

**KEN BUNIEWSKI/CORRESPONDENT**

**Andy Skibitsky takes the oath of office as Westfield's new mayor Tuesday night.**

**By BRAD BISHOP**  
**THE RECORD PRESS**

His eyes brimming with tears amid boisterous applause, McDermott strolled down the stage.

The mayor's premature departure had been expected for months, after a series of reports indicating he was not running for re-election, then that his Lawrence Avenue home was for sale, and then that he would be moving to Bernardsville sometime over the summer. He submitted his intention to resign in writing at the Town Council's regular meeting June 7.

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Area residents gathered at the South Avenue traffic circle in Westfield Sunday afternoon as the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association paid tribute to the slain civil rights leader with the dedication of a memorial. The granite monument was funded by members of the association and interested citizens, with support from the Westfield Foundation, and the site was provided by the town. Below, Patricia Faggins speaks at the ceremony; also pictured is the Rev. Leon Randall of the St. Luke AME Zion Church. The plaque concludes, "His dream lives on."



**By BRAD BISHOP**  
 THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

At a special June 16 meeting, the board approved Cingular Wireless' plan to install cell antennas on the roof of a three-story, mixed-use building at 900 South Ave. The decision came more than six months after Cingular first presented its proposal and followed several full hearings featuring testimony by both the wireless provider and residents opposed to the project.

Opponents of the project repeatedly introduced findings by magazine articles and other studies to bolster their assertion that cell antenna emissions could be linked to health problems. Chairman William Heidebreck, however, explained the board was powerless to reject an application on the basis of health

To secure board approval, the project required a variance for the height of the building; the land use ordinance does not

"I think whatever is least obtrusive looking will be the best," said board member Lori Duffly. "Whatever won't draw too

(Continued on page A 2)

**By BRAD BISHOP**  
**THE RECORD-PRESS**

Skibitsky was unanimously chosen by the Town Council after local Republicans submitted three names for consideration, as required by state statutes. Matt Nilsen and Frank Quinn were also nominated for mayor, though the councilman's appointment appeared to be a

In his remarks, Skibitsky announced his intention to proceed on the Town Council's current course, addressing neighborhood development, improving communication with residents

(Continued on page A-2)



**Outgoing Mayor Greg McDermott says farewell to residents.**

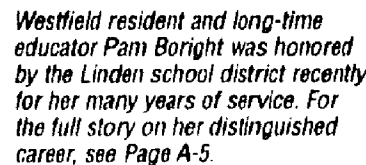
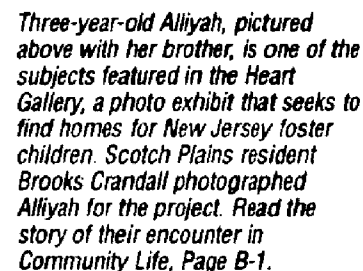
**By DAVID SPETT**  
CORRESPONDENT

Next year, Shaffer said, the company's nutrition efforts will focus on merchandizing "the whole meal package," including the side dishes and vegetables offered to students.

Also, more than 90 percent of

(Continued on page A-2)

**Westfield's Mary Kate Flannery earned all-county softball honors this season as a junior, and Scotch Plains-Fanwood senior Chris D'Annunzio did the same in baseball. See their teams' season wrap-ups in Sports, Page C-1.**



**Want to get started with the triathlon, but not quite an "iron-man" yet? The Westfield Area YMCA will host a beginner's triathlon clinic, featuring both lecture and training segments, from 8 11:30 a.m. Sunday. To register, call (908) 233-2700.**

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# McDermott remembered for his commitment

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In April, McDermott said he decided to move out of Westfield, at least in part, to collect on a real estate investment his family made in 1994. The mayor earned a substantial return on the property, which he bought shortly before property values in Westfield began to increase by double-digit percentages each year.

Some observers speculated McDermott was leaving town because he harbored resentment toward voters who opposed a downtown redevelopment project viewed by many as his own. But the mayor insisted his decision to leave was not based on political considerations.

"People who know me know that one issue is not going to make me leave town after 43 years of living here," McDermott said this spring.

This week, McDermott described Westfield as a "high-energy" town that is "a great place to live and a great place to work." Though stewardship of the community is "demanding" and McDermott believes some of Westfield's changes haven't been for the better, he said he is not leaving with a bad taste in his mouth. He focused his comments instead on his eight years of public service, five of them as mayor.

"When I first became mayor, I sat down with (Town Administrator) Jim Gildea and

(Town Attorney) Robert Cockren and said, 'If there is a complicated issue we're going to deal with it,'" McDermott said.

McDermott said he sought to bring a business approach to public administration in Westfield. Under his tenure, the Finance Policy Committee took greater responsibility for preparing the budget, establishing a five-year plan and removing the sale of town assets as a line item.

The mayor also consolidated the town's standing committees, reducing them from eight to just four and empowering them with added responsibility. Policy decisions that the Town Council faces are now better researched, analyzed, and debated in committee before they are brought before the full council, McDermott said.

"Our day-to-day operations are now run much better," he said, "and we have more policy than politicking."

Highlighting his achievements, McDermott pointed to improvements at the town's recreation facilities, including improvements to Memorial Pool, the tennis courts at Tamaques Park, and the ongoing turf field project at Houlihan and Sid Faye Fields. And he said the downtown continues to grow and define the community, pointing to national acclaim gained from receiving the Great American Main Street award.

McDermott added the resumption of ice skating at Mindowaskin Park for the first time in two decades was one improvement on his watch that brought back a welcome echo of his memories from Westfield's past. "It's the kind of thing that makes this town special."

Some challenges were greater than field projects and budget policy. The mayor shepherded the town through the traumatic events of Sept. 11, 2001, said Linda Maggio, executive director of the United Way of Westfield.

"Greg came to me to see if we could set up a 9/11 fund before anyone knew how many people from Westfield were affected," Maggio said. "Even when he asked me if we could do this, it was very quietly done over in the corner of the room...It was kind of Greg's way."

McDermott said he remembers calling his son, home sick from school, and telling him to turn on the television. All anyone knew was that a plane hit one of the towers, he said. But as the day wore on, shock turned to horror, and town officials gradually realized they were directly affected.

"I remember the feeling I had going over to talk to (Fire) Chief (John) Castellano and (Police) Chief (Bernard) Tracy, realizing there's no 'book' for this, and saying, 'Let's start to figure things out.'"

Maggio said the mayor and his wife Andrea learned the names of the Westfield victims' families and went straight to their homes.

"I'll never forget Chief Tracy saying that these are the people, and we need to go see them. The only thing we could do was tell them that we are here, and that we're here for them," McDermott said.

Though many remember McDermott as a dedicated if somewhat understated leader, some longstanding policy issues remain unaddressed as he vacated his post. Solutions to the town's parking crunch near the high school, overdevelopment in residential neighborhoods, and downtown parking problems remain on the town's agenda for McDermott's successor to solve.

Those who worked directly alongside him said McDermott's tenure will probably be remembered for the town's abandoned redevelopment projects, which at various points included parking structures off South Avenue and atop municipal lots near Prospect, Elm, and Elmer streets.

After years of contentious debate, voters last fall overwhelmingly rejected a non-binding referendum on a scaled-back project between Prospect and Elm. During the year preceding the vote, project opponents battled the mayor and council, demanding answers to their questions and poking holes into the project at public meetings for hours at a time. The battle over the parking decks agitated the town's often dormant political divisions and dominated the Town Council's agenda for months.

McDermott said he still believes the town needs more parking capacity, and said other community leaders have realized that for 30 years. "I think the project was right for the town, but the town just didn't want (the parking decks)," he said.

Councilman Rafael Betancourt, an ardent supporter of the redevelopment project, said the attacks by project opponents painted an unfair portrait of the mayor — though he did find fault with some of McDermott's tactics.

"We couldn't be criticized for the referendum not passing, but we could be criticized for not finishing the process," Betancourt said. "Three thousand people voted in favor of the decks and wanted us to finish our homework."

Betancourt said McDermott should never have allowed the public to "cross-examine" the council as he did month after month, and said the mayor "hurt himself by allowing people to attack the way we governed."

Councilman Sal Caruana, one of only two members of the governing body to take an outspoken posture against the project, nonetheless said the mayor brought an open approach to the problem by allowing extended public comment and bringing the full project before voters.

"He created a blueprint for how our community in the future should deal with an issue of significant proportions," said Caruana. "Greg and I agreed on most everything in terms of what the ultimate needs of the community were. We just disagreed on solutions to the parking problem, and unfortunately the parking issue and debate dominated the town's agenda for almost a year and a half."

Larry Goldman, a Democrat who served alongside McDermott for more than seven years, said the mayor had a cordial relationship with Democrats, even when the Republicans were in the minority. He said he did not see McDermott as a divisive figure.

"I wouldn't call him a controversial mayor, and I wouldn't characterize his vision for the downtown as being out of touch," said Goldman, who emerged as an advocate for both the north and south side projects.

Both McDermott's allies and political opponents agreed he was a committed figure who devoted hours to his role in ways the public never observed. Several council members acknowledged that McDermott was often guarded and sometimes struggled to effectively communicate his vision for Westfield. But none questioned his intentions.

"Just like all of his predecessors, he tried to ultimately do what he thought was in the best interests of the town in the long run," said Goldman. "While his vision may have differed with others, his motives were always guided by that principle."

## Antennas approved

(Continued from page A-1)

ple's eyes to (the antennas)."

The board approved the application by a 5-2 vote. Testimony also continued over a contentious plan to install a flag-pole-style tower at the Wychwood Gardens neighborhood off East Broad Street. Cingular wants to erect an 85-foot high tower to fill its coverage grid, which engineer Ajay Savant said has a considerable gap in that section of town.

Cingular also proposes to construct a 10-foot by 25-foot shed near the tower, and may rent out space on the tower to a second cell provider if the project is approved by the board. The proposal requires variances for maximum fence height and for the height of the pole; the RA-2 zone allows flagpoles to stand only 45 feet high, but Cingular says cell antennas must stand at least 75 feet high to clear the residential tree canopy.

Neighboring residents stridently oppose the tower; at the June 15 meeting, nearly 80 residents flooded the Community Room at the municipal building to oppose the project.

At the meeting, Savant said a "drive test" requested by the board showed a large pocket of service coverage below Cingular's standard of "reliable service." He presented an overhead map of Westfield, with well-covered areas inked in green and sections with lesser coverage colored white.

Board members asked how far below the "industry standard" the white sections are. Cingular's attorney Judith Babinski said the company's "reliable" service standard is a technical determination not subject to the authority of the board, but planner Blais Brancheau countered that determining the actual coverage strength in white-colored areas is essential for the board to evaluate the suitability of the Wychwood Gardens site and the height of the tower.

"The board is trying to determine if this is the optimal site, and we need to compare this with other potential sites," agreed Heinbockel, the board chairman. Cingular officials said they approached nearby Fairview Cemetery, Sunrise Assisted Living, Ferrara Nursery, Echo Lake Church, Echo Lake Country Club, and Lenape Park for interest in hosting a cell tower but were rebuffed.

Savant said Cingular is considering installing a 110-foot tall tower or another temporary tower in Springfield to boost service for the upcoming PGA Championship event at Baltusrol Country Club. The added signal strength could reduce the size of the service gap in Westfield, Brancheau said, making the Wychwood Gardens site less effective for Cingular's needs.

Babinski agreed to provide the board with raw data from the "drive test," which would be analyzed by an independent radio frequency engineer hired by the zoning board.

The cell tower application will likely be scheduled for another special meeting, though that meeting may not take place until September, board secretary Lori Boyd said.

## Skibitsky sworn in

(Continued from page A-1)

and conducting efficiency studies on town departments.

Skibitsky said the town will be upgrading its Web site and ensuring it is updated and used more effectively as a communication tool. He pledged to establish regular Saturday office hours and said he would be willing to meet with residents in person to address their concerns.

"You make the appointment, and I'll make the coffee," he said.

The new mayor pledged to address overdevelopment in residential neighborhoods while ensuring that the property rights of homeowners are protected. He said the council will soon be introducing a group of ordinances designed to reduce residential building height and curb the impact of "shoe-horning."

"The proposed... ordinances will have an immediate impact on the current new home construction trend," Skibitsky said.

Skibitsky also pledged to address parking issues at the high school and announced his intention to continue developing a comprehensive downtown parking plan. He also said the council will be re-examining commuter permit fees, which have been raised several times since 2000 in part to fund a parking structure the town no longer plans to pursue.

To save taxpayers money, Skibitsky said, the council will be examining an efficiency study of the Department of Public Works that is currently being conducted by an independent commission. Under his guidance, the town will also be focusing on developing more shared services, Skibitsky said.

"In this town of 30,000 residents, everyone has a different story as to why they chose to move to Westfield," said Skibitsky. "However, there is one common denominator that binds us all, and that is the simple fact that Westfield is a wonderful place to call home."

## Healthier lunches

(Continued from page A-1)

parents said that students should receive nutritional education beginning in preschool and elementary school.

SNAC co-chairpersons Sara McKeown and Lisa Bleich said that in the coming months, they will distribute a SNAC logo and work with Chartwells to improve the nutrition of cafeteria offerings.

SNAC's Education Committee will also develop an optional nutrition education program for the town's schools.

Board members and Superintendent William Foley were complimentary of SNAC's work. Solomon said SNAC is looking carefully at the nutritional improvements that Chartwells should be making.

But Foley said improving nutrition in school cafeterias will not be easy.

"Beverages, notably soda, are

big profit makers. We make revenues of \$60,000 or \$70,000 on soda alone," he said. "Would we be able to retain that revenue by going to another source? That may not even be an option for us."

Foley said that about 10 years ago, the town paid \$90,000 a year for cafeteria service in its schools. Now the town breaks even, but cutting junk food might make that impossible.

"It's sad to say it, but junk does sell," Foley said. High school students may walk to town if they are dissatisfied with the cafeteria food, he said.

Foley was optimistic, though, that "over time, we can make a transition" to healthier cafeteria food. "But it's not going to happen in one shot, not even in a year," he said.

Later in the meeting, the board voted unanimously to extend Chartwells' food services contract for another year.

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The victim said the pedestrian punched his window as the vehicle passed by the intersection of

Authorities had been conducting an investigation in the area when they encountered Johnson who posted \$600 bail following

A West Dudley Avenue resident reported that some of the shrubs were uprooted and scattered from in front of his home Sunday.

[illegible]

All are invited to attend this special service at the park on Hatfield Avenue. Dress casual and bring a picnic lunch on lawn chairs. Following the worship service and lunch, there will be games all afternoon. For more information, call (908) 322-7135. Terrill Road Baptist Church, located at 1340 Terrill Rd.



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# No decision yet on antennas at firehouse

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD — The fate of a proposal to attach cell antennas to the hose tower on the northside firehouse remains uncertain after a state committee cancelled a meeting to evaluate the project last week.

The Historic Sites Council of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, which was set to evaluate the proposal, cancelled a June 16 meeting when it could not form a quorum. State officials had not yet announced a make-up date at press time.

In 2004, the town solicited bids from cell phone service providers to install the antennas at the firehouse, a historic structure that has been placed on the state and national historic registers. According to Town Administrator Jim Gildea, officials believe the antennas at the firehouse would be well-screened, would improve communications for the fire department and cell phone customers and would bring needed revenue for historic preservation.

"This particular area is a dead zone, not just for fire department communications but for cell phone service as well," Gildea said.

The town received a bid to place antennas on the tower from Verizon Wireless, which is in the process of submitting a formal application before the Board of Adjustment. The town would rent the tower space to Verizon, Gildea said, based on a per-antenna fee structure that would escalate over time.

A portion of the revenues could be dedicated to renovations at the firehouse, including expensive upgrades to the windows, Gildea added.

The agreement with Verizon is conditional upon approval by the zoning board, comment from the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission and approval by the Historic Sites Council. Members of the local historic commission had planned to submit comments to the historic council at last week's meeting.

The project can be stopped by the zoning board or historic council, but not the local Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), Gildea said. The town can also terminate an agreement with Verizon at any time, he added.

According to HPC chairwoman Betty List, her organization's

**"This particular area is a dead zone, not just for fire department communications but for cell phone service as well."**

— Jim Gildea

members are concerned about where cell batteries would be installed, and worried about the possibility of holes being drilled into the firehouse to allow for electric cables. Another

area of concern includes the possible installation of board-on-board wooden fences on the property, List said.

Though the commission is willing to accommodate the project if it is "essential," List said, members would like to see the cell antennas installed elsewhere if possible.

"It would be an intrusion on the building," List said of the antennas, "and the screening above it would change the architectural look (of the firehouse)."

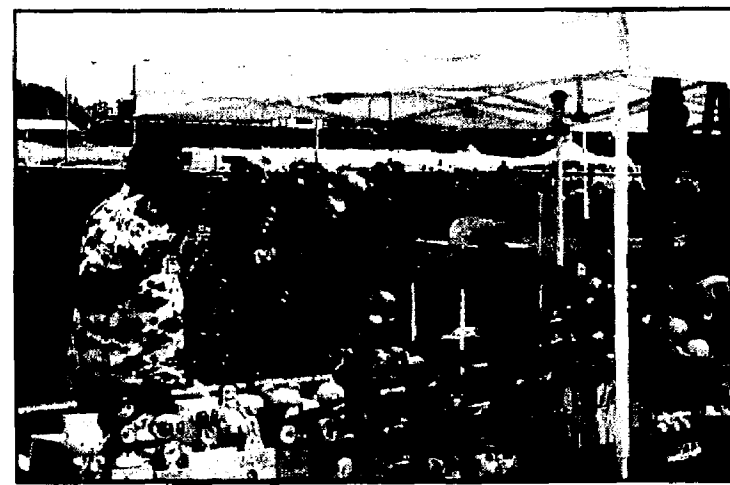
List added that the commission also wants more information about cell phone companies' plans for the future. If service providers fundamentally change their coverage grids or infrastructure in the next years, it would be a shame to alter a historic site for a temporary solution, she said.

"In five years, maybe none of the antennas will be necessary and they'll have a completely different technology," List said.

## Shopping for bargains at the high school



PHOTOS BY BROOKS CRANDALL/  
CORRESPONDENT



The weekend's beautiful weather provided a fine setting for shoppers at a day-long outdoor flea market at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Saturday. Above, young shoppers check out the merchandise. At left, one of the vendors was feeling positively bubbly. And top left, Drew Laspe of Scotch Plains models one of the many hats that were available for purchase. Proceeds from the event benefited the Fancotian, the school newspaper.

## Briefs

### Ritter offers advice to women who invest

GARWOOD — Stewart A. Ritter, senior vice president of investments for Wachovia Securities in Westfield, will host his investment seminar, "The Biggest Mistakes Women Investors Make and How to Identify Them," at 7 p.m. Wednesday at The Westwood on North Avenue.

The seminar is geared towards the specific investment concerns women share and shows how women can take greater control of their personal finances.

"Women have traditionally been neglected when it comes to financial education," says Ritter. "Women investors face several unique concerns when investing, and should therefore consider taking a unique approach to financial planning. One of the most important tools for any investor is knowledge, and that is why I am providing this free educational seminar for women."

Groups from women's clubs and organizations as well as individual investors are invited to attend the seminar. Tickets are free, but space is limited. For more information and to request complimentary tickets, call Ritter's senior marketing coordinator, Rosie DeSimone, at (908) 789-7827.

### Mental health resources are subject of program

A free public presentation on dealing with mental health concerns will be being offered Tuesday.

Guest speaker Joyce Benz of the Mental Health Association will provide an update on mental health resources available in Union County. She will also discuss recent issues in the field and lead an extended question and answer period. The program is run by NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) of Union County.

Benz, whose office is located in Cranford, is director of Intensive Family Support Services (IFSS) for Union County. IFSS assists families who are struggling to cope with the mental illness of a loved one. Support groups, guest speakers, family and individual consultation and referrals are among the services that are offered free of charge by IFSS.

The talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Oscola Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Rd., Clark. Refreshments will be served, and the facility is wheelchair accessible.

For more information or questions regarding membership in NAMI, call (908) 233-1628.

### CSH seeks to help teens slim down

Parents who are concerned about overweight or increasingly inactive teens from ages 12 through 18 can now turn to the Shapedown Program at Children's Specialized Hospital, the nation's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital.

Shapedown, originally developed in California, is the nation's leading weight management program for children and adolescents. The program works directly with both the teen and his or her family in order to develop an improved lifestyle including healthy eating, exercise, and family communication.

This 10-week program will begin on Sept. 12 and conclude on Nov. 21. It will be held every Monday night from 6:30-8:30 at the Children's Specialized Hospital Mountainside facility, 150 New Providence Rd.

In addition to each teen that attends, at least one parent or guardian is required to participate in the two-hour sessions, as the program is designed to enhance the entire family's understanding of weight management, nutrition, and physical fitness. Instructors will include a physical therapist, nurse, dietitian, and a psychologist.

Space for the program is limited and a \$370 registration fee is required. For additional information or to register, call (888) CHILDREN, ext. 6707 or 5478.

## Elementary class sizes will increase next year

By DAVID SPETT  
CORRESPONDENT

WESTFIELD — Class sizes in local elementary schools will increase next year, Superintendent William Foley said at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting. The average class will contain about 21 students, up from 20 this year.

Foley said that cuts of over \$700,000 from the board's proposed budget are partly to blame. "There are never easy answers when the budget needs to shrink," Foley said.

The biggest impact will be in first grade, where the average class size will rise from 19 to nearly 22. Kindergarten classes will increase as well, from 18 to 20.

The increases fall within the board's policies saying that classes should contain between 18 and 25 students. Some classes will be smaller, with only 17 students.

The policies also say lower grades should have smaller classes than older grades. Next year, however, first grade classes will be the largest in the local elementary school system.

Board member Beth Cassie said the school system is "very close" to needing more first grade teachers. But she and Foley said changes would not be made unless several more students enrolled in

the grade before August.

The town's class sizes were "just as big" in the early 1990s, Foley said, when some first grade classes had up to 25 students.

"I don't think those classes suffered academically," he said. "But the amount of independent and hands-on activity becomes limited. The teacher has to structure the class more."

As far as teaching next year's first graders reading and math, Foley said, "I think we can be successful."

Cassie said it would be too expensive to decrease class sizes significantly.

"At \$60,000 a teacher, that's a serious amount of money," she said, adding that it would require significant funding cuts in other areas.

Other grades will remain mostly unchanged. The average class of fifth graders will actually decrease from 22 to 21 students.

Almost all the changes will occur at Franklin School, where the average class size will rise from 20 to 22 students, and McKinley School, where it will rise from 18 to 20 students.

Still, Foley said class sizes could change at any school over the summer. "If I see numbers getting to 24 [students per class], we may have to break down some of these classes," he said.

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## Boright honored for long teaching career

Pamela E. Boright, a Westfield resident and Linden teacher, was honored at a recent surprise testimonial dinner dance commemorating her 37 years as a teacher in the Linden public schools.

More than 100 teachers, parents, former students and public officials, including school administrators and board of education members, joined Boright's family and friends for the event held at the Kenilworth Inn on Saturday, May 21.

Boright will be retiring at the end of this school year. She began her career in 1968 at Joseph E. Soehl Junior High School, now a middle school, and later taught elementary students at Highland Avenue School #10, principally at grade three.

She said, "In 37 years I've served with five superintendents, eight principals, and taught close to 1,000 children. Of all of those many memorable experiences, the most rewarding are, and I am sure will continue to be, the running up of former students who tell you how much they loved having you as their teacher. There is no greater reward than those endearing encounters."

Boright earned her bachelor's degree at Newark State College, now Kean University, where she majored in elementary education and minored in vocal music. She returned to Kean some years later and as an honor student earned a master's degree in administration and supervision. In addition to teaching certificate she possesses certification as principal, supervisor, and substance awareness counselor.

Her professional memberships

include the American Society for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the National Association for the Education of Young Children. In the Linden school district she has served on numerous professional committees on a building and district-wide basis. She was nominated numerous times for the Governor's Teacher Recognition Award for excellence in education and was the recipient of the coveted award in 1996. In 2002 she was named a Union County Woman of Excellence by the Union County Advisory Board on the Status of Women for her endeavors in the field of education.

At the dinner she was presented a joint resolution by Assemblyman Gerald B. Green (D-22) on behalf of the New Jersey Legislature commending her contributions in the field of teaching and for community service. Union County Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor presented a resolution of commendation from the freeholder board acknowledging her many accomplishments in education, government and charitable causes. Mayor John T. Gregorio of Linden issued a special proclamation paying tribute to her.

Other guest speakers included Linden's superintendent of schools, Joseph Martino, who commented that Boright "is an irreplaceable teacher teacher who certainly will be missed by the children of the city." Anthony Cataline, who served longest as one of Boright's principals, noted that she was extremely humane in her approach to teaching children and taught with great compassion. Boright's first principal,



From left are Anthony Cataline, former principal of School 10, Pamela E. Boright and Herman E. Mopsick, now retired, who was Boright's first principal.

pal, Herman E. Mopsick, attended and praised her "as one of the very best teachers" he had ever hired.

Boright is a former Scotch Plains councilwoman and has served as chairman of the John E. Runnells Hospital board of managers. She has served on

many municipal and governmental boards over the years. She is married to Walter E. Boright, a retired superintendent of schools. The couple has three adult children: Amy Amanda Siperstein, Christian A. Boright, an airman in the United States Navy, and Peter A. Boright.

## Scotch Plains library hosts program on quilting

SCOTCH PLAINS — At 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, the Scotch Plains Public Library will present a unique program on quilts and stories behind them. The speaker will be Ruby Simmons, a long-time resident of the Scotch Plains community.

Simmons has been quilting for approximately three years. Her

mother, Lottie Brown, learned hand quilting as a child from her mother, and the legacy of quilting in the African-American community dates back generations and generations to slavery.

After her mother passed away, Ruby received the last quilt that Lottie had started and decided to finish it. That's where her jour-

ney started — her uncanny knack for color, pattern and selecting material that blended well led her to make a number of beautiful quilts.

She decided to call her quilt exhibit "Heritage" as homage to her mother and legacy of quilting.

Along with the program, the

library will have a quilt display in the lower level foyer a day before and after the program. This is a free program, and light refreshments will be served.

Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Ave., a block away from the center of the town on Park Avenue. For more information, call (908) 322-5007.

## Teens gather for anti-smoking event

Teens from around Union County will gather for a smoke-free day of food and fun Saturday, as members from the youth-led smoking prevention group REBEL (Reaching Everyone by Exposing Lies) meet outside the Fanwood Quick Check to help spread the message that smoking is harmful.

Afterward, teens will be treated to dinner and end the day with a swim party at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood YMCA.

Free information will be distributed to those who want to learn about the dangers of smoking, want to quit smoking themselves, or want to help a loved one quit smoking. Though death by smoking can be prevented, nearly 13,000 residents in New Jersey die each year of tobacco-related causes. Every day, according to REBEL, more than 4,000 kids try their first cigarette and another 2,000 become addicted smokers — one-third of whom will die prematurely as a result.

Union County REBEL is the local chapter of a statewide youth

movement in New Jersey created to help reduce the number of teens who smoke. Throughout the year, REBEL teens plan and organize various smoke-free activities to get their message out, such as beach and park clean-ups, smoke-free dances, and letter-writing campaigns to local officials to change smoking norms in their community.

Teens also have the opportunity to participate in various statewide events and meet REBEL members in other counties throughout New Jersey. The Union County REBEL group meets weekly at Prevention Links in Clark, a private, not-for-profit agency that seeks to prevent alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse.

For more information about attending the event on Saturday, or becoming a member of REBEL, contact Samantha Harries at Prevention Links, (732) 381-4100.

Transportation may be provided for some of the REBEL activities.

## Parker creates profit for local organizations

SCOTCH PLAINS — Parker Garden's Flowers for Profit fundraising program helped raise thousands of dollars for surrounding community schools, groups and organizations.

The program ran from April 15 to June 15. This is the second year for Parker's program, and more than 20 schools, groups and organizations were involved.

The program was open to organizations, schools, groups or clubs in the surrounding area. Representatives were invited to contact Parker and sign up for the Flowers for Profit program. Parker then assigned the organization, school, group or club a specific code.

Members then mentioned the code to the cashier at checkout when visiting the nursery. At the end of the program, Parker

Gardens donated a percent of the organization's proceeds to them.

"This program is convenient for schools, groups and organizations, and there is no limit on how much they can receive back," said Steve Parker, owner of Parker Gardens.

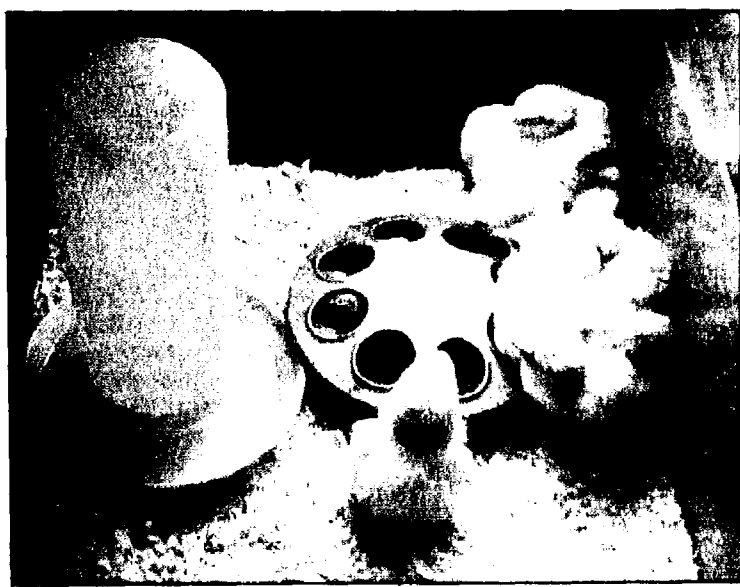
"Our goal is to show the surrounding communities our thanks for their support and dedication."

Parker will also hold the Flowers for Profit fundraiser during the fall. Call Parker Gardens at (908) 322-5555, ext. 204 for more information.

Parker Gardens is the one of the largest privately owned horticulture businesses in the United States. Located at 1325 Terrill Rd., the 14-acre facility consists of a garden center, nursery and many greenhouses.

### Hatching a plan

A "cock-a-doodle good time" was had by all when the kindergarten students at Evergreen School in Scotch Plains spent two weeks caring for and hatching baby chicks. The project came from Quiver Farms in Pennsburg, Pa. and was paid for through the volunteer efforts of Debbie Narzone and Verizon. The students turned eggs in the incubator, monitored the temperature, graphed the days until hatching, predicted which egg would hatch first and viewed 11 hatchings. After the chicks were placed in the brooder, the children were on hand to feed and care for the chicks for the remaining five days of the project, after which the chicks were returned to the farm. The students also wrote journals to document the entire experience.



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Dr. Alburgh is president of the North Jersey region board of directors for the American Heart Association, while Dr. Weinstock is president of the board for the South Jersey region. The *Chronicle and Record-Press* welcomes guest commentary submissions. Send submissions to 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ 07016 or [union@njpublishing.com](mailto:union@njpublishing.com).



Briefs

Calamaras installed as Rotary governor

FANWOOD — Andrew Calamaras was installed as the new governor for Rotary District 7510 on June 8 at Pantagis Renaissance restaurant in Scotch Plains. Calamaras will serve for a year governing the 44 clubs in the 7510 District.

This undertaking represents a small portion of Calamaras' community involvement. Along with his appointment as 7510 District Governor, he serves as a councilman for Fanwood, is a former member of the Fanwood Planning Board, and is a director for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood YMCA.

He graduated Seton Hall University in 1968 with a degree in business administration. Four years later he graduated from Rutgers University Graduate School of Business with a master's degree in business administration.

Calamaras joined Rotary in 1978 and has served it in many capacities, among them past president of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.

He is president of Dimarc Sales Associates, Inc., a sales and marketing company. He is also president of Monaco Components, Inc., an electronics distribution firm, and additionally serves as vice president of Demo Enterprises.

**Junior Women hand out scholarships**

WESTFIELD — The Junior Women's Club of Westfield recently presented two graduating Westfield High School Seniors each with \$1500 scholarships.

The first recipient, Leah DiMatteo, has a 3.92 grade point average, is active in a wide range of sports, is a member of the National Honor Society and is a member of several clubs including the Junior Optimist Club, Women's Studies and Key Club. She also did volunteer work for Relay for Life 2004. DiMatteo plans to attend the University of Delaware in the fall.

The second recipient is David Ganz, who has a 3.16 grade point average. He is part of the Youth Group, Housing Missionary and International Ministry. Ganz plans to attend Montclair State University in the fall.

There were many deserving applicants and it was a tough decision to narrow it down to two students, club members said.

The Junior Women's Club expressed thanks to supporters in the Westfield community and beyond who participated in the events that made this year's scholarships possible.

**Board schedules additional meeting**

WESTFIELD — The Board of Education is adding another meeting to its schedule this month.

The public meeting will take place 8 p.m. Wednesday in Room 105 at the board's administrative building, 302 Elm St. The board plans to conclude business for the 2004-05 school year.

A complete agenda of the board meeting will be available on Monday in the Board Secretary's office. All Board of Education public meetings are taped. They are broadcast on Channel 36 on Tuesdays at 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. and Thursdays at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**YMCA raffles off two tickets to PGA**

Tiger Woods narrowly missed out on a U.S. Open title in 2005. Now, area residents can win a chance to join the gallery and see Tiger and golfers such as Mickelson, Vijay Singh and Ernie Els vie for the PGA Championship later this summer.

Raffle tickets are now available at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, with a top prize of two Wynnwood Club tickets for the 87th PGA Championship to be held at Baltusard Golf Club in Springfield from August 8-14.

The donation is \$25 per ticket, with a limit of 500 tickets sold. Proceeds will benefit the YMCA Scholarship Program. Also to be awarded are a second prize golf bag and third prize two dozen golf balls.

The drawing will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, located at 1340 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains. Call (908) 888-8880 for more information.



### Ready to ride!

The Cub Scouts of Pack 4, Den 10, recently rode from School One in Scotch Plains to The Bike Stand on Second Street to learn about bicycle safety and maintenance. The presentation by Steven Willis at The Bike Stand included a discussion of how to inspect your bike and a demonstration of how to take apart a bicycle tire to fix a flat. Willis has more than 30 years of experience as a bicycle mechanic.

Bill would increase fines on truckers

A bill sponsored by Senators Ellen Karcher and Nicholas P. Scutari that would allow municipalities to increase fines on trucks that deviate from established truck routes and travel more dangerous shortcuts was unanimously approved by the Senate Transportation Committee today.

"The trucking industry is one that is constantly concerned with the bottom-line, but truckers cannot put public safety aside for a quicker, more cost-effective route," said Karcher, a Democrat whose district includes part of Monmouth and Mercer counties. "In municipalities that provide for safe, established truck routes, the intent is for trucks to abide by those routes, but sometimes, truckers will eschew common sense for the quicker, unsafe route. We need provisions in place to deter truck drivers from leaving the assigned route and endangering themselves and others."

The bill, S-2611, would allow municipalities to increase local fines on trucks that exceed four tons when the trucks deviate from established safe truck routes. The bill would allow municipalities to impose penalties of between \$2,500 and \$3,000 for the first offense, up from the current \$1,000 fine they are allowed to impose.

The bill would also require municipalities to post signs in appropriate locations to make truck drivers aware that they are traveling on unsafe routes, and that they would be subject to increased fines.

"This legislation addresses a serious safety concern. New Jersey trucks haul over 260 million tons of freight a year on our roads," said Scutari, also a Democrat, whose district includes Fanwood and Scotch Plains. "We're talking about a business where time is money, and there can be pressure to cut corners. By allowing municipalities to impose tougher financial penalties on the few drivers that

Legislative notes

deviate from designated truck routes, we can ensure that the cost of breaking the law outweighs the benefit.

The bill now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

**Law bans use of traffic pre-emption devices**

Assemblywoman Linda Stender announced last week that acting Gov. Richard Codey has signed legislation regulating the use of traffic control signal pre-emption devices into law. Sponsored by Stender, A-649 establishes civil and criminal penalties for the possession of devices that can alter the operation of a traffic control signal.

Under the terms of the bill, traffic control pre-emption devices are defined as infrared transmitters or other devices that transmit infrared beams, radio waves or any other signal designed to change or disrupt the normal operation of a traffic control signal.

"This technology was developed to assist police, fire, first aid and emergency rescue personnel. In life-saving situations, a matter of seconds makes a world of difference," said Stender. "Using this technology to change a red light to green to get through traffic faster however, is an unacceptable abuse of this equipment."

A person using a traffic control pre-emption device to interfere with the operation of a traffic control signal can be subjected to a range of offenses from disorderly persons to a fourth degree crime. A person found in possession of a traffic control pre-emption device can also be subject to fines up to \$5,000.

This law will not affect emergency services personnel. Paid or volunteer firepersons, emergency first-aid or medical services workers and any law enforcement officer will be permitted to use the devices while performing their duties. Employees or agents of traffic control pre-emption device manufacturers or retailers will also be permitted to own a device while providing, selling, manufacturing, or transporting such a device to the emergency services personnel.

Stender's district includes Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

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Stender's district includes Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Nelson supports convention on taxes

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Board of Education devoted a portion of its June 9 meeting to the related issues of school funding and property taxes, wading into a policy debate that is heating up among local, county and state governing bodies and likely the upcoming gubernatorial campaign.

Board President Linda Nelson said at the meeting that 39 percent of school funding in New Jersey comes from the state, compared to 50 percent nationwide. Business Administrator Anthony Del Sordi said that only 7 percent of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school budget is funded by state aid.

"We do not get a lot of state aid, nor do other districts in our socio-economic group," Del Sordi said. Statewide, and particularly in suburban districts, school officials argue that years of flat state aid to schools is forcing districts to rely increasingly on local property taxes to fund their costs.

A constitutional convention to reform the property tax system, which appears to have substantial popular support, would allow the state to shift the tax burden from property taxes to another form of taxation such as the sales or income tax. Acting Gov. Richard Codey has expressed tepid support for a convention, arguing that controls on local spending should be included in any process designed to adjust the property tax system.

Nelson declared herself in favor of a convention narrowly focused on revenue. But extending the delegates' mandate to include spending, she said, could be harmful to public schools.

"I support a constitutional convention personally...but I don't support looking at spending,

because it's step two," Nelson said. "We can't bring in a group of citizen delegates, have them look at spending, and not impact education."

The New Jersey School Boards Association and New Jersey Education Association both oppose a constitutional convention and would instead prefer the Legislature to convene a special session to reform the system.

If the state wanted to provide immediate property tax relief, Nelson said, it could pick up all public schools' special education costs. Special education costs amount to about 20 percent of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood budget this year, she explained.

Del Sordi said the state should pick up special education costs, many of which are set by state mandate. Currently, the state provides revenue to offset special education costs, but the money received by local districts falls short of the amount authorized. Special education costs for students that rise above \$40,000, he explained, may be paid for by the state. But last year, Del Sordi said Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools received only about a third of its expected state relief for these extraordinary special education costs.

Board member Craig Nowlin noted that any property tax reform will come from a revenue-neutral change, which means that under a reformed system some residents will pay less, but others will have to pay more. "I think people hear property tax reform and they think lower taxes," Nowlin said.

"We need to keep in mind that if we do anything with the property tax we have to shift the burden to some other form of a broad-based tax," Nelson said.



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Sample Ad Actual Size



The New Parkway Players, an improv comedy group, will perform this weekend at the Watchung Arts Center.

## New Parkway Players to perform at WAC

The "New Parkway Players" are scheduled to showcase their freewheeling brand of improvisational comedy 8 p.m. Saturday at the Watchung Arts Center, 18 Stirling Road at the Watchung Circle. There will be a \$5 admission.

The troupe brings together some talented improv comedy enthusiasts-turned-actors, who have joined forces from Hoyle's Union County Improv Workshop.

The members of the group are as follows: Group leader Chris Hoyle of Cranford has worked with improv groups since the 1980s, when he was a founding member of the New

York Improv Squad and went on to be musical director for Armand Paganelli's Falling Rock Zone.

Craig Pollack brings an offbeat sense of humor, plus experience with Fired Up Kid Productions, the United States Navy, and the Asbury Park Hot Dog Brasserie.

Delia Quinn teaches kickboxing in Summit and contributes powerful stage combat techniques to the New Parkway Players' scene work. When bodies go flying, rest assured it's part of the show — and Delia's skills.

Daniel Cohen is also forging a very physical yet highly intelligent style in his approach

to the work.

Dot (Dorothy Hislip) comes to the New Parkway Players from the popular Egg TV sketch comedy show for Comcast Union NJ, Channel 26, where she is a favorite.

Improv comedy, as performed by The New Parkway Players, consists of scenes, songs, stories and theater games made up on the spot based on audience suggestions, similar to the television show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?"

For more information about the group or the upcoming show, call Hoyle at (908) 737-0954.

## Salamone trio kicks off concert series at Westfield church

With the arrival of summer, the Friday Evening Classics at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield will open its new season with the rousing sounds of the widely acclaimed Salamone Jazz Trio.

The downbeat will be heard at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the air conditioned sanctuary of the church, located at 1 East Broad St. in downtown Westfield. This summer series of concerts features high quality entertainment and covers a wide range of interests. Featured among the more popular events in past concerts have been jazz, big band, bluegrass, barber-shop quartets, folk music from around the world, a marionette puppet theater, Broadway music, square dancing and brass ensembles.

The Salamone Jazz Trio is led by pianist Paul Salamone, a resident of Westfield who grew up in Scotch Plains. He has performed extensively in the New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia areas, as well as Indianapolis, Berlin and Heidelberg, Germany, and at the Forest Jazz Festival in Ontario, Canada. The Salamone ensemble recently recorded its debut CD, entitled *Quickstep*.

Joining Salamone for this concert will be drummer Ron Glick and bassist Frank Hauch. A veteran drummer, Glick has worked with Erik Kios and some of the more creative musicians at the Newport Jazz Festival. Among international events, he has par-

ticipated in the Berlin Jazz Festival. During a career that spans more than 25 years, Glick has set the beat for a veritable "who's who" of jazz stars.

Bassist Frank Hauch is a "masterful soloist and accompanist with rock solid time," says Salamone. Originally from Basking Ridge, Hauch has performed at jazz clubs in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and at Dizzy Gillespie's Club at Lincoln Center in New York City. He has performed with Phil Woods, Dave Leibman, Chris Potter, James Williams, Dill Goodwin and John Gordon, among others. This summer he will be performing at jazz venues in Israel.

Upcoming Friday Evening Classics concerts this summer include "The Big Apple Dixieland Jazz Band" on July 8. On July 22, Mary Olive Smith joins Danny Weiss and Larry Cohen of "Silk City" for evening of bluegrass. The New Jersey Concert Opera will feature a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's opera "H.M.S. Pinafore" on Aug. 19. All concerts will take place on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the air-conditioned church sanctuary. A \$5 donation is requested for most events.

For concert information, call the church office at (908) 233-4211 daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is ample parking in the church lot, nearby parking lots and on-street. Church parking can be accessed from the lot entrance off Ferris Place.

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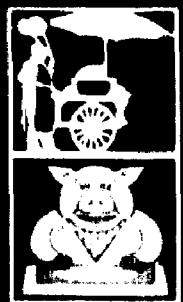
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## Premiere Stages ready to open summer season at Kean

The summer season of Premiere Stages at Kean University will begin this weekend with an interactive staged reading of Michael Hollinger's play, *Opus*.

The work centers on a world-class string quartet's challenge to replace a violin virtuoso in time for a presidential inauguration at the White House. With only a few days to prepare a Beethoven masterpiece, passions rise, personalities clash, and the players are forced to confront the stark ephemerality of their work.

Interactive discussions with the author follow each reading, from Friday through Sunday, as the

audience is invited to listen, contribute, and engage in the developmental process. The event features an all Actors' Equity cast and will take place in the Murphy Dunn Theatre. Tickets are \$10. The play was selected through the Premiere Stages Play Festival, a new play initiative created to encourage and nurture emerging dramatists in New Jersey and the greater metropolitan area.

Next up is the winner of the Premiere Play Festival, *Owed to My First Love*, by Susan Barsky, which will run from July 14-31. This world premiere comedy provides a riveting look into the world of a

struggling actor and examines the insanity inherent in the world of theatre. *Owed to My First Love* also features an AE cast, with Kean University student Nick Farco, and will run in the Wilkins Theatre. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25.

Also in July, Premiere Stages will offer the Premiere Play Festival, a series of initiatives for children and high school students. New Jersey's leading AE theatre for young audiences, Pushcart Players, will partner with Premiere musical theatre performances in the Wilkins Theatre: *Peter and the Wolf*, on July 22, and *Wow! What a Century* on July 29. Tickets range from \$8 to \$10. A discussion with the cast follows each show.

The Play Factory also offers an interactive camp experience for high school students, Camp Premiere. Students work together to create their own show and collaborate with professional actors, directors and writers throughout the process. On the final day of the camp the students' play is showcased for parents, friends and Premiere patrons in the Murphy Dunn Theatre. The camp runs from July 18-30 and costs \$395. Scholarships and discounts are available to students who have the aptitude but not the resources required to participate.

In the fall, Premiere Stages will partner with the Kean University Department of Theatre to produce the New Jersey professional pre-

miere of Rebecca Gilman's *Boy Gets Girl* from Sept. 15 to 25; to showcase the work of student and professional filmmakers as part of the Purple Violet Film Festival from Oct. 7-9; to attract renowned artists to the Kean campus, including Olympia Dukakis and Daphne Rubin-Vega, as part of the Premiere Artists Series; and to place residences in at-risk school districts through the Premiere Residency Program.

To order tickets or to request a season brochure, call the box office at (908) 737-7469. To reserve a spot in Camp Premiere or to inquire about the Premiere Residency Program, call (908) 737-4429, or visit [www.kean.edu/premierestages](http://www.kean.edu/premierestages) online.



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## MTV seeks participants for 'Made'

A crew for the hit MTV series "Made" will visit two area libraries over the coming weeks.

From 1-4 p.m. Friday, the crew will be screening potential subjects at the Westfield Memorial Library, located at 550 East Broad St.

Then, from 1-4 p.m. July 6, the crew will be at the Kenilworth Public Library, located at 548 Boulevard.

Now in its sixth season, the series is looking for young people eager to reach their personal goals

but who have been kept from doing so by shyness, lack of self-confidence, negative comments by others, or just plain fear.

The subjects chosen by the show will be given at least one month of intensive training toward achieving their goals. Goals should be attainable and specific and should not require years and years of training. In addition, those seeking fame or looking to become "VJs" need not apply.

Guidelines released by the

Kenilworth library state that auditions are open to area residents between the ages of 14 and 21. Applications should be picked up prior to the casting call.

A parent's signature is required for those applicants under the age of 18, and applicants are also required to bring a photo of themselves to the casting session.

For more information, call the Westfield Memorial Library at (908) 798-4090 or the Kenilworth Public Library at (908) 276-2451.

## NJSO offers outdoor show

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra invites residents to pack a picnic and a blanket and bring the entire family to free outdoor performances of its annual Summer Parks Tour.

Sponsored by Bank of America and Pfizer, this year's program, titled "Salute to Hollywood," celebrates the music specifically composed for the silver screen, as well as classical music that has become extremely familiar through its use in movies.

The program will be per-

formed this Wednesday at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside/Westfield. It will feature singer Christiane Noll, who will be starring in the Broadway production of *Mambo Kings* when it opens in August 2005.

Guest conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos will lead the performances, which all begin at 7:30 p.m.

For more information call the NJSO's administrative offices at 1-800-ALLELEGRO (265-3476).

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Obituaries

Aldo S. Cerone

WESTFIELD — Aldo S. "Tish" Cerone, 88, died June 16, 2005 in the Berkeley Heights Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Berkeley Heights.

Born in Orange, he lived in West Orange before moving to Westfield 40 years ago.

Mr. Cerone was an engineering assistant at Lockheed Electronics, North Plainfield, for 24 years before retiring 21 years ago. He was one of the first to use a laser to repair equipment such as the Polaris submarine and had clearance from the government to work on secret assignments. Prior to that, he built homes for Suburban Properties, Basking Ridge.

Mr. Cerone enlisted early in 1942 and served with the Army Air Corps 5th Air Force 90th Bomb Group as a co-pilot of B24s in New Guinea during World War II. He flew 50 missions and rose to the rank of major.

He received the Silver Star after his plane remained behind to protect the lead bomber on a mission after the bomb sight malfunctioned. Both planes were attacked by Japanese aircraft, and Mr.

Cerone's plane came home with bullet holes in the fuselage. He was the last surviving crew member.

He also received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, American and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medals and the 2001 New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal.

Mr. Cerone was a member of the 90th Bomb Group "Jolly Rogers" Association and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and belonged to First United Methodist Church. He was also a member of the Hy-Way Bowl senior bowling team and the Lockheed Electronics golf team and won many trophies in competition.

Surviving are Elsie, his wife of 46 years; a son, Stephen; two grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Services were offered Monday in the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad St., Westfield. Interment was private.

Donations may be made to the First United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 1 East Broad St., Westfield, NJ 07090 or to the Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Stephen J. McAlindin

SCOTCH PLAINS — Stephen J. McAlindin, 83, of Scotch Plains died June 17, 2005 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Airdrie, Scotland, he came to the U.S. in 1925 and lived in Newark before moving to Scotch Plains in 1958.

Mr. McAlindin was the superintendent of buildings and grounds for the Newark school system, where he worked for 35 years before retiring in 1986.

Earlier, he was a building inspector for the City of Newark and also taught in the city's school system.

A Navy veteran of World War II, he was a petty officer first class stationed in the Pacific Theatre

aboard the USS Gunard.

Mr. McAlindin was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10122 and a former commander of the American Legion Post 209, both in Scotch Plains. He was also active with the legion's baseball organization.

Surviving are two daughters, Susan Tryon and Tammy Salvatore; four sons, Scott, Brian, Tim and Chris, and 20 grandchildren.

A Mass was held Tuesday in St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church after the funeral from the Rossi Funeral Home, 1937 Westfield Ave. Donations may be made to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School General Scholarship Fund.

Edward W. Joyce Sr.

SCOTCH PLAINS — Edward W. Joyce Sr., 85, died June 16, 2005 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in the Bronx, he lived in Garwood for 49 years before moving to Scotch Plains 10 years ago.

Mr. Joyce was a machinist for the R. Hoe & Co. in Dunellen for many years before retiring in 1973. Afterwards, he was a postal clerk at the U.S. Post Office in Westfield from 1975 until 1982.

He was a member of the Old Guard of Westfield and its Merryman Chorus and the Old Guard Bowling League. Mr. Joyce was also a member of the

Middlesex East Widows and Widowers.

Mr. Joyce served in the Army Air Corps during World War II as an aviation cadet.

Surviving are sons, Edward Jr. and Richard; a daughter, Lynn Brink; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday in the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Ave., Fanwood. Interment was in Hollywood Memorial Park, Union. Donations may be made to the American Lung Association of New Jersey, 1600 Rt. 22 East, Union.

Isabelle McMillan

WESTFIELD — Isabelle McMillan, 85, died June 16, 2005 at the Ashbrook Nursing Home in Scotch Plains.

Born in Hamilton, Scotland, she lived in Westfield for about 60 years.

Mrs. McMillan was a machine operator for J.B. Williams in Cranford for 20 years before retiring in 1982.

She was a 51-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Atlas Chapter #99 of Westfield. She was also a member of the Daughters of

Scotia, Bonnie Doone Lodge #10.

An avid bowler for more than 50 years at the Garwood Lanes, she bowled up to a year ago.

Surviving are three sons, Glenn of Westfield, Gary of Scotch Plains and Greg of Manalapan; a sister, Anne Kaiser; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Her husband, Alexander McMillan, died in 1985.

Services were Monday at Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad St., Westfield. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Theodore Sawicki

WESTFIELD — Theodore "Teddy" Adam Sawicki, 84, died June 12, 2005 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Elizabeth, he moved to Westfield in 1965.

Mr. Sawicki was a clerk for the U.S. Postal Service in Westfield for 25 years before retiring 15 years ago. Earlier, he owned and operated the Sawicki Tavern in Elizabeth for 20 years.

He served in the Coast Guard during World War II and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign

Wars, Betsytown Post 1862 in Elizabeth.

Surviving are Marianne P., his wife of 56 years; a son, Theodore Jr.; a daughter, Andrea H.; a sister, Stephanie Kominsky, and three grandchildren.

A Mass was offered in St. Hedwig Church, Elizabeth, after the funeral from the Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home, 2124 E. St. George Ave., Linden. Interment was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia. Donations may be made to the charity of your choice.

Carolyn Higgins

WESTFIELD — Carolyn "C.K." Higgins, 61, died June 17, 2005 in her daughter's home in Fair Haven.

Born in Washington, D.C., she lived in Westfield before moving to South Orleans, Mass.

Mrs. Higgins had been a real estate agent in Westfield. She was also a member of the Westfield Service League.

Surviving are her husband of 41 years, Lowell K.; sons, Lowell K. Jr. and Daniel; daughters, Barbara H. Brown and Jennifer

H. Factor; sisters, Peggy Freeman, Cynthia Hane, Barbara Taylor Reddy and Robin Chappell; and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service was held in the Federated Church of Orleans, 162 Main St., East Orleans, Mass. Arrangements were by the John E. Day Funeral Home, Red Bank, N.J. Donations may be made to the Orleans Conservation Trust, P.O. Box 1079, East Orleans, Mass. 02643. To send a condolence, visit www.alan.com.

Audre Gaffney

WESTFIELD — Audre Gaffney, 76, died June 17, 2005 at her home in Westfield.

Born in Newark, she lived in Irvington before moving to Westfield 42 years ago.

Surviving are her husband, Thomas, a daughter, Linda Hayes, a brother, Wilbur Laver,

two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A service was held Wednesday in the Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, 582 Springfield Ave. Donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

Marcella M. Arentoft

SCOTCH PLAINS — Marcella M. Arentoft, 86, died June 16, 2005 at her home.

Born in North Bergen, she lived in West New York before moving to Scotch Plains in 1955.

Mrs. Arentoft was a purchaser for American Hoechst, a chemical and dye company in Bridgewater, for 25 years before retiring in 1984.

She was a member of the Friends of the Scotch Plains

Library, the Garden Club of Scotch Plains and the TWIGS of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield.

Mrs. Arentoft was a 1938 graduate of the Drake Secretary School in Newark.

Surviving are a daughter, Barbara A. Stromberg; a son, Michael E., and two grandchildren.

Services were held Sunday in the Rossi Funeral Home, 1937 Westfield Ave.

Kenneth E. Mulligan

SCOTCH PLAINS — Kenneth E. Mulligan, 66, died June 15, 2005 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield.

Born in Newark, Mr. Mulligan lived in Lake Parsippany before moving to Scotch Plains in 1973.

He was a frame attendant with Bell Atlantic in Irvington for 10 years before retiring in 1993.

Mr. Mulligan served in the Army during the Vietnam War.

Surviving are brothers, John A. and Lawrence E., and a son, Kenneth L.

A service was held Monday in the Rossi Funeral Home, 1937 Westfield Ave. Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, East Orange.

John J. Doucette

SCOTCH PLAINS — John J. Doucette, 76, died June 19, 2005 in Gracedale, Upper Nazareth, Pa.

Born in New London, Conn., he lived in Scotch Plains for 44 years before moving to Hellertown.

Mr. Doucette was a baker for Drake Bakeries, Wayne, for 26 years before retiring in 1993. Earlier, he had worked for the A & P Bakery, Newark, for 14 years.

An Army veteran of the Korean War, he was a corporal and received five Bronze Service Stars and a United Nations Service Medal.

He was a volunteer for the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad for six years.

Surviving are Josephine, his wife of 53 years; daughters, Debra Coscia and Catherine Robertson; sisters, Marion Dahlgren and Theresa Porter, and three grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held 11 a.m. Thursday in St. Theresa's Cemetery, Summit. Arrangements are by the Heintzelman Funeral Home, Hellertown. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 617 Main St., Hellertown, PA 18055.

Helen C. Schoel

WESTFIELD — Helen C. Schoel, 81, died June 13, 2005 at her home in Lakewood.

Born in Gillespie, Ill., Mrs. Schoel lived in Westfield and Atlantis, Fla., before moving to Lakewood last year.

Surviving are a daughter, M. Lynn MacDonald; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

dren.

Committal was in Fairview Cemetery, 1100 Broad St., Westfield. Arrangements were by the O'Brien Funeral Home, Brick.

Donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 1131, Fairfax, Va. 22038-1131 or a charity of your choice.

Robert Bellamente

SCOTCH PLAINS — Robert Bellamente, 62, died June 18, 2005 in Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Born in Rockville Center, N.Y., he lived in Long Island, Scotch Plains, East Greenwich, R.I., Edison and Chatham before moving to Flanders eight years ago.

Mr. Bellamente was a merchandise manager at CIP Industries (Crown Home Fashions) in New York City. Previously, he had worked in the textiles/home furnishings industry with J.P. Stevens in Colorado, Minnesota, Chicago and New York City. Martex Industries in Texas and West Point-Pepperell Inc. in Dallas and Denver.

Mr. Bellamente was a graduate of C.W. Post University in Long Island, N.Y., with a bache-

lors degree in political science. He attended the executive program at the Daraden Graduate School of Business University of Virginia in 1983.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara; a daughter, Victoria Wright; sons, Robert S., Michael A. and John J.; brothers, Alan and Richard; a sister, Doris, and two grandchildren.

A service will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday in Grace Episcopal Church, Madison Avenue, Madison. Arrangements are by the Wm. A. Bradley & Son Funeral Home, Chatham.

Donations may be made to Cancer Care, 275 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10001 or the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, 307 8400, 1275 York Ave., New York, NY 10131-0112.

Thomas H. Cochran

SCOTCH PLAINS — Thomas Hume Cochran, 61, died June 18, 2005 at his home.

Born in Brooklyn, he lived in Fanwood before moving to Scotch Plains in 1963.

Mr. Cochran was a helicopter pilot for former Gov. Thomas Kean.

He was also a private and corporate helicopter pilot for Trump Casino and Resorts in Atlantic City, N.J. Earlier, he was a pilot for Sky Fox and Chopper 4 in New York City. He received his certification as a helicopter pilot from the Fort Rucker Military Base in Alabama.

Mr. Cochran was a Vietnam War Army veteran, serving tours with the Green Berets as a helicopter gunship pilot and flying a U2 spy plane.

Later in life, Mr. Cochran con-

tinued his service with the National Guard and was stationed in Trenton, where he was the helicopter pilot for Gov. Kean during his term of office.

Surviving are his daughter, Paulette H. Rosen, his mother, Mary Elizabeth Cochran; sisters, Melissa H. Harris and Tracy H. Pkyhis, and two grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, N.Y. Arrangements are by the Rossi Funeral Home, Scotch Plains.



Franklin student wins poster contest

Alana Zepka, a fourth grader from Franklin School in Westfield, was named the Union County winner in the 17th annual Burn Awareness Poster Contest sponsored by the Saint Barnabas Burn Foundation and the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children project. Alana is pictured here with her art teacher, Marylee Massenzio. The poster contest was created to teach youngsters the importance of fire safety and burn prevention.

CWC hosts program on college admissions

WESTFIELD — The College Woman's Club of Westfield (CWC) will hold its first major college planning event on Saturday, Oct. 1, featuring a panel of admissions "insiders" headlined by Jacques Steinberg, New York Times reporter and author of the bestselling book, *The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College*.

Also speaking will be Scott White, a Montclair High School guidance counselor and former assistant director of admissions at Bard College. All proceeds from the morning will benefit the CWC scholarship fund.

The event, titled "What Color is Your Pennant? Choosing & Getting Chosen by Your Ideal College," will feature a breakfast and talk followed by a question-and-answer period with the speakers and a book signing with Steinberg.

Tickets are \$40 per person, and general sales will begin September 1 at the Town Book Store in Westfield. Advance ticket sales are available through August 15 to CWC members only. For membership information,

visit the group's website at [www.WestfieldToday.com/cwc](http://www.WestfieldToday.com/cwc).

Like the popular career manual of a similar name, "What Color is Your Pennant?" aims to show that the route to college is as unique and personal as each individual. Geared to parents of high school students, the program will provide candid, commonsense advice on navigating the college choice and admissions process.

Admission to the event will include a program book featuring several articles on applying to and financing college that should serve as a reference long after the event.

Advertisers wishing to be part of the program book are invited to contact Annmarie Puleio, event chairperson, at (908) 789-1549.

The College Woman's Club of Westfield was founded in 1917 to further the higher education of women. The club annually awards more than \$28,000 in grants and scholarships that are financed entirely through dues and donations by members and fundraising events such as this program.

Roberts is selected for NJ Scholars Program

Kaitlin Roberts of Scotch Plains, a junior at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung, has been accepted as one of the 39 participants of the 2005 New Jersey Scholars Program.

High schools are allowed to nominate from the program as many as three talented students who are evaluated on their grades, PSAT scores, and recommendations.

During the program held on the campus of The Lawrenceville School from June 26 to July 29, students will have stimulating academic days combining lectures, seminars, research and fieldwork. For the five week, they will be housed in same-sex dormitories and share the experience of living, learning, and laughing together.

Kaitlin said, "At the interview for the program I was comfortable and excited. The campus is impressive, the other students were outgoing and intellectual. I love a stimulating intellectual atmosphere and working as part of group. I was flattered that they wanted my input for the group discussions."

"Right now, I'm exploring career choices," she continued. "I'm looking at both medicine and diplomacy even though they seem so different from each other. My counselor, Mrs. Bixel, said I'd have a better idea for my future after the program."

The theme for the program this year is "Medievalism and the Middle East: Historical, Crossroad, Religious, Racial, Contemporary Perspectives."


Wieder, Cordeiro recognized

Westfield High School seniors Benjamin Wieder and Christina Cordeiro were honored at the 2005 annual Recognition Breakfast for Outstanding Scholars of Union County on May 25.

At the end of each school year, based on their scholastic achievements, a male and female student from each public high school in the county are named Outstanding Scholars and awarded certificates from the Union County

Superintendents' Association. Cordeiro will enter Harvard University this fall, and Wieder will be attending the University of Pennsylvania.

Westfield Superintendent William Foley, this year's chairperson of the Scholars' Breakfast, called Cordeiro and Wieder "exemplary young people whose academic excellence and interest in science is matched by athletic accomplishments and service to the community."

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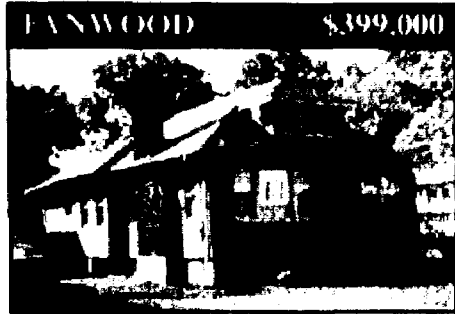


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## Real estate center opens on Route 22

Scotch Plains Deputy Mayor Carolyn Sorge and Councilwoman Nancy Malool cut the ribbon Saturday, marking the official opening of New Jersey's first dedicated education center for mortgages and real estate. Located on Route 22 in Scotch Plains, the American United Mortgage & Real Estate Center also houses the non-profit agency My Way Home, which has enabled more than 12,000 residents to purchase their first homes over the last 10 years. The facility will continue to conduct monthly educational seminars. Pictured from left are Councilwoman Malool; Earl Myers, first vice president; Joseph Farella, Westfield Housing Commission and executive vice president; and Deputy Mayor Sorge.



## Jill Guzman Realty, Inc.

### HONORS Cranford Resident and Realtor Rosanne Santorelli-Barone

Jill Guzman, Broker/Owner of JILL GUZMAN REALTY, INC. is proud and honored to announce that Rosanne Santorelli-Barone has been awarded membership into NAR Circle of Excellence Club for her Real Estate achievements in the year 2004.

Rosanne, well known in the community for her humanitarian, civic dedication and service has been and will always be there to help the people. Chairperson of Concerned Citizens of Roselle, former Roselle Resident for more than twenty years Rosanne has a strong interest in dedicating her Real Estate talents to the homeowners of Roselle, Cranford and surrounding towns. She has woven her service oriented background into all of her homeowners success stories for the past two decades and will continue to do so.

A present Cranford resident, Rosanne's motto is "Quality Through Faithful Service", and she goes above and beyond in serving her homeowners.

**Thinking of selling your home? Call Rosanne at:**  
(Evenings) 908-272-5232  
(Office) 908-353-6611

### SALUTES Oscar Noronha

The JILL GUZMAN REALTY, INC. family is proud of the dedication, service and achievements of agent Oscar Noronha; both in the professional Real Estate world as well as in the everyday personal life, Oscar goes above and beyond his call.

A graduate of Leeds University in London, England, Oscar has a degree in Electrical Engineering. Prior to working in the Real Estate profession, Oscar was the Project Manager for AT&T Lucent, where he developed international business.

Oscar is well known at JILL GUZMAN REALTY, INC. for his exceptional patience and dedication to his clientele. From day one until closing and way beyond that, Oscar is always there to lend a helping hand and to contribute with his expertise.

Oscar speaks four languages, which include English, Portuguese, Spanish and French. He is a current resident of Scotch Plains where he has lived with his family for more than fifteen years. His hobbies include Classical Music, and serving as a Church volunteer in the Outreach Program of Stewardship.

Oscar is a prime example of a quality Realtor and an outstanding citizen; and JILL GUZMAN REALTY, INC. is proud to have him as a member of its family.

**Thinking of selling your home? Or just need quality Real Estate advice? You may call Oscar at:**  
(Cell) 908-456-1479  
(Office) 908-353-6611

### Proudly WELCOMES Lenore Argen

Local realtor® and Educator Lenore Argen has joined the JILL GUZMAN REALTY, INC. family.

"I am happy to announce that I have recently joined JILL GUZMAN REALTY as a Sales Associate. I chose this family run agency for its attention to detail and friendly, supportive atmosphere; these are the traits that I value in the way that I treat my clients," states Lenore.

Lenore has been a Cranford resident for more than 20 years and still enjoys all of the natural resources and amenities that Cranford has to offer. Argen is experienced in helping residents move to a larger or smaller home in order to adapt to their families' changing needs.

Starting out as an active member and leader of the Cranford Newcomer's Club, Lenore Argen has volunteered her time as a Girl Scout and Boy Scout Leader, and has organized many PTA social and educational events. She continues to host events for her son and his classmates at Cranford High School, and serves as a judge for the Forensics team. In addition, Lenore is a member of the Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Committee.

For Lenore Argen, her professional success would be to ensure that her clients receive top of the line service in marketing their homes and excellent one on one service in the search of the home of their dreams.

**Welcome aboard Lenore!!!**

**Lenore may be reached at:**  
(Cell) 908-303-7965 (Evenings)  
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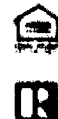
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## Gibson, Lake join Prudential in Westfield

**WESTFIELD** — Prudential New Jersey Properties has announced the appointment of Kim Gibson to the company's Westfield office.

"We are thrilled to have Kim join our team," said Marge Cuccaro, manager of Prudential New Jersey Properties' Westfield office. "She is an extremely hard worker and is dedicated to helping her clients with their real estate needs."

A Westfield resident, Gibson specializes in new and re-sale residential properties. Her market area includes residential neighborhoods throughout Union County. She is a member of the Greater Union County Association of Realtors and the Garden State Multiple Listing Service.

Gibson is both E-certified and Quality Service Certified, and she recently completed Prudential New Jersey Properties' comprehensive three-week Academy Sales Training Program. This hands-on course includes simulated real estate situations created to help agents refine various skills.

Gibson can be reached at the Westfield office, located at 215 North Ave. West, at (908) 232-5664, or by email at [KimGibson@PruNewJersey.com](mailto:KimGibson@PruNewJersey.com).

Prudential New Jersey Properties also announced the appointment of Daphne Lake to the company's Westfield office.

"Daphne will make an excellent addition to our team," said Marge Cuccaro, manager of Prudential New Jersey Properties' Westfield office. "She is a very dedicated and motivated individual how is eager to begin helping clients with all of their real estate needs."

A member of the Garden State Multiple Listing Service and the Greater Union County Association of Realtors, Lake has professional advertising experience and a background in fine arts.

Lake's market area includes residential neighborhoods throughout Union County. She has recently completed Prudential New Jersey Properties' comprehensive, three-week Academy Sales Training Program. This hands-on course includes simulated real estate situations created to help agents refine various skills.

Lake can be reached at the Westfield office, located at 215 North Avenue West, at (908) 232-5664 ext. 131.

## Mercuri named May's top agent

**CRANFORD** Maurizio Mercuri has been named Real Estate Consultants, L.L.C.'s Top Listing and Top Sales Agent for May in the Cranford region. The announcement was made recently by Douglas Rudford, broker/owner.

Mercuri, who is a Union County resident himself, holds a communications degree from Kean University. He has been recognized with numerous company awards for his superior sales and negotiating skills.

With technology including virtual tours of all homes listed with the company and centralized services, Real Estate Consultants is able to offer options and flexibility with commission as low as 2 percent.

The agency serves 13 counties in Northern and Central New Jersey. To learn more about Real Estate Consultants, contact Mercuri at (908) 270-3331 or (908) 404-6590 or log on to the Web site at [www.recnj.com](http://www.recnj.com).



# Sports

## SPORTSCENE

### Baseball Like It Ought To Be

There is still time to register for "Baseball Like It Ought To Be," one of Union County's premier baseball camps held in Westfield but open to boys and girls from throughout the area. Sessions for boys and girls entering 1-9 grades have openings as does a parent/child weekend session June 25-26.

Two-day sessions for campers entering 1-3 grades will be held July 5-6 and July 7-8 from 9 a.m. to noon. Campers can register for one or both. Week-long sessions for campers entering 4-9 grades will be held June 27-July 1 and July 11-15 from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information contact Bob Brewster at (908) 232-8049 or email [bbrewst@comcast.net](mailto:bbrewst@comcast.net), or Larry Cohen at (908) 889-0097 or email [nehocrat@yahoo.com](mailto:nehocrat@yahoo.com).

### Westfield Y Basketball League

The Westfield Area Y proudly announces the addition of a new Men's Summer Basketball League to its sports line-up. Join as a team or individually. The program will be divided by age: 18-30 and 30+ and will run from July 10 to August 21. Certified referees will oversee all game play. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 26 at 7 p.m. at the Westfield Area Y, 220 Clark Street. Please contact Jennifer Hesserberger, Sports Director at (908) 233-2700 ext. 258 for more information.

### Raider Soccer Camp

The 12th annual Raider Soccer Camp will be held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School the week of July 11-15 and July 25-29. The camp has developed a coaching a training philosophy called Select Soccer, which is based on European and South American methods.

Tom Breznitzky, boy's varsity coach at Scotch Plains, is the camp director. Pascal Clerico and Roger Bongaerts are associate directors. Coach "Brez" has developed Raiders Soccer into one of the finest high school programs in the nation. In the 30 years Breznitzky has coached the Raiders, he has compiled a 509-113 record. His SPFHS varsity teams have reached the Group III State Finals 12 out of the past 20 years, winning in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1997 and 1998. His teams have been nationally ranked and annually play one of the toughest schedules in the state. Breznitzky has produced 50 All-State players and several All-Americans.

The camp is open to boys and girls in grades K-11. A separate goalkeeping camp is available both sessions. For more information and a brochure, please call Coach Breznitzky at (908) 322-6102 or email [Raidercamp@comcast.net](mailto:Raidercamp@comcast.net).

### Next Level Basketball Camp Readies for First Year

The Next Level Basketball Camp, running the first two weeks of August at Park Middle School in Scotch Plains while the high school gymnasium undergoes renovations, will feature a first-class staff and top-quality instruction for area youngsters. Among those scheduled to work or lecture at the camp are Dan Doherty, SPFHS head boys coach, Jay Mahoney, the head coach at Bagota High School, Mary Gleason, an assistant coach at Princeton University and Matee Ajavon, the starting point guard for Rutgers University and the BIG EAST Rookie of the Year in 2005. There will also be several other college players and instructors on hand. Directed by Lori Gear McBride, a physical education teacher at Bagota Elementary School and the girls' basketball coach at Scotch Plains, the camp will cater to the skill level and needs of each camper, including individualized and group instruction.

The *Future Stars Camp* runs from August 1-4 (8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) for boys and girls ages 6-12. The *Skills Camp* runs from August 5-8 (8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) for boys and girls ages 8-16. The cost per week is \$150 and includes a t-shirt, prizes, awards and a pizza party for lunch on the final day. Discounts are available for multiple weeks and siblings. The camp is fully insured and will be staffed by a certified athletic trainer for those youngsters needing attention. Parents interested in more information can visit the camp website at [www.nextlevelbasketballcamp.com](http://www.nextlevelbasketballcamp.com), which includes a secured, on-line registration page.

### Indiana Basketball Camp

Youngsters looking to have a fun-filled day of activity and a chance to hone their basketball skills need look no further than the Indiana Basketball Camp -- in its 12th year under the tutelage of Tom Lewis and John Petela. The camp is in session for four weeks: June 27-July 1, July 11-15, July 18-22 and July 25-29. The camp is held at Rahway High School from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day. The camp is an affordable option, designed to accommodate boys and girls from ages 7-15 with various degrees of ability. No one is excluded. A typical day at IBC consists of a pair of games, a variety of contests, competitions and skill-building drills. Each day several boys and girls are recognized as "campers of the day." At the end of each week, all campers receive a skills evaluation during the closing ceremony and awards presentation.

Lewis and Petela have over 25 years of head coaching experience and the staff includes many current and former high school coaches. The environment emphasizes hard work, fair play, sportsmanship and encourages fun.

For more information or a brochure, please contact John Petela at (732) 396-8022.

### Union County Rugby Football Club

The Union County Rugby Football Club is currently recruiting players for its summer (U.S. ED) non-contact flag rugby program. This summer will be the third year of the Union County Summer Youth Rugby program. Boys and girls from any town in grades kindergarten to eighth grade are eligible to participate in the Summer Youth Program. Unlike the traditional game of rugby, flag rugby is a non-contact alternative that is designed as a safe and enjoyable way of introducing rugby to young people. In the game of flag rugby, kids wear removable Velcro flags instead of being tackled. Last summer over 100 youngsters played youth flag rugby in Canfield and Berkeley Heights. This year the program has expanded into Westfield.

To participate in the non-contact youth flag rugby program, players must be 5-14 years old. No previous flag rugby experience is required to participate. There are four different age-based teams: The Owls (ages 5 and 6), Falcons (7 and 8), Hawks (9 and 10) and the Eagles (11 to 14). All teams are co-ed. The games are played with 10 to 15 minutes halves with a running clock. All players participate equally and should a player have to miss a game or practice they will still fully participate when they return.

The season will begin on or about June 25 and will conclude on July 30. Tryouts for all the teams will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

Registration for the youth flag teams is \$50 and \$75 for each additional sibling. Included with the registration fee are a shirt, socks, shorts and a rugby ball which the child keeps. Applications can be downloaded online at [www.unioncountyflagrugby.com](http://www.unioncountyflagrugby.com) under the Youth Program section. Simply fill out and mail in with the entry fee. For more information you can also contact Tom Petela, the director of youth rugby at (908) 440-0003 or (908) 615-2814 (cell), email at [tompetela@attglobal.net](mailto:tompetela@attglobal.net) or [tdp@tdp.net](mailto:tdp@tdp.net).

## Young Westfield team gained experience Gelmetti, Smith, Flannery led 2005 Blue Devils to 16-10 record

By CHAD HEMENWAY  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Head coach Tara Pignoli characterized the Westfield softball team's season as "a good year but not a great year."

The Lady Blue Devils finished the 2005 campaign with a 16-10 record. Westfield got to the North Jersey, Section 2, Group IV semifinals before dropping a heart-breaking 2-0 game to Hunterdon Central.

"We were in a lot of close

games," Pignoli said. "The problem is we didn't wind up winning many if them. I guess the inexperience we had played a part in that but it just didn't seem to happen."

Westfield is graduating only two seniors — pitcher Lauren

Gelmetti and second baseman Katie Smith. Gelmetti was named to The Star-Ledger All-Union second team and Smith found a place on the third team.

Gelmetti went 12-10 inside the circle this season, with 127 strikeouts and 123 hits. She walked just 20 batters. At the dish, Gelmetti batted a respectable .284.

Smith finished the season with a .373 batting average with 24 runs batted in. Defensively Smith was almost perfect. Of the 75 balls she had hit in her direction, Smith erred just two all season.

"Lauren and Katie definitely ended with very nice senior years," Pignoli said. "I was very happy to see them go out with good numbers."

But 2005 may have best been served as a way for the underclassmen to gain valuable varsity experience. The rest of the Blue

to watch again next year."

Flannery was named team tri-captain for next season along with catcher Jillian Olsen and shortstop Kristina Fietkiewicz.

Olsen stepped in as the catcher in 2005 and adjusted extremely well to varsity. Pignoli said. Olsen batted .358 with 18 RBIs and 23 runs scored. Fietkiewicz had a solid season at short and at the plate she hit for a .333 average with 21 RBIs, 19 runs scored and four home runs.

"These are the girls we are counting on to be leaders next year," Pignoli said.

In addition, Westfield will look for third baseman Anna



FILE PHOTO  
Junior Mary Kate Flannery batted .463 in 2005 with 24 runs scored and no errors in center field.

## W SOFTBALL

Devils' roster was made up of juniors except for sophomore first baseman Jenny LaSpatha.

"All the girls gained good game experience I hope they'll be able to use next season," Pignoli said. "I think it'll be something they won't think about or notice — just a feeling of being more comfortable in certain situations."

Leading the way was junior centerfielder Mary Kate Flannery, a first team All-Union selection. Flannery led the team with an impressive .463 batting average with 24 runs scored and 10 stolen bases. Of the 21 balls that found her on the grass in the outfield, she didn't make an error and had two assists.

"She covers most of the outfield," Pignoli said of Flannery. "She could probably play anywhere on the field because she's that athletic but I think we'll going to keep her where she is. Mary Kate is going to be someone



FILE PHOTO  
Senior Lauren Gelmetti struck out 127 batters and walked just 20.

McGrath to continue fine play at the hot corner and right fielder Diana Dunnan to improve on her respectable .267 batting average. Outfielders Jess Moskowitz and Jenn Urcioli will have a good chance to contribute next year as they had in 2005.

As for pitcher, Pignoli said the team may not have an overpowering strikeout pitcher in 2006 but either LaSpatha, junior varsity pitcher Lindsey Brown or Sam Mooney, who threw a perfect game against Shabazz this year, could step up into the ace role.

## SP-F Raiders battled through 13-11 season

By CHAD HEMENWAY  
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — This year came down to pitching for the Scotch Plains baseball team and the Raiders simply didn't get enough of it.

"The expectations we had going in with a bunch of seniors and what we actually did was disappointing but those types of seasons are going to happen if you can't get pitching," said head coach Tom Baylock.

James Scalfaro, last season's ace in guiding the Raiders to a county championship, was never 100 percent healthy. Baylock said and only a few pitching appearances toward the end of the season. He ended with a 5-1 record with a 6.36 earned run average.

"If we had him healthy, I think we could have easily had 17 or 18 wins," Baylock said. Scalfaro contributed as the team's designated hitter with a .316 batting average and 16 runs batted in.

Instead, the Raiders repeatedly called upon senior shortstop Chris D'Annunzio to carry the team and many times he did just

that. D'Annunzio earned first team All-Union and third team All-Group III honors in The Star-Ledger after hitting a team-high .471 with 26 runs batted in and 27 runs scored. He had 11 doubles and five home runs for a .900 slugging percentage.

"There were many times in the season he kept us together," Baylock said. "We called on him to do things we shouldn't have had to but he did it without



## BASEBALL

complaint and did great."

Toward the second half of the season, D'Annunzio was summoned to pitch and he went out and had a 5-4 record with a team-best 3.61 ERA in 33 innings. He beat the likes of Union Linden and East Side and dualed Millburn in a 2-0 North Jersey, Section 2, Group III state playoff loss.

Senior pitcher Marco Giasullo led the team in wins, going 6-3. Giasullo pitched over 35 innings and had a 7.53 ERA. Senior reliever Drew Howell had a rubber arm, Baylock said, and effectively came in games

to limit the opposition. He had a 3.68 ERA in 19 innings.

The Raiders will look to replace 13 seniors on the roster from 2005. Of them is catcher Kevin Urban and first baseman John Maloney.

Urban called a solid game from behind the plate in all 23 games, said Baylock, and in front of it Urban batted a nice .328 with 21 RBIs, a team-high 17 walks and two home runs. Maloney smacked the ball fiercely in the beginning of the season en route to hitting .403 with 21 RBIs, 20 runs scored and 3 home runs. He had a team-high .512 on base percentage and a .657 slugging percentage.

"These guys are going to be hard to replace," Baylock said. "Urban is a smart kid and we'll miss his bat. Maloney had a great attitude and hit a ton when he connected."

At the hot corner, Sean Varsolona had just one error all year and batted .304. In addition, Varsolona had a 3-2 pitching record with a 3.96 ERA. Senior infielders Matt Sebeck and Rob Moskal shared duties and excelled in the middle of the diamond.

Each did exactly what Baylock expected of them, he said. Moskal hit for a .338 average and Sebeck batted .265.

The outfield is now bare after seniors Kyle Gates, Mike DiNizo and Mike Baumwoll graduate. Gates, a first-year center fielder, excelled in the lead-off spot and was even moved to the five-hole because he was the only one driving in runs for some time. He finished with a .370 average, .460 OBP and scored 18 runs.

Not much got by DiNizo in right field, Baylock said. His power and presence will be missed. DiNizo batted .306 with 20 RBIs, 17 runs scored and slugged .583. Baumwoll played left field and had some key hits throughout the season.

Baylock said he is looking forward to next season, as many positions are up for grabs and will be battled for.

"I don't think there are any superstars coming up unless someone proves me wrong but that could be fun," Baylock said. "We could be a team that just hits you to death and plays some small ball and if we get some pitching, we continue having some good seasons."

## Raiders kept streak alive in 2005

By DAVID LAZARUS  
THE RECORD-PRESS

Part of the reason the Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys track program continues to be one of the area's best is their ability to with stand the loss of seemingly irreplaceable athletes like this year's superstar, senior Sean Smith, who excelled in four events.

Coaches Jeff Koegel and Rich McGriff can feel confident about the future, because sophomore Kyle Rowbotham exploded on the scene with performances that often rivaled Smith.

Rowbotham and Smith were the biggest reasons that the Raiders maintained their 24 year dual meet unbeaten streak. Smith was the team's top high jumper and hurdler but by the end of the year Rowbotham had run past Smith in the intermediate hurdles and qualified for the Meet of Champions. Finishing 11th overall, Rowbotham also qualified for the Meet of Champions in the triple jump

and he soured a season best 44-5.25 to win the triple jump at the Union County meet.

"I can't say that we expected him to place 11th at the MOC, but he had shown quite a bit of potential. Before we started with meets in March, we had a list of events that he could do and it was extensive," said Koegel of Rowbotham.

The Raiders fell short against Union in the County Relays and Union County Championships but they held off the Farmers to keep their dual meet streak alive. For the second time in three years, Smith pulled out key points in the high jump to keep the streak going. Scotch Plains-Fanwood also repeated as Watchung Conference champions as Smith and Rowbotham combined for 70 points.

"Winning the conference championship again was a high light," said Koegel. "Beating Union to keep the streak going was huge. The boys really pulled together that day."

Part of the strength in dual meets is the team's depth, which should continue next year despite the loss of seniors like Smith, Teddy Acosta, Marc Fabiano and Isenberg Bryant.

"We have a lot more kids than we had last year. We have a lot more depth in the events like the 100 and the shot put, but there are areas we need to improve on," said Koegel.

Sophomore pole vault star Tom Pennella appears to have the ability to excel in multiple events next year. Koegel said he can see Pennella developing into a dual event athlete.

Junior Nehemiah Burney Porter qualified for the group championships in the high hurdles and triple jump. JJ Zimman and Mike Miller were tireless performers in the distance races. Max Carow was consistent in the pole vault and Rob and Tim Ventura excelled in the sprints. Mike Allemen, Carl Brand and John Badala assure the Raiders of a strong weight contingent next year.



FILE PHOTO  
Sean Smith was Scotch Plains' top high jumper and hurdler while excelling in four events.

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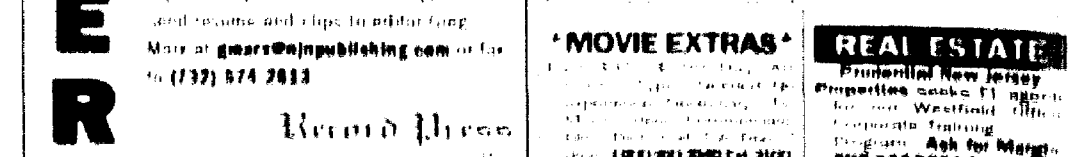


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VIN #2A463781, Stk #561, 8 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/ABS, black/black, 25,375 mi. Cap cost: \$35,495. \$2000 Down payment + \$425 1st mo + \$450 sec dep + \$595 bank fee = \$3470 due at lease signing + all taxes & MV fees. Total pymts/cost/residual: \$10,260/\$13,245/\$26,779.  
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**'05 LR3 SE**  
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VIN #2A465824, Stk #575, 8 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/ABS, blue/walnut, 29,650 mi. Cap cost: \$35,495. \$2000 Down payment + \$435 1st mo + \$450 sec dep + \$595 bank fee = \$3470 due at lease signing + all taxes & MV fees. Total pymts/cost/residual: \$10,260/\$13,245/\$26,779.  
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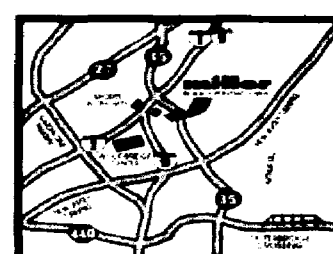
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6-Cyl. Auto. P/S/ABS, A/C, Dual Air Bags, P/Wheels/Locks/Mirrors, P-Steer, Cruise, T-Clus, Alloy Wheels, AM/FM/CD, SHARP/SS/227, VIN#51005493, MSRP: \$28,940. 36 equal monthly payments of \$269.16 plus one final opt. balloon payment of \$13,565. Total due at signing = \$2000 customer cash down. 1st pymt: \$10,228.08 + tax. 1st cost \$12,228.08. 12,000 mi/yr. excess @ \$0.20 thereafter. Buy price & CR Plus incl. \$2000 Factory Rebate. \$1000 Turn-In Trade-In Bonus if qual.

YOU SAVE \$4475

GOLD KEY PLUS/PER MO. FOR 36 MOS. 1

\$269.16

BUY FOR ONLY

\$24,365

Brand New 2006 CHRYSLER 300 TOURING EDITION

24 Available!

300Cs 12.5 MPG

4 Door

6 Cylinders

Automatic Trans

Power Steering

Power Anti-Lock Brakes

Power Windows

Power Locks

Power Trunk

Air Conditioning

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CD Player

Tilt, Cruise Control

Rear Defrost

Tinted Glass

Body/Side Moldings

Leather Interior

Air Season Radial Tires

Intermittent Wipers

Dual Airbags

Electric Stability Program

Extra Air Filtration

Moon Roof

Power Adj. Pedals

Heated Seats

Leather Interior

MSRP: \$30,005

Stock #0617

VIN# 1G8H151065

36 equal monthly payments of \$380.29 plus one final opt. balloon payment of \$17,403. Total due at signing = \$2000 customer cash down. 1st pymt: \$14,451.02 + tax. 1st cost \$16,451.02. 12,000 mi/yr. excess @ \$0.20 thereafter. Buy price & CR Plus incl. \$500 Turn-In Trade-In Bonus if qual.

YOU SAVE \$759

GOLD KEY PLUS/PER MO. FOR 36 MOS. 1

\$380.29

BUY FOR ONLY

\$28,246

Brand New 2005 Chrysler TOWN & COUNTRY Touring Edition

19 Available!

6-Cyl. Auto. P/S/ABS, A/C, Dual Air Bags, P/Wheels/Locks/Mirrors, P-Steer, Cruise, T-Clus, Alloy Wheels, AM/FM/CD, Sunscreen Gr. Shw. & Go Seats, SHARP/SS/227, VIN#51005493, MSRP: \$31,080. 26 equal monthly payments of \$293.58 plus one final opt. balloon payment of \$17,754. Total due at signing = \$2000 customer cash down. 1st pymt: \$7,633.08 + tax. 1st cost \$9,633.08. 12,000 mi/yr. excess @ \$0.20 thereafter. Buy price & CR Plus incl. \$2000 Factory Rebate. \$1000 Turn-In Trade-In Bonus if qual.

YOU SAVE \$4709

GOLD KEY PLUS/PER MO. FOR 36 MOS. 1

\$293.58

BUY FOR ONLY

\$25,381

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2005 SAAB 9-3 SPORTS SEDAN

AUTO

MOONROOF

LEATHER

\$279

MO. 36 LEASE

4-Cyl. Auto. P/S/ABS, A/C, Dual Air Bags, P/Wheels/Locks/Mirrors, Lthr, Moon Rf, AM/FM/CD, SHARP/SS-227, VIN#51005493, MSRP: \$31,145. 3500 demo miles. 36 month closed end lease w/12,000 mi/yr. excess mi @ \$0.20 thereafter. \$1973 due at signing (includes \$999 down, 1st mo. pymt, \$495 bank fee). 1st pymt: \$10,044 + tax. 1st cost \$11,738. Purch opt at lease end \$14,113.15.

NEW 2005 SAAB 9-2X LINEAR AWD

AUTO

CD

HEATED SEATS

\$269

MO. 36 LEASE

4-Cyl. Auto. P/S/ABS, A/C, Dual Air Bags, P/Wheels/Locks/Mirrors, Lthr, Hnd Sk, AM/FM/CD, SHARP/SS-225, VIN#51005493, MSRP: \$25,535. 36 month closed end lease w/12,000 mi/yr. excess mi @ \$0.20 thereafter. \$1963 due at signing (includes \$999 down, 1st mo. pymt, \$495 bank fee). 1st pymt: \$9684 + tax. 1st cost \$11,378. Purch opt at lease end \$12,756.80.

NEW 2005 SAAB 9-5 ARC SEDAN

AUTO

MOONROOF

LEATHER

\$389

MO. 36 LEASE

4-Cyl. Auto. P/S/ABS, A/C, Dual Air Bags, P/Wheels/Locks/Mirrors, Lthr, Moon Rf, AM/FM/CD, SHARP/SS-97, VIN#53304855, MSRP: \$36,970. 36 month closed end lease w/12,000 mi/yr. excess mi @ \$0.20 thereafter. \$2083 due at signing (includes \$999 down, 1st mo. pymt, \$495 bank fee). 1st pymt: \$14,004 + tax. 1st cost \$15,498. Purch opt at lease end \$17,006.20.

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Source: Advanced Internet 2004 Monthly Statistics

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