

ARTIFICIAL TURF

Town explores funding options

BY RICHARD DICKON
of Belleville Times

Officials are looking to piggy-back grant money from two county sources and one state source to help fund a new artificial turf field at the site of the chronically overused and torn up main football and soccer field at Municipal Stadium.

At a recent work session, the township council and manager talked about getting hundreds of thousands of dollars from each of the three sources, including the county Community Development Block Grant program, the county Open Space Preservation program and the state Green Acres Open Space program.

Township Engineer Thomas Herits said the town "would qualify for a \$400,000 grant towards" a turf field from CDBG. He said the project would need soil work where existing dirt fill is replaced with a lighter soil that has the consistency of pumice, about half the weight of the existing soil.

"That's so it won't settle anymore and also aids in drainage," Herits said. Estimating the cost at \$8 a square foot, he said that it would cost approximately \$800,000, and the total cost of the project would be approximately \$1.5 million.

"There's a lot you don't need to do to the underlying soil," Herits said of keeping the costs lower.

He said the county has \$5 million it needs to spend by June 2009, and if the township makes

the stadium turf a priority, officials can also obtain money.

First Ward Councilwoman Marie Strumolo Burke is taking the lead on the county open spaces program, and says that being a retired county employee she has spoken to county officials, and recently had a meeting with a state Green Acres official.

"I asked, and Green Acres is looking for a joint effort," Burke said. She said the county open space applications will be available on Dec. 16, about the same time that CDBG request submissions are due.

"If we have a lot of funding sources, it's less out of pocket," Burke said. "We need a turf field drastically for the children in town."

Township Manager Victor Canning agreed that, "The concept for getting all three is there now that we are in final compliance with the state. We are eligible for Green Acres. They are very thrilled. If we can get something like \$300,000 for each source, I think it's a home run, and we would gladly pay the difference."

He said Belleville's landscape makes the need for a turf field that will not wear down all the more important.

"One thing that makes us unique is that we are so densely populated, with little open space," Canning said. "We have only one sanctioned field, for everything from varsity to peanut league."

SEE TURF, PAGE 6



DEBORAH ANN TRIPOLDI/BELLEVILLE TIMES

A JOYFUL NOISE

The choruses of both Belleville No. 8 and 10 elementary schools, under the direction of Lisa Novak, perform various Christmas carols for Belleville's annual tree lighting ceremony last Thursday at the Rec House on Joralemon Street. See additional pictures on page 3.

IN CLASSIFIEDS

For more classifieds, see page 30.

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Fights break out in parking lot

Police find handgun on the scene; three arrests made
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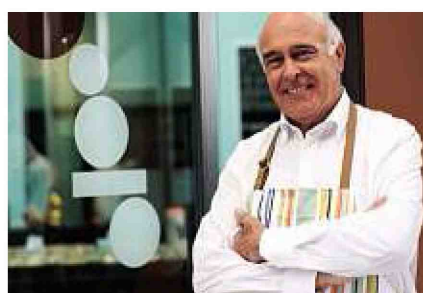
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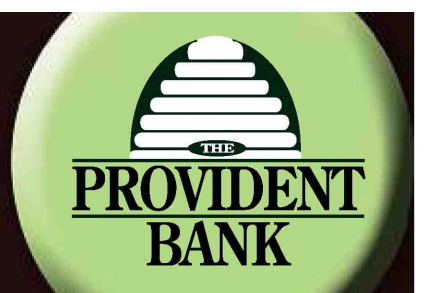
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Dec. 7
■ Police arrested and charged Hector Fuentes, 20, of Belleville with driving while having a suspended license at 4:11 p.m. A motor vehicle stop was performed on Fuentes' white Honda after a check of his license plate turned up that he was a suspended driver. He was pulled over near Mill Street and Franklin Avenue. He was given a motor vehicle summons and released.

Dec. 6
■ Police arrested and charged

Ibelitza Gaston, 30, of Newark with driving while having a suspended license at 11:30 p.m. After police responded to a report of a motor vehicle accident near Washington Avenue and Rutgers Street, they ran a check of Gaston's license plate and found her to be unlicensed. She was given a motor vehicle summons and released.

Dec. 5
■ A burglary and theft were reported from a motor vehicle on Branch Brook Drive. Police said the owner came out to find that the

driver's side window had been broken. Reported stolen from the 2004 Honda Civic were a global positioning system (GPS) unit, a cell phone charger and some small change from a tray inside the vehicle.

Police have no suspects and the investigation continues.

■ Police arrested and charged Margaret Chicino, 45, of Belleville with having two outstanding warrants at 5:38 p.m. After being detailed to Garden Avenue on the report of an intoxicated female,

police found Chicino. A check of her on the computer turned up a \$1,000 outstanding warrant from Linden and a \$300 outstanding warrant from Newark. She was held on the warrants.

Dec. 3
■ A motor vehicle theft was reported at 2 p.m. The victim said they parked the vehicle, a 2002 red Kia Spectre, overnight on North 11th Street. When they returned at 2 p.m., the vehicle was gone. Police have no suspects and the investigation continues.

Editor's note: Police news is compiled from information provided by the police department. The information is released to the press at the discretion of the department and may not represent the total scope of police activity. Accounts that indicate charges pending against an individual do not imply guilt or innocence.

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Belleville officers respond to multiple fights

BY JEFF FRANKEL
for Nutley Sun

Three individuals were arrested last Friday, Nov. 28, after multiple fights broke out in a restaurant parking lot on Belleville Avenue, police said. A handgun was found at the scene.

Bloomfield and Belleville police officers arrested Kevin Kyle Dees, 24, of Maplewood after an anonymous person alleged Dees was carrying a nine-millimeter handgun

during fights at the Prana Restaurant & Lounge parking lot, said Capt. Chris Goul, Bloomfield police spokesman.

Dees is charged with possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and possession of hollow point bullets. He was remanded to Essex County jail. His bail was not determined as of press time.

Also charged in the incident were Mark Manasse, 23 and Raynald Esteime, 25, both of Irvington, for failure to disperse and disorderly conduct, Goul said. Both men were later released.

It is not clear what sparked the fights or if the three men knew each other, Goul said.

Goul said the incident began at 1:20 a.m. when two Belleville officers saw multiple fights breaking out in the Prana Restaurant parking lot, adjacent to the Bloomfield-Belleville border.

The two Belleville officers radioed for mutual aid, and officers from Bloomfield, Nutley, Glen

Ridge, Montclair, the Essex County Sheriff's Department and the New Jersey State Police responded, Goul said.

Police found Dees' alleged weapon beneath a parked car in the lot, where it could have been thrown in hopes of concealing it, Goul said.

Goul expressed gratitude to the aforementioned agencies for responding to the mutual aid call, as well as the arresting officers: Sgt. Anthony Servadio of Bloomfield and officers Thomas Dockendorf and Glen Zadrage of Belleville.

Prana ironically occupies the site of the ill-fated Taste Lounge, a nightclub that saw multiple violent incidents and subsequent police activity. Failed attempts to clamp down on unruly crowds, often in violation of township directives, led to Taste's closure last year, Goul said.

"We had a lot of difficulties when Taste was there," said Goul.

The author is a staff writer at Bloomfield Life.

To Your HEALTH



Dr. Donna A. Pontoriero
Chiropractor

Take More Breaks To Avoid Back Injury at Work, Study Says

Workers who lift for a living need to take longer or more frequent breaks than they now do to avoid back injury, according to a study at Ohio State University. The study also suggests that people who are new on the job need to take breaks even more often than experienced workers, and that the risk of injury is higher at the end of a work shift. Participants in the study lifted boxes onto conveyor belts for eight hours, while researchers measured the amount of oxygen that was reaching the muscles in their lower back. The oxygen level indicated how hard the muscles were working, and whether they were becoming fatigued, explained William Marras, professor of industrial welding and systems engineering at Ohio State. His research and others' has shown that muscle fatigue is linked to back injury.

The study, which appeared in the journal *Clinical Biomechanics*, is the first to examine what happens to muscle oxygenation over a full workday. Despite the fact that the study participants were performing the same job at the same pace all day, their back muscles needed more oxygen as the day went on. Taking a half-hour lunch break helped their muscles recover from the morning's exertion, but once they started working again, their oxygen needs rose steeply and kept climbing throughout the afternoon. "That was alarming to us, because it means that their muscles were becoming fatigued much faster during the afternoon, and we know that fatigue increases the risk of back injury," Marras said. Two 15-minute breaks, one mid-morning and the other mid-afternoon, helped muscles recover a little, but not as much as the half-hour lunch. "This tells us two things," Marras said. "First, rest is good - a half-hour break does a good job of helping muscles recover. But it also tells us that people are especially at risk for back injury at the end of the day, and the only way to counteract that effect is with more breaks as the day goes on."

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PHOTOS BY DEBORAH ANN TRIPOLDI/BELLEVILLE TIMES

ST. NICK DROPS BY

After arriving aboard a Belleville fire engine, during the township's tree lighting ceremony last Thursday, Santa and his elf visit, at left, with Derek Mejia, 9, and his sister Katrina, 6. At right, 4-month-old Amaris Cepeda sits on Santa's lap.

COURT

Judge drops police chief from lawsuit

BY RICHARD DICKON
of Belleville Times

Belleville Police Chief Joseph Rotonda has been dropped from all counts in a lawsuit involving a Belleville tavern manager, who claims local police falsely arrested him, while other defendants have had counts dropped as well.

Superior Court Judge Donald Coleman granted a motion for summary judgement on all seven counts against Rotonda, essentially removing him as a defendant in the case, said John O'Reilly, Rotonda's lawyer.

The lawsuit claims that police officers Anthony Weedo and Joseph DeRose falsely arrested Ehler on a drunk driving charge in June 2002, at the same time Ehler was dating the estranged wife of another Belleville police officer, Phillip Canning. The defendant has claimed that the arrest was made in retaliation for him engaging in that relationship, according to records.

Weedo's report said Ehler repeatedly changed lanes, did not pull his vehicle over when police lights were turned on and had a great deal of difficulty walking when he exited the vehicle, and subsequently refused a chemical breath test.

In addition, several counts have been dismissed against other defendants.

All of the defendants in the case had been excluded in November from liability for punitive damages in the case, including the police chief and some high ranking Belleville police officers, O'Reilly said.

The case has taken many legal twists and turns over the past several years.

O'Reilly said that Coleman ruled that all of the defendants are exempt from punitive damages in the case, which he said is a significant victory for the individuals and the township.

He said the case is now about whether the actions are within the scope of the officers' employment.

This new ruling is just the latest twist in a case that has seen several victories for the plaintiff before this defeat. Most recently,

Ehler's lawyer, Timothy Alexander, received a ruling that he would not have a gag order placed upon him.

O'Reilly said the gag order ruling helps the township's case because it excludes either side from calling the previous judge who has removed himself from the case. This comes after defense lawyers for the police said a remark the judge made about being in danger from Belleville police makes it impossible for the judge to remain neutral in the proceedings.

On Aug. 18, Superior Court Assignment Judge Patricia Costello refused to place a gag order on Timothy Alexander, who represents the plaintiff Darien Ehler in the case, after lawyers for the township claimed he was trying to sensationalize the case, O'Reilly said. Costello also refused to move the case out of Essex County, saying there was no evidence that Alexander would call the former judge as a witness. She said the court would take action if such a conflict of interest were attempted, called it "underhanded."

O'Reilly said the one thing the judge did was eliminate Superior Court Judge Paul Vichness as a witness or even being alluded to at a trial.

Vichness sent a letter to attorney John O'Reilly announcing the refusal. O'Reilly said even although Vichness said he did not take the threat seriously, the fact that it was made public to O'Reilly and others means he must not be the judge of record in the case.

The judge's association with attorney Vincent Nuzzi, whom he was once worked with, was the other main reason given, O'Reilly confirmed. Nuzzi is now a defense lawyer in the case for one of the defendants.

Coleman is now hearing the case. O'Reilly continues to ask that the five additional police officials recently included in the suit be removed because the statute of limitations has passed.

O'Reilly said Vichness's contention that he thought the threat

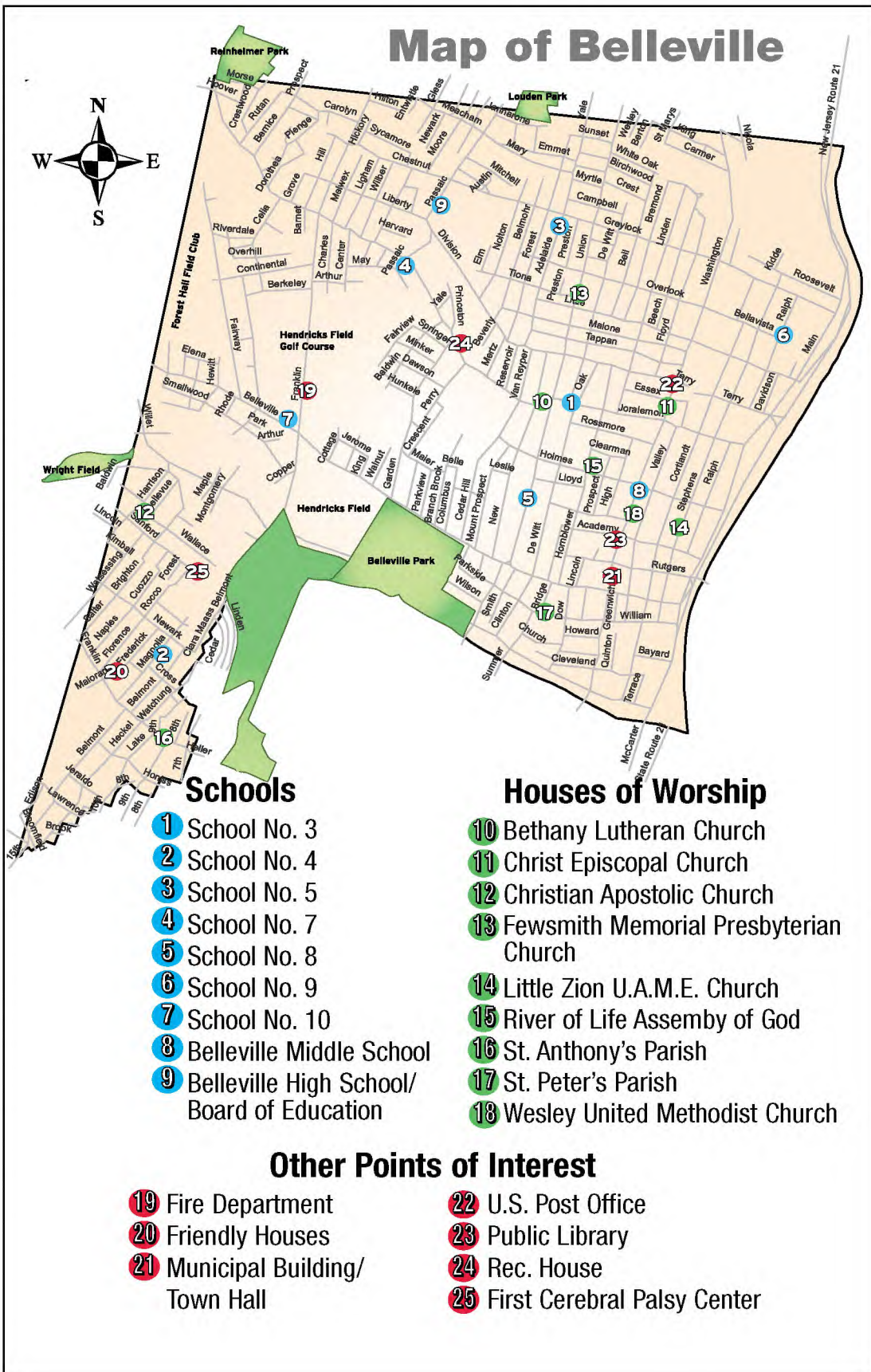
CORRECTIONS

In the Suburban Essex Townscape, published last week, the Houses of Worship numbers did not correspond with the numbers on the Map of Belleville. And St. Peter's Church was mistakenly not

included. The correct version appears here. Also, Deputy Mayor Kevin G. Kennedy was inadvertently omitted from the list of Belleville elected officials.

Max Fleischer's birth date was

inaccurate in an announcement on page 12 on Thursday, Nov. 27 issue. The birth announcement with the correct information appears on page 12 this week.



SEE COURT, PAGE 6

Affordable celebration in our backyard

It's that time of year again.

While the economy takes a major hit, it's even more important to remember that the Christmas season is about more than just buying stuff. Yes, it's fun to buy the latest gadgets and bring a big smile to a friend's face. And it's great to buy the family front-row seats to Radio City's Christmas Spectacular and go on a Fifth Avenue shopping spree.

But in these days, it's time once again to be thankful for the basics in life – food, clothing and shelter. And, we'll

add, family and friends.

Belleville has own Christmas spectacular event, presented in Michael Chieffo's animated Christmas display at 269 New St. The annual event draws hundreds to share in the holiday spirit.

This weekend, Santa Claus makes his own appearance at the event. He'll be showing up at 8 p.m. Saturday, or on Sunday in case of rain. Children, have your wish list ready. Hot chocolate and other goodies will be served.

Letters to St. Nick can also be dropped off at a special

mailbox at Chieffo's home.

There is also the annual toy drive that will benefit children with cancer in local and New York City hospitals. The drive has been expanded this year to include the family of Belleville police officer Kenneth Santucci, who died on duty in a traffic accident on Sept. 6.

If you live in Belleville, where else would you rather be this weekend, celebrating the spirit of Christmas?

So much fun, just around the corner. Happy holidays.

Win drives home the need for a better football facility

BY STEVE ROVELL
Guest Columnist

On Thanksgiving Day, I went to the Job Haines Home to share dinner with my mother Helen.

For the last eight months, Mom has shared meals at the same table with Mrs. Eleanor Arthur. Eleanor had been one of my sixth grade teachers at Belleville School No. 8 more than 40 years ago.

As we ate, we talked about different things. I mentioned that Belleville had beaten Nutley at the football game held earlier in the day. My mother stopped eating and asked, "What was the score?" "22 to 12," I responded. A huge smile appeared on Mom's

face.

I looked over at Eleanor, raised my voice a bit and repeated, "Eleanor, Belleville beat Nutley today!" She slowly raised her head up. Her eyes opened wide, and she smiled. She spoke ever so softly, "How did they do that?"

I thought for a second and answered her, "The boys left their hearts and souls on the field." There is no doubt in my mind that these young men "left it all on the field."

As I watched these two "Belleville girls" eat, I thought about my days on Belleville crew with Coach Giuffrida. I remember his philosophy that, when working together as a team, great things can be accomplished. This

was evidenced on Thanksgiving Day 2008 by Belleville's varsity football team.

This victory was even more satisfying for me because I have seen many of these players grow up from babies to young men. Watching, Vinnie Wolf, Nicky Herman, Danny Grosch Chris Judge and their teammates play with such conviction and heart made me very proud.

It was one of the best football games I have seen in years. I thank you all for such a great victory and for making Belleville proud.

Although we have done a lot of work on the Stadium Complex during the last four years, we still have not been able to get the

required funding to properly repair the football field.

Before most of us came to office, an attempt was made to fix this field. However, it was unsuccessful. The township ended up in a long drawn out legal battle and a field still in need of repair.

During the last year, many of us have struggled to make a living and survive. Based on the current economic projections, this will not get any easier in the months ahead.

Many people came up to Councilman Nicosia and me at the game and the Grid Iron Dinner the night before asking about repairing the football field at the Municipal Stadium.

The game on Thanksgiving

Day once again showed us how much our children deserve a better football field. I know that the mayor and council are committed to finding a way to repair this field without adding an additional tax burden to our residents.

As a final note, on behalf of Mayor Kimble and the council, I would like to formally congratulate the Belleville High School football team, Coach Chris Strumolo, his staff, Superintendent Mel Persi and the Board of Education on such a great victory.

Thank you for bringing the mayor's trophy back to Belleville. We are all very proud of this accomplishment.

The writer is a Belleville councilman.

LETTERS

Protect workers

TO THE EDITOR:

During this season of Thanksgiving, I am grateful I live and work in a state that protects my health in the workplace. But surprisingly, this is not the case for all New Jersey workers.

Atlantic City's Council recently revoked their decision to restrict smoking in casinos, forcing casino workers to continue to risk their health every day while earning a living.

The dangers of secondhand smoke are clear. Tobacco smoke is directly linked to nearly 1,000 U.S. deaths each day, with an estimated 37,000 to 40,000 deaths nationwide each year from heart and blood vessel disease caused by secondhand smoke.

The American Heart Association strongly supports the rights of all individuals to work in a safe and healthy environment free from the

dangers of secondhand smoke. We cannot continue to allow casino workers to face these dangers and risk their lives, while every other New Jersey worker is protected from secondhand smoke in the workplace.

Casino workers are not alone in supporting smoke free gaming floors. The New Jersey Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey shows 93 percent of New Jersey adults support restricting smoking in casinos, including three out of four smokers.

Today, I along with many New Jerseyans will enter my workplace, take a deep breath, and be thankful that I do not have to risk my life to work in New Jersey. I hope that in the very near future I will be able to thank my elected officials for their work to protect Atlantic City's casino workers in the same way.

Dr. Poonam Alaigh
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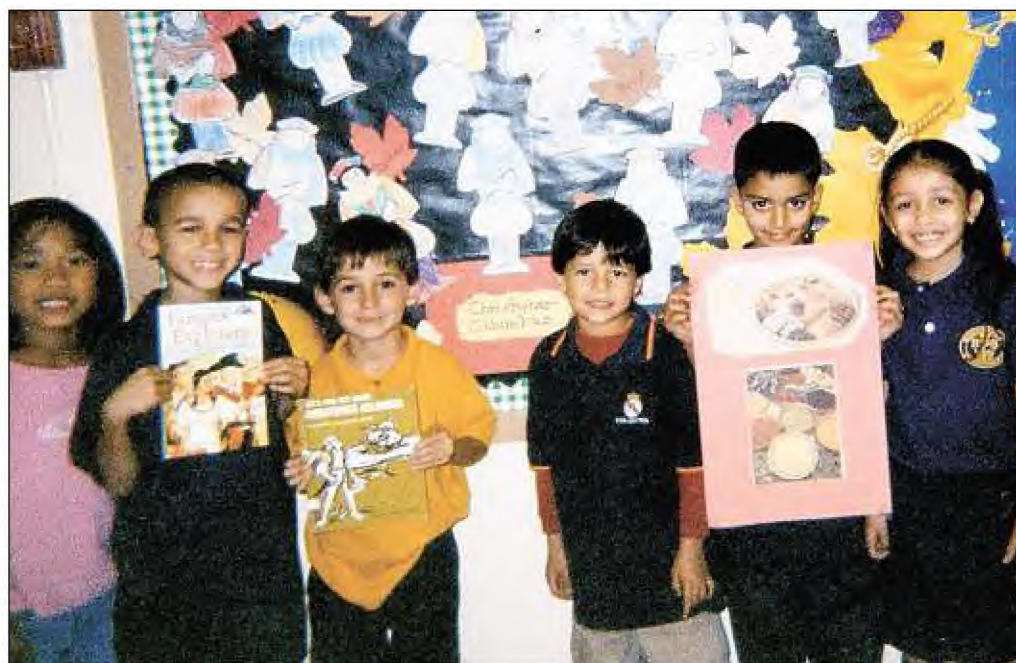


PHOTO COURTESY OF BELLEVILLE SCHOOL 9

REMEMBERING COLUMBUS

The second grade students at Belleville No. 9 School celebrate Christopher Columbus Day with a day of activities. Pictured, from left, are Jehann Dabon, Brandon Sagrista, Pedro Almeida, Emilo Abad, James Dhami and Destiny Figueroa.

Letters to the Editor policy

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High school group has a sound that's irresistible

Did you know that the Belleville High School Irresistibles have been selected to compete in the semi-final round of the International Championship of High School A-cappella.

The group consists of 17 members and was formed two years ago. The director is Jared Moskowitz, who I might add is doing a great job with the group.

If you have never heard them, I suggest you do so. They sing like songbirds. Keep up the good work, kids. Belleville is proud.

Happy Birthday to a mother and son team of Heckel Street. The mom is Katherine Buglione, who celebrated her 89th birthday



LIFE IN SILVER LAKE
CHARLES BURKE

on Nov. 12. Her son, John Buglione celebrated his 45th birthday on Nov. 28.

He is a big help to my wife whenever she calls upon him. If you ever see John marching down Heckel with a notebook in his hand, you can be rest assured he is being summoned by his "boss." He is somewhat like an aide but not officially, but we appreciate

what you do to "aide" my wife.

Now let me wish a sweet young girl named Julie Anne Castro the happiest 12th birthday, which she will celebrate on Dec. 13. Julie Anne is a sixth-grade student at School 4 and a Jr. Buc Cheerleader.

What can you say about this young lady? Well for starters she is 12 going on 20. She has manners, respect and charm and is too cute. Her mom Eva and Grandma Nettie moved here in

the summer from the Ironbound section, and I am happy to report are tenants in my home.

Julie was a bit apprehensive because she left all of her friends behind and entered the sixth grade in September in her new School 4.

Thank god, she did have a "knight in shining armor" named Ronnie Smith of Lake Street who showed her the ropes. I learned that Ronnie and some of his friends walk Julie home from school each day. How cute is that?

Now don't get this wrong,

guys, Julie and Ronnie are "just good friends." We in Silver Lake welcome Julie Ann Castro to our neighborhood.

Don't forget the SLCA Tree Lighting on Saturday, Dec. 13, after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Anthony's. See you at St. Anthony's School Yard, where Father Joe Ferraro will bless Ms. Holly. Thanks to Grace Constantino for all her help.

And remember, we love Silver Lake.

Support for proclamation

Unico National, the nation's largest Italian American service organization, and its Anti Bias Committee have announced that the Congressional Italian American Delegation plans to support a proposed presidential proclamation honoring Italians and Italian Americans each October for their accomplishments and contributions to the United States and the world.

"We thank all individuals that made this possible especially the co-chairs of the Congressional Italian American Delegation, Congressman Bill Pascrell Jr. and Congressman Patrick Tiberi," Unico National President Kathleen Strozza stated. "Unico is so pleased at this positive step in this important effort."

The purpose of the proclamation is:

- To recognize the enormous contributions made by Italians and Italian Americans to the Americas and the world;

- To show appreciation for Ital-

ian and Italian American culture and how it has enriched the lives of the people in this country;

- To make people aware of the many struggles Italian Americans have faced in this country;

- To expose and end the unjust negative stereotyping of Italians and Italian Americans throughout our culture; and

- To allow Italians and Italian Americans to celebrate together and work to promote, protect and preserve their heritage and culture.

Unico National has local chapters throughout the United States. It was founded in Waterbury, Connecticut by Dr. Anthony P. Vastola founded the organization in 1922 in Waterbury, Conn.

Members work to support charitable, educational and service projects while promoting Italian heritage and combating negative stereotyping.

Information on Unico National and membership is available at www.unico.org or by calling the national office at 973-808-0035.

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was "a joke" shows that the judge was "waffling" and it doesn't matter if the threat was merely a county sheriff's officer "being cute." The judge reportedly was told by a sheriff's officer that he should avoid Belleville for fear of being pulled over.

He said a similar situation with a threat being made was not reported, the person went through with the threat and killed the person, and the lawyer who withheld the information was disbarred.

As for talk by the plaintiff's lawyer of a possible settlement, O'Reilly said, "There are always settlement offers. There has been no mention of whether the numbers have gone higher or lower."

After a recent decision by the Superior Court Appellate Division

overturned the township's attempts to have high-ranking police officials taken out of the case, the lawyer for Ehler spoke about the victory and what may happen.

Police Chief Joseph Rotonda, Capt. Nicholas Krentz and the officer at the center of the case, Anthony Weedo, could all stand trial now, Ehler's lawyer, Timothy Alexander, said. He said previously that he could prove in a trial that his client was falsely arrested.

O'Reilly has previously said of Rotonda that for as long as people have known Rotonda, they know he has never covered up anything, and it's very unfortunate that he has been brought into this case.

Speaking generally about the case, he said it is always difficult when it is "he said, she said."

The case took the first of many turns when Belleville Municipal Court Judge Frank Zinna dis-

missed the charges two months after the arrest.

Zinna watched the tape from the video camera mounted on Weedo's squad car and ruled that it did not match Weedo's report.

Rotonda suspended Weedo five days and referred him to a psychiatrist, who found Weedo needed therapy. This was after the county Prosecutor's Office wrote to the town saying that Weedo had previously falsified a different police report. Next, Krentz dismissed Ehler's Internal Affairs claim, saying that Weedo had probable cause to pull Ehler over for two violations.

Rotonda dismissed Ehler's internal affairs complaint in October 2002 after the department had received the Prosecutor's Office report of Weedo's previous false report, according to officials.

Ehler's lawsuit was first filed in 2003, and his lawyer before

Alexander came aboard named both the township and the police department as defendants, which officials said put the plaintiff at a disadvantage. That is because municipalities are shielded from any liability for the willful misconduct of an employee, unless it can be proven that the township and department tolerated the behavior, officials said.

That led to the lawsuit being dismissed by a Superior Court Judge in 2006, with the finding that Belleville could not be held responsible for Weedo and DeRose allegedly engaging in wrongdoing. Superior Court Judge Donald Merkelbach also ruled at that time that it was too late for Ehler's lawyer to add other officers as defendants in the suit.

Next, the appellate division reversed Merkelbach's decision, stating in a written opinion that the actions of the senior police offi-

cials, including Rotonda, could be seen as condoning alleged wrongdoing by Weedo and DeRose, their subordinates.

From there, the appellate panel referred the case back to Superior Court trial court, where a judge ruled in October that Ehler's lawyer could add four others, Rotonda, Krentz, Weedo, DeRose and Canning, as defendants. Belleville attorneys sought to appeal the last decision, but were most recently denied by the Appellate Division, officials confirmed.

Without a settlement, the case could proceed to trial, officials confirmed.

As for the costs of the case for taxpayers, O'Reilly said defending the case may prove to be expensive, but the lawyer for the town doesn't duplicate service, and the town seeks the liability insurance carrier with the best rates, keeping costs as low as possible.

TURF

FROM PAGE 1

Every year, by November, it's in deplorable condition.

"This is way we can have everybody use it, and it won't be destroyed. Plus, we can't afford to spend \$60,000 to \$80,000 to re-sod it every year."

Second Ward Councilman Steven Rovell is also a strong proponent of the plan, as he said in a letter to the editor this week (see page 4). He questioned whether

the field could be done by next season, and Herits said it usually takes until the following year to complete.

Canning said there may also be money left over to help fix the crumbling front wall of the stands at the stadium.

For next year, Canning said the town must put a fence up immediately in the spring after the field is "power seeded" so the grass has a chance to grow for fall 2009. "We need to keep people off until September and make sure no one uses it," he said.

Field house still in limbo

BY RICHARD DICKON
of Belleville Times

While a lot has been done to improve the Municipal Stadium complex, town officials talked at a recent meeting about one project that has yet to move forward.

Township Manager Victor Canning was questioned by resident Vincent Frantantoni about the progress of the field house that is supposed to be built to provide more space for athletes and equipment.

Canning said, "We have all the contracts, but we have yet to start construction."

Frantantoni, a frequent critic of the stadium's condition, said he did not believe that the project had gone before the township Planning Board, as is required.

Canning said that part of the process would have taken place before he was on board, first as assistant township manager then as manager.

"I assume it went before the planning board," he said.

At-Large Councilman Michael Nicosia has been a planning board member. He said, "I think we heard the whole construction package about four years ago." He said that included dugouts for the baseball field, the baseball field and the new concession stand.

The entire process of repairing the substandard stadium has been a maddeningly slow series of mishaps over many years. The varsity baseball and football fields have been repaired well, but the track was sacrificed, giving the track team nowhere to practice after years of having a track that was not good enough to hold home track meets.

A track was to be placed at

'We have all the contracts, but we have yet to start construction.'

Victor Canning
Township Manager

Belleville Park through a cooperative effort with county officials, but that has never materialized. Volunteers, led by Vincent Strumolo Sr., have built new lockers in the stadium, however, and repaired much of the damage to the bathrooms and concession stands.

The previous council was considering legal action against the contractor and engineering firm that was paid to repair Municipal Stadium, but concessions were made that lessened the need for protracted litigation.

The work that was supposed to be done, some previous council members said, was not done properly.

Officials later said the firms involved have taken steps to improve conditions at the stadium, agreeing to move light poles, and making modifications to playing fields.

The project cost about \$3 million, some from state grant money, some through local bond ordinances.

Money was withheld from the contractor pending the investigation.

Officials analyzed whether any action could be taken against the contractor, Marcellus Warner or the engineering firm, Schoor DePalma.

No legal action has been completed however.



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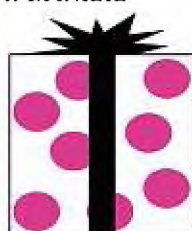
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8 Christ Episcopal collecting old ornaments for library tree

Christ Episcopal Church, located at 393 Washington Ave. in Belleville, is collecting donations of old glass Christmas tree ornaments for use in the decoration of this year's Holiday Tree at the Belleville Public Library in Belleville. Fathers Paul Walker and Randy Webster decorate the

library's tree each year, and this year they wish to use antique or old glass ornaments.

Persons wishing to make donations should know that the ornaments will not be able to be returned to the donors. Donors also need to know that the ornaments must be brought to Christ

Church for keeping until the tree is ready to be displayed, because the library does not have sufficient space for their storage.

Christ Church is an inclusive community church in the Anglican tradition. For more information, call the church at 973-751-0616.

Unico sponsoring Taj Mahal trip

Belleville Unico is sponsoring a bus ride to the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City.

There will be continental breakfast at 8 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Piano's, formerly Hathaway's, 36 Broad St. in Bloomfield. The bus departs at 8:50 a.m.

A donation of \$30 per person includes tips, \$25 coin return and \$10 food coupon.

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Holiday shopping hours are Monday through Saturday, with Thursday and Friday late nights until 9. Some stores are open on Sunday. Nutley Olde Towne Centre is conveniently located at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Passaic Avenue, with ample free street parking as well as the Knights of Columbus parking lot.

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The Glen Ridge Choral Society is presenting a program of favorite Christmas selections in a candlelit setting on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. at Glen Ridge Congregational Church. The concert features handbells, a brass quartet, percussion and organ with audience participation. Glen Ridge Congregational Church is located at 195 Ridgewood Ave., Glen Ridge. A free-will offering will be taken. For more information, call 973-743-5596.



ATLANTIC CITY

By Ellen Burke Rawls



002486303-01

Kenny Rogers appears at the Taj, Cheech & Chong reunite at Borgata

Legendary superstar Kenny Rogers and his band Lof Merry Makers have hit the road again with Kenny's highly acclaimed traditional Christmas & Hits Tour, and will be making a stop in AC for two shows this weekend at the Taj Mahal's Mark G. Etes Arena. The annual tour is now in its 27th year, making it one of the longest running and most popular Christmas tours in history. The consummate entertainer will once again brighten up the holidays with his own interpretation of holiday classics, sprinkled with many of the biggest hits that his audiences demand at each live performance.

Always a highly anticipated treat for the whole family, the production will feature performances of traditional and original holiday songs from Rogers, many selected from his numerous Christmas recordings. His engagement at the Taj this weekend will also feature the Oakcrest High School Select Choir, from Mays Landing, NJ. Some 50 students, ranging from 14 to 18 years, will accompany Kenny on several selections during the performance.

Rogers, the only artist to chart a record in each of the last six decades with more than 70 hit singles across various music genres, as topped the country and pop album charts for more than 420 individual weeks in the United States alone. Fans at the Taj will also be treated to Kenny's live in-person performance of several of his classic hits, such as "The Gambler," "Lady," "Islands In The Stream" and "Buy Me A Rose."

Showtimes at the Taj are Friday at 9 p.m. and Saturday at 8 p.m. Doors open at the Arena one hour prior to show time. Tickets are \$60, \$40 and \$25.

Brit rockers Duran Duran, one of the most commercially successful of the New Wave bands in the MTV-driven "Second British Invasion" of the US, now come to House of Blues at Showboat. Following an unprecedented 10-show run on Broadway and the release of a much lauded studio album, the group is adding an addendum to their Red Carpet Massacre Tour, in a year-end series of intimate concerts at venues bypassed in their 50-some date North American and European run earlier this year.

Since the 1980s they have placed 21 singles in the Billboard Hot 100 and 14 in the Top 10 of the UK Singles Charts, and have sold more than 70 million records. Some of the band's hit singles from the 1980s include, "Girls on Film," "Rio," "Hungry Like the Wolf," "Save a Prayer," "Notorious," and the

James Bond theme "A View to a Kill." In the early 1990s, the band released, "Ordinary World" and "Come Undone." More recent hits include "Sunrise" and "What Happens Tomorrow," and "Falling Down" from their 2007 album, Red Carpet Massacre.

The band's enduring popularity, based on their very individualized funk-infused sound, has been filling arenas across two continents, and the date at House of Blues Music Hall offers a rare up-close-and-personal experience for old and new fans alike. Showtime is Saturday at 10 p.m., doors open at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$72-\$67 balcony and \$57 general admission.

Iconic comedy duo Cheech & Chong have at last reunited, and launched their first tour in 25 years, which will take them to Borgata for a pair of shows at the intimate Music Box theater at 8 and 11 p.m. this Saturday. Successful beyond their wildest dreams, Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong defined an era with their hilariously irreverent, satirical, counter-culture, no-holds-barred comedy routines for over a decade following their discovery at L.A.'s famed Troubadour in 1970. The pot-loving duo were all at once movie stars, comedians and rock stars, opening for the likes of the Rolling Stones and sharing a stage with Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band.

After their contentious parting in the '80s, the pair had made several abortive attempts to resume their partnership, further deterred by Tommy Chong's 2003 drug bust and 9-month prison term. At long last their 'Light up America' trek, launched in September this year, has produced a series of sellouts across the nation. The two Borgata dates with tickets priced at a modest \$60, sold out as soon as the shows were announced, but the demand continues, and the prized ducats are reselling on E-Bay and around town for wildly inflated prices. Fans are obviously anxious to see if their idols can recapture the lightning in a bottle which began on the standup comedy circuit and led to 9 hit comedy albums and 8 smash films, breaking box office records, shattering comedy album sales, garnering multiple

Grammy nominations and fans worldwide for more than a decade. The tour was given a further boost with the guys' November comedy roast hosted by Brad Garrett and filmed at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas during The Comedy Festival for airing on TBS.

Special Advertising Feature

Hillside Café to 'open its doors'

The Hillside Café, a non-profit music venue in Nutley devoted to acoustic music, is celebrating Advent and Christmas with "doorjam" on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

The band is comprised of Vicky Chalk and Jainine Gambaro of Nutley on vocals; Linda Ribaudo of Bloomfield on vocals and percussion; Joe Ribaudo, also of Bloomfield, on vocals, bass guitar, mandolin and percussion; Jill Fenske of Pompton Plains on vocals; and Martin Williams, also from Pompton Plains, on rhythm guitar. The six musicians' unique arrangements and four-part, unusual vocal harmonies shape its trademark sound.

doorjam (always spelled lowercase) was formed in 1994 from music leaders of a contemporary worship service known as "a different door." Difficult to define musically, doorjam's original music reflects its members' diverse musical backgrounds and springs from group writing projects. Each member's personal experiences with traditional church music, gospel, madrigals, folk music, rock music, "show" music and even marching band come together to form the distinctive "doorjam sound." Best described as contemporary folk music, these diverse influences find their way into doorjam's original music, as well as music the group covers.

Performing as far and wide as the places their small fleet of mini-

vans will take them, doorjam has performed for local and regional church concerts, worship services, retreats and special events, as well as secular community gatherings and outdoor music festivals. doorjam has performed three years in a row at the New Jersey Red Cross Telethon (broadcast from Princeton) and recently concluded its seventh summer as part of the Ocean Grove Gospel Music Series.

New to the repertoire is the original "A Pilgrim's Psalm," a contemporary oratorio for Holy Week. Focused on events in the Bible that begin with Palm Sunday and end at the empty tomb on Easter morning, the piece aims to bring the story to life in a contemporary musical form.

doorjam is providing a light supper after the concert as a thank-you to friends and patrons for their continued support.

The Hillside Café is located at 45 Hillside Crescent, at the corner of Church and Prospect streets, in the Franklin Reformed Church community room.

Admission is a free will offering (all monies will be donated to the church). Reservations are suggested for groups of four or more.

Childcare is available by reservation, and the café is handicapped accessible.

For information or reservations, call 973-667-7022 or visit the Web site www.hillsidecafe.com.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

For the answer to this week's puzzle, turn to the classified section.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREGORY ALLEN

Yates Musical Theatre performers are ready to try their hand at a time-honored holiday classic.

'Christmas Carol' for one night only

Bloomfield College has been presenting its Family Series on Saturday mornings at the Westminster Arts Center for the past two seasons. The company-in-residence that brings this series to life is Bloomfield's own Yates Musical Theatre: a family-run, professional equity theatre company that has existed for over 50 years.

Yates will perform "A Christmas Carol" on Friday, Dec. 12 (tomorrow) at 7:30 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol" is a musical adaptation of the tale of the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, who hates Christmas until ghosts take him on a journey into the past, the present and the future...into the lives of his poor office clerk, Bob Cratchit and the crippled, cheerful Tiny Tim. Yates Musical Theatre brings these unforgettable characters from the page to the stage, adds a melodious score and wraps it all up in a beautiful holiday present of a production: a heart warming theatre experience intended to help put everyone in a holiday spirit.

All performances are held at the Robert V. Van Fossan Theatre, located on the corner of Franklin and Freemont streets. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children. To reserve tickets, call 973-748-9008, ext. 279 or purchase online at the Web site www.bloomfield.edu/westminster. The show has a 7:30 p.m. early start time and runs without intermission, ending before 9 p.m.

Classic reading set

The holiday classic "It's a Wonderful Life" will come alive Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the NLT Barn with a staged reading by Nutley Little Theatre's (NLT's) Reader's Theater group. For more information, call 973-667-0374 or visit the Web site www.nutleylittletheatre.com.

Chorus of Communities to perform

The Chorus of Communities, a Belleville-based choir, will perform G.F. Handel's Christmas selection of "The Messiah" and additional music this holiday season. This 19th annual holiday concert is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. at the Church of St. Peter, William Street, Belleville.

The concert will feature a traditional congregation sing-a-long and other specially arranged songs. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. Tickets may be obtained from participating churches and/or chorus members or by calling 973-615-0737. Ticket prices at the door are \$15 for

adults and \$12 for seniors and students.

The chorus' new director is William Buthod (pronounced Beau-toe), whose youth and experience has brightened all of the rehearsals. Buthod, as an organist and choir director, recently returned from a two-year music study at the American Cathedral in Paris, France.

He also serves as artist-in-residence at the Church of Holy Trinity (Episcopal) in New York City and minister of music at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church of Brooklyn. He is a composer and arranger, as well as a player in his

own New York Jazz combo.

The chorus, initially under the direction of founders Revs. William and Nancy Moore, debuted in 1990 under sponsorship of the Ministerial Alliance of Belleville. It held its first concert at the Church of St. Peter, where it returns for an encore this season. Tickets are already on sale, and initial sales are projecting a near sellout crowd.

The chorus is known for its impressive soloists, drawn mostly from singers who perform in New York City.

Some of the chorus's past soloists have gone on to debut at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

Benefit concert planned at Park United Methodist Church

The Park Church Handbell Ringers and friends, under the direction of Nutley composer and pianist Mark Schiffert, are giving a Christmas benefit concert on Friday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Park United Methodist Church (PUMC), 12 Park St., Bloomfield.

The concert will feature Christmas music with handbells and original compositions on solo piano by Schiffert.

Special guest appearances involving harpsichord, piano, guitar and vocals are also planned. The concert will benefit the church's "Build-a-Village" mission project and the bell choir ministry at PUMC.

There is a suggested contribu-

tion of \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors and \$1 for children under age 12. Refreshments will be served.

For directions, visit the PUMC Web site parkumcbloomfield.org or call the church office at 973-429-7745.

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Good News The Salvation Army of Montclair's

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All proceeds from this event will provide free after-school care for low-income children in Montclair.

Sponsored by Frankosi Construction and The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation

ARRIVAL



Logan Gabriel Lotito

A second child, a son, Logan Gabriel, was born to Beatrice and Joshua Lotito, of Lincoln Park, on Nov. 7, 2008. The birth weight was 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and he was 21.5 inches long. He joins his sister Leila, 2.

Grandparents are Bernie and Andrei Prisecaru of Parsippany, and Suzanne and John Lotito of Lincoln Park. Great-grandparents are Dot and Joe Veronesi of Clifton, and Nancy and John Lotito of Nutley.

Great-great grandmother is Helga DeBellis, of Jersey City.



Max Oliver Fleischer

A child, a son, Max Oliver, was born to Gordana and Rich Fleischer, of Glen Ridge, on Nov. 7, 2008, 10:30 a.m. at St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston. He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Grandparents are Sandy and Leonard Fort of Pennsylvania and Tereza Besednik of Croatia.

ANNIVERSARY



Lia and Thomas Crocco 5th wedding anniversary

Lia and Thomas Crocco, of Nutley, celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary by con-validating their vows at Holy Family Church, Nutley, on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008, in front of close family

and friends. A celebration followed at their new home in Nutley.

The couple has two children, Joseph Carmine, 4, and Luciana Janelle, 1.

Please send Birthday Club info to Debbie Tripoldi

Because of the large number of pictures sent in, the Birthday Club is only able to accept pictures of children who actually live in the four towns of Belleville, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge and Nutley. The popularity of the page has made this restriction necessary. Sorry, there can be no exceptions to this directive.

Info and pictures should be sent to Debbie Tripoldi, NJMG, 90 Centre St., Nutley, NJ 07110, or dropped off at our office. Her

phone number is 973 667-2100. Her email address is tripoldi@northjersey.com. Pictures will be accepted of children from one to 12 years. Sending the info to anyone else only delays things.

Announcements and pictures for "Arrivals" should be sent to tripoldi@northjersey.com. Her direct line is 973 667-2100. Same mailing address as above.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Shelter needs volunteers

The John A. Bukowski Shelter for Animals, Bloomfield is desperately in need of volunteers (18 years and older), particularly for the cats it shelters – especially

cleaning and feeding on weekend mornings. Please call if you can help. Any amount of time is welcome. For more information call (973) 748-0194.

Keep these numbers

Self Help Clearing House	Adult Protective Services
1-800-367-6274	973 673-6366
Poison Control	Social Security
1-800-962-1253	1-800-772-1213
Animal Poison Control	Surrogate's Office
1-800-548-2423	973 621-4908
Animal Shelter	Sen. Menendez
973 259-0016	973 645-3030
DYFS	Sen. Lautenberg
1-800-331-3937	973 639-8700
Div. on Aging	County Exec.
973 395-8375	973 621-4400

HOPING FOR A HOME



At just a couple of months old, Frankie is looking forward to celebrating her first Christmas. Even at this very young age, Frankie is a people-oriented cat. She craves attention and affection from the volunteers and is very vocal if she's ignored. Loving, playful, affectionate and adorable all rolled into this tiny package of a kitty. Do you know of someone who would love to wake up and find Frankie beneath his or her tree this Christmas? For more info on Frankie, visit the John A. Bukowski Shelter for Animals or call 973-748-0194.



Patton wants a loving home for Christmas. That's it - just a loving home. Words cannot describe what a wonderful dog Patton is. Just about a year old, he has lots of playful energy and is full of fun. An easy-going guy, Patton is the main model for the shelter's holiday dog costumes. He would be the perfect dog for anyone who loves to "dress up" their pets for the holidays or for those who are addicted to entering their pet's pictures in photo contests. Patton is a sure winner in every way. Stop by the John Bukowski Shelter and see what a handsome guy Patton is without a costume.

U.S. Navy seaman graduates from Coast Guard Recruit Training Center

U.S. Navy Seaman Vincent I. Padula, son of Pilar M. Colandro of Whippany and Charlie F. Padula of Belleville, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May.

During the eight-week training program, he completed a vigorous

training curriculum consisting of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship.

A major emphasis was also placed on physical fitness, health


and wellness.

Padula and other recruits also received instruction on the Coast Guard's core values - honor, respect and devotion to duty - and how to apply them in their military performance and personal conduct.

He will join 36,000 other men and women who comprise Coast Guard's force.

Men and women train together from the first day in the Coast Guard just as they do aboard ships and shore units throughout the world. To reinforce the team con-

cept, Padula, and other recruits were trained in preventing sexual harassment, drug and alcohol awareness, civil rights training and the basics of the work-life balance, as well as quality management.



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BHS FOOTBALL

Four Bucs earn first team honors

BY MIKE LAMBERTI
for Belleville Times

For the second straight season, the Belleville varsity football team put together a .500 record.

Big deal, you might say? Well, consider this. The last time the program compiled two seasons of .500, or better football, was during the first Reagan Administration. Another words, the last time it happened was in 1984, when the Buccaneers finished 6-4 for the team's seventh straight winning season. Since then, Belleville finished at .500, or better in 1986 (6-3), 1990 (6-3) and 1993 (4-4-1) before last year's 5-5 mark, which, of course, was followed by a similar effort this fall.

For Belleville coach Chris Strumolo, the season was significant for him in many ways. This was Strumolo's first year as a head coach after a decade of serving as an assistant at Seton Hall Prep, Nutley and Newark Weequahic. In leading Belleville to a 5-5 mark this year, Strumolo matched Tom Testa's 1974 and Rocco Caffone's 1970 campaign as first year coaches with five wins at Belleville. Testa's '74 team was 5-4, but that was also Testa's second tenure as coach. Caffone was also 5-4 in '70 in his first year at the helm.

But Strumolo did something that neither Testa nor Caffone were able to do in their first season. Strumolo guided Belleville to a win over Nutley. So, it may be safe to say that Strumolo is the most successful first-year head football coach at Belleville in nearly a half century.

"It was obviously a good way to end the season," Strumolo said of Belleville's 22-12 win over the Raiders this past Thanksgiving. "The kids deserve the credit, as well as my coaching staff."

Strumolo found the campaign to be a learning experience in his coaching career.

"I had a good starting point because I worked with some very good head coaches," Strumolo said. "When I decided I wanted to be a head coach, I spoke with them and they gave me some good advice. Coming to Belleville was certainly a good thing, because I was able to work with a great group of kids. I learned there's a lot more to do in the head coaching position and that's something that will help me next year as a coach. You have to grow in the position and want to get better every year."

On the field, Belleville was well represented by All-NNJIL players. Nick Herrmann, James Colson, Brian Antonio and Vinny Wolf were named first team, all league. Herrmann, a junior, was outstanding. He accounted for 17 touchdowns, with seven scoring receptions, three rushing tallies, four

scoring passes, one kickoff return, one fumble recovery and one interception return for a score.

Herrmann recorded 96 tackles from his linebacker position and was named first team for his defensive play.

Herrmann may have saved his best game for Thanksgiving when he passed for over 200 yards with two touchdown passes and a pair of two-point conversion throws. He also led the defense with 14 tackles, intercepted a pass and ran for a key first down out of punt formation, deep in his own territory, late in the first half.

Colson, also a junior, was named first team for his play at wide receiver. It's been a long time since Belleville has had a standout receiver who can make plays like Colson did this year. His defense was also superb.

Antonio, a senior, was noted for his work on the defensive line. Strumolo often said that Belleville's line play was keyed by Antonio's performance. A very good student, Antonio is hopeful of playing college ball in 2009.

Wolf earned all league for his play at tight end and the senior certainly did the job in the game that mattered most, against Nutley. Wolf, a senior, caught a touchdown pass and later a two-point conversion toss, along with making some key catches and playing solid defense.

Seniors Chris Judge (quarterback), Doug Richardson (defensive back), Jovan Douglas (defensive line) and Dan Grosch (offensive line) were named second team, all league. Honorable Mention accolades went to seniors Anthony Silletti and Ed Feliciano.

"We had a deserving group of all league players," Strumolo said. "I give Judge a lot of credit for his play at quarterback. This was his first year at the position and he did a good job of managing the game."

Next season will certainly have a different look, beginning with the schedule. Nutley, Bloomfield, Barringer and Newark East Side will be back on the slate, but the Bucs will face new teams next fall in West Essex of North Caldwell, Columbia of Maplewood, Millburn and Shabazz. A ninth opponent, which will probably be the opening day assignment in 2009, has yet to be determined, but Strumolo is hoping it will be a Group 4 school.

While Strumolo knows that the 2009 season isn't that far away, he wanted to commend his current group of players one more time.

"I liked the way our team developed throughout the year," Strumolo said.

"Overall, I couldn't be happier with the way the season progressed. The kids worked hard and listened to the coaches and it turned out pretty good for us."

BHS CROSS COUNTRY

Khan, Valentin, Victorio named to all league team

BY MIKE LAMBERTI
for Belleville Times

The Belleville cross-country teams had a good season in 2008. The boys team finished with a 4-7 mark and finished fifth in the league and 13th in the county championships. The girls had their best season since 2003 and finished 5-6. The team was fifth in the league and 12th at the county championships.

Junior Zeeshaw Khan earned first team, All NNJIL honors and second team county accolades. He finished seventh at the Ridgewood Invitational and won the Quad City Invitational. At the Essex County championships, Khan earned a medal while running a solid 16:49, an improvement of nearly a minute over last year's county race at Brookdale Park in Bloomfield.

Alexander Valentin, a junior, won a medal at the Ridgewood Invitational and was named second team, all league.

Sophomores Bryon Cure, Ter-

rance Boyce, Jeffrey Chacon and Jared Clark all garnered medals at Ridgewood. Cure also earned Honorable Mention, all league honors.

Freshmen Anthony Avion and Justin Colon also contributed to the team's success, with Colon winning a medal at the county freshman race.

For the girls, Adriana Tandazo, a senior, battled injuries but came through with a very good season. Sophomore Crissabel Victorio earned NNJIL Honorable Mention accolades. She won a medal at the Ridgewood Invitational and her 22:04 at the county championships set a new Belleville sophomore girls record.

Juniors Rhea Nigli, Sherry Tirgrath, Christine Avila, Christina Colon and Yanil Delgado also had solid campaigns.

"Yanil was one the most improved runners on the team this season," Belleville coach Scott Herman said. Delgado improved her times significantly, taking nearly five minutes off her 2007

personal best at Darlington Park and three minutes off her personal best at the counties in Brookdale Park.

In addition to Victorio, the sophomore class featured Nichole Benavides and Melissa Miele while a strong freshman class consisted of Mary Diaz, Kristy Bono, Stephanie Carrasquillo, Jamie Bono, Stephanie Tran and Vivian Do Nascimento. Diaz finished eight at the league freshman championship race. Her time of 15:08 broke Joyce Luongo's 24-year-old Belleville mark by 10 seconds. Tran medaled at the league championships and ran a 26:25 in the county race.

"We have some very talented kids returning next year," Herman said of both the boys and girls teams. "I was very happy with the way the kids progressed this season."

Most of the runners will take their talents to the indoor team, which begins invitational competition in a few weeks.

BHS WRESTLING

New-look Bucs prep for season

BY MIKE LAMBERTI
for Belleville Times

When we last saw the Belleville wrestling team, Filiberto Colon was standing on the medal podium at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City for the third time in his illustrious career.

Colon finished his career with a 156-14 record, good for second all time in state history for wins. His 112 pins ranked first, all time, in the stated.

That was last March. Colon is now a freshman at Rider University where his wrestling career is continuing on the Division 1 level. Also graduated from last year's team was James Soprano, who ranks second, all time, in Belleville history in victories with 140.

With 296 wins between two of Belleville's best wrestlers having been graduated, coach Joe Nisivoccia isn't making any bold predictions about the upcoming season.

"We're young and inexperienced," Nisivoccia, in his 30th season at Belleville and 24th as head coach, said. "We've got some really good kids here who listen and are working hard, but a lot of them have never wrestled before and it's going to take time."

Belleville opens the regular season on Dec. 20 with a quad match

at Newark Academy of Livingston, which also includes Rutgers Prep of Somerset and Montclair.

The Bucs will also compete at the Middletown South Holiday Tournament on Dec. 27 before beginning a league schedule in early December.

The junior varsity wrestlers will be at a tournament on Edison to start their season on Dec. 20.

Among the returning wrestlers for Belleville are James Murguetyio (103, or 112 pounds), Nick Cuevas (125 or 130) and Louis Olivera (119, 125 or 130).

Another senior, Simeon Kanafo, who did not wrestle last year, is competing for a spot at 160 or 171 pounds.

A large freshman class gives Nisivoccia hope for building the program over the long haul.

"We have 16 freshman out for the team, which is really good," the coach said. "About six of them have good wrestling experience from the recreation level, and that is a good start. Of course, it's a big difference when you get to high school. We practice nearly three hours a day, six days a week. It's a big step for a young kid."

Two freshmen could start the season on the varsity level. Justin Colon, Filiberto's brother, has looked good at 103 and 112

pounds while Joe Anello could compete anywhere from 135 to 145 pounds.

"Justin is a talented wrestler," Nisivoccia said. "I'm not going to compare him to his brother because that's not fair and kids are different. He has the potential to be good. I also like what I've seen from Anello so far, as well. We'll know a lot more about these young kids in February than what we'll see now."

With so many young wrestlers, Nisivoccia hopes to get a lot of them experience at the J.V. tournament next Saturday in Edison.

"They need to get work and putting them on the varsity right away wouldn't be fair," the coach said. "Mat time is key for them."

Anthony Conte and Corey Woodring are on Nisivoccia's coaching staff this year. This is Conte's fifth year as a coach while Woodring is new to the Belleville staff.

"Anthony does a great job with the kids," Nisivoccia said of the former wrestling great, the last Belleville grappler to win a gold medal at the state championships. "And Corey knows the sport and has done a good job."

Jennifer Hemsley will be the team's manager for a fourth straight season.

Big Mike got it right; AFW and winter sports



**BUC
SHOTS**
MIKE LAMBERTI

Big Mike Dowd has been a staple in our township for many years. An avid sports fan, Big Mike had written me before the Belleville-Nutley football game last week saying he thought the Bucs would win it. While it wasn't a Joe Namath-type of guaranty, Big Mike was pretty confident his Bucs would win and he turned out to be right.

Big Mike also wanted to remind everyone that Mike Chieffo will be doing his usual animated Christmas display on Saturday. Chieffo is also collecting unwrapped toys for the children of the late Kenneth Santucci, the Belleville police officer who died tragically in the line of duty this past September.

Chieffo is one of the nicest people I've ever met, with a heart the size of a city block and he'll do a great job, once again, with the Christmas animations. Under the category of the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, Chieffo's dad, Mike Sr., was indeed a class act who we lost way too soon.

I got a note from Belleville High

crew coach Gail Lahm, who is a member of an organization called Adventures for Women (AFW), a nonprofit organization that encourages women of diverse backgrounds and ages to explore the outdoors, whether it be hiking in the woods, climbing mountains, strolling city streets, biking along rural paths or kayaking.

AFW offers instructional and practical workshops in paddling, orienteering, firearms handling, backpacking and lifelong fitness, all in a noncompetitive environment. Members enjoy weekend trips to the Adirondacks, Shawangunks and the Catskills. It provides a forum for adventure and camaraderie with other women who share what they have learned.

A few women from Belleville are members and Lahm wanted to get the word out that AFW is indeed an interesting and fulfilling organization. For more information, visit www.adventuresforwomen.org, call 973-644-3592 or email contactus@adventuresforwomen.org.

Can you believe that Christmas is just two weeks away? Unreal. Anyway, full coverage of the winter sports season at Belleville High begins next week. We also have some interesting feature stories coming your way during the holiday season. Stay tuned.

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Montclair

Yankee Pepitone to headline Fifth Annual Robert Luongo ALS Fund Dinner

The Fifth Annual Robert Luongo ALS Fund Dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009, at Nanina's in the Park. This year's celebrity guest speaker will be former New York Yankee All-Star first baseman Joe Pepitone. "I'm very excited about having Pepitone, he was one of the heroes from my first Yankees team. Man-

tle, Maris Pepitone, Boyer, Richardson, that" where it all began for me," said Phil Cuzzi, founder of the Robert Luongo Fund. "Each year it's become a welcome challenge of how can we top this?" Cuzzi refers to the impressive list of guest speakers that the dinner has attracted during the past

four years. Personalities such as middleweight boxing champion Jake LaMotta, Soprano's star Steve Sharippa (Bobby Bacala), comedian "Uncle" Floyd Vivino, Major League Baseball umpire Bruce Froemming and Hall of Fame Manager Tommy Lasorda, who have all entertained sold-out crowds.

"The support has been unbelievable, we've had over 500 attendees every year at Nanina's for what's turned out to be a wonderful reunion like atmosphere of our community coming together for a great cause." The Brooklyn-born Pepitone was signed by the Yankees in 1958 and broke into the lineup after four

years of playing in the minor leagues in 1962. He was a three-time American League All-Star selection, 1963, 1964 and 1965, and a three-time Gold Glove Award winner, 1965, 1966 and 1969. Pepitone had an 11-year career playing with the Yankees,

SEE LUONGO, PAGE 28



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2000 CHEVROLET SILVERADO Red, auto trans, 8 cyl, p/s, p/b, air, 97,396 miles. VIN#9YF454612. Utility body.	\$4,995	2007 JEEP LIBERTY Black, auto trans, 6 cyl, p/s, abs, p/b, air, p/mirrs, p/windows, p/locks, CD player, tint. 16,907 miles. VIN# 7W512873	\$16,995
2002 Chevrolet Avalanche White, auto trans, 8 cyl, p/s, abs, p/b, air, p/mirrs, p/windows, p/seats, p/locks, keyless entry, rr. defr., dual air bags, CD plyr, tint. 65,732 miles. VIN#26290913	\$13,995	2007 DODGE RAM 1500 Gray, auto trans, 8 cyl, p/s, abs, p/b, air, p/windows, p/locks, dual air bags, 4X4, 8,677 miles. VIN#75572482	\$16,995
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2007 Chev Malibu LT Gray, auto trans, 6 cyl, p/s, abs, p/b, air, p/windows, p/locks, keyless entry, dual airbags, bucket seats, CD plyr, tint. 31,161 miles. VIN#7F298325	\$10,995	2004 CHEVY CORVETTE COUPE Blue, Spd. Man., 8 cyl, p/s, abs, p/b, air, p/mirrs, p/windows, p/seats, p/locks, keyless entry, dual airbags, bucket sts, CD plyr, leather, navigation, rear camera. 36,282 miles. VIN #45104494	\$28,995
2006 CHEVROLET COBALT LS Black, auto trans, 4 cyl, p/s, p/b, air, dual air bags, CD plyr, 31,483 miles. VIN# 78610086	\$9,995	2006 CHEV G-20 EXPRESS VAN White, auto trans, 6 cyl, air, dual air bags, Am/Fm, 38,490 miles. VIN#61256836	\$16,995
2008 CHEV IMPALA White, auto trans, 6 cyl, p/s, p/b, air, p/windows, p/seats, p/locks, dual airbags, bucket sts, CD plyr, tint. 22,451 miles. VIN # 89170541	\$15,995	2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER EX Gray 7 pass., auto trans, 6 cyl, p/s, abs, p/b, air, p/windows, p/seats, p/locks, dual air bags, CD plyr, tint. Extended 4X4, 30,215 miles. VIN #46156015	\$16,995

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VETERANS DAY

Attending the Belleville Veterans Day Parade are, front row, Mrs. Gencarelli, Belleville Middle School parent; Jessica Jacho of School 9; Victoria Bruno of School 7; Jimmy Rodriguez of School 9; Mrs. Roselli, School 7 parent. Back row: Nanette Rotonda, school 9 principal; parents Diane Bruno and Erika Jacho.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BELLEVILLE SCHOOLS



Network donations sought for party

The Northwest Essex Community Healthcare Network is seeking donations for its annual Consumer Holiday Party, which will be held Tuesday, Dec. 23.

To contribute, send checks payable to NECHN, 570 Belleville Ave., Belleville, NJ 07109.

For more information, call Arlene Szulimowski at 973-744-7733, ext. 128.

BELLEVILLE TIMES THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008 17

Advertising Section HEALTH AND FITNESS

Group suggests taking care of your feet this winter

Of the 16 million Americans with diabetes, 25 percent will develop foot problems related to the disease. Diabetic foot conditions develop from a combination of causes including poor circulation and neuropathy.

Diabetic Neuropathy can cause insensitivity or a loss of ability to feel pain, heat and cold. Diabetics suffering from neuropathy can

develop minor cuts, scrapes, blisters or pressure sores that they may not be aware of due to the insensitivity.

If these minor injuries are left untreated, complications may result and lead to ulceration and possibly even amputation. Neuropathy can also cause deformities such as Bunions, Hammer Toes and Charcot Feet.

In the winter months take special

precautions. Wear wool socks and protective foot gear, such as fleece lined boots.

See your podiatric physician regularly and be sure to have your feet examined at each visit. Any questions can be submitted to Podiatry Associates of Belleville, 155 Belleville Ave., Belleville, NJ 07109, 973-450-0878.

Sparkles provides tasty treatments for tots' teeth

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Sparkles, 76 Bellevue Ave. in Montclair, is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays from noon to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m.

to 1 p.m. It is open for orthodontic work from 1 to 7 p.m. Mondays.

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18 Foundation offers scholarships

The Joseph E. Enright Foundation is offering scholarships for students who are pursuing a field in healthcare including but not limited to nursing, radiology, medical and pharmacology. Students who reside in Central to Northern New Jersey are encouraged to apply. The scholarships further the Joseph E. Enright Foundation's mission to provide "Health Through Education". The Foundation also sponsors a health lecture series offered to the general public as well as Continuing Medical Education Programs for physicians, nurses and other health professionals. Each scholarship award is \$1,000. A short essay starting what the applicant is studying and why the applicant chose a career in healthcare should accompany each application. Additional information and applications can be printed from www.josephenrightfoundation.org. The deadline is Dec. 31.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BELLEVILLE SCHOOL NO. 9

UNDERWATER CREATURES

Students from Belleville School No. 9's second grade classes visit Petco's aquarium.

ESSEX COUNTY

Economy blamed for budget gap

Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr. recently announced that the county is facing a \$105 million deficit in its 2009 preliminary budget. He said he plans to bridge the gap by reducing budget requests and proposing a plan to stabilize salaries and have union represented employees pay more for medical benefits and prescriptions. The initial budget request of \$733 million maintains current staffing levels and programs, and does not include new initiatives. The \$105 million budget deficit includes an increase of about \$72 million in salaries and operating costs and approximately \$33 million in revenue shortfalls. The \$72 million increase in salaries and operating costs represent a 10.8 percent hike over last year's \$662.2 million budget. In 2009, medical and prescription drug plans for employees are anticipated to increase by \$4.2 million, pension costs will rise about \$6.5 million and utility costs will increase about \$3.5 million. Current projections place 2009 revenues at about \$630 million, which is about \$33 million or about 5 percent less than 2008. Because of the foreclosure crisis, revenues collected by the Register's Office have fallen by \$4.5 million from 2007 and a total of \$8.8 million since 2006. In addition, the county saw a \$2.2 million loss in interest on investments due to the weakened financial markets. DiVincenzo recommends freezing all salaries for 2009 and have the approximately 3,600 employees represented by unions pay a portion of their medical benefits and prescription drug costs. This will reduce the county's health insurance and prescription drug costs, which are anticipated to increase by \$4.2 million in 2009, he said. The 123 unclassified and non-union employees began paying for their medical benefits and prescriptions in January 2008. "We are experiencing very challenging economic times," DiVincenzo said.

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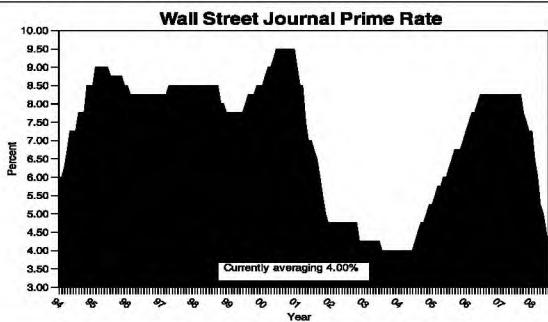
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Advertising Section

Real Estate MARKETPLACE

Council tables delinquent charge

BY RICHARD DICKON
of Belleville Times

With so many residents facing money problems because of the economic downturn, an ordinance to add a 6 percent extra charge on delinquent taxes was tabled so that officials could determine if the move was placing too unfair a burden on property owners.

At the Nov. 25 public council meeting, resident Vincent Frantantoni said he understood that residents are already being charged a late fee percentage in the high teens, and adding another 6 percent might be too much and unfair. "These are tough economic times," he said. "You have good people struggling to make it, and this would just add on top of that."

After officials could not determine exactly how much of a penalty struggling property owners would face under the resolution, the Township Council voted to table the resolution until a determination is made.

The resolution "authorizes an additional interest penalty of six percent on delinquent municipal charges unpaid to the end of the calendar year 2008," as allowed by state statute.

The statute defines a delinquency as "the sum of all taxes and municipal charges due on a given parcel or property covering any

number of quarters or years. The governing body may fix a penalty to be charged to any taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000 who fails to pay this delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year. The penalty, as fixed, would not exceed six percent of the amount of the delinquency."

According to tabled resolution, the township now has an existing resolution in place that provides for the rate of interest on delinquencies at eight percent on the first \$1,500 delinquency and 18 percent on any amount in excess of

\$1,500.

Frantantoni said the change would add a significant amount of money to an already strapped property owner's difficult situation, adding up to 24 percent for someone owing more than \$10,000. That five-figure amount is easier than ever for someone to be late on, thanks to ever-escalating local, county, state and federal taxes, he said.

After hearing the concerns, At-Large Councilman Kevin Kennedy said the resolution would be tabled.



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Council members may be reached by calling 973-450-3302.
Their voicemail is 973-450-3345.



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Bethany Lutheran Church

Worship services

Worship services for Bethany Lutheran Church are held at 9 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. year-round. Child-care is available. Everyone is welcome.

Kids' fun night

Pastor Nancy S. Moore and the members of Bethany Lutheran Church are sponsoring a weekly 'Kids' Fun Night' on Wednesdays, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the church hall (please enter via the New Street door). There will be ping-pong, games, activities and refreshments. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

Healing prayers

Pastor Nancy S. Moore of Bethany Lutheran Church administers healing oil to all interested worshippers during prayers following each worship service. This brief, special practice is held at Bethany on the first Sunday of every month directly after the regular 9 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. worship services. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sunday Afternoons with Iglesia Luterana

The Lutheran Latino service, Iglesia Luterana, is held every Sunday at 1 p.m. in the sanctuary of Bethany Lutheran Church.

The Rev. Nancy S. Moore presides over the service and the distribution of Holy Communion every week.

Once a month, she delivers a sermon that is simultaneously interpreted into Spanish.

Diaconal ministers Pedro Dulanto and Madeline Dulanto, assist the pastor in the worship service spoken entirely in Spanish.

This community of worshippers hosts many different religious and social activities every week at Bethany including nightly ESL Classes at 8:30 p.m. during the week and Folk Dances beginning at 7:30 p.m. every Monday and Friday.

Bethany Lutheran Church is a "Reconciling in Christ" parish. It is the stated policy of this congregation to welcome and fully include persons of every race, age, gender, marital status, ability and sexual orientation. The church is located at 188 New Street, Belleville. Call 973-759-1555.

Christ Episcopal Church

Ornament collection

Christ Church is collecting donations of old glass Christmas tree ornaments for use in the decoration of this year's Holiday Tree in the Public Library in Belleville. Father Paul Walker and Father Randy Webster at Christ Church decorate the tree for the library each year, and this year they wish to use antique or old glass ornaments. Persons wishing to make donations should know that the ornaments will not be able to be returned to the donors. The ornaments must be brought to Christ Church for keeping until the tree is ready to be displayed.

Toy Drive

Christ Church has announced its annual Toy Drive for children of the clients of The Care Closet. Toys will be distributed on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at Christ Church. The parish is accepting donations of new and gently used toys, which should be unwrapped. Donations may be left at the parish.

Individuals wishing to assist with the distribution of the toys

on Saturday, Dec. 13 are also being sought. Persons wishing to volunteer are asked to phone the church.

Care Closet

The Care Closet, an outreach program of Christ Episcopal Church, has announced its December distribution day for Monday, Dec. 22 beginning at 3 p.m. until all of the supplies are exhausted.

The Care Closet distributes packages of paper products, cleaning products and personal hygiene items to persons with Families First cards. The parish is always receiving gifts of individually wrapper paper towels, facial tissue and toilet tissue; the program also is in need of brown grocery bags for packing the supplies each month.

Additionally volunteers are always welcome both for the preparation of the bags and on distribution day. For more information phone the parish.

Observance of Christmas

Solemn Procession and Festival Mass for the Vigil of the Nativity of Our Savior Jesus Christ, commonly called 'Midnight Mass,' will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 24. The annual lighting of the luminaria

will happen at 10 p.m. Festival music for Christmas Eve will begin at 10:30 p.m. and the Solemn Procession will begin at 11 p.m. The Rev. Paul Walker, Vicar of Christ Church, will officiate and preach.

On Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day, Mass with carols will be offered at 10 a.m.

The Mary and Martha Soup Kitchen will serve its annual Christmas Day dinner at 12 noon. Persons wishing to volunteer to assist with the dinner are asked to call the parish office.

Food Drive

Christ Church has announced a food drive to replenish and restock the pantry of The Mary and Martha Soup Kitchen. Gifts of non-perishable items are needed to keep up with the demands of the soup kitchen, which now serves meals each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Individuals and organizations wishing to make contributions of canned goods or financial gifts are asked to contact the parish. Volunteers are also always needed to maintain the soup kitchen's ongoing operations. Persons wishing to volunteer are asked to phone the parish.

Christ Church is an inclusive church in the Anglican tradition, located at 393 Washington Ave., Belleville. For more information, call 973-751-0616.

Wesley United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Service invitation

A Christmas Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m., at Wesley United Methodist Church, with the Candlelit Service, "The Birth of the Light." This special service will be held with four congregations, Jesus for All Fellowship (Philippines), Mok Yang Korean Methodist Church, Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church and Wesley United Methodist Church (English).

All are invited. Come and enjoy an evening of fellowship that represents the true meaning of Christmas.

Wesley United Methodist Church is located at 225 Washington Ave., Belleville. Contact the church office at 973-751-2741 or e-mail church@wesleyumcnj.org.

St. Mary's Church

Family Mass

St. Mary's Family Mass is every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in Msgr. Walsh Hall (church basement). Come worship with contemporary music in the spirit of community.

The Giving Tree

The Christmas 'Giving Trees' are now in St. Mary's Church and Monsignor Hall. All gifts must be dropped off to the church by the week of Dec. 14. The tree will be adorned with tags of wishes from those who rely on help from charitable agencies.

Take a tag from the tree, purchase the requested gift, wrap the gift decoratively and place the tag

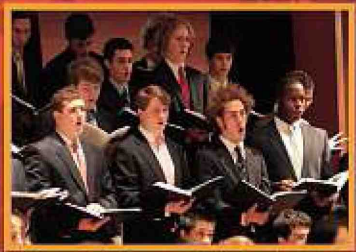
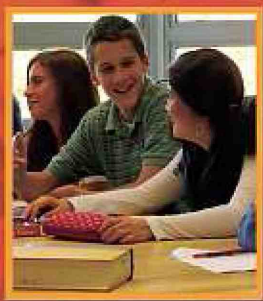
SEE RELIGION, PAGE 21

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RELIGION

FROM PAGE 20

back on the gift so it will go to the appropriate agency.

Holiday concert

Celebrate in song – A Holiday Benefit Concert, featuring: Nutley High School Concert Choir, Nutley High School Choralettes, Nutley High School Chamber Singers and John H. Walker Middle School Madrigals, on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m., in St. Mary's Church. There is a suggested donation of \$5 at the door. Proceeds to benefit the Friends of Nutley Singers Scholarship Fund.

St. Mary's Parish is located at 17 Msgr. Owens Place, Nutley. Call the church at 973-235-1100.

Holy Family Church

Rosary Society

The Rosary Society recites the Rosary after the 8:45 a.m. Mass on the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome.

Christmas Concert

Holy Family Church invites all to join them for their Centennial Christmas Concert as the Garden State Orchestra brings the joy of Christmas season to all on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Refreshments and raffle will follow.

Tickets are \$20 at the door, but may be obtained prior to the concert through the Holy Family Ministry for \$10. Children under 10 are free.

For more information, call Debbie at 973-610-1346.

To reach the rectory at Holy Family Church, 28 Brookline Ave., Nutley, call 973-667-0026.

Temple Ner Tamid

Services

On Friday, Dec. 12, join Temple Ner Tamid for Erev Shabbat services at 8 p.m.

Saturday morning services begin at 10 a.m. on Dec. 13. While parents attend services, the youngest tots celebrate Shabbat with games and songs with Leora Perlman on guitar at a special 'Tot Shabbat.' Babysitting is also provided.

Networking/Support Group

Come to a Networking/Support Group on Monday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. for congregants who are unemployed, likely to lose their job, changing careers or are re-entering the workforce. It will be facilitated by Beth Berns, LCSW, Temple Ner Tamid's Social Worker.

Bring in the light by sustaining the light

Ner Tamid is embracing the notion of kindling the light within ourselves and in others this Hanukkah. Mark your calendars for this exciting Hanukkah program to be held on Dec. 21. The community is invited.

10 a.m. - The religious school will be offering meaningful Hanukkah programs in the morning.

3 p.m. - Temple-wide program. Bring an unwrapped gift as the price of admission. It's a wonderful opportunity for children of all

ages to learn the mitzvah of giving tzedakah; to give to others and experience the true meaning of Hanukkah. The gift will be donated to Ner Tamid's Newark based Team schools. The 33 girls and 24 boys in the fifth through eighth grades will greatly benefit from the gifts you donate. The mission of TEAM Schools is to create a network of schools in Newark, New Jersey that instill in their students

the desire and the ability to succeed in college, in order to change the world.

4 p.m. - Join Ner Tamid for the "Bring in the Light" Zimriya concert and song session. Ner Tamid's Adult20Choir will open the program, accompanied by Sandor Szabo on the piano. Next, experience the exciting premiere of the Naarim Rockers, the Ner Tamid youth band, led by Beth and Bob

Adelman. The Naarim Rockers will accompany the Youth Choir, led by Cantor Cathy Lawrence. Join in the grand finale when the Youth and Adult choir light the first candle and recite the blessing.

5 p.m. - Make your own holiday wrapping paper and become 'top chef' in the first latke bake-off. There will be a juried contest to see who can make the best latkes! If you're interested in participating,

bring 40 latkes for tasting. Be the first to win the Ner Tamid latke sash! Donuts, extra Latkes, and cider will be available to all.

Temple Ner Tamid is located at 936 Broad St., Bloomfield. For more information, call 973-338-1500 or visit the Web site at www.nertamid.org.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008 BELLEVILLE TIMES

Donna Simone

A Mass of Christian burial was offered for Donna Simone (nee Sessa), 53, of West Orange Dec. 2 at St. Lucy's Church, Newark, after the funeral from the LaMonica Memorial Home, Livingston.

Mrs. Simone passed away Nov. 30 in Newark Beth Israel Hospital. Raised in Belleville, Mrs. Simone moved to West Orange 29 years ago. She was employed by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield, Newark, in customer service for the past 15 years.

She was the wife of the late Leonard Simone Sr.; mother of Leonard Simone Jr. and Vincent Simone, and sister of Sam Sessa and his wife, Gale. She is also survived by her canine companion, Beanie, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Rosa Pignataro

A Mass was offered for Rosa Pignataro (nee Maiuri), 54, of Wayne Dec. 6 at Holy Family Church, Nutley, after the funeral

from the S.W. Brown & Son Funeral Home.

Mrs. Pignataro passed away Dec. 2 at Clara Maass Medical Center, Belleville.

Born in Italy, Mrs. Pignataro lived in Belleville before moving to Wayne 10 years ago.

She is survived by her mother, Mariannina (Cofone) Maiuri; her children, Joseph, Frank, Orlando and Rosanna Pignataro; her brothers, Angelo and Mario Maiuri; her sisters, Filomena Iuliano and Giuseppa Cofone, and her granddaughter, Allyssa Rose. She was

predeceased by her father, Francesco Maiuri, and her son, Giovanni Pignataro.

Doris M. Deene

A Mass will be offered for Doris M. Deene (nee Currid) Dec. 13 at Mount Carmel Church, Nutley.

Mrs. Deene passed away Nov. 28 at Beth Israel Hospice in Newark.

Born in Orange, Mrs. Deene lived in Belleville for many years. She was the mother of William,

Matthew and Robert. She is also survived by two grandchildren. She was the longtime companion of William Healey, and sister of James, William, Allen, Frank, Helen and the late Joseph, Patricia and Edward A.

Matilda "Tillie" DeNoia

A Mass was offered for Matilda "Tillie" (nee Carocci) DeNoia, 92, of Belleville Dec. 6 at Holy Family Church, Nutley, after the funeral from the Biondi Funeral Home of Nutley.

Mrs. DeNoia passed away Dec. 3 at Clara Maass Medical Center, Belleville.

Mrs. DeNoia was born in East Orange and lived for the past 65 years in Belleville, where she was a homemaker and loving mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her sons Emanuele Robert DeNoia and his wife, Gail, and Martin DeNoia and his wife, Cecelia; her daughter, Debbie DeNoia-Mastroeni and her husband, Salvatore Anthony; her brother, Julius "Sonny" Carocci, and her sisters, Madeline Stigliano and Isabella McBride. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Daria, Alison, David, Lisa, Stephen and Christina, and her great-grandchildren, Alexander, Miranda, Maxwell and Leonardo. She was predeceased by her husband, Emanuele DeNoia Jr.; her son, Joseph Mark DeNoia; her brother,

SEE OBITUARIES, PAGE 23

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AREA EVENTS

***PLEASE NOTE:** Items for Area Events must reach our office by 3 p.m. the Friday before the publication date. Publication depends on space available. Dial area code 973 on listed phone numbers, unless otherwise noted.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

Ladies Auxiliary to Stuart E. Edgar, Post 493 VFW, to hold a Christmas Party Friday, Dec. 12 (tomorrow) at 6:30 p.m. at Gelone's Restaurant, 650 Ridge Rd., Lyndhurst. Cost is \$35, which

includes meal, gratuity and tax. A \$10 grab bag will be held.

A 'National Day of Giving for the American Red Cross,' will be held as part of the Red Cross's efforts to reach the \$100 million fundraising goal for the Campaign for Disaster Relief. Red Cross volunteers will be stationed at the Nutley Starbucks, 483 Franklin Ave., on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will be available to take donations on the spot.

Belleville High School Holiday Party, for classes 1966 and 1967,

to be held Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at The Chandelier, Belleville. The cost is \$55 per person. For more details, call 528-2554 or 862-204-9907.

Bus ride to Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, sponsored by Belleville UNICO, Sunday, Dec. 14. \$30 per person, includes tips, with a coin return of \$25 and \$10 food coupon. Continental breakfast at 8 a.m., at Piano's, formally Hathaway's, 36 Broad Street, Bloomfield. Bus leaves at 8:50 a.m. To reserve seats, call 429-2818, follow with a check to confirm reservation. No last

minute cancellations. Make checks payable to: Belleville Chapter of UNICO National, and mail them to: Manny Alfano, 97 Irving Terr., Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

The 19th annual Holiday Concert, hosted by The Chorus of Communities, to be held Sunday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m., at the Church of St. Peter, 155 William St., Belleville. Advanced tickets: \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. Tickets at the door: \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students.

Blood drive, hosted by Glen Ridge High School with the American Red Cross of Montclair-Glen Ridge-Nutley, Monday, Dec. 15 from 8:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., Glen Ridge High School gymnasium, 200 Ridgewood Ave., Glen Ridge.

'Adopt a Family' holiday meal program, sponsored by the Food Pantry at the Red Cross of Nutley, in place again this year to ensure less fortunate families can enjoy a hearty dinner this holiday season. The Nutley Red Cross assists households that contain anywhere from one to six persons. Those who contribute to the program may choose what size family they wish to support. Anyone interested in participating may pick up an "Adopt a Family" form at the Nutley office, 169 Chestnut St., and return it to the office by Monday, Dec. 15. Meals will be accepted from Wednesday, Dec. 10 until Friday, Dec. 19. To receive a form by e-mail, contact Denise Smyth at dsmytharc@aol.com.

Holiday potluck buffet, for Essex County residents interested in joining the Brookdale Park Conservancy, to be held Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at Brookdale Reformed Church, 16 Bellevue Ave., next to the park entrance. Free admission, but bring a dish

to share if you can. Guest speakers from the Essex County Sheriff's Dept., Captain Pascoal and Deputy Ryan, will entertain park-related questions from conservancy members. For more information about the conservancy, call Mary Shaughnessy at 338-5127 or visit the Web site www.brookdaleparkconservancy.org.

Alzheimer's Association Caregiver support group, next meeting to be held Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Nutley Public Affairs Building, 149 Chestnut St. For more information, call the Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter Caregiver Helpline, at 1-800-883-1180.

District 4 blood bank, hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 493, Thursday, Dec. 18 from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at VFW Post 493, 271 Washington Ave, Nutley. All blood types needed. Your support is appreciated. For directions, call 235-9661.

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS...

'The Santaland Diaries,' by David Sedaris, adapted by Joe Montello, a co-production with What Exit? Theatre Company, running through Dec. 20, Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. at Luna Stage, 695 Bloomfield Ave., Montclair. Tickets are \$20. Visit the Web sites www.lunastage.org or www.whatexittheatre.com or call 744-3309 for more information and reservations. Luna Stage is wheelchair accessible.

Holiday Singers Concert, Sunday, Dec. 28 at 1 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church, Belleville. There will be a free will offering. Come and enjoy

SEE EVENTS, PAGE 25

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With the cost of energy today, this PSEG tip may help you save money. Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter. For every degree you lower the thermostat, **you can save 3%** on your heating bill. Turn down your thermostat 5 to 10 degrees at bedtime. For more tools and tips to help you manage your energy costs, visit pseg.com/saveenergy.



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EVENTS

FROM PAGE 24

Christmas Music played by Chris Sagato, Al Monllor on guitars, George Dudla on violin and Marlies Monllor, vocals.

New Year's party, hosted by the Knights of Columbus, to be held Wednesday, Dec. 31 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at 190 State St., Bloomfield. \$60 per person, which includes cocktail hour, buffet dinner and continental breakfast. Live DJ, dancing, hats and noisemakers.

Michael Amante concert, Feb. 13, 2009, with bus departing from Nutley at 6 p.m. for an 8 p.m. show. Orchestra seats and bus transportation, \$79 per person. Call Marie at 256-0499.

'Mary Poppins' on Broadway, March 1, 2009. Orchestra seats. Bus leaves from Nutley at 6 p.m. for an 8 p.m. show. Call Marie at 256-0499.

'South Pacific' on Broadway, musical, comedy/drama. March 19, 2009. Orchestra seats. \$145 per person. Bus leaves from Nutley at 6:15 p.m. Call Travel With Marie at 256-0499.

Nutley UNICO 50th Anniversary Gala, to be held Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 7 p.m. at Nanina's in the Park, Belleville. Save the date and join this festive commemoration of 50 years of service to the Nutley community. The planned festivities include great food, live entertainment, memorabilia and a series of special presentations. Net proceeds from the event to benefit local and national charities and the Nutley UNICO Scholarship Program.

Essex County's Housing and Community Development Division, is offering financial assistance to low and moderate income homeowners who need to make improvements to their one to three-family homes. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Community Development Block Grant program. For more information or to obtain an application, contact the Essex County Home Improvement Program (HIP) at 655-0200.

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), a free, voluntary program, is available to women who are pregnant with their first child and live in Essex County. A nurse regularly visits the first time mother-to-be in the comforts of her home. Services continue until the baby's second birthday. This program is not associated with protective services, and all information is kept in confidence. For more information, call 482-2774, ext. 138 or e-mail or nfp@yccs.org.

Gateway Pregnancy Center, of Irvington and Elizabeth, helps needy women and their babies. Nutley women collect the following items regularly for this organization: car seats, infant seats, strollers, cribs, bassinets and gates (no clothing or toys). Call Nancy at 661-4779 and she will pick up the items.

Free transportation, to medical appointments for Montclair, Glen Ridge and Nutley, for residents 60 years of age or over who are mobile or require minimal assistance. Sponsored by the Montclair-Glen Ridge-Nutley chapter. All rides are by reservation at least one week in advance. Call 667-3818 for more information.

Voter registration nights, absentee ballots, change of party affiliation, Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Bloomfield Republican headquarters, 38 Broad St., Bloomfield.

REUNIONS...

Bloomfield High School Class of 1969, 40th reunion planned for Oct. 10, 2009 at the Hilton in Woodbridge. Contact Jay Baumgardner at 809-6191 or jasbuddey@aol.com or mvargo@optonline.net.

FAIRS, FLEA MARKETS, ETC...

Nutley Museum, open first and third Sundays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call 667-1528 or visit the Web site www.nutleyhistorical.society.org for more information.

Treasure Chest at Cerebral Palsy Center, 7 Sanford Ave., Belleville (opposite Clara Maass Medical Center). Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 751-0200 for more information.

Nutley Family Service Bureau thrift shop, 172 Chestnut St., open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and every other Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Nutley Family Service Bureau. Donations are welcome. To volunteer, call Jolinda Griwert at 667-6322 or Kathy Coughlin at 284-1208.

HEALTH & FITNESS...

Nutley Singles 3-mile Walk, for ages 40 to 55, hosted by the Nutley Singles Walking Group, 6 p.m. every Thursday at Yantacaw Park, Nutley, Centre Street and Park Drive. Use the Centre Street entrance. Bring money for optional dinner after walk. Call 667-0379.

Heart2Heart Program, designed for people with early stage congestive heart failure, to begin at the Senior Care and Activities Center, 110 Greenwood Ave., Montclair. This two-day-a-week

SEE EVENTS, PAGE 27

YEAR-END SELL-A-THON





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30 MPG HWY**

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EVENTS

FROM PAGE 25

program provides medical monitoring, meal planning with a nutritionist, exercise and activities. In addition, a family support group is in formation. For more information, call 783-5589, ext. 16 or visit www.SeniorCareCenter.org.

Stroller class, meets Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Reclaim your body and shed post-baby pounds while exercising in the fresh air and bonding with other moms. Class designed to tone and strengthen. All equipment provided. Led by a personal trainer. E-mail: happenise@aol.com or call 661-3283 for more information.

Fitness class, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Nutley. \$10 per class or \$75 for eight classes. Cardio moves to music, floor exercises, calisthenics, Pilates-based moves and stretching. E-mail: smdunnfit@optonline.net or call 201-294-5493 for more information.

Free blood pressure readings, by registered nurse, 10 a.m. to 12 noon every Friday, Montclair-Glen Ridge-Nutley Red Cross, 169 Chestnut St. No appointment necessary. Call 667-3818. Blood drives held on the third Tuesday of each month.

MEETINGS...

Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Gratia #751 meet on the first and third Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Parish Center, Nutley. For more information, call 667-7851.

Ladies Auxiliary to Stuart E. Edgar Post 493, Veterans of Foreign Wars to hold a business meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Post Home, 271 Washington Ave., Nutley. Membership is open. For more information, write to Stuart E. Edgar Post 493 Auxiliary, 21 Spurr Pl., Nutley, NJ 07110. The Auxiliary sponsors many important programs benefiting veterans and their families.

W&T Retirees Club, meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Recreation Senior Building, in the park on Belleville Avenue. Looking for more retirees to join. For more info, call Ann at 777-4223.

Belleville AARP #2051, meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Mill Street Senior Building, 25 Franklin Ave., Belleville. New members welcome. Call Ann at 777-4223 for more info.

Nutley Old Guard, meets Fridays at 9 a.m. at 44 Park Ave. Non-military social organization for retired and semi-retired men seeking new members from Nutley and vicinity. Refreshments, guest speakers, bowling, golf and bocci teams, bus trips, luncheons, newsletter.

Belleville Optimist Club, meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at Branch Brook Manor, 13 Washington

Ave., Belleville. Call Gabe Nazzola at 696-6562.

Belleville Rotary Club, invites guests to their weekly luncheon meetings, Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at Bella Casa Caterers, 2 Acme St., Belleville. Frank Cozzarelli, 751-4104.

Nutley AARP #2052, meetings held on the second Thursday of each month. New members welcome. Call Josephine Brylinski at 667-2514 for more information.

AARP baby boomer chapter, for individuals 50+, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at the Bloomfield Public

Library, 90 Broad St.

The Belleville Chapter of UNICO National, the largest Italian American non-profit service organization in America is seeking members for its local chapter. UNICO strives to contribute to the well being of its local communities by making significant contributions to deserving local and national charities. Call Manny Alfano at 429-2818 or Gene Antonio at 759-9259 for more information.

Belleville/Nutley Kiwanis Club, meets the first and third Thursdays of the month, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Antonio's

Restaurant, 371 Franklin Ave., Belleville, 751-7001. Contact Mario Drozd at 751-2277 or Sue Kintscher at 661-2623.

Bloomfield Kiwanis Club, 7:30 p.m., fourth Thursdays, Oakeside Bloomfield Cultural Center, 240 Belleville Ave., Bloomfield. Claire Abel, 893-9141.

Belleville Irish, meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the K of C Hall, Bridge Street, Belleville. For more information, call Beverly at 759-1298.

Nutley Irish, meetings held on the third Thursday of the month

at 8 p.m. at the VFW Hall, Washington Ave., Nutley. New members welcome. Refreshments will be served. Call Tom McEnery, president, at 493-0029.

Nutley Toastmasters Club, 7:15 p.m. first and third Thursdays, meets at Franklin Reformed Church, 45 Hillside Crescent, Nutley. New members are welcome.

Belleville Lions, meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month (September through June) at 6:30 p.m. at Michael's Roscommon House, 531 Joralemon St., Belleville.



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\$99 LEASE PER MO. 24 MOS.*



28 MPG HWY!

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26 MPG HWY!

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30 MPG HWY!

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White Pearl, 4-Dr., Auto, FWD, 4-Cyl., P/ABS Brks/S/W/Lks, Air, Dual Air Bags, CD, Appearance Pkg, VIN #7E026779, SIK #MTU2419, 30,175 Mi.

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The dinner is in memory of Robert Luongo, a 1973 graduate of Belleville High School who became the first from Belleville to attend Harvard University, where he graduated cum laude. Luongo was diagnosed in 2000 with Amy-

trophic Lateral Sclerosis, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Motor neurons reach from the brain to the spinal cord and from the spinal cord to the muscles throughout the body. The progressive degeneration of the motor neurons in ALS patience eventually leads to their death.

Luongo lost his battle in 2004 at 49.

"Robert was such a fun-loving guy, it's the kind of function he would have enjoyed and been happy to be a part of," said Phil Agosta, trustee and one of the dinner's organizers.

"When we started the dinner, the idea was very simple" Cuzzi said. "I made a promise to Robert before he died that he would never have to worry about his then 9-

year-old daughter Dominique's education. We would raise enough money for her to go to college, and if she wants to follow in her father's footsteps and attend Harvard, we're going to raise enough money to send her."

Since that beginning, the Robert Luongo ALS Fund has grown to become a registered 501.c3 charity helping other ALS victims, their families as well as making annual donations to the ALS Association

for patient care and research.

In light of the current economic situation, as a gesture of appreciation for continued support, ticket prices have been reduced from last year to \$75 per person.

Contact Phil Cuzzi at 973-220-2328 or pcuzi@optonline.net For an advertisement in the dinner program, contact Phil Agosta at 973-980-5190.

Belleville Times deadline

The deadline for press releases and photos submitted to the *Belleville Times* for upcoming community events is the Thursday before the publication date. For quicker results, e-mail copy to bellevilletimes@northjersey.com. Copy can be mailed or delivered in advance to 90 Centre St., Nutley, New Jersey 07110, or faxed to the Editor at 973-667-3904.



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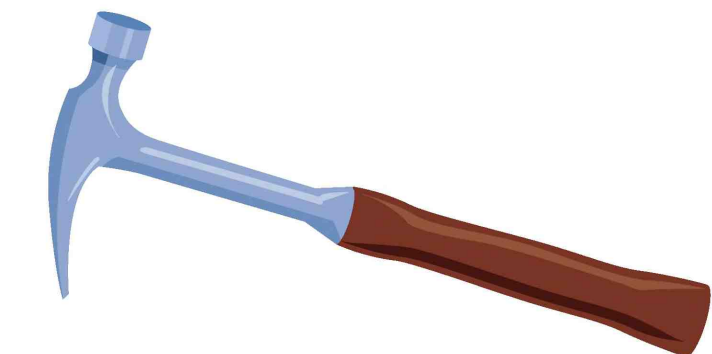


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to local services

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- REAL ESTATE
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1

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WITH COLOR

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Answer to this week's SUDOKU puzzle

1	3	6	2	4	9	7	8	5
2	5	9	3	7	8	1	6	4
8	4	7	1	6	5	9	2	3
4	6	1	5	8	2	3	9	7
3	2	8	7	9	1	5	4	6
9	7	5	6	3	4	2	1	8
7	8	3	9	1	6	4	5	2
5	9	4	8	2	3	6	7	1
6	1	2	4	5	7	8	3	9

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90-DAY SUPPLY

\$9⁹⁹



On **Over 300** Commonly
Prescribed **Generic** Drugs That
Affect the Following Categories:

- ✓ Allergy & Asthma
- ✓ Antibiotics
- ✓ Anti Viral
- ✓ Arthritis Pain
- ✓ Cholesterol
- ✓ Diabetes
- ✓ Gastrointestinal Health
- ✓ Heart Health
- ✓ Thyroid
- ✓ Vitamins & Supplements
- ✓ Women's Health

See Pharmacist or shoprite.com for complete list. Visit our website for the ShopRite Pharmacy nearest you.

New Additions

- Carvedilol (Generic Coreg®)
- Amlodipine (Generic Norvasc®)
- Paroxetine (Generic Paxil®)
- Alendronate (Generic Fosamax®) (28 Day Supply)

*35mg and 70mg only included in program.

NO Insurance Needed. NO Need to Enroll.
NO Age Restrictions...and fewer trips to the pharmacy.

ShopRite reserves the right to modify or discontinue this program at any time.

One more way to save you money.
One Place. Your Place. **ShopRite**

ShopRite of NUTLEY

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