLOOD DRIVE — the Bloodmobile will pay a visit to Valley National Bank, 117 South Ave. in Cranford. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. All donors will also receive a complimentary cholesterol screening. (908) 653-1560.

SUNDAY, AUG. 6

WORLD PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP FAIR — hosted by the Union County Peace Council and the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance Committee in Eastman Plaza in downtown Cranford. Noon-6 p.m. For details on how to participate, (908) 233-7344 or unioncountypeacecouncil@gmail.com.

SINGLES GROUP — Widowed, divorced, or never married? Look into this discussion and social group at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. 9 a.m. every Sunday. \$2 donation requested. (908) 889-4751.

OSBORN HOUSE — residents can tour the historic cannonball house, 1840 Front St. in Scotch Plains. 2-4 p.m. Free.

MONDAY, AUG. 7

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — residents caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones can gather with others in similar situations. 8 p.m. in the parish center of St. Helen's Church, Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield. (908) 233-8757.

YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAM — the First Baptist Church of Westfield kicks off its week of social service projects, themed "It's Not About Me." Open to kids in Grades 6-10. \$25. Register in advance at (908) 233-2278.

TEEN MOVIE — a fun favorite about the paranormal, screened for kids entering Grades 6-12 at the Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad St. 7 p.m. (908) 789-4090.

Movie for Teens entering grades 6-12. Monday, August 7 at 7:00 p.m. Teens will love this fun favorite about the paranormal. Stop by or call the library for a complete schedule of teen events.

TUESDAY, AUG. 8

WOODLAND QUARTET CONCERT — the string quartet will play its annual summer concert at the Scotch Plains Public Library. 7:30 p.m. (908) 322-5007.

SWEET SOUNDS DOWNTOWN — the weekly jazz festival returns to various points in downtown Westfield. 7-9 p.m. Featured performers will include the David Aaron Quartet, Scarlett Moore, Taino, Mirage Quartet and Swingadelic.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9

CONCERT FOR SENIORS — baritone Cameron Chandler will perform classical arias and songs from the Big Band era for adults age 60 and up, in this presentation from the JCC of Central NJ's "Summer of Fun" series. 11 a.m. at Congregation Beth Israel, 18 Shalom Way, followed by a luncheon \$23 for JCC members, \$30 for non-members. (908) 889-8800, ext. 207.

MUSTANG SALLY — the Nashville-based women's group will bring its country music and Southern rock sound to the Summer Arts Festival concert series in Echo Lake Park. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 9. Free, but bring your own seating. In the event of rain, concert will be held in the Cranford High School auditorium, 201 West End Place.

'THE TEMPEST' — a performance of the Bard's play about a storm, a shipwreck and an enchanted island by the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. 7 p.m. Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad St. Free to Westfield library or M.U.R.A.L. cardholders. (908) 789-4090.

THURSDAY, AUG. 10

SUMMER TEEN NIGHTS — hosted by the Westfield Area Y at the East Broad Street Family Branch. 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$5 per teen. Y membership is not required, but pre-registration is. (908) 233-2700, ext. 405 or mcollett@westfieldynj.org.

AUGUST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA — a performance of classical music at Union County College's Roy W. Smith Theater, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. 7:30 p.m. \$10. Proceeds will benefit the UCC Foundation Scholarship Fund.

T-SHIRT DECORATING — part of the conclusion to the summer activities at the Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad St. 3 p.m. Free, but children must bring their own t-shirt. Pre-register at (908) 789-4090, ext. 4114.

SUNDAY, AUG. 13

MARRIED COUPLES BRUNCH — the B'nai B'rith Ketubah group will gather at the Kenilworth Inn, Boulevard and South 31st Street in Kenilworth. 11:30 a.m. \$14.95 per person, plus tax and tip. Prospective members welcome. RSVP by Aug. 11 at (908) 232-0062.

COMING UP

COFFEEHOUSE/FUNDRAISER — singer/songwriter Audrey Assad will perform at this event at Evangel Church, 1251 Terrill Rd., Scotch Plains. Donations will be collected on behalf of Allegra Chiariello, a 10-year-old girl with autism who is in need of an assistance dog. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 15. RSVP to (908) 322-5425.

'SUMMER OF FUN' PROGRAM — the JCC's series of concerts for adults age 60 and up continues with a luncheon and a double bill featuring Ruth Kaye and Susan Glanzberg. 11 a.m. Aug. 16. Congregation Beth Israel, 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains. \$30 for JCC members, \$38 for non-members. Register by Aug. 14 at (908) 889-8800, ext. 207.

HOLISTIC MOMS MEETING — the Union County chapter of the Holistic Moms Network will hear a talk by an organic chef. 7 p.m. Aug. 16. Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

T-SHIRT DECORATING — part of the conclusion to the summer activities at the Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad St. 3 p.m. Aug. 17. Free, but children must bring their own t-shirt. Pre-register at (908) 789-4090, ext. 4114.

SUMMER TEEN NIGHTS — hosted by the Westfield Area Y at the East Broad Street Family Branch. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Aug. 24. \$5 per teen. Y membership is not required, but pre-registration is. (908) 233-2700, ext. 405 or mcollett@westfieldynj.org.

SPIRIT CRUISE LINE TRIP — the Scotch Plains Senior Citizen Advisory Committee sponsors this trip around Manhattan. Bus leaves Scotch Plains municipal building at 9:45 a.m. Sept. 20. Registration is now open for township residents. \$45. (908) 889-2084 or (908) 322-6700, ext. 221.

GOLF OUTING — fundraiser for the Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care in Scotch Plains. The event will be Sept. 11 at the Roselle Golf Club; full day including 18 holes of golf, breakfast, lunch, cocktail hour and dinner is \$185. Sponsorship opportunities available. (732) 244-1044.

MUSIC FEST '06 — concert hosted by Union County at Nomahegan Park in Cranford. Noon-10 p.m. Sept. 16. Featuring Southside Johnny and LaBamba's Big Band, The Alarm and the Beatles cover band Fab Faux. Also on hand from noon-4 p.m. will be the Kids Kingdom Traveling Jubilee. For more, visit www.ucmusicfest.com.

HARVEST FEST — All Saints Episcopal Church seeks vendors for its autumn program. 559 Park Ave., Scotch Plains. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 21. For an application, call (908) 322-8047.

BIKING TOWARD A MIRACLE



NICOLE DIMELLA/CORRESPONDENT

Approximately 600 leather-clad bikers gathered at the Cranford Elks Lodge Sunday to take part in the annual Miracle Run, a ride to Old Bridge that raises funds for Elks Camp Moore. Located in Haskell, Camp Moore — known as "The Miracle on the Mountain" — serves approximately 700 physically and mentally disabled children every summer, and Elks members bear responsibility for financially supporting the program. After revving the bikes and hitting the road around noon, the bikers crossed this railroad underpass at Centennial Avenue before turning down North Avenue to Westfield on their way to the Garden State Parkway.

Chernetz, Wisler receive Thanks Badges

WESTFIELD — The Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council recently honored a pair of local women with the Thanks Badge, one of the highest national awards for adults in Girl Scouting. The badge was created by Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of the Girl Scout organization.

Residents June Chernetz and Merry Wisler received the honor in recognition of their outstanding service to the Westfield Girl Scouts, the town of Westfield and the GSWRC. The women received the honor at the council's 2006 Adult Recognition dinner to mark their diligent work on behalf of the Westfield Scouts and their outreach through GSWRC to the surrounding communities.

Throughout Chernetz's Girl Scout career she has been a leader, a school organizer and consultant, a Service Team member, an assistant



Westfield residents June Chernetz and Merry Wisler recently received the Thanks Badge in recognition of their many efforts on behalf of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council.

Encampment Director and a delegate. As a member and chair of the Nomination and Referral committee, her team filled in the many vital positions on the Service Team with qualified women.

Chernetz was recognized

this year for her work as the Adult Recognition Chair, a position she held for nearly 10 years. She coordinated and continually updated the paperwork necessary for Westfield leaders to earn local and national recognition and took on the challenge to make sure that Westfield earned the President's Award. Currently, as a member of the GSWRC's committee on Adult Recognition, she brings very high standards to the group.

Wisler, a leader since 1994, also took on the task of school organizer, consultant and delegate. As Encampment Director for a number of years, she organized memorable weekends at Camp Lou Henry Hoover for the entire town. As Product Sales Cookie Chair, she has coordinated the delivery of nearly 4,000 cases of cookies annually at the Westfield Armory. Over the years, it has become so smoothly run

that it is practically "a drive-through experience" for the cookie Moms.

Wisler created the League of Women Voters Patch to help the Girl Scouts learn about the league along with the privilege and responsibility of voting. Many town-wide activities have benefited from her time management skills, and she was a natural choice to be the town's New Leader Trainer.

Annually, Wisler has been a tremendous asset at Gold and Silver Awards Ceremony. Recently, as part of "Operation Yellow Ribbon—Welcome Home", she and her daughter Ayn, who earned her Girl Scout Gold Award this year, working with troop members to put yellow ribbons on the trees and flags along the route that led the soldiers home to the Armory. She is known for her positive attitude, smiling face and great sense of humor.

Swaak wins art contest

The Westfield Summer Workshop, a division of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, recently held an art contest to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the organization. Students were asked to submit a drawing depicting something they liked about attending the Workshop.

Taylor Swaak of Fanwood, a sixth grade student at Park Middle School in Scotch Plains, was the winner of the art contest. The theme of her picture emphasized the importance of making friends. As the grand prize winner, Taylor received a \$350 gift certificate to attend any New Jersey Workshop for the Arts program.

Thirty-five other prize winners received a free ticket to attend the Workshop Theater's performance of *Seussical*. They included Alyssa John, Claire Dorwart, Mary Norwine, Allyson Morgenthal,

Charlotte Zee, Anastasia Smolenski, Caroline Zee, Alex Palatucci, Erica Cheung, Kristin Hauge, Jessica Xu, Audrey Yan, Clancy Nolan, Renee Dorwart, Michelle Tager, Rena Poppers, Nicole DiGiorgio, and Nava Hirschorn.

Other winners included Jenna Reed, Geena Gao, Julie Brownstone, Jessie Fang, Rachel Harth, Victoria Zebrowski, Andrew Huang, Erica Rippenger, Kaitlin Abrams, Isabella D'Olier-Lees, Sydney Chase Barker, Kelly Bohall, Jordan Binkowitz, Daniel Maran, Caroline Coletta, Alison Jaruzelski and Samantha Bordman.

For information on any of the programs of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, visit their studios at 150-152 East Broad St. in Westfield, phone (908) 789-9696 or log on to www.njworkshopforthearts.com.



Taylor Swaak of Fanwood was the grand prize winner in the Westfield Summer Workshop's 35th anniversary art contest.

Westfield Community Players will begin season on Oct. 7

The Westfield Community Players (WCP) will begin its 2006-2007 season with the Ivan Menchell comedy *The Cemetery Club*, opening Oct. 7 and continuing until Oct. 28.

In the play, three women share tea and friendship as they visit their husbands' graves together. The trio's relationship is affected, and the comedy arises, when a chance encounter between one of the women and a widower has romance blossoming at the cemetery.

After *The Cemetery Club*, the

2006-2007 season will feature three more productions. All shows open on a Saturday night and run 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings for three or four weekends, making it easy for local residents to have a local night out to experience live theater.

The season continues with the drama *Angel Street* by Patrick Hamilton, which opens Jan. 6 and continues through Jan. 20. Beneath the façade of 19th-century London respectability, a sinister husband slowly tortures his wife towards

insanity, all under the guise of kindness.

A helpful and patient inspector from Scotland Yard helps the wife, and together they conspire to trap the husband, who is accused of committing a foul crime some 15 years earlier in the same house.

The season's third production, James Goldman's dramatic comedy *The Lion in Winter*, is about royal bloodlines and securing England's future. In the play, which will run March 3 through March 24, England's King Henry II, Eleanor of

Aquitaine and their sons spend Christmas trying to outwit each other while granting concessions to secure their own future and prevent a civil war.

Benefits Director Letty Hudak noted that the benefit performances of March 9 and March 16 are still available for sale to sponsoring organizations. Interested groups can call (908) 232-9568 for details.

The last show of the season, running May 8 through May 22, is Neil Simon's *Rumors*. The setting is an elegant Manhattan dinner party

where, in order to avoid a scandal, guests take turns impersonating the host, who lies unconscious in an upstairs bedroom with a gun in his hand.

Founded in 1934, Westfield Community Players is one of the oldest continuously operating community theaters in the State of New Jersey. The WCP has brought to life more than 200 comedies, dramas and musicals in its 150-seat theater on North Avenue in Westfield. For more information, contact the WCP at (908) 232-1221.

Ewald's photos on display in Summit

Westfield resident Andrea Ewald is one of 29 photographers of the New Jersey Photography Forum whose work will be on exhibit at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in Summit through Aug. 31.

The "Summer Show" showcases the tremendous variety in style and photographic technique of the group's members, who come from all areas of the Garden State. An opening reception with refreshments will be held from 6-9 p.m. Friday. The Arts Center is located at 68 Elm St. in Summit. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

A native of Germany, Ewald, who holds a degree in English linguistics, has lived in Westfield for the past 5½ years. Her interest in photography goes back many years, but she did not "get serious" about doing something with her talent until last summer.

"What attracts me most of all when looking at the world in general and when photographing in particular is color and light," Ewald said. Combine that interest with an eye for shapes, patterns and textures, and you have the main ingredients of her photography.

Much of Ewald's work is abstract, and she loves to take the abstraction to a point where the photographed object is no longer recognizable and the resulting photo is all about color, shape and texture.

'What attracts me most of all when looking at the world in general and when photographing in particular is color and light,' Ewald said.

Ewald has previously exhibited her work at the Watching Arts Center, Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside and the New Providence Memorial Library. When not in Westfield, she can be found traveling the world with her husband and a soft toy pig named Livingstone.

The New Jersey Photography Forum is a not-for-profit group that was started in 1995 by Nancy J. Ori of Berkeley Heights and Michael Creem of Summit as an opportunity for professional photographers, photo educators and serious amateurs to meet and discuss their work, share expertise, advance skills and explore exhibit possibilities within the fine art community.

The group has grown over the years to become the largest and most recognized group of fine art exhibiting photographers in the state. The forum meets once a month at the Visual Arts Center.

For more information about the "Summer Show" or the Photography Forum, contact Nancy Ori at (908) 790-8820 or nancyori@comcast.net. Or, visit the Forum online at www.njphotoforum.com.



Mustang Sally, a Nashville-based group of women musicians, will play at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday night in Echo Lake Park as a part of the Union County Summer Arts Festival concert series.

Mustang Sally to play Wednesday in Echo Lake Park

The Union County Summer Arts Festival concert series continues Wednesday night with a performance by the Nashville-based group of women musicians who call themselves Mustang Sally.

The Union County Board of Freeholders invites area residents to attend this free concert, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Echo Lake Park on the Westfield/Mountainside border.

Mustang Sally is a popular attraction at the county's Summer Arts Festival each year. The group of seven talented women draws from diverse backgrounds and musical influences to play country music and Southern rock with a contemporary feel and traditional roots.

Mustang Sally has performed in concert at rodeos, fairs and festivals

throughout the United States and Europe, and they've opened for high-profile singers such as George Jones, Lee Ann Rimes, Mark Chestnut, Aaron Tippin, the Confederate Railroad and others.

Freeholder Chairman Al Mirabella urges residents to "bring the entire family, pack a picnic basket, bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on, and enjoy an evening of energetic country music in Echo Lake Park."

The Union County Information Van also will be at the concert site, with representatives from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension on hand to answer questions and offer information about important services available to Union County residents.

The other free concerts in the Summer Arts Festival series include:

Aug. 16 - The Nerds (Jersey Shore party band);

Aug. 23 - Ed Palermo Big Band with Rob Paparozzi, sponsored by Schering-Plough Corp.;

Aug. 30 - The Party Dolls, sponsored by ConocoPhillips-Bayway Refinery.

In case of rain, concerts will be held at the air-conditioned auditorium at Cranford High School, at 201 West End Place off Springfield Avenue. For up-to-date concert/rain information, call the Parks and Recreation hot-line at (908) 352-8410 after 3 p.m. on the day of the concert.

For more information about the Summer Arts Festival concert series, call the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities at (908) 627-4900.

Glukh Ensemble will perform Friday at First United

A myriad of music styles from around the world will be highlighted in the next Friday Night Concerts summer program at First United Methodist Church, 1 East Broad St. in Westfield, to be held 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Performing will be the David Glukh International Ensemble, one of the most unusual ensembles of its kind. Eclectic by repertoire and

design, the group, led by the piccolo trumpet player Glukh, has received worldwide critical acclaim and varies in size depending on the music to be performed at each concert.

Joining Glukh for this engagement will be accordion player Gennady Gutkin and percussionist Kevin Garcia. The repertoire will include classical masterpieces and world music, including pieces in the Klezmer, tango and jazz styles and folk tunes from many nations.

The group's members have performed in such prestigious venues as Merkin Concert Hall and Alice Tully Hall in New York's Lincoln Center, and have collaborated with best-selling violinist Lara St. John.

The ensemble's second CD, featuring traditional Klezmer and world fusion improvisatory original compositions, was released in November 2005. Audiences have been attracted to the group's ability to play traditional Klezmer favorites and its special "fusions" between Klezmer and other musical genres from around the world, including jazz and various folk traditions.

When playing pieces from the classical canon, the ensemble turns to Mozart, Donizetti, Tchaikovsky, Bach, Purcell and others.



The David Glukh International Trio, consisting of Gennady Gutkin (accordion) David Glukh, (piccolo trumpet), and Kevin Garcia (percussion) will perform Friday night at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield.

Since his graduation from The Juilliard School in May 2000, Glukh has led an active performance schedule and appeared frequently on television and radio. In 1995, Glukh received an award from the Israeli Musicians Union for excellence in performance. He was a recipient of the America Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship from 1990-2000.

Glukh was born in 1975 in Moscow, where he attended the Gnesin's Music School. In 1990, he immigrated to Israel, and he spent the following three years in the Thelma

Yellin High School for the Arts. He later served in the Army Orchestra from 1993 to 1996.

Donations at the door will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Doors will open at 7 p.m. The church and sanctuary are handicapped-accessible, and refreshments will be available during intermission.

No tickets are required. For further information, call the church office at (908) 233-4211 daily from 8:30 AM to 3:30 p.m. Parking will be available in the church lot off Ferris Place, on nearby streets and in adjacent lots.

August Symphony Orchestra at UCC

At 7:30 p.m. Aug. 10, the Union County College Foundation will host The August Symphony Orchestra in the Roy W. Smith Theater on the College's Cranford campus, 1033 Springfield Avenue.

Under the direction of maestro Martin Sklar, the orchestra will offer a program

of classical music featuring Carl Maria von Weber's *Der Freischütz (The Marksman)*, Serge Rachmaninoff's, *The Isle of the Dead, Opus 29*, and Ludwig von Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6 in F, Opus 68 "Pastoral."*

The August Symphony Orchestra is comprised of professionals, amateurs, stu-

dents, and retirees from all parts of the Garden State who volunteer their time and talent to create one exciting evening of classical performance each year during the month of August.

Admission is \$10, and all proceeds will directly benefit the UCC Foundation's scholarship fund.

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2006-2007 BACK TO SCHOOL!

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Beyond Dance expands studio in Cranford

Beyond Dance recently finished another successful season with a well-received recital and is ready to open the doors of a brand new studio in Cranford.

The 2005-2006 year ended with more than 350 hundred students performing at Cranford High School in two separate shows. The show, which took place on June 18, showcased all that the students had learned throughout the year and included students age 3 to adult.

Now, Beyond Dance is celebrating the opening of its new studio, which is located right next door to the existing facility at 123 North Union Ave. As the school continues to grow, the expanded studio will allow for more programs and more students. The new studio will be used for the summer session, which runs through Aug. 26, and will be open with a full schedule for fall classes.

Visitors to the studios will see the waiting room is always clean and has plenty of seating for parents with an area for younger children to play. There is always someone helping in the waiting room to handle questions and to take phone calls.

The changing room offers privacy to students, as well as a place to store their belongings while they are in the classroom. A large and convenient parking lot is avail-

able at Cleveland Plaza for all parents to use.

Beyond Dance believes it is important to make dance fun for everyone. The teachers believe if they keep the instruction enjoyable and challenging, the students will maintain their interest and desire for learning.

The studio offers a children's dance program for students ages 3 to 7. The philosophy of this program is to teach students the love of dance. When the love of dance is securely instilled, the teachers believe, technique will be willingly embraced out of respect for and love for the art.

For this reason, the classes are based on teaching physical awareness, creative expression, balance, learning readiness, rhythm, and dance etiquette, all part of a foundation of learning. As students mature and become ready for more traditional training, a background in creative dance helps them become more effective learners as well as artistically motivated.

The curriculum offered at the studio includes ballet, tap, jazz/hip-hop, pointe, lyrical, modern, musical comedy, creative dance (ages 3-4), kinder combo (age 5), and dance combo (ages 6-7). Beyond Dance has also expanded its adult program to include yoga classes on Monday nights and Wednesday mornings, in addi-



Beyond Dance students Angela Sandoukas, Jessica Matos, Katrina Countryman, Sabrina Van Ness, Erica Vetter and Melanie Bonanne strike a pose.

tion to the salsa, ballet and tap classes currently offered. The competition team entered three major competitions this past year, bringing home more than 15 awards. Platinum awards, the highest available, were given to

Ashley and Amanda Schweikard for a tap routine to "Come On 'A My House," as well as to Rita DeChillo for her tap routine "Come on Everybody" and to "Arms of an Angel" for A Group Dance Lyrical.

In-person registration will take place at the studio from noon-3 p.m. Aug. 20, 27 and Sept. 9. For more information, can call the studio at (908) 272-2522 or send an email to Beyonddance@verizon.net.

Open house at Eastern Gymnastics

Eastern Gymnastics Academy (EGA), located at 1 Commerce Drive in Cranford, will open its doors for the fall gymnastics season on Sept. 5.

Registration can be done any time via phone, fax, mail or in person. The academy will conduct an open house from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Aug. 28-31.

The Eastern Gymnastics staff is excited to start the 2006-07 season. Many updates have been made to the facility and the programs, including moon bounces, two tumbling floor exercises, state-of-the-art preschool and recreational training equipment, trampolines and tumble tracks.

EGA offers a wide variety of programs for children as young as 18 months and as old as 18 years. Students are always placed in age-appropriate and skill-appropriate classes to challenge their physical ability.

Eastern Gymnastics also offers non-competitive and competitive cheerleading programs for girls ages 4 to over 18 under the direction of the Central Jersey All-Star staff.

All staff members are professionally certified in CPR, First Aid and USA Safety Gymnastic protocols to ensure the students' safety.

Free trial classes are available for new students. For more information, call the office at (908) 272-2560 or log onto the Web site at www.easterngymnastics.com.

Learn to become a cosmetologist at Capri



Capri Institute instructor Maureen Francella demonstrates an advanced anti-aging treatment.

Great new career opportunities abound in the field of cosmetology, as a dramatic shortage of hairstylists and salon professionals has created a unique industry with essentially zero unemployment. Bridget Damiano, director of Capri Institute, has successfully helped many high school students, college graduates and second career students launch new careers as cosmetologists, estheticians and nail technicians. Many of these students are changing career directions to find opportunities to use their creative and interpersonal skills.

Research compiled in the most recent NACCAS Job Demand Survey shows that cosmetologists have dramatically increased their earning power, with zero unemployment due to the severe shortage of licensed salon professionals. Based upon a typical

50 percent commission, the average income for a salon professional was \$18.08 per hour, while salon owners average \$24.36 per hour. The corresponding full-time salaries were \$48,720 for salon owners and \$36,360 for non-owner salon professionals, inclusive of tips.

The professional salon industry continues to offer new employment opportunities to qualified job seekers as hair designers, estheticians, make-up artists and massage therapists.

For a free career counseling session and further information on a career in cosmetology, esthetics and nail services, call Capri Institute at (800) BE-CAPRI or visit the Web site at www.CapriInstitute.com. Capri's nearest school is located at 660 N Michigan Ave., Kenilworth.

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Jean A. Anderson

Jean A. Anderson, 72, of Fanwood died July 26, 2006 at Morristown Memorial Hospital. Born in Elizabeth...

Edgar Cayce Foundation in Virginia Beach and of the Westfield Genealogical Society. She is survived by her husband of 53 years...

Margaret A. Profito

Margaret A. Profito, 93, of Westfield died July 24, 2006 in Overlook Hospital, Summit. She was born in Paterson...

Cutillo; a brother, Charles Pearson; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles...

Elizabeth G. Brubaker

Elizabeth G. "Betty" Brubaker, 87, died July 11, 2006 in Florence, Ore. of natural causes resulting from advanced Alzheimer's disease. Born in Allentown...

Mrs. Brubaker was also president of the Homemakers Association of New Jersey and the College Women's Club of Cranford...

Richard Arnold Wilson

Richard Arnold Wilson, 69, of Westfield died July 29, 2006 in Overlook Hospital, Summit. In 1958, he graduated with honors from the University of Pennsylvania...

Flavors and Fragrances in 1967, where his research team led the industry in isolating living flower aromas. He developed many patented commercial fragrances...

Olga L. Salisbury

Olga L. Salisbury, 87, of Scotch Plains died July 26, 2006 at the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Scotch Plains. Born in West New York...

Barlettano, and five grandchildren. A funeral Mass was offered Saturday at St. Helens Roman Catholic Church, Westfield...

Wilbur J. Harley

Dr. Wilbur J. Harley, 89, died Thursday, July 27, 2006, at the Brethren Village Home in Lancaster, Pa., where he was a resident. Born in Roystersford, Pa...

American College of Preventative Medicine. Dr. Harley served in the African and European theaters during World War II as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps...

Helen C. Hacik

Helen C. Hacik, 76, of Scotch Plains died July 25, 2006 in Overlook Hospital, Summit. Born in Garfield, she lived in Scotch Plains for 47 years...

Women in Mission and the Banner Makers. She also was a former Girl Scout leader in Scotch Plains. She is survived by John, her husband of 56 years...

Lena Vigilanti

Lena Vigilanti, 81, of Westfield died July 26, 2006, at Overlook Hospital in Summit. Born in Scotch Plains, she was a lifelong resident of Westfield...

She is survived by Nathan, her husband of 58 years; a daughter, Virginia A. Burdett; sons, David F. and Thomas V., and six grandchildren. A funeral Mass was offered Monday at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church...



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General Help 240 NANNY 35 days/wk. for 3yr old, and 1 1/2 yr old girls in our Clark home. During school hours. English, car, references. 908-298-4210

General Help 240 HOME HEALTH CARE AIDE Live in companion for female in Scotch Plains. For details call 908-322-2551 or 908-337-4955

General Help 240 HOME CARE For Cranford woman w/Alzheimer's. 2 positions: 1) Mon-Fri 10am-4pm 2) Sat 12-6pm. Must speak English. Call 201-340-1205

General Help 240 PAINT DEPARTMENT Benjamin Moore retailer needs to fill counter position in Paint/Decorating Department. Knowledge of Paint and Color matching preferred. Benefits, friendly atmosphere. Apply in person to Westfield Lumber & Home Center 700 North Ave. East Westfield, NJ 908-232-6855

General Help 240 RECEPTIONIST DATA ENTRY Full time employment in a small friendly office environment. Diversified duties include answering multiple phone lines, data entry & order processing. Must have computer experience. Hours: 8:30-5:30 MF. Benefits. SEND RESUME TO: Suite 203, 741 Northfield Ave., West Orange, NJ 07082 or fax 973-328-7380.

General Help 240 RECEPTIONIST FT Small co. in Cranford seeks person to handle phone calls, mail, filing, some customer serv. & various office duties. Will also consider PT. Fax resume to 908-276-2679 or email to info@coitwell.com

General Help 240 RECEPTIONIST WESTFIELD Salon seeking FT/PT receptionist, training available. Call Nick 908-484-3323

General Help 240 HOUSEPAINTERS Must have NJ driver's license. \$10/hr. to start. Rapidly advancing to \$12-\$15/hr depending on experience and productivity. Call Jack 908-278-9394

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Sports

SERZAN'S SIDE Short-lived summer winds

By **JOE SERZAN**
SPORTS EDITOR

As a child, I would always become sad when I began to see and hear about back-to-school specials. These sales meant only one thing: summertime was soon coming to an end.

Summer months always seemed to go by very quickly when I was young. Did time really fly while I was having fun playing baseball and swimming at the beach or was there some other force at work?

While I have certainly grown since then, the short-lived summer months have certainly not slowed down at all. I cannot believe that it is already Aug. 3. It seems as if it was only a couple of weeks ago that I graduated from Fairfield University, and that was back in May. It's true: some things never change.

For me, back-to-school reminders have now been replaced by National Football League training camp talk and preparation for fall high school sports previews. These events aren't bad, by any stretch of the imagination, but there is a part of me that wishes that the summer could, as Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs said, "stay a little bit longer."

We get only about three months, and sometimes even less than that, to consistently walk around in shorts, a t-shirt, and sandals. We only have so many opportunities to take a dip in a cool pool during or after a hot day in the sun.

The summer brings longer days, outside barbecues, and baseball games. In this stretch of the calendar year, we get to celebrate four holidays: Memorial Day (the official start of summer for me regardless of what the calendar states), Father's Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day. Plus, there are many races to be run and summer events to participate in throughout the county.

Who doesn't like the previous? Yes, for some the heat can be unbearable and for others the summer humidity provides little relief during working days. However, many people must love the summer months because it seems like everyone saves their hard-earned weeks of vacation time for this part of the year.

To stretch the summer months, then, I propose the following:

For the children, back-to-school sales should only take place one week before school actually starts. This would save stores money on advertisements and would give the youth the illusion that summer is longer than it seems. I know I would have appreciated the last month of summer a lot more if I wasn't reminded of the school year in every other store I was in or on all television commercials.

For the adults and parents, companies could designate one day per week, every two weeks, for employees to take a "summer day." Each person could chose a day every two weeks to skip work and enjoy the warm days the way they want. This would help both the companies and their employees; the companies would get more refreshed employees and better production.

Now, these suggestions would probably be very challenging to implement and would take a while to execute. In the meantime, make the most of what summer is left to be had. Take your child to a New York Yankees game and see the newest edition, Bobby Abreu, or head to Shea to see the New York Mets, the best team in the National League. Take a swim in the pool and hang outside with friends and family.

But don't, under any circumstances, take the months for granted. There is only one month left to take advantage of the warm weather and the opportunity for fun in the sun. Treat this column as a take-advantage-of-the-summertime-left special and have fun while you still can.

Joe Serzan is sports editor for the Cranford Chronicle and Record-Press. He can be reached at (732) 396-4202 or jserzan@njnpublishing.com.

Downtown 5K a huge success in Westfield

By **DAVID LAZARUS**
CORRESPONDENT

When Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky began the 2006 Westfield Downtown 5K and Pizza Extravaganza by blowing an air horn at the corner of Broad Street and Elm at just after 7 p.m. on the final Wednesday of July, he unleashed a cacophony of 1525 sets of pounding feet which must have seemed like the culmination of a five-year dream for race director Sherry Cronin.

"We are very pleased with the amount of enthusiasm and number of runners this year," Cronin said. "The race gets better and better each year."

After four years of steady growth, the race exploded in its fifth rendition and could eventually turn out to be the largest 5K in the state. What greatly enhanced the numbers was an incredible post-registration of 574 runners, many who traveled significant distances.

"Many of them had their pre-mailed registrations completed and brought them to the event," Cronin said. "Many others downloaded the form off the website and brought that with them. We also had a lot of marketing in the last week of the race which probably helped to bring in a lot of post-registrants."

Cronin was gushing with enthusiasm and relieved that the race avoided weather problems for the first time since 2003. While the race time temperature was in the high 80s, with stifling humidity, it still was a marked improvement over the previous two years, when severe thunderstorm warnings and heat warnings complicated pre-race preparations.

"The weather was great and the non-threat of rain that evening was a big relief," Cronin said.

Almost forgotten in the hoopla was a well-contested race won by a familiar face, Gene Mitchell, owner of the



The Westfield Downtown 5K and Pizza Extravaganza gets underway on the streets of downtown Westfield (Above). Men's and women's winners (Below), Gene Mitchell and Amy Van Alstine, take breaths of relief after finishing on top in their respective divisions.

Running Company chain of stores, who won his third straight title with a time of 15:08, twenty seconds ahead of Ben Reynolds of Chatham. The Running Company was also the race's lead sponsor and contributed a state-of-the-art running shirt for the first 1500 registered runners.

Unlike last year when Mitchell led nearly wire to wire, he was pushed through the first mile by Reynolds who held a slight lead as Mitchell clocked 4:55. Mitchell made a strong move on an uphill just after the mile mark and pulled away from Reynolds, hitting two miles in 9:50 and enhanced his lead in the final mile with his fastest stretch (4:48).

"It was very tough night to run so I just tried to run an even pace," Mitchell said.

"Ben is a very strong runner and he made me earn it. Overall, I would have to say this was the most difficult of



my three victories. Maybe I'm just getting old," said Mitchell who turns 39 in August.

Reynolds, 42, was an easy winner in the masters divi-



sion over Paul Buccino of Westfield. Buccino, the head track and cross-country coach at Morristown High School and husband of Westfield Girls Indoor Track coach Jen

Buccino, defeated his twin brother Peter by nine seconds but was the second Westfield finisher to recent WHS graduate Jeffrey Perrella, who was sixth in 15:56.

"I'm in the middle of base building for the fall season, so overall I'm pleased with my performance," said Perrella, who will run for William and Mary this fall.

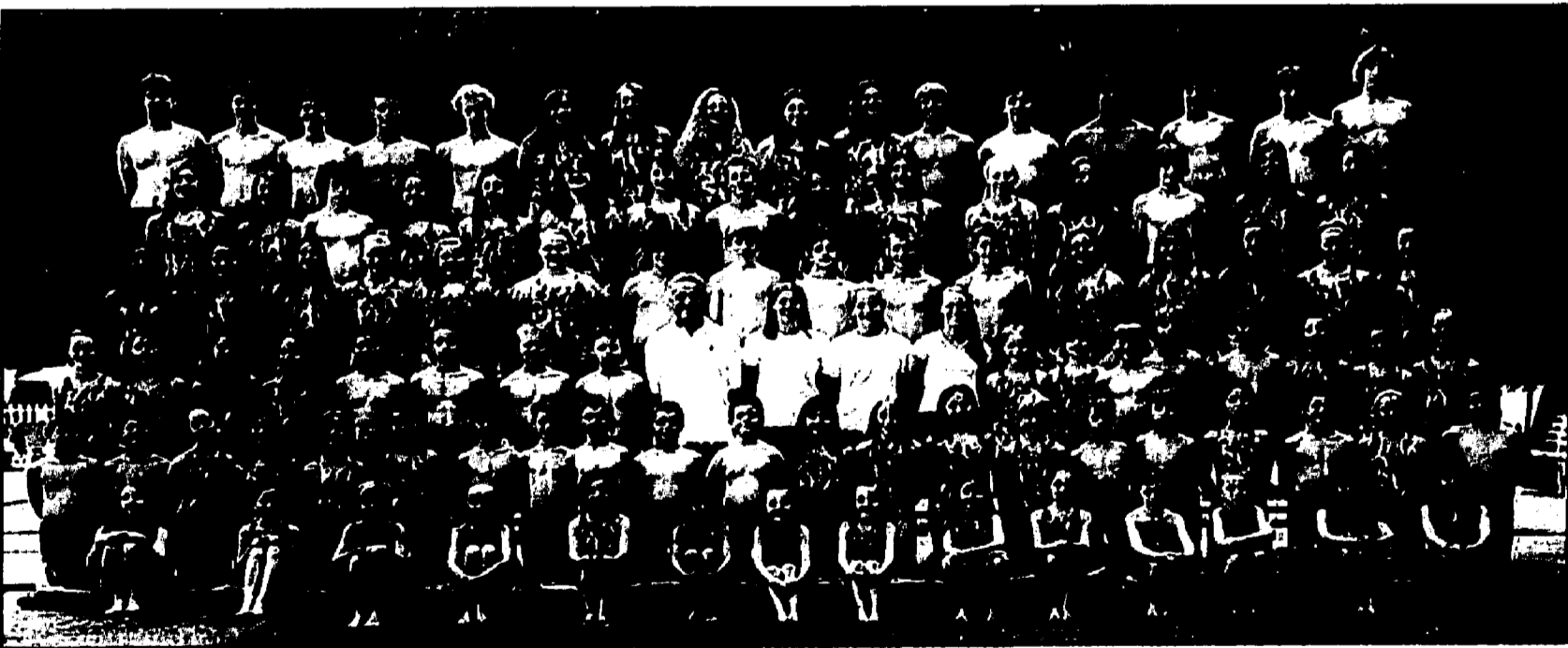
Perrella pointed to Blue Devil junior Alex Tarlow as the team leader this fall after Tarlow ran an impressive 17:12.

Second a year ago, Brian Harris, who manages the Running Company's Westfield store, ran two seconds faster than 2005 but fell to fourth, losing a close battle with Chris Heibell of Hillsborough.

"I just couldn't get it to the next gear," said Harris, who finished in 15:46.

"I'm a little disappointed (Continued on page C-2)

Highland Sharks complete successful season



The Highland Sharks (shown above) finished off a successful 2006 campaign with victories over Nomahegan Swim Club and Westfield Memorial Pool, both of Westfield, at swim meets on Wednesday, July 19 and Saturday, July 22. With the wins Highland was named this year's Union County Outdoor Swim League (UCOSL) champion.

Highland Swim Club of Scotch Plains defeated Nomahegan Swim Club and Westfield Memorial Pool, both of Westfield, at swim meets on Wednesday, July 19 and Saturday, July 22. With the wins, Highland's swim team, the "Highland Sharks," became this year's Union County Outdoor Swim League (UCOSL) champion.

Highland has won the league championships 23 times in the last 25 years.

"The kids really worked hard this season and they deserve all the credit for this championship," said Bill Reichle, coach of the Highland swim team. "Every win was a real team effort."

At the Nomahegan meet, Highland was trailing into the relays, but turned it around to defeat Nomahegan 282-248.

Three days later, Highland won its meet with Westfield (Continued on page C-2)

ST. BART'S OLD-TIMERS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

LEAGUE STANDINGS THROUGH JULY 28, 2006

Angels Division	Wins	Losses
St. Anthony	9	7
St. Stephen	8	9
St. Anne	5	8
St. Blaise	5	11
St. Nicholas	2	14
Saints Division	Wins	Losses
St. Luke	13	3
St. Mark	8	5
St. Joseph	10	7
St. Jude	9	7
St. Aloysius	9	7

St. Joseph 20, St. Blaise 5. St. Joseph jumped out to an early lead with seven runs in the first inning and six in the third on the way to defeating St. Blaise. Bob Cihanowycz and Brian Williams had four hits each for St. Joseph and Tom Straniero and Greg Swidersky had two apiece for St. Blaise.

St. Jude 15, St. Nicholas 7. St. Jude scored in each of the first five innings to beat St. Nicholas. Jude was led by

Gerry Riepe and Tony "El Capitan" Perfillio who were both 3-for-3 with two RBIs each. For St. Nicholas, Loo Messano had a big day going 4-for-4 in the losing effort.

St. Luke 10, St. Anthony 2. St. Luke pounded out 15 hits en route to the victory with almost everyone getting in on the hit parade. St. Anthony got three hits from Frank Pepe and two from Dan Nigro.

St. Aloysius 13, St. Stephen 4. Howard Bialos's undermanned Stevadors could not keep up with the Romash juggernaut as St. Aloysius won. Joe DeChiaro and Bob Guy led St. Aloysius with three RBIs each. Dan Margolis paced St. Stephen with a homer and three RBIs.

St. Aloysius 20, St. Luke 5. St. Luke didn't have it tonight in the romp. St. Aloysius was led by Pete Chemidlin, four RBIs, and Rick Wustefeld, a homer and four RBIs. Tony Radice also had three RBIs for St. Aloysius. St. Luke received two hits apiece from George Gracin, Matt Fuggett, Paul Bifani, Bob Cummo, and Dennis

Hercel. St. Jude 12, St. Stephen 5. St. Jude pounded out 15 hits to beat Bialos's St. Stephen squad. Bug Man Hoezel had two hits and three RBIs, Kevin Marron had three RBIs, and Nick Barrattucci had three hits for St. Jude. For St. Stephen, Lawrence "not Yogi" Berra had three hits and Pat Enright had three RBIs.

St. Stephen 7, St. Luke 2. The Bialos boys of St. Stephen played great defense to beat a tough St. Luke team. Dan Margolis had two hits and three RBIs and Steve Abrunzo ripped three hits and had two RBIs for St. Stephen. Al Betau drove in the only runs for St. Luke.

St. Mark 20, St. Nicholas 12. St. Mark cranked out 25 hits against the short-handed Nickies. Tony Blasi had four hits and batters two through five for St. Mark had three hits each. St. Nicholas batted around a lot and ripped 19 hits of their own, led by Glen Walz, but could not muster enough runs.

St. Joseph 9, St. Jude 3. Dirty Dean's

Joe boys held St. Jude scoreless over the last four innings to get the win. St. Joseph got four RBIs from George Balint and two each from Rich Mann and Smitty Smith. Matt "V for victory" Vastano was stellar on the mound. For St. Jude, John Chumpko took the collar but Nick Bacatooky went 2-for-2. St. Anthony 11, St. Stephen 10. Bialos's St. Stephen gang dug down deep and came back from six runs down late to go ahead by one but the Ant men scratched out two runs for the victory. Tim Deegan had the game-winning hit and four RBIs for St. Anthony. St. Stephen was led by Mark Ragan with three RBIs and Donnie "Baseball" Rowbotham with a triple and three hits.

St. Anne 24, St. Blaise 7. St. Anne pounded Mr. Sherwin's team in this night game. St. Anne put it away early with 15 runs in the first. The McEvoy mean Anne machine got four hits from Ron Virgiglio, Moose Monroy, Steve Murano, and Chris Giordano. Jim Sacca provided the spark for St. Blaise.

Highland Sharks complete season Downtown 5K a success in Westfield

(Continued from page C-1) Memorial with a score of 310-219.

As part of the UCOSL, Highland also competes against teams from Willow Grove (Scotch Plains), Manor Park (Westfield), and the Cranford Swim Club. Highland swimmers also competed in the UCOSL Relay Meet on Monday, July 24, and competed in the UCOSL Championships on Friday, July 28 and Saturday, July 29.

The 2006 Highland Sharks roster consisted of Kristen Henkels, Mary Henkels, Kim Rizzo, Katelyn Cavanagh, Brittany Larkin, Ariana Lyons, Becky Krakora, Kim Many,

Julia Weigel, Amanda Gianni, Taylor Guiffre, Annie O'Halloran, Erin Rossi, Kelsey Rossi, Elizabeth Peach, Ana Bogdanovski, Ellen Tomljanovic, Mary Poillon, Michaela Lyons, Jillian Leahy, Kirsten Carbone, Avery Boettcher, Stephanie Glover, Lizzy Ferraro, Nicole Buzzanca, Noelle Giacona, John Guiffre, Matt Miller, Zach Peart, Jonathan Feeley, Donny Keenan, Patrick Keenan, Peter Weigel, Michael Henkels, Ryan Henkels, Dorian Bogdanovski, David Regal, Brian Pesin, Michael Pesin, Daniel Pesin, Matt De Biasse, Michael Rizzo, Sean

Lockier, Conor Lockier, Matt Graziano, Brody Rash, Katherine McGowan, Katie Mrozek, Danielle Mrozek, Tyler Daniskas, Margie De Santis, Grace Lesce, Patrick Henkels, Annie Pierce, Haley Monahan, Mark Uehlinger, Kevin Fleck, David Lindros, Jessica Fugett, Melody Weigel, Mariah Weigel, Mariel Weigel, Samantha McCallion, Jenny Lynch, Amanda Christiansen, Brian Heath, Nicholas Heath, Matthew Heath, Kara Foley, Michael Ferraro, Declan Murphy, Stephan Skaar, Maddie Ryan, Paul Laki, Andrew Buzzanca, Charlotte Peach, Tamara Itzkowitz, Jeff Uehlinger, Hadley Jones, Chris Turso, Peirce Johnston, Jack Poillon, Allison Caramico, Kristen Northrup, Nicole Turso, Allison Grimm, Megan Foley, Alexa Buckley, Justin Giacona, Andrew De Biasse, Zachary Ciabattari, Julie Glover, Kathleen Colonna, Peter Tomljanovic, Alyssa Laki, Erin Pierce, Luke Dodge, Stephen Loshiavo, Danny Lynch, Allison Speck, Perry Sandrock, Kerry Pierce, Robert Colonna, Kelly Ayers, Emily Skaar, Caitlin Foley, Jacqueline Cirincione, Caroline Leahy, Mia Rossi, Caroline Lesce, Jeff Peart, John Lindros.

Highland Swim Club offers club members lap lanes, bathhouse, diving boards, gated baby pool, picnic grounds, grills, basketball courts and playground. Members can take advantage of free swim lessons for children, a professionally coached swim team, and a variety of social activities throughout the summer. Highland will begin a major renovation of its facilities, scheduled for completion by the 2007 summer season. Pre-construction membership rates pro-rated for the 2006 summer season are still available for anyone interested. For more information, please call (908) 889-4804 or visit the club web site at www.members.aol.com/hscpo/hlhighland.htm.

(Continued from page C-1) because my legs just didn't respond," added Harris, who won the Cranford Firecracker Four Mile earlier in July.

Fellow Running Company member, Heather Gardiner of Franklin Lakes, the women's winner at Cranford, was second to Amy Van Alstine of Midland Park, who defended her title in 18:08.

Debby Hall ran 19:59 to finish first in the women's masters division and was also the first Westfield female finisher. Other Westfield residents that won their age group included Caroline Williams (14 and under), Cynthia Benn (45 to 49) and Madeline Salom (55 to 59).

Running for the fifth straight year, Don Hessemer of Fanwood succinctly summarized the reasons for the race's overwhelming success.

"This is a great race to run," Hessemer said. "For me it's close to home, there are a lot of familiar faces to socialize with and you can't beat the free pizza."

Hessemer and many others plan to be back for the sixth race next year.

The overwhelming success in year five brings new challenges for 2007.

The huge turnout on narrow Broad Street made for a congested start and a tenuous first turn into Mindowaskin Park.

"We have recognized that there is a limit to how large the event can become," Cronin said. "We will be evaluating feedback and making adjustments for next year."

"There was emergency roadwork in front of the first turn which made the roadway even tighter before the turn. We also may have to require baby joggers fall to the back of the race."

Sponsors and Volunteers

A race so large could not succeed without dedicated sponsors and volunteers.

"Our race sponsors enable the event to take place since registrations alone do not cover the cost for running the event," Cronin said.

In addition to The Westfield Running Company, other Gold sponsors were Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield and Overlook Hospital. Stop & Shop was a Silver Sponsor and TSS and Washington Mutual were Bronze Sponsors.

Contributing sponsors included The Town Bank, Qdoba Mexican Grill, Lord & Taylor, Commerce Bank, Center for Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine, North Fork Foundation, and Sneaker Factory.

Supporting Sponsors included Redco Engineering, Mountaineer Wellness, Amper, Politzner & Mattia, Century Carpet, and Dr. J. Mark Albertson.

At any race the unsung heroes are the volunteers who work tirelessly at numerous tasks to assure a good race experience. Former DWC Executive Assistant Meg Mehorter directed over 100 volunteers who flawlessly handled such diverse tasks as stuffing race bags, manning water stops and doling out over 4000 slices of pizza.

The Westfield Jaycees handed out the pizza and cookies. Girl Scouts handled the water stops. The Westfield Y brought a crew of volunteers to assist with many jobs. The Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce helped with course marshals. Many volunteers who already serve on the Downtown Westfield Corporation Board

of Directors and Committees also assisted. Manny of Westfield Coastal brought his 1957 three-wheeled BMW and Vespa motorcycle for the race beginning and dressed as the Cosimo's chef.

David Martone, DWC Chairman and proprietor of Classic Thyme, dressed as the Ferraro's chef.

For the fifth straight year Mark Zenobia of On Your Mark Productions was the chief race organizer assisted by Courtney Nemece, DWC Executive Assistant, and Laura Pietruszki, DWC Intern.

Cosimo's Restaurant & Pizzeria and Ferraro's made 550 pizzas for the night. Shop-Rite of Garwood, Xocolatz, and Stop & Shop provided the cookies. The Flower Zone provided the flowers for the female winners. TSS Maintenance provided the clean-up crew during the event. Michael Craig Band and Night Moves DJ provided entertainment. Trader Joe's provided water for the water stops. Brooks Crandall, Tiger Paw Images, and DWC Design Committee Chairperson Karrie Hanson took photographs. The Town of Westfield provided the stage, garbage removal, chairs and barricades. The Westfield Police Dept. handled traffic control and road closures during the event. The Westfield Fire Dept. provided hose-down areas for the runners on the course. Many Westfield businesses provided goodies for runners in promotional products and offers.

And last but not least was the pizza which was again eaten in record numbers and the volunteers who never stopped smiling as they quickly shuffled slices from boxes to plates.

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 Summer 2006 - Focus on Cancer

(RR) An Early Diagnosis Makes Lung Cancer Less Difficult Dr. Paul Bolanowski discusses treatments for a disease for which there is no cure.

Sunday, August 6 at 10AM - WSOU 89.5 FM
 or at www.TheUniversityHospital.com
 HealthLink Radio with Bob Mann
 Looking at Treatments for Ovarian and Uterine Cancer.

Dr. Bernadette Craccholo, director of gynecologic oncology, discusses treatment options for ovarian and uterine cancer.

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SPORTSCENE

Westfield Wrestling Camp
 Join Coach Glen Kurz, Union County's 2006 "Coach of the Year" and WHS Varsity Wrestling Coach will teach the latest wrestling techniques and concepts in small group situations with emphasis on one-on-one personal attention. This popular wrestling camp will be held the week of August 7.

The department's camp is perfect for kids ages 8-14 who are enrolled in an in-town or inter-county program and want to learn more about the game or touch up on essential skills. All the camps above are offered from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Please visit our new website for additional camps offered: www.westfieldnj.gov/recreation. For additional information please contact the Westfield Recreation Department at 425 East Broad St., Westfield at 908-789-4080 to register or obtain a brochure.

Baseball Hitting Camp
 On August 7, 8, & 9, Baseball basics will also conduct their second annual Hitting Camp. The hitting camp will run Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. until noon, in

the rear of Orange Ave. School. The mini camp will break down the swing, discuss the mental approach and use a variety of hitting situations to help each player improve. Questions can be directed to Bob Seager at (908) 276-2453.

Nature Center Needs Help
 Recent heavy rains have washed away wood chips on the Fanwood Nature Center trails. Groups are needed to place wood chips on the trails. If interested, please phone Nature Center Caretaker Dean Talcott at 908-322-6577. The work can be scheduled on any day this summer or fall.

Share sports with Sportsvite
 NEW YORK — A new, free Web service can make it easier for Clark athletes to manage all their sports, teams and leagues, and to match up with and recruit other local players this summer and fall for all kinds of recreational activities.

The service, Sportsvite (www.sportsvite.com), now has over 2,000 members in the NYC metropol-

itan area, has already helped tens of thousands of sports enthusiasts nationwide organize their sports and recreational activities and is being featured this summer in national magazines such as Shape and Fitness. Whether fielding a softball team, shooting a casual game of hoops or enjoying outdoor adventures like water skiing, hiking or mountain biking, anything that requires some athletic skill or competitive spirit is easy to arrange using Sportsvite. Anyone excited to hit the field or beach during the next summer weekend with other local athletes at their skill level can use Sportsvite to organize their existing teams, recruit new players or send invites to their friends and neighbors.

"Sports are a passion for many of us, as fans and players, and we want to make it easier to find others to share this with," said Sportsvite Co-Founder and President Vinodh Bhat. "While we aim to help league and team organizers stop wasting time on back-and-forth emails and phone chains, the larger purpose is to build strong community among athletes in the local areas they play in."

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GETTING ORGANIZED

The Sportsvite service makes the entire set-up experience - team, games, players and locations - a snap so organizers can concentrate on game time. Team captains and game organizers can now plug in an entire season schedule and set automatic reminders for game date, time and location. They can also know who's in and who's out for games by tracking players' responses, and can set up practices, assign positions, discuss strategy, scope out competition, upload pictures and video and host post-game commentary.

For post-game wrap-ups, Sportsvite provides a convenient central location for tracking game results and team records - and message boards to chat about highlights or talk trash. Later this year, members will also be able to track individual and team stats and see who's got the inside track to be league MVP.

Nielsen NetRatings estimates that 22 million Americans still use outdated means to organize their sports and recreational activities.

"Sportsvite is a better way to handle the set-up process for my soccer team and saves me time getting everything ready before we get to the field," said Justin Eskesen, a Boston-area member.

FINDING PLAYERS

Sportsvite makes it easy to find others with the right athletic skills and attitude - whether that's a group of laid-back lightweighters or a ringer to help win games. Members can search by zip code for players in their chosen sport and also by gender, age, athletic profile and availability, so it's easy for team captains or other game organizers to recruit free agents. Individual members of Sportsvite can join up for teams or groups in their hometown, or someone they're visiting, working, or going to school.

With 11 million Americans skipping sports because they can't find enough people to field a team or form a group, Sportsvite can get a lot of people off the couch and onto the field, and is a valuable resource for sports facilities looking to fill all of their time slots.

"Sportsvite has put me in touch with more players than any other sports site on the web," said Tom Gibson, a league director who operates 32 men's softball teams in San Diego.

To get the inside track on new features Sportsvite will be adding this season, please contact Keith Emmer at 212-920-9205 or keith@sportsvite.com. For an online press kit, visit www.sportsvite.com/pressbox.

Real Estate

Slower sales rate means buyer's market

Nationwide existing-home sales were down modestly in June, and home prices were up slightly from a year ago, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Total existing-home sales — including single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops — declined 1.3 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.62 million units in June from an upwardly revised level of 6.71 million May. Last month's sales were 8.9 percent below the 7.27 million-unit pace in June 2005.

David Lereah, NAR's chief economist, said the housing market is flattening out. "Over the last three months home sales have held in a narrow range, easing to a level that is near our annual projection, which tells us the market is stabilizing," he said. "At the same time, sellers have recognized that they need to be more competitive in their pricing given the rise in housing inventories. Home prices are only a little higher than a year ago."

The national median existing-home price for all housing types was \$231,000 in June, up 0.9 percent from June 2005 when the median was \$229,000. The median is a typical market price where half of the homes sold for more and half sold for less.

"The change in price perform-

ance is directly tied to housing inventories — a year ago we had a lean supply of homes and a sellers' market, with monthly home sales at an all-time record high," Lereah said.

Total housing inventory levels rose 3.8 percent at the end of June to 3.73 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 6.8-month supply at the current sales pace. By contrast, in June 2005, there was a tight 4.4-month supply on the market.

"Sellers have recognized that they need to be more competitive in their pricing given the rise in housing inventories. Home prices are only a little higher than a year ago."

NAR President Thomas M. Stevens said opportunities have opened for home buyers. "People who were discouraged by the bidding wars that were so common over the last few years are finding more choices now," said Stevens, senior vice president of NRT Inc. "Relative to the five-year housing boom, this year is a buyer's market in much of the country with plentiful supply, along with inter-

est rates which remain historically favorable, so it's a good time to buy a home."

According to Freddie Mac, the national average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage was 6.68 percent in June, up from 6.60 percent in May; the rate was 5.58 percent in June 2005.

Single-family home sales eased 0.9 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.81 million in June from an upwardly revised 5.86 million in May, and were 8.2 percent below the 6.33 million-unit pace in June 2005. The median existing single-family home price was \$231,500 in June, up 1.1 percent from a year ago.

Existing condominium and cooperative housing sales fell 5.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 805,000 units in June from a pace of 852,000 in May, and were 14.6 percent below the 943,000-unit level in June 2005. The median existing condo price was \$226,900 in June, down 2.1 percent from a year earlier.

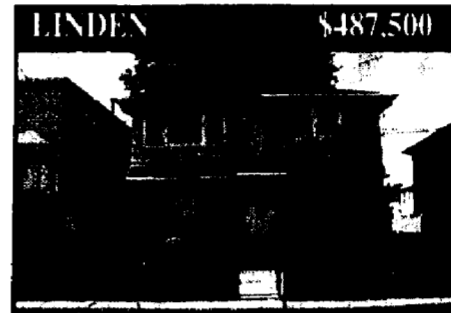
Existing-home sales in the Northeast declined 3.5 percent to an annual sales rate of 1.11 million units in June, and were 9.8 percent below a year ago. The median price in the Northeast was \$298,000, up 7.2 percent from June 2005.

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BETTYANN LYNCH

Lynch named Coldwell's top associate

WESTFIELD — Bettyann Lynch, sales associate with the Westfield office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, N.Y., was recently honored as the Associate of the Month. Lynch ranked first in terms of overall sales production in the Westfield office for June.

"Bettyann combines her knowledge of the market with keen sales and marketing skills in order to give every possible advantage to her clients. We congratulate her for her outstanding contributions to her clients and our company," said Michael Scott, manager of the Westfield office.

Lynch's dedication to personal service and her 25 years experience and local market expertise has served her customer base well. She specializes in residential re-sales, new homes and condominium sales in Union, Somerset and Middlesex counties.

She is a licensed broker in New Jersey and has been a member of the NJAR Gold Club seven times. She is also a member of the NJAR Distinguished Sales Club and has won numerous honors including Office and County Associate of the Month Awards as well as Coldwell Banker International President's Elite Awards.

She is a member of the Echo Lake Country Club, Gilda's Club and the Friends of the Westfield Symphony, and is a charter member of the Soroptomist Club.

For information about buying or selling a home in Westfield, contact Bettyann Lynch at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Westfield at (908) 233-5555. The Westfield office is located at 209 Central Ave. You can view the company's listings on the Internet at www.ColdwellBankerMoves.com.

More real estate

Real estate news continues on Pages C-5 and C-6, with more real estate advertisements on Page C-6. Also, see our home improvement advertising directory on Pages C-4 and C-5.



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B. Houston is named associate of the year

WESTFIELD — Bernadette Houston of the Westfield office of Prudential New Jersey Properties is celebrating a very successful year, achieving high sales volumes and being named the office's 2005 Sales Associate of the Year.

"Enjoying a banner year in what some people consider a 'difficult market,' Bernadette is proving that her dedication to servicing her clients, coupled with her personalized marketing plan is bringing positive results," said Marge Cuccaro, manager of the Westfield Office.

"Bernadette's use of professional 'staging' and customized marketing materials

truly give her an edge on the competition. She is an invaluable asset to our office."

A broker/sales associate with Prudential New Jersey Properties' Westfield office, Houston has been a full-time Realtor since 1983. She has been honored with numerous awards including membership in Prudential Real Estate's prestigious President's Circle — a distinction that places her among the top eight percent of sales associates nationwide.

Formerly a special education teacher, Houston is very active in her community. She is a member of the Plainfield Garden Club, serves on the Downtown Westfield

Corporation's Economic Development Committee and the Family and Children's Services advisory board, and is past president of the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield.

A lifetime resident of Union County, Houston brings to her clients a thorough knowledge of the communities she serves and a desire to always exceed her clients' expectations.

Houston may be reached by calling the Westfield office of Prudential New Jersey Properties, located at 215 North Ave. West in Westfield, at (908) 232-5664, ext. 107.



Bernadette Houston was named the 2005 Sales Associate of the Year at the Westfield office of Prudential New Jersey Properties. A full-time Realtor since 1983, Houston is also very active in the community, having served on the advisory board of Family and Children's Services and as past president of the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield.

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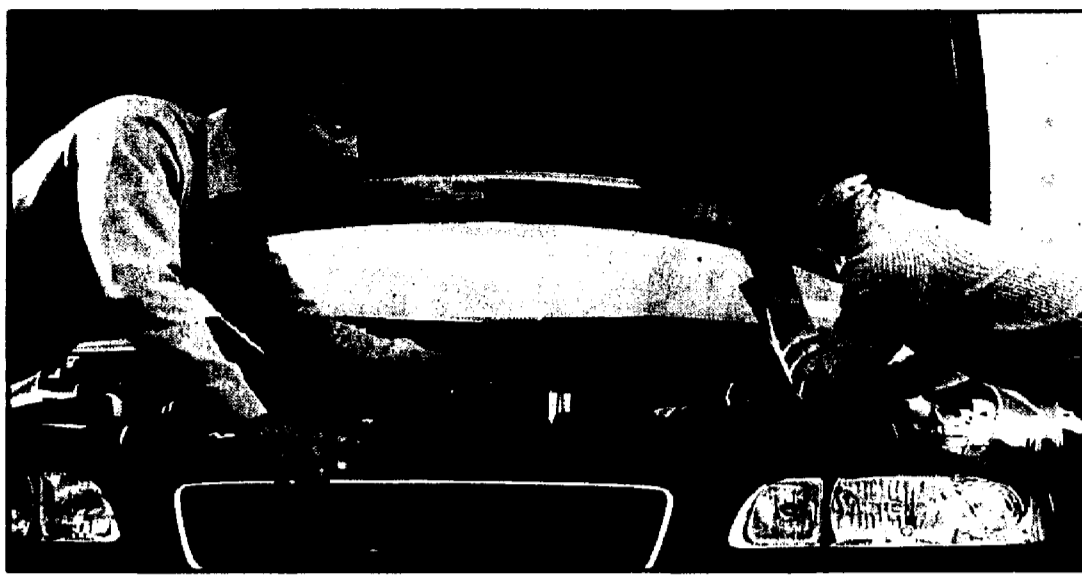
(ARA) — Who do you turn to when you have a question about vehicle maintenance? If you consider your husband or boyfriend the "expert" on such things, you may be asking the wrong person.

A national survey sponsored by Jiffy Lube International found that while 69 percent of men and 64 percent of women think men know more than women on the subject, their responses to basic car-care questions tell a somewhat different story. Men fared significantly better than women on only a few questions in the survey. When asked about the purpose of cabin air filters, 47 percent of men versus 23 percent of women knew their purpose is to clean the air passengers breathe. And 78 percent of men versus 56 percent of women knew the primary purpose of antifreeze/coolant was to help control the temperature of a vehicle's engine.

However, when asked where a vehicle's proper tire-inflation pressure information is located, 67 percent of men and 45 percent of women incorrectly answered on the tires' sidewalls. The correct answer is on a decal in the vehicle's door jamb, or in the vehicle owner's manual.

And when asked if simply switching from conventional engine oil to synthetic engine oil would enable the number of miles between oil changes to be safely extended, 67 percent of men and 46 percent of women incorrectly assumed it would. "Switching from conventional to synthetic oil is not an automatic license to extend a vehicle's oil-change interval," says Mark Ferner, Jiffy Lube research and development manager and ASE Certified Master Automobile Technician.

"In your owners' manual you will find the vehicle manufactur-



The conventional wisdom that says men know more about cars than women isn't always true.

er's recommended intervals for oil changes. Those guidelines should be followed regardless of whether you use conventional or synthetic oil. It's also important to use the right set of recommendations for the way you drive. Most vehicle owners' manuals list two oil change intervals — one for 'normal' driving and the other for 'severe' driving. If you idle excessively, or often drive in stop-and-go traffic or extreme temperatures, your vehicle is likely a candidate for the 'severe' service schedule, which typically means it needs preventive maintenance more often.

About half of the men and women polled (54 percent and 49 percent) knew the normal life expectancy for many windshield wiper blades is six to 12 months. But nearly 40 percent of them (39 percent and 38 percent) answered anywhere from one to five years. "Many drivers don't think about the condition of their wiper blades until they're caught in foul weath-

er," says Ferner. "Checking and replacing them as needed could improve visibility to avoid a very dangerous situation out on the road."

Only about half of men and women (50 percent and 48 percent) knew under-inflated tires, a dirty air filter, incorrect wheel alignment, and even a loose gasoline cap can all reduce gas mileage. "Avoiding fast starts and stops, speeding, and excessive idling can also help you get more miles out of every gallon of gasoline," says Ferner.

The information presented in this survey came from an Opinion Research Corporation CARAVAN omnibus study conducted between March 31 and April 3, 2006. It was conducted by telephone among a representative national sample of 524 men and 522 women age 18 and older. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.2 percent.

This article is published courtesy of ARA Content

Gas prices reach highest level of '06

Rising global tension has pushed gasoline prices in the United States to their highest level of the year and near the all-time high reached in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina last September, AAA reported on July 11.

The nation's largest organization for motorists said the nationwide average price for self-serve regular gasoline is \$2.96 per gallon, according to AAA's daily, on-line Fuel Gauge Report (www.aaa.fuelgauge.com). Prior to last week, the previous high price for the year was \$2.93 per gallon, reached on May 16. On Sept. 5 of last year — Labor Day Monday — prices hit an all-time record high of \$3.05 per gallon.

AAA said events in Mexico, Iran, Iraq, Israel, India and North Korea have energy markets on edge and oil prices at elevated levels.

"Motorists should do what they can to conserve fuel during their day-to-day activities," said Pam Fischer, vice president of public affairs for the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park. "It's also important to listen closely to what congressional candidates are saying about global security and cooperation, and their plans for America's energy future."

The average price of self-serve regular was \$2.89 one month ago. One year ago, the price was \$2.29 per gallon, AAA said.

In New Jersey, motorists were paying \$3.01 for regular as of July 11, up 9 cents from a month earlier and more than 75 cents from a

year ago.

Locally, in Essex, Morris and Union counties, the average price for regular was \$3.00 per gallon; mid-grade was \$3.22 per gallon and premium was \$3.34 per gallon. The all time record high was \$3.18 on Sept. 10, 2005.

According to AAA, Hawaii had the highest average gas price in the nation at \$3.37 per gallon. California and Connecticut had the next highest average prices at \$3.25 per gallon and \$3.19 per gallon, respectively. In total, 16 states and the District of Columbia had average retail prices in excess of \$3 per gallon as of July 11. South Carolina and Tennessee had the lowest statewide average gasoline prices in the nation at \$2.79 and \$2.74 per gallon, respectively.

The national average prices for self-serve regular unleaded gasoline for AAA's mid-July survey for the last five years are: 2005, \$2.29; 2004, \$1.90; 2003, \$2.51; 2002, \$1.39; and 2001, \$1.42.

AAA's Fuel Gauge Report, which can be found by logging onto www.aaa.com and clicking on "Gas Tools," is based on data from Oil Price Information Service, the nation's most comprehensive source of petroleum pricing information. AAA purchases the data and makes it available free on the Internet as a public service. Average daily prices for the nation, all 50 states and more than 250 localities are available for all grades of gasoline, making the site the most current and complete public source of fuel price information.

Announcements 118
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For pickup truck for local builder. Must be responsible with clean driving record. Paid holidays. Call 908-233-2225

DRIVER WANTED
5-6 days/wk. Temp. Union Co. loc. Good driving record. Call Steve 908-486-4777.

ESTATE ADMINISTRATION PARALEGAL
Summit Law firm seeks experienced full time Estate Administration paralegal. Candidate must be organized, detail oriented, able to work independently, computer literate, and have knowledge of tax return software. Competitive salary and benefits. Fax resume to 908-636-6179 or email nancy.mayberry@vmlaw.com

FULL TIME/PART TIME
Banner person needed for wedding and applying. Must have 2 yrs. exp. Good starting salary. Call Max 908-886-9400

General Help 240
Financial Analyst
New Jersey based Publishing company is seeking a professional who is organized, enthusiastic, and a self-starter to join our team. This position will be responsible for the following:
- Must have the ability to capsule complex accounting and revenue reports for Senior Management
- Preparing detailed annual budgets
- Analyzing monthly financial results
- Assisting Sales Management in developing reports to monitor sales
- Be the Liaison with Corporate Accounting on all financial matters.
Requirements:
- Background in Accounting or Finance or Budgeting
- One to Two years business experience preferred
- Proficient in Excel and Word
We offer a competitive salary, 401(k) and excellent benefits package. Please send your resume, a cover letter & salary requirements to: analyst@smartpositions.com

LABORERS/DRIVERS
With valid driver's license and with Class B driver's license. Steady work. Call 908-518-0732

LIFEGUARDS
\$10/hr. Chatham/Edison. Must be certified, must stay to Labor Day. Lifeguarding course will be offered soon. Call Nick: 908-484-3323

Lunchroom Aide
1 1/2 hours a day for 35 year old children. Scotch Plains School. Call 908-322-4652 Ext. 22

OFFICE CLEANING
FT. 3-11pm Mon-Fri. DL. Good pay. Paid holidays, vacation. 1st Impression Cleaning 908-812-9408

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST/DATA ENTRY
Full time employment in a small friendly office environment. Diversified duties include answering multiple phone lines, data entry & order processing. Must have computer experience. Hours: 8:30-5:30 M-F. Benefits. SEND RESUME TO: Suite 203, 741 Northfield Ave., West Orange, NJ 07082 or fax 973-325-7360.

PAINT DEPARTMENT
Benjamin Moore retailer needs to fill counter position in Paint/Decorating Department. Knowledge of Paint and color matching preferred. Benefits, friendly atmosphere. Apply in person to: Westfield Lumber & Home Center 700 North Ave. East Westfield, NJ 908-232-9955

RECEPTIONIST
Westfield salon seeking FT/PT receptionist. Training available. Call 908-233-2726

General Help 240
INSURANCE AGENCY
Westfield - Energetic, Friendly, Lic., Personal Lines CSR, Min. 3 Yrs. Experience, Salary & Benefits. Fax resume to: 908-233-6414 or Email: rd@ardavisagency.com

PT/FT Clerical/Reception
M.F. Self Motivated responsible person needed with good math skills and clear phone voice. Varied duties include answering 8 line phone, A/R & data entry, WP, filing, mail, etc. Willing to train. Cranford Call 908-272-5904

TEACHING ASSISTANTS
For nurturing Cranford Preschool AM/PM available. Experience a plus \$8.50 per hr. Call 908-272-3962

Weekday Manager
Needed for local Ice Cream Store. August Through October. Good pay and working environment. Will train 908-272-1216

LPN/MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Experienced only for physician's office in Westfield. 30 hours per week & also PT 2 evenings per week position. Fax resume to 908-232-0439.

Part-Time Help 255
ACCOUNT PAYABLE/OFFICE CLERK
Part time five days a week. Must be able to multi task. \$10 per hour to start. Fax resume to: 732-574-3882 COLONIA COUNTRY CLUB

RECEPTIONIST
FT Small co. in Cranford seeks person to handle phone calls, mail, filing, some customer service & various office duties. Will also consider PT. Fax resume to 908-278-2679 or email to info@colwell.com

RETAIL SALES
Custom blind & shade retailer seeks P/T sales/support associate. Hands on, flare for color & design. Prior retail exp. pref. Call 908-654-9555

SECRET SHOPPERS NEEDED
For Store Evaluations. Get Paid To Shop. Local Stores, Restaurants & Theaters. Training Provided. Flexible Hours. Email required. 1800-685-9024 ext 6262

General Help 240
Teacher's Aide
For 3 - 5 year old class in Westfield school. School calendar, 5 and half hours a day. 908-322-4652 Ext. 22

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For Store Evaluations. Get Paid To Shop. Local Stores, Restaurants & Theaters. Training Provided. Flexible Hours. Email required. 1800-685-9024 ext 6262

Part-Time Help 255
INSURANCE CLERK
PT: 2 days/wk. Insurance verification, claims follow up, collection, and patient billing. Medical experience preferred. Westfield area. Email resume to: obiselle@comcast.net

ODD JOBS
Month of August only. 1-6 hours/day. Miscellaneous yard work, painting, etc. \$7/hr. Must have own transportation. Call Jack 908-276-9394

WAITSTAFF
Lunch time, in Summit. Experience a plus. Call for more info: 908-277-0096

WALK DOG
After school MF near Benson Pt. \$20 Per Week. Call: 908-232-7987

Employment Trades 275
HANDYPERSONS
BIG \$ No Aggravation

Situations Wanted 288
European Care
Companion • Nanny • Housekeeper • Live in/out • Reliable • Bonded 973-777-0426 www.lekon.net

HOUSEKEEPERS, NANNIES, COMPANIONS
All nationalities/ethnicities. Bilingual. AURORA AGENCY 170 Morris Ave. L. Br. NJ 732-222-3369

BOOKKEEPER
For small office in Scotch Plains. 15-20 hrs/wk. Quickbooks knowledge a must. Call: 908-233-7782

DOG WALKER
Want a fun job? Summit, Mon-Fri, \$9/half hr, per afternoon. Must have a car. Call: 908-474-9247

Homes For Sale 338
JUST LISTED
Count On Us For Results! To Advertise Your Listings Call Nancy 908-894-1056

Garwood 2 family, 2nd fl. 4 large rooms. Refrig. entor, w/w carpet, hall bsmnt with W/D, cable in-tent, movable island. No smoking, no pets. \$1,325 + utils. 1.5 month security. 908-684-4617

LINDEN 2 BR apt., good location, 1/2 basement, w/d hookup \$1100 + 1.5 mo sec. 908-494-6146

NEW PROVIDENCE
Quiet 2 BR, 2 1/2 flr, w/d, heat/air. \$1,250/mo + util. 908-464-3650

RAHWAY 2BR, LR, EIK, Rear porch & back yard, walk to trains, \$850/mo+utils & 1mo security avail 8/15 908-232-8180

ROSELLE 2 apts. 3BR & 2BR, private family avail 8/1 for details 908-259-0799 lv meg

ROSELLE Park-Cranford Line, 2BR, 1st flr, Newer 4Fam, Bsmnt storage, \$1150/mo. Now Avail! 908-248-6763

SAINT ROSELLE
Furnished, 1 BR, 3 Room apt. A/C, walk-towal, cabl, \$850/mo, 1 mo. sec. 732-996-1989

SCOTCH PLAINS 1BR, \$960 incl. utils, cable 1 1/2 mo. No pets! Avail 8/1 908-689-6236

Real Estate Rentals
Apartment 466
MUST SEE
CRANFORD - Roselle Line 4 Rooms, heat, hot water & gas incl, off-st parking, \$975/mo + 1 1/2 mo sec. No pets. 908-497-1264

Garwood 1 bdrm, 2nd flr. apt. \$2,000/mo incl. heat & hot water, 1.5 mo sec. No pets. Call 908-789-1661

Garwood 2 family, 2nd flr. 4 large rooms. Refrig. entor, w/w carpet, hall bsmnt with W/D, cable in-tent, movable island. No smoking, no pets. \$1,325 + utils. 1.5 month security. 908-684-4617

LINDEN 2 BR apt., good location, 1/2 basement, w/d hookup \$1100 + 1.5 mo sec. 908-494-6146

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SCOTCH PLAINS 1BR, \$960 incl. utils, cable 1 1/2 mo. No pets! Avail 8/1 908-689-6236

Record-Press

Westfield 6 room apt. close to train station. \$1600/mo + utils. avail now! 908-789-0625

BERKELEY HEIGHTS DOWNTOWN Retail units available from 700 to 2100 SF. Office 5, less from 200 to 1000 SF. Delivery welcome. 2 mos. Free Rent 908/789-0625

WESTFIELD Garage for rent. Avail July 1st. \$700 mo. 908-654-0725

WESTFIELD Small home for rent. 3BR, 1.5 bath, LR, DR, Kit, yard, No pets. \$1950+utils & sec. 732-619-9957

WESTFIELD 3BR, 1.5 bath, LR, DR, Kit, yard, No pets. \$1950+utils & sec. 732-619-9957

WESTFIELD 3BR, 1.5 bath, LR, DR, Kit, yard, No pets. \$1950+utils & sec. 732-619-9957

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WESTFIELD 3BR, 1.5 bath, LR, DR, Kit, yard, No pets. \$1950+utils & sec. 732-619-9957

WESTFIELD - Downtown, 2BR/3BR, 1 Ba, C/Air, W/O, div, hrdwd flrs, recently remodeled. 2' fir, prkg, 1 block to train & bus, \$1595 + 1 1/2 mo sec. No pets. 908-389-1676 Dave

WESTFIELD - 623 Stirling Pl. Small 2 BR, 1 Ba, newly renovated home. Avail 8/1. \$1675 + utils. 908-419-4884

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BEST LOCAL JOBS. Exciting Career Opportunities. CLOSE TO HOME. Includes photos of people and a list of job openings.

RECEPTIONIST. FT. Experienced, reliable, motivated, & outgoing person needed for upscale fitness studio in Mountainside. Afternoons, evenings, Saturday mornings. Send resume to: Fax: 908-381-0225 or: gbertafitness@aol.com

FRONT OFFICE. Physical Therapy Facility seeks an individual with front desk, Insurance and billing experience. Responsibilities include patient precepts and authorization, billing and coding, computer use, and scheduling. Bilingual helpful by not required. Westfield. Excellent salary and benefits. Call 908.654.4252 or fax resume to: 908-654-4258

DRIVERPART-TIME. Office Supply Co. needs experienced driver delivering office supplies. Approximately 20-30 hrs/wk. \$12/hr. Call Office Needs: Clark (732) 381-7770 or email gary@officesupply.com

Springfield Public Schools 2006-2007. Bus Drivers, Bus Aides, Lunch Aides, Before/After School Group Leaders, County Substitute Certificate required, Before/After School Group Aides. Please send fax (973) 376 5539, letter of interest, and a copy of appropriate licensure/certification (if applicable) to: Mrs. Elynn Atherton, Director of Human Resources, Springfield Public Schools, P.O. Box 210, Springfield, NJ 07081. Deadline: Friday, August 14, 2006. ADA Compliance/Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Medical Office Secretary. Westfield, NJ. Knowledge of medical office procedures required. Detail oriented. Experience with insurance verification and follow-up a plus. Responsible for answering phones and scheduling appointments. Computer skills required and friendly phone manner a must. Pleasant working environment. Please fax your resume and salary requirements to: Denise Steele at 908-232-3583

HELP WANTED. Best Local Jobs Suburban News. Includes various job listings and contact information.

Union County Yard Sales. 800.472.0102. Includes details about yard sales and contact information.

CLARK YARD SALE. MOUNTAINSIDE MOVING SALE. WESTFIELD GARAGE SALE. CRANFORD SATURDAY 8/5/06. MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ GARAGE SALE. WESTFIELD HUGE GARAGE SALE. LINDEN HOUSE SALE. SPRINGFIELD GARAGE SALE. WESTFIELD YARD SALE.

MARANO & SONS VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.maranosonsauto.com. AUTO SALES INC. GREAT SELECTION OF 05' AND 06' MINIVANS IN STOCK!!!! THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL!!! 2004 BMW 530I. Includes a grid of car models, prices, and descriptions.

SOMERSET • MIDDLESEX • UNION AUTOSOURCE CHEVROLET ROYAL CHEVROLET 1548 Route 22 East Bridgewater (732) 356-2460 DODGE CLAYTON AMERMAN DODGE "85 Years Of Sales & Service" Main Street, Peapack (908) 234-0143 GMC COLONIAL MOTORS The Truck Experts Route 22 West, North Branch 1-800-773-8757 To Showcase Your Dealership in AUTOSOURCE Call Barbara Morgan at (908) 575-6719

General Services 600

Stair Master Free Climber 44000... Includes sidebars, accessory trays and mat. See www.nautika.com for details. \$300.00 (908) 862-3880

GREAT VALUE

VIVITEX LCD DLP 56" TV w/stand, as seen on shop NBC. Asking \$2,900. 908-654-0152

Washer & Dryer

Washer & Dryer apt. Dishwasher also. Good cond. \$800 for all. 908-244-4871

Lawn & Garden 801

LAWN TRACTOR 2000 Murray with 40 inch mower, 2 speed, 30hrs on new motor. new battery. \$600 908-577-1152

Machinery & Tools 804

Craftsman 5.5 HP, Rear Tines Tiller Like New, only used 3 hours. \$400. 908-688-4264

Wanted To Buy 825

A FISHING TACKLE COLLECTOR WANTS TO BUY OLD - Rods, Reels, Lures, Catalogs, Decoys, Etc. 908-233-1854

ALL ANTIQUES or older furn. DR sets, BR sets, 1 pc or contents of house. 973-866-4804

ALL CHINA Wanted pay \$\$\$ for your unwanted China. Also depression Glass & antiques. 908-322-3873

All Used & Other Trains Top condition. 973-334-8709 or 201-404-8030

ANYTHING MILITARY Cash Paid 908-400-4200

THE OLD TOY SHOP wants all OLD TOYS Boats & Trains for Cash 16 Pk. of Sam Locantore 767 Central Ave., Westfield Mass. 7th Sat. 11am-4:30pm 908-232-8388

Pets 848

HELP ABANDONED & NEGLECTED (29YO) CATS sister & brother Needs loving home now. No kids or other pets. Please help save them 908-354-7808

Financial Services 855

FREE CASH GRANTS! NEVER REPAY! Personal / Medical Bills, School, Business, Home Live Operators, Almost Any Qualifies! AVOID DEADLINES CALL NOW! 1-800-274-5088 Ext. 113

\$\$\$ACCESS LAWSUIT CASH NOW!!! \$\$\$ As seen on T.V. Injury Lawsuit Dragging? Need \$500-\$500,000 within 48 hours? Low rates and bad credit ok. APPLY NOW BY PHONE 1-866-386-3892 www.injuryadvances.com

\$\$\$CASH! Immediate Cash for Structured Settlements, Annuities, Life Insurance, Mortgages, Notes & Cash Flows. J.G. Wentworth #1 (1800) 794-7310

STOP FORECLOSURE GUARANTEED. This is not bankruptcy. We do not buy houses. 1-800-771-4453 ext. 3550 www.house911.com

Professional Services 734

MONDAY MORNING INC Reliable, insured care for infants & toddlers. 908-526-4884

Computer Services 735

CompuCoach In Home computer service and support. Affordable repair, upgrades, home networks, computer coaching. 908-601-1609

Massage 774

Swedish Reflexology Massage For Women and Men Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Westfield 973-652-6447

Medical Instruction 775

PIANO LESSONS- 1/2 Lesson Free. My home or yours. Adults/children. Beg & Inter. Very patient & Exp. 732-499-8292

Piano Tuning / Repair 785

ROBERT YOUNG PIANO TUNING & SERVICING NBC TV, Music Opera, Westfield Schools. CALL 908-785-1120

Tutoring & Instruction 825

ENGLISH TUTORING Grades 9-12. From Ph.D. Candidate & Professor Areas of expertise Composition, Creative writing, Literature & Communication Skills. 908-723-3856

ITALIAN LANGUAGE TUTOR for all levels, offer by native Italian. For more info please call 908-447-6645

Recreational Vehicles 1305

Harley Davidson 2001 Ultra Classic, Black, 45k miles, extra chrome & accessories, new tires. \$13,500. 908-903-9729

Campers & RVs 1320

FRANKLIN HOUSE TRAILER 1991. Exc. cond. full tub. W/D. AC \$5000 OBO 908-241-4821

Autos For Sale 1385

LOW MILES ACURA CL 1997 Excellent cond. 80k mi. White leather int. Lojack \$7,800 908-272-4991

ACURA TSX 2004 Certified. Immaculate cond., Black on black w/leather. Loaded. 44K Asking \$24,000 201-519-3939

BMW 330i 2001. prem & sport pkg, titanium silver, 47k mi, excl cond. 908-647-2075

Financial Services 855

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ACURA TSX 2004 Certified. Immaculate cond., Black on black w/leather. Loaded. 44K Asking \$24,000 201-519-3939

BMW 330i 2001. prem & sport pkg, titanium silver, 47k mi, excl cond. 908-647-2075

BMW 740L 2000 54,500 mi. Fully loaded, mint cond., green, black int. \$21,995. 732-888-6102 or 732-910-8191

CHEVY LUMINA 1997 good cond. 99K mi. \$2500/obo. Call 908-272-6230

CHEVY TAHOE 1995 4WD. 8cyl. Tow pkg. 1 owner. 110K miles \$4,950 732-594-4389

FIRST TIME AD

CHRYSLER CONCORD 1991 151,490 mi. Very good cond., Burgundy \$2,400 908-241-8069

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY 2002 LX 7 pass, PW, PL, 47,500 miles. Exc. cond. \$11,999 908-301-1285

DODGE CARAVAN 1991 Good body, a/c, some new parts, needs trans or trans work \$475 908-889-7821

Dodge Grand Caravan 1998. 66K mi., auto. \$3,400. 908-688-7109

DODGE STRATUS 2001. Black, 76,000 mi., auto. \$5,300/obo. 908-764-5182

DODGE STRATUS SEDAN 2004 - 1 owner, 77,000 mi loaded, Mint Cond. \$ 6,300. 973-868-7361

Transportation Autos For Sale 1385

Ford Explorer 1995 76k mi., thr, sunroof, CD, runs & looks like new. \$5,000. 908-232-4361

BEST OFFER

FORD MUSTANG 1999 Convertible V6, 3.8L auto, leather interior. 70K miles. Exc cond. \$9200 908-508-1973

FORD WINDSTAR GL van 1998 V6. All power, 7 pass., many options, remote start, orig owner, low miles. mech. exc. \$2625 908-664-3369

Honda Accord '99 silver. 4dr, 80 ml. mint. 1 owner /driver, exc reliability. \$9,000/negotiable 908-964-1984

Honda Accord EX coupe 1995. Dealer Serviced 1 owner 137K mi. \$3800 Firm Never hit 908-654-8696

Honda Accord SE 1997 Sunroof, 64,000 mi. good cond. \$6150. 908-232-5598 or 908-447-9570

Loaded

HONDA Civic EX 1998 2 door very good cond. 71,000 all pwr. Asking \$1900. 908-654-0207 908-721-6679

Loaded

HONDA CRV EX 1999 Fully equipped 33k miles. \$12,500. 908-354-3036

JAGUAR XJ6 Sov. 1990 Silver, Clean in & out. 140K \$4500 OBO 908-272-5232

JEEP Cherokee Limited 2004 29.5k mi, dk purple, V8, all pwr, loaded, still under warranty. \$20,500 908-233-4742

LINCOLN MARK VII LSC 1991. 5.0 V8, 58K orig. miles, runs great. \$2500 OBO. 732-340-9192

Lincoln Town Car 1993 Showroom cond. 1 owner. 100K, \$3,700 908-477-5258

Mazda Millennium S '96 white, 74K, auto. all power, AC, CD, ABS. top cond. \$5,000/obo. 908-347-4079

Transportation Autos For Sale 1385

Mercedes Benz 300E 1992 Runs beautifully. Full. \$14,900. \$3500. 908-296-0285

I OWNER

MERCEDES CLK320 2000 Black opal w/gray int. 36K miles, most options. Excellent cond. \$19,000 908-789-3462

Mercedes SL500 1993 Convertible, triple black, sys. sharp. \$14,900. Call 908-686-4895.

MERCEDES COLLIER 1991 V8 Silver, Runs great. \$800 FIRM. 732-382-8821

MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS 1987 White. 83k orig. miles. \$800 908-447-5594

Mercury Villager 1995 Garage kept, runs great. \$3000 or best offer. 2/7K Call 908-230-4941

Mitsubishi Eclipse 1998 Only 65,000 miles, 5 speed, silver, sun roof, excellent condition, lots of extras. \$5500/ obo. 908-378-0131

I OWNER

Nissan Maxima SE 1994 dark green, 5 spd. mn. loaded, 102K, exc cond. \$2600 firm. 732-382-0883

OLDS CUTLASS 1995. 4DR, red, auto, PS/ PB/PW, A/C, 88,800 miles, garage kept. runs good. \$2,000. 908-688-3097

OLDSMOBILE 88 1994. Lots of miles, needs work. \$200 or best offer. 908-276-5790

PLYMOUTH NEON 1996 Automatic, AM/FM/CD Good Condition, 108K \$800 908-789-0871

Great Condition PONTIAC FIREBIRD 1994 V6, AM/FM/STEREO/CD a/c, All power, New tires, Runs great, Well maint. \$3,000. 908-662-6685

PONTIAC PARISSIANE WGN 1996 w/3' Seat, Roof Rack, PW & PL, a/c, 161K, Well maint. \$1600 OBO 732-998-9818

Transportation Autos For Sale 1385

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Subarus Wanted 1415

Subarus Wanted 1415

Check out the AT YOUR SERVICE Directory on page D-4

ACURA advertisement featuring images of 2006 MDX, 2006 TL, and 2006 RL. Text includes 'Affordable Luxury! Move Up For Less.. We'll Make Your Deal!!!' and 'www.springfieldacura.com'. It lists prices for 2003 3.2 TL (\$17,990), 2003 TSX (\$24,795), and 2002 3.2CL (\$14,995). It also mentions 'OVER 100 PRE-OWNED AT SPECIAL SAVINGS - ALL MAKES & MODELS' and 'We turn Customers into Lifetime Friends'.

THOMAS LINCOLN Mercury advertisement. Features the slogan 'drivethomas.com' and 'SPECIAL PRICING TO AAA MEMBERS'. It lists several vehicles with prices and lease options: MONTEGO PREMIER SUV ALTERNATIVE! (All wheel drive available) for \$339/lease; MILAN I4 SEDAN for \$239/lease; ZEPHYR SEDAN for \$319/lease; MARK LT 4X4 for \$379/lease. It also lists 'THOMAS LUXURY PRE-OWNED VEHICLES' with 'SPECIAL PRICING TO AAA MEMBERS' and 'CLEARANCE SPECIALS!'. Vehicles listed include Town Car (\$23,995), Altima Ser (\$24,995), 1999 Mercury Sable LS Premium (\$6,995), 2001 Chrysler PT Cruiser Ltd (\$9,995), 2003 Mercury Grand Marquis LS (\$12,995), 2002 Mercury Villager Sport (\$13,495), 2002 Lincoln LS Sedan (\$14,995), and 2005 Mercury Sable LS (\$15,995). Contact info: 369 SOUTH AVE WESTFIELD, NJ 908.232.6500. Hours: MON/TUES/THURS: 9-9 WED/FRI: 9-6 OPEN SATURDAY 9AM-5PM.

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