

Record-Press

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50 cents

INSIDE

Frank Street plan unstoppable

By KEVIN B. HOWELL

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Planning Board Monday continued hearing an application to build new homes on Frank Street, a proposal that has drawn opposition from residents.

Board officials said the plans for the site meet the township's planning criteria, but there are still concerns about impact in the

area.

"We can't stop this development," said Joseph Doyle, Planning Board chairman. "We can request it to be modified. It is a conforming lot, but there are concerns."

Mayor Martin Marks, who sits on the board, agreed that the plan was tight, even though it conforms to zoning standards.

"Some (developers) in the past have come trying to stick 10

pounds of gel in a five-pound bag," said Marks, creating an analogy for building space. "This plan isn't like that. However, it is fitting 10 pounds of gel into a 10-pound bag, barely."

The main concern is stormwater management, which is an existing problem in the area. Several residents and Planning Board members voiced their concerns about flooding in the area and how the development will

impact it.

According to John DuPont, consulting engineer for MM Real Estate, the latest version of the plan will reduce stormwater flow in the area by 34 percent. DuPont said although the area is susceptible to stormwater buildup, the problem can be improved. One method is a drainage area at a proposed cul-de-sac, he said.

One problem with the water, DuPont said, is that it flows into

the back yards of Raritan Road residents and drains into their pools, which are built on the low point of the land. He said the developer's plan will reduce that drainage, but the only way to fully eliminate the problem is to fill the pools.

Ray Ball, a Raritan Road resident with a pool, was skeptical of DuPont's analysis, especially

See Frank St., page A-2

Mold forces family from home

By KEVIN B. HOWELL

THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — "Sheer hell" is how Jeanne Kavinski describes her experience of being a homeowner.

That hellish experience has ultimately forced Kavinski to move out of her Kempshall Terrace house and temporarily live in a motel.

Kavinski's house is contaminated with mold. The house, which the Kavinskis bought 17 years ago, has always had a mold problem, but after her basement flooded thanks to a malfunctioning washing machine in early May, mold spores multiplied and made the home unlivable. She has been out of the house since July 23.

Several types of mold have been discovered from the basement to the attic. Sixteen different kinds of mold were found in a living room couch she purchased in 1997, and eight molds were found in a chair in the basement.

When the Kavinskis bought the home in 1984, they suspected the area collected water and were



Jeanne Kavinski of Fanwood suits up to enter her contaminated home.

concerned about the possibility of basement flooding. The only problem was the roof, they were told, and that was replaced before the purchase.

After almost a year in the home, the Kavinskis noticed what they believed were minor problems such as condensation on the ceiling and white spots on the wall, which they thought at first was paint, but was actually mold. Kavinski cleaned the surfaces with bleach, thinking she had eliminated the problem.

In 1988, the family suffered problems for which Kavinski blames the mildew with which she painted her bedroom.

See Mold, page A-2



The exterior of the Kavinskis' Fanwood home shows little evidence of the toxic molds inside.

Township caught in the middle

By KEVIN B. HOWELL

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township is caught in the middle of a legal battle in which Mayor Martin Marks says it is an innocent bystander.

Scotch Plains is one of 46 municipalities that was granted an extension of its affordable housing obligation because the Council on Affordable Housing was not ready to certify new housing obligation numbers.

As a result, the New Jersey Builders Association filed legal motions against COAH, the 46 municipalities that were granted extensions and nine municipalities seeking extensions.

Scotch Plains was last certified by COAH in 1996 and up for re-certification this year. It was granted a one-year extension based on its 1996 certification numbers. COAH designates a number of affordable housing units for each municipality. Through COAH certification, municipalities are protected from litigation. However, the builders association is challenging COAH, saying it exceeded its authority in extending certifications.

"...NJBA filed a motion calling on (COAH) to obey the law, stop blindly extending certifications, and produce its long over-due third-round estimates of housing

See COAH, page A-2

Westfield school board moves closer to choosing new member

By KEVIN B. HOWELL

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Six candidates were interviewed for a vacant Board of Education seat on Tuesday and one more candidate will be interviewed at a special meeting next week as the board hopes to fill the position by Sept. 24.

Beth Cassie, Ron Snyder, Jenny Carroll, Beth Reese, Joseph Miceli and Tom Pyle were questioned by seven board members, and William Sweeney, who was unable to make the meeting, will be interviewed on Sept. 17. The seven are vying to replace Lisa Alter, who resigned before the summer to pursue a degree.

The board interviewed the candidates together, giving each candidate the opportunity to answer the same nine questions. The candidates were able to express their individuality, though many times they piggy-backed off of each other's responses. Arlene Gardner, board president, said that the board was able to get a "snapshot" of what each candidate had to offer and hopes it was enough to make effective evaluations.

The candidates answered two of the board's top concerns from a

discussion at its previous meeting: availability and willingness to run for the board in April. All candidates confirmed their time commitment and everyone but Miceli, who is unsure, said they will run for election in April.

All the candidates have children in district schools except for Carroll, whose child is only an infant. They all said they were drawn to the position by their concern for children and desire to see the district's positive reputation continue.

They have differing backgrounds that they hope to bring to the board. Cassie is a management consultant and PTO member, Snyder says he is "semi-retired" and has children at each school level in the district, Carroll has lived in town for six years and has a law degree, Reese is a former teacher from Chicago, Miceli is an elementary school principal in another district and a former teacher in Westfield, and Pyle also has a law degree and is a former business owner.

"A major concern I have is the space in schools as far as enrollment," Pyle responded in answering a question about the district's most important issues. "We have to look at what we need to do in the next five to 10 years because

Westfield is growing and I see a lot of young families."

The enrollment issue arose in a later question in which all the candidates agreed that compiling data on various factors that affect enrollment is a way to address the problem. Cassie added that investigating other districts' solutions to the problem could be effective as well. Miceli said redistricting should be examined, even though it is unpopular. He also suggested innovative methods such as multi-age classes, which is done at his school.

Snyder said that he would like the board to focus on social issues for students so they stay on pace with society's changes. He also talked about the importance of being responsive to individual student needs and differentiating instruction.

Reese reiterated the social issues factor and said she would like to see the board deal with bullying issues in the schools.

The board questioned candidates about issues they would have to address such as budget management. Most candidates agreed with Carroll who said that prioritizing items and making compromises will aid in managing the budget. Miceli added that in prioritizing, it is important not to compromise long-term goals of school district.

Snyder offered a different view saying, "Some of what will make our schools great, you may not have to spend a lot of money on."



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Back to school

Debbie Calderone, one of the two new first-grade teachers at Evergreen School in Scotch Plains, gets down to business Monday on the first day of school. School opened later than usual this year because of the construction at all the district schools.

Never to be forgotten

Sept. 11, 2001 was a year ago. Inside today's newspaper is a special memorial section reflecting on the day's tragic events one year later.



Grid time

Scotch Plains kicks off its season at home tomorrow against East Side. See story on Page C-1.



Harvest time

Westfield Share Gardeners Elizabeth Dole, left, and Patricia Cheek prepare tomatoes for canning. See story on Page B-1.

REMINDER

School closed for Yom Kippur

Westfield Public Schools will be closed for students and teachers on Monday in observance of Yom Kippur. Business can be transacted with school offices and the Administration Building from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Frank Street plan

Continued from page A-1

since the development, which will sit behind his property, will raise the ground three feet. He said that raising the ground three feet will aggravate the problem. He added that his pool is raised three feet above the lowest point and water drainage gets worse each year.

Other issues were raised, as well. Prior to the meeting, Frank Street resident Walter Babich submitted a letter, which was signed by several residents, to the developer and the board outlining residents' concerns with the proposed development. Included in the letter were requests for reports and analyses on traffic impact, water drainage, proposed height of houses, lighting, shade trees and impact on animal habitats.

"Everyone knows that change and some growth is inevitable, however no one wants to be forced to accept a very tight housing plan," said

Babich in the letter.

Charles Grant, attorney for the applicant, said the developer had addressed most of the concerns. DuPont said that a traffic analysis showed a minimum increase based on statistical averages of a residential area such as Frank Street. He also said that the lights will conform to the Victorian style lamps of the town and shade trees have been added to the plans.

Grant admitted that he was unaware of any animal habitats, though residents asserted that deer and turtles populate the area.

Monday's meeting was a continuation of the hearing, which began July 22. The hearing will be continued at the board's Oct. 28 meeting. In the interim the board will have its engineer, Paul Ferreira, analyze the plan to see whether or not it is the best possible plan that causes the least amount of impact on the neighborhood.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jimmy Kavinski searches for his guitar in a storage trailer next to his family's Fanwood home. Possessions that could be salvaged have been moved into the trailer from the home which is contaminated by mold.

Mold forces family from home

Continued from page A-1

She blames her dog's death on a reaction to allergy medicine and her husband's seizure problems returned.

Throughout the years, Kavinski says they made several improvements to minimize problems. Anytime they noticed mold they cleaned it. They took measures to reduce water buildup around the house by hiring an engineer, removing trees, regrading and installing drains.

"We spent a lot of time and money on this house and it's been a money pit," Kavinski said, adding that they spent thousands of dollars on the improvements.

The situation got worse when Kavinski, her sister and daughter pulled up a carpet in 2000. When the carpet was taken up, the padding stuck to the floor. They scrubbed it and tried to remove black spots they saw, not realizing it was mold. Within weeks, Mr. Kavinski's seizure problems worsened and he lost his job.

"It got to the point that someone asked if we looked at the wall paneling. We didn't even think to look there. When the panels were removed I saw mildew."

Kavinski says her insurance company, AMICA, will reinspect the home, but did not guarantee any payment for damage.

After the basement flood in May caused an explosion of mold spores in her home, Kavinski became sick herself. She said she never had allergies, but after May her doctor said she was allergic to one of the molds that was found in her sofa. She had to take antibiotics and use an inhaler.

Kavinski currently has a storage trailer in her driveway where she keeps possessions she can salvage. Cloth-covered furniture such as mattresses and couches must be thrown out.

She enters the house with a respirator mask and special suit to remove items she can clean and store.

Kavinski hopes to be able to put a trailer on her property so she and her son can stay in the neighborhood until she and her husband decide what can be done to make the house habitable.

The Borough Council is amending an ordinance to allow the temporary housing.

"We paid \$91,000 for the house. With what I know now, that was way too much. It should've been gutted," Kavinski said.

Glenside Avenue roadwork could be done by year's end

By KEVIN B. HOWELL

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Township Council awarded a bid to Renda Roads of Whitehouse to

complete construction on Glenside Avenue, which started several years ago.

The bid, which is approximately \$300,000 base price and about \$311,000 with alternates, is for improvements to the portion of Glenside Avenue from the intersection of Deer Path to Canterbury Lane. The first improvements were done four years ago to the section from Sky Top Drive to Deer Path.

In a letter to the council, Municipal Manager Thomas E. Atkins said that the work is essential because it was delayed for a while. He also mentioned that sev-

eral residents have asked when the job would be completed.

The process was delayed because the state Department of Transportation did not approve the township to go out for bids when it submitted an application in 1999, and did not approve guide rail design for the improvements until the second quarter of this year.

The work will partially be funded by about \$116,000 of a trust fund grant from the Department of Transportation. Atkins hopes the work will be finished by the end of the year.

Township caught

Continued from page A-1

need," said Patrick J. O'Keefe, chief executive officer of NJBA.

NJBA argues that COAH has been without a valid estimate of the regional needs of affordable housing since 1999 when the second-round period for affordable housing numbers expired.

The NJ League of Municipalities has intervened in the situation on behalf of the municipalities, submitting a liaison brief to COAH that the 46 municipalities had the option to sign.

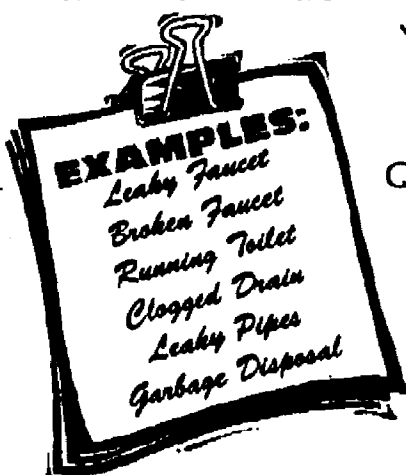
"We think it necessary, however, to proceed and intervene at the COAH level because this matter has long-term, statewide implica-

tions," stated William Dressel, executive director of the League of Municipalities, in a letter to mayors. "We believe that the NJBA has a number of short-term and long-term goals that if achieved could adversely affect the taxpayers in hundreds of New Jersey municipalities."

According to Mike Cerra of the League of Municipalities, approximately 31 of the 46 have committed to sign the brief, including Scotch Plains, and he expects more will sign, as the deadline to submit a brief is today. Cerra added that at a COAH hearing last Friday, a task force was formed to handle the situation and a resolution is expected at the November meeting.

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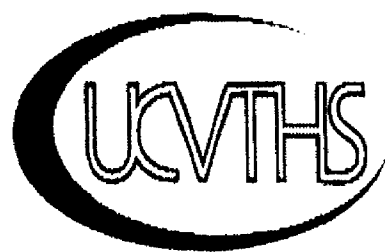
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Little progress in police negotiations

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Since Westfield police officers protested in the streets of downtown for a new contract last month, there has been little progress in the negotiations. However, the two sides will meet today for a mediation session.

"I don't know what's going on with the other side, it's been quiet for a month," said Scott Rodger, former PBA president. "I'm personally optimistic. I hope to resolve it without any other demonstrations."

The Westfield police have been without a new contract for

nine months and haven't moved much closer to one in four previous negotiation sessions. On Aug. 6, several PBA members from Westfield and surrounding municipalities' departments held a demonstration, which culminated with police attending the Town Council meeting and Rodger addressing the council on behalf of the PBA.

Rodger believes that the demonstration served its purpose, as it rallied community support, however, he said that he didn't receive any feedback from the town.

"We got a lot of response from the public. They were surprised that we're so underpaid."

The number one thing they said was where is their money going if police are so underpaid," Rodger said.

Rodger said that the PBA's goal is to be paid on or near the level of surrounding communities' police. He said that he has heard that the town may offer a 4 percent raise, however, he said that the raise won't reduce the salary gap with other police departments because Westfield's base salary is so low.

When Rodger addressed the Town Council last month, he said that Westfield police are paid 5 to 10 percent less than surrounding municipalities' police.

He added that Westfield has fewer officers serving a larger population than other municipalities.

At the last negotiation session, Rodger said that in exchange for a raise, the town said police would surrender their health benefits. Since then, the town has backed off allowing police to retain health benefits, Rodger said.

"If no agreement is reached (today) I would never close the door on the negotiation process," Rodger said. "If there is no progress, we will demonstrate again and reach out to the citizens to contact their assemblymen."

Cranford police, firefighters get new contract

By GREGORY MARX
THE RECORD-PRESS

CRANFORD — The Township Committee Tuesday approved new four-year contracts with the local police and fire department — but not without a last-minute change to one of the contracts that could affect emergency medical response.

On Tuesday morning, said Township Attorney Al Stender, he was notified the police patrolmen's and superior officers' organizations had objected to provisions in the contracts pertaining to the assignment of Emergency Medical Technicians.

The contracts had given the police chief and the township administrator authority to assign officers to EMT duty, one town-

ship official said, but that language has been deleted from the contracts. After the contracts are ratified, the township and the police unions will begin negotiations again about EMT assignment procedure, and the contracts will later be amended.

The committee earlier this year overhauled emergency medical services, creating a new paid municipal department to provide daytime services and using the volunteer Cranford First Aid Squad during nights and weekends. While the squad's ranks have grown, township officials have said for months they hoped the new contracts would make provisions for police and fire personnel to offer mutual aid to the squad. Salary ordinances introduced Tuesday in conjunction with the new contracts state that EMTs assigned by the fire and police chief will be paid a stipend of \$1,000 annually.

Commissioner Phil Morin said the obstacle should not pose a

serious problem for emergency medical response. "It's just a question of the logistics of who's going to serve in the back-up roles," he said. "Right now, it's the fire department."

The fire unions had no objections to the language about assignment of EMTs, Stender said.

While the contracts will not be available to the public until ratified by the unions and signed into law by Mayor Barbara Bilger, one township official said the new fire contract will allow the department to switch to 24-hour shifts.

And the salary ordinances, slated for approval Oct. 8, lay out what department members will make through 2005.

In 2002, police department pay will range from \$31,560 for a patrolman first grade to \$61,570 for a patrolman sixth grade to \$90,697 for a captain. Salaries will be raised 3.5 percent in 2003, 3.75 percent in 2004, and 4 per-

cent in 2005. At the conclusion of the contract, salaries will range from \$31,999 for a patrolman first grade to \$68,759 for a patrolman sixth grade to \$101,287 for a captain.

At the lower levels, the firefighters' salary schedule looks identical to the police: A fireman first grade will make the same as a patrolman first grade. At the superior officer levels, the fire department salaries track one step behind the police: a fire lieutenant will earn the salary of a police sergeant, and a fire captain the salary of a police lieutenant. There is no sergeant position in the fire department.

Both police and fire personnel will also have the opportunity to earn merit incentive pay.



Go fish

Darius Palla of Westfield teaches his daughter Sophia how to prepare her rod to fish. The two participated in a new program run by the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation Trailside Nature and Science Center at Lake Surprise.

Back-to-school nights scheduled in Westfield

WESTFIELD — Back-to-School Nights have been scheduled on the following dates in September:

Franklin School, kindergarten, 7 p.m. tonight.

Washington School, kindergarten and first grade, 7:30 p.m. tonight.

Franklin School, grades 1 and 2, 7 p.m. Sept. 18.

Franklin School, grades 3-5, 7 p.m. Sept. 21.

Jefferson School, 7:30-9 p.m., Sept. 21.

McKinley School, morning kindergarten and grades 1-3, 7 p.m.; coffee at 8 p.m.; afternoon kindergarten and grades 4-5, 8:30-9:30 p.m. Sept. 21.

Tamaques School, grades 3-5, 7:30 p.m.; kindergarten-grade 2, 8:15 p.m. Sept. 21.

Washington School, grades 2-5, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 21.

Wilson School, grades 3-5, 7:45 p.m.; kindergarten-grade 2, 8:45 p.m. Sept. 21.

Roosevelt Intermediate School, 7 p.m. Sept. 24.

Edison Intermediate School, 7 p.m., Sept. 25.

Westfield High School, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 26.

Births

Ralph and Kelly Marano of Westfield announce the birth of their daughter Madison Nicole Marano on Aug. 15, 2002, at Overlook Hospital in Summit. Madison weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20.5 inches long.

Her maternal grandparents are Charles and Carol Soucek of Clark. Her maternal great-grandmother is Agnes Geraci of Maplewood. Her paternal grandparents are Ralph and Adeline Marano of Westfield. Her paternal great-grandmothers are Phyllis Pugliese of Clark and Grace Marano of Garwood.

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The law firm of Dughi, Hewit & Palatucci is pleased to announce that Senior Partner Mario C. Gurrieri will present to the public a free seminar entitled "Everything You Need to Know About Divorce" at its Cranford office on Tuesday, September 24, 2002, and Saturday, September 28, 2002. Mr. Gurrieri, who has specialized in matrimonial law for over thirty years, will review the law, explain the legal process and answer your questions concerning separation, divorce, custody, visitation, alimony, and division of assets as well as need for post-divorce court review of alimony and child support.

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

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

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GET TO KNOW OUR STAFF

Karen Schultz-Soltysik graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor degree in athletic training and a masters in physical therapy in 1998. She pioneered a new educational program, which included clinical research during her professional education. This research was conducted in a facial nerve clinic. She specialized in current techniques and developed new strategies in the treatment of facial paralysis and Bell's Palsy.

Karen's talents and skills remain numerous. She has a strong background in orthopedics and sports injury rehabilitation. Facial paralysis and Bell's Palsy remain areas of continued interest. Karen has also completed extensive training in treatment of vestibular disorders. She developed a formal program of evaluation and treatment and is a member of the Vestibular Disorders Association.

In 2000, ADVANCED Physical Therapy Associates welcomed Karen onto our team of highly trained therapists. Her talents, skills, and areas of special interests enhanced our comprehensive rehabilitation programs. Karen's personal qualities of compassion and dedication are equally important. These continually motivate her to provide the best care possible for our patients.

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Commentary

A year later

It has been a year of sorrow and strength. In just a few short hours — those hours that seemed like an eternity — our country changed forever on Sept. 11, 2001.

What happened at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania horrified and sickened all of us. Our country was under attack by an evil we could not understand.

And, for many of us, it is still incomprehensible.

We are still mourning those who lost their lives. We are still fiercely determined to bring justice to those who committed this act. And we have responded with unprecedented generosity to help those who were left behind.

And while the pain still lingers and the anger still smolders, we have become a stronger nation in the past 12 months.

The attack awakened long dormant feelings of patriotism. In the shock after Sept. 11 we again realized how precious our country is and how we should not take our freedoms for granted. Despite our differences, we came together as a nation to express our sorrow and show our pride in being an American. It felt good to be an American; it felt good to display the flag.

We also realized how strong are the ties that bind us together. We saw the strength in our communities with the unselfish response of volunteers, whether it was those who donated blood or those emergency personnel from each of our communities who volunteered for duty at Ground Zero. And the attack also prompted us to reconsider our relationships with family members, friends and colleagues; we were reminded once again not to take these relationships for granted. We realized how precious our lives really are.

And we also showed our pride in our country's determination and strength to rid the world of the evil that changed our lives forever in just a few short hours. We have demonstrated the resilience to do what has to be done not only to make our lives more secure, but to make the world a safer and better place. We know the fight is not over, but we are confident we will prevail.

This week we are mourning the loss of thousands of lives. But it is also an occasion for us to resolve not to let our renewed national spirit fade away. And it is also a time for us to remember what is to be an American and what obligations we have to our country and fellow citizens.

The Record-Press is here for you

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

Call Editor Kathleen Phillips at (908) 575-6686 with story suggestions, questions or comments.

For sports, call Dan Murphy at (908) 575-6698.

Our address: *The Record-Press*, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876.

Our fax number is (908) 575-6683.

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

Correction policy

The Record-Press will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to Editor Kathleen Phillips at (908) 575-6686.

Michael Charney should have been listed in the 12th grade Honor Roll for Westfield High School. His name was inadvertently left off the list.

Deadlines

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

Letter policy

Letters should be no longer than 200 words and may be edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. Letters should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime telephone number for verification.

Send letters to the above addresses or fax number.



Letters to the editor

Guns won't really make you safer

To The Record-Press:

Recent news reports have indicated that the number of gun permits purchased by New Jersey residents has increased after Sept. 11 over the same period prior to Sept. 11. It seems that people are buying and intend to buy more guns in New Jersey since the terrorist attacks in New York City. I also believe that the continued issuing of nonspecific threats by the federal government, as well as the continued possibility of anthrax contamination, increases the fear that people feel on a daily basis.

In response to fear people usually take the following security precautions:

— They will do things that help them to reduce their anxiety.

— They will do things that actually help them reduce risk.

In the majority of cases, people will do things to reduce anxiety that have little to no effect on reducing risk. Reducing risk usually relies on a more complex and long-term response.

In terms of defending against terrorists, buying and storing guns will unlikely help you keep safe. If anything, it would give you a sense of false security. Terrorists do not operate off the principles of marching down Main Street to attack our homes. They work by stealth and secrecy. Their main advantage

is to use surprise and startle. Guns are useless against the contamination of our water supply, anthrax-laced letters or car bombs.

Having more guns in our culture increases the chance of firearms accidents and increases the possibility that more guns will be stolen.

Rather than buying more guns to keep safe in the face of terrorism, my suggestion is that people band together to form watch groups. The goal is to keep an eye out on things that appear unusual or different and by being ever watchful hope to expose the shred of secrecy that terrorism operates under. We have to be willing to speak up and tell when we see something unusual that concerns us and learn to trust our intuition when something is about to go wrong.

Responding to the danger posed by terrorism requires a long-term, well-planned, coordinated approach of people coming together. Stacking your house with more firearms, although it may help you feel more safe, does not increase your safety and pulls you away from taking other necessary actions needed to help keep our communities safe.

RONALD J. COUGHLIN
President, New Jersey
Violence Prevention Institute
Hamilton

Mark Rideshare Month by carpooling

To The Record-Press:

New data for 2000 census shows that New Jersey residents are living further from work, adding to average drive times. Sprawl, building and development patterns in New Jersey are to blame because they leave only one travel option — the car.

Throughout New Jersey 1,621,786 people commute to work 30 minutes or more; 510,919 spend 60 minutes or more on their daily commute. Of those people spending over 30 minutes on the daily commute, over 1.3 million people did not use public transportation. Of all New Jersey commuters, 2,828,303 people said that they drive alone to work every day. Rush hour is now becoming rush morning and rush afternoon. This decade also saw the start of a midday lunch rush as commuters try to run errands and make up for lost time.

The key to this commuting dilemma isn't more roads or even just more transit. Building mixed

development of offices, stores and homes centered around train stations and bus stops could be a way out of this traffic mess. In the meantime, mass transit and ridesharing are our only hope.

The Transportation Management Association Council of New Jersey would like to urge all New Jersey commuters to do their part to reduce traffic congestion and help clean the air. This September, in honor of Rideshare Month, join a carpool or try transit, even if it's just one day a week, even if it's just one day a week. Every bit helps. For more information about local transit and rideshare programs, visit www.driveless.com or call (800) 245-POOL.

JOHN F. CIAFFONE
Greater Mercer Transportation
Management Association
Princeton

The writer is president of the Transportation Management Association Council of New Jersey.

Forrester is an honest alternative

To The Record-Press:

Count me as one of many who are deeply insulted by a political pundit's recent observation that New Jersey voters are more tolerant of corruption than people in other states.

The cynical aspersions came up in discussion of a recent Senate ethics panel finding that U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli is a minor-league crook with a taste for expensive gifts from lobbyists.

Castigated by his colleagues after frustrating a Justice Department investigation and a closed Senate hearing in a web of denial of untruths, Torricelli said, "I want my colleagues in the Senate to know that I agree with the committee's conclusions, fully accept their findings and take full responsibility." But in an eerie Clintonesque echo, the first-term Democrat added, "It has always been my contention that I believe that at no time did I accept gifts or violate any Senate rule." Uh, right.

Count on hearing more glib half-apologies all the way through Nov. 5.

But I'm not buying it and don't plan to forget. Not when there's a choice.

Doug Forrester, a decent and capable man who deserves a closer look by all New Jersey voters, is a former seminarian and champion of New Jersey's dwindling open spaces, a successful businessman, husband and father. Where Torricelli comes on like a bad smell in a room, Doug Forrester is Mr. Clean. Pundits who think we won't know the difference haven't been downwind of a landfill much or they aren't reading recent polls, which show Torricelli in a swoon as fed-up voters rightly abandon him.

For this New Jersey voter's nose, Election Day can't get here soon enough.

BOB SUTTON
Gladstone

Anti-bias bill bypasses Congress

To The Record-Press:

I am concerned that Sen. Robert Torricelli voted to send the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women to the Senate. CEDAW sounds great, until one realizes it bypasses our own elected officials to legislate for our own country.

Instead it empowers a 23-member United Nations committee to determine family policy for

all nations. This republic was founded upon the principles of self-determination. We fought twice (1776 and 1812) against foreign rule. We certainly don't need to bow to it now.

I urge all your readers to phone, fax or e-mail our senators to vote "no" on CEDAW.

VERA OLINSKI
Highland Lakes

Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

Struggling still with the dread

One of the things I remember most vividly about Sept. 11 and its aftermath were the quiet skies and the perfect weather.

With all planes grounded, there was an eerie silence above us. The background noise of jets that we accept as part of our everyday lives was gone.

And then there were days and days of perfect September weather, skies with clouds, no wind and comfortable temperatures.

Yet no one wanted to be outside.

It was perfect weather to play golf, but I just wasn't in the mood. Golf seemed frivolously inappropriate.

We just wanted to stay inside, gathered around our television sets waiting for the latest news. We huddled with our families and friends to share our disbelief, our anger and our sorrow. They were the darkest sunny days I can ever remember.

The perfect weather never seemed to end. After a while, the claustrophobia of tragedy got to me. The repetition of the terrible images of the attack reached a saturation point. I realized I had enough when gradually the sting began to fade. So I went for long rides in the countryside, on unmarked roads without telephone poles, where the colors of autumn blazed in defiance of the country's somber mood.

I took solace in the peace of the American countryside. Every house and car that displayed an American flag was an unspoken expression of solidarity. I donated money to every group that stood at stoplights and collected money. I lost track of how many signs I saw that carried the simple message — "God bless America."

The long rides calmed me. They provided a sense of solace that everything was going to be fine. It took away the impending doom that drained color from the perfect blue skies.

As a Baby Boomer, I never had to face any situation like Sept. 11. I knew what the nation was like after the attack on Pearl Harbor, but that was long ago in a world that bore little resemblance to the 21st Century. I had grown up in a strong country that was seemingly immune from attack and other foreign perils. The worst sacrifices my generation had to endure were the long gas lines back in the 1970s. And that seemed trivial in relation to what had just occurred.

You couldn't ignore those feelings that stirred you from sleep in the lonely hours before dawn. And no matter how many times you felt that emotion, you couldn't attach any words to it. You couldn't describe what you felt to your soul mate. You couldn't explain it to anyone; you couldn't even explain it to yourself.

That is what was so frustrating about Sept. 11. Though I realized a long time ago that sometimes that words are not adequate, there was not even a reference point to what I was feeling. I could not find understanding in another event; like others of my generation who never had to cope with a national disaster, we didn't know what to do. We didn't know what to think. How could we make sense out of something that didn't make sense?

And a year later, even with the perspective that comes with the passage of time, my generation is still struggling with the event. We want to get on with our lives, yet we can't rid ourselves of that lingering dread. How many of us, on a clear September day, can look to the sky and see a jet and not remember, with a brief jolting shiver, the images burned forever into our memory on Sept. 11, 2001?

Sunny days in September will never be the same.



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Do you plan to see "The Sopranos" Sunday?



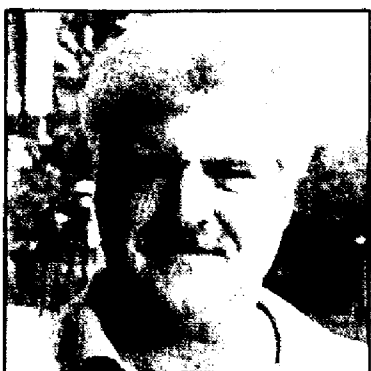
"Yeah. At times, it's funny. And coming from an Italian background, it hits home a bit."

Frank Lijoi Cranford



"No. I don't have HBO."

Alan Wohl Cranford



"I don't have HBO. I've seen the show a few times and I like it, but not enough to get the channel."

Bill Zielenbach Cranford

Solar energy holds key to cleaner air, efficiency

To The Record-Press:

People think that solar energy is a pipe dream, but it's not. Everyday the planet is bathed with more than enough energy to supply our daily needs, and technology exists to capture it and put it to work. If we make two changes to tax and energy laws, a huge economic revival could begin.

The first change is to provide tax credits of \$4,000 to each family installing solar collectors on their rooftops to heat water or generate electricity. The second change is to increase the pay-

ment utilities make to homeowners for the surplus energy. As rooftop collectors create electricity from sunlight, surplus energy goes back to the nation's energy grid through electrical meters that actually turn backwards!

There are five major economic benefits to this plan. First, using solar power will decrease the demand for electricity and natural gas. As demand drops, so does the price we all pay for energy. Second, production and installation of these collectors would produce thousands of job stimulating economic growth.

Third, alternative energy production frees us from dependence on foreign suppliers. Fourth, less demand for electricity generated by coal power plants would help clean up the environment. And fifth, decreasing greenhouse gas production is the responsible thing to do for our world.

Please contact your legislators and encourage them to invest in developing a healthy peaceful world rather than exhausting our nation's resources on war.

GREGORY AMMON
North Plainfield

Constitutional Convention is best chance for reform

By WILLIAM G. DRESSEL JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NJ STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

Guest commentary

On Thursday, June 13, the Senate Judiciary Committee withheld action on S-478, the bill that would ask the voters to impanel a special convention to address New Jersey's chronic over-reliance on the property tax.

The League of Municipalities supports S-478. It might not be the last, but it is the best hope for meaningful and consistent property tax relief.

The property tax accounts for over 45 percent of total state and local tax revenue in our State. The National average is just slightly above 30 percent. In 1997, the New Jersey per capita property tax burden amounted to \$1,596 — almost doubling the national average of \$825. New Jersey property taxes equaled 5.6 percent, as a percentage of personal income — a full two points above the National average of 3.6 percent. And in our State, those with the least shoulder a disproportionate share of the burden. Households with incomes in the lowest 20 percent pay 9.2 percent of their earnings in property taxes, while the wealthiest 20 percent pay 3.6 percent of their income through this assessment.

In order to advance this measure, we requested two amendments to S-478. We believe that these amendments

are needed to convince all true friends of property tax relief that they have nothing to fear from the proposed convention.

On May 30, members of the Committee raised the issues that these amendments would address.

A recent OLS opinion has raised the specter of a statewide equalized property tax. We hold that alternative to be unacceptable. The impact of high property taxes on seniors and others living on fixed incomes has been consistently cited as evidence of the unfairness of the property tax. A statewide equalized property tax might help some of those living on fixed incomes, but it would devastate others. If the household happens to be located in a municipality where the school tax burden is currently below the statewide average, a statewide equalized property tax would actually increase that household's burden. As we have often said, the substitution of one regressive property tax by another is illogical.

We will also stand by our previous statement that a Statewide equalized property tax to fund public schools would not meet all of the criteria listed in the bill as the standards meant to guide the convention's deliberations. But we have never said that the fact makes the alternative impossi-

ble for the convention to recommend. Illogical, yes. Impossible, no. Nothing is impossible.

We have recognized that it is conceivable for a majority of the Convention delegates to misinterpret the standards. Anything is conceivable, though we see it as highly unlikely. But that doesn't mean we are not concerned. Our greatest concern, however, is that, for fear of such a remote possibility, we will never have the real opportunity for property tax relief that could, and most likely would, result from the Constitutional Convention envisioned in S-478/A-540. Keep in mind, moreover, that the ultimate safeguard against objectionable recommendations coming out of the Convention is that the voters of New Jersey would never give their approval. Can you imagine the citizens of this State voting for one property tax to replace another?

All of that having been said, we requested an amendment that would explicitly prevent the convention from recommending a statewide equalized property tax to fund our public schools. Such an amendment would reassure countless supporters of property tax relief that the proposed convention would recommend alternatives to, not unfair alterations of, our system of property taxation. We

would, further, ask that no further amendments to limit the convention's discretion be accepted.

The issue of representation has also been raised, and some have expressed a wish to allow delegates to be elected, irrespective of their partisan affiliations, or lack thereof. This objection focuses on the principle of "one person, one vote." Of course the representation at the last convention, which, incidentally, conformed our Legislature to the "one person, one vote" principle, was not, itself based on that principle. Delegates were elected by county, on a roughly proportional basis. But the county delegations were not composed of the highest vote-getters. Instead, they were evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. That was done to insure the fairness of the convention's recommendations. And further, when electing delegates, the voters were not electing policy makers. Their will — the will of the delegates — meant nothing until it was ratified by the voters, themselves, in a forum where the principle of "one person, one vote" is undisputed. The same would be true of the property tax relief convention, envisioned in S-478. So we see

no inherent problem with the process deemed by the sponsors to consistently mirror the fairness of the 1966 convention.

Still, in difference to those who believe that the convention delegates should be highest vote-getters in their respective districts, we requested an appropriate amendment.

For too long, have the people of New Jersey suffered from our over-reliance on property taxes. For too long, have they seen the problem studied by special commissions denied the power to effect the changes they came to advocate. For too long, have our neighbor states enjoyed the benefits of less onerous property taxes. And for too long, has blame for the burden been laid on the brows of municipal officials, struggling to fund essential services in a system that they did not create and that they cannot change.

Some have said, "State lawmakers can reform the tax system on their own, if only they have the political will." And therein, lies the source of our call for a convention. They have had ample opportunity to address this problem and the lack of results testifies to their lack of will.

Some rhetorically ask, "Instead of going to the time

and trouble to form a constitutional convention, why not form a panel of experts to formulate alternatives?" The panels have been formed. The recommendations have been filed. Today, they gather dust on thick oak shelves in the State Library in Trenton. Among others, reform proposals written by the New Jersey Tax Policy Committee of 1972, the State and Local Expenditure and Revenue Policy Commission of 1985-1988, and the Governor's Property Tax Commission of 1997 have all been ignored.

Only a Convention, such as that envisioned in S-478 and A-540, can move reform beyond the political logjam that inevitably blocks its progress in the Legislature.

But for now, the solution itself is bottled up in Committee. But at least the issue of property tax relief is getting the attention it needs. Serious discussions of the problem are now common in the media, and even in the halls of the Statehouse.

We salute Sen. John Adler and former-Sen. Bill Schluter for the part they have played in all of this. Their fortitude and commitment to true and lasting property tax relief are beyond question.

Let's re-emphasize civics education

To The Record-Press:

The 9/11 tragedy has justly prompted a re-examination of America's place in the world and its role in dealing with terrorism. It should also place a new emphasis on preparing our children to become citizens.

Our new civic education must emphasize the importance of public institutions in our lives and that the success of these institutions requires individual participation in public life. We must teach our children that our laws, political and civic institutions, and even public schools — the keys to our liberty — are essential to our success as a democracy.

Great events call ordinary people to become heroes. Most of us will not be called by great events, but all of us are called to act as responsible citizens.

Working on projects like the Memorial Park being dedicated here in Westfield on Sept. 21, helps our students learn that participation in public life is mostly about small actions, making one corner of the world as sane as possible.

Children must be taught that citizenship in our democracy requires that we be informed on issues, participate in the political process, and resist political leadership that ignores our rights as

citizens. They must appreciate that the Bill of Rights does not exist in a vacuum, but only as the result of strong political institutions that can make laws, protect our security, and educate our children.

The tragedy of Sept. 11 can become a continuing opportunity to teach children how to become responsible citizens. These civic lessons will not produce higher SAT scores or improve our ranking on state tests, but will shape the very foundations of our democracy.

Dr. William J. Foley
Superintendent
Westfield Public Schools

'Our enemies have failed'

BY JON CORZINE

U.S. SENATE

This week our nation will mourn the loss of those taken from us on September 11, 2001, while celebrating the triumph of the human spirit of those who live on.

Words cannot capture the emotional reality of that horrific day for the victims, their families or our nation. No words can console the human loss. Only the will and dignity of the surviving families, along with our nation's love and appreciation, can mend the broken hearts.

All of us send our love to the survivors, but those of us in public life must show our nation's real appreciation through emotional and financial support. There is much to do — on just compensation, on citizenship concerns, on issues surrounding the memorial, and on securing our futures against the potential of further attacks.

We also must recognize that the pain and suffering were not

limited to communities east of the Hudson. Ground Zero may have been in New York City, but there is an emotional ground zero for 691 families in New Jersey as well.

Just as the Hudson has always linked our two states, on September 11th the river was the escape route out for many and the pathway in for others — heroes of the rescue. We praise all of the heroes for their selflessness and courage — many in uniform — many civilians. What honor they have brought to our nation in the stairwells of the World Trade Center, in the PATH station, on the planes, at the Pentagon and at Ground Zero.

I have never been prouder to be an American, a citizen of New Jersey, or its United States Senator, than when so many gave of themselves — to affirm life in the face of death. God bless them all.

September 11 was also the day that sparked a renewal of our nation's oneness. The attacks brought us together in

charity, in effort and in will. While we renewed our appreciation for the preciousness of life, we recognized the profound strength of our nation. America — under attack — united. We truly recognized that we are "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Our president deserves special praise for leading us in that response, as does Congress for working with him on a united basis. Together, we will bring our attackers to justice, win the war on terrorism, rebuild our nation in its broken places and plan for a safer future.

For this generation, September 11 may well be our longest, most tragic day. The struggle brought on by its pain may be longer still. But we have found our resolve. We will stay the course. We owe it to those who perished and we owe it to their children.

We will not forget. We will remain strong. Our enemies have failed.

God bless America.



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Borough likely to oppose rail line

By KIMBERLY MEYER
CORRESPONDENT

KENILWORTH — Borough residents voiced their concern over the possible reactivation of the Rahway Valley Railroad Line and appeared to convince the mayor during the Kenilworth Borough Council meeting Tuesday night.

When asked how he and the council felt about the reactivation, Mayor Michael Tripodi said that clarification is needed from the railroad.

"First we get a letter from the railroad stating that they are just clearing brush, and there is no reactivation. Then we get a letter from the county telling us something differently. And then we were told that the activation in Kenilworth is going to be in 2005. We were also told it was only going to be behind Market Street," Tripodi complained.

Tripodi said that Roselle Park and Union County are going to be adopting a resolution concerning the reactivation.

"Unless the council agrees to the reactivation and there is no negative impact to the community, we will be opposing it. That is going to be a resolution that I hope to have on the next agenda meeting," Tripodi said.

One Fairfield Street resident stated that he counted more than 150 homes, which border the railroad tracks. He estimated that some of the houses were as close as 10 feet away.

"We were also told they were going to be spraying defoliants there this week, in people's back yards, where children play, so I think council really needs to look at this issue in a hurry and come up with a position on it because the

railroads have taken things into their own hands," the resident said.

Ed Westervelt, a borough resident for 33 years, said he believes the railroad will spray.

"I know the railroad and yes the railroad will spray. They've done it before. They did it when it was Rahway Valley and they will do it again. They don't care if it's grass there or what's there," Westervelt said.

Westervelt recapped the four phases of the rail line reactivation.

Phase One involves the reactivation of the Staten Island branch from the turnpike to St. George Avenue.

Phase Two involves the reactivation from St. George Avenue to the Cranford Conrail line.

Phase Three is the Kenilworth branch of the Rahway Valley Railroad, which goes to Union.

Phase Four is from Union to Summit.

New York City has already spent \$15 million to repair the road and repair the bridge over the Raritan River and to get to New Jersey, Westervelt said.

He added that currently there is no connection or rights to the Cranford Conrail Line but it would be cheaper than connecting into the Main Line.

The state has invested \$27 million to purchase the railroad property.

Tripodi urged the residents at the meeting to sign a petition opposing the reactivation.

"It would be great if we could get the whole 105 (residents), because that shows a negative impact. That established, the governing body will object to the reactivation," Tripodi said.



EPA Administrator and former New Jersey governor Christine Todd Whitman talks to fifth-graders at Orange Avenue School in Cranford on Wednesday.

Students grill Whitman

By GREG MARX
THE RECORD PRESS

CRANFORD — Cranford students could be excused for seeming indifferent to high-ranking government officials. In the past year, Donald DiFrancesco, James E. McGreevey and Brendan Byrne have all chatted with students either in person or by computer.

But when former governor and current head of the Environmental Protection Agency Christine Todd Whitman came to Orange Avenue School Wednesday, the fifth-grade pupils

were up to the task. They peppered Whitman with questions about her current job on snakehead fish, public health and water shortages in Africa, wetlands protection, surging jellyfish populations — even mayflies.

But on the anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks, Whitman and the students also reflected on the lasting impact of the attacks. Students shared stories about people they knew who had narrowly escaped, and of trying to help families whose loved ones had not been so fortunate.

And Whitman told students

that even in elementary school, they could play important roles for the country and the community. "You should never let anyone tell you you can't make a difference," she said. "It's little acts that make a big difference."

She urged students to make their communities better by reaching out to new people and by helping others in need. And in the context of America's struggle against terrorism, she said, "The best thing all of us can do to make sure these terrorists don't win is for you guys to get an education. You can't use freedom without an education."

Dead Cranford crow tests positive for sometimes lethal West Nile virus

CRANFORD — A crow infected with the West Nile virus was found on the north side of the township about two weeks ago, Health Officer Warren Hehl said. The crow is the first infected bird found in the township in 2002, and the 10th in Union

County. Hehl said he learned the crow was infected Monday, when the test results were returned. Most of the diseased crows in the county were found in Summit, with others in Plainfield; infected mosquito populations have been found in other municipalities.

Though the virus has gar-

nered headlines this summer, spreading west across the country and claiming numerous deaths, it had been conspicuously absent from the area. But experts said several weeks ago the peak period for the disease, transmitted by mosquitoes, is from mid-August until the end of summer.

Until the first hard frost, residents are encouraged to wear long clothing and a DEET-based mosquito repellent during morning and evening hours, and to prevent standing water from collecting on their property.

Police Lt. John Raer, head of the traffic bureau, is drafting an ordinance for the lot changes, and the Township Committee is expected to introduce the ordinance Sept. 24, said DMC Director Kathleen Miller Prunty. The ordinance could be passed in October.

In addition to the permit spaces intended for employees, Baniewicz said, the four-hour metered spots in Lot #7 are ripe for abuse. "With a little bit of meter feeding, that's an eight-hour stay," he said. "That lot is dysfunctional."

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back-to-school



Junior Achievement is still helping students learn the rudiments of business.

Junior Achievement continues tradition of business education

BY DAVID S. CHERNOW
NJA ACHIEVEMENT

(NAPSI)—There's good news for those concerned about the financial literacy of America's young people.

Some believe that our youth are challenged when it comes to performing the basic tasks associated with personal finance, such as balancing a checkbook or keeping a savings program.

Others contend that too many young people lack a basic understanding of the benefits of the free enterprise system and how it functions.

Fortunately, the Bush administration has signaled that it is committed to addressing this issue, something that our organization has been doing since it was founded in 1919.

A pioneer in the field of educating young people about business, economics and free enterprise, Junior Achievement (JA) teaches more than four million students nationwide and nearly two million students in more than 100 countries worldwide.

JA's elementary school programs work to change kids' lives by helping them understand business, personal finance and economics.

Our programs for students in the middle-school grades are designed to help teens make difficult decisions about how to best prepare for their educational and professional future. The programs supplement standard social studies curricula and develop communication skills that are essential to success in the business world.

Our high-school programs

Catholic school fair

The Diocese of Metuchen is holding a Catholic High School Fair to get parents and Grade 8 students interested in a Catholic education.

The free event is 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26 at St. Frances Cabrini School, 2300 Cooper St., Piscataway. Catholic high schools in the area include Immaculate High School in Somerville.

For more information, phone 732-562-1990, Ext. 1303.

Number of N.J. teachers hits record

State begins number of initiatives to improve schools for 1.36 million students

TRENTON — An estimated 1,367,431 public school students in New Jersey were expected to return to class last week as a new school year begins.

The projected enrollment represents an increase of nearly 31,000 public school students since September 2001. New Jersey's all-time enrollment high of 1,432,344 students in grades K-12 was recorded in 1973-74.

"Education is the No. 1 issue for New Jersey residents and it is the cornerstone of the administration of Governor James E. McGreevey," said Education Commissioner William L. Labrera. "Our goal is educational excellence. Starting today, and continuing over the next four years, our emphasis will be on teacher quality and raising student achievement."

"While we take the necessary steps in our schools and our classrooms, I am asking that parents become more involved in their children's schools and school work," the Commissioner said. "When parents are involved in their children's education, the children do better."

"As New Jersey's student population continues to expand, we will work closely with the Department of Education to ensure that all students are provided with a quality education," said State Board of Education President Maud Dahme. "We expect to adopt revised Core Curriculum Content Standards in all content areas during this school year. The standards describe the knowledge and skills that all students must possess in order to be successful."

"We also plan to continue to work with the department to ensure that our regulations governing teacher requirements will continue to attract a pool of talented teachers to New Jersey," she continued. "This should be an exciting and eventful year."

The number of full-time classroom teachers in New Jersey this year exceeded 100,000 for the first time. The 102,723 full-time classroom

teachers this year is an increase from 98,072 classroom teachers reported last year.

Most of New Jersey's expanding student enrollment is coming from new students entering the schools in the early grades. For example, in 2001-02, New Jersey counted 72,341 twelfth-grade students and 100,669 first-grade students.

These newest students are the focus of major initiatives launched by Governor McGreevey and Commissioner Labrera. They are also a group targeted for special attention under the new federal education law, known as the No Child Left Behind Act.

McGreevey earlier this year announced an Early Literacy Initiative that has set a goal of having all third grade students reading at or above grade level. The initiative is based on the premise that learning reading and writing at a young age is a prerequisite to successful learning of other subjects throughout a student's career. To support this goal, the Governor has directed the Department of Education to assist local school districts.

Beginning this fall, the Department of Education is hiring reading coaches and assigning them to train teachers in low-performing schools in the latest and most effective methods of teaching students how to read. Commissioner Labrera has established an Office of Early Education to implement the reading coach project as well as to help implement new program standards developed by the Governor's Task Force for Early Literacy, and other projects, such as the Governor's Reading Club, which will debut in the new school year.

The Governor's Early Literacy Initiative underscores similar goals stated in the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The law requires states to assess students in their language arts literacy and mathematics scores in grades 3 through 8 inclusive, and again at the 11th grade. Science will be added to the tests for 4th, 8th,

and 11th graders. As a result, the Department of Education is expecting to award a contract in October for development of new state tests for third and fourth graders. If work is completed in time, the new tests could be administered for the first time in spring 2003.

The NCLB also includes requirements for the states to identify low-performing schools based on student performance on standardized tests, and to offer transfer or tutoring options to students enrolled in low-performing schools. The Department of Education is assisting local school districts in fulfilling their responsibilities under these new provisions in the law.

Three- and four-year-old children attending public preschool in New Jersey's 30 Abbott school districts are projected to increase again this year. Local officials from the districts expect to enroll 39,392 three- and four-year-olds in 2002-03, compared with 29,824 students served in 2001-02.

The State Board of Education is currently reviewing revised Core Curriculum Content Standards for social studies, visual and performing arts, world languages, health and physical education, early childhood education programs and workplace readiness. The stan-

dards, which describe knowledge and skills that all students need by the time they graduate from high school, are scheduled for adoption in November. The state board previously adopted standards for language arts literacy, mathematics, and science. The standards were first adopted in 1996 and by regulation are subject to five-year reviews.

Commissioner Labrera is also expected to seek legislative support this year for his plan to change New Jersey's school takeover law. The Commissioner is seeing new legislation that will enable the state's three largest school districts — Newark, Jersey City and Paterson — to return to local control. Dr. Labrera wants to redirect the Department of Education's efforts toward assisting local school officials to build their capacity to increase student achievement and better manage their affairs.

In the interest in keeping the public and New Jersey's education community informed, the Department of Education has renewed its invitation for members of the news media, educators and the general public to subscribe to its free news service, the Governor's Education News Service, or gens. Subscriptions are available from the Department of Education's Web site.

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Community Life

Briefs

Alpha video class begins Sept. 22

WESTFIELD — The Alpha course is a 10-week video program designed as an introduction to Christianity.

The First Baptist Church will conduct the Alpha course beginning Sept. 22. A sneak preview is available for free at the Elm Street church 6-8 p.m. Sunday. Dinner will be offered.

For more information, phone (908) 233-2278.

Temple conducts canned food drive

WESTFIELD — Temple Emanu-El is holding a food drive to coincide with Yom Kippur.

Drop off donations 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday in the synagogue's parking lot at 756 E. Broad St. Needed are canned tuna, canned beans, canned soup, canned fruit, chili, boxes of rice, boxed cereal, boxed pasta, pancake mix, instant potatoes, peanut butter, jelly and toiletries.

All donations will go to the Westfield Food Pantry, based at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church.

For more information, phone Carolyn Shane at (908) 232-6770.

Y program builds father-child bonds

SCOTCH PLAINS — To help build father-son and father-daughter ties, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA participates in the "Y Guides and Princesses" program.

Men who have a son or daughter 5-12 years old are welcome to participate in the main program. Men with a son or daughter 4-5 years old can become a "Wee Y Guide." If there is no father or stepfather, any male relative or friend 24 or older may participate.

Anyone interested in either program is welcome to attend an open house 7 p.m. Wednesday at the YMCA, 1340 Martine Ave.

"Y Guides" form "tribes" of 8-10 families that meet two evenings a month during the school year at members' homes. "Tribes" also go camping overnight three weekends a year. To pull all "tribes" together, a "long-house" event is held once a month.

"Wee Y Guides" meet the first Tuesday of the month at the YMCA. They spend one weekend at an overnight camp and have their own "long-house" events.

Pre-registration for the open house is recommended; phone Jamie Farnam at (908) 889-5455.

War re-enactor is guest speaker

WESTFIELD — The West Fields Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, holds its monthly meeting 8 p.m. Tuesday in the Municipal Building at 425 E. Broad St.

Revolutionary War historian Mark Hurwitz is the guest speaker. He is commander of the Brigade of the American Revolution, a non-military group that re-enacts major events from the War of Independence.

Membership is open to any man who can trace his lineage to a soldier, sailor or civil officer in the Revolutionary War. The West Fields Chapter was formed in 1921 and is the largest of 13 such chapters in New Jersey.

For more information, phone Registrar George Gross at (908) 232-3845.

Longtime workers honored by hospital

UNION — Three longtime employees of Union Hospital from Westfield were honored for their service at a dinner.

June E. Hammer was honored for 25 years of service, Joyce Lipson for 20 years and Theresa Breza for 10 years.

Gardeners enjoying fruits of their labor

By CANDACE WALLER
CORRESPONDENT

WESTFIELD — Despite the lack of rain, it's been a good growing season for the Westfield Share Gardeners.

Now it's canning time. The 25-foot-by-25-foot lots can yield a lot of vegetables, too many for a family to eat fresh-picked.

Trish Cheek is among those who cans her produce to enjoy during the winter months. Cheek along with friend and fellow gardener Elizabeth Dole have been part of the organization for three years. Cheek says that Dole got her interested in canning.

"I like the taste of fresh-

"I like the taste of fresh-grown. Growing my own lets me have preservative free, organic tomatoes all year round."

**-Trish Cheek
Westfield Share
Gardener**

grown. Growing my own lets me have preservative-free, organic tomatoes all year round," Cheek said. "The flavor of home-grown is so much better than store bought and without the additives."

Cheek has perfected the process over the two years she has canned; however, she happily admits she is still learning. She first sterilizes the jars in boiling water. At the same time she prepares the Roma and Amish paste tomatoes by peeling and cutting them. She then takes the jars out of the bath and puts them on a clean towel to dry.

The tomatoes and juice are



CANDACE WALLER/CORRESPONDENT

Westfield Share Gardeners Elizabeth Dole, left, and Patricia Cheek prepare tomatoes for canning.

then added to the jars. The jars are put back in the water bath for 15 minutes. Then they are taken out and, when they cool, the lids pop indicating the jar is sealed.

"There should be no air bubbles in the jars," Cheek said. "Another tip is to leave 1/2 inch of space for expansion and close tops tight so the juices don't seep when you put them

in the boiling water."

Cheek says she primarily cans tomatoes. She also blanches green and wax beans and freezes them in quart-size bags. Dole cans her tomatoes, makes bread and butter pickles, ratatouille (a mixture of eggplant, squash, tomatoes, peppers and onions), jams and relishes.

Dole said last year her toma-

atoes had a special purpose.

"I picked my tomatoes on Sept. 11. I was going to can them at a friend's house because my kitchen was being worked on. I was on my way over there when the attacks took place. I called my friend to see if her husband was okay. I ended up at church and donated the tomatoes for the church dinner."

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Martin Goldstein; CPA, synagogue officer

WESTFIELD — Martin Goldstein, 83, a certified public accountant and former synagogue officer, died Sept. 4, 2002 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

He was a founding partner in the Union accounting firm Grossman, Goldstein & Horn. Mr. Goldstein later was a shareholder in the Wayne accounting firm Horton & Co. and retired from that firm in 1996. He earned a degree in business administration from the Newark campus of Rutgers University in 1950.

Mr. Goldstein was a past-president of the Men's Club at Temple Emanu-El, of which he was a former officer and trustee. In 1963 he served as master of Composite Lodge 223, Free & Accepted Masons, in South Orange. He was an Army staff sergeant in the Philippines during World War II.

The American Society of Certified Public Accountants hon-

ored Mr. Goldstein recently for his 40 years' membership. He also was a longtime member of the New Jersey Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Mr. Goldstein was born in Newark and had lived in Westfield since 1954.

Surviving are his wife, Jeanette Witkowsky Goldstein; a son, Stuart; a daughter, Joan Fischer; two brothers, Seymour and Edwin; a sister, Mildred Franzblau; and two grandchildren.

Services were held Friday at Temple Emanu-El. Burial was in Mount Lebanon Cemetery, Iselin.

Arrangements were by Menorah Chapels at Millburn, in Union.

Donations may be sent to Westfield Rescue Squad, 335 Watterson St., Westfield, NJ 07090 or The Valerie Fund, 2101 Millburn Ave., Maplewood, NJ 07040.

Carolyn A. Schulz

Carolyn A. Schulz, 61, of Whiting died Friday, Sept. 6, 2002 in Community Medical Center, Toms River.

Born in East Orange, she lived in Clark for 37 years before moving to Whiting two years ago.

Mrs. Schulz was a volunteer at Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Scotch Plains, and the Caring Group of

Whiting Bible Church.

Surviving are her husband, Stephen H.; sons, Gregg and Eric G.; daughters, Donna C. Gorman and Dawn E. Ware; a brother, William Einloth, and five grandchildren.

Services were Monday at Evangel Baptist Church, Springfield. Arrangements were by Smith and Smith Funeral Home, Springfield.

Margaret M. Clyde

A Mass for Miss Margaret M. Clyde, 101, of Scotch Plains will be at 4 p.m. tomorrow in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1571 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. Arrangements are by Dooley Colonial Home, Westfield.

Miss Clyde, who died Saturday, Sept. 7, 2002 at Ashbrook Nursing Home, Scotch Plains, celebrated her 101st birthday in January.

She was a secretary with Bell

Labs in New York City for eight years before retiring many years ago. Earlier, she had been a secretary with Stockbridge and Borst, Patent Attorney, New York City, for 25 years.

Born in New York City, she lived in Jersey City for 68 years and Ocean Grove for 18 years before moving to Scotch Plains 10 years ago.

Miss Clyde is survived by a brother, the Rev. George Clyde.

Obituaries

Lewis A. Goldberg

Lewis A. Goldberg, 71, died July 30, 2002.

He was born in Elizabeth to Max and Mary Goldberg of Cranford. He grew up over his father's store, Goldberg's Men's Shop in Cranford. He graduated from Cranford High School in 1948 and Syracuse University in 1952.

He served for three years in the Navy as a lieutenant j.g. and was stationed in Norfolk, Va.

Following his years in the Navy, Mr. Goldberg returned to New Jersey where he assumed responsibility for running the family business. In addition to building a successful business, he was very involved in the community.

He co-founded the Suburban Symphony Orchestra and served as its principal clarinetist for the orchestra. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple Emanu-El in Westfield, where he also served as an officer.

After relocating to Cincinnati in 1982, Mr. Goldberg served on the Board of Trustees of the Isaac M. Wise Temple and he and his wife Nancy were among the founding members of the Wise Temple

Choir. He also served on the Board of Overseers for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Goldberg had been a senior financial adviser with American Express Financial Advisors for the past 15 years. He received numerous awards for his work, including his designation as a Master Adviser, a member of the American Express's Platinum Team and, most recently, his introduction into the company's prestigious Diamond Ring Club.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his children, Michael, and his wife Jill of Needham, Mass., and Ellen of Stamford, Conn.; two sisters, Ruth Silverman of Westfield and Shirley and her husband Dr. Irving Alper of Millburn; and two grandchildren, Rachel and Julia Goldberg of Needham.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23, at Temple Emanu-El, 756 E. Broad St., Westfield. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, 1241 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45210 or to a charity of one's choice.

Michael J. Loh

Michael J. Loh, 78, died Sept. 4, 2002 at his home.

He was born in Lansdale, Pa., a son of the late George and Anna Loh, and lived in Garwood for most of his life.

Mr. Loh retired in 1986 as a foreman with Custom Molders in Scotch Plains. He earlier worked for Regina Corp. in Rahway and Grumman Corp. in Long Island, N.Y.

He joined the Army for World War II service in 1942; Mr. Loh served with the 516th Military Police Battalion of the 7th Infantry Regiment in North Africa and Anzio. After France was liberated his unit received the

French Cord of Honor as the first American unit in the war to be decorated. He was twice wounded in action and received a Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster.

Mr. Loh was a past master of Azure Lodge 129, Free & Accepted Masons, in Cranford.

A sister, Anna Loh Dubas, is deceased.

Surviving are two daughters, Judy Arnold and Kathleen LaFarrara; a brother, George of Scotch Plains; a sister, Eleanor Loh Beninanti of Kenilworth; and two grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by Dooley Funeral Home in Cranford.

Richard J. Langford

WESTFIELD — Richard J. Langford, 84, died Sunday, Sept. 1, 2002, at home.

Born in Chicago, he moved to Westfield 48 years ago.

Mr. Langford owned Eastern States Adjustment Co. of Westfield, an industrial collection agency, for 25 years before retiring in 1986.

An Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, he was a statistical finance officer with the 8th Division. Mr. Langford was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 335, Cranford, and the American Legion of Clark.

A member of the Roselle Golf Club for 46 years, he served as club president and on the board of trustees.

He was an official with the Metropolitan Golf Association for the past 18 years, and traveled to Scotland and Ireland several times to play golf.

Mr. Langford was also a coach with the Westfield Little League.

Surviving are Peggy V., his wife of 53 years; sons, Brian, Sandy and Michael; daughters, Kathleen Shaw and Abigail; a brother, William; a sister, Josephine Worcester; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mass was offered Thursday at Church of the Assumption, Roselle Park, after the funeral form Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, 582 Springfield Ave.

Adeline Di Nizo

WESTFIELD — Adeline D'Amore Di Nizo died Sept. 5, 2002 at Genesis ElderCare-The Woodlands Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Providence, R.I., and had lived for more than 65 years in Westfield.

Mrs. Di Nizo was a member of Court Trinity 337, Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

Her husband, Felix, died in 1979.

Surviving are a son, Walter F.; two daughters, Carmela Tarbella and Emmajean Valpicelli; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mass was offered Tuesday at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Arrangements were by Dooley Colonial Home. Donations may be sent to the American Cancer Society.

Louis S. Turkel

SCOTCH PLAINS — Louis S. Turkel, 91, died Sept. 3, 2002 at Genesis ElderCare-The Woodlands Center in Plainfield.

A native of Newark, he lived in Union and Brick before moving to Scotch Plains.

Mr. Turkel retired in 1976 after 48 years as the owner of Ace Table Pad Co. in Newark. He was a member of the Lakewood chapter of B'nai B'rith.

Surviving are three daughters, Myra Peterson, Rita Selesner and Jane Rosenthal; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held Sept. 5 at Mount Lebanon Cemetery in Iselin.

Arrangements were by Belkoff-Goldstein Funeral Chapel in Lakewood. Donations may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association.

Corinne M. Kegel

SCOTCH PLAINS — Corinne M. Kegel, 78, died Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2002, at home.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she lived in New Brunswick before moving to Scotch Plains 36 years ago.

Mrs. Kegel graduated from Packard Junior College in New York City and received her associate degree in secretarial studies. She worked as administrative assistant to the vice president of United States Trust Co. of New

York in New York City for 12 years before retiring.

Surviving are her husband Philip K. Kegel; her daughter Susan K. Spies and her husband, William of Fanwood; her brother, Robert M. McCleary Jr. of Sebring, Fla., and her granddaughter, Corinne J. Spies of Fanwood.

Private arrangements were by Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood.

Edward E. Meyh

SCOTCH PLAINS — Services for Edward E. Meyh, 73, died Thursday, Sept. 5, 2002, in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Union, Mr. Meyh lived in Union and Westfield for 39 years before moving to Scotch Plains.

Mr. Meyh was a senior technologist for Exxon Research in Linden, where he worked for 36 years before retiring in 1984. While there, he worked on gasoline problems in the motor fuels section of Products

Research, specializing in tracking the performance of new gasoline additives.

He served in the Army during the Korean War.

He was a member of the Exxon Annuitant Club of North Central New Jersey.

Surviving are daughters, Nancy Romeo and Debra Romano, and six grandchildren.

Services were Monday at Rossi Funeral Home.

Arthur Louis Wayne

WESTFIELD — Arthur Louis Wayne, 62, a lifelong town resident, died Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2002 at home.

Mr. Wayne worked for the Westfield Department of Public Works for 14 years before retiring in June. Previously, he worked for Hyatt in Clark.

Mr. Wayne also played semi-professional football with the Jersey Red Oaks of Plainfield, where he was known as Dirty Red.

He served in the Air Force during peacetime and was discharged in 1958.

Mr. Wayne was a member of the West Centennial Elks Lodge 400, Westfield.

Surviving are his wife, Celeste; sons, Arthur K., John and Damon; a daughter, Lady; a brother, Walter Jr.; a sister, Maxine Anthony, and six grandchildren.

Services were Tuesday at Plinton Curry Funeral Home.

Townhouse hearings could begin in October

By GREG MARX
THE RECORD-PRESS

CRANFORD — Hearings on a major townhouse development on the south side of town could begin next month, an attorney for the developer said.

Brooklyn-based developer Twin Oaks Realty, LLC, is seeking to build 40 townhouses on Meeker Avenue and Hale and Heinrich streets, on property abutting the Ashley Business Park on South Avenue. The homes, to be marketed to young adults and empty-nesters, will cost about \$280,000 each, said attorney Joseph Triarsi.

The application was to be heard at the zoning board's July 8 meeting, but was tabled at the last minute when developers realized they had not reached a contract to buy one of the single-family homes in the neighborhood.

That property, located on Meeker Avenue, will not be included in the project, Triarsi said. Consequently, the proposed project has been shrunk slightly, from the 43 units originally proposed. The project's square footage has been shrunk from 140,000 to about 133,800, Triarsi said.

Otherwise, the proposed development is identical, Triarsi said. The proposed units are 34 feet and three stories high, and include three bedrooms, three bathrooms, and Victorian design elements. The development will also still require the same variances, he said. The chief variance is for density — municipal regulations would allow only 26 single-family homes on the site.

Triarsi said he expects to file the application by the end of this week, and hopes the board will begin hearing it next month.

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www.evangelbaptist.org

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973-467-8454

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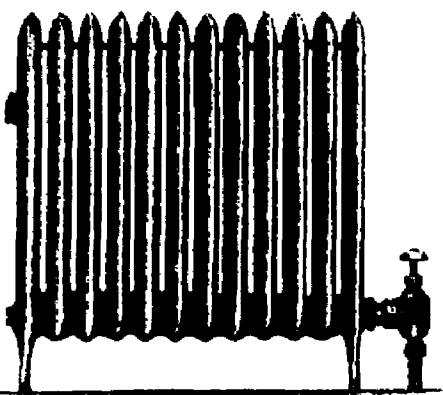
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Let's Ask Jill



by Jill Guzman

THE MARKET AND YOU

Depending on the laws of supply and demand, at various times there are so-called "buyers" and "sellers" markets. Ideally, sellers want to be in a market in which the demand outweighs the supply of homes like theirs. Sellers should also be aware, however, that it is possible to buck general trends and have more leverage than the marketplace would seem to allow. Perhaps the seller has one of the only properties in a neighborhood deemed highly desirable by a certain buyer. Moreover, personal circumstances, not marketplace conditions, often dictate the urgency of a sale. It may be that a relocated employee has an immediate need to move into a home. You can never predict what may drive a sale.

Though certain geographical locations may differ, this is generally an excellent market. Mortgage rates are exceptionally low, and the vagaries of

the stock market have also led many people to reconsider investing in a home as a safer place for their money. If you are interested in buying or selling real estate, call JILL GUZMAN REALTY. "Our best reference is your neighbor."® Look for our homes daily.

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This week

FRIDAY SEPT. 13

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICK — "The Shawshank Redemption," mid-90's prison drama. Fanwood Memorial Library, North Ave., Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Free. (908) 322-6400.

'SHUT-IN' — prayer service for Missionary Ministry of St. John's Baptist Church, 2387 Morse Ave., Scotch Plains, 8 p.m. Sept. 13-6 a.m. Sept. 14. (908) 232-6972.

SATURDAY SEPT. 14

BOOK SIGNING — "J.K. Lasser's New Rules for Retirement and Tax," edited by Paul Westbrook. Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (908) 233-3535.

BOOK SIGNING — "Platonic Heaven" by Mary Kelly. Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield, 2-4 p.m. (908) 233-3535.

'ROCKIN' FOR RELIEF' — dance benefiting Realtors Care Fund. Scotch Hills Country Club, Scotch Plains, 7-11 p.m. \$35. Tickets: (908) 232-9000.

FALL BARBECUE — for Newcomers' Club of Westfield, 7:30 p.m. (rain date Sept. 21). Reservations: (908) 389-9248 or (908) 233-5605.

SUNDAY SEPT. 15

BEE! — seminar on beekeeping. Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 2-5 p.m. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free. (908) 232-1776.

ALPHA — preview of course on Christianity. First Baptist

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

FALL PROGRAMS are under way for seniors at the JCC, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. Held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, events include art, current events, exercise, Jewish culture, creative writing and a kosher lunch. Call (908) 889-8800, extension 207, for details.

AARP 55 ALIVE: SAFE DRIVING COURSE registrations are now being accepted at the JCC of Central NJ, Wilf Jewish Community Campus, 1391 Martine Ave. Class will meet Thursday, Sept. 26, and Friday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., with a half-hour lunch break. Upon completion of this eight-hour course, participants are entitled to a 5 percent discount on auto insurance and the reduction of two points from driving record. Fee is \$10 payable to AARP. Space is limited. Call Nan Statton at (908) 889-8800, extension 207, to reserve a spot.

Newcomers Club planning a tea

FANWOOD — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers Club holds its annual Welcome Tea 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19 at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 S. Martine Ave.

Women who are new to the township and borough are welcome. In addition, any woman from Fanwood or Scotch Plains who has had a lifestyle change (birth, career, marriage) is invited.

The nonprofit social organization has activities for women and their families.

If you plan to attend, phone Dawn at (908) 928-1095 or Christine at (908) 889-6035.

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MONDAY SEPT. 16

FOOD DRIVE — for Westfield Food Pantry. Temple Emanu-El, 756 E. Broad St., Westfield, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. (908) 232-6770.

CAREGIVER — support group for families of those with Alzheimer's disease. Sunrise at Westfield, 240 Springfield Ave., Westfield, 7 p.m. (800) 883-1180.

SING OUT — first rehearsal of Westfield Glee Club for 2002-03. Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 8 p.m. Women and men welcome. (908) 232-0673.

TUESDAY SEPT. 17

LADIES' DINNER OUT — for Newcomers' Club of Westfield. Cathay 22, Route 22 West, Springfield, 7:30 p.m. (908) 389-9248 or (908) 233-5605.

OUR ALMA MATER — meeting of Alumni Association for Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, 641 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains, 7:30 p.m. (908) 889-2084.

WAR HISTORY — for West Fields Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield, 8 p.m. (908) 232-3845.

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 18

OPEN HOUSE — for Y

Guides and Princesses program. Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, 1340 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, 7 p.m. Registration: (908) 889-5455.

CRASH COURSE IN HEBREW, JCC, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, 7:30 p.m. Two 4-week sessions focusing on reading text and speaking Hebrew. Rabbi sponsored by Torah Links, Project Gasher. Call (908) 889-8800, extension 205, to register. Member, \$40; non-member, \$80.

THURSDAY SEPT. 19

PLAYTIME — for kids with moms in Newcomers' Club of Westfield. Mindowaskin Park, Westfield, 4:30 p.m. (908) 389-9248 or (908) 233-5605.

WELCOME TEA — for new members of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers' Club. Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 S. Martine Ave., Fanwood, 8 p.m. Registration: (908) 928-1095 or (908) 889-6035.

FRIDAY SEPT. 20

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICK — "The Handmaid's Tale," early 90's drama. Fanwood Memorial Library, North Ave., Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Free. (908) 322-6400.

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SATURDAY SEPT. 21

BOOK SALE — annual event for Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library, North Ave., Fanwood, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (rain date Sept. 28). Donations accepted: (908) 889-0998.

BOOK SIGNING — "A Woman's Guide to Successful Negotiating" by Jessica and Lee Miller. Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (908) 233-3535.

SUNDAY SEPT. 22

'AMERICA'S WALK — for Diabetes," American Diabetes Association walkathon. Nomahegan Park, Cranford, 10 a.m. Registration: (800) DIABETES, Ext. 3525.

'SCHERENSCHNITTE' — German paper craft. Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 2-5 p.m. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free. (908) 232-1776.

COMING UP

MAD SCIENCE Enrichment Class, begins Monday, Sept. 23, JCC, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, 4-5 p.m., eight-week session for grades K-2. Professional

educators provide hands-on science experiments. Call (908) 889-8800, extension 235 to register. Member, \$90; non-member, \$115.

BOARD MEETING for Newcomers' Club of Westfield, 8 p.m. Sept. 23. (908) 389-9248 or (908) 233-5605.

SPEAK UP seminar on how to "Build Your Public Presence." Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., Cranford, 7 p.m. Sept. 24. (908) 686-0500.

PICK APPLES — at Alstede Farm (Chester) with Newcomers' Club of Westfield. Carpoles meet at Bagel Chateau, 223 South Ave., East, Westfield, 9 a.m. Sept. 27. (908) 389-9248 or (908) 233-5605.

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICK — "The House of Spirits," early-90's "Oscar Bait" picture. Fanwood Memorial Library, North Ave., Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27. Free. (908) 322-6400.

RABIES CLINIC for cats and dogs in Scotch Plains. Firehouse, 430 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, Sept. 28; cats 8 a.m., dogs 9 a.m. (908) 322-6700, Ext. 309.

SPIDERWEBS

"Salamanders, Spiders and Other Colonial Kitchen Gadgets." Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 2-5 p.m. Sept. 29. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free. (908) 232-1776.

COMMUNION BREAK-FAST — annual event of Altar Rosary Society at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church (Scotch Plains). The Westwood, 438 North Ave., Garwood, following 9 a.m. Mass at church Oct. 6. (908) 322-5192.

RETIREMENT — party for Norbert Bernstein, director of Scotch Plains Public Library. 1 Affaire, Route 22, Mountainside, noon Oct. 6. \$50. Tickets: (908) 322-5007.

ARC GOLF — Classic, benefiting the Arc of Union County. Shackamaxon Golf and Country Club, Scotch Plains, 10 a.m. Oct. 10. Registration: www.arcunion.org, (908) 754-7422 or (908) 754-7826.

MAYOR'S CHARITY — Gala, honoring volunteers of the year for Scotch Plains. Pantagis Renaissance, Route 22, Scotch Plains, 7 p.m. Dec. 6. (908) 322-6700, Ext. 221.

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• "Sly Fox, comedy by Larry Gelbart. 8 p.m. Sept. 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, Oct. 4, 5; 3 p.m. Sept. 22. Admission \$13 opening night, \$12 other evenings, \$11 matinee. Discounts available.

FORUM THEATRE
 314 Main St., Metuchen
 (732) 548-0582;
 www.akidsforum.com

• "Snoopy," musical based on the "Peanuts" canine. To Sept. 21. Admission \$12; group rates available. Call for dates and times.

MYSTIC VISION PLAYERS
 First Presbyterian Church
 117 W. Fifth Ave., Roselle
 (908) 925-8689, (908) 925-9068

• "You Can't Take It With You," Broadway standard. 8 p.m. Sept. 13, 14, 20, 21. Admission \$15.

OFF-BROADSTREET THEATRE
 5 S. Greenwood Ave.
 Hopewell
 (609) 466-2766

• "The Housekeeper," comedy by James Pridoux. 8 p.m. Sept. 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, Oct. 4, 5, 11, 12.

2:30 p.m. Sept. 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6. Admission \$24 Saturday, \$22.50 other days; discounts available.

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

• "Miss Saigon," touring production of Broadway musical. To Oct. 20. Admission \$67-\$30; discounts available. Call for show schedule.

SOMERSET VALLEY PLAYERS
 Route 514, Hillsborough
 (908) 369-7469;
 www.svptheatre.org

• "Annie," local production of Broadway/movie musical. 8 p.m. Sept. 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28; 3 p.m. Sept. 15, 22, 29. Admission \$17; discounts available.

COMING UP

GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE
 9 Livingston Ave.
 New Brunswick
 (732) 246-7717;
 www.georgestplayhouse.org

• "A Night in Tunisia," R&B revue in the style of a Bollywood movie. Sept. 17-Oct. 20. Admission \$50-\$26; discounts available. Call

for showtimes.

ROY W. SMITH THEATER
 Union County College, 1033
 Springfield Ave., Cranford
 (908) 659-5189

• "Artist Descending a Staircase," seldom-performed comedy by Tom Stoppard. 8 p.m. Sept. 19-21, 26-28, Oct. 3-5; 3 p.m. Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6. Admission \$14 Friday-Sunday, \$7 Thursday; discounts available.

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

• "Kent," touring production of Broadway musical. 3 and 8 p.m. Sept. 21. Admission \$50-\$22. Related lecture 2 p.m.; admission \$6.

Events

HISTORIC CHURCHES OF SOMERVILLE
 (732) 356-8856;
 www.heritagetrail.org

• Walking tour in the Somerset County seat, 2 p.m. Sept. 14. Tour leaves from United Reformed Church on West Main Street. Cost \$5.

Concerts

ELEGY

4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15
 Peapack Reformed Church
 Route 512, Gladstone
 (908) 234-2733

• Written by Harold Friedell for performance by Mary Elizabeth Young, harp; Sarah Silverman, violin; and Henry Repp, organ. Free admission.

BART FELLER/SHE-E WU

8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20
 Nicholas Music Center, Rutgers
 University, New Brunswick
 (732) 932-7511;
 masongross.rutgers.edu

• Flutist (former) and percussionist (latter) perform works of Wilder, Solberger and other composers. Admission \$15-\$10.

JERSEY JAZZ BY THE LAKE

12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21
 Nomahegan Park
 Springfield Ave., Cranford
 (908) 436-2900

• All-day jazz show with Roy Ayers, Arturo Sandoval and other musicians. Free admission.

MIN-JUNG KIM/HYUN-JUNG

PARK/KEVIN WILLOIS
 Noon Friday, Sept. 13
 Kirkpatrick Chapel, Rutgers
 University, New Brunswick
 (732) 932-7511;
 masongross.rutgers.edu

• Violinist, organist and flutist, respectively. Free admission.

LEONORE TRIO

8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14
 Wilkins Theatre
 Kean University, Union
 (908) 737-4337;
 www.kean.edu

• Playing the world premiere of a quartet by Frank Ezra Levy and the New Jersey premiere of a sonata by Matthew Halper. Free admission.

JOHN PIZZARELLI

8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20
 Somerset County Vo-Tech
 Vogt Dr., Bridgewater
 (908) 526-8900, Ext. 7219

• Jazz guitarist performs with his trio. Admission \$40-\$30. Package deal with Marlene VerPlanck (see below) \$45.

SEPTEMBER SONG

8 p.m. Sept. 20, 21, 26-28;
 2 p.m. Sept. 21; St. Mark's
 Episcopal Church, Basking
 Ridge
 (908) 580-0128

• Recital of operettas and show tunes. Admission \$18 before Sept. 15, \$20 after.

MARLENE VERPLANCK

8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21
 Somerset County Vo-Tech
 Vogt Dr., Bridgewater
 (908) 526-8900, Ext. 7219

• New Jersey-based cabaret singer. Admission \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Package deal with John Pizzarelli (see above) \$45.

For Kids

CHILDREN'S DAY

Noon Sunday, Sept. 22
 Van Horne House
 East Main St., Bridgewater
 (732) 356-8856;
 www.heritagetrail.org

• Games, arts and crafts as they were in colonial times. Fee \$1 per child.

Museums

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• "The Buzz on Bees," Sept. 15.

• "Scherenschnitte," Sept. 22.

CDC has three plays this year

CRANFORD — Cranford Dramatic Club President Madge Wittel of Westfield announced three major productions for the upcoming season: "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," based on the comic strip by Charles M. Schultz, in October; the recent Neil Simon comedy, "The Dinner Party," in February, and the Broadway musical "Guys and Dolls" in May. The Children's Theater December presentation will be "A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail."

"We are proud and endeavor to continue our commitment to excellence in community theater, with another unforgettable season," said Wittel.

A record number of nominations were garnered by last season's closing show, "South Pacific," for Recognition of Excellence in Community Theater (RECT) awards. Nominations were for Anamaria Llanos for lighting design; Elizabeth Howard of Cranford for costume design; Arlene Wachstein of Mountainside and Danielle Einhorn of Kenilworth for properties; Sherri McLaughlin Ryan of Plainfield for choreography; Stacy Grohol of Garwood and Danielle Einhorn for stage management; Shayne Austin Miller of South Plainfield for direction of a musical; Elizabeth Howard for production of a musical; Roger Hayden of Westfield for lead actor in a musical, and Anamaria Llanos for featured actress in a musical.

CDC Theater performances of all major productions are on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. A Sunday matinee will be performed on Mothers Day for "Guys and Dolls" at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$18 for major productions and \$8 for children's theater.

The CDC theater is located at 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford, off Centennial Avenue and just minutes from exit 136 of the Garden State Parkway. For more information call (908) 276-7611.

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Westfield resident reports burglary of her residence

WESTFIELD

Two juveniles were charged with possession of alcohol on Ross Place and Boulevard on Sept. 3. They were issued a summons and released.

A Scotch Plains resident reported his CD player and 80 CDs were stolen from his motor vehicle while it was parked behind a building on Elm Street on Sept. 4.

A Garwood resident filed a theft by deception report naming a business in Westfield, which took a \$2,896 deposit for merchandise. The money was not returned, nor was merchandise delivered.

Novella Hathaway of Plainfield was charged with violation of probation on Sept.

Police Log

5. She was taken to Union County jail on the no bail warrant.

Beverly Goordman of 16 S. Main St., Bangor, Pa., was picked up on traffic warrants issued by the Rockaway Municipal Court.

A resident in the 100 block of Prospect Street reported burglary and theft at her residence on Sept. 6. The value of the theft is approximately \$2,150.

John Roane of 34 Johnson Ave., Cranford, was picked up on an outstanding warrant out of Westfield and Egg Harbor on

Sept. 7.

Anneliese Graczyk, of 83 Mohawk Drive, Cranford, was charged with shoplifting in the 600 block of North Avenue West on Sept. 7.

A Westfield resident reported a burglary and theft from his motor vehicle while it was parked in the 100 block of Hardon Road.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Two bikes were reported stolen from the Italian Festival area at St. Bartholomew's Church during the evening of Sept. 2.

A 12-year-old female from Scotch Plains was assaulted by an acquaintance at the Italian festival at St. Bartholomew's Church on Sept. 3.

Two bikes were stolen from the 500 block of Farley Avenue during the afternoon of Sept. 3.

Abin Sakina-Ideen, 46, of 1380 North Ave. apt. 117, Elizabeth, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol, refusing to submit to breath tests and driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue about 11:30 p.m. on Sept. 3.

The theft of a traffic sign from a bus parked at the Hillcrest School on Plainfield Avenue was reported on Sept.

4.

A bike was reported stolen from in front of a residence in the 400 block of Myrtle Avenue during the afternoon on Sept. 4.

Residents of Roberts and Marion lanes and North Gate Road reported being the victims of credit card fraud on Sept. 5. Various charges were made throughout the past month in different areas of the country. There is no indication that the cases are related.

A 17-year-old male from Scotch Plains and a 16-year-old male from Fanwood were taken into custody in a vehicle, which was reported stolen from the Eckerd Pharmacy in Fanwood. The juveniles were released to their parents' custody.

Complaints are pending in juvenile court.

James Roundtree Jr., 33, of 430 W. Seventh St., Plainfield, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol after a motor vehicle stop at Terrill and Baritan roads about 3:30 a.m. Sept. 7.

The theft of a baby stroller was reported by a patron at Bowercraft during the afternoon of Sept. 7.

A Winchester Drive resident reported that the mailbox at the street was damaged during the evening of Sept. 7.

A Rahway Road resident reported that someone took bags of topsoil from his property during the weekend.

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Citgo wins final site plan approval, now controversy moves to court

By GREG MARX

THE RECORD PRESS

CRANFORD — The zoning Board of Adjustment granted final site plan approval Monday to the proposed Citgo gas station and Blimpie sub shop at 120 North Ave., but the controversial development may soon face another obstacle, court action.

As they have done before, board members agreed the project is not ideal for an already-busy intersection. But in voting unanimously for approval, board members also said zoning law and precedent constrained them from barring the project.

"What really applies here is you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," said Roman Chapelsky. "And that's what we've got here, a sow's ear... (But) I really don't see that we have much of an argument for a negative vote."

In an unusual move, the board did allow testimony from a traffic expert hired by project opponent Frank Krause at Monday's hearing. Testimony and objections, which have been lengthy in this case, are typically closed when preliminary site plan approval is granted.

The traffic expert testified that delivery of gasoline to the site would cause traffic congestion and safety hazards. The largest gasoline tankers, at 73 feet, would not be able to access the site at all, he said, and smaller tankers, at 55-68 feet, would do so only with difficulty.

But board members declined to impose any restrictions on tanker size. "From a zoning point of view, you're allowed to have a gas station there. Without getting gas in, you're not going to have a gas station," said board chairman Marc Brown. And he and others said business sense

will prevent Citgo from using a tanker that does not fit on the site.

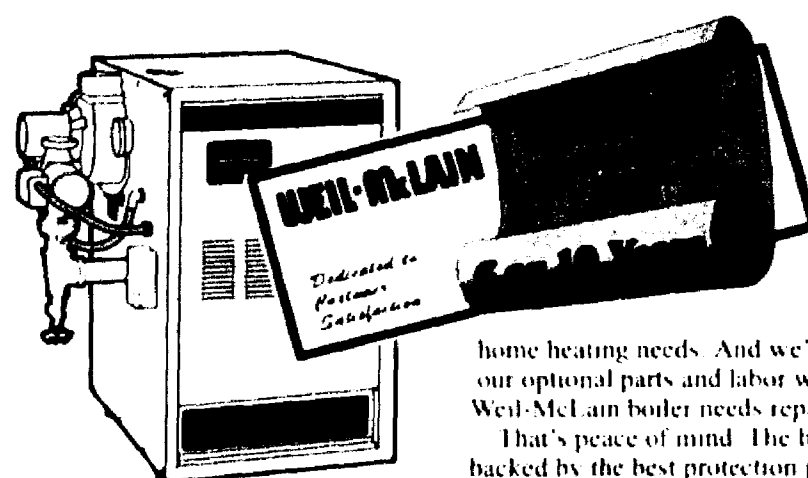
The board had previously imposed several conditions on approval, including a ban on delivery between 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Also, tankers will be required to enter the site from Orchard Street, and to leave by turning right, or westbound, onto North Avenue.

Though the board heard the expert testimony, it declined to hear more objections from Krause or other residents.

But Krause and other opponents will have another opportunity to object in court. Krause said he has filed an appeal in Superior Court, another township resident, attorney Mark Dugan, has also filed suit.

Dugan also named the township itself and the developer, 120 North Ave. Corp., as defendants in the suit.

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NICOLE DIMELLA/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Garwood fair is kids stuff

Joseph Kastner, 3, of Clark pets a sheep at the petting zoo at the Garwood Kidfest Street Fair Sunday. At left, best friends Ellen McDermott, left, and Rachael Kafka, 11, make candy necklaces with edible sand art. The Center Street fair was sponsored by the Garwood Chamber of Commerce.

Campus notes

Amanda Heffler of 2216 New York Ave., Scotch Plains, was named to the dean's list for the spring 2002 semester at The College of New Jersey in Ewing. She has just begun her sophomore year and is majoring in special education.

Heffler is a 2001 alumna of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

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Public speaking seminar planned

"Build Your Public Presence" in a public speaking seminar sponsored by the Women's Political Caucus of Union County. The seminar is 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24 at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., Cranford. Presenters are Barbara Frank, a member of the public speaking group Toastmasters, and George Stafford, a public relations consultant.

If you choose to do so Stafford will tape you giving a brief presentation on a topic of your choice. Up to 10 women can be accommodated; each will get her own tape to keep.

For more information, phone Ellen Steinberg at (908) 686-0500.

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Health & Fitness

Women should be more aware of the risk factors of diabetes

(ARA) - Women are special in many important ways. For instance, a woman is often the person responsible for making the health and lifestyle decisions for her family. Sometimes, she is so busy caring for others that she may neglect her own health.

Approximately 9.1 million women in the United States have diabetes, a disease that affects the way the body converts food into energy. The prevalence of diabetes is at least two to four times higher among African American,

Latino, Native American, and Asian/Pacific Islander women than among Caucasian women. Because of the increasing lifespan of women and the rapid growth of minority populations, the number of women in the United States at high risk for diabetes and its complications are increasing.

Women are hit harder by diabetes in a multitude of ways. For instance, women with diabetes are at greater risk for heart disease and stroke compared with men. Forty-five percent of women

with diabetes have heart disease, compared to 39 percent of men. What's more, once women develop heart disease they tend to have a poorer outcome than men. After suffering a heart attack, women have a higher risk of dying or having a second heart attack than do men.

Women with diabetes are more likely to have other risk factors for heart disease and stroke than women without diabetes. These risk factors include high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

A new public awareness initiative, "Make the Link! Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke," seeks to increase awareness about the link between diabetes and heart disease and stroke. Make the Link! is a three-year initiative co-sponsored by the American Diabetes Association and the American College of Cardiology.

One way for women with diabetes to "make the link" and reduce their risk for heart disease and stroke is to know their diabetes ABCs:

A is for the A1C test, the blood test that measures blood glucose (sugar) over the last two to three months. Target range: less than 7 percent.

B is for blood pressure. Target range: less than 130/80.

C is for cholesterol. Target range: LDL (bad) cholesterol less than 100 mg/dl.

Besides knowing your diabetes ABCs, there are some small changes that a woman with diabetes can make to help lower the risks for developing heart disease.

Keep blood glucose (blood sugar), blood pressure, and cholesterol numbers within your goal range.

If you smoke, get help to quit. Be active most days.

Eat low-fat meals that are high in fruits and vegetables, and whole grain foods.

Ask a healthcare provider about taking aspirin and other medicines that can help reduce the chance of having a heart attack or stroke.

Work closely with a healthcare provider to manage diabetes and reduce the risk for heart disease and stroke.

Find out more about the ABCs of diabetes by talking to your health care provider, or by visiting www.diabetes.org/makethelink or calling (800) DIABETES (342-2383).

Clearing up the myths about women and cancer

(NAPSI) - Myth #1: Pap smears screen for all types of gynecologic cancers including ovarian, uterine and cervical cancer.

Fact: Pap smears, which should be part of every woman's regular wellness routine, only test for cancer of the cervix, one of six types of gynecologic cancer. No other cancer can be reliably detected using this method. Also, women should know that a Pap smear is designed to test healthy women. If a woman has other symptoms, such as abnormal bleeding, she should talk to her doctor because other tests may be necessary.

Myth #2: Only post-menopausal women are at risk for developing a gynecologic cancer.

Fact: Gynecologic cancers do not discriminate women of all ages are at risk. Peak cancer rates for cervical cancer occur for women in their 40s, while ovarian and uterine cancer rates peak for women in their 60s and 70s. Additionally, gynecologic cancers affecting the reproductive organs can occur at any age.

Myth #3: Women can gauge their risk of ovarian cancer by learning about their mother's family history.

Fact: It is important for women to learn about their maternal and paternal family histories of breast, ovarian, uterine, colon and prostate cancers. However, 90 percent of ovarian cancers occur in women without a recognized family history of cancer.

All women should know the symptoms of ovarian cancer and seek appropriate care from a gynecologic specialist if symptoms persist.

For free or additional information, call the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation at 1-800-444-4441 or

log onto The Women's Cancer Network at www.wcn.org, to take a free, confidential risk assessment test. The site contains valuable resources and information for women who are at risk for or have been diagnosed with gynecologic and breast cancer.

SPOTLIGHT ON

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Presented by William Bell R PT

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Because their hips are worn and arthritic, about 120,000 Americans a year have them surgically replaced. Hip replacement used to be an older person's operation, but that is changing for several reasons. The operation has improved, and the replacement parts last longer. People also have higher expectations than in the past about how active and mobile they would like to be. Many doctors, however, encourage people to put off hip replacement as long as possible because it is best to have this operation performed only once. Exercise to strengthen the muscles around the hip joint, especially the gluteus medius, may not cure the underlying arthritis, but they can help stabilize the joint and perhaps delay the need for a replacement.

In fact, new hip replacement surgical techniques becoming available rely on much smaller incisions and may further reduce recovery time, but physical therapy remains the best way to get back to optimum condition in the least amount of time. This is especially true for people who have been out of condition for a long time because of their limitations before having the replacement. With your orthopaedic surgeon's referral call **BELL REHABILITATION & SPORTS MEDICINE** at (908) 272-5955. We are conveniently located at 777 Walnut Ave., Cranford. Most private insurances are accepted. Auto Insurance Claims are our specialty, and we will submit your bills for compensation. No faults & Medicare.

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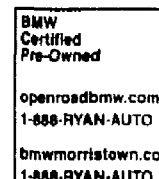
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Sports

Adams, Feighner lead young Raiders squad

Filled with potential, SP-F's only missing ingredient is experience

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

After riding last year's senior class to two consecutive berths in the sectional semifinals the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High football team will have a new look this season, but one it hopes can generate similar results.

The Raiders lost key players at almost every position from last year's 8-3 team, but return two integral pieces they hope can lead the way while a crop of youngsters with vast potential grow into their varsity roles.

Scotch Plains opens the season at home 1 p.m. Saturday against East Side.

"When you start off the playoffs are always a goal," said Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli. "But with a young team the emphasis is to get better each day and improve. We want to leave the football field a better team each day than when we stepped on it, and so far we've been doing that."

Last year's leading rusher Kyle Adams returns to the backfield, bringing with him a game-breaking combination of speed and shifty moves and will be following the blocks of senior offensive guard Chris Feighner. Adams will be the workhorse of the Raiders offense and will often be running behind Feighner on the right side, but Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli doesn't plan on returning to the run heavy play calling of three years ago when Nathan Jones was setting records in the Raiders' backfield.

"Kyle is a very good running back and obviously we're going to be using his skills," said Ciccotelli. "But if we can't keep the defenses honest we'll be in trouble. This year we'll be more run based, but we have to throw the ball. We're looking to take advantage of our athletes' abilities."

"It's a good bet we'll be running behind Feighner a lot this year. I think he's one of the best linemen in the area."

Taking over for Brian Schiller under center this year will be junior Michael Walker, but don't let the last name fool you. Ciccotelli

plans on taking advantage of the tall, speedy Walker's ability to run, utilizing more option and roll out plays than with the less mobile Schiller. He also has a strong arm, but just needs to gain more experience in the passing game.

"He's got a lot of athletic ability," said Ciccotelli. "He's a very talented player who just has to get in there and do it, do it, do it."

Travis Boff will be at fullback, where he performed well towards the end of last season when Andrew Pavoni was injured, and will share time with senior Roland Adeyemo. Kyle Baker will back up Adams in the backfield, and proved he's a capable runner towards the end of last season when Adams was injured.

While the receiving corps may not have the same explosiveness as last year's duo, the Raiders have a solid foursome in Josh Wexler, Josh Liss, Matt Powers and Rob Maroney who will be able to get open and balance the offensive attack.

Lining up next to Feighner on the right side of the offensive line will be senior tackle Shawn Doyle. On the left side of the line sophomore Mark Fabiano gets the start at guard with junior Tim Karis at tackle. Junior Mark Giannacci, sophomore Kevin Urban and junior Anthony Bora are all battling for the center position. At tight end will be junior Ted Sensor, who has opened the coaches' eyes with his improved blocking ability.

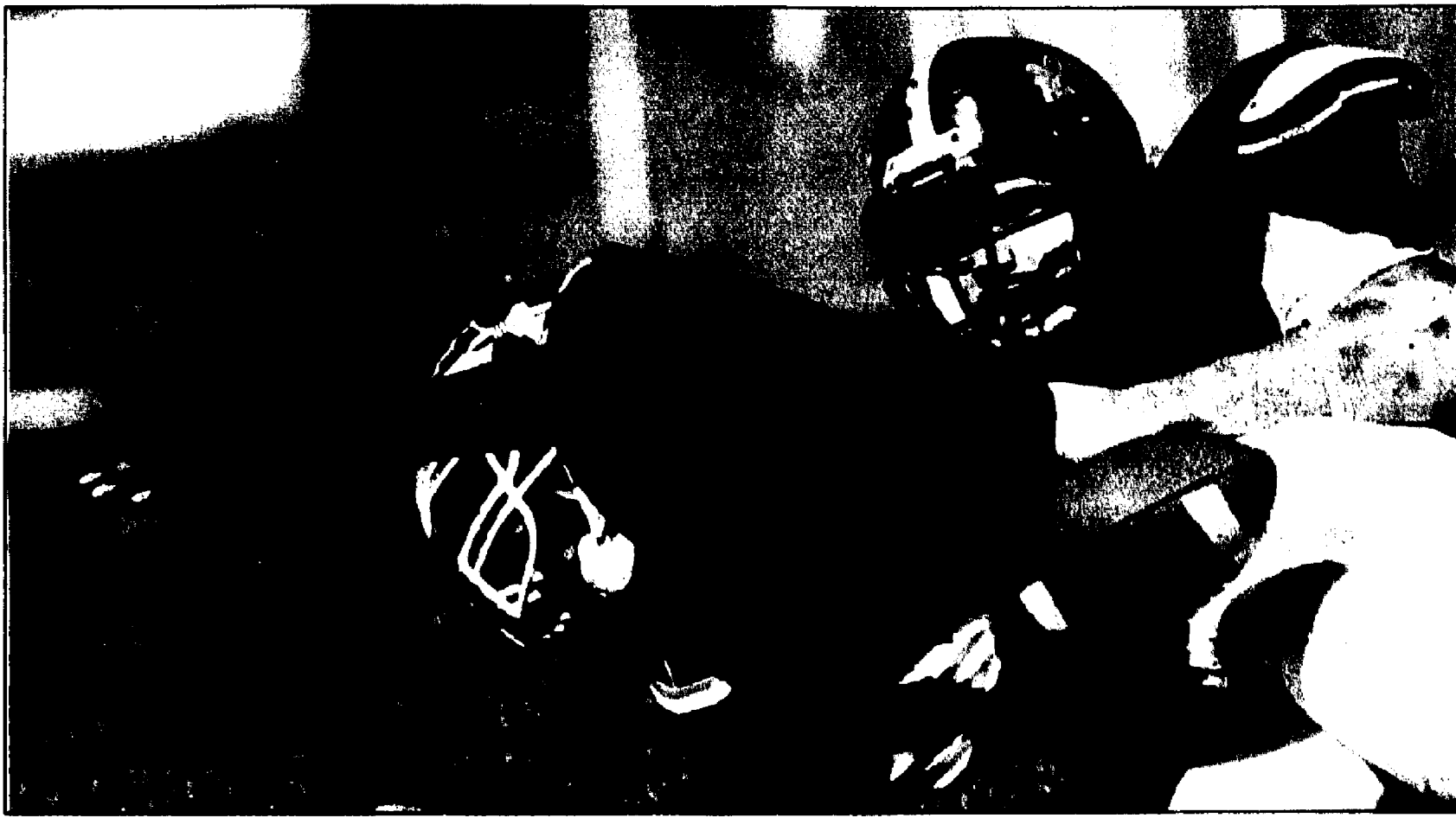
The Raiders expect to have an improved defense over a year ago, one that will be able to keep them in ball games as the offense comes together.

Feighner, Doyle, Karis and Fabiano anchor the line, with Boff and Adeyemo starting at middle linebacker. Charles Bachi and Sensor will play outside linebacker.

Adams and Baker will hold the corners with Wexler returning to the safety position.

"We've been playing some really good defense," said Ciccotelli. "We're hoping the defense can keep us in games. The offense will take some time because of all the new kids."

"They've got ability, but they need experience."



NICOLE DIMELLA/RECORD-PRESS
Scotch Plains quarterback Michael Walker loses grip of the ball after being tackled in the Raiders scrimmage with Phillipsburg. Walker's ability to run and throw adds another dimension to Scotch Plains' offense.

Raiders look to get off on right foot against East Side

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

Two similar teams will square off tomorrow hoping to be able to use the other as a stepping stone towards a successful campaign.

Both the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High and East Side squads lost several key players off of last year's squad and are hoping a strong start can breathe an air of confidence into their inexperienced squads.

Kickoff is slated for 1 p.m. tomorrow in Scotch Plains. The Raiders won last year's contest 17-0 as Kyle Adams and Travis Boff each had short touchdown runs. Kyle Baker rushed for 116 yards on 19 carries after taking over for Adams, who sprained his ankle in the game.

"(East Side) is a lot like us," said Scotch Plains Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli. "They lost a lot of good kids, but they play hard. I thought they did a nice job defensively (in their game scrimmage) and offensively they made some nice plays."

"They have a good mix (offensively). It's going to be a challenge."

East Side's top player is junior fullback/middle linebacker Lewis Rodriguez, a bruising runner inside. Using a Pro-I formation the Red Raiders will also look to stretch the field with wide receiver Calvin O'Neil and senior quarterback Robert Vival. Defensively East Side will look to stack the line of scrimmage with 5-2 and 6-2 defensive fronts.

"We'll use some three-step

drops and quick routes, but we also want to go vertical with Calvin as much as we can," said Sheridan. "We're very young but we feel we have a lot of good kids. It will be trial by fire."

In East Side's game scrimmage they were able to remain balanced offensively and worked in a quick rhythm, using play action, quick drops, running the ball and rolling the pocket. Scotch Plains will look to contain and pressure Vival to keep him off balance, while the secondary of Adams, Kyle Baker and Josh Wexler will have to keep a close eye on O'Neil.

"We've got to play good defense first," said Ciccotelli. "We can't let the quarterback get out of the pocket. They have one good runner they like to get the ball to. We have to be able to contain him

and put pressure on the quarterback."

"We can't give up the big play. We have to make them drive the field."

Offensively Scotch Plains will rely heavily on senior tailback Kyle Adams, but they also realize it's hardly a well kept secret and he'll be the focal point of East Side's defense. With Adams the only offensive star returning from last year's club the opposition will be keying on him all season.

"We're going to try to use things that our kids do well," said Ciccotelli. "We're not going to ask them to do something they can't do well. We have to do some things early to keep (East Side) honest and take advantage of what our quarterback does well and our receivers do well."

Blue Devils looking to evolve into champions again

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

Last season a fairly inexperienced Westfield High girls soccer team started slow, but gradually progressed and peaked in time to win the Union County Tournament title. With half its starters back this fall the Blue Devils are looking at a similar path and hoping for similar results.

Westfield returns 13 letterwinners but only five starters from last year's 10-8-1 championship team and will face a very challenging schedule with all but three teams coming off state tournament berths last year. With sev-

eral youngsters challenging and winning starting jobs, blending the youth and experience may take some time but the Blue Devils are confident they'll be in a position to repeat some tournament time.

Westfield kicked off the season yesterday against Bishop Ahr and will host Scotch Plains-Fanwood 4 p.m. Tuesday and East Brunswick 4 p.m. Sept. 20.

"Things are starting to shape up," said Head Coach Pete Giordano Monday. "Each scrimmage we've had somebody has stepped up and are winning spots. A lot of the kids we lost were starters so it may take some time for them to get comfortable play-

ing together but it will come together."

As the team begins to gel it will have several key veteran players to look to. Senior captain Megan Connors returns in goal, with senior captain Ashley Kent at outside halfback and fullback and senior captain Staci Spass at center midfield. Senior Susan Williams, a four-year starter who scored the game winning goal in the county final, returns to forward after leading the Devils in scoring last year and sophomore Emily McNeil will be

Girls Soccer



moves into the midfield. Giordano was a little frustrated that he couldn't solidify the lineup earlier, with the remaining four jobs still up for grabs at the beginning of the week, but the competition for a starting spot will only help the Blue Devils in the long run.

"It's a good problem and a bad problem," said Giordano. "We've

at a sweeper after a break-out freshman season."

Laura Shelman moves from forward to stopper, and Gio Palatucci

had three weeks and four scrimmages to get ready. Some days we have kids step up other days different kids step up. We need a little more consistency. But it's good competition and it's making kids step it up and play better."

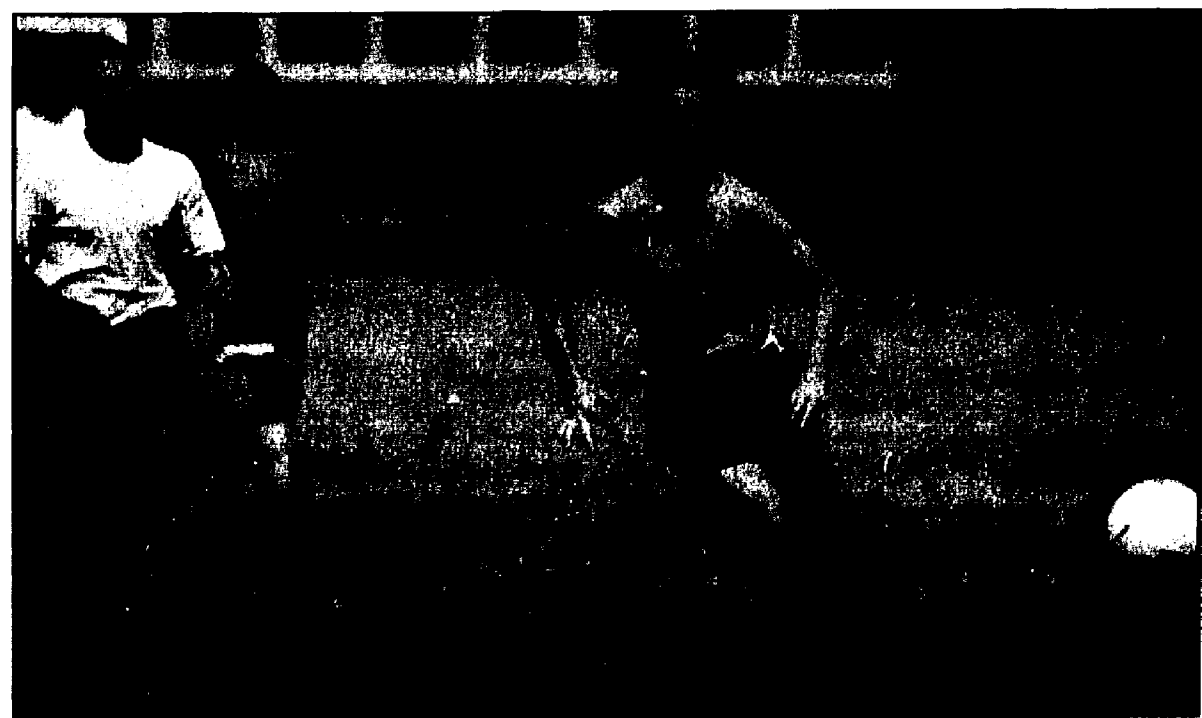
"I think we'll be a good all-around team. We might be able to score more goals, but we might give up some more. We need to become tougher as a team defensively. We need to go up as a team offensively more. When we do it we look good, we just need to do it more. It will all shape up one way or the other."

If the Devils follow last year's example some early struggles will translate into wins in late October

and November. The county is well balanced this year and anyone of a number of teams can take home the gold. Westfield was the lowest seed to ever win the title as the eighth seed, topping New Providence 2-0 in the final on the strength of a goal and assist from Williams.

"I think the county is wide open," said Giordano. "There are a lot of good teams. I'm not saying we can or can not (repeat), but it will take a lot of work."

"We have a very difficult schedule and a tough road ahead of us. Hopefully every game we can continue to improve. The girls are working hard. When you work hard good things happen."



GEORGE PACCIELLO/RECORD-PRESS

Renewing the rivalry

Billy Schultz will lead the Westfield High boys soccer team into Scotch Plains 4 p.m. Tuesday for the first of two regular season meetings between the two arch rival clubs. The Raiders won all three meetings last season, including a 2-1 overtime win in the county semifinals.

Ewing hoping to guide Raiders to new heights

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

With a new head coach and a strong corps of returning players the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High girls soccer team is looking forward to climbing the ranks in the county and state.

Kevin Ewing, who was an assistant coach with the girls squad for four years and also coached the freshman boys squad in the past, takes over for former coach Frank Butz and is looking to bring a new perspective to the program.

"We're doing a lot of things differently," said Ewing. "We want to be able to build the whole program from the younger girls up through the high school."

"We have a good nucleus of kids returning and a lot of young talented players. It's been an easy adjustment, a lot of the kids already knew me. I've had to

teach more tactics of soccer, but the kids are working hard and picking things up quickly."

But the Raiders have been slowed by the injury bug early on. Junior Michelle Fisher suffered a back injury, Kristen Zyla is suffering from severe shin splints, Lauren Perotta sprained her ankle and Lauren Belford injured her knee. Belford should be ready to go by Saturday's opener at Pingry, but the other three are expected to miss two or three games.

But once healthy the Raiders will have an experienced squad eager to make an impact in Union County and the state. Stephanie Heath, a four-year starter, will lead the Raiders from the center midfield after leading the squad in assists last season. Lauren Bianco returns to goal for the third year. Fisher, once healthy, will be the Raiders top offensive threat after leading the team in

scoring last season.

Jenna Ballestiere will be a threat in the midfield and up front with her blazing speed along with Belford. Perotta is slated to start at sweeper.

Seniors Amanda Wells and Lauren Klastava will start on defense. Freshman Kelly Rigano will start at forward and is looking like a star of the future and present. Another freshman, Hallie Mintz, will also see time at forward. Junior Chelsea Mintz will move from forward to defense.

"I think our strength will be our overall team speed," said Ewing. "It may take some time for some of the younger kids to develop. Right now were thin in terms of subs, but in time I think we'll have some depth."

"We're looking to do well in the county and challenge for the title and to go further in the states than we have the last few years."

B-R tops Raiders

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High girls tennis team dropped its first match of the season, falling to Bridgewater-Raritan 4-1 Tuesday.

Joanna Rosenberg and Carena Gotliboy defeated Kristen Carthas and Tiffany Chang at first doubles 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5) to earn the Raiders solo point. Elizabeth Pilkington fell at first singles 6-1, 6-3; Kara Hurley lost at second singles 6-0, 6-1 and Shannon Gomes fell at third singles 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. Dani Finkel and Octavia Gomes fell 6-1, 6-1 at second doubles.

Mt. St. Mary 3, Union Catholic 2 — The Vikings dropped their first match of the season, falling to Mt. St. Mary 3-2 Tuesday.

Angela Wiggs won 6-2, 6-1 at first singles and Ali Farawell earned a 6-1, 6-1 victory at second singles for Union Catholic's two points. Mt. St. Mary won at third singles and first doubles, and earned a forfeit at second doubles to clinch the victory.

YOUTH SPORTS

SPARX WIN TITLE

On Labor Day weekend the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Sparx U-12 girls soccer team took first place in the Branchburg Township Soccer Tournament with a 3-0-1 record.

The Sparx dominated the opening contest against the Mount Olive Buzzard, winning 6-0. Gabby Clarke and Britany Harris each scored twice, with Alison Goldberg and Jaclyn Law each adding a goal. Britany Wreck registered two assists.

In the second game of the opening day the Sparx registered an exciting 3-2 win over the Sayreville Lady Bees. Clarke opened the scoring with a breakaway goal but the Lady Bees answered and eventually took the lead 2-1. The Sparx quickly evened the score on another goal by Clarke, set up by the passing of Erika White and Becca VonLangen and assisted by Olivia Francavilla and Venek. Excellent play in midfield by Kim Shelus, Gabriela Pinho, and Sheryl Markovitz kept the ball up to the front line allowing Clarke to score the winning goal, her fifth of the day.

The following day the Sparx battled the Edison Wildcats to a 1-1 draw in a pouring rain. Alison Goldberg opened the scoring on a rocket blast assisted by Kim Shelus. The Wildcats roared back to even the score and force the tie.

The Sparx needed to win Game 4 against the Manalapan Twisters to take first place. The battle was back and forth between the two evenly matched clubs. Clarke scored on an assist from Jenny Altman. The Twisters evened the match on a penalty kick and the score remained tied until the final five minutes. Kim Shelus brought the ball up from the half line and crossed to Clarke whose shot was blocked but the quick-reacting Jaclyn Law popped in the rebound to win the game.

Special mention goes to the excellent defense in all games by Samantha Troner, Gina Egido, Sheryl Markovitz and Gabriela Pinho, who only allowed four goals in four games and assisted in some amazing defensive plays along with goalies Jaclyn Law and Britany Harris.

The Scotch Plains Lightning U-13 Inter-city Girls Soccer team swept through their first test of the season winning all four games at the Piscataway tournament September 7-8 at

Piscataway High School.

While the degree of difficulty differed from game to game the common thread that ran through the sweltering late summer weekend was stringy defense and clutch goalkeeping with just enough offense. The final victory was the most dramatic as the Edison United Independence battled the Lightning to a scoreless tie that was decided on penalty kicks.

Goalie Rachel Parker was unscored upon in five shots and Heather Rodriguez converted her penalty shot to give the Lightning the victory and clinch the title. Parker made a sprawling diving save on Edison's third shot to preserve the scoreless tie before Rodriguez, who celebrated her birthday the day before, hit a hard high shot into the middle of the net.

Earlier on Sunday, the Lightning were true to their name breaking a scoreless tie in the second half with a barrage of two goals in a minute to defeat the Edison United Express. 2-0. Angelica Glover took a long pass from Cathy Harley and outran the defense before hitting a perfectly placed left footed shot into the corner. A minute later Rodriguez, the daughter of coach Luis Rodriguez took a pass from Rachel Kreyer and hit a hard low shot from ten yards away. The result was made even more impressive because the Express play two fights higher than the Lightning. Parker played the second half in goal in each of the four games.

On Sunday, Jaclyn Lazarus held the Edison teams scoreless in the first half while on Saturday it was Britany Biondi and Cathy Harley combining in the first game and Rachel Kreyer in the second game.

The first Saturday contest was a dominating 1-0 victory over Metuchen which was much more one sided than the score may indicate. Glover provided the only scoring on a penalty kick but the Lightning had numerous opportunities to score while keeping the ball almost entirely in the Metuchen end.

In the second game they finally converted some of the opportunities in a comfortable 3-0 triumph. Katie Cornacchia initiated the scoring by converting a pass from Kristen Thompson. The Lightning poured it on with Javonni Costello and Britany Biondi tallying on two long high shots. All weekend the defense suffocated the opposition. Making life easy for the goalies were fullbacks Javonni Costello, Alyssa Straniero, and Maria-Pia Rivero. Shuttling between midfield and offense were Joanna Naugle, Nina Brownstone, Jessica Nagourney and Cheryl Monteiro.

The Lightning face a rematch with the Edison United Independence next Sunday - 1:30 p.m. at Thomas Edison Park-Field 1.

SPORTSCENE

RUTGERS S.A.F.E.T.Y. CLINIC

The Westfield Soccer Association and Westfield Recreation are sponsoring and hosting the upcoming Rutgers Sports Awareness For Educating Today's Youth (S.A.F.E.T.Y.) clinic to be held on Tuesday, Sept. 24 in the Community Room at Town Hall located at 425 East Broad Street promptly at 7PM.

Registration will begin at 6:30 PM. You may pre-register by September 17 to reserve a spot by contacting Westfield Recreation at 789-4080 and requesting a pre-registration form. The Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. clinic will be instructed by Bruce Kaufmann of Westfield Recreation. All parent coaches and assistant coaches in the Westfield Soccer Association are required to attend the clinic once to obtain a permanent certification. The clinic is also recommended for coaches in all other sports.

For more information, please contact Westfield Recreation at 789-4080.

FANWOOD-SCOTCH PLAINS YMCA
A variety of children's programs and classes will be available during the Fall 2002 season at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, which begins Monday.

Youth Basketball is designed for boys and girls in kindergarten through second grade. This class teaches basketball techniques and skills and prepares children for the organized games that are part of this program. **Traveling Basketball** is designed for third through sixth graders, with practice once a week as well as weekly games against other Y's and JCC's in the area.

Youth Roller Hockey is open to children in kindergarten through third grade. Children are required to have their own equipment, including blades, hockey stick, elbow and kneepads and helmets with face masks, for this indoor class that introduces the skills and techniques required to play roller hockey.

Older children will enjoy **Youth Sports** or **Tae Kwon Do**. Youth sports encourages children between the ages of sixth to eighth grade to enjoy a variety of games including soccer, floor hockey, volleyball and basketball. Tae Kwon Do is a parent/child program to teach student ages 6-13 to practice control over violence with non-contact sparring.

Preschool programs include **Pee Wee Soccer**, **Sillyseise** and **Tae Kwon Do**. Pee Wee Soccer introduces 4 and 5 year olds to basic skills of the game. Sillyseise is a fitness

class for boys and girls ages 4 to 6 and Tae Kwon Do introduces lots ages 4 and 5 to this "no touch" Korean karate.

Dance Classes are designed to bring out the budding dancer within. The Three Year Olds Dance Class introduces ballet, jazz, tap and tumbling. Dance Combo for 4 and 5-year olds and 5 and 6-year olds is a half-hour of tap and a half-hour of ballet.

The Gymnastics Program is designed for children of all ages. The parent/toddler classes provide age-specific fun and group activities for toddlers who are walking through 3-years old. Progressive Gymnastics are available for boys and girls ages 3 to 5 and girls only first through 12th grade. Kindergarteners enjoy age-specific gymnastics with **KinderGym** for girls and **KinderBoys**, a gymnastics program with an emphasis on tumbling.

Aquatics classes begin for children as young as six months and progress through all levels of swimming ability. Parents join their children in the pool until the child is 2 1/2 years old.

In addition to children's programs, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA offers a wide variety of programs for teens and adults, as well as full day Child Care, Before and After School Child Care for kindergarteners through middle school and a Nursery School.

For more information call the YMCA at (908) 889-8880.

JCC SWIMMING

The JCC of Central NJ Barracudas begin their fifth season of competition in the NJ JCC Swim League under the direction of Head Coach Ann Doyle. The program welcomes swimmers of all levels with an emphasis on individual instruction for new competitors. Practice for the fall/winter team begins Monday, Sept. 23, at the Will Jewish Community Campus, 1391 Martine Ave. Swim meets take place on Sunday afternoons starting in early November and run through state championships in March.

The JCC offers pre-season clinics at a discount to swim team members. The clinics are open to non-swim team members also. Classes start Tuesday, Sept. 3 through Thursday, Sept. 19. Ages 8 & under meet 4:30-5:30 p.m.; ages 9 & up meet 5:30-6:30 p.m. Call Rebecca Rice, aquatics director, at (908) 889-8800, extension 219, for more information or to secure a spot.

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

(all times p.m. unless otherwise noted)

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13

Football
Westfield at Randolph, 7:30
Field Hockey
Westfield vs. East Brunswick, 4
Volleyball
Westfield vs. Kent Place, 4
Tennis
Westfield vs. Shabazz, 4
Scotch Plains vs. Cranford, 4

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14

Football
Scotch Plains vs. East Side, 1
Field Hockey
Westfield vs. Voorhees, 11 a.m.
Volleyball
Westfield at Demarest Tournament, 8:30 a.m.
Boys Soccer
Scotch Plains vs. Ridge, 3:30
Girls Soccer
Scotch Plains at Pingry, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 16

Yom Kippur
TUESDAY, SEPT. 17
Boys Soccer
Westfield at Scotch Plains, 4
Girls Soccer
Scotch Plains at Westfield, 4
Field Hockey
Westfield at Oak Knoll, 4
Cross Country
Westfield vs. Scotch Plains vs. Shabazz, 4

Volleyball
Westfield vs. East Brunswick, 4
Scotch Plains at North 13th St. Tech, 4
Gymnastics
Scotch Plains vs. North Brunswick, 4:30

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18

Girls Tennis
Westfield vs. East Brunswick, 4
Scotch Plains vs. J.P. Stevens, 4
Volleyball
Scotch Plains vs. Bloomfield Tech, 4

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19

Field Hockey
Westfield vs. Columbia, 4
Gymnastics
Westfield vs. Somerville, 4:30
Tennis
Westfield at Cranford, 4

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Road from Michael J. & Margaret O'Meara to Sean V. & Susan K. Carroll for \$435,000.

25 Murray Hill Square from Gloria Granick to Evan M. & Suzy G. Frankel for \$280,000.

75 Southgate Road from Guy J. & Barbara C. Jordan to George Fu et.al. for \$510,000.

SUMMIT

22 Bedford Road from Aidan & Patricia M. O'Connor to Charles & Caeli Cusumano for \$595,000.

2 Park Ave. from Ward H. Anthony Jr. & Allison Anthony to Rui D. Carmo et.al. for \$300,525.

99 Prospect St. from Naoko Fujii et.al. to V. Dixon Peer III & Diane L. Peer for \$1.35 million.

40 Twombly Drive from Elizabeth Soren to John Kneely for \$727,500.

110 Whittredge Drive from Lydia C. DeForest to Robert M. & Catharine Totman for \$2,001,100.

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THANKING JILL GUZMAN REALTY, INC.
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Love,
 Donna Caravano
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UNION COUNTY MORTGAGE RATES																																
PRODUCT						RATE	PTS	APR	% DOWN	LOCK	PRODUCT						RATE	PTS	APR	% DOWN	LOCK											
Union County Mortgage Bank																																
30 YR FIXED						6.375	0.00	6.440	5%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED						6.125	0.00	6.250	5%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED						6.125	2.00	6.470	5%	45 DAY
15 YR FIXED						5.750	0.00	5.850	5%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED						5.500	0.00	5.650	5%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED						5.500	2.00	5.820	5%	45 DAY
1 YR ADJ.						2.950	0.00	4.270	20%	60 DAY	30 YR JUMBO						6.375	0.00	6.500	10%	60 DAY	3/1-30 YR						4.250	2.00	4.780	5%	45 DAY
Free Pre-Approval						20 Year Fixed - 6%; 0 points : 6.13 APR												Any Income-Any Credit-Over 120 Programs.Call 800-660-7987														
Union County Bank																																
30 YR FIXED						6.875	0.00	6.901	20%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED						6.000	0.00	6.000	5%	45 DAY	30 YR FIXED						6.000	0.00	6.040	5%	60 DAY
15 YR FIXED						5.625	0.00	5.666	20%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED						5.500	0.00	5.500	5%	45 DAY	15 YR FIXED						5.500	0.00	5.540	5%	60 DAY
1 YR ARM						4.500	0.00	4.062	20%	60 DAY	30 YR JUMBO						6.250	0.00	6.250	5%	45 DAY	30 YR JUMBO						6.250	0.00	6.290	5%	60 DAY
Call for jumbo mortgage rates						Lowest closing cost around. Knowledgeable staff.						E-mail address partnersm@aol.com																				
Union County with Bank																																
30 YR FIXED						6.000	0.00	6.040	5%	30 DAY	30 YR FIXED						5.500	3.00	5.580	5%	45 DAY	30 YR FIXED						7.125	0.00	7.185	20%	75 DAY
15 YR FIXED						5.500	0.00	5.540	5%	30 DAY	15 YR FIXED						5.000	3.00	5.080	5%	45 DAY	15 YR FIXED						6.125	0.00	6.207	20%	75 DAY
30 YR JUMBO						6.250	0.00	6.259	5%	30 DAY	30 YR JUMBO						5.625	3.00	5.628	10%	45 DAY	1 YR ADJ.						5.000	0.00	5.000	20%	75 DAY
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First Savings Bank																																
30 YR FIXED						5.625	3.00	5.908	5%	60 DAY	7/1-30 YR						5.750	0.00	5.228	10%	90 DAY	30 YR FIXED						6.375	0.00	6.430	5%	60 DAY
15 YR FIXED						5.125	3.00	5.647	5%	60 DAY	15 YR JUMBO						5.750	0.00	5.771	5%	90 DAY	15 YR FIXED						5.750	0.00	5.830	5%	60 DAY
5/1-30 YR						5.375	0.00	4.907	5%	75 DAY	30 YR JUMBO						6.375	0.00	6.403	5%	90 DAY	10/1-30 YR						6.250	0.00	6.560	10%	60 DAY
15 year fixed is biweekly						www.loansearch.com						Other products available, please contact us for more details & rate info.																				
Hudson City Savings Bank																																
30 YR FIXED						6.250	0.00	6.263	5%	90 DAY	30 YR FIXED						5.750	0.00	5.890	5%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED						6.125	0.00	6.134	5%	40 DAY
15 YR FIXED						5.750	0.00	5.771	5%	90 DAY	15 YR FIXED						5.250	0.00	5.370	5%	60 DAY	1 YR ADJ.						4.000	0.00	4.476	5%	60 DAY
10/1-30 YR						6.000	0.00	5.574	5%	90 DAY	1 YR ADJ.						3.950	2.00	4.960	10%	60 DAY	7/1-30 YR						5.875	0.00	5.191	5%	60 DAY
www.HudsonCitySavingsBank.com						Refi. Purchase or Consolidate Free Preapproval						United Trust Bank																				
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30 YR FIXED						6.375	0.00	6.450	5%	90 DAY	CALL 800-426-4565 TO HAVE YOUR RATES DISPLAYED HERE!!																					
15 YR FIXED						5.750	0.00	5.870	5%	90 DAY																						
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 We simply wanted to write you a short note to thank you for the professional manner in which you handled the sale of our home. We really appreciate all of the help you gave us, and the way you over extended yourself to make this transition an easy one. We recieved a survey from ERA, and sang your praises in our response.
 Thank you for everything. It was truly a pleasure working with you.
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 Susan & Marvin Simon
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"Mr. Decker-Sells!"

I realize that using "Mr. Decker" is a bit formal. After 30 years of teaching in the Cranford School System it seems to be the most appropriate for former students, their parents and the many others I've met. However, this periodic ad will focus on Real Estate!

As the summer winds down and here Back-To-School is, I ask you this Real Estate question.

How important is your township's school system in helping you attract buyers for your home?

(A) Not Very Helpful (B) Somewhat Helpful
 (C) Very Helpful (D) All - A,B,C

Turn paper upside down for the correct answer!

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 Voice Mail: (9

Automotive/Classified

Bigger, better Forester is more finely engineered

BY MARK MAYNARD

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Subaru is protecting its hard-earned success as a purveyor of refined sport-utility vehicles with a much-upgraded 2003 Forester.

Whatever the current owners liked about their old Forester, just kick it up a notch for the '03 model — bigger brakes, bigger tires, bigger mirrors, bigger fender bulges. Without (much) bigger prices.

Forester comes in two models — the 2.5 X and 2.5 XS — and both come with all-wheel drive and a 165-horsepower, four-cylinder engine.

Pricing starts at \$21,070 for the 2.5 X with durable gray plastic bumpers and 5-speed manual transmission. The XS starts at \$23,420 and is set off by body color bumpers and cladding.

A loaded XS with automatic transmission (\$800) and premium package of enormous power sunroof and leather upholstery is \$25,970.

The base X model gets the biggest price bump, \$250, but the cost is padded with a dozen more standard features, including remote keyless locking and variable intermittent wipers.

Moving up, the XS is a little more stylish inside with upgraded upholstery, carpeting and nifty net storage pockets in the front and rear doors. It also comes with a leather-wrapped steering wheel, shifter handle and brake handle, automatic climate control, electronic brake distribution, 80-watt AM-FM-weather band stereo with in-dash six-disc CD changer and alloy wheels.

Snuck in the middle of the family market, Forester emphasizes safety with its all-wheel drive and new dual-stage front air bags, head and chest side air bags, front seat-belt pretensioners (with load limiters) and active headrests that help prevent whiplash injury.

Also notable on XS models are four-wheel disc brakes with larger front discs and a sophisticated four-channel and four-sensor anti-lock brake system. Optional electronic brake force distribution balances braking force between front and rear wheels.

And for people who wouldn't be



Among the enhancements for the 2003 Subaru Forester is the return of the Hill Holder System for the manual transmission. The system prevents the car from rolling backward at a traffic light when the clutch is depressed. CNS Photo courtesy of Subaru.

caught at the wheel of an automatic-transmission vehicle, Subaru brings back its hill-holder system for the five-speed manual.

Getting a smooth start on an uphill can be tricky for clutch users, but the hill-holder stops the car from rolling backward. No more struggling with the emergency brake, revving the engine and glancing into the rearview mirror to see how near you are to rolling into the car behind.

It's the type of no-more-tears feature that must cost an extra 50 cents or adds a half-pound of steel that prevents every manufacturer from copying this design.

Forester is a sensible-shoes SUV. Accommodating to a busy family

lifestyle, simple to drive and comfortable. But instead of a panoramic sunroof, my family would have preferred a raised back seat (theater seating) for better visibility.

Also, the sunroof is noisy on the highway, though a fascinatingly large window when cruising around town.

Forester also seems at the limit of its size.

The curb weight is trim for the dimensions, so it must be the 1-inch-taller tires that allow more body roll than in previous models. Any future size enhancements will have to go on a bigger chassis. Or turbo the engine and tighten the suspension.

While the painted bumpers and cladding of the premium package might

seem silly to Subaru loyalists, the glossy, cosmetic treatment is bait for shoppers weary of their clunky Explorers and Blazers.

Citified refinements might help blunt the independent and quirky image so long associated with Subaru, but give me the plastic bumpers so I don't worry about scratching them when tossing bags of topsoil or bikes into the back end.

Save the image treatment for the 227 turbocharged WRX sedan that caught your eye in the showroom and enjoy the Forester for its American-class room and fine-tuned Japanese engineering.

SPECS BOX

2003 Subaru Forester 2.5 XS
Body style: Compact, 5-passenger

sport-utility vehicle

Drive system: Full-time all-wheel drive

Engine: Aluminum, SOHC, 16-valve 2.5-liter horizontally opposed (boxer) 4-cylinder

Horsepower: 165 at 5600 rpm

Torque: 166 foot-pounds at 4000 rpm

Transmission: 5-speed manual or optional 4-speed automatic

EPA estimated fuel economy: 21 mpg city, 27 highway (21/26 automatic)

Fuel tank: 15.9 gallons; regular unleaded recommended

FEATURES

Standard equipment: Automatic climate control, AM-FM-WB-cassette and 6-disc in-dash CD audio system, cruise control, driver's seat height and lumbar adjustment, dual mode heated front seats, carpeted floor mats, remote keyless entry, outside temperature gauge, overhead console with map lights and storage, power windows-locks-mirrors, 60/40 split folding rear seat-back and 12-volt power outlet in cargo area and console

Safety equipment: Dual-stage front air bags, front head and chest side air bags, front belt pretensioners with force limiters, active front headrests for whiplash protection, height-adjustable 3-point safety belts (except center rear) and headrests, 5 mph bumpers, 4-wheel, 4-channel anti-lock brakes, electronic brake force distribution and ISO FIX child seat anchors

PRICES

MSRP: \$24,420, including \$525 destination charge

Options on test car: Premium package, \$1,000, includes power sunroof and monotone body color.

Where assembled: Japan

Competition: Saturn Vue (all-wheel drive), Toyota RAV-4, Land Rover Freelander and Honda CR-V

PLUSES: American-class interior room with refined Japanese engineering; all-wheel drive with respectable fuel economy; hill-holder system should be offered by all truck makers.

MINUSES: Forester is at the limit for body size, body height and tires. Any more size enhancements will have to go on a bigger vehicle.

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1999 Subaru Legacy Outback AWD \$15,995 Stk #KHP1906, VIN #XG616995, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/wnds/dlks, cruise, burgundy, 33,988 mi. REAL NICE CARE • WINTER'S COMING.	2001 VW Jetta GLS \$17,995 Stk #EV20359A, VIN #1M077065, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/wnds/dlks, sunroof, cd player, cass, silver, 33,500 mi.	2002 Jeep Liberty Sport 4WD \$19,995 Stk #KHP1839A, VIN #2N121406, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/wnds/dlks, cruise, alloys, silver, 12,865 mi. OWN IT NOW!
2001 Lexus IS300 \$25,995 Stk #EA25230A, VIN #10005953, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/wnds/dlks/seats, cd, cruise, leather, alloys, sunroof, silver, 15,001 mi. THIS IS A REAL NICE CAR.	1999 Chevy Corvette Coupe \$31,995 Stk #EVP2015A, VIN #X5120680, 2 DR, auto, a/c, p/wnds/seats, cruise, Bose cd, glass top, trac ontl, black, Only 9,203 mi. YOU MUST SEE THIS ONE!	2002 Jaguar X-Type AWD \$33,995 Stk #EA25200A, VIN #2WMC37445, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/wnds/dlks/seats, leather, sunroof, cd, alloys, black, 10,742 mi.
AUDI ASSURED		
1999 Audi A4 2.8 Quattro \$21,995 Stk #EV25278A, VIN #XA288284, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/wnds/dlks/seats, leather, cd player, sunroof, black, 40,422 mi.	2000 Audi A6 4.2 Quattro \$35,995 Stk #EVP2015A, VIN #X5120680, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/wnds/dlks/seats, cruise, Bose cd, glass top, trac ontl, black, 33,176 mi. Audi Assured.	2000 Audi A8 4.2L Quattro \$39,995 Stk #EVP2015A, VIN #X5120680, 4 DR, 8 cyl, auto, p/wnds/dlks/seats, a/c, am/fm cd, leather, sunroof, pearl white, 39,647 mi. REAL NICE CAR! Audi Assured.

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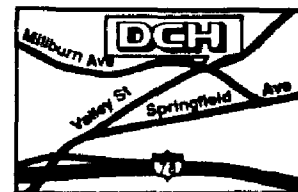
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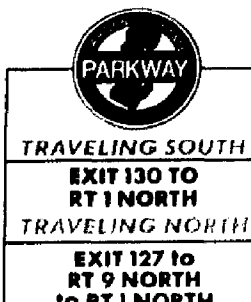


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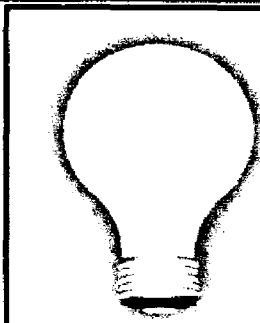
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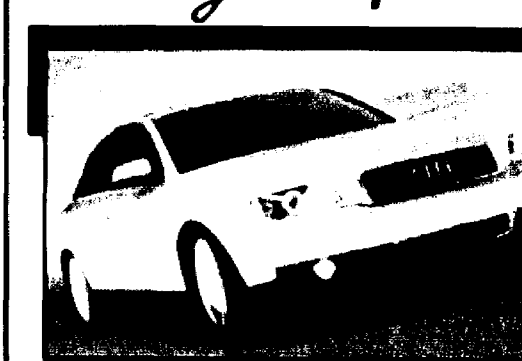
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1999 Audi A4 Quattro 1.8L 180hp engine, 5-speed manual transmission, 16" alloy wheels, leather interior, sunroof, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, cruise control, ABS, traction control, stability control, air conditioning, radio with 6-disc in-dash stereo, 4-speaker audio system, 100,000 mile/6-year warranty. MSRP \$25,995. Dealer price \$25,995. Tax, title, license, and dealer fees extra.	2001 Audi A4 2.8T Quattro Tiptronic 2.8L 180hp engine, 5-speed manual transmission, 16" alloy wheels, leather interior, sunroof, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, cruise control, ABS, traction control, stability control, air conditioning, radio with 6-disc in-dash stereo, 4-speaker audio system, 100,000 mile/6-year warranty. MSRP \$29,995. Dealer price \$29,995. Tax, title, license, and dealer fees extra.	2001 Audi TT 225HP Quattro 2.0L 225hp engine, 5-speed manual transmission, 16" alloy wheels, leather interior, sunroof, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, cruise control, ABS, traction control, stability control, air conditioning, radio with 6-disc in-dash stereo, 4-speaker audio system, 100,000 mile/6-year warranty. MSRP \$31,995. Dealer price \$31,995. Tax, title, license, and dealer fees extra.	2000 Audi A6 4.2 Quattro 4.2L 260hp engine, 5-speed manual transmission, 16" alloy wheels, leather interior, sunroof, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, cruise control, ABS, traction control, stability control, air conditioning, radio with 6-disc in-dash stereo, 4-speaker audio system, 100,000 mile/6-year warranty. MSRP \$36,995. Dealer price \$36,995. Tax, title, license, and dealer fees extra.

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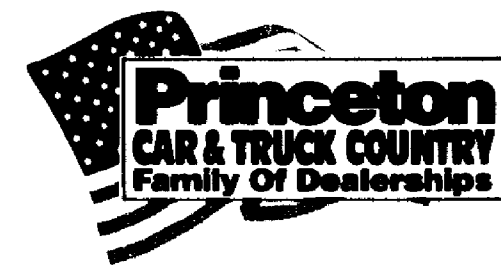


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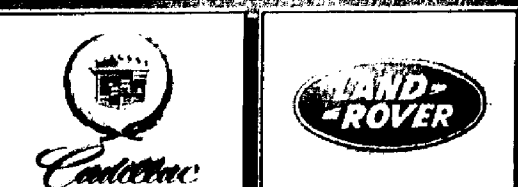
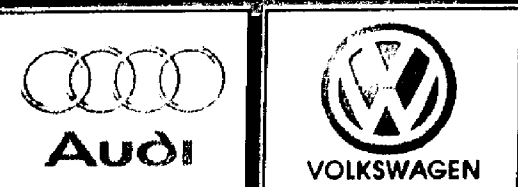
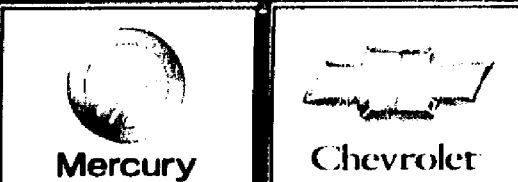


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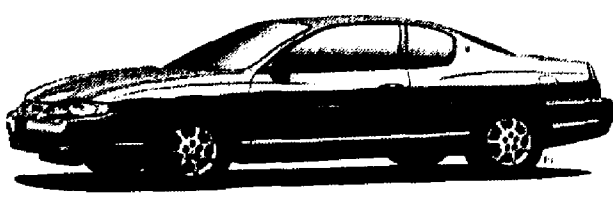
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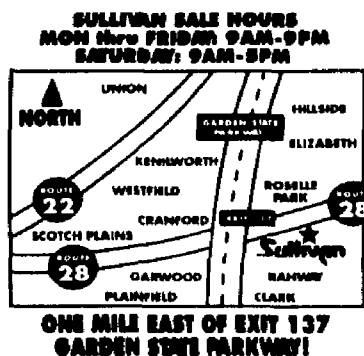
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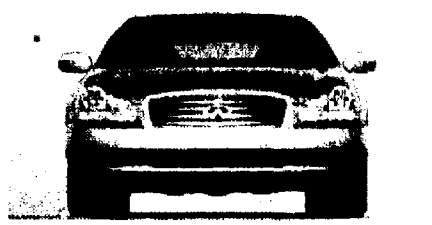
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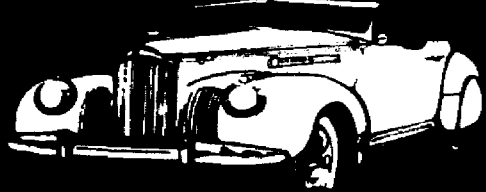
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\$12,995	\$15,495	\$12,995	\$14,995	\$11,995
1999 ACURA INTEGRA LS 4 dr. auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, alloy wheels, only 29,000 miles. VIN#XG131993	2000 FORD FOCUS ZX-3 4 dr. auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, only 29,000 miles. VIN#XG131993	2000 FORD EXPEDITION XLT SPORT 4 dr. 4x4 auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, dual air, 10,000 miles. VIN#XG131993	1999 FORD F-150 XTRA CAB XLT 4 dr. 4x4 auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, only 21,000 miles. VIN#XG131993	1999 NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4 dr. auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, only 14,000 miles. VIN#XG131993
\$14,595	\$9,995	\$24,995	\$19,595	\$11,995
2002 JEEP LIBERTY 4 dr. 4x4 auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, 24,000 miles. VIN#XG131993	2001 JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED 4 dr. 4x4 auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, only 25,000 miles. VIN#XG131993	2002 TOYOTA CAMRY LE 4 dr. auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, only 15,000 miles. VIN#XG131993	2002 CHEVY IMPALA 4 dr. auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, only 12,000 miles. VIN#XG131993	2002 NISSAN XTERRA XE 4 dr. 4x4 sport package, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, only 12,000 miles. VIN#XG131993
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2002 NISSAN MAXIMA SE 4 dr. v-6 auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, 16,000 miles. VIN#2T108777	2001 FORD TAURUS WAGON Auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, 3rd seat, only 26,000 miles. VIN#1G1B1040	2002 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SPORT 4 dr. auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, 3rd seat, 21,000 miles. VIN#2B509120	2000 FORD WINSTAR LX 4 dr. auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. dual doors, 3 seats, 35,000 miles. VIN#XBB16176	2000 ACURA 3.5 RL PREMIUM 4 dr. auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, 11,000 miles. VIN#XG131993
\$20,995	\$14,995	\$18,995	\$14,495	\$28,995
2002 FORD ESCAPE XLS 4 dr. 4x4 auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, only 17,000 miles. VIN#2B509120	2002 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER WOODY Touring Edition auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, moonroof, only 8,000 miles. 20 choice from VIN#2T108777	2001 LEXUS IS 300 SPORT 4 dr. auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, heated seats, moonroof, 28,000 miles. VIN#1004921	1999 LEXUS RX-300 4 dr. auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, 36,000 miles. VIN#XBB16176	1999 MERCURY TRACER WAGON 4 dr. auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass. leather, alloy wheels, 29,000 miles. VIN#XG131993
\$18,995	\$18,995	\$26,995	\$25,995	\$8,995

2002 LAND ROVER DISCOVER II
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\$2995	\$4995	\$6995	\$8795	\$9995
'00 Hyundai Elantra GLS Wagon 4 dr. 4 cyl. auto trans. FWD, AIR, pwr str/windlocks/bks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, int wip, r/del, vgl's, 5580 mi. Stk #241P. VIN #AU160883	'99 Dodge Intrepid Sedan 4 dr. V6 auto trans. FWD, AIR, pwr str/windlocks/bks/mirrs, tilt, cruise, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, int wip, r/del, vgl's, 46,648 mi. Stk #240P. VIN #XG6729192	'01 Chevrolet Impala Sedan V6 auto trans. FWD, AIR, pwr str/windlocks/mirrs, tilt, cruise, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, int wip, r/del, vgl's, 28,857 mi. Stk #265P. VIN #19261136	'99 GMC Suburban 1500 SLT V8 auto trans. 4WD, dual AIR, pwr str/windlocks/ABS/mirrs, tilt, cruise, AM/FM stereo-cass, TV/video player, leather, alloys, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, alloy wheels, 35,598 mi. Stk #280U. VIN #2T135755	'02 Chevrolet Corvette Coupe 5.7L V8 6 spd man trans. RWD, AIR, pwr str/windlocks/ABS, tilt, cruise, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, alloy wheels, 24,720 mi. Stk #275P. VIN #2T135755
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HOW TO TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT DRUGS.



It's never too early to start.

The best thing about this subject is that you don't have to do it well. You simply have to try.

If you try, your kids will get the message.

That you care about them.

That you understand something about the conflicts they face.

That you're there when they need you.

The alternative is to ignore the subject. Which means your kids are going to be listening to others who have strong opinions about the subject. Including those who use drugs. And those who sell them.

ACCEPT REBELLION.

At the heart of it, drugs, alcohol, wild hairstyles, trendy clothes, ear-splitting music, outrageous language are different ways of expressing teen-age rebellion.

That's not all bad. Part of growing up is to create a separate identity, apart from parents – a process which ultimately leads to feelings of self worth. A step along that path is rebellion of one kind or another – which is to say rejecting parental values, and staking out new ones.

You did it. They're doing it. And that's the way it is.

The problem comes when kids choose a path of rebellion that hurts them, destroys their self worth, and can ultimately kill them.

That's the reality of drugs.

DON'T GET DISCOURAGED.

When you talk to your kids about drugs, it may seem as though nothing is getting through.

Don't you believe it.

The very fact you say it gives special weight to whatever you say.

But whether or not your kids let on they've heard you, whether or not they play back your words weeks or months later, keep trying.

START ANYWHERE.

"Have you heard about any kids using drugs?"

"What kind of drugs?"

"How do you feel about that?"

"Why do you think kids get involved with drugs?"

"How do other kids deal with peer pressure to use drugs? Which approaches make sense to you?"

"Have you talked about any of this in school?"

However you get into the subject, it's important to state exactly how strongly you feel about it.

Not in threatening tones. But in matter-of-fact, unmistakably clear language:

"Drugs are a way of hurting yourself."

"Drugs take all the promise of being young and destroy it."

"I love you too much to see you throw your life down the drain."

SOME DO'S AND DON'TS.

The do's are as simple as speaking from the heart.

The biggest don't is don't do all the talking. If you listen to your kids – really listen and read between the lines – you'll learn a lot about what they think. About drugs. About themselves. About the world. And about you. They'll also feel heard and that, too, is a step along the path towards self esteem.

There are other do's and don'ts: Don't threaten. Don't badger them. Don't put your kid on the spot by asking directly if he or she has ever tried drugs. They'll probably lie which undermines your whole conversation.

If you suspect your child is on drugs – there are all sorts of symptoms – that's a different matter. Then you've got to confront the subject directly. (This will be another ad in this continuing series.)

In the meantime, just talk to them.

It's okay if you don't know much about drugs.

Your kids do.

But they need to know how you feel about the subject.

And whether you care.

For more information on how to talk with your kids about drugs, ask for a free copy of "A Parent's Guide to Prevention." Call 1-800-675-1127.

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ACCORD EXL 4DR**
\$18,900

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274

**2002 NISSAN
ALTIMA 4DR**
\$18,995

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274

**2001 FORD EXPLORER
XLT 4X4 2DR**
\$20,450

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274

**2001 VOLKSWAGEN
JETTA GLX 4DR**
\$20,800

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274

**1999 MERCEDES
C280 4DR**
\$27,300

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274

**1998 BMW M-3
SPORTS SEDAN**
\$27,500

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274

**1998 BMW
328i SEDAN**
\$27,900

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274

**1999 ACURA
INTEGRA LS 2DR**
\$15,995

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274

**1999 ACURA
INTEGRA GS 2DR**
\$15,995

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274

**1999 ACURA 3.0
CL 4DR PREM.**
\$19,575

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274

**1999 ACURA 3.5
RL 4DR PREM.**
\$26,995

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274

**1999 MERCEDES
ML430 4X4 SUV**
\$32,995

CAR FAX CHECKED - 1st auto, ps, pabs, a/c, am fm stereo, 13 sp, pl, pms, 1 glass, trunk, up, white, power windows, 1st del. 11/27/93, 48,543 miles, sdr 1180, vin 1F227274



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Prices include all costs to be paid by a consumer except for licensing, reg. fees & taxes. Not resp. for typos.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Vertical text in the background image, likely part of a newspaper masthead or headline.



September 12 & 13, 2002

• Somerset Messenger-Gazette • Hills-Bedminster Press • The Journal • The Chronicle •
 • Piscataway Review • The Metuchen-Edison Review & Highland Park Herald •
 • The South Plainfield Reporter • Cranford Chronicle • Record-Press •

We Remember...

Our neighbors who perished on September 11, 2001

Andrew J. Alamano, Westfield
 Tariq Amanullah, Metuchen
 Kermit Anderson, Green Brook
 Eustace (Rudy) Bacchus, Metuchen
 Ivan J. Baron, Bridgewater
 Lydia Estelle Bravo, Dunellen
 David Otey Campbell, Westfield
 Kevin Sanford Cohen, Edison
 Keith Coleman, Warren
 Cynthia L. Connolly, Metuchen
 Brian Dale, Warren
 Michael A. Davidson, Westfield
 Kevin Dennis, Peapack
 Dean P. Eberling, Westfield, Cranford
 Stephen Mark Fogel, Westfield
 Noel J. Foster, Bridgewater
 Thomas Glasser, Westfield
 Harry Glenn, Piscataway
 Thomas E. Gorman, Middlesex
 Christopher Grady, Cranford
 Liming Gu, Piscataway
 Matthew Horning, Scotch Plains
 Christopher Ingrassia, Watchung
 Prem N. Jerath, Edison
 Sheldon R. Kanter, Edison
 Alvin Kappelmann Jr., Green Brook
 Robert Kaulfers, Kenilworth
 Leo Russell Keene III, Westfield
 Rajesh Khandelwal, S. Plainfield, Piscataway
 Vincent A. Laleta, Edison
 Mark Ludvigsen, Pottersville
 Robert Lynch Jr., Cranford
 Richard B. Madden, Westfield
 Brian E. Martineau, Edison
 Kaaria Mbaya, Edison
 Greg Milanowycz, Cranford
 Hamuldhrai Chukulal Parmar, Warren
 Manish K. Patel, Edison
 Thomas Polhemus, Bridgewater
 Thomas Regan, Cranford
 Sheryl Rosenbaum, Warren
 Mark Rothenberg, Scotch Plains
 John "Papa" Salerno, Westfield
 Deepika K. Sattalur, Edison
 Scott M. Scheraga, Edison
 Joe Wang Shiao, Westfield
 Leonard Snyder, Cranford
 Robert Andrew Spencer, Piscataway
 Anthony Spina, Westfield
 Edward T. Strauss, Edison
 Ronald Tartaro, Bridgewater
 Yeshavant Moreshevar Tombe, Piscataway
 John Tobin, Kenilworth
 Lance Richard Tumulty, Bridgewater
 Honor Elizabeth Wainio, Watchung
 James Walsh, Westfield, Scotch Plains
 Peter M. West, Pottersville
 Alison Wildman, Bridgewater

A chronology of Sept. 11, 2001

8:00 a.m.

American Airlines Flight 11 departs Logan Airport in Boston bound for Los Angeles with 81 passengers and 11 crew members.

8:14 a.m.

United Airlines Flight 175 departs Logan Airport bound for Los Angeles with 56 passengers and nine crew members.

8:21 a.m.

American Airlines Flight 77 departs Washington Dulles Airport bound for Los Angeles with 58 passengers and six crew members.

8:42 a.m.

United Airlines Flight 93 departs Newark International Airport bound for San Francisco with 38 passengers and seven crew members.

8:48 a.m.

American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, killing everyone on board.

9:03 a.m.

United Airlines Flight 175 crashes into the South Tower of the World Trade Center, killing everyone on board.

9:08 a.m.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) closes all New York-area airports and shuts down the airspace over the city.

9:21 a.m.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey closes all bridges and tunnels in the metropolitan area.

9:26 a.m.

The FAA grounds all non-military planes and cancels all flights into and out of the United States.

9:30 a.m.

President George W. Bush delivers his first official response from Sarasota, Florida, where he is visiting a school.

9:41 a.m.

American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C., killing everyone on board and more than 100 Department of Defense employees.

9:50 a.m.

The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

10:03 a.m.

United Airlines Flight 93 crashes in a field outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania, killing everyone on board.

10:29 a.m.

The North Tower of the World Trade Center collapses. More than 2,500 workers and hundreds of firefighters are killed in the collapse of the Twin Towers.

10:30 a.m.

New York Governor George Pataki declares a state of emergency in New York; primary elections are postponed and New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani orders lower Manhattan evacuated.

12:36 p.m.

President Bush speaks to the nation in a televised statement from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana.

1:27 p.m.

A state of emergency is declared in Washington, D.C.

2:30 p.m.

The FAA announces there will be no commercial flights in or out of the United States for at least 24 hours.

6:10 p.m.

Mayor Giuliani encourages all New Yorkers to take the next day (Sept. 12) off.

8:30 p.m.

President Bush speaks to the nation on television from the Oval Office in the White House.



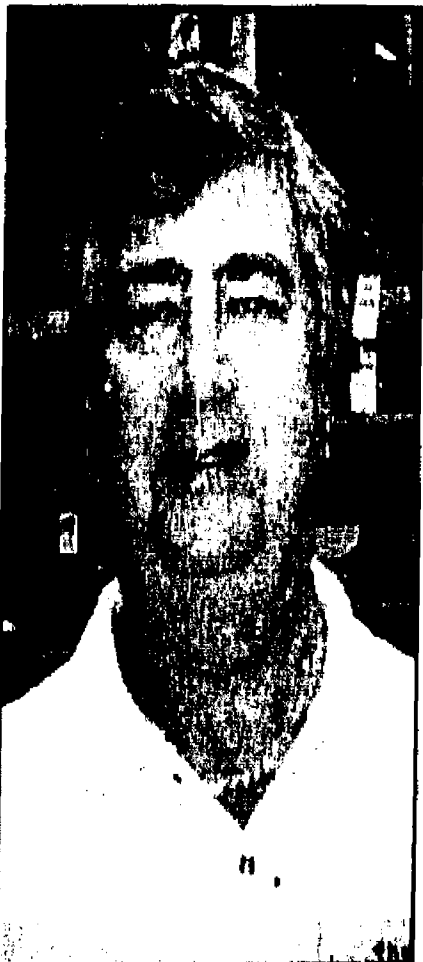
NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A bystander on the steps of the historic Somerset County Courthouse shows her patriotism during the Somerville Fire Department's annual inspection parade last fall.

Sept. 11, 2001: Never to Be Forgotten

"September 11, 2001: Never to Be Forgotten" is a special section honoring the victims of last year's terrorist attack and those Central Jersey residents who aided in the rescue and recovery efforts. The section was produced by the Editorial Department of NJN Publishing.

How has Sept. 11 affected your life?



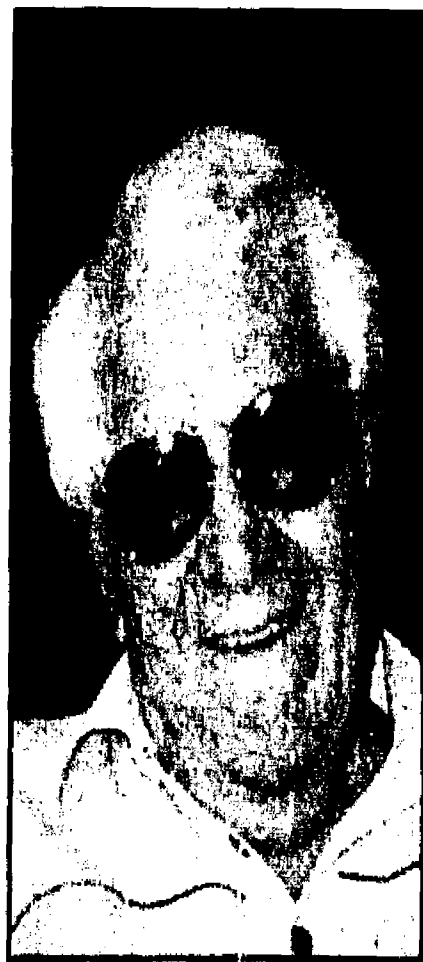
BOB ANCZARKI
Branchburg

It made me more aware and it helped me to be more thankful for everything.



RICK SCHWARTZ
Scotch Plains

It made me think about all the heroes who went into burning buildings risking their lives. My dad was a firefighter in Irvington for a long time. I didn't know how brave he was.



RUSS CEMBROLA
South Plainfield

Nothing and everything has changed since Sept. 11. If it happens again, it means the United States of America is not prepared to combat those who would terrorize the United States. There's always the possibility as long as there are those who have the means of causing what caused Sept. 11. It should never happen again.

WTC engineer grieves for the lives that ended

By **KEVIN B. HOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

From the 48th floor of a Manhattan office building, Leslie E. Robertson overlooks Ground Zero every day he goes to work. More than 30 years ago he directed the structural design of the World Trade Center and last year he saw it collapse.

"I can't take thoughts of the World Trade Center and rush them out of my mind," Robertson said. "I was the ultimate decider on things having to do with its structure."

Like most Americans, Robertson will never forget Sept. 11 and the moment he found out what had occurred. Though the staff of his engineering firm, Leslie E. Robertson Associates,

watched the attacks and subsequent collapse of the structures from its Broad Street offices, Robertson was in Hong Kong on a business trip.

Robertson was having dinner when a member of his party received a phone call about the first airplane attack. He assumed it was a helicopter lost in the fog and wasn't too tense.

The next time the phone rang he learned of the second strike. He contacted his office and realized the severity of the situation. Robertson watched the buildings collapse on television.

"I was totally devastated. I knew a lot of people were going to die," Robertson said. "People asked me how I felt about the loss, referring to the buildings. I design buildings for a living. Buildings can be replaced; people can't be replaced. The loss of buildings was not an important consideration in my mind."

Robertson said that when he designed the towers, he took into account the possibility of an aircraft getting lost in the fog and

crashing into the building, as was the case in 1945 when a military bomber hit the Empire State Building. However, the World Trade Center was only designed to withstand a Boeing 707, the largest airplane at the time of the design, and not a 767 flying at the speeds of the two planes that struck the towers.

Robertson didn't consider terrorism when designing the towers; however, he designed them for what he called an espionage attack, such as the 1993 bombing. He says the structures were designed to stand after an explosion at the base.

"The towers were hardly scathed from (the 1993 bombing)," Robertson said. "In terms of structural damage it was a non-event."

"I can't take thoughts of the World Trade Center and rush them out of my mind."

-Leslie Robertson

However, Robertson doesn't think anything could have been done to prevent the destruction of the Sept. 11 attacks.

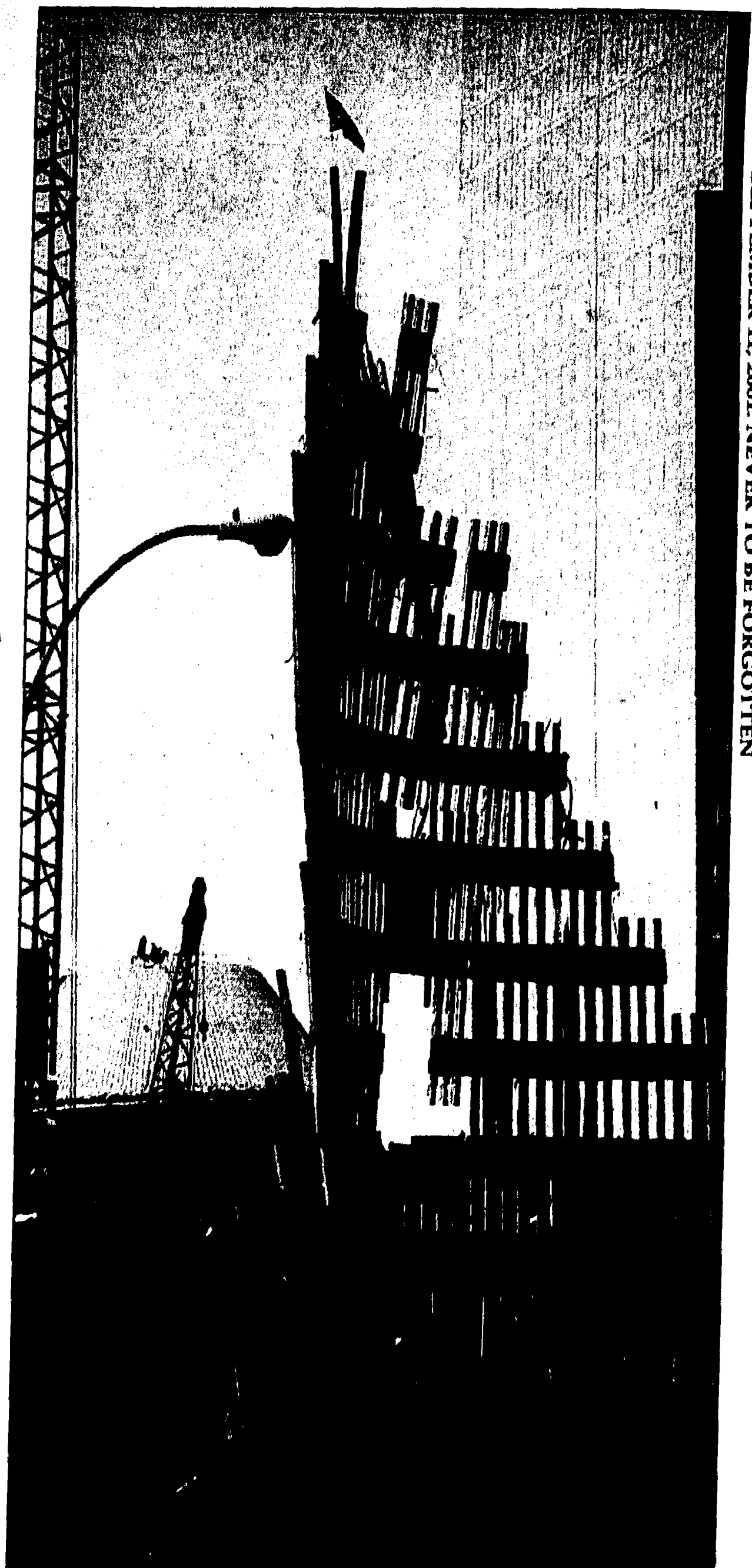
He said the towers collapsed from the

combination of structural damage from the planes' impacts and the resulting fire. The damage was so significant from the planes that any event, such as strong winds, would have toppled the towers, he said.

"If you design a building to take the impact (of a 747), it would be a fort, not a building," Robertson said.

Since Sept. 11, Robertson said he's received thousands of letters and several phone calls from people wishing him well. In the future, he would like to see a memorial and buildings as tall as the trade center constructed at Ground Zero.

"I don't feel guilty, but remorseful (about Sept. 11)," Robertson said. "I think I did as good of a job as anyone would have done or better. The designs were exemplary...If the buildings had been more stalwart, more people would have escaped. But I don't think another engineer would have done better."



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Part of the skeleton of the World Trade Center as it appeared shortly after the attack.

How has Sept. 11 affected your life?



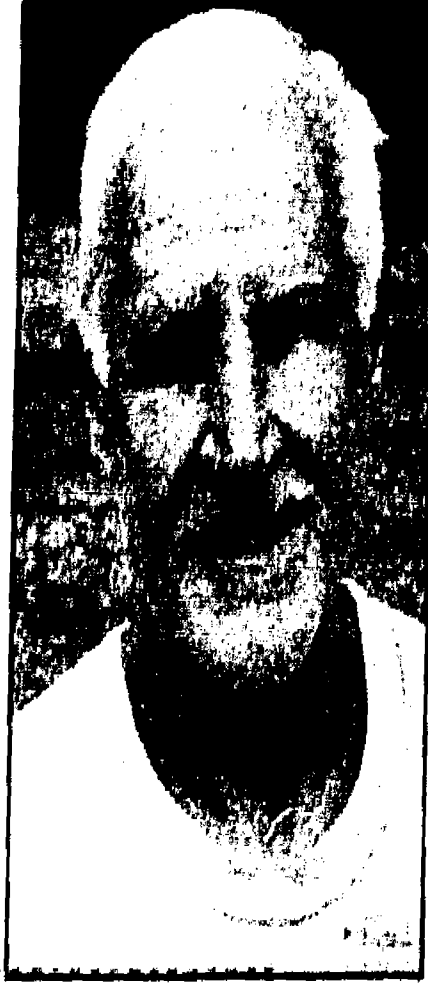
NORA DIAS
Edison

It made me more aware life is short. It's made me more aware of telling my children I love them. Just makes you more aware.



CINDY ALEXANDER
Clinton

I work for a theater at Raritan Valley College. I noticed that for a while we had smaller audiences because people were so depressed going out. I've found that there's a resurgence of people and they're more hopeful in the new year.



THOMAS DICK
Scotch Plains

I have a little more fear of terrorism. I also lost money in the stock market.

For volunteers, it was longest day

By **CHERYL ORSON**

STAFF WRITER

For Alex Zaleski of the Arbor Rescue Squad in Piscataway, just 18 years old and a squad member for only three months, Sept. 11 was the longest day of his life.

Called out of physics class at 9:45 a.m. that morning, he was sent to Liberty State Park in Jersey City with his fellow squad members. There he described "feeling useless" as the "walking wounded" were decontaminated and sent to hospitals.

Zaleski, however, quickly found himself in the thick of the action in an unlikely way — loading food onto boats to be sent to rescue workers in Manhattan. He then crossed the Hudson River and joined fellow squad members. Once on the other side, he spent four hours in a makeshift morgue area in Battery Park. Bodies started arriving and breathing became difficult with the dust in the air.

Eventually Zaleski was able to make his way down to Stuyvesant High School, by then packed with both equipment and food to help victims. There he assisted helping rescue personnel who were overcome with the heat that day.

Six hours later, Zaleski hooked up with

New York rescue and recovery teams. For the next 16 hours, helping to bring equipment to rescue teams going into what was then called "the hole."

At this time he was again reunited with other members of his squad, journeying to Ground Zero.

"It was like we were ants," said Zaleski, who worked on a bucket brigade clearing debris and searching for victims.

It was at this point Zaleski got on a "lifeline," a heavy rope used to lower rescuers into air pocket holes searching for survivors. Though "hot and smoky," Zaleski was able to locate two bodies — a businessman and a firefighter.

"That was probably the scariest thing I've ever done," said Zaleski.

Zaleski wasn't the only volunteer from the Arbor section of Piscataway who served in the city.

Robert Kelley and Nicholas Fico of the Arbor Fire Department, earned a debt of gratitude from the New York City Downtown Alliance on Sept. 11.

They, Capt. Frank Geffre and firefighters Mike Campbell, Carl Colbath, Tony Fritz and Don Uken received a written commendation from the Office of Public Safety's Alliance for Downtown New York for their actions on that day — the only township fire department to be so hon-



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kenilworth police load a truck with items residents dropped off for the relief workers.

ored.

Driving an Arbor fire truck into the city in the aftermath of the tragedy, they were directed toward a vehicle parked in front of the Alliance's center at 104 Washington St., just three blocks south of the World Trade Center, engulfed in flames. Dues to fallen pieces of the building's facade and other disabled vehicles and debris, the street was virtually impassable.

With New York City firefighters already deployed at the World Trade Center, the Arbor truck, which had been traveling two blocks from the location on West Street, was their only hope for a timely response.

The Arbor firemen took charge of the scene, extinguishing the fire and preventing further devastation on the block which also contained three residential buildings, three restaurants and two parking garages with two dozen police cars and other private vehicles.

"We happened to be at the right place at the right time," Fico said of the police officer spotting their truck and directing them to the scene of the fire.

After the blaze, the Arbor firefighters made their way to a command post to offer further assistance. They joined the line helping to remove debris from Ground Zero by hand.

He will never forget the stunned look of survivors

By **CHAD HEMENWAY**

STAFF WRITER

Sept. 11 started out like any other day for Bound Brook resident and Con Ed employee Daniel Carbone.

Working at 6th Avenue and 15th Street, Carbone got word shortly into the work day that a plane had hit one of the Twin Towers. He was able to see the towers clearly from where he was and speculated with fellow employees about what might have happened.

Things remained calm. Then someone yelled that a second plane had hit the

other tower. Carbone said he looked in time to see smoke and flames from the plane shoot out of the building.

Orders came from supervisors that the men were to shut their trench and go home. Carbone said he jumped in his vehicle and began weaving himself through the streets of the city he knew so well.

"I gave a lift to a guy going to New Jersey. The lines for the ferry were unbelievable.... People were in a daze — in shock. Many of them were covered in that ash. I'll never forget the blank, confused look on everybody's face," Carbone said.

At one point, Carbone remembers seeing

a man blanketed with gray-white ash walking down the street with a look on his face Carbone struggled to describe. The man had no shirt on. His pants were ripped and he was walking in only his socks.

"He looked like he had no idea where he came from or what he was doing. I imagine he ran right out of his shoes," Carbone said.

Carbone returned to the job the next day to follow contractors and gas crews at Ground Zero cutting and capping gas and steam lines.

"We walked over shoes, checkbooks,

clothes, and papers — and in the meantime you had the smell and that ash," he said.

Carbone took pictures, many fogged with the lingering smoke from the rubble. He took shots of pictures drawn by children taped to fences, candles and flowers in front of fire stations, signs touting the strength of America, and people lining the streets waving flags as rescue workers arrived every day.

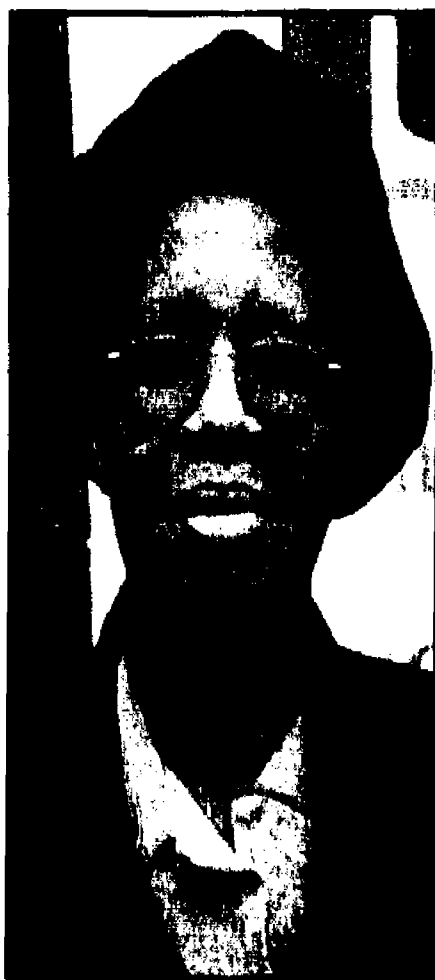
"I was actually embarrassed about that. They'd clap for every truck that went by. I almost slumped in my chair a little bit because I was only there doing my job. The real heroes deserved the cheer," he said.

How has Sept. 11 affected your life?



TONY BOVO
Bradley Gardens

I'm a volunteer fireman for Bradley Gardens, and I was there. My hearts and prayers go to the families for the people they have lost.



PATRICIA INGRAM
Cranford

It's made me appreciate being in the country that I live in and not so much take it for granted. But it was also a wake-up call for us to step up our security and do the things we didn't think we had to do.



PAULA YUSEM
Bridgewater

It made me love my son even more.

Joyful memories keep loving son alive

PAGES 5

Grandparents are helping raise children of victim

By **CHERYL ORSON**

STAFF WRITER

For the Piscataway family of Robert "Andy" Spencer, the full circle of life has been a reassurance.

Andy, 34, was working for Cantor Fitzgerald on the 105th floor of Tower 1 on Sept. 11.

But during a memorial service for him at St. Frances Cabrini Church, his 3-week-old son, Robert Phillips, was baptized in what the family said was a life-affirming service.

"It deepened our faith. God didn't make all these unique human beings to throw them away," said the baby's grandmother Patricia Spencer of the attack on the World Trade Center. "Above all there is a Master Plan and a Master Planner. God does absolutely exist. Everything somehow does work for good in the end."

Spencer's children — Addison, 5, Katie, 4 and Robert Phillips, 1 — are being raised by their mother, Chris, in their Middletown home. They visit their Piscataway grandparents often. The Spencers say the togetherness helps.

The young family also often visits Andy's favorite place, Bethany Beach, Del. They want his children to know the beach as well as their father did. It was where the family held their first Thanksgiving after his loss.

Though accepting the loss, his parents, who live on River Crest Drive, admit "never a day goes by" without them thinking of their son.

"I've never known anyone who really grew into what he was — an awfully loving person," said Patricia.

"He was just a great guy," said his father, Robert Spencer Sr. describing his son as a "hands on" father who was always there to



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Impromptu memorials sprung up throughout lower Manhattan after the attack as survivors tried to cope with the loss of loved ones.

tuck his children in at night and read them bedtime stories. "It's a double shame. I probably get more upset with the fact the children will be raised without a father."

Most of all, the Spencers said, they miss the laughter the hard-working and playful Andy gave to their family. The family jokester, Andy was known to go to "outrageous extremes" for a laugh. They recall a time at Bethany Beach when Andy came in from

the ocean wearing a mop of seaweed on his head.

"The entire beach stood up and roared. And that's just something that he would do, that a normal human being wouldn't try to do," said Patricia.

Andy was also known to call up a school in Texas where his sister, Cathy Hayes, is a principal, posing as an irate parent. After a while the staff came to know "it's just Andy."

Still, the Spencers remain resolute. "One thing we've been given is the gift of faith," said Patricia.

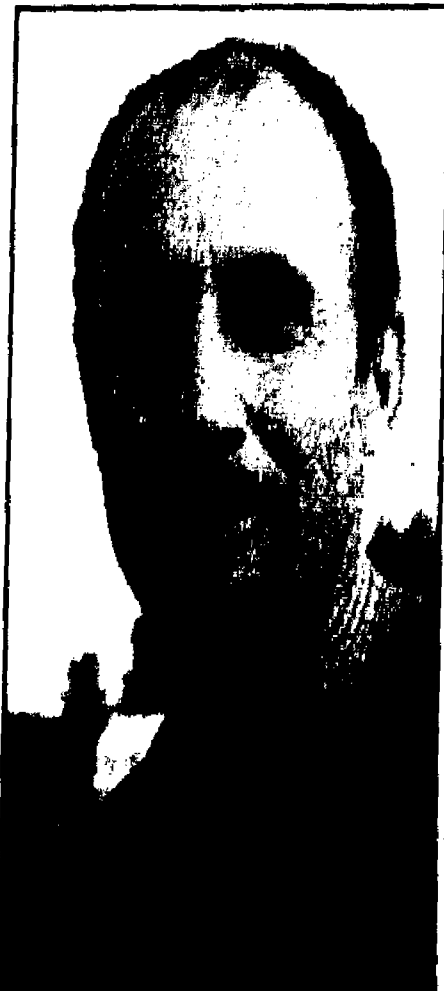
"You can't dwell on it. That would be the worst thing in the world," said Robert, determined the family will carry on. "Life goes on. You can pack it in and become the living dead and wear a crepe, but we have so many blessings with the rest of the family. Life is good."

How has Sept. 11 affected your life?



JOSH DECKER
Fanwood

I'm not as willing to ride on air planes. My mom won't let me. I haven't wanted to fly alone. I don't feel as safe as I used to feel.



ISSAC COLON
Plainfield

It's bad. All those people died there. We're all human. I think about it — about all those people I saw on the news jumping from those buildings. I feel scared for my kids. I watch my kids.



AUGIE TRUY
Bound Brook
It hasn't changed my life at all.

'Nothing there, but the bad guys'

By KELLY BELLOVIN-MITCH

STAFF WRITER

Staff Sgt. William Harzula returned to the United States a hero after serving in Afghanistan.

The Middlesex resident was awarded a Bronze Star for valor in Operation Anaconda.

But what brought him to his knees, when he returned home in May, was the sight of the Manhattan skyline without the Twin Towers.

"I felt like throwing up," he said. "All my life they have been there. And now they are gone."

The silhouette of the city is not the only transformation in the past 12 months; Harzula too has changed.

On Sept. 11 Harzula was stationed in Kentucky and was involved in routine training exercises.

"I was on a grenade range and some guy came back and said some plane had hit the Twin Towers," he said. "I

thought, 'This guy needs to go back to flight school.' About an hour or so later, the alarms on post started going off and the MP's (Military Police) started running around like crazy. Another plane had crashed into the other tower. The towers were gone and someone had crashed into the Pentagon. No one really knew what was going on. There were just rumors of a terrorist attack."

Harzula sneaked into the Purchase Exchange to the audio and visual section to find a television.

"There it was," he said. "The planes crashing into the towers. I thought, wow, this is going to get hairy for the next couple of months."

Soon after, Harzula received a warning order to get all his belongings together. On the morning of Nov. 12 he was told he was leaving for Afghanistan.

Harzula and his squad stayed in Pakistan on their way to Afghanistan for a month and a half. They then went to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

"We had to secure the perimeter," he said.

"When we got off that plane, the POW camp was right there. They were moving POWs in and out. We saw the camp up pretty close. You realize that you're in a different part of the world. There is nothing around. All there is are mountains. On the outskirts, there is nothing there but the bad guys."

He said a lot of the men he was with had a wide

range of emotions about being in Afghanistan.

"It was new to them," he said. "Some were scared. Some wanted to go home. Some wanted to be there. Some didn't understand why we were there. When it's just you and them 24-7 days on end, you get to become their counselor, friend and their leader."

Not only did Harzula and his squad have to face the dangers of the Afghans, but the mines, weather and terrain were also hazardous.



Staff Sgt. William Harzula of Middlesex spent a month and a half in Pakistan before participating in Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan where he was honored.



On the ground in Afghanistan, Staff Sgt. William Harzula of Middlesex and his squad take a break.

"Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined areas in the world," he said. "There was constantly a flail sweeping for mines so we could go out and expand the perimeter. ... The winters were horrendous. Once we were up at around 12,000 feet for a mission that was supposed to take five hours. It ended up being two to three days. The first night we didn't have proper equipment, so you huddled up with your buddy trying to get through the night until we could get supplies in the morning."

Harzula said most of the Afghans welcomed the U.S. soldiers. He said some even invited them into their homes to give the soldiers food. He also said the children were the best interpreters, because they spoke very good English.

But some Afghans weren't so trusting.

"When we would walk through the villages, they would walk out and stand by the houses," he said. "Obviously they were armed. People there have AK-47s like we have phones. The smallest kid I saw with an AK-47 was a 12-year-old. Most kids are running around with sticks or toy guns training."

"It was definitely a life-altering experience," he said. "I learned a lot about the will-

ingness of people. You always think the Arnold Schwarzenegger-type commando, Rambo-type guys are the ones that are going to take charge, but that's not true. Most of the time it's the average guys, sitting in the back. When push comes to shove, who's going to step up. It's not the Rambo guy; it's the other guy, because it's in his heart."

Harzula said he did not fear for his own life, but he was concerned about his soldiers.

"For the most part, I didn't have time to think about it," he said. "I have soldiers underneath me. I didn't want to be that guy, the leader to have to come home and write

a letter to someone's parents telling them because it was my negligence, your son did not come home."

Harzula is still adjusting to being a civilian.

"Coming from an environment where you're always on the defensive all the time, everything has to go just right for the job to get done," he said. "Civilian life is not like that at all. But now I can relax. I can eat anything I want. I can do anything I want."

Now he is leading young men on another mission — he's assistant football coach at Middlesex High School.

"The smallest kid I saw with an AK-47 was a 12-year-old. Most kids are running around with sticks or toy guns training."

—Staff Sgt. William Harzula

How has Sept. 11 affected your life?



WILL RICHARDSON
Middlesex

It hasn't changed anything. It just makes me hate those guys a little more.



RYAN AYALA
Fanwood

I don't feel safe in big cities anymore.



KAREN RODRIGUEZ
North Plainfield

In a lot of ways. Lost a lot of people. Right now, the jobs are affecting us a lot.

They're firing a lot of people. I was working for a company and was laid off because things are slow. I think it's because of that.

He watches skies above to prevent a repeat

By CHAD NEMENYAY
STAFF WRITER

The lives of those serving in the armed forces have changed dramatically since Sept. 11.

Bound Brook's Capt. Spiro Ballas of the U.S. Air Force is stationed at Colorado Springs, Colo., in the Cheyenne Mountains — the home of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

"The bottom line is that I gather info from our intelligence capabilities, make a picture out of it and talk to the colonel, who has the ability to talk directly to the president. My job is to determine what the other guy can do or what might happen next," said Ballas.

Ballas said he was just finishing his training in the Air Force's intelligence career field when he got word of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Two thousand miles away from his family and friends, Ballas said he was crawling out of his skin.

"All I wanted was to get out of here. I felt helpless. I became part of so many people around the country sitting with people watching it on TV, but in the room full of people I was in I felt alone," Ballas said. "I just wanted to be with my family."

The normal operations of NORAD completely shifted as officials met to decide what should be done to prevent a similar attack from happening again.

"In the first weeks after 9/11, we asked the questions about what we should change — what could happen next? They used planes, would they use boats or use anthrax next?" Ballas said.

NORAD was originally designed in the 1960s as a 24-hour watch center for ballistic missiles, suspicious aircraft and submarine activity as a defense against the Soviets during the Cold War. Since then, NORAD's purpose has changed. Now, with satellites,



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Visitors to the World Trade Center site passed walls of filers of those reported missing in the attack on Sept. 11, 2001.

it can detect quick flashes of light during a missile take-off in any part of the world. Ballas is part of a group who gathers intelligence on who is firing, where the missile is headed and why it has been fired.

NORAD also defends and monitors air space. Hostile planes are located and dealt with. But NORAD never expected that someone might use commercial planes for hostile purposes.

"We now have FAA representatives in the control room to help us out. Recently we had a plane turn around from San Francisco because its toilet broke. We monitored it until it landed back in San Francisco. We never paid that much attention to something like that but we obviously have to now," Ballas said.

"We make sure that the reason they are diverting the path is true."

Ballas said maybe two to three times a day NORAD watches similar cases of commercial airlines diverting the path of a plane. Nothing is taken for granted any more, Ballas said.

No-fly zones over Washington, D.C., are watched by NORAD too. Sometimes, Ballas said, a pilot of a small plane will get lost or

his maps are off and he will fly into the restricted zone. Most times these planes skirt along the edge of the borders, but if a plane were to spend too much in the air-space, NORAD could scramble fighters.

In addition, Ballas said a new North American Command Center is set to use the mountain as a home base as well.

"These people will be dedicated to monitor homeland defense.

We've been mainly concerned with other countries and our borders. This command center will oversee terrorist activity and will be fully capable to handle naval and air-space threats," Ballas said.

Last year, Ballas had long planned a trip back home to Bound Brook as part of a surprise for his

family. He journeyed home Sept. 17 on a practically empty plane.

While home, Ballas apprehensively visited New York to see the site. He said the helplessness he felt while watching the pictures on television 2,000 miles away in a room in Colorado were put in perspective. Now Ballas is helping, defending his country to make sure what he saw never happens again.

"I gather info from our intelligence capabilities, make a picture out of it and talk to the colonel, who has the ability to talk directly to the president. My job is to determine what the other guy can do or what might happen next."

—Capt. Spiro Ballas

Travel agents still feeling the effects

By LESLIE A. SCOTT
STAFF WRITER

Travel agencies are still hurting in the wake of last year's terror attack.

A few of the local agencies have been forced to cut staffs and hours to stay afloat.

The travel agencies have been hit with a double whammy: People are flying less either because they're afraid or because they don't want to be inconvenienced by long lines at security checkpoints.

Because fewer are flying, the airline industry has stopped paying commissions to the travel agencies.

"We have to charge a service fee," said Phyllis Sands of Kadesh Travel Agency in North Plainfield.

"We're hanging in there. It could be better. We're just keeping our fingers crossed," Sands said.

Margart Holmes of Butler Travel Associates in Cranford agrees that fallout from the airline industry has hurt business.

"Business trips are high, but even they are cutting back," she said.

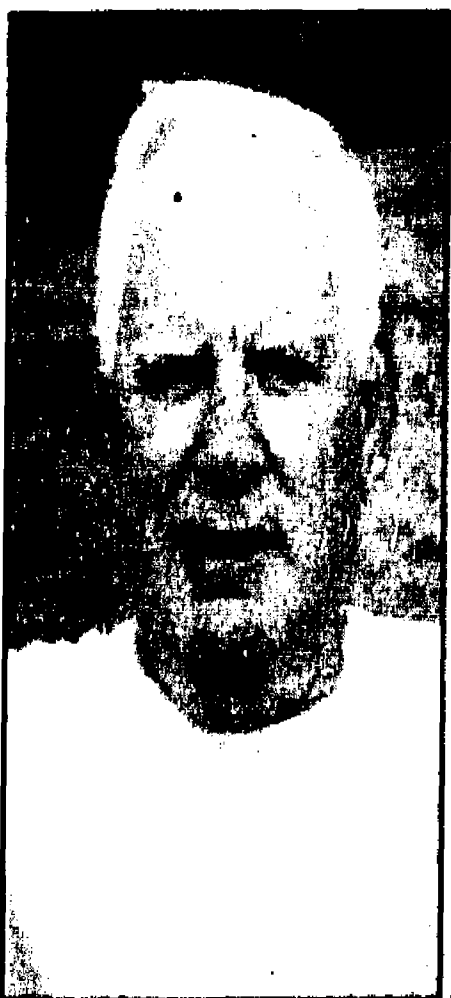
Travelers Choice in Bedminster is booking a lot of group travel now.

But Sands finds that "People are not planning ahead as much as they did before."

Terry McCabe of Stratton Travel in Warren believes that people still have to yen to travel, but "they just have changed their travel destinations." She reports that both international and corporate travel are down.

Still, Sands is optimistic that after the anniversary, business will pick up again.

How has Sept. 11 affected your life?



CHARLES GENENDEN
Scotch Plains

It hasn't changed my life too much. I'm more aware of people from the Middle East, I'm more leery of them.



JAN SCHWARTZ
Clark

It made me value family time more. The simple things in life, going to county fairs in the summer, just being with my family.



DAVID TROTZ
Martinsville

The key thing for me is that it makes me more alert to things going on. I am watching every activity and every person around me.

Islams still feel sting of bigotry a year later

By **CHERYL ORSON**

STAFF WRITER

A year after Sept. 11, those attending the Muslim Center in Middlesex County on Hoes Lane in Piscataway reflected on the past and looked to the future.

Zafaras Shaheen, president of the center, said there is still a lot of misunderstanding and prejudice from the media and others who do not understand Islam. He questioned why the actions of extremists are being extrapolated to reflect on the whole Islamic community.

"Something touches a raw nerve," Shaheen said of religion being used as an excuse to foster unfounded animosity.

It hasn't been an easy year for those who are faithful to Islam.

For example, he said, wearing traditional dress and grooming has been difficult.

"Anybody wearing a beard or headdress is suspected of being a terrorist," Shaheen said. Practicing Muslims often feel targeted for just following the tenets of their faith, he added.

Despite this, Shaheen said he doesn't feel excluded from the mainstream culture but rather a part of it. He said he and other Muslim Center leaders are in constant dialogue with local politicians, educators, police officers and religious leaders.

"We want to be part of the community, not a problem," Shaheen said stating religious understanding is the key to tolerance.

Trustee Kazi Zackria and Secretary Anwer Hussain expressed similar thoughts. Hussain said Islam is a religion of peace with Muslims playing a positive role in the community, most working as highly educated professionals. Zackria said the problems center on misunderstanding, with Islam simply being a continuation of Judaism and Christianity.

"Islam preaches nothing but peace and love," said Zackria. "We are peace-loving people, we are citizens and we are here to stay."

The men said they believe themselves to be a part of mainstream American society.

"We have to play a role in the political system of this country," Hussain said. "Our community has a lot more to offer."

"We are a part of the mainstream," agreed Zackria. Muslims have shared the burden of making the United States a better place to be, he said.

Muslim women, however, had differing opinions as to how the past year has effected them and their children.

Durdana Haque, a homemaker, said life was difficult in the first few months after Sept. 11. Since then, though, she said she believes the situation has stabilized with some women choosing to return to traditional dress while others have chosen to abandon it.

"There are people who don't like different people," said Haque who said that for these people Sept. 11 gave them an excuse to act on pre-existing prejudice.

Nuzhat Arshad agreed. Immediately following Sept. 11 she was afraid to get out of her car when dropping her child off at the school bus stop. While she said she believes Muslim women have "definitely" had a hard time wearing traditional dress, she also said the American public has become more aware and understanding of differences.

"That's the wonderful thing about the American people is that they understand and accept differences," said Arshad.

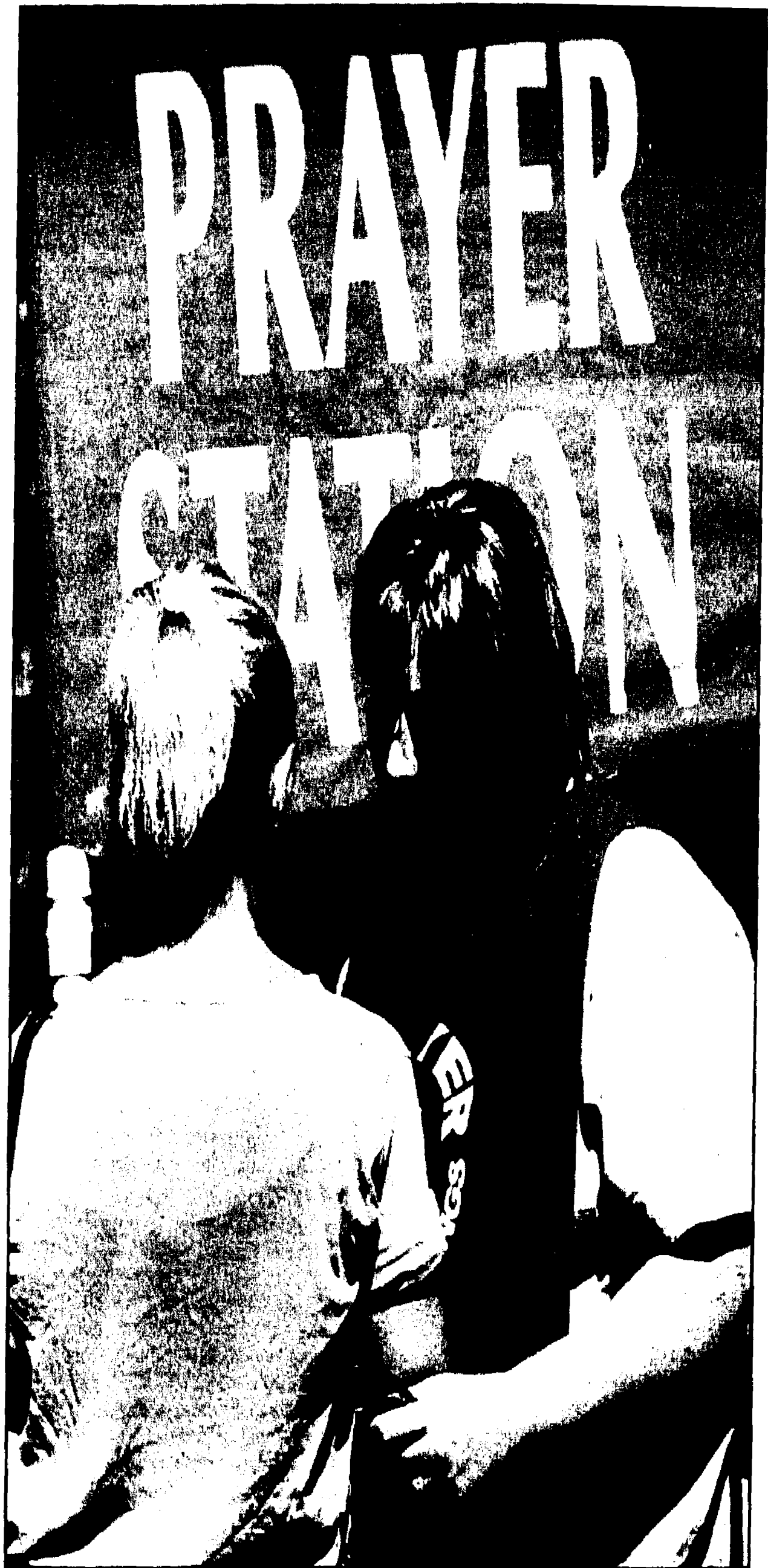
Teachers Zahira Abbas and Simina Rathore said they have hope the next generation can live in peace.

"The scarf is not the reason for terrorism," said Abbas. "I'm very much a part of everything, I watch TV, news, I shop, get groceries, work. Dress is irrelevant as far as minds, education and how we bring up our children."

"We are a very peaceful people," said Rathore. "We don't want bad for anyone. Our religion teaches us love for everyone."

"Anybody wearing a beard or headdress is suspected of being a terrorist."

-Zafaras Shaheen



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Prayer stations for all denominations were set up after the attack throughout New York City to help and to comfort those looking for missing loved ones.

How has Sept. 11 affected your life?



DENNIS MOORE
Westfield

Landmarks like the Statue of Liberty, which symbolize freedom, are now under high security and can't be enjoyed.



SANDY CONNER
South Bound Brook
It made me appreciate more of what I have and what people mean to me and hopefully what I mean to them.



THERESA MARLOW
Plainfield

I'm Canadian, but I was affected. We just moved from Hoboken, so we watched it happen from the docks. I'm more concerned. It puts things into perspective.

Towns' memorials run the gamut

Communities pay tribute in modest, elaborate ways

By GREG MARX

STAFF WRITER

With the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attack upon us, municipalities are choosing to honor local victims in vastly different ways. Memorials range from elaborate, costly plazas, fountains and parks to more modest monuments such as plaques or trees.

Some of the grandest projects are in Middlesex County, where Metuchen is creating a new public space, to be named "Freedom Plaza," outside the train station.

The project, said Mayor Ed O'Brien, will include a brick wall upon which will be displayed the names of all New Jersey residents who died in the attack. The names of Metuchen and Edison residents who commuted from the train station to New York City will be marked with a star, O'Brien said.

The plaza will also feature a four-sided clock and a new stair-

way to the station, O'Brien said. The project, scheduled for dedication Nov. 17, was funded through \$180,000 in private donations and \$70,000 in in-kind contributions.

In neighboring Edison, work is ongoing on a memorial fountain near Lake Pappalanni. The fountain, said Councilman Robert Deal, will surround a 30-ton block of Vermont granite, which will in turn support two pieces of inlaid black material representing the Twin Towers.

The memorial, to be dedicated Oct. 12, is a composite of three designs developed by local high school students, Deal said, and organizers have nearly raised the \$100,000 cost of the project through private donations.

"It's truly a community event," he said. "This money comes from pennies emptied out of car ashtrays, and also from people

giving us checks for thousands of dollars."

In Union County, workers in Westfield have nearly completed work on a memorial at Broad Street and North Avenue, previously an underused public space. The design features 12 pillars along a walkway, each representing a local resident who died in the attack, and a glass spire with the names of every American who died that day.

"We decided to be inclusive and put everyone's name on the monument," said organizer Janice Weinstein. "We have (local) people who lost brothers, sons who didn't live in Westfield."

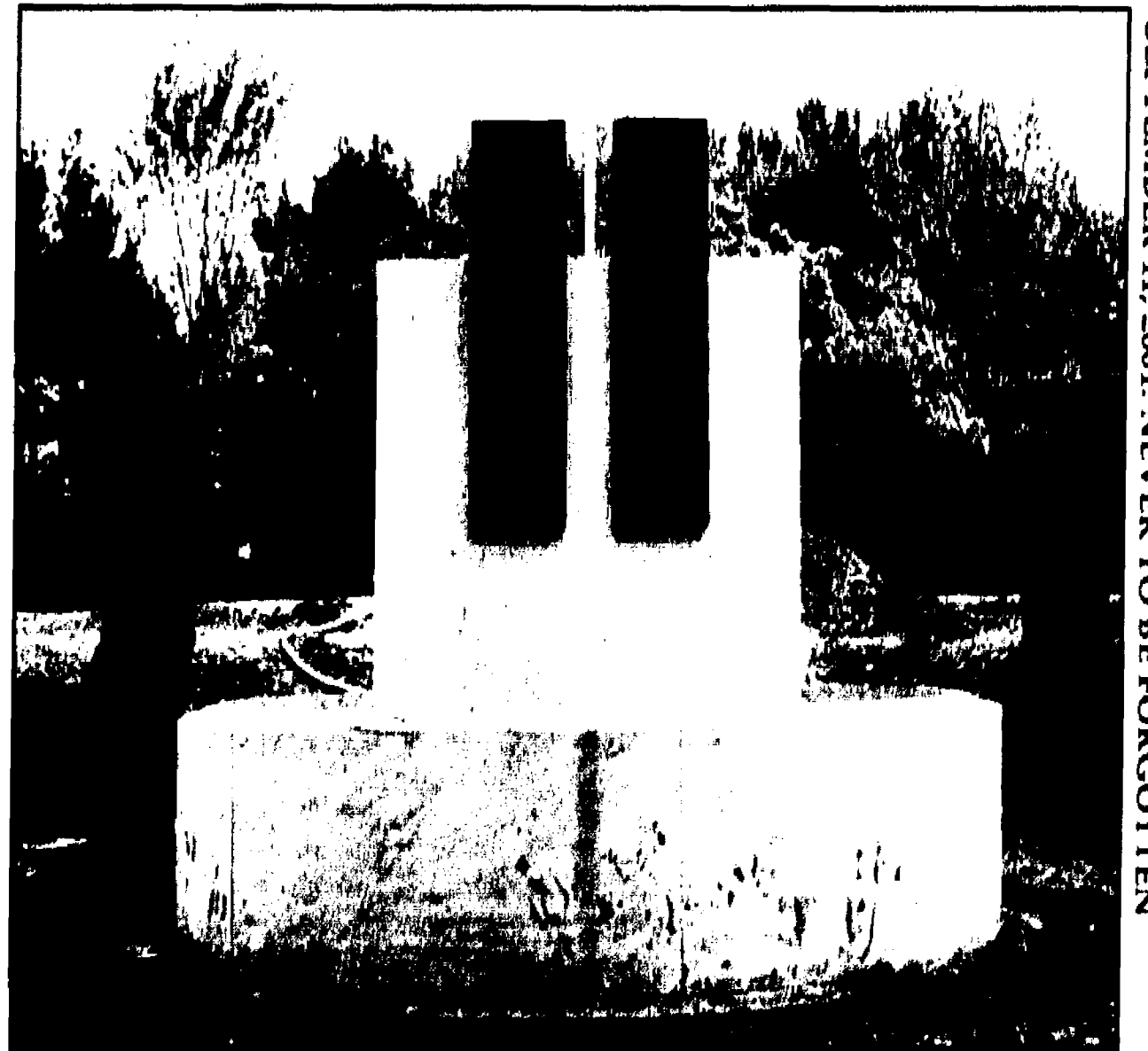
The Westfield memorial will be dedicated Sept. 21. Organizers have raised \$75,000 in private donations for the project, but are still collecting money for a maintenance budget.

And in neighboring Cranford, work recently began on a memorial in Crane Park, across from the Municipal Building. The project includes a refurbishment of the park, a six-pillar monument to local victims, and a statue and flagpole.

Organizers in Cranford are working to raise contributions of money and services for the project, which could cost as much as \$150,000. Dedication is tentatively scheduled for May 2003.

Other municipalities are opting for more modest memorials. In Scotch Plains, township officials will name a new baseball complex on Plainfield Avenue Memorial Field, and place a flagpole and bronze plaque with the names of local victims on the site.

Similarly, in Kenilworth the Policemen's Benevolent Association recently put up a small monument in front of Borough Hall, and in Bridgewater a monument consisting of three rocks, the center with a plaque list-



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The unfinished Sept. 11 memorial stands next to Lake Pappalanni, Edison. It will be dedicated on Oct. 12.

What you can do

Organizing committees in Cranford, Edison and Westfield are still accepting donations for construction and maintenance of their Sept. 11 memorials. Residents interested in making donations should send checks to the following addresses:

Cranford: Cranford WTC Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 265, Cranford, NJ 07016

Edison: Edison 9/11 Memorial, 200 O'Hara Street, Edison, NJ 08837

Westfield: Sept. 11 Memorial Park Committee, Inc., P.O. Box 712, Westfield, NJ 07091



The memorial in Westfield will be dedicated on Sept. 21.

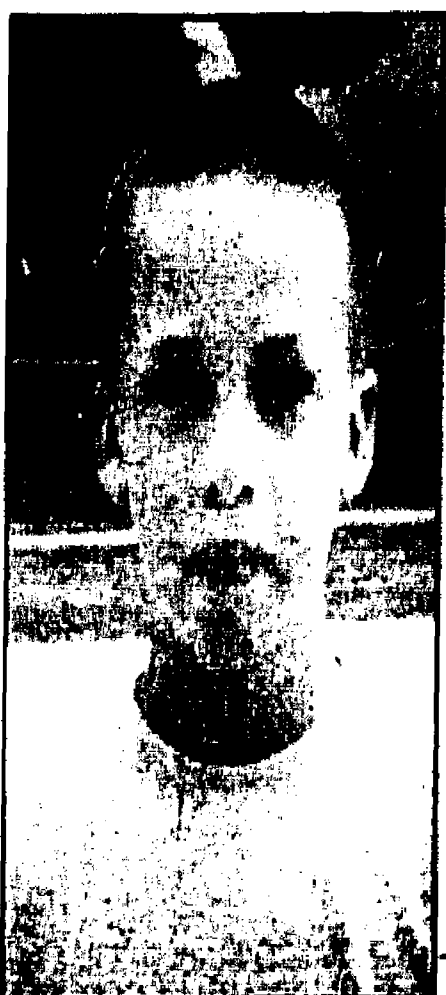
ing the names of five local victims, will be established in front of the Municipal Building.

Also opting for a plaque in or near their municipal buildings are Piscataway and Warren. In Watchung, officials will plant a

memorial tree alongside Watchung Lake.

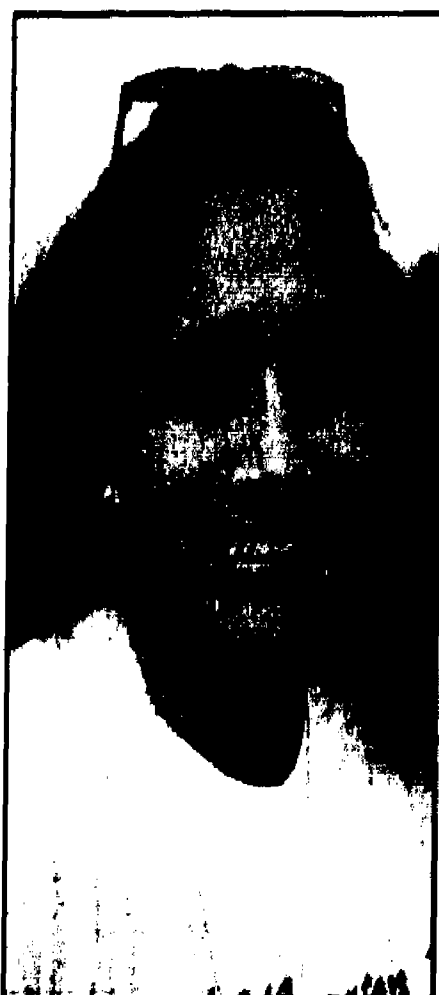
Other towns, including Green Brook, Dunellen, Middlesex, Peapack-Gladstone and Bedminster, will hold anniversary services, but are not planning to construct permanent memorials.

How has Sept. 11 affected your life?



ROBERT AYALA
Fanwood

It hasn't changed my life. I don't go to New York really, so it doesn't feel different.



BRENDA FERNANDES
Edison

It made me more aware — more aware of the level of terrorism. Everyone needs to be on their guard at all times. Everything's normal, you're just more aware.



OWEN DALY
Cranford

It has placed an element of fear in the minds of everyday people, and a lot of it is unwarranted. If we live in fear, we are doing exactly what the terrorists want.

Kids tortured by unanswerable questions

By **TINA PERROTTA**

STAFF WRITER

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001: NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

A year later, children at the Martin Luther King Day Care in Bridgewater still want to know what really happened Sept. 11.

"They still have a lot of anger," said day care Director Rajni Chopra. "We talked about it in the very beginning, we didn't want them to think it had anything to do with hate. ... I think we're not equipped to really answer questions."

Equipped or not, when the children ask questions, Chopra has tried her best to answer them. But for the most part nobody has completely addressed the children's emotions.

"I want them (teachers) to explain why planes crashed into the Twin Towers," said 10-year-old Katherine Sosa of Bound Brook.

"I want to know how terrorists got onto the planes in the first place," said 10-year-old Alexa Taylor of Middlesex.

"I want to know why these terrorists came to the United States and broke something down we built," said 11-year-old Dan Allen of Bridgewater.

Last year, some of the children attended assemblies which supplied them with generalized answers to a now complicated war.

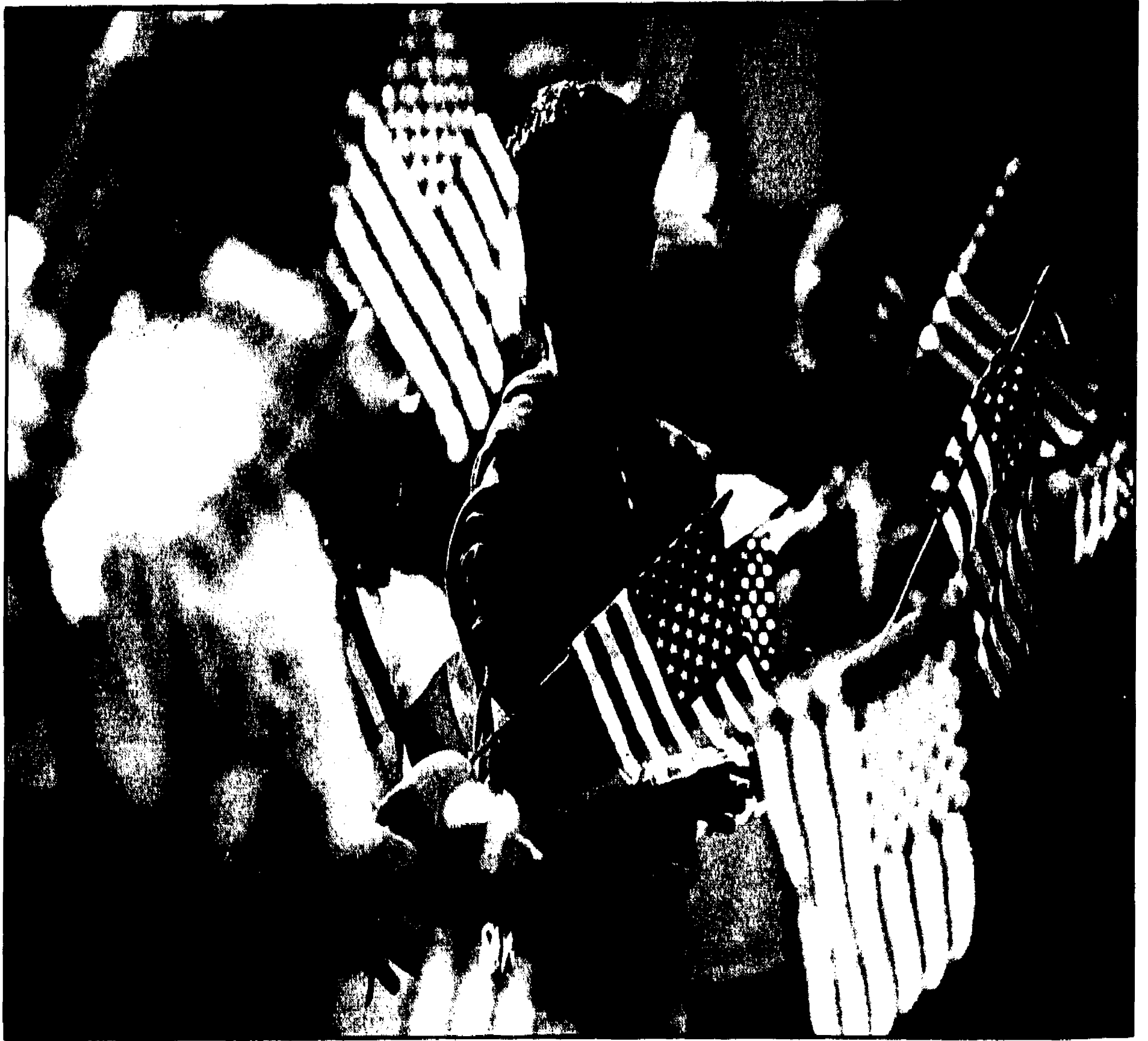
What young children understand is that two planes crashed into two buildings, people were hurt and "bad guys" were involved.

But a majority of the children don't know why the Towers and the Pentagon were hit, who the terrorists are, and how many people died in the attacks.

"My school, they had an assembly and they told us about 9/11 and when I went home my mom bought the whole family flag pins," said 11-year-old Jacke Reese of Hillsborough. "I think they (the terrorists) attacked the United States because everyone is coming here to make a better life for themselves."

Surprisingly, since New York is such a short drive away, many of the children attending the day care inside Somerset County Vocational High School are not frightened by the prospect of future terrorist attacks. But a handful of children are still hesitant to travel on planes.

"I don't think they would hit anything else because we're more prepared now if



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Children at Livingston Avenue School in Cranford held a flag ceremony shortly after last year's attack.

something happens," Alexa said.

The fear of more terrorist attacks is something the children try to not think about. To cope with their feelings, they have sketched pictures, raised donations, and wrote to New York City police officers and firefighters. Alexa drew pictures of the Twin Towers and flags and Dan raised money for the Red Cross by selling lemonade with his neighbors.

In each case the children have tried to show their fears, bravery and national pride they've seen in the media.

"I wrote to firemen and policemen to cheer them up," said 9-year-old Trevor

McQueen of Somerville. "I told them you can do it, don't give up."

"I drew pictures and I put an eagle on it that said 'United We Stand,'" said 9-year-old Michael Parsons of Bound Brook.

"In our class last year we started a project to bring change, loose money, to donate to fire companies for more engines," said 12-year-old Ryan McCleod of Somerville.

The emotional effects of Sept. 11 are present in the children and though they still have questions, many of the children don't want to hear anymore about that day.

"I think it's bad (talking about Sept. 11) because sometimes people get nightmares

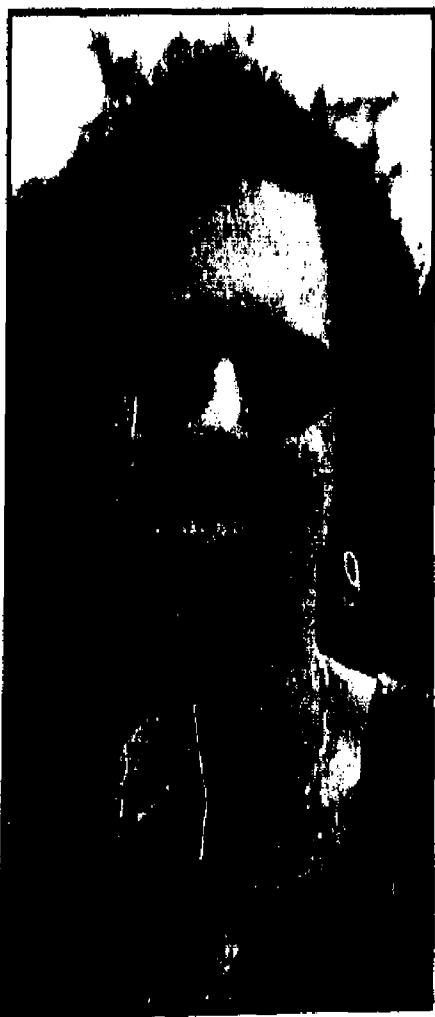
with the stories they hear," said 10-year-old Aaron Vaughn of Somerville.

"I don't want to hear more because it brings up bad memories," said 13-year-old Anthony Gorrell of New Brunswick.

The children said, as part of the answer, they would rather have an American soldier come to their school and talk about what they're doing in Afghanistan and how they're helping people in the Middle East.

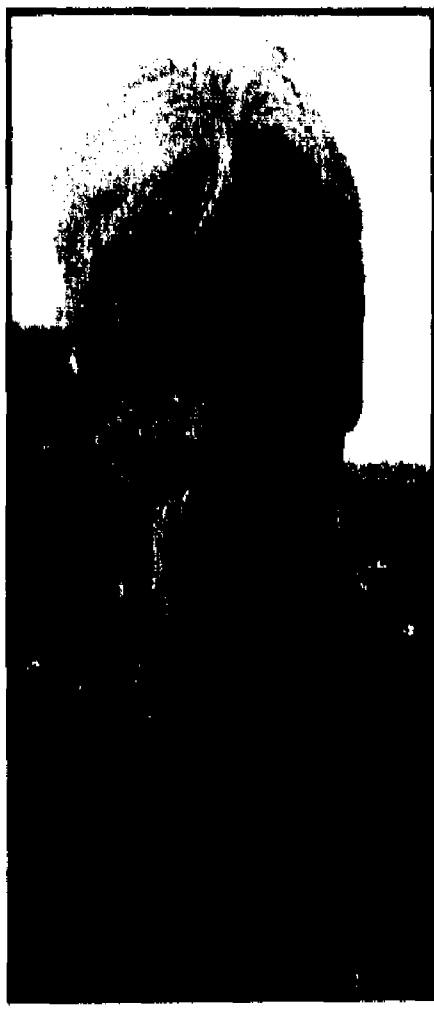
"They're more affected because it's so close by," Chopra said. "They've seen that area, they've seen the Twin Towers and it's part of them. It affects children and adults equally."

How has Sept. 11 affected your life?



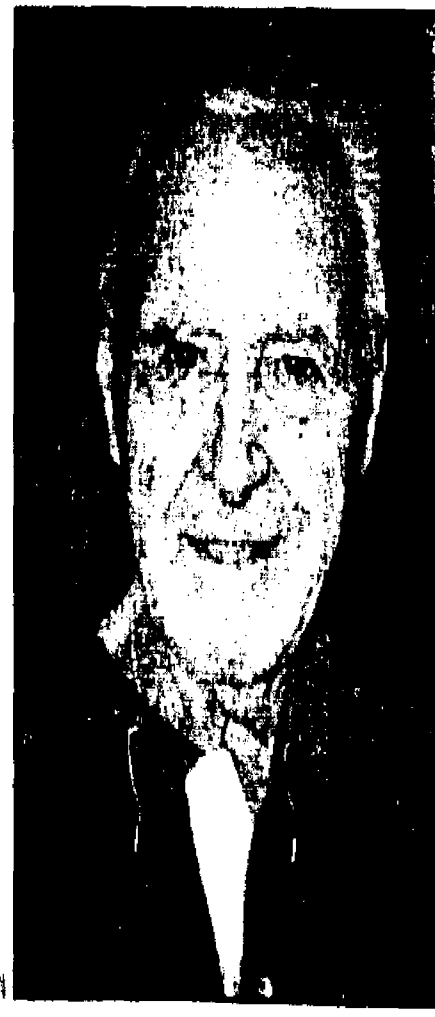
JANICE CHAFFIOTEE
Bridgewater

It doesn't change so much what I do, but it changes how I feel about things and about my kids.



DEAN PEEK
Middlesex

It hasn't changed much, I guess. I guess they should keep playing it on television, so people don't forget that terrorism is real.



LARRY CARNEVALE
Cranford

It's been the most tragic thing I've ever experienced, and I'm 84 years old.

Support the families, don't smother them

By GREG MARK

STAFF WRITER

The first anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks provides an opportunity to cope with the grief caused by the event, but also brings with it the perils of depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior, grief counselors and psychologists said.

"The one-year anniversary of a loss is a particularly important one for people to honor and mourn," said Nancy McWilliams, a graduate professor of psychology at Rutgers University.

People who lost loved ones in the attack can benefit from memorial services and other large-group gatherings, McWilliams said. Though well-intentioned supporters should be careful not to "overwhelm" mourners with support, she said, "It's very important to people who lost victims to feel as if the victims are remembered."

That support is needed by victims' families, rescue workers and others affected by the events because symptoms of traumatic stress may not occur for months or even years after, said Caroline Clauss-Ehlers of Rutgers' Graduate School of Education. "It took a long time for many family members to even acknowledge the relative was missing," she said.

While some events, such as the recovery of a victim's remains, can help provide closure, she said, events that recall the ordeal can also trigger symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Those symptoms, which can persist for a month or more, can include flashbacks, nightmares, anger, depression

and anxiety, she said.

Clauss-Ehlers urged people to be aware of these symptoms in friends and relatives, especially children.

"I think it's really important for parents to check in with their children, regardless of age," she said. "It's so important for kids to be pro-active about this."

In many cases, emotional trauma rooted in Sept. 11 can be manifested as anxiety and depression about other issues.

Diane Rullo, a psychotherapist who specializes in substance abuse problems, said one Port Authority employee

recently returned to her for treatment.

Though the man didn't realize it, she said, "he's experiencing trauma from being on the site and helping out."

But often overlooked, Rullo said, is that the emotional impact of Sept. 11 goes far beyond res-

cue workers and families of the victims. "The Trade Center has rocked all of our lives... We now have become a country with instability," she said. "We were all directly involved... and all of our other issues are now brought to the fore."

Even one year later, the counselors said, the events of Sept. 11 are creating an increased demand for their services. Rullo said in one recent week she received seven requests for treatment from new patients, a number much higher than usual.

That situation is challenging, but can also be rewarding. "This has been some of the saddest work that I have ever done. The families were so vulnerable and so raw," Clauss-Ehlers said. "But it was a privilege in a way, that they could open up to me."

"This has been some of the saddest work that I have ever done. The families were so vulnerable and so raw."

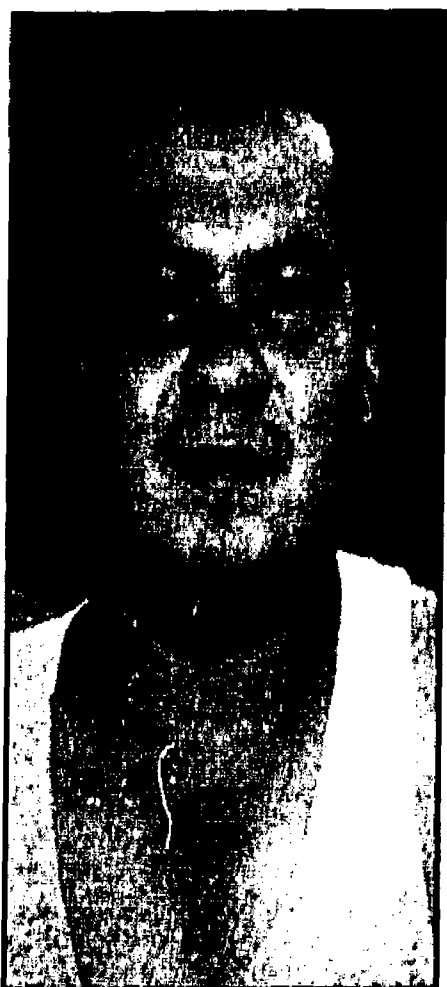
-Caroline Clauss-Ehlers
Rutgers' Graduate School
of Education



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Candles and flags were raised high at a vigil in South Plainfield five days after the attack.

How has Sept. 11 affected your life?



CARLOS COREAS
South Plainfield

That was so very difficult because it changed a lot of work. A lot of people, they're out of work or don't work anymore. It's slow right now. I work in landscaping, it's slower. It's going to be the same for this Sept. 11 — it still affects a lot of people like that. We are also really scared for our children. I watch my child more closely — I don't leave her alone.



CARL CIMILUCA
Middlesex

I'm a teacher and it's affected me in that I had to be more concerned with things around me. They keep saying for us not to be worried, but there is a group out there that hates us.



PETER AIVARS
Oakland
It changed everything for me.

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