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Cranford Chronicle

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Cranford opts out of Watchung Conference

District would switch to Mountain Valley; move requires approval

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — Athletes might find themselves playing against some smaller teams next year, as the Cranford Board of Education voted unanimously to opt out of the Watchung Conference and into the Mountain Valley Conference at Monday night's meeting.

The effort to change conferences began years ago, said Athletic Director Mark Taglieri.

"It's been something that's been thrown around prior to my arrival," he said.

Taglieri said that the conference change would allow Cranford athletes more equal competition with schools that are closer in enrollment to Cranford's 752 students. The school closest in enrollment to Cranford in the Watchung Conference is Newark's Malcolm X Shabazz High School, with 895 students.

Conversely, the Mountain Valley Conference contains six schools within a 95-student differential, though Cranford would be the biggest school in that conference by a slight margin over Arthur L. Johnson of Clark.

"Currently we're playing in a league where our opponents are twice as large as we are, and this just gives us a fair playing field across all our sports," he said.

The change, though, is not guaranteed. First, the district must be granted entrance into the new conference. Then, it must petition the Watchung Conference for relief of its space in that conference. If that fails, the district can file an appeal.

Taglieri said that the timetable for the conference switch will be determined in September, and that the district is focused on entering the Mountain Valley Conference, so no contingency plan has been set if the 20-school conference does not accept Cranford's application.

In county competition, Cranford regularly beats Mountain Valley schools such as Jonathan Dayton in Springfield and

(Continued on page A-2)

Teacher travels around the world, brings lessons back to the classroom

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — Linda Cortinas left Cranford High School this summer like any other teacher. She returned as Cranford High School's resident expert on all things Japanese after she joined hundreds of teachers from the United States who traveled with the Fulbright Memorial Fund exchange program to Japan this summer.

"I had a fabulous time — I learned so much," — Linda Cortinas on her summer trip to Japan

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"I had a fabulous time — I learned so much," — Linda Cortinas on her summer trip to Japan

At a reception in San Francisco before her departure for the Far East, Cranford arts teacher Linda Cortinas posed with the Counsel General of Japan.

Station charged with violations

Issues stem from improper delivery

By GREG MARK
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — Throughout the long, contentious zoning hearings over whether a gas station could operate at the corner of North Avenue and Orchard Street, opponents and the applicant clashed often over whether a gasoline tanker could safely make deliveries to the property, a small parcel of land tucked into a busy intersection.

Ultimately, the application was approved by members of the local Board of Adjustment expressed misgivings, but said they had no legal basis to deny the proposal. But now that same issue has landed on the property owner, and the tenant, in municipal court.

Owner 120 North Avenue Corp. and tenant Karanjit Singh, who has operated a Cigro station at the property since earlier this summer, will appear in court Sept. 16 to answer five summonses each, the first of which dates from June 18.

Zoning Officer Ron Meeks, who filed most of the complaints based on police reports, said the summonses are mostly for the manner in which fuel was delivered. In approving the use, the zoning board ruled that gasoline tankers must enter the property by turning north on Orchard Street from North Avenue and using the Orchard Street entrance. The tankers must then exit by making a right turn onto North Avenue and heading west.

Instead, Meeks said, the tankers have indeed entered the station from Orchard Street. But they have been backing in, meaning that rather than exiting onto North Avenue the trucks leave by making an illegal left turn onto Orchard Street. Because the tankers can't make that maneuver easily, they tie up traffic at the intersection and on several occasions have required police assistance, Meeks said.

At least one of the summonses is also for time of delivery. Meeks said — the board's resolution prohibited delivery between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. — but that aspect of the process has since

(Continued on page A-2)

Police building to open soon

Officials are anticipating completion of the new Union County Police facility on North Avenue in Westfield, which will include a state-of-the-art DNA lab. For the story, see page A-3.

Film series back in the area

Kinsley, featuring Liam Neeson and Laura Linney, is one of the more than 20 movies to be screened in the Filmseries Symposium, beginning next month in Mountainside. For more information about the annual series, see Prime Time, Page B-3.

Book sale at the library

The Cranford Library's summer-fest book sale continues 10:15 a.m.-1 p.m. today in the basement of the library, located at 224 Walnut Ave.

Keeping Cranford green

There's been a fair amount of rain in the area lately, but plants and flowers across the area still need some hydration. At right, Domenick DiLoreto of the Cranford Recreation and Park Department tends to the flowers in Memorial Park at North Union and Springfield avenues.

NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gameland terminates lease; property back on market

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — After 20 months of waiting, it's official: Gameland will not be coming to Cranford.

A faded sign had long hung in a storefront window on Eastman Street, proclaiming the store, an Internet and gaming center, would be coming soon. Now the sign has come down and a new one hangs in its place, offering the prime location to other entrepreneurs.

The development was met with relief by local officials, who were increasingly frustrated by Gameland's prospective operators to open for business, despite their regular rent payments.

Mitchell and Cheryl Bruntel of Fairwood were not able to reconcile the costs of making necessary upgrades to the space before they were able to open, said Cheryl Bruntel, and instead terminated their five-year lease, signed in December 2002. Both the broker for the property and township officials had been pressuring the Bruntels to back out of the lease once it became apparent the business would not be opening anytime soon.

Bruntel said that the massive amount of electrical work that needed to be done at the store prohibited the couple from opening earlier. When the Bruntels first looked at the space at 26 Eastman St., they did not foresee the infrastructure problems that would eventually prove to be a money pit and prevent Gameland from opening, she said.

Then, she added, the couple hired an architect who was more concerned with interior decorating than in fixing the electrical problems.

In June, Bruntel said that she planned to improve the storefront's appearance and open the store by the end of the year, but when her landlord gave her an ultimatum of an Aug. 31 opening, she said she saw no way to realize that early date and resigned herself to terminating the lease.

"The funds required to renovate the building (are) way beyond our means," she said.

Bruntel said that she was hoping that the opening of a similar store in Scotch Plains would provide the revenue stream they needed to get the Cranford store running, but that too took longer to open than she had anticipated.

Gameland had a rocky history with downtown officials. Kathleen Prunty, director of the Downtown Management Corporation, sent letters to the Bruntels in November, and again in May asking the couple to open Gameland, or at least improve the "rippled" awning, torn paper in the display window, and litter at the front and rear entrances.

But Bruntel is still hopeful of returning to the township. Bruntel said that the couple's Scotch Plains store will open next week, and hopes it generates enough money to return the Gameland venture to Cranford by next year in a more appropriate building.

"I really didn't want to leave Cranford — it's such a great town," she said. "We will be back in Cranford."

Flood control costs rise

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — The State Department of Environmental Protection last week mandated that the township include an impermeable plastic membrane into Phase I of the Northeast Quadrant Flood Control project, at an additional cost of approximately \$500,000.

The membrane will keep water from seeping into the ground, containing it in the riverbed, said Township Commissioner Scott Mease, who oversees the Engineering Department. The material will cost money, the labor will cost money and the water will eventually drain into township sewers, which will cost money, said Mease.

However, the installation of the membrane will not delay the project, he said, as it can be worked on as other, more time-consuming elements of the project are finished.

Mease said that although he understands why the state has asked the township to install the membrane, the township was not asked for input. He added that he would have preferred to see a natural benthic clay solution, which is used for the containment of some oil tanks.

He also said that although this project will not impact the timing of any of the subsequent phases of the project, it indicates a possibility that the state will continue to place last-minute requirements on the project.

The flood control project still faces other hurdles, as well, as easements remain outstanding at a few properties.

Mease said that obtaining authorized easements would be less time consuming than the already begun condemnation process. However, he said that despite promises, three property owners have not turned in their easement documents, forcing the township forward to participate in a lengthier process as material costs — especially steel and concrete — continue to rise.

"They're saying one thing, but they're not helping move the process along," he said. "At this point, I doubt that we'll get started until next spring."

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Suspect tries to flee, apprehended after chase

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

A 35-year-old Newark man was arrested Aug. 19 after leading police on a high speed chase through Cranford, Roselle Park, and onto the Garden State Parkway, where he finally crashed his car.

Police attempted to stop Mark Jefferson at 2:17 a.m. after he was spotted speeding on North Avenue at Elizabeth Street in his 1992 Jeep Cherokee, police said.

Gas station charged with violations

(Continued from page A-1)

improved.

Municipal regulations call for \$1,000 penalties for each of the violations, if the owner and tenant are found to be in compliance by the court.

Mease said the problem appears to be that, while many during the proceedings indicated a 55-foot truck could safely make delivery, the gaso-

line company has been sending a 65-foot tanker.

The situation is something of a dilemma — the tenant and owner do not control what size truck is assigned to the delivery, but they are responsible for making sure delivery abides by the terms of the resolution.

"They basically agreed to cooperate with certain rules, and they need to cooperate with those rules," said Scott Mease, a

member of the Township Committee — even though "It doesn't really look like they can refuse according to the agreement."

"They may not be able to do it the proper way, but they agreed to do it that way," Mease said.

Tony Mack, owner of the neighboring King Farms property, is pressing the township to make sure the station complies.

Mack, whose family members live and work at King Farms, said he is primarily concerned with safety.

"My intent is not to shut him down," he said. "My intent is that he does what he's supposed to do according to the agreement. He's been flagrant, doing what he wants to do instead of what he's supposed to do."

"God forbid an accident occurs — the township is going to be sued by me," he said. "We're not talking about a toy truck. We're talking about a big tanker truck with a lot of volatile fuel."

Cranford opts out of Watchung Conference

(Continued from page A-1)

Abraham Clark High School in Roselle. But Taglieri said that moving to the Mountain Valley Conference — which also includes Kenilworth's David Brearley — would not ensure dominance by the team that is now paired with schools like Westfield, Union, and Elizabeth.

He also said that joining the

new conference would not dull the competitive edge that Cranford players must develop to compete with these schools.

As a Group II school, Taglieri said, Cranford's level of competition is more on par with the other Group II and Group I schools in the Mountain Valley Conference. He added that safety is a concern in the Watchung Conference, especially in sports like football and basketball, where other teams can also choose from a larger pool of students to assemble larger teams.

The move would not change the district's grouping for state competition, but the softer conference schedule would make it easier for Cranford teams to qualify for state playoffs. The standard criteria for entry to the playoffs is a winning record against the regular-season schedule, largely made up of conference competi-

tion.

Those sentiments were echoed at Monday's Board of Education meeting.

"Cranford has had a disadvantage when playing Elizabeth, Plainfield, and Linden, because not only are the players bigger, but they have a bigger team," said board President Mary Venditti.

Superintendent Lawrence Feinsold, who recommended the action to the board, agreed.

"The reason I recommended it was that I don't think it's fair for our kids to compete against teams like Elizabeth, which is the largest high school in the state, and other schools like Plainfield and Linden," he said. "It's in our students' best interest to be competing in a fair arena."

Not only would the change pair Cranford with other districts more similar in size, but it would also allow the Cougars to play sports

like lacrosse and field hockey within the conference. Currently, those sports are played outside the conference or between county teams.

Although the board unanimously supported the measure, for some it was not easy.

On a personal level, the Watchung Conference is a prestigious conference, and I hate to see it go," said board member Saul Zucker. "But I agree with all the recommendations, and think it can be more competitive for our students — I wouldn't have voted for it if I didn't think so."

"This is where we would like to be," Taglieri said. "We like the administrators of the Watchung Conference, the other teams, and the student athletes. We just think that the Mountain Valley Conference geographically, and with the student level of competition, is where we fit best."

Teacher travels

(Continued from page A-1)

while the do not walk sign was lit, but there was no traffic.

"I definitely got lucky," she said. She also got a lesson in Japanese time.

"I learned the difference between American time and Japanese time — they kept us on a very tight schedule, and every minute of your time was accounted for," she said.

Cortinas found that out when in breakfast was rescheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 7:25 a.m. — at a step that wouldn't likely be taken back home in the States.

After living with different host families and teaching different Japanese classes, Cortinas said, the teachers assigned to the same prefecture returned themselves up to create a presentation for the entire group.

It was in her group that Cortinas said she made lifelong friends from across the country, and her group is even planning a reunion in Chicago next year.

"I had a fabulous time — I learned so much," she said. "It was so well thought-out and so well planned — they thought of absolutely everything."

"The network will help keep her and her students connected to others who have infused Japanese culture into their unique disciplines. Cortinas will show her art students her photos from Japan and of course, she will share her stories, but she will also teach them how to create their own Japanese tea sets for a tea ceremony she plans to hold in conjunction with an international foods class at the high school.

And, she said, that beliefs she confirmed in Japan are apparent every day.

"I believe that through art, you can communicate with anybody, and by looking at art you can tap into something that's so universal."

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Forensics building nearly completed

By BRAD BISHOP
STAFF WRITER

WESTFIELD — The first phase of the Union County Police Headquarters construction process is nearing its conclusion, and county officials say they expect the new services the facility will provide.

Work on the 51,000-square-foot building, located on North Avenue across the street from the Westfield Diner, began in October 2002 and is expected to be completed by November.

Currently, crews are putting finishing touches on the building and painting the facility's drop ceiling, according to County Freeholder John Wahlrab, liaison to the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

"Once the paint goes up, you know you're just about finished," Wahlrab said.

The new \$11 million headquarters will replace what Wahlrab termed a "cramped" building, which was not ADA-compliant and "had served its purpose." But in the eyes of county officials, the most significant addition will be a DNA wing added to the prosecutor's Communications and Forensics Unit.

According to Romankow, while the existing forensics building was effective in processing blood samples and over 5,000 drug exams last year, the



Construction is nearly complete at the new forensics building and county police facility on North Avenue.

NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

new building will give his office easier access to information that is becoming critical to authorities statewide. Shows like "CSI" and high-profile national murder cases have chronicled the evolving way that prosecutors assess evidence in capital cases, he explained.

"We have to modernize, and keep up with modern technology," Romankow said. "In the past) DNA was something that was considered (by prosecutors), but now it's probably the most exciting area of forensic study."

County officials are in the process of hiring a forensic biologist to run the new lab, and will be cross-training chemists who are currently employed to out-

ing a librarian, a sixth grade science teacher, and two teachers, said Superintendent Lloyd Leschuk.

Garwood has also filled its open spots, said Business Administrator Barbara Tuck. District students and staff will face some transitions, though, as construction will likely move students currently in Franklin School into the new wing of Lincoln School by the end of October, she said.

Districts are fully staffed

Most faculty and staff positions have been filled in area schools, helping to kick off the school year off in an unusually stable fashion.

Cranford has filled all its full-time teaching positions, said Superintendent Lawrence Feinsold, and the district expects to fill a two-period per day special education position by the end of the week.

Kenilworth has filled all its open positions, which included hiring a librarian, a sixth grade science teacher, and two teachers, said Superintendent Lloyd Leschuk.

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Talks commence on South Avenue project

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — Informal discussions on a project that could bring development to the long vacant property at 555 South Avenue East got underway last week — and as expected, the project's details appear likely to become the most contentious matter.

On Aug. 18, the Planning Board and the property's new owner, Lehigh Acquisition Corporation, held an informal meeting to discuss the proposed development. Lehigh has proposed building 100 age-restricted units on the property.

The meeting was designed to give the owner — not yet a formal applicant — a more precise idea of what the board will be looking at once a formal application has been submitted, but it also gave Lehigh a chance to decide whether they would seek an ordinance to rezone the area, pursue a use variance for the property, or request that the area be designated in need of redevelopment.

Vic Vinegra, the planner for Harbor Consultants who is working with the developer, said that though some modifications to the plan have been made, a formal application should be ready by the October Planning Board meeting.

Since a plan for a supermarket on the property was scuttled several years ago, an age-restricted development has emerged as the

consensus "best option" for the property. But that doesn't mean the project will sail through to approval.

Planning Board Chairman Kurt Petschow said that among the modifications the developer must incorporate into their plans before a formal presentation is a reduction of units from the originally proposed 100 to a far less dense 50 — though that is still somewhat denser than the 40 units effectively recommended by the township's Development Review Committee, using the formula that applies to single-family homes in much of the township.

Sound barriers and roadway modifications must also be made to accommodate safety vehicles and entrance and exit access, Petschow said.

As for which review process to proceed with, Vinegra said he still prefers to seek a redevelopment designation for the area, currently designated for research, office, and industrial use — not residential development.

Vinegra, whose firm has done countless projects across the state, said he is counting on the concurrent review of the project application and the redevelopment designation, as was conducted in a similar project that was approved earlier this year in Garwood.

"So far it looks good," said Vinegra. "It was my feeling that this felt it was a very good project for Cranford."

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Commentary

State of sleaze

Now that the sensationalism and shock from Gov. James McGreevey's announcement that he is gay and is resigning from office is beginning to fade, New Jersey residents are slowly coming to a sad and painful realization — we are living in a state of sleaze.

That feeling was re-enforced Sunday when Sen. Jon Corzine announced on nationwide television that Garden State residents are suffering from a "crisis of confidence" in their state government. That's an understatement.

In the newspapers every day is a new tidbit of salacious gossip about the nature of the relationship between McGreevey and his former advisor Golan Cipel. Just like "Alice in Wonderland," the story gets "curiouser and curiously." McGreevey said he was resigning because he didn't want the business of state government to be distracted by the continuous drip of scandal; yet, because he's delayed the date of his resignation until Nov. 15, he's created an atmosphere of turmoil and uncertainty in Trenton where now political infighting among Democrats is rampant and Republicans are sharpening their political knives. The primary topic in Trenton is not property tax reform or controlling sprawl, but who is going to be doing what over the next 16 months when a new administration takes up permanent residence in the Statehouse.

Adding to the lack of confidence in state government was the guilty plea last week of real estate developer Charles Kushner, one of the major behind-the-scenes political players in New Jersey, and the indictment last month of David D'Amiano, a Democratic fundraiser from Middlesex County and an associate of McGreevey. In announcing the D'Amiano indictment, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie — himself rumored to have gubernatorial aspirations — succinctly vocalized what everybody in the state is thinking: "The allegations in this indictment paint a vivid picture of the corrupt and broken political system in New Jersey. The alleged conduct puts on the display the belief that some persons in New Jersey still hold — that every action by government is for sale."

With 21 counties, 566 municipalities, more than 600 school districts, numerous authorities and thousands of patronage jobs in state government, there really is a lot "for sale" in New Jersey. That excessive amount of government creates an atmosphere where corruption is tempting, especially because there is no watchdog — other than the federal attorney — for political corruption.

The continual churn of political corruption in New Jersey must be tackled by the Legislature or a special Constitutional Convention. The structure of the government needs to be examined and reformed, from borough hall to the Statehouse. Creating the new position of lieutenant governor would solve the messy succession question, but something more needs to be done to keep a close eye on government at all levels. Perhaps the position of a statewide, directly-elected public advocate, with full investigatory powers, needs to be created.

Most importantly, however, voters need to become more involved as the ultimate watchdogs; only the voters can demand more accountability at all levels of government. That means a higher rate of participation in elections and paying more attention to what is going on in government. Apathy will make it easier for corruption to flourish.

The Chronicle is here for you

The following information should help you get your ideas and community news into *The Chronicle*:
Call Editor Greg Marx at (732) 396-4219 with story suggestions, questions or comments.

Our address: *The Chronicle*, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ, 07066.
Our fax number is (732) 574-2613. Our e-mail address is union@njnpublishing.com.

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting articles and press releases to *The Chronicle* is 5 p.m. Friday. The deadline for submitting letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday.

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President Thomas M. Kordel 908-792-4177 Ext 640
Senior VP Operations Joseph Glendon 908-575-6759
Controller Margaret M. Gerke 908-792-4177 Ext 670

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Letters to the editor

Kerry has failed this job interview

To The Chronicle:
Let's view this presidential campaign as we would view that of any applicant seeking a new job. We, the voters, are acting as members of a board of directors reviewing resumes from job applicants for the office of CEO of a very large business (the USA). Applicant, Senator John Kerry, is applying for a job as president of the United States.

A. Graduated from college and volunteered for service in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Spent four months commanding a small boat with a crew of fewer than 20 men. Awarded a Bronze Star, a Silver Star, and three Purple Hearts.

B. Served briefly as Lieutenant Governor under Governor Dukakis in Massachusetts.

C. Served 18 years as United States Senator

from Massachusetts.

D. Granted a job interview (at the Democratic Convention) and spoke almost an hour. The majority of his speech focused on reference A; apparently it is what he considered his best experience for the job of CEO of the USA and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

Shouldn't we be much more interested in John Kerry's most recent 18 years as senator than the four months, as a young man, commanding a couple of dozen men? The job for which he is applying calls for someone with considerable executive experience and decision-making skill. These qualities do not seem to be present in Senator Kerry's resume or his interview.

NORM RODDEN

Clark, NJ

Cultural event or campaign rally?

To The Chronicle:

I attended a "free" concert in Echo Lake Park on a recent Wednesday night. Running along the top of the stage was a banner which read "Brought to you by the Union County Freeholders Union County — We're Connected to You!"

When I first entered the concert area I noticed a trailer which featured a huge poster-size portrait of the freeholder board. Set on tables in front of the trailer were countless county brochures.

Before the concert started there were Democratic freeholder candidates handing out campaign literature.

At intermission the county emcee announced Freeholder John Wohlrab, who happens to be up for re-election this November. "You've got to meet this guy! This guy is handsome! Freeholder John Wohlrab!"

Freeholder Wohlrab then gave a five-minute speech about what great things the county is doing for me; presumably he is responsible for them.

Both hands thanked the freeholders repeatedly.

wondered what made them think to do that? After all, shouldn't they have been thanking the taxpayers who picked up the tab for this "free" concert?

I left the "free" concert feeling like I had just attended the Union County Democratic Convention. How much did this Democratic convention cost the taxpayers of Union County?

I'm afraid this taxpayer-funded campaigning will get worse. On Aug. 15, the all-Democratic freeholder board voted to adopt a bond ordinance in excess of \$49 million to purchase the Union County Arts Center located in Rahway. With the Arts Center being "owned" by the county, the taxpayer-funded Union County Democratic Convention will become a yearlong weekly event.

When citizens are forced to fund political campaigns and propaganda, we can no longer assume we live in a democracy. With the purchase of the Arts Center, we have officially become the Socialist Republic of Union County.

KURY MUELLER

Cranford

Pres. Bush: The right choice for NJ

To The Chronicle:

The reason why New Jersey residents must support President Bush in his re-election campaign extend far beyond the recently exposed terror plot targeting the Prudential Building in Newark. Despite the fact that New Jersey voters have not been favorable to Republican candidates in recent federal elections, President Bush has risen far beyond the trappings of party to take several initiatives extremely favorable to New Jersey.

While the war against terror remains at the forefront of the campaign, there are several other key issues where President Bush's positions are much more beneficial to New Jersey than his opponent.

New Jersey has nearly 3.4 million taxpayers who will have lower tax bills in 2004 thanks to President Bush's historic tax cuts. More than 1 million married couples in New Jersey will benefit from relief from the marriage penalty and more than 800,000 families have benefited from the increase in the child tax credit from \$600 to \$1,000.

The president's opponent has not only voted against these historic tax cuts but has also voted for higher taxes on Social Security benefits at least eight times. These votes affected the 1.1 million New Jersey residents aged 65 and older and some targeted tax increases for senior citizens making as little as \$34,000 per year.

In 2000, more than one half of New Jersey's workforce was employed in a small business. Thanks again to President Bush's tax cuts more than 715,000 small business taxpayers in New Jersey can use their tax savings to invest in new equipment, hire additional workers, and increase pay. Although Mr. Kerry is rarely consistent on

any issue, his record shows that he has voted repeatedly against capping punitive damages for small businesses.

Business growth for the Garden State is not limited to small businesses. Thanks to President Bush's strong support in ending economic isolationism, open trade has brought jobs to New Jersey. Approximately 270,000 workers are employed by U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies in New Jersey.

Another key group that New Jersey must focus on is the medical community. Many doctors are forced to relocate from this state, or simply choose not to open up practices here, because of high malpractice insurance rates. The American Medical Association has included New Jersey as one of nineteen states currently experiencing a medical liability crisis. For example, 20 of 85 neurosurgeons quit practicing between 2002 and 2003. President Bush has repeatedly asked Congress for federal medical liability reform. Senator Kerry has voted against it 10 times in his Senate career.

President Bush can run proudly on his record in the state of New Jersey. Senator Kerry must run away from his record if he hopes to obtain votes in New Jersey. New Jersey has sent two Democratic senators to Washington and elected a Democrat as chief executive of the state. Yet, President Bush has not given up on our state. In fact, his appointments of former governors Christie Todd Whitman to the EPA and Thomas Kean to lead the 9/11 commission have increased New Jersey's representation at the federal level. He deserves the votes of New Jersey citizens; he is right for our state and nation.

DAVID M. STREKO

Kentworth

Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

Another summer comes to a bad end

Another summer has come and gone.

It never seemed like summer. The weather was atrocious when it should have been beautiful. Such is life in New Jersey.

Now in the end days of August, when the world worries about returning to business in September, I look back with disappointment over all the things I wanted to do this summer but didn't.

For example, I wasn't chosen to be on a "reality" television show. Of course "reality" is a misnomer because none of these shows is in the same universe as reality. Do these people ever work? Do they ever have to visit the Division of Motor Vehicles to have their registrations renewed? They live in a fantasy world where the rudiments of life are no problem so they're allowed to indulge and sink to the lowest common denominators of the human condition — greed and lust.

I suppose these shows perform a valuable cultural function by allowing us to chuck our tongues over the lack of shame the participants on these shows display. After all, the tongue clucks are expressions of our moral revulsion and a reinforcement of all those basic values we hold dear. Yet, again, we have this inexplicable wish to be on these shows, if only so we can forget the demands of everyday life and enjoy our brief moment as a celebrity. After all, isn't it the dream of every American to be a star?

Another disappointment of the summer was the lack of hitchhikers. Long, long time ago, when the country wasn't plagued by irrational fears, everybody used to hitchhike, especially during the summer. In Europe, hitchhiking is still considered an acceptable rite of passage, the proper means to see the world during your *Wanderjahr* when your fancy is still free.

I left the "free" concert feeling like I had just attended the Union County Democratic Convention. How much did this Democratic convention cost the taxpayers of Union County?

I'm afraid this taxpayer-funded campaigning will get worse. On Aug. 15, the all-Democratic freeholder board voted to adopt a bond ordinance in excess of \$49 million to purchase the Union County Arts Center located in Rahway. With the Arts Center being "owned" by the county, the taxpayer-funded Union County Democratic Convention will become a yearlong weekly event.

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KURY MUELLER

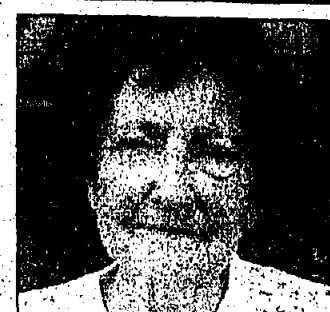
Cranford

IF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WERE HELD TOMORROW, WHICH CANDIDATE WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?



LEO MCMAHON

Cranford
I'm voting for Bush — I spent two years overseas in World War II and didn't come back with a Silver Star.



ALICE HARLAN

Cranford
I'm probably going to vote Democrat, but I'm not wild about either candidate. I want to vote one time in this world for somebody that would make me enthusiastic.



JOHN ALLEN

Seacacus
I don't like the idea of voting for Bush, but I think we need a cowboy in the White House, and that's what we have. Love him or hate him, you know what you have with Bush — I still don't know who Kerry is. The Democratic party takes the black vote for granted, but not this Democrat.



JAN DIGIOVINE

Cranford
I would definitely vote for Bush. He has integrity, decisiveness, a lack of traditional political behavior, and I think he's very much his own person. He's not into playing political games.



ANDY LAWRENCE

Westfield
I'm undecided. I don't know who I'm going to vote for. There's too many pros and cons for each of them. On the other hand, I can't see voting for a third party (candidate) because that's throwing your vote away.



ANGELA CARUSO

Westfield
I'm absolutely voting for Kerry. I support most of his policies and am opposed to most of Bush's policies, especially as pertains to issues involving women and abortion.

Letters to the editor

State needs wide-ranging reforms

To The Chronicle:

The scandals involving New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey put a spotlight once again on the subject of government reform. Some reforms that have been proposed are considered adequate and needed. However, regrettably they do not go far enough.

The culture in Trenton is one that has been corrupt for years. It needs to be overhauled from the surface, to the middle and on the bottom. It has affected not only the office of Governor, but it has affected the State Assembly, the State Senate and other offices. The corruption needs to be looked at in totality as a whole.

What reforms would I like to see proposed for Trenton? They are the following:

Office of Lieutenant Governor: When a sitting governor becomes incapacitated by ill-health, death, resignation, or in this case scandal, the New Jersey Senate President takes over as Acting Governor for the remainder of the term. The Acting Governor not only holds the power of the executive branch, but also legislative power as leader of the Senate. This violates checks and balances between the three branches of government (executive, legislative and judiciary). Thus the Acting Governor is put in the position of being a dictator.

There is unanimity among the Legislature and the people in creating a Lieutenant Governor's post. The difference lies in how that post should come about. Should it be an elective office as in California or should it be one in which the person runs with the gubernatorial candidate during elections such as in New York State? I believe that the Lieutenant Governor's position should be one running with the gubernatorial candidate. Just as a presidential candidate chooses the running mate to run with him or her for the office of vice president, the gubernatorial candidate should be allowed to choose the best person to run with him or her for the office of Lieutenant Governor.

Direct Initiative and Referendum: Initiative and referendum in the Garden State is considered to be nothing more than a farce. If a majority of the people voted in favor of a proposal on the ballot, it does not become law until the Legislature takes up the question which could take years or never happen. There have been many politicians that have run for

terms. The State Senate and Assembly terms should be limited as well. Two four-year terms for the Senate, four two-year terms for the Assembly. A constitutional amendment should be passed stating such. No longer will there be a 90 percent incumbency reelection rate. No longer will there be careerism in Trenton. All that will remain is service for a time and then retirement.

Direct Election of the State Treasurer: There have been some that have been calling for the direct election of a State Auditor to oversee state programs and agencies for fraud, waste, abuse, incompetence, finances and spending. I believe there is no need for this. I believe the State Treasurer should be made into an elective post, and be given the power to do all that, issuing quarterly reports on a daily basis.

The elected State Treasurer's post should be an independent office not affiliated in any way with the Legislature or the executive or judicial branch. By doing this, the need to create another elective office will be negated.

To pass these proposals in the Garden State will take more than people standing up. I will take a revolution. Sadly, when it comes to state government, the citizens of New Jersey are not good at getting ferociously active. They do not participate all too well, but it is only they that have the power to demand and see a change from the horrible status quo. I pray they get off their seats and do this. However, I stand pessimistic at this time.

ALEX PUGLIESE

Kentworth

Gov. should step down immediately

To The Chronicle:

I would like to urge all New Jersey citizens who are eligible to vote in the election to be held on Nov. 2, 2004 to take pro-active steps so that we the citizens elect the next Governor of New Jersey and not allow Governor James E. McGreevey to unilaterally decide that State Senator Richard J. Codey will take over as Acting Governor on Nov. 15, 2004 when Governor McGreevey resigns.

If you agree that the next Governor should be elected and not appointed, then you should contact your state Assembly and Senate representatives as well as Governor McGreevey and request that the governor resign in time for the election to be held.

If your representative does not agree that the next governor of New Jersey should be elected, then you should ask for an explanation and consider supporting candidates who feel that the rights of citizens should be upheld.

In this multi-media world in which we live you can contact your representatives by letter, telephone calls, emails and faxes and I urge you to do so immediately.

If you do not know how to contact your representative you can go look up this information in your local telephone book or go to www.njleg.state.nj.us to find out your representatives and how to contact them. You can also visit www.nj.gov and send your message directly to Governor McGreevey.

The last time I checked, we live in

a democracy and our governor is elected and not appointed. I would like to decide who the next governor will be. This is wrong!

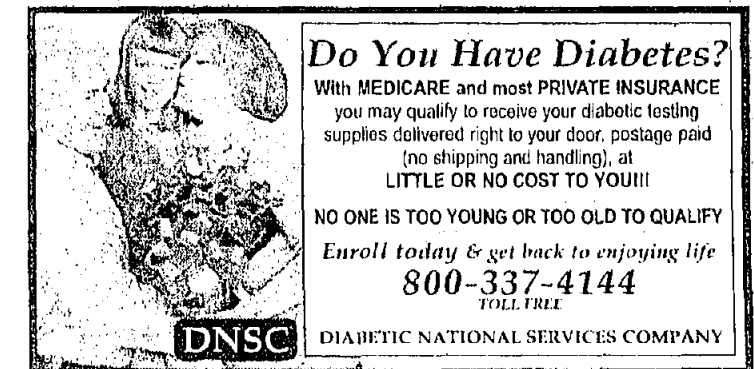
Let the Governor and your representatives hear your voices, let Senator Codey become our Acting Governor immediately and let the citizens of New Jersey elect the next Governor of New Jersey on Nov. 2.

TOM MADARAS

Westfield

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Drugs taken from local pharmacy

CRANFORD

The South Avenue Drug Fair was burglarized Sunday night, as an unknown suspect stole undetermined amount of prescription drugs from the store less than two hours after the manager locked up for the night.

Entry was gained after burglars cut the telephone wires to the store at approximately 10:21 p.m., said Sgt. Frank Hanley, effectively shutting off the computer and internet systems inside the store.

The burglar was able to pry open the rear emergency door and steal a number of narcotics including undetermined amounts of Percocet, Vicodin, Xanax, and Endocet, police said. Store employees were still conducting an inventory to determine the exact amount of the stolen drugs.

Police could not comment on whether the alarm system was operating properly that night, or if there was video surveillance of the burglary.

Police are asking the public to help with the investigation. Anyone who saw a suspicious person or vehicle around Drug Fair Sunday night is asked to call Officer John Swandark at (908) 272-2222.

Police Log

Frank Meyer, 20, of Rahway, was arrested at 3:13 a.m. Friday after police stopped his 1993 Pontiac Grand Am on North Avenue near Carpenter Place for an inspection violation.

He was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, possession of a controlled dangerous substance in his motor vehicle, failure to wear a seatbelt, and driving a vehicle that was overdue for inspection.

Michael Lesniewski, 37, of Clark, was arrested at 8:21 a.m. Friday near the intersection of Walnut Avenue and Behrnt Place after police stopped his 1989 Ford Econoline van for speeding on Lexington Avenue.

Lesniewski was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, possession of a controlled dangerous substance in his motor vehicle, driving with a suspended driver's license, and

speeding.

Jorge Zamora, 45, of Elizabeth, was arrested at 8:19 p.m. Sunday after police stopped his 1989 Honda Accord near the intersection of Ramapo Road and Cayuga Road. Police said they spotted Zamora driving erratically on Centennial Avenue and charged him with driving while intoxicated, driving with an open container of alcohol in his vehicle, driving without a license, and after falsely identifying himself to police, hindering his own apprehension.

Police arrested an 18-year-old Elizabeth man after a police officer noticed a suspicious vehicle parked on High Street near Bluff Street at about 11:08 p.m. Sunday.

When an officer approached the car, occupied by four people, he noticed a rear passenger smoking what appeared to be a marijuana cigarette.

Police said that the passenger, John Rodriguez ingested the cigarette when he noticed the officer. Rodriguez was charged with being under the influence of narcotics.

Bag Day Sale at Thrift Shop

KENILWORTH — The Thrift Shop at Community United Methodist Church is having its End of Summer Bag Day Sale from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. The church is located at 455 Boulevard in Kenilworth.

Residents are invited to shop and have a fun time by filling a bag full of items for just \$5. Items include clothes, toys, and kitchenware, jewelry and more. Bags will be provided.

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Rep. Mike Ferguson and Warren Mayor Gary DiNardo inspect an American flag in Ferguson's new office.

Ferguson relocates his offices

By JENNIFER McCANDLESS
STAFF WRITER

WARREN — Not only does Seventh District Congressman Mike Ferguson call Warren home, he has now moved his office to the township.

Ferguson, who represents much of Union County along with parts of Middlesex, Somerset and Hunterdon counties, officially opened his new district office with a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Thursday afternoon. The office, located at 45 Mountain Boulevard, replaces Ferguson's office in Martinsville. The new office is located behind the PNC Bank.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be opening my new office," Ferguson said during an open house following the ceremony. "I think this location is great for my district. Warren is a pretty central location in my district and has easy access to major highways so I can travel to other areas easily. This was a very important factor when I was looking for a new location for my office."

Ferguson said he is only in his district office about half the year, adding most of the time he is in New Jersey, he is traveling to municipalities in his district.

The office will house members of his staff who will offer services to Ferguson's constituents.

"It's very important that my constituents are able to communicate their concerns or questions about the federal government," Ferguson said. "If any needs help with grant applications, housing issues, immigration or the IRS, my staff will be here to help. If the people aren't getting a response from other departments in government, my staff is available to help them through the bureaucracy."

Warren Mayor Gary DiNardo said he was happy to have the congressman's offices in the township.

"I think this is great," DiNardo said as he toured the offices. "The offices are really nice and it will be a benefit to everyone in the area to have the congressman's staff here to help."

For more information about services available at the office or to contact Ferguson, call (908) 757-7835.

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

Thursday Club

The Cranford Senior Citizens Thursday Club meets 1 p.m. at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

Sept. 2 — Bingo. Sept. 9 — Business meeting followed by "What's My Name?" and recognition of birthdays and anniversaries.

Sept. 16 — Video "Minnie Pearl."

Sept. 23 — A talk on "Truth and Fiction about Slot Machines" by Arthur Blenker.

Sept. 30 — Radio hour with station CCOG.

Trips sponsored by the Thursday Club (the public is welcome):

Aug. 31 — to Caesar's in Atlantic City. For more information, call (908) 272-6896.

Oct. 21-26 — Deluxe motor-coach trip to Bar Harbor, Maine. \$727 per person, double occupancy. For more information, call (908) 272-5375.

Celebrating birthdays in September are Marie Knollner, Jim Walsh, Nancy Bahos, Adele Kosowski, Bill Arthur, Connie Hansen, Rose Estwanick, Richard Orlando, Gladys Bordaro, Shirley Mason and Mary Hanak.

Celebrating anniversaries will be Ann and Joe Donnelly (56 years), Kitty and Leo Schultz (45 years), Adele and Joseph Kosowski (57 years), Adrienne and David Jagerman (51 years) and Lynn and John MacWhirter (51 years).

Friday Club

The Cranford Senior Citizens Friday Club meets 1 p.m. at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Activities: Aug. 27 — Socializing. Trips sponsored by the Friday Club:

Sept. 8 — to Atlantic City. \$18, leave from Centennial Avenue Pool. Additional trips planned Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 5.

Oct. 25-27 — to Foxwood and Mohegan Sun casinos. \$170 double occupancy includes two nights accommodations, two continental breakfasts, meal credits, and guided tours of Mystic and New London.

Dec. 14 — to the Lili Langtry Christmas show. Trip leaves 9 a.m., returns 6 p.m. \$63 fee includes show admission and a meal.

For reservations or additional information call Helen at (908) 276-2849.

Wednesday Club

The Cranford Senior Citizens Wednesday Club meets 1 p.m. at the Community

Vendors sought for street fair

GARWOOD — The Garwood Chamber of Commerce is looking for crafters and vendors for its annual Family Fair and Car Show to be held on Sept. 12 (with a rain date of Sept. 19), from 12 to 5 p.m., on Center Street in Garwood.

This should be the largest show ever in the borough, with many games, prizes and blow ups for kids, lots of food, a strolling band, a Medicine Man with a Flea Circus, food, crafters and vendors.

In addition, the fire department will have a bucket brigade, the Rescue & Bomb Squad will be there on hand with the Garwood Police Department, and much more.

The event was very well attended last year.

Contact Rich Lefebvre at (908) 789-1600 for information or contract, or fax (908) 789-1150.

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This week

THURSDAY

AUG. 26

SUMMER-FEST BOOK SALE — featuring more than 6,000 books and other items. 10-15 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 26. Basement of the Cranford Public Library, 224 Walnut Ave. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. (908) 709-7272.

SATURDAY

AUG. 28

END OF SUMMER BAG DAY SALE — at the Thrift Shop at Community United Methodist Church. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 455 Boulevard, Kenilworth. Fill a bag with items for \$5.

RECYCLING EVENT — for household special waste and automobile tires. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Union County Vocational-Technical School, 1776 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains. Free to county residents.

For more information, call the Bureau of Environmental Services Hotline at (908) 654-9889.

COMING UP

FALL FISHING DERBY — for People with Disabilities; an annual event sponsored by The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Newark Bait and Flycasters Club. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 11. Echo Lake

Park, Mountainside/Westfield border. Register at (908) 527-4096.

STREET FAIR — and Kids Festival and Car Show eighth annual event hosted by the Garwood Chamber of Commerce. Sept. 12. Crafters and vendors now being sought, call (908) 789-1600 or fax (908) 789-1150.

GOLF OUTING — 18th annual event to benefit the Linden-based Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care. Sept. 13. Roselle Golf Club. \$150 for the full day, \$60 for dinner only. (732) 244-1044.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GOLF OUTING — sponsored by the Council 6226 of Cranford. 1 p.m. Sept. 13. High Bridge Hill Country Club, High Bridge. \$125 per golfer. (908) 276-6189 or (908) 709-1550.

LARRY'S PARTY — book club discussion at the Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard. 7:15 p.m. Sept. 14. Pre-registration recommended at (908) 276-2451.

WREATH — a workshop at Crafts Kitchen/Ben Franklin Center in Garwood. 6:30-8 p.m. Sept. 16. Advance registration required; call (908) 789-0217 to register or for more details.

POW/MIA REMEM-

BRANCE DAY — a ceremony sponsored by the county Board

of Freeholders. 11:15 a.m. Sept. 17. Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad St., Elizabeth. Open to the public. (908) 527-4100.

PIZZA AND SWIMMING — an event for single-parent families at the Westfield YMCA. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sept. 17. 220 Clark St., Westfield. \$5. (908) 232-2700, ext. 233.

BUS TRIP TO MYSTIC — sponsored by the Kenilworth Historical Society, to raise funds for the "Restore the House" campaign. 7 p.m. Oct. 1. Schererville Plough company, 3900 Gallop Hill Road, Kenilworth.

PRIDE IN CRANFORD AWARDS DINNER — presented by the Cranford Chamber of Commerce. 6-9:30 p.m. Oct. 20. Gallop Hill Inn, 325 Chestnut St., Cranford. (908) 272-6114 or (908) 272-6425.

TOWN-WIDE LITTER PICKUP DAY — in Cranford, sponsored by the Clean Communities Committee. 10 a.m.-noon Oct. 23; volunteers should sign up by Oct. 8. To register, call the coordinator at (908) 709-7299.

TRICKY TRAY GIFT AUCTION — a third annual event to benefit the Cerebral Palsy League. Oct. 24. Donations are now being accepted; call Melissa Taveras at (908) 709-1800, ext. 115.

ONE-DAY PILGRIMAGE — to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Oct. 30. Sponsored by St. Anne's Church, Garwood. \$30 per person includes box meal and bus transportation. (908) 789-0414.

For more information, call (908) 754-7826 or e-mail pncell@crancm.com.

ART EXHIBIT/AUCTION — and wine and cheese reception, featuring Italian artist Guido Borelli da Caluso. A benefit program for the Kenilworth Historical Society's "Restore the House" campaign. 7 p.m. Oct. 1. Schererville Plough company, 3900 Gallop Hill Road, Kenilworth.

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SEAGRAMS 7 CROWN 1.75 liter 14.99	CHIVAS REGAL 1.75 liter 49.00	SMIRNOFF Vodka 80° 1.75 liter 18.00	BACARDI RUM Light • Gold • Solist 1.75 liter 17.99
JACK DANIELS 1.75 liter 34.99	JOHNNIE WALKER RED 1.75 liter 30.99	ABSOLUT Vodka 80° 1.75 liter 30.99	MALIBU Coconut Rum 1.75 liter 22.00
CANADIAN CLUB 1.75 liter 17.99	DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL 1.75 liter 32.99	SEAGRAMS GN 1.75 liter 15.00	SEAGRAMS GN 1.75 liter 15.00
1.75L CROWN ROYAL 1.75 liter 38.99	1.75L CROWN ROYAL 1.75 liter 38.99	1.75L CROWN ROYAL 1.75 liter 38.99	1.75L CROWN ROYAL 1.75 liter 38.99
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Marianna Campanella

CRANFORD — Marianna Campanella, 86, died Aug. 15, 2004 at Atria Assisted Living. Born in Jersey City, she lived in Union and Elizabeth before moving to Cranford in 2003. Miss Campanella was the former president of S. Campanella & Sons, a Jersey City miller and distributor of flour in Jersey City. She retired in 1994 after 40 years with the company.

Deceased are three brothers, Charles, Philip and Jack, and two sisters, Ann Macaluso and Lena Ricciardi. Surviving are many nieces and nephews. A funeral Mass was held Saturday at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Union, following services at the Galante Funeral Home in Union. Burial was in Holy Name Cemetery, Jersey City.

Elizabeth Kirwan

GARWOOD — Elizabeth A. Kirwan, 77, died Aug. 18, 2004 at the Cranford home of a daughter, Lynn L. Fitzpatrick. Born in Newark, she lived in Cranford before moving to Garwood in 1993. Mrs. Kirwan was a past president of the Cranford Garden Club and an active member of the township's election board. She retired in 1992 after 25 years as a secretary with United Counties Trust Co. in Cranford. She was a member of the Cranford Republican Club and a former deacon of the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford.

Eva Watenmaker

CRANFORD — Eva Watenmaker, 95, died Aug. 14, 2004 at her home. Mrs. Watenmaker was born in New Brunswick, Canada, and lived in Newark before moving to Cranford in 2000. Her husband, Nathan, is deceased. Surviving are two daughters, Rima Borden and Diane Ginsberg;

a brother, Max Kanner; two sisters, Bertha Brummer and Hilda MacArthur; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Graveside services were held Aug. 16 at Beth Israel Memorial Park in Woodbridge. Arrangements were by the Bernheim-Apter-Kreitman Suburban Funeral Chapel in Livingston.

Fax us your news! (732) 574-2613

Obituaries

Thomas F. Maloy

CRANFORD — Thomas F. Maloy, 89, died Aug. 18, 2004 at Hackettstown Community Hospital. Born Feb. 24, 1915 in Rensselaer, N.Y., he was a son of the late Thomas and Mary Murphy Maloy.

Mr. Maloy lived in Cranford before moving to Hackettstown in 2001. He was a retired customer service representative with Du Pont in New York City.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II and a parishioner of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. A sister, Mary Taylor, is

deceased. Surviving are his wife, Katherine Connell Maloy; three sons, Dennis of Savannah, Ga., Thomas and Brian, both of California; a daughter, Catherine Moreno of St. Helena, Calif.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Services were held Monday at the Coughlin Funeral Home in Cranford. Burial was in Lower Valley Union Cemetery, California.

Donations may be sent to House of the Good Shepherd, 798 Willow Grove St., Hackettstown, NJ 07840.

John P. Sierdzki and Jane Sierdzki

Services have been held for John P. Sierdzki, 93, and Jane Wodnynski Sierdzki, 92, a longtime Cranford couple who passed away within three weeks of each other. Mr. Sierdzki died July 30 at the Evergreens Senior Healthcare System in Greensboro, N.C. He worked for Western Electric until his retirement in 1972.

Mrs. Sierdzki, who died Saturday at Moses Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro, was a homemaker. The Sierdzkis lived in Cranford before moving to

Elinor Tischman

Elinor C. Tischman died Aug. 20, 2004 at her home in Scotch Plains. Born in New York City, she lived in Elizabeth before moving to Scotch Plains.

Mrs. Tischman was a customer service representative from 1960-63 with New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. She attended

Donald French

CRANFORD — Donald G. French, 73, died Aug. 16, 2004 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta, Ga.

He was born in Elizabeth and lived in Cranford before moving to Naples, Fla.

Mr. French was a retired shift supervisor with AT&T Corp. in Holmdel. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War. His wife, Barbara Gender French, died in 1992. A son, Robert, died in 1974. Surviving are three sons,

Benjamin Bragg III

Benjamin L. Bragg III, 88, died Aug. 21, 2004 at his home in Blandford, Mass. Born March 22, 1916 in Springfield, Mass., he was a son of the late Benjamin L. Jr. and Marion C. Vander Perren Bragg.

Mr. Bragg lived in Longmeadow, Mass., and Cranford before moving to Blandford in 1972. As an engineer with the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey he worked on aviation fuel and synthetic rubber. After World War II he helped native engineers in Japan rebuild a bombed-out refinery.

Arrangements were by the Pease & Gay Funeral Service in Northampton, Mass. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Church of the Atonement, 36 Court St., Westfield, MA 01083.

Cora Bandel Hill

Hill, died in 1960. A son-in-law, Louis Rizzo, died in 2003. Surviving are a daughter, Carol Hill Rizzo, and a grandson, Bob Rizzo, both of Scotch Plains; a granddaughter, Elizabeth Zupone and husband Michael of New York City; and a great-grandchild.

Services were held Saturday at the Lehrer-Gibilisco Funeral Home in Rahway. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Clark.

Her husband, William Edward

Sheriff plans to distribute gunlocks to UC residents

Sheriff Ralph Froehlich announced recently the Union County Sheriff's Office will now provide free firearm safety kits to county residents through a partnership with Project ChildSafe, a nationwide firearms safety education program.

The safety kits, which include a gunlock, will be available to county residents from Sept. 1 through Nov. 1. "Just as we alert motorists to drive safely because our children are back in school, it is also important to remind people about protecting our children from preventable firearm accidents," said Froehlich. "Gun owners must realize how important it is to securely store their firearms in order to prevent a child or any unauthorized person from accessing a gun in their home."

"It is not only their responsibility, it is the law," Froehlich added. Project ChildSafe, a program developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, will distribute millions of firearm safety kits throughout the country over the next year. The program is funded by a U.S. Department of Justice grant with additional funding provided by the firearms industry.

"If we can save just one child from a firearm-related injury or death, the efforts of our partnership with Project ChildSafe will have been rewarded," Froehlich said.

By partnering with Project ChildSafe, the Union County Sheriff's Office is participating in a growing national effort to promote firearms safety to all gun owners. Project ChildSafe is distributing gunlock safety kits in all 50 states and five U.S. territories.

"Providing residents with gunlocks through this program will make Union County a safer, better place to live," said Froehlich. "The sheriff has the full support of the freeholder board on this initiative to protect our children in yet another important way."

Safety kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Union County Sheriff's Office in Elizabeth between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The gunlocks are designed to fit most handguns, shotguns and rifles. A maximum of two gunlocks are available to each individual. For further information, contact Lieutenant Michael Frank at (908) 527-4450, or visit www.projectchildsafe.org.

August 26 & 27, 2004

primetime!

Film series set for another stellar season

Imagine seeing a major motion picture before anyone — then the lights come up, and there in front of you are the creators of the film, ready to answer questions and discuss their work.

That's the experience delivered by the Filmmakers Symposium series, which has hosted 987 movie premieres in the past 14 years. Filmmakers Symposium will take place at two locations this year: Levens Mountside on Monday evenings starting Sept. 20, (second session begins Nov. 1); and at Levens Mountside on Tuesday evenings starting Sept. 21 (second session begins Nov. 2). For information or to register, call (800) 531-9416. The series is open to anyone, but seating is limited, so early enrollment is advised. Subscriptions are \$161 for six weeks or \$269 for 12 weeks.

Confirmed films and those under consideration for the upcoming fall session include: *Alexander*

with Colin Farrell, Anthony Hopkins, director Oliver Stone; *The Aviator* with Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, director Martin Scorsese; *Beyond The Sea* with Kate Winslet, John Goodman, director Kevin Spacey; *Birth* with Nicole Kidman, Cameron Bright, director Jonathan Glazer; *Closer* with Julia Roberts, Natalie Portman, Jude Law, director Mike Nichols; *Dear Frankie* with Emily Mortimer, Gerard Butler, director Shona Auerbach; *Endless* with Hank Azaria, Jesse Bradford, director Michael Alandy; *Fierce People* with Diane Lane, Donald Sutherland, director Griffin Dunne; *Finding Neverland* with Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet, director Marc Forster; *I Am David* with James Caviezel, Joan Plowright, director Paul Feig; and *I Heart Huckabees* with Jude Law, Naomi Watts, Dustin Hoffman, director David O. Russell.

Other films in the series include: *The Interpreter* with Nicole Kidman, Sean Penn, director Sydney Pollack; *Kinsey* with Liam Neeson, Laura Linney, director Bill Condon; *Natalie* with Emmanuelle Beart, Gerard Depardieu, director Anne Fontaine; *Overnight* directors Mark Brian Smith and Tony Montana; *Polar Express* with Tom Hanks, Chris Coppola, director Robert Zemeckis; *Proof* with Gwyneth Paltrow, Jake Gyllenhaal, director John Madden; *PS. with Laura Linney, Gabriel Byrne, Marcia Gay Harden, director Dylan Kidd; September Tapes* with George Clooney, director Christian Johnson; *Sex Is Comedy* with Anne Parillaud, Georges Corra, director Catherine Breillat; *Stage Beauty* with Billy Crudup, Claire Danes, director Richard Eyre; *Undertaking Betty* with Brenda Blethyn, Alfred Molina, director Peter Chelsom; *An*

Unfinished Life with Robert Redford, Morgan Freeman, director Lasse Hallstrom; *The Upside of Anger* with Kevin Costner, Joan Allen, director Mike Binder; *A Very Long Engagement* with Audrey Tautou, Jodie Foster, director Jean-Pierre Jeunet; and *The Woodsman* with Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick, director Nicole Kassell.

Oscar winners and nominees Danny Aiello, Alan Arkin, James Cromwell, Frank Darabont, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Richard LaGravenese, John Sayles and Marc Shuman have joined Stacy Amis, Dylan Baker, Bob Balaban, Jim Breuer, Al Franken, Ethan Hawke, Famke Janssen, Delroy Lindo, Derek Luke, David Morse, Viggo Mortensen, Moby Kay Place, Kevin Smith, Fisher Stevens, David Strathairn, Henry Thomas and Wendy Wasserstein as guest speakers who have come to share their insights with Symposium participants.



Kinsey, starring Liam Neeson and Laura Linney, and 20 more new movies will premiere in Filmmakers Symposium, beginning next month at Levens Theaters in Mountside. For information, call (800) 531-9416.

Symposium director Chuck Rose promises, "The series will always be flexible in order to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Wonderful surprises and fantastic celebrities can pop up out of nowhere, so I try to keep the schedule as fluid as possible. In the past two years, we've premiered 91 movies which have earned a total of 38 Oscar, 44 British Academy, 39 Golden Globe, and 50 Independent Spirit Award nominations."

WYACT ready for 14th season with a collection of new faculty

Cynthia Meryl, Broadway performer and artistic director of the Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre (WYACT) and stage director of this past summer's production of Cole Porter's classic musical *Anything Goes* at the New Performing Arts Center (NAPAC), has announced WYACT's 14th season of professional classes in the performing arts.

Registration for acting, musical theatre, and dance classes will take place at Centennial High School at 728 Westfield Ave. in Westfield 4-8 p.m. Sept. 8 and 9.

WYACT's Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced Acting classes concentrate on improvisation, character development, and scene study. Three levels of Musical Theatre class focus on song selection and interpretation, ensemble work, voice, and musical theatre movement.

Meryl, a professional actress in the New York and national theatre arena for over 30 years, oversees all classes and teaches Advanced Acting, all Musical Theatre classes, and private voice.

Meryl welcomes several new additions to the WYACT faculty, including drama teacher, John T. Gorscak, who has achieved great success in both professional and academic environments. With three degrees in theatre (BFA in Acting/Voice, MFA in Musical Theatre, and a PhD in Directing/History), he has taught theatre students at the college level for eight years, and he has mentored elementary through high school age students for many years both privately and in a theatre school setting. He has performed in dramas and musicals Off Broadway (*Sugar, Dylan, One and One*), in various theatres around the country (North Coast Repertory Company, Brook Hills Playhouse, San Diego State University), and on television (*Side Stalks*, *Unsolved Mysteries*).

A student of acting himself, Gorscak has studied with such notables as Kevin Kline, Patti LuPone, David Ogden Stiers, Michael Schulman and Larry Silverberg. Michael Raines, WYACT's new tap instructor, has been teaching at New York University's (NYU's) School of the Arts in the CAP program since 2001, having graduated from the program in 1996. As a performer, Mr. Raines toured the United States and Europe in productions of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (*LeFou*), *West Side Story* (*Baby John*), and in the Australian tap musical, *Hot Shoe Shiny*.

Raines recently choreographed productions of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*



MICHAEL RAINES



JOHN T. GORSKAK

(A.R.T. Productions, Century City Theatre, NYC), *The Prince of Grand Street* (Jewish Rep. NYC), *Gypsy* (Theatre Company of Rhode Island), and *The Pajama Game* (St. George's School, Newport, Rhode Island). He has also choreographed for the Tiesh Gala, and "From Ballet to Broadway," a benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/FEA).

Joanna Gibson, a Dartmouth College graduate with Honors in Music in the concentration areas of conducting and piano performance, will accompany the Musical Theatre II and III classes. In addition to her time at Dartmouth, she studied at the Royal College of Music in London and won the Eugene Rothman 1943 Memorial Award for outstanding dedication to music. Her musical direction credits include *Godspell*, *Pippin*, *A Chorus Line*, *FAME*, to name a few. Gibson previously channels her energy into cabaret, appearing in *Musicals Make a Comeback* in various venues in New York City including Danny's Skylight Room.

Zelly Sokoll returns as accompanist for Musical Theatre I. A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, Sokoll was a music teacher and Supervisor of Music for Staten Island Schools, a musical director for St. John's University, and presently is a performer with club-date bands and jazz ensembles.

Kimmi Fowlin, professional dancer and choreographer, returns to teach Hip-Hop for WYACT and Hip-Hop and Jazz for the WYACT dance program at Hillcrest Academy. Currently, Fowlin dances with the modern dance company, Soulworks, directed by Andrea E. Woods, and teaches African dance at Rutgers University. She has performed in West Africa for the Pantheon of 2003, and was featured as a teacher and dancer on the morning news television show, *Good Morning, New York*. She has conducted workshops, choreographed, and toured in dance companies throughout New York, South America, South Africa, and Russia.

Heather Bialy, graduate with a BFA from Mason Gross School

of the Arts, choreographer for Bridgewater/Raritan High School and dance instructor for Spotlight on Dance in South Plainfield, returns to teach WYACT's Jazz and Ballet classes.

Meryl stage-directed and, with Ted Agrest, executive director of WYACT and Broadway veteran, produced all 28 of WYACT past productions including *Carousel*, *Oliver*, *Brandegee*, *Once On This Island*, and *South Pacific* (all five at NJPAC), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Children's Hour*, *The Threepenny Opera* and *The Gay Divorcee*. WYACT's highest ticketed 2003 production of *West Side Story* won the Music Theatre International Award of Excellence.

The WYACT classes are designed to prepare young performers for auditions and professional stage. Meryl would like to see young performers develop the commitment and discipline to learn an art form, whether it be in music, dance, or drama, and in doing so, build the confidence the students need not only for a career in theatre, but to face any challenge in life.

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Senior CITIZEN

Hormone therapy poses tough call

By JUDITH REICHMAN, M.D.

(ARA) — Millions of women stopped taking hormone products after a large government study in 2002 seemingly pronounced that the risks associated with hormone use were greater than the benefits. However, by last fall a Kaiser Foundation survey revealed that at least 25 percent of these women had returned to hormone therapy. Many women find that their menopausal symptoms, such as severe hot flashes, night sweats, short-term memory loss or sleeping problems, are intolerable and that alternative therapies are simply not adequate for amelioration of these symptoms.

The decision as to whether or not to seek hormone treatment needs to be considered for what it really is — a quality of life issue. While not appropriate for everyone,

millions of women and their physicians remain confident that hormone therapy will relieve debilitating symptoms. In fact, they cannot imagine how greatly diminished their quality of life would be without them.

The government study that caused the recent "should-I-stay-on-or-start-hormones?" concern is the Women's Health Initiative. It showed that over the course of a year, if 10,000 women taking a combination of estrogen and a synthetic progestin were compared with 10,000 women not taking this particular preparation, eight more would develop breast cancer, seven more would have a heart attack, eight more would have blood clots in their lungs. Do these findings prove there are risks? The simple answer is yes.

But — and there always seem to be "buts" when it comes to medicine

— there were also some positive outcomes within the same research: five fewer women would have hip fractures and six fewer would get colorectal cancer. Moreover, the women in the study may not be representative of the "average" woman who wants to consider using hormone therapy. Their average body mass index was 28, i.e. many were overweight or obese. Most intriguing is that the study looked at older women (average age 63) who were not suffering from severe menopausal symptoms, so it didn't address the issue of hormone therapy at the onset of menopause when symptoms tend to be most severe.

More recently, information from an estrogen-only companion study was released. There was no increased risk of breast cancer, but there was an increased risk of stroke in these women (who now were older, often in their 70s) — 12



Many women are weighing their options about how to keep fit as they move into their golden years.

per 10,000 women per year of use. This and other studies have made it clear that we should not take estrogen to prevent or treat heart disease or stroke.

Hormone therapy is not for every woman. If you have heart disease or are at high risk for stroke, coronary vascular disease, breast cancer or have a history of abnormal clot formation, there are other prescribed medications you can consider, such as antidepressant and anti-seizure medications. The information on the efficacy of herbs and other supplements for menopausal symptoms has, so far, not been convincing.

If you have no underlying risk

factors for the above and your menopausal symptoms are diminishing your lifestyle, you don't have to grin, bear and sweat! You can (and in my opinion should) consider hormones. The FDA advises that "the lowest amount should be used for the shortest amount of time to reach your treatment goals."

There are other types of estrogen and progestins than those used in the government study. Their doses vary, allowing use of lesser amounts of hormone. New oral delivery methods such as transdermal estrogen (a patch) and transvaginal estrogen (a ring) now provide steady, low dose levels of estradiol, the form of estrogen made by

the ovaries. The decision to take or not to take hormones must be made on a woman to woman basis and the type and dose should be individualized to your health and symptoms. One dose does not fit all. Talk to your physician about what can work best for you.

This article is courtesy of ARA Content. Judith Reichman, M.D., is a gynecologist who practices and teaches at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and UCLA in Los Angeles. She appears regularly on NBC-TV's "Today show" as a contributor on women's health issues. The author of two bestsellers, "I'm Too Young to Get Old" and "I'm Not in the Mood," Dr. Reichman lives in Los Angeles.

Yoga class helps keep bones in good shape

WESTFIELD — The Safe Yoga for Osteoporosis offered by Unity Yoga focuses on movement for people with osteoporosis, osteopenia and/or poor posture. These movements safely increase flexibility, strength and balance leading to stronger bones and better body alignment.

A recent study published in the July issue of Archives of Internal Medicine states that the number of new osteoporosis cases has increased from half a million diagnosed in 1994 to 3.6 million diagnosed in 2003. Osteoporosis affects an estimated 10 million Americans, mostly women, who face a high risk of debilitating bone fractures. An additional 34 million have less severe bone thinning, which also puts them at risk. Others at risk are currently undiagnosed, according to Ethel Siris, chair of the National Osteoporosis Foundation Science and Research Committee.

The Safe Yoga for Osteoporosis program is based on the book "Walk Tall — An Exercise Program for the Prevention and Treatment of Osteoporosis" by Sara Meekes. Meekes has been a physical therapist and a yoga teacher for over 25 years.

Instructor Cynthia Mathis, a registered yoga teacher and a member of the International Association of Yoga Therapists, has studied with Meekes and is certified to teach Safe Yoga for Osteoporosis.

The exercises in this program are site-specific. They directly target the prime areas of restriction and weakness and they increase a bone's density by contracting (and thus strengthening) the muscles that attach to that bone.

In addition to site-specific exercises, students learn how to move their body through safe ranges of motions that occur in normal activities of daily living. Sitting properly with a lengthened spine and walking correctly is emphasized, as well as balance. Better balance can help minimize falls, which can lead to fractures.

It is never too late, or too early, to learn simple movements for a lifetime of beauty, grace, strength, and power!

Classes are held Friday mornings from 10:30-11:45 at Unity Yoga, located at First Congregational Church, Westfield. A free introductory class will be held Friday, Sept. 10 at 10:30 a.m.

The next series begins Sept. 17. The cost of a seven class series is \$85. Call Unity Yoga at (908) 233-9697 or e-mail unityyoga@att.net to reserve a space. Or, for information about Unity Yoga, visit them online at <http://unityyoga.home.att.net>

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Sports

Cranford Diamonds softballers truly shone in summer

CRANFORD — The members of the Cranford Diamonds U12 softball team completed their outstanding summer season playing for the championship of the Parkway Invitational Softball League in South Plainfield recently.

Unfortunately for the Cranford girls, the Diamonds came up one run short, losing to a strong South Plainfield team 2-1.

After South Plainfield scored two runs in the fourth inning, Cranford battled back with a run in the sixth to make it a one-run game, but couldn't push the tying run across.

Kelly Hardman gave up only two hits while striking out 11 for the Diamonds. Hannah McHugh and Meghan Webb collected hits for Cranford, and Emily McCue scored Cranford's lone run.

The girls also finished in second place in the Wall Wizards



The members of the Cranford Diamonds U12 team were, from left: (kneeling) Beth Ramey, Hannah McHugh, Kelly Bruno, Michelle Gargiulo; (standing) Gen Chaleff, Emily McCue, Jamie Webb, Kelly Hardman, Meghan Bartsch, Taylor D'Antico, Jen Handy. Not pictured is Maddie Johnstone. The team's coaches were Jim Chaleff, Tom McHugh and Jim Hardman.

Wicked Weekend tournament in Wall earlier this summer. Competing against teams from South Jersey and Pennsylvania, the Diamonds compiled a record of 3-1-1 to finish second among

12 teams. The Cranford squad was led all season by second-year players Meghan Bartsch, Kelly Bruno, Gen Chaleff, Jen Handy and Hannah McHugh, who provided leadership to the younger girls.

Returning players for what should be a strong 2005 team include Taylor D'Antico, Michelle Gargiulo, Kelly Hardman, Maddie Johnstone, Emily McCue, Beth Ramey and Jamie Webb.

Flag rugby program completes 2nd season

The Union County Rugby Football Club's second year flag rugby program finished its second season recently. This season saw their program grow to over 120 players aged 5 to 13 with teams in Cranford and Berkeley Heights.

The program is comprised of four age-based teams: the Falcons, Owls, Hawks and Eagles. The older age group, the more rugby skills are emphasized. Many of these players began the sport for the first time.

Youth rugby is a touch or flag only non-contact form of the sport, which teaches various skills such as running, kicking, passing, space strategy and teamwork. The games are typically played with 10 to 15 minute halves with a running clock. The rules of youth flag rugby require that when your flag is grabbed you must pass the ball. Unlike the traditional game of rugby, in youth flag rugby to help maintain a more balanced game the team that scores a try kicks the ball back to the other team.

The coaches can often be heard on the sideline telling the players, "spread out across the field on defense," "look where you pass," and one of the hallmarks of rugby, "no talking back to the ref."

"Youth rugby may be the fastest growing sport in New Jersey right now," said program director Chris Clark. "Several town recreation commissions have heard of, and seen, our flag rugby program and are requesting informational meetings. Our goal is to roll out programs in 3-4 of those towns next year, increasing the league to 5-6 teams."

The Union County Rugby Football youth flag teams concluded their seasons with an appearance in the American Flag Youth Rugby Festival, hosted by the Morris Youth Rugby Club. The festival is the largest youth rugby tournament in the nation, with 10 youth rugby and over 700 players participating.

Simon Hooks, who is both a coach of the men's and high school sides as well as the Owls Youth Program commented, "It was fantastic to see a group of 6- and 7-year old boys and girls getting such fun and enjoyment from a team game. Although this was a festival rather than a competition, you cannot replace the joy of scoring a try, and the cheers and high fives after a try for the Owls team went far beyond those you see in the men's game."

For more information regarding the Union County Rugby Football Clubs, contact Chris Clark at (201) 213-1962, email him at rugby006@yahoo.com, or visit www.mutrugby.com.

The program is now also looking to recruit for the Union women's team, which currently consists of a 7's team but is recruiting to build a full 15's team.

Athletes interested in playing rugby for the Union team can also come to the club's practice at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Unani Park, located on the corner of Union Street and Lexington Avenue in Cranford and at the southern edge of Garwood.

Nominations sought for Cranford Hall of Fame

The Cranford Sports Hall of Fame Committee is seeking nominations now through Nov. 1 for its fifth induction ceremony, slated for November 2005.

Coaches, friends, fans, teammates and family members can make nominations by obtaining an official application at the following locations: Cranford Police Department, Cranford Public Library, and the main office at Cranford High School.

Athletes, coaches and teams are eligible for nomination; there are also special awards for others with a special relationship to Cranford sports.

While most nominees are Cranford High graduates, non-CHS graduates who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the Cranford sports community are also eligible for consideration. However, coaches presently coaching in district and athletes who are not yet five years post-high school participation are not eligible for nomination.

Completed nomination forms must be postmarked by Nov. 1 and should be sent to either Renee F. Dorfman at Cranford High School, 201 West End Place, or Chuck Archdeacon, P.O. Box 1598, Cranford, NJ 07016.

'Sync' and swim at show at the JCC

SCOTCH PLAINS — Area residents are invited to a synchronized swimming performance by the Westfield Synchronized Swim Team, also known as the Aquaducks. The demonstration will take place at the WHJ JCC indoor pool at 1391 Maritime Ave. 2 p.m. Sept. 10.

The Aquaducks is made up of an elite group of swimmers representing Central New Jersey. The team competes throughout the United States and has participated in such events as the US Junior Championships and US Age Group National Championships. The performance is free for JCC members; non-members pay \$2.

Also, "Synchronized Swimming for the Beginner" is a new class being offered at the JCC for ages 6 and up. Classes meet from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 3-Nov. 7. The fee for JCC members is \$55; non-members pay \$79 plus a one-time annual registration fee of \$75. Call Rebecca Rice, JCC Aquatics Director, at (908) 889-8900 ext. 219, for additional information or to register.

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back-to-school



Dance studio works to make sure boys feel right at home

KENILWORTH — Fusion Dance Theatre, Kenilworth's newest dance studio, is looking for a few good men — well, male students. Sharon Rauber and Jarrod Harden, co-directors at Fusion, have designed a dance curriculum that does not forget the fact that there are many guys who want to take dance.

"In most dance studios, you can find a boy or two mixed in classes that are full of girls," said Rauber,

"but we wanted to create a program where the guys were not just an afterthought."

For example, their program includes a Boy's Jump, Tumble and Tap class; 45 minutes of tap instruction, obstacle courses and tons of fun for boys ages 3 through 5.

"I have talked to so many parents who have told me that their sons dance at home all of the time. Before now, their only option was

to go into classes with girls who wanted to become ballet princesses," Harden said. "That's why this idea was so appealing to me. Our boys program, taught by me, a guy, puts a whole different spin on the stigma usually associated with dance class."

Fusion has not left out the older guys, either. The Boy's Hip Hop 6-8 program is another part of the boys' curriculum. Thanks to the popularity of groups like N Sync and the Backstreet Boys, and entertainers like Justin Timberlake and Usher, being able to dance is very cool for boys now. This class is where the guys can perfect their hip-hop moves.

"We've got big plans for the boys," Rauber promised. "Later this year, Fusion Dance Theatre is hoping to begin a boys tap ensemble that will perform at competitions, nursing homes and other venues to give our dancing guys some more exposure."

The guys who sign up for classes at Fusion do not necessarily have to take class in one of these specific boys' classes. There are also boys taking tap, ballet, and jazz in the same classes with the ladies.

In fact, that was Harden only option when he was training as a dancer. "The training you get in class with the ladies is great, but it's nice to have the option as well," he said.

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Registration upcoming at Yvette's studio

Students of the Yvette Dance and Fitness Studio in Cranford recently performed in Fusion Dance Theatre's "Spring Dance Concert." These dancers currently study at the studio in addition to performing in local theatre, dance programs competitions and more. The studio offers the finest in training for the professional through the "just for fun" student. Classes in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Modern, Pointe, Hip Hop, Ballroom, Step Body Sculpting and Pre-Dance for 3-year-olds are offered at the school. In addition, this year the studio was voted the best dance studio in Union County for the Suburban Style magazine, Readers Choice Award for 2004. For further information about the studio, call (908) 276-3539 or come in person Sept. 1, 7 or 8 from 4-7 p.m. Pictured from left to right: (Back Row) Olivia Mode, Amanda Cohen, Meredith Krauter, Sophia Elkhouri; (Middle Row) Lyndsay Fitzkalla, Jennifer Kujawski, Hope Skibitsky, Alix Winter, Isabelle Encarnacion; (Front Row) Lorilyn Sorlino, Kristen Savink, Jenna Small, Cheryl Cacchini, and Allissa Imbrico.

Innovation ongoing at the Nazaro studio

WESTFIELD — The Paul Nazaro Music Studio has been innovating music technology for the piano students at the studio. In addition to traditional piano lessons, the studio has introduced digital recordings on CD and on the web for all students. Students have been recording CDs of music they have received at the studio during the year, as well as enjoying hearing their recordings on the internet on the studio's web page, www.NazaroMusic.com.

Students may record the pieces they play and get a CD of their playing at the end of the year. The recordings are also posted on the internet for friends and family to listen to anytime from anywhere. Each student has a page on the studio's webpage dedicated to his or her own music.

Digital recordings enable students to record their pieces they complete using the advanced recording capabilities of the studio, Nazaro noted. "Students don't simply play a piece and forget about it, but each piece is recorded so that each student has a tangible affirmation of their year's work on CD, tape, or online. This technology really motivates students - from the grade school student right up through the adult students. They love to show their friends and family the music they recorded, and it's something they will always have."

The CDs are yet another great unique feature this studio offers above and beyond traditional piano lessons. Each CD is a superior digitally mastered CD using professional recording technology, and all pieces are actual recordings of students playing their pieces of every genre (including their own original pieces). Every student's CD sounds and looks professional using the advanced digital audio capabilities of the studio, and each CD features original watercolor artwork by Glenn Nazaro. The CDs can be played in any normal CD player and in most computers.

The studio also introduced Student Digital Recordings Online, a feature where each student has their own web page on the studio's website, and friends and family can listen anytime from anywhere. Students and others can listen to their pieces on the web from any computer with internet access.

Students at Nazaro's studio enjoy playing classical, jazz, blues, popular, Broadway, new age, and holiday music as part of their musical instruction. The studio uses digital pianos, computers, and MIDI to enhance each student's understanding, creativity, and skills. The technology is used to supplement, not replace, piano lessons. The experienced teaching staff motivates students of all ages and abilities.

For more information about piano lessons or music technology, contact Paul Nazaro at (908) 232-3810 or www.NazaroMusic.com.

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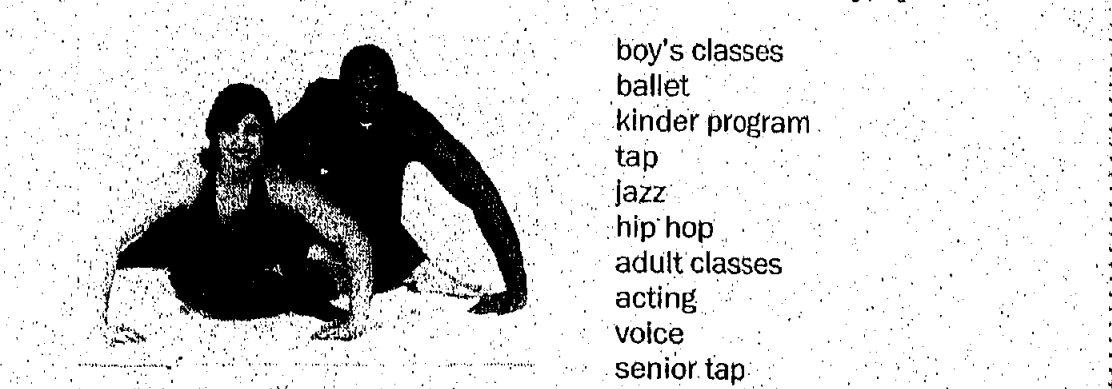
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back-to-school



New season will begin next month Nicole's Yoga Studio

GARWOOD — The newly-renovated 2,500 square foot Nicole's Yoga Studio, located at 94 North Ave., starts the fall session the week of Sept. 13. Open houses are scheduled on Sept. 7 from 1 to 5:30 p.m., Sept. 9 from 2 to 5:30 p.m., Sept. 11 from 1 to 4 p.m., Sept. 13 from 1 to 5:30 p.m. Free yoga introductory classes are offered on Sept. 1 at 8:30 p.m., Sept. 4 at 12:10 p.m. or by appointment. A free demonstration of the energetic Kundalini class is scheduled on Aug. 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Nicole Mode founded the Nicole's Yoga Center in 1988, and has taught more than 22,000 yoga classes in New Jersey since 1980. She is dedicated to maintaining the purity of the art of yoga, and the studio is teaching yoga exclusively.

The center is open all year around and offers 24 classes per week, with daily morning, afternoon and evening programs designed for every level of ability, physical condition and age.

The center offers five different levels of classes in which four types of yoga are practiced: Hatha Yoga, Ashtanga Yoga, Vinyasa Yoga, and Kundalini. Nicole's method of studying yoga is orderly and progressive, with step by step instructions, how to perform each posture, and breathing, meditation and visualization techniques are used during each class.

The center offers classes for

back activities, breathing, weight reduction, Yoga for Children, Yoga for Teenagers, Yoga for Seniors, and a teacher training program.

The Restorative Yoga class consists of exercises done on floor or chair for those with disabilities. A series of movements performed with great attention and without strain. This class will utilize asanas (posture) to develop balance, limberness, and strength. Benefits are proper alignment, increasing circulation and flexibility and reduce stiffness in joints (hand, wrist, knee, ankle). Special props are utilized to stabilize the spine and open the body to meet the outlines of asanas. That class is recommended for person having limited possibilities, stiffness in joints, post surgery, cancer patient and pregnant women.

The Yoga Back class is experienced in a sitting and lying down position. This class is well suited for person with respiratory problem, asthma, back problem or cardiovascular difficulties. Participants will learn to use core techniques while breathing awareness is recognized within each posture. Benefits include restoring balance, hip joint opening, expansion of the thoracic cage, strengthening belly and back muscles, reducing cardiovascular stress and normalizing muscle tone.

Nicole is also offering the Kundalini a new and unique technique of powerful physical and

mental exercises, incorporating the art and science of Kundalini Yoga to all aspects of the human life.

The new dynamic Yoga for Teenagers (ages 12-15) will start Sept. 18, and will promote growth and health and will help the adolescent to become more self-controlled. Benefits include maintaining the vital balance of the endocrine glands that govern growth and development.

All Nicole's yoga classes and with meditation or visualization. The secret of successful meditative experience is to relax and to allow constructive adjustments of mental states. Stress symptoms are reduced and the nervous system is refreshed and invigorated. Meditation is the process of removing attention from conditions and circumstances.

For more information, call (908) 789-6426 or visit www.nicolesyogacenter.com.



In good form

Twelve-year-old Suzana Lopes of Union, a martial arts student at Karate World in Kenilworth for five years, recently received her black belt. Despite the tough competition from other martial arts students much older than herself, she completed her final demonstration of skills "in very good form and in exceptional time." Suzana attributed much of her success in achieving her goal to the instruction and guidance of Master Jeff Dunn and his assistant Mrs. Roxanne Dunn. Suzana's mother, sister Gabriela, and neighbors Bernice and Gene Schwedt were on hand as spectators as she was awarded the black belt. Suzana will be a seventh-grade student at Kawameesh Middle School in Union in September.

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PS: An occupational therapist can help workers cope with their work environments.

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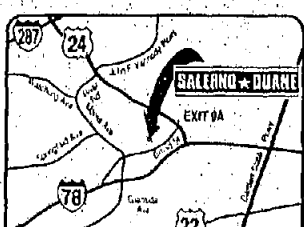
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Cranford Chronicle

Vol. 116, No. 36

Serving Cranford, Garwood and Kenilworth

Thursday, September 2, 2004

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Town: Flood designation doesn't reflect reality

By LAUREN TRAINER

CRANFORD — Robert Windrem's house has never flooded.

But because of the addition of his property to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) newly-redrawn flood zone map, the 20-year township resident will now have to buy flood insurance, refrain from any new building on their property and contend with a devaluation of his home.

"We have never had a flood in our basement, we've never had a flood in our house," he said. "In fact, if you go up to the corner, our house is basically on a little bit of a crest."

Windrem has written letters to FEMA and sent copies to Senators Jon Corzine and Frank Lautenberg, and Congressman Mike Ferguson, to no avail.

"It's a mystery to me, how this has happened," he said.

Richard Marsden, Cranford township engineer, said Windrem's story is typical of the

hundreds of property owners who now find themselves living within the boundaries of a line drawn up but what he said is a computer program gone awry.

The fault in FEMA's study were apparent from the start, Marsden claims. The results, which were first mailed to the township early this year, immediately raised flags.

Marsden said the previous study, conducted in 1982, was a more accurate portrayal of the flood conditions in the area. Unlike the recent study, that

investigation considered the topography of the land and the history of the area's flooding, and more accurately accounted for natural and man made blocks to the river system.

The latest study, he said, has numerous problems, including faulty and confusing calculations of the natural floodway and inconsistencies between the study's data and actual experience with Hurricane Floyd, which was considered a 100-year flood.

Numerous requests to the agency to hold a meeting to discuss the discrepancies have been ignored, according to the township, and the clock has been moving forward. A 90-day clock for the township to appeal the study has been ticking since July 15.

Now, the township has begun an approximately \$10,000 appeal process, which includes letter writing and the compilation of technical data backing the township's case.

"I don't want to spend that

(Continued on page A-2)

INSIDE



Getting their kicks in

The Cranford girls' soccer team is one of the many high school squads that's now hard at work for the upcoming fall season. For pictures of soccer practice and a look at the boys' cross-country team, see Sports, Page C-1.



Bargain hunting in Kenilworth

There's some small consolation for all those bargain shoppers disheartened by the end of the summer season — the re-opening of thrift shops across the area, and last Saturday's End of Summer Bag Day Sale at Community United Methodist Church in Kenilworth. At right, Pat Fischer (left) helps out Janet Repasky as the two women examine some of the merchandise on display.



GEORGE PACIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Approval nears for signal at Lincoln, S. Union

By LAUREN TRAINER

THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — The state last week gave the township initial approval for the installation of a traffic light at Lincoln and South Union avenues, authorizing Cranford to solicit design proposals for the project.

While not the final approval, the announcement marks a major step in improving an intersection that has long been considered unsafe and led to the death of a young boy earlier this year. Local officials said once the Department of Transportation (DOT) gives permission to solicit a design, final approval is nearly guaranteed.

Sgt. Joseph Van Bergen, head of the traffic safety bureau, said the township will next need to find an architect who will draw up a full design for the signal, which will then be sent to the state DOT to gain approval.

Once the design has been verified as meeting the standard review guidelines, the township will be authorized to send out bids for the construction and installation of the light. Following shortly is the DOT's on-site inspection, which will allow the township to start the light's operation.

Van Bergen said that the swift-ness of this initial approval is unusual, taking just over one month, when applications normally take anywhere between six months and two years to make their way through the backlogged DOT.

For example, he said, the traffic light the township has been requesting at the intersection of North Avenue and Orchard Street — which the township has been seeking for almost six years — has been delayed until at least spring 2005 because of budget concerns.

"We're definitely ahead of a typical light installation. It took a relatively short time," he said.

"We're on a good track now."

Van Bergen said the department will know a more precise timetable after the design is dis-

(Continued on page A-2)

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In Cranford, new blood for some old stores

By LAUREN TRAINER

THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — There are a lot of changes happening to the facades of buildings in downtown Cranford — and some changes happening behind the counter, too.

Among the locations in transition is Breen's liquor store on North Union Avenue, where Ram Gavva and Vijaya Muzumdar Gavva are enjoying their new enterprise. The couple decided after years of living the professional life — he is an engineer, she is an accountant — to buy the store in July. It has since turned into their most time-consuming pleasure.

Part of the appeal is economic,

but the independence is also alluring.

"It's a challenge and exciting because you are your own boss. It's definitely profit as well, because you are not on a fixed-income anymore," said Vijaya. "There's also some kind of pride — working for your own company."

The business is enough to keep the couple busier than most. They spend seven days a week at the store, and Vijaya manages to balance her time at the store with her independent accounting practice that she manages in the morning.

The Gavvas are taking their project head-on, returning recently from a trip to Napa and Sonoma Valleys, where they tasted possible new wine selections for the store. A computer tracking program helps the Gavvas decide what brands to keep and which ones to replace with his customers and his wait staff, his wife Eletheria occasionally joining in the banter. On one recent evening, the subject was the merits of gefilte fish.

"We have to start slowly and introduce some of the dishes we had at Stanley's," said Chronis — including beef brisket, potato latkes, and matzo ball soup. Chronis also filled a new pastry case with treats for the diner to order, and if the mood strikes, gelato.

The evolution of the Stanley's

(Continued on page A-2)

(Continued on page A-2)

Programs focus on literacy, learning styles

By GREG MARX

THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — When local students arrive back at their classrooms Sept. 8, they'll discover a host of new programs that have been implemented by the school district.

Many of the new programs are reading-based, including the introduction of American Sign Language in kindergarten and first grade. "Research has shown that sign language can actually help kids learn how to read," said Superintendent Lawrence

Feinold. To prepare for the new effort, all teachers at the grade level have undergone a four-week training program, he said.

Also on the elementary reading agenda, the district will expand its balanced literacy program, which has previously operated in Grades 1-3. The thrust of the program thus far has been on individual instruction and guided reading, Feinold said; this year, to blend in a group component, the district will introduce "literacy circles" in Grade 4 in which students discuss what they are reading.

For students whose struggles persist, the district will also initiate the Cranford School District Academy, beginning in October. The program, which has already been the subject of discussion at the Board of Education, will provide one-on-one reading tutorial sessions for up to 20 elementary students on Saturday mornings. The academy is intended for students with major reading deficits, Feinold said.

Another program targeting a specific group of students is the Lincoln Elementary Achievement Program, or LEAP.

An extension of the CAP/CAMP program to the elementary level, LEAP will serve students with severe emotional or behavioral disabilities.

The LEAP program will have 10 students in the fall, only one of them a Cranford resident. Feinold said the program will be financially self-sustaining; the district will save on tuition it would have had to pay to send special-needs students elsewhere, and will also receive tuition for accepting students

(Continued on page A-2)

(Continued on page A-2)

Humane Society says it may discontinue service

By LAUREN TRAINER

THE CHRONICLE

Municipalities statewide may be facing a potentially expensive quandary if the Associated Humane Societies decide to curtail their services — though state officials believe the action is unlikely.

In a letter dated Aug. 9, AHS Executive Director Roseann Trezza wrote that a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) re-interpretation of a state statute will have a significant impact on Humane Society services.

In the letter, Trezza said that the DEP informed the AHS that

transporting animal carcasses would be reclassified as transporting solid waste, requiring the society to obtain proper licensure, which she argued would drive costs to an unmanageable level.

"It's going to be terribly expensive," Trezza said. "The costs are going through the roof, and we're not taking in what our budget calls for."

According to Trezza, Humane Society employees bring animal carcasses back to company facilities, where the animals are cremated. The resulting ash, which is disposed of by Waste

(Continued on page A-2)

Made in the shade

Got some end-of-summer reading to do? As these local residents know, one of the best places to do it is in a lawn summer, catching some shade under a tree in Nomenhagan Park.

