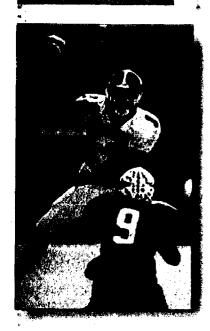
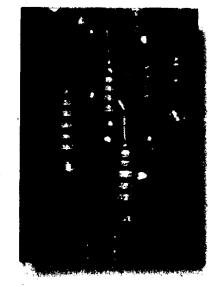
Bernth-Hress

Vol. 17, No. 49



# Deviis rule

Westfield ouarterback John Cocozziello threw for a touchdown on this play and ran for another as the Blue Devils beat Plainfield 14-6 on Thanksgiving Day



Hand-carved wooden tree ornaments hang on display at an arts and crafts market in Westfield Nov. 29. For more photos from the market, see Page B-1.



# He he he

\$anta Claus spread some holiday cheer through Westfield Sunday. when he stopped by the North Avenue train station parking lot to help light the town's Christmas tree. For more photos of holiday celebrations, see Page B-1.

# Santa's back

Santa Claus was in Westfield last Sunday, but he pays another visit to the area this weekend, when he arrives at the Village Green in Scotch Plains 5 p.m. Sunday. Earlier in the day Towne Centre will be filled with family activities such as pony rides, face painting and Rainbow the Clown

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Obituaries	B-2
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NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Big brass band

Members of the holiday brass section of the Westfield Community Band entertained residents with Christmas music Sunday before Santa's arrived to light the tree at the North Avenue train station parking lot.

# Traffic calming steps are on the way in Westfield

# Betancourt says speeding enforcement is key

By KEVIN B. HOWELL

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Town bombarded requests for traffic calming measures on neighborhood streets, plans to take action soon on some short-term measures and to con-

tinue discussion with residents. The committee recently heard from residents of Woodland Avenue, who complained about motorists speeding down their street. Rafael Betancourt, chairman of the council's Transportation, Parking and Traffic Committee, said the committee agreed on six short-term solutions and three long-term solutions.

At its Nov. 26 meeting the council agreed to implement the six short-term solutions, which can be done soon. They include placing a police department speed monitor on the street, increasing speeding enforcement, clearing signs that are blocked by tree branches, enforcing a truck restriction and placing signs at the town's Mountainside border to advise motorists to slow down.

'We need to send a direct signal, not only to the police department but to our court, that there has to be a zero-tolerance policy for speeding in Westfield,"

Betancourt said. "It just can't be entire Rahway Avenue project, engineering; it has to be education and enforcement."

solutions long-term The include directing the police department to do a speed study and a turn and movement study

"We need to send a direct signal, not only to the police department but to our court, that there has to be a zero-tolerance policy for speeding in Westfield. It just can't be engineering; it has to education enforcement.'

> — Councilman Rafael Betancourt

of the area and hiring a traffic expert to study ways to address the problem.

Betancourt said the shortterm solutions are generally inexpensive, though the town does not have the money to institute traffic calming measures everywhere.

The town has budgeted \$300,000 for traffic calming next year, or about the cost of the

he said.

Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh said the engineering department is developing the capability to conduct traffic calming studies itself, but the process is still in its beginning

In other neighborhoods, the council agreed with a police department recommendation for a stop sign at Sandra Circle and West Court.

Changes are also coming at By KEVIN B. HOWELL the Shackamaxon Drive and THE RECORD PRES Rahway Avenue intersection. Drivers on Shackamaxon will only be able to make a right turn onto Rahway Avenue, and the council plans to authorize parking restrictions on Rahway

There have been serious accidents at the site, at which motorists' vision is impaired when cars are parked on the side of the road during sporting events at the high school stadi-

Betancourt also said the committee will soon hear a request for a traffic signal at Crossway Place and North Avenue.

And the police department will also be doing a traffic study at Boulevard and Park Street to see how to address traffic issues in that area, he said.

# Board denies subdivision application

# But new 'shoehorning ordinance' not a factor

In Scotch Plains, a sub-

division application is nar-

rowly approved. See

story on Page A-3.

By KEVIN B. HOWELL

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — For about 40 residents of the Standish Avenue and Mountain View Terrace area, 15 months of fighting a subdivision they believed would be detrimental to their neighborhood finally ended in their favor.

The Planning Board denied an application by the Cherin family to subdivide their residential lot in two in order to sell one

lot to Michael Mahoney, a builder who planned to build a 214 story colonial home on the property. The proposed subdivision would have needed a variance for a side yard setback deficiency of about five feet.

The application was billed as a test of the "shoehorning" ordi-nance adopted by the Town Council last year, an amendment to the Land Use Ordinance that gives the Planning Board additional criteria when judging subdivision applications.

However, in the end, the new ordinance was not much of a fac-

tor in the board's decision.

"I didn't see shoehorning applicable in this case," said Vic Trzsniowski, who said he didn't feel the application met the criteria for a subdivision under land use regulations.

The board concurred the applicant failed to prove the cur rent land use is a hardship that

necessitates : subdivision, and did not prove the subdivision would advance the purpose of the zoning plan.

who live at 854 Standish Avenue, proposed to divide their 25,722 sq. ft. lot, which sits on the corner Standish Avenue and Mountain View Terrace. It is the largest lot in the neighborhood called "The Gardens," which consists mostly of early 20th-century homes. Mahoney proposed to build a home that he said would be consistent with the neighborhood. George Rogers, a real estate expert, testified it would probably sell for more than \$1 million.

(Continued on page A-2)

# Cops to display loot from 10-month spree

WESTFIELD - Police will display Saturday the lost from what they believe was a 10month burglary spree in three communities.

The stolen property, which fills two large bins, will be on display at the Public Storage Facility on Route 22 in Mountainside from 9 a.m. to 4

Police believe Candice Singer, a 42-year-old Oregon native, was responsible for the spree. She had moved to Westfield to be with her ailing father, who has since died.

Singer was charged in September with burglaries of homes and businesses where she is alleged to have stolen a wide range of items including jewelry,

computer equipment, power, tools, bikes, stuffed animals and collectibles such as a Barbie col-

Victims wanting to claim their property must bring either. receipts of purchase, copy of a police report or some other significant proof, said Detective Barron Chambliss of the Westfield Police.

Singer and her boyfriend, Damon Brown, were also charged by Westfield police with operating a drug facility, in, which they allegedly manufactured methamphetamine in their home on Orenda Circle. Singer. was released after posting bail at the Somerset County Jail.

Officers  ${f from}$ Mountainside and Westfield police departments took a week' to inventory all the stolen prop-

# Westfield woman brings out talent in disabled students

By KEVIN B. HOWELL

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — When students from Kay Cross' arts and crafts class displayed their projects at the Linden public library, people were impressed. They were so impressed, in fact, that they asked the town resident about enrolling in the class.

Those people were shocked to learn the crafts were made by handicapped individuals in a special program sponsored by the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation.

The class includes disabled students of all ages, many of them children. Cross has taught the class for nine years and was recently recognized by the county at a reception where her students' art was displayed.

'My goal is to provide a craft that they can be proud of," Cross said. "It's mainly to get them to have pride in what they do. I think

it's one of the finer programs that the county runs terpieces and table-top trees. Cross said that parbecause participants get a positive feeling in doing

Before teaching the class, Cross, a professional florist, taught an arts and crafts class at the Trailside Nature Center in Mountainside. When members of the county recreation department approached her about teaching the disabled Cross agreed, but insisted the county provide quality materials for the program.

The county came through, and Cross said she has a wonderful budget for supplies that can cost about \$50 per student. The county charges a nominal fee for participants. Cross said that her initial challenge in instruct-

ing the class was getting the students to participate. Many of them didn't want to do anything because they hadn't accomplished much in their lives, and others couldn't communicate with her, she said.

"My goal is to provide a craft that they can be proud of ... I think it's one of the finer programs that the county runs because participants get a positive feeling in doing it."

- Kay Cross

However, Cross worked through the difficulties and students who were reluctant at first began helping others make crafts. And as the program progressed, Cross said she needed fewer assistants in the class, which averages 18 students.

Cross said she loves the creativity in her students' projects. "Students try to copy my sample, but they can't, so I praise them for their creativity," she said.

The class makes an assortment of crafts, including wreaths, cenents have been impressed with their children's

"The people who are the real heroes are the parents," Cross said. "They're bringing (the students) to the class and they're with them 24 hours a day."

This year will be Cross' last teaching the class; she plans to spend more time with her family and making floral arrangements at her home studio in



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westfield resident Kay Cross has been recognized for her work teaching arts and crafts to disabled students.

# Police overtime increases costs of bridge repairs

THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — Roadwork being done at Sheelen's Crossing will cost the borough more than it anticipated, Borough Engineer Richard Marsden announced at Tuesday's Borough Council meeting.

He said the improvements to the ramps leading up to the bridge deck at Sheelen's Crossing has cost the borough \$86,996 to date, 23.3 percent more than the contracted cost of \$70,000.

Marsden said the bulk of the increased cost has come from the need for police protection at the

"We're paying for 501 hours of police protection. (The increased cost) has a lot to do with the fourhour minimum required by the

Marsden said the Policeman's

and diabetes

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Benevolence Association requires that its officers be paid for at least four hours if they are working "outside their municipal working peri-

"That threw me," he said. He said he did not anticipate needing a police presence on both sides of Martine Avenue.

Marsden estimated that the cost for the police coverage accounted for 20 percent of the increased

Council President Joel Whitaker said he was "extremely uncomfortable" with the increase and found it "very disturbing."

"If the purpose was to have police there during rush hour, why couldn't one or two officers' duty been extended to 9 p.m.? This would have been four hours split between two people at time and a half. I don't think this was worked in the interest of the public as

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"The four-hour minimum is what kills you," said Mayor Louis

In addition, the 23.3 percent increase is just over the 120 percent cap instituted in the borough's Land Use laws.

Marsden said if a contract goes over budget by 120 percent or less, the Borough Council can pass a change order resolution. However, if it is more than 120 percent, more paperwork and documentation has

Marsden said Wednesday.

Work on Sheelen's Crossing began in October, with the state Department of Transportation taking care of repairing the bridge, Marsden said NJ Transit funded the reconstruction of the bridge deck, saving the borough "a lot of

# After long negotiations, police contract complete in Westfield

By KEVIN B. HOWELL

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD - After an exhausting negotiation process between the town and police that resulted in a tentative deal in September, the Town Council passed an ordinance Tuesday approving a new four-year contract with the PBA

The new contract becomes official nearly a year after the previous three-year contract expired. Both sides appear to be happy after an arduous 10-month process that included a public demonstration by the police and negotiation sessions with an arbitrator.

The initial terms were met at a meeting Sept. 13, then accepted by the Westfield PBA a week later. The council agreed to the contract and put it through the proper paper work, a process that

took more than a month.

Under the terms of the four-year deal, police at all ranks will receive a 4 percent raise the first year, 3.9 percent the second year and 4 percent each of the final two years. For the first year of the deal, 2002, a first-year officer will make \$28,881. By the fourth year, a first-year officer will make

A police captain will see an increase from \$83,648 in the first year to \$94,824 by the final year of the contract.

Additional compensation measures in the deal include \$1,000 annually for those assigned as traffic officers, \$500 annually for those assigned to the plainclothes investigation division and 13 paid holidays per year.

# Cranford rejects window bids

CRANFORD - The Cranford Board of Education voted Nov. 25 to reject bids for replacements of

but a district official said the project should still be completed on schedule.

As part of the districts \$6.3million facilities-improvement initiative, approved by voters in April, the district plans to replace outdated windows at Cranford High School, Brookside Place and Bloomingdale Avenue schools.

The Nov. 25 meeting marked the second time the board rejected bids for the window replacement project. When the project was first bid out, the lowest proposal, at \$1.1 million, came in well over

The board subsequently made some modifications to the bid specifications, and in the most recent round of bidding the low offer - \$680,416 from Rure Associates of Middlesex — was less than what had been budgeted for the project.

But the board was still forced to reject because at one of the schools, Rure's proposed price was slightly more than had been budgeted. Because the project is being paid for in part by state funding, state law does not allow the district to shift funds from one school to another.

Now, said Business Administrator Robert Carfagno, the district will negotiate with the bidders to bring the project under budget.

Carfagno said he did not expect that project to be difficult. "We're not that for over (at the one school), and overall it's under," he

Carfagno said work on the project could begin over spring break, and he still expects the work to be completed by the initial target date, Aug. 30. "We'll be completed by the beginning of the school

# Westfield Council OKs three change orders

WESTFIELD — The Town Council approved three change orders for various public works projects at its Tuesday meeting.

Due to additional expenses for the project and police overtime, the Dudley Avenue West improvecost an additional \$22,385.80, raising the project total to \$189,643.30.

And the traffic calming meas-

ures implemented on Rahway Avenue earlier this year, the town's first traffic calming project, will cost an additional \$11,400 for police assistance. The project total is now \$267,959.80.

In addition, various road improvements throughout the town cost \$21,408 more than had been budgeted, bringing the cost for the improvements to \$156,000.88.

# Campus notes

Andrew Pavoni matriculated at Middlebury College in Vermont in September.

The son of Marci Smith of the Foreign Language National Scotch Plains joined 586 other first-year students in the class of 2006 at the liberal arts colleged.

Honor Society at Union Catholic High School in a Nov. 14 ceremo-

Scotch Plains was inducted into

Ashley

Whittemore

# Carolers sing for Tiny Tim Fund

Carolers in Scotch Plains and Fanwood will stop by residents' homes to sing holiday melodies 4 -9 p.m. Dec. 11. Donations will benefit The Tiny Tim Fund, and nonprofit organization that provides financial assistance to children in the two municipalities who cannot afford medical care. Interested residents are asked to leave porch lights on from 4-9 p.m.

Contributions can also be made directly to The Tiny Tim Fund, PO Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023: For more information, call (908) 233-

# **Board denies application**

(Continued from page A-1)

However, many residents opposed the subdivision and even hired legal counsel for the hear-

"We are unequivocally opposed to the variances being sought and

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a new house on that property," said attorney Nick Colucci, speaking on behalf of the neighbors. "This issue boiled down to the word benefit. It's benefit versus benefit. That is benefit of few or benefit of the large."

However, a few residents supported the application, saying that the Cherins had the right to subdivide their property and a new home would be beneficial to property values in the neighborhood.

Both counsels put together terrific teams," said Robert Newell, board chairman, "We've learned a lot. This case has no right or wrong until you get down to the details of the law and the criteria that have to be met.'

The Cherins have 45 days to appeal the board's decision after a memorial resolution is adopted.

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to be done, he said.

'We're very close. We're at 123 percent to date and the police need to be out there one more day,"

money and aggravation."



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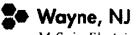
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# Focus on the future

The Westfield law firm, Lindabury, McCormick & Estabrook recently hosted several students from Cranford High School for a day. The students, who visited the law firm Nov. 19 as part of "Focus on the Future: Job Shadowing Day '02," learned how to do legal research and apply case law. From left, attorneys Dennis McKeever, James Guinee and Kathleen Connelly stand behind students Jerry Lee Rivera, R.J. Sobocinski, Christy Denny and Elena Morge.

# Fee increase planned at center

By KEVIN B. HOWELL

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — A plan to discount Conservation Center fees for senior citizens is on hold for now, but the Town Council is planning some changes that could make use of the center a little more costly for

At a Nov. 26 conference meeting the council decided to increase the cost of annual permits for the center to \$55, reduce the center's hours of operation in the winter months and conduct a broader analysis of usage of the center.

The changes are the product of a discussion that began earlier last month when Councilwoman Susan Jacobsen, chairwoman of the solid waste committee, proposed a permit discount for senior citizens. Jacobsen said the town needs to look for ways to give its older residents a break in costs for services, and suggested a \$60 fee for other residents to cover the cost of the

At the Nov. 26 meeting Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh presented some data about the center. Marsh said that the Department of Public Works sells an average of 3,000 permits for \$50 each, which has been the price since 1996. Permits were \$45 prior to 1996.

Expenses from operating the center, Marsh said, include grass and brush disposal and employee overtime.

Marsh projected grass disposal to cost \$33,000 and brush disposal to be \$60,000 in 2003. He said overtime accounts for \$15,000, with salaries increasing yearly. A \$5 increase in fees would cover the overtime costs, he said.

The committee decided to move ahead with that fee increase, and also to cut service from the center to two Saturdays a month during the winter to limit overtime costs.

Before deciding on a discount for

# North Gate Rd. application wins approval from board

SCOTCH PLAINS - The fight between residents and developers about limiting subdivisions and preserving neighborhoods or building more homes on scarce land has

a new front — and this time, the

developers won.

At a Nov. 25 meeting, the Planning Board by a 5-4 vote approved an application by Messercola Brothers Building Co. to subdivide a lot on North Gate Road in order to construct two new

The approval comes not long after the board authorized the construction of several homes on Frank Street and despite protests from neighbors, who said the applicant seeks to squeeze in two new homes that do not fit the character of the neighborhood. Most of the houses in the area are ranch

"Where do we stop? Where do we stop raping our communities?" said Richard Della Torre, a North Gate Road resident for 30 years and one of about 20 who came out to oppose the project. "There are no small houses anymore. They're trying to shoe them into smaller and smaller lots. Enough is enough."

In approving the subdivision, the board granted one variance for lot width. The land use ordinance requires a 90-foot width, while the two new lots would be 60 ft. and 50

ft. respectively, p But James Watson, surveyor for the applicant, argued the lot is oddly shaped because it sits where the road curves. Watson presented two other plans that would come closer to or would meet zoning requirements, but said those plans would cause more of a disturbance to the neighborhood pattern by taking down trees and pushing the

"Where do we stop? Where do we stop raping our communities? There are no small houses anv-

 Richard Della Torre. North Gate Road resident

new homes out of line with existing

Though architectural drawings for the houses are not included in the subdivision application, residents were concerned about the size of the homes that will be built.

The applicant proposes to tear down an existing ranch home on the property, a 51,000 sq. ft. lot. Robert Krauss, attorney for the applicant, said that there are no final plans for the homes because the home buyers will have some

Watson said that when making the plans, he stayed within the parameters of the township's ordinance which allows a home to be 20 percent of the lot size. He speculated the new homes would be approximately 2,400 sq. ft each.

David Zimmerman, planning consultant for the applicant, pointed out that lots would be considerably less dense than regulations

"I think the benefits outweigh the detriments," Zimmerman told the board. "I don't see any hard detriments. In fact, I see benefits to adding two new homes. When you make real estate improvements there's a general positive impact on the neighborhood."

During public discussion, residents brought up other concerns for the board to consider in its ruling, such as the neighborhood pattern of side or rear garages and the loss of trees during construction.

The applicant agreed to a side or rear garage and to put up a snow! fence to protect trees during construction. In addition, as a condition of approval, the board instituted a size restriction of 2,400 sq. ft. on each house, though the applicant will be allowed to exceed that by 25 percent.

seniors, the council wanted data on

how much seniors use the center.

James Gildea, town administrator,

suggested that the center monitor

senior citizen use so the council can

better make decision on the dis-

nance to change the fees and make

corrections to the public works

brochure that is mailed to residents

in January. The information will

also be posted on the town's web-

The council must pass an ordi-

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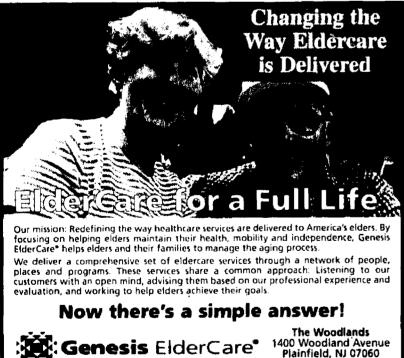
# Club offers two concerts

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Glee Club will offer two holiday concerts this weekend.

The first, 8 p.m. Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Fifth Ave., Roselle, will feature special artists the Harmony Grits and Buckley Hugo. Selections will include "Ave Maria" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

The second concert is 4 p.m. Sunday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 414 E. Broad St., Westfield. The concert will feature pianist Charles Banks and vocalist Doris LaMar, and selections from "Nutcracker Suite" and Christmas Fancy.

Donations are \$12 adults, \$10 seniors and students. Tickets are available from Glee Club members and at the concerts. For more information, phone Dale Juntilla at (908) 232-0673.



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# Mount St. Mary's students teach Scouts about computers

WATCHUNG — Thirteen girls from Junior Girl Scout Troop 228 in South Plainfield participated in a computer program at Mount St. Mary Academy's lab last month.

The private girls high school, in conjunction with Washington Rock Girl Scout Council, is helping the Scouts earn their computer badges.

Troops sign up with Carolynn Parisi of South Plainfield, technology teacher at Mount St. Mary, for the afternoon program that runs from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Scouts are assisted by Mount St. Mary students who help them complete five merit badge requirements using the Microsoft Office Suite. This includes creating stories in Word, creating story illustrations in PowerPoint and putting the stories into a newsletter via Publisher. They also use Excel to create a camping shopping list. The girls also visit the Girl Scout website and play some of the online games found

Paula Ansari, a member of Senior Girl Scout Troop 561 of Scotch Plains/Fanwood was one of the Mount tutors. "I like helping the girls earn their badges because I know how much I enjoyed getting my badges," she said.

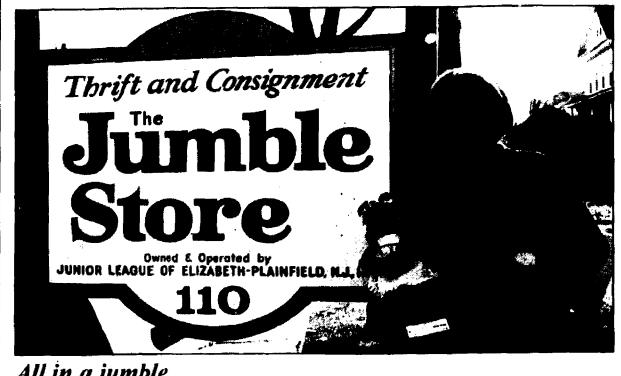
Parisi said she became interested in giving this service when she saw the badge requirements for her Brownie daughter.

computer lab and asked Mount

Saint Mary Academy's principal, Sr. Lisa, if I could start an afternoon club and have Mount students work with the Scouts. I was a Scout in the Washington Rock Council so that connection came naturally," Parisi said. "Ive had a positive response from troop leaders when they sign up and from those who attend the program. I only wish I had more than two hours to work with the

The program stresses online privacy and safety issues through the Online Safety Pledge and the "How to Stay Safe" chapter of the Junior Girl Scout Handbook.

At the end of the program the "I saw there was a need for a Scouts view the merged PowerPoint presentation created by their troop.



All in a jumble

Cybill Phelan of the Junior Leage of Elizabeth-Plainfield displays a sample of the holiday gifts on sale at the Jumble Store's annual holiday boutique 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. The Jumble Store is located at 110 Walnut Ave. in Cranford, and all proceeds benefit the League's community service efforts.

# 'Peace Train' passes through Union County on Saturday

The "Peace Train," sponsored train station, and slightly before mile march through the city by the NJ Coalition Against War in Iraq, will be passing through the area Saturday.

The train - actually a group of trains throughout New Jersey that will converge in Newark, bringing protesters against the potential war — will make two stops in central Union County.

The train will pick up passengers at 11:58 at the Cranford that in Westfield, At both locations, protesters will stage brief vigils or rallies before boarding the train.

After boarding the training, local protesters will ride into Newark's Penn Station, where they will join others from around the state. A pre-march rally will be held at Peter Francesca Park on Ferry Street, followed by a 2.5of state representatives who voted against the Congressional resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq. The march will conclude with a rally at Essex County College.

streets, with stops at the offices

For more information about local anti-war activity, contact Leigh Davis of Cranford at (908) 272-8487 or NotoWar@hotmail.com

# Market to help homeless pets

SCOTCH PLAINS - Best School will join the fundraising Friend Dog and Animal Adoption, Inc., will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar and Flea Market 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday at the Scotch Plains Baptist Church at 333 Park Avenue.

A large selection of decorations, gifts, handcrafted and household items, toys and games, clothing and jewelry will be featured. And Brownie Troop 106 of Evergreen

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event by holding a bake sale. Donations to the group may be

dropped off at the church after 6 p.m. Friday. Due to space limitations, large pieces of furniture will not be accepted.

All proceeds will be used to benefit homeless pets awaiting adoption. For more information, call (908) 233-9041 or (732) 388-8930.

Allstate.

# **Briefs**

### Residents perform in holiday concert

Several area residents will participate in The Madrigal Singers "Peace on Earth" program of words and music for the Christmas season 4 p.m. Sunday at the Unitarian Church in Summit.

Singers Martha Desmond of Cranford and Kirk Robbins of Fanwood, reader Judy Sullivan of Scotch Plains, and flutists Jenny Cline and Clarissa Nolde of Westfield will perform in the program, which includes readings from the Bible and Shakespeare and carols and motets from the 13th-20th centuries.

Admission at Sunday's performance is by donation at the door. The Unitarian Church is located at 4 Waldron Ave.

For more information, call (908) 233-1570.

# Men's Holiday Chorus seeks singers

Men who love to sing are invited to join the Men's Holiday

Chorus. Under the auspices of the Rahway Valley Chorus, the holiday ensemble plans shows in Central Jersey through the holidays. Rehearsals are 8-9:30 p.m. Monday at Roosevelt Elementary

School in Rahway. For more information, phone Doug Brown at (908) 276-4547 or Ken at (908) 272-1503.

## Genealogical Society meets 1 p.m. Thursday

WESTFIELD Genealogical Society of the West Fields meets 1 p.m. Thursday at the Westfield Memorial Library, 550 E. Broad St.

John Celdaro of Fanwood speaks about his work with Save Ellis Island, a group of which he is a director. He is an archivist with the Northeast Region of the National Archives.

Celdaro also has been on the Governor's Committee for the Preservation and Future Use of Ellis Island.

The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

### Temple sponsors used clothing drive

Temple Sholom of Scotch Plains and Plainfield will hold a used clothing drive Sunday. Items may be dropped off 10 a.m.-noon at the temple's Plainfield site, 815 West Seventh Street. All of the items collected will be shipped overseas to disadvantaged areas in Eastern Europe and Africa. Tax receipts will be available.

Items being accepted include used clothing, sheets, towels, blankets/comforters, stuffed animals, shoes, purses, and any other "soft" household items. Please place donations in plastic garbage bags for easier transport.

For more information, contact the temple at (908) 756-6447.







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# **Briefs**

### Program addresses holiday depression

WESTFIELD - Sunrise Assisted Living of Westfield hosts an informative presentation on "Holiday Depression and the Elderly" 7-8 p.m. Tuesday.

The program will be led by Janet Pincu of Generations Counseling & Care Management, and will include a question and answer session.

Sunrise Assisted Living is located at 240 Springfield Avenue. For more information, phone (908) 317-3030.

### Nature Club hosts holiday party

The Greater Watchung Nature Club will hold its annual holiday party 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the community room of the Mountainside Municipal Building, located on New Providence Road just off Route

Guests are asked to bring a main dish, salad or desert; the club will provide punch, coffee and paper goods.

Please RSVP to Geri Breitenbach at (908) 757-9464.

### Elks Club offers college scholarships

For high school seniors preparing to go to college, now is the time to take advantage of scholarship opportunities. The Elks Foundation is now accepting applications for its Most Valuable Student Scholarship.

Scholarship applications are available through local Elks  $\mathbf{or}$ online www.elks.org/enf/scholars/mvs.cf m. The deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 10.

### Glee Club offers annual winter concerts

WESTFIELD Westfield Glee Club holds its 78th winter concert this weekend under the direction of Thomas Booth.

Showtimes are 8 p.m. tomorrow at the First Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Fifth Ave., Roselle, and 4 p.m. Sunday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 414 E. Broad St.

Accompaniment for all songs is by George Lachenauer, piano. Some songs may include a percussion arrangement by Ken

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 seniors and students. For tickets or full information, phone Dale Juntilla at (908) 232-0673.

### Newcomers have many events planned

WESTFIELD Newcomers Club of Westfield has issued its monthly schedule:

Tuesday — "Ladies Dinner Out" at Aquaviva, 115 Elm St., 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 13 — Children's play group at Romp Around in Green Brook, 10 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 20 — Holiday party at The Westwood in Garwood, 7:30

Sunday, Dec. 22 - Cookie exchange, 2 p.m. Bring six dozen cookies and a copy of the recipe. One dozen cookies will be kept for tasting; the other five dozen will be exchanged.

Monday, Jan. 6 — Book Group discussion of "Skipping Christmas" by John Grisham.

Women over 21 who are new to the area and/or have had a major lifestyle change (birth, career, marriage) are eligible to join the Newcomers Club. For full event information, phone Alicia Weaver at (908) 654-5373 or Genevieve Davy at (908) 789-4842.

## Willow Grove Church hosts Yuletide events

SCOTCH PLAINS - Two Yuletide events of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Raritan Road are open to the

public. A church supper and Christmas carol concert are 6 p.m. Sunday. The supper is downstairs in Ryno Hall, where donations will be accepted to cover the cost of the meal. Music follows in the sanctuary with accompaniment by Marilyn Thorne, organ.

A holiday luncheon at noon Tuesday is a joint program of the 12 O'Clock Club, a local senior citizens club, and the church Women's Association. Pupils in the church's preschool present their own rendition of the Nativity. Holiday music is by

Janice Haer, organ. Reservations are required for both events; phone (908) 232-

5678.



# Watch your finger!

Six-year-old Alessandra Leong of Westfield shows her father William how to crack a open a rock during Rock Collecting for Families at the Mineral Show at Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside. The mineral show drew more than 1,100 visitors, who came for programs such as an interpretive Geology Hike and Dinosaur, Fossil & Mineral Adventure.

# McGinn School students pitch in for crime victims

SCOTCH PLAINS - Students family whose mother was murat McGinn School recently helped members of the Union County Juvenile Officers' Association and Prosecutor's Office Victim Witness Unit provide food for county families who have been victimized by violent criminals.

Under the guidance of Alyce Fisher, the students assisted with the project, which on Nov. 26 delivered 43 baskets crammed with canned goods, turkeys and other foodstuffs to needy families of crime victims.

"This is a true gesture of kindness for those less fortunate and it is made possible by the combined kindness of a lot of people," said Prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow.

Among the families receiving baskets of food were a Rahway family whose son was murdered, a number of Elizabeth families whose homes were destroyed in a devastating fire two months ago, an elderly Union woman who was robbed and severely beaten, a Roselle woman beaten and terrorized by an acquaintance in a domestic dispute and a Plainfield

dered.

Elaine O'Neal, coordinator of the Victims Witness Unit, said the families are selected from case files and nominations from police officers throughout the county.

"It's a lot of work, but it's a labor of love," she said.

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# Westfield could be headed toward legal clash over basin

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The town may be moving toward legal action against Cranford as the neighboring municipalities argue over the lease for a water retention basin in the northeast section of town.

Westfield owns a portion of the retention basin, which it began to lease to Cranford in 1978. According to Jim Gildea, town administrator of Westfield, there is no record of payment from Cranford since the lease began.

Gildea said he sent a letter to

Cranford several months ago requesting proof of payment, and he has yet to receive a response.

Town Attorney Cockren is now in the process of sending correspondence to Cranford Township Attorney Al Stender about possible legal action, Gildea said.

According to Gildea, Cranford says it made payments up until 1993, though he has not been able to verify that because Westfield's records are insufficient. But he said Westfield has not received payments for the last 10 years,

when it should have collected \$65,495.53.

The total lease payments since

1978 are \$125,384.63, Gildea said. The lease will expire in August 2004, and Gildea said Cranford representatives have indicated they are interested in renewing it. The town continues to look for payment documentation as it tries to settle the issue, Gilden said.

Cranford officials referred questions for comment to Township Attorney Al Stender. Stender could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

# Clover Street light is on hold

By KEVIN B. HOWELL THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The proposed traffic light at the Clover Street and Central Avenue intersection that caused a debate among residents in the area has been put on hold by the county until town officials decide whether or not they still want it.

Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh reported the county has completed a preliminary study of the intersection and hired a contractor to perform a warrant study for a traffic light. The warrant study was 10 percent complete before the county suspended it until the town decides whether it wants to move forward the light.

The county began studying the intersection in 2000 when former Town Administrator Thomas Shannon requested it. The request

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was prompted by residents' concern with the safety of school children crossing the intersection. But when Greg McDermott

began his first term as mayor, neither he nor other council members were aware of the matter. The current council heard of the issue for the first time in October, when residents lined up at a council meeting to voice their opinions.

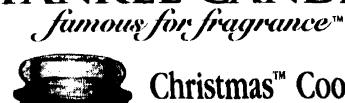
Though the light has been advocated by Police Chief Bernard Tracy and the BRAKES organization, about 250 residents signed a petition opposing the light, fearing that motorists will cut through residential streets to avoid it.

The council decided to refer the issue in a committee, which will then make a recommendation to the full council.

Some council members asked if the county would continue with the warrant study to provide the town with more information to make its decision. But Town Attorney Robert Cockren said without a clear consensus from the town that the light is wanted, the county is unlikely to pay for the rest of the study.

Union County, NJ - A newly released free report reveals what leading medical research has proven to be a very effective headache treatment. This free headache report reveals why headache sufferers have been left in the dark for so long and how they can finally live free of over-the-counter medication once and for all. To receive your free copy mailed to you today, call the toll-free, 24-hour headache hotline at 1-800-566-5456.



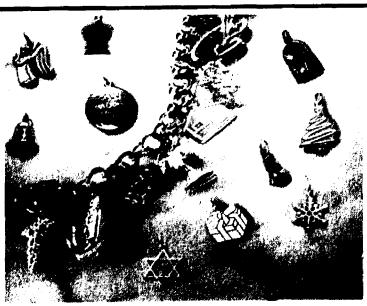




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# Commentary

# Time to think about N.J. in 2003

This is the time of the year when most of us are too preoccupied to think about the future. We're too busy trying to wrap up the business of 2002 and getting in the holiday spirit. However, with serious challenge facing New Jersey, it is not the time to ignore these issues. They are not going away, and the joyous spirit of the holiday season will soon be replaced by the bleak and cold reality that you have to start facing these issues once the calendar changes.

At their conference last month, members of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities discussed ways to help "New Jersey reclaim control of its future." There is a prevalent pessimism that the status quo is here to stay and that's not good news. Local officials are bound by state mandates to provide services for which the state does not provide ample funding — that's one reason school taxes are so high. And it is not likely that any major change in the course of state government will be on the legislative agenda as more and more of the burden for providing essential services falls upon local municipalities who have to rely on property taxes. And that reliance on property taxes may become even more burdensome in the new year, as the state may be facing another gaping budget deficit.

As it has in the past, the League of Municipalities has again urged the legislature to consider property tax relief. The state's over-reliance on the property tax can lead to a myriad of problems affecting the state's future, from declining funding of schools to corporate executives thinking twice about relocating their firms to New Jersey or expanding current facilities. High property taxes burden the elderly on fixed incomes and hinder young families from finding affordable housing. Worse, the desperate search for ratables leads to sprawl that chews up open space and creates traffic jams; that doesn't need to be explained to anyone who lives or works in New Jersey.

But that's not the only issue that worries the League of Municipalities. Members also want the state to take a fresh look at a wide range of development issues. For example, the League is urging the state legislature to seriously address affordable housing standards so that a municipality is not "flooded with hundreds of residential units under the guise of producing a handful of affordable housing units." In other words, the so-called builder's remedy needs to be remedied.

The League is also advocating legislation that would allow municipalities to charge developers impact fees. The reason is simple — the developer who makes a mint building new homes ought to contribute to the municipality's cost of supporting those homes and the people they bring. With the cost of educating a pupil in a public school at close to \$10,000 a year, the property tax revenue a new home generates does not cover the added cost, thereby raising taxes for all in the community.

The issues of property tax reform and controlling development have been festering for a long time in New Jersey. It is time for boldness to address these issues. That calls for strong leadership in Trenton, from the governor's office to every state senator and assemblyman, 2003 should be the year when the state takes a fresh, pro-active approach

# 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 Greg Marx at (908) 575-6687 with story

suggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Dan Murphy at (908) 575-6691.

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 Greg Marx at (908)575-6687.



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### Letters to the editor

# Salvation Army seeks public support

To the Record-Press:

Thanksgiving is now past and Christmas is approaching quickly. I give thanks for all God's blessings, especially at this time of the year, but this year I must also pray for help. More, I must also ask the public to be especially generous when they encounter The Salvation Army's red kettles or receive a letter from usin the mail.

Most people don't realize that the money collected in our red kettles is used to help those less fortunate 365 days a year, not just at the holidays. And, this year, we have already experienced a drastic drop in our general fundraising appeals, holiday food and toy drives. I have been advised by Salvation Army social services staff that we are receiving more requests for help this year because of the economy and limited community

resources. We are seeing much hurt and despair.

I realize many people gave very generously in the aftermath of September 11th, but Salvation Army programs and services aiding the needy continue, and I beseech those of you with compassion for your fellow man and the financial means to help to donate not only in the spirit of the season, but with the knowledge that you are helping to feed, clothe and shelter those less fortunate

Thank you for all your past help, thank you for the help I know you will give once more. May God bless you and yours this holiday season.

> LT. COLONIAL NORMAN E. WOOD N.J. State Commander The Salvation Army

# Single-sex classes don't help students

To The Record-Press:

nalist Jeffrey Weld says, "Separate-sex science shortchanges students." This means that many of these children are not developing fully psychologically due to the lack of the opposite gender.

Weld also stated, "as imperfect as coeducational classes may be, they represent real life." The purpose of our schools today is not to be "bubbles" shielding our children from the other gender until

they reach a certain age.
As the president of NOW-NYC says, "taking girls out of the classroom reinforces boys' perception that the classroom is their world, their 'clubhouse' with 'no girls allowed' signs posted out front." If the working world says the men and women are equal,

then our children should not grow up thinking that I think that it is a mistake to only have single—they are inferior. Even if you do not state that sex classes as early as the middle school. As jour- women are inferior, by separating them you are stating that that is true.

> Also, as the Los Angeles Times states, "It is really hard to say how you can attribute (improvements) to gender separation..." which means that you cannot say gender separation is going to help the children learn better and achieve better grades. Finally, Star-Ledger writer Annie Gowen states dating is important for social and psychological growth.

In conclusion, separating the classes by gender means we are hindering our children, not helping them.

**ZACHARY J. COPPA** Westfield

# Has the holiday season become too commercialized?



**JOHN WILSON** Westfield Of course it is. I have seven kids and 13 grandkids, so I

have a lot to buy.



KIM STUDLACK Woodbridge

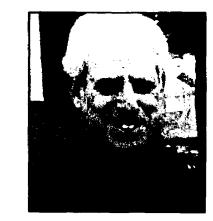
I do think it's too commercialized. As soon as Halloween comes the commercialism keeps going. It's like overkill. It takes away from the true meaning of the season.



**MARIA CUCUZZO East Windsor** No, I don't think so. People do their own thing.



**VALERIE CHAVEZ** Westfield business owner Yes, because it starts too early with advertising. There's no mention of the reason for the



LOWELL SCHMIDT Westfield Yes, because it starts too soon. Before Thanksgiving comes they have Christmas stuff all

# Jersey Boy Mike Deak

# Nostalgia ain't what it once was

Nostalgia isn't what it used to

Not so long ago nostalgia was just a wistful collection of memories. A song from long ago on the radio was enough to send your mind spinning backwards in time. You reveled in reminiscence with sighs and smiles until something rude jolted you back into the present. Nostalgia was harmless.

But now nostalgia is being used for more nefarious purposes. Politicians with a conservative bent say we should hearken backto the 1950s for a model on how to conduct our civil lives. People and society were decent back then, they say. The uncivil behavior that befouls our country now, they say, never existed before the triumph of the liberals in the 1960s; for example, on television married couples slept in only separate beds (which, curiously, led me as a child to believe my parents were poor because they had only one bed fBut the 1950s were not good times; we were afraid of nuclear apocalypse and there were many citizens of our country who could not enjoy their full rights because of the color of their skin.

That's the nature of nostalgia. It was never that good and it was never that bad. You remember what attracted you to a long lost lover, but you forget what tore your hearts apart. You remember being slugged by the playground bully, but you forget his mother bringing in cupcakes for the entire class on his birthday. Memory is a mythmaker and like most myths, we edit out the banal and the mundane in favor of the extraordinary and traumatic. Myths are not allowed to be mediocre.

That's why, in some cases, nosalgia can be dangerous, especially around the holiday season. Christmases were always merrier when we were children, the rules of nostalgia say; the lights on the trees were always brighter, more carols were sung and the crass commercialism which pervades this holy time was somewhat muted. Depression creeps in when the reality of the present holiday season doesn't match the glistening memory. That's too bad."

Christmas, whether or not one believes in the events of Bethlehem 2,000 years ago, is a time for rejoicing and reflection. We rejoice in the fundamental goodness of the universe and we reflect on ways we can make it better. We celebrate the year's successes and we resolve to improve in the new year. The spirit of brotherhood in the holiday season transcends any specific religion. Who of us, for example, has never kissed a complete stranger on New Year's Eve or has been the beneficiary of an unexpected act of kindness?

These are the memories that keep us going whenever the everyday stress threatens to shove us into a dark abyss of doubt. That is why we become so nostalgic at Christmas. We reach back through the time to a moment when our childhood faith in the magical and mysterious was absolute. As children, did we ever doubt that an angel appeared to a shepherd? Did our belief that Santa had the omnipotent knowledge of who was naughty or nice ever waver? In those days, before our minds could comprehend abstractions, we were blissfully free of doubt. We sang "Jingle Bells" until our lungs ached because someone who we couldn't see was listening.

But we can never return to those pristine days. There are only one-way tickets out of childhood.

And though nostalgia may be comforting, reveling in the past is no way to meet the future. The best that we can do during the holiday season is to hope the wonder and joy we see in today's children are contagious; perhaps then we will see a way to escape our everyday pressures and restore our own flagging faith.

# Five steps to real property tax reform in New Jersey

EDISON COUNCILMAN, TAX ATTORNEY New Jersey's senior citizens are being financially strangled by skyrocketing property taxes. While most homes averaged a 7 percent property tax increase this year, more than a quarter of New Jersey's municipalities saw their local property taxes jump more than 40 percent in the past decade. In some extreme cases, senior citizens, who long ago paid off their mortgages, have had to sell their homes because they could no longer afford to pay the escalating property taxes. Our senior citizens deserve affordable housing and our respect, not exorbitant property

# **Guest commentary**

We must take action to provide for real property tax relief. As a tax attorney and elected official, I have several recommendations for this complex problem:

1. Retool the state tax structure. Today, municipalities levy property taxes to fund local expenditures such as education. The state's tax structure needs to be overhauled such that some education costs are funded by the state. State contributions would allow municipalities to lower property tax rates.

The resulting reduction in property taxes could be offset by corre-

sponding adjustments to revenuebased and use-based taxes such as income tax, business tax, transportation tax or some hybrid or combination of those. The cost of the state's education contribution could be recouped via a simpler, more efficient state income tax structure with traditional progressive tax rates. As a result, lowerincome residents (i.e., fixed-income senior citizens) would bear a lower proportional share of education costs. Conversely, higher-income residents would bear a larger proportional share of education costs.

Alternatively, the state could adopt a statewide property tax, as in

2. Bifurcate funding. Local communities and the state can both share the cost and decision-making of public education.

The state should formulaically fund basic education in every community, including the core subjects, basic extracurricular activities and infrastructure. Such a basic education approach would also even out the existing serious inequities in education throughout our state.

Any local community that wishes to supplement the basic curricula funded by the state could collect the additional supplemental expenses through local property taxes. As a result, a municipality interested in keeping a computerengineering curriculum could get local residents to pay for it.

If Cherry Hill wants to spend \$13,000 per pupil and Woodbridge wants to spend only \$10,000 for basic education, then bifurcated funding could permit the disparity.

3. Terminate New Jersey Saver payments and Homestead relates. New Jersey Saver payments and Homestead rebates, which are very expensive to administer, are an inefficient method of providing limited tax relief without any permanent reform of the tax struc-

4. Consolidate tax collection and terminate inefficient tax administration. One single state taxing authority should collect all county, municipal, school board and all other agency and political subdivision revenue. As a result, more efficient tax administration will reduce the tax collection costs and yield more net tax revenue.

Regionalize school districts. Some inefficient school districts must regionalize in order to benefit from economies of scale and reduce their education costs. The idea of municipalities combining a portion of their local taxes into a shared regional pool has been tested in some parts of New Jersey and is also successfully used in regions in New York, Ohio, Maine and

# Flags unfurled

Students at Jefferson Elementary School in Westfipeld help guest speaker Jerry McCavera unroll an American flag that filled half the school gymnasium. McCavera is a vexillologist, or expert on the study of flags. During a Nov. 15 assembly he spoke to students about the significance of flags from countries around the world, and about the proper way to fly and salute their country's flag.

# Many opportunities to see Westfield students perform

Arts Department of the Westfield Public Schools invites the public to attend any of the 18 musical concerts scheduled for this winter. More than 2,300 students in grades kindergarten through high school will be performing district-wide. All concerts are free and begin at 7:30

Dec. 5: Roosevelt Intermediate, Northside Strings

Dec. 9: Washington School, Band and Vocal; Edison Intermediate, Southside Strings; Franklin School, Instrumental Dec. 10: Roosevelt Intermediate, 6th Grade Strings, Band and Choir; McKinley School, Band and

Dec. 11: Westfield High School, Wind Ensemble and Chamber

Dec. 12: Westfield High School, Concert Bands and Symphony

Dec. 16: Franklin School, Vocal: Roosevelt Intermediate, Wilson School Band and Vocal; Edison Intermediate, 7th and 8th

Dec. 17: Jefferson School, Band and Vocal; Tamaques School, Band and Vocal; Roosevelt Intermediate, 7th and 8th Grade Band, Orchestra, Select

String Ensemble Dec. 18:Westfield High School,

Dec. 19:Roosevelt Intermediate, 7th and 8th Grade Choirs, Sharps & Flats, Jazz Band; Edison Intermediate, 6th Grade Instrumental and Vocal

Jan. 9: Edison Intermediate, 7th and 8th Grade Instrumental

Tree offers hope to needy kids County Sheriff's

Officers are seeking public sup-

port for their sixth annual "Tree

of Hope" program. The program was begun in 1997 to provide gifts to sick and needy children during the holidays. Children who benefit are suffering from HIV/AIDS or other serious illnesses, and are abused, neglected, underprivi-

leged or living in shelters. The "Tree of Hope" program tries to fulfill the Christmas wishes of these children. In its first year, the program reached 39 children; last year, despite the many charitable groups, it brought gifts to more than 200. Problems with the postal service that affected distribution of gifts in 2001 have been rectified.

The program depends on the generosity of donors, who have often included local Girl Scout groups, and the county employees and other volunteers who donate their time to wrap, organize and deliver gifts.

If you would like to contribute. donations of money can be sent to: Union County Sheriff's Officers Tree of Hope, PO Box 4, Kenilworth, NJ 07033. Checks will be returned within 24 hours, drop-off in donations faced by should be made out to "Tree of even on weekends.

Hope."
Item donations can be delivered to county offices in Elizabeth or to the homes of committee members in Kenilworth, Linden and Mountainside. Pickup of items at a contributor's home or workplace can also be arranged.

Donations are tax deductible, and information about children's wishes is now available.

For information about making donations, child sponsorships or

# **People in Business**

Scotch Plains resident roster of court-approved media-Matthew J. Sosnowski has tors for Civil, General Equity been added to the New Jersey and Probate matters.

Sosnowski is director of real estate litigation services for the Bridgewater accounting firm Rosenberg Rick Baker Berman & Company, where he provides expert reports on real estate and construction.

# Santa delivers to boro children

FANWOOD — PBA Local 123, in cooperation with the Fanwood Rescue Squad and Fanwood Fire Department, will again be helping Santa deliver gifts to borough

If you would like Santa to deliver a gift to a particular child,

between Dec. 12-19. No gifts will be accepted after 9 p.m. Dec. 19.

Gifts are limited to children only, and should be no larger than 12 in. x 12 in. x 12 in. All gifts should be individually labeled with the child's name and address, and multiple gifts for drop off the wrapped present at the same house should be

Santa will begin delivery at about noon and will take the same route as in previous years. Listen for the patrol car arriving ahead of Santa; this should allow sufficient time for children to meet Santa at the curb.

For more information, call the Fanwood Police Department at (908) 322-5000.

residents Dec. 21.

Fanwood Police Headquarters

# Police pursuits nabs shoplifter

SCOTCH PLAINS

The manager at CVS on Park Avenue identified two male juveniles from Plainfield shoplifting cigars valued at approximately \$30 Nov. 20.

When police arrived, one of the juveniles fled on a bike on East Second Street going west. After a brief search of the area the subject was located in a brook off Hunter Avenue, where he was taken into custody. Complaints are pending with the juvenile

Windows were broken at a Plainfield Avenue business during the night Nov. 19, but no entry was gained to the business.

The theft of a bicycle from Terrill Middle School during the day was reported Nov. 20.

A Kipling Lane resident reported Nov. 22 he had been victimized by identity theft. Several credit cards were applied for in

business owner on Plainfield Avenue reported Nov. 24 windows on his building had been smashed. The incident occurred sometime between Nov. occurred some 15 and Nov. 18.

Tyrone Bell, 39, of Maplewood was picked up on a warrant out of Newark after police responded to a report that a customer refused to pay for a meal at the Scotchwood Diner Nov. 24.

A juvenile was arrested on drug possession charges Nov. 24. The teenager was arrested on

Marion Lane by police who were investigating reports of criminal mischief in the area. The police stopped the juvenile's car and during the course of the investigation, he was charged with possession of controlled dangerous substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The juvenile was transported to police headquarters and turned over to his parents.

# WESTFIELD

John Ryan of 260 E. Broad St. was charged with driving while intoxicated following a motor vehicle accident on Benson Place

Ryan was also charged with refusal to submit to a breath test.

There was a report of a burglary and theft from a motor vehicle in municipal lot #5 Nov. 29. in Personal items valued at approximately \$670 were stolen.

The theft of \$170 from a resident of Stanley Oval was reported Nov. 29. The money had been left in an envelope on the front

Eric Butler was charged with driving while intoxicated and driving with a suspended license at South Avenue and Livingston Street Dec. 1.

Butler was subsequently released to a responsible party. Bessie Rodriquez of Plainfield

of court warrants Nov. 22. A resident in the 100 block of Elm Street reported a burglary to

a motor vehicle Nov. 23.

was picked up on three contempt

A resident of the 100 block of Mohawk Trail reported her motor vehicle was entered and a celi phone was stolen Nov. 25.

Miguel Cruz was picked up on a contempt of court warrant out of Roselle Park Nov. 26.

Jessica Monteiro of New Hampshire was picked up on 10 outstanding traffic warrants Nov.

A Genesse Trail resident reported a theft of money from a checking account Nov. 27.

Mark Grant of South Plainfield was picked up on warrants out of Middlesex Nov. 27. He was transferred the Middlesex Police Department.

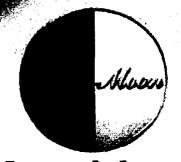
Raymond Gregory of Roselle was picked up on a contempt of court warrant out of New Brunswick and released on \$200



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# Community Life

# **Briefs**

### Fanwood church sponsors blood drive

FANWOOD — The deacons of Fanwood Presbyterian Church will conduct their annual blood drive 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday in the church dining room.

Because blood can only be stored 42 days, it is important that supplies are replenished regularly. Donations can be made safely every 56 days. During the holiday season, supplies tend to drop to low levels.

The church is located at the corner of Martine and LaGrande avenues. For more information, call the church at (908) 889-

### County will recognize 'Women of Excellence'

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Commission on the Status of Women are accepting nominations for the 11th annual Women of Excellence Awards. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 18.

Categories for the award include: business/entrepreneurship, government, health care, journalism and public relations, law enforcement and community service/volunteerism.

Nominees must live in Union County. To submit a nomination, please send a cover letter, resume and biographical statement about the woman, highlighting her accomplishments in a particular category, to Joan Abitate, 322 Dietz St., Roselle, NJ 07203.

# Sing-along 'Messiah'

at First Baptist Church
WESTFIELD — For several years the Choral Art Society of New Jersey has presented "Messiah" by George Frederic Handel in a sing-along format.

This year's "Community 'Messiah' Sing" is 8 p.m. Dec. 13 at the First Baptist Church on Elm Street. James Little conducts the performance as director of the Choral Art Society.

Admission is \$10. Bring your own copy of the score or borrow one at the door. For more information, phone (908) 654-3260.

## Holiday gift drive to benefit local families

WESTFIELD Newcomers Club of Westfield is holding a holiday gift drive for needy families in the town.

Gifts are accepted through Dec. 18. All gifts will be donated to the Westfield Department of Human Services, which is working on the gift drive with the club's Community Service Committee.

For more information, phone Alicia Weaver at (908) 654-5373 or Genevieve Davy at (908) 789-4842.

# Alliance offers club drug seminar

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Plains-Fanwood Municipal Alliance Committee is sponsoring a seminar on "Club Drugs: Dancing with Death."

Area parents are invited to the program 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Municipal Court chambers at the Municipal Building, 430 Park Ave. Sandee Moroso from Prevention Links Inc., a drug rehabilitation agency in Union County, is the speaker.

For more information, phone Cathy Cvetovich at (908) 654-

# **Red Cross offers** babysitter training

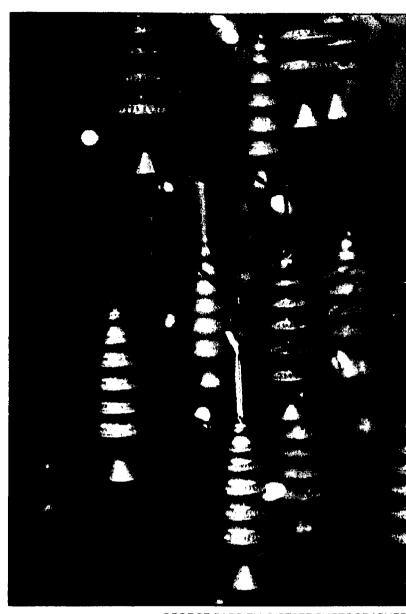
WESTFIELD American Red Cross has scheduled "Babysitters Training" classes for boys and girls 11-15 years old.

Classes are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21; 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30; or 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11. All meet in the Red Cross office at 321 Elm St.

Instruction includes how to change diapers, supervise children of different ages, handle emergencies and conduct basic

first aid. Seating is limited and registration is required; e-mail johnsonl@crossnet.org or phone (908) 232-7090.р

# 'Tis the season for holiday shopping



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artists and craftmakers unveiled their wares for holiday shoppers Nov. 29 at an Arts and Crafts Market at the National Guard Armory in Westfield. Above, hand-carved wooden Christmas tree ornaments hang on display. Top right, Kurt Wairath readies his lamps for inspection by browsers. Bottom right, Jean Chaine promotes his compact discs by performing a little ditty on the





# Scotch Plains will honor its top volunteers tonight

By KEVIN B. HOWELL

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS --- Tonight. for the 12th straight year, the township will honor its top volunteers and raise money for the Municipal Allicance Committee at the annual Mayor's Gala.

This year's honorees are Carol Kraus, Anthony Giannaci and TV-34. The three winners were nominated by residents and selected by a nine-member com-

"I'm very honored to be chosen among many people who volunteer their time," Kraus said. "It's does work for the school district.

marvelous." lived Plains and Fanwood for more than 35 years. She raised three children and began volunteering in the school district. She was a member of the PTA of several schools and served on the district's Comprehensive Planning and Facilities committees.

Kraus has also been a mem-

ber for 14 years of the Resolve Community Counseling Center, a mental health center that also being a charter member of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League, an organization that runs a thrift shop which donates \$20,000 a year to charity.

Giannaci, honored as top male volunteer, has lived in Scotch Plains for 13 years and is president of the high school booster club. He has also volunteered to coach local soccer, Little League and PAL football

Much of Giannaci's volunteer-And she said she's most proud of - ing has been with health related organizations. He has denated blood and bone marrow, been affiliated with the Bone Marrow Recipient for NJ Blood Center. raised money for the Special Olympics and driven for the Blind/Handicapped Mount Carmel Guild of Essex County.

TV-34 is the township's public access station, providing governmental and educational programming. Bob Merkle has been the director for the past 12 years and heads a staff of four.

The station broadcasts counil meetings with live call-in immediately following the meetings. They also broadcast events such as the Memorial Day Parade, Scotch Plains Day, the Christmas tree lighting and candidate forums.

The gala will be held at the Pantagis Renaissance 7 p.m. to midnight.







NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# A little holiday spirit

Downtown Westfield was ablaze with activity Sunday night, as residents came out to kick off the holiday season. After posing for photos with children earlier in the afternoon, Santa arrived in town atop a fire engine at 6 p.m. to help Mayor Greg McDermott light the Christmas tree. And a menorah shone on North Avenue in observance of Hanukkah, which began Nov. 29.

Conchetta V. Zampella

Surviving are her husband, Funeral Home, Scotch Plains.

Joseph Zack

# Patricia DeProspero

SCOTCH PLAINS - Patricia Mrs. DeProspero was a Unico A. Teresa DeProspero, 63, died Dec. 1, 2002 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Newark and had lived for more than 50 years in Scotch Plains.

Mrs. DeProspero was a past president of the Parent-Teacher Association at School No. 1, She retired earlier this year after 13 years as a bookkeeper with the Petro Oil Co. of Clark.

As a member of the executive committee of Scotch Plains Unico, she helped organize the Italian Festival held on Labor Day weekend at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church. Fanwood Rescue Squad.

member for more than 25 years. She also was chairman of the

Bella Senorinas for the Italian-American Heritage Festival, held at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel. Surviving are two daughters.

Victoria Petersen of Scotch Plains and Lisa Wodzisz of Doylestown, Pa.; a son, John of Fanwood; a sister, Linda Mele of Berkeley Heights; and seven grandchildren.

Mass was offered yesterday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, following services at Rossi Funeral Home.

Donations may be sent to the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad or

# Michael Schwartz

**Catherine Parks** 

Paul G. Klouse

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FANWOOD Michael Schwartz, 97, died Nov. 29, 2002 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

He was born in Yonkers, N.Y., and lived in that city before moving to Fanwood in 1996.

Mr. Schwartz was a co-owner of the former Schwartz & Sherko Trucking Co. in Yonkers. He retired in 1970 from the C&L Trucking Co. in Yonkers.

He was a camper and a mem-

WESTFIELD — Catherine T.

She was born in Elizabeth and

Mrs. Parks retired in 1982 after

Irwin Parks, 85, died Nov. 27, 2002 at Genesis ElderCare-Westfield

lived in Winfield Park before mov-

12 years as a counter person for the

blind at the Union County court-

son, Russell R., are deceased.

Her husband, Russell O., and a

Surviving are a son, Thomas E.;

SCOTCH PLAINS — Paul G.

Mr. Klouse was born in

Mr. Klouse was employed with

He was also plant supervisor

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Klouse, 86, died Nov. 21, 2002 at

Newark and moved to Scotch

Clinton Milk from 1969 through

of the Borden Co., Newark and

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9:45 a.m. - Contemporary Services

Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Traditional Service

be Rev. Dr. Wayne Dreyman

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a sister, Bertha Toth; a brother,

Edward Irwin Sr.; two grandchil-

ing to Westfield.

house in Elizabeth.

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ber of the Teamsters union.

His wife, Hilda Rabin Schwartz, and a son, Charles, are deceased.

Surviving are two sons, Gary and Jack; a daughter, Sally Fenichel; and four grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at the Menorah Chapels at Millburn, in Union. Burial was in Temple Israel Cemetery at Mount Hope, Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.

dren; five great-grandchildren; and

A funeral Mass was offered

Monday at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary and St. Michael's

Roman Catholic Church, Elizabeth,

following services at the Werson

Funeral Home in Linden. Burial

was in St. Gertrude Cemetery,

Association, 27001 Agoura Road, Suite 150, Calabasas Hills, CA

91301-5104 or American Diabetes

Association, 19 Schoolhouse Road, Somerset, NJ 08873.

He served in the Navy during

A Mass was offered Nov. 25 in

St. Bartholomew the Apostle

Church, Scotch Plains, following

a funeral at the Rossi Funeral

Ronald and Robert; a sister,

Berry Van Moppes, and six

Surviving are sons, Kenneth,

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many nieces and nephews.

SCOTCH PLAINS - Joseph the Bronze Star. Zack, 85, died Nov. 23, 2002 at his

**Obituaries** 

PLAINS

Conchetta V. Zampella, 84, died

Mrs. Zampella was a lifelong

She was a member of the Tri-

County Senior Citizens and the

Golden Age Club, both of Scotch

Nov. 25, 2002 at her home.

resident of the township.

Zack was born in Hempstead, L.1. and he lived in Elizabeth before moving to Scotch Plains in 1960.

He was a foreman with the Singer Manufacturing Co., the former Diehl Co., where he worked for 35 years before retiring in 1977.

He served in the Army during World War II with the 101st Engineers and was a recipient of

children.

Mr. Zack was a member of Scotch Plains American Legion Post 209 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10122.

and Mary Bruno; and two grand-

A funeral Mass was offered

Nov. 27 in St. Bartholomew the

Apostle Church, Scotch Plains.

Arrangements were by the Rossi

Surviving are Marie, his wife of 56 years; daughters, Cheryl Christensen and Pamela Zack-Popp; and four grandchildren.

A Mass was offered Nov. 27 in St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, Scotch Plains, after a funeral at Rossi Funeral Home in Scotch Plains.

# Helen S. Wolf

WESTFIELD — Helen S. Wolf, 83, died Nov. 22, 2002 at her home. Born in Pontiac, Ill., Mrs. Wolf lived in Westfield for 60 years.

She was a nursery school teacher for the Presbyterian Church in Westfield for 15 years before retiring in 1984. Prior to that, she worked for Merck and Co. of Rahway, as a lab technician.

Mrs. Wolf was past president of the Jefferson PTA in Westfield, a trustee of the Westfield Memorial Library and the Youth and Family Counseling program in Westfield, a Girl Scout troop leader in

Westfield, a sewing tutor at the Greystone Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, and a member of the Advance Club and the College Women's Club, both of Westfield.

Surviving are Frank, her husband of 60 years; daughters, Judith W. Judge and Barbara W. Burton; a son, F. Russell; a brother, Frank W. Sellmeyer, and seven grandchildren.

A service was held Nov. 24 in Presbyterian Church, Westfield. Arrangements were by Funeral Home, the Gray Westfield.

# Carl de Weever Jr.

WESTFIELD - Carl de Weever Westfield Community Players, Jr., 79, died Nov. 23 at his home. Born in West New York, Mr. de Weever lived in Jersey City for 35

years before moving to Westfield 44 vears ago. He was a sales executive in the paint and automotive glass indus-

Mr. de Weever served in the Marine Corps, Second Marine Division, during World War II. He was a Purple Heart recipient.

He was a life member of the Marine Second Division Association and a member of the Military Order of the Purple

A 30-year member of the Funeral Home.

where he served as treasurer, he also was an associate member of the Independent Insurance Agents of Essex and Bergen Counties.

Mr. de Weever was also a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 1711 of Westfield, an assistant pack leader of Cub Scout Troop 72 and a volunteer with the Special Olympics.

Surviving are his wife, Kay; a son, Dan; a daughter, Patricia; a sister, Sheila Meehan; a brother, Edward; and two grandchildren.

A Mass was offered Nov. 26 in Holy Trinity Church, Westfield. Arrangements were by the Gray

# **Bernice Slavin**

WESTFIELD — Bernice Holchi Slavin, 64, died Dec. 1, 2002 at Andrew's Roman Catholic Church Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Born in Perth Amboy, the daughter of the late Stephen and Matilda Burkis Holcli, she lived in Carteret and Westfield before moving to Avenel in 1981.

Mrs. Slavin retired in 1981 after 25 years as a legal secretary with a number of law firms. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7164 in Avenel.

She was a parishioner of St. in Avenel.

Her husband, Edward, died in Surviving are a daughter, Candy

McKiernan of Middlesex; a son, Jeffrey Inhat of Scranton, Pa.; and two grandchildren.

Services were held yesterday at the Costello-Koyen Funeral Home in Avenel. Entombment was in the Woodbridge Memorial Gardens

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# Robert C. Hauser

SCOTCH PLAINS - A memorial service will be held for Robert C. Hauser, 50, who died Dec. 3, 2002 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. Nicholas A.; sons, Joseph R. and

Mr. Hauser, who was born in Nicholas J.; sisters, Albina Cochario, Laura De Cristafrio East Orange, lived in Westfield and Highland Park before moving to Scotch Plains in 1994.

He was a manager with Young's Medical Equipment in Somerville. Mr. Hauser attended the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University.

A gardener, golfer and out-

doorsman, Mr. Hauser also was a coach for the past seven years in the Inter-City Soccer League.

Surviving are his wife, Colleen A. Curran Hauser; a daughter, Shannon E., a son, Timothy J., and a sister, Diane Heath, all of Scotch Plains; a niece and two nephews.

Arrangements are by the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. At press time, the service had not been scheduled.

Donations may be sent to Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 325, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

# Unity Bank honored for loans to small businesses

Unity Bank, which has several locations throughout Central New Jersey, has been awarded the prestigious Gold Award from the Small Business Administration's New Jersey Office. The award is based on the volume of SBA loans made during the SBA's 2002 fis-

For excellence in the administration of the SBA program, Unity Bank also received the SBA Distinguished Lender Award as the top lender in the Mid-Sized Bank Category in the State of New Jersey. This is the second year in a row that this accolade goes to Unity Bank, the second largest SBA lender in the state.

These honors reflect Unity's dedication and commitment to providing financing to the small business community. On a national level, Unity Bank ranked 26th out of the top 500 lenders for 2002, closing almost \$77 million in loans. This represents a 30 percent increase over the prior year. Headquartered in Clinton, Unity has offices in Scotch Plains, Edison, North Plainfield, South Plainfield and Highland Park.

# **Ammunition collection** effort called a success

More than 100 people brought their unwanted bullets, fireworks, gunpowder and guns to Union County Police Headquarters in Westfield for collection and dispos-

"This was a very successful program which gave people an opportunity to remove potentially dangerous items from their homes," said Freeholder Chester Holmes.

The County Police set aside a day to accept ammunition of all sizes up to .50-caliber, fireworks and gunpowder. Officers with the County Police Bomb Squad accepted the ammunition in front of police headquarters and have stored the materials safely.

County Police Officers collected more than 1,000 lbs. of ammunition, more than 100 lbs. of gunpowder and at least two cases of fireworks. Residents also turned in four rifles and three handguns.

We found that many families did not know how to dispose of

"The people who brought in items were not just firearms owners. Some of them had acquired these items when they cleaned out the homes of family members, or came across them when a loved one died and left them behind." Ammunition and fireworks can

unwanted ammunition and fire-

works," said Freeholder Holmes.

not be disposed of with other household waste. Only demolition experts are qualified to dispose of explosives.

"Fireworks, in particular, can become dangerous and unstable when they get older. Even old ammunition can become unstable," said Holmes. "We urge residents to contact their local police to dispose of these items if they were not able to take part in our first disposal

Officers in the Union County Police will burn the ammunition and fireworks in a specialized disposal trailer this week.

# Phone solicitations are not from local police

KENILWORTH --- Recent telephone solicitations for contributions to police organizations have not been made by or on behalf of local officers, members of PBA Local #135 said recently.

In a statement, representatives of the borough chapter of the Policemen's Benevolent Association said telephone solicitors had implied they represented Kenilworth police, and contribu-tions would benefit the local department.

But, officers said, "Neither the Kenilworth PBA or any PBA local in the state of New Jersey, including our parent organization, the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, Inc., uses telemarketing as a means of fundraising." Other law enforcement groups,

such as the Fraternal Order of Police, the New Jersey Superior Officers Association and the Garden State Law Enforcement Officers Association have previously used blanket telephone solicitation to raise funds, local officers

The state PBA is currently advocating legislation that would prohibit telemarketing by law enforcement organizations in New

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# This week

# FRIDAY DEC. 6

POINSETTIAS — holiday plants for sale. Railroad station, North Ave., Fanwood, 3:30-7 p.m. \$10/6-inch plant, \$20/8-inch plant. Orders: (908) 889-6215.

# SATURDAY DEC. 7

HOLIDAY SALE — at Service League Thrift Shop, 114 Elmer St., Westfield, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (908)

SANTA TRAIN - ride with Father Christmas to High Bridge and back. Train leaves South Ave. East, Westfield, 9:15 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. Adults \$12; under 12 \$10. (908) 781-1896 or www.jcrhs.org.

**DECK THE HALLS' - house** tour of Rake & Hoe Garden Club. Tour leaves Westfield Community Players, 1000 North Ave. West, Westfield, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$25/advance, \$30/door. Tickets: (908) 654-4590 or (908) 232-6542.

**BOOK SIGNING** — "Old Italian Neighborhood Values" by Stephen DeFelice. Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield, noon-2 p.m. (908) 233-3535, BOOK SIGNING —

Strokes Under" by Robert Isleib. Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield, 2-4 p.m. (908) 233-

IN DEUTSCH — 15th annual German-American Christmas Concert. Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 7 p.m. \$15. Tickets: (908) 232-4743 or (732) 574-8600.

WINTER CONCERT — for Westfield Glee Club. First Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Fifth Ave., Roselle, 8 p.m. Adults \$12; seniors, students \$10. (908) 232-

# SUNDAY DEC. 8

**GINGERBREAD SUNDAY** - at Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 2-4 p.m. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free. (908) 232-1776.

WINTER CONCERT — for Westfield Glee Club. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 414 E. Broad St., Westfield, 4 p.m. Adults \$12; seniors, students \$10. (908) 232-

CHURCH SUPPER - and Christmas carol concert. Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains, 6 p.m. Donation. Reservations: (908) 232-

# MONDAY

HYPERTENSION? — monthly blood pressure screening clinic. Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, 10 a.m.-

noon. (908) 322-6700, Ext. 309.

BLOOD DRIVE — at
Muhlenberg Regional Medical
Center, Park Ave., Plainfield, 4-8 p.m. Donor requirements: (800) NJ BLOOD, Ext. 140.

# TUESDAY

DEC. 10
HOLIDAY LUNCH — for Women's Association of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains, noon. Reservations: (908) 232-5678.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT - holiday dinner for Newcomers Club of Westfield. Aquaviva, 115 Elm St., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. (908) 654-5373 or (908) 789-4842.

# WEDNESDAY

**DEC. 11** ACTIVE OLDER ADULTS tour of Duke Gardens plus shopping at Bridgewater Commons. Bus leaves YMCA, 1340 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, 9:30 a.m. \$26. Registration required: (908) 889-

JUST SAY NO — program on so-called "club drugs." Municipal Building, 430 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, 10 a.m. (908) 654-4441.

TENORTONES' — William Dembaugh, Charles Broadhurst and Jeffrey Broadhurst, tenors. First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer St., Westfield, noon. Music free; lunch \$5. (908) 233-2494.

# THURSDAY

# **DEC. 12**

**232-7090**.

FIRST AID BASICS monthly class of American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield,

6:30-10 p.m. Registration required: (908)

# **FRIDAY**

DEC. 13
PLAYTIME PLAYTIME — for kids whose parents are in Newcomers Club of Westfield, Romp Around, Route 22, Green Brook, 10 a.m. (908) 654-5373 or (908) 789-4842.

'MESSIAH' - holiday standard in sing-along format. First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield, 8 p.m. \$10. (908) 232-1120.

# **SATURDAY**

DEC. 14 CPR monthly class of American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Registration required: (908) 232-7090.

COFFEEHOUSE - David Roth, singer-songwriter. First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Broad St., Westfield, 8 p.m. \$12. (908) 232-8723 or www.coffeewithconscience.com.

# **SUNDAY**

**DEC. 15** 

IN POLSKIE — "Polish Christmas Customs." Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 2-4 p.m. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free. (908) 232-1776.

ADULT CPR — monthly class of American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, 6-10:30 p.m. Dec. 17. Registration required: (908)

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT --for preschool of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains, 10 a.m. Dec. 18. (908) 232-5678.

CHILD CPR — monthly class of American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Dec. 18. Registration required: (908)

**DUET** - John Burkhalter, recorder, and Eugene Roan, harpsichord. First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer St., Westfield, noon Dec. 18. Music free; lunch \$5. (908) 233-2494.

INFANT CPR - monthly class of American Red Cross, 321

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Elm St., Westfield, 6:30-10 p.m. Dec. 19. Registration required: (908) 232-7090.

HOLIDAY PARTY - for Newcomers Club of Westfield. The Westwood, 438 North Ave., Garwood, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20, (908) 654-5373 or (908) 789-4842.

IMPERIAL BRASS -- holiday music. First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Broad St., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20, (908) 233-4211,

BABYSITTER - - training for boys and girls 11-15. American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 21; 9;30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Dec. 30; 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Jan. 11. Registration required: (908) 232-7090.

'MESSLAH' - holiday standard in sing-along format. Presbyterian Church, Mountain Ave., Westfield, 8 p.m. Dec. 21, \$25, Tickets; (800) ALLE-



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# The roots of Christmas plants go back many centuries

(ARA) - Each Christmas decorated trees, twinkling lights and familiar carols take center stage in creating a festive holiday atmosphere. Certain plants play key roles as well; church altars banked with poinsettias, mistletoe hung over doorways, and holly adorning floral arrangements. Ironically, the histories of most Christmas plants have pagan roots (pardon the pun!), some dating back to the druids in the 13th and 14th centuries. Yet **over the centuries they evalved into** beloved Christian symbols.

Dr. Charles Aling, professor of

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history at Northwestern College. St. Paul, Minn., explains that Christmas plants such as holly, ivy, mistletoe and poinsettia became Christmas favorites due in part to their bright colors and evergreen properties. "Their coloration did a lot for the drab, cold and dark time of year when other plants had died and the landscape was colorless. Both the pagans and Christians saw these plants as bringing light and color into the season."

Holly -- Holly's ability to look good in both winter and summer certainly helped its position in folk-

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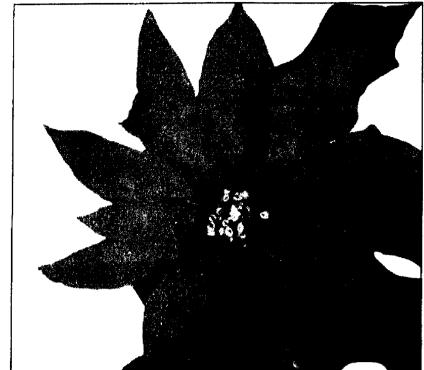
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lore, Aling explains. Representing immortality and seen as a good omen, holly was considered sacred by the ancient Romans and used as a gift during the festival of Saturnalia. Holly was brought into homes when winter began to shelter the elves and faeries.

During the early years of Christianity in Rome, many Christians continued to deck their homes with holly to avoid detection and persecution. Gradually, holly became a Christmas symbol as Christianity became the dominant religion. Because the holly leaf has sharp, pointy edges, Christians see the holly representing Jesus' crown of thorns and the red berries representing the blood He shed on the

Ivy — Aside from the familiar carol, "The Holly and the Ivy," the ivy vine doesn't have quite the Christmas tradition as mistletoe and holly, Aling says. It was associated with Bacchus the Roman god and thought to bring good luck, fun and ecstatic happiness. Growing the plant on the outside walls of a house was believed to be a deterrent against misfortune. However, if it died, it was thought that financial trouble was approaching. Like evergreens, ivy was also seen as a symbol of eternal life.

Because ivy symbolized prosperity and charity, it became associat-



Native to Mexico and cultivated by the Aztec Indians, the poinsettla is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, who imported it from Mexico in 1828.

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ed with Christmas, a time to celebrate the rich rewards of life yet remember the less fortunate. Christian symbolists also consider the ivy's need to cling to a support emblematic of man's need for divine support, explains Aling.

Mistletoe — Legend explains that the tears of Scandinavian goddess Frigga saved her son after he was shot with an arrow made of mistletoe. When she ordered mistletoe never again be used to harm others, she made it a symbol of peace and love. It was also hung over doorways to ward off evil and bring happiness, health and good luck, and kissing under the mistletoe was thought to increase the pos-

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\* Jingle Bells

# Cinnamon Sticks

\* Baskets & Ribbons

sibility of marriage in the upcoming year.

When Christianity took a foothold in northern Europe, mistletoe was one of the pagan casualties. For centuries it was forbidden on Christian altars. Eventually, mistletoe found its way back into acceptance when the Victorians revived the ancient ritual of kissing under the mistletoe as a sign of love, romance and good luck.

Poinsettias -- "While most Christmas plants date back several hundred years to Europe and the Mediterranean," Aling points out, "the poinsettia is a relatively recent Christmas symbol based in the

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\* Mini Trees

\* Grapevines

Western world." Native to Mexico and cultivated by the Aztec Indians, the poinsettia is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, who imported it from Mexico in 1828. After the Spanish conquest and the introduction of Christianity, the poinsettia found a place in Christmas rituals.

The legend of the poinsettia tells of a poor village boy in Mexico who wanted to give the Holy Child a gift, but had no money. In desperation, he picked some weeds on his way to church to leave as his gift. He prayed to God to help him show his love and God answered by turning the weeds into a beautiful starshaped flower with bright red leaves. The poinsettia has been a Christmas symbol ever since signifying how Jesus meets the needs of His believers.

Even though most Christmas' plants are short-lived, basic care helps them last through the holiday season.

"Holly is actually a shade shrub that is quite plentiful in England. The shrub should be planted in the spring," explains Dr. Jerry Beilby, professor of biology at Northwestern College. "Cut holly lasts longer indoors if treated like cut flowers, placed in cool water, and kept away from excessive

Ivy is more of an English Christmas green than an American one, he says. "It's a very popular houseplant in the United States since it's relatively easy to grow. It takes low water, either direct or indirect sun and even thrives in the

Mistletoe is actually a parasite that feeds off trees and shrubs. Beilby says. "Plants bloom in the summer and produce white berries during the winter. Mistletoe is often hung upside down and dried during the holidays." The berries are poisonous, so keep the sprigh, out of the reach of children. Many. commercial firms now market mistletoe with artificial berries for

A poinsettia can last for weeks beyond the holidays when placed in indirect sunlight at least six hours a day," he explains. "Keep it away from cold drafts and excessive heat. Water when it feels dry, and after the blooming season use an all-purpose fertilizer once a month."

# And please don't forget the batteries

(NAPSI)-Don't forget to stuff. battery-operated toys with batteries before you wrap them, so you can instantly capture children's excitement on camera as they tear open the presents and immediately begin to play Also, ensure you have an ample supply of premium-quality batteries on hand for long-lasting, reliable power in the presents they'll play with again and again.

Stock up on batteries in advance, and follow these six tips from Duracell for dependable alkaline battery perform-

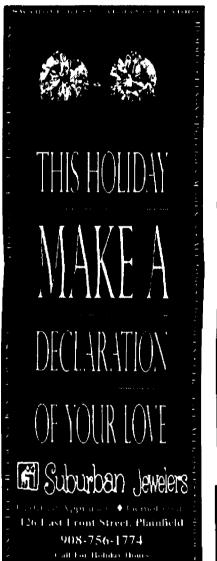
Always use the size and type of battery specified by the man-

Avoid hiding or storing battery-powered presents in very warm or cold places. Extreme temperatures reduce battery performance.

Store batteries in a dry place at normal room temperature. Do not refrigerate batteries-this won't make them last longer.

Remove batteries from equipment while it is being powered by household (AC) current.





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# Holiday Gift Guide

# Are you looking for toys that will please all youngsters?

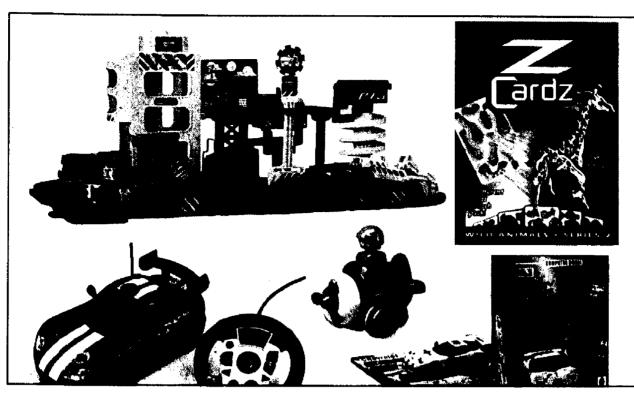
ing than giving a child a gift and hearing "I already have this one," "this is for babies," or worse. "Mommy won't let me play with this kind of toy"? Not knowing a child's interests, the kind of toys they already have, and what their parents would consider acceptable can make buying a simple holiday gift a big challenge.

Consumer products expert Alvin Kupperman says, "To save time and minimize stress, it makes sense to gather all the information you can about the child before heading to the stores this holiday

But if you're unable to attain this information, and have no idea what to buy the children on your gift list, Kupperman has a few recommendations for presents that just about every kid will like ... gifts that may very well get you a "this is just what I wanted" response.

For boys or girls from 8 months to 2 years old, there's the TOMY Push 'N Go. Recently chosen as one of "Dr. Toy's Best Classic Products for 2002," they are colorful, oversized rolling toys that come in three distinct styles: the Airplane Pilot, Dump Truck Driver, or Choo-Choo Train Engineer. A push on the driver's cap sets the little ones off on a rolling adventure filled with laughter and joyful play. Durable plastic. bright, captivating colors and welldesigned moving parts have kept these classics around for generations. Push 'N Go is available at Toys "R" Us with a manufacturers suggested retail price of only \$7.95.

Another good choice is the Big Big Loader, another classic TOMY toy, which takes preschoolers on an imaginative adventure into a miniature world. This toy construction set with little dump trucks, roads, tractors and pretend cargo, shows that cooperation and fun go



Some classic toys with modern touches are certain to please any child.

hand-in-hand. With amazing detail and infinite ways to play, the Big Big Loader provides hours of interactive fun for children ages 3 years old to 4 years old. It is available at Toys "R" Us for \$19.99.

For the child who loves cars but won't be able to drive for a few more years, My First Viper from NKOK, Inc. — maker of quality. affordable radio-control vehicles is an R/C car designed for young drivers (age 3 years old and up) with lofty imaginations. Based on the Dodge Viper, this safe, sleek and speedy car is made of racingred plastic, features working front headlights and is lightweight enough for little ones to handle on their own. A 15-function steering wheel controller lets kids drive it

forward, turn in reverse, stop, or activate the turn signals. There is a cool ignition key, a virtual driving screen and eight realistic sounds and voices programmed into the controller, as well as a big horn button so the little ones can let you know they're coming. With an MSRP of \$40, My First Viper is a great value. It's available at

up kids. NKOK offers collectible car computer mice. Easy to work with and comfortable to hold, these model cars are ergonomically engineered, high quality, reliable computer accessories. Exquisitely detailed to accurately replicate the originals, these collectible car mice can be used with any PC formatted computer via a PS/2 port for easy "plug and play" use. Each mouse even comes with an easy glide 7inch x 9-inch mouse pad featuring a glossy picture of that car. Models include the Chrysler PT Cruiser, the Dodge Viper GT1, the Corvette C5-R, '69 Boss Mustang 302, Chevrolet SSR, and 2002 Dodge Ram Truck. They are available GameStop, nationwide at FuncoLand and Babbages or at

Megahawk, and more. Sold at specialty retail toy stores nationwide, Z-CARDZ have an MSRP of \$2.49 (pack of 5) and MEGA Z-CARDZ have a suggested retail price of Looking for an affordable gift that appeals to creative, artistic children? The Ghostline Poster Kit, from Carolina Pad and Paper might be just the thing. This kit

Mestfield

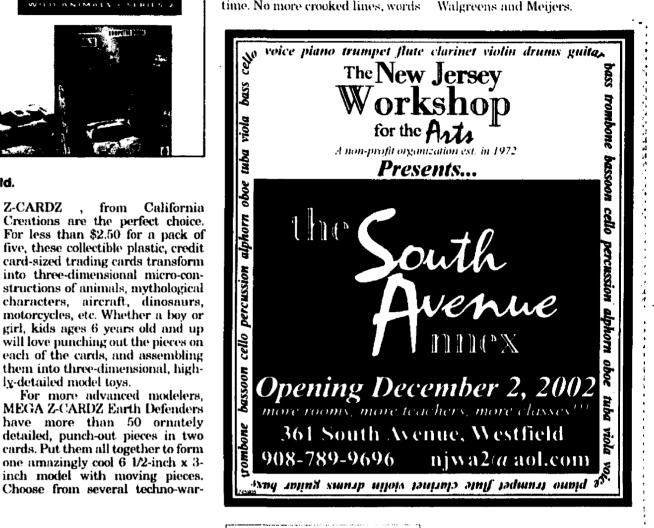
rior creatures that protect the plan-

et from evil, including Robosaur,

Rhinotank, Wolfborg, Scowl,

helps you turn out neat, professional quality poster art every

drifting off the page, miscalculated spacing, uneven letters or messy. erase marks. That's because; Ghostline features a non-erasable "ghosted grid" — almost in**visible.** horizontal and vertical lines that, provide a perfect pattern to follow. Although the "ghosted grid" is easy. to see close up, once your creation, is completed, the lines seem to magically disappear. The kitincludes eight white Ghostline, posterboard sheets, four vivid neon posters and a special stencil foreven more flawless results., Available at Target, K-Mart, Walgreens and Meijers.



# How to wrap, pack and mail the perfect present

(NAPSI)-Present perfect. That's what the people who get your gifts may think if you heed a few hints on wrapping, packaging and mail-

Choose the right shipping box. It should be slightly larger than the items being shipped, to leave space on all sides for cushioning. Use a e**rrugated cardboard** box rather han a two-piece box with lid. There are shipping containers made for ntilling specific items. Look for nailing tubes, CD mailers, video mailers and photo mailers.

Protect the present with the proper materials. Keep fragile Items separate from each other and way from the sides of the box. Use enough cushioning so items don't move if the box is jostled. Bubble wrap will not only protect the contents of the package neatly, but it's fun to pop once the gift is opened.

Beauty counts. You can eliminate inconvenience and sloppiness when wrapping gifts by using an invisible tape that's easy to handle.

Seal the box properly. Postal carriers will not accept packages sealed with string, twine, masking tape, electrical tape or cellophane tape. Always use a tape designed for shipping, such as EZ Start packaging tapes. It meets U.S. postal regulations, its superior strength holds securely and it unrolls smoothly and easily the first and every time.

Label and address your package clearly. Put shipping information on with a permanent, waterresistant pen and always use the complete address, including zip code. If you're not using a new box, completely remove or obscure the old, address labels or box marking. Write the shipping information on

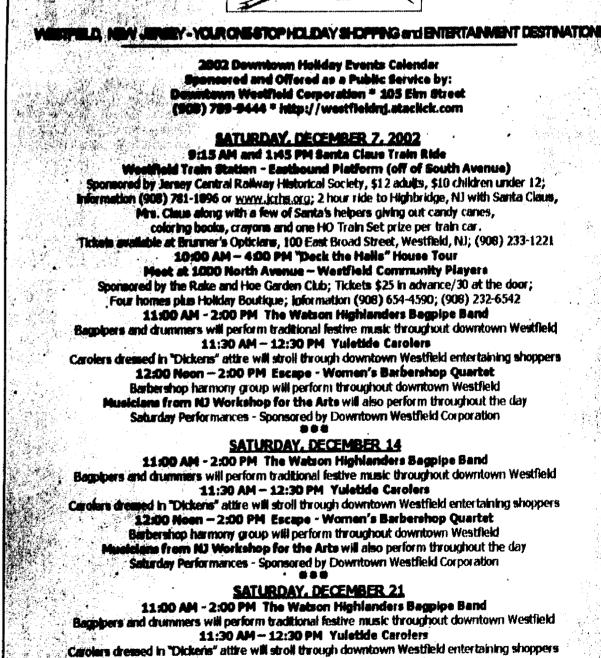
an address label, on top of the box but not over a seam or closure. As an added precaution, put a duplicate address label inside the package and keep the package tracking number to follow up on delivery

characters, aircraft, dinosaurs, motorcycles, etc. Whether a boy or girl, kids ages 6 years old and up Neiman Marcus or www.nkok.com. will love punching out the pieces on For older kids, teens and growneach of the cards, and assembling them into three-dimensional, highly-detailed model toys. For more advanced modelers, MEGA Z-CARDZ Earth Defenders have more than 50 ornately detailed, punch-out pieces in two cards. Put them all together to form one amazingly cool 6 1/2-inch x 3inch model with moving pieces. Choose from several techno-war-

www.nkok.com for \$19.99. If you have many children on







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For a Comprehensive Calendar of Holiday Events or additional information on Westfield, NJ, please check Downtown Westfield Corporation's website at: http://westfieldni.ataclick.com or call the office at (908) 789-9444.

12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM Escape - Women's Barbershop Quartet Barbershop harmony group will perform throughout downtown Westfield

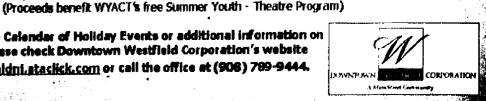
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31** 

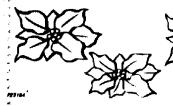
7:30 PM "Puttin' On The Ritz, The Music Of Irving Berlin; America's Songwriter"

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Avenue - Sanctuary The music of living Berlin will be performed by the young talent & professionals of WYACT as well as members of the

Westfield Symphony Orchestra; Donations \$25 for adults and \$12 for children under 14. For tickets call Westfield Symphony Orchestra: (908) 232-9400; Information (908) 233-3200 (WYACT)

claims from N2 Workshop for the Arts will also perform throughout the day Saturday Performances - Sponsored by Downtown Westfield Corporation





# Holiday Gift Guide

# Family gatherings may be more important than you think

traditionally a time for families to gather. It is the time of year when far-off relatives return home. For many families, holiday celebrations may be the only time all year that everyone gets together.

These annual events with your relatives may be more important than you think. Did you know that familial encounters not only provide positive experiences, but also can play a large role in how successful and happy you are in life?

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(ARA) - The holiday season is changed, but they have not declined in importance to Americans," says Dr. Vern Bengtson, professor of gerontology and sociology at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. "Multigenerational bonds represent a valuable resource for families in the 21st century and are becoming more important than nuclear family ties for well-being and support over the course of our

Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal life insurance organi-Families through time have zation dedicated to helping peo-



Family gatherings in the holiday season can be special times remembered for a lifetime.

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ple achieve quality family life, sponsored a Harris Interactive telephone interviews. Poll results aged 25 to 65 (98 percent) believe it is good for children to know their relatives and family history.

families through a variety of gathering activities, such as holisurvey based on 1,001 random day meals, weddings, birthday parties, reunions, family vacaindicate that most Americans tions and less formal get-togethers. In fact, the survey indicates that approximately nine out of 10 Americans have attended a fami-Americans connect with their ly event in the past three years,

and 72 percent of Americans attend multiple family gatherings throughout the year.

Why? The reasons vary and overlap. Americans cite everything from the noble desire to provide their children with the opportunity to know their relatives and to learn about their family heritage to participating just because family events are

"Face-to-face contact provides the contextual part of what it means to be family," explains Michael Benjamin, executive director for the Council On Family Relations in Minneapolis.

Minn. "We are genetically predisposed to cling to our family," explains Dr. Bengtson. "It is wired into us the need to bond family members. with Historically, family relationships have played the most basic role of all - ensuring survival. Today, most people rely on family interactions to provide an affirming. positive experience. They provide a sense of support and an identi-

ty of who we are and what's

unique about us."
While the most dramatic

results appear to revolve around the parent-child-grandchild relationship, relationships with more distant relatives such as aunts, uncles and cousins also are important.

'Intergenerational extended family relationships not only create a sense of identity but, even today, are a valuable resource for exchanging information, services and goods," says Dr.

Close extended family relationships can have educational, economic and professional implications. According to Benjamin, people with extended family contacts tend to be more literate and reach out to get more education and better jobs.

People who cultivate extended family relationships are at an advantage emotionally and are often more successful in their personal lives. Both children and adults benefit from these relationships during times of great stress, such as tragedy, death or divorce. They also reap the rewards when joyous events enter their lives, whether it is a new job, a new child or a milestone birthday.

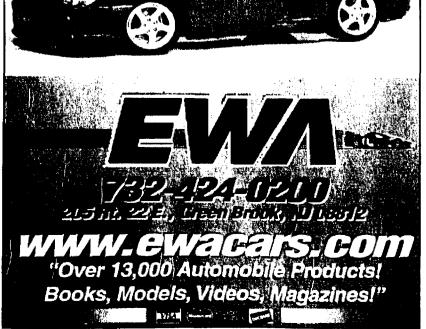
It is even suspected that interaction with extended family can have a positive effect on your lifespan and physical health. "We have seen evidence that an increased degree of positive contact with family can add years to your life," points out Dr. Bengtson, "We have strong rea-son to believe that people with active children and grandchildren relationships live longer."

Children today are very fortunate," he says. "Provided their parents take the initiative, they have more opportunities for interaction with the larger extended family than children several generations ago. They literally have more relatives liv-

Even though technology allows families to keep in touch and share personal milestones more easily, Dr. Bengtson also cautions against relying too much on long-distance technological conveniences, such as e-mail and teleconferencing. Nothing replaces the experience of actually gathering in the same room with family.















# Cocozziello fuels Blue Devils

# Westfield wins Thanksgiving Day battle with Plainfield 14-6

By DANIEL MURPHY

THE RECORD-PRESS

PLAINFIELD - Out of the playoffs the Westfield High football still had its own Super Bowl to play Thanksgiving Day.

On the strength of a strong defensive effort and the playmaking of quarterback Jan Cocozziello the Blue Devils defeated Plainfield 14-6 in the latest installment of the best Thanksgiving Day rivalry in the state.

Plainfield to improve its overall series lead to 50-41-7 and finished the 2002 campaign with a

very important to us," said best Michael Vick impression, Westfield Head Coach Ed Tranchina. We've beaten them tory-clinching score with 5:27 three years in a row now. We told the team this game is not about

Westfield has now won the Whether we are 0-8 or 8-0 we last three meeting with want to go out there and play our best game."

Cocozziello connected with Bart Walsh for a 13 yard touchdown reception on the game's "(Beating Plainfield) is very, opening drive and later did his scampering 49 yards for the vicremaining.

The Plainfield defense was them it's about everybody that aggressive and quick to the ball has ever played for Westfield. all afternoon, holding Westfield

in check after the opening drive. But the Devils used that aggressiveness against them to spring Cocozziello.

After a handoff to fullback Pat Daly netted a short gain, Tranchina and Cocozziello noticed nobody followed the quarterback as he carried out his fake. On the next play the Devils ran almost the same play, with Cocozziello keeping the ball and sneaking around left end. Nearly the entire Plainfield defense tackled Daly, and Cocozziello raced 49 yards to the end zone for the game clinching touchdown.

"They were very good on defense, they were all over us," said Tranchina. "They react to things quickly, so you have to do things to slow them down. We kind of used that against them."

Westfield totaled 224 yards in offense, 165 on the ground. Cocozziello had 12 rushes for 58 yards, Walsh carried eight times for 28 yards and Mike DeFazio had seven carries for 53 yards. Cocozziello also completed 4 of 6 passes for 59 yards. Del'azio had two catches for 23 yards, Bobby Wilt had one catch for 23 yards and Walsh had one reception for 13 yards.

Westfield got on the board immediately, marching 63 yards in 10 plays on the game's opening possession to take a 7-0 lead when Cocozziello fired a jump pass to Walsh and Andrew Lessner booted the point after.

On their next possession Westfield was forced to punt from the final score.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS

Jan Cocozziello scored two touchdowns against Plainfield, connecting with Bart Walsh on this pass and later running 49 yards for the game clinching touchdown.

its own 11, giving Plainfield possession at the Blue Devil 33 yard line. The Cardinals needed eight plays and scored on the fourth play of the second quarter on a one yard run by Mike Reves. The extrapoint was wide right and the Blue Devils clung to a one-point lead.

quarter Westfield took over at its own 32, moved out to midfield when Cocozziello and Daly were able to execute the fake for

Plainfield, which was held without a first down for the first 17 minutes of the second half, moved down to the Blue Devil 35, but turned the ball over on downs with 1:11 remaining.

"7-3 is a tremendous record," said Tranchina, "6-4 is good, 7-3 Midway through the fourth is great. We only have 10 sen? iors, only a few were returning starters, but they went out in style. They had a great season and to end it the way they did is

# Scotch Plains shocks Elizabeth in season finale

By DANIEL MURPHY

THE RECORD PRESS

The seniors went out with a bang and the underclassmen showed how bright the future is as the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High football team pulled off a major upset, defeating Elizabeth 33-6 on Thanksgiving Day.

Outside of winning a state championship there probably wasn't a better way for the Raiders to end their season. Scotch Plains put together its best all-around game of the season to rout North Jersey Section 2 Group 4 semifinalist and Union County powerhouse Elizabeth in front of 1,500 fans at Williams Field in

The victory gives Scotch Plains a 6-4 record, its fourth straight

momentum and good feelings to carry into the off-season.

Bart Walsh caught a pass from Jan Cocozziello and rumbled into the end zone for the Blue Devils first

"It's a good win for our program," said Scotch Plains Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli. "Elizabeth has been the bench mark for our county. They don't get beat too often. For our kids to do that says a lot.

"We came out and played. I don't know if (Elizabeth) did or didn't. Our kids showed tremendous character. They didn't have any letdown. I'm very proud of them.

"We have a lot of young kids and we're already excited for next year. It's a great group. We didn't want the season to end.

The seniors stepped up in their final game and the underclassmen showed the potential for the future

winning season, and a world of as the Raiders posted their second highest offensive output of the season and perhaps its best defensive performance in a season filled with great defensive performances.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS

Senior captain Kyle Adams capped a stellar career at Scotch Plains with a 174 yard, one touchdown performance on 17 carries. Senior quarterback Marquell Harrison came on, after starting quarterback Michael Walker was knocked out of the game on the fourth play, and awakened a once dormant passing game with two touchdown passes, completing four of seven passes for 43 yards.

Senior captain Josh Wexler had a 24 yard touchdown reception, three interceptions, a blocked field goal and a fumble recovery. Royland Adeyemo had another outstanding game at linebacker Elizabeth's first and Sean Doyle was solid again along the offensive and defensive lines. Christian Gray and Chris Sprague had strong games at outside linebacker and on special

Junior running back Kyle Baker had two interceptions and ran for 125 yards and two touchsacks.

The defense shutout Elizabeth for three-and-a-half quarters, caused six turnovers, blocked a field goal and held the Minutemen to 27 yards rushing and 126 yards in total offense. Scotch Plains made a key goal line stand on blocked the field goal attempt, then marched down field for a 6-0 lead.

After shutting down Elizabeth's running game early, Scotch Plains forced the Minutemen to become one-dimensional, mixed up their pass coverages and blitzes, forcing turnover after turnover.

The Raiders will lose 11 seniors downs on 16 carries as Scotch off the squad but return 15 juniors Plains pounded out 352 yards on and 19 sophomores including 15 of the ground. Travis Boff had seven the 22 starting positions against Elizabeth.

> "It's a great group of seniors even though there weren't many of them," said Ciccotelli. "Even the guys that didn't start made contributions on special teams."

Junior Charlie Bachi opened the scoring with a 5-yard touchdown reception from Harrison in

the first quarter to put the Raiders up 6-0 after the kick failed. The Raiders blew the game

open in the second quarter when Harrison hit Wexler for a 24 yard touchdown pass and a 12-0 lead. Adams ran 33 yards to pay dirt and added the two point conversion for a 20-0 lead and Baker added a 3-yard run to put Scotch Plains ahead 26-0 at the break.

Baker added a 5 yard touchdown run in the third quarter and Mike Baumwoll added the point after for a 33-0 lead. Elizabeth, who fell 10-9 to Montclair in the North 2 Group 4 semifinals, avoided being shutout when Jamar Talbert connected with Michael Jones for a 6 yard touchdown reception midway through the fourth quarter.

# New coach looks to return Devils to top

touchdown in a 14-6 win over Plainfield on Thanksgiving Day.

By DANIEL MURPHY THE RECORD-PRESS

After struggling the past three years the Westfield High ice hockey team has welcomed a new head coach and renewed hopes of a winning season.

Dennis Doherty has taken over the reigns of the Westfield program after coaching for five years at Bridgewater-Raritan High School. In his first year at the helm of the program he'll have a veteran team eager to turn around the disappointment of three straight losing seasons.

Westfield, who has moved down to the New Jersey Interscholastic Hockey League-Central White Division after playing in the Red Division last year, opened Wednesday against arch rival Cranford. The Blue Devils will face Ridge 8 p.m. Sunday and Verona Dec. 13.

"Things are looking up," said Doherty Tuesday. "There's been a change in attitude and everyone is looking forward to the season. Moving down a division will help the confidence of the team. We're going to be in a much more competitive situation and have a lot of one goal, tight games.

"We have a good strong group of seniors that have been through a lot. They're working hard to have a good season."

Leading the squad is a trio of senior captains, forward Brian Luck, goalie Scott Nuzzo and defenseman John Burnham. While Doherty is still finalizing the line

combinations seniors Anthony Yudd and Bryan Stupak will anchor the defense with Burnham, and seniors David Falk and Matt Marks will contribute to the offense. Half of Westfield's roster is seniors and they're play and ability to lead will determine how well Westfield will do this season.

"(The seniors) are going to need to step up if we're going to go anywhere," said Doherty. "They need to band together and keep it together. Our confidence is definitely high, but it's going to come down to what the seniors do.'

There is also a strong corps of underclassmen who will make a contribution, led by junior forwards Scott Simpson and Regenstreich. Sophomore forwards Brent Davis and Greg Speir will contribute up front and sophomore Ed Kramkowski will see plenty of ice team to round out the defensive rotation.

Doherty's confidence in the team's ability has led him to install a much more complicated system then the Devils have used in the past, a system very similar to what he used while winning two Red Division titles with Bridgewater.

"We've installed a whole new system from face-offs to warm-ups," said Doherty. "It may take some time to adjust to what I want to do, but if I didn't think they were capable of doing what I want to do I wouldn't do it. The pieces to the puzzle are there, it's a matter of putting the right pieces in the right



GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS Jackie LeBianc will be the Devils top offensive player next year as Westfield aims to return to the state final.

# **Blue Devils look to** remain among elite

By DANIEL MURPHY THE RECORD-PRESS

elite in the state.

The Westfield High volleyball team reached a level of unparalleled success this season that should only serve to bolster the program and keep it among the

Since Union County moved its volleyball season from the spring season to the fall, thereby being able to play in the state tournament, the Devils have gradually climbed the ladder of the state's elite, culminating in this year's appearance in the Group 4 final.

Though the Blue Devils fell to Hunterdon Central 14-16, 16-14, 15-12 in the final, a 23-3 campaign which included an undefeated run through the Watchung Conference and a first-place finish in the Livingston Tournament will certainly be a springboard to

future titles and trophies. "I think the biggest thing is that it shows how we've developed and grown as a program and how we've developed into one of the top teams in the state," said Head Coach Bev Torok, "We don't have a 9th grade team or an 8th grade feeder program. Hopefully this can convince more people to get involved in the sport."

The Devils entered the season knowing a Group 4 championship was well within their reach, but their quest for the title kicked into high gear after three impressive tournament performances early in the year. Westfield placed in the top-eight at the Northern Valley

Invitational Tournament Demarest, then placed second in the highly competitive Jersey Classic, falling to New York powerhouse Burnt Hills of Ballston Lake, N.Y. in the final while knocking off several top ranked New Jersey squads in the process, Westfield followed that performance up with a victory at the Livingston Tournament, and had all the experience and confidence it needed to make a charge at the state title.

Westfield will return some talented players to try to make anoth. er run at a state title next year, but will also have some very large shoes to fill. Nikki LeBlanc, who's being recruited by numerous colleges, was the team's top offensive player, and Cari Rock and Lisa Venezia will leave a large whole to fill in the middle. Jill Woodbury was solid at the opposite position, and Christa Jensen and Maggio Curran were strong defensive specialists. In all Westfield will lose five starters from the squad.

But coming back will be setter Sophia Hall and outside hitter Jackie LeBlanc, who should be the club's top offensive player next vear. Becky Fallon will step into the middle, with Shannon Vella and Lindsey Meyers also ready to

"We do have some shoes to fill, especially in the offensive attack, said Torok. "The kids coming back have tasted (the state final) and I'm sure it will be at the top of the goals list for next year.

# **SPORTSCENE**

WINTER GOLF

The change in the seasons brings about a change in the schedule of the three Union County golf courses. Eighteen regulation holes will continue to be available throughout the winter at Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark, and 18 holes at Galloping Hill Golf Course will be operational, weather permitting. Determination of play will be made by the Supervising Greenskeeper of the course in question. Winter hours of operation at both courses, from Nov. 30-March 1 will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hours of operation during the month of Nov. will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on

Ash Brook Golf Course in Scotch Plains and the front nine at Galloping Hill in Kenilworth will be closed for the winter season, according to Freeholder Chairman Lewis Mingo Jr. The closure for both will begin Dec. 23 and continue

For further information about Union County's winter public golf schedule or identifi-County's winter public golf schedule or identification card purchase contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4900.

SKATING CENTER OPEN

The Warinanco Ice Skatling Center is open

for the 2002-2003 season. Open hockey will be held Wednesdays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Participants must be 18 years or older with proper identification. Helmels with cage and shield are required. Admission is \$7. Admission to the general sessions is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children (17 and under) and \$4.25 for senior children (62 and over with proper ID). Skale rentals are available for \$3. Discount cards are also on sale. Group and private lessons and hockey clinics are also available



GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS Amanda Dickson swam the breaststroke on the opening 200 meter medley relay, helping Westfield take the top two spots in the event on its way to a 97-79 win over Bridgewater.

# with sweep of B-R The Westfield High boys and Westfield.

Devils open season

girls swim teams got off to strong starts Tuesday, each defeating rival Bridgewater-Raritan in the first dual meet of the season.

Westfield travels to Kearny Tuesday and to county rival Scotch Plains-Fanwood 4 p.m. Thursday.

Bridgewater won six of the 11 events in the boys meet, but the Blue Devils still had enough depth to grab an 88-82 victory, despite the absence of two of its swimmers. Ryan Bartholomew won the 50 meter free in 22.38 seconds and Sam Gurdus won the 100 butterfly in

57.51 to lead the Blue Devils. The girls team cruised to a 97-79 victory, winning six events, including two of the three relays. Alexa Vantosky won two races for

Westfield 88, Bridgewater 82 50 free: Bartholomew, W. 22.38 100 free: Gonzalez, B. 52.29 200 free: Heinen, W. 1:52.82 500 free: Levin, B, 5:04.99 100 breast: Horvath, B, 1:05.39 100 fly: Gurdus, W, 57.51 100 back: L. Gallagher, B, 56.45 200 lM: L. Gallagher, B, 2:03.26 200 free relay: Bridgewater, no time. 400 free relay: W (Heinen, Bartholomew, Schoenfeld, Hedman), 3:30.75 200 medley relay: Bridgewater, 1:45.11 Westfield 97, Bridgewater 79

50 free: Page, B, 1:07.47 100 free: Papay, B, 57.38 200 free: Simaika, W, 2:06.53 500 free: Regan, B, 5:52.20 100 breest: Dickson, W, 1:11.21 100 fly: Vantosky, W, 1:05.06 100 back: Benigno, B, 1:06.44 200 IM: Dickson, W, 2:17.40 200 free relay: Bridgewater, 1:46.62 400 free relay: W (Simaika, Vantosky, Layton, Fowler), 3:56:36 200 mediey relay: W (Fallon, Seloa,

Roberts

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# **YOUTH SPORTS**

Gymnasts on the Level 5 boys team from Surgents Elite School of Gymnastics in Garwood competed in the first New Jersey qualifier meet of the season in Cherry Hill, N.J. Nov. 23 and 24. The boys competed in six events including the floor exercise, pommel horse, still rings, vault, parallel bars, and high bars.

Bobby Oberlander, from Westfield, took ninth place overall with an allaround score of 43.8. Oberlander placed in three events with his best performance a 7.0 on the pommel horse Kevin Clancy, also from Westfield, placed twelve overall with another strong job on the pommel horse with a 7.0. Zach Jacobs, from Scotch Plains, also in his first Level 5 meet scored an 8.5 on the vault.

Justin Catalano, Mountainside, scored best on the vault with a score of 8.9. Steve Martino. from Berkeley Heights, scored a 9.0 on vault in his first Level 5 meet. Steven Morgan from Roselle finished third in his age group with an all-around score of 48.8. Steven placed in all six events and his performance on the high bar garnered first place with a score of 9.1.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

### St. Helen's girls win three straight

The St. Helen's of Westfield 7/8th grade girls basketball team won its third straight game in a big way Nov. 21 beating archrival IHM of Scotch Plains 35-31. In a hard fought contest to capture their bracket in the tournament, Breanne Defalco led St. Helen's with 15 points and 12 rebounds. Erin Miller was next for St. Helen's with 11 points making 9 of 16 foul shots. Kathryn Ruhno had five steals, six rebounds and four assists.

St. Helen's was down 18-13 late in the first half when Alli Macdonald ripped an offensive rebound and put it in right before the halftime buzzer to cut the gap to 18-15. With St. Helen's trailing by five with six minutes to go in the game, Breanne Defalco scored eight straight points to give St. Helen's the lead 29-26.

Late in the game with time running out, IHM was forced to foul. Erin Miller and Breanne Defalco hit 6 out of their last 10 free throws for St. Helen's to hold off IHM. Casey El Korey had three steals, three assists and four rebounds. Stephanie Slodyzcka had two points and seven rebounds.

Gabrielle O'leary had two points and three steals. Rose Driscoll had three assists and two steals to contribute to the St. Helen's win. Lauren Mains scored eight points to lead IHM.

Alli Zazzalli had 7points. St. Helen's fell to Cranford in the

### quarterfinals Sunday Westfield girls reach final

The Westfield 7th grade girls travel team reached the IHM Tip-off Classic finals beating St. Rose of East Hanover 32-26 in an exciting game. Westfield was led in the first half by Alli Macdonald, Stephanie Slodyzcka and Danielle Infantino, who each scored four points. Allison Oberlander contributed three first half assists to give Westfield an 18-7 halftime lead.

Westfield was defeated in the tournament final, falling to Wayne by four

St. Rose put on a furious rally and took a 26-25 lead with two minutes to go. Erin Miller, who had eight points and five rebounds, then hit two big free throws to give Westfield the lend Then off a feed by Rose 27-26.Driscoll, Claire Bennett sank a layup to give Westfield a 29-26 lead. Bennett led Westfield in rebounds with seven and steals with six.

St. Rose then failed to convert and was forced to foul. Gabrielle O'lenry sank three of her final four free throws to give Westfield its final margin of victory 32-26. O'leary finished with seven points, all in the second half. Krissy Wendel had five rebounds and three steals to contribute to the win. Westfield meets Wayne in the tournament finals on Sunday at 6:00 PM

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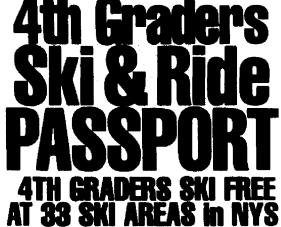
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# **BEST BETS** THIS WEEK

# **Festival of Trees** starts on Friday

BASKING RIDGE-Nowhere is the holiday spirit more prevalent then at the Environmental Education Center's 29th Annual Festival of Trees.

Cosponsored by the Somerset Hills YMCA and the Somerset County Park Commission, the ten day show features over 60 innovative variations of holiday tree and wreath decoration, displayed indoors from Friday, Dec. 6 to Sunday, Dec. 15 at 190 Lord Stirling Road. The Festival is open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Trees and wreaths are decorated by scout groups, clubs, and individuals from the greater Somerset County area. Twinkling lights, shining stars, snowflakes, angels, birds, friendship, teddy bears, sports, memories, and animals galore will be playing a prominent role in the 2002 festivities.

Among the highlights of are the "A Cowgirl's Christmas Tree," the "Cross CounTree." the "Father Christmas Tree," "Under the Sea Tree," the "Winter Wonderland Tree," "Jubilee Tree," "Christmas Around the World Tree," Moogie the Clown's "Balloon Wreath," "Scherenschnitte Tree," and "Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow Tree."

Helen, Candace, and Michael Davidson, Bishop Janes United Methodist Church in Basking Ridge, and the Basking Ridge Garden Club will be participating in the Festival for the twentyninth consecutive year, the Davidsons presenting their "Teddy Bear Tree," the church with the "Piecemakers Tree," and the Garden Club with "A Garden of Angels Tree.'

Musicians and performers will donate their talents at various times throughout the Festival. Visitors may call for a schedule of performances.

There is a suggested donation of \$3 for adults and \$1 for children and seniors. Groups of 12 or more who schedule in advance will receive a 20 percent discount.

For information, contact the Environmental Education Center at (908) 766-2489 or the Somerset Hills YMCA at (908) 766-7898.

## Free piano concert Sunday

**BRIDGEWATER** — The piano committee of the Somerset /Bridgewater Library will present a family concert featuring Paul Kueter and Carolle-Ann Mochernuk, four hand pianists, performing international classical music on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m. in the library meeting rooms ABC. The program is geared for school-aged children and their families.

The program will include music by Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Tschaikovsky, Bach and others. Since the formation of their musical partnership, Kueter and Mochernuk have concertized in the United States, Canada and Europe. They have played five recitals featuring four-hand piane at the Library of Performing Arts and Lincoln Center and have also performed at the Montclair, Newark and Savannah Art Museums. This past month they gave concerts in Nancy, France and Basel, Switzerland.

They have made two recordings: "Five Broadway Greats," consisting of Kueter's four hand arrangements of the music of Kern, Gershwin, Porter, Bernstein and Loewe, and "Gershwiniana," a centennial celebration that features Rhapsody in Blue, the Concerto and selections from "Porgy and Bess". They are both available on the Kalinka label. Last season, they played a recital at historic Trinity Church in lower Manhattan.

The Somerset County/Bridgewater Library is located at 1 Vogt Drive.

For more information about the Family Classical Concert, call the library at (908) 526-4016 ext. 119.



The cast of the Brook Arts Center's production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

# **Brook Arts Center will** present 'Charlie Brown'

BOUND BROOK - The Brook Arts Center, 10 Hamilton St., will present the Broadway musical, 'You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" Dec. 6 through Dec. 22 directed by Christopher Patterson ("Ain't Misbehavin'").

'I think this newly revised version of "Charlie Brown" from the 1999 Broadway revival, is perfect for the intimate space of the lobby of the Brook," said Patterson, two-time winner of Paper Mills' Rising Star Award. "We've got an extremely talented, high-energy cast that the whole family young or old - will enjoy."

The cast includes Patterson of Perth Amboy, doing triple duty as director, choreographer, as well as playing Schroeder; Kristen Bussiere of Edison as Sally; Amanda Lee of Maple Shade as Lucy; Ryan Malyar of Piscataway as Linus; Robert Rivera of Linden as Snoopy and Brad Sarboukh of South Bound Brook as Charlie Brown.

"We're very happy to have Chris back at the Arts Center after the warm reception Brook audiences gave him for 'Ain't Mishavin" and the 'Jazz, Jive 'n' Blues' cabaret," says Brook's Executive Director, Gerry Appel. "Word of mouth has spread so quickly about this production that tickets are going fast. We are near sold out for the first weekend. This will be one to bring the entire family, but you don't have to be a child to appreciate the philosophy and humor of Peanuts.'

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" will be presented Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. with Sundays matinees at 2 p.m. The Sunday, Dec. 8 is sold out. Tickets are only \$20 and \$17 for seniors and students.

For more information, visit www.brookarts.org or call (732) 469-7700.

# Music at Moorland will return in June

FAR HILLS — Set the date for a magical summer evening, featuring picturesque picnicking, spectacular Grucci fireworks and the renowned New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. "Music at Moorland" — Central New Jersey's kickoff to summer will be held Thursday, June 26, 2003 at Moorland Farms, home of the legendary Far Hills Race Meeting.

The second annual event will feature a twilight performance by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra followed by a fireworks display by the famous Grucci family of Long Island, which has staged fireworks for six presidential

inaugurations, three Olympic Games and three world's fairs. Generously supported by Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Music at Moorland is presented by Somerset

Medical Center Foundation to benefit Somerset Medical Center.

Somerset Hills'

"Somerset Medical Center Foundation is proud to bring this wonderful new tradition to our community with the support of Aventis," said John T. von Stade, chairman of Somerset Medical Center Foundation and co-chair of Music at Moorland. "We hope that families throughout Central New Jersey will come together to celebrate the start of summer and enjoy the seasonal splendor of the Somerset Hills. It promises to be an exciting evening for all ages."

Adds Evelyn Self, director of corporate relations for Aventis, "Aventis is pleased to partner

with Somerset Medical Center to give Central New Jersey families the experience of Tanglewood right in our own backyard. We are also committed to ensuring that our community has the first-class health care we need close to home.'

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra president Lawrence J. Tamburri says the orchestra jumped at the opportunity to showcase its talents at Music at Moorland because of the event's scenic setting and its good cause.

"Although the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra is based

in Newark, we are truly the 'We hope that families state's orchestra throughout Central New and it is our Jersey will come together mission to bring our music to to celebrate the start of audiences statewide,' summer and enjoy the Tamburri said.

seasonal splendor of the "We are looking forward to performing in the Somerset Hills

region in support of the quality health care services Somerset Medical Center provides to its patients."

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra has received critical acclaim for its concerts in New Jersey, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and abroad and has recorded numerous concerts for radio and television broadcasts. The 2002-03 season marks the orchestra's sixth season as resident orchestra of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

For more information about Music at Moorland, call (908) 685-2500 or visit the Calendar of Events page on Somerset Medical Center's Web site at somersetmedicalcenter.com.

# Vienna Choir Boys to perform holiday concert

# World-renowned group is coming to the State Theatre

NEW BRUNSWICK - The most revered of children's performing arts groups, the Vienna Choir Boys return for the ninth time to the State Theatre on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. to sing Christmas carols from around the world.

This group of 10- to 14-yearolds has toured the world over, attracting broad audiences with its exquisite harmonies, exceptional soloists, and a sound that is heaven-sent. With the purity of young voices trained almost from birth, this holiday program will entertain and uplift people of all

For more than 500 years, the Vienna Choir Boys have enjoyed a reputation as one of the world's most cherished ensembles. Created by decree of the Habsburg Emperor in 1498 and bound to many of Europe's most illustrious musical figures, such as Mozart, Haydn, Schubert, and Bruckner, the ensemble has become a modern, forward-looking institution that has moved confidently into the 21st century.

While retaining and nurturing the fresh, natural, choral sound for which the ensemble has always been famous, under the leadership of artistic director Gerald Wirth the choir's active

JAMES MARKEY

repertoire has rapidly expanded. Though their core repertoire remains the Renaissance and Baroque music that they traditionally sing at performances of Sunday and Holy Day masses at the Imperial Chapel, today's Vienna Choir Boys repertoire also includes operas and operettas, contemporary classical and popular music, experimental music, traditional Viennese waltzes and polkas, and folk songs from around the world.

The Vienna Choir Boys comprise four choirs of 24 members each, with choristers ranging in age from 10 to 14. The four choirs tour extensively on six continents conducted by a choirmaster and accompanied by two tutors. Often, two of the groups are on tour simultaneously, with two choirs remaining in residence in Vienna to sing at the weekly Sunday mass in the Imperial Chapel, a tradition that has continued practically unbroken since 1498, even during the two World Wars.

Many former members maintain their involvement with the ensemble as members of the Board of Directors and as performers in the Chorus Viennensis, a men's choir of 60 to 80 former Vienna Choir Boys. The ensemble. which celebrated its 50th



The Vienna Choir Boys have enchanted international audiences with their perfect harmony.

anniversary this year, regularly performs as a separate ensemble, as well as with the Vienna Choir

For more than five centuries, the Vienna Choir Boys have enchanted millions with their unique charm and exceptionally beautiful singing. Witnessing a

performance from one of the world's oldest musical organizations will surely be a rare holiday treat for audiences of all ages.

Tickets for this performance are on sale now for \$38 (Premium Orchestra/Loge), \$34 (Orchestra/Front Balcony), \$26 (Rear Orchestra/Balcony), or \$18

(Gallery). The State Theatre box office is located at 15 Livingston Ave. For telephone ticket orders or information call 732-246-7469 or toll free 877-STATE-11 Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 7

### Symphonic Band to give free concert on Sunday p.m. at Hillsborough High School. The class is sponsored by the Band and will be provid-ed free to the public. Markey joined the New BRIDGEWATER - The Raritan Valley Symphonic Band, under the direction of Dr. William Berz, will open its 20th anniversary season with a "Winter Warm-Up Concert" at York Philharmonic as Associate Principal 3 p.m. Sunday at Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School on Garretson Road. Trombone in 1997. A native of Hopatcong. Markey was awarded the position of

Admission is free. Acclaimed trombonist James Markey, Associate Principal Trombone of the New York Philharmonic, will be the featured soloist. Markey will perform "Concertino" by Ferdinand David, one of the most outstanding showpieces for solo trombone. The con-

cert will also feature "Chorale and Alleluia" by Howard Hanson, "Gallop" by Arthur Bird, spirited marches, including a selection by America's march king, John Philip Sousa, and holiday favorites.

Soloist James Markey will also give a master class on Wednesday Dec. 11 at 7:30 Principal Trombonist with the Pittsburgh Symphony at the end of his second year at the Julliard School, making him the youngest member of that orchestra. He was invited to join the New York Philharmonic after his second season with Pittsburgh. Markey is also in great demand as a soloist, recitalist and clinician, and maintains an active teaching schedule at The Julliard School and New York University.

The RVSB is recognized as one of New Jersey's finest community bands, and is known for always giving its audience "something extra" in each concert. The Band's

conductor, Dr. Berz, is Director of Bands at Rutgers-the State University of New Jersey. For more information about the concert, becoming a sponsor, or to request assistance for those with disabilities, or to inquire about joining the Band, consult the Band's website, www.rvsb.org or call (908) 359-3136

The concert and master class are made possible, in part, by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission through the State/County Partnership Local Arts Program. The Band is sponsored by the Jointure for Community Adult Education and by contributions from local businesses, corporations, foundations and private citi-

## Theater **CROSSROADS**

THEATRE COMPANY 7 Livingston Ave. New Brunswick (732) 545-8100

"From the Mississippi Delta," autobiographical drama on civil rights leader Ida Mae Holland. 8 p.m. Dec. 5, 6, 13; 3 and 8 p.m. Dec. 7, 14; 3 p.m. Dec. 15. Admission

FORUM THEATRE 314 Main St., Metuchen

(732) 548-0582; www. forumtheatrecompany.com

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," local production of Broadway/movie comedy. 8 p.m. Dec. 6, 7; 3 p.m. Dec. 8. Admission \$25; discounts available.

"A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Carol," or Dickens crosses A.A. Milne. To Dec. 29. Admission \$15; group rates available. Call for showtimes.

### GEORGE STREET **PLAYHOUSE** 9 Livingston Ave.

New Brunswick (732) 246-7717;

www.georgestplayhouse.org "Let Me Sing: A Musical Evolution" of show tunes and standards. To Jan. 4. Admission \$55-\$36; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

**PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE** Brookside Dr., Millburn

(973) 376-4343; www.papermill.org

"Annie," revival of Broadway/movie musical. To Dec. 8. Admission \$67-\$30; discounts available. Call for show schedule.

PHILIP J. LEVIN THEATER **Rutgers University** 

George St., New Brunswick (732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu

"The Laramie Project," based on the 1999 gay-related murder of Matthew Shepard. 8 p.m. Dec. 5-7. Adults \$19; seniors, Rutgers alumni and employees \$17; students \$9.

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Route 28, Branchburg

(908) 725-3420; www.raritanval.edu/theatre

"A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens standard with the Nebraska Theatre Caravan. 2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 7. Admission \$29, \$24.

SOMERSET VALLEY **PLAYERS** 

Route 514, Hillsborough (908) 369-SHOW;

www.svptheatre.org "A Christmas Story," stage version of 1983 movie. 7 p.m. Dec. 7, 14; 3 p.m. Dec. 8, 15. Admission

**VILLAGERS THEATRE** 

475 DeMott Lane, Somerset (732) 879-2710;

www.villagerstheatre.com "A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens standard in a kid-friendly production. 7 p.m. Dec. 13, 14, 20, 21; 3 p.m. Dec. 15, 22. Admission

Sky Shows RARITAN VALLEY **COMMUNITY COLLEGE** Route 28, Branchburg

(908) 231-8805: www.raritanval.edu/planetari-

"Winter Wonder Light," 2 p.m. Dec. 7, 8, 14, 15. Admission \$4.

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COMPELLING,

-Edward Buroughs,

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STEPHEN MO

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IS A HOOT!"

Donald Lyons,

New York Post

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**Events** HOLIDAY NATURE CRAFT SHOW

Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Rd., Mountainside

(908) 789-3670 Held for the 19th year, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 8. Free admission.

For Kids LAZER VAUDEVILLE

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 Union County Arts Center 1601 Irving St., Rahway (732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org

Juggling by blacklight plus a magic show with lasers, Admission **\$16**, \$12.

LITTLE BEAR AND THE ENCHANTED WOOD

2 and 5 p.m. Dec. 14, 15 Paper Mill Playhouse Brookside Dr., Millburn (973) 376-4343

www.papermill.org The children's book and TV special, done live with music. Admission \$30-\$15.

Concerts

THE BEACH BOYS

3 and 8 p.m. Dec. 7 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org Famous for having hits in three decades (but now touring without Brian Wilson), Admission \$50-\$20.

**BUON NATALE** 

4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8; Our Lady of Peace Church, 111 South St., New Providence (973) 762-8486; www.summitchorale.org

"The Holidays in Italy" with the Summit Chorale. Adults \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door; seniors, students \$15 in advance, \$17 at the

**GLEN CAMPBELL** 

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College Route 28, Branchburg (908) 725-3420;

www.raritanval.edu/theatre Pre-"Urban Cowboy" country/pop star, sharing the spotlight at times with daughter Debby. Admission \$42, \$37

**CANADIAN BRASS** 

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org Holiday concert of the Dominion-based group. Admission

**CHRISTMAS IN CAROL AND SONG** 

6 and 9 p.m. Dec. 7, 5 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8 Kirkpatrick Chapel, Rutgers University, New Brunswick (732) 932-7511;

mgsa.rutgers.edu With the Rutgers Kirkpatrick Choir and Rutgers Glee Club.

Admission \$10. ELEGANT ELLINGTON 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13

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8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 Union County Arts Center 1601 Irving St., Rahway (732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org

Beatles tribute concert with the cast of the late-70's show "Beatlemania." Admission \$28-\$18. **HOT PIANO** 

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 Somerset County Vo-Tech Vogt Dr., Bridgewater (908) 526-8900, Ext. 7219

Bob Seeley and Mark Braun, boogie-woogie piano men from Michigan. Admission \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

JOY TO THE WORLD

4 and 6:30 p.m. Dec. 8 Presbyterian Church, 1 E. Oak St., Basking Ridge (908) 766-1616

Christmas "Lessons and Carols" service with the church's Oratorio Choir, Knox Bell Choir and orchestra. Donation.

**KEAN UNIVERSITY CHOIR** 

4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 Trinity Episcopal Church Route 28, Cranford (908) 276-4047

Holiday music in a sacred setting. Admission \$10.

PAUL KUETER/CAROLLE-ANN MOCHERNUK

2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 Somerset County Library 1 Vogt Dr., Bridgewater (908) 526-4016

Piano duo performs works of Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky and other composers. Free admission. **MESSIAH** (Choral Art

Society of New Jersey) 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 First Baptist Church 170 Elm St., Westfield (908) 654-3260

Handel oratorio in sing-along format. Admission \$10; scores at the door.

**MESSIAH** (Masterwork Chorus and Orchestra)

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org Handel oratorio in concert format. Admission \$50-\$20.

LYNN MILES

8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 Watchung Arts Center Watchung Circle, Watchung (908) 753-0190; www.watchungarts.org

Folk singer from Canada. Admission \$12. **LORRIE MORGAN** 

Cafe

8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11 Paper Mill Playhouse Brookside Dr., Millburn (973) 376-4343;

www.papermill.org 80's-90's country singer in a holiday concert. Admission \$75-

MORNING STAR COMMU-NITY TABERNACLE CHOIR

5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 Union County Arts Center 1601 Irving St., Rahway (732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org Holiday concert of the Linden-

based choir. Admission \$12. **NEW JERSEY POPS** 

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 Paper Mill Playhouse Brookside Dr., Millburn (973) 376-4343;

www.papermill.org Holiday concert. Admission \$48-\$32.

ORCHESTRA OF ST. PETER BY THE SEA 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 Union County Arts Center 1601 Irving St., Rahway

Holiday concert of the Jersey Shore-based symphony. Admission \$27-\$17.

(732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org

**ORPHEUS** 

8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org Chamber ensemble performs works of Faure, Golijov and Mozart with Dawn Upshaw, soprano. Admission \$50-\$25.

JOHN PIZZARELLI 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 **Union County Arts Center** 1601 Irving St., Rahway (732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org

Jazz guitarist plays with his trio. Admission \$65-\$35. Gala tickets (with post-concert reception) **\$**75

PRESERVATION HALL JAZZ BAND

8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10 State Theatre, 15 Livingston (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org New Orleans-based Dixieland group, Admission \$38-\$18.

RARITAN VALLEY SYMPHONIC BAND 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 Bridgewater-Raritan High School, Garretson Rd. Bridgewater

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60's-70's R&B singer and 'Parade of Stars" host. Admission

RUTGERS

UNIVERSITY BAND 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11 Nicholas Music Center George St., New Brunswick (732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu

A full repertoire of music for wind ensemble. Free admission.

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA** 

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 Nicholas Music Center George St., New Brunswick (732) 932-7511;

mgsa.rutgers.edu

Presenting the American premiere of the Concerto for Marimba and Strings by Eric Ewazen. Adults \$18; seniors, Rutgers faculty/alumni/staff \$16; students \$10.

**SUZZY & MAGGIE ROCHE** 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 Watchung Arts Center Watchung Circle, Watchung (908) 753-0190;

www.watchungarts.org/folk Two-thirds of 70's sister trio The Roches, Admission \$20.

VIENNA CHOIR BOYS 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org Austria-based ensemble.

Admission \$38-\$18. **VOORHEES CHOIR** 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 Voorhees Chapel, Rutgers University, New Brunswick (732) 932-7511;

mgsa.rutgers.edu All-woman ensemble in its 76th annual candlelight concert. Free admission.

**WESTFIELD GLEE CLUB** 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7; First Presbyterian Church, Roselle 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8; St. Paul Episcopal Church, Westfield (908) 232-0673

78th annual winter concert of holiday songs. Adults \$12; seniors, students \$10.

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Admission \$5. Festival of Trees, to Jan. 26. Recent additions "From the Old World to the New World," to April 20.

CORNELIUS LOW HOUSE **Middlesex County Museum** 1225 River Rd., Piscataway (732) 745-4177

Open to the public 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. "UnCommon Clay: New

Jersey's Architectural Terra Cotta Industry, to May 30, 2003.

Abby Hoffman on how terra cotta tiles are made, 1:30 p.m. Dec. 1. Free admission; registration required.

**EAST JERSEY OLDE TOWNE** 

1050 River Rd., Piscataway (732) 745-3030, (732) 745-4489; www.cultureheritage.org

Historical village in what was once Raritan Landing. Open to the public 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

Victorian ornaments, to Feb. 23. Related lecture by Mark Nonestied 1 p.m. Dec. 15 (registration required).

Creating Watercolor Post Cards" for children 7-11, 1 p.m. Dec. 15. Registration required.

History on the Hoof (holiday stories and music), 2 p.m. Dec. 15. Registration required.

METLAR-BODINE **HOUSE MUSEUM** 1281 River Rd., Piscataway

(732) 463-8363 Greg Jones on gourmet coffee, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 11. Free admission; registration required.

Children's holiday tea, 3 p.m. Dec. 15. Members \$15, non-members \$18; registration required. . .

MILLER-CORY **HOUSE MUSEUM** 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield 2 (908) 232-1776

Open 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; children under 6 free. 'Gingerbread Sunday," **Dec. 8**.

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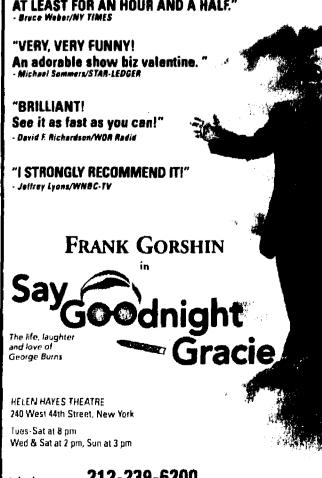
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-60-

# Revue pays homage to the holiday season

METUCHEN — The Forum Theatre Company will present the theatrical premiere of a holiday musical revue, "That Time of the Year." Performances are Friday, Dec. 20 through Tuesday, Dec. 31 with a special New Year's Eve Gala performance at 7:30 p.m.

"That Time of the Year" is a whimsical compilation of 25 alloriginal Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's songs, capturing all the warmth and humor of a unique holiday celebration. The show offers a wide variety of material, running the musical gamut from rock and blues to jazz and show tunes. The songs range from funny numbers highlighting the joys and anxieties of the holiday season to beautiful, touching ballads about the meaning behind the

5 Opening to critical acclaim in 1996 at the Manhanttan cabaret club, Don't Tell Mama, "That Time of the Year" features a quintent of bright-eyed performers singing such tunes as "Angelo Rosenbaum,"
"Underneath the Mistletoe,"
"Mama's Latkes," "Country and **Calypso** Christmas," "Holiday Lament Fruitcake Song)," Also featured are a singing dreidel and a trio of singing / dancing fruitcakes.

The cast includes Ann Harada, who appeared on Broadway and in the National Tour of "M. Butterfly" as Comrade Chin. She can be seen regularly as Mimi on the drama, "Another daytime World," and has numerous off-Broadway credits.

Adam Williams and Ian August are the male cast members. Williams reprises the role he originated at Don't Tell Mama, and has performed in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"at Paper Mill Playhouse and in the National Tour of "Camelot" with Robert Goulet. August is well known to regional audiences for his performances in theatres throughout the state, including NJ Repertory Company, Twelve Miles West and Forum Theatre Company. Performance times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. A Special New Year's Eve performance is scheduled for 7:30.

Standard tickets are \$25 (\$45 New Year's Eve only) with senior / student and group rates available. Friday Nights are "Kid's Night" wherein for every adult ticket purchased, a child attends free. Tickets may be reserved by calling the Box Office at (732)548-0582.

> Come Taste Traditional Authentic



Among those performing in Sunday's intergenerational Orchestra concert are Michele McKinney, Nicole Nizzardo, Fred Rossol and George

# Intergenerational Orchestra to perform Sunday

CRANFORD — The New rsey Intergenerational Orchestra will perform its annual holiday concert, "Winter Serenade," 3 p.m. Sunday at Cranford High School.

The concert will feature performances of Leroy Anderson's "Plink, Plank, Plunk," a Tchaikovsky melody of familiar themes, a Telemann concerto grosso for four violins, a Bach concerto grosso for violin and oboe and other traditional holiday music.

The NJIO, now in its ninth year, has the distinction of being the only orchestra in the United States with a truly intergenerational configuration; members range in age from 5 to 91.

Members represent 55 communities and seven counties, with two new affiliate orchestras in Princeton and Toms River. The orchestra continues to receive wide publicity, most recently appearing on the News 12 television show "Jersey's Talking and Defying Age," hosted by Lee Leonard and Della Crews.

The orchestra has also been featured on CBS and NBC and in articles in national publications such as Family Circle Magazine, American Profiles Magazine and Savvy Living Magazine.

In April, the NJIO traveled to

Madrid at the invitation of the United Nations, where it performed a concert for the United Nations World Conference on Aging. Concerts have also been given at the United Nations in New York City, the Lincoln Center Outdoor Plaza Fountain Concert Series in New York City, and in other major East Coast

The orchestra is conducted by Lorraine Marks, who string specialist for the New Providence School District who has received numerous awards for her work with the orchestra and the com-

Marks has been chosen NJIOrch1@aol.com

"Outstanding Somerset County" by the Somerset County Commission and received the New Jersey Pride Award from New Jersey Monthly Magazine for "people who made a difference in the

Handicapped access and large-print programs will be available at the concert. Cranford High School is located at 201 West End Place, off Springfield

Admission is \$6 adults, \$4 seniors and students. For more information, call the orchestra at (908) 709-0084 or email



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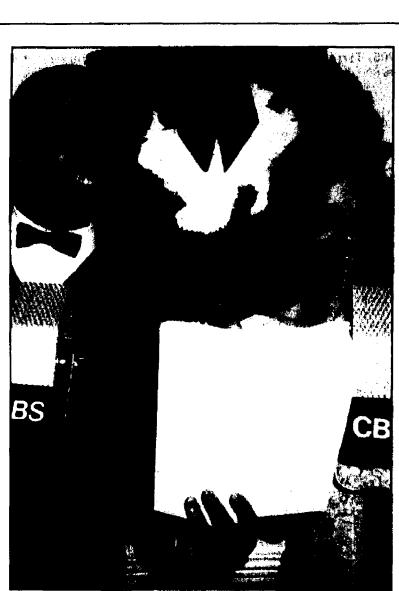
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A wonderful life
The Theater Project at Union County College will perform "it's a Wonderful Life — The Radio Play" 3 p.m. Sunday at the college's Cranford campus. The performance has been adapted and directed by Liz Zazzi, named one of New Jersey's most talented actresses by the Star Ledger. Above, Zazzi and actor Gazy Glor test their microphones in reheases! Supported Gary Glor test their microphones in rehearsal. Suggested donation for the performance is \$5. For more information, phone (908) 659-5189.



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## We need your entertainment story

To get the news of your performance, exhibit or happening into our Dining and Entertainment section, you can mail it to Prime Time, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, N.J., 08876, fax it to (908) 575-6683 or email it to union@njnpublishing.com

# Real Estate

# Seniors becoming major force in real estate market

By JAMES M. WOODARD

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

It's a matter of demographics and economics. As the number of seniors increases, they play a more important role in our marketplace - including the real estate market.

In the area of selling and purchasing homes, senior individuals and couples have very special needs. Recognizing the growing importance of this niche in the real estate brokerage field, the National Association of Realtors established a new designation for its members - Seniors Real Estate Specialist. To attain the SRES designation, a Realtor is required to complete a series of educational programs keyed specifically to serving the needs of senfor home buyers and sellers. Several state Realtor associations have joined NAR in providing the needed education and granting the SRES designation.

The education includes senior-related tax and estate implications in homebuying and selling, and special home features and amenities that are helpful to seniors.

There has been strong interest in meeting the needs of the growing senior segment of our population," said Cathy Whatley, president-elect of NAR. "SRES now joins a distinguished group of special designations recognized by our association.'

"Older people are not driven by the market," said Realtor Tim Corliss, who was instrumental in setting up the SRES designation. "They're driven by circumstances, by their needs. A physical impairment, the death of a spouse, the need to be closer to a child — those are the kinds of things that make (seniors) want to sell. They really don't care about 'moving up' or making a killing in a hot market. Most of them have lived in their homes a long time and are not selling because they want to,

but because circumstances make it desirable or necessary.

For more information on this designation, access the Web site: www.seniorsrealestate.com.

Q Are senior homeowners showing much interest in reverse mortgages?

A. In recent months, seniors have been showing growing interest in reverse mortgages — a unique type of mortgage plan that allows seniors over age 62 to tap their home equity to generate added monthly income, some-

Lenders closed a record 13,049 federally insured reverse mortgages during the most recent federal fiscal year, according to a report from the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association. That reflects a 63-percent increase over the figures during fiscal year

Seniors are contracting for reverse mortgages nationwide, but the greatest

concentration is from the Los Angeles area. Next in line comes Denver and New York City, according to the reverse mortgage association.

The growth in reverse-mortgage volume has been fueled by greater public awareness about reverse mortgages. Also, a larger number of lenders are offering reverse mortgages. An economic downturn, combined with growing health care costs, have forced many older Americans to look for sources of additional income, according to the reverse mortgage association report.

"With the stock market boom over and interest rates remaining low, many seniors are getting financially squeezed these days, no longer able to count on a healthy stream of dividends and interest income to supplement their Social Security. In fact, many have seen their investment portfolios shrink," the report states.

"The result of all this is that many more older homeowners are turning to

Kathleen L. August to Wee T. Ng for

to Charles & Carol Tombros for

Jodi A. Shitt to Scott H. & Jennifer A.

Gail A. Crochiere to Alvaro Quintana for

A. Cook to Nicholas & Phyllis Micchelli

61 Maple Ave. from William Kotches

429 Mountain Ave. from Allan J. &

49 Rutherford Road from Ronald E. &

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NEW PROVIDENCE

18 Bromley Court from Robert B. &

Marguerite V. Day to Tung M. Huang

reverse mortgages to access the wealth they've accumulated in their home to obtain added income and enhance their retirement. By doing so, they can continue to live independently where they are.'

A reverse mortgage allows senior homeowners to convert part of the equity in their homes into tax-free income without having to sell those homes. They don't give up title or take on a new monthly mortgage payment. Borrowers may spend the funds however they wish. They can take out the loan as a line of credit, lump-sum payment, fixed monthly payment or as a combination of these options.

The amount seniors can obtain depends on their age, the value and location of their home and current interest rates. A reverse mortgage doesn't have to be repaid until borrowers moves out of their homes permanently. The repayment amount can never exceed the value of the home.

172 Sagamore Drive from Robert P. &

SUMMIT

37 Clark St. from James F. Nuzzo Jr.

39 Clark St. from Hoai Vo & Hoa Doan

12 Lenox Road from Robert T. &

2 Montview Road from Forrest &

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Mary C. Heaton to Jill Lazare for

Evans to Thomas J. & Laura C. O'Rourke

to Shawn B. & Victoria A. Collins for

Christina H. Walz to James A. & Patricia

Fitzpatrick for \$1,625,000.

Robin Snyder to Edward G. Butka et.al.

et.al, to Pasquale Bilello for \$267,500.

for \$450,000.

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2 Alan O'Kell Place from David J. & Carol L. Axtt to John C. & Cynthia J. Russo for \$323,400.

31A English Village from Eileen Eklund to Frida Myaskovsky for \$147,500.

209 Hampton St. from William F. & Jeannette R. Clark to Kevin G. & MariAngela S. Moore for \$440,000.

508 High St. from Richard & Eleanor M. Baumann to John Davidson et.al. for \$375,000.

21 John St. from David W. & Jana C.

Ryan to Lili Wang et.al. for \$252,000. 114 Oak Lane from Mark T. & Nadine C. Familo to Peter G. Gensicke for

7 Pittsfield St. from Donald F. & Judith A. Anderson to Regis M. Quirin et.al. for \$450,000.

109 Spring Garden St. from Natale & Loretta R. Bravata to Robert & Ellen Brodowski for \$290,000.

### **FANWOOD**

16 Laurel Place from Nicholas & Christine Billias to Paul F. & Paula C. Martin for \$265,000.

12 Ridge Way from John B. & Grace R. Gutberlet to Marcos M. & Lucinea Dos Santos for \$285,000.

205 Terrill Road from Bryson & Gealine Culver to He X. & Jin H. Dong for \$170.000.

81 Woodland Ave. from Michael & Patricia G. Keever to Toby Two Realty L.L.C. for \$400,000.

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254 Fourth Ave. from Boris Ezrokhi & Natalya Alf to Richard V. & Maria Verso for \$291.500.

160 Willow Ave. from Debra J. Broski to Jason R. Broski for \$170,000.

### KENILWORTH

658 Richfield Ave. from Genevieve Patryn to Nicola G. Capra et.al. for

6 Upsala Court from Domenick & Lisa Cuccio to Antoinette Pantano for \$225,000.

### SCOTCH PLAINS

24 Blue Ridge Circle from Remi L. Salahi to Anirudha V. & Swati Indurkar

534 Cicilia Place from Lori S. Ioriatti et.al. to Zita D. Barnes for \$192,000.

21 Clydesdale Road from Caleb C. & Mary J. Wong to Karl & Elaine Rosenberger for \$572,500.

2072 Nicholl Ave. from Anthony J. & Elizabeth Marasco to Richard J. Williams Jr. & Pamela Williams for \$275,000.

1640 Rahway Road from Philip & Kathleen Freeman to Nick Kakkalis et.al. for \$470,000.

507 Warren St. from Craig & Kristine Wirth to David B. Falk et.al. for \$280,000.

2067 Westfield Ave. from Gary & Sharon Janssen et.al. to Cathleen Sheldon for \$153,000.

# WESTFIELD

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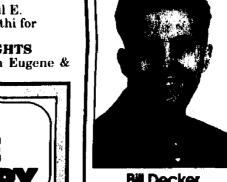
540 Highland Ave. from Janet R. Patterson to Robert G. Stahl et.al. for

555 Hort St. from Michael Jusefyk to Gilbert & Debra Engelke for \$295,000. 260-C12 Prospect St. from Mary F. Brentano to William J. & Bernice M.

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**Bill Decker** ERA Meeker Realty

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However, this periodic ad will focus on Real Estate! This year I will be honored at the "Quarter Century" Club." That's 25 years of selling Real Estate. In a business not known for it's longevity, I consider this:

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30 years of teaching in the Cranford School System:

it seems to be the most appropriate for former stu-

dents, their parents and the many others I've met."

quite an honor. I have been a member of the Million. Dollar Sales Club many times - including 19973 2001 through Home of the Week

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New Listing



Cranford

\$349,900

### new toys, gifts and food for hundreds of needy children throughout Union County. Today, the agency serves up to

Office is collecting holiday toys

years or so, Family and Children's Services have collected and distributed 2,000 individuals a year, half of whom are children. The great majority of these youths are living in foster homes or city shelters, have been neglected or abused, or live in families with total incomes at or below federal poverty line. In keeping with the holiday season,

Banker Residential Brokerage's Westfield office is working to collect new toys and books to be distributed to those in need. "We want every child to experience happiness especially during the holidays, said Michael Scott, manager of the Westfield

All gifts collected at the Westfield office of Coldwell Banker will be distributed to the Family and Children's Counseling and Testing Center of Elizabeth. The center is a private nonprofit social service agency.

Kathy Shea and Margaret Maguire are serving as Co-Chairmen for the Westfield office of Coldwell Banker and asks that all types of new unwrapped toys (puzzles, games, coloring books, stuffed animals, etc.) be brought to Coldwell Banker at 209 Central

Individuals who are unable to come in with their toys may call (908) 233-5555 to arrange for them to be picked up. The final date for toy collection is Wednesday, Dec. 18.

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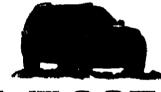




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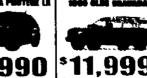






















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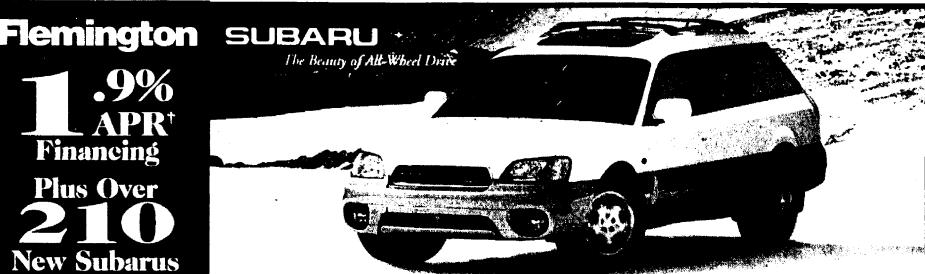
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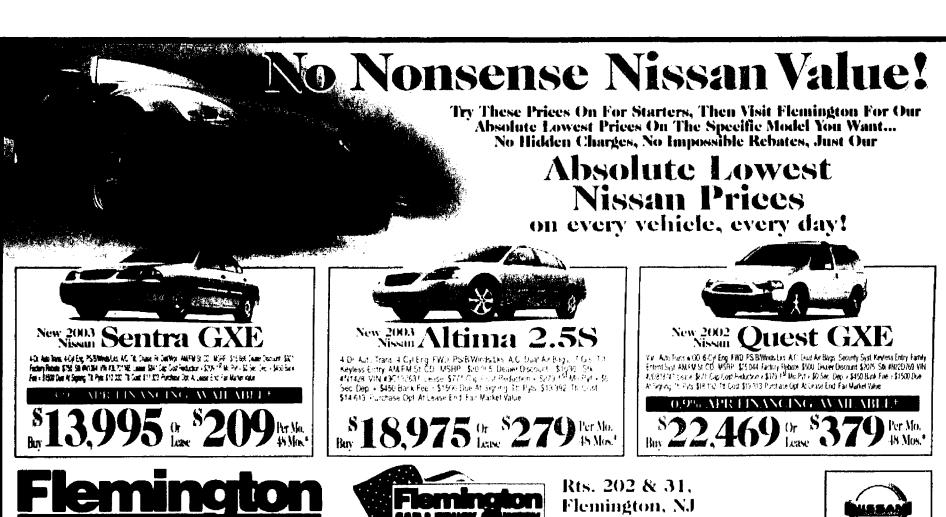


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# Automotive/Classified

# Saturn's all-new Ion is template for tomorrow at GM

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

The Saturn Ion is not the same old thing from General

This replacement for the S-Series model is almost a cinch to cause double takes. Perhaps not because of its design, but because it is so fresh and different for Saturn - and General Motors.

What took GM so long is a long story - 12 years for Saturn to get a completely redesigned small car.

But, an upward-bound business plan is in place at Saturn, and Ion will be a productive beginning for the sometimesquirky division of GM. The car is just arriving in dealerships.

Saturn enjoys being a little different, and inside and out, the Ion is different from its sedan competitors, a template for the future.

The compact-class sedan and coupe are the first vehicles built from the Delta small-car architecture at GM. The basic elements - chassis and driveline - will be used many times over for different vehicles with around the world for GM.

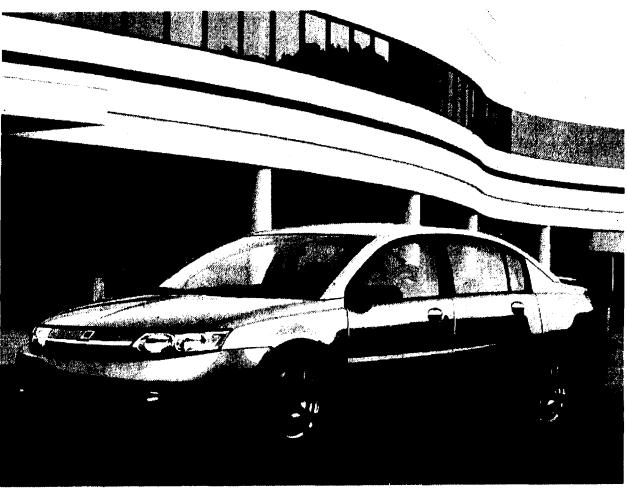
Ion appears to have a worldclass foundation. Saturn engineers tore apart a Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla and Ford Focus to see what makes them so successful in this small-car segment.

After much note taking and head scratching, Saturn gave

A chassis that is as solid as a large European luxury

The largest engine among the comparable compacts, a 140 horsepower, 2.2 liter Ecotec four-cylinder.

The engine, made of aluminum, has double overhead cams, 16 valves and balance shafts for smooth running and



The new designs will give Saturn a much-needed energy boost

is tuned for 145 foot-pounds of torque to provide gutsy trafficlight acceleration.

A new (optional) five-speed automatic transmission, which is probably the first such offering in a car that costs about \$13,000.

An optional continuously variable transmission, also used in the Saturn VUE sport utility.

A "body computer" that integrates all electronic functions and allows such perks as autounlock, which prevents the driver from locking the car if the keys have been left in the igni-

Ion is being produced now as a four-door sedan. A quad coupe (with two smaller rear access doors) goes on sale early next year. No wagon is planned.

The Ion is slightly wider, longer and taller than the car it replaces, though it still has the plastic body panels that deflect shopping cart assaults and door dings.

And, yes, a plastic-bodied car is a safe car because the panels are attached to a steel cage space frame — around the cabin.

lon's space frame, floor pans and frame rails are built into

the crash protection plan, to redirect the force of the crash to non-occupant areas.

The car comes with dualstage front air bags, side impact beams in front and rear doors, 5 mph bumpers, three-point belts, pretensioning and force-limiting front belts and optional head curtain side air bags (\$395).

Three trim levels are offered. The base model has a starting price of \$11,995 and features a 5-speed manual transmission. 14-inch tires and steel wheels and crank windows.

The Ion 2 starts at \$13,995

and comes with 15-inch wheels and availability to add a convenience package of power windows, mirrors and cruise control.

The Ion 3, likely to become the most popular seller, starts at \$16,995 and comes with 16inch alloy wheels, power conveniences, air conditioning and a four-speaker AM-FM-CD-cassette audio system.

A well-optioned model with automatic transmission (\$900) will cost about \$18,600.

The interior design plays a dominant role in creating the feel of Ion.

For starters, the gauge cluster was moved from behind the steering wheel to the top of the dashboard. It looks odd at first, but it functions well and actually allows better sightlines to the speedometer and gauges because they aren't blocked by the steering wheel.

Because of that, the wheel is smaller. This one is down to about 13.8 inches, and the artsy styling reminds me of a bumper-car steering wheel. That's not a criticism -- really - but the steering wheel was a little slim for my handling, though most of the female auto writers at the press introduction liked it.

Inside, there is 40 inches of headroom with shoulder room for big drivers. The trunk is flat and broad, and the rear seat-back has a 70/30 split for loading skis or boards.

The coupe's doors - there's no center pillar - and the flat-folding front seat-back open wide enough to slide in an 8-foot ocean kayak or surfboard. The sedan doesn't have the same fold-flat front seat, but it should, just to provide some cartability.

There is efficient use of interior space: room to slurp, slosh and stash with the cup holders of variable sizes, a sliding center armrest that is wide enough for two elbows and useful-size door pockets.

The large, locking glove box flops open and could bang knees, but rest-assured, the chief engineer is seeking a damping solution for that.

Creating comfortable seats for a one-size-fits-all economy car usually is as complicated as taking burger orders at a family reunion. It's difficult to please a 6-foot-4 male and a 5foot-2 female, but the Ion seats are supportive and nicely bolstered on the sides, though a bit short-cushioned for larger occupants.

There's attention to comfort in the height-adjustable driver's seat and the slightly raised back seat that eliminates that "stuck in the hole" feeling for passengers.

Interior quality is so important that Saturn went to the same supplier as Volkswagen to get soft-touch materials and pleasing textures.

At 2,700 pounds the sedan is not heavy, but it uses every bit of the four-cylinder's 140 horses. Fuel mileage remains a Saturn standout at 26/33 with the manual and 24/32 with the automatic.

Accelerating to 60 mph takes about 9.3 seconds with the manual shifter, which is a notable accomplishment for an engine that weighs just 305 pounds. The shifting has an econo-box roughness to the action, however, making it feel less than sporty.

The five-speed automatic is tuned for more power in the mid-range and for passing. A CVT — continuously variable transmission - will be offered with the coupe, but was not available for testing.

Ion is a good, new entry in this class of car. It's not as smooth as a Honda, but it's a proud statement for Saturn.

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Autos for Sale 1385

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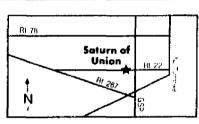
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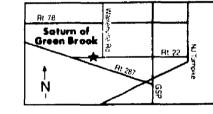




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## Autos for Sale 1385

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# Autos for Sale 1385

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