

Automotive/Classified

Prepare a car for pregnancy

METRO — Just as new parents childproof their homes with third caps to prevent fingers from getting caught in electrical sockets or safety gates to prevent tumbling down stairs, they must play it safe with their cars, too.

"New attention is being paid to styling, safety, interior space and performance in the automobile industry," said Brian Chee, an automotive expert from Autolyte Inc. an online car resource. That's good news for families who are expecting and parents — they can expect more from new cars.

For pregnant drivers, there are a few extras to look for when buying a new car or add to the car(s) you already own. They include:

Adjustable foot pedals. They allow you to sit back 3 inches from the wheel.

A tilting steering wheel. A pregnant belly can obstruct your turning capabilities or cause you to sit back further than is pre-



Safety is crucial, especially when driving for two.

dent, so a tilting wheel is important once you reach the third trimester. Tilting steering wheels are standard on newer models, but if you're driving an older car, inspect its steering gear.

Airbags. "The airbag has been toned down since it first came out," said Brendan Tobin, an independent consultant who trains workers in the automotive industry on how and why their products work. If you are concerned about an airbag's impact, look for a car with dual-stage airbags which have sensors that determine whether to send out a single- or dual-stage reaction, tempering how much force will be applied when an airbag is deployed.

Safety belt specs: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration notes that during an accident, safety belts redistribute impact to the stronger parts of your body and slow your body's movement. They recommend that pregnant

A top 10 care list for cars

- NAPSI — No matter what it says on the calendar, winter may still be having an effect on your car. The grit and grime from demanding driving conditions may still be lingering under your hood.
- Here is a 10-point spring check up to revitalize a car:
1. Change your oil and oil filter.
 2. If it's been more than two years or 24,000 miles since you've changed your automatic transmission fluid and filter, change that now, too.
 3. If you have a front-wheel-drive vehicle, check the condition of the CV boots. If worn or cracked, replacing them now could save you hundreds of dollars in repairs.
 4. Make sure your tires are properly inflated and rotate your tires.
 5. Make sure your shocks and struts are working properly. Look for oil leaks and other signs of damage.
 6. Check all lights and bulbs: headlights, brake and tail lights, turn signals, and license plate bulbs.
 7. If your windshield wipers are streaking and smearing, replace them.
 8. Replace your air filter and the fuel filter, the PCV valve and the breaker filter.
 9. Add a bottle of fuel system cleaner at your next fill-up.
 10. Top off all fluid levels, including windshield washer fluid, brake fluid, power steering fluid and antifreeze. Don't forget to check all cells of your battery and top them off with distilled water.

This has been a big year for new cars

PRNewswire — The world's automakers have pulled out all the stops to make 2004 the most amazing year ever for new vehicle introductions, and Central New Jersey residents can get a look at the latest ones at the 2004 New York International Automobile Show from April 9 to April 18.

"There are more all-new cars and trucks coming to the 2004 Show than we've ever seen before," said John LaSorsa, auto show chairman. "From the bold, new Ford Mustang, and Pontiac Solstice to the fun and flexible MINI Convertible, the Javits Center will be overflowing with completely new and restyled 2004 '05, and even '06 model year vehicles."

Here's a look at some of the latest production models at this year's show:

Mercedes CLS — Mercedes-Benz's new CLS-Class is an all-new model that blends the style and character of a coupe with the comfort and functionality of a sedan. With modern styling, exclusive appointments and ground-breaking technology, the CLS-Class appeals most strongly to drivers for whom cars and motoring are a true passion.

Chevy Cobalt — The 2005 Cobalt is an all-new premium small car that offers a diverse selection of body styles, interiors, Ecotec four-cylinder engines, smooth-shifting transmissions, precision-tuned suspensions and dynamic wheels. The Cobalt family includes two models, sedan and coupe, and a total of eight trim levels.

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Cranford Chronicle

Committee set to introduce municipal budget

By GREG MARY
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — The 2004 municipal budget is set to be introduced at next Tuesday's Township Committee meeting, in a version largely unchanged from the draft the committee established at the March 9 meeting. But despite — or perhaps because of — the small amount of change in the budget, it may not win the support of the full committee.

At the March 9 meeting, the same in which the 2004 capital budget was introduced, the committee made changes to the

operating budget that brought the annual tax increase on a home assessed at the township average of \$178,000 to about \$100. That draft eliminated some equipment purchases and other items that had been in previous versions.

In what has been described by elected officials statewide as a tough budget year, that increase is comparable to the tax hike being contemplated in other towns in the area — greater than the increase in Kenilworth and Scotch Plains, less than the increase in Westfield and Garwood. All these municipalities introduced budgets for 2004 several weeks ago.

Finance Commissioner Ann Darby said the bulk of the spending increase is driven by rising health benefit costs (about \$320,000 for that item alone), the return of a local obligation for pension payments and the expiration of a substantial grant to offset costs at the local library. While acknowledging no increase is desirable, Darby said several weeks ago she was ready to support the budget.

But the \$100 average increase may be too high for some members of the committee to support.

Democratic Commissioner George Jern said the "sticking point" for him was the

addition of two personnel positions — an assistant to the township administrator and an economic development specialist.

Though the combined cost of those positions for the remainder of 2004 wouldn't be that large compared to some of the other expenses, that would be expected to rise in future years, Jern noted.

"I just don't think in this economy... we should be adding people," Jern said. "Once you add positions like that, you never get rid of them."

"I think I have a pretty good idea what

(Continued on page A-2)

Proposed cell tower could be headed to new site

By GREG MARY
THE CHRONICLE

KENILWORTH — More than 50 area residents, many of them from Union, didn't get a chance to voice their opposition to a proposed cell tower on Hoies Drive at a Planning Board meeting April 1 — but in the long run, they may not mind.

The meeting was the third scheduled to hear Verizon's application to build a tower, and with a vote possible, concerned residents came out in force.

But at the start of the meeting, board attorney William Lane said the application has been temporarily put on hold as Verizon explores another alternative.

At the urging of the board, Lane said, the company is having conversations with another wireless communications business to build a tower in another location. That tower could potentially support the antennas for both companies.

While Lane would not name the second company at the meeting, a Planning Board secretary said it is Sprint, which currently has an unrelated application to build a tower pending before the board.

The proposed location of the joint tower is not yet known, as no formal application has been filed, but Lane said it is in a less residential area. The two companies are now exploring whether that arrangement would meet their technical needs, he said.

If the joint tower meets the two companies' needs, they would file an application that could be heard at the May 27 Planning Board meeting. For the time being, Verizon's application to build a tower on Hoies Drive



JOHN FEIL/CORRESPONDENT

She's hopping mad

The Easter season is a joyous occasion, but for little Olivia Galdi, sitting on the lap of the Easter Bunny at Saturday's egg hunt in Garwood was apparently more of a traumatic experience. Olivia's cries to return to her parents' arms seemed to leave her cousin Eva Lambrianakos speechless. At least the bunny was smiling.

Students, parents get a chance to be CSIs for the night

By LAUREN TRAINOR
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — Middle school students and their parents at the Hillside Avenue School tested their gumshoe chops and honed their investigative intuition at a unique forensics night workshop April 1.

Student and parent teams set about investigating the disappearance of a valuable drug that would cause a bad breath after a group of students from the middle school staged a reenactment of the crime.

The teens split up into three groups, each traveling to labs detailing one aspect of the forensics procedure. While each group experienced all three rooms eventually, each started their sleuthing in either the Blood-typing room, the Chromatography room, or the Fingerprinting room.

"It was clever because we were working towards the discovery of something," said parent Liz Alicock.

"I think it went great. The kids got a lot out of it and we had fun as well," said Brian Kennedy, parent and volunteer.

Sgt. Robert Colaneri of the Cranford Police Department was in charge of fingerprint education.

"It was nice for the kids to see scientific evidence, how fingerprints do match up to individuals. They picked it up themselves. They were able to look at loops, swirls and arches and find out who matched up."

— Sgt. Robert Colaneri

Each child took samples of his or her own fingerprints and learned how detectives look for rooms eventually, each started their sleuthing in either the Blood-typing room, the Chromatography room, or the Fingerprinting room.

(Continued on page A-2)

Put a bee in their bonnets

Members of the Cranford Historical Society fashioned some styles of vesting on Sunday at the Cranford House as they donned their Easter bonnets. See the photo spread on Page B-1.



A special visitor at St. Michael's

The Easter Bunny recently paid a visit to Fr. John McGovern and the students at St. Michael's School in Cranford. For the full picture, see Page A-7.

Biologist discusses intelligent design

Union County native and Brown University professor Kenneth Miller will give a talk about intelligent design, a controversial challenge to the classic theory of evolution, at Union County College tonight. Doors at the Roy Smith Theater open at 5:30 p.m.; the talk begins at 6 p.m. For more information, call (908) 709-7570.

Teachers honored for promoting civics

By LAUREN TRAINOR
THE CHRONICLE

KENILWORTH — Three borough teachers were honored last month by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2230 in Kenilworth for promoting civics education among the students in the district.

Larry Sturchio, Patrick Matone, and Janet Carriello all received awards from the local post as well as accolades from the VFW's District 5 offices.

"Anyone can ask a kid to read, and write, and memorize, and stuff like that," said Brian Luciani, assistant principal at David Bearley Middle/High School. "They really just go beyond that."

Luciani said the teachers' commitment to more than just rote learning helps give the schools the type of character to be proud of.

"They're really just the epitome of what you look for when you hire someone and who will do the best for the kids," he said.

Larry Sturchio, a high school history teacher for many years, started teaching in Kenilworth when the regional district closed.

He takes an egalitarian approach to teaching citizenship through history and encourages students to view historical figures subjectively. He challenges students to look at leaders from the past not as static figures, but as personalities that continue to shape the direction of our culture, and even the student's lives personally.

"Through the teaching of history and social studies, we try to emphasize the great examples and point to them, whether they're a man or a woman, a president or politician. Then we try to link our past to the present so we can understand the present by looking at an example from the past," he said.

Sturchio points to a unit his classes recently completed about Vietnam as a bridge between the not-so-distant past and the present.

"Each generation has to pay a price, and in that particular unit we discovered that that particular generation paid a huge price," Sturchio said. "Each generation has its responsibility to do its part, so we look at what each generation has done."

Patriotism takes a more immediate meaning in Sturchio's classroom.

"The reason we talk about the Vietnam War is because it's not

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Breakfast boosts First Aid Squad

The fundraising efforts of the Cranford First Aid Squad got a boost over the weekend, as the Cranford Jaycees hosted the annual pancake breakfast Sunday morning at the VFW Hall on North Avenue to help collect money for the emergency-response unit. At right, Luke Diano, 11 (left) and Jeffrey Faller, 8, serve up pancakes and sausages to hungry diners. Far right, squad Capt. Chris Malotsek shows Jaycees President Frank Diano the star chair purchased with money donated from last year's breakfast.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Proposed cell tower

(Continued from page A-1)

has been rescheduled for the June 24 meeting, though that application would be withdrawn if the joint tower is successful, Lane said.

"Hopefully, that will be a benign resolution to a difficult situation," he said.

Though engineers say they pose minimal public safety hazards, proposed cell towers have created contentious hearings in many towns. Kenilworth has often waded controversy, most of the antennas in the borough have been placed in areas away from residences such as the Kenilworth Inn sign on the Garden State Parkway or the water tower on the north side of the borough. But as demand for wireless communication continues to increase, companies must add more antennas to keep pace.

Even the Hoiles Drive location is in an industrial part of the borough, though it abuts residential neighborhoods in Union and Roselle Park. A senior citizen center in Union and two Summer Avenue homes are within 500 feet of the tower, as is an apartment complex in Roselle Park.

Planning Board members stressed they are making every effort to respond to the objectors' concerns, even though many do not live in Kenilworth. "We are doing our very best to make it as palatable as possible," said Chairman Charlie Vitale.

Local municipalities are under direction from the federal government to allow the antennas as a matter of public safety. To avoid repeated contentious hearings, some municipalities in the area have discussed creating a specific zone where the antennas can be placed or building a municipal tower on which the companies can pay to place an antenna.

Students, parents get a chance to be CSIs

(Continued from page A-1)

fingerprints lifted to find criminals in Cranford and how we send them to the FBI these days," Colaneri said.

The students learned how detectives can find fingerprints with colored powder on some surfaces and others require treatment with either a reactive chemical that is photographed or a laser that causes perspiration to shine with a yellow color when photographed.

Students used pencils, paper, Scotch tape and a magnifying lens to get closer to the suspected thief in this room.

Kathy Budries coordinated the effort. The chairperson from the PTA in charge of the program, she spent months working out the details and getting everyone on board.

"I was very pleased — it seemed like everyone enjoyed it,"

Teachers honored for promoting civics

(Continued from page A-1)

too far in the past. Maybe some of their fathers or uncles served in that war. I think there's more of a connection when we use Vietnam as a comparison," he said.

Sturchio said that he not only emphasizes reflection upon duties of citizenship among the students, but also encourages them to voice their opinions to understand the implications. "We do a lot of current events — they become more aware of the world around them."

Middle school social studies teacher Patrick Matone credits his colleagues as the inspiration behind citizen education in his classroom.

"I was really surprised. I was flattered and honored. I received the award — it really could have gone to anyone," he said.

Matone said that although citizen education has never been a formal part of his curriculum, he has tried to incorporate bits and pieces along the way, in place. His students would tentatively expect it.

"We try to incorporate (citizen education) in everything. I like to try to give them things that they're interested in," Matone said. For example, an classmate wind down for spring break. Matone has decided to show the

students the movie "War Games." He chose the movie not just for its entertainment value, he said, but also because it raises some questions about the limits of power in a digital age.

"When I do a movie, I try to make it a learning experience," he said.

Matone, who has spent 33 years in the district, is in a unique position to see the effect his classroom techniques translate into real life.

"Being in the middle school and high school, you get a chance to see kids grow up," said Matone. "It's kind of neat to see the kids as they get older. You like to say you had at least something to do with that process."

"I've had a lot of their parents as well," he added. "I'm waiting for the first grandchild — that'll be a sign."

Matone said that the recognition was tangible encouragement and much appreciated.

"I was thrilled to be recognized. It makes all your hard work worthwhile," said Matone. "We're in a profession that you can't measure the product of what you're teaching them until years later."

Carriello, an elementary teacher at Harding School, could not be reached for comment this week.

Tickets are now on sale for annual Charity Ball of Jr. Woman's Club

CRANFORD — The Cranford Junior Woman's Club is making final preparations for its 2004 Charity Ball, to be held 8 p.m.-1 a.m. April 23. The event will be held at L'Affaire in Mountainside and will include an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, a full sit-down dinner, and dancing to Rob Paparozzi's band, the Hudson River Cats. The ever-popular theme basket auction will return with a few new highlights.

After the success of her painting at last year's ball, local artist Cynthia Dawley created another work especially for the occasion. The oil painting in her traditional impressionistic style depicts a winter scene in Cranford. Dawley, a lifelong resident of Cranford, began painting when she was in her twenties, following in her father Joseph Dawley's brushstrokes.

Other items being highlighted in this year's auction include a week in a country cottage in Ireland and a long-weekend in a distinctive home in Grafton, Vermont. The Vermont home has been featured in House Beautiful magazine. An overnight stay at the Boston Marriott located across from Faneuil Hall will also be offered. Tickets to Giants, Mets and Yankees games, tickets to the Broadway shows "Little Shop of Horrors" and "Smokey" tickets to the Paper Mill Playhouse, a stay at the Milford Plaza and dinner at various restaurants are also up for grabs. Local Cranford merchants have also contributed to a Cranford basket, and florists throughout Union County have donated flowers for the event.

The Cranford Historical Society is one of the beneficiaries for this year's event. A portion of the proceeds will go towards the ongoing restoration project on the Cranford Historical Society's Crane-Phillips House Museum. The restoration project's goal is to restore the little Victorian cottage to the way it looked when Henry and Cecilia Phillips lived there from 1857 to 1911 and create a living history museum where students and docents show visitors what life was like for the "common man" before the era of electricity.

The Cranford Junior Woman's Club will also set aside money from this year's Charity Ball to benefit their scholarship program and end of the year disbursements. In the past, the club has supported the Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence, the Cranford Fire Department, the Cranford First Aid Squad, the Cerebral Palsy League, and many other worthy organizations. A major portion of last year's proceeds was used to purchase three defibrillators for the Cranford school system. The defibrillators are in place at Cranford High School, Hillside Avenue School and Orange Avenue School.

For four years, the success of the Charity Ball has been due largely to the generosity of the community. More than half the money raised last year came from the raffish of the theme baskets on the night of the event.

Chairwoman Marie Mayer said, "It's great fun for everyone, plus all the money we raise benefits Cranford charities."

To make a donation or for ticket information, contact Mayer at (908) 276-1109.

Tickets are available for \$30 per person at Cranford Corner, Crisanti Shoes and Four D Jewelers in Cranford. Tickets will be available up to April 16, one week before the Charity Ball.

Book group to discuss 'Barrens'

KENILWORTH — The book discussion group of the Kenilworth Public Library will participate in One Book New Jersey by meeting to discuss "The Pine Barrens" by Pulitzer Prize-winning author John McPhee at 7:15 p.m. May 4 in the library's activity room.

Brown is a long-time resident of Cranford whose two sons, both currently at Cranford High School, have been through many collective years of schooling in the township. Before electing to stay home with her children, Brown was a project accountant in the commercial construction industry for 14 years, helping to oversee multi-million dollar projects. Currently, she is a part-time treasurer for her husband's company in Cranford.

Brown has been a member of Brookside Place, Orange Avenue, and Cranford High School PTAs and currently serves as the recording secretary on the High School PTA and as second vice president on the Cranford Parent/Teacher Council. Brown was also the PTA President at Brookside Place School two of the six years she served on the board, which she says has helped her hone her skills as an education policymaker.

"It's almost a natural progression, if you know what I mean," Sudiak said. "I've been involved in the PTA since my oldest was in kindergarten."

Brown has also been a volunteer on the Downtown Management Corporation Maintenance Committee for three years, along with various other community activities. Because of her involvement, Brown says she has not only gained experience, but she has been involved in a board position.

"I probably know a lot more than the average parent of what's going on in the district," she said.

Brown is pleased with the way the current board is operating, and says that she would like to continue the tradition of continual improvement and forward motion.

"I really think that the district is going in the right direction as far as the academics and the character education," Brown said. "I basically want to keep it going in the right direction."

Six candidates vie for three seats on Cranford board

By LAUREN TRAINOR

CRANFORD — The Board of Education will see some turnover this spring, but local residents shouldn't expect too many things to change in township schools.

Though only one of the six residents running for the three available three-year terms on the board is an incumbent, the recurring message sounded by the candidates was a desire to stay the course. Rather than make a fuss over sweeping changes in the school district, the candidates are focusing on their personal credentials, stressing past volunteer service and professional achievements.

Board members Rita Vega and Cheryl Carbone have declined to seek re-election in the April 20 School Board Election. Longtime board member Mary Catherine Sudiak is moving to the township, meaning the board will likely have to appoint someone to fill her seat.

A review of the candidates, in alphabetical order, follows:



JILL BROWN
Age: 49
Years in Town: 24
Occupation: Part-time treasurer, Paradigm Associates



BARBARA FISHER
Age: 44
Years in Town: 12
Occupation: Stay-at-home mother



CATHY MORGESE
Age: 44
Years in Town: 17
Occupation: Claims Processor



JACK RYAN
Age: 43
Years in Town: 5
Occupation: Security Manager



MARY CATHERINE SUDIAK
Age: 46
Years in Town: 19
Occupation: Full-time mother



ROBIN WOGLOM
Age: 49
Years in Town: 17
Occupation: Mother

experience she has gained will help lead the Board of Education in a continued direction of growth.

Additionally, Fisher is a member of the Cranford College Women's Club and an active member of St. Michael's Church, volunteering in many ways, including teaching CCD for the past 10 years.

"I am running because I find volunteering in the school and in the community to be very rewarding. I'm also very proud of the kids in the school district and I'm proud to be a member of this community," she said. "It would be an honor to serve the children and the community."

Fisher is positive about the board's recent accomplishments.

"I think the current board is doing a very good job. The district has been moving in a very positive direction in the past few years," she said.

Asked what attributes she could bring to the board, Fisher said, "I think that I'm able to look at an issue from many different points of view and make objective decisions that benefit the whole."

Morgese said her qualifications are also personal.

"I'm a concerned parent, a committed taxpayer, and I'm willing to serve the community," she said.

Morgese has been a resident of Cranford for almost two decades

and has two children in the school system.

Her daughter attends Cranford High School, and her son is a seventh grader. As a previous PTA president and a class mom, Morgese has seen firsthand what the district has to offer.

"Just knowing that the seats were available, just knowing that the school district was moving in the right direction, I just want to be a part of it," said Morgese of her decision to run for the board.

She thinks highly of what the district has to offer and believes the school district is heading in the right direction.

"I wouldn't have my children in the district if (the local schools) weren't succeeding," Morgese said.

He remains enthusiastic about the township and the school district.

"I just want to be involved and wanted to serve on one of the best boards in the state," he said.

Ryan says his penchant for hard work and honesty are assets that he can bring to the Board of Education. He also believes his professional experience has been valuable.

"I have experience with budgets and running an organization. I've

volunteered for many different organizations in the past," he said.

Ryan hopes to continue the positive programs the school district has already started and hopes to contribute toward more in the future.

"I'd serve with all the children in the school system in mind and really look to establish what others might look toward Cranford as having an excellent school system," he said.

Sudiak earned her master's degree in Information Science and worked for Bell Laboratories as a consultant before choosing to stay home with her children.

As a board member, Sudiak has been involved with numerous committees and multiple responsibilities, including Orange Avenue School's past liaison to the Board of Education.

The more I observe at the meetings, the more I become familiar with the process. I just realized that programs they would vote on and the resolutions they would vote on really would impact our children," she said.

Sudiak points to the Teaching for Understanding model as an accomplishment from her years on the Curriculum Committee, including several years as committee chair.

Sudiak has also served on the Personnel Committee for several years, spent five years as the liaison to the Gifted and Talented program and served on the Environmental Committee since its inception two years ago.

Sudiak was also involved in the Superintendent Search Committee that recommended the hire of Dr. Feinsold three years ago.

She has also served as the board representative to the Garden State Coalition of Schools, serving as the vice president for several years, and as the representative to the New Jersey School Boards Association for three years.

"My experience is something that would lend itself to a person who is valuable to the board," Sudiak said. "I've garnered quite a

lot of experience and I've shown a lot of dedication and commitment. I've been involved in the school and support a lot of the programs. "I feel like I've contributed to the overall improvement of our school system as we've improved over the years," she said.

Woglom said she summed up her assets for the township's Candidates Night.

"I promised I'd be honest and I'd work as hard as I could. I'd be open to listen to anybody and I'd help in any way I could," Woglom said.

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Committee set to introduce municipal budget

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people want in this town, and I don't think that's what people want," he said of the proposed positions.

The assistant to the administrator would take some of the burden off Administrator Marlene Schmidt, and could serve as a point person to monitor certain issues that don't rise to the top of the township's agenda.

Elected officials wouldn't offer much information about the economic development position, citing personnel issues.

The draft budget also includes funding for a new code enforcement officer in the Building Office; inadequate enforcement has been a frequent subject for the committee. Jern didn't voice objections to that position.

The committee colleague on the committee, Dan Aschenbach, has argued a different tack in budget discussions, saying more money should be taken from surplus to offset the tax increase. Aschenbach couldn't be reached for comment this week.

Even if disagreements persist after a discussion about the budget at Monday's workshop meeting, that may no longer postpone the introduction of the spending plan. Mayor Barbara Bilger said that "as long as we have the votes" — a simple majority of three is needed — the committee will introduce the budget.

reached for comment this week

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Commentary

Too many demands, too few funds

When Union County voters go to the polls for the annual school election April 20, most will vote on budgets that will raise property tax bills higher than the rate of inflation.

The increase varies from district to district, according to the needs of local schools. In Kenilworth, the increase is close to 11 percent; in Cranford, less than 5 percent; in Westfield and Scotch Plains, closer to 6 percent. In most cases, these hikes come despite the lack of any major new initiative on the part of the district.

There are several reasons for these tax hikes. One is the anemic economy that has left the state government scrambling to fill its own budget gap, without giving school districts the extra aid needed to fund expenditures beyond their control, like utility bills and insurance premiums.

But perhaps what is irking school officials most — and has done so for a number of years — are the number of mandates by both the state and federal governments that have to be followed without any additional state or federal funding.

The state is making an effort to cut down on mandates. Last week, the governor's Education Mandate Review Study Commission identified some mandates that are ridiculous. For example, the commission recommended that school districts no longer have to celebrate Arbor Day, Flag Day and Commodore Barry Day. The commission also recommended getting rid of some paperwork requirements, such as the transcript for every school district's annual violence and vandalism hearing.

This is a good start, but it's only a drop in the bucket. The push for accountability from state and federal governments is a good thing — it's needed to make sure the difficult, expensive but necessary tasks, like educating special education students, are undertaken.

But any school administrator in New Jersey will tell you that push has resulted in mounds of paperwork and real tasks without the offsetting resources. At least the state, with the formation of the commission, recognizes there is a problem with mandates; but the federal government, especially with the strict standards of the No Child Left Behind Act, has done too little to help local school districts in New Jersey and the other 49 states. In fact, federal expenditures to implement the program are \$9 billion short of what federal lawmakers promised when the legislation was enacted.

Educators' split views about the federal law are understandable. Though the overall aims of improving schools and student performance are welcome, educators are frustrated by the amount of paperwork the federal government requires and the lack of money to make the necessary changes. There is also a lack of coordination between the state and federal government, which has led to contradictory and overlapping mandates. Solving these problems is not a silver bullet to lower property taxes, but it is a step in the right direction.

The Chronicle is here for you

The following information should help you get your ideas and community news into *The Chronicle*. Call Editor Gregory Marx at (732) 396-4219 for story suggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Daniel Murphy at (732) 396-4202.

Our address: *The Chronicle*, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ, 07066.

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Deadlines

The deadline for submitting articles and press releases to *The Chronicle* is p.m. Friday.

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

Correction policy

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



Letters to the editor

Koenig: Article was inaccurate

To The Chronicle:
I would like to take this opportunity to correct a couple of statements attributed to me in *The Chronicle* of April 1.

At one point, the story implied my family has lived in Garwood for 10 years. This is wrong. My family has lived in Garwood for 70-plus years. In fact, we've lived on the same street for 60 years. Garwood has been good to us and I want to give something back. This is one of the main reasons I'm running for the Board of Education.

The article also states that I am "generally pleased" with the new budget. No one who knows me would believe I'd say something like that. I would never say I was pleased or displeased with a school budget until I'd gone over it line-item by line-item, all the detailed appropriations and all the back-up and supporting documentation. But there is one thing I can say with certainty: this is not a "no increase budget."

The tax levy for the regular budget is going up \$179,134, just slightly under 10 tax points (0.9%). I believe — this is my best guess — that this translates into a tax increase over last year of about \$100. And you can add onto that another \$206 for the debt service tax levy.

Both of these tax levies would have gone up even more if it were not for an infusion of perhaps unexpected revenue: \$136,000, from an escrow account the former regional high school district was required to be kept for pending/potential litigation after bonds was used to lessen the regular tax levy. \$149,737 in interest on the school facility project was also applied to reduce the debt service tax levy.

But these are one-shot deals. Those funds won't be there next year. The money from the regional is due from the four towns that got schools after dissolution. We don't know what's going to happen with that for at least two or three years. Yes, the courts have ruled that Garwood (and Mountainside) are entitled to divide these funds because they didn't get schools. However, these towns don't have the money. As with many school districts in the state, they also face financial difficulties. And you can bet they're going to fight this ruling tooth and nail to keep from having to pay it.

There is no way the budget for FY04-05 is a "no increase budget," no matter how the board and

administration try to spin it. The most troubling part of this situation is that it delays the inevitable. Sure, they got this extra revenue this year, but what happens next year? Taxpayers will face an automatic increase in the regular tax levy of \$130,000 and in the debt service tax levy of \$149,737, or \$279,737, approximately 15.5 tax points. And this doesn't include the usual increases in salaries, rates, utilities, etc.

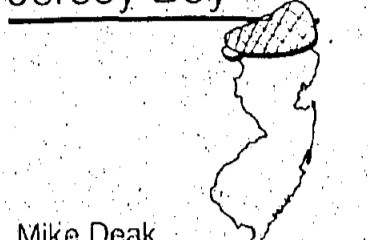
Also problematic is the state penalties for what it considers excessive per pupil administrative costs, costs above \$1,368 per pupil. Garwood's cost in this area have risen around \$500 and \$600 in FY04-05 (\$1,843) and FY03-04 (\$1,989) over the \$1,362 of FY99-00. The district could have lost \$184,300 in state aid if the county superintendent hadn't intervened. And Garwood school superintendent Dr. Murphy even admitted at the board's budget hearing on March 29 that it isn't likely that the state will allow this kind of leeway again next year. This could be a major problem, especially when you consider that Garwood's state aid has been frozen at about the same level for the past few years. Our special education and transportation costs have increased, but the funding level has not. Losing \$184,000 or so from our already reduced state aid could result in an increase of \$482,237 in next year's budget (FY05-06) over this year's (FY04-05).

Calling this year's budget a "no increase budget" and using techniques and statistics not readily comprehensible to the average voter does a disservice to the voters, taxpayers and residents of Garwood. People deserve to know before they go to the polls, what the tax impact will be and how much it's going to cost them in dollars and cents. The board has been less than candid and forthcoming in this regard, which leads one to wonder what they're trying to hide — and why.

I would like to close by thanking *The Chronicle* for the opportunity to correct the errors in their piece about my candidacy and background. I also want to urge voters to get all the facts and relevant information they need to make an informed decision when they go to the polls. And it should be presented in clear, straightforward language, to provide a legal and ethical responsibility to provide it for them.

LINDA KOENIG
Garwood

Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

An agnostic stands up for religion

To paraphrase Graucha Marx, I would never belong to a church that would have me as a member.

Organized religion is not for me. Though I spend my formative years exploring the mysteries of God in Sunday School, I have not been to church for a regular service in years — make that decades.

I prefer my faith to be a private matter. I believe it is more important to live a life guided by the Golden Rule than to believe that a week behaving like a jerk can be erased by an hour of worship on Sunday morning.

And though I personally do not think organized religion is right for me, I recognize that millions and millions of people benefit from going to their church, temple or mosque. The community celebration of faith simply makes most people feel good about their short existence on Earth; there's a lot to be said for any social activity that afterward makes you feel better.

Which is why I'm disturbed about the amount of cynicism in our culture about organized religion. From violent Islamic fundamentalists to sensationalist and pedophile priests, organized religion has taken a battering. Some of it is deserved; religion, like every other institution, must be accountable to the rules. But most of the criticism is unfair. Muslims and priests have become the victims of vicious stereotypes; thousands are being branded for the sins of a few. That's not fair.

At these times, it's important to remember the tremendous amount of good works done by religions throughout the world. Their charity and good will saves countless lives each day. It's a shame these infinite acts of kindness and mercy have become obscured by violence and shame. And it's a tragedy when religion is used as a weapon to wage war over matters that have very little to do with faith.

It's naive to conclude most of the world's turmoil today has been caused by religion. It not religion itself that is causing the world to have the willies; instead, it's the use of religion by extremist groups with extreme and ulterior agendas that is boiling the cauldron.

I have nothing but sympathy for those Muslims who had to endure hatred and suspicion after Sept. 11. I also sympathize with those priests who now think twice about wearing their collars in public and must also cope with the looks of suspicion. They do not deserve to be shunned, ridiculed, humiliated and held in contempt.

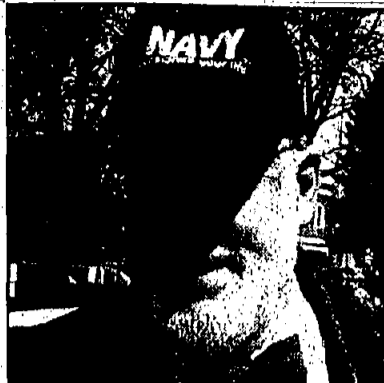
Like every human endeavor, religion is not perfect. Institutions and individuals are not immune to corruption. There are certainly no excuses for the acts of violence committed on behalf of faith and there are no excuses for the ugly individual abuses of power and trust.

But now it is time for all of us to simmer down and reflect on the primary purpose of religion — to help guide lost souls through the obstacles of mortal life to an eventual end in a happily afterlife, a goal that is remarkably consistent among the world's great religions.


Religion is supposed to bring us together in spiritual fellowship. But we should also have tolerance for those with differing views because, to be almost fully sentimental, we have far more in common than we have differences. Faith is supposed to ease the universal fears about death; faith is not the reason to cause death.

JAMES LODERSEYDT
Cranford


WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HIBINGER OF SPRING?




BILL EVANS
visiting Westfield
I think the flowers coming up.




JUDY MURPHY
Cranford
I guess for me it's the change in the weather.



BOB KELLY
Westfield
I would say daffodils and robins.



BRIAN COAKLEY
Roselle Park
The sunshine — turning the clocks forward.



LAUREN COAKLEY
Roselle Park
The windy weather.

Letters to the editor

Outgoing member supports Sudiak

To The Chronicle:
As I am getting ready to leave my position as a member of the Cranford Board of Education, I would like to state my support for the re-election of Mary Catherine Sudiak. Mrs. Sudiak has served on the Cranford Board of Education for the past six years and has served with distinction. She has the courage and conviction to express her opinion, even when it is not the popular view. Mrs. Sudiak possesses the dedication and commitment to best represent the children, parents and taxpayers of our town. She has demonstrated her ability to engage in an open dialogue where critical ideas are discussed. This is the type of commitment that I believe is essential in order for a board of education to function effectively.

In addition, one other current member will be moving out of state and will most likely be replaced by appointment. This will result in three new members — or four, unless Mary Sudiak is re-elected.

Since the debate between candidates for the board was not televised, voters should be aware that Mrs. Sudiak has served tirelessly on various committees. She has served as vice president of the Garden State Coalition of Schools for three years, besides previously serving as our board liaison for several years. The GSCS represents over 100 New Jersey school districts in matters particularly relating to school funding. She has also served on the New Jersey School Boards Association's special education funding committee, as well as serving as Cranford's representative.

At this time I would like to thank all of the voters who have supported me throughout my tenure on the Cranford Board of Education. I would like to encourage you to come out and vote on April 20 for Mary Catherine Sudiak.

RITA SEAY VECA
Cranford

This voter not impressed by Brozak.

To The Chronicle:
An article in the March 25 edition of *The Chronicle* by resident Steve Brozak's plans and ambitions to replace Congressman Mike Ferguson in the Seventh Congressional District. As the saying goes "imitating is everything" and by any objective standard, Steve Brozak's timing isn't too good. He is quoted as saying "the economy is in its worst condition in decades." Perhaps someone should try Mr. Brozak in newspaper subscription because the last several months have seen spectacular growth in all spheres of the job market. Likewise, an April 4 article in the Wall Street Journal states that the "miserly index" of inflation plus unemployment is the lowest it's been in 25 years. In fact, the numbers are even better than those glorious days of yesteryear, from 1993-2001, when Bubba was president.

Later in the Record-Press article, it states that "Steve Brozak is in favor of 'reproductive rights'." Hmm, what does that mean? Are we to understand that once a child gets started through the voluntary actions of his or her parents, the child has a right to be reproduced? If that's the case, I'm all for Steve Brozak. This especially since he doesn't use one of those phony euphemisms that the lefties throw around when the word that they really want to use is "abortion."

Very truly yours,
ANDREW J. MACDONALD
Fanwood

Volunteers are sought to plant trees

County news
WESTFIELD — Area residents, businesses, scout troops, school and community groups are invited to plant native trees — one to two feet tall in Lenape Park on Saturday, April 24. The saplings have been donated by the New Jersey Tree Foundation.

The tree planting will begin at the Broad Street and Springfield Avenue entrance of Lenape Park. The event will be held rain or shine from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Participants should dress to get dirty and wet and bring work gloves and shovels if they have them. Trash bags, some tools and gloves will be provided. Children ages 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

The day of planting trees is sponsored by the Friends of the Lenape Park, a division of the Union County Department of Parks & Recreation, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the AmeriCorps Watershed Program, the New Jersey Tree Foundation, the Friends of Lenape Park, and the Westfield Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Volunteers should call (908) 827-4032 to register.

The Union County Arts Grant Program is administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. For information on other programs and services or to register for this event, contact the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, NJ 07202, telephone (908) 558-2550, or email culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

Sudiak gets results for local parents

To The Chronicle:
A few years ago I had an experience that I would like to share with the voters of Cranford.

My children attend the Cranford Public Schools. As I was waiting to pick up my children one day after school, the subject of having to send milk money in every month was being discussed by several parents. I very casually suggested that perhaps the money could be sent at the beginning of the year for the entire year.

Mary Catherine Sudiak was one of the parents present, and she immediately said she would look into whether or not that was possible. At the beginning of the next school year this option became available to the parents.

I share this story because I wanted to let the voters that Mary truly is responsive to the input she receives. I was impressed that, based on such a casual conversation, a process was changed that I know has made a number of parents happy. As a parent, there are so many times when I have to remember to send in forms and I am concerned that I may forget. Providing this option gave me one less thing I have to think about every month.

I know that I will be voting for Mary on April 20. I encourage any voter that wants someone who is responsive to vote for Mary.

LYNN KEMPIŃSKI
Cranford

Another supporter for Sudiak

To The Chronicle:
I have known Mary Catherine Sudiak for many years, and I believe that she has done an excellent job of representing Cranford as a member of the Board of Education. I am writing this letter to ask the voters of Cranford to support her bid for re-election.

I have worked with Mary of many school activities. While doing so, I have recognized that Mary never does things halfway. She is conscientious and believes in doing what is right, even if it is not the easy way. I know that when I speak with her about a concern, she listens and shares ideas regarding how best to address the issue. While it may sound a bit old-fashioned to say this, I believe she has a very good work ethic.

I know that she has been heavily involved in the area of curriculum and that she truly cares not only about what the students are being taught but about how they are being taught. On more than one occasion, I have seen her explain how the district is incorporating a variety of methods to address the different ways that children learn. There is no question that she cares strongly about our schools and works to ensure that what is done in the schools is in the best interest of the kids.

I hope that the voters will join me in voting for Mary on April 20.

JANET RUPP
Cranford

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Easter Sunday, April 11
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A crowded field seeks seats on the Kenilworth Board of Ed

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

KENILWORTH — The Board of Education race this year offers voters some familiar faces along with some new ones, as six applicants seek to fill three 3-year terms and three applicants seek to fill one 2-year term in the April 20 school election.

The district's budget proposal, a two-part question which calls for a hefty tax increase to fund new staffing needs, is widely supported among this year's candidates, as is the "Quest for Excellence," the administration's plan to reduce class sizes and increase student test performance.

The candidates have generally supported this year's current board, while bringing their own perspective to the highly contested race.

Competing for the three-year terms are Claudio Campanella, Carla Gabriel, Mark LoBello, Thomas Mannix, E. Scott Ruerup and Greg Westbrook. One of the incumbents, Lind McMenamin, chose not to run for reelection.

An account of each of the candidates' positions follows in alphabetical order. Campanella, an incumbent, could not be reached for comment.

Carla Gabriel

Gabriel is a lifelong resident of the borough, graduating from David Breairey High School after a school career spent in the Kenilworth school system. She has a daughter who attends Harding School and a son who attends the David Breairey Middle School. Gabriel said that her school-aged children are part of what inspired her to seek election.

"I would want to help to approve new issues to help the kids. Not just for fame, but to help everyone in Kenilworth," Gabriel said.

Gabriel is also a current member of the Kenilworth Board of Health.

Gabriel's primary concern this election is increasing the amount of attention Harding Elementary School receives from the board. Gabriel would like to bring more unity to the board's decisions and encourage a more holistic view of the district.

going to the elementary school. A lot of emphasis is given to the middle school and high school and we're going on there. I want to give them a better experience in the Board of Education," she said.

A second priority for Gabriel is promoting a budget that doesn't place too much of a burden on local taxpayers.

"I want to see our kids get an excellent education, but at the same time I'm concerned about what that will do to our residents," Gabriel said. "At the same time, I want to give them the ability to get into Harvard, Yale, and all those schools we have an opportunity to get into when I grew up in the town."

Mark LoBello

LoBello, currently the Board of Education president, is seeking his second term on the board this year. If re-elected, and nominated for the position, he said he would again serve in the leadership post.

LoBello has served on the principal and vice principal search committees as well as the technology-ad-hoc committee. He has also served on other committees, including the personnel and finance committees.

"I believe I've fostered a more open environment as far as the public goes and encouraged more open dialog," LoBello said of his tenure as board president.

LoBello said that the school budget is a top priority for him this year.

"Last year's budget deficit has mobilized us to get this year's budget passed and get the work out," he said.

"The biggest thing we need to do is getting people out to vote. We had a poor turnout last year and I am pushing forward my budget," LoBello said. "We need to get the message out there."

Additionally, he believes the proposed A/B block schedule will benefit the students.

"It will help standardized testing and fill in education gaps that we have been seeing," he said. "It's something we've been looking at for a number of years."

LoBello would like to see work toward administrative changes, including the hiring of a new vice principal and supervisor at the high school, among his accomplishments.

He points to the "Quest for Excellence"

program as an example of the board's continued determination to develop improved education standards in the district.

He has coaxed a youth sport every class size, and we feel that a smaller class size will benefit the student population," LoBello said. "We can elevate the district to the next level."

He also favors Kenilworth's participation in the Choice Program, which he says brings the district needed funds, though he favors continued lobbying the state for more district control over discipline, attendance, and academic achievement admissions standards.

Thomas Mannix

Mannix has four children, including a son at David Breairey Middle School. His three daughters recently graduated from the Kenilworth school system.

He has coached a youth sport every season for almost 15 years, as his children have become involved in soccer, basketball and football, among other sports. He served as the president of Kenilworth Little League Baseball from 2000-2003 and is currently the vice president of the Kenilworth Senior League Baseball.

"I'm just interested in the kids of Kenilworth and I think this is an opportunity to apply some of my talents to advance the school system and to help the kids of Kenilworth achieve a higher standard of education," he said about why he decided to run for the board.

He has coached a youth sport every season for almost 15 years, as his children have become involved in soccer, basketball and football, among other sports. He served as the president of Kenilworth Little League Baseball from 2000-2003 and is currently the vice president of the Kenilworth Senior League Baseball.

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He points to the "Quest for Excellence"

with making progress on the "Quest for Excellence" and the improvement it will bring to the district, particularly the reduction in class size.

"We can move from being a good school district to being a great school district," he said. "If we follow through, we'll be able to produce a better educational foundation with a great percentage of our kids going to college and going to good schools."

Mannix also supports the proposed change to an A/B block schedule.

E. Scott Ruerup

Ruerup has two daughters that recently graduated from the Kenilworth school system, though his children remain involved. This past year, he served as the chairman of Red Ribbon Week.

He has also served as the treasurer for Project Graduation in 2000, and on Union County's Local Area Council Against Drug Addiction (LACADA). He currently sits on the Kenilworth Recreation Committee and is a member of the Kenilworth Historical Society.

Now that his children are older, Ruerup says he has more time to dedicate to service on the Board of Education.

"I'm just trying to give some more of my time to the community," he said. "I just want to be able to work with the school district to give his own time now that he's older."

"I've been able to work with the school district to give his own time now that he's older."

"I've been able to work with the school district to give his own time now that he's older."

He points to the "Quest for Excellence"

elect he will serve the board in his best capacity.

"I'll do the best job that I can do to help the community have a better school system," he said.

Greg Westbrook

Westbrook has a long list of community involvements. He served on the Planning Board for 10 years, acting as chairman for two of those years. He was a Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus in Kenilworth, and served on the Smart Growth Committee.

Westbrook also ran a successful community drug awareness program in town, in which the Union County Prosecutor's Office, Sheriff's Department, Kenilworth Police Department, and students and parents were active participants. He has been involved in the Pride in Kenilworth Committee and received a volunteer acknowledgment award from Congressman Bob Franks in 1997.

Westbrook also plays Santa Claus in town during the holidays for the Breairey Family Care Program.

Westbrook feels he has seen what the school district can offer more than just one type of student. His children attended local schools — his son is now a successful electrician, and his daughter is an executive in the pharmaceutical industry. He hopes to help "guide the continuation of excellence in school projects, the school grades, and test results taking an upward trend."

Westbrook supports the "Quest for Excellence" program as a necessary measure to reduce class size in the district. He also supports the hiring of personnel in the Guidance Department.

"We're doing good now, but we'd always like to make it better and continue the excellence," Westbrook said. "It's always good to have fresh new ideas."

John R. Byrne

KENILWORTH — John R. Byrne, 44, died March 28, 2004 at Ocean Medical Center in Brick. Born in Staten Island, he lived in Kenilworth before moving to Brick in 1987.

Mr. Byrne was a transportation supervisor for eight years with RLB Foods in West Caldwell. A member of the Brick Soccer Association, he coached the Drum Point Rebels soccer team in Brick for 15 years and Little League baseball in that township for five years. Surviving are his wife, Florence.

Emily DeGrazia

GARWOOD — Emily Petrozello DeGrazia, 84, died March 29, 2004 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. She was born in Garwood and lived in the borough before moving to Clark in 1938.

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Her husband, Pellegrino A. "Pete," died in 1985.

Walter Radzikowski

KENILWORTH — Walter Radzikowski, 88, died April 3, 2004 at Union Hospital. Born in Newark, he lived in Irvington before moving to Cranford in 1954.

Mr. Radzikowski owned the Irvington Center Liquors store until his retirement.

Lily Casserly

KENILWORTH — Lily C. Anderson Casserly, 85, died March 30, 2004 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Mrs. Casserly was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and lived in Linden before moving to Cranford in 1987. She had resided in Carteret since 1993.

She retired in 1979 from the staff of the Berkeley Carteret Hotel in Asbury Park. Mrs. Casserly was a parishioner of Holy Family Roman Catholic Church in Carteret.

Her husband, Terrence Neil Casserly, died in 1979. Two sons, Anton and Elywene, are deceased. Surviving is a daughter, Veronica A. Bernard of Carteret.

A funeral Mass will be held Saturday at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Carteret. Burial was in Clover Leaf Memorial Park, Woodbridge.

Arrangements were by the Rumpf Funeral Home in Carteret.

Rose Stanko

GARWOOD — Rose Sabina Stanko, 83, died April 1, 2004 at her home in Iselin.

Mrs. Stanko was born in Florida, N.Y. She lived in Linden, Elizabeth, Garwood, Colonia and Clearwater, Fla., before moving to Iselin seven months ago.

Her husband, Albert C. Jr. died in 2002. A son, Ronald, died in 1991.

Marie Klinefelter

KENILWORTH — Marie F. Peil Klinefelter died March 31, 2004 at her home in Mountaintop.

She was born in Westfield and lived in that town before moving to Mountaintop in 1945.

Mrs. Klinefelter retired in 2002 after 25 years as the owner and president of Garten Heating Corp. in Cranford. A Junior Achievement volunteer, she once was a secretary with Phelps Penn in New York City. She graduated from the Katherine Gibbs School.

She was a director of the Elizabeth YMCA and served on the executive board of the Union County Chamber of Commerce.

Catherine Beraw

KENILWORTH — Catherine J. Beraw, 86, died April 28, 2004 at Union Hospital.

Born Feb. 18, 1918 in Newark, she was a daughter of the late Thomas and Helen Harrington.

Obituaries

Christopher Wade Jr.

KENILWORTH — Christopher T. Wade Jr. died April 4, 2004 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mr. Wade lived in Cranford before moving to North Plainfield in 1960. A drug abuse counselor, he once was the head football and boys basketball coach at South Plainfield High School. He also was the athletic director of the former St. Pius X Regional High School in Piscataway. He graduated from St. Benedict's Preparatory School in Newark and from Seton Hall University.

Dorothy Rastelli

KENILWORTH — Dorothy M. Mitterdel Rastelli, 76, died April 5, 2004 at her home.

She was born in Elizabeth and had lived in Cranford since 1950. Mrs. Rastelli was a homemaker. Surviving are her husband of 56 years, Anthony, two sons:

Anthony, a daughter, Victoria; a son, Ryan James; a sister, Maureen Penn; and a nephew.

A funeral Mass will be held Saturday at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Carteret. Burial was in Clover Leaf Memorial Park, Woodbridge.

Arrangements were by the Rumpf Funeral Home in Carteret.

Timothy Carbone

KENILWORTH — Timothy A. Carbone, 47, died April 6, 2004 at Union Hospital.

A lifelong Kenilworth resident, Mr. Carbone was for seven years a groundskeeper at David Breairey Middle/High School in Kenilworth. He coached girls' basketball and softball teams at the Kenilworth Recreation Department.

His mother, Ruth, is deceased. Surviving are his wife, Lynn M. Ferrara Carbone, his father,

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Easter Bunny visits St. Michael's
St. Michael's pastor Fr. John McGovern, the Easter Bunny and a flock of fun-loving students tryst for a group hug at the school's annual Easter Bunny breakfast. The event, one of many St. Michael's family socials held throughout the year, was sponsored by the Home School Association and the Cranford Knight of Columbus.

College Women host talk by Feather Foster

KENILWORTH — Feather Schwartz Foster, a resident of Scotch Plains, is the author of the recently published book "Ladies: A Conjecture of Personalities." She will be presenting a program about her new book and about First Ladies in general, to the College Women's Club of Cranford this Monday. The meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford at 9 p.m. in the Youth Center.

According to the author, "Ladies" is a book of voices — and listeners will get an earful. In it, First Ladies from Martha Washington and Mamie Eisenhower tell their own stories in their own words and in their own styles, as imagined by Foster.

The book crosses boundaries between fact and conjecture and spans centuries. The modern First Ladies, from Mrs. Kennedy through Mrs. Clinton participate in commentary on contemporary First Ladies in general, to the College Women's Club of Cranford this Monday. The meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford at 9 p.m. in the Youth Center.

"Of course Ladies is a work of fiction," says Foster. "After all, it's truly a conjecture of their personalities. But it is all based on the facts of their lives, the lives of their husbands and the times they lived in."

"Most biographies of First Ladies are dull — full of names, dates and dates. I'm bringing to life the stories of their lives — it's an opening into what they were like as people. They were definitely not the 'Ladies' that history usually calls them," Foster said.

Foster has been an amateur presidential historian for three

decades. Following a long career in advertising, and having written a score of children's musical shows, she has decided to draw on her thousand-volume personal presidential library and her love of history to pen "Ladies."

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WITNESS

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Children's author visits the library

Children's author Trinka Hakes-Noble recently visited the Kenilworth Public Library to read from her latest book, "Jimmy's Boa and the Bungee Jump Slam Dunk," and answer questions from children and their parents. Hakes-Noble's career has spanned more than 20 years and has produced 17 books, which have been translated into eight languages. After the program Hakes-Noble signed copies of her book, which were available for purchase.



Society's efforts for Nitschke House continue

KENILWORTH — The Kenilworth Historical Society is holding a number of events to raise funds for the restoration of the 19th-century Nitschke House, which it plans to transform into a "living museum" and cultural arts center.

The fundraisers include an April 10 indoor flea market at the Kenilworth Veterans Center; a May 1 bus trip to Foxwoods Resort Casino, Conn., with an option to also visit the

Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center; an Oct. 1 auction and reception to be hosted by Schering-Plough Corporation; and a Nov. 13 craft show at the Kenilworth Veterans Center. The Historical Society also will launch a direct mail campaign this spring.

"We are especially grateful to the residents, businesses, grant-makers, officials and organizations, such as the Kenilworth Veterans Center, who, through their generous support, have helped us move the project this far," said Historical Society President Shirley Boyden Maxwell.

Initial repairs to the house, including the installation of a much-needed new roof and restoration of the chimney, took place last fall, Maxwell noted, adding that the preparation of a historic preservation plan for the site is now under way. "Our upcoming fundraisers will be

Cranford church plans services for Holy Week

CRANFORD — Cranford United Methodist Church welcomes the community and visitors to participate in its Holy Week, Easter and Post-Easter Services.

On Maundy Thursday, tonight at 7:30, CUMC will hold a "Drama of the Last Supper." This presentation relates to Jesus celebrating the Passover.

In describing what happened that evening, the Gospel writers would understand Jesus' words and actions in the context of the familiar Passover festival. Today, many people are unfamiliar with the various elements of this celebration and accept the Gospel accounts of what we have come to call "The Last Supper" at a face value, thus missing out on much of its significance. This re-enactment attempts to discover how the things Jesus said and did during that Last Supper arose from the Passover celebration.

There will be three Easter Services on Sunday: The Easter Sunrise Service will be at 6:00 a.m. in the Memorial Garden with bagpipes played before and after the service. In case of very inclement weather, the service will be held indoors. The theme will be "Time for Renewing."

The other two worship services are at 8:30 and 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, resplendent with the Hallelujah Chorus. The theme for both these services is "Time for Resurrection."

Continuing the Easter Celebration the following week on April 18, the Chancel Choir will present an Easter Cantata, "You are the Christ" at the 10 a.m. worship service. This will explore the Apostle Peter's reflection on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Cranford United Methodist Church is located at 201 Lincoln Ave., at the corner of Walnut and Lincoln avenues in Cranford. The church office can be reached at (908) 276-0936.

MEET THE EASTER BUNNY — and get a picture taken, courtesy of the Cranford Chamber of Commerce. 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the gazebo at North Union and Springfield avenues. Photos are \$3. (908) 272-6114.

CRANFORD PATRIOTS REUNION — a gathering of the Drum & Bagge Corps alumni to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1978 GSC championship. April 24 at Wayne Manor, 853. For more, email Harylary@aol.com.

SPRING BOUTIQUE — annual sale at the Jumble Store, operated by the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield. Offering baby and children's items including clothing, giftware and small pieces of furniture, as well as household items and clothes for the whole family. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 24. (908) 709-1177.

WALK-OR-VISIT WALKAMERICA — fundraising event for the March of Dimes comes to Union County College. Springfield Ave., Cranford. For more information, call 973-822-0700 or 980-9325. WALK or visit walkamerica.org.

FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER — for the Cranford High School Girls Letterman Association. 7:30-9:30 p.m. April 30. Jade clothing store, North Union Avenue, Cranford. \$20. (908) 272-0755.

FOXWOODS TRIP — and an excursion to the nearby Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center. Sponsored by the Kenilworth Historical Society. Bus departs 8:30 a.m. May 1, returns 7 p.m. \$30; proceeds benefit the Restore-the-House Campaign. (908) 276-0546.

5K FUN RUN/WALK — to benefit the Cerebral Palsy League. 8:30 a.m. May 22. Begins at CPL headquarters, 61 Myrtle St., Cranford. 1908-709-1800, ext. 115.

This week

THURSDAY

ALCOHOL SCREENING — sponsored by Prevention Links. Free. For more information, call (732) 381-4100 or email info@preventionlinks.org.

MAUNDY THURSDAY — fifth annual presentation about the Last Supper. 7:30 p.m. Cranford United Methodist Church, Walnut and Lincoln avenues. Free.

"TIME TO ABANDON DARWIN" — a talk on intelligent design by Brown University professor Kenneth Miller. Doors open 5:30 p.m., talk begins at 6. Roy Smith Theater of Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. (908) 709-7570.

SATURDAY

INDOOR FLEA MARKET — to benefit the Kenilworth Historical Society's campaign to restore the Nitschke House. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Kenilworth Veterans Center, 33 South 21st St. For information or to reserve a table, call (908) 276-2054 or (908) 241-0703.

EASTER EGG HUNT — ninth annual neighborhood event hosted by a pair of Cranford High School students. 11 a.m. Danman Road, Cranford.

POETRY READING — by Marilyn J. Fettel. 7:30-8:30 p.m. April 22. Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard. Free and open to the public. (908) 276-2451.

MONDAY

CAMERA CLUB MEETING — Cranford/Milburn Camera Club gathers for the program "Along the Great Divide" presented by Terry Boyer. 7:30 p.m. Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

AMERICA'S FIRST LADIES — a talk by historian Penelope Schwartz Foster, author of "Ladies: A Conjecture of Personalities," for the College Women's Club of Cranford. 8 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 11 Springfield Ave. Guests and prospective members welcome. (908) 276-3738.

WEDNESDAY

DEMOCRATIC CLUB — of Cranford will host Freeholder Chairman Angel G. Estrada. 7:30 p.m. Cranford Community

FOOD AND DRINK — a luncheon for the Kenilworth Historical Society. 12:30 p.m. April 14. Kenilworth Veterans Center, 33 South 21st St. \$5. (908) 276-0546.

5K FUN RUN/WALK — to benefit the Cerebral Palsy League. 8:30 a.m. May 22. Begins at CPL headquarters, 61 Myrtle St., Cranford. 1908-709-1800, ext. 115.

SEARCH FOR YOUNG PULSARS — subject of a talk by Jeremy Carlo for the Amateur Astronomers Inc. 8 p.m. Nomahegan Building of Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. (908) 276-STAR or www.astron.com.

LONGWOOD GARDENS — take a bus trip to visit one of the world's top display gardens with the Green Thumb Garden Club of Cranford. Bus leaves Orange Avenue School parking lot at 8 a.m., returns for home at 5 p.m. \$30. To sign up or for more information, call Elaine Traynor at (908) 276-3765.

ONE-STROKE PAINTING — class led by a certified instructor at Crafty Kitchen, Ben Franklin Crafts. 6:30-9 p.m. April 22. 477 North Ave., Garwood. (908) 789-9217.

CRANFORD PATRIOTS REUNION — a gathering of the Drum & Bagge Corps alumni to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1978 GSC championship. April 24 at Wayne Manor, 853. For more, email Harylary@aol.com.

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Community Life

Briefs

Easter Bunny visits Cranford this weekend

CRANFORD — Again this year the Easter Bunny will make a special stop in Cranford Saturday. Residents are invited to put an Easter bonnet and join the Easter Bunny and the Cranford Chamber of Commerce in downtown Cranford. Have photos taken with the Easter bunny from 10 a.m. to noon at Eastman Plaza in the center of town or at the Cranford Gazebo at North Union and Springfield avenues (across from town hall) from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The famous Peter Cottontail will be ready to hop and wiggle, and is sure to make you giggle while he poses for photos with the kids (and the grownups). All photos are \$3.

For more information call the Chamber office at (908) 272-6114.

PTA seeks support for Project Graduation

CRANFORD — The Cranford High School PTA and the Project Graduation committee are again starting to plan for Project Graduation 2004.

Project Graduation was started in 1989 to offer the graduating senior class a fun, drug- and alcohol-free, safe celebration on graduation night. This year's celebration will be held on June 17 from 9 p.m.-3 a.m.

The seniors run fundraisers for this event including Pasta Night that was held in November and the Senior Fashion Show, held in March. In order to make this night a success, the Project Graduation Committee is asking local businesses for any donations that they would like to make cash, merchandise or gift certificates.

Private donations would also be appreciated. To make a donation, contact Kathy Gianceddini at (908) 272-8124 or Joanne Westcott at (908) 276-2809.

Cranford Chamber plans annual luncheon

CRANFORD — From noon-2 p.m. April 21, Staff Recognition/Secretaries Day, the Cranford Chamber of Commerce will host its annual luncheon at Tristano's Restaurant, 515 Centennial Ave. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes lunch, wine, door prizes and fun. All are invited to attend.

To attend, register with the Chamber office at (908) 272-6114. There is limited space for the event, so make reservations early.

Astronomers host talk on 'Young Pulsars'

CRANFORD — On April 16, Amateur Astronomers Inc. will conduct its monthly membership meeting at 8 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Nomahegan Building at Union County College located at 1033 Springfield Ave.

Immediately following the business meeting at approximately 9 p.m. the club will have a free lecture on "X-raying the Heart of Supernova Remnants: The Search for Young Pulsars" given by Mr. Jeremy Carlo. Carlo is a Ph.D. student in physics at Columbia University. His research involves the study of supernova remnants and neutron stars, particularly their x-ray emission and other high-energy processes.

Following the lecture, members and guests will be invited to the William Miller Sperry Observatory that is located nearby on campus and will have the opportunity to speak with club members and tour the facility. If weather permits, a celestial viewing focusing on Saturn and Jupiter will be conducted using the club's two large telescopes. For more information on AAI and directions, call (908) 276-STAR or visit www.astron.com.

Garwood Knights collect food for pantry

GARWOOD — The Garwood Knights Of Columbus, Council 5437 are collecting canned and dry food goods during the Easter season on behalf of the food pantry for St. Joseph's Social Services Center in Elizabeth.

Donations can be dropped off after 4 p.m. at the council hall, 37 South Ave., Garwood. Parking is located behind building on Willow Ave.

For more information call (908) 789-9809, after 4 p.m.

Annual MS Walk returns to Nomahegan Park

CRANFORD — From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Greater North Jersey Chapter will hold its 16th annual MS Walk at seven locations in Northern NJ including Nomahegan Park in Cranford. More than 700 walkers and 50 volunteers are expected to participate in the Cranford event to raise \$210,000.

All proceeds from MS Walk, the signature fundraising event of the Society, will support the organization in its mission to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis, a chronic and often progressive and disabling disease of the central nervous system.

Participants will walk six miles through the beautiful park and downtown area and enjoy lunch generously provided by Benning's of Springfield, entertainment from DJ-Mike Timoni and other festivities.

Last year's top team in Cranford was the Mitvah Squad, led by Laura Cohen from Westfield. The Squad raised \$47,000 last year and their goal is to do even better this year.

For more information about participating in the MS Walk, contact Stephanie Karlo at (201) 867-5599 or (800) FIGHT-MS (344-4867) or email stephanie@njnmss.org.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society's mission is to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis. It funds more MS research, offers more services for people with MS, and provides more professional education programs than any other MS organization in the world.

For more information, visit www.nationalmssociety.org.

The Greater North Jersey Chapter, located in Paramus, N.J., provides over 100 programs and services to over 4,500 people with MS and their caregivers and families living in Northern New Jersey.

For more information, visit www.njnmss.org or call (609) FIGHT-MS.

thanks to sponsors including: Morris Corporate Center 1&2, VCG, Glacier Mountain Spring Water, News12 New Jersey, Berlex, The Aztec Corporation, the Westfield Inn and the Westfield Trader Joe's.

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Calvary Lutheran announces services for Holy Week

CRANFORD — The solemn season of Lent draws to a close this week and the joyous celebration of Easter begins in worship services at Calvary Lutheran Church, located at 108 Eastman St.

The public is invited to all services. The Rev. Carol A. Lindsay will lead worship and preach at all services. Music will be under the direction of Jeanne Elmuccio, interim music director.

A Maundy Thursday service will be offered at 7:30 p.m. April 8; the service will be in the round, as worshippers gather in the chancel around the altar for absolution, the symbolic washing of feet and Holy Communion.

Music will include a soprano duet by Calvary Choir members Melissa Tiddings of Cranford and Peg Bernhardt of Dunellen. This service also will include the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

On April 9 the solemnity of Good Friday will be observed at 7:30 p.m. with a service of prayer and meditation with Tenbroek, also known as the Service of Darkness. Music will be provided by the Calvary Choir.

The joyous observance of Easter begins on April 11 with Festival Services of Holy Communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Each service will offer a full liturgy with trumpet accompaniment by Gerson Horowitz of Foris and a choral psaltery of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" performed by the Calvary Choir and the congregation.

Other joyous seasonal music will include "Christ the Seal of Death is Broken" by Fanny Cosby and Ruth Schram and Handel's "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" with soprano soloist Melissa Tiddings.

Calvary Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving the Cranford-Westfield area and surrounding communities for 75 years.

Cold doesn't deter borough Boy Scouts

KENILWORTH — Members of Boy Scout Troop 83 spent the first day of spring doing what they love best — camping.

There was too much snow for the boys to camp outside in the woodlands of the rural area of Northwestern Pennsylvania near Pleasant Mount; instead, Wally Pitkula was most gracious, hosting the troop in the warmth and comfort of his cabin. Wally is a friend whose son is an Eagle Scout. The boys dubbed the abode "Camp Wally."

Among the fun activities the boys participated in were building a snow fort, snow boarding and a snowball fight against the leaders. They visited a fish hatchery where trout is raised.

They also had a hands-on experience at a maple syrup farm where they learned how sap is extracted from the trees. Even the adults were surprised to learn that it takes about 40 gallons of sap to produce just one gallon of syrup. After learning this, the maple syrup that smothered the French toast they made for breakfast the next morning was appreciated even more. The Scouts always prepare and cook all their own meals on these outings.

On Saturday morning Jimmy Lane, a friend whose hobby is Indian folklore, brought over his teepee and the boys helped him set it up. They gathered around a campfire inside and listened to stories. Some of the Scouts slept in the teepee that night.

Troop 83 is sponsored by VFW Post 2230 and meets every Thursday evening from 7 to 9 at the Kenilworth Veterans Center on South 21st St. The Boy Scout Program is open to all boys between the ages of 12 and 18 regardless of race or creed. If interested in joining, helping out as a leader or donating funds for programs, call Scoutmaster John Kozak at (908) 276-8167.

TAX & FINANCIAL SERVICES

On Maundy Thursday, tonight at 7:30, CUMC will hold a "Drama of the Last Supper." This presentation relates to Jesus celebrating the Passover.

In describing what happened that evening, the Gospel writers would understand Jesus' words and actions in the context of the familiar Passover festival. Today, many people are unfamiliar with the various elements of this celebration and accept the Gospel accounts of what we have come to call "The Last Supper" at a face value, thus missing out on much of its significance. This re-enactment attempts to discover how the things Jesus said and did during that Last Supper arose from the Passover celebration.

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NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Race will help raise funds for museum

UNION — To help raise the funds needed to build the Children's Museum of Central New Jersey (CMCNJ), Kenn University will host a 5-K race on April 18 at the main campus, 1000 Morris Ave., Union.

The Children's Museum will provide opportunities for adults to learn with children through creative play and interactive experiences," said Freeholder Chairman, Angel G. Estrada.

The freeholder board has donated \$1 million from the Open Space Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund to help finance the new institution, while U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine and U.S. Rep. Robert Menendez have submitted requests for federal funding.

Registration fees for the 5K race are \$17 prior to April 12 and \$20 afterward; and \$7 for Kidz Spwints. Visit www.oymp.net, e-mail mznrace@oymp.net or call (732) 381-0318 for more information or to register.



Go wild at Trailside!
Falconer Jennifer Pena, pictured with a saker falcon, from Flight of the Raptor, will present a fascinating look into the lives of birds of prey during Union County's 14th Annual Wildlife Sunday at Trailside Nature and Science Center noon-5 p.m. April 18. For additional information on Wildlife Sunday or for upcoming events at Trailside, call (908) 789-3670.

B-2

BEST BETS

Library displays classic rock photos

"Portraits in Classic Rock" the concert photography of Kevin R. Papa of Cranford, will be on exhibit at the Cranford Public Library through April 30.

Featured subjects include The Grateful Dead, Allman Brothers and Bruce Springsteen. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The Cranford Public Library is located at 224 Walnut Ave. in Cranford. For information call (908) 709-7272 or send e-mail to library@cranfordnj.org.

Library hosts poetry reading

In celebration of National Poetry Month, the Scotch Plains Public Library invites the public to join two local poets as they host Poetry Out Loud at 7 p.m. April 21 in the Library Community room.

Gwyn English Nielsen of Scotch Plains and Tom Plante of Fanwood will read and discuss their own poetry as well as inviting the public to share their own original poems or those of favorite poets.

Nielsen is a Bucknell graduate with a degree in English. She has published several books which include not only poetry but also two children's books. She is a member of the Academy of American Poets, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Publishers Marketing Association and recent recipient of a Union County Chess Board Freeloaders HEART grant. She and her daughter, Saxony, reside in Scotch Plains.

Tom Plante has lived in Fanwood since 1988. He is a graduate of UC Berkeley with a degree in geography. His current position is with the Office of Public Information for the County of Union. He publishes the poetry journal East 13: The Crossroads of the Poetry World. His poetry collections include "My Back Yardstick."

Internet Lounge hosts Drumming Circle

The Internet Lounge of 266 South Ave. in Fanwood will be hosting a Drumming Circle Night at 7:30 p.m. April 11. Residents are invited to join in for a cup of gourmet coffee and a wide variety of organic foods and try your hand at the ancient art of drumming.

There's no cover charge, so come and spend a few hours in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, make new friends, surf the web or play a game of Diablo! Never-Winter-Nights, Battlefield, WarCraft or Counter-Strike.

Rockapella set to perform at Kean

The hippest and hottest a cappella group to hit the airwaves, Rockapella, will grace the Wilkins Theatre stage at 7:30 p.m. April 16 at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave. in Union.

This five-man group based in New York City is credited with revolutionizing a cappella music and bringing it into the 21st-century as an infectious pop-music form blending soul, rock, R&B and jazz.

Dodd unveils 'Timeframe' at UCC Commons

From April 16 through July 15, the exhibition "Timeframe" by artist Kate Dodd will be on display in the Commons at Union County College's Cranford campus at 1053 Springfield Ave.

Due to extensive renovations being made to the MacKay Library, the next several shows will move from the gallery space to various venues on the Cranford Campus.

"Timeframe" is a multi-part piece specifically designed for the UCC Commons and will be suspended from the existing space-frame there. The exhibit will be made up of linear elements similar to spaceframe components.

These forms appear to extend and flow downwards in a cascade that culminates in a flock of synchronized clock mechanisms. The clock mechanisms themselves will not be noticeable, but spaceframe-like hands will draw attention to them as they rotate and align with each other on both the minute and hour. The components cling to each other as they proceed downwards, regularly ticking away despite the illusion of drama that the upper part of the form suggests—movement is arrested, time continues, and time measures how long the moment is frozen. Thus, part of the install-

ment moves, part of it stays still, the 'event' and the aftermath cohabiting. Dodd designs site-specific installations and enjoys the chance to work in different geographic regions. She particularly enjoys incorporating her responses into the local landscape, both architectural and cultural.

Her current work focuses on the aesthetic and emotional impact of interior and exterior spaces and the degree to which they comfort, stimulate, or oppress their occupants.

When developing an exhibit for a site, she explains, she approaches it by examining its formal, functional, psychological, and social properties and boundaries, particularly taking note of what is undeveloped or missing in the site and what characterizes it. She wants to establish a stronger sense of place in the site by introducing warmth, intimacy, humor, visual pleasure and physical comfort, while simultaneously incorporating and exaggerating the pertinent qualities of the site.

Her mission is to "create a heightened sensory experience for the viewer/occupant while reexamining the institutional and conventional aspects of the built environment."

According to Dodd, the UCC Commons

is an area where classes, students, and employees cycle throughout the day with their paths crisscrossing. In describing this work, she stated, "Sitting in the Commons provides a way to pass time, watching the population shift over the course of the day and into the night; the cycle begins again the next day."

"The architecture, the institutionalized, modernist rhythm of exposed utility, with everything neat but visible, is a vast still interior providing anonymity and a place to wait. A clock on the wall, ticking, rotating, in unison with clocks everywhere, but here alone in the huge space of this waiting place. The methodical dance of hours and minutes continuing regularly, no matter what events actually take place, relentless yet reassuring. If there's a physical presence that suggests a frozen moment, via arrested movement, then there's the illusion that time itself can be held onto, stopped until we're ready to move on."

Dodd received her BFA from Pratt Institute in 1983 and her MFA from Columbia University in 1990. She is a resident of and teaches in New Jersey. Her background is in environmental design.

She has exhibited her artwork nationally in museums, such as the Morris

Museum in Morristown, and the Fuller Museum in Boston, Mass. She has also exhibited in galleries and colleges nationwide, such as Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, Eastern Tennessee State University, Mount Ida College, Caldwell College, Ramapo Valley Community College, Columbia University, and County College of Morris.

In 2003, she was in two group exhibitions: "Vistas: Interventions in a Mediated Landscape" at Mount Ida College, in Newton, Mass., and a Bristol-Myers Squibb Sculpture Project at the Bristol-Myers Squibb campus in Hopewell.

In addition, she has received various commissions, grants, and awards throughout the years including the 2002 Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Visual Arts Initiative, 2000-2005 New Jersey State Council on the Arts Arts-in-Education Fellow, and in 1997 the Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper.

The exhibit will debut April 16 with an opening reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Gallery hours are from 1-4 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays. For more information call (908) 703-7155.

Registration is now open for Westfield Summer Workshop

Now entering its 33rd season, the Westfield Summer Workshop is currently registering students for its 2004 summer program. The five-week program gives children ranging from pre-school through ninth grade the opportunity to experiment in various artistic fields, including fine arts, music, and theater.

Students will have the opportunity to dabble in art classes such as "Boon Town," where they will learn how to combine basic drawing skills with simple phrases to create cartoon characters. Carving is a favorite class for older kids, as young artists use plaster, clay and wood to create their own sculpture. And a new program in fine arts is "Scrapbooking," where children will learn to use their photographs to capture memories in creative ways.

Students will also have an opportunity to delve into communication courses such as Radio Broadcast and Video Animation. For the energetic youngsters, Dance, Fencing and Gymnastics are a perfect way to express their creativity. The workshop is also offering an array of other courses, including four levels of chess, Exploring Science and Cooking 'N' More.

For those interested in music, the Westfield Summer Workshop offers various courses in band, vocals and woodwinds. Beginning Guitar, a newcomer to the workshop program, gives children the opportunity to learn the basics of playing guitar while learning to read music along the way.

The Workshop Band, an annual course in the program, is designed for those with some experience in music. The band will prepare to play music for the Summer Theater production of "Guys & Dolls."

The drama department offers courses for young and old, including "Whose Line Is It?", a new class in which students will learn to respond to improvisational situations. Students in grades six through ten can participate in Theater Workshop, a five-period, five-day per week workshop in which students will learn about all aspects of musical production. At the conclusion of the workshop, students will perform the summer production of "Guys & Dolls," directed by Juan and Valerie Pineda of the Little Opera Company of New Jersey.

The YMCA is once again sponsoring Afternoon Adventures in conjunction with the Westfield Summer Workshop. Students will spend weekday afternoons participating in various traditional camp activities, including group games, sports and weekly field trips.

The workshop also offers programs for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, as well as the option for an early morning drop off at 7:30. The WSW program runs 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. daily from June 28-July 30 at Edison Intermediate School. For additional information or to request a brochure, call (908) 750-9698. This is a division of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts.



Seated at the piano awarded to New Jersey Workshop for the Arts by the Westfield Foundation is Executive Director Elizabeth Chase. Standing behind her are Gail Cassidy, president of the Westfield Foundation Board of Trustees, and Dr. Ted Schlosberg, founder and executive director of NJWA.

Foundation's gift of a piano to the NJWA is simply grand

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Foundation recently awarded the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts a grant of \$8,600 to purchase a grand piano to be placed in the Mozart Hall in the NJWA building at 150-152 E. Broad St.

A piano of this quality will enhance student recitals and will be utilized by the Little Opera Company, the NJWA Chamber Orchestra, The Full County Jazz Band and small ensembles, according to NJWA leadership.

A completely rebuilt Grotrian Steinweg grand piano with a high gloss finish was selected through the efforts of the Edward Dryburgh Piano Company specialists in Steinweg rebuilding and repairs. Included was a professional quality adjustable piano bench.

The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts is a

non-profit arts education organization established in 1972. Divisions include The Music Studio, The Westfield Summer Workshop, Creative Arts Workshops, The Fencing Club, Kids 'n' Arts, The Little Opera Co. of NJ, the Full County Jazz Band, and the International Alpha Omega.

Student ensembles include the Family String Orchestra, the Family Chamber Orchestra, the Family Symphony Orchestra and the Family Jazz Band. Outreach programs include the Sundance School Music Workshop, the Westfield Community Center Senior Citizen's Workshop and in Plainfield, the Woodland Elementary School String Workshop.

For more information about the NJWA programs call (908) 789-9696.

With new exhibit, Arts Guild travels 'Other Avenues'

RAHWAY — From 1-4 p.m. April 25, an opening reception will be held for "Other Avenues," an art exhibit at The Arts Guild of Rahway featuring works by Sarah Davis and Bill Westheimer. The exhibit will run from April 25 to May 21. Admission for the exhibit and reception are free.

"Other Avenues" combines collodion photographs by Bill Westheimer and mixed media art works by Sarah Davis to create an exploration into non-traditional photographic techniques.

"The mixed media creations of Maplewood artist Sarah Davis combine photographic images, cut or torn paper, text, photo silk screen and an assortment of alternative materials in an edgy format that alludes to the consciousness of the moment or snippets of reality strung together."

Says Davis, "A mental image of the finished work precedes any technical ideas. My inspiration is found in specific qualities of any given object or image... the texture of crumbled buildings, the intrigue of an open window, the crest and damaged feel of an old film reel. The glimpses into life that surround me everywhere I walk. I'm interested in piecing the moments together. They hold my attention so that their qualities can be transferred into my own work. This is how they start becoming something tangible, telling, even voyeuristic. It all takes on the narrative that I envision."

Bill Westheimer of West Orange is a born experimenter whose search has led him to investigation into 3-D

Photograms, high-contrast image making, solarization and other alternative photo processes. At Union College, Westheimer studied philosophy and art with noted painter and educator Arnold Bitterman. Later Jerry Burchfield introduced him to color photography and lithograph printing. Early in this millennium, he learned the 19th-century technique of collodion glass plate photography from leading experts in the field, France Scully and Mark Osterman.

This exhibit is sponsored by Merck & Co. This exhibit is also made possible in part by a grant from the NJ State Council on the Arts through a grant administered by the UC Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Gallery hours for this exhibit are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 1-4 p.m. and Thursday from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m. Appointments are also available for schools and large groups. For further information call (732) 381-7511, e-mail artsguild1670@earthlink.net or visit www.rahwayarts-guild.org.

The Arts Guild of Rahway is a non-profit center for the arts which presents visual art exhibits featuring emerging New Jersey artists, a music series and art classes and workshops for adults and children of all levels of experience.

The Arts Guild is located at 1670 Irving St. in Downtown Rahway. Its mission is to present high quality arts programs for the Central and Northern New Jersey areas.



In rehearsal for 'Turandot' at the Little Opera Company, soprano Dauri Shippey, tenor Juan Pineda, tenor Phillip Alongi, baritone Chuck Schneider and DeAndre Simmons rehearse the Act II finale.

music and libretto in Italian. Many are very proud of their hard work, and no man is successful until an unknown prince comes along.

Turandot is furious, and the unknown prince, seeing this, tells Turandot he will release her from her promise to marry him if she can discover his name by sunrise. Turandot orders "No one shall sleep until I have discovered his name!"

To find out how the story ends, join The Little Opera Company of New Jersey at the Westfield High School auditorium at 8 p.m. April 24; 8 p.m. April 25, and 8 p.m. May 1. Tickets are \$30 for students, \$25 for seniors, and \$15 for adults under age 18. For more information call (908) 789-9696.

Advertisement for Easter Sunday Brunch at Crown Plaza. Includes menu items like Roast Turkey, Ham, and various sides. Price is \$11.95 per person.

Advertisement for Viewing the Watchung Mountains. Features a scenic view of the mountains and mentions a wedding dreams come true package.

Advertisement for Exotic Lunches & Dinners. Promotes a Regular A La Carte Menu starting at \$11.95.

Advertisement for an Easter Buffet. Features a Chef Carved Turkey, Prime Ribs, Ham & Lamb, Shrimp, Clams, Viennese Table & Fresh Fruit. Reserve early at \$24 per person.



Dixieland jazz at church in Westfield

The Big Apple Jazz Band, led by pianist Dick Voigt, will perform an evening of Dixieland jazz at 8 p.m. Saturday in the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church, located at 1 East Broad St. in Westfield.

The Big Apple Jazz Band will perform as part of an Easter Vigil service. This music-filled Easter Vigil will have the fashion and feel of a funeral in New Orleans style, with the Big Apple Jazz Band providing all of the music. The service begins slowly and somberly and transi-

tions to a joyful and joyous musical celebration of Christ's Resurrection. Persons of all faiths are welcome to attend this celebration.

Organized in 1996 by Voigt, the Big Apple Jazz Band brings together the most accomplished and experienced Dixieland jazz artists in the metropolitan New York area. The Big Apple Jazz Band's musical style is a blend of traditional New Orleans and Chicago-type jazz combined with the looser, freewheeling rhythms of the Swing bands of

the '30s, '40s and '50s. This "New York sound" originated on "Swing Street" in the dozens of jazz clubs on New York's West 52nd Street in the Golden Age of Jazz.

The Big Apple Jazz Band has performed in a variety of venues in metropolitan New York, including the Red Blazer, The Columbus Club, the Edward Hopper House, Nyack's Mostly Music Series, Columbia University, The New Jersey Jazz Society's Joe Wee Stomp, and concerts at the Helen Hayes

Performing Arts Center. The Band has also appeared on two previous occasions as part of the Friday Night Classics at the Methodist Church.

This event is free and open to the public, with no tickets required. A freewill offering will be received.

For more information, call the First United Methodist Church office at (908) 233-4211 daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is plenty of free parking in the church lot, which can be accessed from Ferris Place.

Advertisement for Easter Sunday Brunch at Kenilworth Inn. Includes menu items like Eggs and hash, Roast Turkey, and various sides. Price is \$11.95 per person.

Advertisement for Culinary Concepts Caterers Ltd. Promotes a variety of catering services for events, including Easter Sunday Brunch and Wedding Reception.

Krause performs for Musical Club April 14

WESTFIELD — The Musical Club of Westfield will present its April program 1 p.m. April 14 at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St. in Westfield.

Featured will be Barbara Krause, mezzo-soprano, performing "This Day is Mine" by Harriet Ware, "Music, When Soft Voices Die" by Ernest Gould, "We'll Go to the Woods and Gather May" by Charles T. Griffes, and "Face, Face, Mio Dio" from Giuseppe Verdi's opera La Forza del Destino.

Accompanying her will be Marlene-Danielle Merrier, Sanja Ratkovic, pianist, will perform three Nocturnes by Frederic Chopin, Opus 27, No. 1 in C-sharp Minor, Opus 9, No. 2 in D-flat Minor, and Opus 55, No. 1 in

Advertisement for Easter Sunday at The Clarion Hotel and Towers. Promotes an Easter Brunch on Sunday April 11, 2004, from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Features a variety of dishes and a price of \$32.00 for adults.

Painting exhibit memorializes Holocaust victims

"In Memoriam," an exhibit of paintings, will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library from April 23 through May 27.

A few years ago, by chance, artist Claire Simon found a photo album of her father's that she had never seen when he was alive. It contained snapshots of his family and friends; many had been sent to him after he immigrated to this country from Germany in 1927.

She also found a letter, dated 1947, that she had saved among her own papers. She remembered her father sitting at the kitchen table when she was a child, with that letter in his hands, crying. Simon remembers asking her mother what was going on. She told Simon that the letter was written by a neighbor of her father's family, a Protestant minister. It told the story of her uncle and aunt's families' arrest by the Nazis. It was the confirmation of her father's worst fears.

By painting portraits of her relatives from the photos in her father's album, Simon began to know them and was able to keep them alive in her. Subsequently, she decided to create a book which contains etchings derived from the photos. In the etched pages, she has also included a poem that she wrote on the death of her own

son, Peter, who died as a result of an accident at age 26, and the "Sabbat Mator," a prayer of the Catholic Church.

"Together, they express the feelings Simon has as a witness to the suffering and death of those she has loved, and even of those she has never known."

Although born a Jew, Simon is now a Quaker, largely because of her response to the Holocaust. After having witnessed so much death and destruction, Simon feels called to do whatever she can to prevent war and the use of violence. She would like this work, "In Memoriam," to be her prayer for a peaceful world.

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

Chase away the winter blues in the company of Kean University's affiliate artists who will gather to conclude the 2003-04 concert season with a Springtime Showcase at 8 p.m. April 19 in Wilkins Theatre, 1000 Morris Ave., Union.

Kean University is privileged to employ world-renowned chamber musicians as affiliate artists and professors who enthrall music lovers with special concerts and students with an outstanding opportunity to learn from the best.

The last in a series of four events, "Music from the Stage" will feature works from Broadway and opera in chamber-music arrangements, including the world premiere of "Music by Kurt Weill," an arrangement written especially for Kean's affiliate artists by Latin Grammy-winner Carlos Franzini.

Tickets are \$10 for the public; \$8 for alumni, faculty, staff and seniors; \$6 for students and children, and available reserved by calling the Wilkins Theatre Box Office at (908) 737-5100/17469.

Spring is in the air at Kean showcase

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what to do!

Theater

NOW PLAYING CROSSROADS THEATRE
7 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (732) 932-7511; www.nbjazz.org
"Fortinbras," Dutch comedy by Lee Blessing. 8 p.m. April 8, 10, 15-17, 22 p.m. April 11, 18. Admission \$20-\$10.
GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE
9 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (732) 246-7717; www.gspjazz.org
"Tick, Tick... Boom!" 90's musical by Jonathan Larson ("Rent"). To April 18. Admission \$52-\$28; discounts available. Call for showtimes.
PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE
Brookside Dr., Millburn (973) 376-4343; www.papermill.org
"Baby," area revival of 80's musical. To May 9. Admission \$67-\$30; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

COMING UP CIRCLE PLAYERS
415 Victoria Ave., Piscataway (732) 568-7555; www.circleplayers.com
"The Cripple of Inishmaan," comedy-drama by Martin McDonagh. 8 p.m. April 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, May 1, 3 p.m. April 18, 25. Admission \$13-\$7. 2nd opening night. \$12 other evenings. \$11 matinees. Discounts available.
STATE THEATRE
15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11; www.statetheatre.org
"The Sound of Music," touring production of Broadway movie musical. 3 and 8 p.m. April 15. Admission \$50-\$20.
VILLAGERS THEATRE
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset (732) 873-2710; www.villagers-theatre.com
"Proof," Broadway drama by David Auburn. 8 p.m. April 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, May 1, 2 p.m. April 18, 25, May 2. Adults \$15; students, seniors \$13. www.statetheatre.org

For Kids THE GZMO GUYS
1 and 3:30 p.m. April 16
Theatre at Harlan Valley Community College, Route 28, Branchburg (908) 725-3420; www.vccarts.org
Allan Jacobs and Barrett Felker, jugglers and comedians. Admission \$9.
SESAME STREET LIVE
To April 12
Slate Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11; www.statetheatre.org
"Everyone Makes Music," with Big Bird and his crew. Admission \$24-\$10; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

Events ABILITIES EXPO
New Jersey Convention Center, Flanigan Center, Edison (732) 417-1400; www.abilitiesexpo.com
Products and services for disabled people and seniors. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April 16, 17; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. April 18. Adults \$5; under age 12 free.
BOOK SIGNINGS
Barnes and Noble, Route 22 West, Springfield; 7:30 p.m. April 14. Town Book Store, East Broad Street, Westfield; 1 p.m. May 8.
Cranford author Joseph Calicchio will sign copies of his second and latest novel, "The Trouble with Metrol Wellness."

Sky Shows HARLAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Route 28, Branchburg (908) 231-9805; www.harlanvalley.edu/planetarium
Family laser concert, 3 and 8 p.m. April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22. Admission \$5.
"Spring Skies and Venus," 2 and 7 p.m. April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22. Admission \$4.50.
Concerts MICHAEL AMANTE
8 p.m. Sunday, April 18
State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11; www.statetheatre.org
"America's Tenor," fresh from Las Vegas where he opened for Don Flickles. Admission \$45-\$15.
BACH IN DISGUISE
8:30 p.m. Friday, April 16
Kirkpatrick Chapel, Rutgers University, New Brunswick (732) 932-7511; www.nbjazz.org
Tie-in to the "Images of Bach" conference. Three choral works of Johann Sebastian Bach and a harpsichord concerto of C.P.E. Bach, featuring the Rutgers Baroque Ensemble. Free admission.
ANTONIUS BITTMAN
5:30 p.m. Friday, April 16
Christ Church Episcopal, 5 Palerston

JORDAN THOMAS ORCHESTRA
8 p.m. Saturday, April 17
Somerset County Voc-Tech, Vogt Dr., Bridgewater (908) 781-0470; www.njrs.org
17-piece big band. Admission \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.
TOM CATS JAZZ ACES
2 p.m. Sunday, April 18
Somerset County Voc-Tech, Vogt Dr., Bridgewater (908) 781-0470; www.njrs.org
15-piece all-star band. Admission \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

Museums CWJ CLASSIC AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM
18 Claremont Rd., Bernardsville (908) 221-0908
Open 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday; by appointment weekdays.
"America's Love Affair with the Automobile," to April 25.
JANE VOORHEES ZIMMERLART MUSEUM
Rutgers University, 21 Hamilton St., New Brunswick (732) 932-7237; www.zimmerlartmuseum.nj.edu
Open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Guided tours of the collection 2 and 3 p.m. Sunday. Free admission for members. Non-member admission: adults \$3, Rutgers faculty-staff-students and those under 18 free. Free admission for the first Sunday of the month.
Louise Owen (violin), 3 p.m. April 18.

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Not awed by The Masters

By DANIEL MURPHY THE CHRONICLE

This is supposed to be one of the great weeks of the year as we say goodbye to winter with the NCAA Tournament final, usher in spring with the opening of the baseball season and sneak away from Easter gatherings with the family to watch The Masters.

But — maybe it's a hoops hangover — I just can't get that excited.

Since the Final Four concluded Saturday and UConn defeated Duke in the pseudo national championship game, I haven't been all that excited at the prospect of plopping down on the couch and watching sports.

I just can't get pumped up for the baseball season. I know the Mets, my team, aren't going to be very good. Their 7-2 victory over the Braves Tuesday night and Kaz Matsui's perfect day were like two Atilas and a cup of coffee for what ails me, but the feeling quickly passed.

The Mets may be better than last year, but they aren't going to sniff the playoffs. Though optimism is supposed to reign supreme on Opening Day, it's hard to muster any confidence they will be playing meaningful games come September. Unless playing the role of spoiler for a wild card contender is considered meaningful.

And no matter how much I'd like to believe the opposite, I know in my heart of hearts that the Yankees will be contending for a World Series title again this October. Will they win it? I don't know. But I do know it is hard to take any satisfaction in them losing to the Devil Rays when you know they're still going to win 95 games and make the playoffs.

At the very least The Masters is a exciting about the Masters. It's a fascinating tournament, not a 180-game marathon and the urgency of each day is 100 times greater than any pre-Sept. 20 baseball game.

But I just don't think the Masters is as great as everybody thinks. It is a great golf tournament, don't get me wrong, but it's not nearly as good as the U.S. Open.

All the fawning over Augusta National, the tradition of the tournament, its history and the worshiping of everything green causes more vomiting than St. Patrick's Day.

Both the U.S. Open and The Masters are great tests of golf. But I've already been told by one golf enthusiast that The Masters is above the rest because Augusta National is a cathedral of a golf course with reverent tradition, pristine fairways and unbelievably undulating greens. The Masters, he said, is a true test of heart and soul.

(Excuse me stewards, can I have another beer? Thanks.)

He listed many of the great moments of the past, the Green Jacket and Amen Corner. He talked about how everything at The Masters is green, including the sandwich wrappers.

But come on. That doesn't make it a greater golf tournament than the U.S. Open. The Open has had as many great and dramatic moments. It isn't played on the same course every year, but rather plays on great courses across the country including courses like Bethpage where even huckers like you and me can play.

It is a tremendous test of skill, featuring ugly deep rough and lightning quick greens. Everybody has a chance to qualify. Galleries root instead of golf-clapping. And the U.S. Open is preceded by *Tin Cup* marathons on USA and TNT.

Being at Augusta National this weekend may be a wondrous experience. All the tradition, dinners and green hot dog wrappers are great for the people involved. But if I'm home on my Lazy Boy watching the tournament, I couldn't give a Big Bertha if all the past champs had green beans and broccoli at dinner together Wednesday night. The only reason I'll be arguing about the azuleños is if Tiger's ball is sitting in one.

I'm sure the shots I'll see this weekend will be enough to slake all my hoops hangover, but all this talk about tradition and heart and all things green is just giving me another headache.



Nicole DiMella/The Chronicle
Jamar Ingram ripped a first-inning triple and scored on a groundout Monday, but the Cougars fell to Westfield 9-2. Cranford set back Tuesday, falling to Bayonne and will look to get on the winning track today against Sayreville.

Cougars hoping to get back to state tourney

By DANIEL MURPHY THE CHRONICLE

After missing the state tournament last season, the Cranford High tennis team is hoping a tougher schedule in the first half of the season and a strong mix of talent can propel it to greater heights Tuesday while Matt Ross and Jesse Hynes played at second doubles.

Mike Winters and Mike Milwicz are also in the mix for a doubles spot. Matches generally come down to the doubles matches and finding the right combination will be important in the Cougars' quest to return to the state tournament.

"Four guys need to step up and prove they deserve the No. 1 and No. 2 doubles spots," said LaSalle. "Every combination we've put together has been equally successful. We're trying to find the right combination of two guys for each doubles team."

Cranford knocked off Roselle Park 5-0 in the opener Monday, then had a challenge match for the third singles slot Tuesday. The first and second doubles spots are slowly solidifying themselves, but are still subject to change.

Cranford faced New Providence yesterday and will travel to Immaculata Monday before hosting East Brunswick and Bayonne Tuesday and Wednesday.

"The team is looking very tough," said

Mistakes cost CHS opener

By DANIEL MURPHY THE CHRONICLE

Cranford — Unable to come up with clutch hits and plagued by errors, the Cranford High baseball team dropped its season opener Monday, falling to conference rival and county rival Westfield 9-2.

The Cougars committed five errors, leading to four unearned runs and stranded eight runners on base, four in scoring position, to spoil a strong effort from senior starter Brian Cienci.

Cranford fell again Tuesday, dropping a 5-3 decision to Bayonne and is scheduled to travel to Sayreville this afternoon. The Cougars are scheduled to play the next six games at home, beginning with an 11 a.m. contest with J.P. Stevens Saturday.

"When we had opportunities to score some runs we weren't able to produce runs," said Cranford Head Coach Dennis McCaffery. "We didn't get timely hitting and we gave them extra outs defensively and it cost us the ball game."

Sophomore Greg Van Horn was 3-for-4, all singles. Jamar Ingram tripled in the first and scored on a ground out by Chris Drechsel and Jason Ocki had an RBI groundout in the sixth.

With two-out in the fifth, Westfield added two more runs when a grounder by sophomore catcher Mike Murray was bobbled and thrown away, putting the Blue Devils ahead 5-1.

Westfield tacked on four more runs in the seventh inning on just three hits to provide right hander Tom Ricciuti with more than enough breathing room. The sophomore went the distance, striking out eight while allowing six hits.

The Cougars had opportunities to take command of the game early but couldn't come up with the clutch hits. Ricciuti worked one out jam in the second, a bases loaded, two out jam in the third and a first-and-second, two out jam in the fourth before settling down over the final three innings.

"The first game you have to be prepared like any other game of the season," said McCaffery. "You have all year to make for the first game. We didn't make plays, we didn't get timely hitting, we struck out too much and when you do that against a quality pitcher like Ricciuti it is going to be difficult to beat him."

Ricciuti had been struggling in scrimmages and was knocked out after just three innings in his final pre-season start against Bayonne. But he was on top of his game again Monday.

"I guess I was just a sophomore and a little shaky in the beginning," said Ricciuti. "But I got ready for the game, prepared well, came out with my good stuff and had everything working for me today."

"I usually tend to feel better after the first couple of innings. It takes me a little while to get comfortable in there and I think all of the fiddlers settled in better after the first couple of innings. [Pitching with the lead] definitely helped."

"Ricciuti threw the ball well. (Continued on page C-2)

Morge impressive in season debut

By DANIEL MURPHY THE CHRONICLE

The Cranford High softball team opened the season in impressive fashion, cruising past Westfield 7-0.

Sophomore Elena Morge tassed a two-hitter in her first varsity start, striking out seven and walking five.

Morge also helped her own cause plenty, going 3-for-5 at the plate with two runs batted in, a home run and a double, twice, driving in two runs.

Cranford hosted Edison yesterday and will play two games in the Linden Invitational Saturday.

BOYS TRACK
The Cranford High boys track team placed fourth in Division 1 at the Kearny Relays Saturday, totaling 38 points.

Cranford won the 3200 meter relay, distance medley and team high jump. Ryan McMahon, Brian Brown, Kevin Brown and Nate Thompson ran the 3200 meter relay in 8:27.8, besting second place St. Benedict's by eight seconds. McMahon and Brian Brown joined Paul Buonagoro and Joe McConnelly to win the distance medley in 1:04.9.

Tom Planer and David Styler won the team high jump with a combined height of 11 feet.



Nicole DiMella/The Chronicle
Cranford's Nikki Spampinato slides into home during the Cougars 7-0 win over Westfield in the season opener Monday. Cranford hosted Edison yesterday and will play a doubleheader Saturday in the Linden Invitational.

Mistakes

(Continued from page C-1)

threw two pitches for strikes, he kept us off balance, he was able to mix it up and did a very good job today," said McCaffery. "He deserved to win the game."

Cienin was also sharp but didn't get the help he needed from his defense. He went six innings, striking out five, allowing just four hits and only one earned run. "Cienin threw the ball real well," said McCaffery. "When you give them six outs in one inning and let them hang around too long it is going to get you. The game of baseball only gives you three outs an inning and if you give them more it is going to come back and bite you."

"We'll continue to work. The mistakes we're making now we want to make sure we correct them. If we make that many errors it will be difficult for us to win games. We'll continue to work and hit a lot of ground balls and do what needs to be done to correct any mistakes."



The Cranford P.A.L. 8th grade girls basketball team finished second in the Tri-County League tournament and finished the season with an overall record of 15-12. Top row, from left: Alexa Fedorchak, Coach Charline Wischman, Kelsey Fisher, Veronica Przysocki, Katie Goode, Coach Bill Mitchell, Becky Quinn, Kristin Harshman. Bottom row: Lindsey Deluca, Stephanie Couto, Nicole Schomp, Jenny Drechsel.

Girls PAL squad reaches league final

The Cranford 8th grade girls P.A.L. basketball team lost in the championship game of the Tri-County League playoffs to a very talented Warren team. Cranford trailed 6-5 when Warren scored 17 unanswered points to take a commanding 22-5 lead. Cranford cut the lead to 15 but Warren played solidly the rest of the game to win the championship.

In the semifinal game, Cranford defeated Scotch Plains, a team that beat the Lady Cougars twice during the regular season. Cranford trailed by four points with less than four minutes to play when Jenny Drechsel and Kristen Scotti both hit three-pointers. The Raiders responded by hitting a three and a foul shot to take a two-point lead with two minutes to play. Scotti then hit two foul shots to tie the game and Alexa Fedorchak hit two more to

Vandy wins rec title

The Vanderbilt Commodores defeated the Purdue Boilermakers 14-1 in a hard fought defensive struggle to capture the crown in the Cranford Recreation 8th/9th grade girls basketball league March 31 at the Rec Center.

Both teams played excellent first half defense. The Commodores took a 4-2 lead into the second half. Lauren Grandal led the Commodores in scoring with six points, followed by Kelly Hardman with four points and Brianna Cooper and Natalie Engles each with two. The stingy Commodore defense, which played outstanding all year, was made up of fifth graders Julie DeBella and Sarah Fletcher and sixth graders Sarah Armstrong, Sarah Quinn and Nicole Ravetier.

The Purdue Boilermakers, who handed the Commodores their only loss earlier in the season, were led in scoring by Kate McCann and Nicole Keenan. Anchoring their tenacious defense were sixth graders Kelly Burke, Megan Cahill, Emily McCue and Colleen McGovern and fifth graders Mary Kate Carroll, Morgan Dow and Colleen Jones.

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

Table listing high school sports events for Thursday, April 8 and Monday, April 12, including baseball, basketball, and tennis games.

8th grade boys hoops wins 25

The Cranford P.A.L. 8th grade boys basketball team recently completed its most successful season ever, finishing 25-7. Over the last two seasons the team won 45 games, losing only 18, playing against the best teams in Union, Monmouth and Morris counties.

In the five tournaments the team entered, they finished in first place once and second place twice. In the Bi-County League Cranford won the regular season championship and the team finished second the last two years in the league tournament.



The Cranford P.A.L. 8th grade boys basketball team completed a 25 win season, winning the Bi-County League regular season championship. Standing, left to right: Coach Eddie Franz, Michael Tubelli, Daniel McMahon, Simon Smith, Andrew Cienin, Danny McGlynn, Matt Trapani, Coach Mike McMahon, Travis Franz, Coach John Smith, Sean Scanton, Denny Byrnes.

leading scorer, Travis Franz. Danny Byrnes and Mike Tubelli, Sean Scanton and Matt Trapani complemented Simon Smith on the boards. The designated 3-ball specialists were Andrew Cienin (third

SPORTSCENE

Cheerleading tryouts Cranford cheerleaders will hold tryouts for both fall and winter cheerleading squads for the 2004-2005 school year Wednesday, June 2, 7-9 p.m. at the Cranford High School gymnasium. The fall squad cheerleaders for football, field hockey and boys and girls soccer. The winter squads cheer for girls and boys basketball and wrestling. Potential squad members may sign up to cheer either in the fall season, winter season or both. All incoming freshmen, as well as present Cranford high students are required to attend practice sessions at the high school May 25-28. Mock tryouts will be held June 1 and the final tryout will be June 2. Any grade level high school student may audition for the squad. State students are encouraged to participate. Sign up for potential cheerleaders presently in 8th grade at Orange Ave. School will take place April 29. Cranford High School students can attend after school sign ups May 4 and May 5. Present 8th grade students may sign up after school at Hillside Ave. School on May 6. For more information, contact Coach Greg Whelan at (908) 272-2816 or Tom Johnson at (908) 272-1204.

Advertisement for The Rustic Mill restaurant, featuring a special menu of \$8.45 to \$9.45, served from 2pm to 9pm weekdays and 2pm to 6pm weekends. Includes details about the menu and contact information.

Advertisement for Internet Faster & Easier! offering unlimited access for \$9.95 per month. Includes details about software, technical support, and instant messaging.

Advertisement for Prescription Drugs, offering up to 50% savings. Includes contact information for Redwood Drugs.

Advertisement for Athlete of the Week, sponsored by The Rustic Mill. Celebrates the 2004 Athletes of the Week with congratulations.

Advertisement for Wood Gym Outlet, featuring a spring sale on playground equipment. Includes details about products and contact information.

Advertisement for Bliss Termites, established in 1882. Offers termite control services and includes contact information.

Advertisement for Sentricon Termite Control, offering traditional or Sentricon termite control. Includes contact information.

Club gives scholarship to Elkoury

Herbicides and weedkillers can be dangerous to your trees. Many people think that trees grow big and hardy and know that herbicide dosages are for small weed weeds. What they forget, however, is that beneath those big tree trunks are small and tender tissues and roots.

Use caution when applying herbicides

Herbicides are particularly dangerous to magnolias and Japanese maples. We do not know exactly why, but this has been observed during years of professional tree care. When the soil beneath one of these trees gets saturated with a herbicide, they become severely and seriously ill.

Herbicides can also drift after spraying on a weed patch and devastate pin oaks or Japanese maples for instance. The leaves shrivel up and remain disfigured for the rest of the year.

Professionals are not getting post control a bad name. It is the do-it-yourselfers who do not respect the potential materials and who do not read and heed the labels who are causing the major problems.

Advertisement for Innovative Remodeling Solutions, offering roofing, siding, windows, and kitchen services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for Complete Construction, offering painting, roofing, and carpentry services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for Above Construction, offering fine home improvement services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for American Home Remodeling, offering interior/exterior improvements. Includes contact information.

Use caution when applying herbicides

Herbicides and weedkillers can be dangerous to your trees. Many people think that trees grow big and hardy and know that herbicide dosages are for small weed weeds. What they forget, however, is that beneath those big tree trunks are small and tender tissues and roots.

Large advertisement for Home Improvement, featuring a call to action for Christine at 800-981-5640. Lists various home services like construction, electrical, and plumbing.

Advertisement for CDI Construction, offering additions, renovations, and carpentry services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for CP Construction, offering kitchen, bathroom, and basement services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for DAO Carpentry, offering interior and exterior carpentry services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for GP Home Remodeling, offering window installation and renovation services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for VP Woodworking, offering custom cabinetry and carpentry services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for Above Construction, offering fine home improvement services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for Complete Construction, offering painting, roofing, and carpentry services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for American Home Remodeling, offering interior/exterior improvements. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for Complete Construction, offering painting, roofing, and carpentry services. Includes contact information.

Cranford firm wins designation from state

Jaffe Communications, Inc., a full-service public affairs firm in Cranford, recently announced it has been approved by the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission as a Small Business Enterprise under the state's Small Business Set-Aside Act.

Advertisement for Home Improvement, featuring a call to action for Christine at 800-981-5640. Lists various home services like construction, electrical, and plumbing.

Advertisement for DANCE Demolition & Clean-Up, offering demolition and cleaning services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for SAFEDECKS, offering quality deck resurfacing and staining services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for JDM ELECTRIC, offering fast friendly service for electrical needs. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for CERTIFIED ELECTRIC, INC., offering residential and commercial electrical services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for AFFORDABLE GARAGE, offering roll-off and dumpster services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for KREDER ELECTRIC, offering residential and commercial electrical services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for Gervasi Inc., offering demolition and excavation services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for ANGEL'S, offering driveway sealing and masonry services. Includes contact information.

Advertisement for A. PLAIA & SON FENCE, offering custom wood chain link fences. Includes contact information.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely a page number or publication info.

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

Thursday Club
The Cranford Senior Citizens Thursday Club meets 1 p.m. at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Activities: April 8 - Decorating Easter eggs, led by John Ritsko. April 15 - Auction. April 22 - Anniversary party begins at noon at The Westwood, North Avenue in Garwood. April 29 - Bingo; bring donations for Cranford Family Care. Trips sponsored by the Thursday Club (the public is welcome): April 26 - to Caesar's in Atlantic City, a similar trip is held the last Tuesday of every month. To register for the casino trips, call (908) 272-6828. April 29-May 1 - to Myrtle Beach, \$850.00 per person includes lodging at oceanfront hotel, 12 meals, three shows, and a sightsee-

Vincent Cerciello, April 23, and Edward Connelly, April 29. Trips sponsored by the Friday Club: April 12 - to Atlantic City \$17, leave Centennial Avenue Pool at noon. Other trips planned May 12, June 9 and July 14. May 26 - Polka Fest at Mt Haven Country Resort, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Includes breakfast buffet, activities and shopping, boules, mazarinis, live Polish entertainment with a Polish buffet dinner. Open bar, \$53. June 15 - to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa. to see the Festival of Fountains. The trip leaves 8 a.m., returns 7 p.m. \$53 fee includes dining in the Terrace Restaurant (handicapped-accessible). July 19-23 - Cape Cod trip. Spend five days and four nights visiting Martha's Vineyard, Chatham, Provincetown, Hyannis, the JFK museum and more. \$395 double occupancy includes four breakfasts and dinners. Dec. 11 - to the Lili Langtry Christmas show. Trip leaves 9 a.m., returns 6 p.m. \$83 fee includes show admission and a meal.

For reservations or more information about the trips, call Helen at (908) 276-2849. Wednesday Club
The Cranford Senior Citizens Wednesday Club meets at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Trips sponsored by the Wednesday Club include: April 12 - to Showboat in Atlantic City. Fee is \$16. Bus leaves Meeker Avenue at 11 a.m. Another trip is planned May 10. For information, call Arleen Borton at (908) 272-5441. Sept. 6-10 - five-day, four-night trip to Wildwood Crest. Includes round-trip motor coach transportation, deluxe room accommodations at the Royal Plaza, dinner-around-dimmers in area restaurants plus a \$10 food/casino; four nights of entertainment including Camp May County Performing Arts Center variety show, dinner-comedy show at the Grand Hotel in Cape May, gala night with prizes, music and dancing, and a trip to an Atlantic City casino with bonus package.

Activities include a basket of cheer for the cocktail party; Wildwood Aviation Museum at Camp May County Airport; poolside pizza party; dolphin/whale watch cruise; round of miniature golf and ice cream; unlimited rides on old-fashioned trolleys; free time to enjoy the pool and beaches; visits to Botanical Garden, Smithville Village and the Renault Winery; and the services of local Suncoast. The cost is \$280 per person double occupancy; \$350 for a single (driver gratuities included). A deposit of \$80 per person is required to reserve a space with final payment due July 15. For information and reservations call Harmon at (908) 276-2845 or Arleen at (908) 272-5441. Cranford Recreation and Parks Department
April 12 - "Something's Gotta Give," 123 minutes. Screening begins 11:10 a.m. This romantic comedy features Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson, who are thrown together by circumstance. At first repulsed by each other, they end up falling in love. Cranford Chapter AARP 4269
The chapter is offering the following trips: April 28 - Visit Atlantic City's Showboat, leaving from the Cranford Pool parking lot on Centennial Avenue at 8:45 a.m. The cost is \$16 with a casino bonus. Another trip is planned May 26. June 29 - Visit Atlantic City. Bus will leave from the Lincoln School on Centennial Avenue. Additional trips planned July 28 and Aug. 25. Oct. 3-7 - Take a trip to Mohogian Sun and Foxwoods Casinos in Connecticut. Stay overnight at Mohogian Sun and the next day visit Foxwoods. Motel voucher is included at Mohogian Sun and Foxwoods, plus casino incentives. The cost is \$189 per person, double occupancy. Visit the atomic submarine Nautilus and museum. Buses, all tips, baggage and handling included. For information: call Mike at (908) 486-6679.

Real Estate Realtors oppose increase in transfer fee

In the past week, New Jersey Realtors have sent more than 1,800 letters to Governor James E. McGreevey and members of the state Legislature regarding real estate tax increases proposed in Gov. McGreevey's FY 2005 budget. Over 800 of those letters were sent to Governor McGreevey. The letters are part of a massive letter-writing campaign launched recently by the New Jersey Association of Realtors. "Realtors are dismayed that once again Gov. McGreevey has proposed increased real estate taxes to fill a budget gap," said NJAR President Charles Opler. "A booming housing market has made home buyers and sellers the target for additional revenue. Continually taxing this industry will endanger our state's economic vitality and will make it harder for working families to afford a home in New Jersey." For the second year in a row, Gov. McGreevey is proposing an increase in the Realty Transfer Fee (RTF). The Realty Transfer Fee is a fee of the seller of real property when the deed transferring ownership is recorded. The governor has also proposed a new 1 percent tax (paid by the

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Grid of home improvement services including: SRJ CONTRACTING (SRL, Siding, Roofing, Gutters), AL'S RELIABLE LANDSCAPING (Lawn Care, Fertilizing), DREW MASONRY (Concrete, Patios, Walkways), INTERIOR PAINTING (Wallpaper, Decks, Driveways), Mitielli Plumbing & Heating (Plumbing, Heating, Water), ARTISTIC STONE DESIGN (Stone, Granite, Countertops), S&S HOME SERVICES (Siding, Roofing, Gutters), LOUIS'S PAINTING (Interior, Exterior, Decks), SEWER & DRAIN SERVICE (Drains, Sewer, Pumping), ADF POWERWASHING (Fences, Gutters, Patios), EAST COAST MARINE SERVICE (Boats, Pumps, Motors), MARINO'S PAINTING (Interior, Exterior, Decks), CARRIAGE HOUSE REFINISHING CO. 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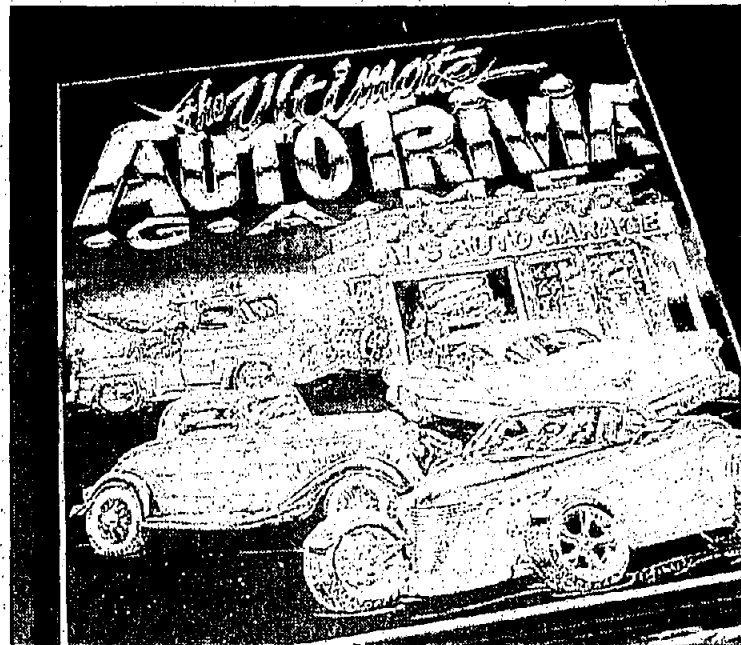
Automotive/Classified

Trivial pursuit, automobile style

METRO CREATIVE — Q: The American car Lincoln was named after whom?
A: Abraham Lincoln.
Q: Lexus is a division of what manufacturer? A: Toyota.
Q: What does B.F. stand for on Goodrich tires? A: Benjamin Franklin.
Auto novices may find the answers to these questions simple, but they may be struggling for answers to questions like: Is a Ford 302 V8 engine really 5.0 liters? Did Chevrolet sell a Mercury before Ford? Were all 427 Cobras equipped with 427 cu. in. engines?
American car buffs love to test their knowledge, and a new game allows novices and "car fiends" alike to try their skills around facts and trivia from the automotive industry.
Al Loughlin, a 20-year veteran auto dealer in the Pacific Northwest, created "The Ultimate Auto Trivia Game" based on his own passion and

appreciation for the automobile.
"I thought of this idea in the middle of the night about three years ago, and since that time it's taken on a life of its own," said Loughlin. "I started asking friends and coworkers, shopping for questions and answers, and it seems everyone has something to offer."
We've all had our own personal experiences with the automobile at some level or another.
From that point on, Loughlin has taken years to research and validate the questions and answers for the game, and he's now launching it in time for the Christmas season.
Players can learn many facts about the makes and models of America's favorite automobiles. "The best part is that through the game, people hone up on their knowledge of classic cars, sports cars, racing cars, engine types, and

general mechanical knowledge with questions around history, makes, models and manufacturers."
Loughlin "We have thousands of questions to challenge your trivia skills and help players learn more about their favorite cars and trucks."
Careful research has helped Loughlin uncover questions that also have a mass appeal.
Q: In the James Bond movie, "The Man With The Golden Gun," what car was featured as a flying car? A: AMC Matador Coupe.
Q: The American car Pontiac was named after what? A: An American Indian Chief.
Q: Engine horsepower is proportional to what two factors? A: Torque and R.P.M.
The game is also loaded with scores of challenging questions to test even the most auto-savvy players in America.



What kind of convertible does Robert DeNiro drive in the 1978 movie "The Deer Hunter"? A 1959 Cadillac. Auto buffs and novices alike can test their knowledge of all things to do with cars and trucks with a new board game, Auto Trivia.

- Test Your Skills with the Ultimate Auto Trivia Quiz:
1. The Duke of Hazard, who the Duke cousins drive?
 2. What car did Plymouth build in 1965 to compete with the Ford Mustang?
 3. A Ford model year was the AMC Javelin introduced?
 4. 1966 Buick Wildcat? 1968 Oldsmobile?
 5. What model year did Mercury sell a four-door Cougar?
 6. 1968 Buick Wildcat? 1968 Oldsmobile?
 7. What vehicle was referred to as Don McLean's "American Pie" song?
 8. Dodge Charger?
 9. B. Baracuda?
 10. C. 1968?
 11. B. 1978?
 12. Chevrolet?

Cool cars for little money

PRNewswire — With summer approaching, many people are looking for a cool car to get around in and be seen in.
The editorial team at Kelley Blue Book recently took a look at all of the latest vehicles on the market and found 10 cool new cars selling at prices below \$18,000.
2004 Dodge Neon R/T — \$17,990
2004 Honda Civic — \$17,750
2004 Honda Element — \$17,390
2004 Mazda 3s — \$17,415
2004 MINI Cooper — \$16,999
2004 Mitsubishi Lancer OZ Rally — \$17,372
2004 Nissan Sentra SE-R — \$17,740
2004 Scion xB — \$14,965
2004 Toyota Corolla S — \$15,830
2004 Toyota Tacoma PreRunner Xtracab — \$17,410
"What makes these 10 cars cool is their handling, design and ability to be personalized," said Charlie Vogelheim, executive editor at Kelley Blue Book. "All of these vehicles provide style at an affordable price."
The top 10 coolest new cars were chosen based on the expert opinions of the Kelley Blue Book editorial team. Selection was based on price, design, style and performance as well as extensive research of each vehicle, the driving of manufacturer test units, talking with dealers as well as owners of cars under \$18,000.

Jeep brings the trail indoors at New York Auto Show

PRNewswire-FirstCall — Jeep is redefining the auto show experience for consumers this year at the 2004 New York Auto Show with the first indoor Jeep 101 driving course.
The 45,000-square-foot exhibit will give people a chance to experience the extreme on- and off-road capabilities of Jeep vehicles without leaving Manhattan.

The course includes several obstacles that simulate the rigorous Trail Rated testing that Jeep vehicles endure before earning a Trail Rated badge. What this means to consumers is a first-hand look at the capability standard of Jeep vehicles for traction, ground-clearance, maneuverability articulation and water fording.
The Jeep 101 course will be

made up of six different surfaces — dirt, gravel, rocks, water, wood and asphalt — and includes a 20-foot vertical climb through the ceiling of the lavas center, a two-foot deep 15-foot long 20-foot long test and a 12-foot by 15-foot section of terrain simulating fallen logs measuring 18-inches in diameter.
"Jeep created this course because we know if a picture is worth one thousand words, then a physical experience is worth 1,000 pictures," said Jeff Bell, vice president of marketing communications for Chrysler Group. "Jeep is taking the auto show experience to the next level as Camp Jeep and Jeep Jambores. Our legendary capability is best lived first-hand. Despite being indoors, the

Recognizing a pioneer

Longtime Cranford resident, Henrietta Dreyer was recently honored by the Cranford DADR for her many contributions to the town ship. For more see Page B-1.

Cranford Chronicle

In split vote, Cranford introduces budget

By LAUREN TRAINOR
THE CHRONICLE
CRANFORD — In a 3-2 vote split along party lines, the Township Committee introduced a 2004 municipal budget that calls for a tax increase of about \$100 on a home assessed at the township average of \$177,900.
The \$22.4 million budget represents a 2.9 percent spending increase, compared to a 5.7 percent increase last year.
But the increase in the tax rate is actually closer to 7 percent, due to loss of some revenues.
Among the biggest obstacles for the township was the loss of a \$400,000 library grant that was received last year. And

although state aid increased somewhat, by \$75,000 this year saw a \$305,000 increase in healthcare costs and an additional \$113,000 payment to the state pension fund.
The main points of contention among commissioners were increases to the township staff, including an economic development specialist to guide the township in a cohesive way toward the development of a viable downtown and also to help represent the township's interest in projects like Cranford Crossing and the Riverfront Redevelopment project.
"I think a lean staff is one of the hallmarks of good government," said Commissioner George Jern, who disagreed with the staffing increases and, along with

fellow Democrat Dan Aschenbach, voted against introduction of the budget.
Jern argued that since developers are privately held entities, the township should rely more on the companies' capabilities rather than creating a township-funded position. "I think that we're stepping out of our bounds here that I personally don't want to cross," he said.
Other increases in staff included two additional code enforcement officers, an additional member of the administrator's office, and two part-time positions in the parks and recreation department. The cost of the additional positions totals \$167,000.
Mayor Barbara Bilger, though she voted to introduce the budget, was not entirely convinced the township needed the economic development position.
"I'm not happy with the economic development position. It was said it would be discussed, but it was not discussed," she said.
Commissioner Scott Mease disagreed. "I still think we need a point person for this, and I think the position will pay for itself," he said of the new position.
In declining to vote for the budget, Aschenbach asserted that the budget "provides a bottom value to the township," but does not go far enough to reduce this year's tax increase.
Aschenbach had advocated the possibility of selling municipal land or taking

(Continued on page A-2)

School election is set Tuesday

By LAUREN TRAINOR
THE CHRONICLE
Voters will have an opportunity to decide the fate of proposed school budgets and to elect new members for local boards of education when they go to the polls for the annual school election Tuesday.

In Cranford, the budget proposed by the Board of Education calls for an annual increase of \$166,033 on an average township home assessed at \$176,900 — an increase of 4.5 percent. The total proposed tax levy is \$35.9 million.
According to Superintendent Lawrence Fausold and Business Administrator Bob Carluccio, salaries and benefits represent 81 percent of the total proposed budget. These costs, along with rises in transportation costs, out of district tuition costs, energy costs and liability and property insurance, comprise 92 percent of the total budget.
The candidates seeking the three 3-year terms on the



Hunting for bargains
Casey Deegan, left, with her cousin Casey (center) and Kayleigh Pender, search the stacks for good deals at Saturday's indoor flea market at the Kenilworth Veterans Center. Proceeds from the event benefited the ongoing effort to restore the Nitschke House and create a 'living museum' in the borough.

Council candidates file to run in primary

By LAUREN TRAINOR
THE CHRONICLE
The campaign season has officially begun, as candidates who intend to run in the June primaries for municipal office had until Monday to announce their intentions.
There will be no primary contests in local towns, but every seat in the November general election will be contested.
In Kenilworth, where Democrats hold a 4-2 council majority, incumbent Democrats Peter Corvelli and Robert Taylor Jr. will seek new terms. They will be opposed by Republicans Kathi Fanning and Michael Balkin.
Taylor is seeking his second term on Kenilworth's Borough Council. He is 30 years old and a lifelong resident of the borough, and works as an attorney in Union.
"It's been a great experience, the past three years, and I want

to continue to work for the community," he said. "I think through my efforts and the efforts of my colleagues we've made strides. It's my home, and I want to work to keep it a great place."
Corvelli is a 32-year-old Hillside police officer who has lived in the borough for four years. He is seeking his first full term since being appointed to complete Greg David's council term after David was elected to the mayor's slot last November.
"Being in there, now, I enjoy it," Corvelli said. "I want to continue what we're doing. We're making headway now — we're getting streets repaired, we're getting streets paved, and I just want to continue that."
Fanning has already served a term on the council, during which she was council president. At the conclusion of her council term last year she ran for mayor, losing a closely-contested election to David.

started," he said, noting the pending redevelopment of the Thomas & Betts property redevelopment and transportation grants for the borough. "I want to keep the quality of life that's been started in Garwood. We have a lot going on to make Garwood a great place."
In Garwood, where Democrats hold a unanimous majority, Tom Englese and Charles Lombardo are both seeking re-election. They will be opposed by Republican challengers Victor DeFilippo and Anthony Sytko.
Englese is 40 years old and has lived in the borough his entire life. He is seeking election to his first full term, although he has sat on the council since last March when he was appointed to fill the spot vacated by Dennis McCarthy, who became mayor following the death of Michael Crivelli.
"I want to continue the progress that's already been

(Continued on page A-2)

Cranford author remains bound to his hometown

By LAUREN TRAINOR
THE CHRONICLE
Though written by a Cranford resident, "The Trouble with Mental Wellness" is Jersey City through and through. In author Joseph Colicchio's second novel, there is no mistaking the streets whose history drives the lives, loves, and eccentricities of a cast of characters connected through a wellness center run by lead character and local guy Nicky Finnuccio.
"Trouble," Colicchio said, was written about "a lot of inept people who are just stumbling around trying to make it."
It is a dark comedy about people he knows, people he imagines, and himself.
"I think there's a lot of Kurt Vonnegut in the book. At least I

suspect there is, because I've read him a lot and try to be funny, so I think I copy him in some way," Colicchio said.
Colicchio worked on the book for about three years, he said, squeezing in time between books and summer vacations to research and write his second novel.
"I teach English at Hudson County Community College, and I really can't do the two at the same time," he said. "The process really gets stretched out and that can get frustrating."
Colicchio said that school breaks and summers provide the necessary free time to concentrate on writing. He said that the greatest liability to that approach is that the story's angles naturally shift as he spends more time thinking without being able to write.

"The longer it takes, the more your mind moves. Not that you lose interest, but this character is more interesting or that character is more interesting each day," he said.
For his first book, "High Gate and Beauty," he had to research police procedure, while this book led him to research psychology — just not too much of it.
"I had to sort of be able to find out the legal guidelines — he had to be able to open up shop but not be competent enough to really be a help to anyone," Colicchio said. "I had to learn some things, but I didn't need to learn too much because he was so incompetent about what he was doing."
Frequent visits to his childhood turf helped Colicchio define the Jersey City stomping grounds with his characters in "The Trouble

with Mental Wellness," particularly the city's Central Avenue.
"That is extremely important to me, that you feel like it's happening somewhere," Colicchio said. He took photographs to help him clearly visualize what his characters saw every day, but what his readers might never have seen in their lives.
Colicchio said he emphasized "the way the air conditioning units were set, the storefronts, just how everything was set up."
Besides the nostalgia, he said, a neighborhood like Central Avenue provides a microcosm of the outside world. Some people's lives are entirely lived within a few blocks, and stories tend to unfold intimately and completely within the confines of such a

JOSEPH COLICCHIO

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MSRP: \$22,245
Multi Discount: \$2100
Rebate: \$3000
Olds Loyalty Rebate: \$1000
Military Rebate: \$750
\$15,395

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MSRP: \$20,230
Multi Discount: \$1785
Rebate: \$1000
Olds Loyalty Rebate: \$1000
Military Rebate: \$750
\$15,695

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS
MSRP: \$29,730
Multi Discount: \$2491
Rebate: \$3000
Bonus Cash: \$1000
Olds Loyalty Rebate: \$1000
Military Rebate: \$750
\$20,999

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE 1500
MSRP: \$34,285
Multi Discount: \$3345
Rebate: \$3500
Bonus Cash: \$1000
Olds Loyalty Rebate: \$1000
Military Rebate: \$750
\$23,895

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Multi Discount: \$3855
Rebate: \$3000
Bonus Cash: \$1000
Olds Loyalty Rebate: \$1000
Military Rebate: \$750
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