

Record-Press

Westfield Memorial Library
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Westfield, NJ 07090

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50 cents

INSIDE



Good shot

Hillary Klimowicz, star of the Scotch-Plains Fanwood High School girls basketball team, rises for a shot in a scrimmage Saturday. For a season preview, see Page C-1.



Peace train

Local peace protesters traveled to Newark Saturday to participate in a rally against the war in Iraq. See story on Page A-3.



Holiday lights

Seasonal celebrations brought a new glow to Scotch Plains last weekend. For more holiday pictures, see Page B-1.

REMINDER

Redevelopment plan presented

The committee that reviewed proposals for downtown redevelopment in Fanwood will present its recommendation, and recommended contractor Landmark Communities will also make a presentation, at the Dec. 16 Borough Council meeting. The meeting begins at 8 p.m. and is open to the public.

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GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Winter wonderland

Most of it has melted by now, but the snow that blanketed the area Dec. 5 brought out the kid in everyone. These children and their parents took their sleds to Echo Lake Park in Mountainside and Westfield. For suggestions on more places to have winter fun, see story on Page B-1.

Boro reports progress on traffic, redevelopment

But municipal management still needs more work

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — Efforts to reach the borough's strategic goals met mixed success in 2002, according to a presentation by the Strategic Planning Assessment Committee at the Borough Council's Dec. 3 meeting.

Donna Dolce, committee chairwoman, reported that implementation of the 10 goals and 26 objectives adopted by the council at the end of 2001 produced mixed results, with every goal yielding some measure of progress. Twenty objectives were either met or partially met this year, according to the report.

The borough established a committee to develop a strategic

plan in 2000 and adopted the goals and objectives of the committee in November 2001. In January 2002, Mayor Louis Jung appointed a citizens advisory committee to assess the progress of the objectives throughout the year.

In fact, the borough is exploring whether it wants to continue using a "management structure," in which elected officials play a heavy role in borough activity, or switch to a governmental system that would place more responsibility on the borough administrator and less on the elected body.

The report showed the borough made the most progress in areas such as collaboration, recreation, transportation and volunteerism, while management remains an area in need of further development.

In fact, the borough is exploring whether it wants to continue using a "management structure," in which elected officials play a heavy role in borough activity, or switch to a governmental system that would place more responsibility on the borough administrator and less on the elected body.

The committee suggested a feasibility study in 2003 to determine the benefit of a centralized management structure.

The report also pointed out that the borough's personnel policies have not been reviewed since 1997 and need to be revisited. Also highlighted in the report was the borough's struggle to attract staff with certifications and credentials mandated by the state.

Objectives met or partially met under the downtown redevelopment goal were designating a redevelopment zone, which the council did in March, and acquiring a professional developer, which the council has done through an RFQ committee.

(Continued on page A-2)

53 homes are proposed for Scotch Plains

Township would benefit from sale of seven acres

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — A proposal for an age-restricted community with about 53 single-family residences near the Scotch Hills Country Club will come before the Planning Board in early 2003.

The plan to redevelop the waste area at the end of Broadway has been in the works for 12 to 15 years, according to Mayor Martin Marks. The area spans 11 acres and consists of several lots owned by both the township and developer Broadway Associates, LLC.

Marks described the area, which is off Jerusalem Road, as blighted land on which many people dump waste and which the township uses to store leaves. The area is not conducive to recreational use because of its sloping topography, Marks said.

In 1995, the Township Council declared the land an area in need of redevelopment, giving it the power to negotiate how the land should be developed.

Marks said that throughout the years several redevelopment plans put forth by Broadway Associates never materialized. Those plans included a proposal for an assisted-living facility and another plan for 300 townhouses, which the town rejected because of concerns about density and overcrowding of schools.

Marks said the township then approached Broadway Associates

about constructing single-family homes restricted to people age 55 and older, which should not drastically increase density and will have little if any impact on the school district's population.

Marks said the community would be ideal for long-time residents whose children no longer live with them and don't need much space.

Broadway Associates developed a plan for the community with some input from residents in the area to address concerns about traffic, density and environmental issues. The company presented a plan to the township in April, which Township Engineer Ed Gotko is reviewing.

The plan includes 53 single-family houses, mostly ranch-style, on lots ranging in size from 5,000 to 6,000 sq. ft. Several new streets would also be added to the community, along with a club house with a pool near Fanwood Avenue. The plan also includes a 17,000 sq. ft. water retention basin for stormwater management.

Marks said the application should not require any variances, because the township created a new land use zone for the development. However, he said traffic impact will be an issue for the Planning Board to consider when it hears the application next year.

Because the township owns about seven acres of the land, it has a contract to sell its property to Broadway Associates, pending

(Continued on page A-2)

Armed man steals \$19G from bank

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — An unknown male got away with \$19,000 after robbing Unity Bank at 2222 South Ave. last week.

According to the police, the robber entered the bank at approximately 10 a.m. Dec. 4. He brandished a handgun and demanded money at the counter.

After collecting the money, the

suspect fled the bank on foot in an unknown direction, as bank personnel dialed 911.

No one was injured and police had no description of the suspect or additional information available at press time. The FBI was notified for further investigation.

Anyone with information about the robbery should contact the FBI office in Newark at (973) 792-3000 or Det. Jeffrey Briel of the Scotch Plains Police at (908) 322-7100.

More parking for Westfield students?

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Downtown may not be the only area getting parking relief, if everything goes as planned in a joint venture between the town and the Board of Education that would add 150 parking spaces for high school students.

Members of the Town Council and the school board met last week to discuss a remedy for parking problems at the high school. Representatives at the meeting decided on a project at the National Guard Armory on Rahway Avenue that would cost approximately \$120,000, with the two sides splitting the costs, according to Councilman Rafael Betancourt. The plan is subject to full council and board approval.

The idea has been under consideration for some time and the Guard has supported it, according to Betancourt. Mayor Gregory McDermott said resi-

dents in the area have continually complained about students parking in front of their homes throughout the day and said the new spaces would solve the problem.

"This is something that's going to benefit the entire town," Betancourt told the council at a meeting Tuesday night. "Unless you look at it that way it will never get done."

The two groups also considered a site at Edison Intermediate School before deciding on the armory. According to Betancourt, at the request of the National Guard the additional spaces will be put along Coddling Road, instead of behind the armory as originally planned.

Betancourt said the project can be completed by September 2003 if the approvals process begins early next year. Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh said building the extra parking is an easy project, but the plan would

(Continued on page A-2)



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Not forgotten

While the nation prepares for a new war, some took time Dec. 7 to remember veterans of another conflict. In Cranford, Pearl Harbor survivor Skip Flanagan was honored at a ceremony held by VFW Post 335 and American Legion Post 212 on the 61st anniversary of that attack.

Hearing on 22 apartments above Trader Joe's is delayed

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Board of Adjustment hearing for the proposed apartments on the Trader

Joe's building has been carried to the Jan. 13 meeting.

The hearing has been delayed for the second consecutive meeting at the request of the applicant, 155 Elm Street L.L.C. The town is also finishing up its

review of the application, and the hearing may not begin even at the Jan. 13 meeting.

The applicant proposes to add two stories to the building and construct 22 apartments. Each floor will have 11 apartments at 464 sq. ft. each.

The applicant must be granted several variances for the project to proceed, including a maximum height variance and parking and loading space variances.

The Jan. 13 meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Traffic calming measures are planned for ShopRite grid

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD — Discussion continues on traffic calming measures set to come to the ShopRite grid in the Second Ward, as residents in the area met for a second time recently with Wilbur Smith Associates, the Iselin firm conducting the planning and design of the traffic calming measures.

Residents discussed concepts for solving problems of

traffic volume, speeding and pedestrian safety in the South Chestnut Street, Gallows Hill Road and Benson Place corridors.

Along with Wilbur Smith representatives, residents came up with measures for their corridor dealing with signage, road striping, and vertical and horizontal deflections.

Each corridor plans to implement signage that includes the yellow "Slow Down: Keep Westfield Safe" banners; gateway signs that identify the town; added speed limit signs; yield signs at appropriate locations, such as the point where South Chestnut and Benson Place merge; and four-way stops at intersections such as St. Marks Avenue and Benson Place.

The Gallows Hill Road corridor plans to modify the road

striping, creating smaller travel lanes at various locations to leave room for parked cars and pedestrian visibility. At the South Chestnut Street corridor, plans call for new bicycle lanes on each side of the street.

The groups also hope to implement traffic deflection methods including speed humps, speed tables, raised intersections and traffic circles.

South Chestnut Street requested the most calming devices. They include a choker, or curb extension to narrow the street, between Tremont and Fairmont avenues, and a chicane, or curb extensions that alternate from one side of the street to the other, between Fourth and Hillcrest avenues.

The stakeholders will meet again in January, after which a final report will be presented to the Town Council.

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in my paper which revealed to me the truth about my back pain and the best proven way to get rid of it forever! I admit, I didn't believe it at all, but I ordered the free report and I haven't had one attack of pain in 6 months! If you're even remotely curious about how to end your suffering, call toll-free 1-800-220-4521 and listen to the 24 hr. recorded message to order your own copy of this remarkable report. Don't live another day in pain. Call Now! It's Free!

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Music at church Wednesday

WESTFIELD — "The Practitioners of Music" are John Burkhalter, recorder, and Eugene Roan, harpsichord.

Their recital at noon Wednesday concludes the 2002 "Mid-Day Musicales" of the First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer St. The program includes holiday songs as they were written in Baroque-era Holland and France.

Burkhalter plays three dif-

ferent recorders, each a replica of an early European instrument. Roan plays a harpsichord that is a replica of one built in France around 1650.

Admission to the recital is free. A soup-and-sandwich lunch in the church hall is available for an additional \$5 after the performance. For more information, phone (908) 233-2494.

Funding for "Mid-Day Musicales" is provided in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

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Traffic

(Continued from page A-2)
Physical redevelopment was the only unmet objective in this category.

The report also noted the borough's progress in collaboration, as the fire, public works and recreation departments have all instituted shared-services with surrounding municipalities.

Under transportation, the borough successfully reduced traffic on Martine and South avenues through new signaling devices and a better timing system. The borough also expanded the train station parking lot, which increased revenue.

For 2003, the committee presented 24 new objectives to continue progress in meeting the 10 goals. They include greater efforts to advocate for state funding in municipal and education expenditures, monitor use and costs of the new jitney service, develop a system for recruiting volunteers and distribute the self-assessment to the community.

Parking

(Continued from page A-1)
Adjustment, which could be a three-month process.

In addition, Betancourt said the town would have to form a lease agreement with the National Guard for the use of the property. The town would probably be responsible for maintaining the lot, he added.

Members of the council were agreeable to the plan. The Board of Education will likely discuss it at its meeting Tues. Dec. 17.

53 homes

(Continued from page A-1)
tract's specifics until the application is approved.

Marks said that the homes will probably sell for an average of \$250,000, though that is subject to real estate market fluctuations. He added the township has already received several calls about people interested in purchasing homes.

Births

A daughter, Olivia Jane Fletcher was born on October 18, 2002 in Summit, New Jersey to Jonathan and Amy Fletcher of Fanwood. She weighed ten pounds two ounces and was 21½ inches long. She is welcomed at home by her sisters Katherine, 8, and Jacqueline, 6. Her maternal grandparents are Mary Jane Palmisano of Bayonne and Vincent Palmisano of Manasquan. Her paternal grandmother is Nicole Fletcher of Morristown.

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Cranford resident Leigh Davis holds an American flag emblazoned with a peace sign and talks to other anti-war protesters while waiting to ride the "Peace Train" to a rally in Newark.

Residents ride 'Peace Train' to rally against war in Iraq

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Hundreds of protesters, including about a dozen from the town, braved the cold weather and partially snow-covered roads to participate in the "Peace Train" rally to oppose war with Iraq last Saturday.

The event, sponsored by the NJ Coalition Against War in Iraq, organized activists to board trains throughout the state and head to Newark, where a march and rally were held. The train made stops in Westfield and Cranford, where protesters held brief vigils before boarding. Participants held a prayer vigil at the Christmas tree at the Westfield train station.

After arriving at Newark's Penn Station, protesters held a pre-march rally in Peter Francesca Park on Ferry Street where there were speakers, music and chanting for about an hour as the group waited for other protesters to arrive. The speakers were from state peace organizations such as People's Organization for Progress and NJ Peace Action.

The marchers first went to Sen. John Corzine's office and presented a "thank you" card for his vote against the war resolution. They then marched to City Hall, where they presented cards to Reps. Rush Holt, Donald Payne and Robert Menendez for voting against the war resolution as well.

Originally the rally was supposed to conclude at Essex County College, but because of the weather protesters finished at City Hall.

"It was very nice to see the number of people who came out on such a cold day," said local activist Leigh Davis, who said she heard estimates of up to 500 people in attendance. "A lot of people were not in the 'peace movement.' I've been involved for 20 years. There were a number of people who never went to a peace march who felt compelled to

come out. It's an indication that people are concerned about going to war."

Davis said that the event, along with national protest in Washington, D.C., was good for the anti-war movement because it built momentum before a conflict starts. She said that there will be another large peace event in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 18 similar to the one held on Oct. 26.

Locally Davis said she is planning peace vigils in various communities, including Cranford and Westfield. The weekend before Christmas, activists will hold vigils called "Eve of Christmas, Eve of War."

"There's visibility given to people opposed to war in Iraq. It's letting the government know we are concerned. We really don't want this to happen. I think we really reached out to a lot of people who might have felt isolated. And if we go to war, there will be more people," Davis said.

Iron workers protest hiring of non-union laborers at school

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Several iron workers from Local 480 of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers and Machinery Movers picketed outside Union County Vocational and Technical School on Raritan Road this week to protest what they called disloyal hiring practices.

"At the time of the contract there was no law to compel the district or the contractor to use only a labor union. There was nothing we could do to change that."

— Ed Kologi
school attorney

The protesters were objecting to the school's hiring of non-union contractor, CMW Inc., to do structural steel work for the school's two-story, 80,000 sq. ft. expansion project set to be finished in September.

"We work in partnership with the school to put graduates in apprenticeships," said Ken Plank, president of Local 480. "Parents are sending kids here to become union workers. It's an issue of loyalty. Our objective here is to get union members employed on the job site."

However, school officials said the situation is beyond their control. According to school attorney Ed

Kologi, the school hired a union contractor, B&B Iron Works, as its prime contractor.

B&B subsequently sub-contracted a non-union employer to do the preliminary structural steel work, Kologi said.

"We have no control over (the sub-contractor)," Kologi said. "At the time of the contract there was no law to compel the district or the contractor to use only a labor union. There was nothing we could do to change that."

"We support the union's right to protest," Kologi said. "We are trying

to resolve any differences."

Plank also expressed concern that the contractor might be in violation of regulations regarding apprentice ratios and wages.

However, Kologi said that the county compliance officer is monitoring the contractor and has been instructed to have a zero-tolerance policy. Kologi said he has not heard of any violations thus far.

Kologi said the school district has met with the union to explain its position. But Plank said that the union will continue to protest until the issue is resolved.

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NEW EXPANDED STUDIO

Volunteers needed to help victims

Police chiefs in Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Westfield are seeking volunteers to join a response team aimed at helping the victims of domestic abuse.

The Central Union County Domestic Violence Response Team will debut in mid-2003 and is a joint effort of the three departments, as well as the Union County and Clark police, the Union County Prosecutor's Office and Project Protect of the YWCA of Eastern Union County. Volunteer members will work in conjunction with those agencies to provide support, information and referral to domestic violence victims.

Applicants must be 18 years or older, have access to transportation, possess a valid driver's license, be willing to serve a minimum of four 12-hour shifts per month and submit to a background investigation, including fingerprinting. An understanding of domestic violence issues is a plus, as is bilingual capability.

A 40-hour mandatory intensive training course held over an eight-week period will be provided to successful applicants. The training will be conducted during weekend and evening hours.

Applications are now available at local police departments. For more information, call: Fanwood Lt. Richard Trige, (908) 322-5000, ext. 118; Scotch Plains Lt. John Shebey, (908) 311-7100, ext. 140; Westfield Lt. James Schneider, (908) 789-4000.

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GET TO KNOW OUR STAFF

Karen Jacobs graduated from the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Essex County College in 1994. She was accepted into the Phi Theta Kappa honor society for outstanding academic achievement. She gained experience in patient management and treatment approaches in both the hospital and the private practice settings. Her treatment focus was neurologic, orthopedic and pediatric rehabilitation.



Karen realized her full potential by graduating from the Physical Therapy program at New York University in 1999. Her course work established a strong orthopedic foundation. Karen advanced her treatment strategies and manual techniques through additional orthopedic training. She is an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association and remains committed to continued professional growth through ongoing educational endeavors.

Karen joined ADVANCED Physical Therapy Associates in 2001. Her experience and skill enable her to effectively manage patients with a wide variety of conditions and injuries. Although Karen's academic and professional achievements are noteworthy, her greatest single asset is her ongoing devotion to her patients and her career.

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Commentary

Proper steps to protect the state

At a time when attention is focused on "homeland security," the state is taking steps to protect the environmental security of New Jersey.

On Monday, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bradley Campbell announced a series of new regulations that will have a dramatic impact on the future of New Jersey in subtle ways.

Prompted by worries over the state's water supply, the DEP has unveiled more stringent guidelines that, in effect, will slow the pace of the creeping suburban sprawl that threatens the garden quality of the Garden State.

The DEP is proposing a wider buffer, from 50 to 300 feet, for development away from certain streams, wetlands, lakes and reservoirs. The new regulations also propose a new philosophy of how developments handle storm water runoff, by encouraging more water to be channeled into the ground, instead of into storm sewers. The state is also focusing on ways to filter pollutants — such as fertilizer, road salt and vehicle oil — from storm water.

Predictably, the new regulations are going to be opposed by developers. No doubt the new regulations will drive up costs and make it more difficult to build in certain areas. But that's a welcome intended consequence.

For too long developers have roamed New Jersey with little regard to the environment. That's had many effects, including a deleterious impact on the state's aquifers. As the recent drought has shown, New Jersey's most precious asset may be its water, and special steps need to be taken to protect this resource we cannot live without.

At a time when the federal Environmental Protection Agency — under the direction of former Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, who should know better — is reducing regulation, the state is stepping up its efforts to protect the environmental security of the state. That is welcome news.

Don't forget holiday fire safety

With only a few weeks left until Christmas, many people are busy preparing their homes for the annual festivities. This season's unusually warm weather was perfect for choosing the perfect Christmas tree that will be the centerpiece of the holiday celebrations. This weekend will be devoted to decorating the tree and putting the final touches on decorations both inside and outside the home.

However, in the rush of holiday preparations, many forget the simple elements of fire safety. Here are some tips that can help guarantee a holiday free of a tragic fire:

1. Inspect all lights before placing them on trees. Replace loose or broken wires.
2. Keep space heaters away from decorations.
3. Do not use candles near live decorations.
4. Keep all decorations away from doorways and exit paths.
5. Do not leave candles unattended.
6. Keep all live trees watered. Do not use lights if needles begin to drop.
7. Use a sturdy fire screen on your fireplace.
8. Remove trash and excess combustible waste immediately after opening gifts.
9. After entertaining guests, check all cushions, chairs and garbage cans for smoldering ashes. Flush all ashtrays.
10. Turn off all decorations and extinguish all candles when leaving home or going to bed.
11. Don't overload electrical outlets or run extension cords under carpets, across doorways or near heaters. Be sure extension cords aren't pinched behind or under furniture.
12. If you hang decorations such as garlands or Christmas stockings on the mantle, don't light a fire in the fireplace until the decorations have been taken down.

These are simple, common sense fire safety tips that bear repeating every holiday season. By being careful and following these rules, you can help ensure your holiday season will not be ruined by a senseless fire.



Letters to the editor

Protect yourself from identity theft

To The Record-Press:

This holiday shopping season it's not just the traditional thieves such as pickpockets, shoplifters and muggers that have law enforcement officers in Union County on high alert. Consumers, in alarming numbers, are becoming victims of identity thieves who use computers, phony licenses and telephone scams to rob the good credit of unsuspecting citizens and use it to steal merchandise.

It's frightening to learn about this kind of thievery but it is also good to know there are many ways residents can protect themselves from these kinds of unscrupulous rip-offs.

I would like to issue a warning to citizens in the wake of a series of identity theft cases across the county. Detectives from our Special Prosecutions Unit have more than a dozen active files opened in which they are assisting municipal detectives retrieving credit information and tracking purchases involving stolen identities.

Subpoenas have been issued in an increasing number of cases in which citizens in Union County have persons using their names to buy products and services. The attorneys in this office will prosecute "online outlaws" who use computers to buy goods.

I would remind consumers to report the crime

immediately to local police and also contact the three nationwide credit reporting bureaus with the necessary information about the theft. Those numbers would be Equifax at (800) 525-6285, Experian at (888) 397-3742 and Trans Union at (800) 680-7289. The credit card company must also get a call promptly to prevent further abuse. Anyone who has their Social Security number or driver's license improperly used also needs to make additional contacts.

The information has been provided in two different pamphlets issued in recent years by this office. The publications, one a how-to guide on how you can prevent yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft and the second a list of steps to take if your identity has been stolen, are now in their fourth printing with thousands distributed throughout the state. They can be obtained by contacting the Special Prosecutions Unit in this office.

Let me take this opportunity to extend warm wishes for a healthy, happy and safe holiday and a joyous year to come. Our office pledges to continue to do all things that are humanly possible to improve public safety and the quality of life for every citizen.

THEODORE J. ROMANKOW
Union County Prosecutor
Elizabeth

Holiday spirit for the non-believers

To The Record-Press:

When you say "Happy Holidays" this winter season, now you can say it to your non-believer friends and readers, as well.

HumanLight is a holiday created by members of the New Jersey Humanist Network and officially set for December 23 each year, though festivities may be held on a date that is more convenient to participants. For the originators of the holiday, the emphasis is on humanity and the notion that the "light of reason" and science provide the best hope for the future of humankind. The new holiday is a chance for humanists and non-believers of all stripes to say that we are part of every community and that we join in spreading a wish for peace, hope, love and understanding, but without any supernatural context. Last year the very first event of this kind in the world was held in our state. This year gatherings will be in at least six locations around the country, the nearest one to our area being in Little Falls, NJ on December 22. There will be entertainment, inspiration, food and merrymaking for both adults and children. If interested, more information is available at www.humanlight.org.

For me, as an atheist/humanist, "human light" is an acknowledgment and a celebration of the special powers and accomplishments of human beings in a universe without god. We have a degree of consciousness, a range of compassion, a capacity to communicate that are a result of the struggles of our human and pre-

human ancestors. In the relatively short time we have existed we have used our powers to create the arts, the sciences, religions and their gods, government, history, philosophy, technology, etc., etc. - in short, civilization and culture. We have the ability to judge our accomplishments and make changes. We have explored the far reaches of our universe and the interior of our own hearts. Though the seeds come from the distant past, we have given birth to morality, beauty, knowledge and laughter. Amazing!

While we have created magnificent structures, we must also acknowledge that our ways have often been destructive, repressive, murderous. As we shine our light onto the future we must proclaim what many of our traditions have stated and what science proves more and more - that we are all connected to each other. We can appreciate the value of each individual. We can understand the power we each have to make a difference in other people's lives. Our compassion for others serves us as well. With these realizations we can find the strength to live each day and the courage to live up to our ideals.

Perhaps the full meaning of "human light" is this — it is in our power to use our consciousness wisely and caringly before our individual light goes out for good. This season and all year long, that is something worth celebrating about ourselves!

BARRY KLASSEL
Scotch Plains

Jersey Boy

Mike Deak

The simple joys of a glass of Cold Duck

One of the worst parts of becoming middle-aged is that your tastes become more expensive.

It's been an uncomfortable burden for my generation. We came of age in a decade — the 1970s — when it was de rigueur to reject materialism. It was a time when pretension was derided and simplicity was lauded. The suburban "status symbols" of our parents' generation were derided as symptomatic of everything that was wrong and phony in a repressive culture. It may seem quaint and slightly crazy to a younger generation, but we actually thought about the political significance of tie widths and station wagons. Hair was a political statement, not a fashion statement. We craved stuff that was cheap and simple. We worshipped things made from the earth and sold at flea markets.

And then Ronald Reagan came along and pardoned our dormant greed. Reagan restored and replanted our roots in the traditional American pursuit of status symbols. It first happened with jeans. These traditional working man's clothes were the most powerful emblem of our generation's disdain for our parents' obsession with conformity. The more ragged the jeans, the purer was your existence. Then designer jeans hit the market and life was never the same again. Jeans became a status symbol and prices skyrocketed. What was once cheap and simple clothing became expensive and audacious. In the beginning of the 1980s, you could actually buy jeans with paint stains already on them for \$65. Bye, bye purity.

These thoughts were prompted by a visit to a liquor store the other day. I was buying a bottle of champagne for the traditional holiday bacchanalia and I was trying to decide how much to spend. Finally, after disregarding Dom Perignon at \$95, I chose a bottle of decent Moët & Chandon for \$25. It was a reasonable price and it would show good taste without pretension. But my eyes lingered at the end of the rack where there were bottles of Cold Duck.

Cold Duck! In college we called it the beer of bottled champagne. It was only \$1.98 a bottle and we saved it for special occasions (i.e. dates). The women we knew didn't like beer and wine — it was a time before spritzers. But a bottle of Cold Duck was perfect. The carbonation in the fetid grape juice provided an ersatz sophistication and made us feel more grown up than we really were. The carbonation and the sweetness also caused us to get drunk rapidly which, after all, was the real point.

Yes, Cold Duck in its simplicity and cheapness had magical powers. Sharing a bottle of Cold Duck on a date made the evening, to use a polite word, "special." Forget herbal concoctions and ancient Chinese recipes; a bottle of Cold Duck was always the best aphrodisiac \$1.98 could buy.

However, if I showed up now 25 years later at a holiday party with a bottle of Cold Duck, chances are people would look at me with a curious, maybe pitying expression. Some would think my eccentric, space-age bachelor pad lifestyle has gotten out of hand; others might think I've hit rock bottom and have bought a cardboard condo on Skid Row. Most people, however, would not see the bottle of Cold Duck for what it is — a reminder of simpler times.

As you grow older life becomes increasingly complex; experience teaches you nothing is as simple as it seems. Gone are the days when issues had the clarity of youth; maturity is the practice of ambiguity. You have to weigh the positive and negative implications of every decision and there is always the twinge of regret because you know the years are running out and the opportunities to reverse course are limited.

It's easier to show up at a party with a bottle of Moët & Chandon than a bottle of Cold Duck, but the bottle of Cold Duck would carry a better message for 2003.

Record-Press

WESTFIELD SCOTCH PLAINS FANWOOD

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Were you prepared for the first snowstorm of the season?



JERRY RIVERA

Cranford
Yes, we went to Home Depot early and got ice melter. We spread it prior to the snowstorm and my two sons shoveled while it was snowing. Then, we put ice melter down again and, when we got up the next morning, we were the only ones on the block with nice, clean walk.



JAMES LYNCH

Cranford
Yes, I had my boots and my gloves.



KAREN NOESNER

Cranford
I think so. We've had a snowblower for a couple years and never got a chance to use it until the storm. For the kids, it was wonderful to get snow. It was a blessing.

Briefs

Many gifts on sale from the DWC

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation has holiday gift ideas for those who want to show their Westfield pride. Newly designed Westfield, N.J. t-shirts and hats are now available for purchase for that special someone on your holiday list.

The DWC also carries full-size Downtown Westfield umbrellas, canvas totes, and Westfield, N.J. note cards. Hats, t-shirts and umbrellas are available for \$10 each, and the totes and a set of ten note cards are available for \$5 each.

The DWC has also partnered with The Classic Basket, 411 South Avenue to feature some of the items in a customized "Downtown Westfield" basket at a price of \$60. Shoppers can visit the on-line store at www.theclassicbasketnj.com or contact The Classic Basket at (908) 233-5778. Shipping is also available.

Festival of Lessons at Fanwood church

FANWOOD — "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" is 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22 at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 S. Martine Ave.

This annual service features carols and hymns sung by the congregation and church choir. Lessons are Bible readings with laypeople. Additional music is from the church's handbell choir.

The program is under the direction of Robert Gangewere Jr., the church's music minister.

For more information, phone (908) 889-8891. The public is invited.

Singles plan trip to Newark Museum

Circle of Single Jewish Friends 49+ will sponsor a trip to the Newark Museum and Ballentine Mansion Tour 12:30-3:30 p.m. Dec. 22.

The Newark Museum is located at 49 Washington Street, Newark, N.J. The cost is \$2 admission fee plus \$5 for private tour of Ballentine Mansion. Lot parking is available for \$6 per car. For more information or to arrange for carpooling, contact Roberta at (908) 668-8450 before Dec. 17.

Toy drive sponsored by business group

FANWOOD — The Business and Professional Association of Fanwood is conducting a toy drive for needy families in Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

If you would like to contribute, bring an unwrapped toy to the association's Dec. 16 meeting, 6 p.m. at Il Sogno Restaurant, 40 South Ave.

Unwrapped toys may also be left at the Double Dipper Café, The Chelsea, Il Sogno, Ginger Sushi or Tom's South Street Café.

Polish Christmas at Miller-Cory House

WESTFIELD — Polish people and their rituals have been part of New Jersey since Poles first immigrated from eastern Europe. Ancient "Polish Christmas Customs" are featured 2-5 p.m. Sunday at the Miller-Cory House Museum. Thomas Sherry, the museum's vice president, conducts this holiday program. Diane King and Jean Peters cook Polish dishes with utensils and methods of early America.

As is the museum's custom, tours in period dress conduct tours of the 18th century farmhouse with the last tour leaving 4 p.m. Holiday gifts are available in the museum gift shop.

Admission is \$2 for adults, 50 cents for students and free for children under 6. For more information, phone (908) 232-1776.

The Miller-Cory House Museum is at 614 Mountain Ave., where "A Candlelight Christmas in Elizabethtown" is re-created 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22.

Gymnastics team holds holiday toy drive

SCOTCH PLAINS — The girls gymnastics team at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA is holding its seventh annual toy drive.

Bring a new unwrapped toy or gift to the YMCA at 1340 Martine Ave. any time today or tomorrow. All toys will be wrapped and given to needy families in Central New Jersey. Gifts for teens are especially needed.

For more information, phone Barbara Breuninger at (908) 889-8880.



One little Indian boy

Pilgrim Megan Erickson, of Scotch Plains' School One, extends a greeting to Brunner School Native American Jimmy DiFrancesco during a Thanksgiving Gathering Nov. 25. Children in the Pre-K Title I classes at the two schools reenacted the first Thanksgiving by sharing food, singing songs and making a wreath of natural items.

Two open houses at JCC

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Jewish Community Center, located at 1391 Martine Ave. will offer a pair of Open House activities Jan. 7.

One Open House, for the JCC Nursery School and full-day Kindergarten programs, begins at 7:30 p.m. Susan Bennett, Early Childhood Director, will answer questions about the Nursery School and Early Childhood Programs, and guests will tour the classrooms. Entertainment will be provided for children in attendance.

Registration for the 2003-04 Nursery School year begins Jan. 21. Children who will be turning 2, 3, 4 or 5 years old before Oct. 1 are eligible for enrollment. Families expecting to enroll their children in the JCC Nursery School or Kindergarten must be members of the JCC. Membership information will be available at the time of the visit.

Please call Susan Bennett at (908) 889-8800, ext. 204 to register for this Open House. Those interested but unable to attend are

urged to call and schedule a day-time tour.

The second Open House is for Camp Yachad's Tsosim Specialty Camps, which offer summertime sports instruction. For 2003, tennis and girls' soccer have been added to the program, which pairs Tsosim campers with highly-skilled, trained professionals.

Low Satulsky and "The Ballpark" staff will focus on baseball in their state-of-the-art facility in Springfield. Bill Kilduff and Kean University Players stress teamwork and sportsmanship while teaching the fundamentals of basketball. Soccer skills, coaches' demonstrations and game play round out the sessions developed by Soccer Excellence staff, led by Ari Levit. Ari Ash serves up plyometrics, agility and stroke drills with his First Serve Tennis Academy staff.

The Tsosim Open House is at 7 p.m. For more information call Lisa David, Assistant Camp Director at (908) 889-8800 ext. 253.

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Not responsible for typographical errors. Sale items cash & carry only. Sale prices effective 12/11/02-12/17/02. Prices do not include sales tax. Beer prices represent 24-12 oz. bottles unless otherwise noted.

CHIVAS REGAL 49.99 1.75 liter	J.W. RED or DEWAR'S 31.00 1.75 liter	ABSOLUT Vodka 80° 28.01 1.75 liter	SKYY Vodka 80° 22.00 1.75 liter	KETEL ONE Vodka 80° 30.09 1.75 liter	SMIRNOFF Vodka 80° 18.00 1.75 liter
JACK DANIELS 32.02 1.75 liter	SEAGRAMS 7 CROWN 14.09 1.75 liter	JIM BEAM Bourbon 80° 20.99 1.75 liter	OLD SMUGGLER 17.09 1.75 liter	BOMBAY Sapphire Gin 32.99 1.75 liter	WOLFSCHNIDT Vodka 80° 13.01 1.75 liter
	SEAGRAMS VO 19.09 1.75 liter	J & B Scotch 29.00 1.75 liter	WHITE SIDE Scotch 80.8° 14.99 1.75 liter	TANQUERAY Gin 28.99 1.75 liter	GORDON'S Vodka 80° 13.00 1.75 liter
				STOLICHNAYA Vodka 80° 27.99 1.75 liter	CAPT. MORGAN Original Rum 21.99 1.75 liter
					BACARDI RUM Light • Gold 17.00 1.75 liter

750 ml HOLIDAY FAVORITES

750 ml JACK DANIELS	16.99
750 ml MAKERS MARK	17.99
750 ml CROWN ROYAL	18.99
750 ml JAMESON Irish Whiskey	19.99
750 ml CUTTY SARK	20.99
750 ml DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL	21.99
750 ml PINCH DIDDLE	22.99
750 ml DEWAR'S 12	24.99

750 ml JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK	24.99
750 ml GLENFIDDICH Single Malt	26.99
750 ml MacALLAN 12 Year	31.99
750 ml JOHNNIE WALKER GOLD	33.99
750 ml ROYAL SALUTE 12 Year	134.99
750 ml SEAGRAMS Gin	15.99
750 ml TANQUERAY Gin	9.99
750 ml SMIRNOFF Vodka 80°	9.99

750 ml SKYY Vodka 80°	11.99
750 ml ABSOLUT Vodka 80°	15.99
750 ml TANQUERAY Sterling Vodka 80°	15.99
750 ml GREY GOOSE Vodka 80°	23.99
Citron • L'Orange	23.99
750 ml BELVEDERE or CHOPIN Vodka 80°	24.99
750 ml JOSE CUERVO Gold Tequila	16.99
750 ml BACARDI RUM Light • Gold	9.99

1.75L PHILADELPHIA Blended Whiskey
11.99

1.75L BALLANTINE Scotch
22.99

1.75L GRANTS Scotch
19.99

1.75L GILBEYS Gin
12.99

1.75L GORDON'S Gin
13.99

1.75L SEAGRAMS Regular Gin • Lime Twist
14.99

1L LEEDS Vodka 80°
5.99

1.75L GEORGI Vodka 80°
11.99

1.75L SAUZA TEQUILA Gold • Blanco
28.99

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NANDO Asti Spumante 72.99 750 ml	M & R Asti Spumante 97.08 750 ml	BACARDI RUM Light • Gold 108.00 750 ml	SMIRNOFF Vodka 80° 108.00 750 ml	GRANTS Scotch 108.12 750 ml
SEAGRAMS 7 CROWN 111.99 750 ml	KORBEL Brut • Extra Dry 18-PACK 140.91 750 ml	ABSOLUT Vodka 80° 180.12 750 ml	DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL 184.99 750 ml	JOHNNIE WALKER RED 185.99 750 ml
JACK DANIELS 192.12 750 ml	HENNESSEY VS 265.99 750 ml	JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK 288.00 750 ml	MOET WHITE STAR 289.00 750 ml	CHIVAS REGAL 301.00 750 ml

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MILWAUKEE'S BEST 30-Pack or RED DOG 30-Pack
9.99 30-PK

O'DOUL'S Alcohol Free
10.99 30-PK

30-PK 10.99 Cans

SCHAEFER 30-Pack Regular
10.99 30-PK

BALLANTINE Ale
11.10 30-PK

YUENGLING Lager
13.99 30-PK

TECATE
15.40 30-PK

30-PK 15.99 Cans

HEINEKEN Nips
15.99 30-PK

FOSTERS Lager
18.99 30-PK

PILSENER URQUELL
19.99 30-PK

HEINEKEN Regular • Dark
20.15 30-PK

30-PK 15.01 Cans

AMSTEL LIGHT or BECK'S
20.99 30-PK

CORONA or BACARDI Silver
20.99 30-PK

SKYY Blue
21.99 30-PK

GUINNESS STOUT
25.99 30-PK

30-PK 15.99 Cans

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26.99 750 ml

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Edison School of Westfield announces first marking period honor roll

WESTFIELD — The following Edison Intermediate School students were recognized for academic achievement during the first marking period:

Sixth Grade Distinguished Honor Roll: Caroline Albanese, John Barnes, Jonathan Berman, Sally Bregman, Yaniv Brenner, Jackson Browning,

Charles Cary, Alexander Chartrain, Nicholas Chartrain, David Chen, James Chu, Devin Cline, Benjamin Colvin, Alexis Constantine, Anthony DiIorio, Jennifer Dilzell, Joshua Einbinder, Dennis Elwell, Mark Fischetti, Jacob Fox, Sophia Geskin, Danielle Gillyard, Dominique Gillyard, Aileen Grogan, Bridget Grogan, Teresa Hu, James Hughes, Michael Irving, Matthew Isabella, Allison Jakobovic, Jennifer Jean-Louis, Ross Kettleson, Kathryn Kiefer, Rachel Kreutzer, Jacob Lang, Christopher Latimer, Jenna Leopold, Alice Li, Jason Lipshultz, Justin Lo, Amanda Lojo, Ezra Margolin, Andrew Marra, Joseph Martoglio, Elizabeth McCarthy, Marina Mellis, Matthew Morgan,

Alyson Moskowitz, Devlin Murphy, Robert O'Rourke, Ross Pohling, Samantha Ritter, Abigail Ryan, Harrison Sacks, Todd Saunders, Matthew Scharpf, Jeannette Sharpless, Christopher Sheehan, Moira Smith, Elyssa Solomon, Marisa Stotter, Ellen Straus, Paul Sung, Dean Thompson, Michael Tormey, Kimberly Townsend, Keegan Wallace, Jennifer Weidman, Amy Weiss, Corey Wisler, Timothy Woods, Kevin Yang, Danielle Zamarelli, Michael Zhu.

Honor Roll: Stephanie Albright, Jennifer Ames, Michael Avram, James Bentivegna, Mallory Boesch, Elizabeth Buchanan, Mark Cafiero, Alexa Cassaro, Matthew Catenacci, Colleen Cleary, Zachary Connolly, Julia Conroy, Anna Dallendorfer, Matthew DeMasi, Adria DeVita, Brett DeFazio, Nicholas DeFreitas, Matthew DiFabio, Michael DiFabio, Nicholas Dougert, Brian Dunn, Eric Fahrenthold, Sean Feeney, Christine Feldbauer, Joshua Firestone, Michael Forgash, Alyssa Frank, Patrick Fringer, Zachary Friss, Dan Fussman, Daryl Garfinkel, Brian Gingrich, Nina Godbee, Alexandra Goldin, Adam Gottdiener, Michael Habba, Nina Helfman, Melinda Jimenez, Sneha Kakileti, Samuel Kaufman, Julia Knaus, Malcolm Lee, Frank Lewis, Kathleen Lynes, Diana Maliqi, Matthew Marcus, Dayna Marino, Laura Martin, Thomas McManus, Leena Meola, Matthew Moraga, Eric Moran, Natalie Morrison, Brian Muller, Julia Murphy, Kevin Murphy, Samuel Murphy, Dana Newman, Katherine Nguyen, Elizabeth Odermatt, David Ortuso, Marisa Palestino, Joseph Panarese, Evan Paulan, Katherine Payne, Andrea Petrarca, Jonathon Pizor, David Puzar, Carla Ralston, James Reardon, Samuel Reichbach, Elizabeth Riordan, Ryan Rocha, Brian Rolnick, Alexander Schaefer, Michael Simone, Colleen Smith, Colton Strano, Matthew Stroup, Michael Swan, Richard Sweeney, Emily Tebbets, Elizabeth Thode, Jay Tieman, Jemma Urban, Douglas Velasco, Sarah Vincett, Andrew Weiss.

Honor Roll: James Adams, Lindsey Archambault, Samantha Avis, Dennis Bartsch, Jeremy Bender, Rebecca Bieber, Shaun Blackmon, Kristen Boersig, Lauren Brachman, Kelly Braun, Mitchell Brouwer, Nina Brownstone, Jennifer Callo, Andrew Calvaruso, Patrick Clancy, Craig Cognetti, Julie Daurio, Alison Donohue, Kerriann Dooley, Connor Doyle, John Dugan, Caroline Fallon, Ryan Ferro, Andrew Foltz-Morrison, Travis Fox, Jamie Freeman, Ashley Freudenheim, Olympia Gaglioti, Anne Galligan, Lynne Ganley, Matthew Gelmetti, Brian Gibbons, Allison Grasso, Callie Gravanis, Julie Greener, Joshua Gribbin, Allen Gurdus, Elizabeth Harbaugh, Claire Harris, Agustina Healy, Salonia Henry, Maresa Hughes, Danielle Infantino, Matthew Jekelis, Henry Kaye, Angela Kerins, Kristen Koepfner, Alexander Kopp, Stephanie Korunow, Cristine Kowalski, Alex Kuska, Alison Lambert, Katherine Lee, Victoria Lobovsky, Michael Mahar, Pami Marks, Andrew Martone, Michael Mathews, Gillian McGovern, Julia Medzhitova, Michael Melillo, Evan Merkelson, Montana Metzger, Christopher Miller, Erin Miller, Robert Molson, Ariel Mone, Jennifer Nemeth, Scott Newman, Ellen O'Brien, Aditi Parekh, Rachel Patterson, Marissa Perch, Stephanie Pinheiro, Evan Porch, Julia Porpora, Jacqueline Porter, Kimberly Pulliam, Carolyn Raphael, Charles Read, Michael Rediker, Krista Ruschmann, Lindsay Ryan, Daniel Selert, Elizabeth Shannon, Evan Shapiro, Shauna Siegel, Zachary Skolnick, Rachel St. Lifer, Daniel Strauss, Kyle Taylor, Julia Valentin, Angela Valles, Joseph Vall-Llobera, Brittany Van Sickle, Nicole Venezia, Bethany Verdore, Koshan Vijayakumar, Paul Waksman, Dylan Wallace, Gwendolyn Walsh, Narihiko Watanabe, Laurep Weiner, Reece Weiner, Christina Wichoski, John Wilt, Robert Witkowski, Matthew Wolski, Kirsten Woodfield.

Honor Roll: James Adams, Lindsey Archambault, Samantha Avis, Dennis Bartsch, Jeremy Bender, Rebecca Bieber, Shaun Blackmon, Kristen Boersig, Lauren Brachman, Kelly Braun, Mitchell Brouwer, Nina Brownstone, Jennifer Callo, Andrew Calvaruso, Patrick Clancy, Craig Cognetti, Julie Daurio, Alison Donohue, Kerriann Dooley, Connor Doyle, John Dugan, Caroline Fallon, Ryan Ferro, Andrew Foltz-Morrison, Travis Fox, Jamie Freeman, Ashley Freudenheim, Olympia Gaglioti, Anne Galligan, Lynne Ganley, Matthew Gelmetti, Brian Gibbons, Allison Grasso, Callie Gravanis, Julie Greener, Joshua Gribbin, Allen Gurdus, Elizabeth Harbaugh, Claire Harris, Agustina Healy, Salonia Henry, Maresa Hughes, Danielle Infantino, Matthew Jekelis, Henry Kaye, Angela Kerins, Kristen Koepfner, Alexander Kopp, Stephanie Korunow, Cristine Kowalski, Alex Kuska, Alison Lambert, Katherine Lee, Victoria Lobovsky, Michael Mahar, Pami Marks, Andrew Martone, Michael Mathews, Gillian McGovern, Julia Medzhitova, Michael Melillo, Evan Merkelson, Montana Metzger, Christopher Miller, Erin Miller, Robert Molson, Ariel Mone, Jennifer Nemeth, Scott Newman, Ellen O'Brien, Aditi Parekh, Rachel Patterson, Marissa Perch, Stephanie Pinheiro, Evan Porch, Julia Porpora, Jacqueline Porter, Kimberly Pulliam, Carolyn Raphael, Charles Read, Michael Rediker, Krista Ruschmann, Lindsay Ryan, Daniel Selert, Elizabeth Shannon, Evan Shapiro, Shauna Siegel, Zachary Skolnick, Rachel St. Lifer, Daniel Strauss, Kyle Taylor, Julia Valentin, Angela Valles, Joseph Vall-Llobera, Brittany Van Sickle, Nicole Venezia, Bethany Verdore, Koshan Vijayakumar, Paul Waksman, Dylan Wallace, Gwendolyn Walsh, Narihiko Watanabe, Laurep Weiner, Reece Weiner, Christina Wichoski, John Wilt, Robert Witkowski, Matthew Wolski, Kirsten Woodfield.

Eighth Grade Distinguished Honor Roll: Claire Albanese, Amy Altszuler, Joshua Bornstein, Emily Bregman, Beth Budnick, Brian Checchio, Christina Chen, Kathryn Cronen, Jennifer Danielsson, Kristen Dilzell, Rachael Feeney, Lauren Fineststein, Jason Frost, Kelly Gelber, Lindsay Goldberg, Jana Goldfarb, Marissa Goldner, Kelly Ann Hausseguy, Ilana Kaplan, Melanie Kaufhold, Valerie Keil, Erika Kettleson, Julia Korn, Neha Limaye, Alyssa Lund, Nathan Margolin, Mary Anna McCabe, Georgia Mierswa, Jessica Moran, Carolyn Mulvey, Caitlin Murphy, Stephanie Musat, Ojus Patil, Justin Petrillo, Tara Picaro, Daniella Regencia, Jessica Riegel, Laura Schwab, Arielle Smelkinson, Jack Sternal, Satya Tagat, Julie Tiedrich, Josh Wasserman, Robert Whitehead, Ayn Wisler, George Xing, Tiffany Yang, Caroline Yost.

Honor Roll: Ross Abramowitz, Randi Ackerman, Aubrey Ambinder, Erica Ammermuller, Kaitlyn Anness, Philip Anton, Jillian Aronson, Samantha Ashby, John Attanasio, Victoria Attanasio, Brian Bayne, Amy Behr, Matthew Bogen, Thomas Bonard, Zachary BrownMeg Buttrick, Justin Chu, Brian Corea, Tracy Dalton, Amanda Diaz, Nicole DiBenedetto, Derrick Dixon, Kelly Dohm, Casey Elkoury, Felicia Erlich, Elizabeth Falzon, Kaitlin Fleck, Marley Frankel, Kylie Fraser, Joshua Friedman, Kelly Furlong, Erin Gabriel, Andrew Goldman, Gregory Greifeld, Sean Hager, Ying He, Jonathan Helfand, Timothy Hou, Maureen Hughes, Christine Isabella, Timothy Jacob, Gerald Jakubovic, Gillian Kape, James Kelly, Meredith Kender, Stephen Kiehar, Matthew Leonard, Lane Maloney, Pauline Martin, Erin McCarthy, Kevin McDermott, Harrison Mercado, Erin Moran, Keith Moran, Katherine Morgan, Jeffrey Mysel, Rachel Newberg, Roberto Olivares, Kevin O'Rourke, Sean Palme, Christina Panarese, Cara Paulan, Sarah Pecker, Jarret Petrillo, Olivia Pomann, Michael Porch, Shanna Quackenbush, Stephanie Raphael, Brittany Reyes, Nathaniel Roquet, George Russo, Aimee Schaefer, Melanie Schor, Daniel Shorrock, Allison Simon, Joseph Simone, Hope Skibitsky, Jenna Skoller, Jessie Solomon, Caroline Steller, Laura Straus, Virginia Stroup, Suzanne Toriello, Joseph Tressitt, William Uhr, Ted Vincett, Jason Waks, Linda Wat, Kathryn Werner, Charles Woehr, Cassandra Wright, Alexander Wronski, Chloe Zeitounian.



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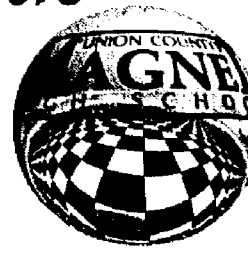
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Westfield plans changes for gifted and talented program

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The school district is implementing a new gifted and talented program, as it phases out its current program in the next few years.

The district hired Lindsay Kielley as the supervisor over the new program, which will use educational methods such as clustering and differentiated instruction in an effort to better meet the needs of the district's advanced students.

The new program is in a pilot stage with 34 students enrolled in both third and sixth grades. The district began developing the program in 2000 when it reviewed its Advanced Learning Program and received consultation from Sara Lampe, a national expert on gifted education. At a Board of Education meeting last week, Assistant Superintendent Janie Edmonds presented a progress report on the program.

Edmonds, who was recently appointed to the state commission on programs for gifted students, reported the district test-

ed all students in the second and fifth grades using the Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary Students last school year. Those with the strongest results were tested further during the summer. In addition, fifth grade students in the Advanced Learning Program were also evaluated.

The new program has been underway since the start of the school year with 14 third-graders and 19 sixth-graders. All third-grade teachers and sixth-grade science and language arts teachers were trained in differentiated instruction for gifted students by Lampe.

According to Kielley, differentiated instruction will benefit all students as teachers set aside times when groups of students can work at different levels and different activities in the classroom. By the second semester, advanced students will participate in a pull-out program one half-day a week for intensive instruction, Kielley said.

Kielley also stressed the importance of providing a wide

array of services to ensure all students are challenged at every grade level. These services include school-wide and national competitions such as Forensics, a public speaking competition; Theatre Fest, a drama reading competition; and Destination Imagination, an international problem-solving competition.

The program will be in its pilot phase for the next few years as it will track the students through the fourth and seventh grades next year and fifth and eighth grades the following year. The Advanced Learning Program, for which the curriculum has not been revised in 10 years, will be phased out in the next couple of years.

Take a break from it all with the Westfield Welcome Club

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Welcome Club has planned various activities over the winter season for members and their families that are sure to be a welcome break from the "holiday madness" or the winter "blahs."

Children will spend time celebrating the season at the Children's Holiday Party 10 a.m. Saturday at the Westfield Municipal Building. There will be crafts, games, snacks and even an appearance by Santa.

For those women that need a break, the Book Discussion Group will be meeting 4 p.m. Sunday at a member's home to discuss "The Mistress of Spices."

Or, join the club for some French delights at the monthly dinner at Cafe Paris in Cranford

7:30 p.m. Dec. 19.

And for those ladies that need a real de-stresser, the club hosts a Spa Night 7 p.m. Jan. 7 with table massages, psychic readings and manicures.

Women from Westfield and surrounding areas (Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Cranford,

Garwood, Mountainside and Clark) are eligible to join.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about the club, call Nina at (908) 317-5812, or Vicki at (908) 301-1923. Or, visit the club's website at www.westfieldnj.com/welcome.

'Quiet Christmas' at church

WESTFIELD — The First Congregational Church will offer a special "Quiet Christmas" service 3 p.m. Dec. 15.

For many people, the season of Advent is not a joyous time. It can be especially difficult for those experiencing a job loss, the death or serious illness of a loved one, or a change in family circumstance.

While acknowledging this season as a painful time for them, this service will offer a liturgy of hope and peace

through scripture readings, music, pastoral reflection and prayers of intercession.

The service will be led by Rev. Linda Kreil with music by pianist Joe Regan and the Kelman/Scribner Quartet. All are welcome to attend.

The First Congregational Church is located at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. The sanctuary is accessible by a wheelchair ramp and is audio-equipped for the hearing impaired. For additional information, call the church office at (908) 233-2494.

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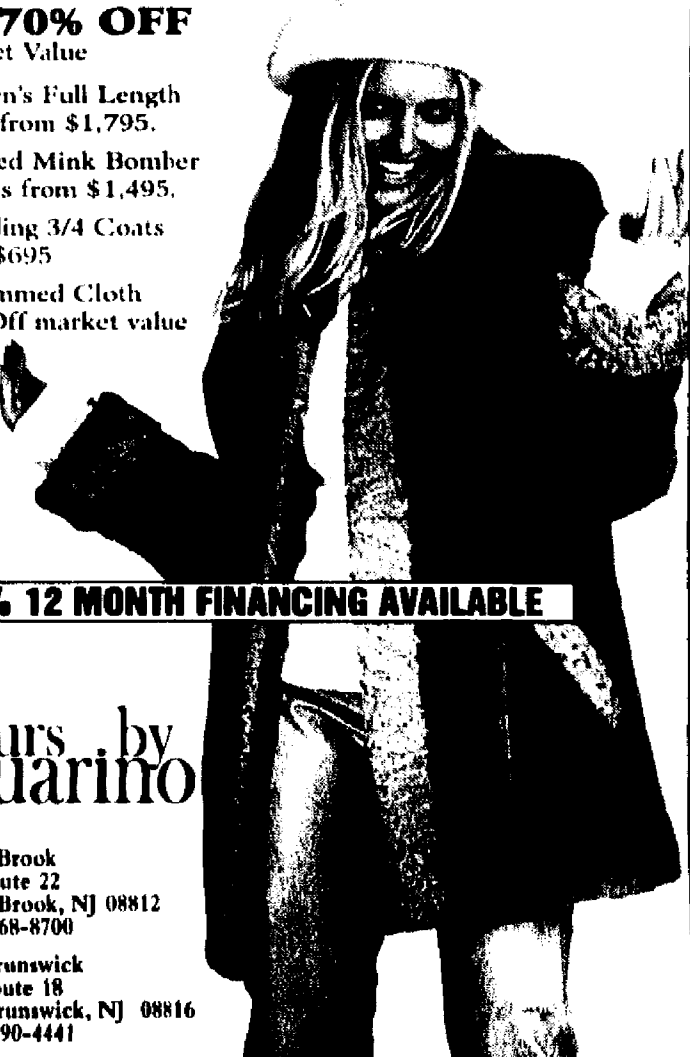
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Health & Fitness

Many deaths result from preventable medical errors

(ARA) - A report published by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in 2000 estimated that up to 98,000 people each year die due to preventable medical errors. That report also estimated the cost of these errors totals between \$8.5 billion and \$17 billion annually.

In its continuing efforts to reduce errors in the operating room, AORN, the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses, has initiated a "Patient Safety First" program, a comprehensive patient safety initiative for implementation in operating rooms and surgical centers nationwide.

AORN, a widely recognized authority on operating room safety, represents more than 40,000 members in 6,700 hospitals and 3,500 ambulatory surgery centers in all 50 states and around the world. Donna S. Watson, RN, CNOR, president of AORN, said that perioperative nurses have unique roles on the front lines where they care for patients before, during and after surgery.

"We believe that even one death due to error is too many," Watson says. "Our program involves collaborating with other healthcare organizations, communicating with our members and providing useful information to the general public

with the goal of reducing errors."

The first area of focus for "Patient Safety First" is correct site surgery. Much has been reported about "wrong site" surgery, which is defined as any surgery performed on the wrong site or the wrong patient and/or performing the wrong procedure.

AORN's "Advice for Patients Concerned About Correct Site Surgery" document is a set of guidelines for patients to use prior to undergoing a surgical procedure in order to ensure a positive outcome. The guidelines are as follows:

1. Be an active member of your health care team by taking part in every decision about your health care.
2. If you are having surgery or other invasive procedure, make sure that you and the health care professionals treating you all agree on exactly what will be done during the surgery or procedure.
3. Verify the information on your patient identity bracelet. Alert a member of the health care team if the information is incorrect and insist that it be replaced immediately.
4. Make sure the operative permit you sign includes the correct information about your surgical site (i.e., right or left) and procedure.

Thoroughly read all medical forms and make sure you understand them before you sign any forms.

5. Ask to have the surgical or procedure site marked on your body with an indelible marker. If possible, be involved in marking the site.

6. Ask questions and speak up if you have any concerns. Keep asking questions until you understand the answers. Ask members of the health care team what steps will be taken to ensure your safety and correct site surgery.

7. Take a responsible family member or friend to accompany you to your doctor's visits and on the day of your surgery or procedure so that they can serve as your advocate and speak up for you if

you are unable.

8. Ask that your surgical team includes a registered nurse who is a member of AORN.

In addition to creating guidelines, AORN's "Patient Safety First" program makes it possible for healthcare professionals to report concerns and incidences of medical error and ask safety questions using a toll-free hotline, or the "Patient Safety First" Web site. Additionally, AORN is developing a voluntary and anonymous reporting system of near misses in the surgical setting as a means of gathering practical information for use in creating its programs. The information collected will be analyzed and used in the development of new guidelines and products for use in surgical settings.

"We want nurses and doctors to be able to report errors and near misses anonymously so we can learn from their mistakes and take action to correct them," Watson said. "We're looking for stories and information about what actually happens in the operating room."

In the coming year, AORN will expand the program to focus on additional priorities such as medication safety, infection control, counts and more. The list of safety areas to be addressed also includes

patient positioning, communication, blood transfusion, retained foreign objects, burns, fires, equipment failure and staffing.

For more information, visit AORN's Web site, www.patientsafetyfirst.org. Healthcare professionals can use the Web site or the hotline, (866) 285-5209, to report concerns and ask questions. "Patient Safety First" is exclusively sponsored by Sandel Medical Industries, Chatsworth, Calif., www.sandelmedical.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON: SPORTS MEDICINE

Presented by William Bell, R.P.T.

TREATING NECK PAIN


Physical therapy for the treatment of neck pain helps relieve pain, strengthen muscles, improve spinal alignment, and increase mobility. After evaluating your neck problem, a program will be planned. It may include the application of heat with a special heating pad called a cervical pack. Diathermy and ultrasound are special devices that may also be used to heat deeper tissues. Electrical stimulation may be employed to decrease soreness and inflammation by applying electrical impulses to the neck. And mobilization techniques may be used to gently move the vertebrae to help restore motion to neck joints. Beyond these approaches, the physical therapist will also likely introduce exercise and massage to strengthen the neck and improve its range of motion.

You may never appreciate how much you move your head nodding, looking out a car window, or even placing your head on a pillow at night until you have a sore neck. If you know that discomfort, you should ask your physician if you are a good candidate for physical therapy. For appointment information, phone BELL REHABILITATION & SPORTS MEDICINE at (908) 272-5955. We are conveniently located at 777 Walnut Ave., Cranford. Most private insurances are accepted. Auto Insurance Claims are our specialty, and we will submit your bills for compensation. No faults & Medicare.

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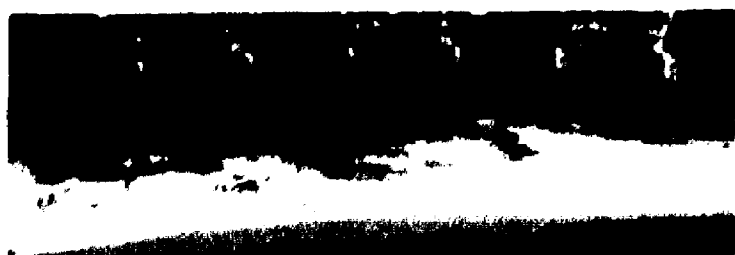
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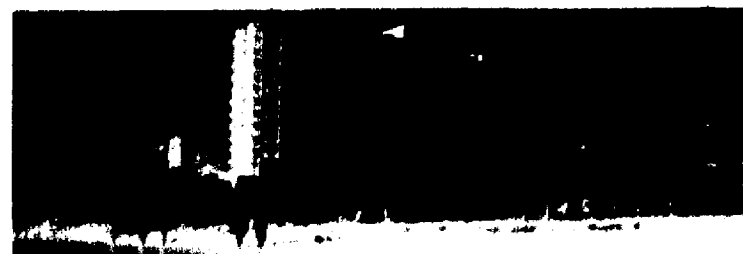
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Mountainview
Oceanview

4 DAYS \$639
7 DAYS \$859
8 DAYS \$699
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60%

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Plantation Suite

4 DAYS \$899
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8 DAYS \$999
9 DAYS \$1599

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UP TO
35%

*ADULTS 16 YEARS AND OLDER

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Superior	\$1500	\$2579	30%
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COMPLETE VACATION			
Royal St. Lucian	\$1299	\$1959	10%
ALL-INCLUSIVE VACATIONS			
Papillon St. Lucia	\$1049	\$1319	10%
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• Children's Program

	4 DAYS	7 DAYS
COMPLETE VACATION		
Jan 2 - Apr 15	\$1379	\$2039

COMPLETE VACATIONS

Jan 8-Mar 31

	4 DAYS	7 DAYS
The Sea Aquarium Resort	\$859	\$1149
Sheraton Curaçao Resort	\$879	\$1159
Hotel Kura Hulanda	\$989	\$1379
Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort	\$1079	\$1549

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• Camp Breezes for Kids • Teen Center
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• Circus School • Toga & Pajama Parties

ALL-INCLUSIVE
JAN 1 - APR 15

	4 DAYS	SAVE	7 DAYS
	\$1179	40%	\$1789

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Community Life

This week

FRIDAY DEC. 13

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

SATURDAY DEC. 14

COMMUNITY CPR — monthly class of American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Registration required: (908) 232-7090.

HOLIDAY PARTY — for children of Westfield Welcome Club members. Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield, 10 a.m. (908) 317-5812 or (908) 301-1923.

BOOK SIGNING — "Dinosaur Train" by John Gurney. Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (908) 233-3535.

BOOK SIGNING — "The Hit Men and the Kid Who Batted Ninth" by David Sitory. Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield, 2-4 p.m. (908) 233-3535.

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.

QUIET CHRISTMAS — service for people in difficult times. First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer St., Westfield, 3 p.m. (908) 233-2494.

BOOK TALK — discussion of "The Mistress of Spices" by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. Westfield, 4 p.m. Directions: (908) 317-5812 or (908) 301-1923.

TUESDAY DEC. 17

ADULT CPR — monthly class of American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, 6-10:30 p.m. Registration required: (908) 232-7090.

WEDNESDAY DEC. 18

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

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

CHILD CPR — monthly class of American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Registration required: (908) 232-7090.

HOLIDAY CONCERT — for choral groups of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, 667 Westfield Rd., Scotch Plains, 7:30

p.m. \$5. (908) 889-8600.

THURSDAY DEC. 19

INFANT CPR — monthly class of American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, 6:30-10 p.m. Registration required: (908) 232-7090.

DINNER — for Westfield Welcome Club. Café Paris, 106 Walnut Ave., Cranford, 7:30 p.m. (908) 317-5812 or (908) 301-1923.

FRIDAY DEC. 20

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

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

SATURDAY DEC. 21

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.

BOOK SIGNING — "Bell Labs: Life in the Crown Jewel" by Nara in Gehani. Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield, 2-4 p.m. (908) 233-3535.

'MESSIAH' — holiday standard in sing-along format. Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 8 p.m. \$25. Tickets: (800) ALLEGRO.

SUNDAY DEC. 22

SNACKTIME — cookie exchange for Newcomers Club of Westfield, 2 p.m. Registration: (908) 654-5373 or (908) 789-4842.

250 YEARS AGO — "A Candlelight Christmas in Elizabethtown." Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 2-4 p.m. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free. (908) 232-1776.

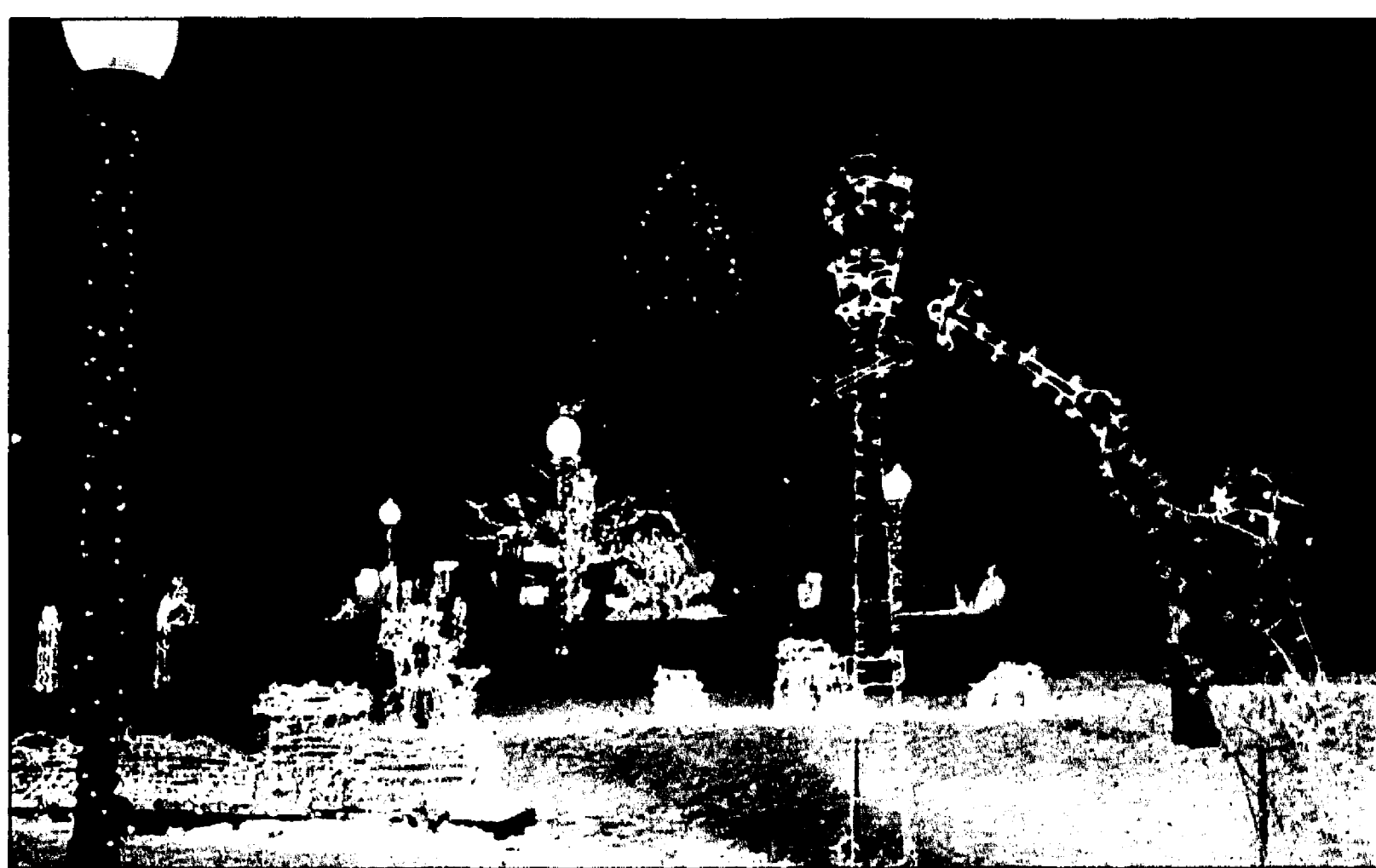
LESSONS & CAROLS — annual service of Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 S. Martine Ave., Fanwood, 4 p.m. (908) 889-8891.

COMING UP

RECERTIFICATION — "CPR for the Professional Rescuer" class. American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 28. Registration required: (908) 232-7090.

20th CENTURY MUSIC — "Puttin' on the Ritz" with the Westfield Symphony Orchestra and WYACT. Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 31. Adults \$25; under 14 \$12. Tickets: (908) 232-9400.

SPA NIGHT — for Westfield Welcome Club, 7 p.m. Jan. 7. Directions: (908) 317-5812 or (908) 301-1923.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lighting up the night

Scotch Plains Village Greene is ablaze with holiday lights after seasonal festivities on Sunday. Before the lights were turned on, Santa Claus paid a visit to the township and families came to Towne Centre for pony rides, face painting and other entertainment.

'Silent Witnesses' speak to readers in religious text penned by local teacher

By KEVIN S. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Allan F. Wright has taught theology at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains for 17 years, emphasizing on scripture and morality.

Throughout the years, his students have become familiar with four to five stories he continually teaches that highlight characters in the Bible who made an impact without saying a word. Wright turned these unique stories into his first book, "Silent Witnesses in the Gospels."

Released in November, the book is 26 chapters that focus not only on lesser-known biblical figures, but also well-known ones like Mary and Joseph in their moments of silent service.

"I never had any writing experience, but I think it's a good idea," said Wright, who lives in Scotch Plains. "I do think it's a niche that hasn't been written about. It's something ordinary people can relate to. Jesus used ordinary people to help him in his ministry."

Wright completed the book in 10 months, saying he took his time to write it. He did most of his writing at night and during school breaks. He said he would write a chapter and set it aside for a few days, then return to make changes.

The book is written in a personal style, Wright said. For example, in a chapter about the wedding at Cana, he starts by describing the scene with music and guests to make readers feel as though they were there. He then focuses on the servers at the wedding — the silent witnesses of this story. He ends the chapter with lesson to readers relevant for today.

"It's an invitation to pray," Wright said of his hopes for the book. "It's designed for readers to read a chapter, then put it down and mull over what they've read."

Wright, who has a master's degree in theology and Biblical studies, drew on not only his work and educational experience in writing the book, but also from his three trips to Israel since 1985.

Wright says he has received positive feedback on the book from both colleagues and students. For the school's 40th anniversary, officials purchased the book for every faculty member. Rev. John J. Myers, the archbishop of Newark, also endorsed Wright's work.

"Wright has done a superb job of adding another dimension to the scriptures, which draws us closer to the Word of God in the person of Jesus Christ," Myers wrote in an endorsement.

Wright plans to write a children's version of some of the chapters of the book and is working on another book about the kingdom of God in people's daily lives. "Silent Witnesses" is available online at barnesandnoble.com and at amazon.com.

Student makes winter warm for homeless

By NICK D'AMORE
THE RECORD-PRESS

CRANFORD — Last year, an Orange Avenue School student made the winter a little bit warmer for several local homeless people.

This year, eighth-grader Kate McGee hopes to do the same, again taking up a collection of hats, gloves and scarves to give to the homeless as the bitter winter chill begins to set in.

"It went really well last year. Some people even donated

canned foods. We also got a sweater and other extra things," she said.

Kate said she got the idea to take up the collection while helping out at Saint John's Soup Kitchen in Newark around Thanksgiving.

"When we were serving people, it was kind of cold out and it made me feel bad. These people didn't

really have anything, and we were lucky to have what we had," she said.

"These people didn't really have anything, and we were lucky to have what we had."

— Kate McGee, Cranford eighth-grader

Kate then started placing collection boxes around town to allow people to donate some of their winter clothing. About a week before Christmas, she brought the collections to the soup kitchen and distributed them to the homeless there.

"We had nine bags of hats, gloves and scarves," Kate said.

This year, she said, a box will be placed at the Cranford Post Office on Main Street only, as her school and the church are both conducting separate drives for the homeless. The box is now open for donations.

Kate said she will also be putting advertisements for her drive up on the bulletin boards at Patmark and Kings, as well as various stores in the downtown.

"I hope it goes well this year," she said.

Many chances for winter fun at county parks, natural areas

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites the public to visit the county park system during the winter months to enjoy the activities of the season. Winter sports (cross-country skiing, sledding and ice skating) are permitted in several locations when weather, snow and ice conditions permit.

Cross-country skiing will be allowed, weather permitting, on the Ash Brook Golf Course, Scotch Plains; the Oak Ridge Golf Course, Clark; and the Watchung Reservation. There is no location in the park system suitable for downhill skiing activities. The park system is heavily wooded. Parks sit in proximity to roadways, bodies of water and other park amenities that can be hazardous to sledders and snowboarders.

Suggested sledding areas include Lenape Park, Cranford, away from the Rahway River; Unami Park, Garwood; the west end of Echo Lake Park, Westfield; and Briant Park, Summit.

Toboggans, bobsleds and similar devices are strongly discouraged. Snowmobiles are strictly pro-

hibited.

Park supervisors may suspend sledding activities if there is not enough snow on the hill or there are severe ice conditions. Children should be supervised at all times.

Winter sports are banned from the Galloping Hill Golf Course, Kenilworth. Snowboarding and sledding are also banned from the Ash Brook and Oak Ridge golf courses.

Along with skating at the county ice rink in Warinanco Park, Roselle, many lighted and unlighted options for skating in natural areas are available. Signs announcing the suitability of any natural area for skating will be posted. The public is urged to observe any safety restrictions.

Ice hockey is permitted in designated skating areas at the discretion of the Union County Police.

This is based on the ratio of hockey players to all skaters plus the size of the skating area.

The county Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to cancel winter sports in any park at any time.

For more information, phone (908) 527-4900.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gingerbread boys

Cranford residents Tyler Klutkowski, 6, and his five-year-old brother Kevin visited the Miller-Cory House Museum Sunday to hear holiday stories and decorate gingerbread cookies.

Jeffrey Willoughby

SCOTCH PLAINS — Jeffrey L. Willoughby, 61, died Dec. 5, 2002 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born Aug. 26, 1941 in Plainfield, he was the son of the late Samuel and Doris Shafer Willoughby. Mr. Willoughby lived in Westfield, Scotch Plains and North Plainfield before moving to Dunellen in 1969.

He was a plant manager with Tri Delta Technology in Hillsborough. Mr. Willoughby was a fisherman and enjoyed stock car races at Wall Stadium.

Surviving are his wife, Loretta; a daughter, Elizabeth of Dunellen; a son, Samuel and wife Julianne of Howell; a sister, Judith Rawlins of Springfield; and a grandchild.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Wednesday at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church, North Plainfield, of which Mr. Willoughby was a parishioner. Burial was in Holy Redeemer Cemetery, South Plainfield.

Arrangements were by the Sheenan Funeral Home in Dunellen.

Carol Ann Ioannides

SCOTCH PLAINS — Carol Ann Werle Gariel Ioannides, 67, died Dec. 7, 2002 at the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She was born in Westfield and lived in Mountainside for most of her life.

A homemaker, Mrs. Ioannides bowled in the Women's Bowling League at the former Echo Lanes in Mountainside. She was a member of the Mountainside Chapel and the Ladies Auxiliary to the American Legion post in Mountainside.

Her husband, Aristoclis, died in 2000.

Surviving are three daughters, Nancy L. Skurka of Northville, Mich., Sandra L. Menzie of Springfield and Mary E. Bonilla of Perth Amboy; three sisters, Patricia L. Lumpkins of Copperas Cove, Texas, Virginia L. Candy of Belton, Texas, and JoAnn Smith of Avenel; and six grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday at the Gray Funeral Home in Westfield. Burial was in Graceland Memorial Park, Kenilworth.

Donations may be sent to the Mountainside Chapel or the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Mildred Pollock

FANWOOD — Mildred Lynch Pollock, 75, died Dec. 2, 2002 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Elizabeth and lived in that city before moving to Fanwood in 1964.

Mrs. Pollock retired in 1994 after 28 years as a secretary to the principal and vice principal of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. She attended the Berkeley Secretarial School in East Orange.

Her husband, William R., is deceased.

Surviving are two sons, Gregg and Richard; two daughters, Megan and Kirsten; and a sister, Leola McKenna.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Scotch Plains, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home in Scotch Plains.

Donations may be sent to the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Obituaries

Helen M. Wood

SCOTCH PLAINS — Helen M. Lystarczyk Wood, 91, died Dec. 5, 2002 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mrs. Wood was born in Germantown, Pa. She lived in Barnesboro, Pa., before moving to Scotch Plains in 1923. She had resided in Middlesex since 1997.

She worked for the Sobansky Coal Co. and W.L. Trucking Co., which her family owned in Scotch Plains. Mrs. Wood later was a beauty consultant with Liggett's Drug Store in Westfield and a pharmacy assistant with Whelan's Pharmacy in Westfield. She retired in 1983 after 20 years as a school crossing guard with the Scotch Plains Police Department.

Mrs. Wood bowled in the Plains Women's Bowling League at the former Blue Star Lanes in Watchung and the former Echo Lanes in Mountainside.

Her husband of 41 years, Willard, died in 1982. Also deceased are three sisters, Ann, Rose and Nellie; and six brothers, John, Joseph, Walter, Edward, Frank and Raymond.

Surviving are two daughters, Peppy D'Amato and Carolyn Schult; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was offered Tuesday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Christine Lepinsky

FANWOOD — Christine Lepinsky died Dec. 3, 2002 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

She was born in Newark and lived in that city before moving to Fanwood in 1959.

Mrs. Lepinsky spent 18 years with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school system before retiring in 1992 as a teacher's aide at Brunner School.

Surviving are her husband,

Demetre; two sons, Bill of Tucson, Ariz., and Gary of Fanwood; a daughter, Carol of Middletown; a sister, Ann Karakos; and four grandchildren.

A Divine Liturgy was celebrated Saturday at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Westfield, following services at the Memorial Funeral Home. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Rita Irene Mielech

SCOTCH PLAINS — Rita Irene Ryan Mielech, 80, died Nov. 29, 2002 at Genesis ElderCare-Westfield Center.

She was born in Rahway and lived in Clark before moving to Scotch Plains.

Mrs. Mielech was a member of the Rahway Golden Age Club and the American Association of Retired Persons chapter in

Rahway. Her husband, Milton R., and a son, Richard, are deceased.

Surviving are a son, Michael of New York state; a daughter, Karen Larate and husband Randolph of Scotch Plains; and a brother, Larry Ryan of Rahway.

Private arrangements were by the Walter J. Johnson Funeral Home in Clark.

Sydney Shreero

FANWOOD — Sydney Shreero, 80, died Dec. 7, 2002 at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

A native of New York City, he lived in North Carolina and Watchung in 1972.

Mr. Shreero was a past president of the Watchung Hills Adult School, based at Watchung Hills Regional High School in Warren. He also was a retail executive with Fabric Land in North Plainfield prior to his 1981 retirement. He received a bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1943.

After leaving Fabric Land he became an equestrian and a member of the Friends of the Lord

Stirling Stables in Basking Ridge. Mr. Shreero served in the Army during World War II and was a parishioner of St. Mary's Church-Stony Hill in Watchung.

Surviving are his wife, Jacqueline; a son, James and wife Deb of Whitmarsh, Pa.; and three grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday at the Higgins Home for Funerals, in Watchung. Burial was in St. Mary's-Stony Hill Cemetery, Watchung.

Donations may be sent to Watchung Lions Club, 230 Valley Drive, Watchung, NJ 07069, to be directed to the Coats for Kids campaign and other charitable works.

Emma Guadagnino

SCOTCH PLAINS — Emma "Bandine" Buoni Guadagnino, 93, died Dec. 7, 2002 at the Rolling Hills of Hunterdon Care Center in Lebanon.

Mrs. Guadagnino was born in Rahway. She lived in Lucca, Tuscany, Italy; New York City; Plainfield; Scotch Plains; Bridgewater; Flemington; and since 1982 in Franklin Township, Hunterdon County.

As a seamstress she sewed children's clothes for the Star Dress Co. in Plainfield. Mrs. Guadagnino was a member of senior citizens clubs in Hunterdon County.

She was a parishioner of St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic

Church in Pittstown.

Her husband, Joseph, died in 1960. Three sisters, Julia Poggi, Jean Gallo and Norma Franvesconi, are deceased.

Surviving are daughter, Rosina G. Novello and husband Ben, with whom Mrs. Guadagnino lived; a sister, Pie Scarperi of Pennsylvania; two granddaughters, Dina E. Jannone of Pittstown and Lisa E. DeNero of Asbury; and five great-grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday at the Countryside Funeral Home, Three Bridges, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Esther Bowman

SCOTCH PLAINS — Esther E. Rumbarger Bowman, 89, died Dec. 5, 2002 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

She was born in Nov. 27, 1913 in Bellwood, Pa., and lived in Plainfield before moving to Bridgewater in 1997.

Mrs. Bowman retired in 1979 after 15 years as the office administrator at the First Presbyterian Church in Dunellen. She organized the church's Senior Adult Ministry and participated in the Naomi Circle.

A Sunday school teacher and youth group organizer in Pennsylvania, Mrs. Bowman once

was for 10 years the office administrator at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Her husband, Harold J., died in 1985.

Surviving are a daughter, Emily J. Bowman Brown and husband Robert of Scotch Plains; a brother, Charles E. Rumbarger of Bellwood; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Burial was Wednesday in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

Arrangements were by the Mundy Funeral Home in Dunellen.

Herbert Schreiber Jr.

WESTFIELD — Herbert Schreiber Jr., 80, died Dec. 6, 2002 at his home in Bayville.

A native of Elizabeth, he lived in Westfield before moving to Bayville in 1985.

Mr. Schreiber retired in 1985 after 25 years as a chemical engineer with AT&T Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill. He served in the Army during World War II and also worked 10 years for the General Electric Co.

He earned a master of business administration degree from the Newark campus of Rutgers University in 1958. Mr. Schreiber received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1949 from the Newark College of Engineering (now the New Jersey Institute of Technology), where he

was a member of Tau Beta Phi engineering honor society.

Mr. Schreiber was a staff organizer for the Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons, State of New Jersey. He was a past master of Maritan American Lodge 61 of the Masons.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Josephine Kordick Schreiber; a son, Andy; two daughters, Susan Miller and Nancy Van Sickle; and five grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at the Village Lutheran Church in Lanoka Harbor.

Arrangements were by the Mastapeter Funeral Home in Bayville. Donations may be sent to Village Lutheran Church, 701 Western Blvd., Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734-1536.

Frederick T. Murphy

WESTFIELD — Frederick T. Murphy, 72, died Dec. 8, 2002 at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

He was born in Plainfield and lived in Elizabeth before moving to Westfield in 1966.

Mr. Murphy owned KAM International, a Westfield-based export company, from 1975 until his retirement in 2001. He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War.

He was a member of Martin Wallberg Post 3, American Legion; the Knights of Columbus council in Westfield; and Elks Lodge 1585 in Mountainside.

Surviving are his wife,

Kathleen Gavan Murphy; a daughter, Maryann DiMaria of Toms River; two sons, Dr. Frederick T. Jr. of Hollidaysburg, Pa., and Brian of Harrisburg, Pa.; two sisters, Marilyn Fitzpatrick of Wayne and Joan of Bayonne; two brothers, John of Grove City, Ohio, and James of Brick; and seven grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Wednesday at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Higgins & Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Sophie Desiato

SCOTCH PLAINS — Sophie Stripto Desiato, 93, died Dec. 8, 2002 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mrs. Desiato was born in Italy and came to the United States in 1910. She lived in Plainfield and North Plainfield before moving to Scotch Plains in 1949.

She owned the Desiato Hardware Store in North Plainfield in the 1940s. Mrs. Desiato sold the hardware store to become a seamstress in Plainfield, where she worked until her 1974 retirement.

She was a member of the United Seamstress Union of America; the Scotch Plains Meridians; and the Altar Rosary Society at St. Bernard Clairvaux Roman Catholic Church, in Plainfield.

Surviving are a son, Albert; two daughters, Antoinette Berg and Amelia Wagstaff; two sisters, Pauline Negro and Caroline Donelan; nine grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Services will be 9 a.m. today at the Rossi Funeral Home, 1937 Westfield Ave. A funeral Mass will follow 10 a.m. at St. Bernard Clairvaux Church, 368 Sumner Ave., Plainfield. Burial will be in Hillside Cemetery.

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Mary Myers Knight

WESTFIELD — Mary A. Myers Knight, 87, died Dec. 8, 2002 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Mrs. Knight was born in Clarion, Pa. She lived in Philadelphia, Pa., and Washington, D.C., before moving to Westfield in 1952.

For more than 22 years she was a secretary, full-time and part-time, with the Social Science Research Council in New York City and Washington, D.C. Mrs. Knight also worked for the Philadelphia law firm Drinker, Biddle & Reath and the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association Casualty Insurance Co. in Philadelphia.

She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Mount Holyoke College, from which Mrs. Knight earned a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, in 1937. She graduated in

1933 from the Friends Select School, a finishing school in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Knight served on the board of the Trinity Place Condominium Association, where she and her husband, Hugo, purchased the first units. He died in 1997.

She served in the WAVES from 1944-46 in Washington, D.C., and was a member of animal welfare organizations.

A brother, John K. Myers, died in 1998.

Surviving are four nieces, Kristen Garrett of Windsor, Conn., Susan Christman of Newtown, Pa., Marnie McCoy of Sewickley, Pa., and Jeanne Feenick of Warren, and a nephew, John N. Myers of New York City.

A memorial service will be 11 a.m. Sunday at the Gray Funeral Home, 318 E. Broad St.

Adell Murray Roane

SCOTCH PLAINS — Adell Murray Roane, 64, died Dec. 7, 2002 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Georgia and had lived in Plainfield since 1967.

A 1957 alumna of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Mrs. Roane was an interior designer for six years with Durrett Interiors in Scotch Plains and Westfield. She enjoyed sewing so much that she and a sister filled design orders from her home.

More recently Mrs. Roane was an assistant attendant for more than two years at a Westfield nursing home.

Domenica DiSarro

WESTFIELD — Domenica Scarpignato DiSarro, 85, died Dec. 5, 2002 at Union Hospital.

She was born in Philadelphia, Pa., and had lived in Westfield since 1947.

Mrs. DiSarro retired in 1983 after 25 years as a checker and packer at the A&P supermarket in Westfield. She earlier was a packer for eight years at the Bond Baking Co. in Philadelphia.

She was a longtime member of the Women's Auxiliary to the Italian American Club in Westfield. Mrs. DiSarro was a parishioner of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church.

Her husband, Ettore, died in 1970. A daughter, Lorraine, died in 1953.

Surviving are a daughter,

Antoinette Querques of Union; two brothers, Joseph Scarpignato of Philadelphia and Sam Scarpignato of Delaware; a sister, Antoinette Goffredo of Delaware; and two grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was offered Saturday at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Dooley Colonial Home.

Obituaries

John R. 'Russ' Herbert

SCOTCH PLAINS — John R. "Russ" Herbert, 78, died Dec. 9, 2002 at Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune.

A native of Jersey City, he lived in Nutley and Cranford before moving to Bay Head in 1996.

Mr. Herbert was a teacher at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School for 42 years and retired in 1987 as a technical drawings teacher. He spent summers as a purchasing agent with the Hudson Tool and Die Co. in Newark, where he worked 25 years.

He held master's degrees from Rutgers University and Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey). Mr. Herbert received a bachelor's degree from

Newark State Teachers College (now Kean University).

A golfer, Eagle Scout and master craftsman, Mr. Herbert was a member of the Romeo Club and the New Jersey Education Association. He was an Army Air Corps fighter pilot in World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Jocelyn; a daughter, Karen Herbert LaDu; and a grandchild.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated 10 a.m. tomorrow at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, 751 Main Ave., Bay Head.

Arrangements are by the Pable-Evertz Funeral Home in Point Pleasant. Donations may be sent to Sacred Heart Church.

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Wayne R.J. Harkins

WESTFIELD — Wayne R.J. Harkins, 56, died Dec. 4, 2002 at his home.

He was born in Elizabeth and had lived in Westfield since 1979.

Mr. Harkins retired in 1995 after 10 years as a salesman with Sears, Roebuck & Co. in Watchung. He earlier worked at his family's Harkins Stationery store in Linden.

Surviving are his wife of 36 years, Elona Logan Harkins; his parents, Donald and Muriel Herder Harkins; two sisters, Iliia Awald and Maurya; and a grandchild.

A memorial service was held Tuesday at the Evangel Church in Scotch Plains. Arrangements were by the Gray Funeral Home.

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Scam targets senior citizens

A credit card scam is targeting the recently bereaved, the Union County Division of Consumer Affairs reported.

Individuals who have recently lost a loved one may receive persistent phone calls from someone claiming to be a representative of a credit card company. The callers state the deceased had an outstanding balance on a credit card and tell victims the bill must be paid. Senior citizens are favorite targets of the scam artists.

If this happens to you, do not give the caller any information on the phone. Second, request the caller to send something in writing on company letterhead showing he or she represents a legitimate credit card company that has a valid claim on the deceased's money.

If you have any questions about the legitimacy of the company making the claim, or the claim itself, call the Division of Consumer Affairs at (908) 654-9840.

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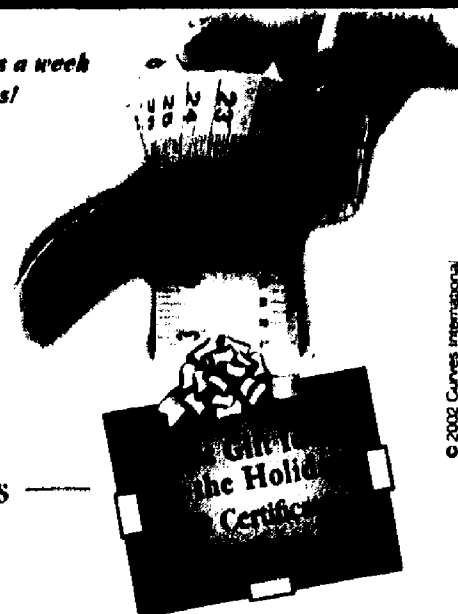
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314 Main St., Metuchen
(732) 548-0582; www.
forumtheatrecompany.com

"A Winnie the Pooh Christmas
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group rates available. Call for
showtimes.

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www.georgestreetplayhouse.org

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

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

"A Christmas Story," stage ver-
sion of 1983 movie. 7 p.m. Dec. 14; 3
p.m. Dec. 15. Admission \$10.

VILLAGERS THEATRE
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset
(732) 873-2710;
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
\$10.

Sky Shows
RARITAN VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Route 28, Branchburg
(908) 231-8805;
www.raritanval.edu/planetari-
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"Winter Wonder Light," 2 p.m.
Dec. 14, 15. Admission \$4.

Dance
THE NUTCRACKER
(American
Repertory Ballet)
1 and 4:30 p.m. Dec. 21, 22
State Theatre, 15 Livingston
Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatrenj.org
Tchaikovsky's holiday stan-
dard. Admission \$34-\$16.

THE NUTCRACKER
(Ms. Doreen's 'Fabulous
Feet' Dance Ensemble)
1 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22
Metuchen High School
400 Grove Ave., Metuchen
(732) 548-5278
Tchaikovsky's holiday stan-
dard. Admission \$12, \$10.

THE NUTCRACKER
(Moscow Ballet)
2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 21
Theatre at Raritan Valley
Community College
Route 28, Branchburg
(908) 725-3420;
www.raritanval.edu/theatre

Tchaikovsky's holiday stan-
dard. Admission \$39-\$34.

THE NUTCRACKER
(New Jersey Ballet)
Dec. 20-24, 26-30
Paper Mill Playhouse
Brookside Dr., Millburn
(973) 376-4343;
www.papermill.org

Tchaikovsky's holiday stan-
dard. Admission \$53-\$25; discounts
available. Call for full show sched-
ule.

For Kids
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
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" coun-
try/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
\$45-\$25.

CELEBRATION SINGERS
8 p.m. Dec. 13, 2 and 8 p.m.
Dec. 14; Cranford United
Methodist Church, 201
Lincoln Ave. East, Cranford
(908) 276-6846, (908) 241-8200
"Our Holiday Gift of Song" in a

seasonal concert. Adults \$12; sen-
iors, children under 12 \$8.

EDISON SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15
Middlesex County College
Route 514, Edison
(908) 753-ARTS;
www.edisonarts.org

Holiday concert of carols, arias
and symphonic works. Adults \$25;
students \$20.

ELEGANT ELLINGTON
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13
Watchung Arts Center
Watchung Circle, Watchung
(908) 753-0190;
www.watchungarts.org

The catalog of "Sir Duke" han-
dled by Keith Ingham, piano.
Admission \$12.

GET BACK!
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.

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
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatrenj.org

Handel oratorio in concert for-
mat. Admission \$50-\$20.

MESSIAH (New Jersey
Symphony Orchestra)
2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21
St. Paul's Church, Princeton
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21
Presbyterian Church, Westfield
(800) ALLEGRO;
www.njsymphony.org

Handel oratorio in sing-along
format. Admission \$25.

MESSIAH (Princeton
Pro Musica)
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14
Richardson Auditorium,
Princeton University
(609) 683-5122

Handel oratorio in concert for-
mat. Admission \$30, \$25; discounts
available.

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.

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

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

DAVID ROTH
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14
First United Methodist Church
1 E. Broad St., Westfield
(908) 232-8723; www.
coffeewithconscience.com

Singer-songwriter in a coffee-
house setting. Admission \$12.

SILVER DOLLAR SINGERS
7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13
First Presbyterian Church, 631
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(732) 634-0413

Holiday concert, featuring the
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Festival of Trees, to Jan. 26.
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April 20.

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Friday and Sunday.

"UnCommon Clay: New
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Friday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

Victorian ornaments, to Feb.
23. Related lecture by Mark
Nonested 1 p.m. Dec. 15 (registra-
tion 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
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(732) 463-8363

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

MILLER-CORY
HOUSE MUSEUM
614 Mountain Ave., Westfield
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Open 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Adults
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under 6 free.

Polish Christmas customs,
Dec. 15.

"A Candlelight Christmas in
Elizabethtown," Dec. 22.

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(732) 634-0413
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p.m. Monday-Friday, 2-4 p.m.
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"Train 582-2002," to Dec. 27.

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U.S.-Germany print collabora-
tive exchange, to Dec. 13.

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"Small Pleasures: A Holiday
Celebration," to Jan. 3.

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33 Livingston Ave.
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(732) 932-2222;
mgsa.rutgers.edu

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p.m. Monday-Friday.

First-year graduate review, to
Dec. 13.

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124 Montgomery Rd., Skillman
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Sunday.

Creative Artists Guild show, to
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www.printnj.org

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Saturday.

Juried members show, to Jan.

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1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford
(908) 709-7155;
www.ucc.edu

Open to the public 1-4 p.m.
Monday, Saturday, 1-4 and 6-9 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday.

"Bearing Witness" from Helen
M. Stummer, to Dec. 19.

WATCHUNG
ARTS CENTER
Watchung Circle, Watchung
(908) 753-0190;
www.watchungarts.org

Open to the public 1-4 p.m.
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Saturday, 1-7:30 p.m. Thursday.

"No Holds Barred" photogra-
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Senior citizen injured in purse-snatching

SCOTCH PLAINS

Shayne Bennett, 19, of Plainfield and a 16-year-old male also from Plainfield were charged with robbery at CVS at approximately 10:30 a.m. Nov. 27.

Police responded to a report that a 69-year-old Fanwood woman was confronted in the parking lot by one of the suspects, who allegedly forcibly ripped her pocketbook from her shoulder. The suspects entered a 1997 Grey Toyota and fled the scene.

The occupants of the vehicle were taken into custody in Fanwood after being involved in an accident on Madison and Hunter avenues. The victim's pocketbook was recovered at the scene.

The victim sustained a minor injury to her neck and shoulder and did not require treatment. Bail was set for Bennett at \$15,000 and he was transported to Union County Jail. The juvenile was released to the custody of a parent, and charges will be filed with the juvenile court.

Two juveniles were taken into custody while another escaped after a stolen car chase ended in Union Township Dec. 1.

Police pursued a 1990 Honda Accord reported stolen from Plainfield after the vehicle ran a stop sign at Cushing and Terrill roads. The car headed east on Route 22 into Union, but was forced to stop when a tire blew out near the Garden State Parkway. The three occupants fled on foot.

A 17-year-old male and a 14-year-old male, both from Elizabeth, were apprehended. The 14-year-old was identified as the driver and was charged with eluding police.

Both males were charged with possession of a stolen vehicle and were remanded to the Union County Juvenile Detention Center in Elizabeth. The third subject could not be located, police said.

Desmond Pratt, 35, of Plainfield was arrested twice in separate incidents over a two-week period.

The first arrest came Nov. 25, when Pratt was found asleep in a car which had allegedly been stolen out of North Plainfield.

Pratt was arrested at about 3:30 p.m. when residents reported the car, parked on Mountain Avenue, appeared suspicious and was playing loud music. He was charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle and released on a summons.

Then on Dec. 8, Pratt was charged with shoplifting from CVS. Responding to a call from a manager, police arrested Pratt as he was bicycling away from the pharmacy on Willow Avenue.

Pratt admitted taking the items, police said. He was again released on a summons.

A Valleyscent Avenue resident reported a fraudulent charge made against her ATM card on Nov. 20.

A Francis Lane resident reported someone attempted to open a credit account using her identity Nov. 27.

A Stout Avenue resident reported the theft of several items of jewelry valued at approximately \$600 throughout the past several weeks. No entry to the residence was reported.

Carolyn Duggan, 37, of Sunnyside, N.Y. was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol on Sunrise Court Nov. 30, after police responded to a dispute at approximately 5 p.m.

Tiffany M. Borom, 21, of Scotch Plains was charged with shoplifting Dec. 8. The store manager allegedly observed Borom taking two movies off the shelf and placing them in her Drug Fair bag.

Borom then allegedly went to the cash register to return the movies for a cash refund as if she purchased them. The police were called and Borom was taken to the police station for processing and released on a summons.

Police Log

FANWOOD

A motor vehicle theft during the Dec. 5 snow storm led to a high-speed pursuit on Route 22.

A bright yellow 2000 Audi, valued at \$35,000, was stolen from the 200 block of South Avenue. Left behind in its place was a 2000 Dodge Durango, previously stolen out of Hillside.

Borough police put out a radio bulletin, and Union Police subsequently spotted the Audi on Route 22. When police gave pursuit, the vehicle rammed several police cars.

Police eventually overtook the vehicle and took two Newark men into custody. Marklen Warner, 18, and Arthur Greene, 19, were charged with eluding, receiving stolen property, aggravated assault and possession of burglary tools.

No injuries were reported.

WESTFIELD

Richard Hammel, 37, of Maplewood was charged with driving while intoxicated, assault on police, resisting arrest and criminal mischief Dec. 3. He was held on \$10,000 bail.

Michael Coulter, 25, of Westfield was charged with criminal trespass and criminal mischief in the 200 block of East Broad Street Dec. 4.

The store manager of Douglass Cosmetics on Central

ing while intoxicated Dec. 6.

A Lenox Avenue residents reported someone stole a snow blower from his garage Dec. 7.

The general manager of the Jolly Trolley reported burglary to an office and the theft of \$275 Dec. 7.

Jamie Riese of Westfield was charged with driving while intoxicated Dec. 8.

An employee of the Westfield Wash and Dry reported the theft of \$300 from the cash box Dec. 8.

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Automotive/Classified



The Suzuki Aerio GS is basic transportation that's a lot more fun to drive than it may appear. New for 2003 is an all-wheel-drive option for \$1,000. CNS Photo courtesy of Suzuki.

Fun-to-drive Aerio is packed with no-cost extras

By MARK MAYNARD
COPYRIGHT NEWS SERVICE

The Suzuki Aerio might be the best of bargains in compact family sedans. It's also fun to drive. And that makes for a combination not always found in an inexpensive car.

The compact-class five-passenger Aerio GS I tested had a sticker price of \$15,074, which included one option — carpeted floor mats for \$75. That seems to be a trivial extra on a car that is so well-outfitted and so well disguised in proletarian sheet metal.

But it really wouldn't be right to skimp on such a tidy little purchase that comes with all the desired conveniences and plenty

of power from its 141-horsepower, 2.0-liter four-cylinder.

Some of the standouts on the list of standard goodies include remote locking, air conditioning, cruise control, six-speaker AM-FM CD stereo, digital gauges, tilt steering wheel and driver's seat height adjuster, under-seat passenger storage tray, split folding rear seat-backs, trunk light, fog lights, alloy wheels with 15-inch tires, power windows, intermittent wipers and second-generation front air bags and front belt pretensioners.

Anti-lock brakes are a \$500 option, and the four-speed automatic is \$1,000.

The car could use a little more soundproofing to quiet the cabin on the interstate, but around

town, road noise isn't noticeable. Roll down the windows and hang out an elbow for some fresh-air cruising, without getting beat up by the wind.

The driving is a hoot. There's plenty of torque for scooting from stoplight to stoplight, and the engine can spin the front tires without a lot of wild torque steer.

The clutch is light, and the shifter and pedals are accommodating for sporty driving.

Got a teen learning to drive a manual? This one's a cinch, and has a five-speed gearbox that's smoother than the box in the new Saturn Ion. The Aerio also is better balanced than the Toyota Matrix, so when the driver chooses to get a little frisky,

there's stable control through the steering and braking.

As a basic starter car, what else would a family need? Fuel mileage is a thrifty 26 miles per gallon around town and 33 on the highway.

Aerio is offered in two body styles with the same driveline. The Aerio S (\$14,000) and GS are the entry-level sedans. The Aerio SX (\$15,000) is the sexier sport crossover or five-door hatchback. New for 2003 is an all-wheel-drive option \$1,000.

Nearly everybody recognizes the Suzuki name for motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, boat motors and even small sport utility vehicles. With Aerio, Suzuki finally has a car that will get recognized.

Tips on keeping your car warm

(NAPSI)—One thing that chills many drivers is the thought of car trouble when the temperature is around freezing.

Fortunately, there are some simple things car owners can do to help prepare their vehicles. A few easy, preventative car maintenance tasks could potentially save you time, money and inconvenience in the long run.

It is important to make sure that your car is mechanically sound before braving unpredictable weather. The freeze can be a breeze if you follow these simple tips:

- **Battery check:** Keep an eye on that battery. The output of a healthy battery can drop considerably when the temperature dips near the freezing point. Compounding that, oil can flow less freely in freezing temperatures, which may increase starting resistance.

- **Lights:** Don't get caught in the dark. Inspect all your car's exterior and interior lights before embarking on a trip.

- **Heater/Defrosters:** Keep your car warm and dry. Check that the heater and defrosters are working correctly.

- **Trunk space:** Trunk space is often overlooked. Aside from your spare tire, your trunk should be packed with items that you would need in an emergency, such as an ice scraper, a flashlight, some blankets, water, first-aid kit and food. Have a cell phone and a charger.

- **Engine check:** Cold weather could freeze or decrease the flow of vital fluids. Try this by following a three-step program recommended by NASCAR legend Richard Petty and his crew chiefs. The "All 3 Every 3" engine maintenance program recommends people do the following three steps every 3,000 miles: 1) Change Your Oil, 2) Clean Your Fuel Injectors, 3) Check Your Belts, Hoses and Fluids.

"Before the temperature gets too cold, you want to make sure that your engine has been thoroughly checked," said Richard Petty. It is important to change your oil every 3,000 miles. In the same 3,000 miles that your oil gets dirty, however, so do your fuel injectors, so it is important to clean those, too. Checking your belts, hoses, and fluids will also help ensure that your car is better prepared for the chill of winter."

Auto group collecting for Toys for Tots campaign

UNION — Maplecrest Auto Group is participating in the annual toy drive for "Toys for Tots" sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corp. Reserve.

You can help by providing new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages. These toys can be placed in the "Toy Boxes" which are located in the sales showrooms in both the Union and Summit locations.

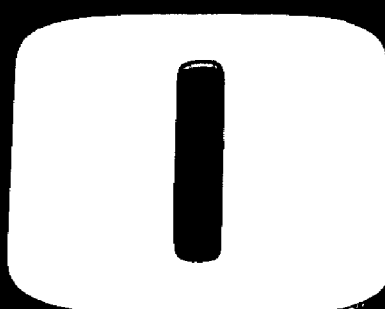
The Marine Corps will pick up the donated toys Dec. 13 in time for needy children to receive them for Christmas. Maplecrest Lincoln Mercury thanks all who donate for their generosity.

The two locations are at 2800 Springfield Avenue in Union and 68 River Road in Summit.

For information or store hours, contact Jessica Garibaldi at (908) 964-7700 ext. 504.

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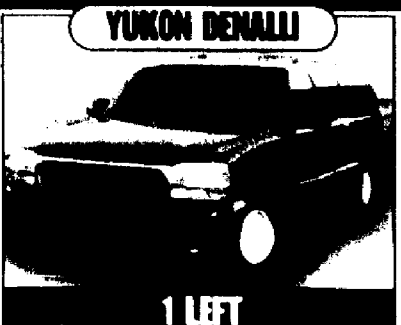
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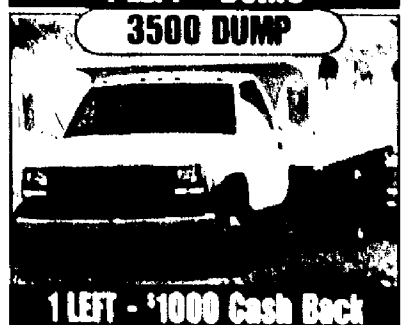
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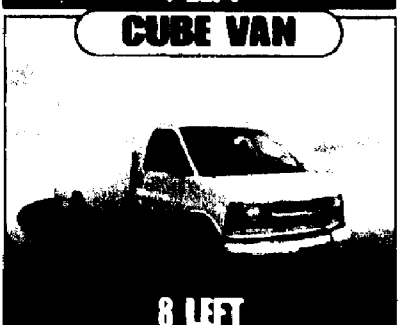
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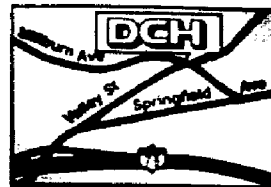
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Sports

Raiders ready for next level

Young squad looking to build on last year's 21-5 campaign

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD PRESS

Three sophomores in the starting lineup and six underclassmen among the top seven players is often the formula for a rebuilding season. But the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High girls basketball team skipped that step last year and has its sights set on a championship season this winter.

Expected to rely heavily on three freshmen last season many around Union County thought the Raiders would suffer the growing pains of a rebuilding season. But center Hilary Klimowicz took Union County by storm, becoming not just the top freshman but one of the top players in the county while leading the Raiders to one of their most successful campaigns in years.

Along with sophomore classmates Jenny Burke and Maura Gillooly, Klimowicz and the Raiders are looking forward to building on last year's 21-5 campaign and battle for the Union County Tournament and North Jersey Section 2 Group 3 titles again this winter.

Scotch Plains reached the sec-

tional final last year, falling to Shabazz 55-46. Shabazz, who handed Scotch Plains three of its five losses last year, went on to play in the Group 3 championship, falling to Tournament of Champions finalist Willingboro, and will once again be the Raiders' top nemesis for the conference and sectional crowns. The Bulldogs bring back point guard Matee Ayavon, one of the top players in the state and will face the Raiders Jan. 7 in Scotch Plains and again Feb. 4 in Newark.

"We want to start where we left off last year," said Scotch Plains Head Coach Brian Honum. "We had a real good season with a young team. We have a lot of kids back and we want to go further than we did last year. Our expectations are very high. The kids stepped up last year and did a great job. Their expectations are high again this year."

Much of the high expectations are based on the play of Klimowicz. As the backbone of last year's squad she posted a double double almost every game and averaged close to 18 points per game. After bursting onto the scene last year the 6 foot 2 sophomore center will

once again be the fulcrum of the Raiders' offense and every opponent's defensive scheme.

"She's probably the top post player in the county," said Honum. "If not, she's top three. People are going to be keying on her. She's going to see a lot of double teams. We'll need her to score when she can, but also be able to dish off to other players who are open."

When the double teams come, and they'll come often, Klimowicz will have plenty of sharpshooters on the perimeter to kick it out to Gillooly. She has taken over the starting shooting guard position after serving as a three-point specialist off the bench last season. Senior co-captain Lindsey Pennella returns to the small forward position and can knock down the medium range jumper, and sophomore Jenny Burke has improved her outside shot and will run the offense from the point guard position again this year. Junior co-captain Jen Russell will play the power forward position, helping Klimowicz control the boards and score in the paint.

"We've got some people who can shoot it," said Honum. "When teams double team (Klimowicz) we need them to step and make the outside

shot."

The biggest area of concern for the Raiders is depth. Katie Feeley, who would have provided valuable frontcourt depth, is out for the season after undergoing surgery. Guard Elizabeth Decatello will be the first player off the bench and junior Chanell Freeman will provide some frontcourt depth.

But without much else to turn to, staying out of foul trouble is of primary importance to the Raiders. With a quicker, more athletic team than last year Honum is looking to run more and play more aggressively on the defensive end, but may have to pull in the reins at times to keep his starters on the floor.

"That could be a problem," said Honum. "We have to stay out of foul trouble. We want to play more man defense this year but if we get into foul trouble we'll have to go to a zone."

Despite a relative lack of depth the Raiders still have set their sights high this season. After a disappointing quarterfinal round exit in the Union County Tournament Scotch Plains is eager to reach the final, and take another shot at Shabazz for the sectional crown.



NICOLE DIMELLA/THE RECORD PRESS
After averaging close to 18 points per game as a freshman last season, Hilary Klimowicz will attract a lot of attention from opposing defenses this season.

Youthful Raiders not waiting around for next year

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD PRESS

It's an entirely new cast of characters but the one that doesn't plan on making any changes to the script.

With all five of last year's starters gone, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High boys basketball team has an entirely new look but is still shooting for a winning record and berth in the state tournament.

The Raiders were knocked out in the first round of the state tournament last year by Cranford, who they'll host in the season opener Dec. 20. The Raiders travel to Governor Livingston for a scrimmage tomorrow and St. Mary's of Elizabeth Tuesday.

"We're very young, but we've got some athletic kids," said Scotch Plains Head Coach Dan Dougherty. "They'll have to grow up in a hurry. We're not thinking we'll be good next year. We feel we can be good this year."

Scotch Plains finished with a 12-13 record last year but needs to replace almost all of its scoring as all five starters have moved on. Instead of rebuilding Scotch Plains hopes to reload led by 6 foot 6 freshman Lance Thomas.

The wiry Thomas has lived in the rather large shadow of 14-year old Fanwood phenom Derrick Carter, who will play for St. Patrick's in Elizabeth this season. But Thomas is ready to make his own headlines this winter. He's got the size and touch to score inside,

can block shots and rebound and also has the skills to cause match up problems on the perimeter.

"He'll be a tough matchup for a lot of teams," said Dougherty. "He's looked good down low and in our scrimmages teams have had to double team him. But he's pretty quick and can also take you outside."

"I think he's very mature for his age. He's got great leadership qualities, he's a great student, and he wants to get better. He's been in the shadows for a long time and now he's ready to step up. If I want to start loading him up with the ball he's ready for it."

Looking to get Thomas the ball

SCOTCH PLAINS FANWOOD BOYS BASKETBALL

and run the offense will be sophomore point guard Lukeem Lockery, a lightning quick ball handler who saw some time on the varsity last season. He can create his own shot, but also looks to create for others and will be asked to shoulder much of the ball-handling burden.

"Whenever we play he might be the quickest player on the court, even if we're playing Plainfield or Elizabeth," said Dougherty. "He's a sophomore so he'll make some mistakes, but he looks to pass a lot and he'll look to push the ball and dish off."

Kyle Adams is the leading scorer returning, averaging just over

two points per game last season. Adams and junior guard Sean Fuller will split time at the shooting guard position.

Dougherty will have a deep bench, rotating as many as 10 players into the game. Junior Ed Zazali is out with a wrist injury and could be lost for a while. When he's available he'll be one of the first guards off the bench. Junior Scott Moynihan is a good spot up shooter who will see time on the wing and junior Rob Maroney is a strong rebounder and defender at the small forward slot.

Banging down low with Thomas will be 6 foot 3 junior center Dave Clements and 6 foot 1 senior Roland Adeyemo. Adeyemo will be the enforcer and banger inside for the Raiders.

Junior forward Kamal Brown, a 6-4 transfer from St. Benedict's and 6-4 junior forward Mike Walker add height and athleticism to the Raiders and should help Scotch Plains control the boards and push the tempo.

"We can run the floor, handle and pass," said Dougherty. "We're looking to be more of what I've wanted to be, athletic, run up and down the floor. We can get some nice matchups."

"We're not sitting around saying we'll be good next year. We're still looking to make the state playoffs."

They have the size, athleticism and skill to make a run at a second straight berth in the tournament, and once they add the experience the Raiders will be tough to beat.

Veteran Blue Devils squad has high expectations

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD PRESS

For each of the past four years it seems like the Westfield High wrestling team begins preseason

workouts with an ominous black cloud hovering over the team, as injuries or defections dampen optimistic hopes for the season.

But this year is different. Just about everyone who was expected

to be back is back — good news since seven of the returnees qualified for the regional tournament last year. Even two key injuries have done little to stifle the Devils' optimism for the 2002-

2003 campaign. The expectations are so high that Head Coach Glen Kurz is cautious to have any at all.

"I don't want to put any limits on what they can do," said Head Coach Glen Kurz. "I think this year winning a district title is an attainable goal and we can talk about qualifying for the state sectional. They are capable of so much that I don't want to say anything that will limit them."

"The kids are working hard. I think they can have a good year. It just depends on how bad they want it and what they want to put into it. If they continue to work hard it could be a great year."

Westfield's limitless potential and optimism is grounded in the return of seven regional qualifiers from last year. Westfield's success at the District 11 tournament last season has the Blue Devils eyeing a district team title this season, as well as a significant improvement on last year's ninth place team finish in the Union County Tournament and a berth in the state tournament, after being edged for the final slot last year.

The Devils strength once again lies in the lower and middle weights. Junior Rob Mench is back at 103 after taking third in the district, finishing in the top six at the Region 3 tournament and taking fourth in the county a year ago. Sophomore Sam Kramer is back at 112, after winning 16 matches last season, despite weighing less than 100 pounds. He's hit the weight room and

should be able to improve on last year's season.

Sophomore Craig Hewitt is in line for the starting slot at 119 after competing on the junior varsity level last year, but still needs to get his weight down.

Senior co-captain Joe DeCampo will be at 125 after taking second in Region 3, third in the district and fourth in Union County at 119.

"He's looking to win a district title, get back to states and see what he can do," said Kurz. "He had a very productive off-season and looked great in the scrimmage."

The Devils have a bit of a log jam in the next three weights. Senior co-captain Jake Kramer was second in the district and fourth in the county at 125 last year and is looking to wrestle either 130 or 135 this year. Ethan Powell may wrestle 135 or 140, after taking third in the district at 135 last year. Sophomore Tom Delduca is also looking at 135 or 140, after finishing second in the district as a freshman.

"He has a chance to be Westfield's first three-time district winner in a number of years," said Kurz. "He's looking very good right now. (Wrestlers) seem to make a lot of progress between their freshman and sophomore year."

Lee Tomasso is slated to wrestle at 145 once he recovers from an injury suffered during the soccer season. Tomasso was second in the district, won one match at the

Region 3 tournament and took third in the county at 140 last year. Junior David Iarowol will fill in until Tomasso's expected return in January.

Westfield suffered a second significant injury when Tommy Byrne was lost for the season with a shoulder injury. Byrne was a utility man for Westfield last season, bouncing between 145 and 152 depending on matchups.

Senior co-captain Dan Macdonald is back at 152 after taking second in the district and the county at the same weight a year ago.

"He wants to finish with a district title," said Kurz. "He's got a lot of athletic ability. If it all clicks he can make some noise in (Atlantic City)."

Senior Gil Arlatsman should be a solid contributor at 160, with senior Joe McCabe trying to work his way into the 171 slot. Junior Chris Johnson looks ready for a breakout year at 189 after hitting the weight room hard and looking strong over the summer and in scrimmages.

Junior Nick Gismondli has also improved his strength and should have a strong season at 215. The Blue Devils are, according to Kurz, "still shopping" for a heavy-weight.

Westfield will scrimmage Colonia and Bloomfield tomorrow before opening the season with a dual meet against East Side Dec. 20 then competing in the Kenney Tournament Dec. 21 and the Blue Devil Invitational Dec. 27.



NICOLE DIMELLA/THE RECORD PRESS
Rob Mench, bottom, and Sam Kramer are two of seven regional qualifiers back in the fold for Westfield this season.

YOUTH SPORTS

Westfield loses in final
The Westfield 7th grade girls traveling basketball team lost in the IHM Tip-Off Classic final 45-41 to Wayne. The team got off to a slow start falling behind 10-2 and trailed 23-17 at halftime. The team played hard but could never get the lead on a tough Wayne team.
Erin Miller scored 15 of her game-high 24 points in the second half. She made 9 of 12 foul shots in the second half and finished 11 for 16 for the game from the line. Claire Bennett had 13 rebounds and four points.

before fouling out. Gabrielle O'Leary chipped in with nine points and two steals, also making 3 of 4 foul shots.
Danielle Infantino scored two points and grabbed four rebounds. Ali Macdonald had two points and four rebounds. Stephanie Slodzycka had two points and four rebounds before both fouled out. Allison Oberlander, Krissy Wendel and Elizabeth Harbaugh helped Westfield make a late run after three starters fouled out. Rose Dinscill did a great job running the team from her point guard position. The regular season begins at home Dec. 18.

versus Berkeley Heights
ST. HELEN'S CYO
5th grade boys win opener
The St. Helen's 5th grade boys basketball team stormed out of the gate Saturday, defeating Holy Family of Carteret 31-22 behind a strong all-around team effort in their season opener in the Meluchon CYO League.
St. Helen's seized control of the game in the first half behind a swarming defense and opportunistic offense, taking a 13-5 lead into the break. Patrick Sabatino had four of his team-high seven points in the first half and

pulled down six rebounds. Bobby Oberlander dropped a three-pointer midway through the second quarter as St. Helen's built a comfortable lead.
St. Helen's increased their lead in the third quarter by 22-13 behind four points from Stephen Greet and two points each from Joe Porchetta and Kevin Hearon.
In the fourth quarter Holy Family made a surge, but St. Helen's had the answers. Hearon shutdown Holy Family's top offensive player and Chris Dunstan stepped up and knocked down three consecutive 15 foot

jumpers to keep St. Helen's in control of the game.
Hearon was not only a force defensively but handed out three pretty assists and scored four points. Mike Fedorick (2 points), Anthony Porchetta (2 points), Joe Porchetta and Sabatino controlled the paint for St. Helen's while Hearon, Oberlander (4 points), Justin Greet, Stephen Greet (4 points), John Descazi, Brett Johnson and Chris Dunstan (4 points) played stifling perimeter defense and keyed St. Helen's fast break opportunities.
7th grade girls fall in semi

The St. Helen's 7th grade girls basketball team, coming off a big upset win over Cranford in the semifinal game of the Tip-Off Classic Tournament, St. Helen's fell behind 10-0 and could never recover, losing 31-28.
Brianna DeFalco led St. Helen's with 10 points, four rebounds and three steals. Stephanie Slodzycka had four points, seven rebounds and four steals. Kathryn Pulino and Erin Miller had four points each. Gabrielle O'Leary and Rose Dinscill chipped in with two points apiece. The team's record fell to 3-1.

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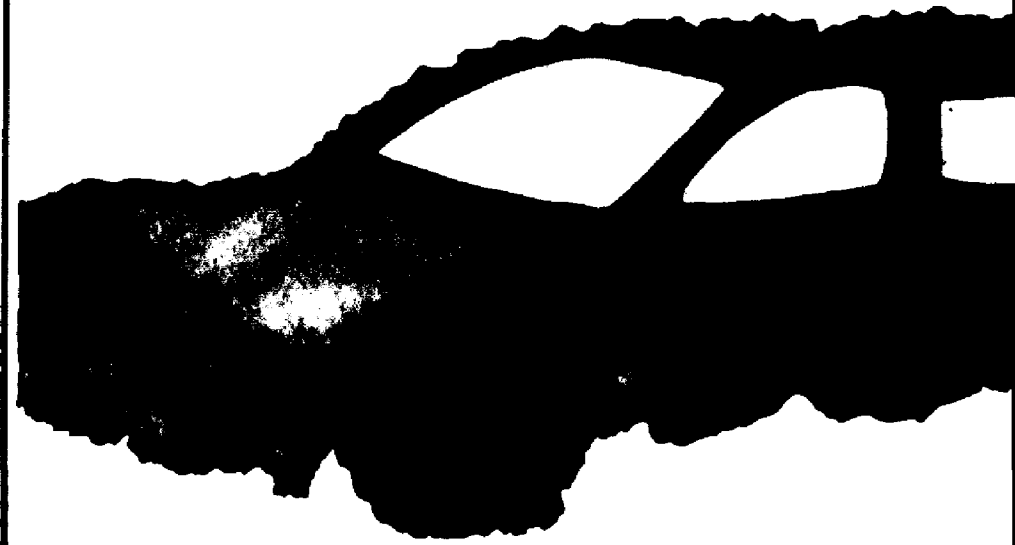
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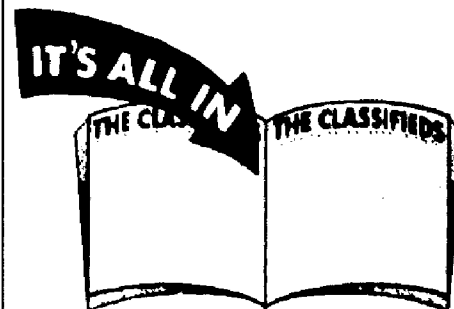
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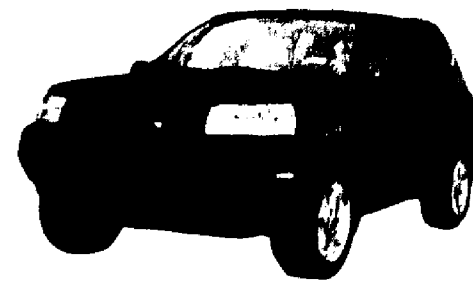
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- Vehicle Security System
- 24 Hour Road Recovery

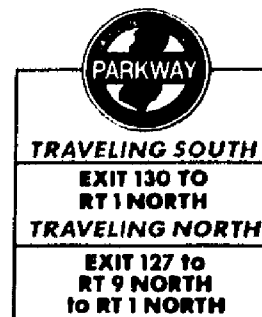
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- Independent Suspension
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Condos & Townhouses 320

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Farms for Sale 325

GOV'T FARM FORECLOSURE - 25 Acres - \$19,900. Fields, woods, wildlife preserve! Two rd. elec. Great terms! Won't last! 888-925-9277 www.upstateNYland.com

Loans & Mortgages 345

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Real Estate Rentals

Apartments (Unfurnished) 405

LINDEN - 5 Large rms., carpet, heat, water, near train & shopping \$1140. mo. No pets. 908-825-1481

MADISON - charming 4rm. apart. w/d, EIK, walk to train, priv. pkg., yard. Avail. now! \$1,295/mo. • util. 973-966-0816

RAHWAY / CLARK LINE - 1 BR + use of bmt with W/D hook-up. \$325/mo. Call 732-388-8395

SCOTCH PLAINS - New 2BR apt. Avail. Jan. 1. C/A, w/d, d/w, N/S. No pets. \$1200/mo. 908-889-0027

SPRINGFIELD - Troy Village, 2BR1 kitchen distance to bus stop. \$1675 incl. util. 973-564-6376

STIRLING - 2BR, in 2 fam. walk to public trans., \$1000 + util. 1 1/2 mos. sec. no pets. 908-626-1376 or 973-402-8170

SUMMIT - 2 BR, LR w/FPP, DR, dish washer, w/d, near train, \$1375. Avail. 2/1/03. 908-268-9841

SUMMIT - 2nd Fl., 2 br., LR, K/L, w/cell garage, near Train, no pets. \$1300. PO Box 626, Summit, NJ 07902-0626

SUMMIT - Beautiful 3BR, 2BA, art deco. Loft in downtown Park like setting. HT, HW, A/C, w/d, dw, micro. Full time on site superintendent. \$1795/mo. Block Management. 908-273-0041 (9-5pm)

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WESTFIELD - 4RM, C/A, Walk to train. Off. at prg. \$1,000 + util. No pets. 908-789-8403

Commercial Property for Rent 410

RAHWAY - Downtown - Shop & Office (1600 - 800 Sq Ft.) Avail. now! 732-388-1760

Office Space for Rent 440

BERKELEY HEIGHTS DOWNTOWN - 250 sq ft. 2nd flr., avail. 12/1. Call Landlord 908-807-8980

Rooms (Furnished) 460

SUMMIT - Room for rent \$110 per week. Lic. R/E Agent. Call 908-598-0522

Rooms (Unfurnished) 465

RAHWAY - (borderline) Clark-Rahway-3BR luxury apt. \$1650. 732-674-2594

Townhouses/Condos for Rent 475

WESTFIELD - New 2 BR Townhouses, walking distance to Train, CAC, Alarm sys., intercom, washer/dryer, 1 car gar., \$1650-\$1750/mo. No pets. Call 908-654-0769 or Call 908-377-8655

Vacation Property for Rent 480

SARASOTA, FLORIDA - VILLA, 2 br., 2 bath, 2 car garage, located in "The Meadows", (golf community), glass enclosed lanai overlooking lake and golf course, beautifully furnished, Avail. 1/15 to 4/15/03. For details, 973-701-1380

Merchandise

Computers & Electronic Equipment 537

NEED A COMPUTER? CREDIT NOT PERFECT? YOU'RE APPROVED! GUARANTEED! No Cash Needed Today! Bad Credit OKAY! Check-In or Savings Account Required. 1-877-468-1943 WWW.PC4SURE.COM

Firewood & Fuel 550

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Furniture 580

5 Pc. Cherry BR Set, lovely cond., Beautiful Cherry Hutch, Singer sewing mch., Green metal patio set, lamps, braided oval rug. 908-233-4915

BED-QUEEN-PREMIUM PILLOW TOP, Set. New in bags. Costs \$1200. Sell \$350. 908-447-9485

BREVEY - Cherry Hdbd & P bed dresser, mirror, chest, 2 dgrs. this. New in box. Cost \$5000. Sell \$1500. 908-788-4952

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FUTON W/ 8" PAD New in box. Cost \$450. Sell \$150. Can deliver. 908-788-4952

Furniture 580

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Items Under \$100 575

COLLECTIBLE TOYS - '60, '90, '00, '01, some new some open \$5-\$75. 908-788-4952

General Merchandise 580

AUTUMN MAZE - Fur Stole \$60. 908-272-6912

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Musical Instruments 585

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Business Opportunities 650

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Child Care/Nursery Schools 734

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Miscellaneous 777

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Audi 90 1995 - 67K. Loaded! stick, exc. cond. \$11,000. 908-273-3641

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CHEVY BLAZER '88 - Exc. cond. \$2,800. 908-322-0552

CHEVY CARGO VAN '95 - 4 dr. V8, auto, A/C. 181,820 mi. needs a little TLC. previously used as messenger vehicle. \$2,500/obo. Contact Rich Bennett @ Somerset Messenger Gazette 908-575-6718

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- Power Driver's Seat
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- Power Locks
- Power Driver's Seat
- Air Conditioning
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- CD Changer
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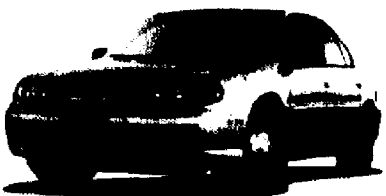
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Cavalier



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2 door, 4 cylinder, automatic, p/steering, p/brakes, air, airbags, bucket seats, 24 hr rdside assist, tinted glass, AM/FM stereo w/CD player, rear defrost, Vin#37137588. Stk#3876. MSRP: \$16,315. Price includes \$400 Coll Grad Rebate (if qual)†, \$750 Chevy Lease Loyalty Rebate (if qual)†, \$3000 Factory Rebate & \$465 Dealer Discount.

NEW 2003 CHEVROLET
S10 EXT CAB



\$17,662

3 door, automatic transmission, 6 cylinder engine, power steering, power brakes, air conditioning, 24 hr rdside assist, tint, CD player. MSRP: \$22,371. Vin#38150467. Stk#3871. Price includes: \$2750 factory rebate, \$1559 Dealer Discount, \$400 college graduate (if qual)† & \$750 Lease Loyalty Rebate†.

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Impala LS



\$19,746

Automatic, 6 cylinder, p/b, p/b, air cond, 4 door, leather, 24 hr rdside assist, keyless entry, cruise, tilt, tint, p/windows, p/locks, cassette w/CD, rear defrost, sunroof, MSRP: \$25,101. Vin#29376925. Stk#3524. Price includes: \$3500 Factory Rebate, \$1455 Dealer Discount and \$400 College Grad Reb (if qual)†.

NEW 2003 CHEVROLET
MONTE CARLO SS



\$21,004

2 door, 6 cylinder, automatic, p/steering, p/brakes, air conditioning, dual airbags, leather, bucket seats, 24 hr rdside assist, cc, tilt, tint, p/windows, p/locks, cassette w/CD, rear defrost, MSRP: \$26,740. Vin#39126616. Stk#3827. Price includes: \$3750 factory rebate, \$1586 Dealer Disc, \$400 college graduate (if qual)† & \$750 Lease Loyalty Reb (if qual)†.

NEW 2003 CHEVROLET
Venture EXT



\$22,118

4 door, 6 cyl, automatic, p/steering, p/brakes, rear heat & air conditioning, dual airbags, 24 hr rdside assist, cruise, tilt, tint, p/windows, p/locks, CD, rear defrost. MSRP: \$28,080. Vin#3D157254. Stk#3802. Price includes: \$3750 Factory Rebate, \$1812 Dealer Disc, \$400 college graduate (if qual)† & \$750 Lease Loyalty Reb (if qual)†.

1998 CHEVROLET
Prizm **\$6762**



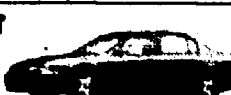
Automatic transmission, 4 cylinder engine, p/steering, p/brakes, air, dual airbags, bucket seats, cassette, tint, rear defrost. 45,743 mi. Vin#WZ411538. WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2000 CHEVROLET
Cavalier **\$7642**



Automatic transmission, 4 cylinder, p/steering, abs, air conditioning, airbags, rear defrost, cassette, tinted glass. 22,350 miles. Vin#Y7237010. WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

1999 CHEVROLET
Malibu **\$9850**



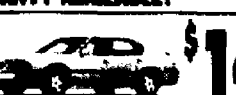
Automatic transmission, 6 cylinder p/steering, p/brakes, air conditioning, rear defrost, dual airbags, bucket seats, cassette, tint, tilt. 27,039 mi. Vin #X6155211. WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

1999 CHEVROLET
Venture **\$12,956**



7 Pass, auto, 6 cyl, p/steering, p/brakes, air cond, p/windows, p/locks, r defr, dual airbags, cassette, tint, cc, tilt. 34,219 mi. Vin#XD299555. WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2001 CHEVROLET
Impala **\$14,953**

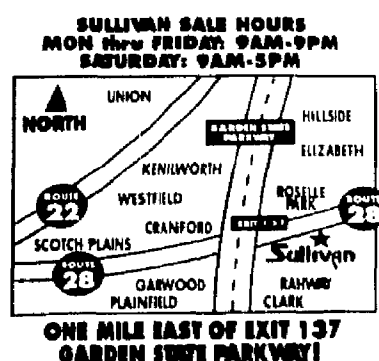


Automatic transmission, 6 cylinder engine, p/s/b, air cond, p/w, rear defrost, airbags, tint, cruise control, tilt, 24,245 mi. Vin #19339254. WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2001 CHEVROLET
Blazer LT **\$16,976**



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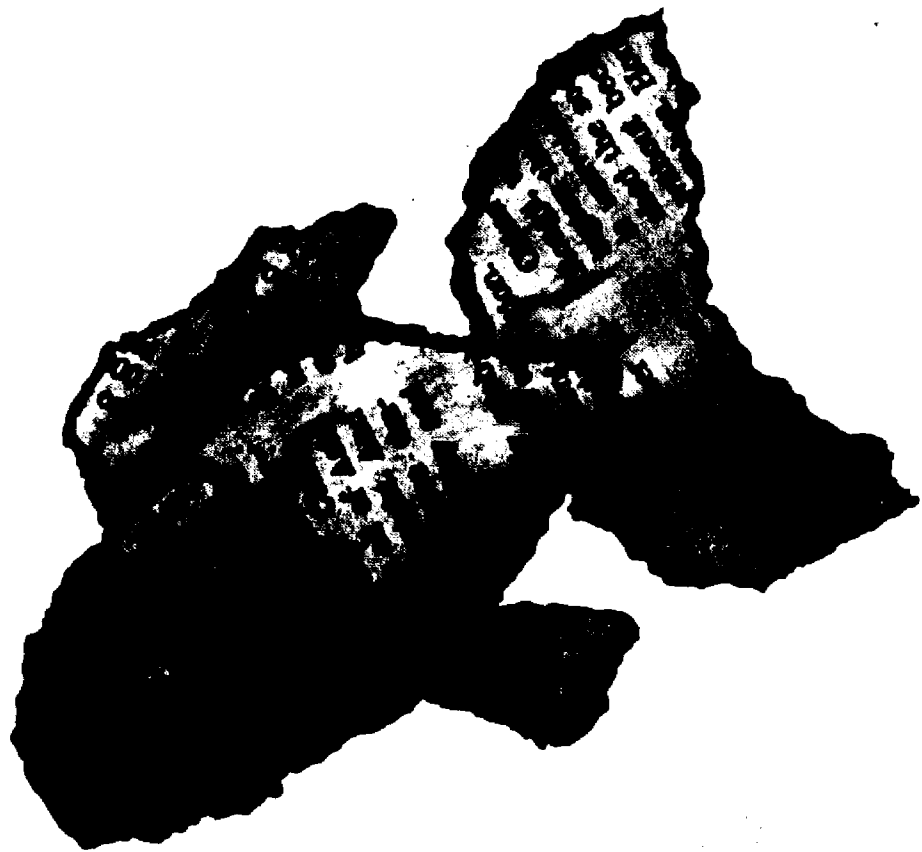
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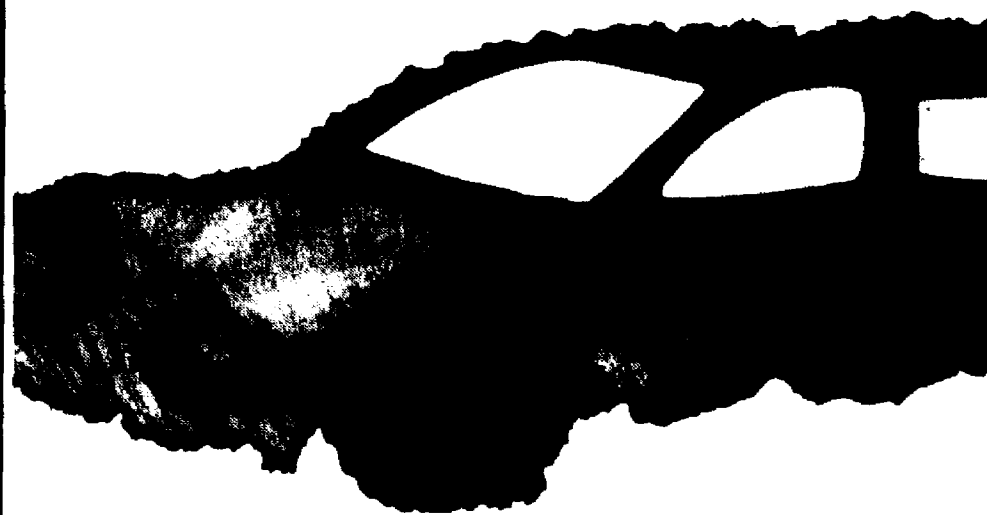
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VIN #2A004540, SA #0036439, 4 DR, V6, auto, a/c,
power windows, mirrors, locks, cruise, sunroof, air bags, leather,
etc. MSRP: \$23,145. Includes \$1500 dealer rebate, \$500 loyalty rebate,
\$400 recent college grad rebate, if qual. \$1131 due at signing + tax & MV fees.

MSRP \$23,145

Drive for

\$13,459

New 2003 Mercury Mountaineer AWD

VIN #1J005055, SA #0036435, 4 DR, V6, auto, a/c,
power windows, mirrors, locks, cruise, sunroof, air bags,
leather, etc. MSRP: \$37,820. Includes \$1000 dealer rebate,
\$500 loyalty rebate, \$400 recent college grad rebate, if qual.
\$1131 due at signing + tax & MV fees.

MSRP \$37,820

Drive for

\$18,451

New 2003 Lincoln Aviator AWD

VIN #2Z01844, SA #037785, 4 DR, V8, auto, a/c,
power windows, mirrors, locks, cruise, sunroof, air bags,
leather, etc. MSRP: \$47,675. Includes \$1000 dealer rebate,
\$500 loyalty rebate, \$400 recent college grad rebate, if qual.
\$1131 due at signing + tax & MV fees.

MSRP \$47,675

Drive for

\$22,747

New 2003 Lincoln Navigator 4WD

VIN #2L00445, SA #037784, 4 DR, V8, auto, a/c,
power windows, mirrors, locks, cruise, sunroof, air bags,
leather, etc. MSRP: \$55,070. Includes \$1000 dealer rebate,
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\$1131 due at signing + tax & MV fees.

MSRP \$55,070

Drive for

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00 Z3 2.3 Silver 35,052 mi.

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3 Series

99 323i Black 54,487 mi.

00 323iC White 31,281 mi.

00 323i Blue 36,542 mi.

00 323iC Blue 36,997 mi.

00 323i Black 41,711 mi.

00 323i Silver 49,995 mi.

01 325i Green 28,365 mi.

99 328i White 15,158 mi.

01 328iC Blue 26,218 mi.

00 328i Black 29,915 mi.

00 328i Bronze 30,205 mi.

00 328i Black 30,689 mi.

5 Series

01 525i Black 17,280 mi.

99 528i Blue 36,877 mi.

99 528i Green 41,376 mi.

99 528i Green 53,514 mi.

00 528i Blue 36,515 mi.

00 528i Blue 40,065 mi.

00 528i Silver 44,968 mi.

98 540i Blue 57,235 mi.

00 540i White 27,836 mi.

00 540i Black 38,472 mi.

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98 740iL Beige 47,936 mi.

00 740iL Blue 29,552 mi.

00 740iL Anthracite 29,860 mi.

00 740iL Blue 31,220 mi.

00 740iL Blue 37,995 mi.

00 740iL Anthracite 41,205 mi.

00 740iL Blue 42,452 mi.

00 740iL Wine 52,893 mi.

01 740iL Blue 27,602 mi.

01 740iL Black 37,780 mi.

01 740iL Black 42,452 mi.

01 740iL Anthracite 59,384 mi.

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cruise, 1/gls, b/s mldgs, sunr, leather bkts, cons, int wip, dual air bags,
29,915 mi, \$3500 cap cost red + \$300 sec dep + \$525 bank fee = \$4325
due at lease incept. Ttl pymts \$11,362. Ttl cost \$15,387. Purch opt \$14,875.75.
39 mo closed end lease w/10,000 mi/yr; .20c thereafter.

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2000 BMW
740i

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Your First
Payment!**



Stk. #BP77711, VIN #YD8N77711, 4 dr,
8 cyl, automatic transmission, power
str/ABS/wind/locks/seats/trunk/mirrors, A/C,
tilt, cruise, r/dof, b/s mldgs, sunr, leather bkts, cons, int wip, dual air bags,
31,220 mi, \$2025 cap cost red + \$500 sec dep + \$525 bank fee = \$3050
due at lease incept. Ttl pymts \$18,164. Ttl cost \$20,714. Purch opt \$20,525.
39 mo closed end lease w/10,000 mi/yr; .25c thereafter.

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New 2002 Mazda **626 LX**

Buy \$**14,747**

MSRP \$14,747. Includes \$1,000 cash rebate. Tax, title, license, dealer fees, and destination charge extra. \$1,000 cash rebate requires 24-month lease or 36-month financing. See dealer for details.

New 2002 Mazda **TRIBUTE 4X4**

Buy \$**17,090**

MSRP \$17,090. Includes \$1,000 cash rebate. Tax, title, license, dealer fees, and destination charge extra. \$1,000 cash rebate requires 24-month lease or 36-month financing. See dealer for details.

New 2003 Mazda **MPV LX**

Buy \$**19,690**

MSRP \$19,690. Includes \$1,000 cash rebate. Tax, title, license, dealer fees, and destination charge extra. \$1,000 cash rebate requires 24-month lease or 36-month financing. See dealer for details.

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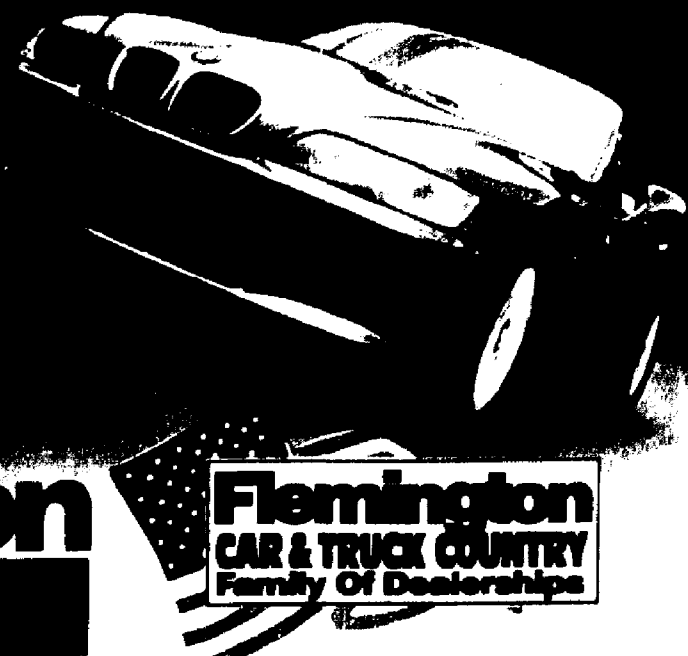
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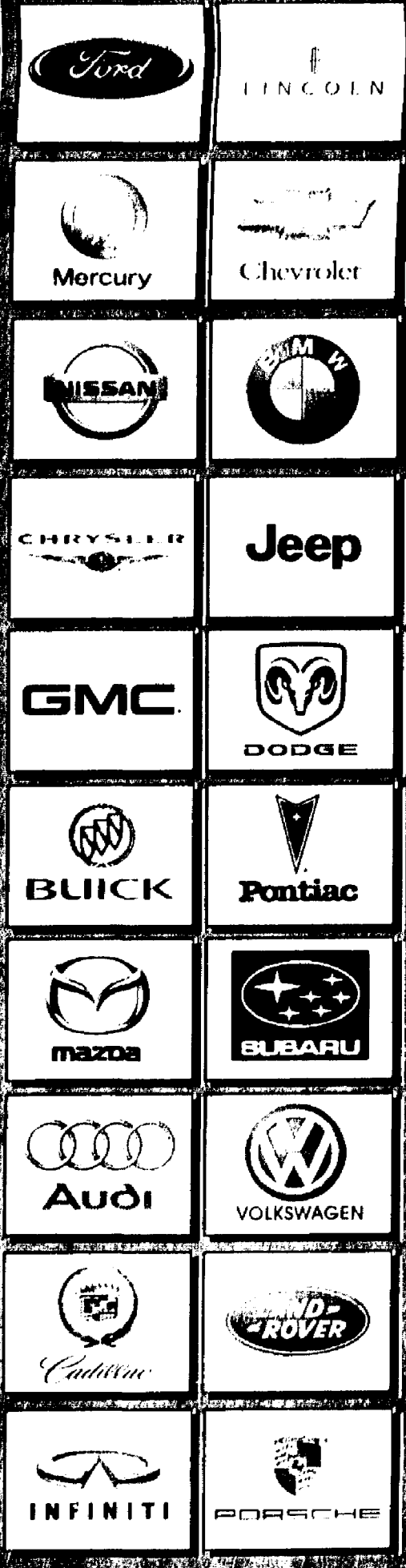
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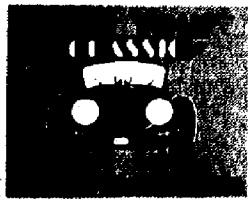
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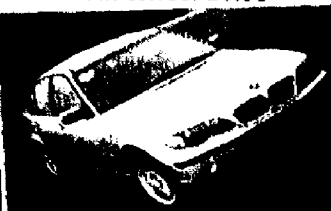
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4 dr, 8 cyl, auto trans, pwr str/bks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, alloys, heated seats, leather int, prem pkg, MSRP \$46,720. Stk. #B3-31. VIN #200002. 39 mo closed end lease w/10,000 mi/yr. 20c thereafter. \$2995 cap cost. \$499 1st mo pymnt + \$500 sec dep + \$525 bank fee + \$499 due at lease signing. Ttl pymnts \$39,401. Ttl cost \$2,981. Purch opt at lease end \$26,066.

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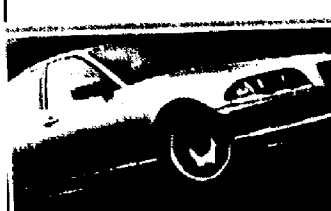
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\$369
Lease
Per Mo.
39 Mos.

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2003 BMW
330i



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Lease
Plan!
4 dr, 6 cyl, auto trans, pwr str/bks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, alloys, heated seats, leather int, prem pkg, MSRP \$40,445. Stk. #B3-106. VIN #KM25836. 39 mo closed end lease w/10,000 mi/yr. 20c thereafter. \$2995 cap cost + \$369 1st mo pymnt + \$400 sec dep + \$525 bank fee = \$3794 due at lease signing. Ttl pymnts \$14,391. Ttl cost \$17,416. Purch opt at lease end \$25,075.

\$369
Lease
Per Mo.
39 Mos.

Brand New
2003 BMW
525i



Special 39 Month
Lease
Plan!
4 dr, 8 cyl, auto trans, pwr str/bks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, alloys, cold weather pkg, leather int, prem pkg, xenon lts, MSRP \$42,870. Stk. #B3-178. VIN #GY99284. 39 mo closed end lease w/10,000 mi/yr. 20c thereafter. \$2500 cap cost + \$399 1st mo pymnt + \$400 sec dep + \$525 bank fee = \$3824 due at lease signing. Ttl pymnts \$15,561. Ttl cost \$18,566. Purch opt at lease end \$27,008.

\$399
Lease
Per Mo.
39 Mos.

Brand New
2003 BMW
530i



Special 39 Month
Lease
Plan!
4 dr, 8 cyl, auto trans, pwr str/bks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, alloys, cold weather pkg, moonroof, leather int, prem pkg, MSRP \$48,970. Stk. #B3-61. VIN #CK29234. 39 mo closed end lease w/10,000 mi/yr. 20c thereafter. \$2500 cap cost + \$429 1st mo pymnt + \$500 sec dep + \$525 bank fee = \$3954 due at lease signing. Ttl pymnts \$16,731. Ttl cost \$19,786. Purch opt at lease end \$28,961.

\$429
Lease
Per Mo.
39 Mos.

Brand New
2003 BMW
745Li



Special 39 Month
Lease
Plan!
4 dr, 8 cyl, auto trans, pwr str/bks, AIR, AM/FM stereo, 6 disc CD player, moonroof, alloy, leather navigation sys, lux seating pkg, xenon lts, prem sound, MSRP \$71,495. Stk. #B3-63. VIN #DR00045. 39 mo closed end lease w/10,000 mi/yr. 20c thereafter. \$2995 cap cost + \$499 1st mo pymnt + \$850 sec dep + \$800 bank fee = \$5144 due at lease signing. Ttl pymnts \$31,941. Ttl cost \$38,461. Purch opt at lease end \$49,596.

\$819
Lease
Per Mo.
39 Mos.

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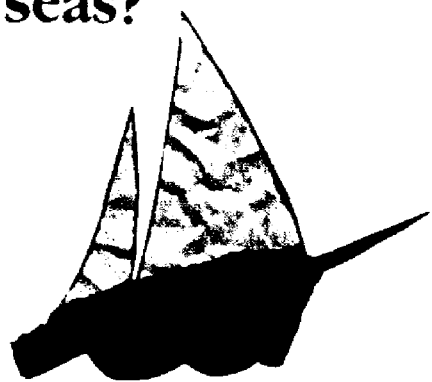
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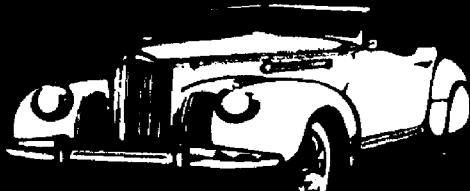
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2000 SATURN SL1 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, tilt, cruise, cass, only 34,000 miles VIN#YZ140174	2000 SATURN LW2 Wagon, v-6, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, trac- tion, 31,000 miles VIN#YV60000	1999 SATURN SL1 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, 38,000 miles VIN#XZ161772	2002 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER v-8, 2nd, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, alloy wheels, side and head bags, 1 seat, moonroof, 110,000 miles VIN#2J20000	2002 MITSUBISHI LANCER ES 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, only 8,000 miles VIN#200160
\$7,995	\$12,995	\$7,595	\$26,995	\$11,995
2001 MITSUBISHI GALANTE ES v-6, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, wing, moonroof, only 20,000 miles VIN#1E229164	2002 MITSUBISHI GALANTE ES 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, 15,000 miles VIN#200000	2001 SUBARU OUTBACK 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, only 26,000 miles VIN#1Z611478	2000 NISSAN ALTIMA GLE 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, only 17,000 miles VIN#01155114	1999 HONDA CIVIC LX 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, only 23,000 miles VIN#01E71099
\$14,995	\$13,995	\$19,595	\$13,995	\$11,595
2001 NISSAN PATHFINDER SE 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, moonroof, only 17,000 miles VIN#1NS01322	2002 LEXUS IS300 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, moonroof, only 7,000 miles VIN#200000	2000 ACURA 3.2TL 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, moonroof, alloy wheels, heated seats, 10,000 miles VIN#200000	2000 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, alloy wheels, 10,000 miles VIN#000121	1999 SATURN SC-1 4 dr. auto, air, full power, leather, cd, alloy wheels, only 27,000 miles VIN#000002
\$22,495	\$28,995	\$21,995	\$12,995	\$7,995

2000 NISSAN XTERRA 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, sport package, alloy wheels, 10,000 miles VIN#000002	2001 DODGE RAM XTRA CAB 345 v-8, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, alloy wheels, 13,000 miles VIN#1E0002	2003 ACURA 3.2TL 5-TYPE 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, moonroof, alloy wheels, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, 10,000 miles	2000 TOYOTA AVALON XLS 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, moonroof, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, v-6, 30,000 miles VIN#000120	2002 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW CAB 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, only 11,000 miles VIN#000121
\$18,995	\$18,995	\$28,995	\$22,995	\$21,995

2002 CHEVY SUBURBAN LT 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, moon- roof, heated seats, 11,000 miles VIN#200002	2002 TOYOTA CAMRY LE 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, 15,000 miles VIN#200002	2000 LINCOLN TOWNCAR Signature Series, V-8, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, moonroof, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, only 31,000 miles VIN#000000	2000 LEXUS ES-300 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, moonroof, heated seats, alloy wheels, alloy wheels, only 29,000 miles VIN#000000	2000 MAZDA MPV v-6, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, alloy wheels, dual doors, only 27,000 miles VIN#000002
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LEASE FOR \$299 MO.	LEASE FOR \$189 MO.	LEASE FOR \$199 MO.	LEASE FOR \$169 MO.	LEASE FOR \$199 MO.
2000 CHEVY S-10 PICKUP 1st, auto, air, full power, leather, moonroof, cd, alloy wheels, 12,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$169 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	2002 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, full power, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$369 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	2000 CHEVY TAHOE LT 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, leather, heated seats, 3 seats, cd, moonroof, 30,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$399 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	2000 FORD MUSTANG LX Auto, air, full power, cd, alloy wheels, 35,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$169 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	2000 SATURN LW-2 WAGON v-6, auto, air, full power, leather, heated seats, alloy wheels, 34,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$199 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!
LEASE FOR \$169 MO.	LEASE FOR \$369 MO.	LEASE FOR \$399 MO.	LEASE FOR \$169 MO.	LEASE FOR \$199 MO.
2000 SATURN SL-1 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, 15,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$126 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	2000 VW JETTA GLS 4 dr. auto, air, full power, cass, 20,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$199 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	2001 VW GOLF VR-6 GTI v-6, auto, air, full power, moonroof, alloy wheels, 30,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$259 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	2001 SUBARU LEGACY OUTBACK Auto, air, leather, full power, cd, alloy wheels, 26,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$269 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	2002 CHEVY MONTE CARLO 2 dr. v-6, auto, air, full power, only 5,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$234 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!
LEASE FOR \$126 MO.	LEASE FOR \$199 MO.	LEASE FOR \$259 MO.	LEASE FOR \$269 MO.	LEASE FOR \$234 MO.
1999 TOYOTA RAV-4 4 dr. auto, air, full power, leather, moonroof, cd, alloy wheels, 12,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$219 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	1999 TOYOTA CAMRY LE 4 dr. auto, air, full power, 10,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$169 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	1999 SATURN SL-1 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, 15,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$129 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	2000 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT 4X4 6 cyl. auto, air, 4x4, full power, 31,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$219 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	2000 NISSAN ALTIMA GLE 4 dr. auto, air, full power, leather, cd, alloy wheels, only 17,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$199 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!
LEASE FOR \$219 MO.	LEASE FOR \$169 MO.	LEASE FOR \$129 MO.	LEASE FOR \$219 MO.	LEASE FOR \$199 MO.
2002 TOYOTA AVALON v-6, auto, air, full power, side air bags, 17,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$299 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	1999 SATURN SC-1 4 dr. auto, air, full power, alloy wheels, only 27,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$129 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	1999 HONDA CIVIC LX 4 dr. auto, air, full power, cass, 28,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$169 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	2001 VOLVO S-40 4 dr. auto, air, full power, alloy wheels, 11,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$269 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!	1999 ACURA INTEGRA LS 4 dr. auto, air, full power, moonroof, cd, 10,000 miles VIN#000002 Lease for \$226 Mo. 39 Mo. \$1999 Total Due!!!!!!
LEASE FOR \$299 MO.	LEASE FOR \$129 MO.	LEASE FOR \$169 MO.	LEASE FOR \$269 MO.	LEASE FOR \$226 MO.

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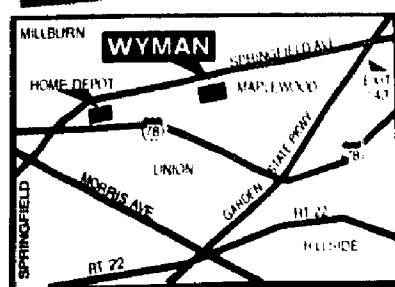
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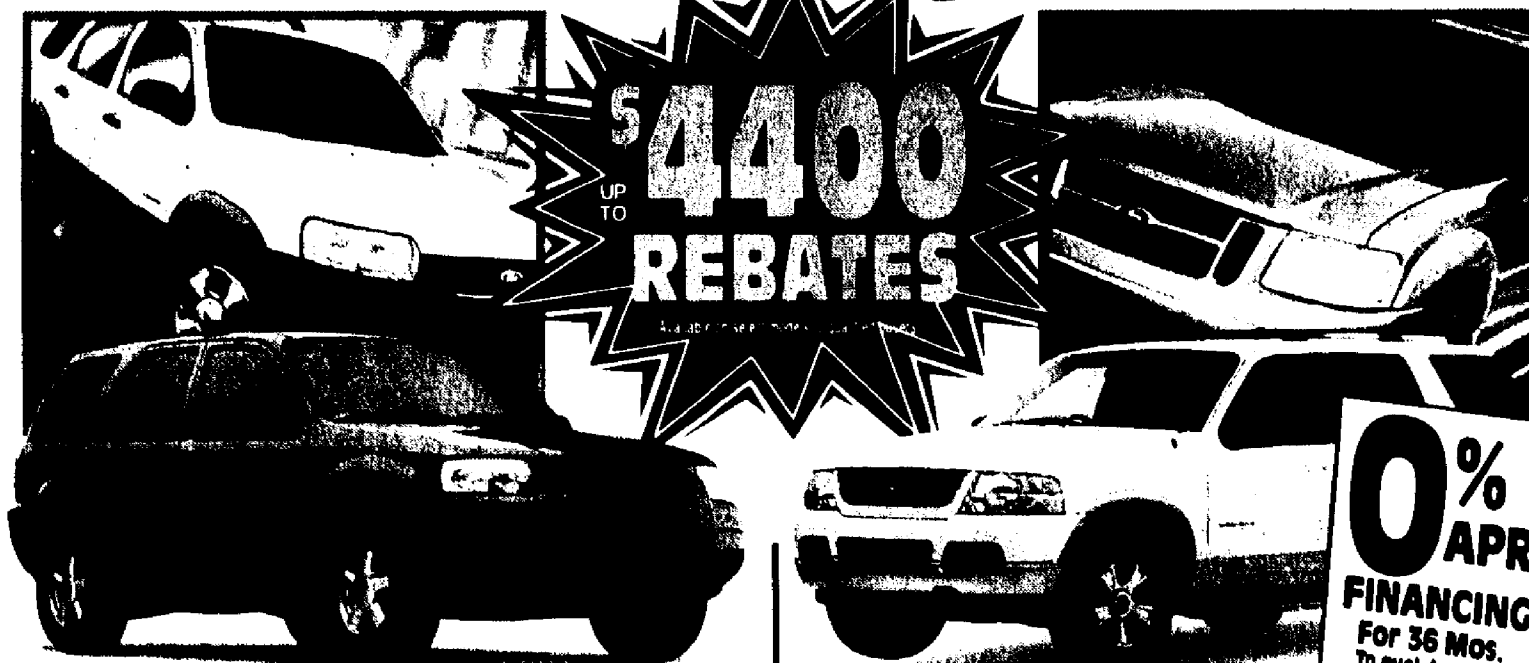
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CD, cruise, floor mats, MSRP
\$21,165, VIN #36914823. Price
incl. \$750 Chevrolet Lease Loyalty
Rebate if qual.

\$4995

'00 Ford Escort SE Sedan
4 cyl, auto O/D trans, pwr str/brks/wind/locks/mirrs, cargo
net & cover, AM/FM stereo-cass,
CD, cruise, floor mats, MSRP
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incl. \$750 Chevrolet Lease Loyalty
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\$6995

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net & cover, AM/FM stereo-cass,
CD, cruise, floor mats, MSRP
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net & cover, AM/FM stereo-cass,
CD, cruise, floor mats, MSRP
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\$7995

'01 Chevrolet Prizm Sedan
4 cyl, auto trans, AIR, pwr str/brks/wind/locks/mirrs, cargo
net & cover, AM/FM stereo-cass,
CD, cruise, floor mats, MSRP
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Rebate if qual.

\$8995

'00 Honda Civic EX
4 cyl, auto O/D trans, pwr str/brks/wind/locks/mirrs, cargo
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CD, cruise, floor mats, MSRP
\$12,995, VIN #36914823. Price
incl. \$750 Chevrolet Lease Loyalty
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\$12,995

'01 Chevrolet Tracker Z34 4x4
4 cyl, auto O/D trans, pwr str/brks/wind/locks/mirrs, cargo
net & cover, AM/FM stereo-cass,
CD, cruise, floor mats, MSRP
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'02 Chevrolet Impala LS
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CD, cruise, floor mats, MSRP
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LS - 4 DOOR Malibu



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LS - EXT. CAB PICKUP



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\$28,589

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SILVERADO HD 4X4 PICKUP



Std Equip Incl: 6.0L V-8, pwr strng/bkrs, t/gls, AIR, split front bench, Opt Equip Incl: auto OD trans, deep t/gls, locking diff, carpet, stereo, CD, roof rack, snow, Pwr Prep Pkg, Tilt, w/6 disc, Stk#5847KT, VIN#28234543, MSRP \$29,112, Incl: \$3000 factory rebate, \$1000 Bonus Cash & \$400 GMAC Recent coll grad rebate if qual.

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VENTURE LS - 8 PASS. VAN



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Holiday Gift Guide

**December
11, 12, 13**

Suburban News
Cranford Chronicle • Record Press

Fashion Designer Brings Art Home To Westfield

From wearable art for women to wearable art for walls, award-winning artist Bonnie Boerer once again captivates fans with her inviting and whimsical creations on canvas. Boerer's recently foray into acrylics on canvas has produced an outstanding assortment of lively paintings, at once classic and modern, which debuts at Galeria West on Westfield on Dec. 1.

"We are privileged to exhibit such an exceptional debut anthology," said owner Gerardo Verdugo. "From her classical studies of women to her captivating studies of children, the selection offers something for any collector."

"The same genius that catapulted Boerer's fashion collections to the top of the novelty knitwear industry will definitely make her a favorite of interior designers. This is a magnificent collection."

The Bonnie Boerer "The Works" collection features 32 paintings of textured acrylics on canvas and matte humorously titled to stir the heart. Her art invites the viewer in, from the intricate detail of trellised florals to the flamboyant splash of fanciful life, capturing moments of youth and fancy reminiscent of Norman Rockwell.

Playful studies of children include the impish motley crew, hands in pocket in "Miss Manner's Second Grade Class - The Gents" and the hula-clad dreamers in "Strangers in Paradise." Piercing eyes and mischievous smiles distinguish her vibrant kids.

Her bright seaside collection includes the detailed harbor scene aptly titled Bonnie Banks, and the all-American "In the Navy" and "Where the Boys Are," in which daydreaming sailors flanked by admirers pay homage to the stars and stripes.

Destined for lasting commercial success are Boerer's trellised florals. More than a dozen works frame detailed studies of blossoms with decorative lattice and blooms, drawing the eye to and from the painting-within-a-painting. Tip-toe Through the Tulips, My Wild Irish Rose and This Bud's for You (poemes) feature detail and sublime colors that burst to the edge of the canvas.

Wishing Star, Star Shine, Blue Moon and Wake Up Little Susie introduce Boerer's romantic images of women framed in beautifully painted detail. The set is reminiscent of another era in which women were both idolized and idealized for their mysterious musings.

"I am just thrilled to introduce

The Works here in Westfield, where I first studied fine art," said Boerer. "Creating this collection has been a labor of love. I painted with my heart with a vision and my works will lift spirits in an all too stressful and troubled world. Art feeds the soul. I am looking forward to sharing this banquet with the public."

Following her classical training in fine arts by Elizabeth Schenil, Boerer launched a career in fashion that culminated with award-winning designer status.

Boerer's signature sweaters turned the knitwear industry on its ear when her creations became wearable art in the 1990s. From hand-painted sweaters to appliqued designs incorporating

a multitude of baubles, Bonnie Boerer named and numbered her garments, which loyal followers collected as wardrobe essentials. Bonnie Boerer & Co. sales rocketed to \$40 million annually in six short years.

Loyal and future fans will be happy to know that the same spirited panache that distinguished Boerer's trademark clothing throughout the 1990s evokes warmhearted musings in a premiere fine art show that promises to become a collection of collectibles.

The Bonnie Boerer "The Works" collection is on display at Galeria West Inc., 121 Central Ave. in Westfield now through Dec. 21. For more information call (908) 301-9217.

Crafty Kitchen — Ben Franklin Crafts Is Ready For The Holidays

Stop in and be pleasantly surprised by the great assortment of holiday trimmings to make one's home inviting for the holidays. Those who wish to create a gift

themselves or buy it already made and just add a little something to it, Crafty Kitchen is there to help. There are wonderful ideas to copy if making crafts for

schools or scouts, complete with instruction sheets.

If making cake, cookie or soup mixed in jars, the recipe books, jars and trimmings are all at the store. Great for teacher gifts or that little something extra for that special someone.

There are craft kits for kids and open stock supplies to purchase and put together into a great craft basket that kids can use throughout the year. There are plenty of ideas for stocking stuffers and do not forget to visit the \$1 section.


Bows for trees and garlands can be custom made by the staff, who will provide suggestions if needed.

The staff at Crafty Kitchen—Ben Franklin Crafts in Garwood will help shoppers discover life's little pleasures and celebrate the season with crafts.

For more information call Crafty Kitchen at (908) 789-0217.



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Kiwanis Conducting Luminaria Sale

SCOTCH PLAINS—The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Kiwanis Club has begun its annual Luminaria Sale. A local custom, which began some 45 years ago in the Borough of Fanwood, has grown to become a county and state-wide display on Christmas Eve.

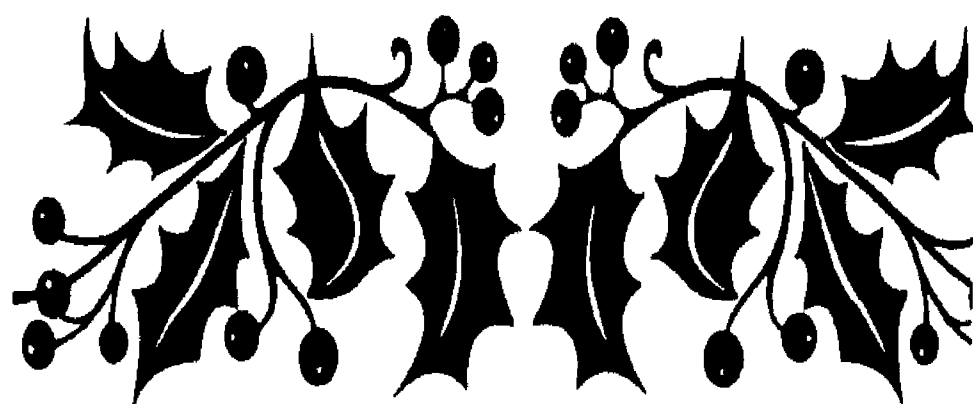
Residents place large plumbers candles inside bags, which are anchored with sand, in front of their homes, along drive-ways and walks. The display, which begins at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, has become a local tradition. Thousands of luminary candles are lit to initiate the holi-

day season. Many neighborhoods get together to light their candles and celebrate the Christmas season. Residents, who have moved from the area, contact the Kiwanis Club to send luminaries to their new homes in other states.

Started some 45 years ago by the Bayert family, who moved to Fanwood from the midwest, the custom grew. For the past 30 years, the SPF Kiwanis Club has continued and increased the tradition. This year's theme will be to "remember our fighting men and women in the military."

Candles will be available, as in past years, from the Fanwood Municipal garage on North Avenue. The remaining dates and times of the sale are: Dec. 14, and 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Dec. 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The traditional large plumbers candle, bag and sand will cost 35 cents. All proceeds will be utilized for the Kiwanis Club charitable endeavors.

For more information about the sale, residents may call Bill Lehman at (908) 518-0713. Do not call the Fanwood Municipal Garage.



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Lions Club Sponsoring Christmas Tree Sale

FANWOOD—From Dec. 1 until Christmas, The Fanwood Lions Club will hold its annual Christmas tree sale. The hours will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends, and from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on weekdays.

Individuals who are looking for a beautiful, yet very reasonably priced, tree to grace their home this holiday season are invited to come to LaGrande Park, at LaGrande Avenue and Second Street in Fanwood.

Pick from a large selection of trees: Scotch pines, balsams,

Douglas firs, and Fraser firs. Shoppers may also select a wreath or Christmas decorations.

The Lions Club thanks its neighbors in Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Westfield, Plainfield, and surrounding communities for their continuing support.

The revenue from this sale goes to local charities and scholarships for local students to aid them in pursuing their educational goals. Through these activities the Fanwood Lions Club acts to fulfill its mission to community service.



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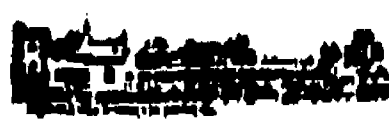
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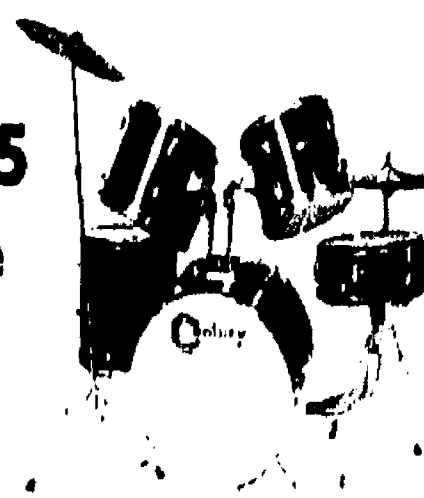
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The Holiday Shopping Season Has Started At Staples

Holiday shopping was in full force last weekend, with Staples customers purchasing technology gifts, product accessories and office furniture. Based on early season shopping sales at Staples' 1,100 retail stores and online at <http://www.staples.com>, key gift items and a number of "back-to-basics" emerged as top sellers.

"Our early holiday shopping sales are a key indicator of what customers want this gift giving season," said Philo Pappas, senior vice president of merchandising for Staples. "From office and home-office essentials to the latest technology products, customers are going online and visiting our Staples stores to easily find something for everyone on their list."

Staple's hot selling items are:

Digital Camera Craze

The Kodak DX4330 digital camera is Staples' top selling 3.1 megapixel digital camera. The Kodak DX4330 digital camera includes advanced features such as 3X optical zoom and advanced LCD panel that allows you to see photos in any light exposure. Priced under \$300, the digital camera comes with 16MB of internal memory so you can immediately begin taking pictures.

All-In-One Multi-Function Machines

Priced under \$300, the HP PSC 2210 Color All-In-One is a popular gift purchase among Staples holiday shoppers. This gift is compact and serves as a multifunction machine for customers looking to combine all their office needs in one. This versatile machine prints, faxes,

copies, scans and is one of the fastest machines of its kind on the market. It has a built-in memory card reader that reads a variety of digital memory cards, allowing consumers to print digital images directly from their digital camera without a PC.

LCD Monitor Magic

The 15" NEC 1545V, priced around \$350, is Staples top selling LCD (liquid crystal display) monitor. In the world of computer upgrades, LCD monitors are on everyone's wish list. Staples' customers are making the upgrade from CRT (cathode ray tube) monitors, opting for the higher resolution and space-saving features that LCDs offer.

Photo Printers

The HP Photosmart 7350 Color Photo Printer is a hot demand item this holiday season. Priced under \$200, this color photo printer has everything you need to print out high quality photos. It allows you to print 4x6-inch borderless photos in a snap, with speeds of up to 17 pages per minute in black and white or 11 color pages per minute.

The Best Seat in the House

One of the hottest selling items at Staples is the Global leather executive chair, at an attractive price of \$69.94. "We are constantly hearing from our customers that more people are working from home and they



need comfortable and stylish chairs from which to work from," added Pappas. "For businesses conducted out of the home, an office chair may get more of a workout than the couch or even a kitchen chair." Staples offers a large selection of office chairs at prices that range from \$49 to \$399.

Other Hot Gifts

In addition, other hot selling products that make great holiday gifts or stocking stuffers include:

Photo Paper - Staples branded photo paper is one of the basics that many Staples' shoppers are buying this holiday season. Since digital cameras and photo printers are hot gifts, Staples photo paper completes the package.

Writing Instruments. The new Pendulum pen by Sanford is topping shoppers' lists. The pen has an ergonomic tip and grip

design that adjusts to your writing angles, allowing customers to write out holiday cards in a fun, smooth and comfortable manner.

Gifts for the kids. Mr. Sketch scented watercolor markers are all the rage and top kids' wish lists. Available in 12 assorted colors, scents include cherry, blueberry and mint and make any artwork look and smell like a masterpiece.

Staples Gift Card. A Staples gift card is always a popular last-minute gift, but it is already selling briskly early in the season. A Staples gift card is good for that hard to shop for family member or co-worker. Available in any quantity, the gift card can be redeemed at any Staples store.

"With our great selection, everyday low prices and reliable customer service, Staples is a convenient destination for holiday shopping. Staples guaranteed low price policy is a great alternative when searching for the perfect gift," said Pappas.

Three Easy Ways To Shop and Holiday Gift Guide

Staples makes it easy and convenient to purchase these and other sought-after holiday items by offering three ways to shop: in-store, through the Staples catalog or online at www.staples.com. Visitors to the Web site can click on the Holiday Center for additional gift suggestions and savings. The Staples Web site also offers side-by-side product comparisons, including prices and product features, to help determine which brand is best. In addition, Staples Holiday Shopping Gift Guide helps to make gift selection easy.

Packing and Free Online Shipping

Staples also offers a timesaving solution for shipping holiday gifts purchased in stores, the UPS Pack and Ship Center. Staples customers have the added benefit of receiving low price UPS counter rates, making all the holiday services available in one convenient place. Staples sells all the packing supplies needed: tape, bubble wrap, mailing labels, and boxes. Or if shopping from home, delivery for all online and catalog purchases is free through Dec. 28.



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Holiday Exhibit At Museum Shows Spirit Of Christmas Past

SPRINGFIELD—This month, a holiday exhibit of antique toys, ornaments and other trinkets will be on display at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library.

Included in the exhibit are a rag doll, a mechanical tin toy from 1902, lead soldiers, miniature kitchen utensils and home-made puzzles. A glass Christmas tree ornament from the early 20th century and probably made

in Germany was converted into a toy. Also in the display are Christmas cards from 1890 and 1910, a Christmas book from 1898, and a Lionel electric train from the mid-1920s. A velvet-covered, clasped Bible belonging to Sarah Bailey, the Springfield Library's first library cardholder, is also on display.

Also shown through Jan. 9, 2003, is *Mixing Memory and Desire*, a one-woman show of

humorous, poignant and mysterious paintings by Bloomfield artist Carole Alter.

The Donald B. Palmer Museum is located in the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. Hours of the exhibit are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday hours are from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For information call (973) 376-4930.



Purchase Cerebral Palsy League's Entertainment Books For Fund-Raiser

CRANFORD—The Cerebral Palsy League is selling copies of the popular Entertainment 2003 coupon book to raise funds for its programs serving children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Available immediately, the Entertainment coupon books contain hundreds of 50 percent-off and two-for-one discount offers on fine and family dining, fast food, movies, sporting events, activities, special attractions, and hotels. The Northern New Jersey edition book includes offers for the Paper Mill Playhouse, Loews Cineplex, and Clearview Cinemas, among others. Plus, more than 150 editions are available to order for cities across the United States and Canada, making it a perfect gift opportunity for out-of-town family members or friends.

The Northern New Jersey

books cost \$20. Other editions covering the Middlesex County area and Monmouth and Ocean Counties are also available for \$30. A portion of the proceeds from every book supports the programs of the Cerebral Palsy League, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) agency with facilities in Union

and Cranford.

To order, call (908) 709-1800, ext. 147, or stop by the Cerebral Palsy League at 61 Myrtle St. in Cranford or 373 Clermont Terr. in Union. Or purchase the books online at www.entertainment.com, where one can enter 562940 when prompted.

Help Scotch Plains PBA To Collect Toys For Tots

SCOTCH PLAINS—The members of the Scotch Plains Police-men's Benevolent Association are conducting their eighth annual Toys for Tots drive. Last year, more than \$3,000 in games and toys were donated. These gifts were placed in baskets and distributed to local churches and religious organizations throughout the community.

New toys and games are

needed for this year's drive to be a success.

All donations may be brought to the Scotch Plains Police Department in the lobby, where a barrel has been placed. The cut-off date for donations will be Dec. 20. This will allow for distribution for the holiday season.

For more information call (908) 322-7100.

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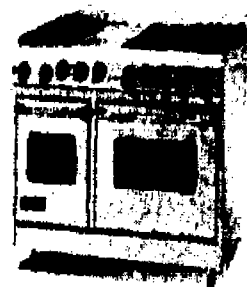
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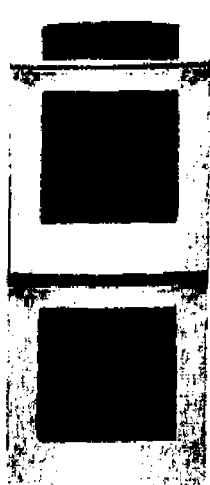
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Easy, Affordable Holiday Gift Tips For Auto Aficionados

PAGE 6

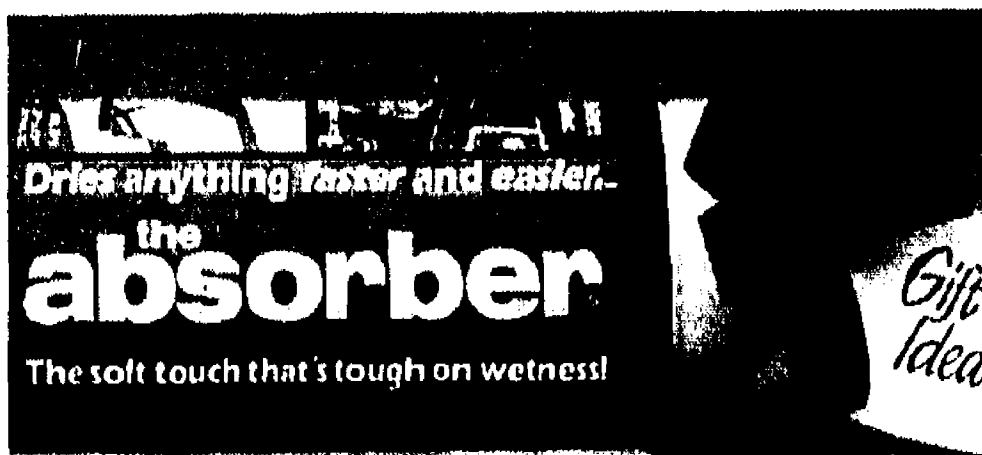
HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2002

It would seem that every family has at least one — an auto lover for whom it can be so difficult to shop during the holidays. There are tons of specialty items on the market. Where should you start?

Well, how about with the basics? The first and most important tenet of car care is effective maintenance, and true car aficionados are always on the lookout for products to make the job easier, especially during fall and winter when harsh road and weather conditions can harm a vehicle's finish.

"Cars should be washed regularly," said Boyd Coddington, who builds one-of-a-kind custom cars for collectors and celebrities. The only car builder to have been featured on the cover of "The Smithsonian" magazine, Coddington continued: "There isn't another thing someone can do that's as simple and has as great an effect on the appearance of a vehicle — and



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leaving it out in the rain isn't what I mean by washing it."

"Let me give you a few simple tips," Coddington said. "Whatever you do, don't use dishwashing soap to wash your car. The grease that dish soap cuts through on your dishes also strips the wax coat right off your car, truck, motorcycle or boat."

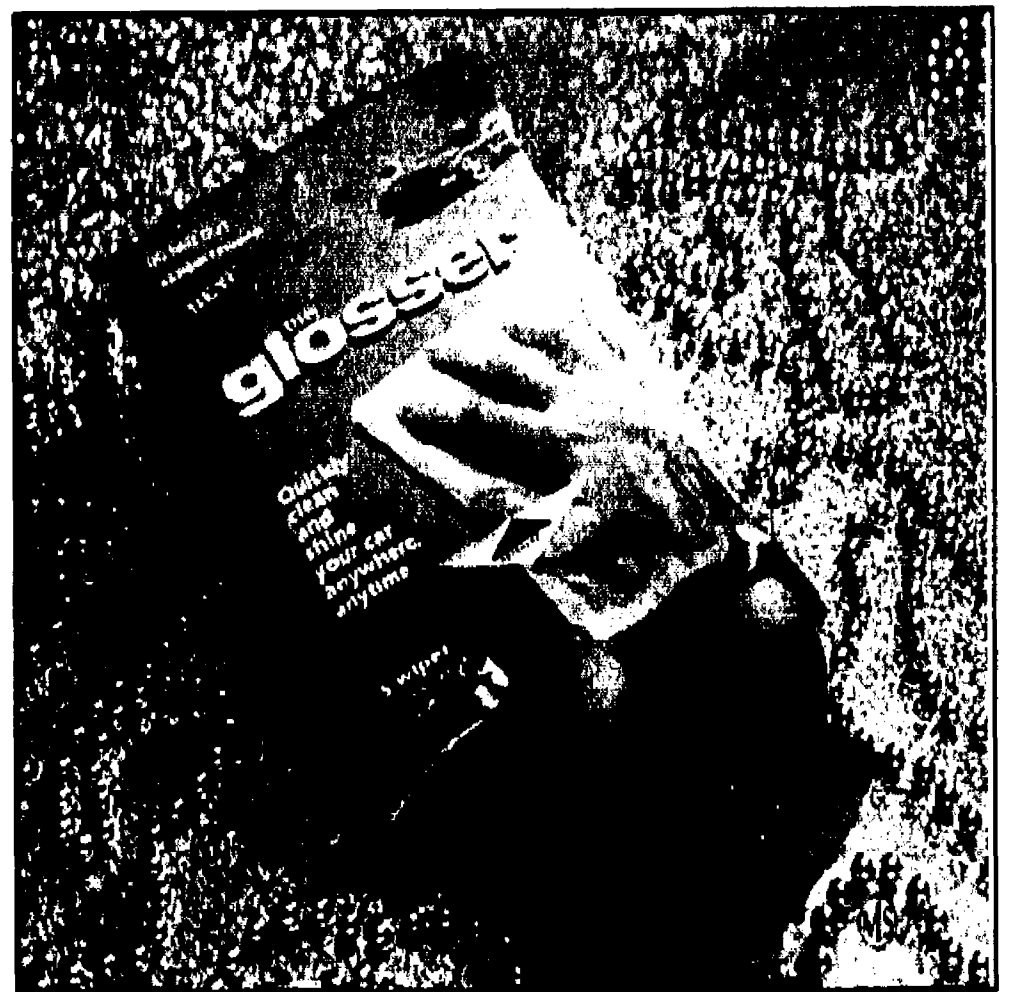
"Wash it in the shade, so the sun doesn't dry it out while you're working on it. Also, use two wash mitts, one for the top of the car and a second for the lower body panels, that way

heavy dirt closer to the road doesn't get carried to the top of your car where it can cause visible scratching," Coddington barely paused when asked about an ideal gift idea for car buffs.

"The Absorber is a great stocking stuffer for people like me, who like gifts that are functional," he said. "It's kind of an inside secret in the automotive industry. It soaks up more water, won't scratch, leave lint or streak the finish, costs about half the price of a leather chamois and lasts for years longer."

Dave Toof of Sacramento, Calif. also had plenty to say about the product he says is the best he's ever used.

"Everyone thinks I must wash and wax my car every day



CLEANING AND POLISHING agents in the middle of three-layer microfiber are the secrets behind The Glosser, an easy, affordable gift that will keep your favorite car buff's ride in great shape.

because it's always clean and shiny," says this proud owner of a limited edition Alfa Romeo Spider. "Here's my secret: I use a car cover whenever I'm not in it, and then I use The Glosser to make it look like it was just washed and waxed." With cleaning and polishing agents in the middle of a three-layer microfiber, The Glosser removes

surface dirt, applies wax, enhances shine and buffs it out — all with one disposable cloth that won't scratch or leave lint.

"I have not washed or waxed my car for seven months," Toof said. "I'd be happy to have a bunch of those waiting for me under the tree this year."

Chip Foote designs a plethora of automotive objects d'art, from real wheels to Hot Wheels® to complete concept cars for Detroit car manufacturers.

"Keeping things clean is more important than most people realize," Foote said. "Take something simple like brake dust. Brake dust contains miniature metallic flakes; the dust itself also acts like a sponge that holds moisture. The moisture causes the metal to rust, which stains your wheel, which starts the oxidation process, which can totally destroy the surface of the wheel."

A tool like the soft-bristled Cleantools Wheel Brush can be a great gift for car fans. It's flagged bristles get in all the nooks and crannies of an intricate wheel pattern, but without scratching the wheel.

Speaking of objects d'art, custom cars by Boyd Coddington and Chip Foote are featured in a collector poster series, titled "Best of the Best." Every poster is a visual work of art, each featuring one of several award-winning vehicles that are truly moving masterpieces. The posters are available by calling (800) ABSORBER. For more information about the Cleantools Wheel Brush, the Absorber or the Glosser, call (800) 654-3933.

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Holiday Fashions For Full-Figured Women

The holiday season is quickly approaching and before you know it, you'll find yourself at the mall along with hundreds of shoppers, anxiously searching for the perfect gift for that special woman in your life — mom, wife, daughter, sister or friend. Tired of the runaround? Maybe it's time to do something different this year and shop from the comfort of your home. Junonia, a catalog company that offers active and casual wear for women size 14 and up, may be your ticket to a holiday shopping utopia.

So now that half of the holiday shopping battle is solved, it's time to tackle the other half — selecting the gift. For the first time, Junonia, who specializes in activewear designed with extra support, quality and comfort for the larger woman, has introduced a new line of workday casual wear. Some of the new additions include fashionable denim and twill barn jackets,



COMFY, SMART, CASUAL: The model is wearing a micro-suede outfit from Junonia's new line of workday casual apparel. The company offers active and casual wear with extra support, quality and comfort for women size 14 and up.

new moleskin apparel and linen-blend mandarin-collar tops. This new line of smart casual and soft career style is designed to fit and flatter the real woman's body while offering the freedom to be stylish at any size.

If you find yourself torn between a trendy mock boucle sweater or a sporty sleeveless aquatard, or your gift recipient prefers to choose her own clothing, opt for a gift certificate — Junonia's new Web gift certificate is valid for phone and Internet orders.

Because clothes can make the woman, Junonia specializes in fashion that reflects a woman's personal style and helps make the most of her figure. The company also knows the importance of keeping a positive body-image and engaging in healthy living. That's why they offer expert advice ranging from which colors look best for a figure to how to select and get started on an exercise program to other helpful tips.

For more information, or to purchase apparel and Web gift certificates, visit www.junonia-clothing.com or call (800) 586-6642 to request a catalog.



CLASSIC TOY FAVORITES OFFER THE BEST VALUE—When it comes to holiday gift-giving for children, you want to find a toy that's sure to entertain and stimulate young minds. Simple, classic toys can offer hours of fun for your child, allowing him or her to explore the world, grow and imagine. The child-powered design of these toys possess a certain "come back" factor — one that makes it a perfect choice for all ages. Loved by children and endorsed by parents for its unique creative play benefits, the BRIO Wooden Railway System is a clear favorite of everyone. Highly acclaimed since its introduction in 1958, this popular train system continues to offer endless play value for generations to come. For more information about starter sets or add-on accessories call (888) 274-6869 or visit www.briotoy.com.

Handy Holiday Gift Idea:

Handcrafted gifts are especially popular around the holidays. Typically inexpensive, they also show off your creative side and attention to detail. A simple wooden picture frame, painted gold, sprayed with glitter and adorned with metal stars is a simple way to spread some holiday cheer. Customize the frame with your own special message for Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa.

Idea provided courtesy of "Two-Hour Christmas Crafts" (Sterling Publishing), by Michele Thompson.

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Trend Alert: Hot Accessories For Gift-Giving

City sidewalks, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style ... and shoppers heading to the mall in droves to find the perfect gift for friends and loved ones. One of the first places people go is to the clothing stores, brimming with sales. However, clothing shopping for friends or family members can be difficult, particularly if you're not sure of their sizes and style preferences. How many times have you found yourself looking around the store for someone

who looks about the same size as your intended recipient?

An easier alternative to "guess-timating" someone's size and style sense may be to look for the accessories that add the perfect finishing touch to any ensemble.

This season's most exciting accessories are inspired by the Bohemian jet set look of the early 1970s, seen everywhere from the glossy pages of fashion magazines to Hollywood film premieres. Take a gander at these

ideas from the experts at the Accessories Council:

- It's all about suede — This fabric is back in a big way, serving as a main component of the "Hippie de Luxe" look this year. Suede fringed bags, knee-high boots and fringed belts offer the ultimate in gift-giving.

- Gift Wrap — Superb for adding a touch of sophistication to cool weather dressing, wraps are still a popular fashion choice. Highly versatile, they look equally at home over an elegant suit or a pair of favorite jeans — an ideal cover-up choice for a night out at theatre or the movies. Idea: capitalize on the current rage for suede and hippie couture with a fringed wrap.

- Think antique — Scour thrift stores, consignment shops or even a relative's jewelry box for brightly beaded fun jewelry. Antique brass chandelier earrings or a smoked topaz and turquoise necklace offer a touch of "swing and shimmer" detailing to any style palette.

- Shake, tassel and roll — Accessories that shake, shimmer or jingle are definite must-haves. A large eye-catching piece is more effective than several smaller ones.

- Cool it with color — Muted, earth tones complement just about any complexion. Browse for items in moss, chocolate, tawn and copper for the ideal additions to a subtle look.



GET TRAPPED IN A 'SPIDER'S WEB' OF GIFTS—Each Christmas morning children bound down the steps, anxious to see what wonderful gifts Santa has left for them. Oftentimes, family members take turns being "Santa." Santa calls out the name of the person to whom the present belongs, and each person in the family gets a chance to be Santa until all of the gifts are distributed. This year, take a different approach to handing out Christmas goodies — one that has existed since the late 1800s. The December 1876 issue of St. Nicholas magazine included a story that described the distribution of gifts via a "spider's web." Bright ribbons hang from a chandelier, each attached at its far end to a wrapped package. Each recipient must find the ribbon with their name on it, and follow it to their gift. (photo courtesy of Winterthur Museum.)

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Easy Tips For Last-Minute Gift Shopping For Teens

Hand in hand with tackling the crowds of holiday shoppers at the mall is the unwieldy task of shopping for the teens and "tweens" on your gift list. Notoriously fickle, their trends and tastes change almost daily. It's tough to know where to start. But never fear, following are some "evergreen" gift ideas that teens and young adults are sure to enjoy.

- A gift subscription to his or her favorite magazine.
- A "Special Edition" classic board game, like Monopoly® or Scrabble®.
- A gift certificate for a makeover or a day at a spa.
- Crafty items like ceramics or model kits.
- Gift membership to a gym.
- Movie passes
- Posters of his or her favorite music star (Hint: take a peek at your child's CD collection for a clues.)

Discover Secrets Of Gifted Gift-Giving

To some people, the most difficult aspect of the holidays is finding the perfect gift for friends or loved ones. Not every person is easy to buy for, and hours spent searching the stores can cause even the most steadfast holiday shopper to throw in the towel. There is, however, a selection of gifts that are appropriate for many, and this may be the answer to your worries about finding the perfect gift.

Of course, no single gift is perfect for everyone. According to "Present Perfect: The Essential Guide to Gift Giving" (Mobius Press), by Sherri and Larry Athay, the best gifts share several common characteristics: appropriateness, perceptiveness, selflessness, generosity, indulgence, surprise and evocation.

- **Appropriateness** — The perfect gift is fitting for the occasion and the relationship. A tin of homemade Christmas cookies to a coworker would be a thoughtful gesture.

- **Perceptiveness** — A gift that reflects the giver's attention to the tastes and preferences of the recipient is preferred. In essence, it's a compliment that says, "When I saw this, I couldn't help but think of you!"

- **Selflessness** — The giver should only desire to please the recipient — expecting nothing in return. This "no-return" policy includes any satisfaction the giver anticipates from the observations of others about the extravagance of the gift or the generosity of the giver.

- **Generosity** — Resourceful gifts reveal how special the recipient is to the giver. Often, endowments of the giver's time, effort or creativity are the most gener-



LEARN THE KEY to choosing an ideal gift for almost anyone on your gift list.

ous and memorable characteristics of a gift.

- **Indulgence** — It pampers, it humors, it appeases, it satisfies — the perfect gift says there is something extraordinary about the recipient in the eyes of the giver.

- **Surprise** — Careful and discreet planning can catch even the most suspecting recipient off guard. A spontaneous gift even can be more fun.

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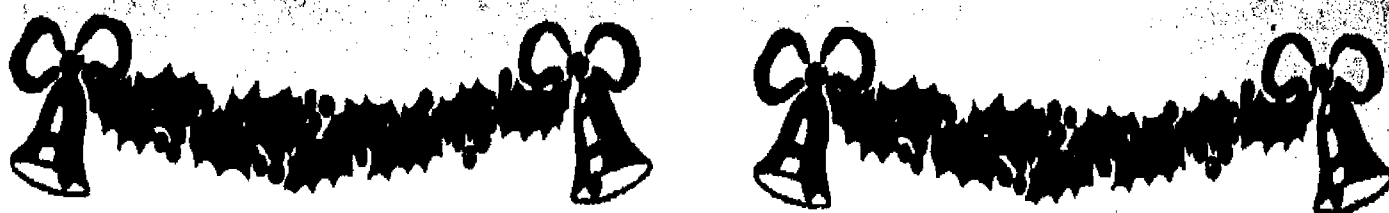
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2002 Downtown Holiday Events Calendar

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM The Watson Highlanders Bagpipe Band

Bagpipers and drummers will perform traditional festive music throughout downtown Westfield

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Yuletide Carolers

Carolers dressed in "Dickens" attire will stroll through downtown Westfield entertaining shoppers

12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM Escape - Women's Barbershop Quartet

Barbershop harmony group will perform throughout downtown Westfield

Musicians from NJ Workshop for the Arts will also perform throughout the day

Saturday Performances - Sponsored by Downtown Westfield Corporation

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM The Watson Highlanders Bagpipe Band

Bagpipers and drummers will perform traditional festive music throughout downtown Westfield

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Yuletide Carolers

Carolers dressed in "Dickens" attire will stroll through downtown Westfield entertaining shoppers

12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM Escape - Women's Barbershop Quartet

Barbershop harmony group will perform throughout downtown Westfield

Musicians from NJ Workshop for the Arts will also perform throughout the day

Saturday Performances - Sponsored by Downtown Westfield Corporation

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

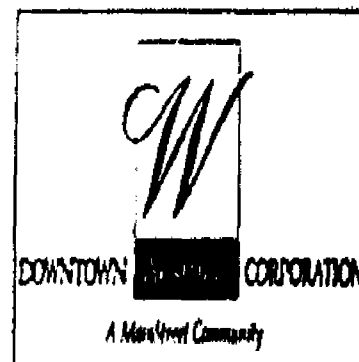
7:30 PM "Puttin' On The Ritz, The Music Of Irving Berlin, America's Songwriter"

The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Avenue - Sanctuary

The music of Irving 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)

(Proceeds benefit WYACT's Free Summer Youth - Theatre Program)

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



Golden Gift Ideas For Seniors

When it comes time to buy presents for seniors, the task can be quite a challenge. It's easy to buy them the same thing year after year, and many seniors are more interested in giving than in receiving more gifts. Today's seniors are also healthier and more active than ever, and gifts should reflect that changing attitude. Here are a few ideas to get you started when holiday shopping for the favorite senior in your life, whether it is a parent, grandparent, next-door neighbor or friend.

Homespun Classics

- Anything involving the grandchildren is sure to be a winner. Have them draw a picture, call, or send a note.
- Have old photographs copied or restored.
- For crafty types, make your own afghan blanket, quilt or throw.
- Put together an updated

family photo album, or have your family pose for portraits. Put the photos in frames decorated by the kids.

- Create a calendar using family photos. Most photo developing stores can create one for a moderate price.

- Put together your own personalized recipe box or album with family favorites and a few of your own special recipes.

Practical Gifts

- Installing a railing for outdoor steps can provide safety and peace-of-mind.
- An air-purifying system can be especially helpful for seniors with asthma.
- Pre-pay long distance or cable services
- Gift certificate for a monthly housecleaning (to be done by you or a cleaning service).
- A bathtub railing can be a life-saving gift.

- Install a home alarm system for seniors living alone.

- A coupon book will last for many months after the holidays.

- A gift subscription to a newspaper or favorite magazine.

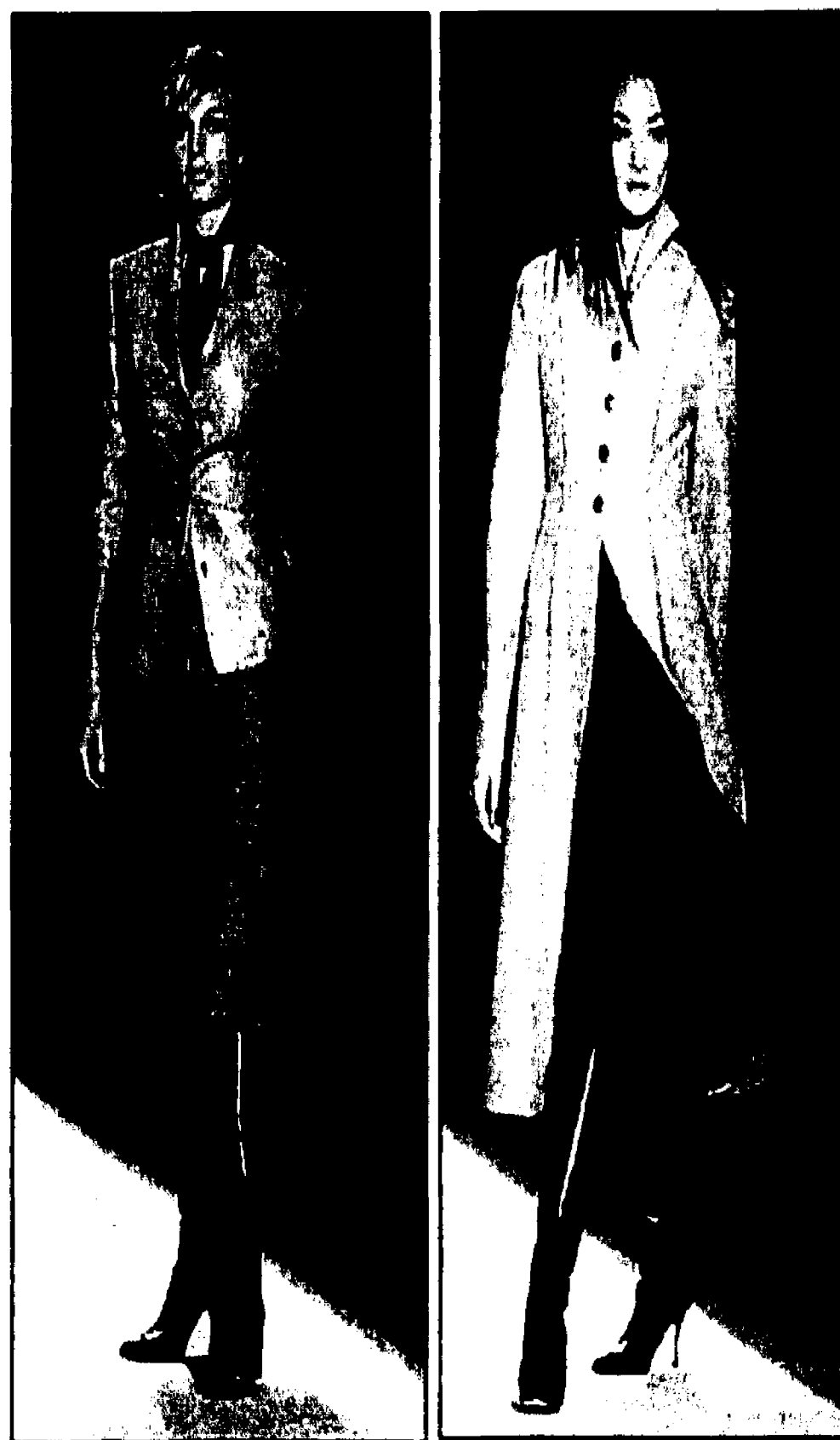
If you're still having trouble deciding on an appropriate gift, do a little research on the person you're buying for. Chances are you already know the person's likes and dislikes simply through everyday conversation.

Think about the things that interest them, their hobbies and what they enjoy.

You may also have to consider physical limitations.

For instance, maybe grandma loves literature but has poor eyesight. A large print book or an audio book might be the way to go.

However, when in doubt, your best bet is to stay true to what the holidays are all about — giving a gift from the heart.



UP-TO-THE-MINUTE HOLIDAY STYLE—From high-fashion holiday soirees to nights out on the town, you've got it covered this season with a completely new and fresh collection by Charles Nolan for Anne Klein New York that delivers pure uptown chic. Tailored jackets and coats with masculine cuts like those pictured above show the domination and strength of the collection — a stark contrast of masculine meeting feminine, ensuing in elegant brilliance. Exceptional details combined with luxurious fabrications in fluid shades of caramel, creme and loden balance the elements of Fall. At right, winter winds won't make you miss a beat with this long high-collar coat with feminine, Victorian-style detailing. To the left, look sharp, sassy and comfortable with this leather blazer and mid-calf skirt combo to create a casual, flowing look.
(Photos courtesy of Anne Klein New York.)

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The History Of Christmas Gift And Card Exchanges

From candy canes to brightly decorated gingerbread houses to Santa Claus on every street corner, the holiday season brings some wonderful things. However, it also ushers in many time-consuming tasks — cooking the holiday meal, picking out the Christmas tree, and especially, buying the perfect gifts for loved ones and writing out holiday cards to faraway friends and family members.

Have you ever wondered about the origin of exchanging gifts and cards? According to Donald E. Dossey, Ph.D., author of *Holiday Folklore, Phobias and Fun* (Outcomes Unlimited Press Inc.), by the 12th century, the practice of giving gifts had become common on Christmas, as well as on New Year's Day.

"It was believed to have come from the scriptural account, in Matthew 2:11, of the Three Magi who offered gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ Child," says Dossey.

The origin of sending Christmas cards, he says, began in England. "Edna Barth in 'Holly, Reindeer, and Colored Lights: The Story of Christmas Symbols,' says that in England, schoolboys away from home sent Christmas letters to their parents." The letters were printed on paper that had Bible scenes on it, written in

their best penmanship. In the hopes of receiving money and gifts, they would tell their parents of their progress at school.

It was in 1839, after the introduction of the penny post in England, that the true Christmas card tradition of sending cards to loved ones developed. "One thousand copies of the card designed for Sir Henry Cole were sold. Usually regarded as the first of its kind, it was made by J.C. Horsley, a member of the Royal Academy," says Dossey. In spite of its success, the custom did not become widespread in America until after the English royal family began sending cards.

A CLOSER LOOK AT HOLIDAY FOLKLORE

Superstitions and folklore have a way of patterning our lives — from avoiding black cats to walking around ladders. Christmas is a time for cheer, but it also is filled with lots of folklore. The following "Christmas Magic" is courtesy of *Holiday Folklore, Phobias and Fun* (Outcomes Unlimited Press Inc.), by Donald E. Dossey, Ph.D.

• Roasting chestnuts in an open fire, named for the available persons you know is a great divina-

tion ploy. The first one that pops will be the one you marry.

• If there is a full moon on Christmas, expect a poor harvest.

• If you do any household repairs on Christmas Day, the trouble will not be cured and even may get worse.

• Hang a sprig of mistletoe over the door to chase away the evil spirits and bring good luck.

• If you were born on Christmas Day, your life will be a happy and healthy one.

• Keep your Yule log burning all night. If it goes out, expect bad luck.

• Eat plenty of pies on Christmas. It is believed to bring good luck.



THE TRADITION OF EXCHANGING GIFTS and cards during the holiday season dates back to the 12th century.

Latest Gadgets For High-Tech Gift-Giving

The holidays are here again, bringing along the age-old questions of 'What do I buy as gifts?' and 'Where do I start?' Well, it's a high-tech world out there, and the computer whiz or the Internet savvy individual might surely appreciate a gift that caters to their "techie" nature. With so many gadgets available to choose from, your only dilemma might be setting a limit on how much fun you have deciding what to buy.

For on-the-go lifestyles, the Microsoft® Windows™ powered Pocket PC can handle just about all of the functions of its larger desktop cousin. One of the best things about this product is that once you purchase one as a gift, you'll know what to get the recipient of this handy gadget for each consecutive year — there are many accessories and add-ons.

• Cases provide a great opportunity to customize the

device to suit the individual. Leather cases may help maintain the look of an executive, while one of rugged nylon fits the bill for the adventurer or weekend warrior.

• Software is also another option, and because most can be downloaded from the Web, this is one last-minute gift that can really be purchased at the last minute. From games to business applications, the list of possibilities is endless.

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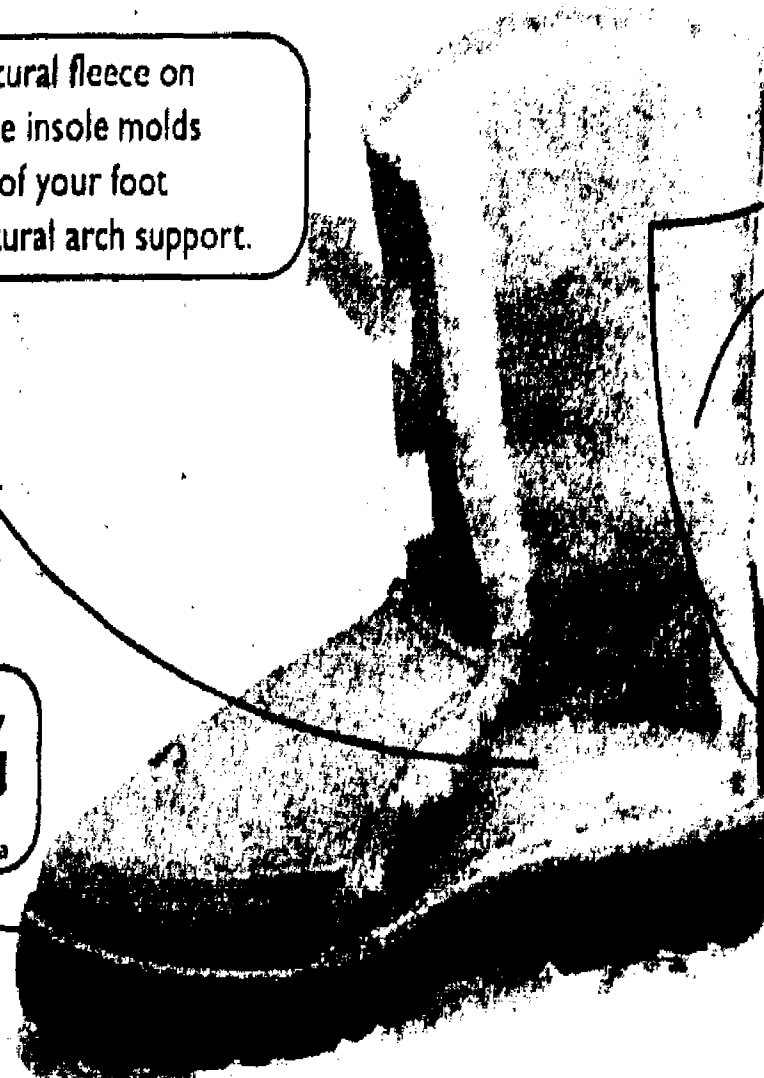
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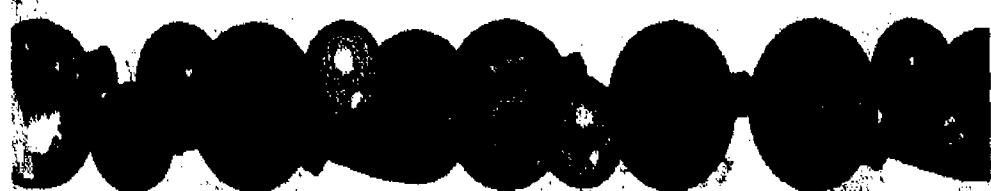
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www.waterloovillage.org

Give Your Family The Gift Of A Healthy, Happy, Safe Holiday Season

Candles, lights and decorations are an essential part of the holiday season. Unfortunately, they also increase the risk of fire and injury. In fact, the United States Fire Administration reports that holiday fires injure more than 2,000 people and cause more than \$500 million in property damage each year.

To help you and your family to have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season, follow these safety tips, courtesy of the Insurance Information Institute.

CANDLES

- Check candles frequently to make sure they don't burn down too far or drip hot wax.
- Snuff out all candles before going to sleep.
- When burning candles, make sure they are placed in sturdy, noncombustible holders away from decorations and other combustible materials.

FIREPLACES

- Never burn wrapping paper in the fireplace; this may release fire-starting embers or produce a buildup of dangerous chemical



KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE this holiday season — Place all tree ornaments out of reach of small children and pets.

fumes in the home.

ENTERTAINING

- If you entertain guests who smoke, provide large ashtrays and check for cigarette butts in upholstered furniture before going to bed. Cigarette fires are the leading cause of fire fatalities

in the home.

- Don't leave the stove unattended when cooking for guests; in the excitement of holiday entertaining, it is easy to forget about the stove.

CHILDREN AND PETS

- Place all ornaments out of reach of small children and pets. Small or breakable ornaments easily can be knocked down. This can result in cuts or choking.
- Be sure to anchor the tree to the wall and ceiling — curious children and playful pets can topple a tree in seconds, causing serious injury.
- Beware of toxic decorations. Mistletoe and holly berries may be poisonous if more than a few are swallowed. Old tinsel may contain lead; discard old tinsel if you are not sure of its composition. Fire salts (which produce a multicolored effect when thrown on burning wood) contain heavy metal, which if swallowed may cause serious gastrointestinal problems and vomiting.

Get into the habit of checking the batteries on smoke detectors, purchasing fire extinguishers and installing a sophisticated alarm system. Print a list of emergency numbers like the poison control, police and fire departments and place them near each telephone in the home. This will help you give your family the most important gift of the season — the gift of safety.

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