

**Strikes away**  
Cranford youth bowls  
perfect 300 game

See Sports, page B-1

**Planning and enjoying  
your holiday party at home**  
In this week's

**WeekendPlus**

**Last minute gift guide**

Procrastinators' delight offers  
ideas, shop info, stories, more

Special pull-out section inside

# Cranford Chronicle

Vol. 98, No. 51

Thursday, December 19, 1991

A Forbes Newspaper 50 cents

CRANFORD • GARWOOD • KENILWORTH

## In brief

### Aid police

Members of Cranford 81st and 82nd Troops will volunteer their time to the police department. The program is called Operation Friendship and is now in its 25th year. This year's coordinator is David Colley, president of the lodge. See photo on page A-3.

### Paper drive

Newspapers and aluminum cans will be collected by Boy Scout Troop 178 Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. News papers must be sold. Papers and cans will be collected at trucks parked at the Conservation Center.

### Rides re-scheduled

Because of the rain last Saturday, the annual holiday rides have been rescheduled for Sunday, Dec. 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Board and drop off will be on Main Street at the end of the Park and Shop lot and costs \$1.

### Doll exhibit

Dolls from around the world will be exhibited at Cranford Library through the end of December. The exhibit is courtesy of Melanie Sidoti, who collected the dolls during travels with her family in the United States and abroad. The dolls range in age from five to 40 years old.

### PTA honors

Cranford PTA will honor many awards at the New Jersey State PTA convention. See page A-10 for details.

### Girls roundball

It's Cranford Girls Basketball Night as the Lady Cougars host Kearny Friday.

### Fund at 60%

Cranford's United Way Campaign has reached 60 percent of its \$205,000 goal. See page A-5.

### Raised \$4,000

The Cranford Junior Women's Club which sponsored the house tour benefit, will present \$4,000 to Project Hope.

### Snap project

John Ondrey of Troop 178 has taken on an ambitious Eagle Scout Project. He is distributing Vials of Life to Cranford senior citizens. See story and photo on the Community Life Page, A-6.

### Many services

Many Christmas services are in the offing. See page A-2.

### Stores open

Stores in Cranford will be open Christmas Eve Day, Dec. 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Short term parking meters are hoisted for the rest of the shopping season.

### No pickups

There will be no outside pickups of recyclables in Cranford Wednesday, Dec. 25, because of Christmas. Next pickup: Jan. 8.

### A concert

A holiday concert is scheduled at Cranford High School at 8 p.m. today.

### Early deadline

This is the last newspaper before Christmas. The next paper will be printed Christmas Eve and distributed Thursday, Dec. 25. This means an earlier deadline. Please deliver news items before noon Friday.

## Recreation may feel the pinch of budget cuts

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

Cranford Township residents could be getting a lot less bang for their bucks (literally) under the proposed 1991-92 municipal budget.

The Township Committee heard a number of budget presentations Tuesday night, including one from the recreation department

which would eliminate the annual July 4th fireworks display.

In addition, the township committee heard budget reports calling for a cutback on library hours and the closing of the township's clay tennis courts on Springfield Avenue. Another program which could be discontinued under the new budget is Volunteer Recognition Night.

By cutting funding for the annual fire-

works display, the township would save an estimated \$7,000. Township committee members agreed that the fireworks exhibition was benefiting not only Cranford residents, but hundreds of spectators from other towns as well.

According to Frank D'Antonio, director of recreation and parks, the township would continue its July 4th tradition of holding picnics and other holiday festivities at the

park.

Among the activities to be continued would be the Jaycees Firecracker Run, children's races, canoe races and the annual July 4th parade, which concludes at Memorial Park.

The fireworks display, according to Mr. D'Antonio, draws 9,000-12,000 spectators annually. (Please turn to page A-3)

## Consultants suggest switching back to seven-period day

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

The elimination of six teaching positions and changing the school day at Cranford High from eight periods to seven were among the recommendations made to the Cranford Board of Education Monday night.

Fleischer Management Associates, Inc. told the board that it could save \$210,000 by eliminating six teaching positions at the high school. The recommendations were

made in a staffing study released to the board by the Fogelsville, Pa. consulting firm.

In addition, Dr. Robert Fleischer suggested to the board that it eliminate one period per day at the high school and lengthen the remaining classes by seven minutes.

By doing so, Dr. Fleischer told the board that a high school teacher's "daily contact time" with their pupils would be increased by almost 10 percent.

See related story  
on page A-5

(Please turn to page A-3)

## Will Family Care be able to reach out far enough?

By CHERYL MOULTON HEHL  
THE CHRONICLE

With just a few days to Christmas, Silvia Sidoti is wondering how she will provide 96 families and 112 children with presents.

But each year, despite the odds, she somehow does it. She is hoping the ghost of miracles past returns.

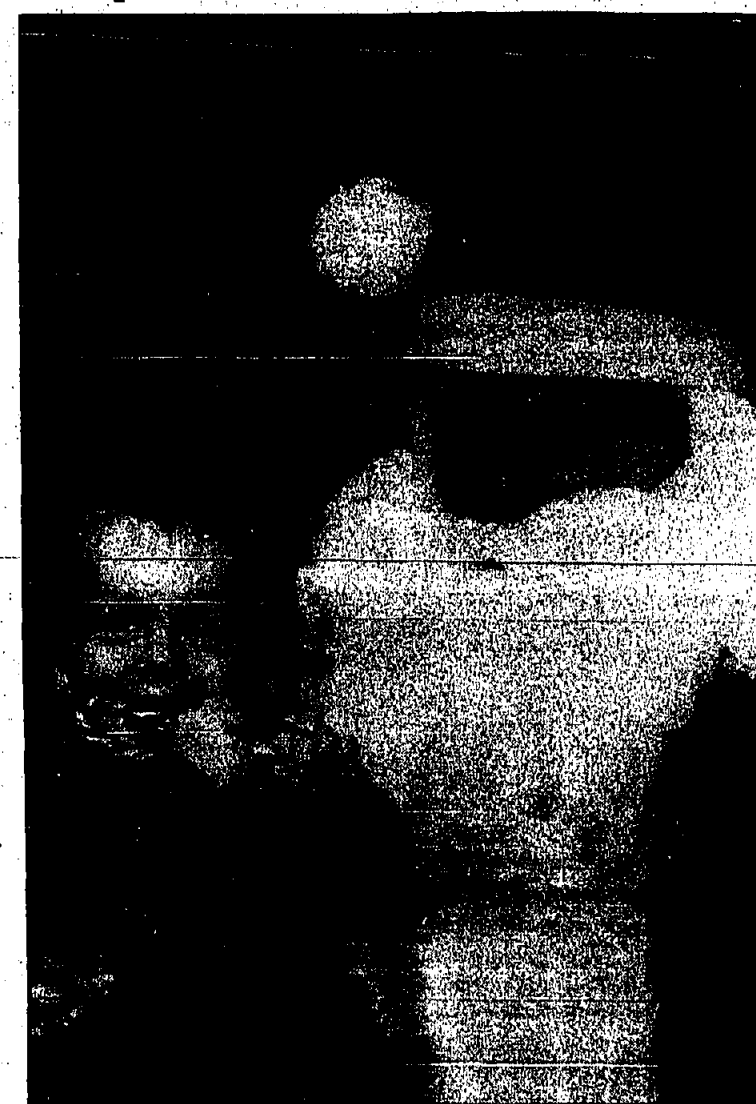
It is hard to imagine children not having presents to open on Christmas morning, but this year Cranford Family Care is struggling to

stretch the neatly wrapped gifts that have been donated by the more fortunate. Mrs. Sidoti sighs as she gazes around the two tiny rooms in the basement of the municipal building and wonders if this year will be the year the gifts do not stretch. Will there be a child or family without presents under the tree? Without a tree?

Some 56 years ago the Family Care Association was established by caring and interested residents who had the foresight to know

(Please turn to page A-3)

## A special first



Ryan Albert, 7 months, met Santa for the first time when the big man took time off from his toy making duties to visit Cranford. Santa, a guest of the Cranford Jaycees, was spotted at the Community Center on Saturday.

DARYL STONE/THE CHRONICLE

## Eastman Plaza earns accolades for design

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

The refurbished Eastman Plaza has been recognized for design excellence by a pair of New Jersey organizations.

The Union County Economic Development Corporation and the Downtown New Jersey Inc. organizations recently visited Cranford to present awards to a number of township officials.

Bordering North Avenue and Eastman Street, Eastman Plaza was refurbished at a cost of \$150,000. Work on the project began in October 1990 and was completed last summer.

Officials from the Union County Economic Organization gathered at the Cranford Business Park last Wednesday (Dec. 11) to present their award to Brian Leddy of the Downtown Man-

agement Corporation; Marta Person, downtown manager; and Claire Vecchio, junior engineer.

According to Ms. Person, the award was a tribute to all those who helped make the refurbishing of Eastman Plaza a reality.

"From a dilapidated park area in disrepair, we now have a gem of an area to work with," Ms. Person said. "I'm really proud that we were able to win such an award."

This is the first year that the Union County Economic Development Corporation has recognized municipalities which it feels have conducted noteworthy renovation projects. It presented township officials with a plaque Dec. 11.

That plaque will now be displayed in room 108 of the Municipal Building.

"I think the improvement of the Plaza alone makes a major difference in one's impression when going through the Cranford downtown

area," said Adam Farrah, director of financial programs for the Union County Economic Development Corporation.

"A renovation like this one makes a difference when you ask people what they think of Cranford," Mr. Farrah said.

The Downtown New Jersey Inc. organization presented its award to township officials Dec. 5 at its annual fall conference at the Gateway Hilton in Newark.

Less than a week later, Meryl Layton of the organization made a formal presentation at the township committee's Dec. 10 meeting.

The criteria used to select Eastman Plaza were: favorable contribution to pedestrian and retail activities; contribution to a positive downtown image; physical appearance or use; adding or restoring downtown activities; economic success; and ability to stimulate downtown growth.

## Public safety concept remains 'viable'

By CHERYL MOULTON HEHL  
THE CHRONICLE

Public Safety Director Robert Guertin said last week that \$344,000 worth of cuts would strongly impact his department and the level of service police and fire personnel provide to residents.

At a special budget hearing Dec. 11, Mr. Guertin delivered his first budget presentation since the public safety concept was implemented in September, offering two budget options to the governing body for review. The first option would require a \$5 million budget and keep the police and fire departments "as is."

The second option encompasses \$342,000 in cuts, as requested by the Township Committee several weeks ago.

The governing body had asked all 14 municipal departments heads to cut a total of \$684,000 from the 1992 budget to ward off potential layoffs.

He placed strong emphasis on the fact that he and the chiefs are committed to the public safety concept despite the fact "we have (been) preached the doom and gloom story." He reiterated "confident" the idea was viable and "will work," but does not work "with a flick-of

light switch," he said, however, "we have just touched the tip of the iceberg."

He said consolidation had so far resulted in a \$145,323 savings for the township, with the deletion of three police and fire personnel through advancement without replacement as

*'There is no built-in cushion against emergency situations such as sick leave, sudden resignations or the impact of major crimes, fires or emergency management situations'*

—Robert Guertin  
Public Safety Director

the basis for the savings. He said the department is now staffed below prevailing standards, with "no built-in cushion against emergency circumstances such as sick leave, sudden resignations or the impact of major crimes, fires or emergency management situations."

Police Chief Harry Wilde and Fire Chief

Arthur Kiamie provided additional details to substantiate Mr. Guertin's claims, and provide a clearer understanding of how resources are allocated.

Chief Wilde used statistics to support keeping staffing levels the same, alluding to the fact the township "has been visited by the crime which is evident in surrounding communities." The loss of six uniformed personnel will have an adverse effect on the delivery of services to residents, Chief Wilde said. Reassignments could eliminate such programs as crime prevention, narcotic enforcement and P.A.L.

In 1990, a police staff of 47 responded to twice as many calls as in 1974, when the staffing level was at 56 officers. He said the police department was reactive rather than proactive and said there was too much police work and not enough officers.

In 1990, the police patrol received 110,000 calls, responding to 3,429 offenses, including homicide, rape and robbery, and making 946 arrests. Of the 110,000 calls, 800 were medical assist, 1,002 traffic accidents, 1,463 alarms, 365 fire calls, 246 hazardous conditions, 315 animal complaints, 170 domestic violence complaints, 7,806 moving violations, and 19 weapons offenses.

(Please turn to page A-3)

## Shoppers receive holiday gift

The red bags covering the township's parking meters are designed to save Cranford shoppers some green.

Continuing an almost two-decade tradition, the retail division of the Cranford Chamber of Commerce is offering two-hour free parking to those visiting the township.

Approximately 320 street meters, plus 87 meters in Lot Seven (behind Gentlemen's Corner on Main Street) will be covered until Christmas.

The bags are purchased by township retailers at a cost of \$1.75 each. Then, two weeks before Dec. 25, the meters throughout Cranford are covered by store owners.

"It's a gift to the shoppers," said Marta Person, assistant township administrator, when asked about the free parking.

"We've gotten calls from Westfield residents telling us they have even more of an abominable parking situation than we have. They've been telling us how nice the parking situation in Cranford is and how Westfield is now covering their meters," Mr. Person said.

The red bags are inscribed with the holiday message "Seasons Greetings. Two Hours Free Parking."

—BRIAN FLORCZAK

## Tree decked with classic ornaments

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

The Christmas tree at the Cranford Historical Society Museum is attractive, but it's the ornaments on it that make it unique.

For the 11th consecutive year, the society is spotlighting its annual tree, which is decorated with ornaments, some of which are over 100 years old.

No ornaments which say "Baby's First Christmas" here. Don't visit the museum if you want to look at decorations with Charlie Brown and Snoopy on them.

But if you would enjoy seeing the first-ever glass Christmas ornaments to be brought to the United States, the Cranford Historical Society tree is for you.

If decorations made of real rooster feathers are more important to you than plastic balls with "State College, Class of 1981," inscribed on them, visit the museum at 124 North Union Ave.

Open Sundays from 2-4 p.m., the museum will have its tree on display until the second week of January. For those who might like to visit, but are unable to do so on Sunday, weekday appointments are available.

Time is running out, however, to see the tree which was unveiled to the public last Sunday at the Cranford Historical Society's open house.

"Some of the ornaments here are 4-inch high snow globes which are made of cotton batting and plaster and they come from Germany," explained Larry Fuhr, president of the society.

"There is a 7-inch-long rooster made out of real rooster feathers and 'Kugels,' which are 6-inch diameter balls which weigh almost one pound. They were the first-ever glass Christmas ornaments to come to the United States."

(Please turn to page A-3)



## Police blotter

### Police charge woman with stealing Christmas gifts from nursery school

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

A 44-year-old Elizabeth woman may be getting cold in her stocking this Christmas. Madeline Palmer of Elizabeth was arrested Tuesday by the Cranford Police Department and charged with stealing a number of Christmas grab-bags from the Gertrude Nursery School.

The grab-bags, which included books, candy and puzzles for the children, were stolen from the school last weekend. According to a teacher at the school, 12 presents were taken.

The top present, the teacher reported, was valued at \$5.

The grab bags were brought by kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students Friday afternoon to the school, which is located at the Episcopal Church on Forest and Hamilton streets.

When the students returned for classes Monday morning, however, the bags were missing.

"The bags had Hershey's kisses in them, things which would interest a young child," said Barbara Notarile, a pre-kindergarten teacher whose classroom was vandalized.

"The children were wondering this morning where their presents went and we had to explain it to them. The kids who had their presents taken really didn't understand why," Ms. Notarile said.

### Roselle Park man enters guilty plea in Cranford rape

A Roselle Park man pleaded guilty Monday to raping a Cranford woman at her home earlier this year.

Tyone Eggleston, 27, admitted he had raped three women during a series of sexual attacks and burglaries over the past 12 months. Two of the attacks took place in Roselle Park.

A waterproofer for a Garwood company, Mr. Eggleston entered his guilty plea Monday before State Superior Court Judge William L.E. Wertheimer in Elizabeth.

Eggleston now faces a maximum of 50 years in prison with no parole for at least 25 years.

On July 2, Mr. Eggleston held a Cranford woman captive in her home where he repeatedly beat and raped her. The Section Avenue resident was arrested July 11 at her home after a joint investigation by the Cranford Police Department and the Roselle Park Police Department. Also investigating was the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

### Weekend storm razes trees

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

A number of Cranford roads were blocked by downed tree limbs and at least one house was left without power as a result of the violent storm which rocked the area Saturday night.

Cranford police officials reported six township roads had to be cleared of tree limbs and debris after the storm hit last weekend.

Police began a busy evening at 8:07 p.m., when they responded to a call that a tree limb was blocking the roadway at South Union Avenue and Lincoln Avenue East.

Another downed tree blocked traffic on Spring Garden Street and also brought down a main cable wire in the area. The Department of Public Works responded to the scene and removed the debris.

Springfield and Holly streets were also blocked by a fallen tree limb, as was the temporary bridge on High and Lincoln avenues. Police were called upon to clear both areas. North Avenue West was closed from Orchard Street to Lincoln Avenue by a downed tree. Traffic was rerouted from 8:32 p.m. and 12:11 a.m. as Public Service Electric and Gas crews struggled to remove the tree and a downed power line.

### Construction vehicle stolen from Kenilworth Boulevard site

Monday, Dec. 16: A backhoe valued at \$47,000 was reported stolen from a construction site on Kenilworth Boulevard sometime between 4 p.m. Dec. 13 and 7 a.m. Dec. 16. The backhoe, a 1986 Chase model, belonged to the F. Giacomini Construction Company of Kennerly.

Saturday, Dec. 14: A woman living at Lincoln Park East told police that the tires of her 1983 Datsun were slashed sometime between 6:30 p.m. Dec. 13 and 8:30 a.m. Dec. 14. The vehicle was parked on the street at the time. No estimate of damage was reported.

The windshield wipers and radio antennas of 12 cars parked in the

Heathermeade section of the township were reported broken. The juvenile bureau is investigating the incident.

Walter Remington, 58, of Colonia was arrested Dec. 14 and charged with driving while intoxicated, careless driving, and driving without a license. Police reported that officer Chris Chapman observed Remington making a careless right hand turn onto the Garden State Parkway while driving at a high rate of speed and subsequently pulled Remington over.

Thursday, Dec. 12: Approximately \$400 worth of tools were reported stolen from a Centennial Avenue residence sometime between 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12 and 5:30 p.m. Dec. 14. The incident occurred when someone forced open a basement window of the residence and proceeded to take a tool box, a Craftsman hammer, an electric drill and a circular saw. The home owner was not at the residence at the time of the theft. Detective Russell Wilde is investigating the incident.

Several eggs were thrown against the door of a house at Lincoln Park East last week. Police said the owner of the residence reported the incident at 5 p.m. Dec. 12. She also reported that eggs had been thrown at her door on a number of other occasions.

A bicycle parked at the bike rack at Hillside Avenue School was damaged. Both rims on the bike were twisted and the frame was

broken, according to police. The 10-speed Fuji Mountain Bike, belonging to a 12-year-old, was valued at \$150.

Wednesday, Dec. 11: A 1984 Nissan Sentra parked in front of a Holly Street residence had its front driver's side window smashed at 8 p.m. Police said the brother of the car owner heard glass break at 8 p.m. and when he looked out the house window he saw a vehicle speeding up the roadway leaving the smashed car window behind him. No estimate of damage was reported.

Two vehicles parked at 11 Commerce St. were reported damaged sometime between the afternoon of Dec. 6 and the morning of Dec. 9. A 1986 Ford Escort and a 1991 Ford Escort had their driver's side windows smashed.

Tuesday, Dec. 10: A 40-year-old Roselle man was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated, careless driving, failure to exhibit credentials and driving while on the revoked list. Police said David Bryant was observed travelling at a high rate of

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The calendars cost \$10.00 for one/\$5.00 for each additional. To order your copies, call the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation at (908) 272-2292.

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### MISSING PERSON



Mark Himebaugh

LAST SEEN - 3:15 p.m. Friday, Nov. 25 by his mother in Del Haven, Middle Township (West of Route 47 and Wilwood on Delaware Bay side) Cape May County, N.J. Wearing blue sweatshirt, grey Duster-style pants, grey jacket, white sneakers.

DESCRIPTION - Born May 23, 1980 in Cape May County, N.J. Height 4 feet 6 inches. Weight 85 pounds. Hair reddish. Eyes blue. Complexion white with freckles. Build medium. Recently healed broken left foot. Sixth grade student.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION: Contact Major Crime Unit, Middle Township Police, 31 Mechanic St., Cape May County, N.J. 08210. PHONE (609) 485-8700. OR CRIME STOPPERS (609) 485-2800.

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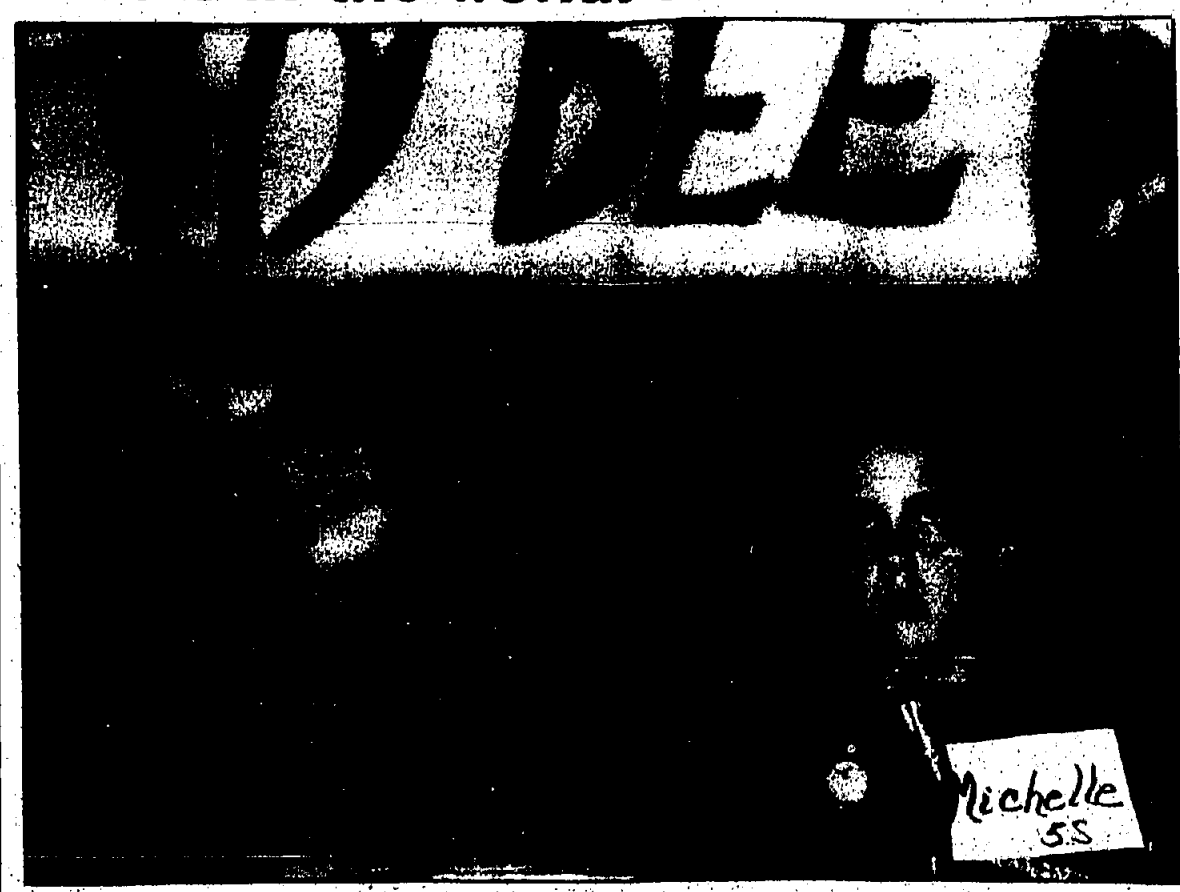
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### Where in the world...



Michelle Chlinski, a 5th grader at Livingston Avenue School in Cranford, ponders a question during a recent geography bee. The bee is sponsored annually by the National Geographic Society.

Other participants were Lauren Zuravsky, David Nycz and Jeffrey Baer, 4th grade; Michael Meier and James Doty, 5th grade; and Jeffrey Schulze, Aaron Wright and Debbie Noble, 6th grade. The winner, James Doty, will take a written exam and have a chance to win the national championship and its first prize, a \$25,000 scholarship.

### Family Care

(Continued from page A-1)

there would always be hard times for some people. Like the battered wife who is raising her children alone. She has a new life, but it's one fraught with difficulty. Money is more than tight. She is wondering how she will get a tree, and gifts for her children, who are too young to understand why Santa may not come this year.

Another resident, a single mother, was put out of the house by her parents and is living with a girlfriend. Upper respiratory problems keep her from working, but she must share expenses. This will be a rough Christmas for her and her small child.

A grandmother is raising three children for her daughter who is HIV-positive, and doing it on Social Security benefits. By the time she buys food and pays

the bills there is no money left for presents. She doesn't have the heart to tell the children not to expect Santa this year.

With the help of local churches, organizations and residents, Cranford Family Care manages to make miracles each Christmas, in addition to enabling residents who have come upon hard times to pay rent, buy food, medicine and pay medical costs. This year, though, with the recession, Mrs. Sidoli is worried.

The brightly wrapped Christmas gifts in her office will only go so far, and then she will have to turn away families.

Each year, through the generosity of residents, families are able to provide Christmas for children who otherwise would wake up to nothing.

Anyone who would like to provide presents this year is asked to call 709-7235.

Ornaments

(Continued from page A-1)

The Cranford Historical Society also made available to the viewing public its World War II homefront exhibit. The exhibition, which will be open through March, features World War II memorabilia donated by Cranford and Union County residents. The display is open to the public Sundays, 2-4 p.m.

For a few weeks, however, the World War II exhibit may have to take a back seat to the 7-foot-tall Victorian Christmas tree, a tree which Mr. Fuhrro has helped deco-

rate for the past 11 years.

"We wanted to do something for Christmas and my wife suggested since we had all these antique ornaments we bring them out in public and not keep them in the closet any more," Mr. Fuhrro said.

"The core collection came from my grandmother. My wife, Laura, has built that collection up over the past 15 years to the point where there are now about 400 ornaments. We have about 100 of those on the tree."

The oldest decorations date to the 1880s and none of the ornaments date past World War I.

Decorations in the museum were completed by the Green Thumb Garden Club of Cranford, while Dreyer's Farm of Cranford donated the tree this year. In addition, Carl Peterson, former president of the society, donated his time helping design the World War II exhibit.

Admission to the museum is free, but keep in mind that the museum exists on donations and memberships. For appointments call Mr. Fuhrro at 241-7829 or Pat Pavlak at 276-3789.

The historical society number is 276-0082.

### Public safety budget

(Continued from page A-1)

He said some of the warning signs of under staffing in 1990 include calls stacking up, the need to elicit the help of surrounding towns, lack of availability of back up cars, the assault of six police officers, 10 weapons offense arrests, and 44 resisting arrest offenders.

The police department investigative division had 690 cases per detective in 1990, with 494 arrests made. Each detective is on call for 800 hours per year, presenting 200 cases a year to the grand jury. Without a full time narcotics detective, such investigations fell from 300 to 185.

The traffic division had 1,002 accidents, 3000 summons and 120 driving while intoxicated cases. Chief Wilde said the police depart-

ment through summons and arrests generates \$500,000 per year revenue for the town. The crime prevention unit worked on 2,433 cases, with 114 arrests.

Chief Wilde said when he took office that he would take the police department into the 21st century, but he was not "going to come in here and beat a drum for more manpower, I'm a realist."

Chief Klamie said 30 men responded to more than 800 fire calls in 1990, with more than 900 expected in 1991, despite being short two men. He said 14 people died in fires over a 17 year period in Cranford, indicating one man cannot do the job of two. He explained that Cranford was unique because not only did they have a large industrial complex with multi-story buildings, but they also

had older downtown buildings which present another type of fire hazard. He said "This isn't a job. We are in this to do something proper."

Mr. Guertin said of the proposed cuts that the morale of police and firemen would be impaired, public relations would suffer, productivity would decrease and the "overall mission of providing 24 hour availability to respond to citizens' requests for assistance would be compromised."

He said the reductions requested by the committee would jeopardize grants totaling more than \$84,000. To reduce the budget by another \$84,000 would cut two additional personnel, for a total of eight. "This is totally unacceptable," Mr. Guertin said.

### Budget

(Continued from page A-1)

If the committee chooses to do so, it would save \$8,000 by closing the clay tennis courts on Springfield Avenue. The courts, which were allegedly visited by tennis legend Bill Tilden, have been a fixture in the township for over 50 decades.

The courts, which aren't actually clay but a similar surface called Har-Tru, would be closed for the year. The lights on the courts would remain off throughout the summer, no new play for the courts would be ordered, no personnel would supervise the courts, and the facility would be locked up.

Under budget guidelines, Mr. D'Antonio was told to cut \$20,000 from the recreation department budget. But even if the tennis courts are closed for a 12-month period, the option remains to reopen them the following year.

### Fleischer plan

(Continued from page A-1)

Under Dr. Fleischer's plan, Cranford High would continue its current curriculum of four to five required classes and one health-physical education class; electives, however, would be cut from two or three to one or two.

The results of the eagerly-awaited Fleischer Management Associates staffing study were unveiled before a large crowd at the Lincoln School. Not all the board members, however, agreed with Dr. Fleischer's proposals.

"I'm disturbed by this," said Schools Superintendent Dr. Robert Paul. "I don't believe that you

can deliver many of the things that have been said and still deliver a quality education."

Among the other recommendations were: shortening the elementary school lunch program to 30 minutes; developing an interdisciplinary program where "clusters" of teachers from various disciplines would teach a "cluster" of students; reorganizing the administrative organizational structure; and eliminating a guidance counselor's position, one "child studies" team and a number of cafeteria aides.

Dr. Fleischer later admitted that cutting the positions would be a feasible, but difficult, task.

Board members and those in at-

tendance, however, appeared unwilling to embrace the proposals.

"I got very angry tonight," said Diana Taylor, president of the Cranford Education Association. "The things they said here, they ought to go back to school. We could have written this thing."

According to the study, enrollment in the district will increase by 8.1 percent during the next five years, reversing a trend which saw enrollment decline by 11.3 percent since 1982-83.

Despite the decrease in enrollment, the study showed that staffing levels at the high school and in special services have increased in the past 10 years.

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from the staff of  
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this holiday season -  
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All offices will be closed Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25 and New Year's Day - Wednesday, January 1.

All offices will be open until 3pm on Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31. Drive-In/Walk-Up Windows will be open until 4pm.

For your convenience, the 320 Broad St., Elizabeth and the Cranford offices will be open from 6:30 to 8pm on Thursday evening, December 26 and Thursday evening, January 2.

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# Commentary

## The hard times that have touched so many seem to elicit a spirit of helping

Season's greetings are expressed in so many ways at this time of year. There are cards, toasts, sermons, lighted signs and letters among family members and friends.

But actions speak louder than all the words. Here, in the spirit of wishing all a warm Christmas holiday, is a small sampling of the Good Samaritan activities that have occurred throughout the tri-county area over this Thanksgiving-Hanukkah-Christmas time. May their example inspire us all; may their rewards come quietly and deeply.

- The Cranford Junior Woman's Club raised \$4,000 through its Holiday House Tour for Project Home, a non-profit organization which assists local residents who are homeless or in danger of losing their present housing because of a crisis situation. The Green Thumb Garden Club added its tasteful talents to boost Project Home and its own charities.
- Meeting at the Knights of Columbus in Garwood, The Vincent Lombardi Lodge of the Sons of Italy in America collected food for Cranford Family Care.
- In turn, Cranford Family Care is distributing food baskets, toys and clothing for more than 100 needy residents on Christmas Eve.

- The Cranford Lions Club raised funds through its pancake breakfast for the annual senior citizens picnic, scholarships and organizations for the blind.
- Cranford B'nai B'rith members will volunteer their time in Operation Friendship to handle phone work and administrative tasks so policemen can have extended meal breaks and time with their families.

- Parishioners at St. Theresa's Church in Kenilworth decorated a "Giving Tree" from which people can pick a name to buy a Christmas gift for someone less fortunate.

## 'Champions'

### David Brearley Bears redefine the word

David Brearley High School has been fielding varsity football teams since 1968, but it's doubtful if the Bears have ever played a more memorable game than their Dec. 7 contest when they edged previously-undefeated Mountain Lakes.

Trailing the Thundering Herd by two touchdowns in the North Jersey, Group I, Section II championship game with less than five minutes to play, it appeared as though the Bears' title aspirations were over.

David Brearley, however, gallantly erupted for 14 points in the final five minutes of action to bring a sectional title home to Kenilworth.

Finishing their campaign with eight victories, the Bears repeatedly showed the heart of a champion. Undaunted by a season-opening loss to Hackensack, David Brearley rolled off four consecutive victories before falling to Roselle Park.

It would be the last time that the Bears tasted defeat this year. Coach Bob Taylor has sent out more talented teams in his 18 years at the Bears' helm, but never a more courageous one than this season's club which stopped Mountain Lakes 14-13.

Jon Chang, Rob Caputo, Mark Scuderi, the David Brearley High School Football Honor Roll goes on and on. Years from now, Bears' fans will remember the names of these youths who represented their school with such honor and dignity.

Champions. David Brearley's football team was certainly that both on and off the field this fall. It is a club which truly deserves the congratulations of the entire community.

## Meeker Avenue residents make known their opinions

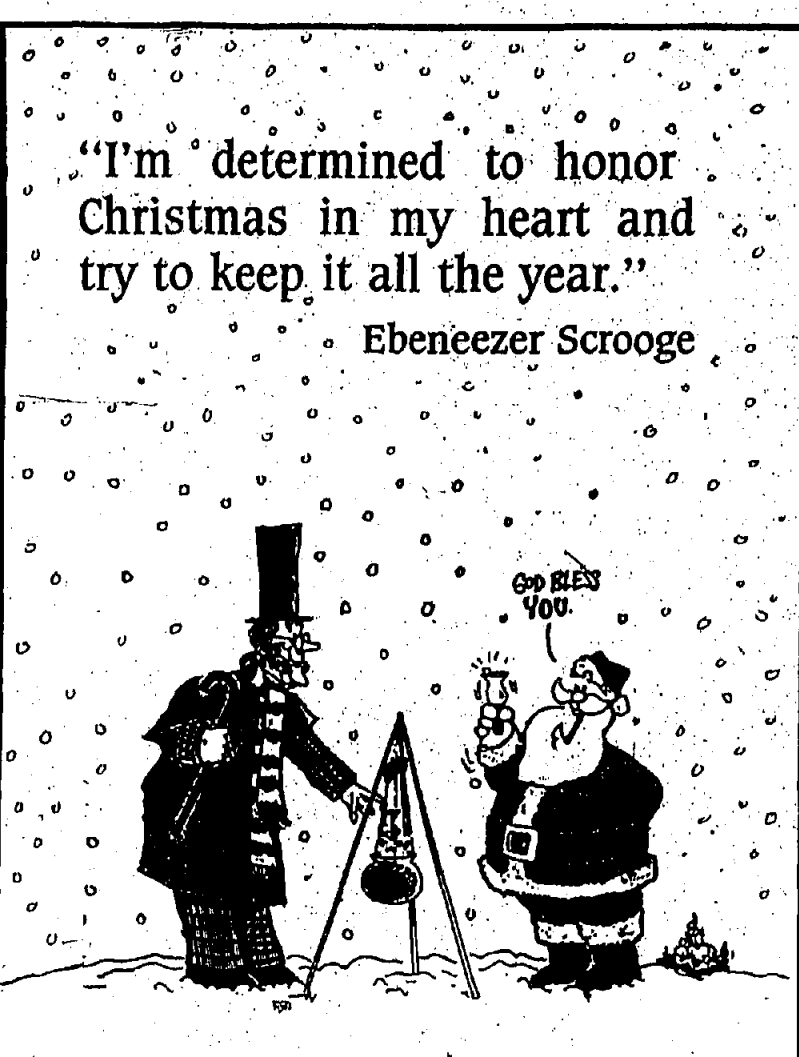
To The Chronicle: The tenants of a local senior citizen apartment complex have made known their opinion of the recently reported charge by a female resident of an alleged assault made upon her sometime in August of this year.

These wise, mature, gentle people, who treasure their privacy and the sanctity of their home, have come forth by signed petition, as well as at several meetings, to give public view of their belief in the complete innocence of the man accused of the alleged assault, Pedro Macias. This testimony is offered by them in recognition of a man,

who, over the past eight years, has proved himself completely trustworthy and totally deserving of their affection and support. A man who is, in their opinion, morally incapable of committing the allegedly abusive act of which he is being so falsely accused.

They further state in their signed petition that the accused of Pedro Macias is a woman whose improper behavior has been displayed over and over again for many years. Her presence will no longer be tolerated by them. Her immediate eviction is being strongly recommended.

THE MEERKE AVENUE TENANT ASSOCIATION



## First aid kits should be standard equipment

To The Chronicle: Several weeks ago a soccer player in one of our local leagues collided with another player and had to receive 17 stitches to his head. Because his coach used his coach's training and common sense, first aid supplies were readily available on the sidelines. The player was attended to and transported to the hospital and recovered with no problems.

On the contrary, I have also been at games where no first aid supplies were available and children have been seriously injured (one was a stress fracture of the cheek within an inch of the eye; in the other case, teeth were knocked out). After that, I made sure that I carried an ice pack and a simple first aid kit to all of my children's games.

It is the responsibility of every parent whose children play in our town programs to make sure emergency supplies are available at each and every practice and game. Centrally located kits do not suffice.

## An 'unbelievable experience'

To The Chronicle: Plea Bargaining is not bribery when a guilty individual is offered a reduced penalty to admit guilt and avoid a trial; however, when an innocent individual is pressured to accept a reduction in points and fine for admission of guilt, that is wrong!

Recently prosecutor Peter Muscato in Woodbridge's Municipal Court, offered me two points instead of four and a reduced fine (reduced) for a plea of guilty to an alleged speeding violation. I refused the offer since I thought my witness and I could convince Judge John Cassese of my innocence.

During the trial, the mentioning of the refused offer in the hallway was objected to vociferously by the

## 'Home for the Holidays' house tours successful

To The Chronicle: In these days of controversy, it is a pleasure to see cooperation within our community for a worthwhile cause. I am speaking about, of course, the Home for the Holidays house tour sponsored by the Cranford Junior Woman's Club on Dec. 8, of which I am a proud member.

There are several Cranford merchants and organizations to thank for their wonderful and enthusiastic support. They include the Cranford Book Store, Geiger's, The Arrangement, Linda's Book Exchange, the Ticker Shop, Martin Joseph's, Hart's, Durr's, Nancy's Antiques, Anita's Material Things, Cranford Florist, and Jan's Antiques of Mountaintop.

The garden club's talent and creativity gave the tour homes that extra touch of beauty. The Green Thumb Garden Club, Dig and Delve Garden Club, and the Garden Club of Cranford outdid themselves to complete the success of the project.

Muscle was provided by the Calvary Lutheran Bell Ringers, Cranford High School Brass Group, and Cranford High School Woodwind Trio. Their performances allowed the community to hear their talent and capture the holiday spirit

throughout the day. The true success of the house tour goes to the homeowners who graciously opened their homes for viewing. If they experienced any inconvenience, we were not aware of it. The Pyne, Pisco, Murphy and Dennis families were courteous, obliging, and understanding. Their patience throughout the months of preparation showed in the individual beauty of each home. A hearty thank you is extended to them. I applaud their generosity in supporting our efforts to aid the homeless of our community.

Thanks cannot be complete without mention of the outstanding women of the Cranford Junior Woman's Club. Their consistent enthusiasm and energetic spirit cannot be equalled. They were always there to lend a helping hand and that enabled the project to run as smoothly as it did.

Because of all the community support, the Cranford Junior Woman's Club will present a check in the amount of \$4,000 to Project Home. Congratulations to all for an extremely successful event. It will truly be a happy holiday.

JACQUELINE KARMOL  
Chairman, House Tour Committee  
Cranford Junior Woman's Club

To The Chronicle: 'Tis the season to be jolly! And 'tis I am after reading the November 26 issue of the "Cranford Chronicle," especially the Forbes Newspaper's ad for The Cranford Chronicle on page 15.

The headline for this ad says "Cranford Chronicle orchestrates local news." They are finally admitting that for these past months The Chronicle has been orchestrating the local news such as sensationalizing a racial problem at the high school where none existed, printing a story about the recent League of Municipalities Convention that was full of falsehoods and quoting a Texas-based reporter using three year old data at face value before investigating the criteria used. These are just a few of the examples of "orchestrating" the local news.

Not only is the local news being orchestrated but also the recent local election campaign. The Chronicle's policy for many years was one press release for each political party each week, no endorsement letters and particularly

not in the last issue before the election. Well, Guess what? Sometimes the Democrats had two press releases; one week the Republican release wasn't printed at all. Democrat endorsement letters were allowed including the last issue before the election.

Then to top it all off, the week after the election both candidates wrote thank-you letters. Both were printed, but the Democrat's letter had a black border around it. Was that to make it stand out or was that "in sympathy" since the Democratic candidate lost in spite of preferential treatment? Thank God Cranford voters are smarter and fairer than The Cranford Chronicle.

A local newspaper is the life line of the community it serves and frankly I think we're sinking back in the early stages of the "Forbes Chronicle." I participated in a focus group made up of representatives from a variety of Cranford's organizations where we discussed our concerns with our newspaper. I think it's time to reconvene that focus group.

JEANNINE R. ROWE  
435 Brookside Place

## Cranford DPW did good job repairing old street light

To The Chronicle: Because we too often spend a lot of time complaining about situations that we find annoying and not too much time saying thank you and acknowledging when something is corrected, I want to take a moment right now to acknowledge the efforts of the Cranford Public Works Department. They did a wonderful job fixing the old street light in a small island at the corner of Severn Court and Centennial Avenue. This light had been in disrepair for a long

time. If you look at the light now, you will see that the pole has been straightened, repaired and painted and there is a new Victorian-style fixture on it. The island has been cleaned of debris and the total effect is very nice.

Special thanks to the president of the Chamber of Commerce, Paul LaCorte, and to the commissioner of Public Works, Mr. Robinson, for their help in "getting the job done."

DAVID T. BIGHEN, D.C.  
MARIE BIDEN  
230 Centennial Ave.

## Consultants find higher than average number of school staff

### Flu stays away from town schools

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

The Cranford school district gets high marks according to the Telesis Management Associates Inc. staffing study, but results show there is still room for improvement.

The study, which was unveiled to the public at Monday's Board of Education meeting, ranks Cranford among the better districts in the county in a number of areas, including percentage of 1985-86 ninth-graders who went on to graduate in 1989.

The study, however, showed Cranford to be well above average in a number of other areas.

When comparing Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) results, Cranford ranked third in verbal scores when ranked among 16 comparable New Jersey school districts.

In Union County, meanwhile, Cranford's SAT scores exceeded the typical K-12 district scores by 89 points in verbal and 44 in math. In ranking High School Proficiency Test scores among 16 comparable districts throughout the state, Cranford scored fourth in reading and fourth in writing.

All totaled, the staffing study indicated that "Cranford is generally above the typical Union County K-12 district and compares favorably with comparable New Jersey districts."

The study also concluded that the New Jersey school districts Cranford was compared to would be considered "among the best in New Jersey, or for that matter, the nation." The districts were Bergenfield,

Caldwell-West Caldwell, Delran, Dumont, Ewing, Fair Lawn, Livingston, Mahwah, Montville, Moorestown, North Plainfield, Nutley, Ocean Township, Ramsey, Scotch Plains-Fanwood and Randolph.

"Generally speaking, for every item they (Cranford) are below other districts, there is an item which they compare favorably with," said Robert Fleischer, president of the Paganelli, Pa., consulting firm, when asked about the survey results.

The study was an outgrowth of requests by the Township Committee the past two years following school budget defeats. The Committee had asked for a management study to determine if the school administrative staff was larger than average.

## Plans on hold for county animal control service

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

Plans to bring a county-wide animal control service have been put on hold for at least a few months.

A number of municipal health officers are scheduled to meet with county mayors early next year to discuss the plan, which would eliminate the need for contracting private services for animal control.

Cranford, for instance, pays close to \$20,000 annually to the Garden State Kennels in Stillburg for animal control services, which include hazardous animals, removing dead animals from the road, and euthanizing animals.

But by implementing a county-wide service, municipalities stand to save money, according to Cranford Health Officer Warren Hehl.

"After business hours you have to pay extra for them to come out," Mr. Hehl said, referring to private animal control services. "A county-wide facility would give us better adoption rates and not as many animals would have to be destroyed."

"What happened is the health officers have

been trying to get the information to go to the mayors, but of course, with a change in administration, we've been holding off on that information," Mr. Hehl said.

After hearing about the plan from the health officers, it is expected that county mayors will formulate a county-wide animal control service resolution to bring before the Union County Board of Freeholders.

If approved, the county would then consider building an animal care facility at a yet undetermined location. According to Mr. Hehl, it would take at least two years for such a facility to be completed.

The idea of starting a county-wide animal control service was originally discussed earlier this year, but the idea has been delayed the past few months.

In October 1990, the Union County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals notified towns it had been providing animal control services to that it could no longer provide the services.

The majority of municipalities in Union County then had to make arrangements to contract with private services for animal control.

## Fund drive at 60 percent

Cranford's United Way campaign has reached 60 percent of its \$205,000 goal, announced Chairman Skip Winter.

"We are currently about \$7,000 behind where we were at the same time last year," he said. "Additionally, we are looking to raise an extra \$5,000 above where we ended up in 1991. Despite the trend, we are optimistic that we will be able to meet our goal, and meet the needs of our agencies."

One of the special needs this year, along with the Cranford agencies and other organizations, was to help fund John Ondrey of Troop 173 of St. Michael Church with his Eagle Scout project, said Mr. Winter.

John distributed Vials of Life to Cranford senior citizens. Donations may be made to the Cranford United Way, P.O. Box 171, Cranford, N.J. 07016.

Other figures are: Cranford High School (8 percent); Orange Avenue School (9.7 percent); Hillside Avenue School (13 percent); Brookside Place School (6 percent); Walnut Avenue School (7 percent); Livingston Avenue School (8 percent); and Cranford Alternative Program (5 percent).

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## Garwood



Students in grades 5-8 of Lincoln and Franklin schools used an official voting machine to elect student council officers and representatives. Show above are the officer: Nina Pachia, secretary; Linwood Navarro, treasurer; William Ives, president; Kimberly Castaldo, vice president; and their advisor, Mrs. Benc.



A bike-a-thon to benefit St. Jude's Research Hospital was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus No. 5437 in Garwood. Dennis Lesak, coordinator, said \$2,281 was forwarded to the hospital. Shown above are Tina Pugh of Avenel and David Deschamps of Elizabeth, who rode their bicycles for their efforts. The bikes were donated by Kings, Bradless and Pathmark.

## Borough honored for safety

Garwood and Cranford were two of 61 communities recognized by AAA New Jersey Automobile Club for their commitment to pedestrian safety.

Garwood received the Pedestrian Safety Citation for two years without a pedestrian fatality.

"I attribute our town's safety record to high visibility of patrol vehicles and increased enforcement of speed zones in intersections where there is high pedestrian traffic," said Chief Warren Opie of the Garwood Police Department.

Cranford received the Special Citation for Outstanding Pedestrian Activities.

Cranford offers specialized training for police officers in pedestrian and bicycle safety, has a traffic coordinating committee to oversee pedestrian safety, stresses driver education in the schools and has in-

school traffic safety programs to encourage children to abide by traffic and bicycle safety rules.

The police department uses the "left-right-left" pedestrian safety program in the schools, posts safety reminders near the railroad trestles in town and has a good relationship with the school PTA and PTO.

"Without the ongoing safety efforts of communities like these, pedestrians would have a difficult time traversing our roadways," said Matthew Derham, AAA president. "We're pleased to recognize the citizens of Cranford and Garwood for their pedestrian safety achievements and encourage them to continue to make pedestrian safety a top priority."

Since AAA began its Pedestrian Protection Program in 1937, pedestrian fatalities have decreased 54 percent while motor vehicle travel has increased 688 percent.

## Post office holiday hours

Holiday services hours for postal units throughout the area were announced by Angelo Scannell, officer in charge of the Garwood Post Office. The hours of operation at the Garwood Post Office, 202 Center St., are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. The post office will close at 12:30 p.m. Christmas and New Year's Eve.

## Democrats hold annual meeting

The Garwood Democratic Club held their annual Christmas meeting on Dec. 9. Incoming chairman Mike Cincinelli presented a token of the club's appreciation to Frank Spera, the outgoing chairman. During the presentation, Mr. Cincinelli cited some of Mr. Spera's accomplishments, including nine years as a Garwood borough councilman, planning board chairman, and chairman of Emergency Management. Mr. Cincinelli thanked Mr. Spera for his years of dedication and service. Mr. Cincinelli especially thanked Mr. Spera's wife, Pauline, for her patience and understanding over the years.



The Americanism and Youth Committee of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Bay Leaf Post 8807 recently had a poster coloring contest for first grade students. The posters were of the Statue of Liberty. The winners were:

In Mrs. Laura Smith's class: first, Kristin Rastelli; second, Maria Foglia; and third, Angela Sytko.

In Miss Linda Posunko's class: first, Jaclyn William; second, Dale Coulter; and third, Kelly Reynolds.

Winners received a cash prize and ribbons. All the first graders were given Pledge of Allegiance pencils. These awards were given at an assembly with the following VFW Auxiliary members present: Ann Guerriero, Helen Kilburg, Connie Goodell and Rae Cleveland.

Judges were Lucille Varela, Barbara Yutz, Diane Varela and Catherine Madara.

Shown above are three winners, Kristin Rastelli, Maria Foglia and Angela Sytko, and Principal Randy Pratt, Laura Smith, Lucille Varela of the VFW, and Barbara Yutz.

## Municipal court

Several fines were levied and penalties imposed during recent municipal court proceedings before Judge William Boffa Jr. Scott Baumann, 26, of 330 S. Union Ave., Cranford, pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated and driving with a suspended license and was fined a total of \$1,157. His license was revoked for two years and 90 days and he was ordered to attend the Intoxicated Driver Resource Center for 48 hours. Judge Boffa sentenced Mr. Baumann to 10 days in the county jail and 30 days community service.

Charges against Mr. Baumann for refusing to take a breath test, careless driving, possession of an open container of alcohol and driving with no brake lights were dismissed as part of a plea bargain agreement with the prosecutor.

Mr. Baumann was arrested at 11:15 p.m. Oct. 6 on Center Street by officer Thomas Metrice.

Separately, Shahied Pasha of Walnut Street, Elizabeth pleaded guilty to being an unlicensed driver and failing to make a turn. She was fined a total of \$285. Judge Boffa suspended any new license request for 180 days. Ms. Pasha was arrested at 11:21 p.m. Oct. 13 by officer Metrice.

Gregory Hetrick, 36, of Boa Place, Hillside, pleaded guilty to theft by deception and was fined a total of \$150. Mr. Hetrick had been accused of presenting a \$1 bill that had been altered to appear like a \$20 bill to a Garwood business last week.

Ursula Carthens, 24, of Plainfield pleaded not guilty but was found guilty of shoplifting one pair of shoes worth \$49 from Shoetown on South Avenue. She was fined a total of \$305. Ms. Carthens was arrested Oct. 31 on a complaint by Shoetown employee Nevia Monte-

ro.

Investigators said Ms. Monte-

ro was walking home in a heavy rain when she was struck by a van driven by Robert Haleck, 31, of Clark.

Mr. Haleck is an employee of D-

## Kenilworth

### Positive approach



The Parent Teacher Organization of Harding School sponsored a workshop on positive parenting skills, which was conducted by Robert Lento. Parents and teachers learned to use positive reinforcement when dealing with typical discipline problems. Shown above are Mr. Lento and Principal Fred Rica.

## Police blotter

### Pedestrian struck by van is hospitalized in fair condition

A 25-year-old Roselle Park woman was listed in fair condition Friday after she was struck by a van Dec. 3 on N. 14th street.

The woman, identified as Kavita Modh of Jerome Street, was taken to University Hospital, Newark, shortly after 5 p.m. by the Kenilworth Rescue Squad with a fractured leg and head injury.

Investigators said Ms. Modh had been walking home in a heavy rain when she was struck by a van driven by Robert Haleck, 31, of Clark. Mr. Haleck is an employee of D-

versified Specialties, owner of the van he was driving. No summonses were issued.

Police are continuing to investigate exactly how Ms. Modh was struck but investigators believe the torrential downpour contributed to the accident. Police have interviewed one witness and are continuing to seek others who may have seen the accident. Anyone with information is urged to call headquarters at 276-1700. All calls will be confidential.

### Taylor is student of the month

Robert Taylor, 17, is the November student of the month at David Brearley High School.

Robert, a Kenilworth resident, plans to major in journalism when he enters college, and hopes to specialize in sports writing and someday own a newspaper.

Robert is ranked second in the senior class. He is a Rutgers Scholar, won a 1991 best writing award for a short story, and is currently writing a qualifying essay for his nomination for the principal's leadership award.

Robert enjoys working with his personal computer, especially on statistical data, and is active in three school sports — football, wrestling and spring track. He is editor of the Bear Print, and recently participated in Guys and Dolls, the spring musical.



ROBERT TAYLOR

### Cross country ski lessons set

Trailside Nature and Science Center will offer an introduction to cross country skiing, taught by certified Nordic ski instructor John Hanus, former owner of the Pleasant Valley Cycle and Ski Shop of Chatham and 1980 Olympic Games engineer. Sessions will be offered Thursday, Jan. 11, from 7:30-9 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 16, from 10-11:30 a.m.

Beginner skiers can register with a \$5 non-refundable fee, which will pay for an all-in-door program if there is no snow. The indoor program will consist of a lecture covering topics such as clothing, waxing and equipment, and the award-

winning film "If You Can Walk, If there is enough snow, an outdoor lesson will follow an indoor introduction and will cover the basics of this Nordic sport in the natural setting of the Watchung Reservation. An additional \$15 fee will be payable at class time if an outdoor lesson is given. Instruction and demonstration of ski basics include correct falling, snowplow stopping, striding and kick turns. Telemark turns also be demonstrated if time allows.

All participants must bring their own equipment. Registration information: 789-3870 Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Court

### Two men convicted of drunken driving

Two men were convicted in separate incidents of driving while intoxicated (DWI). According to Kenilworth court reports, Vasile Miliu, 30, of Union was arrested Sept. 25 for failing to stop at a stop sign. Subsequent investigation led to an arrest, for DWI. He was fined \$408 by the court and had his license suspended for six months.

James Cameron, 42, of Roselle Park, was convicted on a third DWI offense in Kenilworth and received a \$1,000 fine, a revoked license for 10 years, and must serve 30 days in-patient and 60 days outpatient alcohol rehabilitation treatment.

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Charlene Norris with her father, Fred.

### Charlene Norris is this year's homecoming queen

Charlene Norris of Garwood, a senior at David Brearley High School, was honored as homecoming queen for 1991-92 during half-time ceremonies at a recent Brearley-Johnson Regional football game in Kenilworth.

Charlene has been recognized for being outgoing, athletic, school-spirited and cheerful. She has been a member of the David Brearley varsity gymnastics team and served as the Bear mascot for the Brearley cheerleading squad. In addition, Charlene participated in French, a student organization that promotes the benefits of a drug- and alcohol-free lifestyle, and Project Joy, the Union County Regional High School District's intergenerational program. She also plays on the Brearley softball team and participated in last year's school musical production of Guys and Dolls. A member of Who's Who Among American High School Students, Charlene was the recipient of the 1989 and 1990 Brearley Booster Club Award for gymnastics.

Even with all of her school-related activities, Charlene still finds time to hold two part-time jobs. She is employed by Char and Sons Maintenance, a family-owned business, and works as a design studio in Union. After her graduation from David Brearley in June, Charlene plans to attend college and major in business.

Charlene is the daughter of Patricia and Fred Norris.

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## Schools

### Cranford schools shine at PTA convention

All Cranford Public Schools sent representatives to the 91st Annual New Jersey PTA Convention in Atlantic City, where the schools won Brass Ring Awards in four of five challenge categories.

Five major program challenges were set up for local units. The four units Cranford shone in were the Safe Homes-Safe Families Program, for which Hillside Avenue School won first place in the Children's Day Award; the Inter-generational Program at Walnut Avenue School and the National PTA Month Program at Hillside Avenue School, both of which received second place awards; the Community Involvement Program, for which Hillside Avenue School placed third; and the Community Involvement Program, for which Walnut Avenue School won an honorable mention. With competition from 940 units, Cranford's six local units took 25 percent of the awards.

Orange Avenue School received recognition for its publicity book. Brookside Place School received a second place award for its Parent Education Program on AIDS that was offered in October for the entire school district. The Operation From Graduation Award found Cranford High School in first place for its Annual Project Graduation Party for graduating students.

Cranford has also received National PTA Recognition for its outstanding PTA programs and its ad-

### Hillside School concert today

The elementary music department of Hillside Avenue School will perform their annual holiday program in the auditorium today at 1:30 p.m.

The 4th, 5th and 6th grade choirs, and elementary band and orchestra, will present a varied program of traditional holiday music. Included in this repertoire are Christmas Carol Cheer, Light the Candle, Christmas Patter, Twelve Days of Christmas, Hava Nagila and music by Caponegro, Beethoven and Wolszky.

### November star awards at Orange

November star awards at Orange Avenue School, Cranford are:

Grades K-2: Bryan Goldstein, winner of a gift certificate to Cranford Book Store for helping a classmate find lost lunch money.

Grades 3-4: Philip Orsichio, winner of a gift certificate to Sweet Dreams Cafe for finding book fair money on the playground and bringing it to the office.

Grades 5-6: Bryan Reppert, winner of a gift certificate to Tony's Cafe and Pizzeria for showing interest and curiosity above and beyond all expectations.

Grades 7-8: Mary Ellen Sweeney, winner of a gift certificate to Cranford Twin Theatre for hard work and long hours practicing the cello.

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### Students honored for anti-drug posters

Four Cranford students earned honors in the Union County Narcotic Advisory Board's 12th Annual Drug Poster Contest for fifth graders. In the "Best Slogan" category, Julie Bashloun won first place and Andrew Hubbsch and Kelly Edmonds tied for third place. In the "Most Artistic" category, Becky Taylor won third place. More than 1,000 posters were received and 21 received honors.

### Brookside's students of the month

James Johnson Jr., principal of Brookside School, presented November Student of the Month awards to the following:

John Babineau, Diana Barris, Patrick Bither, Kelly Bramwell, Zachary Bisher, Christine Cusumano, Jonathan Decker, Clare Dennis, Sophia Guleses, William Harnett, Lindsay Hoggan, Daniel Helmsler, Sarah Hendel, Kathleen Henehan, David Heuer, Robert Hubbsch, Hoshiyuki Iida, Cheryl Jacko, Andrew Kindler, Kevin Knight, Sara Mados, Meghan Maher, Mehdi Malko, Raimi Marx, Matthew Milwicz, Samantha Mo-

rano, Christopher Nazzaro, Danielle Nazzaro, Lee Newmark, Christine Penicillio, Lori Polito, Jason Purdie, Kevin Reilly, Marc Ricci, Howard Roach, Kathleen Ryan, Robert Sands, Gina Serpico, Rebecca Severs, Peter Sevigny and Rebecca Taylor.

### Child Shield program in effect

Cranford's Child Shield Program, in effect since 1972, is designed to provide a means of assistance to elementary age children if an emergency should arise when they are going to or from school or playing in the neighborhood. The Child Shield program is coordinated by the Cranford Police Department. For an application, contact the PTA safety chairperson in your child's school.

### NHS officers are elected

Robert Seyfarth, principal of Cranford High School, announced the following students were elected as officers of the National Honor Society: president, Joanne Cata-

lano, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pietro Catalano, 16 MacArthur Ave.; vice president, Sylvia Haller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haller, 28 Georgia St.; treasurer, Cori Flamingo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Flamingo, 331 Walnut Ave.; secretary, Jennifer Slocum, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Slocum, 615 Orchard St.

### National Geography Bee competition held

Livingston Avenue School students competed in the National Geography Bee at the Livingston Avenue School auditorium on Dec. 12. The nine finalists are: 9th grade — Lauren Zuravsky, David Nycz and Jeffrey Baer; 5th grade — Michael Meier, Michelle Chilliand and James Dely; 6th grade — Jeffrey Schuize, Aaron Wright and Debbie Noble.

The winner of Livingston Avenue School Bee will advance to the next level of competition, a written examination. All school winners are eligible to win the national championship and its first prize, a \$25,000 college scholarship, at the national finals May 20 and 21 in Washington, D.C. The second-place winner will win a \$15,000 scholarship and the third-place winner, a \$10,000 scholarship.

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## Seniors

### Thursday Senior Club

Today the Thursday Senior Club will be entertained by the "Side by Siders" singing group.

### Friday Senior Club

Tomorrow the Friday Seniors Club will learn about "Happy Holiday Eating." There is no meeting on Friday, Dec. 27.

### Monday Senior Club

The Monday Senior Club recently celebrated the birthdays of a dozen members: Ed Dick, Emily DiVencenzo, Mary Hackett, Stanley Hreniuk, Rose Lang, Anna Litwin, Jane Pankuch, Letti Precore, Mary Schott, Ruth Sparlock, Electra Tubulis and Hazel Wagner. Any senior interested in joining, call 709-7283.

### Cranford Community Center

Cranford residents 60 years or older are welcome to attend the following activities scheduled for December at the Cranford Community Center, 200 Bloomington Ave. Information: 709-7283.

Today: 12:30 p.m. A medley of Christmas tunes will be sung by the Cranford Side-by-Siders. 12:30-3:30 p.m. Health Maintenance Program includes free blood

pressure reading, weight and counseling. By appointment.

Tomorrow: 12:30 p.m. Wendy Kaplowitz, nutritionist from the Visiting Nurse Association, will present a program on "Happy Holiday Eating."

Monday: 12:30-3:30 p.m. Health Maintenance Program includes free blood pressure reading, weight and counseling.

Wednesday: The Community Center will be closed for Christmas. There will be no Senior Citizen bus service.

### Wednesday Senior Club

The Wednesday Group held their annual Christmas party at the Westwood last Wednesday. Members celebrating December birthdays were Diane Capro, Helen Grayes, Rita Gross, Charles Hoffman, Nadja Joseph, Grace Kiesel, Peggy Lahay, Elizabeth Melquist, John Melquist, Frank Merlo, Gail Moldal and Helen Robertello.

### Cranford Chapter of AARP

The Cranford Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow at Lincoln School. A social will be held at 9:30 a.m.

The Hillside Avenue School Band and Choral group will perform Christmas and Hanukkah music.

## 'We Care' hotline open for help

"We Care," a non-profit crisis helpline, is anticipating an increased volume of calls for help again during the upcoming holiday season. "This is a traditional time for calls to be made because more people have feelings of depression and anxiety during the holidays," says Milton Falik, executive director of the Youth and Family Counseling Center in Westfield.

"They are focusing on the past as their lives have changed."

According to psychiatrist Charles Ciolino, M.D., numerous sources of holiday-related stress include a "feeling of being overwhelmed with vivid images of love and joy which often does not match a person's inner feelings."

Ciolino says loneliness is a source of stress for a person who has no family, no support system or who will be spending the holidays without an important family member due to death or separation, such as a married child spending the holidays away from home.

"We live in a transient society," says Falik. "People are uprooted and there is a lot of divorce and separation. They seem to remember the past when families were intact and become lonely instead of the warmth and togeth-

ness they think they are expected to feel."

Another source of stress, Ciolino adds is that "many people try to make a holiday perfect in every way including meal preparation and gift buying. If it is not perfect, they feel as if they let themselves and others down."

The pressure of time, especially for a person with an already busy schedule, also causes a great deal of stress. "How ironic it is that a time to be joyful becomes anxiety-provoking and stressful," says Ciolino.

"These feelings are universal," says Falik. "We can all identify with these emotions and situations and see part of ourselves."

Holiday-related stress "happens to a significant percent of the population, not only to those who are old and alone, but to a cross-section of the population," says Vera Whittenburg, director of the Blanton-Peale Counseling Center in Cranford.

Nancy Pizz-Benz, executive director of Resolve Community Counseling Center in Scotch Plains, adds another important factor — money issues and financial problems, especially if someone is out of work. "They feel a loss of self-esteem and wonder how they

will get through the holidays. The reversal of roles at home due to less of a job unbalances a relationship, which becomes an additional stress," Pizz-Benz states.

"A helpline such as Contact We Care is very important for those experiencing feelings of stress and inner turmoil," says Ciolino. "Faith, across, 'someone who cares is always available to listen to a person. It provides a strong support system for someone ready to express their pent-up feelings without being judged.'"

"It is not a sign of weakness to call Contact," says Ciolino. "Give it a try. Many people have benefited from it." Contact Helpline and Deaf Contact are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to answer calls for help about various issues including holiday-related stress. Contact provides these services free of charge to residents of central New Jersey and all calls are confidential. The Helpline number is 232-2880 and the Deaf Contact number is 232-3333.

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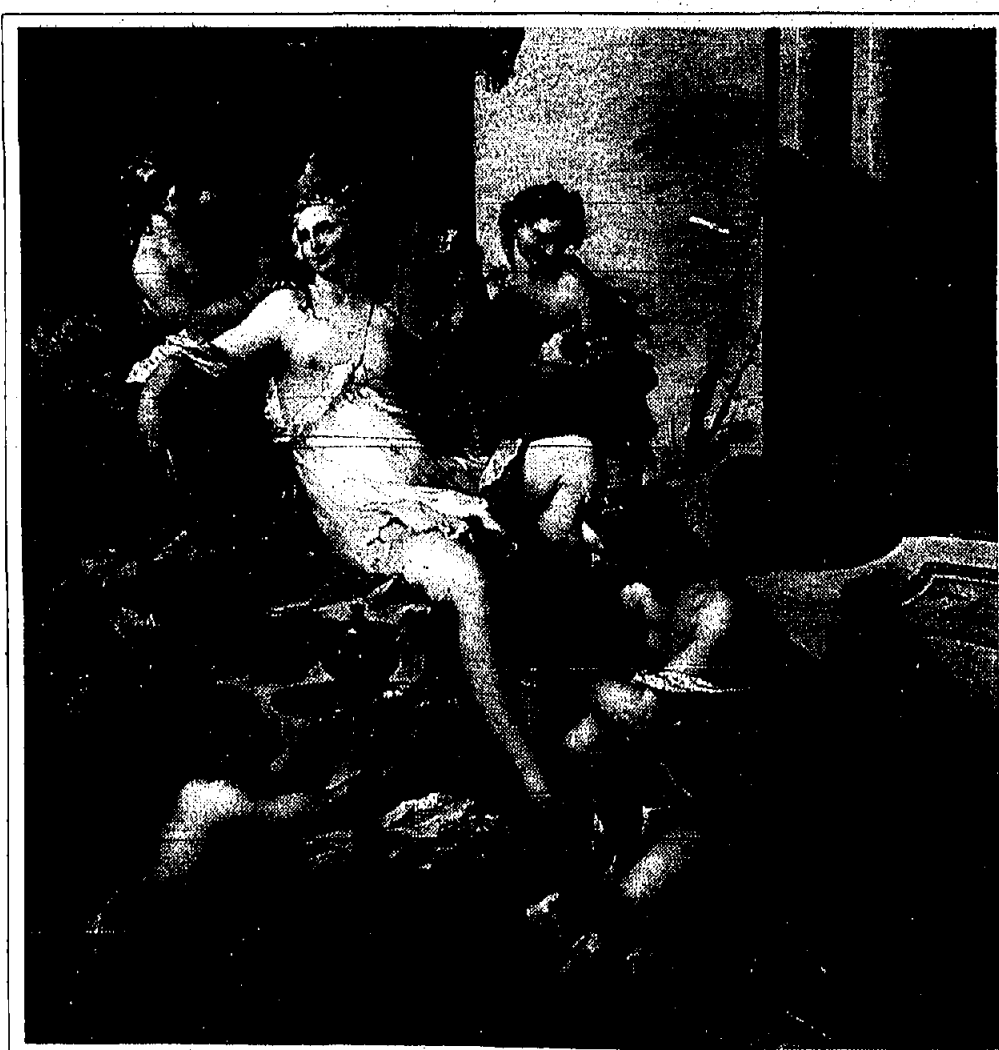
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789-1285  
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**Raritan Road Baptist Church**  
611 Raritan Road, Cranford (Adjacent to the Days Inn)  
272-7088  
Pastor Steve Nash  
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**LOOK IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP TIMES**



## Obituaries

### Rose Cecil Gaffney, 95 30-year Cranford resident

Rose Cecilia Gaffney, 95, a resident of Cranford from 1927 to 1958, died Dec. 10, 1991, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Rose Lorraine and John Durkin, in Seattle, Wash.

She was born July 18, 1896, in Peelskill, N.Y., and moved to Seattle following the death of her husband, Edward P. Gaffney in 1957. Mr. Gaffney, employed by the Diehl Manufacturing Co., was a well-known baseball and basketball umpire in the area. Mrs. Gaffney was an active member of St. Michael's Parish while living in Cranford.

In addition to her daughter, she is survived by one son, Rev. Edward M. Gaffney, O.P., presently teaching at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.; four grandchildren, Maryanne Myers and her husband, Harold of Sumner, Wash., Denise Ladenburg and

her husband, Frank, and John Durkin Jr. and his wife, Allison Jean, all of Everett, Wash., and Edward Durkin and his wife, Cora Lee, of South Prairie, Wash.; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Gaffney was a communicant of Assumption Catholic Church, Seattle, a member of its Altar Society, the Third Order of St. Dominic, and of Seattle's St. Martin's College Mother's Club.

Recreation of the Rosary was Dec. 13. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Dec. 14 at Assumption Church in Seattle. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Seattle. Arrangements were by Father and Harvey Funeral Home, Seattle.

Remembrances may be made to the Assumption School Endowment Fund, 6220 32nd Ave., N.E., Seattle, Wash. 98115.

### Andrew J. Walsh; was WWII vet

Andrew J. Walsh of Kenilworth died Dec. 13, 1991, at Atlantic City Medical Center.

He had worked for the United States Veterans Administration in Newark for 35 years before retiring in 1971. Mr. Walsh served in the

Army during World War II. Born in Newark, he moved to Kenilworth many years ago. Surviving are his wife, Josephine, a daughter, Joanne; a son, Robert; and a brother, John. Mass was Dec. 17 at St. Theresa's Church, Linden, after a funeral at Opacity Funeral Home.

## Births

### Baby Brendan joins Kuntz family

John and Maureen Keenan Kuntz of Scarsdale, N.Y., announce the birth of Brendan Patterson Kuntz, on Oct. 24, 1991, at Lawrence Hospital, Bronxville, N.Y. Brendan joins a brother, 21-month-old James O'Malley Kuntz. Grandparents are George and Mary Ellen Keenan of Cranford and Leonard and Mary Kuntz of North Brunswick. Margaret Kuntz is paternal great-grandmother.

### Ridge family welcomes baby Michael

Erin and Michael Ridge of Westfield announce the birth of their son, Michael Sean, 8 lbs. 14 oz., on Oct. 25, 1991, at Muhlenberg Hospital. He joins sister Caitlin. Maternal grandparents are Jack and Nancy Miller. Paternal grandparents are James and Marla Ridge and great-grandparents are Bob and Margie Miller.

### Hrudowskis announce birth of Robert

Christopher and Marie Dykstra Hrudowski of Towson announce the birth of their son, Robert Christopher, on Nov. 4, 1991, at St. Clare's Riverside Medical Center.

### Ferraros announce birth of Christina

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Ferraro, formerly of Cranford, announce the birth of their daughter, Christina Marie, on Oct. 6, 1991, at John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, Stratford. Maternal grandmother is Mary Leone of Hackensack. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Ferraro of Cranford.

### O'Keefes announce birth of Kerri Ann

Kelli and Bob O'Keefe of Cranford announce the birth of daughter Kerri Ann on Nov. 9, at

Overlook Hospital, Summit. She weighed 8 lbs. and was 20 in. long. Grandparents are Kay and Bob O'Keefe of Hightstown, N.Y., and Ann and Clarence Reed of Spring Lake Heights. Great-grandmother is Alice Bourke of Wall Township.

### Baby Nicholas joins LaVerda family

Kerry and Gregory LaVerda of Linden announce the birth of a son, Nicholas, at Overlook Hospital, Summit. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 20 3/4 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Vardalis and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank LaVerda of Cranford.

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### Genevieve Galiardo at 82 member Catholic Daughters Church

Genevieve Galiardo, 82, of Kenilworth died Dec. 15, 1991, in her home.

Mrs. Galiardo was a member of the Catholic Daughters of St. Theresa's Church and the American Association of Retired Persons, Union.

Born in Elizabeth, she moved to Kenilworth many years ago. Surviving are two sons, John and

### Mary Mikalonis Paskewich dies Dec. 11 at age 104

Mary Mikalonis Paskewich of Kenilworth died Dec. 11, 1991, at home after a brief illness. She was 104.

Born in Lithuania, she settled in Elizabeth in 1955 and moved to Kenilworth more than 20 years ago.

Mrs. Paskewich was a seamstress for Lubell's shirt factory, Elizabeth, and other shirt factories, retiring 35 years ago.

She was the oldest communicant of St. Peter and Paul R.C. Church, Elizabeth, and a member of its Rosary Society. She also was a member of its Malpas Apostolates and Moteru Sajungos.

Mrs. Paskewich would have celebrated her 105th birthday next month.

Her husband, John, died in 1945, and a son, Edward, died in November.

Surviving are a son, Vincent of Greenwich, Conn.; two daughters, Tille Paskewich and Anne Furda, with whom she lived; eight grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was from the August Schmidt Memorial Funeral Home, Elizabeth, on Dec. 13. The Mass was held in St. Peter and Paul R.C. Church, Elizabeth.

Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to the Visiting Nurse Association, 354 Union Ave., Elizabeth, N.J. 07208.

### Catherine Mangan, 84 Kenilworth Senior Club member

Catherine Kelly Mangan of Kenilworth died Dec. 11, 1991, at Overlook Hospital, Summit, after a brief illness. She was 84.

Born in Jersey City, she lived in Roselle Park for 68 years before moving to Kenilworth 16 years ago. She was a member of the Senior Citizens Club in Kenilworth.

Mrs. Mangan was a communicant of Church of the Assumption, Roselle Park, and a member of its Rosary Society.

She also was a member of the Ladies Auxiliaries of Roselle Park Volunteer Fire Department, and

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### John P. Lynes dies at 69 Western Electric systems analyst

John P. Lynes of Cranford died Dec. 5, 1991, at Overlook Hospital, Summit. He was 69.

Born in Elizabeth, he moved to Cranford in 1954. Mr. Lynes was a systems analyst for Western Electric Co. in Kearny, N.J., and Newark for 42 years before retiring in 1984. He was a member of Telephone Pioneers of America.

Mr. Lynes was a World War II Army veteran who served in the 8th Air Force in England. He was wounded in action and received the Purple Heart. He was a communicant of St. Michael's Church in Cranford where he was an usher for many years.

In 1947, he graduated from Seton Hall University, South Orange. In 1956, he received a master's degree from New York University. He was a manager for 25 years in Cranford Baseball League.

A Mass was celebrated at St. Michael's Church on Dec. 9 with interment in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to E.I.E.S., 59 Second Road, South Orange, N.J. 07079.

### William H. Stacey, 91 Was active in Garwood politics

GARWOOD — William H. Stacey died Wednesday (Dec. 11, 1991) at Rahway Hospital after a brief illness. He was 91.

Born in Clark, he moved to Garwood in 1921. Mr. Stacey was a supervisor for PSE&G in Elizabeth for 44 years before retiring in 1963.

During World War II, he served as a zone warden for Civil Defense.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, Rahway, and active in Garwood politics.

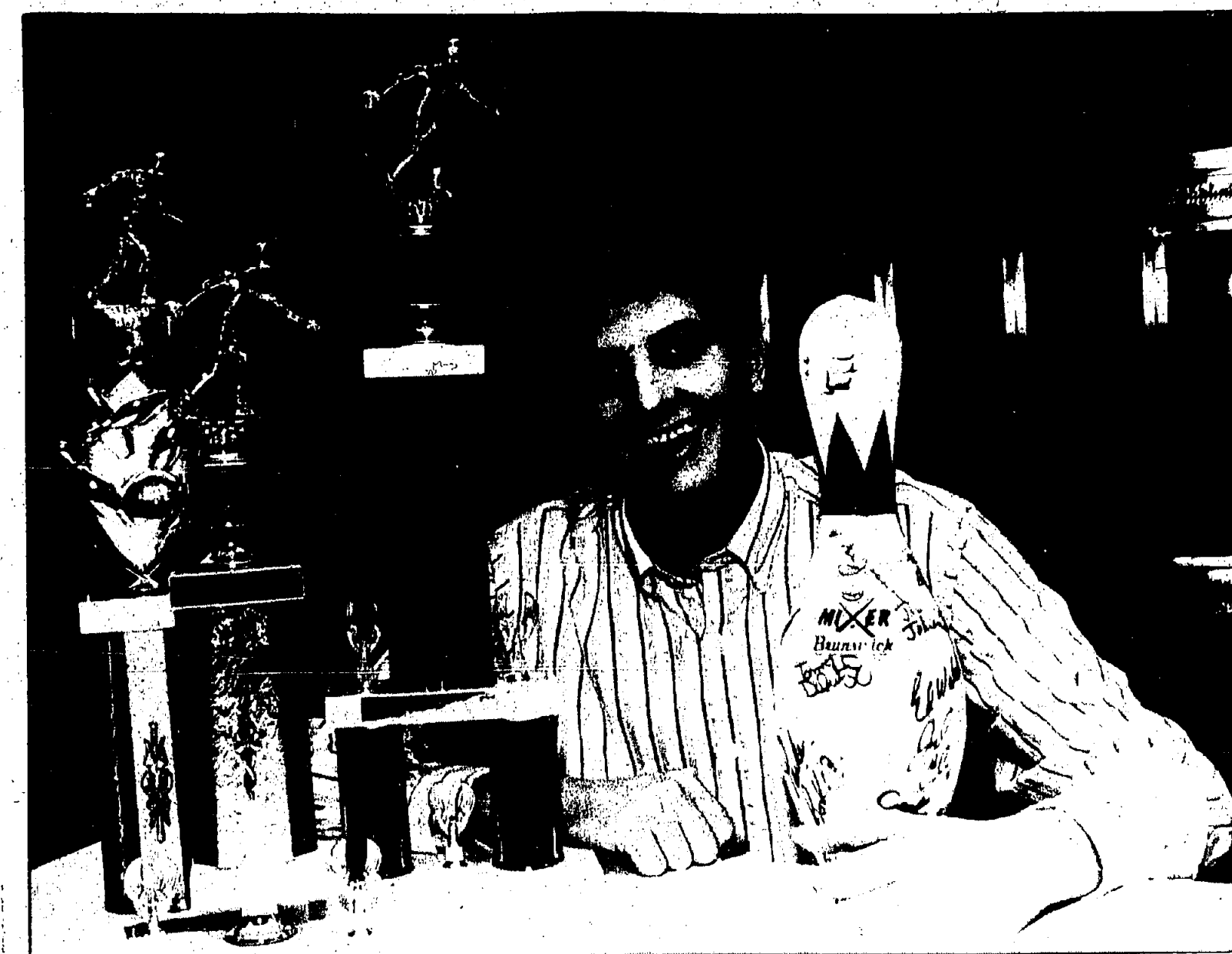
Surviving are his wife, the former Gladys Kaylor; two sons, William E. and Richard W.; and a sister, Blanche Howarth.

Arrangements were by Gray Memorial Funeral Home, Cranford. Services were held Friday. Donations may be made to the Garwood Rescue Squad.

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# Sports



15-year-old Jim Culter bowled a perfect 300 at Echo Lanes in Mountainside in the Teens and Queens League.

## Cranford youth bowls perfect game 15-year-old Jim Culter rolls the elusive 300

By SCOTT ZUCKER

THE CHRONICLE

Bowling a 300 game is about as common as seeing a Democrat in the White House.

Perhaps it is time for Mario Cuomo to make a move, because Cranford's

Jim Culter recently rolled a perfect 300 game at Echo Lanes in Mountainside. Culter bowled his gem in the Teens and Queens League in late November.

The 15-year-old Culter is a member of the Seton Hall Prep varsity bowling team. He began his bowling about 10 years ago at age 5, although neither

his mother Fran nor father Jim are avid bowlers.

Culter, who had the Teens and Queens first 300 game, said he really did not think about the perfect game until "maybe during the 10th frame."

Despite his heroics, the team is still mired in third place. Personally, Culter

lifted his average from a 161 to a 168 with his feat and does not feel that it will be the last time he sees 300.

"No, I know that I'll do it again some day," said Culter. "I just have to go out and do the same things."

While stressing the importance

## On frozen pond (rink) Skating havens are few and far between

By ALLAN CONOVER

THE CHRONICLE

Unless Central Jersey has been subjected to a prolonged deep freeze — a relatively uncommon occurrence the past several years — those individuals who like to ice skate know they're going to have to do some traveling and dip into their wallets and pocketbooks if they're going to enjoy their favorite winter activity.

While a wide variety of athletic facilities can be found virtually around the corner from almost any home in Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties, an icy surface isn't as easy to locate.

Chamber of commerce types and politicians might like to boast that "New Jersey has it all," but chances are, you won't hear ice skaters tell you that.

To be certain, there are several fine facilities in New Jersey but given the state's extreme population density and the fact that the locales of most of the rinks are well spread out the entire length of the state, that still doesn't do much to satisfy the skating urges of a high percentage of people.

Union County residents are fortunate to have the partially-enclosed Warranaco Park Rink on (Please turn to page B-2)

## Victories, like his foes, keep piling up for Cranford wrestler Frost

By SCOTT ZUCKER

THE CHRONICLE

Cranford youth wrestler Craig Frost is pinning his way to yet another title.

Last year, the 10-year-old Frost won first place in the 1991 Mid-Atlantic Nationals as a 75-pound junior. Now he has taken two

major tournaments in the 80-pound weight class. He recently won first place in a tournament at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania.

The tournament featured 1,400 entries from five states and saw Frost win all five of his 80-pound junior matches to take the first place medal in his division. Frost is a member of the Cranford PAL team.

Joey Grecca, a 65-pound middle and 80-pound junior Bly Grecca also scored big for Cranford.

Frost has been wrestling since the second grade and is now in his fourth year of competition. In that time, he has posted nearly 300 victories and lost a mere seven times. Last season, Frost notched a 102-2

record, with both of his losses coming at the hands of Union wrestler Eric Swick.

Frost scored another first-place victory this year at a tournament in East Stroudsburg, Pa. He took top honors by pinning three of his four opponents and was named "outstanding wrestler" in the junior division.

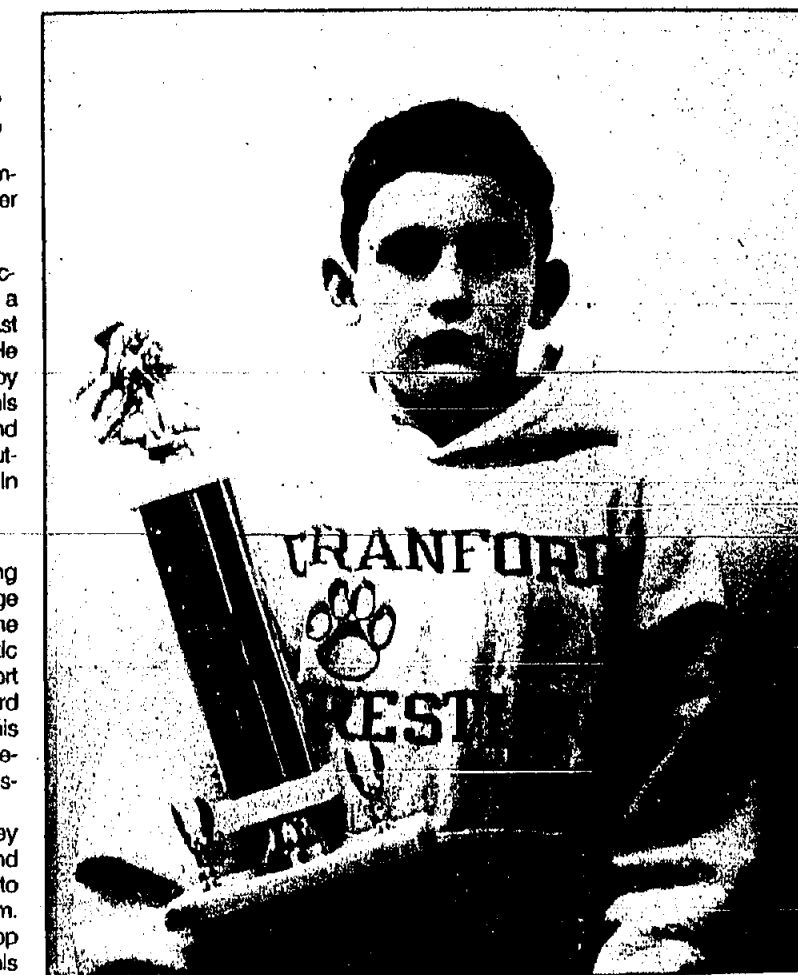
Frost started taking judo lessons at age five and later won the Eastern Mid-Atlantic Nationals in that sport as well. The Cranford PAL, knowing of his judo exploits, recruited him for wrestling.

"When we moved to New Jersey he was too young for baseball and too young for soccer, so we turned to wrestling," said Craig's father William.

"He is now ranked as one of the top judo players on the East Coast in his age group."

William says that his son goes through a rigorous daily training program that includes running, sit-ups and stretching.

"He goes out and does it all himself. He doesn't need to be asked."



Craig Frost, a 10-year-old wrestler, won first place in the 1991 Mid-Atlantic Nationals at 75 pounds last year.

This season, after moving up in weight to 80 pounds, he's won two more major competitions.

## Speed, experience key Cranford boys

By SCOTT ZUCKER

THE CHRONICLE

The Cranford High School boys' basketball team is hoping to break from tradition.

The Cougars are coming off a difficult 3-19 season and the program has been struggling for the last few years. Second-year Coach Joe Lafferty is confident this year's squad could be the one that returns Cranford to respectability in the tough Watchung Conference.

"We are working hard to turn this program around," said Lafferty. "We are vastly improved over last year."

The Cougars will be a more experienced team this year and boast three returning starters from last season's squad—Senior forwards Ken Majors and Sean Flattery will be back along with point guard Chris Polito. Senior Chris Bender will take over at center and junior Mike Moffitt moves in at guard.

Junior swingman Demont Allnut will also get his share of starts.

While he was no dominant scorer, Lafferty feels that team scoring will add up to more victories.

"We have balanced scoring between the top six or seven (players). Experience will be the difference. We were in a lot of games last year and just didn't pull it out. This year we will win our fair share of those games."

Cranford's experience is evident throughout the squad. Seniors Kevin Cassidy and Rich Smith and juniors Jeff Throne and Brian Campbell are expected to contribute off the bench. In addition to experience, the Cougars have also improved their team speed.

"Our overall speed is much better," said Lafferty. "We will run, but we won't sell out to the run. If it is not there, we will set up and wait for the shot."

While stressing the importance

"We are working hard to turn this program around...we are vastly improved over last year"

— Coach Lafferty

of speed, Lafferty feels that ultimately it will be ball-handling that wins games.

"The biggest key will be handling the press. The (Watchung) Conference is very press oriented. Ball-handling is very important and handling the pressure is key. You can make up for lack of speed, but we will not be able to turn it over."

The Watchung Conference features several of the state's top teams. Powerhouse Elizabeth leads the way in one of the league's toughest conferences.

"There are three teams, Elizabeth, Linden and Irvington, that are very strong," said Lafferty. "Irvington has tremendous talent and ranks at the top of the conference."

Lafferty's toughest competition may come not from within the conference, but from his school's history of backluster basketball.

"Our goal is to make the state tournament," said Lafferty. "We want to improve over last season and be over .500 at the right time in the season."

The Cougars open their season on Friday night at 7:30 when they host Kearney. Lafferty has a simple game plan for the season opener.

"We are going to just try and do what we do better than they do what they do. Our teams are similar, but they shoot the three-pointer a little more."

Bears boys hoops team strives for consistency

By JESSICA BROOKS

THE CHRONICLE

After suffering through a 5-18 season in 1990-91, the David Breckley High School boys' basketball team is not eyeing a state championship, but rather a strong, consistent season.

"We're just going to take it one game at a time," said Head Coach Mike Mancino, a Breckley alum.

The Bears only lost two starters to graduation last spring and all of their juniors have varsity experience. Mancino will turn to his overclassmen and returning players in his starting lineup. Senior forward Chris Hogan and senior guard Matt Voorhees will return to the starting five. Juniors Lou Kiri, a center, and forward Tom Mazzeo will also be back after receiving spot duty as starters last season.

Junior Victor Gomez moves into the other starting guard spot. Breckley opens its season on the road Friday night against New Providence. Mancino has set modest goals for his squad.

"We have no really high goals for ourselves, we just want to win the opener and go from there," said Mancino.

Simply beating New Providence may be a difficult enough goal. Mancino placed New Providence, (Please turn to page B-2)

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YOUTH SPORTS

MISCELLANY

The Cranford Baseball League recently started its annual playoffs with a phone blitz all families registered in the league. Some families, however, could not be contacted. To order a plant, please call Kurt at Cranford Sunoco at 276-1717 or Norman at 272-4058.

The Cranford Jaycees and the Cranford Parks and Recreation Department are sponsoring the Cranford High School Girls Basketball team season opener. The varsity game begins at 7:30 and the JV game starts at 8 p.m. All Cranford girls, grades 3 through 8 will be eligible for a special halftime drawing.

A girls basketball clinic for grades 3 to 8 will be held on Saturday, January 6 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Cranford High School Girls Gym. Cranford Head Coach Gene Mallico, assistant coaches George Hall and Len Martin and varsity players will conduct the clinic. The clinic is being sponsored by the Cranford Jaycees and the Parks and Recreation Department.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Cranford Recreation League

2nd-8th Grade Division

A 13-point performance by Keith Gilbertson led Michigan past Indiana, 79-60. Gilbertson scored 8 points and four defensive rebounds. Andy Bausch added 6 points, while Jeremy White and Matt Venturi added 4 each. Wayne Bausch also scored two for his team. Playing very well, Scott Longo, Indiana played well, adding 10 points. Scott Longo, Indiana played well, adding 10 points. Scott Longo, Indiana played well, adding 10 points.

A highly guarded Purdue team used some set plays to defeat Illinois in its second game of the season. Robert Grier led all scorers with 10 points with Ryan Schmidt contributing 8 points and Ed Feeley adding 6. Mark Schemmel and Brian Schemmel added 6, 5, and 4 points respectively.

Purdue 30, Illinois 16

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Penn State 44, Georgetown 19

Michigan 79, Indiana 60

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MISCELLANY

The Cranford Baseball League recently started its annual playoffs with a phone blitz all families registered in the league. Some families, however, could not be contacted. To order a plant, please call Kurt at Cranford Sunoco at 276-1717 or Norman at 272-4058.

The Cranford Jaycees and the Cranford Parks and Recreation Department are sponsoring the Cranford High School Girls Basketball team season opener. The varsity game begins at 7:30 and the JV game starts at 8 p.m. All Cranford girls, grades 3 through 8 will be eligible for a special halftime drawing.

A girls basketball clinic for grades 3 to 8 will be held on Saturday, January 6 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Cranford High School Girls Gym. Cranford Head Coach Gene Mallico, assistant coaches George Hall and Len Martin and varsity players will conduct the clinic. The clinic is being sponsored by the Cranford Jaycees and the Parks and Recreation Department.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

Cranford Recreation League

2nd-8th Grade Division

A 13-point performance by Keith Gilbertson led Michigan past Indiana, 79-60. Gilbertson scored 8 points and four defensive rebounds. Andy Bausch added 6 points, while Jeremy White and Matt Venturi added 4 each. Wayne Bausch also scored two for his team. Playing very well, Scott Longo, Indiana played well, adding 10 points. Scott Longo, Indiana played well, adding 10 points.

A highly guarded Purdue team used some set plays to defeat Illinois in its second game of the season. Robert Grier led all scorers with 10 points with Ryan Schmidt contributing 8 points and Ed Feeley adding 6. Mark Schemmel and Brian Schemmel added 6, 5, and 4 points respectively.

Purdue 30, Illinois 16

A highly guarded Purdue team used some set plays to defeat Illinois in its second game of the season. Robert Grier led all scorers with 10 points with Ryan Schmidt contributing 8 points and Ed Feeley adding 6. Mark Schemmel and Brian Schemmel added 6, 5, and 4 points respectively.

Penn State 44, Georgetown 19

Michigan 79, Indiana 60

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Ice skating

(Continued from page B-1)

The Cranford Ice Skating Club, but those who prefer something a little closer to "state of the art" have to travel to places like Morris Plains, West Orange, Princeton, Hamilton Township and Old Bridge.

The relative scarcity of skating arenas can be attributed to several factors. For one, the expense of constructing such a facility is prohibitive, especially regarding the unrelenting recession now enveloping the region and the country. And, while it's a popular recreational sport, it's strictly seasonal and also doesn't attract masses of people as do swimming, bowling, softball, baseball and tennis.

But there's no doubt there are individuals who would be thrilled at the prospect of having to drive just a few minutes to a rink rather than planning an entire day around the time and distance involved in traveling north or south to skate.

For instance, Bridgewater's Lise and Karin Gloede are members of the Crystal Blades Skating Club, which is based at the William Menner Sports Arena in Morris Plains. Their schedule, requiring four or five long trips up Route 287 per week, takes its toll on the family car.

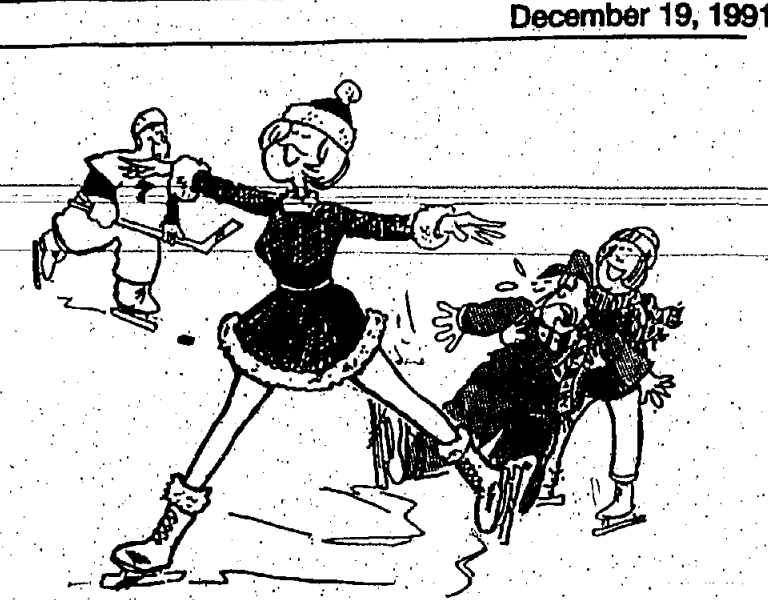
Warminster's Rink, built in 1981, has three walls and an enclosed warming area. Unseasonably warm and damp weather may affect the ice at times, but it still doesn't close its doors on the skaters too often.

General skating sessions are held throughout the week, and the rink is open to hockey Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 to 3.

One of the newest facilities in the state is PRINCETON ICE LAND, which opened a year ago in Hamilton Township, Mercer County.

The Ice Land arena, which is open all year, features two full National Hockey League-size skating surfaces, a dining area and a huge pro shop.

In addition to a 20-team adult league, there's also plenty of youth hockey activity at Ice Land. In fact, the arena was selected by USA Hockey to host its fledgling Initiation Program for youngsters are 11-and-under, which got underway



Rink guide

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Cranford, NJ 07016

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# Business

## Strong business sense helps Layton thrive selling books

By CHERYL MOULTON NEHL  
THE CHRONICLE

Ask Meryl Layton how she successfully manages six bookstores in six communities and she will say "by the seat of my pants." But the secret to her success is really in having an astute business sense.

In 1978 Meryl, a divorced mother of two, was without a job. A dental hygienist by trade, she had lost her job and was thrust into the most insecure time of her life. Realizing she needed more control of her life, she set out to find a new career.

While pondering the possibilities, she began scanning newspapers for businesses for sale. Not sure what she was interested in, the confusion ended the day she visited a book store in Belmar.

Although buying the store in Belmar didn't work out, the excursion proved to be enlightening. It was as she browsed through the store and heard the owner speak of the joys of owning the shop, and experienced firsthand the feel and smell of the books, that Meryl realized she had found her future.

A week later a bookstore in

Cranford went up for sale and Meryl took the first step toward being a business owner and taking control of her own life. Within a year the store exceeded all expectations.

"It was just meant to be," she says with a broad grin, explaining the store that had formerly been "teetering on the edge" turned around within a year. Meryl bought out her partner the first year and within six years was the owner of her second store on Quimby Street in Westfield, which was much like the Cranford store when Meryl bought it.

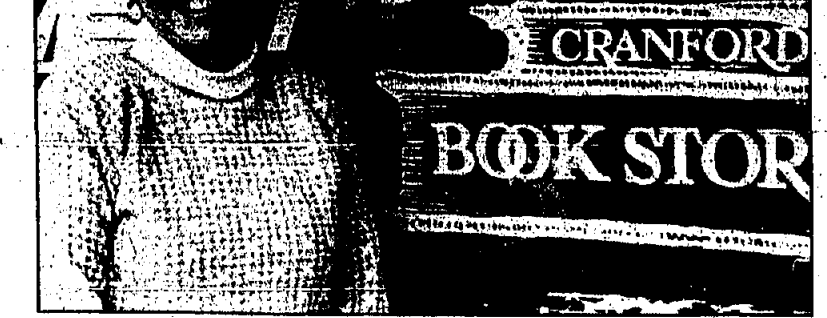
There was much to be accomplished in the Quimby Street store, including a complete renovation, but soon the business was flourishing and another success story was added to Meryl's list.

In between running two thriving businesses, Meryl became very active in the Cranford Downtown Management Corporation (DMC). For five years she was an intricate part of redevelopment efforts which included major changes to the downtown signs and facade.

Not content to sit back and reap the benefits of two highly successful stores, Meryl remained alert in case something else be-

came available. One such opportunity occurred on Martine Avenue in Fanwood. The book store was up for sale at public auction.

"I was just meant to be," she says with a broad grin, explaining the store that had formerly been "teetering on the edge" turned around within a year. Meryl bought out her partner the first year and within six years was the owner of her second store on Quimby Street in Westfield, which was much like the Cranford store when Meryl bought it.



Proprietress Meryl Layton outside the Cranford Book Store. Ms. Layton also owns book stores in Fanwood, Westfield, Bedminster, Summit and Sayreville.

time Avenue Bookstore. She immediately held a half-price sale to rid the shelves of old inventory and began restocking with the latest books. Before a year was out, browsers filled the aisles of the newly-stocked store, and the store was turning a profit.

Following was a brand new store in Sayreville, a Likely Store, and the latest venture in Summit this past September, named Camelot Books. Although the Sayreville operation is "struggling" because of the economy, Meryl raves about her undertaking in Summit, which she says is "dynamic."

Meryl's sixth business is Camelot Books, a newly-named store in Bedminster. Stocking the right books helps too, she maintains, explaining the success of one particular release this Christmas.

"The Sistine Chapel" is a special, two-volume, limited release packaging in a fabric-covered box. It chronicles the restoration of Michelangelo's famous ceiling, which had been dulled by hundreds of years of smoke, incense and protective wax. Although the restoration was halted at the outset, the work was eventually completed and the true colors of the Sistine Chapel unveiled.

Though the recession has put a dent in sales, people are still buying books, but not as many.

"We always thought books were recession-proof," says the entrepreneur, "but this year has proven different."

This year, people are "spending their money differently" because they are "less frivolous, not as impulsive and very thoughtfully looking before buying," Meryl said. However, despite the economy, Meryl Layton's customers keep returning year after year. Asked why she has succeeded, she smiles and emphasizes the importance of catering to customers' needs, with strong emphasis on service and knowledge. Stocking the right books helps too, she maintains, explaining the success of one particular release this Christmas.

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**INDEX**

1000 - Trucks and Vans  
1010 - Automobile Financing  
1011 - Automobile Parts, Accessories and Services  
1012 - Out of Area Property  
1013 - Automobile Repair  
1014 - Miscellaneous Automotive  
1015 - MOTORCYCLES  
1016 - ATVs  
1017 - Boat Parts  
1018 - Boat Repairs  
1019 - Boat Accessories  
1020 - Boat Financing  
1021 - Boat Insurance  
1022 - Boat Maintenance  
1023 - Boat Repairs  
1024 - Boat Accessories  
1025 - Boat Financing  
1026 - Boat Insurance  
1027 - Boat Maintenance  
1028 - Boat Repairs  
1029 - Boat Accessories  
1030 - Boat Financing  
1031 - Boat Insurance  
1032 - Boat Maintenance  
1033 - Boat Repairs  
1034 - Boat Accessories  
1035 - Boat Financing  
1036 - Boat Insurance  
1037 - Boat Maintenance  
1038 - Boat Repairs  
1039 - Boat Accessories  
1040 - Boat Financing  
1041 - Boat Insurance  
1042 - Boat Maintenance  
1043 - Boat Repairs  
1044 - Boat Accessories  
1045 - Boat Financing  
1046 - Boat Insurance  
1047 - Boat Maintenance  
1048 - Boat Repairs  
1049 - Boat Accessories  
1050 - Boat Financing  
1051 - Boat Insurance  
1052 - Boat Maintenance  
1053 - Boat Repairs  
1054 - Boat Accessories  
1055 - Boat Financing  
1056 - Boat Insurance  
1057 - Boat Maintenance  
1058 - Boat Repairs  
1059 - Boat Accessories  
1060 - Boat Financing  
1061 - Boat Insurance  
1062 - Boat Maintenance  
1063 - Boat Repairs  
1064 - Boat Accessories  
1065 - Boat Financing  
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1067 - Boat Maintenance  
1068 - Boat Repairs  
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1072 - Boat Maintenance  
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1103 - Boat Repairs  
1104 - Boat Accessories  
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1112 - Boat Maintenance  
1113 - Boat Repairs  
1114 - Boat Accessories  
1115 - Boat Financing  
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1117 - Boat Maintenance  
1118 - Boat Repairs  
1119 - Boat Accessories  
1120 - Boat Financing  
1121 - Boat Insurance  
1122 - Boat Maintenance  
1123 - Boat Repairs  
1124 - Boat Accessories  
1125 - Boat Financing  
1126 - Boat Insurance  
1127 - Boat Maintenance  
1128 - Boat Repairs  
1129 - Boat Accessories  
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1131 - Boat Insurance  
1132 - Boat Maintenance  
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1134 - Boat Accessories  
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1137 - Boat Maintenance  
1138 - Boat Repairs  
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1162 - Boat Maintenance  
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1167 - Boat Maintenance  
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1171 - Boat Insurance  
1172 - Boat Maintenance  
1173 - Boat Repairs  
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1175 - Boat Financing  
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1177 - Boat Maintenance  
1178 - Boat Repairs  
1179 - Boat Accessories  
1180 - Boat Financing  
1181 - Boat Insurance  
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1183 - Boat Repairs  
1184 - Boat Accessories  
1185 - Boat Financing  
1186 - Boat Insurance  
1187 - Boat Maintenance  
1188 - Boat Repairs  
1189 - Boat Accessories  
1190 - Boat Financing  
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**SKISERS**—Hot wax & sharpened edges, \$20. Pick up/delivery available. Call Mike, 908-745-0544.  
**SNOW FLOWING & SANDING**—Jobs & snowblows. 24 hr. dispatch. ALL WORK CO. 359-3000.  
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**A COMEDY MAGIC & FUN SHOW**—for Holiday, Office, Birthdays, etc. animals, clip art & show boss. Call Mr. Magic NOW! 908-322-7077.  
**A VCR IS ALL YOU NEED**—to watch your home movies, slides or prints on TV. We guarantee our film-to-video transfers to be of the highest quality available. Free background music. Free pickup & delivery too. We provide transfer services for leading video stores. DEAL DIRECT & SAVE!! Call Daniel Peters Productions, (908)231-0676.  
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**4210 Professional Services**  
**COUNSELING**—with a Professional in Adoption, depression, divorce, medication, geriatrics, grief & stress. Barbara Ronca ACSW-BCD 218-9082.  
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**5020 Child Care Wanted**  
**AD FAIR**—Tewksbury family seeks responsible, loving person to care for 2 young school age children for 5 days/week. Light housekeeping. Live out. Must have own car. References. Non-smoker. Speak English. Mother with young child OK. Call 908-234-0033.  
**BABYSITTER**—responsible person needed. No Bridgewater home Mon. Wed., Fri. 7:30am-4:30 pm. Start Jan. 8th. Your own child(ren) along. Non-smoker. 908-231-0759.  
**CRANFORD**—FT, Mon-Fri. 7AM-6PM. Own transp., exp. ages 1&5. Good refs. Exc. salary. After 6pm. 709-0047.

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**5020 Child Care Wanted**  
**AD FAIR**—Tewksbury family seeks responsible, loving person to care for 2 young school age children for 5 days/week. Light housekeeping. Live out. Must have own car. References. Non-smoker. Speak English. Mother with young child OK. Call 908-234-0033.  
**BABYSITTER**—responsible person needed. No Bridgewater home Mon. Wed., Fri. 7:30am-4:30 pm. Start Jan. 8th. Your own child(ren) along. Non-smoker. 908-231-0759.  
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**5020 Child Care Wanted**  
**POSTER HOME PLACE**  
**MENT NEEDED**—for 13 yr. old girl from problem-atic family background. Supportive services, i.e. therapy, case management, & transportation provided by Catholic Charities. Stipend available from DYFS. Call Allison Shorey 722-1881.  
**PT NANNY OR PERSON**—to help mom (light cleaning), 2-3 days a week. Pls call 908-271-4295.  
**WESTFIELD**—Working couple seeks experienced person to care for infant in our home. Hours 8 to 4. Mon-Thurs. Please call 908-232-1835 after 4pm. Ref. required.

**WORKING COUPLE**—in need of child care for infant daughter in our son home. Mon-Fri. 7 am-6 pm. Non-smoker. Refs. & exper. req. 908-287-9127.  
**5040 Employment-Domestic**  
**CLEANING**—Office in No. Edison. PT. \$5.00/hour. For application, send self-addressed stamped envelope to P.O. Box 5761, Clark NJ 07066.  
**5050 Employment-General**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**—PT/Immed. FT near future. For detail oriented person to assist in general office functions. Knowledge of Word Perfect & data/order entry helpful. Great growth potential. Please contact Cindy, 908-272-4411.

**AN EXCITING CAREER**—National Recruiter for International Co. seeking career minded individuals to consult on color, fashion, glamour. Unlimited income potential. Prof. training provided. PT/FT 722-5583.  
**APPOINTMENT SETTERS**—Good phone voice & communication skills required. Hours 6-9PM, Mon-Fri. 7:30am-4:30 pm. Start Jan. 8th. Your own child(ren) along. Non-smoker. 908-231-0759.  
**CRANFORD**—FT, Mon-Fri. 7AM-6PM. Own transp., exp. ages 1&5. Good refs. Exc. salary. After 6pm. 709-0047.

**ARTIST/MECHANICAL**—FREELANCE with full production follow-through, including printing and separations. Must be perfectionist with minimum 10 years experience and excellent knowledge of full color. Must be totally dependable and available "as required" for as much as 50% to occasional full time on agency premises (North Edison). Our clients require high standards and would consider you part of our on-site staff. Send resume to: Advertising Agency, PO Box 2237, Edison, NJ 08818-2237.  
**AUTO MECHANIC**—6 yrs. exper. Cars & light trucks. Diversified work & repairs. Electrical exper. Your own tools. FT/PT. Call 549-0129.  
**AVOID SALES**—All areas. Call toll free 1-800-662-2292.  
**BOOKKEEPER**—Somerville, experienced through Trial Balance. Knowledge ADP, general office duties. Safeguard System. \$30/hr to start. 9-5:30 Mon-Fri. 908-722-9425.  
**CAREER CHANGE**—learn Swedish massage, Janet 247 908-828-1132.  
**CASHIERS**—Busy restaurant in Bridgewater has an opening for a "friendly, mature-minded" cashier. PT/FT. Flex. hrs. Excellent starting wage. Call Marc at Burger King, 908-526-8867.

**5050 Employment-General**  
**CHILD CARE**—earn money providing quality childcare for 1 or more children in your own home. MONDAY MORNING INC. offers free insurance, referrals, equipment, back-up & more. Union County 608-4884; Somerset County 528-4884.  
**CLERK**—for busy bank Operations Department. Salary based on experience. For interview call 908-234-0700 ext. 271. Peapack Gladstone Bank, equal opportunity employer.  
**COLLEGE STUDENTS & HS SENIORS**  
**Natl. Corp.** now interviewing for a special 3-5 wk. work program during semester break. \$10.25 starting rate. No exp. Flex. hrs. Gain Corp. exp. interview now-began after finals. Interviewing on Sat. & Christmas Eve. 10AM-6PM 704-8555.  
**COUNSELORS (DAY-CAMP)**—Teachers, college students, group leaders, arts & crafts assistant, nature, ceramics, archery, movement, canoe, watercraft. Interview (908)647-0664.  
**COURT ADMINISTRATOR**—needed immediately for the Borough of Fairwood. Exp. preferred. 35 hrs./wk. plus night court. Health benefits. Call 322-8236.  
**DENTAL ASST.**—FT, X-ray license, expanded functions & plus. Mon-Thurs. Friendly, responsible person for quality Middlesex office. Exc. salary & benefits. 908-968-4644.  
**DID YOU KNOW**—This little ad can be read in more than 147,000 homes in 15 publications throughout Somerset, Middlesex and Union Counties! It caught your attention, didn't it? Call YOUR ad in today! 1-800-334-0531. We Get Results!  
**DIETITIAN**—(R.D./Yrfood Service Director, 430 Food Nursing Home, York Acres NURSING HOME, Neshaun, NJ. 908-369-8711.  
**INTERIOR DECORATING/SALES**—Mature-minded, business-oriented indiv. Will train. 457-0738.  
**INTRODUCTIONS**—A way for people to meet people, every week in your local Forbes newspaper. The ad is free, then one call does it all. 1-800-334-0531.  
**KITCHEN HELP**—Dependable person wanted to prepare lunch for company employees. Good benefits. Apply in person at ROMA FOOD, 45 Stanford Rd., Piscataway.  
**LUBRICATION TECHNICIANS**—LUBExpress, a growing oil tube chain, requires FT lubrication technicians for a new store in So. Plainfield/Piscataway. Salary plus commissions plus bonuses plus paid holidays plus major medical.  
**1-800-878-8166**  
**MACHINIST**—Run lathes, cylindrical grinders, mill, etc. Experience a must. Self starter. Good pay, pleasant working conditions, paid hospitalization, major medical pension, holidays & vacation. Apply in person. **A & A COMPANY INC.** 2700 So. Clinton Ave. So. Plainfield, NJ 07069.  
**MOTEL MANAGER**—Responsible person, live-in, retiree welcome 908-722-0773; 201-625-1462.

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Unique gift ideas  
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area merchants  
and Forbes Newspapers





# Great gifts come in all shapes, sizes

By CHRISTINE RETZ  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

—Clement C. Moore, *A Visit from St. Nicholas*, 1823

In Mr. Moore's day children found nuts, apples and oranges — rare and expensive treats indeed — in their holiday stockings. But we live in different times, with different ideas of just what goes into stockings.

There is no contemporary fixed rule on the stockings' contents. They can be used for last-minute finds, gag gifts, just-a-thought items or diamond rings.

To me, Christmas isn't Christmas if my stocking isn't full. For some reason my childhood stocking never had a thing in it.

I had 495,832 wonderful presents under the tree, but an empty stocking. This really bothered me, so today my family makes sure that my stocking is brim-full on The Big Morning. One of the best parts of my holiday is spilling out its merrily wrapped and mysterious contents.

There is no settled rule either about the physical size of stocking gifts. Some purists feel that the present should fit in the stocking, while others are more lenient in this regard.

One thing that will surely fit any size stocking is a gift certificate. These delightful pieces of paper give you the pleasure of giving the recipient *carte blanche* to purchase whatever she/he wants, up to the specified amount of the certificate. Personally speaking, I never object to spending other people's money. And my pleasure is doubled knowing that I don't have to pay for what I select.

Almost any retailer will be glad to sell gift certificates to you. Service companies will too, I discovered. Cranford Indoor Pool, 401 Centennial Ave., Cranford, offers gift certificates. (Please turn to page 3)

They can be used for last-minute finds, gag gifts, just-a-thought items or diamond rings



SHARON WILSON/FORBES NEWSPAPERS  
For the cook in the family, Woodfield's Kitchen Accessories in Westfield can fill a stocking with Swiss peelers, a Susi garlic press and a Zyliss cheese grater.

## Stocking stuffers

(Continued from page 2)  
certificates (passes) for their many excellent water and land programs. Their water programs include high- and low-intensity water walking programs, aerobics, and swimming programs, of course.

Cranford Indoor Pool also offers many land programs, including aerobics classes, sessions to strengthen the specific areas of the body, and weight training. The instructors for all their programs are fully qualified and hold the appropriate official certifications in their fields. (And while it's not part of any gift certificate package, manager Pat Fossella told me that Cranford Indoor Pool offers Red Cross classes on life guarding, first aid and CPR. These instructional sessions are open to members and non-members.

Not everyone is so exercise-oriented, however. People who enjoy cooking and all its appurtenances may enjoy finding the Susi Garlic Press in their stockings. This, and the useful Swiss Peeler (a vegetable peeler with the sharp blade that is a byword in Swiss cutlery), can be found at Woodfield's Kitchen Accessories,

220 East Broad St., Westfield.

Co-owner Linda Woodfield-Stern also suggests any of the full line of Krups coffee makers and related products to round out your gift-giving list. One of the stocking-priced accessories they carry is the Krups Coffee Mill to grind the coffee beans.

Woodfield's also stocks KitchenAid stand mixers and accessories. The person who has one of these fine mixers might love a new accessory, such as a citrus juice attachment, a sausage stuffer, or a slicer/shredder attachment, Ms.

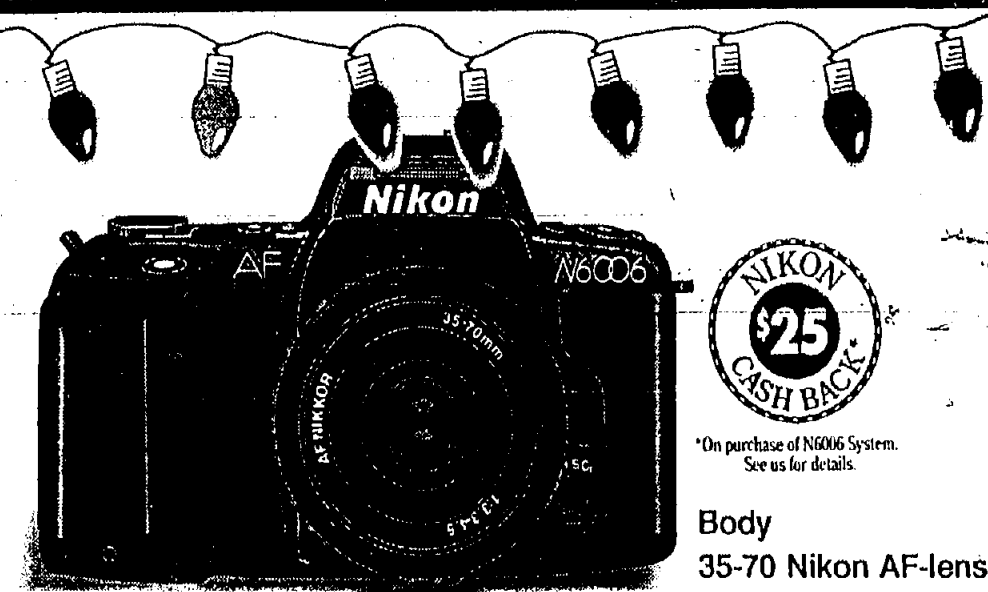
Woodfield-Stern added. For the music lovers on your list there are many right-priced gifts to choose from, from sheet music of all varieties, from Broadway to rock and back again, to stringed instruments and accessories, and an assortment of music-related items — T-shirts, mugs, stationery, jewelry, etc.

With a little imagination you can buy something to fill everyone's stocking this year — from sports enthusiasts to cooks — and at reasonable prices that won't knock your "er, "stockings" off.

Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

With a little imagination you can buy something to fill everyone's stockings this year

COME AND SEE OUR LARGE SELECTION OF NIKON PRODUCTS



3 Year Extended Warrantee & Gift Kit  
Your net price \$352.00 (Body Only)  
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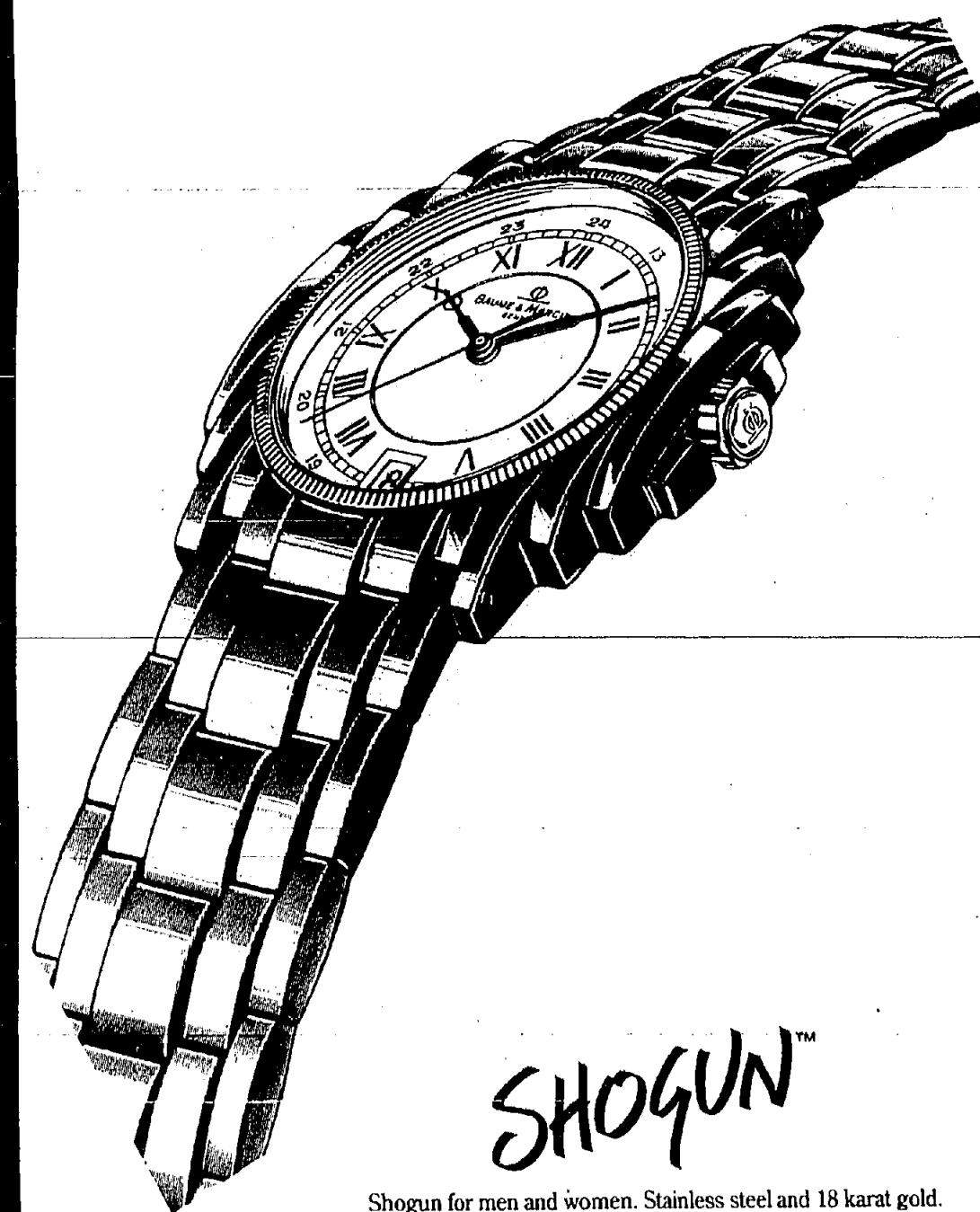
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Shogun for men and women. Stainless steel and 18 karat gold. Water-resistant to 99 feet. His: \$1,890. Hers: \$1,850

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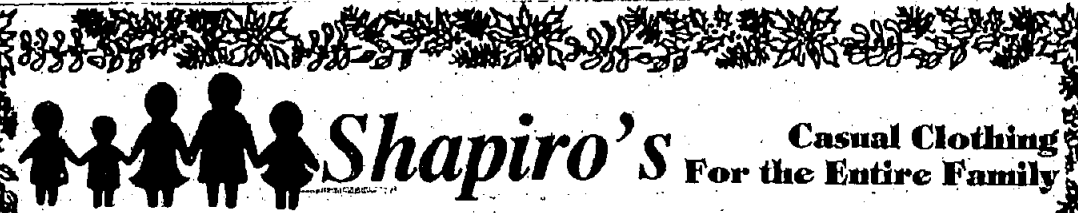
CERTIFIED GEMOLOGIST APPRAISERS AGS ACCREDITED GEM LAB

EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:45-8:30 • SATURDAY 9:30-5:00

## A List of Santa's Helpers...

Name	Page	Name	Page
Ahrre's Coffee	5	Home Sweet Home	17
Allied Business Machines	13	Hynes Jewelers	6
Auto Sound	13	Jewelry Feature Page	12
Bergen Camera	3	Leather Coats, Etc.	15
Beauty	12	Manny's Time Piece	5
Bridals by Athena	8	Manville	14
Brummer Chocolates	7	Martin's Jewelers	3
Capital Fuel	8	Milady's	5
Celtics Imports	7	Millburn Train & Hobby	13
Cranford Swim	8	Park Avenue Gifts	15
Diet Center	13	Red Wing Shoes	15
Florida Fruit	13	Rekemeiers Flowers & Gifts	7
Foto Finish	7	Scotch Plains Pages	10/11
Gift Certificates	4	Shapiro's	4
Gift Shop	13	Sound Station	20
Gifts Under \$25	6	Sportsman's Shop	18
Harley Davidson	9	Triangle Art	15
Hillsborough	16	Unique Gifts	18/19





19 N. Union Ave.  
Cranford, N.J. 07016 276-3270

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- Girls 4-14 • Boys 4-20
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### Shapiro's

19 North Union Avenue, Cranford, N.J.  
276-3270

## \$5.00 OFF

Any Purchase of \$25 or More  
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One Coupon Per Person. Sale Items Excluded.  
Cannot be combined with other discounts or coupons.  
Expires 12/24/91

## Bakers offer delectable holiday treats for your pleasure

### Ethnic specialties at area bakers

By **CHRISTINE RETZ**  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Little Jack Horner sat in the corner,  
Eating a Christmas pie.

He put in his thumb, and pulled out a plum,  
And said, "I'm glad Chris Retz didn't bake this."

As you can see by this refrain, baking and I partied company a long time ago. But with the many area bakeries producing mouth-watering specialties for the holidays, I don't have to worry about what to serve my guests or bring to the holiday party.

If you are in the market for authentic Italian holiday treats you need look no farther than Borella's Bakery, 101-3 E. Broad

St., Westfield. Their list of Christmas confections includes panettone, an Italian cake with several kinds of raisins and citrons. They also specialize in struffoli, honey-covered balls of dough with a sprinkled topping. Borella's also has ricotta pies, cannolis, and other Italian and French pastries for your gastronomic pleasure.

With area bakeries producing mouth-watering specialties for the holidays, you don't have to worry about what to serve guests or what to bring to the holiday party

canes, some fashioned into gift baskets or other clever shapes such as a candlestick or

(Please turn to page 5)

## Bakeries

(Continued from page 4)  
cup and saucer. One of the most popular items he stocks is an assortment of candy tins filled with butter crunch, confectionery turtles, salted nuts or pretzels.

One of the current trends is the popularity of Yule logs, long a European tradition.

The noble fruitcake has become an object of derision in recent years because of its dried fruit contents, but the tide has turned at area bakeries.

From the Polish people we have kruszekki, the delicious bits of fried dough topped with powdered sugar that are enjoyed by all ethnic groups. Kruszekki is a specialty of this bakery, which also is justly famed for its 120 varieties of fancy butter cookies produced for the holidays.

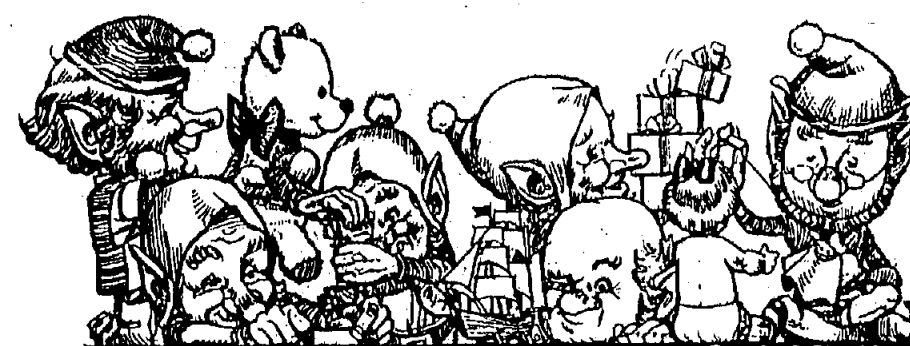
Bakeries generally carry many types of homemade cookies, but this time of year they expand production to meet the heavy

demand.

Also popular is stollen, a fruit and nut-filled bread, which dates back to about 1400 in the city of Dresden, Germany.

The earliest gingerbread was made from bread crumbs, honey and spices; gradually the crumbs and honey were replaced by flour and molasses. Ginger, the predominant spice in gingerbread, was used during the Middle Ages both as a preservative and as medicine for a variety of ills. Because gingerbread did not spoil as quickly as other baked goods did in those days, it was thought to be somewhat magical. In the 17th Century, gingerbread baking was a profession in itself and gingerbread bakers alone had the right to make it, except at Christmastime.

So if it's a holiday gift you need, or something special to highlight your table, your nose knows where to go. Follow that delicious smell.



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Best Brand Watches, All Types of Clocks Colibri & Cross Pen Sets, 14k, 18k Gold, Diamonds & Jewelry

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\$1250 sugg. retail

482-484 Boulevard, Kenilworth  
**(908) 276-6513**  
Fax (908) 276-3024

Hours: Daily 9:30-6:00, Sat. 9:30-5:30, Sun. 11:00-5:00

# Gift Certificates

### A Gift Your Child Can Use For a Lifetime

Ernie Temple's School of Karate located at the Dunellen Knights of Columbus, Dunellen, is offering classes to children ages 8-13.

Head Instructor Ernie Temple is a 7th Deg. Black Belt in Okinawan Karate. He has 27 years experience and is a 5 time AAU New Jersey Senior State Champion.

Classes begin Monday 1/6/92 from 3:30-5:00 PM. \$10 week (no contracts)

- Holiday Gift Certificates available
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DIANE MATFLELD/FORBES NEWSPAPERS  
Topiary trees (courtesy Rekemeier's Florist) make an unusual yet lasting gift.

## Florists' offerings brighten any room

By CHRISTINE RETZ  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

I must confess that I don't usually think of florists when planning my holiday gift giving. All that has changed since I interviewed a number of florists for this article. I didn't realize that many lovely things that are now offered by local florists. "The language of flowers" has certainly expanded. An old-fashioned "Victorian"

look is popular now in interior decorating, and has really come to fore this holiday season. If this motif is what you're looking for, you can find it at any of the four Rekemeier's Flowers and Gifts locations in mid-New Jersey.

Stanley Lapinski, headquartered in their Cranford location, told me that this prevailing Victorian theme is being carried out in a (Please turn to page 8)

DIANE MATFLELD/FORBES NEWSPAPERS  
Holiday floral arrangements are made by Camille Andacht with tender loving care at Rekemeier's Florist in Cranford.



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## Holiday floral arrangements

(Continued from page 7)  
variety of ways, including adding old-fashioned Santas and cherubs to centerpiece. A most popular, yet unusual item that they are carrying is topiary trees. Cut into various fanciful animal and decorative shapes, the trees can be adorned with Christmas ornaments. And because of the great interest in our environment, the animal shapes are the most often asked for, particularly moose.

Rekemeier's, now in its third generation as a family business, will also custom decorate your home or office. For your home they will create a beautiful effect for your mantle or chandelier, and for your office that special effect for your mantle or chandelier, and for your office that special corporate entrance way.

In addition to the traditional red and green combinations that we associate with the season, popular colors this year are mauve and blue (again sounding the Victorian chord), and the jewel tones — amethyst, teal and the azure colors. Area florists have everything you need to turn your home into a veritable bower. One of the most popular holiday items is a slim

line artificial tree, perfect for an apartment or small room. They are not narrow, but their slimmness combines perfectly with their height, drawing the eye upward for a beautiful effect.


Another part of the artificial greens offerings is a selection of wreaths that the artistically gifted can blend with holly and berry "picks" and a plethora of other accessories to good advantage. Those like myself who are not talented can discuss their needs with the florists, who will design a wreath to the customer's specifications. The same applies to their swags.

*Christmas wouldn't be Christmast without poinsettias, which come in all sizes many beautiful shades*


If you are looking for that special centerpiece or tabletop decoration, florists may have just the thing. They carry carolers, collectibles from a Dickens village, and German nutcracker collectibles.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without poinsettias, which come in all sizes and many beautiful shades.

Aunt Margie said recently that she can't absorb any more collectibles. A perfect solution to the problem of "Now what can we give her?" is a fruit basket. These are readily available from area florists.



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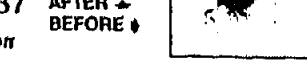
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## Guide to recession-proof gift giving Many items priced to sell in a slow market

By CHRISTINE RETZ  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Let's face it — money is tight these days for many people. This is the first recession in which my friends have been directly affected. Some of their jobs have been eliminated or are in dire peril. Understandably, their holiday gift giving patterns have altered considerably. They just can't spend as lavishly as they did previously.

Fortunately, area merchants are well aware of this problem and

have a great deal of merchandise priced to move fast. There is something in every price range, I was assured.

If you, or someone on your gift list, loves sports, the Cranford Sports Center (100 N. Union Ave., Cranford) has just what you're looking for. Owner Patrick Mack told me that they have a wide variety of skating equipment — everything from roller blades to ice skates and hockey paraphernalia.

Area football enthusiasts can enjoy this season's playoffs wear-

ing N.Y. Giants-licensed sweat-shirts and baseball caps emblazoned with the logos of NFL teams. The store also carries caps with college team logos, as well as a wide selection of AL and NL baseball teams. Russell and Umbro are but two of the brand names of wearing apparel that the Cranford Sports Center carries.

There isn't a person I know who can't use some new genuine leather accessories this time of year. If (Please turn to page 15)



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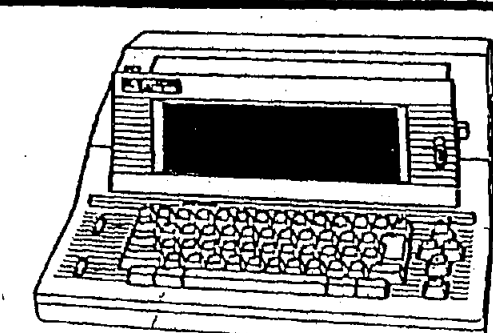
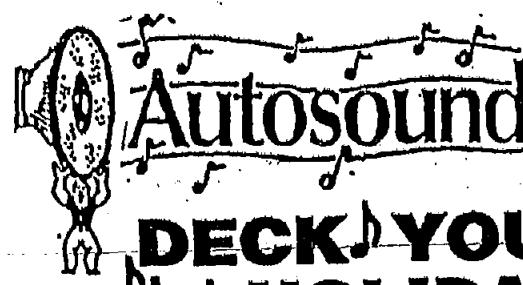
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## When buying for the unemployed, 'Don't let the crunch steal Christmas'

By ROZ GERKEN  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Sharing and caring are traditional parts of the holiday season. For those dealing with the double trauma of a layoff and a job search, the holidays can be tough.

But loved ones of unemployed people can do a great deal to make the holidays more

pleasant, if not happier, according to Phyllis Macklin, a career consultant with Minsk, Macklin, Stein & Associates of Princeton.

"Don't let the crunch steal Christmas," advises Ms. Macklin. This is not the time to give gimmicks and gadgets, she warns. Instead, people who have lost their jobs need practical presents to help boost their job prospects and their morale, she notes.

Ms. Macklin suggests a gift certificate to help pay the phone bill. Other possibilities

include an answering machine, a subscription to voice mail, an answering service, the service of a secretary, photocopy center or resume writer, or printed stationery and stamps.

An attaché case, a fountain pen or a business card holder are "practical and professional," perfect for the job-seeking executive.

Since self-image plunges during unemployment, Ms. Macklin suggests image-

boosting gifts, ranging from over-the-calf black socks, a shoe shine kit or travel iron, to an emergency kit containing needle and thread, safety pins, emery boards, spare buttons, and, if appropriate, pantyhose.

"Job seekers have to put most of their time and energy into a job search, so anything that saves time is usually appreciated, such as babysitting, walking the dog, running errands or even helping with repairs," she adds.

"The best gift of all," Ms. Macklin concludes, "may be your time and loyalty."

## Gifts that will last a lifetime

By CHRISTINE REITZ  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Not everyone has been hit by this recession. Some people do have funds set aside to spend on really fine, or unusual, items this year. I invite you to go on a mental shopping spree with me to explore the myriad of upscale possibilities available this holiday season.

More and more homes are acquiring their own word processing capacity, and if you are in

the market for a word processor, Agnes Story, manager of Allied Business Machines, 301 South Ave. W., Westfield, recommends any of their line of Brother products. Especially popular this year, she said, is the Brother PowerNote Notebook Work Organizer. This laptop model features full-function word processing, a spread sheet calculator, the Tetris arcade game, and pull down menus.

And, for the really good boy/girl on your gift list, there is The

Sistine Chapel. Published by Random House, this exquisite two-volume set has wonderful reproductions of the chapel's painstaking restoration. Some pages fold out to four feet, to give the reader a bird's eye view of the chapel in all its glory. This gift set can be yours for only \$1,000 (no, that's not a typo) from the Cranford Book Store, 32 North Ave. W., Cranford. Manager Meryl Layton told me that the store has just one copy, so you had best hurry there if you want it!

## Recession-proof gifts

(Continued from page 13) you like to buy "factory direct" and save accordingly, you can find great deals at the three Leather Coats, Etc. outlets in the state (Edison, Fairfield and Flemington). In the \$50 and under price range, they stock men's and ladies' leather wallets, gloves and slippers (for kids, too!), men's belts and ladies' handbags.

Fruitcake is making a strong comeback in popularity today. One of the best brands on the market is Claxton, and it can readily be

found at the Florida Fruit Shoppe, 226 South Ave., Fanwood.

Owners Gladys and Walter Essex also stock delicious Florida navel oranges and grapefruit for your eating pleasure. These items can be bought by the "quarter- or half-bushel in mesh bags, or in large boxes," Mrs. Essex noted, adding that they also have ready-made gift packs of assorted food items for immediate purchase. And they will gladly ship fruit cartons anywhere in the eastern United States.



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**Receive 15% Off** when you purchase a gift certificate of \$20.00 or more

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New 14K Men's Bracelets  
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While supplies last

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**Christmas Is Caring...**

The Flower Gallery Family

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- arrangements for the holidays
- grave blankets - & pillows

**Flower Gallery**

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**Women's Fashions**  
Sizes to 46

**ENTIRE STOCK REDUCED!**  
**20% to 25% OFF**

\*Must present this ad for 25% discount  
Alterations Available  
FREE CHRISTMAS BOXES or FREE GIFT WRAPPING  
"Where Shopping is Friendly and Personal"

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HOLIDAY HOURS:  
Starting Dec. 9th, 1991  
Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
South Main at Rosalie  
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16 South Main Street  
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Lunch 11:30 to 3:00  
11:30 am to 1 am KITCHEN, 7 DAYS A WEEK  
- Daily Specials - Takeout Available  
- Quality Value at Low Prices

**1/2 Price Lunch**

Return this coupon before January 1, 1992  
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This offer does not include beverages

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SEVEN STEPS TO WINTER COMFORT!

- Full grain tanned leather
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Two back-to-back 20" x 23" drawing surfaces. For one or two young artists: White board for wipe off markers and a green board for colored chalk. Roll of paper leads out for the hyper-creative. Trays on each side hold the artist's tools. \$48.00  
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Table, chair, and lamp combination. Perfect for the studio, home office, or workshop.  
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**SAVE UP TO 50%**

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C. Belts Compare at \$16-38 **\$12-29**

D. Lined Leather Gloves Compare at \$23 **\$18**  
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G. Ladies Wallet Compare at \$22 **\$16.99**  
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■ The Flemington Center, Routes 202 & 31, Flemington, NJ 08822, 908-788-9300  
■ Edison Industrial Center, Route 1 South, Edison, NJ 08817, 908-540-1000  
■ American Way Mall, 636 Route 46 East, Fairfield, NJ 07004, 201-800-8776

Open 7 days a week  
NO RISK LAY AWAY PLAN! \*10% Deposit Required



# Hunger makes good sauce

Area restaurateurs present varied menus to soothe harried shoppers

By CHRISTINE RETZ  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In his 1605 immortal *Don Quixote de la Mancha*, Miguel de Cervantes knew his inns and what would encourage trade when he penned the line, "There's no sauce in the world like hunger."

From the traditional diner to the most elegant restaurant, there is a plethora of central New Jersey eateries ready to serve you, especially at this busy holiday season.

There will be special "Christmas Brunch

with Santa" Dec. 22 at Wyckoff's, 932 South Ave., Westfield. Sure to delight children of all ages, the brunch will be served from noon-2 p.m., during which time pictures with Santa will be taken. A magic show will premiere at 2 p.m. that day, noted owner Doug Wyckoff.

At La Fontana Ristorante, 120 Albany St., New Brunswick, its promotional material states that, "For lovers of Italian cuisine, La Fontana Ristorante evokes traditional Old World elegance, while recreating the romance of turn-of-the-century European dining." After a very long day of Christmas

shopping, I can think of nothing more pleasant than going out, suitably refreshed, to such an elegant restaurant, especially as the prices are most reasonable - \$35 for a prix fixe dinner. And let's face it - you deserve it after battling the crowds!

Delightful dessert and that American classic - the diner - go together, I've found. "This 'tradition' is as strong as ever at the Plaza Diner, 2066 Route 27, Edison. Simply scrumptious desserts, including pumpkin cheesecake, chocolate mousse cake and California fruit pie having a custard base and a topping of seasonal fresh fruit can be head

to eat-in or take-out.

If it's a quaint colonial flavor and quiet charm that you're looking for, then you may wish to sample the fare at Colonial Farms, 1745 Arwells Road, Somerset. Their all-encompassing menu includes a wide selection of dishes ranging from Oysters Rockefeller as an appetizer to a variety of steaks and chops, all the way through to a variety of seafood delicacies, including Collage with Lobster and Rainbow Trout.

"In December we feature an early bird (Please turn to page 17)

## Area restaurants prepare holiday fare

(Continued from page 16)  
special - prime rib - from 4-5:30 p.m., especially designed to appeal to shoppers who will be patronizing the nearby malls," said Dwight Newell, manager of O'Connor's Beef & Ale, 705 Mountain Blvd., Watchung.

The reasons why people eat out are as varied as the menus. I was surprised to learn that eating out is quite popular, despite the generally weak economy. For one thing, people just don't like to cook! This seems to be particularly true during the frantically busy holiday period, when there is so much else to be done.

No one wants to babysit a mountain of dirty dishes and greasy plates when the excitement of Christmas is in the air.

Since time immemorial, families all over the globe traditionally came together at the end of the work/school day for a relaxed, sit-down dinner where the triumphs/tragedies of each person's day could be recounted in a supportive atmosphere. This noble practice has gone the way of the one-horse shay, I'm afraid. You know how it is in your own life. There are always four things to be done after work and preparing a nice, balanced meal isn't one of

them.

So people turn to restaurants for a nutritious meal, as well as to

*Holiday hours  
on page 18*

recapture the idea of "time out" from the demands of the world and "time in" for some mutual support. Adults and children can listen to each other in a peaceful setting, away from the daily fric-

tions that plague us all. And in a public setting, people are more likely to exercise restraint in their demeanor, which can only be conducive to better communication among family members.

A big boon for the restaurant business these days is the corporate market. Companies are rewarding their employees for their efforts of the past year with a catered affair on-site or on the restaurant premises themselves. Luncheon parties - not dinners or cocktail buffets - are in vogue, perhaps because luncheons are less expensive than dinners and with corporations of all sizes

watching the balance books closely, cost is a factor. And with drinking being strongly discouraged across the board, businesses will lean toward holding luncheons where liquor consumption will be lighter than when the workday is done. And with an afternoon of work ahead of them, people will imbibe lightly, if at all. Whatever your holiday plans and pocket-book are like this year, there is no shortage of restaurants in every price range to please you. Take some time out to enjoy a good meal with friends or family. The season will pass but not your memories of good times shared together in a good atmosphere.

## HILLSBOROUGH SEASONS GREETINGS

**WE WRAP, PACK & SHIP ALL THOSE HOLIDAY GIFTS!**  
Authorized UPS Shipping

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**10% OFF** Expires 12-31-91  
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Limit One Coupon Per Customer  
Not Good With Any Other Offer  
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Nelson's Corner Shopping Center  
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STORE OPEN TO PUBLIC Thru Dec. - With This Ad

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**THE CURIOSITY SHOP**  
Come Join Us For Our Annual AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE... **20% OFF** Everything in Stock  
January 2 - January 31  
• Oak & Pine Furniture  
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**HOURS:**  
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The Cusick Family  
of  
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**20-30% OFF**  
Shirts • Trousers  
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It All Begins with...  
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Choice of Hot or Cold Appetizer  
**CHOICE OF ENTREES**  
Veal San Paolo • Chicken, Shrimp, Broccoli Scampi  
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Veal, Sun Dried Tomatoes, Mushrooms, Artichokes  
Pasta will be included w/ all entrees  
To complete your evening, coffee & dessert will be served

**\$75.00** Per Person • Tax & Gratuity  
Three Seatings Available - 5:00, 7:00, 9:30 P.M.  
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590 Arwells Rd. (The Corner Mall)  
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Bring your own spirits  
Thank you and have a Safe & Happy Holiday

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**NEW JERSEY PREMIER BASKET SHOPPE**  
GOURMET GIFT BASKET SHOPPE  
UNDERGROUND WINE CELLARS  
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**STILL TAKING HOLIDAY ORDERS!**

**D.E. JONES**  
Located At  
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**"OUR EVERYDAY LOW PRICE"**

- Comforters value to \$49.99 ..... \$17.99
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Stop by our other stores located at:

**D.E. Jones**  
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**The Fire Places by Vermont Castings**

- Woodstoves
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All accessories for the woodburners on your list!

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(NJ 800) 257-6255

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**Community Camera Center**

**DUPLICATE PRINT FOR 1¢**  
With Every Roll Of Our Processing Limit 2 Per Coupon  
Not Good With Any Other Coupon  
Or Promotion Expires 1/15/92

**WOW! AN 8 x 10 \$2.99 Each**  
With Coupon NO LIMIT  
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320 Raritan Ave. Highland Park, NJ (908) 985-8152

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572 A Inman Ave. Colonia, NJ (908) 381-9232

**Perfect HOLIDAY Gifts**  
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**DON'T FORGET Your Favorite Pet!**

**NOW OPEN! 15% Off All Pet Supplies**  
Plus 10% OFF All Dog & Cat Food With this coupon Expires 12/31/91

To Serve All Your Pet Food & Supply Needs

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**WATCH FOR OUR GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION**  
**The Pantry Inc.**  
85 Route 27, Edison  
**906-0339**



**LAST 6 DAYS**  
Closing  
**FOREVER!**  
**ALL SUITS**  
(Mostly Cricketeer)

**\$99 to \$139**  
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**ALL SPORTSCOATS**  
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**EVERYTHING ELSE**  
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**1/2 PRICE** or less  
Except All Scout Merchandise  
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**THE SPORTSMAN'S SHOP**  
"Where Service Counts and Friendliness Abounds"

103 N. UNION AVE. CRANFORD 276-1099  
HOLIDAY HOURS: Mon. thru Sat. 9:30-9; Sun. 11-5



## Holiday hours at area restaurants

### Union County

Restaurant	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day
Cortina's	Open			
Cranford				
Repettis	Lunch		Open	
Kenilworth	Only			
3 Brothers	Open		Open	5-9:30 PM
Kenilworth				
Wyckoffs	Open		Open	
Westfield				
Stefano's	Open		Open	
Fanwood				
Caruso's	Open		Open	
Plainfield				
Lily Greenfield	Open		Open	
Plainfield				
Snuffy's	Open	Open	Open	Open
Scotch Plains				
East Winds	Open		Open	
Scotch Plains				

### Hunterdon County

Coach & Paddock	Open	Open	Open	Open
Perryville Inn	Open		Open	

## What a great place to look!

Gift guide listings yield a bonanza of innovative ideas for presents

By CHRISTINE RETZ  
SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

I love reading classified ads. I don't care if they are for jobs, true love, or lost puppies, they provide a relaxing few minutes when I can let my mind stretch far and wide and escape from the daily grind. Anything to postpone doing the dishes.

With this in mind, I decided to take a sneak peek at today's ads to get some last-minute gift ideas, even if only in my imagination.

Small children's birthday parties can be handled nicely at the local burger emporia, where patient, trained teenagers can cope with the youngsters. But this type of party entertainment wears thin after a while and the tykes get bored quickly. "What, Mr. King again? I was there last week," they

lisp.

would be having a pony at your child's party, "Hi ho, Silver" and all. Top that one!

I was a child when *Around the World in 80 Days* premiered. I forget just what about it was such a



big deal, but I think it was because of the size and/or shape of the screen, with a special sound system thrown in for good measure. Color movies were nothing new

but enough of a novelty to make the movie's shooting in color an added plus.

I was so enchanted by the movie that I determined to go on a real balloon ride some day. That day presented itself many years later when I took advantage of the chance to go about 200 feet up in the tethered Forbes balloon at the Somerset County Fair. I felt just like David Niven, I tell you — at least until the basket got about two feet off the ground. But I'm always willing to try it again some time.

Now here's a great idea — holiday babysitters. Why didn't I think of it myself? There is always someone who, quite understandably, doesn't want children anywhere in the remote vicinity of the Lenox china. I wonder if they are also available on St. Patrick's Day, when I use my Waterford. Hmm...I must check into that

more closely.

Last year, at our Girl Scout Fun Day, my Brownie troop told fortunes to their peer group; while their leader, "Zoltan, King of the Gypsies" took care of the older girls. I didn't know any of them but at the mere mention of a "new boyfriend in your future, possibly in the summer" their eyes lit up. I knew I had hit upon a winning formula. If only I had professional



training and real insights like genuine psychics. I wonder if I can do an internship before this year's Fun Day.

Several years ago, there was a plethora of boutiques at every mall offering T-shirts that the salespeople would emblazon to your liking. As long as it wasn't really outrageous, they would put on anything you like. Well, I've always fantasized about someone making up a T-shirt for me, proclaiming that "I Found the A-Team." Remember that opening monologue — about how they would help you if you could find them. Well, do I ever need help! I could keep them profitably employed for weeks. But, as my old Irish mother used to say, "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride." So this particular shirt will have to remain part of my imaginary wardrobe.

Now, if only they had an ad for guaranteed *Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men* — it would be a perfect holiday.

## UNIQUE GIFT IDEAS

### 1000 PERSONAL

#### 1992 WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA

Available for January delivery. Small deposit, no payment due until March 1, 1992. This Holiday Season give the gift of learning that can be opened again & again. Call 908-322-6622.

#### A-1 PONIES FOR PARTIES

The perfect entertainment for birthday parties, picnics, fairs & all special events. 908-369-4856 or 534-5398

#### ALLIE & DUDES PEANUT FARM

No. Brunswick, NJ  
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Polinettas Arrangements  
Christmas Trees  
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Stocking Stuffers  
"GREAT GIFT IDEAS"  
We Service All Hospitals  
908-545-8674

#### ST. TROPEZ

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Edison, NJ  
908-321-9090  
EUROPEAN TANNING  
CUSTOM SWIMWEAR  
JEWELRY & HOLIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATES

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•walls •doors •windows  
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ATTRACTIVE AFFORDABLE  
Comfort for Women  
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Shoes by SAS  
Naturalizer, Life Stride,  
Soft Spots, Dolce, Dye-ables and more...

#### EPSTEIN'S BOOTERY

Gift certificates available  
163 E. BROAD ST.  
WESTFIELD  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

#### DANCE AND THEATRE

•Jazz, •Tap •Ballet  
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Programs available from  
beginner to professional.

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DANCE AND THEATRE  
SCHOOL  
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Somerset  
908-246-0878

### FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Gift certificates  
One-hour Swedish massage - \$50, 5 hr. massage instruction, private tutoring plus book, one person; \$175, couple; \$300

#### Janet Leogard

Cert. Massage  
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President, NJ IMF  
908-828-1132

#### BALLOON ADVENTURES

Give a gift they'll remember forever! Gift certificates available, \$135 per person. Flights leave our own licensed balloon port in Whitehouse at 6pm daily, May thru October. One of NJ's oldest ballooning companies celebrating 20 years!

#### CONTACT DENNY AT

YELLOWSTONE  
BALLOON  
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908-439-3220

#### HOLIDAY BABYSITTERS

Caring mothers sit while you shop, dine, or party. 24 hr. service \$5.00/hr. Special New Year's Eve and overtime rates available. Sibling discount.

CALL MRS. MCD  
908-548-9375

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Cleveland & Madison Aves.  
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(908) 545-4400

#### Gourmet

•Chocolate Truffles  
•Cashew & Pecan Turtles  
•Elegant Gift Boxes  
•Holiday Gift Baskets  
•Complimentary Gift Wrap  
•Wedding Favors  
•Shipping Services Avail  
Visa/MC  
Hours 9:30-5:30 Mon-Fri  
9:30-5:00 Sat.

#### GIFT IDEAS

"plane toys for children big & small" at Princeton Pilot Shoppe. Also, try a Discovery flight or joy ride. Gift certificates avail. \$30 & up at PRINCETON PILOT SHOPPE. Open 8AM-6PM daily  
Call  
609-921-3100

#### CHRIS THE GREEK

TATTOOING AT ITS FINEST  
200 South Main St  
Manville, NJ  
When Quality Counts  
Call  
908-526-3323

Stop in and get your Christmas gift certificate

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GORDON'S  
SUGAR-N-SPICE  
Tempt the palate with delicious handmade chocolates deluxe quality nuts & dried fruits. Specialty food products from Vermont, New England & Texas, gourmet coffee beans, jams, jellies, maple syrup & old fashion mill mixes. Custom design gift baskets.

#### GORDON'S

SUGAR-N-SPICE  
32 South Main Street  
Manville, NJ  
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For all hair & nail services  
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471 Chestnut St  
Union, NJ 07083  
908-964-3570  
Free gift with purchase of holiday gift certificate.

Call 908-636-2887

### GIVE SOMEONE SPECIAL A MASSAGE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Gift certificates available  
ELECTROLYSIS PLUS  
30 DAVENPORT ST  
SOMERVILLE  
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Gift certificates for body work and/or single classes to dimensional healing circle - guided meditation  
CENTER FOR NEURO-MUSCULAR THERAPY  
METUCHEN, NJ  
908-603-9535  
Carmen Parls - c.m.t.

#### HUMAN TOUCH

Massage Therapy  
Give the gift of stress reduction & relaxation.  
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE  
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by appt. only

#### CATERING SERVICE

Terrific Affordable Catering for all occasions. Sit back, relax, enjoy the holiday and leave the toil to Terry.  
Call 908-636-2887

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SYNERGY GAS TO GIVE AWAY A NEW AUTOMOBILE, PICKUP OR \$10,000. Synergy Gas has announced the SYNERGY SWEEPSTAKES. One lucky consumer will win his/her choice of a 1992 automobile, pickup or \$10,000 cash. The Synergy Sweepstakes will run from November 1, 1991 through April 30, 1992; the drawing will take place May 15, 1992. The sweepstakes is open to all residents of the United States over the age of 18, except where prohibited by law. No purchase is necessary. Entry forms are available from Synergy Gas located at 4700 So. Clinton Ave., So. Plainfield, NJ 07080 908-758-5100, or through the mail by enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.

#### SHALLEY'S

572-7396  
49 Woodbridge Ave  
Highland Park, NJ  
GIVE A GIFT CERTIFICATE TO SOMEONE SPECIAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS  
•MANICURE •PEDICURE •FACIALS •WAXING

### NAN'S ANTIQUE & GIFT SHOP

75 North Main St  
Milltown, NJ  
We carry new & old crystal, china & furniture. 25% off handmade dolls by Nan.

#### MADEJ

Psychic Consultant  
Card and Palm readings by Appointment. All consultations private and confidential.

#### GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE FOR 1992

FORECAST FOR LOVE, MARRIAGE, BUSINESS  
call for info:  
Flemington 788-9899  
Somerville 725-7259

#### SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL JEWELRY

Limited quantity of Signature collection, available for the holidays. Gem-cut crystals in shapes of sapphires, rubies, emeralds and diamonds. Gold-plated and pearl settings 50% - 70% savings on exclusive store prices.

#### CALL LINDA

908-781-8887

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SPRINGFIELD, NJ  
Specializing in Reading Tarot Cards, Crystal, and Chakra

#### WE WILL GIVE YOU ADVICE ON ALL YOUR PROBLEMS, DON'T BE CONFUSED! ONE VISIT WILL ENLIGHTEN YOUR LIFE.

Be energized by your own crystal.  
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2 readings for the price of one with this ad.

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All major sports cards  
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•batting practice shirts  
•full factory sets  
SEE US ABOUT CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATES!

#### CALL JERRY AT

908-489-5253

#### TOWN & COUNTRY PETLAND

908-755-5556  
\$1 OFF \$5 \$2 OFF \$10  
\$3 OFF \$15  
Not to be combined with any other specials.  
"We honor all competitors coupons."  
offer expires 12/31/91

### ★ SPORTS ★ ENTHUSIASTS

Get them a gift or gift certificate from Flemington Grand Slam. Discount prices on alum. & wood bats, gloves, accessories & t-shirts or a discount card for batting cages. Flemington Grand Slam, 8 Bartles Corner Rd. (next to Shields Gymnastics) Flemington, 808-4800

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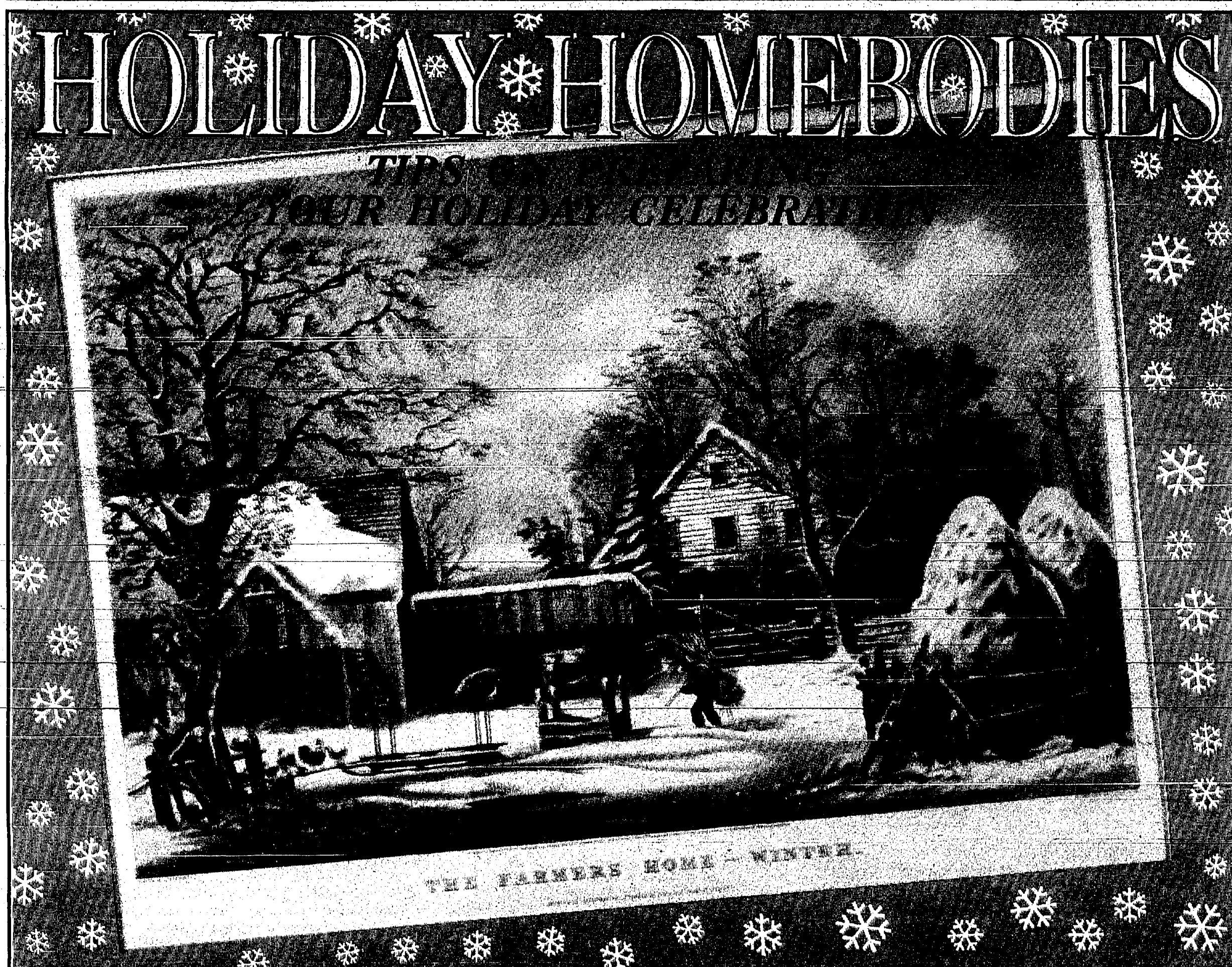
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# WeekendPlus

A Forbes Newspapers Guide to your quality time



## Stage



*Simonized*  
comedy  
at GSP

12

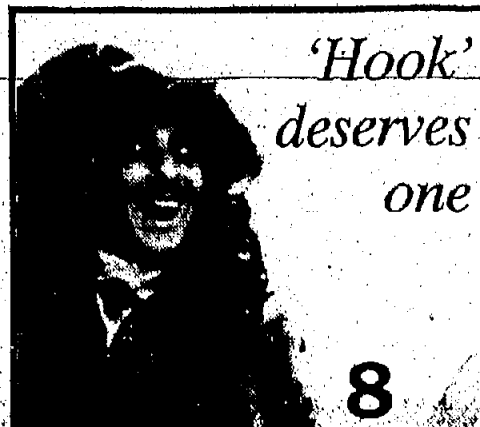
## Events



*Waterloo*  
Village  
Christmas

14

## Movies



*'Hook'*  
deserves  
one

8

## Books



*A conversation with*  
Chris Van Allsburg

10





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Books.....	10
Casinos.....	6
Club mix.....	15
Cover story.....	3
Dining.....	17
Events.....	14
Happenings.....	13
Kid stuff.....	6
Movies.....	8
Places to go.....	14
Shopping.....	7
Singles.....	13
Soundings.....	13
Stage.....	12
Advertisers index.....	11

## WeekendPlus

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## WeekendPlus

**A**h, the holiday party. Such hopes, such dreams. The guests will be raving about it for years, the tables crammed with delectable viands, the atmosphere comfortable enough to produce hours of jocundity and spright conversation. Pop! goes the vision as the actual planning transforms the nice bubble into a nightmarish vision. The linens are stained, the goose is fatty, the conversation is flat and the food has run out before the last of the guests has arrived.

Fear not. Entertaining at home for the holidays doesn't have to be the stress-inducing, problem-producing source of tension headaches and stomach turmoil that people often fear it to be. Parties planned and organized in advance can actually be fun for the hosts.

If this is hard to believe, professional party consultants, area chefs and restaurant owners are quite willing to persuade you otherwise in sharing some hints for successful parties — from pre-party planning to decorating the table to cooking the meal.

Mrs. Hyre of Morristown, a member of the New York Association of Cooking Teachers who has lectured extensively, particularly stresses the importance of organization. The best advice she can give is to plan ahead.

"Do a timetable," she recommends. "If you're going to have a New Year's Eve party, start planning now. What can you do this week? Remember to do the little things — feed the dog, feed the kids, cut the lemons, make the ice."

Here are other suggestions from Mrs. Hyre:

- Choose your time of day carefully, according to the age of the guests and their occupations. "You wouldn't want to start at six o'clock if you know couples who have children who will need to get a babysitter and put the kids to bed or who don't get out of work until six o'clock."

• Choose your menu carefully, according to the age and interest of the guests and structure the menu to include any young children. "Don't attempt to feed young children elegant food; chicken nuggets or pizza in the family room is perfect for kids while the adults have filet."

• Don't plan a buffet dinner for more people than the house can comfortably seat. "A buffet is a sit-down dinner even if people are not at a table. They still need a place to sit and to put a knife and fork and drink."

• Try to mesh the food and decor. "If you're doing an informal decor, go with informal food. It's disconcerting to have spaghetti and meatballs with Waterford crystal but it's equally so to serve filet mignon or beef Wellington with paper plates and paper napkins."

• When planning decor, multi-colors or bright colors are more informal. Monochromes are more formal — silver and gold, white on white, white and black."

• If renting equipment, absolutely insist on picking up rentals 24 hours before the party to make sure you get what you wanted.

• Don't over-clean. "This isn't the time to dust the moldings. When all the guests are in your house they won't see it anyway. Don't waste your energy."

• Don't indulge in cute themes. "They're always more clever when you're thinking about it but they're never quite right when you actually do them."

Mrs. Hyre also suggests combing the house for unique items to use as centerpieces. "Look around the house and set what you have. Let's say you have a collection of Hummel dolls or some small china pieces — put them in the center of the table. I have some pretty antique coffee cups that I'd never dream of serving coffee in, but they make lovely vases."

Kevin Tabac, director of operations at Branches Restaurant in North Branch, suggests potpourri or candles and soft holiday music to set a formal, yet relaxing, atmosphere.

His favorite holiday event, he said, is a tree decorating party. Mr. Tabac said, is a traditional party that people enjoy.

"You can ask people to bring their favorite ornament. It's a lot of fun and it's like having a little something from all your friends in your house."

Mr. Tabac pointed out that it's important to serve non-alcoholic beverages. A champagne punch with soda and orange sherbet can be just as tasty with Ariel, a non-alcohol champagne available in any liquor store.

"When I give parties at my house I tend to do odd things," said Harry Braun, executive chef at Ellington's in the Embassy Suites Hotel in Piscataway.

"You can do wonders with food — at any party the appearance of the food is most important. A homemade centerpiece out of vegetables attracts people, relaxes the room and starts conversation."

There are a "million ways to make flowers" out of vegetables for centerpieces or for garnishing food, he said.

One way is to place long toothpicks into scallions, which are the flower "stems." Place a shaved carrot, sliced very thin, in water, so it becomes rubbery enough for the shavings to be formed into petals and then stick on the end of the "stem." A twisted piece of lemon rind may be used to form the inside of the flower.

The scallion can also be carved into a flower. At the white portion of the scallion, make several thin slices from white to green, place the scallion in ice water where the slices will separate and open up to look like flower petals.

Mario Russo of Russo's Continental Catering in Bound Brook said that in-home holiday parties should be "simple and elegant."

"People should try to be creative, conversational. Display something with a little more art involved, do something that people won't normally see all the time."

Floyd Kemble, executive chef, and Don Eberhardt, banquet manager at Septemberers on the Hill in Watchung, agree that a good host or hostess will "give the impression that they are at ease with the affair. To do this everything must thought out. Good planning is the best way to accomplish that end."

Edward Stone, executive chef at the Bernards Inn, Bernardsville, prefers to keep his kitchen open to guests.

"I think to have some food laid out on the kitchen counter, some champagne, helps to bring some warmth, keeps conversation going, what's planned for night, breaks the ice, keep people moving around whole house, play Christmas music." Here are some favorite holiday recipes:

**Enfriele and George Meyer**, owners of Coach 'n Paddock in (Please turn to page 4)

## PLANNING YOUR PARTY

PREPARING THE MENU,  
CHOOSING THE GUESTS,  
SELECTING A THEME  
AND EVEN ENJOYING  
YOUR HOLIDAY  
CELEBRATION

By LORIE RUSSO



## WeekendPlus

(Continued from page 3)  
Clinton, said that serving a holiday goose is an old German tradition. Here is how his wife, Elfriede, prepares the goose and a soup consommé with dumplings as an appetizer:

**Mark Moerschensuppe (marrowbone dumpling)**  
To prepare the dumplings you will need:  
About 4 oz. of beef marrow from butcher or supermarket.  
2 eggs  
about 5 oz. breadcrumbs  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 Tablespoon of sauteed chopped onion and parsley  
dash pepper  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
Take marrow out of bone at room (will slide out if kept at room temperature) place in cold water and knead until blood is out. Mix marrow and all ingredients in a bowl and form dumplings no more than 1/2-inch in diameter. Test two or three dumplings to make sure they don't fall apart by placing in boiling water and let simmer for 10 minutes. If they fall part, add more bread crumbs to the mixture.  
Put dumplings in refrigerator for about one hour to chill.  
In the meantime, place bones in cold water, add two stalks of celery, cut and to a one-inch pieces; 1 medium onion, 2 cloves garlic, and a small leek. Bring to boil and turn to simmer for about an hour and a half. Strain the broth and let it boil again. Add dumplings and let the soup barely simmer for about 10 minutes.

**Holiday goose**  
Preheat oven to 325.  
10-12 lb. goose (enough for six people),  
wash and dry with paper towels  
Salt and pepper to taste in and out,  
Peel and slice about 4 to 5 apples

add 6 oz. raisins and stuff mixture inside goose using skewers  
Roast for 3 hours. Because goose is fatty, break the skin in spots with a fork to let the fat cook off.  
For gravy, mix 4 or 5 Tablespoons of the pan drippings and add a chopped onion, chopped celery stalk and saute in drippings. Add 2 or 3 Tablespoons of flour or corn starch and let cook for 20 minutes.

**Chief Floyd Kemble** of Septembers on the Hill, Watchung, thinks a good punch can really add to the holiday fare and he also has some easy ideas for desserts. "Keep things traditional — that's what people expect."

**Holiday punch**  
3 quarts apple juice  
two quarts ginger ale  
15 lemon slices  
15 lime slices  
green and red marichione cherries  
Mix just before the party, garnish with lemon and lime and top with the red and green cherries. Vermouth or champagne may also be added.

**Red and green Christmas parfait**  
In a parfait glass, put 1 Tablespoon of creme de mint, then scoop in vanilla ice cream. For red coloring, pour 1 Tablespoon of grenadine over ice cream. Top with whipped cream and cherry.

**Snowball**  
Pour a small amount of grenadine in champagne glass. Roll one scoop of vanilla ice cream in toasted coconut and top with whipped grand marnier and heavy cream.  
From **Chief Harry Braun**, Ellington's in Embassy Suites, Piscataway.  
"There are so many different vegetable combinations, for instance saute sausage and squash and puree it. It makes a different sort of vegetable dish with various entrees."

**Chicken Rochambeau**  
8 oz. cutlet split  
in two and pounded  
2 large croutons  
2 slices Canadian bacon 1/8" thick  
1/2 cup hollandaise sauce  
1/16 cup chopped parsley  
Saute Canadian bacon and chicken breast until done. Heat croutons until warm, center heated croutons on plate. Layer Canadian bacon over croutons and place chicken breast over bacon. Ladle hollandaise sauce over top and sprinkle with parsley.

**Poached salmon with Vodka cream sauce**  
10 oz. salmon filet,  
poached in fish stock  
1 oz. Julienne of carrot, blanched  
1/16 oz. black or red caviar  
sauce: 1 cup fish stock  
1/16 cup beet juice  
1/16 cup vodka  
1/16 cup heavy cream  
1 oz. butter  
salt and pepper to taste

Reduce fish stock, beet juice and vodka by one-half. Finish with heavy cream, butter, salt and pepper. Ladle sauce onto bottom of plate. Center poached salmon filet on plate. Arrange julienne of carrot on top of salmon filet. Place caviar on both sides of julienne of carrot.  
**Alex Voslinas**, executive chef at The Barge restaurant, suggests a ham or rack of lamb for a holiday entree. "Lamb is one of my favorite dishes," he said. "It's simple and it tastes great."

**Rack of Lamb**  
Whole rack of lamb for 10-15 people. Keep lamb whole (Please turn to page 5)

## WeekendPlus

(Continued from page 4)  
while roasting. Season with salt, pepper, garlic powder and add chopped carrots, onions and celery.  
Cook at 400 for one hour and 15 minutes. Serve whole and garnish with red leaf lettuce

From **Chief Ed Stone** of the Bernards Inn "This is a nice item for a buffet."

**Asparagus vinaigrette with Belgian endive**  
6-10 pieces asparagus, peeled  
2 heads Belgian endive  
1 bunch chives  
2 tsp. shallots, minced  
2 tsp. fine herb  
salt and pepper to taste  
Vinaigrette:  
8 oz. pure olive oil  
2-3 oz. Balsamic vinegar  
1 Tablespoon cold water  
salt and pepper to taste  
Place asparagus in a pot large enough so that the tips do not break. Boil 6 to 8 quarts of water and pour boiling water over asparagus and bring back to a boil as quickly as possible. Cook until al dente. Remove from boiling water, carefully not to break tips. Place immediately in an ice bath. Remove from ice water when cooled and place on serving dish and refrigerate. Julienne endive with sharp knife, wash and dry thoroughly. Set aside.  
Mix olive oil, balsamic vinegar, cold water, salt and pepper with a whisk. Pour over cold asparagus.  
From **Kevin Tabac**, Branches Restaurant: "Cooking this will fill the home with a nice aroma."

**Spiced cider**  
As many gallons of apple cider as you want. For every gallon add four whole cinnamon sticks and add in a pot:  
A rind of orange stuck with 8 to 10 whole cloves  
pinch nutmeg  
3 shots dark rum  
3 shots light rum  
A shot and a half of Triple Sec or Cointreau

Let simmer and cook for hour. Strain in case cloves come out of the orange. Serve in punch bowl.  
From Branches chef de cuisine, **Bob Grambor**:  
"This is a real nice dish. The venison comes out tender and the apple fritters are a nice complement."

**Applejack Venison Scallopini** (serves six)  
2 1/4 lbs. venison loin or round  
cut into 2 oz. medallions  
pounded thin between plastic wrap  
Dredge in flour and saute in vegetable oil about a minute on each side, then remove. Add:  
1/4 cup finely chopped shallots  
1/4 cup pine nuts  
Brown shallots and pine nuts slightly in same pan, then remove and deglaze with about 2 oz. of Applejack whiskey and place back on flame. The alcohol will make the mixture flammable, so be careful. Then add:  
3/4 cup apple cider  
1/4 cup raisins  
2 cups venison or beef glaze, which is made from beef or venison bones browned in the oven in oil. Add to it carrots, celery and onions, a couple Tablespoons of tomato paste, season with bayleaf, thyme and dash rosemary, one or two cloves. Cover with cold water, bring to boil, then turn back to simmer and let cook for few hours, strain and reduce down by half and add two Tablespoons unsalted butter, season with salt and pepper  
Place venison in sauce with juices to reheat meat and serve with warm apple fritters.

**Apple fritters**  
Peel and core 6 apples and soak in a brandy, sugar and water mixture, enough to cover  
Meanwhile, beat 2 egg yolks  
1/4 cups milk  
1 C flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
Beat until smooth then fold in two well-beaten egg whites. Dredge the apple slices in sugar and cinnamon, dip in batter and deep fry until golden brown.  
From **Mario Russo** of Russo's Continental Catering.  
"This is good for a holiday breakfast or brunch."

**Apple-walnut cinnamon crepes** (for 10 people)  
8 eggs  
1 cup flour  
1 oz. vegetable oil  
1/2 cup milk  
Mix until you get a pancake batter consistency.  
Add to batter:  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Grease pan with vegetable oil and pour in batter so that it forms 8-inch round circles. When the top surface of the crepe begins to dry, flip over for a few seconds and then take off heat.

**Apple walnut filling:**  
Can use store-bought, basic apple pie filling or canned apples.  
Mix 1/4 cup chopped walnuts, 1 teaspoon brown sugar, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon. Mix well and spoon enough for a thin layer over crepe and roll. Crepes should be served with whipped cream.  
**Mike Smith** of Villa Piancone Restaurant said that grilled tuna with a special sauce makes for an "impressive main course."

**Tuna del Re (tuna for a king)**  
with strawberry champagne buerre blanc (For 8-10 guests)  
8-10 tuna steaks, sauteed in pan or broiler approximately 2-3 minutes on each side.  
Strawberry champagne buerre blanc  
2 lbs. fresh strawberries  
1 bottle champagne  
2 lbs. butter  
approximately 1 oz. shallots  
2 oz. sugar  
lemon  
Saute shallots and butter, add fresh strawberries, sliced and the champagne. Boil to reduce the amount by half. Puree in blender, return to pot and add sugar. Over low flame whip in remaining amount of butter until thick and smooth, making sure not to boil.  
Place sauce on bottom of plate with tuna on top. Garnish whole rim with strawberry halves and lemon slices.

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## WeekendPlus

### Kid stuff

#### THE ART MUSEUM

Princeton University  
(609) 258-3788  
Gallery talk for children 6-12  
at 11 a.m. Free admission.

\*Dec. 22: "The Gifts of the  
Magi," Marianne Grey.

CRAIG BABCOCK

Friday, Dec. 27, 10:30 a.m.

North County Library

93 Beaver Ave., Annandale

(908) 730-6262

Friday, Dec. 27, 1:30 p.m.

Hunterdon County Library

Route 12, Flemington

(908) 788-1432

\*Mime explores movement for

children 5-up and for adults.

Free admission; tickets re-

quired.

FLAKEY THE

MAGIC SNOWMAN

Saturday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m.

Somerset County Library

North Bridge St. & Vogt Dr.

Bridgewater

(908) 526-4016, ext. 126

\*Jean Maljean performs magic

tricks to warm the winter cold.

Free admission; tickets re-

quired.

FOLK TALES FROM

### AROUND THE WORLD

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2 p.m.

N.J. State Museum

205 West State St., Trenton

(609) 292-6310

\*Comedy from Romania, Ameri-

ca, and Russia, and a drama

from Mexico, all told by the

Shoeleather Players. Admission

\$3.50 in advance, \$4 at the

door.

HANSEL AND GRETEL

Dec. 21, 22, 28, and 29,

3 p.m.

First Arts Theatre

Rider College, Lawrenceville

(609) 882-1234

\*The Grimm's fairy tale, set to

music by Engelbert Humperdinck

and performed by the Princeton

Opera. Adults \$15; children, se-

nior citizens, and students \$12.

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\*Dec. 28: Aladdin by Pegasus

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\*Bany Manlow Presents Co-

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Boardwalk & Indiana Ave.

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(800) 2-HARRAH

MERV GRIFFIN'S RESORTS

Boardwalk &

North Carolina Ave.

Atlantic City

(609) 344-6000

THE SANDS

Boardwalk & Illinois Ave.

Atlantic City

(609) 441-4000

SHOWBOAT

Boardwalk & Delaware Ave.

Atlantic City

(609) 343-4000

\*Good Times Variety Show, on-

going.

TAI MAHAL

Boardwalk & Virginia Ave.

Atlantic City

(609) 449-1000

\*That's Comedy, revue, nightly

except Friday.

TROPICWORLD

Boardwalk & Brighton Ave.

Atlantic City

(609) 340-4000

TRUMP CASTLE

### 1978 smash hit, ongoing.

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pacabans, revue based on his

1978 smash hit, ongoing.



The Pegasus Puppets troupe will perform Aladdin Dec. 28 at Waterloo Village in Stanhope.

## S H O P P I N G

### Beyond the usual

Interesting gifts  
for the interesting  
people you know

By VALERI DRACH

WEIDMANN

Browser-at-Large

Year after year do you find  
yourself buying the same  
gifts for the same people?

Relief is here. Relax. You

never have to buy another paisley

tie, set of handkerchiefs or cheap

bottle of perfume. In a corner of

the mall or out on your own main

street there are stores with unique

selections, helpful shopkeepers,

moderate prices and delightful at-

mospheres conducive to finding

the perfect gifts.

When Kathie Campeace

Ketcher left the cor-

porate world after work-

ing in sterile office envi-

ronments for 20 years she wanted

to create a shop she could look forward to entering every morning.

So in a cozy corner of the busy Bridgewater Commons she designed

Plantimals, a lush miniature jungle with every conceivable ceramic,

wood or cloth animal in existence with a large selection of live

vegetation — all for sale.

Real bonsai, cactus and ivy plants shade tiny lions, tigers, rhinoceros,

and elephants — complete with authentic manes, fangs, stripes and

hunks captured by a craftsman's eye.

The fresh flowers, roses and lush green plants (all are for sale), found

flourishing up and down the aisles, give off a fresh outdoor scent. Soft

lighting makes you feel that a canopy of trees are protecting you from

harsh sunlight.

Plantimals is arranged in nooks and crannies that celebrate forest

animals, sea creatures, birds, a very popular Australian section and

deeper into the menagerie, more domestic and whimsical animals.

There are 55 breeds of canines made by Sandicast, an artist Ms. Ketcher

said captures the expressions of dogs better than anyone, regally guard

the heart of her store. Collectors of a specific animal, whether it's a

tiger, elephant or panda bear, are

always hungry for new items, Ms.

Ketcher said.

Animal lovers or collectors will

find this shop irresistible. Prices

for an inanimate pet or live plant

range from \$3.99 to \$450 with an average of \$20. (908) 725-8526.

In 1851 the Sir Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace drew thousands of

Europeans to witness the wonders of the world gathered in this vast

glass exhibition hall. Although Somerville's Crystal Palace Gal-

eries, which is owned by Josh Pekun, does not claim to house the

wonders of the universe, it does have a vast selection of collectibles

from every corner of Europe. Dominating the shop window is a large

crystal castle, foreshadowing the many small wonders that are waiting

to be found inside. The taste and feel of Europe is in the air. Revolving

glass cabinets display crystal rabbits, owls, butterflies and other favorite

traditional subjects of Austrian crystal craftsmen.

"If a child comes in with \$10 in their pocket to spend, we can find

them a crystal," Mary Pekun said. "Or if someone comes in with \$500,

we also have quite a selection for them."

Mrs. Pekun also pointed out that crystal made in America by such

companies as the Crystal Zoo is much more whimsical in character.

Castles, unicorns and flying horses are some of the American fantasy

pieces you can find side by side with more sedate Swarovski Crystal



and pieces from Japan, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Pekun

is offering a 25 percent discount

on their entire selection of crystal.

Guaranteed to bring a smile to

the face of even the grumpiest

friends or relatives are Willet Car-

ousel music boxes. Small porcelain

and ceramic miniature carousel

horses are modeled after those

from actual world fairs and amuse-

ment parks.

Kingdoms of English pewter col-

lectibles celebrate King Arthur's



# MOVIES

## Bly'd spirit

Spielberg's 'Hook' deserves to get one

By STEVEN HART  
WeekendPlus Editor

Woody Allen used to tell a joke about going to see a production of *Peter Pan* with Bessie Smith in the lead role — "the chains kept breaking" was the punch line. So do the very costly gold chains supporting *Hook*, the much-hyped Steven Spielberg dud that starts with what must be the least inviting premise ever conceived for a children's fantasy — Peter Pan grows up into a workaholic, life-denying corporator — and builds it into a junky toy mountain. Overbearing and underimagined, at least 30 minutes too long and smothered in the usual grandiose John Williams score, *Hook* is too heavy to hoist and too unwieldy to really enjoy. Touted throughout the summer and fall as the flick that would turn things around at the theaters, it is now the leading contender for the title of Movie That Left the Biggest Crater in the Hollywood 1991 Christmas Season.

It is accurate, though not complimentary, to call *Hook* a *Peter Pan* for the '90s. Faced once again by his old enemy Captain Hook, who's kidnapped his kids in order to bring him back to Neverland for one last fight, sobersides Peter is given three days to rediscover the ebullient boy within him, thereby enabling him to vanquish Captain Hook and become a better man in the process. Peter Pan, meet Robert Bly. Quite by accident, Spielberg has come up with the caper to this year's trend: Yuppies regaining their souls. Considering the decline in box office grosses that has accompanied Spielberg's attempts at adult statements (*The Color Purple*, *Empire of the Sun*, *Amos*), the director must have found plenty of personal associations in the theme of a wealthy father trying to reclaim his youth.

There are a lot of other secondhand elements in this hash. The *Lost Boys* are unpleasantly reminiscent of the kids from *The Goonies*, a Spielberg production; when they get all cow-eyed and murrur "He is the one, true Pan," we are wrenched from Neverland and tossed into *The Greatest Story Ever Told*; when Hook sets to work courting Peter's alienated son Jack, the *Star Wars* parallel is obvious and grating. (Stripped of his wig and flouncy hat at the climax, Hook even recalls the de-helmeted Darth Vader.) About the only thing you aren't reminded of here is *Peter Pan*.

With its massive, obviously expensive yet fake-looking sets, *Hook* has the feel of a badly planned amusement park. "Visual consultant" John Napier has devised sets for Neverland and the *Lost Boys*' rumpus area that would not be out of place among his production designs for *Cats*, *Miss Saigon* and *Les Miz*. It's very much a boy's game here: Maggie Banning, Peter's 7-year-old daughter, never loses faith in her Pops and as a reward gets put on the shelf for most of the movie.

## Film capsules

### OPENINGS

#### BUGSY

•The life and times of Bugsy Siegel, the gangster who made Las Vegas what it is today. With Warren Beatty, Annette Bening and Harvey Keitel. Written by James Toback (*The Big Bang*) and directed by Barry Levinson

#### FATHER OF THE BRIDE

•Steve Martin stars in a remake of the 1950 comedy about a man trying to organize a lavish wedding. With Diane Keaton and Martin Short. (PG) CURRENT FILMS THE ADDAMS FAMILY

•A tame, disappointing one-joke film featuring the agreeably twisted clan created by Westfield's favorite son, Charles Addams. With Paul Julia, Anjelica Huston, Christopher Lloyd and Thing. (PG-13) ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS •Holiday tale about a little girl

who wants to reunite her estranged parents for Christmas. (G) AN AMERICAN TAIL: FIEVEL GOES WEST •The further animated adventures of Fievel Mousekewitz. With the voices of James Stewart, Dom DeLuise and John

Cleese. (G) BEAUTY AND THE BEAST •Madame de Villeneuve's fairy tale gets the Disney treatment. (G) BILLY BATHGATE •Any film that opens with Bruce Willis being chucked off a boat with his feet planted in a tub of

cement can't be all bad, and this low-key gangster tale — adapted from E.L. Doctorow's overpraised novel — is actually pretty good. The decline of Depression-era gangster Dutch Schultz as viewed through the eyes of a young hanger-on, the film steers a middle course be-

tween the operatic Godfather scores and the gritty stupidity of *Scarface*. With Dustin Hoffman as Schultz, Nicole Kidman as his moll and, in a crucial casting mistake, bland-faced Loren Dean as the protagonist. (R)

Please turn to page 9



Captain Hook (Dustin Hoffman) is re-introduced to Peter Pan (Robin Williams) in *Hook*.

Not that Spielberg has much time for humans in general: after flitting about as Tinkerbell, Julia Roberts at one point turns big enough to look Peter in the face and give him a good kiss, but our hero turns his back on this full-sized example of the joys of adulthood without even pausing to gulp, and she quickly reverts to rinky Tink scale. When one of the *Lost Boys* gets run through by Hook — calm down, it's obvious from the start which kid's slated to kick the bucket — it's forgotten after barely a couple of minutes. Considering that Spielberg's attention span is shorter than the lifetime of the average subatomic particle, it's odd that he allowed *Hook* to bludge into something twice as long as the average kid can comfortably sit through.

The title of *Hook* is misleading, since the villainous captain is hardly present for most of the action, but Dustin Hoffman is slyly amusing as the manicurist's worst nightmare. (His drawing delivery and snaggly-tooth grin are pure William F. Buckley Jr.) As the green-clad flyboy turned corporate raider, Robin Williams only becomes un-

convincing when he rediscovers the eternal boy in him — a problem, given that this is the point of the whole movie. In fact he's so good as the beleaguered adult that when the *Lost Boys* start pelting and pummeling him through the regimen to reclaim his boyhood, you start wondering if Peter might not be better off leaving his kids with old Hook. Maggie Smith is on hand to lend a touch of class to the proceedings, with Old Blighly beating out New Hollywood Bligh quite handily.

The film occasionally lumbers within trumpeting distance of the original story's charm, particularly in the early scenes: the opening shot of Peter and his family watching a grammar school production of *Barrie's* play, and the ensuing visit to snowy London, have a playful, low-key air of enchantment that holds out promise of better things. That promise is never realized, but *Hook* does perform an unexpected, unintended public service. With its laborious spectacle of people who ought to know better huffing through tiresome games of make-believe, *Hook* is a first-rate advertisement for adulthood. Did you ever expect something like that from Hollywood?

## Video rewind

### Mississippi mermaid

A Rage in Harlem, the first shot at directing from action movie maven Bill Duke (you saw his name in *Predator* and *Conan*), is comic-strip crime by way of a Chester Himes novel. The ingredients are all here — a Mississippi bad

guy with a heart of purple and a truck of stolen gold, various shades circling around the smell of money, fleeting appearances by Himes' detective pair Coffin Ed Johnson and Graveyarder Jones — but the blend never really gets cooking. There is, however, an amusing performance by Danny Glover as a fence with a soft spot for dogs, and Robin Givens does amazing things with her skintight outfits — a pity she has to ruin it all by trying to act. As the mania's boy Givens sinks her hooks into, Forest Whitaker goes deep,

deep into a sly role and emerges with something charming his transformation into righteous fighter is so appealing you can almost buy the idea of him winning the dark lady over to his side.

—Steven Hart

## America's most rented

1. Backdraft (2 last week)
2. The Silence of the Lambs (1)
3. Rain Man
4. Crimes of the Heart (1)
5. What About Bob? (4)
6. Major Dumb (1)
7. Chess Addict (1)
8. Chess Addict (1)
9. The Godfather Part II (1)
10. The Godfather Part II (1)
11. One Good Cop (1)
12. Madman's Truth or Dare (1)
13. Out for Justice (3)
14. Switch (1)
15. Bully by Suspicion (2)

Source: Billboard, Dec. 14 issue

## Weekend Plus

## Review revue

## Early word on 'Hook' not good

Whether *Hook*, Steven Spielberg's return to his biggest fantasy filmmaking, proves to be a hit remains to be seen. But it has already received some of Spielberg's worst reviews.

### Newsweek

"At 135 minutes, *Hook* is a dangerously overextended children's fantasy, so busy explaining the revised rules of the Peter Pan legend that the plot often seems to be chasing its own tale," wrote David Ansen. "By the time this overstuffed epic comes to its conclusion, you feel like you've been watching the dance of an 800-pound elf." He called *The Lost Boys* "a multiracial Benetton ad comes to awkward, charmless life," and likened the much-hyped Neverland set as "a run-down amusement park." The film could have used a 30-minute cut and some scares, as it stands, "*Hook* is a huge party cake of a movie, with too much frosting. After the first delicious bite, sugar shock sets in."

### Village Voice

*Hook*, wrote Georgia Brown, "gets the prize for the most lavish, extravagant, opulent ode to simple joys and basic values ever made." While she admired Spielberg's way with child actors, she wished he hadn't "let the one death in the film go unmentioned." She also protested Spielberg's penchant for overdoing things: "Overkill is offensive," she wrote. "If not boring," Dustin Hoffman's villain "is mercifully subtle, delightful and clever," but she noted that "though Spielberg told *Premiere* that this movie wouldn't work if Hook weren't frightening, he isn't." Robin Williams' Peter is "subdued, convincingly adult and droll but not hammy. I think he never once gets that creepy, squinted-up, cuddle-me look." She disliked Spielberg's "compulsion to overwhelm, out-do, make you cry uncle. He thinks this is what unleashing his imagination means." She "was alternately caught up — laughing, tear, sometimes enchanted — and then rudely bumped into critical mode by the overwrought, ostentatious visuals." Though there are "touching moments" in *Hook*, Ms. Brown said that after the movie "I snapped at my kid, but actually I was annoyed at Steven Spielberg."

### Time

"*Hook* is not bratty, which might at least have been fun," wrote Richard Schickel. "It's stuffy, like one of those overdressed rich kids, standing forlornly in a corner at a party, afraid of nipping his clothes." The movie lumbered along "with a great whirling and clanking of plot machinery... no wonder the guy has trouble getting off the ground. He's carrying too much baggage." Hoffman's *Hook* is "broody and self-absorbed, utterly gleeful in his villainy," while Williams "never has a truly antic moment."

Continued from page 18

FOR THE BOYS  
•Bette Midler and James Caan co-star as bickering USO performers whose careers span four wars. (R)

HOOK  
•Elaborate fantasy adventure in which the grown-up Peter Pan (Robin Williams) must rescue his children from his arch-enemy Captain Hook (Dustin Hoffman). With Julia Roberts as Tinkerbell. (PG)

HOUSE PARTY 2  
•With Play (a.k.a. Chris Reid and Christopher Reid) reprise their roles from the original: this time Kid is pursuing college while Play chases fame as a rapper. With Full Force and Queen Latifah. (R)

LITTLE MAN TATE  
•Jodie Foster's surprisingly bland filmmaking debut, redeemed mainly by the fine performance of Adam Hann-Byrd as a 7-year-old genius whose welfare may depend on his being able to leave home. With Dianna West. (PG)

MY GIRL  
•Coming-of-age comedy about a tomboy (Anna Chlumsky), her boyfriend (Macaulay Culkin) and a widowed mortician (Dan Aykroyd). (PG)

OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY  
•Wall Street's most ruthless corporate raider, Larry the Liquidator (Danny DeVito), goes after a New England company. With Gregory Peck and Penelope Ann Miller. (R)

THE PEOPLE UNDER THE STAIRS  
•The latest horror movie from Wes Craven (*A Nightmare on Elm Street*, *The Hills Have Eyes*) is about a young burglar who runs into some nasty surprises during his first break-in. (R)

PROSPERO'S BOOKS  
•Peter Greenaway (*The Cook, The Thief, His Wife & Her Lover*) does a Felliniesque take on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. With John Gielgud as Prospero.

STAR TREK VI: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

•Like its cast, this final entry in the *Trek* series is paunchy, slow-moving and more prone to talk than action. The preachment-heavy script transposes the collapse of the Soviet Union into the future, where Kirk, Spock and company must save a plan to resolve the conflict between the Klingons and the Federation. Starring the usual gang plus Christopher Plummer, and Kim Cattrall as Spock's protegee — their mind-melding scene is one of the kindest moments in the series. Directed by Nicholas Meyer, the man behind *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*.

### THEATERS

A listing of showtimes in Union, Somerset, Middlesex, Morris and Hunterdon county movie theaters appears in this week's issue of your local *Forbes* Newspaper.

### MIDDLESEX

AMBOY MULTIPLEX  
Routes 9 & 35, Sayreville (908) 721-3400  
GENERAL CINEMA  
BRUNSWICK SQUARE  
Brunswick Square Mall  
Routes 1 & 9 & 35  
Woodbridge (908) 239-2998

GENERAL CINEMA - WOODBRIDGE  
Callor Shopping Center  
Routes 1 & 9 & 35  
Woodbridge (908) 636-4566  
KENDALL PARK CINEMA  
Route 27, Kendall Park (908) 422-2444

MOVIE CITY 6  
Oak Tree Center  
1665 Oak Tree Rd., Edison (908) 549-6666  
UNIVERSITY  
MALL CINEMA  
Hadley & Stetson roads  
South Plainfield (908) 753-2246

### SOMERSET

BERNARDSVILLE CINEMA  
Route 202, Bernardsville (908) 766-0357

BROOK THEATRE  
10 Hamilton St., Bound Brook (908) 469-9665  
GENERAL CINEMA  
BRIDGEWATER COMMONS  
Routes 22 & 202-206  
Bridgewater (908) 725-1161

GENERAL CINEMA  
RUTHER PLAZA SIX  
Easton Ave., Somerset (908) 828-8787  
GENERAL CINEMA  
SOMERVILLE CIRCLE  
Routes 28 & 202, Raritan (908) 526-0101

MONTGOMERY CENTER THEATRE  
Routes 206 & 518  
Rocky Hill (908) 924-7444

### UNION

CINEPLEX ODEON CRANFORD  
25 North Ave. West  
Cranford (908) 276-9120  
FIVE POINTS CINEMA  
327 Chestnut St., Union (908) 964-9633

GENERAL CINEMA  
BLUE STAR  
Route 22 West, Watchung (908) 322-7007  
LINDEN FIVEPLEX  
400 North Wood Ave., Linden (908) 925-9787

NEW PARK CINEMA  
23 West Ave.  
Roselle Park (908) 241-2525  
RIALTO TRIPLEX  
250 East Broad St.  
Westfield (908) 252-1268

WESTFIELD TWIN CINEMA  
139 Central Ave., Westfield (908) 654-4721  
202-31, Flemington (908) 782-2177  
HUNTERDON THEATRE  
Route 31, Flemington (908) 782-4815

### MORRIS

AMC HEADQUARTERS 10  
72 Headquarters Plaza  
Morristown (201) 292-0606

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- Scotch Plains YMCA January 15
- New Brunswick YMCA January 21
- Westfield YMCA January 23
- Metuchen YMCA January 29

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Edison 287-2822

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# BOOKS

## Everyday unreality

Van Allsburg's books place fantasy in familiar settings

By VALERI DRACH  
WEIDMANN  
WeekendPlus Writer

A board game that turns a quiet house in a jungle. A boy who learns to sail his boat above treetops. As Chris Van Allsburg himself acknowledges, there are "no leprechauns or dragons" in any of his 12 illustrated books for children, but his stories nevertheless usher readers into worlds where fantasy merges with domesticity.

"When reality is altered, when you let the surreal creep into the everyday, uncertainty is created and that uncertainty is scary," said Van Allsburg.

A good way to create that uncertainty, he added, is to banish adults.

"Fantasy becomes alive when adult perception is removed," Van Allsburg said. "When kids are left alone, the safety parents represent is gone."

Nowhere is this more true than in his second book *Jumanji* (1981, \$15.95), a Caldecott Medal winner, about a brother and sister who find a board game that turns their serene living room into a treacherous jungle complete with lions, stampeding rhinoceros, monsoon rains and volcanoes.

As dangerous as things become, Van Allsburg allows the children a chance to restore normalcy without adult intervention.

"The older sister blazes a trail," Van Allsburg said. "She convinces her brother to continue."

Just as Van Allsburg likes his characters to continue even as he places them in terrifying situations, so does he prefer what he calls "non-passive readers" capable of threading their way through his clues and inversions of reality.

According to Van Allsburg, all his books are in a sense cautionary tales. He sees the world as a dangerous place, but not a place to avoid or escape. The frightening quality he highlights in each yarn is the very thing to which readers are attracted. However, some of his characters suffer from not being careful enough in strange places.

*Two Bad Ants* (1988, \$16.95) literally get a taste of adventure when they leave the safety of the nest to explore the world of humans, specifically a kitchen sugar bowl. When things turn scary, Van Allsburg gives us an insect's perspective on the threats posed by normal domestic objects: a cup of coffee, a toaster and a water faucet.

A young sailor in *The Wreck of the Zephyr* (1983, \$15.95) also leaves the safety of his familiar world to take on rough seas, despite the warning of his elders.

He benefits from his recklessness by discovering a seaside village where men have learned to sail their boats through the sky. Although the boy, at least for a few short moments, breaks free of the earth, his foolhardiness destroys his dreams and his boat. The tale is rendered with breathtaking pastel views of sailboats gliding through the stars and clouds.

There are rewards for venturesome spirits, however. No one is more rewarded than a young boy who is given the gift of a ride on *The Polar Express* (\$17.95, published in 1985 and winner of the Caldecott Medal).

Van Allsburg said that the inspiration for the book was a vision he had of a train stopping in the middle of a snowy forest. Faith is the ticket that allows you to ride Van Allsburg's mysterious night train that runs only once a year and with one destination: the North Pole.

Sometimes you don't even have to get up out of bed to visit one of Van Allsburg's strange universes. Walter, a young boy in *Just a Dream* (1990, \$17.95), a story Van Allsburg calls his most didactic, travels on his



Author-illustrator Chris Van Allsburg relaxes at home. He wants what he calls "non-passive" readers.

bed to a dismal future where smog, noisy polluted highways and giant smokestacks ruin the earth.

*Ben's Dream* (1982, \$8.95) is a much more whimsical tale about a boy who gets to see all the great landmarks of the world from the comfortable perspective of his own arm chair — a metaphor for reading itself. "It is quite a luxury to fish off your porch as Ben does as he sails past the Taj Mahal," Van Allsburg said.

The biggest surprise of all from this master of surprise is that he almost didn't become a children's author.

Van Allsburg entered the University of Michigan as a law student. His first art class changed that, and in 1972 he was graduated with a degree in sculpture. After getting his M.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), he worked as a part time sculpture instructor where he displayed his drawings at a faculty art show. Without ever publishing an illustration he was offered a permanent teaching position at RISD.

He decided to publish his first book in 1979, *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi* (\$16.95), a Caldecott Honor Book, because he felt guilty about teaching in a medium he was not involved in professionally. Like the retired magician Abdul Gasazi who can change dogs into ducks, Van Allsburg can turn children's books into instant best-sellers, not an easy feat in a juvenile market where it usually takes years to build a popular title.

Although he claimed "to not know as a young boy that he would be drawn to the illusion of art," his favorite reading material certainly such 1950s favorites as *Harold and the Purple Crayon* and *Mad* magazine, all gave Van Allsburg a peek at places where life was a little odd. It doesn't take a magician to guess what his favorite childhood television show was *The Twilight Zone*.

As much as Van Allsburg likes to have his readers visit magical country sides, he always likes them to bring back something with them. A little memento of the absurd that leaves them thinking.

Even his alphabet book *The Z Was Zapped*, (1987, \$16.95), is not an ABC book that features passive apples and pears. It is dedicated to the very active demolition of the 26 letters of the alphabet. Van Allsburg thought children might like watching the alphabet being destroyed, might more easily remember the letters by verb rather than noun. ("The B was badly Bitten, The C Was Cut to ribbons.")

And if Van Allsburg was trying to mutilate the letters, they almost "ground him into dust." He actually made real scale models of the letters from clay, plastic or wax, put them on a stage he also nailed together and then drew each letter as if it were a separate stage actor. The ultimate challenge he offers to his readers can be found in *The*

(Please turn to page 11)

## Book marks

### Book store's first chapter

"I thought if I could make it during a recession, I'd probably be successful when times got better," said Richard Salter, owner of Chapter One, the area's newest book store.

Salter, who is also the manager of a bookstore in New Brunswick, said it was something he wanted to do. He expected to have a lot of success.

The store, which opened 11 weeks ago on York Main Street in Stanhope, offers a wide selection of books at a discount off retail most other bookstores for sale prices.

Salter said a woman came in and bought a book and he was so happy that he decided to open a bookstore.

The store is also part of its long-term strategy. The store is a success.

Salter said he has been successful in the past. He has been successful in the past.

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## Soundings

### MUSIC

#### AMAH AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.  
State Theatre  
453 Northampton St.  
Easton, Pa.  
(215) 258-7766

\*Gian-Carlo Menotti's holiday musical, presented w/carols from many nations. Adults \$15; senior citizens, students, and children \$12.50.

#### AMERICAN BOYCHOIR

Friday, Dec. 20, 8 p.m.  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
801 West State St., Trenton  
Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.  
Richardson Auditorium  
Princeton University  
(609) 924-5858

\*Traditional songs and carols. Adults \$12, children under 12 \$6. In Trenton; adults \$18 and \$12, children under 12 \$8 in Princeton.

#### BART HARRIS

Saturday, Dec. 21  
Waterloo Village  
Route 80, Ext 25  
Stanhope  
(201) 347-0900

\*Organist performs Christmas music in church setting. Village admission \$7.50, \$5 for the elderly, \$3 for children ages 6 to 12.

#### LOUISE MANDRELL

Saturday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m.  
Union County Arts Center  
1601 Irving St., Rahway  
(908) 499-8225

\*Holiday show w/the country singer and sister of the late Elvis Presley, author Barbara Mandrell. Adults \$12, children \$8.



Folk singer Elaine Silver performs Friday, Dec. 27, at Waterloo Village in Stanhope.

tion \$22.50, \$20, \$17.50.

#### ORCHESTRA OF ST. PETER BY-THE-SEA

Sunday, Dec. 29, 3 p.m.  
St. Matthew's Church  
81 Seymour Ave., Edison  
(908) 985-5063

\*Scholarship fund benefit, conducted by the Rev. Alphonse Stephenson. Admission \$20.

ELAINE SILVER  
Friday, Dec. 27, 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.  
Waterloo Village  
Route 80, Ext 25  
Stanhope  
(201) 347-0900

\*Folk singer performs in the Waterloo Pavilion. Admission \$7.50 for adults, \$5 for the elderly, \$3 for children 6 to 12.

### DANCE

#### GIFTED AND TALENTED PERFORMING ARTS DANCE PROGRAM

Friday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.  
Somerset County Vocational and Technical School  
North Bridge St. & Vogt Dr., Bridgewater  
(908) 526-8900, ext. 277

\*Informal concert, featuring two

## WeekendPlus

## Chris Van Allsburg's everyday unreality

(Continued from page 10)

Mysteries of Harris Burdick (1984, \$14.95), a collection of 14 drawings with one line captions, that probably contain all of our collected fears and fantasies. Each illustration provokes the imagination into creating stories. They include an ocean liner trying to squeeze through the canals of Venice, birds flying off of wallpaper and a comfortable domestic scene with a blob crawling under a carpet.

The premise for this book is that an illustrator left these drawings with a publisher and then never returned with the finished material.

His other books include *The Stranger* (1986, \$16.95) the story of an unusual visitor at a farmhouse, and his latest, *The Wretched Stone* (\$17.95), which he calls "a quintessential sea tale" but has a bit of the didactic strain from *Ben's Dream*.

In it, a captain notices some gruesome transformations in his crew after he takes aboard a strange glowing stone. It doesn't take a genius to note the resemblance between the stone's glow and the light emitted from a certain household appliance that many children spend too much time in front of. He also illustrated *Susan Lake* (1989), a retelling of the venerable tale by novelist Mark Helprin (*Winter's Tale*).

Although he receives 50 letters a week at his Rhode Island home from his young readers, it is really only one child that he writes for. "I write for the child I used to be," Van Allsburg said.



A recent Van Allsburg title.

## Index of advertisers

- Acme Nissan Car Wash.....9
- American Repertory.....15
- Boulevard Food.....9
- Branchburg Clock.....5
- Brass Lantern.....15
- Casino Tours.....6
- Cub Liquors.....13
- Dine Out With Mickl.....17
- Tom Fueller Insurance.....6
- Lee Chalet.....5
- Kimberly Supply Barn.....6
- Misty Valley.....5
- Moonstruck.....4
- Natasha's Starcast.....11
- Nature's View.....11
- North Branch General Store.....13
- Ocean Explorer.....9
- Pelican.....2
- Personality Yours.....6
- Playhouse 22.....5
- Princeton Airporter.....5
- Restaurants.....18-28
- Round Trip Collectibles.....4
- Paul Sanford Jewelers.....6
- Bea Skydolls.....6
- Somerset Air.....4
- State Theatre.....13
- Waterloo Village.....11

## A time for joy.

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It's a Christmas you'll never forget. 10 to 6 Tuesday through Sunday now through December 31. Just off Exit 25 on Interstate 80. Special holiday rates available. For rates and schedule of events, call 201-347-0900.

**WATERLOO**  
A Time to Remember

## Natasha's Stars

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You get to show just how much you've got it together this week. You're heavy into standing under the mistletoe (who can blame you?) as you roll into Christmas. Be nurturing as the week comes to a close. Another mistletoe attack: let another lead you down the trail to bliss.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Don't put unnecessary pressure on yourself as the week begins. Play it low keyed, stay close the noose. A loved one lets you know how much they care this Christmas. Both of you may hear sleigh bells for a long time. Take some special time just for you and company this weekend.

**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 20) Make a point of calling friends that you don't contact often at the beginning of the week. You make a difference. Get into the flow of the season. Drop anchor Christmas Day. Best up because you enter a special weekend with a special elf in your life.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You may be disappointed at the cost this holiday season, or you may be overjoyed by a special gift. This exchange has your intimate conversations, brisk walks and tender moments fill the remainder of the week. You vanish into your shell for the weekend...with whom or for what, we don't know.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 22) You may be rather mysterious to others before the holiday. You reveal yourself and are in full bloom this Christmas. Others are drawn to you and your magnetic ways zero in on just the right person. Gift giving of all forms occupy you even through the weekend.

**LIBRA** (September 23-October 22) With loss of bases to cover, you are the last minute shopper. You really get into the festivities - egg nog here and there (kisses under the mistletoe here and there).

**SCORPIO** (October 23-November 21) You are likely to be the happiest of all signs right now. Seems like Santa knew what was on your wish list. And he's the spiritual or physical, you indulge all week long. You are not to be found this weekend. Playing with your toys again!

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22-December 21) Reach out to another at a distance. Change your plans if that's what you want to do. Your better side comes out toward the weekend. You are very happy, and it seems you've made a friend especially happy as well. Your holiday magic appears to be contagious.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 - January 19) As the week begins, lasso in a special person who you're soaring Christmas Day. Boy, do you work on it. Lassoing all weekend long.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20-February 18) A special person shoots their Cupid's arrow and hits the bull eye. Don't worry about explaining why you cancelled all your Christmas Day plans and the next day's plans. The poet in you comes out this weekend.

**PISCES** (February 19-March 30) The Fish may be swimming everywhere as the week begins trying to get everything done. A late Christmas Eve, but it's all worth it as you and associates discover. Celebration and intimacy intertwine. The weekend is exclusive and just for...oh well...some people have all the luck.

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# S T A G E

## Sitcom on stage

Not Simon's best, or George Street's for that matter

By ALEC M. ADAMS  
WeekendPlus Theater Reviewer  
While it's not one of Neil Simon's strongest works, *I Ought to Be in Pictures*, now playing at the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, is not without its charms.

The show concerns Libby, who arrives in Hollywood to rebuild the bridge burned 16 years before, when her father Herb Tucker walked out. The years have not been kind: though he has a girlfriend named Steffy, Herb is a has-been screen writer who is in need of inspiration.

In addition to the trademarked Simon one-liners, *I Ought to Be in Pictures* is suffused with blatant sentimentality and sitcom aspects that the director Gregory S. Hurst (who is also GSP's producing artistic director) does nothing to counteract. His direction is uneven and sometimes careless. Though credit must be given to him for casting a black actress, Suzanne Douglas, in the role of Steffy, Hurst fails to explore the ramifications this move creates for the show. Libby, a 20-year-old raised in Brooklyn, would undoubtedly go through a few changes upon discovering Steffy, but Hurst ignores this.

With that said, it is unfortunate that Suzanne Douglas does not give a stronger performance as Steffy. Though not helped by the direction, her opening scene with Libby seemed rushed and forced. It was also difficult to see what attracted her to Herb. Although she states several times in the show what a wonderful person Herb is, little of that seems expressed in their scenes together.

Dorrie Joiner accurately captures Libby's struggle to come to terms with her feelings for a father whom she needs to love but can't quite



Dorrie Joiner and John P. Connolly in *I Ought to Be in Pictures* at the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick.

forgive. Her scene in Act two where her act of self-confidence fails and she finally opens up to her father and lets him see the scared child within needs to be set up better to be really effective. As it is the scene, while moving, smacks of exploitation and cheap sentimentality.

John P. Connolly, as Herb Tucker, gives a fine performance. After struggling a bit with the sitcom direction in the first scene, he comes back with a full character. In his hands, Herb grows in complexity and richness with each scene. Connolly, with the exception of the opening scene, holds off both the sitcom and overly sentimental.

*I Ought to Be in Pictures* seems a curious choice for George Street's holiday show. It is not one of Simon's best, nor one of George Street's best.

**I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES** Through Dec. 28 at the George Street Playhouse, 9 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick. (908) 246-7717.

## Stage right

### It starts with murder

It starts with murder and ends with comedy, along the way moving through English history and the English drawing room. It's the 30th anniversary season of the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, based at Drew University in Madison.

Leading off the season will be *Macbeth* (June 10-July 3). Shakespeare's tale of a raging ambition that leads to murder, followed on a much lighter note by *The Importance of Being Earnest* (July 18-Aug. 1). Oscar Wilde's airy theatrical soufflé.

The third play of the season will be Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part I* (Aug. 5-Aug. 22), the sweeping historical epic that introduced the world to one of the Bard's greatest characters, John Falstaff.

During the run of *Henry IV* the festival will hold its annual Shakespeare Colloquium, set for Aug. 15 and Aug. 16.

The fall portion of the season opens with Tennessee Williams' *Camino Real* (Aug. 26-Sept. 12), followed by Shakespeare's comedy *Much Ado About Nothing* (Sept. 16-Oct. 10).

The 1992 season ends with a holiday offering to run from mid-November to mid-December. Several plays are under consideration.

The season begins previews on June 10, with a gala opening celebration June 12. Subscriptions are now available.

For more information, call (908) 408-3278.

## Curtain times



The carnival goes on in *Black Orpheus*, a musical recasting of the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice now playing at the Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick.

### OPENINGS

**BACKSTAGE PLAYERS**  
Performing Arts Center  
Middlesex County College  
455 Mt. Road, Edison  
(908) 689-5841

\*A Christmas Carol, musical version of the Dickens classic. Dec. 20, 21 at 8 p.m., Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$5, group discounts available.

### VILLAGERS THEATRE

475 DeMott Lane  
Franklin Township  
Municipal Complex  
(908) 873-2710

\*The Adventures of the Country Mouse, children's musical by Feather Schwartz. Dec. 21, 22, 28, 29 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets \$6, \$5 for children under 12.

\*Drop Dead, farce about a group of actors whose murder-mystery rehearsals are coming uncomfortably close to reality. Dec. 20 through Dec. 31, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30

p.m., Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$12, \$15 for New Year's Eve performance.

### NOW PLAYING

#### CROSSROADS THEATRE

7 Livingston Ave.  
New Brunswick  
(908) 249-5581

\*Black Orpheus, the story of Orpheus and Eurydice transplanted to Trinidad during Carnival time. Through Jan. 5. Tickets \$32 to \$19.

#### FORUM THEATRE

314 Main St.  
Metuchen  
(908) 548-4670

\*The Grand Tour, World War II musical about a Polish colonial and a Polish-German-Austrian-French Jew trying to reach London. Tickets \$24 to \$18, \$25 for New Year's Eve performance.

**GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE**  
9 Livingston Ave.

New Brunswick (908) 246-7469

\*I Ought to Be in Pictures, Neil Simon's comedy about a

drunken Hollywood writer visited by the daughter he abandoned 16 years before. Through Dec. 22. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**HUNTERDON HILLS PLAYHOUSE**  
Route 173, Parsippany  
1-800-HHP-7313

\*Wake Up, Darling, comedy performed through Dec. 21.

#### MCCARTER THEATRE

91 University Place  
Princeton  
(609) 683-8000

\*A Christmas Carol in a new production directed by David Thompson. Through Dec. 24. Tickets \$29, \$24, \$22.

Continued from page 6

**Brigitte Blvd.**  
& Huton Ave.  
Atlantic City  
(800) 284-TRUMP  
\*Hollywood to Broadway, revue, nightly except Thursday.  
**TRUMP PLAZA**  
Boardwalk & Mississippi Ave.  
Atlantic City  
(800) 759-TRUMP

### Singles

#### CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB OF CENTRAL N.J.

Call phone number in each listing for directions.  
\*Mass and brunch, Dec. 22. Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Bernardette Church, Old Bridge; brunch at Peter Pan Diner, South Amboy. (908) 721-8463.

**CENTRAL JERSEY TALL SINGLE FRIENDS**

(908) 704-8480  
\*Christmas party and dance at Red Baron Lounge, Howard Johnson motel, Garden State Parkway Exit 135, Clark, 7-11 p.m. Dec. 22. Members \$5, non-members \$7.

\*Dance party at Red Cafe, 1271 Route 22 West (next to Best Western Red Bull Inn), Bridgewater, 9-30 p.m. Dec. 27. Members \$5, non-members \$7.

**JERSEY JEWISH SINGLES**  
(ages 30-55)  
(908) 763-0263  
(908) 232-0651

\*Dinner at Sherban's Diner, 222 Front St., South Plainfield, 6-30 p.m. Wednesdays.

**REPETIT'S**  
572 Boulevard, Kenilworth  
(908) 278-7775

\*Singles night w/ live orchestra, 8 p.m. Thursdays. Proper attire preferred. Cost \$7.

**SHORE SINGLES**  
(908) 293-2763

\*Hike at Manasquan Reservoir, Howell, 11 a.m. Dec. 21. Meet in commuter lot at Garden State Parkway Exit 105. Members \$3, non-members \$4.

**SINGLE PAGES**  
(908) 238-0672  
Call venue for directions.  
\*Dances at Hilton hotel, Parsippany, 9 p.m. Dec. 21, 28. Cost \$9.

\*Dance at Sheraton hotel, Iselin, 8 p.m. Dec. 22. Cost \$9.

\*Dance at Van's, Freehold, 9 p.m., Dec. 28. Cost \$9.

\*Dance at Hilton hotel, Short Hills, 8 p.m. Dec. 29. Cost \$10; jacket required.

**SOLO SINGLES**  
(40-plus)  
\*Rap or bridge, Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St., Summit, 6-30 p.m. Sundays. Donation \$2. (908) 665-2686 or (908) 766-1839 between 6-9 p.m.

**2000 PARK AVENUE**  
2000 Park Ave.

South Plainfield  
(908) 755-6161  
\*Singles dance and buffet, 8 p.m. Sundays. Cover charge \$5; proper attire required.

### Soundings

#### MUSIC

##### AMAH AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.  
State Theatre  
453 Northampton St.  
Easton, Pa.  
(215) 258-7766

\*Gian-Carlo Menotti's holiday musical, presented w/ carols from many nations. Adults \$15; senior citizens, students, and children \$12.50.

**AMERICAN BOYCHOIR**  
Friday, Dec. 20, 8 p.m.  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
801 West State St., Trenton

Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.  
Richardson Auditorium  
Princeton University  
(609) 924-5858

\*Traditional songs and carols. Adults \$12, children under 12 \$6 in Trenton; adults \$18 and \$12, children under 12 \$8 in Princeton.

**LOUISE MANDRELL**  
Saturday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m.  
Union County Arts Center  
1601 Irving St., Rahway  
(908) 499-8226

\*Holiday show w/ the country singer and sister of singer-cum-author Barbara Mandrell. Admission \$22.50, \$20, \$17.50.

**ORCHESTRA OF ST. PETER BY THE SEA**  
Sunday, Dec. 29, 3 p.m.  
St. Matthew's Church  
81 Seymour Ave., Edison  
(908) 985-5063

\*Scholarship fund benefit, conducted by the Rev. Alphonse Stephenson. Admission \$20.

### DANCE

**GIFTED AND TALENTED PERFORMING ARTS DANCE PROGRAM**  
Friday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.  
Somerset County Vocational and Technical School  
North Bridge St. & Vogt Dr.  
Bridgewater  
(908) 526-8900, ext. 277

\*Informal concert, featuring two works in progress. Donation \$3.

**THE NUTCRACKER**  
Tchaikovsky's holiday chestnut, performed by:  
American Repertory Ballet Company  
Ballet Company  
Dec. 20, 21, 22

State Theatre, New Brunswick  
(908) 246-7469  
Dec. 27, 28, 29

McCarter Theatre, Princeton  
(609) 683-8000  
New Jersey Ballet  
Through Dec. 23  
Paper Mill Playhouse  
Brookside Dr., Millburn

(201) 376-4343

\*Call for times and ticket prices.

### Happenings

#### ARTISTS AND WRITERS GROUP OF FLEMINGTON

(908) 782-3445  
(908) 707-1034  
\*Creativity and casual conversation for writers, held in Three Bridges at 7 p.m. Dec. 20. Free admission; call for directions.

#### GARDEN STATE STAMP SHOW

Wayne Manor  
Route 23, Wayne  
(908) 247-1093

\*18th annual statewide stamp-collectors show, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Jan. 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 4, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Jan. 5. Adults \$2, children under 12 free.

## A Viennese New Year

The music of Strauss, Rossini, Donizetti, Offenbach and Lehar will fill New Jersey's premiere concert hall on New Year's Eve. The romance of the waltz, the merriment of the Merry Widow, and the comedy of Die Fledermaus will take us to old Vienna to celebrate the arrival of the New Year, with time for champagne and Auld Lang Syne.

New Year's Eve - Tuesday, December 31, 1991  
9:00 p.m.

For ticket information call (908) 246-7469

Dinner/Theatre Packages Also Available

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19 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

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Smirnoff 1.75 L	\$12.99	Carlo Rossi 4 L	\$6.99
Andre 750 ML White, Blush, Cold Duck	\$2.49	Baileys Irish Cream 750 ML	\$14.99
		Amaretto Di Saronno 750 ML	\$13.99

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Kege and Beer Balls Available

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PLAY PICK-IT!



# E V E N T S

## A family Christmas at Waterloo Village

Folk music, hand bell choirs and seasonal music are part of the Waterloo Christmas Festival, now taking place at the restored Village of Waterloo in Stanhope.

Open through the month of December from Tuesday to Sunday (except Christmas Day), the restored 18th century village will be decorated in the seasonal spirit and made the setting for a variety of performances.

This Saturday, Dec. 21, organist Bart Harris will perform Christmas music, while on Sunday, Dec. 22, the United Methodist Choir will go caroling. Each program starts at 3 p.m. and is followed by a fellowship period.

In the days between Christmas and New Year's Eve the activities intensify. Hand bell soloist Frank Bowker will perform Thursday, Dec. 26, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Folk singer Elaine Silver appears Dec. 27 at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Three children's events end the year at Waterloo. On Dec. 28, Pegasus Puppets will perform *Aladdin*, a life-size puppet pantomime, at 2 p.m. On Dec. 29, Paul Peabody's Marionette Theater presents Doctor Dolittle's Circus at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. William

Brenner will narrate *Colonial Kid Peter and the Wolf*, a Yankee variation on the familiar tale, Dec. 30 at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Weekend and Christmas Week admission to the village is \$7.50 for adults, \$5 for the elderly and \$3 for children ages 6 to 12. Weekday admission is \$6 for adults, \$4.50 for the elderly and \$3 for children ages 6 to 12.

For more information, call (201) 347-0900.



Above, hand bell soloist Frank Bowker. At left, Doctor Dolittle's Circus.



## Mark your calendar

### Classic opera at Rider

Hansel and Gretel, Humperdinck's classic opera for children, will be performed by the Princeton Opera the next two weekends at the Rider College Fine Arts Theater in Lawrenceville.

Presented in a new English translation by the director, Sue A. Robbins, *Hansel and Gretel* features Piscataway resident Denise Mihalik as Hansel.

The opera will be performed Dec. 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for children, students and the elderly.

For more information, call (609) 737-7664.

### Singles hike at state park

Shore Singles has scheduled a hike Saturday, Dec. 28, through Cheesequake State Park in Old Bridge.

The fee is \$4, \$3 for members. For more information, call (908) 671-9633.

## WeekendPlus

### Club mix

**BINGO'S**  
Regal Inn (formerly Sheraton)  
Kingsbridge Rd., Piscataway  
(908) 469-5700

**BIRCH HILL NIGHT CLUB**  
Route 9 South, Old Bridge  
(908) 536-0650

Male revue, Thursdays.  
\*Hijana Party, New-T Boyz,  
Cynthia, Johnny O., Dec. 31.

**BRIGHTON BAR**  
121 Brighton Ave.  
Long Branch  
(908) 222-0684

\*Kil Me, Baby Seal Club,  
Eve's Plumb, White Out, Dec.  
20.

\*Laughing Soup Dish, The In-  
somnias, Typicals, F.F., Dec.  
21.

**CARTER HILL BOWL**  
569 Roosevelt Ave.  
Cartersville  
(908) 969-1515

Open-mike night, Thursdays.  
\*Shotgun Love, Dec. 20.

\*Free Drix, Dec. 21.  
**CATCH A RISING STAR**  
Hunt Regency Princeton  
Route 1 & Alexander Rd.  
West Windsor  
(609) 967-8018

Headline comedy Tuesday  
through Thursday and Sunday  
at 8:30 p.m., Friday at 8:30  
and 11 p.m., Saturday at 7,  
8:15, and 11:30 p.m. College  
Night every Tuesday and Sun-  
day.

\*Mark Schiff, through Dec. 22.  
\*Larry Amoros, Dec. 24.

through Dec. 29.  
\*Lamy Miller, Dec. 31.

**CHARLEY'S UNCLE**  
415 Route 18, East Brunswick  
(908) 254-4228

Live comedy every Friday and  
Saturday starting 10 p.m.

**THE CHURCH**  
Church St. off George St.  
New Brunswick  
(908) 828-8385

**CITY GARDENS**  
1701 Cullum St., Trenton  
(609) 392-8887

\*Bad Religion, The Vandals,  
Dec. 21.

\*Special headliner (call club),  
Dec. 27.

\*Mudhoney, Monster Magnet,  
Dec. 29.

**CLUB BENE**  
Route 35, Sayreville  
(908) 727-3000

\*Molly Hatchet, Dec. 20.  
\*The Machine (Pink Floyd trib-  
ute), Dec. 21.

\*DANGER DANGER, Dec. 27.  
\*Alexander O'Neal, Dec. 29.  
\*Physical Graffiti, Jan. 4.  
\*Lamy Seth (Elvis tribute), Jan.  
11.

\*Steve Forbert, Jan. 24 (re-  
scheduled from Dec. 13).

**COCKTAILS**  
51 Main St., South River  
(908) 257-8325

\*Public Notice, Dec. 20.  
\*Turnstyles, Dec. 21.  
\*Cats on a Smooth Surface,  
Dec. 27.

\*Rich Meyer, Dec. 28.

**CORNERSTONE**  
25 New St., Metuchen  
(908) 549-5306

\*Wharen Chasson Quartet,  
Dec. 20.

\*Joe Tempery Quartet, Dec.  
21.

\*Ken Papowski Quartet w/Lynn  
Anfale, Dec. 27, 28.

\*John Cocuzzi Quartet, Dec.  
31.

**COURT TAVERN**  
124 Church St.  
New Brunswick  
(908) 545-7265

Reggae night, Tuesdays.  
"Love Shack" dance party,  
Thursdays.

**THE COVE**  
108 Chestnut St., Roselle  
(908) 241-1228

Dave LaRue, Mondays.  
\*Worst Case Scenario, Dec.  
20.

\*Dan Kiley & The Pulsations,  
Last Train Out, Many & The  
Marlins, Dec. 21.

**CROCODILE CAFE**  
1979 Route 35, Sayreville  
(908) 727-7777

New York Comedy Night,  
Wednesdays.

Ladies Night, Thursdays.  
D.J. dance music, Fridays, Sat-  
urdays.

**THE FAR SIDE**  
789 Jersey Ave.  
New Brunswick  
(908) 246-9414

Open-mike night, Mondays.

**FAST LANE II**  
207 Fourth Ave., Asbury Park  
(908) 988-3205

The Dutty, Mr. Reality,  
Wednesdays.

99-cent dance night, Thursdays  
and Saturdays.

\*Backwoods, Dec. 20.

\*LIVE, Dec. 21.

\*"Psychotic Christmas Bash,"  
Dec. 22, 23.

\*Where's the Love, Dec. 29.

\*The Brotherhood, Dec. 31.

**GIGGLES COMEDY CAFE**  
Clifton Hotel & Towers  
2055 Route 27, Edison  
(908) 287-3500

Live comedy every Friday and  
Saturday starting 10 p.m.

**GOLDEN SADDLE**  
Buckelew Ave., Jamesburg  
(908) 521-0310

\*Penetrator, Dec. 20.

\*Justin Tyme, Dec. 21.

**HAVANA**  
105 South Main St.  
New Hope, Pa.  
(215) 862-9897

Comedy night, Mondays.  
Open-mike night, Tuesdays.

Karaoke night, Thursdays.  
\*Doug Markey, Dec. 20.

\*Mosaic, Dec. 21.

\*De Funk Club, Dec. 27, 28.

\*Ellen Britton Club, Dec. 29.

**J. AUGUST'S**  
19 Dennis St., New Brunswick  
(908) 246-8028

Dance party, Fridays, Satur-  
days.

Hub City Jam, Sundays — bring  
an instrument and sit in w/  
house band.

Gary Tito, Mondays.  
\*Pandora's Box, Dec. 31.

**JACK O'CONNOR'S**  
QUALITY BEEF AND SEAFOOD  
1288 Route 22 East  
Bridgewater  
(908) 725-1500

No cover, no minimum.  
Piano brunch w/Gladys Rich-  
ards, Sundays.

Kevin McArdle, Tuesdays.  
Willie Lynch Trio (Irish), Thurs-  
days and Dec. 28.

\*Raised on Blues, Dec. 20, 27.

\*Lost River Hellcats, Dec. 21.

\*C.C. & Gault, Dec. 31.

**JOHN & PETER'S**  
96 South Main St.  
New Hope, Pa.  
(215) 862-0823

Free admission Saturday, Sun-  
day afternoons.

Open-mike night, Mondays.  
\*Castle Browne Band, Dec. 20.

\*Pond Scum, afternoon Dec.  
21.

\*Paul Plumeri Band, evening  
Dec. 21.

\*The Razorbills, afternoon  
Dec. 22.

\*The Shoes w/Bobby Baltera,  
evening Dec. 22.

\*Heads of Men, Dec. 25.

\*Down to Earth, Dec. 26.

\*Gino, Dec. 27.

\*Willi Bobo & The Meat Men,  
afternoon Dec. 28.

\*Danny DeGennaro, evening

Dec. 28 (band), 29 (acoustic).

\*I.B. Rhythm Band, afternoon  
Dec. 29.

\*Swaled Whale, Dec. 31.

**LITTLE APPLE CAFE**  
Route 208 South  
Hillsborough  
(908) 359-0088

Live entertainment Wednesday  
through Saturday.

Live comedy every Sunday,  
8:30 p.m.

**LOOP LOUNGE**  
373 Broadway, Passaic  
(201) 365-0807

Dance party Friday, Saturday.  
Women admitted free Wednes-  
days.

Techno night w/free admission,  
Thursday.

**MAX'S SPORTS CAFE**  
Piscataway Towne Center  
1282 Centennial Ave.  
Piscataway  
(908) 562-1588

\*Public Notice, Dec. 31.

**MAXWELL'S**  
1039 Washington St.  
Hoboken  
(201) 798-4064

\*Slaves of New Brunswick (w/  
Glen Burtrick of Sly), Health &  
Happiness Show, The Del-  
egates, Dec. 20.

\*Sweet Uzzard lillet, Invisible  
Culture, Dec. 21.

\*Mudhoney, The Lyres, The  
Mummies, Dec. 31.

\*The Unrest, Jan. 3.

**MELODY BAR**  
106 French St.

Dec. 28 (band), 29 (acoustic).

\*I.B. Rhythm Band, afternoon  
Dec. 29.

\*Swaled Whale, Dec. 31.

**MINI STREET COFFEEHOUSE**  
First Reformed Church  
New Brunswick  
(908) 699-0570

All shows begin at 8:30 p.m.

\*Mente Mates (Yuletide songs),  
Dec. 21.

\*Kenny & Tipora (traditional in-  
struments), Dec. 28.

**NEST AT PHEASANTS' LANDING**  
Arnwell Rd., Hillsborough  
(908) 359-4700

\*Deliver Boys, Dec. 20.

\*Leftovers, Dec. 21.

\*Stolen Hearts, Dec. 27.

\*Pheasants, Dec. 28.

**OLD BAY RESTAURANT**  
61-63 Church St.  
New Brunswick  
(908) 246-3111

\*Benefit for Elijah's Promise  
soup kitchen w/Holly Donald-  
son & Friends, Dec. 21.

\*Night Train, Dec. 31.

**ORPHAN ANNIE'S**  
1255 Valley Rd., Stirling  
(908) 647-0138

Open-jam night, Sundays.

\*Neighborhood Blues, Dec. 20.

\*Far Day, Dec. 21.

\*Barbecue Bob & The Spare  
Ribs, Dec. 26.

\*The Fairlains, Dec. 27.

\*Dog Eat Dog, Dec. 28.

## Places to go

### MUSEUMS

**ANIMAL ART MUSEUM**  
St. Hubert's Giraldi  
575 Woodland Ave., Madison  
(201) 377-5541

Animal art from the collection  
of Geraldine R. Dodge. Open  
Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday  
from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**THE ART MUSEUM**  
Princeton University  
(609) 258-3788

Tuesday through Saturday from  
10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday from 1-  
5 p.m. Museum shop closes 4  
p.m. Western European paint-  
ings, sculpture and decorative art  
from 19th and 20th centuries.

Pre-Columbian art and Art of the  
Americas reopened.

**CLINTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
56 Main St., Clinton  
(908) 735-4101

Daily (except Monday) from 10  
a.m.-4 p.m. Adults \$3, senior cit-  
izens \$1.50, children \$1.

**CRANFORD MUSEUM**  
4 Park Pl., Cranbury  
(908) 365-8525

Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Free ad-  
mission.

\*Antique "Places, Trains and Au-  
tomobiles," through Jan. 26,  
1992.

**DRAKE HOUSE MUSEUM**  
602 West Front St., Plainfield  
(908) 755-5831

House built in 1746 and fur-  
nished with articles of the period.  
Saturday from 2-4 p.m. Donation  
\$1 for adults, free to children.

**EAST BRUNSWICK MUSEUM**  
16 Maple St., East Brunswick  
(908) 254-7329

Saturday and Sunday from  
1:30-4 p.m. Free admission.

### EAST JERSEY OLDE TOWNE

River Rd. and Hoes Lane  
Johnson Park, Piscataway  
(908) 463-9077

Village composed of relocated  
18th century structures set near  
the headquarters of the county  
park police. No tours offered at  
present. Gift shop open Wednes-  
day through Friday from 10 a.m.-  
3 p.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

**EDUCATION CENTER**  
150 Lord Stirling Rd.  
Basking Ridge  
(908) 766-2489

\*Introduction to cross-country  
skiing, 1 p.m. Dec. 21. Cost \$3.

**JANE VOORHEES ZIMMERLI**

**ART MUSEUM**  
Rutgers University  
George and Hamilton streets  
New Brunswick  
(908) 932-7237

Monday through Friday from  
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday and  
Sunday from noon-5 p.m. Closed  
Wednesday. Free admission.

\*"New Directions" in Russian  
and Soviet art, through Feb. 25,  
1992.

**MACCULLLOCH HALL**

**HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
45 Macculloch Ave.  
Morristown  
(201) 538-2404

Saturday, Sunday, and Tues-  
day from 1-4 p.m. Adults \$3, se-  
nior citizens \$2, students \$1.

**METLAR HOUSE**  
1281 River Rd., Piscataway  
(908) 757-1144  
or 752-4178

Piscataway Township historic  
museum. Weekday tours by ap-  
pointment.

### MIDDLESEX COUNTY MUSEUM

Cornelius Low House  
1225 River Rd., Piscataway  
(908) 745-4177

Daily (except Monday) from 1-  
4 p.m. Free admission.

\*"Home Front USA," life in New  
Jersey during World War II,  
through July 14, 1992.

**MILLER-CODY**

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

Furnished farmhouse started in  
1740 by Samuel Miller, originally  
part of 100-acre farm. Sunday  
from 1-5 p.m. Adults \$1, children  
50 cents.

**MINIATURE KINGDOM**  
Route 31 South, Washington  
(908) 689-6866

Miniature European city cre-  
ated by Arthur Thulja depicting fa-  
mous castles, cathedrals, battle  
scenes, railroads, people and an-  
imals. Open daily (except Mon-  
day) from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Adults  
\$4.50, senior citizens \$4, chil-  
dren 5-18 \$3.50, children under  
5 \$1.50.

**MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM**  
3 South Mountain Ave.  
Montclair  
(201) 746-5555

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday  
and Saturday from 10 a.m.-5  
p.m. Thursday and Sunday from  
2-5 p.m.; second and fourth  
Thursdays of the month from 2-9  
p.m. Free admission for mem-  
bers. Non-member admission:  
adults \$4, students and senior  
citizens \$2, children under 18  
free.

\*Prints by Martin Levine, through  
Jan. 4, 1992.

### "Contemporary Works from the Collection," through Jan. 12, 1992.

\*"Storybook Visions," illus-  
trations from children's books,  
through Jan. 12, 1992.

\*"Rutgers Archives Prints,"  
through Feb. 9, 1992.

\*Paintings by William T. Williams,  
through Feb. 23, 1992.

\*Bronze sculpture by Jonathan  
Scott Hartley, through March 8,  
1992.

\*Prints from Currier & Ives,  
through April 12, 1992.

\*"Highlights from the Native  
American Collection," through  
June 7, 1992.

**MORRIS MUSEUM**  
6 Normandy Heights Rd.  
Morristown  
(201) 538-0454

Monday through Saturday from  
10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday from 1-  
5 p.m. Admission free for mu-  
seum members. Non-member  
admission: adults \$4, senior cit-  
izens and children \$2.



## WeekendPlus

Continued from page 14  
Wednesday through Friday  
from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., third Sat-  
urday of the month from 10  
a.m.-4 p.m. Guided tours by  
appointment. Admission free  
for society members, \$3 for  
non-members.  
\*Tender in Years: Childhood in  
19th-Century New Jersey," on-  
going.

**N.J. MUSEUM**  
OF AGRICULTURE  
College Farm Rd. near Route 1  
New Brunswick  
(908) 249-2077

Friday and Saturday from 10  
a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday from  
noon-5 p.m. Adults \$3, chil-  
dren 4-12 \$1, children under 4  
free.

**N.J. STATE MUSEUM**  
205 West State St., Trenton  
(609) 292-6464

Tuesday through Saturday  
from 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Sunday  
from noon-5 p.m. Free ad-  
mission.

Planetarium shows Saturdays  
and Sundays, admission \$1;  
call (609) 292-6333 for times.  
\*Early porcelain by Edward  
Marshall Boehm, through De-  
cember.

\*American Abstract Art:  
1930s to the Present," through  
December.

\*ink drawings by Allan Rohan  
Crite via Christmas theme,  
through Jan. 5, 1992.

**NEWARK MUSEUM**  
49 Washington St., Newark  
(201) 596-6550

Tuesday through Sunday  
from noon-4:45 p.m. Donation.  
Largest museum complex in the  
state. Permanent exhibits in-  
clude "Africa-The Americas-The  
Pacific," "Design in Native  
American Life," "American  
Painting and Sculpture," "Nu-  
mismatic Gallery, Asian Gal-  
leries, Ballantine House and the  
Mini-Zoo."

\*Teapots and Coffee-pots,"  
through Jan. 19, 1992.

**OLD BARRACKS MUSEUM**  
Barrack St. (next to  
State House complex)  
Trenton  
(609) 396-1776

Revolutionary War museum.  
Tuesday through Saturday from  
11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday from  
1-5 p.m. Donation \$2 for  
adults, \$1 for students and se-  
nior citizens. 50 cents for chil-  
dren under 12.

\*Hall the Conquering Hero  
Comes: George Washington's  
Triumphal Entry into Trenton,"  
through March 31, 1992.

\*Of War, Law and the Third  
Amendment," through June 1,  
1992.

**REEVES-REED ARBORETUM**  
165 Hobart Ave., Summit  
(908) 278-8787

Gardens open daily from  
dawn to dusk.

**RUTGERS GEOLOGY MUSEUM**  
Hamilton St. between  
College Ave. and George St.  
(Old Queens Campus)  
Rutgers University  
New Brunswick  
(908) 932-7243

Monday through Friday from  
9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission.

**GALLERIES**  
**ADOBE EAST**  
329 Millburn Ave., Millburn  
(201) 467-0770

Specializing in fine art of the  
American Southwest. Tuesday  
through Saturday from 10  
a.m.-5 p.m. Also by ap-  
pointment.

**ARK II GALLERY**  
33 Mine St., Flemington

(908) 782-8235  
Wednesday through Saturday  
from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday  
from noon-5 p.m.

**THE ART STUDIO**  
Union County Arts Center  
1605 Irving St., Rahway  
(908) 815-1605

Gallery hours Tuesday,  
Wednesday, Friday, and Satur-  
day from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.;  
Thursday from 11 a.m.-8 p.m.;  
Holiday show, through Dec.  
31.

**CIRCLE GALLERY**  
284 Woodbridge Center  
(upper level)  
Woodbridge  
(908) 636-7710

\*Original animation cels by  
"Fritz" Freleng, alumnus of Walt  
Disney and Warner Brothers  
and creator of Sylvester the  
Cat, Speedy Gonzales and Yo-  
semite Sam, through Jan. 5.

**CLAREMONT GALLERY**  
Claremont Dillon Library  
Lamington Rd.  
Bedminster  
(908) 234-2345

Monday through Thursday  
from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday  
from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday  
from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

\*Paintings, drawings and etch-  
ings by Emanuel Haller, through  
Jan. 2, 1992.

**GALLERIES des ARTISTES**  
18 Main St., Madison  
(201) 377-1631

Tuesday through Saturday  
from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

\*One-of-a-kind original art,  
through Dec. 31.

**GALLERY CONTEMPO**  
1955 Route 1 South  
North Brunswick  
(908) 821-8178

Tuesday through Saturday  
from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

\*Neo-realist paintings by Peter  
Ho, through Dec. 31.

**JAMES HOWE GALLERY**  
Vaughn-Eames Hall  
Kean College, Union  
(908) 527-2347

Monday through Thursday  
from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-7  
p.m. Friday from 10 a.m.-noon.  
Also by appointment.

\*Works by faculty members W.  
Carl Burger, Martin Holloway,  
and Bernard Lipscomb, through  
Dec. 20.

**HUNTERDON ART CENTER**  
7 Center St., Clinton  
(908) 735-8415

Thursday and Friday from  
noon-4:30 p.m., Saturday and  
Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

\*"Mythical Dreams," works by  
Dorothy Gillespie, through Jan.  
5, 1992.

\*"Between the Sheets," exhi-  
bition of "everything that hap-  
pened in bed" during the 19th  
Century, through Jan. 7, 1992.

\*Paintings by children from  
around the world, through Jan.  
5, 1992.

\*"Landscapes and Figures" by  
Milton Charles, through Jan. 5,  
1992.

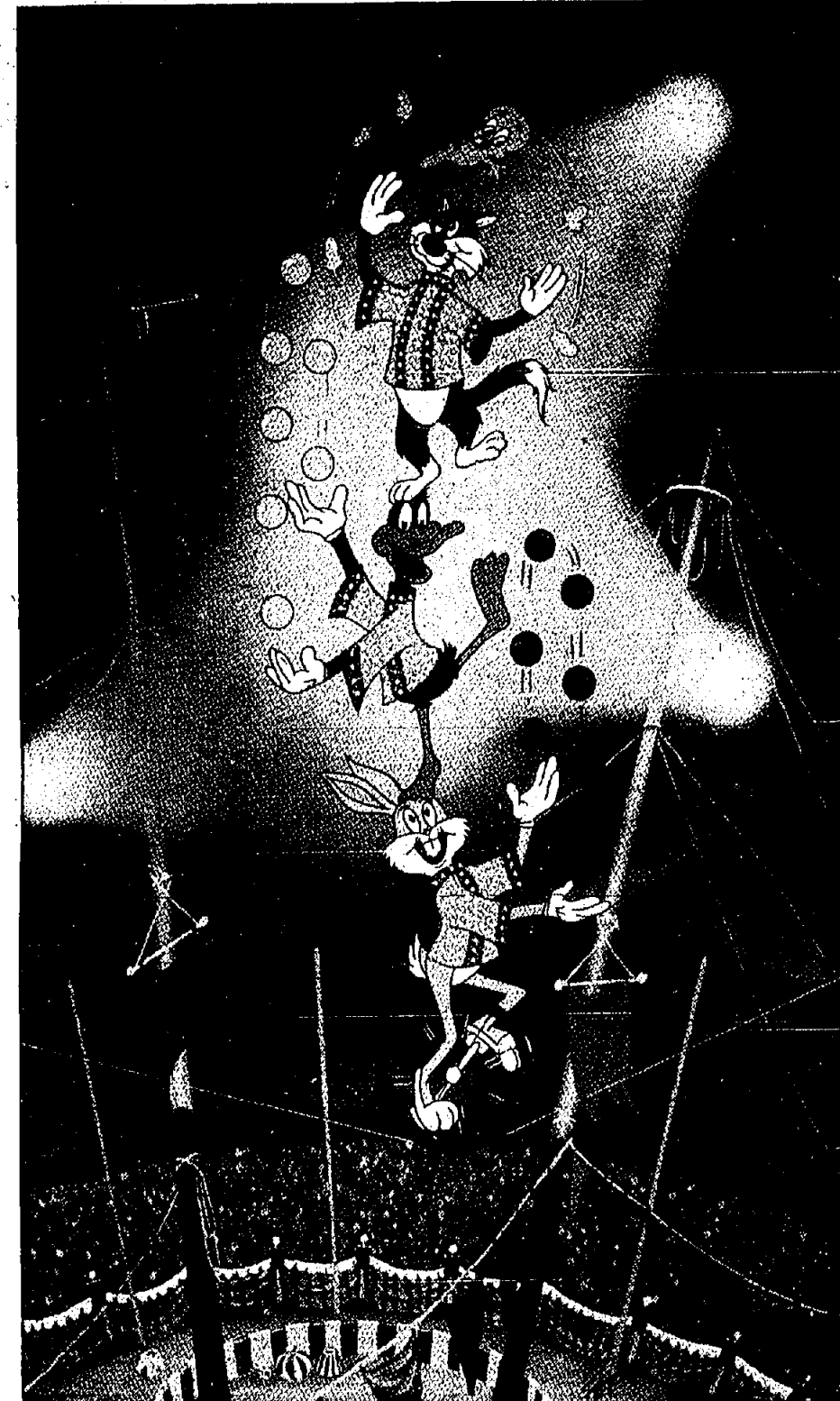
**KENNEDY LIBRARY**  
500 Hoes Lane, Piscataway  
(908) 463-1633

Exhibit open during library  
hours.

\*Needpoint houses by Ste-  
phen Dreyer, through De-  
cember.

**LAVON ART GALLERY**  
Movie City 5 Mall  
1020 Route 18  
East Brunswick  
(908) 267-8080

Monday and Thursday from  
10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tuesday,  
Wednesday, and Friday from 10  
a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday from 10  
a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday hours by  
appointment.



The Acrobats, an animation cel by Isadore "Fritz" Freleng, one of many examples of the animator's work on display at the Circle Gallery in Woodbridge Center.

620 Route 9, Freehold  
(908) 780-0800

Monday through Saturday  
from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday  
hours by appointment.

\*Group exhibition at both loca-  
tions, through Jan. 4, 1992.

**THE MEDICAL CENTER**  
AT PRINCETON  
253 Witherspoon St.  
Princeton  
(609) 497-4191

Exhibit open during cafeteria  
hours.

\*Works by Lee Stang, through  
January 16, 1992.

**MERWICK**  
79 Bayard Lane, Princeton  
(609) 497-3000

Exhibit open Monday through  
Friday from 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

\*Oil paintings by Kate Seitz,  
through March 12, 1992.

**MONTCLAIR STATE**  
COLLEGE  
Upper Montclair  
(201) 893-5113

Gallery hours Monday  
through Friday from 10 a.m.-4  
p.m., Saturday and Sunday  
from 1-5 p.m. Free admission.

\*Photography by Paul Shelly,  
Sprague Library Gallery, through  
Dec. 30.

**MUNICIPAL GALLERY**  
Piscataway Municipal Building  
455 Hoes Lane, Piscataway  
(908) 463-0457

Monday through Friday from  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free ad-

mission.  
\*Paintings by Roy M. Steinberg,  
through Dec. 20.

**NEW JERSEY CENTER**  
FOR VISUAL ARTS  
68 Elm St., Summit  
(908) 273-9121

Gallery hours Monday  
through Friday from noon-4  
p.m., Saturday and Sunday  
from 2-4 p.m. Free admission.

\*Juried exhibition, through Dec.  
31.

\*Abstract etchings by Sergei Ts-  
velkov, through Jan. 16, 1992.

**NORTH EDISON LIBRARY**  
777 Grove Ave., Edison  
(908) 548-3045

Exhibit open during library  
hours.

\*Drawings, paintings, and  
sculpture by Nicholas Piero,  
through December.

**PARGOT GALLERY**  
Jewish Community Center  
of Middlesex County  
1775 Oak Tree Rd., Edison  
(908) 494-3232

Sunday through Thursday  
from 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday  
from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday  
from 1-5 p.m.

\*Paintings by Anne Van Blar-  
com, through Jan. 7, 1992.

**RABBIT GALLERY**  
120 Georges Rd.  
North Brunswick  
(908) 826-5150

Wednesday through Friday  
from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday  
from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Also by  
appointment.

\*Works by Reginald Neal,  
through Dec. 20.

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY**  
COLLEGE ART GALLERY  
Route 28 & Lamington Rd.  
Branchburg  
(908) 218-8871

Tuesday and Wednesday  
from noon-3 p.m., Thursday  
from noon-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

**ELIZABETH ANNE SETON**  
MEMORIAL GALLERY  
St. Peter's High School  
175 Somerset St.  
New Brunswick  
(908) 846-8046

Gallery hours Monday  
through Friday from 8 a.m.-3

p.m. Also by appointment.  
\*Prints and drawings by Fausti-  
no Quintanilla, through Dec.  
30.

**SWAIN GALLERIES**  
703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield  
(908) 756-1707

Monday through Friday from  
9:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday  
from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. through  
Dec. 23. Free admission.

**WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER**  
18 Stirling Rd., Watchung  
(908) 753-0190

Monday through Friday from  
10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday from  
2-5 p.m.

\*Four artists' "Alternative Land-  
scape," through Dec. 29.

**WESTERDART LIBRARY**  
20 Murray Ave., Piscataway  
(908) 752-1166

Exhibit open during library  
hours.

\*Hummel figurines from the  
Mildred Slangan collection,  
through December.

\*"Raccoons for the Holidays"  
from the Mary Piekarski col-  
lection, through December.

**ZOOS**  
**TURTLE BACK ZOO**  
560 Northfield Ave.  
West Orange  
(201) 731-5801

Zoo devoted to New Jersey  
wildlife, along with cougars,  
deer, sheep, tamas and  
wolves. Monday through Sat-  
urday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun-  
day from 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Adults \$6, children 2-12 and  
senior citizens \$2.50. Open  
year-round, weather permitting.

**STARGAZING**  
SPERRY OBSERVATORY  
Union County College  
1033 Springfield Ave.  
Cranford  
(908) 276-STAR



Krasikov Street (1977), an oil painting by Eric Bulatov, is part of the collection of Nonconformist Art from the Soviet Union in "New Directions," the 25th anniversary show at the Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick.

## DINING

### Horn of plenty Lots to choose at Abbondante in Somerville

By MICKI PULSINELLI  
Culinary Correspondent

**T**oday you can go to most piz-  
zerias and order anything  
from pasta to seafood. And  
while in my day they were  
frequented by young high school  
students, today's pizzerias are fam-  
ily places.

You can feed a family of four for  
less than \$20 with pizza. And, if  
the parents are in the mood for  
something other than pizza (you  
know the kids will be ordering it),  
the choices are plentiful.

One place that comes to mind is  
**Abbondante** in Somerville. Once  
known as Somerville Pizza, this  
Italian restaurant took its new  
name because in Italian, it means  
"abundance" and the owners want-  
ed people to know that there  
would be plenty of food.

Abbondante has a more contem-  
porary decor than the traditional  
pizzeria. In fact it's like walking  
into two different restaurants in  
the same building.

They have the pizzeria in the  
front with a modern ceramic tile  
floor. Here you can order pizza to  
go, or by the slice at the counter  
service.

The back dining room has the  
traditional booths but at Ab-  
bondante they are oak-trimmed ta-  
bles with hunter green backs. The  
walls have two different coverings  
(burgundy and mauve) separated  
with an oak chair rail. There are tables in the middle and planter  
dividers throughout. The day we ate there several customers were  
seating themselves in the back instead of in the front; our waitress  
Donna told us that weekends are so busy that back booths are used for  
just that purpose.

Abbondante's menu has seven hot and cold appetizers (\$4 to \$11 for a  
hot antipasto for two), two salads (\$2 to \$8.75) and one soup of the day  
(\$2 cup, \$4.50 bowl). You can order clams, casino or oreganato (\$4.50), or  
mussels marinara for \$5.

The pasta menu is delightful. You choose a pasta and get three of  
regular pasta at \$4.45 and five baked ones for \$4.95) and pick your own



Kerry Onesko flips a fresh pie at Abbondante in Somerville.

(\$12.95) from the regular menu. This consisted of shrimp, calamari,  
clams and mussels sauteed in a light garlic, plum tomato sauce. There  
were also scallops served with this, but not mentioned in the menu. The  
seafood was fresh, not rubbery, and the marinara sauce was delicious.

Pizzerias are not what they used to be. They are becoming friendly  
neighborhood Italian restaurants where the food and the prices are  
outstanding. Abbondante in Somerville is a good example of this.  
**ABBONDANTE PIZZA AND PASTARIA**, 42 West Main St., Somerville. (908)  
725-0766.

This column is meant to inform readers on dining opportunities  
in the area. It is not a review.

### Side orders

**The Frog and The Peach**  
in New Brunswick is offering a  
wine course on Monday nights,  
beginning Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. Call  
(908) 846-3216.

**At Branches** in the North  
Branch section of Branchburg,  
singer Vic Tabac will perform  
Dec. 21, Dec. 28 and New  
Year's Eve. Call (908) 725-  
7632 for more information.

Remember the old Clinton  
Point Inn? It's now **El Ran-  
chero** and serves authentic  
Mexican food. Open seven days  
a week from 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Fiesta time is from 4-7 p.m.;  
live music begins 6:30-10:30  
p.m. El Rancho offers family  
dining at affordable prices  
(\$5.95-\$18.95). New games  
keep the kids as well as the  
adults entertained. A new pack-  
age store and plenty of banquet  
facilities for any occasion are  
available. (908) 735-8678.

**Saverio's**, Route 22 in  
Green Brook, now has a liquor  
license. (908) 424-0067.

**The Exchange Restau-  
rant** in Bridgewater offers  
Happy Hour Monday-Friday from  
4:30-6:30 p.m. Also check out  
Sunday and Monday football  
drink specials.

**Bucky's**, 609 Main St.,  
Bridgewater. Come back to  
Bucky's Leisure time at the bar  
with rolled-back prices on beer  
and fine hors d'oeuvres. Mon-  
day night, pasta, all you can  
eat, \$5.95. Tuesday night, chow  
mein, all you can eat, \$4.95.  
Special corporate discounts on  
lunch and dinner.

**Bobby and Mary's** in Pis-  
cataway is featuring a pasta  
fest Monday and Tuesday.  
Lunch and dinner, all you can  
eat pasta, \$4.95 adults, \$3.50  
children under 12. (908) 752-  
4474.

**Shogun 27**, Kendall Park  
has a regular comedy show.  
Buy one admission, get one free  
(Friday night only). (908) 422-  
4474.

—Micki Pulsinelli

**Be our Guest**

Look for a Forbes  
ambassador to pick up  
the check when you visit  
one of the places advertised in

**WeekendPlus.**  
One randomly chosen guest  
per week starting  
this week.

**Forbes Newspapers**

**Stefano's**  
Ristorante Italiano

at The Mansion Hotel  
295 South Ave., Fanwood, N.J.  
(908) 889-7874

**Offering the Finest Italian Cuisine**

Private Banquet Room  
accommodates 10-100

\*\*\* 1/2 Star Ledger  
(July '91)

Open 7 Days

**Sergio's**  
343 Millburn Avenue  
Millburn, N.J. 07041  
(201) 379-7020

Enjoy Fine Italian Dining  
at these other locations

**Sergio's Trattoria**  
at The Murray Hill Inn  
535 Central Avenue  
New Providence, N.J.  
07974  
(908) 771-0020

**Thirsty's**

**NEW YEARS  
EVE  
CELEBRATION....**

**FREE LATE NITE BUFFET! OPEN TIL 4:00 AM.**

Looking for generous portions, relaxing atmosphere, courteous ser-  
vice? You'll find it all at Thirsty's.

**20%  
OFF**

969 Rt. 202 N. Branchburg  
a mile N. of Flemington Circle  
2nd mile S. of Somerville Circle

**526-0717**

**YOUR TOTAL CHECK!**  
Purchase of at least one lunch or dinner  
entree required. Limit to parties of six or  
less. Valid every day except Friday. May  
not be combined with any other offers.  
Reservations accepted. Exp. 1-9-92







**Verdi's**  
Family Owned  
NORTHERN & SOUTHERN  
ITALIAN CUISINE

*Come Enjoy a Wonderful Selection  
of Fine Italian Cuisine From  
Our Ala Carte Menu*

*Including*  
Homemade Pasta, Delectable Veal,  
Superb Seafood & Tender Chicken Dishes  
Choose From The Freshest Vegetables  
& Assortment of Salads  
Plus Much More

*Relax & Enjoy The Fireplace In Our Lounge*  
Open Mon.-Fri. For Lunch & Dinner  
11:30 am-3:30 pm & 5:00 pm-11:00 pm  
Saturday - Dinner Only Ala Carte 5:00 pm-12:00 am  
Sunday - Set Dinner Menu 12 noon - 4:00 pm  
Ala Carte 5:00 pm-11:00 pm

**Verdi's Set Sunday Dinner**  
Your Choice Of: Antipasto Pasta or Soup  
MAIN COURSE: Veal Piccata, Chicken Marsala, Veal Parmigiana,  
Chicken Francese, Broiled Fillet of Sole, Shrimp Marinara  
DESSERTS & COFFEE: Spumone, Tortoni, Cake of the Day,  
Espresso, Tea or Regular Coffee

Reservations Necessary for Parties of 6 or More  
Casual Attire - All Major Credit Cards Accepted  
63 Mountain Blvd., Warren  
(908) 755-7086

BASKING RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB'S NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

**Tuesday Evening, December 31, 1991**

**BLACK TIE GALA**  
8:30PM-1:30AM  
\$90.00 per person  
Open Bar, Reception, Dinner and Dancing

**IRONWOOD DINING**  
Seatings at 5:30, 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30PM  
**PRIX FIXE NEW YEAR'S EVE MENU**  
Champagne Toast  
Lobster Bisque  
Salad of Mache, Endive and Bibb Lettuces  
Choice of Entree  
Grilled Filet Mignon with Lobster Tail \$34.50  
Breast of Chicken with Serrano-Chile, \$22.75  
Sundried Tomato Pesto  
Pan Roasted Fillet of Salmon \$26.75  
Medallions of Veal Ironwood \$26.00  
Roasted Rack of Lamb with  
Natural Juices (for one or two) \$27.00/\$54.00  
All Entrees Accompanied by Chef's Choice of  
Potato and Fresh Seasonal Vegetables  
Choice of Dessert  
Raspberry Tart  
Chocolate Hazelnut Marjolaine  
Tax and Gratuities not Included

**FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 908-766-8200**

**Basking Ridge Country Club**

RESERVATIONS ARE LIMITED R.S.V.P. BY DECEMBER 26, 1991  
185 Madisonville Road, Basking Ridge, N.J. 07920 Conveniently located 1/4 mile from Route 287

The Bridgewater Manor and The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation invite you to enjoy a

# Breakfast with Santa

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST  
FROM 8 A.M. TO 12 NOON**

Father Christmas himself will be landing his sleigh right in Bridgewater. So, take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, and enjoy a huge buffet for the whole family.

**Adults: \$8.95 Kids under 12: \$5.95**

Proceeds from children's breakfasts will go to the children and families of the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. ECF is a state-wide network of caring people dedicated to providing emotional support and financial and material assistance to New Jersey families who have a child with cancer. Raffles, great prizes and tickets to sporting events will round out the morning.

To make reservations, call  
The Bridgewater Manor at  
(908) 658-3000

# The Reviews Are In...

A First Class Restaurant...Forbes Newspapers  
★★★-Very Good...The Star Ledger  
Wonderful Restaurant...Strictly Somerset  
"Truly A Wonderful Dining Experience"...The Courier News

## WE NOW HAVE A LIQUOR LICENSE!

*Come Enjoy Your Favorite Cocktails  
And Our New Lower Priced Menu*

**A SAMPIING**

Fettucini Rosina	Pollo Fiorentina	Veal Marsala	Shrimp Scampi
A blend of shallots & basil in a light cream sauce with a touch of plum tomatoe topped with fresh mozzarella cheese.	Breast of chicken sauteed with a white wine and lemon sauce placed on a bed of spinach.	Scallops sauteed in marsala wine and mushrooms.	Shrimp sauteed in garlic sauce served over or on the side of angel hair.
<b>\$7.95</b>	<b>\$10.95</b>	<b>\$12.95</b>	<b>\$13.95</b>

# Saverio's

326 Rt. 22 W. Hyde Park Mall  
Greenbrook, NJ  
908-424-0067

Also Try Our Other Outstanding Restaurant ROSINA'S  
Located At 440 W. Union Ave. Bound Brook, NJ

**2000 Park Avenue**  
2000 PARK AVE. (Rt. 531) SO. PLAINFIELD, N.J.  
**LOBSTER LOVER SPECIAL**  
**1 1/2 lb. WHOLE MAINE STUFFED LOBSTER**  
**\$11.95** Includes Salad, Potato & Vegetable

**RESERVE NOW FOR OUR  
SUPER NEW YEARS EVE PARTY**  
• 5 HOURS OPEN BAR • 5 COURSE SURF & TURF DINNER  
• Champagne Toast  
• 2 Live Oldies Bands  
• Non Stop Music  
• Continental Breakfast

**Super Lunches at  
Super Prices**  
served from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm **from \$4.95**

**ENTERTAINMENT IN OUR LOUNGE**  
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY-ALEX ON PIANO  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY-THE FABULOUS CLASS OF 57

2000 PARK AVE. (Rt. 531) SO. PLAINFIELD, N.J. • 755-6161

**Inn Season**  
Presents  
**A New Years Eve Celebration**  
featuring  
**Early Bird A LA CARTE SPECIALS**  
from 4:00 - 7:00  
**Late Dinner Seating**  
9:00 pm  
including:  
• CONTINUOUS LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FOR DANCING  
• Champagne Toast at midnight  
• Hats & Noisemakers  
• Complete Four Course Dinner  
**\$40.00** per person  
Call for reservations **685-0444**  
1270 Route 28, North Branch

# See Our New Dinner Menu For Dec. & Jan.

**Warm Up With These Specials**  
24 oz. Grilled Rib Eye Steak...\$10.95  
6oz. Triple Lamb Chops.....\$11.95  
Pasta Dishes Starting At.....\$7.95  
Chicken Dishes Starting At.....\$8.00

**Lite Menu & Kids Menu Available**

**Watch The Big 'APPLE' Drop  
At The 'Little Apple'**

NY Comedy Sunday Nites 8:30pm  
Sunday Brunch Only \$8.95  
10:30-2:00pm  
Live Music Weds.-Sat.  
Reservations Now Accepted For Private Parties For Up To 75 People

**Little Apple  
Cafe & Restaurant**  
Rt. 206 South Hillsborough  
**359-0088** Open 7 Days

# New Year's Eve Package

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW**

**Special Buffet will include:**  
Shrimp Cocktail  
— or —  
French Onion Soup (Salad Bar Included)

**Special Dinner Selections:**  
Prime Rib  
Chicken Cordon Bleu  
Shrimp Scampi

**The original O'Connors Beef N' Ale House**  
708 Mountain Blvd.  
Watchung, NJ  
755-2565

You can also select from our main menu.

**Great last minute shopping idea.**  
O'Connors Gift Certificate any denomination

**Join us for our Fabulous Pre-shopping Holiday Brunch:**  
(Prices to change after Dec. 29th)

Adults	Seniors (62 & over)	Kids (6-12)	Ages (3-5)	Under 3
\$9.95	\$7.95	\$4.95	\$1.99	FREE



**Russo's Continental Catering**

ENTERTAINING NEW YEARS EVE? Call About Our New Years Eve Special Hors D'Oeuvres Platters Choose from a wide variety of Culinary Delights WE DELIVER

**302-1252**

Catering for all occasions

- Holiday Ham & Roasts, Turkeys
- Wedding Packages from \$20.95

**WANG'S KITCHEN**

3221 Route 27 Franklin Park (908) 297-2882 or 9879

Formerly A Kitchen

**LOBSTER & STEAK HOUSE**

1 1/4 LB. **\$8.95** Any Style

cannot be combined with any other offer

**Mongolian Bar-B-Q** and 16 item buffet & salad bar & soup

All You Can Eat (With Lobster Add'l. \$3.00)

RATED BY ★★★★★ Princeton Packet ★★★★★ Home News

Our regular menu & take out service also available

Major Credit Cards Honored

**Coupon**

**10% OFF**

Take out-only Wang's Kitchen exp. 1/8/92

**LOVE BIRD DINNER For Two**

Seafood Soup • Fantail Shrimp  
1 1/4 Lobster (any style) • House Fried Rice  
not to be combined with other offers

Route 1  
Route 27  
A&P Wang's Foodtown

**MAIN STREET RESTAURANT**

featuring the **GREEN GROCERY SALAD BAR**

**CHRISTMAS EVE BUFFET**

Served from 5 pm until 10 pm

Including abundant entrees in flaming chafers, Virginia Ham and Top Round at our Carving Station, and a plentiful selection at the Dessert Station

Adults **\$12.95** Children Under 12 **\$6.95**

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Special Holiday Menu

Seatings: 4:30, 6:30, 9:00 pm

Prime Rib, Lobster Tails, NY Strip Steak, Fresh Swordfish, Seafood, Chicken and Veal, and much more

Reservations taken for any number of people

**NEW YEAR'S DAY... Brunch Buffet and Salad Bar**

10 am until 2 pm

Including: Bacon, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, French Toast, Eggs Benedict, Beef Stroganoff, Chicken Champignon, Stuffed Shells, And much more!

Adult **\$8.95** Children under 12 **\$3.95**

DINNER SERVED FROM 2 PM

600 E. Main Street, Bridgewater

**536-1420**

**Celebrate New Year's Eve AT THE BARGE!**

Serving: Prime Rib • Filet Mignon • Lobster • Surf & Turf • "Stuffed Flounder, Barge Speciality" • South African Lobster Tails • Chioppino • Broiled Seafood

... and more!

Remember: Early Bird Specials 7 Days - \$7.95 - \$9.95

**THURSDAYS IN DECEMBER**

**2 FOR 1**

(14 Max. off on 2nd Dinner)

Exec. Spec. w/coupon Exp. 12/31/91

**LOBSTER FEST** - 1 lb. Lobster **\$12.95**  
2nd Lobster **\$6.00**

Lobster Thermidor or Fra-Diavolo .... **\$16.95**

(Fra Diavolo with Mushrooms, Potato Salad and Vegetable, Coffee or Tea  
Larger Lobster Avail. - Specials Sun-Fri)

**201 Front St., Perth Amboy**

On the Waterfront Intimate Cocktail Lounge

OPEN 7 DAYS - CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

Recommended by CUE

Major Credit Cards **442-3000**

**NEW YEARS EVE at Vincenzo's**

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30-9:00

Serving our Regular Menu & Many Traditional Italian Seafood Specialties

**New Years Eve Celebration**

- Antipasto • Special Salad
- Choice of Filet Mignon, Lobster Tail Dorato or Veal Danielle
- Dessert & Coffee

**5:30 Dinner - \$25.00/Person**

Dinner Only

**8:30 Dinner - \$55.00/Person**

Includes Champagne Toast, Open Bar Party Favors, Tax & Gratuity

Limited Seating - Reservations Only

Cabaret Entertainment By Paige Price DJ For Dancing Pleasure

229 Bound Brook Rd. Middlesex, NJ

Wine & Cocktails Lunch & Dinner

(908) 968-7777

To you and your family, we wish peace, joy and cheer throughout this season and in the New Year.

**COACH N' PADDOCK**

ROUTE 78 (EXIT 25) 4 Miles West of CLINTON, N.J.

**1991 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

- CHRISTMAS EVE—  
Tues., Dec. 24th  
Lunch 11:30-4:00 • Dinner 4:00-8:00 • Holiday Menu
- CHRISTMAS DAY—  
Wednesday, Dec. 25th  
Dinner Only 1:00-6:00 Holiday Menu
- NEW YEARS EVE—  
Tuesday, Dec. 31st  
Lunch 11:30-4:00  
Dinner 4:00-8:00 Holiday Menu  
N.Y. Eve. Pkg. Dinner Dance 8:30-1:30 \$65.00/Person
- NEW YEARS DAY—  
Wed. Jan. 1st, 1992  
Champagne Brunch 1:00-3:30 \$13.95  
Dinner - Regular Menu 1:00-8:00

Route 78 (exit 12) 4 miles west of Clinton, NJ

(908) 735-7889

Lunch • Dinner • Cocktails • Weddings • Banquets • Parties for all occasions

**the bagelsmith**

Food Store & Deli

All prices include tax

MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>BREAKFAST</b> Bagel with Plain Cream Cheese ..... 95¢ Bagel with Butter ..... 45¢	<b>BREAKFAST</b> Sausage or Pork Roll & Cheese on a Bagel ..... \$1.69
<b>LUNCH</b> Nova Scotia Lox, Cream Cheese, Onion & Tomato on a Bagel ..... \$3.99 Bagel with Cream Cheese and Olive Spread ..... \$1.59	<b>LUNCH</b> Ham & Cheese Or Ham, Salami & Provolone Sandwich with a cup of Soup ..... \$4.49
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>BREAKFAST</b> Bacon, Egg & Cheese on a Bagel ..... \$1.99 Bagel with Scallion Cream Cheese ..... \$1.59	<b>BREAKFAST</b> Bagel with Cream Cheese & Olives ..... \$1.59 Bagel with Vegetable Cream Cheese ..... \$1.69
<b>LUNCH</b> "Reuben" Sandwich ..... \$4.00	<b>LUNCH</b> Half Meatball Hoagie or Half Sausage & Pepper Hoagie ..... \$3.50
FRIDAY	
<b>BREAKFAST</b> Bagel with Butter & Jelly or Honey ..... 69¢ Bagel with Walnut-Raisin Cream Cheese ..... \$1.69	
<b>LUNCH</b> Chicken Parmigiana Sandwich or Fish Fillet Sandwich on your choice of Bagel ..... \$2.50	

**285 Route 22 East (Corner of Cramer Avenue) Green Brook 752-5566**

**the Coachman**

Restaurant • Lounge & Banquet Center

CALL (908) 272-4700

Oct. 26 & 27 "THE LIMIT"  
Dec. 27 & 28 "BENNY TROY & COMPANY"  
Every Wed. & Thurs. "BY THE DJ"

**THE PLACE TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR!**

UNLIMITED OPEN BAR  
SHRIMP COCKTAIL  
OUR FAMOUS PRIME RIB OF BEEF DINNER  
SERVED WITH WINE From 9 P.M.  
DANCING TO THE SUPER SOUNDS OF "RICH KELLY" AND "BENNY TROY"  
CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT  
PARTY FAVORS AND NOISEMAKERS  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST FOLLOWING CELEBRATION

**\$150.00**

Our Safe Overnight Gala Celebration includes:  
Complete Gala Celebration package plus overnight accommodations for two, along with our late checkout.

**\$225.00**

Per Couple Includes All Taxes And Gratuities

GARDEN STATE PKWY. EXIT 135, CRANFORD, NJ PHONE 908-272-4700 • 908-272-3657  
Early Reservations Suggested

Season's Greetings from **Wyckoff's**

932 South Avenue, West Westfield, NJ

**Come Have Brunch with SANTA**

Enjoy Wyckoff's famous Sunday Brunch and have your picture taken with Santa on Dec. 22

Brunch starts at 11:30AM

Santa will be here from NOON to 2:00PM

**MAGIC SHOWS FOR THE KIDS**

12:30 & 1:30

Serving Christmas Eve Dinner till 8:00 P.M.

Make your reservations now at **(908) 654-9700**



# HOLIDAY DINING

## GALA NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

at  
**BOBBY & MARY'S**

318 William Street, Piscataway 752-4474

MUSIC BY: Joe Rocco & Legacy  
• HATS • NOISEMAKERS • CHAMPAGNE TOAST  
HOT BUFFET • COFFEE & DESSERTS • CASH BAR

**\$25.00**  
per person  
Tickets Available  
10 PM-3 AM



*Before The  
Celebration, Dine  
In Style At The  
Bridgewater Manor!*

**GRAND NEW YEAR'S EVE BUFFET**  
Including a Carving Station featuring Steamship House of Beef,  
Pasta Stations, Assorted Hot & Cold Items and a Warmess Table.  
**\$24.95**  
5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. - Early Reservations Requested  
THE PERGOLA AND HENINGWAYS ARE ALSO OPEN ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

**Bridgewater  
MANOR**  
ROUTE 202/206 • BRIDGEWATER • (908) 658-3000

## FARM FRESH

Order Your  
Prime Rib Crown Roast  
Goose, Hams,  
and  
Specialty  
Meats Now!

Fruit Baskets  
Dry Fruit Trays  
and  
Homemade Pies  
For The  
Holidays

WE SELL MEAT, POULTRY & SEAFOOD WHOLESALE

Fresh Ground  
Chuck Chop Meat  
**\$1.79**  
lb.

Thumann's  
Liverwurst & Bologna  
**\$2.99**  
by the lb.

Filet Mignon  
**\$3.49**  
lb. Custom  
Cut

Ripe Yellow  
Bananas  
**.79c**  
3 lb.

WE SELL PRODUCE & DELI WHOLESALE TOO!



**Oak Tree Farms**

Ask about our newly  
expanded catering service  
136 So. Plainfield Ave.  
So. Plainfield

755-Food (3663)  
755-3660 (Deli)  
Fax #755-2620

## "1991 Celebration"

The tradition continues - Colonial Farms would like to end this terrific year with a night of celebration and thanks. We are offering some exciting specials and packages to kick-off the new year. We at Colonial Farms invite you to spend a memorable evening of dining and dancing to the sounds of the Steve Mottola Orchestra.  
Make your reservation and celebrate 1991 with us!

From 4:00 to 7:00

We offer our first dinner package. In addition to our regular menu, we offer a dinner for two least for only \$49.95 per couple.  
The dinner feast includes: a champagne toast • chef's soup • garden fresh salad • Fettucine Alfredo appetizer and a choice of entrees including:  
• Filet Mignon • Prime Rib • Broiled Lobster Tails • Prime Rib and Lobster combination.  
Complete your dinner with Bananas Foster, or a variety of parfaits, and coffee or tea.

From 9:00 PM to 2:00 AM

We offer our second dinner package for our giant celebration. This spectacular dinner begins with lobster bisque or fettucine Alfredo. Appetizers of Shrimp Cocktail or Crab Stuffed Mushrooms, and Caesar Salad.

Then choose between six delicious entrees including: Prime Rib • Broiled Lobster Tails • Chicken Charlemagne • Poached Salmon w/ Dijon cream. Filet Mignon or Shrimp Scampi.

Top it off with Bananas Foster or a variety of Holiday parfaits for dessert.  
Also included is an OPEN BAR of your favorite cocktails, wines, and champagne throughout the evening! Dancing, party favors, taxes and service charges are included for only \$65.00 per person.

**Colonial Farms**

Reservations are required...Call today:  
873-3990  
1745 Amwell Rd.  
Middlebush/Somerset, N.J.

# HOLIDAY

# DINING

## BOBBY & MARY'S

318 William St., Piscataway  
752-4474

WEEKEND DINNER SPECIALS

- Broiled Mixed Seafood ..... \$11.95
- Stuffed Flounder w/crabmeat..... \$8.95

## Happy New Year

4 Special New Years Eve Seatings \*

3:00 Senior Citizens Celebration

5:00 Family New Years Celebration

**\$17.95**  
Family Dinner: Clowns, Balloons & Special Childrens Champagne Juice Toast  
7:00 & 9:00 Seatings Also Available...\$19.95  
\*Entree Choice of 24oz. Steak, Seafood, Hot Chops, Chicken  
SOUP, SALAD, CHOICE OF ENTREE\*, DESSERT, CHAMPAGNE TOAST  
RESERVE EARLY  
OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE UNTIL 8:00 PM

FAMOUS 24 OZ.  
**STEAK**  
**\$9.95**  
**STEAKHOUSE**

426 E. Main St., Bound Brook, 908-356-0189

Additional Parking Courtesy Arch's Men's Shop

Open 7 Days • Banquet Rooms

Welcome Inn  
1992 With  
1990 Prices!

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

COACH I  
Early Bird

Dinner Specials  
Seatings at

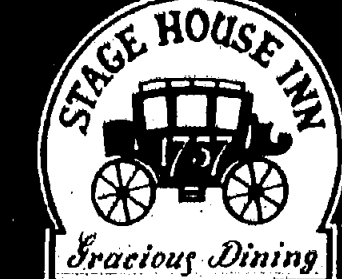
5:30 & 7:00

COACH II  
Complete Dinner

Starting At  
\$26.95

Music & Dancing  
Cash Bar  
Seating at/  
10:00

Reserve Now



Park Ave. and Front St.  
Scotch Plains • 322-4224  
Open New Year's Day

## Enjoy New Year's Eve at

The **McATEERS**

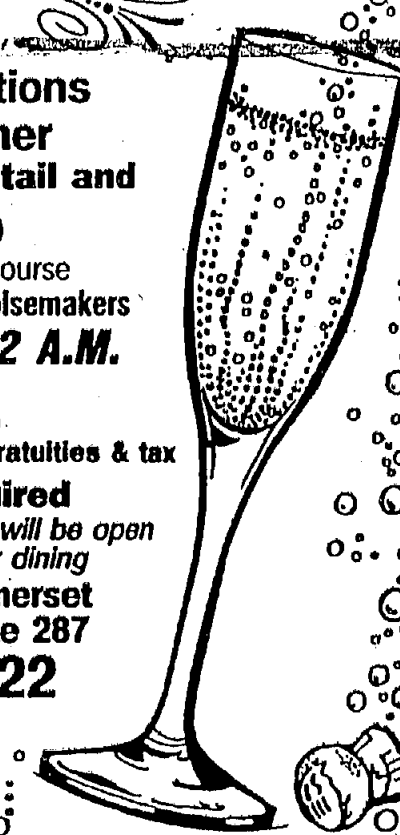
Ballroom reservations  
Full-course dinner  
featuring shrimp cocktail and  
**Prime Rib**

Champagne cocktail, of course  
Unlimited drinks • Hats and noisemakers  
**OPEN BAR 9 P.M. - 2 A.M.**

**\$90** per couple  
Includes gratuities & tax

Reservations Required  
The McATEERS main dining room will be open  
to the public all evening for dining

1714 Easton Ave., Somerset  
Route 527 off Interstate 287  
(908) 469-2522



New Year's Eve Five Course Dinner  
**\$34.95**

Your choice of appetizer, salad, entree, sorbet, dessert & coffee.  
Seating from 5:00 - Reservations Please

Parties of 10 or more  
will be seated in the

**Court Rooms**

where their dinner will be accompanied by  
Live Entertainment and Dancing

Cocktail Lounge will be available  
for other dining guests

Christmas Eve  
Open from 11:30-8:30

18 E. Main St., Somerville 725-7979



THURSDAY & SATURDAY NITES  
TREAT ANOTHER COUPLE TO DINNER FREE

PURCHASE YOUR TWO ENTREES AND RECEIVE THEIR TWO ENTREES  
**FREE**

WE WILL DEDUCT THE TWO ENTREES OF LESSER VALUE FROM YOUR CHECK.  
A Gratuity of 15% Will Be Added To The Total Bill Before The Deduction.  
Cannot be combined w/any other promotions. Expires January 30, 1992.

COUPON  
FRIDAY NITE: 6-9 PM "GRAND BUFFET" TALK OF THE TOWN

Featuring: All the shrimp you can eat, Plus - Roast Beef Carving Station: Roast Turkey Carving Station, Large Salad Variety, Villa Pasta Dishes: Mussels Marinara, Eggplant Rollmops, Chicken Dishes, Veal Dishes: Seafood Dishes, Plus

**\$10.95** per person  
(Children 10 & under \$5.50)  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT -  
Cannot Be Combined  
With Any Other Offers

New Years Eve Couples Nite!!!  
FREE CHAMPAGNE & PARTY FAVORS AT MIDNIGHT

TREAT ANOTHER COUPLE TO DINNER FREE  
PURCHASE YOUR TWO ENTREES AND RECEIVE THEIR TWO ENTREES  
**FREE**

WE WILL DEDUCT THE TWO ENTREES OF LESSER VALUE FROM YOUR CHECK.  
A Gratuity of 15% Will Be Added To The Total Bill Before The Deduction.  
Cannot be combined w/any other promotions. Valid Dec. 31, 1991. Forbes.

COUPON  
New Years Eve Entertainment - Party Favors At Midnight  
Reserve Now For New Years Eve at "The Inn"

\$25 Per Person Based on Double Occupancy & Tax  
2991 Hamilton Blvd., So. Plainfield  
(Off Route 287) 561-2722



# HOLIDAY DINING

## LUNCH SPECIALS

M-F 11:30-3 P.M. Sun. 1-4

- Chicken Antonio • Stuffed Calamari
- Pork Chops Campagniola • many more

## EARLY BIRD SPECIALS

Over 40 Entrees **\$7.50**  
Mon.-Fri. 3:00-5:30 P.M.

(Inc. Soup Or salads, Pot. or Pasta, Veg.)



Catering for family parties.  
Book your Holiday Party NOW!

**MOM'S  
RISTORANTE**

1984 Rt. 27, Edison (908) 287-2778

## Asian Garden

Before You Go To A Party...  
Have a Complete Dinner

**\$12.95 per person**

- Thai Spicy Lemon Flavored Soup
- Ga Xe Phai (Vietnamese Chicken Salad)
- Pineapple Chicken (Vietnamese)
- Apple Shrimp
- Satoh Dagging (Singapore) (Beef on a Skewer)
- Sesame Banana

## New Year's Eve Package

\$20/person

Incl. Buffet, D.J.,  
Dancing, and Beverage  
10 P.M.-2 A.M.

## Featuring Foods From

- China • Indonesia • Malaysia • Thai • Singapore
- Cambodia • Vietnam

## 10% OFF ALL LUNCHES & DINNERS

(Excl. Specials)  
With coupon, Exp. 12/31/91

French Bread/Pastries & Chinese Pastries  
European Style Baked Goods

Birthday Cakes Made To Order  
Catering Corporate Parties & All Occasions  
Parties Up to 300 on Premises

Edgeboro Rd. & Rt. 18  
East Brunswick, N.J.

(908) 651-2282 Fax Orders (908) 651-2283

## GRAND OPENING!

**HONGKONG**  
Chinese Restaurant

Traditional Chinese Gourmet Cuisine  
Hunan & Szechuan Specialties  
Homemade Noodles & Dumplings

All Dinners and Takeouts (Lunch Not Included) **20% Off** purchase of \$8.00 or more with this ad

## ALL FOOD FRESHLY COOKED

Special Businessman's Lunch!

All Chef's Originally from Hong Kong & China • Bring Your Own Bottle of Beer

8 W. Main St., Somerville  
(Formerly Peony Restaurant)  
(908) 215-9099

OPEN  
CHRISTMAS DAY!  
New Years Eve!  
New Years Day!

## New Year's Eve Package

**\$65.00** includes:

- \*Sleeping accommodations \*Complimentary champagne & Complimentary breakfast

For your dining pleasure...

Full Course Prime Rib Dinner

**\$15.95**

-also serving ala carte dinners-

**Holiday Inn**

U.S. 22 • Bridgewater, NJ 08807 • 201/526-8500  
Owned by Holiday Inn, Inc. Under License

**FREE  
ENTREE**

Happy Holidays From Rackley's

Enjoy a FREE Dinner Entree\*

When your purchase any entree regularly priced at \$9.95 or more.  
Simply bring this ad in any evening now through January 12, 1992.

\*FREE ENTREE must be priced equal to or less than purchased entree.  
One coupon per person. Cannot be combined with any other coupon or in-house specials. Not available for take-out or delivery.

**RACKLEY'S**  
the only place for ribs

1776 South Washington Avenue, Piscataway 463-1000

# HOLIDAY DINING

**HERB PATULLO'S**  
GREENHOUSE RESTAURANT

1 NORTH VOSSLER AVE. • BOUND BROOK  
356-2692 • 356-9888

RESERVE NOW FOR  
CHRISTMAS PARTIES  
& NEW YEARS EVE

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

**\$25.00**/person

- Buffet • Hats • Noisemakers
- Cash Bar

4  
ROOMS  
FOR  
BANQUETS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY NITES - BOB DILEO

## NEW YEAR'S EVE AT BOOK NOW

DINNER SERVED 5:00 - 10:00

LOUNGE CELEBRATION

11:00-Until ?...

5 Dinner Specials

& Our Regular Menu

Main St.

So. Bound Brook

563-4972

**紅樓 RED  
CAFE  
RESTAURANT**

The Best Shanghai Style  
Chinese Cuisine in Bridgewater

OPEN 7 DAYS

Grand Opening  
Special  
**10% OFF** Your next  
order  
Must present coupon  
Exp. 12/25/91

Adjacent to the Red Bull Inn  
Rt. 22 W. Bridgewater **704-8999**

Your Host  
The Bonis Family

Homemade Pies  
& Cakes  
Baked On  
Premises

**Golden Corner**

(908) 469-3350

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Diner - Restaurant  
313 West Union Ave., Bound Brook, NJ

Dine In Elegance...

Beautifully Decorated For  
The Holiday Season

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE ..... 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM  
CHRISTMAS DAY ..... 1:00 PM - 11:00 PM  
NEW YEARS EVE ..... 4:00 PM - CLOSING  
NEW YEARS DAY ..... 4:00 PM - 11 PM  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK Lunch • 11:30-3:30 • Dinner • 4:00-11:00

**ARPACCIO**  
Ristorante

651 Boundbrook Rd., Middlesex, NJ  
(201) 968-9242

**SHOGUN 27**

3376 Route 27, Kendall Park

PRESENTS

**NEW YORK  
COMEDY**

DECEMBER 20 & 21

Produced by  
Patrick Gaynor Entertainment  
SHOWTIME Fridays & Saturdays 10 PM  
Reservations Suggested - Limited Seating

Buy 1 comedy show  
admission  
**Get 1 FREE**

with coupon expires 12/27/91

**FRI. NIGHT ONLY**

(908) 422-1117



Vince Dantonio & George

Winner ABC-TV  
America's Funniest People

Also Appearing  
Fran Capo &  
Peter Hoffmann

Buy Any  
One Dinner  
At Reg. Price  
& Receive 2nd  
**FREE**  
(Must be of equal or lesser value)  
Max. value \$10  
Expires 1/15/92

Sunday &  
Monday  
Football

PITCHERS **\$4.00**

HAPPY HOUR MON.-FRI. 4:30 PM-6:30 PM

THE  
**EXCHANGE**

Rt. 202-206 North, Bridgewater

**526-7090**



# holiday

## FOOD FAVORITES

Best Western/Red Bull Motor Inn  
Proudly Presents...

### RED CAFE

**New Year's Eve Celebration  
OPENING NIGHT '1992'**  
Live Entertainment by "The Cover Band"

Includes all the festivities for two, plus room, plus breakfast **\$180**

Includes complete sitdown dinner, open bar, champagne toast at midnight, party favors and dance till 2 am **\$120**

**OVERNIGHT PACKAGE** Per Couple 6 PM - 2 AM

**DINNER MENU**

Shrimp Cocktail, Chicken Breasts With Tarragon, Garden Salad, Vegetable Medley, Roast Sirloin Steaks

A. Chateaubriand or B. Lobster Tail or C. Lobster With Garlic Sauce (Chef's Style)

**DESSERTS** Chocolate Mousse

Reservations Required By 12/26

**RED BULL INN**  
Tel. 908-722-4000 Fax 908-722-4840  
1271 Route 22 West, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807

### Ebbets

A Unique Eatery,  
Spirit Merchant

**"EBBETIZE" yourself for "92" at our New Years Eve Party!**  
Great Food, Great Music ★★ ★ Great Place ★★ ★

Look at this New Year's Eve Menu created by our Chef!  
Fruit/Cheese Crudite, Antipasto, Shrimp/Crab Salad  
**CHEF CARVED:** Roast Beef and Roast Pig  
Also featuring Lobster Newburgh & Chicken Piedmonte  
Chef Specialty Desserts, Party Favors and Champagne at Midnight!  
Dancing Music by DJ Bobby Herman. \$39.95 per person (plus tax & gratuity)  
**CALL FOR YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!**

Daily Menu Served Until 7:30 P.M. Enjoy Us Before Your Party!  
REMEMBER: Sundays are Family Day at Ebbets with Our Special  
Children's Magic Show! (And Coming Soon: Ebbets Family Buffet)  
Thursdays are Hilarious with our "Laser Karaoke" Sing A Long!!!

**Ebbets**

(908) 534-4611  
P.O. Box 343  
Route 523 (on the tracks)  
Whitehouse Station, NJ

Viewing the Watchung Mountains

### Pantagio's RENAISSANCE

**Wedding Dreams Come True**

5 Hours Open Bar  
Cocktail Hour  
7 Course Dinner, Tiered Wedding Cake  
Silver Candelabras and Flowers  
Flaming Jubilee Show, Private Bridal Rooms, White Glove Service

**FROM \$3395**  
Per Person

**Old Famous SNUFFY'S**

Daily Specials Include:

**SHRIMP COCKTAIL  
SOUP & SALAD BAR  
OPA-OPA DRINK** **\$9.95**

**CHILDREN'S MENU** **\$3.95**

Make Reservations Now  
Park & Mountain Ave. Scotch Plains (908) 322-7726

### "HOT DOG ON A STICK"



**Hot Dog on a Stick**  
Fresh ice cold Lemonade

Come Visit Us  
at  
Bridgewater Commons



# Real Estate Guide

## A 'well-kept' offering located in a friendly neighborhood

CRANFORD — The Klamie Agency of Cranford is understandably enthusiastic about this home at 1 Aberdeen Court.

### HOUSE TOURS

According to Yvonne Klamie, broker, the offering is a "lovely well-kept home on a quiet cul-de-sac...in a great neighborhood for children."

The house is a split-level priced at \$221,900 and is situated on an 85-by-118-foot lot. It includes a 33-by-13 foot living/dining room combo, an eat in kitchen with refrigerator and dishwasher, a large entry foyer, and an 11-by-17 foot Florida room.

The master bedroom measures 13-by-14 feet and has a full bath. Two additional bedrooms are each 10-by-13 feet. The family room has a bathroom and a wet bar and measures 27-by-11 feet while there is also a full basement. A one-car attached garage, central air conditioning, hardwood floors, attic storage, oil-fired forced warm air heat, attic fan, and all appliances and

window treatments finish off the list.

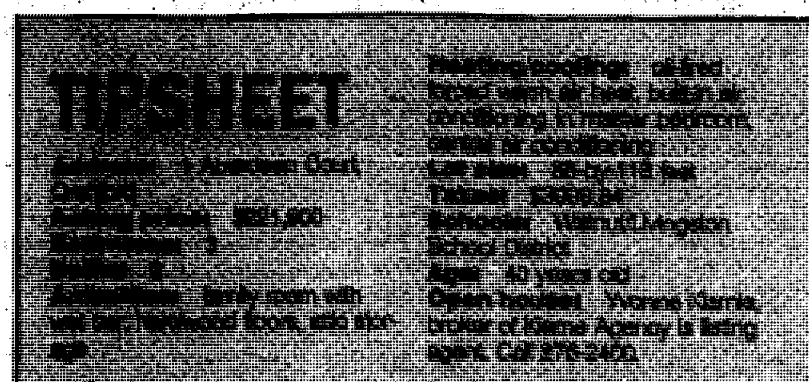
Cranford was first settled in the early 1700's by descendants of the Elizabeth Towne Association. It became known as Cranes Mills, a part of the township of Westfield and then took the name of Cranville in 1949. Finally, in 1871 it became chartered as an autonomous town known as Cranford.

Throughout its history, the town has been a center for patriotism, volunteerism and beauty. During the Revolutionary War, Cranford was the front line headquarters for the Continental Army. During the War of 1812, timber from the Denman estate located west of the Rahway River was used to retrofit

the warship U.S.S. Constitution.

The town's official tree, a pepperidge, still grows at Lincoln Park on Lincoln Avenue. It is one of the last great trees of the old Denman estate and, at over 200 years old, is one of the largest pepperidge trees in the northeast United States. Throughout Cranford there are many older Victorian and Tudor homes. There are lots of pizza parlors, variety stores, gift shops and a movie theater.

For a fascinating trip down memory lane, people can tour the Cranford Historical Society and Museum, located on N. Union Avenue behind the municipal building on Sundays from 2-4 p.m.



Klamie, Realtors of Cranford is marketing this well-kept home which is located on a cul-de-sac at 1 Aberdeen Court.

## Toys and books for kids



A drive is now under way at the Westfield office of Coldwell Banker Schlott. Donations of stuffed toys, games, puzzles, coloring books new or nearly new, are all welcome. They will be given to needy children in the area. All gifts may be left at the Coldwell Banker Schlott, Realtors office at 246 East Broad St., Westfield. For more information, call 233-8555. Pictured here are Patti Pomeroy (left) chairman of the drive and Marilyn Kelly, manager.

## Property sales

### CRANFORD

Albion I. Dole Jr. to Michael & Janet Ellenbacher, 30 Omaha Drive, \$168,000  
John A. & Lois T. Urban to Thomas R. & Theresa Whelstine, 13 Onelia Place, \$170,000  
Estate of Richard J. Anderson to Kurt & Lynn Patschow, 3-5 Hawthorne St., \$265,000  
Majorie Hand to Ernest E. Lindlar, 5 Hawthorne St., \$145,000  
Robert M. & Jean C. Messinger to Alan & Deborah Clark, 520 Orchard St., \$223,400  
English Village Associates to Frederick T. Parsons, 217 Prospect Ave., \$125,500  
Marion L. Sahagan to Steven P. & Lori A. Skuropacki, 1032 Harlan Road, \$137,000  
Gilbert C. & Ellen M. Hummer to Joseph Colicchio & P. Vogler, 705 Springfield Ave., \$152,000  
Clayton & Margaret C. Grasing to Ira & Oznet Alexander, 330 Staughton Ave., \$135,000  
Robert B. & Donna Krahnert to Michael E. Chin & C. Comelato, 16 Woodside Ave., \$178,000

### FANWOOD

Taras G. & Maria M. Borkowsky to David G. Sheridan & L.A. Hayes, 133 Behlde Ave., \$163,000  
Sean K. & Sherron E. Boyea to James B. & Diane S. Korita, 132 S. Glenwood Road, \$163,000  
Christopher W. Blumhard to Danny R. & Rhoda Byne, 84 Oakwood Court, \$210,000  
Basel & Elizabeth Bourque to Charles R. & Margaret Barbee, 182 Second St., \$162,000  
Nilsa Sylvester to Matthew D. & Sylvester White, 493 Terrill Road, \$80,913  
Andrew G. & Tracy J. Tedesco to Thomas R. Palasitis et al., 143 Vinton Circle, \$174,000

### GARWOOD

Theodore F. DiIulio to Hello Dos Santos, 219 Fourth Ave., \$110,000  
Beatrice M. Buckley to Grace Held, 71 Fourth Ave., \$111,000

### KENILWORTH

Michael & Suzanne Zinna to David & Michele G. Serio, 654 Bloomingdale Ave., \$153,000

### SCOTCH PLAINS

John J. & Patricia A. Weber to Jerold & Francine L. Grupp, 2231 Edgewood Terrace, Scotch Plains, \$290,000  
Eugenia D. Zardeddi to Nicholas J. Dazzo & S. Gockol, 1202 Woodside Road, Westfield, \$180,000  
Walter L. & Dolores M. Leib to Yellagondahalli Janardhan et al., 16 Albany Lane, \$485,000  
Marie A. Tedesco to Warren K. & Sarah Churgin, 1915 Lake Ave., \$368,000  
Charles N. & Susan Z. to UNCSB Holding Co., Park Ave., No. 320, \$500,000  
Diane A.L. & Frank Marini to Marguerite A. Behrens, 359 Parkview Drive, \$166,000  
Ronald C. Behrens et al. to Michael S. & Elisa H. Stamer, 350 Rolling Knolls Road, \$178,000  
Per A. & Connie Rasmussen to David J. & Jennifer L. Mahler, 1196 Woodside Road, \$185,000

### WESTFIELD

Kathleen P. Mellina to Walter A. & M.D. Korfmacher, 282 Hazel Ave., \$178,000  
Raul F. & Elena J. Barroso to Roger H. & Nancy Elwell, 917 Pennsylvania Ave., \$195,000  
James P. & Elizabeth B. Horn to Anne Bossw, 31 Stoneleigh Park, \$690,000  
Eric R. Fritz to Stephen A. & Anne P. Suriano, 518 Washington St., \$190,000  
Herbert & Beverly Paskow to Peter J. & Usa C. Herzberg, 1040 Wyandotte Trail, \$518,250  
Michael M. & Mary K. Zakian to Anthony & Dennis Anness, 200 E. Broad St., \$475,000  
Stephen H. & Debra L. Hood to Taras G. & Maria M. Borkowsky, 211 N. Chestnut St., \$339,250  
Ruben A. & Ramona B. Reeves to Samuel & Shelly M. Gruen, 723 Coleman Place, \$250,000  
Charles J. & Aileen M. Murray to Jung-Wen Pail & Mei-Yu Lee, 50 Doris Parkway, \$190,000  
Alexander Taylor & G. Johnson to Douglas A. Chris-

tensen et al., 428 Downer St., \$91,250

Anthony & Carol Archambault to Nicholas Archambault, 120 Park St., \$5,000  
Robert J. & Mary C. Conroy to Michael A. & Robin L. Leach, 69 Sandy Hill Road, \$206,500  
John K. Parsell & C.L. Wilcher to James H. Hoffmann III et al., 115 Wells St., \$208,000  
Emilia Rapuano to Joseph & Nina Calavano, 356 First St., \$75,000  
Eugene G. & Lois A. Calvert to Ismael & Jolanta Alchabadi, 627 Fourth Ave., \$240,000

### DUNELLEN

Anthony Romano to Nestor Gonzalez et al., 506 Center St., \$130,000  
Madelyn McMahon to Douglas & Linda Coleman, 405 Jefferson Ave., \$110,000  
Egeo De Dominis to Francesco Gonnella, \$605-09 North Ave., \$173,500  
C. Edward & Susan Brock to William Cieslik, 710 First St., \$115,000  
Louis Curcio et al. to Charles Gillen et al., 815-817 First St., \$205,000

### EDISON

George & Joan Schroll to Tai Chung Hwa & Nian Chun, 6 Adrian Way, \$252,000  
Ricardo Ramos to Narendra Gurnani, 18 Boxwood Circle, \$186,000  
Margaret Rogers to Walter & Susan Williams, 286 Central Ave., \$140,000  
James & Paula Yukna to Timothy & Susan Gregan, 26 Cottonwood Drive, \$233,000  
Min & Zeldia Polik to Arif Rahman, 9 Country Lane, \$30,000  
Donald & Elizabeth Walz to Harold & Patricia Nevins, 3733 Denver Boulevard, \$217,500  
John & Josephine Lord to Eugeniusz Graca, 1 Fred Place, \$150,000  
Richard & Judith Glass to Gail Stecker, 5507 Hana Road, \$128,000  
Jack & Susan Meola to Joel & Nivedita Drugana, 7302 Hana Road, \$127,000  
Michael & Terri Osit to Jamal Akhtar, 39 Hansen Drive, \$237,000  
Edward Lora et al. to Mohammed Mirza, 1246 Innan Ave., \$185,000  
Fleet Finance to Ramadhar Maharej et al., 23 E. Knollwood Drive, \$83,000  
Estate of Dorothy Mantra to Ernest & Lina Custer, 12 Leland Road, \$144,000  
Westgate II Dev. to John & Elizabeth Santiago, 66 Linda Lane, \$154,990  
Westgate II Dev. to Paul & Jodi Kaplan, 76 Linda Lane, \$159,990  
Westgate II Dev. to Florette Applebaum, 77 Linda Lane, \$159,990  
Daniel & Kathleen Volante to Dean & Millie Robinson, 273 McKinley Ave., \$205,000  
John & Ethel Kulko to Joseph & Karen Fitzpatrick, 48 Melbourne St., \$139,900  
Irving & Jacqueline Singer to Emil & Susan Coscarelli, 48 Meredith Road, \$180,000  
John & Sally Boyle to Peter & Doris Shla, 44 Marker Drive, \$230,000  
John & Joy Amato to Lorraine Colro, 819 Orlando St., \$105,500  
Paul & Doris Ip to Loh Sinn Yuan et al., 10 Pad-dock Court, \$230,000  
Frank & Claire Ochnick to Uziel Trivino, 123 Park Gate Drive, \$126,000  
Konica Photo Service to Iv Cyzner, 26 Personage Road, \$139,050  
Konica Photo Service to Iv Cyzner, Personage Road, \$139,050  
Molasm Eliash to Lane Jue & Marsha Pu, 4 Patriot Court, \$189,000  
Proctor & Gamble Mfg. to John & Maria Mortenson, 7 Ped Place, \$180,000  
John Boomer to Andy Hsu, 18 Peru St., \$19,000  
Angela Filocco to Theodore & Teresa Sprintis, 339 Plainfield Ave., \$155,000  
Jeffrey Wittmann to Peter & Kristina Vasilakos, 71 Rieder Road, \$183,250  
First Dublin Corp. to Elizabeth Dimagracia et al., 25 Scotland Ave., \$157,000  
Robert & Elaine Castello to Peter Sideris, \$3407

Springbrook Drive, \$200,000

Michael & Barbara Zudonyl to Thomas & Patricia Napurano, 91 Stratford Circle, \$249,000

Neal Axelrod to Mitch Carpen, 17 Sunflower Court, \$1,300,000

Craig & Lisa Boydman to Cary & Evelyn Berman, 57 Teaberry Drive, \$164,000

Gary & Dorothy McWhorter to Michael Johnson, 26 Westgate Drive, \$163,000

Caroline Macier to Camil Corp., 481 Wood Ave., \$105,000

Bai-Long Tsai to Mau Chwan Chang, 103 Woodbury Road, \$140,000

Brant Aragona et al. to Jagdish Khatiwala, 29 Woodfern St., \$140,000

### HIGHLAND PARK

John & Shelley Herodick to Adelaide Baughman, 49 Lincoln Ave., \$134,000  
Raritan Fin. Group to Jill Gantle et al., 217 N. Third Ave., \$150,000

### METUCHEN

Joseph & Denise Harbata to Henry & Suzanne Gatlin, 51 Carson Ave., \$157,000  
Mark & Bette Daniele to Annette Erickson, 17 Colonial Court, \$205,000  
Mary Quinn to Brian & Joan O'Connell, 21 Dessar Place, \$142,000  
Robert & Kathleen Powell to Harriet Wyatt, 20 Halsey St., \$134,000  
Stephen Genzer to John & Janice Reilly, 63 Kempsen Place, \$143,000  
Julius & Rose Helander to John Zahra, 475 Mid-dex Ave., \$160,000  
Adam & Pamela Schoenfeld to Craig & Ann Major, 107 New York Ave., \$175,000  
Stephen & Linda Trosky to Richard & Geraldine Fred-erick, 15 School St., \$129,500  
Harry & Miriam Christensen to Larry & Adela Lam, 18 Smith St., \$171,000  
Richard & Sydney Kaplowitz to Leonard & Anna Cohen, 392 Wakefield Drive, \$222,500  
Donald & Eleanor Schutt to Richard & Carina Thompson, 29 Whitman Ave., \$155,000

### MIDDLESEX

Barbara Thomas to Peter & Bethany Petruzela, 135 Coleman St., \$131,500  
Estate of Eugene Cicero to Gladys Hernandez et al., 415 Giles Ave., \$136,500  
Sergio & Edith Carlet to James & Margaret Farley, 171 Miley Lane, \$162,000  
Charles & Dorothy Stapleton to Donald Graham et al., 439 Runyon Ave., \$137,000  
Kenneth Prince to Melvin Clark et al., 338 Second St., \$141,000

### NEW BRUNSWICK

Bernard & Patricia Schrum to Jack Levy, 24 Lafayette St., \$202,000  
Alexander & Alice Craig to Lawrence & Stacia Grant, 35 Mitchell Ave., \$75,000

Barbara Neildin to Joan Sulphen, 9 Woodbridge St., \$98,500

### PISCATAWAY

Harsh Patel to Sandip Chokshi, 28 Atlanta Ave., \$171,000  
Michael & Janice Fisher to James Metz, 45 Canterbury Court, \$98,000  
Proctor & Gamble Mfg. to Avish Patel, 174 Davis Ave., \$160,000  
William & Brenda Jefferson to Safely Klean Corp., 147 Dunellen Ave., \$148,500  
Commons at PI to Walter Jordan, 103 Jesse Way, \$79,990  
Commons at PI to Thomas & Jean Yerves, 2902 Jesse Way, \$101,990  
Commons at PI to Ronghao Chan, 2910 Jesse Way, \$101,990  
Per-Cret Const. Co. to Joseph & Mary Soljan, 14 Kroeger Lane, \$295,800  
Per-Cret Const. Co. to Thomas & Helen Boban, 19 Kroeger Lane, \$282,000  
Kenneth & Elizabeth Larsen to Gregory Miller, 430 Metters Lane, \$147,000  
Edward Evans to Daniel & Alycia O'Connor, 28 S. Nelson Ave., \$100,000  
Sang & Kyuwon Rhee to Perry & Karen Papanier, 112 New Brook Drive, \$174,450  
Gim & Yue T. Lee to Tinh & Thu La, 1795 Olive St., \$118,000  
Starpoint Dev. to Warren Bronsnick, 83 Orion Road, \$128,000  
Cushit & Pizzetti PMS to Daniel & Gwenethyn Cooper, 26 Peabody St., \$219,900  
Starpoint Dev. to Andrew Taffin et al., 318 Pegasus Road, \$142,990  
John & Betty Henschelski to Cesar & Arcadia Valencia, 3 Rachel Terrace, \$123,000  
Donald & Lorraine O'Brien to Scott & Karen Sachs, 5093 Wade St., \$170,000  
Stephen & Janet Gerwer to Steven Cicero et al., 315 William St., \$128,000  
Dime S/B to Andrew Racaza et al., 152 Eighth St., \$132,000

### SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Kathleen Halupka to Mary Parada, 2007 Grant Ave., \$114,000  
Holly Park Dev. to Kevin McCann et al., Herbert Place, \$149,900  
John & Dorothy Fallon to John & Leslie Sanchez, 541 Odontus Ave., \$138,000  
James & Sherry Lemmon to Timothy Parelo et al., 2051 Perry St., \$140,000  
Mary Parelo to Fred Olsen, 121 Redding Ave., \$135,000  
Diglan Land & Dev. to Wayne & Linda Wong, 600 Spicer Ave., \$217,00









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# Classifieds



Quick And Convenient



# A beginner's guide to 'new car' auto shows

By TONY SANKIS  
FORBES NEWSPAPERS

While I have to be honest and say that my favorite type of auto show is one that features street rods, custom cars and other assorted automotive "freaks" (and I use that word with affection), new car shows are a close second. Unlike specialty car shows, concours d'elegance, race car exhibitions and other forms of static automotive entertainment, new car shows can, by definition, only be held when the cars to be displayed are "new." By tradition, this is somewhere in the neighborhood of October 1 of the preceding year and this has been the case since time immemorial — or at least since I was a little guy.

Obviously all the new car shows can't come off at once since just setting a car on the display floor isn't all there is to it. The

various auto manufacturers have their "stars" that they want to headline and sometimes these take the form of the centerpiece of mini-musical production numbers that feature small bands, dancers and light shows — and usually on a turntable that has room for the car to be featured and not much else. These car makers want to make sure that their theaters are appreciated by as many potential buyers as possible and move the extravaganzas from town to town.

And there are indeed lots of new car shows around the country in various metropolitan areas and in my own case it's the San Francisco International Car Show that always opens on Thanksgiving Day. I've been going to it for more than 25 years (it was originally called the "Imported" car show) and I don't think that I've missed more than a couple since then.

As in all theatrical promotions,

there are "premiere" sites. The major shows in this country are in Los Angeles and Detroit, I'm told, although the promoters of the shows in Chicago, New York and elsewhere would no doubt take me to task if they read this. I can't speak from actual experience as the only one I've been to (aside from the ones in San Francisco) was in Los Angeles and then only for a few minutes. But I do get all of the press releases from all the shows and one that I recently got from the Los Angeles event bears passing on. It's a step-by-step procedure on how to attend a new car show and while it doesn't give exact details on how best to bargain with the salesmen on duty or where to locate the bathrooms, it does tell how to use the shows to best advantage.

**GET DETAILS FROM FACTORY REPS ON HAND** — These guys are usually posted at the various dis-

plays for their products. They're long on technical information and if they look bored, it's only because they've been on duty since the show season opened.

**PREPARE BEFOREHAND** — "Determine what kind of car you're looking for before you arrive," says the pamphlet. Unfortunately this is all academic since once you get there, the aim is to dazzle you with the fancy specialty cars. Practically goes out the window.

**BRING A NOTEBOOK AND WRITE DOWN COMPARISONS** — Maybe this works with the engineer-types who attend the shows but most people I've watched at shows are too busy having fun and watching the dancers.

**SIT IN ALL THE CARS** — Since "our anatomy changes as we mature," the sportsmen that are so attractive from the outside may have all the creature comforts of an Iron Maiden when you're behind the

wheel. As the brochure states, "one size does not necessarily fit all."

**CHECK OUT ALL THE CARS** — So going in you're determined that the new Cadillac Brougham or Lincoln Town Car is the only type car for you. Better check out the new Chevy Camaro 350 RS coupe or the Ford Mustang 5.0 liter GT convertible, too. You may not be as old as you think.

**PARKING** — Only in Los Angeles would valet parking be offered at the car show! My own suggestion is to leave nothing of value in the car and borrow someone else's vehicle. If you own a fancy stereo system. And make a map of where you parked your car — you may never find it again if you don't.

**ORIENT YOURSELF WHEN YOU GET IN** — You can get a map of the hall and do a methodical perusal of the place or you can do

what I do — wander around until you're exhausted which is usually close to the refreshment stand.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GIVE-AWAYS** — No, they don't give away free cars as samples but if you like brochures, bring a shopping cart. Otherwise you'll have to carry all that stuff around for a couple of hours.

**WHAT TO DO WITH THE CHILDREN** — The pamphlet gives some suggestions but I have my own. If they aren't old enough to have a driver's license, get a baby sitter.

New car shows have been around a long time — the first one being held in New York by amateur enthusiasts around the turn of the century, over the years. Lots of brand names have come and gone; Hudson, Glas, Hino, Checker, Packard and dozens of others have bitten the dust just in my own lifetime. Better take in the new car shows before many more of them slip away.

<b>8080</b> 4x4s, Sport and Light Trucks CHEVY— 78 Suburban, auto, 300 V6, full-time 4WD, 8 ft. power angle plow, new exhaust system & brake lines, only 29,000 miles & NO EMISSIONS CONTROL. Runs great, but body needs some cosmetics. \$2500/BO. Call 808-397-5799. CHEVY— 86 Silverado, 53K mi., 4x4, short bed, exc. shape. \$6000/best offer. 725-8017. DATSUN— 81 Pick-up, 4WD, king cab, Z-engine, moon roof, needs work. \$980. 355-5551. DODGE— 85 Reider, V6, 5-sp/4WD, AC, PS/PB, 27K miles, excel cond. Selling due to company car. Below book value @ \$8800. 231-9551. FORD— 86 Ranger Pick Up, 4-cyl., 5-sp., cap, rebuilt motor, exc. cond. Asking \$3500. Please call 908-873-3749. FORD— 87 F-150 Super-cab, 8 ft bed, 8 cyl., der, auto, AC, AM/FM tape, captain chairs, loaded with extras. Sacrifice \$7500. 908-549-3017. FORD— 87 Ranger wrap, XLT pkg., many extras. Great shape! 64K. Asking \$5500. 722-8581. FORD— 88 Bronco, 5.8 liter, Eddie Bauer, 51K miles. \$10,500. Please call 908-874-4946. JEEP— 83 CJ7 "BLACK BEAUTY" NEW BEST TOP SIX CYL. ASPD. PS/PB GOOD MILEAGE \$4295 248-2655 NEIL. JEEP— 86 Cherokee, V6, auto, 4WD, no rack, AC, AM/FM, tow pkg., excel cond. \$5500. 695-1530. JEEP— 88 Cherokee Lim., 4-cyl., 5-sp., low miles, exc. all options, all power, leather, great price. 908-885-0373.	<b>8090</b> Trucks and Vans CHEVY— 79, C-30 Roll-back wrecker, new engine, trans, AM/FM CB, AC, very nice. \$5500. Call 879-7823. CHEVY— 82 Tow truck, 350 motor, AC, PS/PB, 41K miles. \$4500. Pk call 908-752-0468. CHEVY— 85 Suburban, Scottsdale model, PS, PB, AC, 4.0/80/BO. Call 908-766-2642. CHEVY— 89 Pick up Silverado, 6 cyl., 4-wheel drive, AM/FM, exc. equal, A/C/R, bad timer (\$10,500/B.O.) 25,000 mi. Red. 908-248-4666. DUMP TRUCK— 72, F350 W/ 12 diamond plate bed. \$2600/BO. Call 722-3235 ask for Mike. FORD— 82 Econoline 350. Extended bed, good cond., 89K miles. \$900/BO. Call 908-422-2603. FORD— 87 F150, 6 cyl., 74K miles, AC, new tires, \$5500. 908-351-7123.	<b>8110</b> Automotive Parts, Accessories and Services WANTED Junk cars and trucks removed free. ESR Group Towing Service 908-484-3445 <b>8130</b> Miscellaneous Automotive DID YOU KNOW... that an ad in this local paper also goes into 14 other local papers? Reach over 140,000 households with one call! 1-800-334-0531. INTRODUCTIONS... A way for people to meet people, every week in your local Forbes newspaper. The ad is free. Then one call does it all! 1-800-334-0531 <b>8200</b> MOTORCYCLES <b>8210</b> ATV's NOMAD— ATV, 3 wheel, 110 automatic, 400/BO. Call 722-8026. Advertise in the Classified!	<b>8230</b> Off-Road Motorcycles HONDA— 81 CB 650, good condition, \$700/BO. Call 908-528-0119 5pm-9pm <b>8260</b> Miscellaneous Motorcycle <b>MOTORCYCLE INSURANCE</b> For Any Type Of Motorcycles Also Personal Watercraft Insurance A complete selection of clothes, collectibles and accessories. Harley-Davidson of Edison 299 Rt. 1, Edison (908) 985-7546	<b>8400</b> RECREATIONAL VEHICLES <b>8420</b> Motor Homes EDISON— 68 Princess Mobile home 12x50, w/w carpet, W&D, 2 ACs, Refrigerator, range, 1 1/2 baths, porch, shed. Partly furnished. \$24,500/BO. 908-549-3583; 287-1189, ask for Bob. <b>8600</b> BOATS <b>8620</b> Power Boats SEARS— 12 ft. Alum-nium, with Honda 9.9 motor, \$1000. Call 722-8026.
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See Sports, page B-1



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See listing in classifieds

# Cranford Chronicle

Vol. 98, No. 52

Thursday, December 26, 1991

CRANFORD • GARWOOD • KENILWORTH

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## In brief

### Flooding project set for spring

Work on improving the flooding conditions in the northeast section of the township is scheduled to begin in the spring and could be completed by late summer.

The Township Committee unanimously approved plans for a project calling for road and curb improvements around Columbus and Orange avenues, Locust Drive and Oak Lane.

The cost of the project could range as high as \$1 million. The committee, however, said it will look into the possibility of neighboring Kenilworth helping to pick up a portion of the expenses.

The Cranford Chronicle will have more on this story next week.

### Early deadline

This is the last newspaper before the New Year. The next paper will be printed on New Year's Eve and distributed Thursday, Jan. 2. This means an earlier deadline. Please deliver news items before noon Friday. The sooner the better.

### Mayor-elect plans TV interview

Mayor-elect Ed Robinson is tentatively scheduled to appear on TV's "Downtown A Talk With Your Mayor" on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 8:30 p.m. Viewers may call in with questions via 335-4333. The program will be repeated Sunday, Jan. 12 at 5:30 p.m. Robinson is scheduled to be sworn in New Year's day as chairman of the Township Committee.

### Trimming the tree

A Christmas tree decorated with about a hundred antique ornaments, some dating as far back as the 1800s, is on display at the Cranford Historical Society Museum through the end of the week. The museum is open from 2-4 p.m. on Sundays, or by appointment during the week. There's a photo on page A-3.

### 8th graders to visit capital

The Orange Avenue School eighth graders will travel to Washington, D.C. in the spring for their graduation trip. The Board of Education recently OK'd the trip. Story on A-5.

### Family Counseling offers program

The Family Counseling Center of Catholic Community Services (CCS) in Union County is offering a parent education program to help parents create a more satisfying and productive relationship with their children. The Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) is a program for parents who want to improve communications with their children. It offers a realistic and practical approach to meeting the challenges of raising children today. Information: 335-3232.

### Journalists talk about business

Prominent journalists Leonard Silk and Allan Sloan will be the featured speakers at the second annual economic outlook conference at the W. Paul Stittman School of Business at Seton Hall University on Wednesday, Jan. 8. The one-day conference, "Business Outlook for 1992" will be held from 8:15 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Main Lounge of the Bishop Dougherty Student Center on the South Orange campus. The conference is cosponsored by the School of Business and the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. Call (201) 781-0216.

## Mayor Force to take a break from politics

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

Cranford Township Mayor Ed Force said he's stepping away from politics for awhile because he needs a break. Time to catch his breath. Time to look back on what he's accomplished.

But when you listen to Mr. Force talk about politics, you get the feeling his rest period isn't going to be a long one. Maybe just a quick nap before throwing his hat back into the political arena.

An arena that Mr. Force is quite familiar with, having served on the township committee for the past six years, the last three as mayor.

"I don't know where I'll go from here," Mr. Force said. "I've had offers (to run for state assembly or county freeholder), but I'll sit back now and see what happens."

"I don't rule out politics in my future, it's just that this can start to rule your life where you start to put off family and business because you want to do the job right. I did agonize over not running for township committee again and it wasn't an easy decision. This becomes part of your life."

It's hard to imagine the mayor without a cause to champion. No Rahway Valley Sewage Authority to deal with. No Hartz Mountain company to negotiate

with. No street corner discussions with residents to hear their concerns.

In less than a week, however, Mr. Force's title changes from mayor to former mayor. The long-time Cranford resident said he's hoping people will look back on his term as a successful one.

"I would say that Cranford is a better place to live now than it was six years ago," Mr. Force said. "The quality of life has stayed the same, and in a lot of ways the quality of the downtown area has improved the quality of life here."

"I'm happy with the job I did. I have some regrets, but not a whole lot of them. When I look back on the past six years I'm satisfied. I've given this all of my energy."

While six years may have used all of Mr. Force's enthusiasm, there are a number of projects he would

still like to see accomplished in the township.

The need for township officials to decide on a health family package is one of the things Mr. Force hopes will be accomplished early next year. Seeing the township produce an employee's handbook is another, as is developing a centralized purchasing system in the township.

For better or worse, however, Mr. Force won't be giving any more opinions as an elected official. Something he admits will take some getting used to as he prepares to join the private sector.

"I would never want to become a town crier and be at every meeting asking 'Why did you do this?' and 'Why did you do that?'" Mr. Force said. "Cranford should be proud of what's going on here. If there's a need in Cranford, some-

one will grab the bull by the horns and go with it."

As is the case with most municipalities in the state, Cranford must deal with difficult financial decisions in its future. Mr. Force, however, said he's pleased with the township's progress in preparing its 1992 budget.

"Something that Mr. Force has had a huge part in.

"This year is the first time we've had our first budget hearings completed by the end of the year," Mr. Force commented. "Some of these budgets will need review, but now people will have the time to do that."

"The problem with the township committee is that they don't stay focused and they get off on tangents and don't deal with the problem. (Please turn to page A-3)

## Gillespie assists in search for work

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

In an economy falling deeper and deeper into a recession, it may be harder to find a job than to keep one.

And with that in mind, John

Gillespie is helping arm job seekers with an arsenal of information.

A Cranford resident, Mr. Gillespie has spent the past year organizing a series of employment seminars designed to assist people in identifying, packaging and selling. (Please turn to page A-3)

## Extra police will be out New Year's Eve

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

Here's the best advice possible for those planning to drink, then drive, on New Year's Eve. Don't.

For the cost of a couple of six-packs of Budweiser, drunken drivers stand the chance of losing their license, watching their insurance rates skyrocket, and waking up the next morning with a wicked headache and sick stomach.

But, if you're stupid enough to operate a vehicle in a drunken stupor on New Year's Eve, be advised that the police will be on the lookout for you.

In Cranford, for instance, the Po-

lice Department will have extra cars on patrol not only that evening, but throughout the holiday season.

"We have once again increased our enforcement efforts for the Christmas and New Year season by adding several marked and unmarked patrol units to our streets with special emphasis on detecting and apprehending the intoxicated driver," said Police Chief Harry Wilde.

"This is the time of year when everyone celebrates and there are office parties and private parties. This time of year we're often visited by tragedies due to drunk driving and we set up patrols to try. (Please turn to page A-3)

## Township population shows 20-year decline

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

After experiencing growth for four decades, Cranford township has seen its population dip over the past 20 years.

According to statistics provided in a report conducted by Fleischer Management Associates Inc., Cranford's population has decreased by 4,758 residents since 1970. That reversed a trend which saw Cranford more than double its population between 1930 and 1970.

The so-called Fleischer Report was a staffing study requested by the Cranford Township Board of Education. The results of that study were unveiled to the public last Dec. 16 at a board meeting.

According to the Fogelsville, Pa. firm, the population in Cranford increased from 11,126 in 1930 to 27,391 by 1970. That trend has been reversed in recent years as the township's population has fallen to 22,633.

Among the other data revealed. (Please turn to page A-3)

## A look back at what happened in Cranford during 1991

By CHERYL MOULTON NEHL  
THE CHRONICLE

Following is a look at what took place in Cranford in 1991.

### January:

Ed Force begins his third year as mayor.

The Township Committee considers a request to allow the Historical Society to occupy Hanson house on Springfield Avenue.

The county will remove paving illegally done by the county Department of Public Works. The 27 by 120 foot extension of Riverside Drive will be allowed to revert back to natural habitat.

The IRS denied approval for tax credits to fund a portion of the second senior citizen housing project, sending the \$7 million venture back to square one.

Eastman Plaza renovation begins.

The governing body faces escalating fixed costs and declining revenues in the 1991 municipal budget.

The school board weighed \$28.7 million in spending requests for 1991-92, nearly \$5 million more than in 1991, or a 23 percent increase.

Waldbaums continues their bid to build a 46,000 square foot super-market.

School board attorney Irwin Weinberg relinquished his 17-year post, citing a year of public displays of hostility with board member James Van Horn as the explanation.

Citizens Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) began evaluating the township municipal budget.

Township finance director said the 1991 budget will be the "toughest"

in Cranford's history, calling it "horrendous."

The United States and Cranford ready for war in the Persian Gulf.

The Planning Board prepares to grant approval to Hartz Mountain Industries \$15 million plan to redevelop the 31-acre former Beecham site, after the developer conformed to a new ordinance down zoning the southeast corner of the township.

### February:

The town is bedecked with yellow ribbons in support of troops serving in the Persian Gulf.

Residents of County Park Drive try to shoot down proposed plans by the county to move trap and skect facilities closer to their homes.

Hartz Mountain Industries gets the go-ahead for a \$15 million re-development project.

The school board advertises for new attorney.

Town sewerage bills increase 64 percent, edging cost per year to \$1 million.

Four candidates announced bids for this year's school board election. Incumbents Edna Silvey and Richard Nicholls, and newcomers Thomas Bonhag and George Young, vie for three open seats on the school board.

Township health benefits soared 64 percent, or \$365,000, with no easy remedy available. Mayor Force called it a crisis.

CBAC lists savings of \$1.5 million for 1991.

Board of Education is ready to begin negotiations with 24-member Cranford Administration and Supervisory Association (CASA).

School board president Ellen Heller resigns unexpectedly after serving six years on the board, the last two as its president.

CBAC presents financial evaluation to governing body, culminating six weeks of work.

Waldbaums hearings continue.

Governing body agrees to lease Hanson house to Historical Society.

### March:

Board of education directs school administration to come up with alternative sets of reductions in budget.

Negotiations for police and fire union contracts are at a standstill with both sides of bargaining table contending the other is at fault for lack of progress.

Gulf War is over.

Efforts continue on consolidation of the police and fire departments under one public safety director. Rank and file police and firemen. (Please turn to page A-2)



DIANE MATFLER/DIANE MATFLER

More than 30,000 color lights and a front yard filled with hand-made decorations, among them nine reindeer and Santa Claus, attract hundreds of visitors each year to this Colby Lane home.

## Morris lights holidays with 30,000 bulbs

By BRIAN FLORCZAK  
THE CHRONICLE

When George Morris turns on the switch to illuminate the Christmas decorations in front of his Colby Lane house, two things light up: almost 30,000 bulbs and the faces of the children who regularly gather to see one of Cranford's newest traditions.

Gamished with 1,500 strands of lights and enough hand-made decorations to make Santa smile, the Morris household Christmas display draws visitors from throughout the township.

Mr. Morris started decorating his house in 1984 as a present to his granddaughter and the display has grown larger through the years. In. (Please turn to page A-3)