

# Record-Press

Serving Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood

Friday, April 16, 2004

50 cents

Vol. 19, No.

## INSIDE



### Caught in a pickle

Westfield's Dan Clark chases Scotch Plains John Maloney during a run down in Westfield's 2-1 win over the Raiders Monday. For the story see Sports, Page C-1.



### He's the champ

David Chen, a seventh-grader in Westfield, is making preparations to compete in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. after claiming the Union County title several weeks ago. For the story, see Page B-1.



### Student show keeps on giving

The student production of "Les Miserables" at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School was a success in more ways than one. During the show's run, the cast and crew collected donations from the audience — nearly \$6,000 in total — which were then turned over to the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County. See the story on Page B-1.

## REMINDER

### Clean up Mindowaskin

Mindowaskin Park, located on East Broad Street in the center of Westfield, will get its annual spring cleaning 9 a.m.-noon Saturday. Volunteers are welcome; for more information, call (908) 233-8110.

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## Contamination found at redevelopment site

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — An environmental study conducted by an engineering consultant indicates that some soil and groundwater contamination exists at one of the two sites that are part of the town's proposed redevelopment project.

The affected area is on the eastern section of the municipal lot facing Elm Street. The Town Council is currently in negotiations with developer HKT Nassau to construct a parking deck and mixed-use buildings consisting of retail and residen-

tial units at the site.

The report, conducted by Cranford-based environmental engineering firm PMK Group, indicates the contamination was likely caused by the presence of four underground storage tanks. The tanks were probably left at the site by a gas station in the 1970s.

While the report could not accurately determine whether the tanks had failed, one soil sample indicates a concentration of Xylene, which could be a gasoline by-product. Groundwater samples did not detect Xylene but did find some concentrations of lead which exceed New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection standards.

The study recommends the town pursue one of two different solutions to mitigate the problem related to contaminated soil, which it now must do whether the council decides to go forward with redevelopment or not.

The town could remove the underground storage tanks and all contaminated soil at the site, rendering the area clean by DEP standards. Or, it could leave the material on-site and petition the DEP for a deed restriction and engineered cap.

If the town decides to pursue the first

option, there would be a considerable expense attached to removing potentially toxic storage tanks and contaminated soil. PMK Project Manager Eric Meyer estimated that cost to fall somewhere between \$80,000 and \$90,000, but called that figure a "conservatively high" estimate at a council conference meeting Tuesday night.

The town is required to report the contamination to the DEP, and in all likelihood it cannot break ground at the Prospect and Elm site until the site is declared clean by the DEP.

(Continued on page A-2)

## Board rejects T-Mobile proposal

By GREG MARX  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Citing parental concerns about student health, the Board of Education decided at its Tuesday meeting to reject a proposal from a wireless phone company to locate antennas at two local schools.

Phone company T-Mobile approached Bob Berman, the board's business administrator, several months ago to discuss putting the antennas and associated structures at Edison and Wilson schools to fill gaps in the company's coverage.

The company offered to pay rent of \$1,950 per month per location, Berman said — about

(Continued on page A-2)



JOHN FEIV/CORRESPONDENT

### Searching for holiday treasures

Brendan Collum, at left, shows off his Easter finds after Saturday's egg hunt in Mindowaskin Park in Westfield. Sitting alongside Brendan are his brother William and Mary McHugh.

## Contested races on tap in SP, Fanwood

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

There won't be much drama in June's primaries, but the November elections promise competition for the Scotch Plains mayor's seat and council spots in Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Monday was the deadline to file to run in the Democratic or Republican primaries; residents have until the primary to file as independents for the general election. There are no municipal elections in Westfield in 2004.

Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks, who announced his candidacy for re-election at a fundraiser March 28, said he believes he can refer to a strong personal record in his quest for a second term.

Marks, a Republican, said he

is fulfilling his promise to township youth by renovating and refurbishing athletic fields. He also said the downtown's central business district is "making tremendous strides" and he believes that establishing a special improvement district is the next step to improving Scotch Plains' downtown.

Marks said if re-elected he would also continue to use his position as mayor to push for property tax reform.

He will be opposed by Democrat Andrew Baron, an attorney who has more than 20 years of government experience. Baron served as township attorney in 1999 and deputy township attorney in 2000 and 2001. He currently serves as municipal prosecutor in Plainfield and Fanwood.

Baron has been an adjunct college instructor for 10 years in the areas of business law and criminal justice and also coaches youth sports.

He said he hopes that whatever comes from discussions about creating a SID in Scotch Plains, he hopes it will be part of a broader plan to revitalize downtown.

Baron added that he expected to conduct a positive campaign which would consist of discussions "about substantive issues facing the township over the next four years."

Deputy Mayor Paulette Coronato, a Republican, will be seeking a second term as a member of the Township Council and said she is running again to continue a 25-year commitment to Scotch Plains.

"Contributions at the council level are very important," said the councilwoman, a mother of four and grandmother of seven. "We are on the right track to keep Scotch Plains a very desirable community to live in."

Coronato will be opposed by Barbara Baldasarre, a registered nurse who currently serves as the administrative director of Professional and Support Services at Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights.

During the past 32 years, she has held a variety of health care positions with administrative responsibilities, including human resource management, contract negotiations, risk management and budgeting.

"The administrative skills I

(Continued on page A-2)

## After a long career, Chief Nelson hangs up his badge

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — As he approaches the end of more than 33 years of public service, the township's top cop has an ambitious plan. He wants to learn how to cook.

"It's my fervent goal," laughed Chief Marshall Nelson, who acknowledged that, as of right now, just about all he can do is bring water to a boil.

Nelson will soon have plenty of time to attend cooking school. On May 1, he will retire as chief of the Scotch Plains Police Department after spending two years overseeing township law enforcement.

Tonight, the chief will be honored at a special dinner hosted by township officials.

"Chief Nelson has earned the respect and admiration of this Township Council and so many previous councils in his 34 year tenure in our department," said Mayor Martin Marks. "I wish him well in his retirement."

Nelson has traveled a long, unlikely road since his youth. He grew up in Chase City, Va., deep in the segregated South. For young black men in those days, Nelson said, there were only two professions, regardless of education.

"You could work on a farm or in the fields," he said. "It wasn't pleasant — it was Klan territory. There's no other way to put it. In those days, everybody had a place."

Although the prejudice and discrimination he experienced in the days before the Civil Rights Movement were difficult to bear, Nelson said he dealt with the situation and became a stronger man because of it.

"It proved the fiber of my character," he said. "If you can deal with that, you can deal with anything."

In 1958, Nelson boarded a bus, taking his place at the back, and headed north, destination Penn Station.

"When I got off the bus, I had five

*"I loved the sight of the uniform, and I loved all their tales of excitement. It's the best move I ever made."*

— Marshall Nelson  
on joining the police force

dollars in my pocket and no job," Nelson said. "I hit the ground running, didn't ask for a handout, and none was given."

He lived initially with relatives in East Orange, working as an orderly and a janitor. For 10 years, he worked at a machine shop, eventually working his way up to a supervisory position. By then, he was making good money, but did not find the work fulfilling.

When his two children went to school full-time, his wife went to work, allowing Nelson to find work as a police officer, a job many of his friends were work-

ing at the time.

"I loved the sight of the uniform," Nelson said, "and I loved all their tales of excitement. It's the best move I ever made."

Nelson started working in Scotch Plains in 1970 — "a sunny Sunday morning," as he remembers it. He was hired as a patrolman.

Three years later, he was promoted to detective, the position at which he would ultimately spend the bulk of his time at the police department. The first major case he participated in was a bank robbery. When he caught the assignment, Joseph Powers, then the chief, explained that he himself had solved his first robbery case.

"That was a high bar he set for me," said Nelson, ever the competitor. He went on to solve that case, every subsequent bank robbery, and all three homicides he was involved with. It's a flawless investigative record he is proud of.

Nelson supervised what he termed the "textbook" investigation of the murder of a cab driver some years later. The case was solved during a continuous 36-hour investigation.

"We started by canvassing neighborhoods and going door to door," Nelson said. "We had a partial description from one eyewitness, the time from another, and a partial license plate description. We connected all the dots."

In his service as chief, Nelson said he

(Continued on page A-2)

## Voters to decide on school budgets

### Dolan drops out of board election

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

On Tuesday, voters will go to the polls to approve or reject the 2004-05 school budgets put forward by local boards of education.

In Westfield, voters will decide whether to approve a tax levy of

## Inside

See letters and commentaries on the school budgets on Pages A-6, A-7 and B-2.

\$63.2 million, which represents an increase in the tax rate of about 6 percent from the current year's budget.

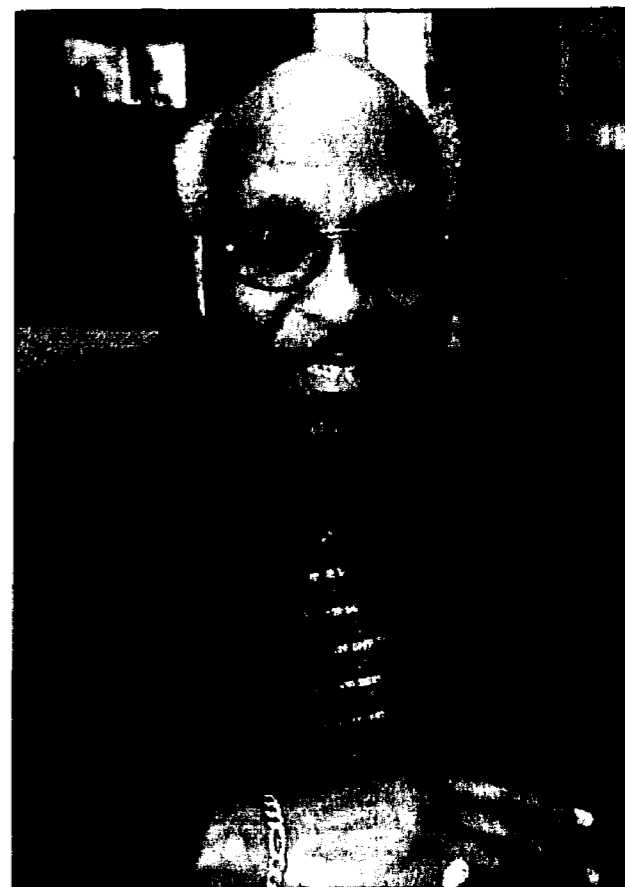
If approved, the budget would increase the property tax levy paid by the owner of the average Westfield home, assessed at \$180,000, by about \$342.

Total spending in the Westfield school budget is \$71.7 million. The spending plan calls for new staff, more professional development and technology upgrades.

In Scotch Plains-Fanwood, the tax levy on the ballot is \$55.3 million. The district's overall proposed spending is set at \$63.5 million, an increase of about 6 percent.

Under the proposal, homeowners in Scotch Plains would face an increase of \$384 for a home assessed at the township average of \$117,000, or over 7 percent. In Fanwood, the tax hike

(Continued on page A-2)



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Scotch Plains Police Chief Marshall Nelson will soon be retiring after more than three decades of public service.

# Races

(Continued from page A-1)

developed will make me a valuable resource to Mr. Baron and the other members of our township council," she said in a statement.

In Fanwood, Democrats Michael Brennan and council president Kathy Mitchell will seek re-election to the Borough Council. They will be opposed by Republicans Joel Stroz and Maureen Mawby.

Mitchell, seeking a third term, said pursuing state aid to lower property taxes and revitalizing Fanwood's downtown will be her priorities for the coming election. She added that Democrats are remaining true to campaign promises to keep the public better informed of issues affecting the

borough. "We're making a concerted effort to advertise hearings, and hopefully minimize the number of people who say they don't know what's going on," she said.

Brennan serves as an information technology specialist for Berkeley Heights and agreed that downtown revitalization is the major issue affecting the borough.

"We want to look at downtown redevelopment a little differently," he said, "and increase our commercial rate base."

Republican Joel Stroz hopes to help his party regain control of the council, which swung to Democratic control after last year's municipal election. Stroz is a 1997 graduate of Rutgers Law School and also holds an M.B.A. from Rutgers.

The 38-year-old father of three cited increasing the viability of the downtown and improving recre-

ational opportunities for kids as goals should he be elected to the council.

Also, he said, "I'm running because of concern over escalating property taxes. Fanwood should take a close look at what its expenditures are."

Mawby has served as an executive assistant to the vice president of a large pharmaceutical company. A borough resident for more than 30 years, she has been a past PTA president and is an active member of Evangel Church in Scotch Plains. She is also the mother of three children who attended the local school district.

Although this is her first run for political office, Mawby said borough officials can do a better job striking a budget.

She also said maintaining borough services and upgrading parks and recreation for residents of all ages is a priority.

# Contamination found

(Continued from page A-1)

The company that owned the gas station was purchased by Occidental, which has an office set up to respond to contamination claims. Town officials are trying to get the company to either pay for the remediation costs up front or reimburse the town after it cleans up the site.

Lead concentration in the groundwater may not ultimately be a problem at all. The report recommended digging one monitoring well at the contaminated site to collect cleaner water samples. PMK Group's methods of evaluating groundwater often result in muddy, turbid water samples which may contain an inflated concentration of lead.

Along the rest of the site, which extends west to Prospect Street, the report did not find any other immediate environmental issues. Because residential dwellings once stood at the current parking lot site, the possibility exists that underground home heating oil tanks may exist beneath the parking lot surface, but those tanks are not considered as hazardous.

"I think this is good news — it could have been worse," said Mayor Greg McDermott.

At the South Avenue site, where the Town Council is also considering building a parking deck and mixed use buildings, the study found lesser concerns. A review of the history of the site found that several structures have existed throughout the site. Whether underground storage tanks were associated with them is not known.

Over the years, fill materials may have been used to level the property when converting it to a parking lot. But soil samples did not indicate the presence of contaminants in the fill.

Two monitoring wells exist at the site, but they are associated with efforts to investigate possible contamination of groundwater by the nearby Amoco gas station. If contamination is detected, further investigation would be required, but mitigating that problem would probably be Amoco's responsibility.

The council has not yet taken action as a result of the study and will likely discuss the matter at its next conference meeting on April 27.

# Nelson

(Continued from page A-1)

was primarily concerned with preparing the department for the next chief, who will likely be younger than 50 years old. To affect meaningful administrative change, he said, he would have liked to have had five years.

Nelson said policing relatively safe municipalities such as Scotch Plains involves mostly service-oriented work, but said that kind of work is very rewarding.

"You meet people who tell you

you've made a difference in their lives, and that usually happens on a service call," Nelson said.

According to Marks and other township officials, the next chief will be inheriting a well-run department, which is largely attributable to Nelson's administration.

"I would tell the next chief to make sure he appoints people who have the best interests of the citizens of Scotch Plains in mind," Nelson said. "Take seriously the slogan 'To Protect and Serve.'"

He added that while efforts such as Adopt-A-Cop, DARE, and community policing are programs that benefit the community at large, they tend to take police off the

streets.

"In any police department, patrols are the backbone of the organization," he said, advocating for an expanded police department.

Nelson said the township administration was always cooperative and treated his department with respect and fairness, and said the councils he had worked with were similarly professional and competent.

In his retirement, Nelson hopes to travel, including visits to his two sons. Both live in Virginia, a short drive from the small Southern town where he grew up. One son works in construction; the other was recently promoted to the rank of captain, a significant achievement in a 450-man department.

An avid small-game hunter, Nelson said he hopes to spend more time in the woods, aside from his aspirations in the culinary world. But he'll never forget Scotch Plains, a place where he achieved so much.

"Becoming a cop is the best thing I could have done with my life," he said. "If I could do it all over again, I would have done the same thing."

# Voters to decide on budgets

(Continued from page A-1)

would be set at \$229 for a home assessed at the borough average of \$83,000, or about 5 percent.

The budget calls for the hiring of seven new teachers and two new special education aides.

In most years, voters would also be choosing between candidates for local boards of education, but this year candidates in both the Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood school districts will run unopposed. Three board seats are up for election in both districts.

In Westfield, incumbents Ginny Leiz, Richard Solomon, and Julia Walker will each be running for a new three-year term.

In Scotch Plains, board president Lance Porter and current board member Craig Nowlin seek new three-year terms. In

Fanwood, current board member Pat Hoynes-O'Connor did not seek re-election to the board, meaning candidate Seamus Dolan would run unopposed.

But Dolan withdrew his candidacy at the last minute. Citing a poor public response after a candidates roundtable last month, Dolan said he thought he might be getting into something over his head.

"People asked me point-blank questions I didn't know the

answer to," Dolan said, "and I couldn't lie."

Dolan's withdrawal means that the candidate receiving the highest number of write-in votes on April 20, provided the candidate receives a minimum of 10 votes, will win the Fanwood board seat.

More detailed information about the budgets is available on the district's web sites, www.westfieldnj.com and www.spfk12.org, and from the local board offices.

Polls are open 2-9 p.m.

# T-Mobile proposal

(Continued from page A-1)

\$45,000 per year. That figure had the potential to more than double if other wireless phone carriers decided to co-locate their antennas,

Berman said.

Like every school district in the state, Westfield is strapped for funds. But board members said strong parental opposition made the decision to reject the bid an easy one.

"There is substantial concern around the health-related (issues)," said board member Alice Hunnicutt.

Her own examination of the literature on health effects indicated the research is "inconclusive," Hunnicutt said. "I wish there would be five to six more years of reporting on it so we could have substantial evidence."

Responding to similar concerns in other towns, radio frequency engineers have testified that the radiation emitting from the antennas is negligible. But, said board President Arlene Gardner, "For around \$44,000 a year, it's definitely not worth any potential health hazard."

In a related situation, Verizon Wireless has approached town officials about the possibility of attaching cell phone antennas to the existing firehouse tower. The company is attempting to fill a service gap in the center of town.

To attach cell antennas to the tower, Verizon must gain the approval of the Board of Adjustment and the Historic Preservation Commission.

At a Town Council conference session Tuesday night, Councilman Sal Caruana said the company may choose to attach cell antennas to a private site if it is denied access to the firehouse tower.

"There is a likelihood of this happening, with us or without us," he said.

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# Borough Council rejects bids, will revise plans for cell tower

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — After a discussion about the issue last week, the Borough Council voted to reject bids for construction of a new communications tower at Borough Hall at its meeting Tuesday night. The move comes after several public hearings in which residents who live near the municipal property voiced their opposition to the tower.

Mayor Colleen Mahr said the borough only received two bids for the tower, both of which came in too high. She said the

council would also like to revise the tower specifications to incorporate concerns expressed by neighboring residents.

One of the changes the council will discuss is creating additional landscaping along Watson Road.

According to Councilman Jack Molenaar, while the council decided to scrap its original plan, it is still hoping to find an appropriate location on Borough Hall property which can serve as a site for the tower.

Molenaar added that the council may still decide to construct the tower at a

location behind the municipal building, but is also entertaining the possibility of erecting the new tower at the site of the existing communications tower, which is slated to be replaced.

Other potential sites on borough property could result in the removal of parking spaces or might turn out to be unsuitable to support a large, modern communications tower. Geotechnical studies, used to determine acceptable sites for a large tower, could be part of the next bid package set up by borough officials.

The council began discussing the need for a new communications tower last

year, and borough officials have said performance of the existing tower has been an issue for some time. The current tower, located in the front portion of Borough Hall property, is leaning about 20 percent and is considered unsafe.

To improve communications between Fanwood's first responders, police, fire, and rescue squad officials requested that the council construct a new tower, which would allow the police and fire departments to better utilize modern communications equipment obtained through a grant last year.

The Planning Board endorsed the

council's plan to construct the tower at a courtesy hearing on March 24. At that meeting, board members voted 7-2 in favor of specifications prepared by consultant Salient Associates.

But several board members expressed concern about the type and height of tower the consultant suggested, and some residents testified that the unsightly tower would have a negative affect on their property values.

The proposed tower would have been a latticed-style tower, standing approximately 120 feet tall and had been expected to be built at a cost of about \$127,000.

# Council puts off decision on condos

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — An age-restricted condominium project proposed by developer James Ward remains in limbo after the Town Council decided to delay a decision about the project until at least its next conference meeting.

Ward proposes to construct a 35-unit luxury condominium complex and underground parking area on Prospect Street for rent to residents age 55 and older. Although members of the council have expressed interest in the project, zoning standards currently do not permit ground floor residential uses in the zone; the project also exceeds certain bulk requirements for the zone.

Peter Steck, a consultant hired by Ward, has asked the council to allow his client a conditional use within the zone. Under that arrangement, the developer could pursue the project without seeking variances from the Board of Adjustment, though the project would likely be subject to Planning Board review.

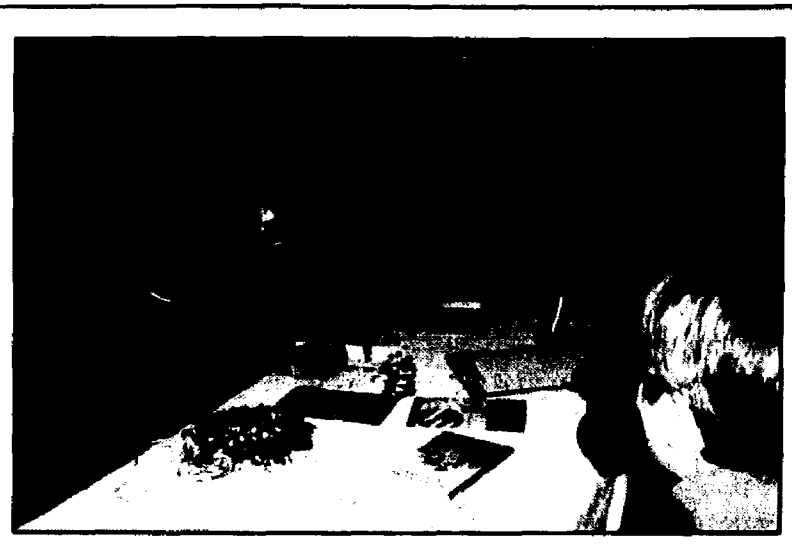
Steck argued that granting the conditional use is a better option than changing standards for two downtown zones, as has been suggested. Steck said such a broad change would be unnecessary and could open the downtown up to less desirable projects it couldn't reject in the future.

The building height is currently set at 43 feet by the developer, which the developer has said is the lowest height possible to construct the building. Current zoning allows a maximum of 40 feet for building height, and if the council is unwilling to allow a building higher than that the project is not physically possible, Steck said.

Other major issues concern side yard setbacks and zoning regulations which require buffering next to one and two family houses.

Because Brancheau could not attend Tuesday's meeting, council members decided to hold off on any major decisions related to the Ward project until their next conference session April 27. But the developer is eager to have a decision.

"This is a project that is ready to go," Steck said, noting that the condominium project is time-sensitive and that Ward has other development interests.



## Students sign up to vote

In order to be eligible to vote in the School Election Tuesday, Westfield High School students who turned 18 this year were presented the opportunity register to vote, thanks to the efforts of the Westfield Area League of Women Voters. Above, seniors Alexander Barrett and Dianna Depalmer complete their applications with the help of LWV President Merry Wisler (right front) and member Mercedes Fol-Okamoto.

# Superintendent discusses ways to close student achievement gap

By GREG MARX  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Superintendent William Foley outlined steps the school district is taking to improve the achievement of African American and learning-disabled students, but acknowledged the district has much work left to do on that issue, during Tuesday's Board of Education meeting.

"It's quite evident that there is an achievement gap" between those groups and the broader student population, Foley said — a gap that is clearly demonstrated in the performance of local students on state standardized tests.

At the same time, Foley said, one of the district's obstacles is the lack of quality data. He said the district must begin to collect and

analyze data "systematically and longitudinally," comparing not just this year's test-takers with last year's but tracking students' achievement over time.

The district plans to collect that data, but is already beginning to develop instructional strategies to close the gap. The focus so far is in reading at the early grades, including a highly-structured phonics approach for some beginning readers and a new spelling approach that emphasizes frequently-used, "must-spell" words.

In addition, Foley said, administrators are examining the basic skills program. He said the program "should not be just a remedial approach," but should be aimed at encouraging students to get back to independent learning. None of these efforts, he said, have yet been fully implemented.

Also, he said, the district is looking at how to address the social element of student performance. He said research has shown that for

some African-American students and struggling students in general, it is the teacher, not the parent, who exerts the greatest social pressure for academic achievement. The district needs to work with teachers to train them to take on that role, he said.

"Clearly, this is very much a work in progress," Foley said. "I'm not going to suggest to you that we're even close."

Foley's comments were part of an informal review of the goals the Board of Education established for the district at a retreat last October. Other goals of the board included developing plans to cope with enrollment growth, improving in-class support for special education students, and making the high school guidance department more effective.

Those issues will continue to be on the board's agenda for review, and a detailed discussion of the guidance department is planned at an upcoming meeting.

# Police captain named in lawsuit

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — A female town employee has filed a lawsuit that alleges sexual harassment and discrimination by the town's parking director.

In a complaint filed Feb. 17, special police officer Deborah Jorgensen claims she was subjected to a hostile work environment and discriminated against by Capt. John Morgan, who serves as the town's parking director. The suit also names the town of Westfield.

The complaint alleges that Morgan "made numerous remarks... of an inappropriate sexual nature," including sexual propositions. Also, the plaintiff alleges that Capt. Morgan changed her hours and assigned her less desirable duties "in a series of harassing, retaliatory, and discriminatory acts."

The plaintiff seeks compensatory damages, punitive damages, attorney's fees, litigation costs, interest and reinstatement to her former shift and duties.

Town Attorney Robert Cockren said the lawsuit is "in the very earliest of stages" and added that he has not yet filed an answer to Jorgensen's complaint. But he defended Capt. Morgan's conduct.

"To the best of our knowledge, the allegations are not true," he said.

"The investigation of facts has just begun to occur," he explained, "and until all the facts come out, we don't know what the truth is."

Town Administrator Jim Gildea said an internal investigation conducted by Chief Bernard Tracy recommended no changes to the existing employment status of both Jorgensen and Morgan.

"Right now it's important to remember that these are only allegations, not facts," said Town

Administrator Jim Gildea. "Some or all of the allegations may not be true."

Morgan reports directly to Chief Tracy, but like all municipal employees, is supervised by the town administrator. The Town Council met with Gildea and Cockren to discuss the matter in a closed door session on Tuesday night.

Morgan declined to comment on the lawsuit. Attempts to contact Jorgensen's attorney John F. McDonnell were not successful.

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## Armed robber hits Rt. 22 gas station

SCOTCH PLAINS

An employee from the Mobil gas station on Route 22 East reported her was robbed at gunpoint at approximately 8:10 p.m. Saturday.

The victim told police a young, light-skinned male, approximately 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weighing 120 pounds, entered the store. The suspect, who was wearing a black, puffy coat and a black hat, took a soda from the refrigerator and asked the victim where the bathroom was.

The suspect left, but then came back into the store and asked for telephone cards. The two exchanged money and the cards. At that point the suspect allegedly pulled out a handgun while the victim began to give him change. The suspect demanded money from the cash register and then left after collecting the money.

The victim believed the suspect fled the scene in a light brown vehicle.

Aram R. Najarian, 19, of Plainfield and Anthony Edwards, 19, of Green Brook were arrested and charged with possession of controlled dangerous substances and possession of drug paraphernalia April 9.

An officer made a motor vehicle stop of the suspects' vehicle on Sleepy Hollow Lane, and after smelling what he believed to be burnt marijuana, made the arrest.

## Police Log

The two men were processed and released on summons.

A Myrtle Avenue resident reported Sunday that a pair of diamond stud earrings were removed from her house. The earrings were kept inside the victim's pocketbook.

WESTFIELD

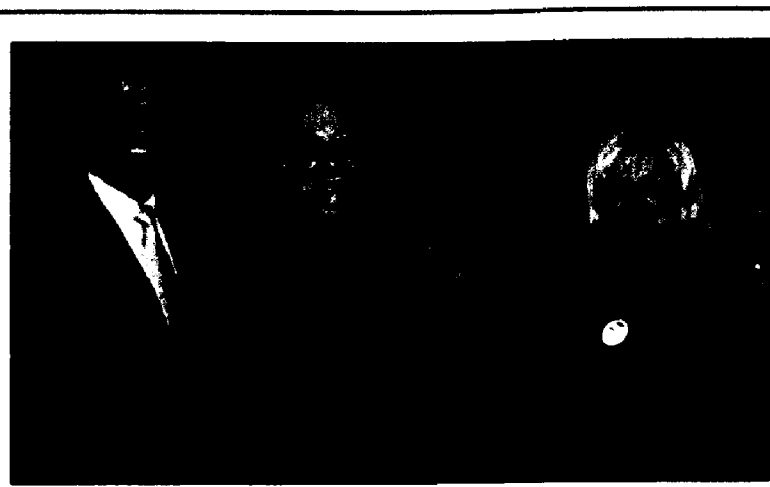
Officers arrested Ian Eldridge of Westfield for driving while intoxicated April 7. Eldridge was released to a sober adult after the incident.

A resident of First Street reported a stolen bicycle, taken from outside a Quimby Street business, April 7. The stolen property was valued at \$225.

On April 9, Robin Christmas was arrested on a warrant issued by the New Jersey Department of Corrections and two warrants issued by the Plainfield Municipal Court.

Christmas was additionally charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Officers arrested Curtis Crumhold of Westfield Sunday and charged him with illegal possession of a handgun.



New Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club member David Connolly, center, is shown with Past President Andy Calamaras, left, and sponsor Janet Strunk.

## F-SP Rotary Club welcomes Connolly

SCOTCH PLAINS — David Connolly was recently inducted into the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club by Past President Andy Calamaras. The sponsor for Connolly is Janet Strunk, club secretary.

During the induction services, Calamaras commented on a member's duties, remarking that "nothing pleases a Rotarian more than being effective in the field of good services. Needless to say, this is an inherent attitude of every Rotarian whose unshakable belief rests on the solid and firm motto 'Service Above Self'."

Connolly is the founder and president of Connolly Properties, Inc., a real estate investment company with more than 1,300 apartment units in northern New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. He resides in Watchung with his wife, Donna, and his 7-year-old son Daniel.

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at noon at the Snuffy's Pantagais restaurant.

Local business people interested in joining should contact Dick Dobyms, membership chairman, at (908) 322-5986.

## LDA hosts program on long-term planning

SCOTCH PLAINS — Death and taxes are inevitable, but with the right kind of planning, one can protect one's most precious asset — one's children.

Parents, guardians or grandparents of children with learning differences or disabilities face many challenges, and it is easy to be overwhelmed just coping with day-to-day issues. But what about one's final wishes for a special needs child? Life insurance is a big help, but how does one ensure that intentions are carried out? How will a special needs child be protected from uncaring agencies, bureaucracies and government entities? How does one preserve a child's inheritance without losing the benefits for which the child qualifies?

The Learning Disabilities Association of Scotch Plains-Fanwood invites all parents, caregivers, grandparents, aunts and uncles to the program "Financial Planning and Setting Up a Special Needs Trust" 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Park Middle School. Certified financial advisors and legal specialists will present information and solutions as they explain options and legal ramifications on the subjects of estate planning and special needs trusts.

Call Susan at (908) 322-4020, ext. 5 to guarantee a seat and materials.

LDASPF programs are free and all are welcome to attend. For more information about the Learning Disabilities Association go to [www.ldaspf.org](http://www.ldaspf.org).

## Hayes to speak about No Child Left Behind

SCOTCH PLAINS — The major focus of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is to provide all children with a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. Recognizing that student achievement levels vary from state to state in our country, each state has been charged with creating a plan to meet the require-

ments of this federal legislation with the ultimate goal of having all of our nation's students in Grade 3 and above meeting proficiency levels on state assessments by 2014.

This Monday, Margaret Hayes, assistant superintendent for instruction for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools, will provide an overview of New Jersey's implementation of NCLB and how these requirements are affecting the local district.

Area residents are invited to bring their questions for a lively discussion of this controversial federal initiative.

This Education Forum will be held in the multipurpose room of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, and is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School is located at 667 Westfield Rd.

This program is co-sponsored by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood PTA Council and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School PTA. For more information, call (908) 889-7934.

## Schoenemann family files suit against town, school district

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD — The parents of the Westfield girl killed by a falling tree branch outside the high school have filed a lawsuit against town and school officials, alleging the officials' negligence led to their daughter's death.

The Board of Education, Town of Westfield, Superintendent William Foley, and Westfield High School Principal Robert Petix are named as defendants in the complaint.

The suit was filed Feb. 5 in

the name of Greta Schoenemann, who was killed in September 2002 when she was struck by a falling tree limb. Schoenemann was a 14-year-old freshman at the time of the incident.

According to the complaint, school and town officials "were negligent, careless, reckless, and acted in a willful and wanton disregard for the safety of others in carrying out all of their responsibilities and duties."

The family seeks recovery of damages including medical

expenses, other related expenses, and punitive damages.

On Sept. 11, 2002, Schoenemann was eating lunch with friends outside the school when a gust of wind from an offshore tropical storm caused a 1,500-pound branch to fall on the picnic table where she sat, injuring 13 students. Four days later, she passed away at University Hospital in Newark.

William Kraus, attorney for the plaintiffs, said school officials should have known the aging, diseased tree was susceptible to collapse, particularly

during a wind storm which brought gusts of up to 50 mph.

School officials were negligent "by allowing children to go outside and have lunch near an old and rotting oak tree," Kraus said, "despite weather reports and wind advisories" which indicated a dangerous situation.

To prevail, the plaintiffs must prove that the defendants failed to comply with the appropriate standard of care. Kraus said school officials failed to evaluate the condition of the oak tree, and said there was no evidence anyone studied dangers related to

# Schools & Camps

## Arts Guild of Rahway offers art camp for kids

The doors are open for adventure in the arts for children 7 to 14 years old this summer at the Arts Guild of Rahway Kids' Summer Art Camp.

If your child has shown interest or ability making art of any kind, the Kids Summer Art Camp at the Arts Guild of Rahway offers a great opportunity to learn and develop creativity. Each week children will be guided through exciting projects in painting, drawing, printmaking, watercolor, collage, assemblage, and other avenues for creating art.

If children have taken art classes in school, lessons are short and one time each week. The Summer Art Camp allows for a more in-depth focus on each area of making art and high-level instruction by a staff of talented artists/instructors.

The Arts Camp will be offered for four separate one-week sessions; July 19-July 23, July 26-30, Aug. 2-6 and Aug. 9-13. The hours of the camp are 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday of each week.

The fee is \$295 per week (25

hours of instruction) and all materials are supplied. The Arts Guild also offers an early discount: register a child by May 21 for only \$275.

Funding for this program is made possible in part by contributions from Public Service Electric & Gas and Merck & Co., Inc.

To register for the Kids Summer Art Camp or for more information call (732) 381-7511 or contact the camp by email at [arts-guild1670@earthlink.net](mailto:arts-guild1670@earthlink.net). Alternately, visit the camp online at [www.rahwayartsguild.org](http://www.rahwayartsguild.org).

The Arts Guild of Rahway is a non-profit multidisciplinary center for the arts located at 1670 Irving St. in Rahway. The mission of the guild is to promote high quality arts programs for the central and northern New Jersey communities.

Each year, the Arts Guild presents a series of art exhibits, musical performances, art classes and workshops. It support the work of New Jersey based artists and musicians and provides a much needed venue for the showcase of new works.

## Prospective students can check out St. Peter's

St. Peter's Preparatory School will be holding its spring open house 2-4 p.m. April 25 at the school's campus located at 144 Grant St., Jersey City. Interested students and their parents are invited to attend.

Members of the St. Peter's Prep faculty and staff, as well as coaches, moderators, teachers, students and parents, will be present to distribute information and answer questions about the school. Tours of the campus and school facilities will be conducted throughout the afternoon. Last year, more than 300 families attended the Spring Open House at St. Peter's.

Founded in 1872, St. Peter's Prep is an independent, Catholic, college preparatory school for boys located in historic downtown Jersey City.

St. Peter's remains New Jersey's only Jesuit high school and continues the rich tradition of academic, social and spiritual development that has been the hallmark of Jesuit education for more than four centuries. The student body currently numbers 925 young men from over 100 communities in New Jersey and New York.

St. Peter's Prep offers a full college preparatory curriculum as well as 15 varsity sports and more than 30 co-curricular activities. Each year the graduating class applies to, and is accepted at, the leading colleges and universities in the United States, including a large number ranked as "Highly Competitive" by national publications.

As a group, Prep graduates receive more than \$7 million dollars in scholarships and other financial awards.

For more information, or for directions, call (210) 547-6389 or visit St. Peter's web site at [www.stpetersprep.org](http://www.stpetersprep.org).

## Performing Arts Studio has open house Sunday

The Performing Arts Studio holds its camp open house on 1-4 p.m. Sunday at the JCC of Central NJ located at 1391 Martine Ave. in Scotch Plains.

Parents and children are invited to participate in free acting and musical theatre classes. Kids will also have the opportunity to create theatrically-themed arts and crafts projects. Families get the chance to meet and greet the staff and returning campers as well as take advantage of early registration discounts.

The Performing Arts Studio runs three programs this summer at Terrill Middle School in Scotch Plains: The Creative Arts Kids' Camp (Grades K-2), The Youth Theatre Workshop (Grades 3-6), The Teen Theatre Workshop (Grades 7-12). Professional theatre, music, art and dance educators staff the summer camp. Children and teens learn to act, improvise, sing, dance, construct, paint and design scenery.

The Creative Arts Kids' Camp is a two-week program designed for children entering kindergarten through second grade. In a nurturing environment, children are encouraged to express themselves creatively and expand their imagination. They have fun acting by participating

in theatre games, pantomimes, improvisation, storytelling and musical exercises and get hands-on experience working on elementary, theatrical art projects and construct props and simple costumes for the state. These students perform in a skit and mini-musical presentation for family and friends at the end of their session.

The Creative Arts Kids' Camp is offered three times this summer, June 28-July 9, July 12-23 and July 26-Aug. 6. Classes are held Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Both The Youth Theatre Workshop (students entering third through sixth grade in the fall) and The Teen Theatre Workshop (students entering seventh through 12th grade in the fall) are offered in a four-week session, June 28-July 23 and a two-week session, July 26-Aug. 6. Both workshops are held Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-2p.m. All acting, musical theatre, improvisation classes and rehearsals are specifically designed for each age group. In stagecraft, students construct, paint and design sets that will be used for their final production.

For more information and to receive a summer brochure, call (908) 412-6565.

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# AARP chapter plans spring luncheon June 1

**WESTFIELD** — The Westfield Area Chapter 4137 of the AARP will hold its annual spring luncheon June 1 at the Westwood in Garwood. This luncheon will replace the regular June meeting.

Luncheon Chairperson Marie Stock announced there will be an international buffet with a variety of foods covering appetizers, salads, entrees, desserts and coffee and tea. Free wine and soda will be on all tables. This year, the entrée section will include gourmet meat, chicken, and fish.

Diners will be entertained by the musicianship of Win Ballou. In addition to leading line dancing, he will sing and play electric keyboard with percussion and instrumental additions with selections featuring older and newer popular styles of music.

Members may bring guests. Reservations can be made by calling Luncheon Chairman Stock at (908) 925-2536. The cost is \$20 per person and includes full luncheon, tips and entertainment.

## Garden club learns about historic gardens

**WESTFIELD** — On March 9, the Westfield Garden Club heard a presentation by Patricia Tratebas, landscape designer and garden historian. The subject was historic American gardens from the Civil War period to World War II.

Tratebas gave an overview of the development of gardening in the U.S., including the individuals who influenced the direction of garden design, as well as discussing heirloom plants and their role in historic gardens.

Tratebas is owner and manager of Cottage Gardens Landscape Design, Inc. She has actively participated in the New Jersey Flower and Garden Shows, including a project in

## Club news

which she re-created Monet's Giverny, as well as managing garden design and development for several designer show houses with the Junior League of Montclair/Newark.

## PEO chapter elects officers for new year

**WESTFIELD** — The annual election of officers for PEO Chapter U of Westfield was held March 3 at the home of Cindy McCracken in Warren.

Chapter U member and a past state president, Jane Tyson of Berkeley Heights installed the following officers: President Lee Mumford of Westfield; Vice President Marge McCormack of Westfield; Treasurer Kathy Storcks of Westfield; Recording Secretary Lois Patchett of Westfield; Corresponding Secretary Midge Hogan of Warren; Chaplin Estelle McKittrick of Edison and Guard Sue Miller of Basking Ridge.

Chapter U members will celebrate their 54th birthday by attending the Hunterdon dinner theater April 21.

PEO is a philanthropic and educational organization dedicated to promoting educational opportunities for women. It owns and supports Cotney College, a two-year college for women in Missouri.

The PEO Sisterhood provides International Peace Scholarships for foreign graduate students to study in the United States or Canada, and loans for women who need assistance for education beyond high school. It also provides grants to women in the United States and Canada who need to resume their educational studies later in life and awards to select graduate students in the United States and Canada.



## Preschool science fair at Westfield Y

The Westfield Area Y's NAEYC accredited half-day preschool program recently held a "5-Sense Science Fair" as part of the curriculum. Children participated in hands-on activities that helped them explore their senses of touch, taste, smell and listening. Pictured here, Chandler Merz in Mrs. Nierstedt's "Fun for Fours" class tests out his taste buds while Devon March looks on. For information more on the Y's preschool program, call 908-233-2700 or visit [www.westfieldynj.org](http://www.westfieldynj.org).

# Two subdivisions win approval in Scotch Plains

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — The Planning Board unanimously approved two unrelated minor subdivisions at its regular meeting Monday night that will result in the demolition of two existing houses and the creation of four new lots.

Both applications to subdivide lots required variances for approval.

At 219 Scotland Street, developer Dominick Verdic proposed to demolish an existing structure and create two new lots. Because of Scotland Street's proximity to Route 22, the developer proposed to have the single family homes face Scotland Street instead of Valley Avenue, which would have resulted in the new properties facing nearby Gabriel Tire and Auto Center and Route 22.

Verdic's application initially requested a variance to the land use ordinance which would have allowed a five-foot side yard setback in a zone permitting a min-

imum 15-foot side yard setbacks. After board member Mike Michaelson argued that the new homes would look out of character compared to other properties facing Valley Avenue, which have front yard setbacks of roughly 30 feet, the board and developer reached a compromise allowing for a 10-foot side yard setback.

The compromise will allow Verdic to construct less narrow structures, as the developer will have a 35-foot wide building envelope. The buildings constructed will be 3,000-square foot, four-bedroom colonial houses.

As a condition of approval, the board required the developer to add trees on the Valley Avenue side of the northernmost lot and to replace trees facing Scotland Avenue if existing trees have to be removed during construction.

A separate application to subdivide a lot at 2401 Hamlette Place and demolish an existing multi-family house was also approved. The application, by developer Eishikh Enterprises,

LLC, required and received variances for total lot area and lot width.

According to township planner Mary Moody, the property's local taxes were not current. The existing building was owned by the Rev. Willie Fowler, who died a year ago. Attorney Robert Krause, speaking on behalf of Fowler's estate, said payment of unpaid taxes would take place when the subdivision was approved, as the estate was without the means to pay back taxes until the property was sold.

The two new houses the developer will construct will exist within narrow, 30-foot wide building envelopes. The existing house slated for demolition was built in 1955 and had deteriorated considerably.

The vote for approval attached a condition requiring the replacement of trees lost during construction and required the new structures to be single family homes.

In approving the variances for a reduced lot area and a 50-foot lot width, township zoning officer Robert LaCosta recommended rezoning the entire area as R-3A, since existing lots are more consistent with that designation than the current R-3. The essential difference between the two zones is that the R-3A zone allows 50 foot wide lots, 10 feet less than the R-3 zone standard.

The board did not officially endorse that decision, and all rezoning actions must be approved by the Township Council.

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# Commentary

## Get out there and vote

Participation in next Tuesday's school election will be dismal.

According to the New Jersey School Boards Association, voter turnout has gone down consistently in recent years. That's discouraging, because last year turnout was only 14.5 percent.

That's disappointing. At a time when the quality of public education ranks high among the public's concerns, it's puzzling why the turnout is so low.

There is a lot at stake Tuesday. Statewide, about 1,500 school board positions and 550 budgets will be decided by a very small minority. The decisions made by less than 2 out of every 10 votes will have a great impact on the other 8 out of 10.

For example, the biggest chunk of your property tax bill goes toward public schools; that's why your vote on the budget is so important. And the lack of public participation in the school budget process — from the budget hearing to the election — may be one of the reasons taxes continue to rise year after year. The lack of voter participation is interpreted by school boards and administrators as a message of tacit approval of the status quo by the silent majority.

This school election may be more critical than most. Because of sizable enrollment increases and more federal and state mandates from the state and federal governments, many school districts will be asking for more and more tax dollars; in most school districts the increase will be greater than the rate of inflation. The state and federal governments unfortunately are not funding the additional mandates and nothing can be done about the rising enrollment. Taxes will have to rise, but by how much? How high do property taxes have to rise before everyone — including the homeowners who sit on school boards — say enough is enough?

If New Jersey voters do not go to the polls next Tuesday, they should not complain and whine about the public school system, or the outcome of the election. By casting a vote, residents can make a positive difference in their communities. The future of the public school system depends on involvement by all members of the community. Whether or not our own children attend school, we share a collective responsibility for all the young people in our towns.

That's why we should all vote next Tuesday.

## The Record-Press is here for you

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

Call Editor Gregory Marx at (732) 396-4219 with story suggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Daniel Murphy at (732) 396-4202.

Our address: *The Record-Press*, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ, 07066.

Our fax number is (732) 574-2613.

Our e-mail address is [union@njpublishing.com](mailto:union@njpublishing.com).

### Deadlines

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

The deadline for submitting letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday.

### Correction policy

*The Record-Press* will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to Editor Greg Marx at (732) 396-4219.

### Letter policy

Letters may be edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. Letters should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime telephone number for verification, if necessary. Send letters to the above address or fax number.

### Announcements

Wedding, engagement, anniversary and birth announcements are printed without charge in *The Record-Press*. Send your news and photo to the above address.

We accept color or black-and-white photographs. Please do not send irreplaceable photographs. If you would like your photo returned, send along a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



## Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

## Boycotting an unjust election

I'm not going to vote in next week's school election.

I'm not apathetic. In fact, I probably care more for the education of our children than many of the people who will be voting.

I'm not going to vote because I don't want to participate in a system that is grossly unfair and ridiculously inefficient.

The funding of public schools in New Jersey is morally and politically unjust. The reliance on property taxes and a state aid formula only a bureaucrat can love has created severe imbalances in the quality of public schools from community to community.

No matter how many compensating allowances are made, it is still unfair that more affluent communities like Bedminster and Bridgewater have lower property tax rates than middle-class communities like Somerville.

Bridgewater and Bedminster property taxpayers are blessed by the fates that brought to their municipalities, respectively, The Commons and AT&T; because these townships had loads of open space and easy access to highways, they were able to attract the big ratables that expanded the property tax base as the cost of education began to skyrocket in the 1980s and 1990s.

But older communities such as Somerville have little clean left to develop, so the property tax burden falls squarely on the shoulders of the homeowner, not a corporate giant. Unfortunately, the cost of education in the older towns is not necessarily any lower; the children in those communities may need more special programs, such as English as a Second Language. School districts are also burdened with having to include more and more state mandates in the curriculum; did you know, for example, the state Assembly has passed bills requiring gambling discipline and breast self-examination to be included in the state's core curriculum. And teacher salaries are negotiated based on the averages of salaries in other districts. That means salaries in South Bound Brook are somehow related to the salaries in Bedminster. Is that fair?

The simple solution, which would solicit howls of protest from every special interest involved in the public school system, is to pay teachers throughout the state based on a single contract and a single salary guide. A fourth-grade teacher with a master's degree and 15 years experience should receive the same salary in either East Orange or Branchburg.

Of course that's never going to happen.

There are too many school districts in New Jersey, each with its own board of education and multiple unions. It would make sense, both fiscally and academically, to consolidate school districts, but this rational and reasonable option often falls victim to chauvinism, sentiment and arrogance. (Just think of the savings — only one football field to maintain!) But the state does not make it easy to regionalize. Because of the inequalities in property taxes, somebody is bound to lose money on the deal. It's time to conclude somewhat reluctantly that as long as public school funding is based on property taxes, regionalization will never gain credibility as a viable option.

Another reason I'm not voting in this month's election is the double standard unjustly placed on school boards. While the school budget has to face judgment by the voters, the municipal budget escapes untouched by the general public. When a new school is proposed, voters must pass a bond issue. But if a new police headquarters is proposed no referendum is needed. Either both school and municipal budgets are placed before the voters or neither is.

I would participate in next week's election if I had the chance to vote on both the school and municipal budget; that seems fair to me.

## Letters to the editor

## PTA announces support for budget

### To The Record-Press:

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School PTA endorses the 2004-2005 proposed school budget and encourages all eligible citizens to vote in favor of the budget on April 20. Polls will be open from 2-9 p.m.

The total proposed \$63.5 million school budget includes a 5.9 percent increase. That is lower than last year and less than other comparable districts in our county, but an increase nonetheless. While it is painful to contemplate any rise in our property taxes, we believe that the recommended budget is sound, necessary and should be supported to ensure the continued success of our schools.

**What Does the Budget Do?** The proposed budget meets state and federal program mandates and contractual obligations; maintains educational programs currently in place; keeps class sizes at their current ranges; and adds new staff in several basic subject areas to meet growing enrollments, including an additional math teacher and half-time positions in science and social studies at the high school. In fact, 83 percent of the proposed budget increase is slated for salaries and benefits.

**Why a Budget Increase?** Our district walks a tough economic and political tightrope. Local households shoulder more than 91 percent of our school budget, so we get little relief through state or federal aid when costs increase or additional needs arise. Over the past decade, our district has worked very hard to control increasing fixed costs for things like salaries and benefits, liability, fuel or transportation — all without sacrificing the safety of our children or their educational experience. Ten years ago, SP-F was in the top 15 percent of school districts in the state in the cost to educate each pupil. Today, that situation has changed dramatically.

**Keeping Costs in Line.** Consider the following facts from the "School Report Card," published in *The Star-Ledger* on March 4:

SP-F now ranks 19th out of 21 districts in Union County in average per-pupil costs. Only Roselle

Park and Union spend less per student than we do. Administrative costs per pupil are also lower than county and state averages.

Our median teacher salary is 13th out of 21 Union County districts, or the bottom half of county averages. Today, our average teacher salaries are about \$10,000 a year lower than eight years ago, due to replacing teachers who have retired with new teachers at lower salary levels.

Our student population keeps growing, with the biggest "bubble" now moving into the high school. The size of our high school graduating classes has moved from 242 students in 2000 to a projected 360 students in 2005. Our current freshman class is about 380 students.

**Doing More with Less.** The bottom line is that our district serves an increasing number of students at a lower cost per student than before. This means that while our taxes have increased, we are also receiving more "bang for our buck." The percentage of SP-F graduates going on to four-year colleges increased to 92 percent in 2003, and we consistently graduate students of exceptional promise and capability. Every year our top-ranking seniors are admitted to some of the nation's most elite colleges and universities, including MIT and Ivy League schools such as Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth and Princeton.

These statistics are a testament to how our community has backed our public school system and helped the district meet budgetary challenges. We all face hard choices about where and how our tax dollars will be spent, yet our students deserve the best our community can give. Please support our district's children and our public schools by voting in favor of the 2004-2005 proposed school budget.

For more information on the subject, visit the district web site at [www.spfk12.org](http://www.spfk12.org) or call the budget hotline at (908) 889-9665.

**PAT ELKO**  
Corresponding Secretary,  
SP-F High School PTA

## Parent leaders support the budget

### To The Record-Press:

To continue the tradition of excellence in our schools, the Board of Education's budget proposal for next year includes several necessary and exciting additions. These additions highlight the board's commitment to the focus on academic achievements, professional development opportunities for instructional staff and increased communication and community engagement.

Some items include the addition of new personnel at the high school level to meet the growing enrollment demand; computers for the third grades, middle school science and technology labs, and replacement laptops for the high school teachers to use in and out of the classroom to increase integration of technology in the curriculum; funding for additional musical instruments to accommodate the growing interest in fine arts; and the addition of coaches to the athletic department to provide a safer playing environment.

There were more items that could have been

included; however, the Board of Education realizes its obligation to the taxpayers to be fiscally prudent.

By also taking into account the results of the community survey, the Board of Education has involved the community in its fiscal and educational plans. More information about both the 2004-2005 budget and the community survey can be accessed on the Internet at <http://westfieldnj.com>.

This year Westfield has three unopposed incumbents running for re-election to the Board of Education to fill 3 three-year positions. They are Ginny Leiz, Richard Solomon and Julia Burnett Walker.

The school election is Tuesday, April 20. Polls are open from 2-9 p.m. We will be voting "yes" for the budget, and we hope you will do the same.

**NANCY MUSAT, PTC President**  
and the presidents of the PTO/PTSO  
of each public school in Westfield

## Book sale truly a remarkable event

### To The Record-Press:

I began working at the Westfield Memorial Library last September. Almost from the day I began people kept saying to me, "Just wait until the Friends of the Library hold their book sale." Quite honestly, I did not know what to expect.

I experienced my first book sale at the library the last week of March, and I am amazed at what this group of dedicated volunteers accomplished. Their organization and hard work were something to behold. By any standard the book sale was a success. While the Friends' goal of raising money for the library was accomplished, I am not measuring success in that manner.

The success I witnessed comes from people banding together to benefit their community. What I wit-

nessed was a labor of love. No amount of money can equal the level of caring, support and community spirit that the Friends demonstrated over the past two weeks. The entire community should take great pride in what the Friends of the Library accomplished. Those individuals who brought their donations to the library must also be included in this group, for without their contributions, there would be no books to sell.

On behalf of the library's board of trustees, staff, and myself I want to offer our deep gratitude to the Friends of the Westfield Library for all of the hard work that was needed to make this year's book sale a success.

**PHILIP ISRAEL**  
Director, Westfield Memorial Library

## Record-Press

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DO YOU BELIEVE THE SEPT. 11 ATTACKS COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED?



**PAUL EILBACHER**  
Westfield

I don't know if it could have been prevented even if more information could have been (shared between agencies).



**GAIL FLAMM**  
shopping in Cranford

Personally, I do because I believe someone knew something was going on and didn't take it seriously.



**SONIA STEFFAN**  
visiting Cranford

From my perspective, different government agencies should have been on the ball. I blame the past two or three administrations.



**BOBBIE CANFIELD**  
Cranford

If they'd put all the thousands of pieces of information together, then maybe...but it would have taken a lot of luck.



**MARK KLEIN**  
Cranford

You can't make that judgment because we are not privy to all the information out there... The 9/11 attacks showed we are not as protected as we think we are.



**MELVIN BLEEMER**  
Cranford

I don't know if the attacks could have been prevented, but our reaction to them could have been a lot better.

Letters to the editor

Parent tells tale of 2 school districts

To The Record-Press:

I am writing to urge all voters from Scotch Plains and Fanwood to go to the polls on April 20 and vote in support of the budget. It is so very important to maintain your school system.

I moved to Scotch Plains with my family almost two years ago. I used to live one town away. When I first moved to that town, it was known to have a very nice school system. I did not even have children then, but that was a major priority as to where we were going to buy a house. I had kids soon thereafter. When they first started in the schools, I was very happy there. I got involved in many activities in the town and made many friends. But one thing was disturbing: The budgets did not pass.

I watched the schools change slowly. I was only dealing with elementary schools then. I watched the Gifted and Talented program disappear. It was replaced with a supplemental program taught to all students once a week to a few grades. By the time I left, that had been reduced. The music instruction also went away. By the time my older child went to middle school, barely anyone was involved in band. By the time I moved, there was barely a band there. There was not even one band at the high school, not even a marching band.

When I did move, it was a very tough decision. My kids were fully integrated in the schools, but I saw a bad problem growing even worse. My daughter was to enter high school. The building was in very bad shape (the bond referendum had not passed there either). There were very few clubs and very few electives available. All shop classes had been eliminated, which also included home economics. My son was about to enter middle school, and while I thought the middle school was pretty good there, there would be no other logical time to move.

I chose to move to Scotch Plains with the reputation of the schools as the main criteria. There is such an unbelievable difference between the two towns.

As my daughter entered the high school, I found out how far behind the middle school there was. Here, my daughter is a full year behind in math. She missed out on dissecting and labs in science because you had already did that in seventh grade — in the other town, it is not until high school. Social Studies AP program is a year earlier here — she has missed out on information with that also. Language was also behind.

She'll never catch up on many things, only proceed ahead, but I have to look on the bright side. Electives are available to her that would never have been. There are bands to entertain and cultural activities to participate in. Here, there are cooking and sewing classes and

even a fashion show so that students can display their work. There are a wide variety of clubs available. She has found that she is extremely interested in law. She has excelled far more in her sport of tennis, because so many more talented people are here and she is challenged so much more.

My son is in the middle school. It is brilliant how the schedule is worked out so that band is available to everyone. My son would never have taken up the drums; now, he wants to continue on with this in one of the bands all the way to high school. He has a wide range of mandatory electives. Because of how languages were introduced, he got to pick the one he liked best. I have found talent with my son that I did not even know he had, and I don't know if I ever would have even found out

about it. There are only so many extracurricular activities and time that a parent can provide on her own to see if there is interest on a child's part. Here, a lot is provided right in the schools.

All these things were available when I first moved into that other town.

In addition, when I first moved here, I had moved into a slightly bigger home with more land. The taxes were about the same, and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood district had already passed its bond referendum. I couldn't believe the difference I got for my tax dollar. In comparison, the prices of the houses here were substantially higher. There is a reason for that.

Again, I urge you again to support the budget.

**JODI HEINZ**  
Scotch Plains

UC Realtors sponsor blood drive

WESTFIELD — The Greater Union County Association of Realtors is sponsoring a blood drive on April 27, from 1-4 p.m. The mobile blood van will be parked at Lord & Taylor parking lot in Westfield.

The drive is in conjunction with the Blood Center of New Jersey and is a semi-annual event coordinated by the Realtor Community Service Committee of the Greater Union County Association of Realtors. Blood is available to members of the community should medical need arise.

All donors will be given a free cholesterol check. Reservations may be made by calling Anne Sank at (908) 233-0065, or residents can just walk in to donate.

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# Fundraiser is set May 7

SCOTCH PLAINS — A dinner dance fund-raiser to support the Park Middle School seventh and eighth grade chorus will be held on May 7 at the All Saints Episcopal Church at 559 Park Ave.

The adults-only event is intended to raise money to help finance a June trip to Dorney Park, where the chorus will participate in a regional choral competition.

"The competition is a wonderful opportunity for Park Middle School and for Scotch Plains and Fanwood to gain recognition for the great students, faculty and music program that we have,"

says Jennifer Sellman, Park Middle's chorus instructor.

Beginning at 7:30, the evening will feature dancing to classic rock covers performed by the band Free Radicals, as well as a Chinese auction of donations from local vendors. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a buffet dinner, beverages and a raffle ticket. Attendees are asked to bring their own alcohol; dessert will be provided by the chorus members.

For more information, to purchase tickets or to arrange for tables, or to advertise in the event journal (ads are \$25 each), contact Paul Lavenhar at (908) 889-8888.

# Many student concerts upcoming in Westfield

WESTFIELD — The Fine Arts Department of the Westfield Public Schools invites the public to attend any of the 19 musical concerts scheduled for this spring.

More than 2,300 students in grades kindergarten through high school will be performing district-wide. All concerts are free and begin at 7:30 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

- April 28: Westfield High School, Wind Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra.
- May 10: Tamaques School, Band and Vocal Concert.
- May 11: Franklin Elementary School, Band Concert.
- May 13: Roosevelt Intermediate Auditorium, Wilson Elementary School Band and Vocal Concert.
- May 17: Franklin Elementary School, Vocal Concert.
- May 17: Edison Intermediate School Auditorium, Southside Elementary Strings.
- May 18: Westfield High School, Chorale and Jazz Ensemble.
- May 19: Jefferson Elementary School, Band and Vocal Concert.
- May 19: McKinley Elementary School, Band and Vocal Concert.
- May 20: Westfield High School, Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band.
- May 24: Roosevelt Intermediate School Auditorium, Northside Elementary Strings.
- May 26: Washington Elementary School, Band and Vocal Concert.
- May 26: Edison Intermediate School, 7th & 8th Grade Vocal Concert.
- June 2: Edison Intermediate School, A Night at the Opera.
- June 8: Edison Intermediate School, 7th & 8th Grade Instrumental Concert.
- June 8: Roosevelt Intermediate School, 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert.
- June 9: Westfield High School, All-City Elementary Concert.
- June 15: Roosevelt Intermediate School, 6th & 8th Grade Choral & Orchestra Concert.
- June 16: Roosevelt Intermediate School, 7th Grade Choral & Select Orchestra Concert.

## This week

### FRIDAY APRIL 16

**YARD SALE** — sponsored by Mobilization for Animal Rights, with proceeds benefiting homeless animals. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 1860 Winding Brook Way, Scotch Plains. Continues same time April 17.

### SATURDAY APRIL 17

**MINDOWASKIN PARK CLEANUP** — spring cleaning for the park in downtown Westfield. 9 a.m.-noon. (908) 233-8110.

**OPENING DAY** — for the Westfield Baseball League, marked by the annual parade. Beginning 9:30 a.m. at Mindowaskin Park. (908) 928-9715.

### SUNDAY APRIL 18

**INDOOR FLEA MARKET** — hosted by the JCC of Central NJ. 2-4 p.m. 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. (908) 889-8800, ext. 235.

**5-MILE MS WALK** — 16th annual event to raise funds for multiple sclerosis research at Nomahegan Park in Cranford. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 18. (201) 967-5599.

**ELEANOR ROOSEVELT** — subject of a live dramatic program at the Westfield Memorial Library. 2 p.m. 550 East Broad St., Westfield.

### MONDAY APRIL 19

**NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND** — a talk by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Assistant Superintendent Margaret Hayes on the controversial federal education law. 7:30 p.m. Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, 667 Westfield Rd., Scotch Plains. (908) 889-7934.

### TUESDAY APRIL 20

**UNCLUTTER YOUR LIFE** — with workshops sponsored by Silk Purse and Balance & Beyond. 7-9:30 p.m., continues same time April 27. First Congregational Church in Westfield. (908) 301-0190.

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** — for teens, on the novel "The Body of Christopher Creed." 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fanwood Memorial Library, Tiltotson Road. (908) 322-6400.

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 21

**ANNUAL MEETING** — of the Planning Committee of the Westfield history societies. 8 p.m. First Baptist Church, Elm Street.

### THURSDAY APRIL 22

**FINDING THE FEMALE DIVINE** — evening workshop sponsored by the Board of Christian Education and the Women's Spiritual Retreat at the First Congregational Church in Westfield. 7-9 p.m. (908) 233-2494.

**YIDDISH LITERATURE AND MUSIC** — program by Salo Enis at Temple Emanu-El. 7:30 p.m.; continues same time April 29 and May 6. 756 East Broad St., Westfield. (908) 232-6770.

### SATURDAY APRIL 24

**CHARITY BOXING EVENT** — local leaders square off against former professional Gerry Conroy to raise funds for Centennial High School. Rescheduled from Dec. 6; tickets previously purchased will be honored. Begins 6 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 756 East Broad St., Westfield. (908) 232-6770, ext. 129.

**COMMUNITY CLEANUP** — annual event organized by Fanwood Clean Communities Committee, held on Earth Day. Meet 8:30 a.m. at South Avenue train station. Sign up to volunteer at (908) 322-7404.

### SUNDAY APRIL 25

**SPRING FLING** — 10th annual event in downtown Westfield, sponsored by the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (908) 233-3021 or www.WestfieldChamber.com.

### COMING UP

**"WOMEN AND HEART DISEASE"** — lecture presentation for the League for Educational Advancement for Registered Nurses. 7:45 p.m. April 26. All Saints Church, 559 Park Ave., Scotch Plains. (908) 754-9499 or (908) 272-7239.

**"IS THE RESURRECTION REAL?"** — the latest discussion in the Wisdom's Light ministry series at the First Congregational Church of Westfield. 7:30 p.m. April 27. 125 Elmer St. (908) 233-2494.

**RABIES CLINIC** — for cats and dogs. 6:30-8:30 p.m. North side firehouse, rear of Scotch Plains Municipal Building, Park Avenue. (908) 322-6700, ext. 1-309.

**EPIC AND ROMANCE** — lecture on the major impulses in Western literature, by John V. Fleming of Princeton University. 7 p.m. May 5. Scotch Plains Library, 1927 Bartle Ave. (908) 322-5007.

**DINNER DANCE FUNDRAISER** — for seventh and eighth-grade chorus at Park Middle School. 7:30 p.m. May 7. All Saints Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave., Scotch Plains. \$25. (908) 889-8888.

**5-K FUN RUN/WALK** — to benefit the Cerebral Palsy League. 8:30 a.m. May 22. Begins at CPL headquarters, 61 Myrtle St., Cranford. (908) 709-1800, ext. 115.

# Yard sale helps animals

SCOTCH PLAINS — Mobilization for Animal Rights, a non-profit, all-volunteer fundraising organization, will have a yard sale to help animals Friday and Saturday, April 16-17.

The sale will be held in Scotch Plains at 1860 Winding Brook Way (off Raritan Road) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A wide assortment of items, including clothing, household goods, artwork, pottery, books, collectibles, etc., will be available.

This sale will benefit shelters and rescue groups, including local organizations such as Angel Paws, Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption, People for Animals, and Summit Animal Rescue Association. With increasing numbers of homeless cats and dogs, the need for funds to support the work of these groups is especially urgent.

A portion of the proceeds will be used for veterinary expenses for Gracie, a one-year-old tabby who survived the frigid winter despite severe vision impairment from cataracts. For more information about donating or adopting Gracie, call Pat at (201) 242-0786 or write to Mobilization for Animal Rights, P.O. Box 322, Bogota, NJ 07603.

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750 WOODFORD RESERVE <b>24.99</b>	1.75L J & B Scotch <b>29.99</b>	1.75L F. L. L. N. L. A. Vodka 80° <b>23.10</b>	1.75L GORDONS Gin <b>13.99</b>
750 JACK DANIELS <b>16.09</b>	1.75L BALLANTINE Scotch <b>22.99</b>	1.75L FR. S. Vodka 80° <b>21.99</b>	1.75L GILBEYS Gin <b>13.99</b>
1L GENTLEMAN JACK <b>26.99</b>	1.75L GRANT'S Scotch <b>19.99</b>	1.75L GORDONS Vodka 80° <b>13.99</b>	750 BEEFEATER WET Gin <b>17.99</b>
1L GREY GOOSE Flavored Vodka <b>30.09</b>	SM. GLEGER Scotch <b>17.99</b>	1.75L MALORSKA Vodka 80° <b>11.99</b>	1L BACARDI RUM Light • Gold • Select <b>11.99</b>
750 GREY GOOSE Vodka 80° <b>24.99</b>	1.75L WHITE SIDE Scotch 80° <b>14.99</b>	1.75L GEORG. Vodka 80° <b>10.49</b>	750 JOSE CUERVO Gold • Tequila <b>16.99</b>
750 CHIVAS REGAL <b>25.01</b>	750 GLENLIVET Single Malt <b>27.99</b>	750 CR. STALL Vodka 80° <b>17.99</b>	1L LEEDS Vodka 80° <b>5.99</b>
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1L DEKUPPER Sour Apple Schnapps • Peachtree Schnapps <b>9.19</b>	750 J. & B. Scotch <b>6.99</b>	1.5L CORBETT CANYON White Zinfandel <b>4.99</b>	1.5L OTTRA Merlot • Cabernet • Cabernet • Cabernet <b>6.00</b>
750 CASK & CREAM TEMPTATION Chocolate • Caramel <b>9.99</b>	750 FREY KENET Chard • Merlot • Cabernet <b>7.00</b>	1.5L CORBETT CANYON Cabernet • Chard • Merlot <b>5.99</b>	1.5L FON. ONARI • Scavio • Bardino • Vaporiella <b>8.99</b>
750 E & J Cask & Cream <b>9.99</b>	750 M & R Chard • Merlot • Cabernet <b>8.09</b>	1.5L R. MONDAVI Woodbridge White Zinfandel <b>6.99</b>	1.5L FONTANA CANDIDA Frascati • Pinot Grigio <b>9.99</b>
1.75L T.G.I. Friday's & Other Flavors <b>11.99</b>	750 DOMAINE CHANDON Blanc de Blancs • Blanc de Noirs • Blanc de Noirs • Blanc de Noirs <b>12.99</b>	1.5L SUTTER HOME Cabernet • Chard • Merlot <b>8.99</b>	1.5L YAGO Sardinia <b>9.99</b>
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1L ALIZE PASSION Gold • Red • White • Passion <b>16.99</b>	750 PERRIER • Chard • Merlot • Cabernet <b>28.99</b>	750 ARBOR MIST White Zinfandel <b>2.99</b>	1.5L BOLLA Vado • Cabernet • Cabernet • Cabernet <b>10.99</b>
750 ROMANA SAMBUCA White • Black <b>17.00</b>	750 VERMOUTH • Chard • Merlot • Cabernet <b>30.00</b>	750 R. MONDAVI Woodbridge Cabernet • Chard • Merlot <b>5.67</b>	1.5L TORRESELLA Pinot Grigio <b>13.99</b>
750 BAILEYS Irish Cream <b>17.09</b>	<b>JUG WINE</b>	750 GLEN ELLLEN Cabernet • Chard • Merlot <b>4.99</b>	1.5L HARVEYS Bristol Cream <b>16.99</b>
750 IRISH MIST Liqueur <b>18.99</b>	3L VINO STON CELLARS Chard • Merlot • Cabernet <b>8.99</b>	750 R. MONDAVI Woodbridge Cabernet • Chard • Merlot <b>5.99</b>	
1L KAHUA Coffee Liqueur <b>19.99</b>	4L CARLO ROSS Chard • White Grenache • Burg • Pinot • Merlot • Cabernet • Pinot • Merlot • Cabernet • Pinot • Merlot • Cabernet <b>7.99</b>	750 GLASS MOUNTAIN Cabernet • Chard • Merlot <b>5.99</b>	
1L AMARETTO DI SARONNO <b>20.99</b>	4L INGLENOOR Chard • Pinot • Rose <b>8.99</b>	750 BOGLE Merlot <b>6.99</b>	
<b>BRANDY &amp; COGNAC</b>	5L BOX A. M. ALLEN Chard • Pinot • Merlot • Cabernet • Pinot • Merlot • Cabernet • Pinot • Merlot • Cabernet <b>8.01</b>	750 FETZER Sunda • Grand • Merlot • Eagle Peak • Merlot • Valley Oaks • Cabernet • PEPPERWOOD Pinot Noir <b>6.99</b>	
750 CHRISTIAN BROS Brandy <b>7.99</b>	5L BOX F. FRANZIA White Zinfandel • Merlot <b>10.99</b>	750 TURNING LEAF Chard • Pinot • Merlot • Cabernet • Pinot • Merlot • Cabernet • Pinot • Merlot • Cabernet <b>7.99</b>	
1.75L E & J Brandy <b>16.99</b>	<b>VERMOUTH</b>	750 R. MONDAVI Woodbridge Cabernet • Chard • Merlot <b>5.99</b>	
1.75L RAYNAL <b>21.99</b>	1L STOCK VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry <b>4.99</b>	750 G. MASS MOUNTAIN Cabernet • Chard • Merlot <b>5.99</b>	
750 COURVOISIER VS Cognac <b>22.09</b>	1L M & R VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry <b>5.99</b>	750 BOGLE Merlot <b>6.99</b>	
1L MARTELL VS Cognac <b>23.09</b>		750 FETZER Sunda • Grand • Merlot • Eagle Peak • Merlot • Valley Oaks • Cabernet • PEPPERWOOD Pinot Noir <b>6.99</b>	
750 REMY MARTIN VSOP Cognac <b>29.99</b>		750 R. MONDAVI Woodbridge Cabernet • Chard • Merlot <b>5.99</b>	
<b>SODA</b>		750 L. CO. R. Cabernet <b>10.99</b>	
1L SCHWEPPES Mixers <b>89¢</b>		750 KENDALL JACKSON Pinot Grigio <b>9.99</b>	
1L PEPSI Regular • Diet <b>99¢</b>		750 KENDALL JACKSON Pinot Grigio <b>12.09</b>	
24-12 oz. cans COKE • SPRITE • DIET COKE <b>5.99</b>			

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# Community Life

## Briefs

### Westfield's leaders get 'locked up'

WESTFIELD — Many business and civic leaders throughout the Westfield area will be missing for several hours on April 29. These notable "most wanted" citizens will be "serving time for Jerry's Kids."

More than 100 participants have agreed to "serve their time" between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The apprehended will be "arrested" by MDA volunteer deputies and taken to Ferraro's in Westfield. While there, they will have their mug shots taken and then be placed behind the bars of MDA's mock jail.

Each "jailbird," if he or she hasn't already raised the \$2,000 "bail," will be given approximately one hour to phone family, friends and business associates to help raise that money. H&H Marketing is donating cellular phones for the "jailbirds" to use.

Sponsors for the event include Ferraro's, H&H Marketing and JFK Medical Center.

Funds from the Ferraro's "Most Wanted" Lock-Up will allow MDA to fund medical research and patient services at local clinics.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) is a national voluntary health agency dedicated to the cure and treatment of more than 40 neuromuscular diseases. For more information about Ferraro's Lock-Up and how to sign up to participate, call the MDA District Office at (732) 750-2333.

Those in the area may just drop in and join the fundraising efforts.

### Township offers free rabies clinic

SCOTCH PLAINS — A free rabies clinic for cats and dogs sponsored by the Scotch Plains Health Department will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 28 at the north side firehouse, at the rear of municipal building.

Cats must be contained in a carrier or a box and accompanied by an adult able to control the animal. If this is the animal's initial vaccination, which includes those animals with an unknown vaccination history, the inoculation has a one-year duration. Subsequent booster vaccinations have a three-year duration if the animal is 6 months or older. Cat licenses for 2004 will be available at the clinic for \$5 if the feline is spayed or neutered. Cats will be vaccinated the first hour, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Dogs also must be accompanied by an adult able to control the animal. Revaccination is not necessary for three years unless the dog is under 6 months of age, thus requiring revaccination the subsequent year, or if the animal's vaccination history is unknown. Dog licenses will be available at the clinic for \$6.20 if spayed or neutered, \$9.20 if not. Dogs will be vaccinated the second hour, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

A check or exact change is required to pay for the licenses. The New Jersey Department of Health recommends vaccination every two years, and a license will not be issued by the township unless the vaccination is valid for the entire licensing period. For more information call (908) 322-6700, ext. 1-309.

### Professor to discuss Nantucket architecture

SCOTCH PLAINS — Rose Gonella, professor of design theory and application at Kean University, will discuss her new book 7:30 p.m. April 29 in the Community Room of the Scotch Plains Public Library. "Sea Captains' Houses and Rose-Colored Cottages: the Architectural Heritage of Nantucket" Island draws upon primary sources to provide a thorough and authoritative exploration of the island's rich legacy. The beautiful photography and engaging stories provide complete pictures of 40 homes — from simple, shingled beach cottages and fanciful Victorians to modern homes.

All programs at the Scotch Plains Library are free to the public. No pre-registration is required.

The Scotch Plains Library is located at 1927 Bartle Ave. For further information or directions call (908) 322-5007.

## Spelling champ prepares for national contest

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD — For one seventh-grader at Edison Intermediate School, spelling words like "chloasma" and "nephoscope" is no big deal.

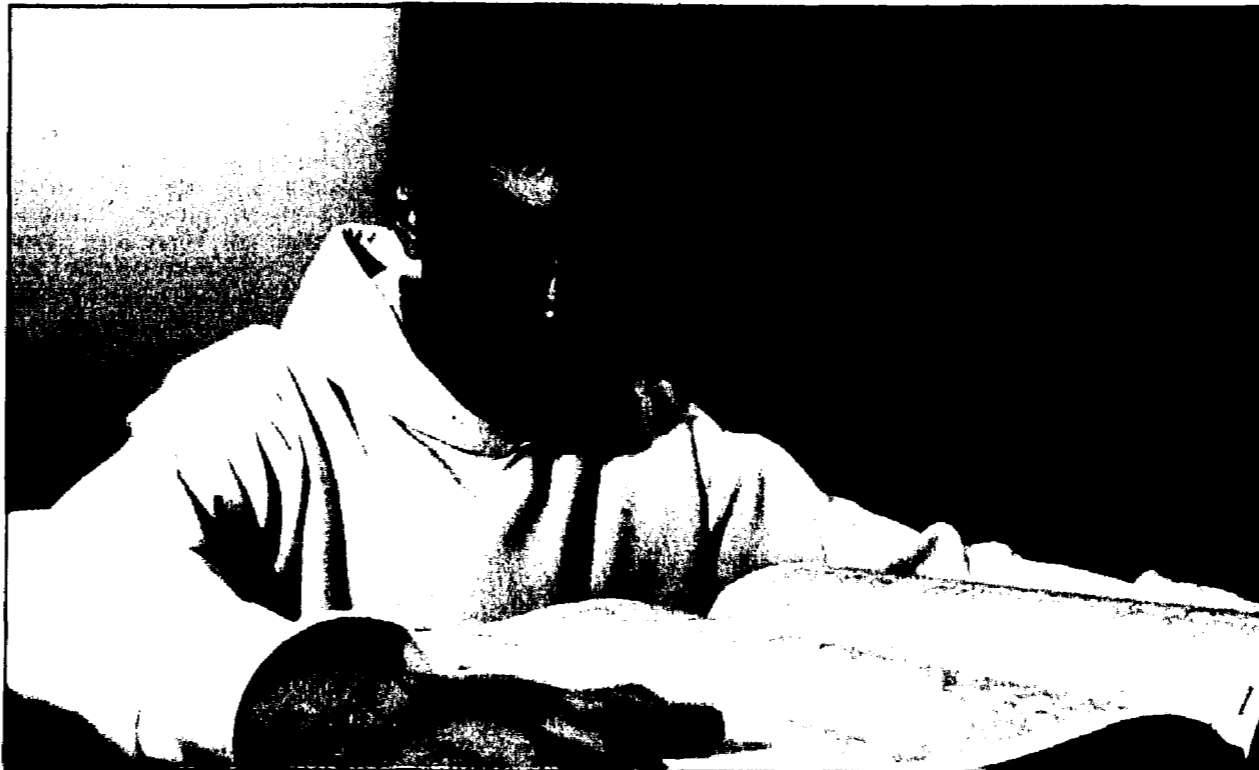
On June 1, David Chen will travel to Washington, D.C. to compete in the 77th annual Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee. It will be his first visit to the capital city, but he probably won't be there to see the sights.

He will be competing against 265 other children around the country, all of whom are required to be under the age of 16 and cannot have advanced beyond the eighth grade. But despite their youth, spelling bee contestants have a knowledge of the English language that surpasses that of most adults.

When he won the Union County spelling bee last month, David was able to spell the word "eutaxy" to capture the title. But he had to spell more than one tough word correctly to win the county spelling bee.

With the number of contestants gradually whittled down to just two at the end of the second round, David and Brianna Sullivan of St. Genevieve School in Elizabeth competed for more than 20 rounds before David stood alone on the stage as the winner.

"I didn't expect to win," David said. He also predicted that he wouldn't win the national spelling



David Chen, 12, studies words from the dictionary at his Westfield home in preparation for the Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee in June.

bee, but if that's the case it won't be caused by a lack of effort. In the next few weeks he will be studying words included in a booklet called the "Paideia," which includes more than 3,000 words spellers could face at the national spelling bee.

"We expect about two or three words to come from the Paideia," said David's father Rong Chen,

who immigrated to Westfield in 1987 from Taiwan. The rest of the words, he said, would come from Webster's Third New International Dictionary.

This year's national competition will consist of two preliminary rounds during which students will compete in a 25-word written exam and then take an

oral exam.

Only about 90 students will reach the third round, which is David's goal. This year, as in past years, the final rounds of the spelling bee will be televised live on ESPN.

"My friends told me to say their names on TV," David said. David has succeeded in previ-

ous spelling bees. When he was in the fifth grade, he won the annual Westfield Junior Woman's Club spelling competition.

And he may not be intimidated by the prospect of being on stage, as he plays violin and piano as a member of the New Jersey youth orchestra.

The national spelling bee was the subject of last year's Oscar-nominated documentary "Spellbound," which chronicled the efforts of several young spellers in their pursuit of the national title.

David's mother Wang Chen recently saw the film, and was astounded to see how competitive the spellers and their families were.

"One parent said this is another kind of child abuse," she said, with a laugh. Both parents said they are determined to make the competition fun, and make sure David's pursuit of the national title allows him enough time to relax.

But he will be preparing more for this competition than he prepared for the Union County spelling bee. Mr. Chen said that for every hour David spends playing video games, he will be devoting one hour to practicing spelling words.

In the end, though you can only prepare for a spelling bee to a certain point.

"You can read the whole dictionary and not win — misspell one word, and you're out," Mr. Chen said.

## Little leaguers take to the streets

WESTFIELD — More than 1,000 Westfield school children are expected to walk through the streets of town Saturday in celebration of their baseball Opening Day.

An American tradition in many localities, the Opening Day Parade is just beginning to make history in Westfield.

The Westfield Baseball League reports that nearly 1,600 children in Grades K-9 will play spring baseball this year as part of 101 different teams. The WBL also sponsors summer baseball, travel baseball, and fall baseball programs.

Opening Day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a parade march of local dignitaries and baseball teams from Mindowaskin Park (North Euclid and Park Drive) down Euclid Avenue to St. Marks Avenue, and then on to South Chestnut and Gumbert Fields.

Opening Day Ceremonies will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will include the ceremonial first pitch and a motivational speech

by former pro Brian Malko. Traditional ball park food and souvenirs — hot dogs, pizza, popcorn, cotton candy, T-shirts, flags and more — will be sold to raise funds for field improvements.

Teams will march together, by grade, beginning with kindergarten T-ball players. Parents are welcome to walk with their younger children.

Drop-off at Mindowaskin will take place near the municipal building beginning at 9 a.m. The day's events conclude at Gumbert fields 2 and 3 at 1 p.m. The parade rain date is April 18.

Children should wear their spring team uniforms, if they have them, or their travel or past years' Westfield uniforms. Teams are welcome to make and carry their own signs and banners. All participants will receive an Opening Day commemorative pin.

For further information contact Shawna Monaghan of the Ladies Auxiliary at (908) 928-9715.

## Art show will benefit Evergreen playground

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Evergreen Elementary School Art Show and Auction will be held on April 30 at the Italian American Club on Valley Avenue.

The preview will begin at 7 p.m., with the live auction starting promptly at 8 p.m. Ross Galleries of Hollbrook, N.Y. will conduct the auction, which will feature more than 150 custom framed and matted works of art: lithographs, etchings, serigraphs, animation cells, watercolors, original oils signed by the artists, documented sports memorabilia and estate jewelry.

Many bids are guaranteed to be between \$50-\$300, and investment works will be available for the serious collector. All art is guaranteed to be priced below retail prices and includes

an exclusive lifetime exchange privilege.

Featured artists include Kinkade, Wooster Scott, Picasso, Delacroix, Chagall, Neiman, Max, Rockwell, Orlando, Lena Liu, Behrens, Moses, Wyeth, Disney Cells and many others.

The funds raised by this event will go to the Evergreen Elementary School Playground Fund. In February 2002, Evergreen School was informed that the existing playground needed to be removed due to federal regulations. A new handicapped-accessible playground was installed in September 2002.

Tickets for the event are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple and include refreshments. For tickets or information, contact Jayne Tspas at (908) 889-4791.

## First Jewish settlement is topic at Miller-Cory

WESTFIELD — From 2-5 p.m. Sunday at the Miller-Cory House Museum, Fran Gold of Westfield, former editor and publisher of the Jewish Horizon newspaper, will present a program on the arrival of Jews in the colonies in 1654.

These people were fleeing persecution in another country and endured many hardships, namely attacks by pirates, hunger, and even jail before establishing the

first permanent settlement of Jews in what is now the United States. This year, 350 years later, Jews all over America will commemorate their arrival on Sept. 7, 1654.

The museum is located at 614 Mountain Ave. Admission to the museum and its grounds is \$2 for adults, 50 cents for students and children under 6 are free. For further information, call the museum office at (908) 232-1776.



Barbara Aaronoff, left, of the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County accepts a donation gathered in a bucket drive at the conclusion of performances of the recent Scotch Plains Fanwood High School show, "Les Miserables." From left to right are Tuan Nguyen, president of the student theater group, Laurie Wellman of the SP-F High School music department, Tom Pedas who directed the show and inspired the community outreach that culminated in the bucket drive, and Shelly Gardner, parent of a cast member, who coordinated the bucket drive. The total collection actually exceeded the amount shown on the check.

## 'Les Mis' audiences dig deep to contribute to the homeless

SCOTCH PLAINS — Audiences at "Les Miserables," this year's production of the Scotch Plains Fanwood High School Repertory Theater, donated more than \$5,705 to benefit homeless children. The cast of the show conducted a bucket drive at the auditorium doors. On March 27, at the conclusion of six "Les Mis" stagings, showgoers far exceeded the casts' expectations for a donation to the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County.

Instead of quarters and dollars in their buckets, the cast tallied five and ten dollar bills. "We expected about \$200 per night," said Tuan Nguyen, president of the Repertory Theater.

Contributions averaged nearly five times that much. "Each night the collection seemed to grow exponentially," said Nguyen. "On the second to last night, an anonymous donor left a \$100 bill. Rep members had no idea how generous our community is until now."

Accepting the donation on April 1, Barbara Aaronoff, executive director of the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County, agreed to direct the funds to after-school arts and education programs for homeless children and for those living in scattered-site housing. "It was a joy just to be selected," said Aaronoff, noting that the unexpected size of the donation would make a major difference in services the council can offer.

The Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County is based in Plainfield and provides services to communities in much of Union County. Its programs include development of scattered site housing, coordination of Union County congregations with trained

volunteers who provide overnight shelter, meals and support 365 days a year, and education and advocacy for clients. On April 15 the Council held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of a renovated four-family house in Plainfield.

Nguyen attributed the idea for the bucket drive and its successful outcome to the support of the show's director, Tom Pedas, and producer, Laurie Wellman of the SP-F high school choral music program. "From the day we started casting last fall, Mr. Pedas wanted the cast to honor the spirit and message of 'Les Miserables,'" said Wellman.

Pedas added, "In dozens of ways, the cast has shown personal growth from the outreach as much as from putting on the show itself."

The bucket drive at the auditorium doors culminated a series of outreach activities

that were coordinated by parent volunteer Shelly Gardner. Said Gardner, "Our cast members went to soup kitchens to serve meals, sang Christmas carols at a holiday party for the homeless, presented a special preview performance at an area homeless shelter for women and children and chartered a bus to bring the residents of the shelter to one of our performances."

Cast-member parent Blanchard Hiatt credited Pedas with creating a meaningful and complete educational experience for the more than 100 SP-FHS students associated with the show.

"Tom Pedas showed tireless devotion," said Hiatt. "Students, audiences and the whole community responded to 'Les Mis' with an outpouring that in every way honors his and Laurie Wellman's tremendous personal investment in our young people."

*"Each night the collection seemed to grow exponentially. On the second to last night, an anonymous donor left a \$100 bill. Rep members had no idea how generous our community is until now."*

— Tuan Nguyen  
president, SP-F High School Repertory Theater

# William T. Harrington

WESTFIELD — William T. Harrington, 80, died April 8, 2004 at his home in Manchester.

Mr. Harrington was born in Oswego, N.Y., and lived in Westfield for 25 years before moving in 1987 to Beverly Hills, Fla. He had resided in Manchester since 1999.

He retired in 1986 as a mechanical engineer with Du Pont in Newark. Mr. Harrington was a Marine Corps demolition specialist in the Pacific during World War II with the rank of corporal.

He also was a hospital volun-

teer in Florida.

Surviving are his wife, Anne Dolan Harrington; three sons, William Thomas Jr., James and Kevin; three daughters, Kathleen Caputo, Melissa Eustace and Karen; a brother, George; 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church.

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

# John Mills Wittke

WESTFIELD — John Mills Wittke, 92, died April 8, 2004 at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune.

He was born in Summit and lived in Westfield before moving to Bay Head, where he had a summer home for many years.

Mr. Wittke was the founder and retired owner of Oil Equipment Laboratories in Elizabeth. He graduated in 1935 from Union College in Schenectady, N.Y.

He was the commodore of the Bay Head Yacht Club from 1966-68. Mr. Wittke was an honorary member of the Bay Head Fire Department and Bay Head

Republican Organization.

A former member of the Echo Lake Country Club, Mr. Wittke was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity at Union College.

His wife, Dorothy Taylor Wittke, is deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Gail W. Houston; three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Tuesday at All Saints Episcopal Church in Bay Head.

Arrangements were by the Van Hise & Callagan Funeral Home in Point Pleasant Beach. Donations may be sent to the Bay Head Fire Department or Bay Head Historical Society.

# Elizabeth LeBreton

WESTFIELD — Elizabeth F. Gilmour LeBreton, 55, died April 9, 2004 at her home in Plainfield.

Born in Staten Island, she lived in Westfield and Maryland before moving to Plainfield in 1988.

Mrs. LeBreton took night courses at Union County College to obtain a degree in computer science in 1987. She graduated from Westfield High School.

Her father, John R.H. Gilmour, is deceased.

Surviving are her mother, Elizabeth N. Broad Gilmour of Westfield; a daughter, Heather B.

of Linden; a brother, John R.B. Gilmour and wife Debbie of Matamoras, Pa.; two sisters, Barbara Lea Rawson and husband Doug of Branchville and Laurie Sue Aylward and husband James of West Milford; and a grandchild.

Services were held Wednesday at the Higgins Home for Funerals, in Plainfield. Donations may be sent to Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, 5900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 2330, Los Angeles, CA 90036. To send a condolence, visit [www.higginsfuneral-home.com](http://www.higginsfuneral-home.com).

# Jean Kessinger

SCOTCH PLAINS — Jean Scholz Kessinger, 78, died April 6, 2004 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Scranton, Pa., she lived in Elizabeth before moving to Scotch Plains in 1964.

Mrs. Kessinger retired in 1996 from the Scotch Hills Pharmacy in Scotch Plains. She was a past president of the Ladies Auxiliary to Martin Wallberg Post 3, American Legion, in Westfield.

She also was a former Union County president and past chapeau of the 40 et 8, affiliated with

the Legion.

Her first husband, John Scholz, died in 1961. A son, John William Scholz, died in 1956.

Surviving are her second husband, William A.; and a son, William Scholz.

Services were held Tuesday at the Memorial Funeral Home, Fanwood, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church. Donations may be sent to American Heart Association, 2550 U.S. Highway 1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-4301.

# Obituaries

## Alexander Di Iorio

WESTFIELD — Alexander Di Iorio, 72, died April 10, 2004 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Mr. Di Iorio was born in Pietracupa, Italy, and settled in Westfield when he came to the United States in 1947. He also had a vacation home in Great Meadows.

He was a general contractor for over 50 years on road construction and other projects. Mr. Di Iorio was the head general partner in Di Iorio & Di Iorio General Contractors, which had its office in Linden until the death of his brother, Nick. The surviving brother formed Davcon Associates Inc. in South Plainfield with a son, Domenick of Watchung; and remained active as its semi-retired director of operations.

Both firms received awards from the Utility and Transportation Contractors

Association and the National Asphalt Pavement Association.

Mr. Di Iorio was an active member of the Italian American Club in Westfield and pursued woodcutting at his Great Meadows cottage. He was a parishioner of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church.

A sister, Antoinette Di Giorgio, is deceased.

Also surviving are his wife of 53 years, Angelina Del Monaco Di Iorio; two other sons, Emilio of Westfield and Alex of Sutton, Mass.; three sisters, Amerina Porchetta of Westfield, Rosa Carrelli of Mountainside and Connie Recca of Brick; and seven grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held yesterday at Holy Trinity Church, following services at the Dooley Colonial Home. Entombment was in the Fairview Cemetery mausoleum.

## Bessie Young Karp

WESTFIELD — Bessie Y. Young Karp died April 7, 2004 at Genesis ElderCare-Westfield Center.

Mrs. Karp was born in Boston, Mass., and Mountainside before moving to Westfield four months ago.

She and her late husband, Samuel, owned the Charles Karp & Sons clothing store in Boston. Mrs. Karp also was a past president of the Parent-Teacher Association at Temple B'nai Moshe in Brighton.

She was a member of Hadassah in Boston.

Surviving are two sons, Fred and Stanley; six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Graveside services were held Friday at Sharon Memorial Park in Canton, Mass.

Arrangements were by the Menorah Chapels at Millburn, in Union. Donations may be sent to Center for Hope Hospice, 176 Hussa St., Linden, NJ 07036 or Defeat Diabetes Foundation, 501 150th Ave., Madeira Beach, FL 33708.

## Rudolph Sondergaard

FANWOOD — Rudolph Lawrence Sondergaard, 84, died April 5, 2004 at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

He was born in Newark and had lived in Fanwood since 1952.

Mr. Sondergaard retired in 1989 from Western Electric in Kearny, where he was a layout designer. He was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America; the Fanwood Senior Citizens Club; Eastern Star Lodge 105, Free & Accepted Masons, in Bound Brook; and Danish Brotherhood Chapter 46 in Perth

Amboy.

He was an Army veteran of World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Stella G. Zielinski Sondergaard; eight nieces and nephews; 13 grandnieces and grandnephews; and several great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews.

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Scotch Plains, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home in Scotch Plains. Entombment was in the Fairview Cemetery mausoleum, Westfield.

## Gloria Cieri

WESTFIELD — Gloria T. Di Forti Cieri, 76, died April 7, 2004 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in South Amboy, she lived in Westfield before moving to South Plainfield in 1995.

Mrs. Cieri was with L'Oreal USA for 22 years and retired in 1991 from its distribution department in Clark.

Her husband of 52 years,

Attilio F., died in February 2003.

Surviving are two sons, Bobby and John M.; two daughters, Patricia A. Flammer and Donna M. Bechtel; two brothers, Vince Di Forti and Jimmy Di Forti; a sister, Connie Kucsera; and 11 grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at the Rossi Funeral Home in Scotch Plains. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

## Bertha Seamann Rath

SCOTCH PLAINS — Bertha Hessel Seamann Rath, 94, died April 12, 2004 at her home.

She was born in Brooklyn and had lived in Scotch Plains since 1955.

Mrs. Rath was a seamstress in the Hoboken area for many years. She was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; the Scotch Plains Meridians; and the Sarah Circle at the Scotch Plains Baptist Church.

Deceased are her first husband,

Erich W. Seamann; her second husband, William; and a son, Walter Seamann.

Surviving are a son, Ernest A. Seamann; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Services were held yesterday at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Donations may be sent to Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, 1815 Front St., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

## Margaret Volker

WESTFIELD — Margaret Volker, 88, died April 10, 2004 at Genesis ElderCare-Westfield Center.

She was born in Elizabeth and had lived in Westfield since 1953.

Mrs. Volker spent 37 years with the Elizabeth Public Library; she became its assistant director in 1971 and held that post until her retirement in 1979. She received an associate's degree in librarianship in 1937 from Hunter College of the City University of New York.

She was a longtime member of the Junior Woman's Club of Elizabeth.

Surviving are a son, David; and a niece, Vivian Dunham.

Graveside services were held Wednesday at St. Gertrude Cemetery in Colonia.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home.

Center.

She was born in Elizabeth and had lived in Westfield since 1953.

Mrs. Volker spent 37 years with the Elizabeth Public Library; she became its assistant director in 1971 and held that post until her retirement in 1979. She received an associate's degree in librarianship in 1937 from Hunter College of the City University of New York.

She was a longtime member of the Junior Woman's Club of Elizabeth.

Surviving are a son, David; and a niece, Vivian Dunham.

Graveside services were held Wednesday at St. Gertrude Cemetery in Colonia.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home.

# School budget reflects increasing enrollment and teacher training

By WILLIAM J. FOLEY  
WESTFIELD SUPERINTENDENT

On Tuesday, April 20, from 2-9 p.m., Westfield voters will once again have the opportunity to influence the future of their schools. Although the election for Board of Education members is an uncontested one, the school budget vote is very important. Enrollment in the Westfield Public Schools has increased 27 percent in the last 10 years and is still growing. We expect 140 additional students next year and 330 more within three years. Our greatest growth is at the high school level, where we are adding more than 100 students a year. These numbers are a reality, since the students are already in our system.

The district's initiatives for next year include hiring four more classroom teachers, a guidance counselor, a special education teacher and four coaches at the high school.

We will also provide adequate training for teachers in all our schools. In the last few years, we have experienced significant teacher retirements and maternity leaves, resulting in the hiring of 60-70 new teachers a year. Currently one-third of our teachers have worked in the district for less than three years. Next year's budget will include funds to continue providing a cohesive district-wide professional development program for our teachers.

Our classrooms will be equipped with 300 new computers for our students, as well as new or revised curricula and textbooks for all schools. Our growing enrollment is placing further demands on our Fine Arts Program. Next year, we plan to include a stipend for a drama club at the high school and funding for new musical instruments. Our gifted and talented program will expand to fifth and eighth grades.

The four-year old laptops assigned to our high school teachers will be replaced next year with new models that have wireless capabilities and current operating systems that can function with new software. The high school teachers, who move from room to room during the day, are required to use them to prepare lesson plans, input grades, email assignments and communicate with parents and students.

The budget for 2004-2005 accomplishes a lot, with a tax increase the same as last year: 6 percent. The tax increase for the average household will be \$342. The district has put into effect several cost-saving measures to limit spending. We have two self-contained special education classes at our high school to keep more of our students in district. Last year, we hired our own occupational and speech therapists. These efforts help us deliver better services to our students and are more cost-effective.

We have also been successful in keeping our employee health-care increases to 15 percent, which is lower than national trends. All of our employees are enrolled in managed care or contribute to the cost of health benefits. Our per-pupil costs and our administrative costs are below the state average.

General education accounts for the largest share of the operating budget at \$23 million. Special education is the next largest piece, totaling over \$13 million. Employee insurance amounts to \$10 million, and maintenance and operations represents over \$5 million. Our total operating budget for 2004-05 will be \$69.4 million.

State aid received by Westfield equates to only \$785 per student out of a total per-pupil cost of \$11,196. Local tax dollars provide over 90 percent of the district's budget. That is why I invite all Westfield residents who would like to learn more about the budget to watch the Board of Education budget presentation on TV-36, go to the [westfieldnj.com](http://westfieldnj.com) school budget website, and look for information in the district's newsletter Emphasis, which you should have received in the mail.

I will be happy to answer any questions about the proposed budget, which has been constructed with both the high standards and fiscal prudence expected by the Westfield community. I can be reached at [wfoley@westfieldnj12.com](mailto:wfoley@westfieldnj12.com) or at (908) 789-4420.

I urge each Westfield resident to become informed about the budget and to cast your vote on Tuesday, April 20, between 2-9 pm.

# Officers file an appeal in discrimination suit

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Although a reverse racial discrimination filed against the township and two police chiefs was decided in favor of the defendants Feb. 24, the plaintiffs in that case — township police officers Kevin Lonergan, Brian Cheney, Matthew Fugett, and Brian Garbinski — have filed an appeal.

The plaintiffs allege the township, former police chief Thomas O'Brien, and current chief Marshall Nelson subjected them to a racially hostile work environment and discrimination.

According to the Steven Adler, attorney for the plaintiffs, the appeal, filed April 8, will be focused on two key issues from the preceding lawsuit, which was decided by Judge Edward Beglin, an assignment judge who retired in December.

"The trial court ignored various facts we established...and were not mentioned in the decision," Adler said.

Also, he added, one of the plaintiffs claimed he was denied promotion because he was a recovering alcoholic. The township claims that promotion decisions were made by Township Manager Tom Atkins and not the police chief, and Adler said he

was not allowed to take a deposition of Atkins to refute that claim.

But Township Attorney Doug Hansen disputed that claim, saying he submitted an affidavit to Judge Beglin which defined Mr. Atkins as the appointing authority in the case. Further, he said Adler's failure to depose the township manager was the result of "sloppy preparation."

"They never deposed Mr. Atkins because they never asked," he said. "There's a big difference between being denied a deposition and not asking permission."

The case stems from a reprimand the four white police officers received as a result of an incident on April 2, 2000 in which the officers were accused of using excessive methods after they pulled over a car and its black passengers.

The plaintiffs allege that Nelson, who is black, and others in the police department and township subsequently discriminated against the officers in the wake of the incident.

In his summary judgment, Beglin argued that "although race is present here, severe or pervasive racial discrimination is not, and accordingly the plaintiffs have failed to meet the required standard for actionable claims."

Adler said oral arguments in the appeal, if granted, would likely take place within about a year.

Hansen said the appeal would do "nothing more than to annoy and harass the township and its residents" and predicted the appeal "absolutely will be dismissed."

"You would think these four police officers would have enough sense to listen to a decision by the foremost judge in Union County," Hansen said. "I'm appalled by the action of these four officers in continuing on this nonsense."

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# Arbor series will host Todd Palmer, St. Louis String Quartet

Arbor Chamber Music presents the St. Lawrence String Quartet and clarinetist Todd Palmer in concert 4 p.m. April 25 at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield, located at the corner of East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue. A pre-concert talk with John Sichel will begin at 3:15 p.m.

The featured work is Osvaldo Golijov's "Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind" for string quartet and klezmer clarinet. The St. Lawrence Quartet will also perform Ravel's String Quartet and Haydn's String Quartet, Op.64, no.2.

Golijov, recent winner of a MacArthur "genius" grant, was born in Argentina, where he grew up in an Eastern European Jewish household, studying piano as a child with his mother before moving to Israel in 1983. He came to the U.S. three years later, where he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, studying with George Crumb.

"Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind" was inspired by the story of the great Kabbalist rabbi from 12th-century Provence, who dictated a manuscript in which he asserted that all things and events in the universe are the product of combinations of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

Having walked on stage together over 1,500 times in the past 14 years, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has established itself among the world-class chamber ensembles of its generation.

In 1992 the quartet won both the Banff International String Quartet Competition and Young Concert Artists Audition, launching them on a performing career that has brought them across North and South America, Europe and Asia.

In 2002 EMI released their recording "Yiddishbbuk," featuring the chamber music of Osvaldo Golijov. The work

received two Grammy nominations.

Since winning the 1990 Young Concert Artist International Auditions, clarinetist Todd Palmer has appeared as recitalist, concerto soloist and clinician at major performing arts centers and universities in 47 states and has been given virtually unanimous praise for his supreme mastery of his instrument and unerring musicianship.

The St. Lawrence String Quartet and Todd Palmer are returning artists to Arbor's series. This is the final concert of the 2003-2004 season.

Arbor Chamber Music receives generous support from The New Jersey State Council on the Arts through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, and from the Westfield Foundation, Hayward Industries and McCarter & English, LLP.

The Presbyterian Church is handicapped accessible.



The St. Lawrence String Quartet will perform at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield April 25.

## 'Underground legend' Aiken comes to area

The Coffee with Conscience Concert Series of Westfield presents blues artist and "underground legend" Caroline Aiken in concert this weekend.

Aiken will perform at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 East Broad St. Saturday night. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 8. Admission is \$12; all net proceeds from the concert will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

The Vermont-based singer/songwriter Rachel Bissett will open the show.

Aiken has been called the "Earthmother of the Atlanta acoustic scene" and was recently named the "Best Acoustic Act" by Atlanta Magazine, where she was pictured with Curtis Mayfield, Gladys Knight, the Indigo Girls, and the Black Crowes.

After 30-plus years of performing and touring globally, the expressive singer and guitarist was called an "underground legend," by Santa Cruz' Good Times magazine. She has opened for and played with some of music's greatest talents, among them Muddy Waters, Bonnie Raitt, Leo Kottke, Hot Tuna, and Little Feat. Aiken has played at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame with the B-52's and Mother's Finest. She was even presented with her own glass case in the Atlanta Hard Rock Café.

Aiken has independently produced 5 albums, among them "Live Bait" and "Butler Field." With three different workshops, she is busy teaching private and group lessons in performance, songwriting, and guitar playing.

For more information about Aiken, visit [www.carolineaiken.com](http://www.carolineaiken.com).

The Coffee with Conscience Concert Series of Westfield is a 10-show series running from September through June at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield. The concerts are also being recorded for broadcast by Westfield's TV-36. Residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains,



The Coffee with Conscience Concert Series brings Caroline Aiken to Westfield Saturday night.

Fanwood and Mountainside can catch each month's concert on Friday's at 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. and on Sundays at 7 p.m.

The Coffee with Conscience Concert Series of Westfield supports the following charities: The Eric Johnson House in Morristown, the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, the Names Project (more commonly known as the AIDS Quilt), Habitat for Humanity and the Community FoodBank of NJ. Each concert benefits one of these charities.

For more information about the Coffee with Conscience Concert Series, the upcoming performance, or ways to get involved with the series, call Ahrré Maros, owner of Ahrré's Coffee Roastery in Westfield at (908) 232-8723 or go to [www.coffee-withconscience.com](http://www.coffee-withconscience.com).

## Symphony concert features three talented young pianists

The Westfield Symphony Orchestra's upcoming concert will celebrate the music of the classical masters as well as showcasing the stars of tomorrow.

The concert, 8 p.m. Saturday at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway, will feature the professional orchestra in performances of Mozart's Symphony No. 40 and Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony Op. 110a. It will also showcase the talents of New Jersey's up-and-coming musical stars by featuring the winners of the New Jersey Music Teachers Association 2004 Concerto Competition.

The three featured pianists — winners of their respective age categories in the competition — will each perform a movement from a well-known concerto with the musicians of the Westfield Symphony, under the direction of Music Director David Wroe.

Andres Nguyen, 17, will perform the first movement of Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 1, Emily Choi, 12, will play the first movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1, and Constance Lin Kaita, 9, will perform the first movement of Haydn's Piano Concerto No. 1.

Wroe was eager to launch this collaboration with the New Jersey Music Teachers Association. "I believe that part of the Westfield's Symphony's role is to search out and nurture the talent of tomorrow. The NJMTA Concerto Competition featured serious talent. I am very proud to present these three winners to our audience. I hope that this will be the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership between the Symphony and NJMTA."

There will be a free pre-concert discussion with musicologist Joseph Orchard beginning prior to the concert at 7 p.m. Tickets for the concert are \$25-\$60 with discounts for students and senior citizens. Tickets can be purchased at the Westfield Symphony Orchestra office

(224 E. Broad St., Westfield or (908) 232-9400) or the Union County Arts Center Box Office (1601 Irving St., Rahway or (732) 499-0441) or online at [www.westfieldsymphony.com](http://www.westfieldsymphony.com).

Tickets at \$25 are available at the following ticket outlets: Lancaster Ltd., Town Book Store, and Evalyn Dunn's Gallery in Westfield; Martin Jewelers in Cranford; Beautiful Things in Scotch Plains; and Frog Hollow in Cranford.

The Westfield Symphony was founded in 1983 by a group of Westfield citizens who believed that the expression of history and culture through the performance of symphonic music adds value to the quality of community life. Its mission is to promote the world's legacy of symphonic and operatic music to audiences, involving them in a diversity of professional musical experiences including performance, education and mentoring.

Now in its 21st season, the symphony is viewed as one of the cultural jewels of the metropolitan area. It has been recognized by the NJ State Council on the Arts as a Distinguished Arts Organization and is the resident orchestra of Union County and of the Union County Arts Center.

NJMTA is an affiliate of the Music Teachers National Association. The objective of the NJMTA is to advance musical knowledge and promote professional growth among music teachers, and to conduct activities that encourage and support teaching, performance, composition and the appreciation of music.

NJMTA's Concerto Competition is open to piano, strings, winds, and brass students who are legal residents of New Jersey and under the age of 18. After being chosen from recorded performances submitted to NJMTA, students competed live in front of a panel of judges who selected winners in each age category.

## Rainey's photos on display

The Friends of the Fanwood Library is presenting a special program 7:30 p.m. Tuesday featuring Pulitzer Prize winner Matt Rainey, photojournalist for The Star-Ledger.

For over 15 years Rainey has been behind the camera, telling challenging and inspiring stories of people around the world. He joined The Star-Ledger in 1995 and became staff photographer in 2000.

Rainey won the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography in 2001 for his series "After the Fire." The series follows the story of two severely burned freshmen from the Seton Hall University dormitory fire in January 2000. It chronicles the actual events surrounding the fire itself and then moves to the hospital where Shawn Simons and Alvaro Llanos begin their healing.

In the series, Star-Ledger staff writer Robin Gaby Fisher and Rainey relate not only the story of the victims, but also the roles the hospital staff, family and friends played in the recovery process. The investigation into the fire continues, and no trial date has been set for those accused of setting the fire.

Rainey, a graduate of The Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, has received other numerous awards, including the 1998 New Jersey Press Photographer of the Year. He has traveled around the world for The Star-Ledger, including assignments in Mexico and Israel.

Some of Rainey's work is currently on display at the Fanwood Library.

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### Campus notes

Jennifer Dalrymple, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Dalrymple of Westfield, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2003 semester at the College of Saint Elizabeth.

Several area residents have been named to the dean's list for

the fall 2003 semester at Rider University in Lawrenceville.

They are Scotch Plains residents and first-year students Karlene Quigley and Candice Draper and Westfield resident Salvatore Curro, a junior majoring in finance.

Christine Genova of Westfield has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2003 semester at Providence College in Providence, R.I.

Kristen Gundrum of Westfield, a senior at West Chester University in Pennsylvania, has received the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Award.

The daughter of Monica and

Bill Gundrum, Kristen is a member of Alpha Xi Delta and was inducted into the honors society Rho Lambda in fall 2003.

Several Westfield residents and Gettysburg College students are spending the spring 2004 semester studying off-campus.

They are Tyne Duffy, a junior studying at University of Wollongong in Australia; Shawn McCabe, a junior studying at

Lutheran College in Washington, D.C.; and Michael Pollack, a junior studying at American University in Washington, D.C.

Westfield resident Christopher Curcio has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2003 semester at Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Westfield residents Annabel Maria Benito and Brian

Christopher Osborn have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2003 semester at Centenary College in Hackettstown.

Scotch Plains residents Nina Sado and Marvin Awaity earned academic honors at the Teaneck campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University for the fall 2003 semester.

Sado was named to the honor's list, while Awaity was named to the dean's list.

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# Offerings still available at Community School

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Community School of Scotch Plains-Fanwood still has many offerings about to get underway during its spring term and continues to accept registrations for these courses and seminars.

The month of April brings several offerings. Set for

Tuesday evenings and beginning April 13, a course in Japanese language and living for adults is slated to run for six sessions, while an origami course for young people in Grades 3-6 is scheduled to start April 14. Local resident Hiromi Iwama will lead both courses.

This Sunday, April 18, there will be two horsemanship sessions at nearby Washington Riding Stables, one at 1 p.m. for teens and adults and one at 3 p.m. for youth ages 8-11.

Another hands-on course in "Excel for the Novice on the PC" will begin Monday and will run

for four Monday evenings with computer instructor Manan Grandolfo.

A series of travelogues on "England: London and Beyond" will launch Wednesday, with Richard Dixon, director of travel and tourism at Union County College and a seasoned travel

agent of 30 years. And financial one-night seminars in "Tax-Free and Tax-Deferred Investing," "Planning for Long-Term Care," and "Building Long-Term Financial Security through Mutual Funds" will play April 22, April 26, and April 28, respectively.

Two more Community School courses begin in May. On May 4, an intermediate Microsoft Word course will start for PC users.

On May 5, local resident Eugene Reiss of TurnAround Strategies will present a two-session financial course titled "Investment Pillars."

For sign-up information, call The Community School at (908) 889-7718. Course descriptions and registration forms can be found in the Community School brochures still available at area libraries and also on the school district website [www.spfk12.org](http://www.spfk12.org).

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# Real Estate

## Boost in business spending is key to strength of office market

By DAVID SIMSON  
PRESIDENT, GVA WILLIAMS OF NJ

While we reflect on the past year in the office sector throughout New Jersey there are a few positive economic indicators which offer excitement and optimism.

Clearly, expected improvement of economic performance in corporate earnings in conjunction with increased corporate spending on employment growth may begin to stabilize the overall vacancy factor, rental rates and concession packages that exist in today's market.

The current vacancy rate throughout northern New Jersey is 19.6 percent, compared to 18.9 percent at the end of 2002. Although we witnessed a slight increase in availability, signs of improvement become more visible.

New Jersey offers stability with its respective infrastructure of 170 million square feet of multi-tenanted office space, ranking 5th largest in the United States. New Jersey's labor force, highway accessibility and quality of life fares well in comparison to all competitive, nationwide markets.

The positive trends during this past year were led by four industries serving as the catalyst for absorption — pharmaceutical, mortgage brokerage firms and their affiliates, the legal profession and business continuity facilities.

A few highlights of 2003 include the leasing of 233,000 square feet by Dendrite in Somerset; 200,000 square feet by Kathryn Gibbs in Livingston; 154,000 square feet and 112,000 square feet by Pfizer in Parsippany; 115,000 square feet by Biovail Corp in

Bridgewater; 108,000 square feet by Altana Pharma in Florham Park; 139,000 square feet by Reckitt Benckiser Headquarters in Parsippany; 108,000 square feet by Bank of New York in Somerset County and 111,000 square feet by Tyco in Princeton. This past year witnessed 11 new office leases in excess of 100,000 square feet.

As we hope business spending turns the corner in a positive direction, our history has indicated it generally does so in a big way. If this cycle teaches any lessons, it is likely that the bottom of the corporate investment cycle will usually have seen bigger cut-backs that are warranted by prospective demand conditions.

Consequently, the recovery, when it comes, may be stronger than many expect; but the risks on relying on increased busi-

ness spending for the economy recovery are two-sided. The downside is that increased business spending and hiring may continue to be delayed by restructuring, corporate caution and/or unanticipated external events such as the current unstable political environment throughout the world.

Although demand in the office market was the softest that New Jersey has witnessed in a decade, there was clearly a disconnect with regard to the investment sector. More and more investment dollars are heading for real estate in New Jersey due to historically low 40-year interest rates, recent disenchantment with the stock market and the caution of any promise of a relatively safe and steady income stream.

The first three quarters of 2003 offered an abundance of purchasers competing for well-

stabilized, highly-financiable buildings which include strong credit tenants located in sub-markets perceived with a deep infrastructure with an income stream that offers a prospective purchaser a comfort zone for at least the next three years.

Several challenges await the real estate market in 2004. Clearly, the hope and optimism of the commitment of corporate America to re-deploy capital toward job growth will be the impetus to the success. It is also imperative the segmented corporate strength of 2003 continues to grow in 2004, including the biotech firms, pharmaceutical firms (there are 25 multi-national pharmaceutical companies that have either established New Jersey as their world headquarters, or U.S. headquarters or have a major regional R&D facility in New Jersey) as well as business con-

tinuity/back-up centers.

It seems clear that property market fundamentals cannot begin to improve materially until the business sector has enough confidence to begin investing in equipment and labor again. The longer the corporate sector takes to recover and the longer reinvestment is delayed, the less likely we will see rapid improvement in the fundamentals of the office market.

With regional headquarters in Parsippany, New Jersey, GVA Williams employs a staff of over 250 professionals in the Tri-State region. GVA Williams is a founding partner of GVA Worldwide, an international strategic partnership of real estate industry leaders in key markets in 27 countries. The partnership includes 3,600 real estate professionals serving approximately 100 markets.

## Home Ownership Month means chance to fulfill a dream

In June, the nation will celebrate National Homeownership Month to help more Americans realize that dream. And with lower down payment requirements, discounted application fees, and homeownership education programs, many homebuyers will find it easier than ever to purchase a home.

This program was initiated last year to help people in our communities pursue a better quality of life.

Community development is a very important part of this program. National Homeownership Month develops communities by encouraging more people to become homeowners, thus increasing personal responsibility. This program was designed to help people understand the financial aspects of owning and operating a home.

Studies have shown that as homeownership rises, the entire community prospers. With the escalating number of homeowners, the community ambience rises and crime rates decrease dramatically. All while neighborhoods become more stable. Many aspects are improved throughout the neighborhood, including schools and community involvement.

"A home provides many different things to many different people," said Mercedes Pedrick, vice president of mortgage originations at

Spencer Savings Bank.

"A home provides shelter and a safe place where families can prosper," she continued. "A home is an important financial investment as well as a source of great personal pride and an important part of community stability."

Spencer Savings Bank will host an educational outreach program in many of its branch offices throughout May. Spencer will also offer special programs to customers who would otherwise have a difficult time getting into their first home.

"By taking the important step to homeownership, individuals and families help to safeguard their financial futures and it also helps to strengthen America's economy," Pedrick continued. "Owning a home has always been part of the American dream. National Homeownership Month gives prospective homeowners time to reflect on their dreams and work to make them come true."

"Reaching your goal of owning a home is at the tip of your fingers and National Homeownership Month gives you the perfect opportunity to take advantage of all the benefits owning a home can provide," she concluded.

For additional information, contact Spencer Savings Bank at (800) 363-8115.

## Prudential New Jersey plans second tournament to help Sunshine Kids

Residential real estate firm Prudential New Jersey Properties has announced its second annual golf tournament benefiting The Sunshine Kids, scheduled for June 11.

The first Prudential New Jersey Properties/Sunshine Kids golf tournament, held in October 2003, raised more than \$10,000 for the non-profit organization dedicated to helping children with cancer. The money garnered at the golf tournament contributed to the \$50,000 total raised through the fundraising activities of Prudential New Jersey Properties' 26 sales offices in 2003.

James Bryant and Courtney Orlando of the company's Martinsville office, along with a team of Prudential New Jersey Properties volunteers, are again coordinating this year's event.

"The golf tournament continues to be a great opportunity to raise funds for this marvelous foundation," said Chris Brown, co-president of Prudential New Jersey Properties. "Thanks to

James, Courtney and their staff, last year's event ran very smoothly and I'm sure this year will be even more successful."

Nancy Litwin, Prudential New Jersey Properties co-president, added: "Our associates have been tremendously supportive of our goals for The Sunshine Kids. The company's volunteer chairperson, Steve Cohen, of the Hillsborough office is full of energy and great ideas."

Openings for golfers, as well as sponsorship opportunities, are available for the tournament, which will be held at Royce Brook Country Club in Hillsborough. The event will begin with registration at 11 a.m.; the tournament will start at 1 p.m. Lunch will be served before tee-off and the event will conclude in the evening with a reception and awards dinner and charity auction.

Corporate sponsorships are on four different levels, ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. Hole sponsorships begin at \$250. Player entry is \$250 per person, which includes food, range balls,

greens fees, cart, prizes and donation (this is a tax-deductible expense). The deadline for registrants and sponsors is May 15.


Further information on sponsorships and player entry forms is available through Prudential New Jersey Properties sales associates James Bryant and Courtney Orlando, at (732) 469-1516 ext. 356 or (732) 921-1825. Registration forms can also be found at [www.sunshinekids-golf.com](http://www.sunshinekids-golf.com).

The Sunshine Kids is a non-profit organization dedicated to children with cancer. Established in 1982, it is committed to providing positive group activities and emotional support for young cancer patients.

The Sunshine Kids provides a variety of programs and events free of charge for kids who are receiving cancer treatments in hospitals across North America. Additional information on The Sunshine Kids may be found at [www.sunshinekids.com](http://www.sunshinekids.com).


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## David joins RE/MAX

CRANFORD — RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Cranford has welcomed Michelle David as its newest sales associate. David specializes in the listing and sale of residential properties in Union County. In addition to her career in real estate, she works in pharmaceutical quality control.

"I came to RE/MAX because it has a large network of realtors worldwide, national advertising campaigns, and is widely recognized by the general public," said David, a resident of Kenilworth.

To contact Michelle David, call RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Cranford at (908) 276-7440.

With 165 franchise offices and over 2,500 real estate professionals, RE/MAX of New Jersey continues to be one of the leading real estate organizations in the state.

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1-yr ARM	2.250	0.00	5%	30	5.770	30-yr. Jumbo	5.625	0.00	5%	45	5.620
30-yr. Jumbo	5.375	1.50	5%	30	5.501	1-yr ARM	1.950	0.00	10%	45	1.990
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<b>Blue Bell Mortgage Grp. 800-542-3363</b>						30-yr. Jumbo 5.625 0.00 20% 90 5.626					
30-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	20%	45	5.510	15-yr. Fixed 4.750 0.00 5% 90 4.751					
15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.00	20%	45	4.759	5-yr. ARM 4.375 0.00 5% 90 3.976					
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30-yr. Fixed	5.375	0.00	5%	45	5.501	30-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	5%	60	5.180
15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.00	5%	45	4.880	15-yr. Fixed	4.625	0.00	5%	60	4.690
30-yr. Jumbo	5.750	0.00	5%	45	5.790	30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.00	5%	60	5.540
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						15-yr. Fixed 4.625 0.00 20% 75 4.807					
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# Trading rent for mortgage is always a complicated decision

By LIZ PULLIAM WESTON  
MSN MONEY

(NAPS) — President Bush's 2003 tax cuts did more than put some money back in people's wallets. For lots of folks, it also reduced — and in some cases, eliminated — the tax benefit they got from owning a home.

That certainly wasn't the intent of the legislation. But by lowering tax brackets and, more importantly, boosting the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly, it certainly was the result. That shouldn't cause you to shelve your plans to buy a house, however. The tax benefits to home ownership have long been exaggerated.

### Benefits of home ownership

Fortunately, there are a lot of other good reasons to own a home. One of the best, financially speaking: the chance to benefit from appreciation as the value of your home (one would hope) rises through the years. Over the past 30 years, houses have appreciated, on average, six percent a year.

All calculations on home value come with caveats:

- House hoppers won't get all of the benefit. Every time you change homes, you lose about 10 percent of the value to selling and moving costs.
- Out-of-control spenders can still lose. If you drain off every dollar in appreciation through home equity loans and lines of credit, you aren't building wealth, you're destroying it.
- Home prices don't always appreciate. Sometimes they plateau or even decline.

### Rent vs. buy calculators

Since Dec. 31, 1998, the S&P 500 is down 7.2 percent. But my home in the insanely hot Southern California market has appreciated about 65 percent. There's no way I could have predicted the performance of either market-stock or real estate-in advance. Yet most of the "rent vs. buy" calculators you find on the Internet pretend

that you can, and these base their results on those crystal-ball assumptions.

That's not their only flaw. Just like many first-time buyers (and even some long-time homeowners), the calculators tend to ignore or underestimate the total costs of owning a house. Outlays for maintenance, repairs, insurance and utilities almost invariably will be greater for a homeowner than a renter, yet many calculators fail to consider the full impact of these expenses.

### How you can win by owning

You're most likely to win by owning, rather than renting, if the following are true:

- You plan to stay put at least three years and preferably more. In most markets, it can take three to six years for a home to appreciate enough to offset the costs of selling and moving.
- You're psychologically prepared. Home ownership means dealing with whatever comes up — from noisy neighbors to clogged plumbing. You can't just pack up and move as easily as when you were renting or call the landlord for help.
- You have some extra savings. Home buyers who spend every dime they have buying a house inevitably get blindsided by repairs, maintenance and all the other costs of owning a home. Smart home buyers make sure they have an amount in savings at least equal to two mortgage payments after the deal closes, and preferably much more.

Remember, if you're the kind of person who lives on credit cards and doesn't know where the money goes, you'd be smart to clean up your financial act long before you go hunting for a house.

For more information and tools that can help you get a better handle on the costs of owning a home vs. renting, visit the Banking Center on MSN Money (<http://money.msn.com>), or track your accounts and bills in Microsoft Money software.

There are benefits to both home ownership and renting.

# Paul Lamastra receives another Sales Club award

SCOTCH PLAINS — ERA Suburb Realty Agency announced recently that Paul Lamastra is a recipient of the 2003 NJAR Million Dollar Sales Club award.

This is Lamastra's seventh year winning Gold Status. As a proud, accomplished agent and broker, Lamastra thanks each of his past and present clients.

Lamastra believes he has grown to be a spirited and educated agent through the dedication he gives to his clients, and says the rewarding friendships he makes with each customer puts him on top lists for referrals, all for which he is extremely thankful.

Company president Don Lamastra said, "I can tell that Paul has enjoyed his 21 years as a real estate agent here at ERA Suburb Realty. He comments on the joys of watching his clients grow with family and friends in the new neighborhoods of their new homes. We are very proud of all of Paul's many prestigious accomplishments."

Being a life long resident in Scotch Plains and Fanwood adds a great deal to the knowledge Lamastra has in aiding his clients to purchase in this area and all surrounding areas. To experience excellence in working with a professional realtor such as Paul Lamastra, and to receive



PAUL LAMASTRA

fast results, whether it be buying or selling a home, Paul can be reached at (908) 322-4434, ext. 161.

ERA Suburb Realty Agency is located at 1773 East Second St. in Scotch Plains. Visit on the web at [www.erasuburb.com](http://www.erasuburb.com).



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# Kraus inducted into President's Council

WESTFIELD — George Kraus, vice president and branch manager of the Burgdorff ERA's Westfield office, earned membership to the 2004 President's Council of its parent company, NRT Incorporated.

NRT, the nation's largest residential real estate brokerage company, recently made this announcement at the International Business Conference held in Las Vegas. This is the highest honor bestowed upon NRT's top branch office managers, who help motivate sales associates and ensure that the level of service delivered is exemplary.

"I am extremely proud of George for his team's accomplishments in achieving an exemplary sales record and delivering truly remarkable service," stated Pat Hoferkamp, president and chief operating officer of Burgdorff ERA. "He has demonstrated the integrity, professionalism, and commitment to excellence that

are the hallmark of both Burgdorff ERA and NRT.

The reward that President's Council members prize most is an invitation to the President's Council Retreat. The event will take place at the Enchantment Resort in Sedona, Arizona on Aug. 2-4. This exclusive escape to a luxurious destination resort offers each member opportunities to interact with NRT's top management and participate in business programs designed to help these top achievers stay in peak form.

The schedule provides participants with a forum for discussion and interaction on an important topic or concern. It also offers a way for the company to stay in close touch with those managing operations in the field.

"It is an honor and privilege to be recognized by NRT, especially in this capacity," remarked Kraus. "I look forward to sharing ideas with other managers across the country to further strengthen



GEORGE KRAUS

our dedication and assistance to our employees, sales associates, peers and customers."

Founded in 1958, Burgdorff ERA is the top producing ERA real estate firm in dollar volume nationally, with 16 offices and over 700 sales associates in New Jersey. The ERA real estate network includes more than 29k100 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 30 other countries and territories.

# ERA unveils new website

ERA Associates from New Jersey and worldwide returned recently from the company's annual international business conference armed with innovative new programs and highly motivated for the spring real estate market.

During the three-day International Business Conference (IBC), held Feb. 26-29 in Las Vegas, 3,700 brokers, managers and sales associates participated in training courses, workshops and networking events in addition to learning from motivational speaker "Dr. Phil" McGraw and inspirational teacher Erin Gruwell.

With the theme of the conference being "ERA...On the Move," the company unveiled its all-new consumer website, ERA.com, and announced major enhancements to its unique ERA Sellers Security Plan.

According to Paul Giannantonio, president of the ERA Brokers of New Jersey, "the company's new website now includes enhanced listing pages, customizable features for each user, a refined property search system and an improved navigation system."

Giannantonio reported that the new ERA Sellers Security Plan is unparalleled in the marketplace. "The new plan gives homesellers access to a wider pool of buyers. In addition to cash buyers and those whose current home is sold and ready to close, the Sellers Security Plan helps turn interested buyers (who have a current home to sell) into highly qualified buyers for an ERA listing."

In addition, the revised plan allows customers to try the program without committing to a fee at the start, making it an even more attractive program for homesellers.

For more information on ERA programs, contact your local ERA office which can be found by visiting [www.ERANJ.com](http://www.ERANJ.com).

# COLDWELL BANKER

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**LIVINGSTON \$409,900**  
Charming 3 bedroom, 1 bath center hall colonial with all the original world world charm. Lovely staircase, eat-in-kitchen. WSF0282



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Gracious home. Huge prime wooded lot, 3 bedroom, 2.1bths. (master w/full bth), family room, cac. Call for more details. WSF0249



**SCOTCH PLAINS \$389,900**  
Fabulous 4 bedroom, 2 bath colonial in move-in condition. Roof raised '02, new kitchen '03, 2 zone gas heat, cac and more. WSF0224



**SCOTCH PLAINS \$729,900**  
Beautifully appointed 4 bedroom CH colonial in the Homestead section. Amazing new kitchen. 2 family rooms, QUALITY! WSF0245



**WESTFIELD \$995,000**  
Elegant CH colonial. 4 bedrooms, 2.1 baths, 2 fireplaces, family room, rec room, state of the art kitchen and more. WSF0185

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## Find epics, romances at library

SCOTCH PLAINS — At 7 p.m. May 5, Scotch Plains Library will present "Epic and Romance," a lecture by John V. Fleming, professor of English and comparative literature at Princeton University. Fleming will trace the origins of the two major impulses in Western literature — the Epic, in which heroes battle powerful enemies, and the Romance, which brings readers into deeper realms of heart and mind. His lecture will explain how these two forms continue to define the great fictional masterpieces of recent times.

No pre-registration is required. Scotch Plains Library is located at 1927 Bartle Ave. For further information and directions, call (908) 322-5007.

## Program tells life of E. Roosevelt

Friends of Library honor Lynn Bilman with annual Kenneth J. Gaston Award

WESTFIELD — Residents are invited to join the fun as the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library host a delightfully entertaining and wholly enlightening program this weekend on one of America's most respected icons, Eleanor Roosevelt.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, professional actor Rene Goodwin of the American Historical Theatre of Philadelphia will present a first-person interpretation of Ms. Roosevelt's first 55 years of life. The story of the former First Lady includes many historically significant events that she witnessed first-hand and, often, directly influenced.

Goodwin's enthusiastic portrayal of this trail-blazing woman has captivated audiences. A question and answer period will follow the show.

Each year the Friends host a special program such as "Eleanor Roosevelt" to honor the recipient of their Kenneth S. Gaston Award.

This award is presented to a person or persons who have demonstrated their commitment to the Library by their actions to support and further its activities.

This year's Kenneth J. Gaston Award recipient is Lynn Bilman. For 15 years, Bilman has been the creative force behind the innovative and eye-catching seasonal murals in the Children's Department of the library. She has also been responsible for arranging the children's programs that are sponsored by the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library.

All are enthusiastically invited to attend this free show.



Rene Goodwin portrays Eleanor Roosevelt in a program Sunday at the Westfield library.

The library is located at 550 East Broad St.

Rene Goodwin's appearance is made possible with funding from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

## Support troops overseas

WESTFIELD — It was a little over a year ago that the U.S. went to war with Iraq. Tens of thousands of U.S. troops were deployed to the Middle East. Many of the original troops have returned home and new troops are taking their places; for some of these young men and women it is their first time away from home.

Several local residents — Dianne Gorbaty, Claudia Cuca, Julie Dvorak, Denise Yatrakis, Terry Madrillo, Sherry Rodgers and Alice Miller — have gotten together to form Caring Hearts from Home. The purpose of this group is to renew awareness of and support for U.S. servicemen and women overseas. Community members are urged to help let the troops abroad know that they are not forgotten.

Through the USO (United Services Organization), one may send a care package for \$25 by going online at [www.usocares.org](http://www.usocares.org) or calling (866) USO-GIVE.

There are also opportunities to get a business involved through the Corporate Sponsor Program or send an email to the troops via

[www.operationdearabby.net](http://www.operationdearabby.net) or [writethetroops@aol.com](mailto:writethetroops@aol.com).

Through the American Red Cross, residents can send a care package for \$20. Send check payable to American Red Cross/Treasures for Troops, to American Red Cross, Westfield/Mountainside Chapter, 321 Elm St., Westfield, NJ 07090.

Through the Salvation Army's Operation Red Shield, donate travel-size toiletries for deployment kits. The wish list includes: baby wipes, washcloths, sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, sewing kits, shampoo, disposable razors, shaving cream, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and more. The Salvation Army is giving the deployment kits to troops leaving from Ft. Dix and McGuire Airbase here in New Jersey.

Drop off locations include: Westfield Library, Scotch Plains Library, Re/Max Properties (North Avenue at Central, Westfield), Burgdorff Realtors (North Avenue at Clark Street, Westfield).

For more donation options, visit [www.booksforsoldiers.com](http://www.booksforsoldiers.com) and [www.soldiersangels.com](http://www.soldiersangels.com).

# Health & Fitness

SPOTLIGHT ON:  
**SPORTS MEDICINE**

Presented by William Bell, R.P.T.

**THE BENEFITS OF YOGA**

Western studies have confirmed Eastern thought with respect to the fact that the stretching associated with yoga boosts flexibility and strength while also inducing relaxation and a sense of well-being. In a recent study, researchers at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation also found that practicing yoga three times a week for one month reduced pain and the need for medication among people with chronic back pain, carpal tunnel syndrome, and arthritis. A one-year clinical trial of patients with coronary artery disease also found that yoga reduced the number of angina attacks and even the need for angioplasty or bypass surgery.

Several other trials have found that yoga may help control high blood pressure nearly as effectively as medication. Practicing Yoga has many healthy benefits. However, if you have physical limitations or certain pre-existing medical conditions, it is important to consult with your doctor before beginning any new exercise regimen. If you require physical therapy, contact 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.

P.S. Yoga breathing exercises improve the lungs' ability to saturate the blood with oxygen, enabling healthy people to exercise harder and longer.

[www.williambellrehab.com](http://www.williambellrehab.com)

## County offers program on how to beat obesity

Each year in the United States more than \$33 billion is spent on weight loss products and services. Despite this huge amount of money, overweight and obese adults have risen at an epidemic rate during the past 20 years.

To address the obesity issue, Dr. Karen Enslie, department head of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County

(RCE), has developed a program called "Supersize America: Beating the Obesity Epidemic."

The program will help people understand why portion sizes, food choices, and fitness activities are important on a daily basis. Food comparison quizzes with exercise examples will help the learner to understand the reality of our everyday choices.

"This program will give resi-

dents of Union County the knowledge they need to change their eating habits and work toward improving their overall health," said Union County Freeholder Daniel P. Sullivan. "Better eating and proper exercise will help reverse the disturbing trend of overweight and obesity in our society."

Here are some of the risks facing overweight and obese adults:

— More than 300,000 deaths per year may be attributed to the obesity epidemic.

— People who are overweight have a higher incidence of high blood pressure.

— People who are overweight have increased "bad cholesterol" and reduced "good cholesterol," which increases the risk of heart attack and stroke.

— People who are 11-18 pounds overweight are at risk for developing Type II Diabetes.

For more information on offering this program for a "lunch and learn" occasion or for a community group in Union County, call Dr. Karen Enslie at (908) 654-9854.

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- ◆ Founder and Director of Rahway Regional Cancer Center
- ◆ Board Certified Radiation Oncologist Trained at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
- ◆ Awarded American Cancer Society Fellowship in Clinical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
- ◆ Established Central New Jersey's 1st Prostate Seed Implant Program
- ◆ Graduated with Honors from Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and Columbia University
- ◆ Extensive Experience in Breast Irradiation and Breast Preservation Management

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Ample Parking is Available at the Center

## CSH aims to help kids stay healthy

Parents concerned about teens who may be overweight or are increasingly inactive can now turn to the SHAPEDOWN Program at Children's Specialized Hospital, the nation's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital.

Originally developed in California, SHAPEDOWN is the country's leading weight management program for teens and has been selected by the American Medical Association as an exemplary health promotion program.

Children's will offer SHAPEDOWN at its Mountainside facility, located 150 New Providence Road. The 10-week program will be held every Monday beginning May 3 at 6:30 p.m.

In addition to the child, at least one parent or guardian is required to participate in the two-hour sessions, as the program is designed to enhance the entire family's understanding of weight management, nutrition and physical fitness.

Instructed by both a physical therapist and a nurse, SHAPEDOWN covers a wide range of nutrition, exercise and body image issues. Teens in SHAPEDOWN enhance their self-esteem, improve peer relationships, adopt healthier habits and begin to normalize their weight.

Space for the program is limited, and a \$370 registration fee is required. For more information, please call (888) CHILDREN, ext. 5417.

## Blood Center seeks support

The Blood Center of New Jersey has announced blood drive locations and asks residents to sign up to donate.

For more information or to sign up for a blood drive, call the center at (800) 652-5663, ext. 140.

Blood drives are scheduled for:

- April 16, Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Rd., Union, 3-7 p.m.;
- April 18, Trinity Episcopal Church, North and Forest Avenues, Cranford, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.;
- April 20, Masonic Atlas Pythagoras Lodge, 1011 Central Ave., Westfield, 6-9 p.m.;
- April 24, First Baptist Church of Union, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.;
- April 27, Lord and Taylor, (bus in parking lot), 609 North Ave., Westfield, 1-4 p.m.

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# Sports

## MURPHY'S LAW

### Lefty's win is all right

By DANIEL MURPHY  
THE RECORD-PRESS

It isn't often that the drama and excitement of a major sporting event can exceed the anticipation and hype.

In the age of the Internet, when a few keystrokes open up a gazillion sports websites and 24-hour sports networks overanalyze every potential scenario, our imaginations and hopes often outrun realistic expectations.

But for a few hours Sunday the back nine of The Masters took the hype, set it on fire and watched it burn in the garbage can and treated us to a type of unpredictable drama that reality television and Hollywood suits can only dream of producing.

The shotmaking was incredible and came fast and furious. Two of golf's heavyweights traded blows with the hard-luck, much-maligned fan favorite, carrying a King Kong-sized monkey on his back, stalking ferociously and courageously.

And in the end, one of the most dramatic golf tournaments I've ever watched culminated with the right guy winning in the perfect way.

A week ago I sounded off against the over-hype and pretentiousness of The Masters and while I still do not believe that on an annual basis it is "a tradition unlike any other," this year's tournament was by far one of the best the sport has ever produced.

Watching golf on television is very often an afternoon Nyquil, as inviting a way as any to catch a little shuteye. But Sunday I sat further on the edge of my seat than I did during the Super Bowl, clapped and shouted loudly and high-fived my father when Phil Mickelson drained a 15-foot birdie putt to pull even with Ernie Els on the 16th hole. When Mickelson rolled in the winning birdie putt on 18 I erupted again, though more subdued because of an accompanying feeling of disbelief.

What made Sunday one of the great days was that the good guy won. Mickelson carried the ominous tag of "best player to never win a major" for so long he became both a favorite and the underdog. He was the likeable family man with all the skill, but seemed to lack the killer instinct. He was supposed to be Tiger's Kryptonite but instead wilted under the pressure.

His failures turned him into the crowd favorite but the galleries that cheered and chanted his name were always waiting for the other shoe to drop.

With the pressure mounting Sunday as Els, who has won three majors, was playing flawless golf and charged past Phil on the leaderboard, it looked like the good guy would fold again — a three-foot yip on the third hole and a flubbed bunker shot on the fifth were the early warning signs of another Mickelson meltdown.

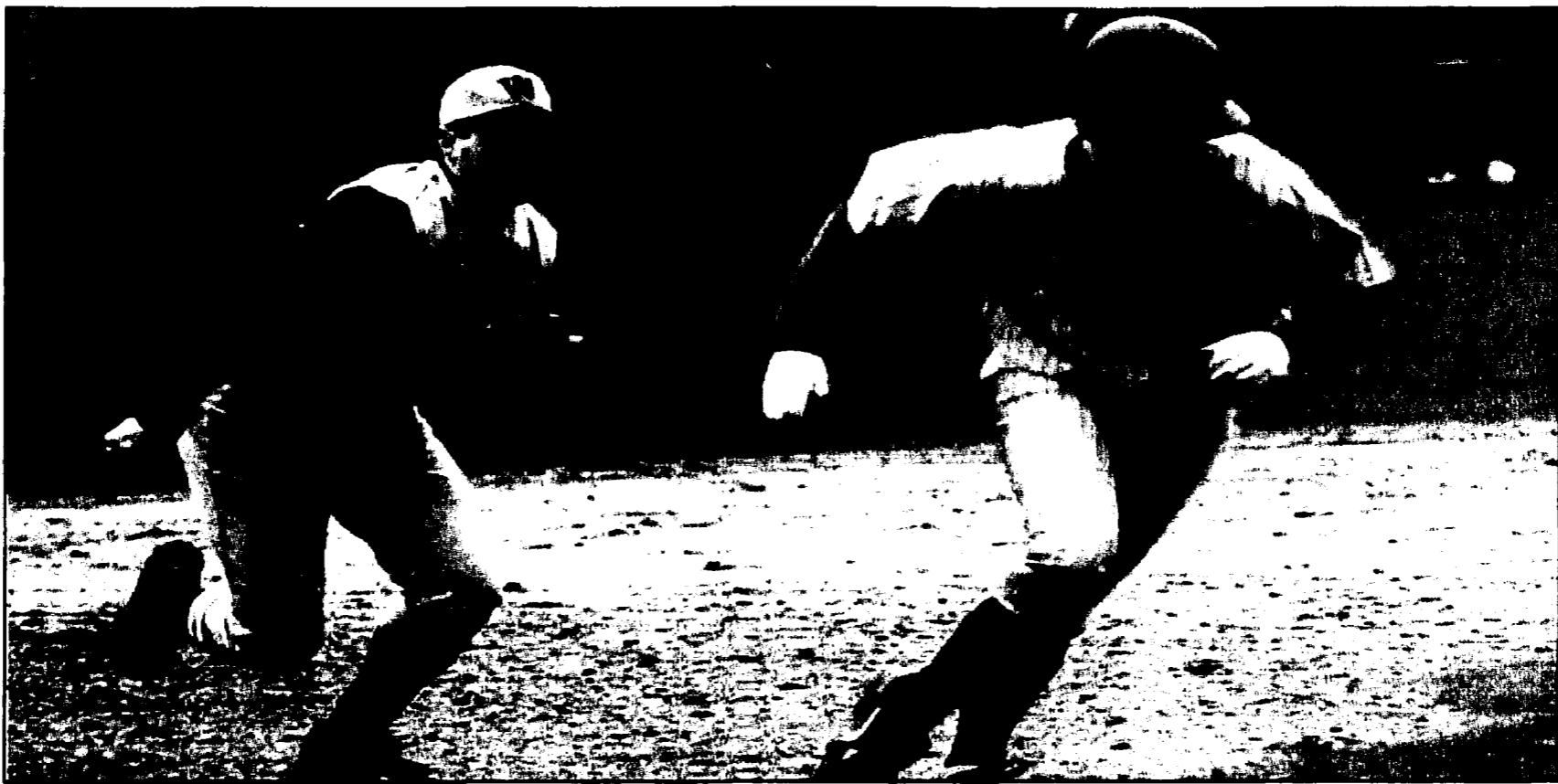
But he pulled it together and, after draining a tough, much needed 10-foot par putt on the 10th hole, a curious smirk crept across his face and remained for the final eight holes. No longer did he look like a deer in headlights, but rather a hunter zeroing in on a pheasant.

With the roars of the gallery sweeping across the back nine following a seemingly unending string of eagles and incredible shots, Phil made his charge. Els had a great final round. Mickelson had a great tournament and a perfect final nine holes.

This tournament belonged to Mickelson. With so many major tournament disappointments on his resume, winning in the most dramatic way with a putt that needed every last drop to grab hold of the cup and twist into the hole was the only fitting ending to what has been a dizzying career touched by greatness and disappointment.

And he's far from done. With King Kong in search of another "best player never" to perch on, Phil is free to take his rejuvenated confidence and championship poise and continue to make up for all of those missed opportunities.

But no matter how many more majors Mickelson is able to win, or duels with Els and Tiger he finds himself embroiled in, no future victory will match the excitement of Sunday's unpredictable finish.



Westfield third baseman Dan Clark chases down Scotch Plains' John Maloney during a rundown in the Devils 2-1 win over Scotch Plains Monday.

NICOLE DIMELLA/THE RECORD-PRESS

## Wild ending lifts Blue Devils

### Westfield edges Scotch Plains, 2-1

By DANIEL MURPHY  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — On a rain-soaked Monday afternoon that invited sloppy play and poor pitching, both the Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High baseball teams played a near-flawless game.

But one critical mistake, a wild pitch in the bottom of the eighth inning, brought across Westfield sophomore Mike Murray with the game-winning run as the Devils remained undefeated with a 2-1 win over the Raiders.

Westfield improved to 4-0 and is scheduled to host Manalapan 4 p.m. today and take on Watchung Hills in the Carl Riccio Tournament final 2 p.m. tomorrow at Watchung Hills.

Scotch Plains, playing just its second game, slipped to 1-1. The Raiders were scheduled to play Cranford Wednesday and Newton yesterday before hosting J.P.

Stevens 4 p.m. Monday.

The showdown between the two conference rivals was originally scheduled to be played at the Raiders' home field. But because the field wasn't yet playable, the game was moved to Westfield and the change of venue may have played a role in the outcome.

With one out in the eighth inning Mike Diaz walked and Murray laced a single up the middle, putting runners on the corners for cleanup hitter Tom Riccuti. Scotch Plains' Marco Giasullo intentionally walked Riccuti to load the bases and the Raiders pulled the infield in.

The gamble paid off as Ed Zazzali fielded a grounder from Ken Wichoski and cut down the runner at the plate. With two out Jan Coccoziello came to the plate and three pitches into the at bat a curveball short-hopped catcher Kevin Urban and scooted towards the backstop, allowing Murray to trot home with the winning run.

On many fields, including the Raiders', the pitch wouldn't have bounced more than a couple feet away from Urban, but because Westfield's backstop is located almost 40 feet behind the plate the

run scored with ease.

"One of the things about this field is that (a wild pitch) is always in your mind with a runner on third because this backstop is unforgiving," said Westfield Head Coach Bob Brewster. "A mistake and its over, that's all there is to it."

"To me it is the great Westfield home field advantage. You look at all the fields in this town and the backstops are all back. Our catchers are used to it from the time they are 13-years old. Sometimes you have to have a little bit of luck here and there."

Despite playing in a steady, cold rain both squads received strong pitching performances and defense. Scotch Plains junior Sean Varsolona was outstanding in his first start, pitching seven innings, allowing just one run, three hits and three walks while striking out two.

Billy Hearon started for the Devils and went five innings, allowing only one run on four hits while striking out three. Senior John Boyd pitched the final three innings, allowing one hit while striking out two and walking two.

While Varsolona was keeping Westfield off-balance, the Devils

defense helped keep them in the game. Diaz made a diving stop and threw from his knees for the final out in the fourth to keep a run off the board and Riccuti, playing shortstop, made a great stop to start a 6-4-3 double play in the sixth.

Scotch Plains' Matt Powers ran a long way to catch a ball of the bat of Riccuti a foot short of the fence in left centerfield in the fourth and Urban threw out one base stealer picked off another.

"Both teams pitched well," said Brewster. "(Varsolona) pitched an outstanding game. Both teams played outstanding defense. That one double play we turned was Major League. Defensively we have played well all year and I've been very, very pleased with that."

Westfield got on the board in the first inning when Hearon led off the game with a single, stole second and scored on a single by Riccuti. Varsolona shut the Devils down from there, not allowing another hit until the seventh.

Scotch Plains scored its run in the second when Mike DiNizo led off with a single and went to second on a wild pitch. Andrew Mulvey then ripped a double to right center to tie the game.

## Devils set record in sprint medley

Emily MacNeil turned in the best 800 time of her career to power the Westfield High girls track sprint medley relay team to a first place finish at the Raider Relays and a school record Saturday.

MacNeil split 2:15.5 to make up a 50-meter deficit and push Westfield across in a 4:12.3, besting the previous school record of 4:14.1 set at the Union County Relays in 1997.

Jennell Carter ran a 27.5 and Ja'net Tiller and Allison Petrow.

100: 1. Ja-net Tiller (W) 13.2. 200: 1. Tiller (W) 27.0. 400: 1. Emily MacNeil (W) 1:02.2. 800: 1. Annie Onishi (W) 2:26.2. 1600: 1. Mary Schaschall (SP) 5:31.5. 3200: 1. Dennis Quinn (W) 12:40.7. 1000H: 1. Mika Cruz (W) 16.3. 400H: 1. Meghan Kelly (SP) 1:10.9. HJ: 1. Amanda Nehring (W) 4-8. LJ: 1. Cruz (W) 14-2 1/2. TJ: 1. Kelly (SP) 30-10. SP: 1. Allison Petrow (W) 32-3. D: 1. Petrow (W) 98-2. J: 1. Caroline Sheridan (W) 96-6.

Westfield will host the Blue Devil Relays Saturday where the girls 4x800 relay will tune up for the Penn Relays April 22-24.

Westfield 84, Scotch Plains 39 — In their first dual meet of the season April 6 the Blue Devils defeated Scotch Plains 84-39 behind double wins from Ja'net Tiller and Allison Petrow.

100: 1. Ja-net Tiller (W) 13.2. 200: 1. Tiller (W) 27.0. 400: 1. Emily MacNeil (W) 1:02.2. 800: 1. Annie Onishi (W) 2:26.2. 1600: 1. Mary Schaschall (SP) 5:31.5. 3200: 1. Dennis Quinn (W) 12:40.7. 1000H: 1. Mika Cruz (W) 16.3. 400H: 1. Meghan Kelly (SP) 1:10.9. HJ: 1. Amanda Nehring (W) 4-8. LJ: 1. Cruz (W) 14-2 1/2. TJ: 1. Kelly (SP) 30-10. SP: 1. Allison Petrow (W) 32-3. D: 1. Petrow (W) 98-2. J: 1. Caroline Sheridan (W) 96-6.

BOYS LACROSSE  
Westfield dropped its second straight one-goal heartbreaker Monday, falling to Montclair 11-10 in double overtime.

Montclair scored 15 seconds into the second overtime session to snap the 10-10 deadlock.

Westfield's game with Johnson was rained out for the second time this season Tuesday. The Devils host Delbarton 11 a.m. Saturday.

## WHS WRAPUP

Summit 6, Westfield 5 — In a battle between local rivals, Summit gained its third straight victory over the Blue Devils, winning 6-5 Saturday.

Westfield pulled even with three goals in the second period and, after Summit had built a two-goal lead, trimmed the deficit to a single goal midway through the fourth quarter. But the Blue Devils were unable to find the back of the net in the final frantic minutes.

Chris MacDonald scored twice for Westfield, with Taylor Hogarth dishing out two assists.

SOFTBALL  
Despite the falling of a cold rain, Westfield's bats were hot Monday as the Blue Devils pounded out 10 hits and scored 18 runs to win their fourth straight and defeat Scotch Plains 18-2.

Lauren Musacchia paced the Blue Devils (4-1) with a 3-for-4 day, driving in four runs. Danielle Coleman drove in two runs and scored twice.

Westfield 4, Roselle Catholic 2 — Danielle Coleman was 2-for-3 with two RBIs as Westfield defeated Roselle Catholic 4-2 in the Indian Softball Smash in Rahway, pitting Watchung Conference teams against the Mountain Valley Conference.

Lauren Gelmetti struck out seven walked none and was 1-for-3 with two RBIs.

Westfield 2, Rahway 1 — The Devils knocked off the host squad of the tournament 2-1 Saturday as sophomore Marilyn Mench was 3-for-3 and scored the winning run for Westfield. Kristina Fietkiewicz was 3-for-4



Westfield's Kristina Fietkiewicz dives back into the bag as the ball scoots away from Cranford's first baseman. The Devils haven't lost since dropping the first game of the season to the Cougars, winning four straight.

NICOLE DIMELLA/THE RECORD-PRESS

with an RBI. Gelmetti struck out four and walked one, allowing four hits and one unearned run.

Westfield 10, Shabazz 0 — Lauren Gelmetti threw two-hit shutout, striking out 11 as the Blue Devils earned their first win of the season 10-0 over Shabazz April 7.

Kristina Fietkiewicz scored two runs and drove in three for Westfield.

BASEBALL  
Mike Murray scored the game-winning on a wild pitch in the bottom of the eighth inning Monday as Westfield defeated Scotch Plains 2-1.

For story, see Page C-1.

Westfield 12, Parsippany Hills 3 — Bill Hearon doubled

in two runs and Mike Murray singled home another two as Westfield scored six times in the fourth inning on its way to defeating Parsippany Hills 12-3 in the Carl Riccio Tournament Saturday.

Eight of Westfield's nine players had hits, and all nine players scored runs. Jan Coccoziello blasted a two-run home run. Sophomore Tom Riccuti improved to 2-0 and also had two doubles. Westfield will play Watchung Hills in the final 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Westfield 18, Shabazz 0 — The Devils used the long ball to beat Shabazz 18-0 April 7. Bryan Power hit a two-run home run and Ken Wichoski had a solo shot. Mike Diaz hit a three-run

## Devils need a fourth

By DANIEL MURPHY  
THE RECORD-PRESS

Returning three of the top four players, including one of the top players in the state, from the team that won the Tournament of Champions last year and opening the season undefeated has earned the Westfield High golf team the top ranking in the state.

But the Blue Devils know there is plenty of work to do to live up to last year's accomplishments and this year's expectations, even if they only have one hole to fill in the starting lineup.

That's because that one hole, left by Adam Karnish, is an enormous one to fill. Karnish was a four-year varsity starter, the lone senior on a team that won the Watchung Conference, Union County Tournament, North Jersey Group 4 tournament and the Tournament of Champions titles last year and led the Blue Devils with a 78 in the state finals last year.

"We have our hopes set on winning the Tournament of Champions again," said junior Ryan Shallcross, the defending conference and county champ. "But we're not looking that far ahead yet. We're just trying to take it one match at a time and play our best."

"Losing Adam Karnish broke the chain of our top four players and we need a fourth guy to step up. If we can get that fourth player we can be just as good as last year."

Shallcross is the top returning Blue Devil and shot a 1-under 35 at Echo Lake Monday as Westfield defeated Peddie for Head Coach John Turnbull's 100th win as coach of the Blue Devils. Shallcross, who has been averaging 37.3 this season, has been working hard on his short game in hoping to add a state title to his resume. He took second in the state junior tournament, reached the quarters of the MGA Junior Championship and took sixth in the Carter Cup this past summer.

"Everyday I play I work on my short game, 90 percent of my practice is on my short game," said

(Continued on page C-2)

triple as part of a 15-hit outburst.

## GIRLS LACROSSE

Clare Ganley had 14 saves for Westfield in a 14-4 loss to Oak Knoll April 8.

## TENNIS

Westfield won both doubles matches but dropped all three singles contests in a 3-2 loss to West Orange April 8. Sam Hauss and Justin Nagy won 6-2, 6-2 at first doubles.

## GOLF

Westfield improved to 7-0 with a 154-171 victory over Peddie Monday.

Ryan Shallcross led the way for Westfield, firing a 1-under 35 at Echo Lake. Jimmy Arbes shot 38, Garret Cockren shot 39 and Scott Callender posted a 42.

# Raiders drop a pair

Jillian Lusk and Lauren Benovengo each tripled and singled for Scotch Plains in an 18-2 loss to Westfield Monday. Scotch Plains faced Cranford Wednesday and will travel to Union Catholic Monday. **Linden 3, Scotch Plains 1** — Linden scored three times in the sixth inning to defeat Scotch Plains 3-1 April 7. Melissa Sette singled and scored for Scotch Plains.

### BOYS TRACK

Scotch Plains placed in four events at the Raider Relays in Hillsborough Saturday. Scotch Plains was second in the team discus, throwing a combined 255 feet 2 inches and third in the distance medley in 10:53.3. Scotch Plains also placed fourth in both the shuttle hurdles (1:09.6) and team high jump (11-6).

**Scotch Plains 81, Westfield 59** — Sean Smith won both hurdles races, the high jump and the javelin to help Scotch Plains knock off Westfield 81-59 April 6.

**100:** 1. Rochet Landolf (W) 11.9. **200:** 1. Brandon Egan (W) 23.9. **400:** 1. Egan (W) 52.3. **800:** 1. Robert Broadbent (W) 2:05.2. **1600:** 1. Jeff Parrelto (W) 4:32.9. **3200:** 1. Brian Kopnicki (SPF) 10:44.3. **110H:** 1. Sean Smith (SP) 15.7. **400H:** 1. Smith (SPF) 58.7. **HJ:** 1. Smith (SPF) 6.0. **LJ:** 1. Landolf (W) 19.11. **TJ:** 1. Kopnicki (SPF) 37.9. **PV:** 1. Mike Gorski (W) 12-0. **SP:** 1. Taddy Acosta (SPF) 42-3 1/2. **D:** 1. Tim Karas (SPF) 141.2 1/2. **J:** 1. Smith (SPF) 154.1. **4x400:** 1. Westfield (Jeff Whitney, Broadbent, Scott Steinberg, Egan) 3:45.

### GIRLS TRACK

The Raiders placed in three

### SP-F WRAPUP

events at the Raider Relays Saturday.

Scotch Plains was third in the long jump (30-8 1/4) and mile relay (4:13.6) and took fifth in the team triple jump (61-10 1/2).

**Westfield 84, Scotch Plains 39** — In their first dual meet of the season April 6 the Blue Devils defeated Scotch Plains 84-39 behind double wins from Ja'net Tiller and Allison Petrow.

**100:** 1. Ja'net Tiller (W) 13.2. **200:** 1. Tiller (W) 27.0. **400:** 1. Emily MacNeil (W) 1:02.2. **800:** 1. Annie Onischi (W) 2:26.2. **1600:** 1. Mary Schaschall (SP) 5:31.5. **3200:** 1. Dennie Quinn (W) 12:40.7. **100H:** 1. Mika Cruz (W) 16.3. **400H:** 1. Megahan Kelly (SP) 1:10.9. **HJ:** 1. Amanda Nehring (W) 4-8. **LJ:** 1. Cruz (W) 14-2 1/2. **TJ:** 1. Kelly (SP) 30-10. **SP:** 1. Allison Petrow (W) 32-3. **D:** 1. Petrow (W) 88-2. **J:** 1. Caroline Sheridan (W) 96-6.

### BASEBALL

Westfield defeated Scotch Plains 2-1 Monday, scoring the winning run on a wild pitch in the bottom of the eighth inning.

For story, see sports Page C-1.

**Scotch Plains 7, Linden 1** — Junior James Scaffaro tossed a six-hitter while striking out six as Scotch Plains defeated Linden 7-1 in its season opener April 7.

John Maloney had a solo home run and Matt Powers singled three times and drove in a pair of runs. Kyle Baker, Kevin Urban and Jared Montagna each had RBIs for the Raiders.

## HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

(all times p.m. unless otherwise noted)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 16**  
Baseball  
Westfield vs. Manalapan, 4

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17**  
Track  
Westfield/Scotch Plains at Blue Devil Invitational, 9 a.m. at Westfield  
Baseball  
Westfield vs. Watchung Hills, 2  
Carl Ficchio Tournament final  
Boys Lacrosse  
Westfield vs. Delbarton, 11 a.m.  
Girls Lacrosse  
Westfield at Bridgewater, 10 a.m.

**MONDAY, APRIL 19**  
Baseball  
Scotch Plains vs. J.P. Stevens, 4  
Westfield vs. Linden, 4  
Softball  
Scotch Plains at Union Catholic, 4  
Westfield at Linden, 4  
Boys Lacrosse  
Westfield vs. West Morris, 4  
Golf  
Blue Devil Invitational, 3:30  
At Echo Lake Country Club  
Scotch Plains vs. East Side, 4  
Tennis  
Scotch Plains at Shabazz, 4

**TUESDAY, APRIL 20**  
Tennis  
Westfield at Livingston, 4  
Track  
Scotch Plains at Cranford, 4  
Westfield at Linden, 4  
Golf  
Westfield vs. South Plainfield, 3:30

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**  
Boys Lacrosse  
Westfield vs. Mendham, 4  
Baseball  
Scotch Plains vs. Irvington, 4  
Westfield vs. Plainfield, 4  
Softball  
Scotch Plains at Irvington, 4  
Westfield at Plainfield, 4

## Road race coming soon

The Westfield Recreation Department will host its Fourteenth Annual 5-Miler and 1 Mile Fun Run Saturday, April 24 at Tamaques Park in Westfield. Proceeds from the event will benefit Project Graduation for Westfield High School seniors. The 1 Mile Fun Run will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by the 5-Miler at 9:30 a.m.

Pre-Entry Registration Fees (postmarked before April 15th) will be \$15 for the 5-Miler and \$5 for the 1 Mile Fun Run. Registration fees after April 15th and on race day will be \$20 for the 5-Miler and \$10 for the 1 Mile Fun Run. T-shirts will be issued to all pre-registered participants of the 5-Miler.

The race features a fast and flat USATF certified course with mile splits and water stations. Runners should come dressed to run. Trophies will be awarded to first overall male and female winners. Awards will be given to first, second and third place male and female finishers in each age group of the 5-Miler. (14 and under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and over) Medals will be awarded to all participants of the 1 Mile Fun Run and T-shirts will be awarded to the first overall male and female runners of the 1 Miler.

For race application information, please contact the Westfield Recreation Department at (908) 789-4080 or Visit our Website at: [westfieldnj.net/townhall/recreation](http://westfieldnj.net/townhall/recreation).

## YOUTH SPORTS

The St. Helen's 7th/8th grade girls basketball team won the 48-team St. Francis Cabrini March Madness Tournament. Teams were competing from several counties in New Jersey.

St. Helen's made it to the finals by beating St. Mary's of South Amboy 61-33. St. Helens led 23-22 at the half then outscored St. Mary's 38-11 in the second half. Erin Miller led the way with 20 points, Stephanie Slodyczka had 18, Gabrielle O'Leary 14, Claire Bennett had eight points, Danielle Infantino two and Rose Driscoll one point.

In the finals, St. Helen's played an AAU team called the DCT Jammers from New Brunswick, who had steamrolled into the finals and were the tournament's No. 1 seed. St Helen's played their finest game of the season and won the tourney beating the Jammers in overtime 61-55. Erin Miller led the offensive attack with 29 points including five 3-point shots. Her last 3-pointer was the most important. With game tied in overtime with 28 seconds left, she drained a three to put St. Helen's up 58-55. Just before that, Danielle Infantino hit two big foul shots to tie the game. After the Jammers missed a game tying 3, they were forced to foul Rose Driscoll (eight points) who calmly hit three of four big foul shots to secure the win for St Helen's. Stephanie Slodyczka had 14 points and 16 rebounds. Gabrielle O'Leary had six points, Claire Bennett had three points but most importantly had 21 rebounds to help St. Helen's stay even on the boards against a much taller opponent. Ally Oberlander and the whole team did a great job on defense.

St. Helen's has now won the Metuchen CYO championship as well as the Somerset County CYO championship, and the Cabrini tournament.

## Devils

(Continued from page C-1)

Shallcross. "I have the mindset of I want to win every tournament I enter."

Junior Garrett Cockren and sophomore Jimmy Arbes are also back after starting last season. Arbes shot a 79 in last year's state final and Cockren shot 83 and sank a birdie putt on the 18th hole that clinched the title for Westfield.

But the key to the Devils repeat hopes will be their fourth man. Scott Callendar, who shot 42 Monday, Tom Del Duca, the No. 5 last year, senior captain Mike Iban, Matt Hodges and Chris Tropiano are all vying for the spot.

Each has shown the capabilities of posting the scores Westfield needs, but Turnbull is still looking for more consistency. To find that consistency Turnbull is challenging his players to become more dedicated to their games when they are away from the team.

"We're looking for somebody to shoot consistently in the low 40's in match play and mid-to-low 80's in tournament play," said Turnbull, who has a 100-7-2 record at Westfield. "Somebody has to step up soon. They are all capable of doing it, but they have to do the extra work. They need to play more on weekends and practice on their own if we're going to be one of the elite teams in the state."

"To compete on the highest level in the state you need to have four solid players. Right now we have three."

# HOME & GARDEN

## Lawnmowers: Good for your lawn, bad for trees

By MARTIN SCHMIEDE  
PRESIDENT, SCHMIEDE TREE EXPERT COMPANY

Your power mower may be your lawn's best friend, but it is one of your trees' worst enemies. Actually, it is the careless, casual habits of lawnmower users that are dangerous to the trees. Ranking just behind the power mowers are the nylon-line weed trimmers. Thoughtless use of these "weed-whackers" is harmful to all trees. Both of these yard tools can damage tree bark to the dangers of girdling, causing the trees to die.

People wonder why many beautiful trees fail to flower. To their untrained eyes there are no apparent causes. Close examinations by tree health professionals, however, often reveal scar tissue at the bases of the trees. The homeowners may have killed their own trees by heedless abuse of the trunks and surface roots.

When considering solutions, it is helpful to realize that grass should not be allowed to grow close to the bases of small trees. There are obvious dangers of machine mowing near trunks and roots.

Additionally, the proximity of lawn growth near trees takes away needed nutrients because grasses are voracious eaters. The soil is further depleted by these little plants because of the energy

*People wonder why many beautiful trees fail to flower... Close examinations by tree health professionals, however, often reveal scar tissue at the bases of the trees. The homeowners may have killed their own trees by heedless abuse of the trunks and surface roots.*

required to recover from repeated cutting. To ease the problem, build collars around the bases of the trees. Remove all ground covers, put in some edging and mulch the collar area with wood chips, pine bark or the like. Using organic mulch

will supply nutrition to the trees as the mulch breaks down in the decay processes.

The mulch, however, should never be piled up against the trees' trunks. Field mice often nest in mulched areas and might chew off the bark for food. Mulch material can simply be kept just a small distance away from the trunks and roots, especially with thinly-barked trees.

If you prefer greenery around the bases of your trees, prepare a collar just as you would for mulch, but plant a ground cover like pachysandra or myrtle.

When planting new trees, the hole areas should form the sizes of the planting collars. Until you do build collars around your new and young trees, keep lawn mowers and weed trimmers away — use hand shears instead. When kneeling down to cut away stray grass with manual clippers, you may then see the battle scars inflicted by earlier uses of power mowers and "weed whackers."

Cut your lawns regularly, but never your trees: Grass grows back quickly, but tree damage can be fatal!

## Protect your driveway from weather damage with seal coating

After one of the most turbulent winters in years, many homeowners are discovering that their driveways have fallen apart. You can save the life of your driveway by seal coating.

As snow melts, some of the runoff seeps into cracks and crevices that may be present in an otherwise sturdy driveway. Then, when temperatures drop back below freezing, water trapped inside those cracks and under the driveway expands as it freezes, causing further cracking, crumbling and even heaving — and setting the stage for even more water infiltration and more damage when the next cycle occurs.

Now that summer is almost here, heat, sun, and oil can destroy a driveway, so this is a good time to protect and beautify the investment before it's too late.

Your driveway or parking lot is a significant investment in your property. Proper maintenance — such as that performed by Topnotch Inc. — will help your investment last more than twice as long as unmaintained pavement, extending the life of your asphalt and increasing the value of your house.

**Sealed vs. Unsealed**  
**Problem:** Left untreated, asphalt pavement will deteriorate rapidly. The asphalt binder that holds the pavement together begins to oxidize and weather

soon after installation. Moisture penetrates the asphalt causing further damage and deterioration to the pavement.

**Solution:** Topnotch Coal Tar Latex Base Sealer replenishes the binder that is lost through weathering and aging and provides superior protection against environmental distress.

**What is seal coating?**  
Seal coating is the method of protecting your asphalt pavement by applying a latex base sealer — not an oil base sealer which may deteriorate your driveway, causing damage to the pavement surface.

Filling and patching cracks and holes will provide relief for a problem driveway; it is difficult to make such repairs without seal coating an asphalt driveway leaving the surface nearly as good as new.

Cracks in the pavement enable oxygen and rainwater to penetrate the pavement, weakening it and reducing the pavement's strength. Seal coating not only protects the surface and fills surface voids, it reduces pavement's exposure to oxygen and water, extends pavement life and enhances the pavement appearance leaving a smoother surface.

Seal coating brings back the dark black color of the original pavement. Seal coated pavement is easier to clean and maintain. Regularly applied seal coat helps to prevent ultraviolet rays from penetrating the pavement as well as reducing the depth to which oil or gas spills can penetrate the pavement. This is especially important on driveways where cars are parked or worked on, as oil and gasoline soften asphalt. A professional sealer contains additives that enable it to resist any such leaks.

Topnotch Inc. technicians are skilled in utilizing top-of-the-line equipment to ensure customer satisfaction and high quality results. For more information, call (908) 684-4122.

## Whether indoors or out, Parker has great selection

SCOTCH PLAINS — The ongoing popularity of Parker Gardens in Scotch Plains may be attributed in large part to its distinctive varieties of flowers, shrubs and trees — such as Ice Cascade Weeping Cedars, Fire Glow Japanese Maples and Golconda Leyland Cypresses. However, many customers are also discovering Parker Gardens' unusual assortment of indoor and outdoor home accents, many available exclusively at this sprawling, 14-acre gardening center.

"More and more homeowners are accenting their homes' décor with creatively designed items that complement the out-

doors," said Steve Parker, owner of Parker Gardens. "Customers are delighted to find many unique candles, vases, baskets and other novelties at the same place they do their plant shopping."

Parker said that the home accents offered at Parker Gardens are among the most unusual anywhere. "We have an extensive line of candles that are colorful, uniquely crafted and styled," he said. "Some are designed with such natural ingredients as fruit or leaves, which is a clever way to bring the outdoors in."

"One of our candle varieties resembles bamboo shoots but is

made of wax," Parker said. "Customers have remarked that the candles are so beautiful that they never plan on lighting them."

In addition, the 50-plus year-old gardening center offers a unique selection of vases to customers. "We have vases made of gourds, as well as glass or ceramic vases covered with wicker," Parker said. "There's also a large selection of unique baskets in different shapes, like fish, and in today's trendy bright colors including pinks and aquas."

Parker Gardens also features an array of planters, fountains, containers, garden

sculptures and many more out-of-the-ordinary items, he said.

In addition to the wide selection, the center offers its own brand of customer services, Parker noted. "Our staff is always here to give customers the advice they need on plant selection and care, as well as the coordination of colors, shapes and textures. Customers will especially appreciate that advice this season, because our selection of annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs will be the largest in our history," he said.

Parker Gardens is conveniently located at 1325 Terrill Rd. For more information, call (908) 322-5555 and press extension 5 for directions or 6 for special events.

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# Chelsea unveils new senior apartments

FANWOOD — The Chelsea at Fanwood held a grand opening ceremony and cocktail reception 4-7 p.m. April 15 for its new building, the Senior Independent Living Apartments.

The \$5.2-million four-story addition, which consists of 31 independent living apartments, is fully-rented and residents have already begun to move in.

The new apartments vary in size from 600 to 900 square feet and range from studios to two-bedroom units. Each unit features a fully-equipped kitchen and stackable washer/dryers.

"It's really amazing how fast we've rented out the new apartments," said Jennifer Ricci, executive director of The Chelsea at Fanwood. "I think it's great that these seniors are taking the initiative to move into a care facility that helps them continue to live independent lives."

*"I think it's great that these seniors are taking the initiative to move into a care facility that helps them continue to live independent lives."*  
— Jennifer Ricci

Residents of the new independent living apartments require little to no extra assistance and are generally downsizing from houses, which may have become too much for them to maintain.

"We're building the Senior Independent Living Apartments in Fanwood to fulfill community need for seniors who are able to live, for the most part, completely independent lives," said Herb Helflich, CEO of Chelsea Management Group, based in Summit. "Today more than ever, there is a need for this kind of senior housing, which we are providing with this major undertaking."

The Senior Independent Living Apartments are an addition to The Chelsea at Fanwood's 68 assisted living apartments. Assisted living residents are generally in their 80s and are capable of making their own decisions as well as living their own independent lives, but require some services such as meals, house-keeping, laundry and the security of an on-site nurse.

Dahn & Krieger Architects Planners P.C. of Hackensack is the architect for the project. The builder is Gordon M. Construction of Linden.

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Pursuant to the "Public Works Contractor Registration Act," N.J.S. 34:11-56.48 et seq. (P.L. 2003, c. 91), bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance at the time of bid Drawings, specifications, and bid documents may be inspected or obtained for a fee of \$231.00, for full size drawings, at the NJDOT Engineering and Operations Bldg. 1st floor, Box 600 Trenton, New Jersey 08625 during business hours. Names and addresses of prospective bidders for this project may be acquired by telephoning 800-530-8585 during business hours. Their fax number is 609-530-4503.  
Drawings, special provisions, and bid documents may also be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations:  
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Rt 70 West  
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**Public Notices Online**  
[www.njpublicnotices.com](http://www.njpublicnotices.com)

# Spaces available on pair of day trips

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Community School of Scotch Plains-Fanwood and the Recreation Department of the Township of Scotch Plains are operating two one-day excursions in May, and some additional spaces are available in each.

The first trip, to historic Philadelphia, will occur on May 1. An excursion of "Touring and Tea at Liberty Hall" will follow on May 14.

Highlights of the all-day Philadelphia excursion will include visits to Independence Hall with timed tickets, to the Liberty Bell Center, and to the new National Constitution Center.

At this last site, visitors will see a theater presentation "Freedom Rising" and participate in the many interactive exhibits about the Constitution and Bill of Rights. As well, there will be time for full lunch and/or snack on one's own at the National Constitution Center. The cost of the historic Philadelphia trip is \$35 per person.

The 26-acre estate of Liberty Hall in nearby Union will afford trip participants the opportunity to have a guided tour with docents of the 50-room mansion built there on the eve of the Revolution.

Liberty Hall served as former home to the prominent

Livingston and Kean families of New Jersey. The afternoon visit will also include a private tea at the mansion with tea and sandwiches, petite scones, pastries, and clotted cream and jams. Time will also be provided for walking the estate gardens on one's own.

The cost of the Liberty Hall excursion is \$45 per person.

For sign-up information, interested persons should contact The Community School by calling 889-7718 or the Scotch Plains Recreation Department at 322-6700. Both excursions have limited enrollment.

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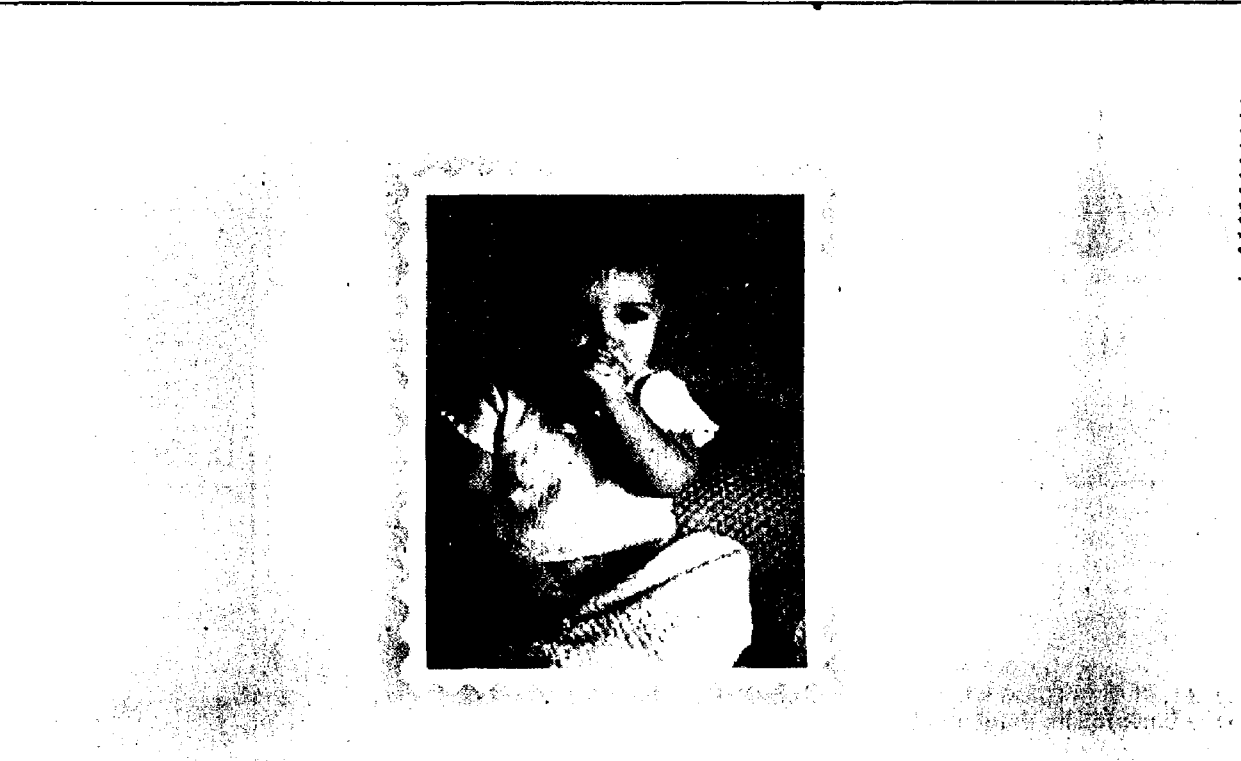
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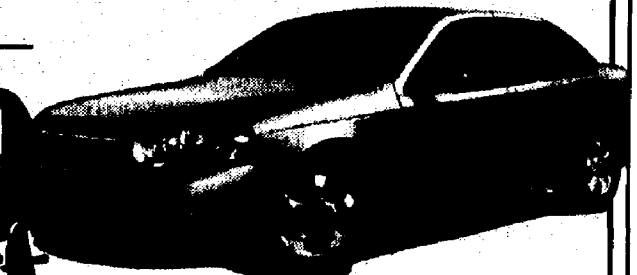
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Exp. car ref.'s req. 908-232-2273</p>	<p><b>General Help 240</b></p> <p><b>ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE/CUSTOMER SERVICE</b></p> <p>For Property Management Company located in Short Hills. Must be computer conversant. Experience with BJ Murray software and property management a definite plus. Responsibilities will include preparing tenant leases, collection of rent and all other tenant related matters. Busy telephones. Mail resume with salary requirements to Attn: IB, PO Box 746, Short Hills, NJ 07078.</p> <p><b>Be your own BOSS!!!</b> Process medical claims from home on your computer. Call the Federal Trade Commission to find out how to spot medical billing scams. 1-877-FTC-HELP. A message from NJN Publishing and the FTC.</p> <p><b>CAMP STAFF</b></p> <p>Christian resident camp in Clinton Two seeks summer staff. Must be over 16. 908-236-2882 or email: dmhaddon@palmedia.net</p> <p><b>CARPENTER &amp; HELPER</b></p> <p>Wanted for residential carpentry, central NJ. 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Responsibilities include call-taking and dispatching for police, fire and E.M.S. services. Candidates must have successfully completed or be capable of completing examinations for C.P.R., Emergency Medical Dispatching, and Basic Telecommunications - 911 certification.</p> <p>Applications are available at the Cranford Police Department Communications Center. Deadline for return of applications is Thursday, April 29, 2004.</p>	<p><b>General Help 240</b></p> <p><b>CREW LEADER</b></p> <p>Student Conservation Association. Lead high school students in restoration projects, environmental education, outdoor recreation in NJ State Parks. Mon-Fri. 8hrs/day from 6/28-8/6. REQ.: 6 day training. 21+ valid driver's license, first aid &amp; CPR. Earn \$2600 Contact: jscoran@thscsa.org</p> <p><b>CUSTOMER SERVICE</b></p> <p>AT&amp;T fulfillment center in Union County is looking for individual with strong organizational, data-entry and people skills. Will train right individual. Excellent benefits w/ 401k plan. Fax resume with salary requirements to 908-688-2881</p> <p><b>DELIVERY</b></p> <p>Deliver appliances- 4 days a week. FT/PT. Call 908-233-0400 or fax 908-654-1864</p> <p><b>Dental Assistant</b></p> <p>FT. Westfield, quality family dentistry practice is searching for an experienced assistant with an x-ray license. We offer a challenging career opportunity in a team-oriented environment. Computer knowledge helpful. Exc. salary plus benefits. No Sats. Call 908-232-6132 or fax 908-232-5377.</p> <p><b>DRIVER</b></p> <p>for local party &amp; tool rental company. Good driving record &amp; attitude required. Contact Paul Taylor Rental 908-464-9111</p>	<p><b>General Help 240</b></p> <p><b>DENTAL HYGIENIST</b></p> <p>Excellent opportunity in a friendly quality oriented family practice with a strong emphasis on periodontics in the Bernardsville area. Top salary and benefits. 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A message from NJN Publishing and the FTC.</p> <p><b>MORTGAGE</b></p> <p>Wholesale Mortgage Company based in Bridgewater, NJ has immediate openings for F/T &amp; P/T Underwriters and Processors. Fax resume to 908-231-0012 or email to hr@avantecapital.com</p> <p><b>Nannylocators.com</b></p> <p>Find a Nanny or Family. Visit us on the web @ www.nannylocators.com or Call: 1-800-708-7747</p> <p><b>PART TIME</b></p> <p>Marketing Assist. for growing financial planning co. Must have good working knowledge of computers and be comfortable working on different systems. College grad pref'd. 15-20 hrs. per week. \$13-\$15 per hour. Fax: 908-233-4346 or email info@preferredentgroup.com</p> <p><b>Payroll Clerk</b></p> <p>Experienced, full time, Mon-Fri. Kenilworth area. Fax resume to: 908-298-0125</p> <p><b>Personnel Assistant</b></p> <p>Will train. 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Great Home, Great Location! 9 rm, so. colonial, 4BR, designer kit., w/bright fam rm & intry off lnd., par. 2 1/2 ba., remodeled bth., many upgrades. Beautiful! \$690,000. **BURGDORFF REALTORS** Short Hills Office 973-376-5200

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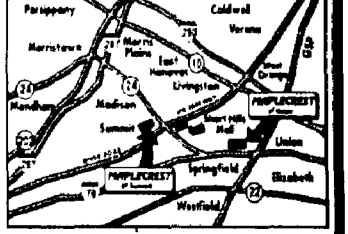
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<b>1999 Mercury Grand Marquis</b> VB, auto trans, air, pwr windows/locks/wind, keyless entry, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 64,287 mi. \$16,334. VIN #2G0E10122	<b>2000 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4</b> VE, auto trans, air, pwr windows/locks/wind, cruise, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 49,117 mi. \$19,557. VIN #4F3P02424927	<b>2001 Mercury Mountaineer</b> VB, automatic transmission, AWD, air, cruise, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 49,079 mi. \$18,557. VIN #4F3P02424927	<b>2001 Mercury Villager Sport</b> VB, automatic transmission, pwr windows/locks/wind, air, cruise, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 49,079 mi. \$17,372. VIN #4F3P02424927	<b>2001 Mitsubishi Eclipse GS</b> 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr windows/locks/wind, air, cruise, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 49,117 mi. \$17,372. VIN #4F3P02424927	<b>1999 Ford Expedition</b> VB, auto trans, pwr windows/locks/wind, air, cruise, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 49,117 mi. \$12,688. VIN #4F3P02424927
<b>2001 Lincoln Town Car Signature</b> VB, auto trans, pwr windows/locks/wind, air, cruise, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 49,117 mi. \$16,888. VIN #4F3P02424927	<b>2000 Lincoln LS</b> VB, auto trans, pwr windows/locks/wind, air, cruise, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 49,117 mi. \$19,998. VIN #4F3P02424927	<b>2001 Lincoln Town Car Signature</b> VB, auto trans, pwr windows/locks/wind, air, cruise, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 49,117 mi. \$20,888. VIN #4F3P02424927	<b>2002 Mercury Mountaineer</b> VB, auto trans, pwr windows/locks/wind, air, cruise, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 49,117 mi. \$21,995. VIN #4F3P02424927	<b>2002 Mercury Mountaineer</b> VB, auto trans, pwr windows/locks/wind, air, cruise, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 49,117 mi. \$21,995. VIN #4F3P02424927	<b>2001 Lincoln Navigator 4x4</b> VB, auto trans, pwr windows/locks/wind, air, cruise, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, 49,117 mi. \$26,888. VIN #4F3P02424927

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DR Set, 12 Pc. light blond lacquer, paid \$4000, asking \$1200. 3 pc. LR set, yellow & black. Italian leather, pd. \$3500, asking \$1250. 7 pc. Queen BR set, cherrywood lacquer, pd. \$2500, asking \$1000. TV, etc. 973-760-0199

DR Set contemporary walnut, pedestal table, 6 chairs, breakfast, good cond. \$500 908-272-4581

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Auto, 6 cylinder, 4WD, p/steering, p/brakes, air cond, airbags, keyless entry, roof rack, p/w, p/dl, p/mirrs. 14,607 mi. Vin#22261126.  
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**Home For Sale** Bike, for male, \$25. Table Lamps - Pair, \$20. Plant, lg snake, \$15. Curio Cabinet, \$20. New Bedspread, \$10. Box of Silk Flowers \$35. 973-376-0867

**REFRIGERATOR** - GE, color green, 30 1/4" x 30" D x 65 1/4" H, runs great, top freezer, \$299. 908-351-4041 or 201-207-3117

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**SUM SHOW** - Pa Expo Center at Lahigh Valley, 501 Catronia Rd, Allentown, PA (Just off Tilghman St., minutes from I-78, Rt. 22, Rt. 309) - The Old Builders Square Bldg., 2. Come see the biggest Show on the East Coast!!! April 17th, from 10am to 6pm April 18th, from 10am to 4pm Buy-Sell-Trade Your treasure or related items. For info: 717-997-3888

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**ROLL TOP** Toy Box, \$25 **OCTAGON** - End Table, \$20 Call: 908-758-0330

**RUGS** - 2 Persian handmade rugs only, cost \$4500 ea. asking \$990 ea. 3 Bombay chests, DRS. 203-787-3882

**SCOTCH PLAINS MOVING SALE** - Ethan Allen furn., 2 sofas, mirror and tbls, lamps, bookcase, armchair, curio cab., sofa tbl stools, young girl's off white BR set Full/Queen, Chest/narrow, desk/hutch & dresser/hutch, Tuff Stuff Smith machine w/weights. 908-688-2024

**SEARS LAWN MOWER**, runs good, \$35. **POWER WHEELS** - quad \$75. Peg Perago Power Wheels motorcycle \$95 Call 908-232-2350

**Sears Lifestyle Weight System, Must Sell, ASAP**, inc. leg ext., butterfly, roman chair, lat pull down and more. Asking \$250/OBO. 908-917-4838.

Sofa & Loveseat, pastel print, exc. cond. matching area rug & window treatment & painting, \$750. 12 mirrored panels, \$175. 732-388-6721

**Sofa (recliner)** with massage & phone jack, SOLD. Twin bed w/frame. SOLD. Area rug, 9X12. SOLD. Zenith 25" SOLD. 5000 BTU AC, \$250. 10,500 BTU AC, \$350. Shop vac. \$45. 908-231-0580

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**LAWN MOWER** - 20" Works good, \$50 Call 908-232-1858

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**ORGAN Hammond Spinnet**, L-100 series, good cond., \$300/OBO 908-888-7440

**GRAND**, Whittier, double baybrd., mahogany, needs some work, \$300/OBO. 908-686-4973

**PIANO** - Winter's NY brand. Console, Excellent condition. \$900 732-388-1048

**Spinnet Piano**, lovely cabinet, good practice piano, FREE, must be picked up. 908-464-2519.

**THOMPSON** - Bach, very good cond., \$150 908-771-0634

**Benefit For Homeless Animals** - Gigantic Sale, Fri. & Sat. 4/16 & 4/17, 9-3. 1860 Winding Brook Way Scotch Plains

**CHATHAM** - 60 Parrott Mill Rd., off Main St., Fri. 4/16 & Sat. 4/17, 9-4. **Cleaned out! Great deals on attic - tons of stuff!**

**Clark**, 4/16, 4/17 & 4/18. 9-5. sewing items, books, toys, HH items & more, 8 Ridgeview Terr. Across from St. Johns Church.

**CLARK 4/16 & 4/17 Fri. & Sat., 9 to 3**, Something for everyone! 11 Sandalwood Drive, Signs

**CLARK ESTATE SALE** - 12 Grand St., 4/16, 4/17 & 4/18, 9-2. Contents of House, 1950s to New. Everything from A to Z.

**CLARK Moving Sale** Sat. 4/17 & Sun. 4/18, 10-5. 102 Hillcrest Drive, off Lake Avenue.

**CLARK** - Multi family sale, Sunset Drive, Sat. April 17 & 18, 9-3PM Rain April 24. **SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

**CRANFORD**, 4/17, 9-3. rain date 4/24. HH items, furniture, misc. kids items, clothes and much more. 16 Burnside Avenue.

**CRANFORD'S** Waverly Place, (off Brookside Dr.) Sat. 4/17, 9-4. Collectibles, porcelain dolls & more.

**CRANFORD Moving Sale** Sat. 4/17 & Sun. 4/18, 10-5. Cat condo, DR set, HH furnishings, more.

**CRANFORD - RUMMAGE SALE** - Trinity Episcopal Church, North and Forest Aves, Fri. April 23, 9-3pm, Sat. April 24, 9-noon. **ITEMS:** Clothes, furniture, appliances, etc. For further information: 908-276-4047

**CRANFORD Sat 4/17, 9-3**, Cosmos Soccer Team Yard Sale. Multi-Family. Something for everyone! 150 Mohawk Drive, off Raritan Rd.

**CRANFORD** - Sat. April 17, bet. 9-5pm, 1 Garden Place, Off Cranford Terr. off Centennial Ave. Entire contents of house. **NO EARLY BIRDS PLEASE!**

**FANWOOD** - 22 Birchwood Terrace, Fri., Sat., Sun. 4/16, 4/17 & 4/18, 9-3. Crib, Baby swing w/ bassinet, bouncy seat, kids toys, clothes, BBQ, misc. items & more. Free LR furn.

**FANWOOD** April 17th, rain date 4/18, 9 to 4. Toys, clothes, HH items, books. 79 Heien St.

**FANWOOD Multi Family Sale** Sat., 4/17 Rain date 4/18, 9 to 3. 64 Portland Ave. Indoor/outdoor toys, baby items, patio furniture, home decor, housewares, furn., mountain bike & more.

**GARWOOD** - 92 Third Ave., 4/17, 4/18, 8:30-7 Furr., work out equip., toys, clothes, frames, etc.

**HOUSE/GARAGE SALE** April 17 & April 18, 9-4 **NO EARLY BIRDS** Antiques, Formal Dining Room Set, Persian Rug, Victorian Love seats, Something for everyone 629 N Scotch Plains Ave. (off of South)

**HUGE SALE** Sat. April 17, 9-4pm 781 Norgate, Westfield **ANTIQUES**, oak (S) rolled top desk, lamps, small tables, tall cherry cabinet, 6 dining chairs, tools, dishes, etc. **OTHER ITEMS** vintage furniture, glassware, curtains, books, lamps, dishes, computer, tools, etc.

**KENILWORTH** 212 North 16" St., Sat., 4/17, 8am, rain date, 4/24. We're Back Again, 1000's of Items Old & New. Don't Miss It!

**New Providence** Sat. 4/10 9-2pm 24 Commonwealth Ave. **HUGE GARAGE SALE:** construction equip., furn., toys & sporting goods & baby items.

**PLAINFIELD** Sat 4/17 & Sun 4/18, 9-4. Moving, Furniture, kitchen items, garden tools. 1406 Watching Ave.

**RAHWAY** Sat 4/17, 9-2. Many h.h. items. Something for everyone. No early birds. 225 Russell Ave. off Inman Ave, off West Lake.

**RAHWAY**, Sat. 4/17, 9-2. No early birds. Furn., ultra mod. coffee tbl & mtching console tbl., antique DR set, tbl w/lf 4 chrs + china hutch, baby toys/clothes, 2304 Ward Drive.

**ROSELLE PARK** - 341 East Lincoln Ave., 4/17/04 & 4. RD 4/24/04. Like new baby items, cribs & Home goods.

**Roselle Park 4/16 & 4/17** 8-1. House Sale multiple items, 200 Pershing Ave off Westfield Ave.

**SCOTCH PLAINS** Sat. 4/17, 9-3pm Rain date: Sun. 4/18 1832 Mountain Ave. **NO EARLY BIRDS!**

**SCOTCH PLAINS** - Sat & Sun 4/17-18, 9-3. Huge Moving Sale everything must go! 1881 Wood Rd.

**UNION** 4/17, Sat., 9 to 4. Clothes, HH items, toys, records & books. 1014 Brighton St.

**UNION-666** Salem Rd., Sat. 4/17, 9-4. HH goods, Raindate Sun. 4/18.

**WESTFIELD** 25. Stoneleigh park, cut, antique wicker, acry desk, iron bed, new dishwasher.

**UNION SAT 4/17, 10-4**. Rain or shine. 35 years accumulation, glass ware, antic knacks, linens, tools, furn, picture books, records, wheelchair and lots more. Morris Ave to Spruce St to 763 Layton Drive.

**WESTFIELD** 502 Central Ave Thurs 4/15 to Sun 4/18, 10-5. Antiques Dealer of 25 years retiring. Entire inventory goes! Furn., Silver, Paintings, China, Glass, Rugs, Collectibles and more. **ALAN SNYDER** 908-756-5599

**WESTFIELD ESTATE SALE 910** Woodmere Drive, 4/18, 10 to 3. Tons of dollar items, HH, garage & misc. All cont.amp furn. 2 white leather sofas, 3 pc. peach sect., rec room furniture, baby items/toys, circa '50's, Widdicombe & pc. Br set & fab. DR set, queen bed, lamps, triple dresser & nightstand, huge beveled mirror, box lots, glassware, orig art books, collectible furn, EMS mugs, all glass coffee table. Priced to go!

**WESTFIELD MOVING SALE**, 827 Dorian Rd. near H.S. 4/17 & 4/18, 9-4pm. Antiques, furn., vases, figurines, & sewing machine. Baby & HH items, 2 TVs, VCR, other electronics, Bike, paintings, decor, stuff. **MIKE REID** 4/24 & 4/25

**WESTFIELD MOVING SALE** Sat. 4/17, 9-3pm, 178 Harrison Ave. off Broad. **ITEMS:** DR table w/leaves, chairs, TV, bookshelves, BR set/2 dressers & end table, 4-poster bed, desk, exercise bike, books, all buns, 40 yrs. of HH

**WESTFIELD**, Sat. 4/17, (R.D. 4/18), 9am-4. Wells St. off E. Broad, 2 Families. A little bit of something for everybody!

**WESTFIELD Sat 4/17 & Sun 4/18, 9-4**, 27 Woodbrook Circle, off Springfield Ave. opposite 'Sunrise'

**WESTFIELD Sat 4/17 & Sun 4/18, 9-3**, Moving Sale! Something for everyone! 150 Sunset Ave, off Broad Street.

**Westfield NJ 99!**

**UNION SAT 4/17, 8 to 1**. Rain Date 4/18. HH items, jewelry, clothing, 1261 Wilsire Drive

**Unions & Toys 99!**

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**WESTFIELD MOVING SALE** Washer/dryer, fridge., crystal chandelier, 5-ft-tall and Tiffany lamps and tables. Please call 908-233-3353

**WESTFIELD, NJ Friday, 4/16 and Sat. 4/17, 9-5pm, 1048 Rahway Ave.** **ITEMS:** Exercise equip., golf clubs, blk. marble vanity top, tools, something for everyone!

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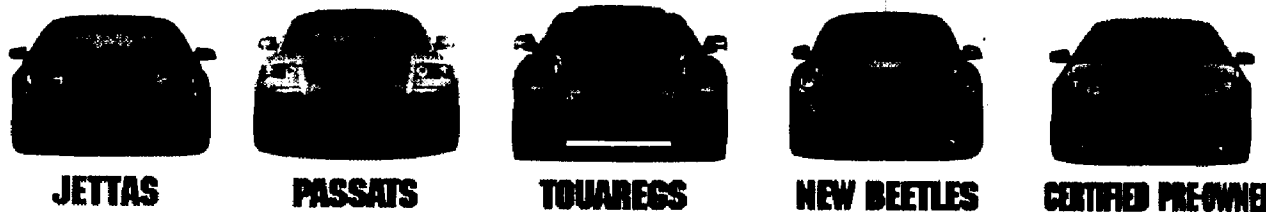
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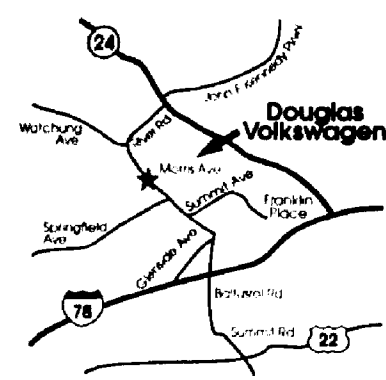
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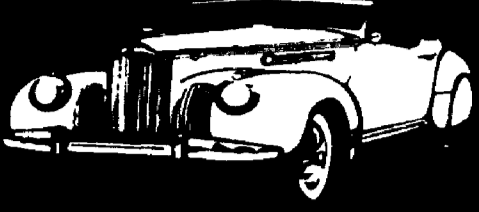
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<b>\$16,995</b>	<b>\$15,995</b>	<b>\$11,995</b>	<b>\$12,495</b>	<b>\$11,995</b>
<b>2003 FORD TAURUS SES</b> 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, only 15,000 miles. VIN#3F604711	<b>2000 FORD MUSTANG</b> 2 dr. v-6, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, traction, wing, 44,000 miles. VIN#YF274966	<b>2001 VW CABRIO GLS</b> 2 dr. convertible, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, heated seats, only 35,000 miles. VIN#10573428	<b>2001 CHEVY BLAZER LT</b> 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, moonroof, only 21,000 miles. VIN#1C019612	<b>2003 FORD EXPLORER XLT</b> 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, 3 seats, dual air, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 27,000 miles. VIN#3F001862
<b>\$13,995</b>	<b>\$9,995</b>	<b>\$14,995</b>	<b>\$15,995</b>	<b>\$21,995</b>
<b>2000 CHEVY S-10</b> 2 dr. pick-up, 5 spd, air, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 52,000 miles. VIN#YVC599810	<b>2002 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SPORT</b> 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, dual air, 3 seats, 32,000 miles. VIN#2B608468	<b>2001 MAZDA MPV</b> 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, side air bags, only 31,000 miles. VIN#10171013	<b>2004 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</b> 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, only 14,000 miles. VIN#42021441	<b>2001 LEXUS RX-300</b> 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, navigation, alloy wheels, 37,000 miles. VIN#10192507
<b>\$6,295</b>	<b>\$15,595</b>	<b>\$15,995</b>	<b>\$13,995</b>	<b>\$27,995</b>

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<b>2001 CHRYSLER SEBRING JX</b> 2 dr. convertible, v-6, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, only 21,000 miles. VIN#1J00662	<b>2002 FORD ESCAPE XLT</b> 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, 32,000 miles. VIN#2F673410	<b>2001 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT</b> 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, alloy wheels, 32,000 miles. VIN#1J508461	<b>2003 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO</b> 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 26,000 miles. VIN#3C516343	<b>2003 JAGUAR X-TYPE</b> 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, moonroof, heated seats, only 16,000 miles. VIN#XG96253	<b>2003 HONDA PILOT EX</b> 4 dr, 4x4, v-6, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, 3 seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, tv/cvr, alloy wheels, side air bags, 22,000 miles. VIN#3H512200
<b>\$13,995</b>	<b>\$16,995</b>	<b>\$13,995</b>	<b>\$19,950</b>	<b>\$21,995</b>	<b>\$27,995</b>
<b>2000 MERCEDES E-320</b> 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, only 11,000 miles. VIN#W4BE5911	<b>2002 BMW 325I</b> 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, heated seats, 33,000 miles. VIN#28G79468	<b>2002 HONDA ACCORD EX</b> 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd changer, abs, alloy wheels, moonroof, 29,000 miles. VIN#2A092953	<b>2001 TOYOTA CAMRY CE</b> 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, only 25,000 miles. VIN#100K7329	<b>1999 DODGE CARAVAN</b> 4 dr. v-6, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, 3 seats, 52,000 miles. VIN#XR219097	<b>2003 HONDA PILOT EX</b> 4 dr, 4x4, v-6, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, 3 seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, tv/cvr, alloy wheels, side air bags, 22,000 miles. VIN#3H512200
<b>\$28,750</b>	<b>\$25,750</b>	<b>\$15,450</b>	<b>\$12,975</b>	<b>\$7,900</b>	<b>\$27,995</b>

Price(s) include(s) all costs to be paid by the consumer except for licensing, registration & taxes. Not responsible for typographical errors.

**JEEP '01 WRANGLER** w/snow-plow. New engine, clutch, glow pump, 33,750 973-637-7094

**JEEP '93 Wrangler**, red, 6 cyl. auto, 2 tops, AC, 119K, new trans, brakes, 33950. 908-334-7569

**LEXUS '93 LS400** 4dr. blk w/blk leather, 85Kmi, loaded, 6CD, to-jack, 1 owner, beautiful must see! 18900 908-273-8218 Summit

**LEXUS '97 ES300** 4 dr. sedan, 27k mi., garage kept, all leather, moonroof, exc cond. \$14,800. 906-304-4310 N. msg.

**LEXUS '97 ES300** 79k mi., garaged, oil records, synthetic oil, 6 CD traction control, leather, sunroof, mint, 12,500. 908-612-8097 or eves. & wkends. 908-654-5794

**LINCOLN '02 Continental** Fully equipped, low mileage 4,800, mint cond., \$24,000. 908-233-7741

**LINCOLN CONTINENTAL '96** blk, tan 18900 fully loaded, 64K, \$14,300. 908-276-4888

**MARQUIS 1997** Palm Beach, Black/gr. leather, 150K mi., well maintained, \$7,000 obo 973-744-1264

**MAZDA '01 MIATA** - Auto., mint condition, silver convert. leather, Bose, 14K mi., loaded \$14,900 908-237-9707

**MAZDA '96 LX** Auto., 4-cyl., power locks, windows, ABS, 68K mi., very good cond., \$3900 as is. 908-494-2727

**Mercedes 1998 200E** ivory w/tan, strong reliable car in good condition, 165K, \$3850. 908-327-6174.

**MERCEDES '85 380SE**, 4 dr auto, classic great car, AC sun roof, loaded, \$4,200. Call 908-688-2770

**MERCEDES '90 E300**, tan with brown leather interior, sun roof, AC, good cond. 140K, \$6,500. After 7pm 973-71-2660

**Mercedes Benz 2002 CLK320** Convertible, silver w/gray int., 10k mi. auto, Like New! \$35,000. 908-889-5334

**MERCEDES BENZ 900 SEL '90** 4dr, 32k, mid. blue, \$7500. 908-232-7158 or 908-758-8931.

**MERCEDES BENZ '96 500SL** light ivory on palomino leather, both hard and soft tops, all orig., perfect Cond. perfectly maint. 82K, \$22,000 OBO Call 973-226-2077

**MERCEDES BENZ '92** E300te 4matic wagon, White ext., blue leather, sunroof, 114k, Excellent condition, \$9,500. 973-701-2560 after 7pm

**MERCEDES BENZ '95 E320s** Wagon, white w/gray, 3' seat, sunroof, 6 disc Cd Changer, Exc. Cond., 71k mi, balance of factory warranty, \$14,000 OBO Call 973-226-2077

**MERCEDES S500 '96**, burgundy, must see, like new, serious buyers only! 973-376-4523.

**MERCEDES '93 Grand Marquis** - 99k mi., exc. cond., light green, \$2750. 908-686-0403

**MERCURY '93 SA-BLEWAGON**, Power Steering, brakes and windows Runs well. Clean, New tires & brakes, 79K mi. \$2000 908-222-9663

**MERCURY '96 Grand Marquis** Chameleon Edition, 4 dr. blk, blue, 75k mi. \$5250. 908-337-6346

**MERCURY '97 GRAND MARQUIS** LS, loaded, 76K mi., garaged, VG condition, \$6,000 908-273-6008

**Mercury Grand Marquis** 1991, 110K, navy, excellent cond., \$1000 /obo. 908-282-6952.

**MISUBISHI '97 ECLIPSE**, red, great condition 74K mi., moving to the city \$6800 908-362-8687 daytime or evening

**MITSUBISHI '93 ECLIPSE GS** Auto, 83K mi., Red, Ex. cond., \$3,000 o/b.o. 908-337-3107

**NISSAN 200 SX '87** - 2dr. Auto, Full pwr. Rear spoiler, 81k, New A/C, brakes, tires; 2" owner nice cond. \$5250 908-654-8468

**NISSAN '91 300ZX 2+2**: 5 spd, 130K mi. ex. cond. New tires and battery \$7800/obo 732-381-3658

**NISSAN '93 300ZX** - 45K org. owner, 5spd., 1 top, all pwr. \$7500 SOLD

**Nissan Altima GXE 2000**, maroon w/tan, 4 cyl, auto, loaded, sunrf., CD, exc. cond., 57K, asking \$8600. 908-654-7621.

**Nissan Sentra GXE '98**, 4 dr. black, auto, good cond., all pwr, 93K mi. \$4200/obo. 917-334-9016

**Olds Cutlass '99**, V6, all pwr, a/c, am/fm/cass, cd, cruise, beige lthr seats, moonroof, 46K, \$7900 neg. 732-752-0148

**OLDS CUTLASS CHERA '93** - 59K mi., 4 dr. im-lac, 17" cut, am/fm power, \$3000. 732-269-9920

**PLYMOUTH '83 Voyager SE** 88,000 miles, 6 cyl, exc. cond., \$2,400. Call 908-709-0237

**PLYMOUTH DR VOYAGER LE '91** - 1 owner, 75K mi. great cond., \$3400. OBO 908-654-6493.

**Plymouth Voyager '95**, auto, 8000, cond., a/c, am/fm/cass, roof rack \$2500 /obo. 908-486-1981.

**PONTIAC '90 FIREBIRD** - exc. cond., 80K mi, 5 spd, asking \$8250. 908-984-1183 after 5PM

**PONTIAC '90 GRAND PRIX GT** - 56k mi., 4dr, drk m metallic, full pwr., AM/FM Cass, exc. cond. \$9700 908-241-0921

**PONTIAC '02 Firebird Conv.** red, black interior, auto, auto start, loaded, 19K, \$15,000 OBO Call 973-226-2077

**PONTIAC 02 Grand Am silver/gray**, 2 dr. auto, 4 cyl, AC, CD, 33K, \$9700 obo. 908-875-4634

**PONTIAC FIREBIRD '92** - red, T-tops, 6 cyl., auto, 68K, great cond., \$5,000. 908-494-7976

**PONTIAC GRAND AM '82** - needs minor work, \$1000 obo. 908-691-9166

**PORSCHE '83 944** 5spd sun roof, custom int., factory alarm, Denon AM/FM cass 12K mi. \$10,000/firm 908-687-9157

**SAAB 93 '01** auto., 4 dr., silver sunrf., man. warranty, CD, 15K, \$19,000 obo. SOLD SOLD

**SATURN '93 SC2 A/C**, auto., clean, excellent condition. All-pwr. 109K mi. \$1,895 908-273-2096

**Saturn '94** - 4dr, 129k mi. 5spd trans., A/C, good condition \$1600 OBO 908-276-1944

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**2001 Ford Focus ZTS**

4 cyl, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, tilt, cruise, 7 def. lgs, 23,954 mi. STK #4P27. VIN #1W173088

**\$9995**

**2000 Mercury Sable Wagon**

V6, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, cass, tilt, cruise, 7 def. lgs, 54,008 mi. STK # 4T535B. VIN #Y4G62804

**\$8995**

**2002 Mercury Villager Minivan**

V6, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, cass, tilt, cruise, 7 def. lgs, 13,151 mi. STK #4V15A. VIN #2D0J1599

**\$16,995**

**1999 Lincoln Town Car Signature**

V8, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, cass, tilt, cruise, 1 def. lthr, 63,810 mi. STK #4P11A. VIN #XY705680

**\$12,995**

**2001 Lincoln LS**

V8, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, changer, heat, moonroof, 27,962 mi. STK #4P19. VIN #1N2T389

**\$22,995**

**2003 Lincoln Town Car**

V8, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, leather, cruise, 18,612 mi. STK #4P28. VIN #3Y694679

**\$26,995**

**2003 Mercury Mountaineer AWD**

V6, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD = DVD player, 15, cruise, 7 def. lgs, moonroof, 11,861 mi. STK #3P133. VIN #2J16783

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# Automotive/Classified

## It's a great time to buy classic cars

ARA — "Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and..." Go on, you know it, sing along: "Chevrolet."

Americans have long had a love affair with cars — classic cars in particular. They're worshipped in our culture, in movies and TV commercials, at weddings and charity benefits, at local hamburger-joint cruises, family reunions and Fourth of July parades.

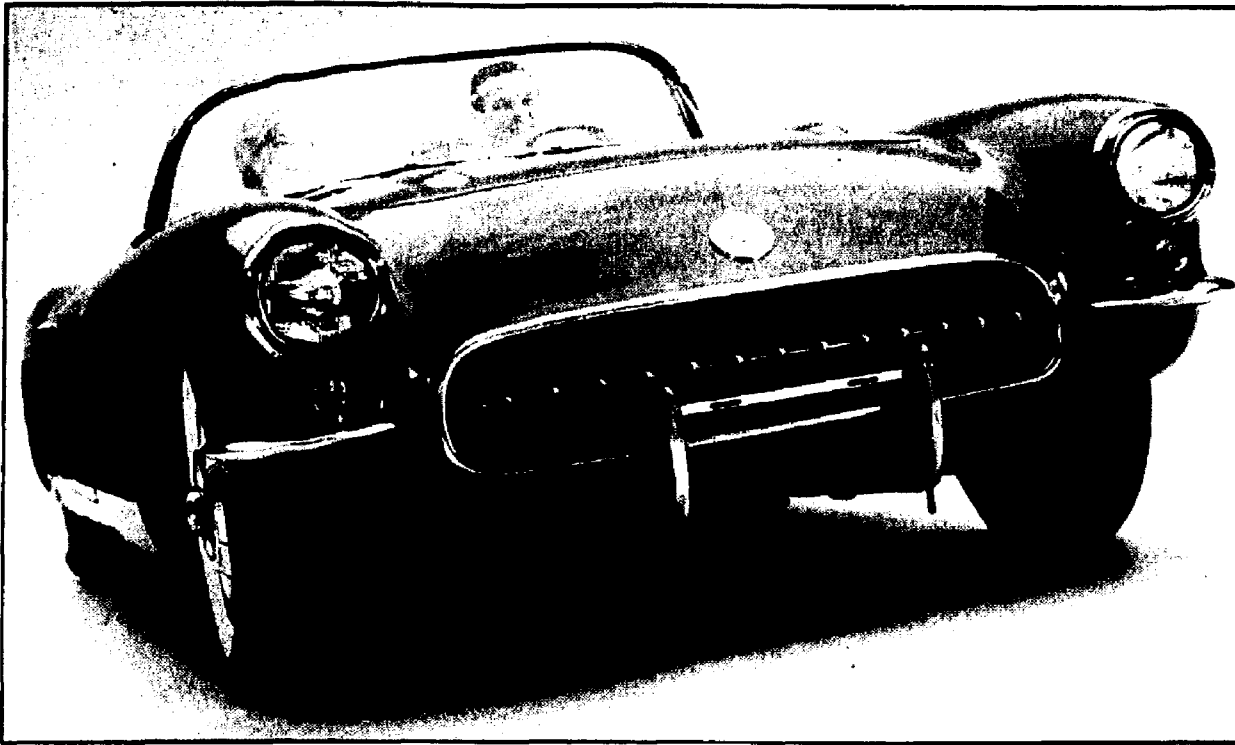
The robust health of the old car hobby is evidenced by the ever-growing participation and attendance at car shows and auctions around the country (over 6,000 collector car shows and exhibits were held in 2003). Here's why there's never been a better time for you to join the millions who have made their dreams of owning a piece of the past come true:

1. Investment. You've got to put your money somewhere, and some classic cars are appreciating in value better than your average mutual fund. Take the case of a very nice, 1949 custom 4-door flathead V-8 Ford. Twenty years ago you could pick one up

for about \$2500. Ten years ago the same vehicle would not sell for under \$6,000. Today you're lucky if you can buy one for less than \$15,000.

2. Opportunity. While the values of certain collector vehicles, such as muscle cars, are spiraling upwards (and out of the reach of many would-be collectors), there are certain antique cars that are downright affordable, such as the Ford Model A. While a "numbers matching" 1965 Pontiac GTO convertible can easily command \$30,000-plus, a fully restored 1930 Model A will only set you back about \$12,000 to \$18,000.

3. Family time. Restoring a vehicle yourself, even partially, can be a great learning experience for the whole family. The patience, craftsmanship and attention to detail can be worthy attributes for a young (and not so young) person to acquire. 4. Precious heritage. Pride of workmanship flourishes in this hobby, and whether you choose to do the restoration work yourself or have a professional do it, it's a testimonial to the days



One of the best things about having a classic 1960s Corvette is having fun driving it around town.

when life moved at a slower pace.

5. Creative outlet. There's no law that says you have to own an original car. You can take a little creative license with the paint, or go wild and turn your nice quiet old car into a screaming purple lead sled with air conditioning and power steering.

6. New friends. The enormous number of car shows, swap meets, cruise-ins and car clubs are all chances to network with the millions of other collectors out there.

7. Old fashioned fun. There is something about washing and waxing a car that has a soothing quality to it, not to mention the ego boost of the neighborhood

crowd you'll acquire while working on your classic. It's fun to share your hobby with young and old alike. A Sunday drive with the oldies playing on the radio can bring back fond memories of a time that wasn't quite so hectic. If your collector vehicle happens to be a convertible, all the better. Put that top down, grab the kids and hit the road!

## Dealer is honored by Subaru

FLEMINGTON — Subaru Distributors Corporation recently honored Flemington Subaru, a member of the Flemington Car & Truck Country Family of Dealerships, with the 2003 Circle of Excellence Program's Platinum Award. This top award recognizes a Parts and Service Department's strong teamwork and commitment to customer service.

Jack Young, district sales manager for Subaru Distributors Corp., was on hand to present the Platinum Level recognition plaque to the Flemington Subaru Parts & Service Department. Accepting the award were Brian Temples, parts manager, and Diane Barry, service manager, one of the few women in the region to hold this position.

The COE program rewards Parts & Service departments that show specific improvement in areas such as customer service, marketing, technician training, sales, and profitability. Dealerships accumulate points every month toward both quarterly rankings and the annual award.

Flemington Car & Truck Country Chairman Steve Kalafer and Flemington Car & Truck Country President Byron Brisby praised the Parts & Service team at Flemington Subaru.

"They consistently strive to be the best among their peers," said Kalafer.

"We earned points for our Subaru Care Service Reminder Program, the New Owner Clinic, and the Service Clinic, as well as from a customer satisfaction survey," said Ridge Ryman, general manager of Flemington Subaru. "It's like getting a report card from your customers that helps you accumulate extra points."

## Flemington Chrysler debuts new models next week

FLEMINGTON — Flemington Chrysler, a member of the Flemington Car & Truck Country Family of Dealerships, is gearing up for Chrysler Premiere Night on April 22, an evening of entertainment to launch some exciting new Chrysler vehicles.

The Chrysler Premier Night is a casual, no-pressure evening of hors d'oeuvres and a special preview of the 2005 models. In addition to being the first on the block to witness the rollout, each attendee will receive a gift.

The festivities kick off at 6 p.m.

"The Chrysler 300, the PT Cruiser Convertible, and the redesigned Town & Country are the first to be launched," announced Chris Venditti, sales manager of Flemington Chrysler. The all-new, 2005 Chrysler 300

is a rear-wheel drive sedan that includes all-speed traction control, an electronic stability program, and anti-lock brakes. The 300 continues the tradition of Chrysler "letter series" cars. The first was the 1955 C300, and today's 300 celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The PT Cruiser gets a sporty update with the addition of a convertible top. Chrysler offers

an array of choices in this model, both exterior and interior, and the 220-horsepower Convertible also comes in a Touring or GT version.

Innovative "Stow n Go" seating and storage is the big news on the 2005 Town & Country. Large bins under second and third row seats hold lots of gear; alternately, seats fold flat into the bins to create a large cargo area.

"New vehicle launches are always a fun affair, and we're looking forward to sharing the excitement with our customers," said Brisby. "But Premiere Night is for everyone, you don't have to be a current Chrysler owner to come. We hope to have a big crowd."

Flemington Chrysler is located on Routes 202 and 31 south of the Flemington Circle.

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<p><b>NEW 2004 CHEVROLET AVEO SPECIAL</b></p> <p>VIN #0106332, S1K #C2744, 5 DR, 1.6L DOHC TR3HP eng., 5 spd., p/s/b, a/c, MSRP: \$9995</p> <p><b>BUY FOR \$6629</b>    <b>SAVE \$3366</b></p>	<p><b>NEW 2004 CHEVROLET CAVALIER</b></p> <p>VIN #1715483, S1K #C2119, 4 DR, 4 cyl ecotec eng., 5 spd., p/s/b, a/c, MSRP: \$14,025</p> <p><b>BUY FOR \$8995</b>    <b>SMART BUY \$141 PER MO. 47 MOS.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COME VISIT OUR GIGANTIC INDOOR SUPER CENTER AND SEE THE DIFFERENCE FOR YOURSELF!</b></p> <p style="font-size: 3em; text-align: center;">0% apr</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FINANCING</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>UP TO 60 MOS ON SELECT 2004 MODELS</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">available on all new 2004 Chevy except Aveo, Malibu, SSR &amp; Colorado to well qualified buyers by GMAC. 0% in lieu of rebates.</p>
<p><b>NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRACKER 4WD</b></p> <p>VIN #4692100, S1K #C2055, 4 DR, V6, auto w/OD, a/c, r/wiper/wash, p/ABS/winds/hrs/mirrs, keyless entry, am/fm cd, roof rk, MSRP: \$23,260</p> <p><b>BUY FOR \$15,395</b>    <b>SMART BUY \$256 PER MO. 47 MOS.</b>    <b>SAVE \$7865</b></p>	<p><b>NEW 2004 CHEVROLET IMPALA</b></p> <p>VIN #4924584, S1K #C2520, 4 DR, 3.4L V6 eng., auto w/OD, am/fm stereo CD, full power equip, MSRP: \$22,405</p> <p><b>BUY FOR \$14,999</b>    <b>SMART BUY \$190 PER MO. 47 MOS.</b>    <b>SAVE \$7406</b></p>	<p><b>NEW 2004 CHEVROLET MALIBU</b></p> <p>VIN #4102113, S1K #C2929, 4 cyl, auto, keyless entry, am/fm cd player, 6 spks, full power equip, MSRP: \$20,230</p> <p><b>BUY FOR \$15,199</b>    <b>SMART BUY \$186 PER MO. 47 MOS.</b></p>
<p><b>NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS</b></p> <p>VIN #4234705, S1K #C2982, Vertec 16 auto w/OD, 5.550 lb GVW, lug/rk, keyless entry, theft deter sys, full power equip, MSRP: \$29,730</p> <p><b>BUY FOR \$20,499</b>    <b>SMART BUY \$281 PER MO. 47 MOS.</b>    <b>SAVE \$8731</b></p>	<p><b>NEW 2004 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE 1500</b></p> <p>VIN #4101035, S1K #C2086, V6, auto, 6.000 lb GVW, in dash 6 disc cd player w/Bose eq, full power equip, MSRP: \$34,295.40. Lease includes 12k mi yr @ 17¢ each add'l mile, purchase opt. at lease end \$12,874. Lessee resp for maintenance &amp; excess wear &amp; tear.</p> <p><b>BUY FOR \$23,895</b>    <b>LEASE FOR \$341 PER MO. 48 MOS.</b>    <b>SAVE \$10,390</b></p>	<p><b>NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TANDE 4WD</b></p> <p>VIN #4J241439, S1K #C2914, V8, auto, 3rd row seat, OnStar 1 yr safe &amp; sound, 17" 5-spoke alum whls, full power equip, MSRP: \$40,800</p> <p><b>BUY FOR \$31,899</b>    <b>SMART BUY \$458 PER MO. 47 MOS.</b></p>

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Prices include all costs to be borne by the consumer except license, reg & taxes. Smart Buy based on 47 mos. with optional balloon paid at end of contract. Tracker --- \$29711, Cavalier --- \$24495, Impala --- \$28952, Trailblazer --- \$14,270, Malibu --- \$2894, Tahoe \$21,161. Smart Buy includes 12k mi/yr @ 17¢ each add'l mile. If returning vehicle, finance include all rebates, incentives & applicable back to dealer. \$250 Military rebate must be active in the military (ID to qualify). \$1000 Old owners rebates must be current owners trading in. Aves rebates: Malibu Discount \$16, Rebate \$1000, Old Loyalty Rebate \$1000, Military Rebate \$1500, Malibu Rebate \$1500, Cavalier rebates: Malibu Discount \$1800, Rebate \$5000, Old Loyalty Rebate \$1000, Malibu Rebate \$1500, Trucks rebates: Malibu Discount \$1615, Rebate \$1500, Bonus Cash \$1800, Old Loyalty Rebate \$1000, Malibu Rebate \$1500, Impala rebates: Rebate \$2000, Old Loyalty Rebate \$1000, Malibu Rebate \$1500, Auto Show Bonus \$500, Malibu rebates: Rebate \$1500, Old Loyalty Rebate \$1000, Trailblazer rebates: Rebate \$4500, Bonus Cash \$1000, Old Loyalty Rebate \$1000, Malibu Rebate \$1500, Avalanche rebates: Rebate \$4500, Old Loyalty Rebate \$1000, Malibu Rebate \$1500, Tahoe rebates: Rebate \$4000, Bonus Cash \$1000, Old Loyalty Rebate \$1000, Malibu Rebate \$1500, Low APR in lieu of rebates to qual. buyers. All offers subject to lender approval. Photos may not accurately represent vehicle. Programs subject to change without notice. Must bring in valid coupon. Must take delivery from dealer stock by 4/30/04.