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Cranford Chronicle

Vol. 116, No. 51 Thursday, December 16, 2004 50 cents

INSIDE



Young leaders

Junior Amanda Porter helps to lead a Cranford girls' basketball team this year that has no senior members.



Brothers working on Eagle projects

Cranford residents Frank and Ed Kov have recently started their Eagle Scout projects.



DAR honors a Founding Father

The Crane's Ford Daughters of the American Revolution recently dedicated a plaque in Mayor's Park to George Washington.

REMINDER

Early deadlines The Chronicle will have early deadlines for reader submissions for the next two weeks.

INSIDE

Commentary... A-4 Community Life... B-1 Sports... C-1 Prime Time... B-4 Obituaries... A-6 Real Estate... B-6 Police Log... A-3

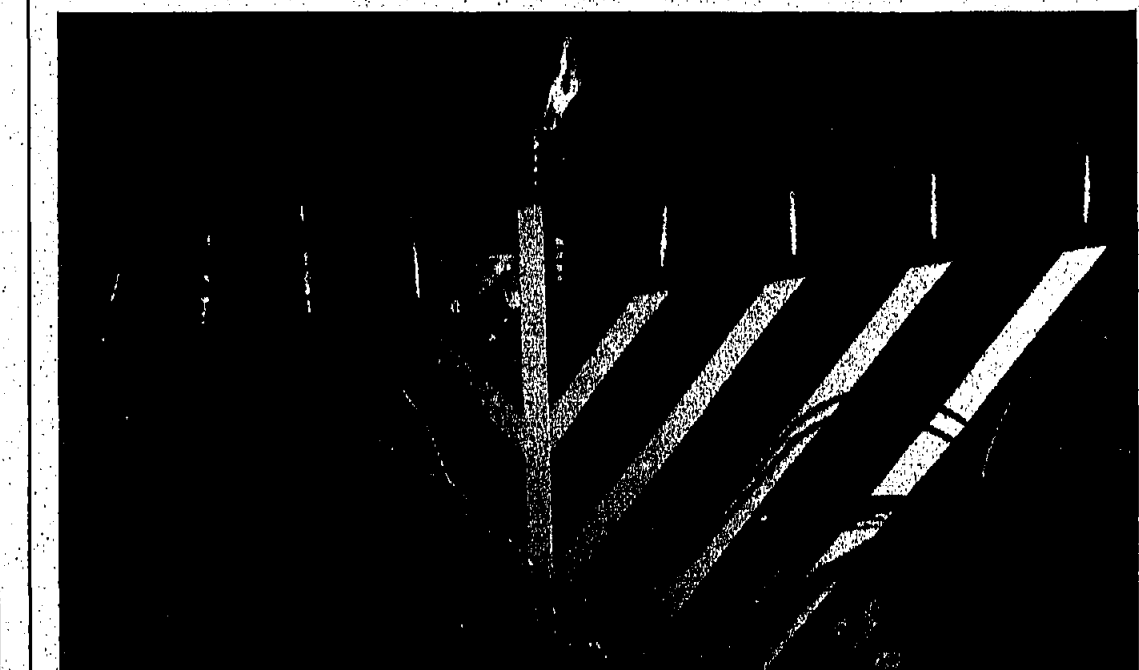


Some quality time with Santa Claus

Saturday's grey skies couldn't deter the holiday celebration in downtown Cranford. Local children had the opportunity to pose for pictures with Santa at Eastman Plaza.

Borough parents hear strategies for building support for budget

Caliguire and Curran are two of the women behind Advocates for a Better Clark, a parent-led organization that has helped turn regular school budget deficits into healthy victories.



Lighting the lamp in Cranford

Ron Ginsberg of Cranford lights the menorah in the township's Mayor's Park Dec. 9 as Rabbi Levi Block of the Union County Torah Center looks on.

Town moves ahead with improvements to the Canoe Club

By LAUREN TRAINER The Chronicle The Township Committee has agreed to take measures to move along improvements to the Cranford Canoe Club, including accepting an additional \$75,000 in low interest loans from the state's Green Acres fund.

Questions are raised about property deals

By LAUREN TRAINER The Chronicle CRANFORD — The Township Committee Tuesday approved one property transaction and tabled another after questions regarding the method of the second property's assessment.

Committee approves swap with county, tables sale of Cranford Avenue property

By LAUREN TRAINER The Chronicle CRANFORD — The Township Committee Tuesday approved the swap of a 100-foot by 100-foot lot on Cranford Avenue that was tabled after former commissioner and current county and municipal Republican Chairman Phil Morin questioned the accuracy of its assessment.

New truck will help TV-35 boost offerings

By LAUREN TRAINER The Chronicle CRANFORD — The township recently approved the purchase of a new truck for TV-35, allowing the station and local residents to enjoy more creative and technologically advanced broadcasting.

Borough parents hear strategies

(Continued from page A-1)
what the consequences of a budget failure would be. Then, they went door-to-door and contacted parents by phone, using lists compiled from various sources. They also held informational meetings about the budget, publicizing them at first by distributing flyers outside school buildings.

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They said any parent effort must remain independent enough to acknowledge criticisms about the budget or the school district, while at the same time maintaining an upbeat approach. "You don't want to be an extension of the Board of Education, but you don't want to go against the Board of Education either," said Caligore. "You want to show all the positives."

Throughout the discussion, members of the Kenilworth board stressed that while they had invited the Clark women, any successful effort would have to originate with local parents. "There's a sense of being out of touch if information comes from the Board of Education," Mannik acknowledged. "But a committee like that is objective."

Though no final decisions were made Monday night, Kenilworth parents were excited about the

idea. "I am willing to take this on," said Tina Lanzaugh, adding any parent group must not splinter along elementary-second lines. "We should fight together. It's an education, no matter what age."

District officials say these concerns are unfounded, and the parents in attendance Monday agreed. Cindy Manjo was originally among the skeptics, but "It's turned out to be a positive program, for the most part," she said.

Truck will help TV-35 boost offerings

(Continued from page A-1)
they were through. The process prevented TV-35 from broadcasting live with a more modern three-camera system, which allows for stylistic switches and fades.

"It's very different because we had to pull everything apart and put it all back together again," he said. "This past year, we only ran one camera, because we didn't have a truck. Yes, we put a picture out, but it was less than what we'd usually broadcast."

Cranford viewers have been fortunate, in that TV-35 has long offered a more intricate and accessible schedule than those provided in surrounding towns. The television station was the first in the county to offer live broadcasts, when Comcast agreed to install fiber cables through the township. This has allowed the station to run simultaneous broadcasting of about 40 events each year, including football games, graduation, senior citizen

gatherings, and the high school prom. The senior citizen who had graciously loaned the truck but couldn't sit in the cold could watch inside their house," said Davenport. Likewise, he added, family and friends of high school graduates could watch the ceremony despite the short supply of tickets each year.

"That's the essence of public access," he said. "Everything people see on television is from out there, but it was less than what we'd usually broadcast." Cranford viewers have been fortunate, in that TV-35 has long offered a more intricate and accessible schedule than those provided in surrounding towns. The television station was the first in the county to offer live broadcasts, when Comcast agreed to install fiber cables through the township. This has allowed the station to run simultaneous broadcasting of about 40 events each year, including football games, graduation, senior citizen

projects, and agreed to offer for a \$10,000 grant from the fund. Commissioner Dan Aschenbach, who is leading the effort to preserve the canoe club, said they are applying for the grant will allow the township to seek other opportunities as well.

Canoe Club

(Continued from page A-1)
Not responsible for typographical errors. Sale items cash & carry only. Sale prices effective 12/15/04-12/21/04. Prices do not include sales tax. Beer prices represent 24-12 oz. bottles unless otherwise noted.

"If we get accepted for the \$10,000 we'll be all smiles, but if they don't, we'll accept it, it still pulls us in the queue for other programs," Aschenbach said.

Feder said that many grant applications require a group to have an official tax-exempt nonprofit designation, the Hanson Park Conservancy is now in the process of applying for that designation. The organization is also in the process of acquiring members, said Feder.

"We aren't even planning on having a fundraiser, and we were forced to print up extra brochures," said Elizabeth Youngs, of the Hanson Park Conservancy. "People are coming to us saying, 'Give me an application.'"

Township Engineer Rick Marsden would be required to review the bids for the Canoe Club improvements, as would the Department of Public Works. And although the commissioners unanimously voted to approve the extra funding, some were wary of the extra burden it could place on an already overtaxed Engineering Department.

"I don't want to see any more nice projects unless we get some sewers fixed," said Commissioner Scott Mease.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the conservancy can write to P.O. Box 542, Cranford, NJ 07016, or call Feder at (908) 275-8088. The P.O. Box number was stated incorrectly in an item in last week's newspaper.

Property deals

(Continued from page A-1)
not far from the Cranford Condominium development. The township has actually owned the North Avenue property since 1970. However, the property's deed came with a restriction that it be used only for public purposes. In the event that deed restriction was violated, the property would revert to the county. Under the deal, that restriction will be lifted.

Donovan and Morin expressed concern that the township was giving something of value to remove a deed restriction that might not be relevant if the Township Committee decided to use the property for municipal purposes.

However, commissioners agreed that the township's intention is that the plot of land will be sold. The ordinance was approved unanimously, with the two Republicans on the committee joining three Democrats in supporting it.

Commissioner George Jern said that approximately 1 1/2 years ago, the property was assessed at \$880,000. Jern has previously said that giving the Mohawk Drive lot to the county will also benefit residents by helping to preserve open space.

The North Avenue property had previously been used for mosquito control and is currently being used for storage. Both the township and the Board of Education store some equipment at the site.

Cranford board adds classes, adjust H.S. math curriculum

By LAUREN TRAINOR

CRANFORD — The Board of Education decided Monday to implement changes to the curriculum at the high school for the new school year.

Most ambitious of all the changes is an overhaul of the traditional math classes for students taking the college preparatory sequence, phasing out what was known as the AlgGeo schedule of classes and replacing them with classes geared to address changes implemented in the new SAT.

Formerly, students in the AlgGeo sequence enrolled in AlgGeo 1, followed by AlgGeo 2, AlgGeo 3, and then Integrated Algebra 2. Now, students in the sequence will enroll in Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II, and then Precalculus and Trigonometry.

"The AlgGeo sequence was established to meet the needs of struggling students by presenting the 'big picture' of mathematics. After careful study and in light of the No Child Left Behind law and changes in the SAT, we believe the new sequence will provide enhanced educational opportunities for our students," according to assistant superintendent Joseph Corriero. The honors sequence will remain unchanged.

Two single semester English courses will also be altered in next year's curriculum, as the Art of Writing and Themes in Contemporary Literature will be merged into one course called English IV.

"This way we have students reading and writing all year instead of reading for half the year and writing for half the year — it's a more integrated experience," Corriero said.

An International Business class is scheduled to be added to the more than a dozen business classes already offered as electives at the high school, said Corriero. Japanese III will also be added for students who have completed Japanese I and Japanese II.

Additionally, a course named "Dynamics of Nutrition" will be added as a Family and Consumer Science elective. The course, which follows "Dynamics of Health Care in Society," will earn high school students taking the class two credits at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, upon passing a year end exam. The new elective is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of health and disease prevention.

Police officers recognized Tamika Jones as she was walking along South Avenue at about 7:53 p.m. When they approached her, she fled into an office building.

Council to appropriate more funds, award HVAC contract

By GREG MARK

KENILWORTH — The Borough Council was expected to award a contract Wednesday night, after press deadline, for replacement of the HVAC system at the municipal building.

The contract was to be awarded to T. M. Brennan Contractors in the amount of \$289,060. The council voted to appropriate an additional \$34,000 from its general capital surplus to pay for the project. The balance of the money had been appropriated previously.

The council has put the project out to bid twice. When the first round of bids came in, they were all in excess of what had been budgeted and were rejected by the council. The second round of bids brought

Man arrested after allegedly throwing woman from car

By LAUREN TRAINOR

CRANFORD — An Irvington woman was treated for head and face injuries after she was thrown from a pickup truck moving at 25 miles per hour along Raritan Road.

The 30-year-old woman had been riding in the truck on Dec. 8 with 52-year-old Joseph Vitale, of Roselle Park, when a verbal argument became physical, said Lt. Steven Wilde.

Police said Vitale struck the woman and then threw her out onto the eastbound side of Raritan Road near Centennial Avenue at about 8:21 p.m.

The woman sustained contusions and scrapes from the incident and was transported to University Hospital in Newark by the Linden First Aid Squad.

Vitale was arrested at home at about 9 p.m. Dec. 9 and charged with possession of a hypodermic needle and possession of narcotic paraphernalia.

Mario Alvarez, 46, of Colonia, was arrested at about 2:05 a.m. Sunday after he was stopped on Raritan Road for speeding.

He was charged with driving while intoxicated, refusing to submit to a breath test and speeding.

Fredri Morales, 22, of Roselle, was charged with driving while intoxicated, failing to keep right and speeding after he was pulled over for speeding on South Avenue at 2:11 a.m. Monday.

A 36-year-old Elizabeth woman who was wanted on a warrant from the Union County Sheriff's Department was arrested in a local office building Friday.

Police officers recognized Tamika Jones as she was walking along South Avenue at about 7:53 p.m. When they approached her, she fled into an office building.

A Kenilworth woman, reported at about 8:33 a.m. Dec. 9 that an unknown suspect had slashed the tires on her vehicle while it was parked on North 20th Street.

A Union man was arrested after he turned himself in on charges stemming from an investigation led by Detective Justin

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The council has put the project out to bid twice. When the first round of bids came in, they were all in excess of what had been budgeted and were rejected by the council. The second round of bids brought

only a slight improvement, but the council decided to appropriate the extra money and get the project underway.

"Obviously, we're just delaying the inevitable," said Mayor Gregg David. And if the council had decided to go out for a third round of bids, he said, there is no guarantee they would have done even as well.

David said he's hopeful the project will get underway shortly after the New Year and be completed by the time the weather gets warm again. "It's just a short time away when you think about it that you need to switch to air conditioning," he said.

The current air conditioning system in the building is shot, and the council had to purchase windows units to keep employees and equipment cool last summer.

"The idea is, we'll get the state to pay for this with Green Acres," said Commissioner Don Aschenbach. "We'll get bond benefits, we'll get recreational benefits, and we'll get safety benefits with people walking on the path instead of on the street."

But while the committee was receptive to the idea, officials agreed it was still early to devise a plan incorporating the paths into a part of the flood control project that remains years from implementation.

"There are unknowns we have to determine before we head down this path," said Commissioner Scott Mease. "Our objective is to do the best we can with flood control, and until we know how to do that, we can't do this."

CRANFORD Terr. — The owners of a Cranford Terrace home have been granted variances allowing them to demolish the top part of their home and build an addition onto the existing foundation.

Originally, the corner house faced Ross Street and met existing land use codes. But when the family shifted the orientation of the existing house toward Cranford Terrace, the Assessor Peter Barozzi designated that facade as the official address, rendering the formerly conforming yard incompatible with local zoning law.

In a hearing about the addition, the Board of Adjustment Monday granted variances related to the size of the former side and current back yard, which would normally need to be at least 12 feet from the property line, said Zoning Officer Ron Meeks. A variance for a decked client front yard setback was granted as well.

The owners' plan to demolish of the top 1 1/2 stories of the house to build a new 2 1/2 story living space not to exceed 30 feet in height did not require a variance.

Man arrested after allegedly throwing woman from car

By LAUREN TRAINOR

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Police Log

By LAUREN TRAINOR

ing on the 200 block of the street, police said.

After calling for back-up, police arrested Jones and charged her with possession of a hypodermic needle and possession of narcotic paraphernalia.

A bartender at the Blackthorn Pub on North Michigan Avenue reported that a 1999 BMW belonging to a customer had been stolen from the bar's parking lot

around 1:20 p.m. Dec. 9. He was released when his daughter posted 10 percent of his \$5,000 bail.

A Vernon Avenue resident reported that her Christmas deer and lighted Christmas tree were stolen from her front lawn sometime Saturday night.

Stephen M. Fughman, 25, of Carteret, was arrested when he was stopped on South Avenue at 7:50 a.m. Friday.

He was charged with driving with a suspended driver's license, failing to turn, and hindering his own apprehension.

There were outstanding warrants for Fughman's arrest from Linden, Woodbridge, and Atlantic City. He was transported to the Union County Jail in lieu of bail.

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750 ml GENTLEMAN JACK \$20.99	750 ml CHIVAS REGAL \$48.99	750 ml GLENLIVET Single Malt \$25.01	750 ml SKYY Vodka 80° \$21.00	750 ml GREY GOOSE Vodka 80° \$42.10	750 ml SKYY Vodka 80° \$21.00
750 ml JACK DANIELS \$34.09	750 ml CHIVAS REGAL \$48.99	750 ml GLENLIVET Single Malt \$25.01	750 ml SKYY Vodka 80° \$21.00	750 ml GRE	

Commentary

Budget bill attacked the wrong problem

Aggrieved taxpayers may disagree, but the recent reports that the state Legislature is reconsidering new constraints on school spending are welcome news.

Passed over the summer amidst a flurry of down-to-the-wire budget negotiations, the regulations reduce the amount districts can keep in surplus, lower the caps on annual increases and target costs in some specific areas, such as administration. Since the school year began and local school boards fully began to understand what was in the law — known simply by its name in the state Senate, S-1701 — the protests have come fast and furious. Across the state and in local communities, the issue has united parents, faculty and school board members.

To a certain extent, the outrage is overblown. No matter how much we value the idea of local control, there's nothing inherently wrong with state oversight. And while predictions of forced staff cuts are being tossed about, no one knows yet exactly what the impact of the law will be (in part, this is because school district administrators are still waiting for interpretations of the law from state bureaucrats).

At the same time, the law was the height of hypocrisy on the part of the Legislature. School budgets are already the most scrutinized spending plans in the state. Every year, every district in the state must submit its budget for review by the county superintendent and then put the plan before voters. By contrast, municipal budgets are not subject to a popular vote, and it is easier for local governments to exceed state-imposed caps. County governments are also not subject to a vote and face far less public and media scrutiny. And as this year's experience shows, state spending faces essentially no limits, not even constitutional prohibitions on borrowing.

Further, relatively little of what appears in a school budget is discretionary. Schools are lawfully required to provide a "thorough and efficient" education; this is an expensive, labor-intensive business. And two of the biggest factors driving school budget costs are special education and medical benefits. The first of those stems from the overdue recognition that every child should be afforded the proper resources and environment; the second from the strength of teachers' unions and our flawed health care system. These are financial problems that are beyond the control of local school districts, though they get stuck with the bill.

Given this situation, new limits on school spending are hardly the first place one would think to look when trying to cut taxes. But because school spending takes the biggest bite out of property tax bills, it draws the most ire from residents. By passing the law at the same time that it passed a bloated state budget, the Legislature tried to exploit that anger without addressing the worst spending offenses.

For those reasons, it's good to see legislators from both parties openly discussing the prospect of correcting the law's excesses while retaining its message that spending should be as low as possible. While a battle remains over the details, Assemblyman Joe Cryan sounded the right tone when, while maintaining the entire bill should not be repealed, he told The Star-Ledger, "We've heard (critics) on some of the issues like health care costs. They have made valid points, and we will respond accordingly."

Let's hope the Legislature responds soon — and then gets down to tackling the real problems with government spending.

The Chronicle is here for you

The following information should help you get your ideas and community news into *The Chronicle*.

Call Editor Gregory Marx at (732) 396-4218 with story suggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Chad Hemensway at (732) 396-4202.

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Correction policy

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

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Letters to the editor

Thanksgiving thank you from CFC

To The Chronicle:

We at Cranford Family Care wish to once again thank the Boy Scouts for their yearly food drive. It took place on Nov. 13 and was a huge success!

Cub Scouts picked up the food, Boy Scouts sorted and helped store food at CFC, and drivers and Scouts took food to our storage facility in the Community Center. The leaders did a wonderful job working alongside the members of the board of directors, who guided the activities, and more than 6,000 pounds was sorted and stored by 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

But on Thursday, Nov. 13 when Cranford Family Care realized that it had only 30 turkeys in the freezer, a feeling of despair clouded the skies. Normally our freezers at this time of the year are full. The members of the board of directors felt that they should purchase turkeys when concerned residents started making calls, and that is when once again the "Angel Network" visited 61 Myrtle St.

It started with some wonderful residents — then visits from the Key Club of Clark High School, 16 turkeys; the Vietnam Vets of Westfield, 10 turkeys; and the Azure Masada Lodge of Cranford, 10 com-

plete turkey dinners including pies. The Cranford Jaycees purchased 20 turkeys, and Total Tea Co. in Edison came in with nine turkeys. The VFW Post 335, Livingston Ave. School, Hillside Ave. School, Orange Ave. School, Alliance Church ARP, Calvary Lutheran Church, Cranford United Methodist Church, St. Michael's, Temple Beth-El Moshav Chayim, Religious Education Group of St. Michael's, a pre-school in Westfield, Trinity Episcopal Church, The First Presbyterian Church and local Senior Citizen clubs all contributed. Girl Scouts baked 30 apple pies, and nine cooked turkey dinners came in from Girl Scout Troop 348. Even our kosher families were taken care of.

All these wonderful people made their way to our agency bearing what "thinks giving" is all about — care and concern for their neighbors. If we have left anyone out, please forgive us and know that you too are very special to us. So as you can see, the little gray cloud that seemed to be overhead was really hiding a rainbow!

Board of Directors
Cranford Family Care

CHS Pasta Night was a big success

To The Chronicle:

In the restaurant business, customers return for good food, entertainment and ambiance. For years, "customers" have been returning to the senior class Pasta Night fundraisers at Cranford High School, and this year was no exception. On Nov. 11, 2004, the Class of 2005 hosted Pasta Night.

Through the efforts of the parents, administration, teachers and cafeteria staff this event provided the members of the community with an evening of fine food and great fun. Mr. Dornand and the jazz band provided lively entertainment. The atmosphere was so friendly and relaxing that the "customers" wanted to stay a while longer.

We would also like to acknowledge the busi-

nesses who contributed door prizes that added to the evening's festivities: Cranford Corner, Michelle's Hallmark, Mane Event, Emma's Brick Oven Pizza, Mc Wraps, Personally Yours, Amazon Crafts and the Charlie Rose. We would also like to recognize the efforts of the parents for supplying the delicious smorgasbord of baked goods.

Again, the ongoing support of the community, parents, school administration and staff added immeasurably to the success of the event. On behalf of the Class of 2005, our sincerest "Thank You" for helping to make this evening a memorable one.

ENID DeLUCA and GEORGE HUFF
Advisors, Cranford High School Class of 2005

Cranford is named a 'Green Town'

By NELSON DITTMAR

Strolling down the main street of "Green Town," one can sense the difference. The clean air, the lack of smog, the bikeways and friendly pedestrian walkways announce that the residents care about their environment. People sitting on the benches under the trees in the town center see native plants and flowers that are part of the healthy plant communities and provide habitats for birds, small animals and native insects. Residents appreciate that the lawns surrounding the town hall, police, and fire stations are natural ecosystems not poisoned by pesticides. Citizens of Green Town know that living in a healthy natural ecosystem is healthy for them as well.

This is the vision of a Green Town as seen by the NJ Environmental Education Fund and the NJ Environmental Lobby. These organizations have given Cranford their Green Town award for 2004. In our application, the Environmental Commission showed how Cranford addressed a range of issues, including municipal planning, Integrated Pest Management (decreasing the use of pesticides), bike paths, and energy conservation. Cranford is the sole recipient in the state for 2004.

In presenting the award to the Township Committee at a recent meeting, Eileen Hogan, president of the EEF, noted that Cranford had achieved its highest score ever, meeting 19 of their twenty criteria. She added, "We were very impressed with Cranford's response. This is the first time we ever had a build-out analysis, something that is encouraged by the State Plan to examine what would happen using current zoning if everything that could be built was built, and what impact that would have on the natural resources of Cranford and the traffic flow. Cranford actually has such an analysis."

She went on to say, "The fact that Cranford has 118 acres of park land and open space in a town-

ship that is pretty densely populated is remarkable and is something that the town should be congratulated on.

In accepting the award, Deputy Mayor Dan Darby, pointed out that this award was "dearly valued by many," particularly Lisa Bregman of the Environmental Commission, who put together all of the information for the application.

In my remarks at the presentation, I noted that we are a number of projects in process that will enhance our Green Town image. Last year, the Township Committee approved a resolution adopting the concept of sustainability. In this policy, decision-making about municipal purchasing and operations incorporates the "triple bottom line" of environmental stewardship, economic growth and social equity. As a first step, an Energy Management Committee is investigating ways to reduce energy cost in municipal buildings. The Environmental Commission is studying green building standards using an approach called LEED that reduces the environmental impact of construction-related activities while producing meaningful savings to the owner. Also, we are attempting to organize a meeting of mayors of communities along the Rahway River to discuss common issues and problems.

Another green project is in process at Hanson Park. The Township has received a Green Acres grant for the park, and a conservancy has been formed. A plan is being developed to beautify the park, which we are very fortunate to have.

Finally, we are updating a pamphlet we produced five years ago to help residents reduce pollution that flows into the storm-water system, thus reducing the quality of our water supply. We expect to mail that to all homes next year.

We always welcome new ideas and comments. Our meetings, which are open to the public, are held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

Anticipation is the best present

My favorite part of Christmas is the last few seconds of Christmas Eve before falling asleep.

It's the one night of the year when the worries of your world do not intrude into the nether land of consciousness like moaning, evil jack-in-the-boxes. Your mind is serene, as clear and still as the frigid night on the other side of the frosting window. You slip effortlessly into the comfortable and warm darkness of a sleep that hearkens back to childhood tranquility. And though you may have stayed up late assembling toys, going to midnight Mass or lining your gullet with eggnog, you wake up fully refreshed and ready for the never-ending and amazing joy of Christmas morning.

Those first moments of Christmas morning are special too. They are quiet, as if the whole planet has entered a state of hushed reverence. Unlike all the other mornings of the year, you don't automatically smack the snooze button on the alarm or groan in dread anticipation of the day ahead. No matter how old you may be, when you wake up Christmas morning you still find that innocent energy of child and leap out of bed and rush to the Christmas tree to see how Santa Claus has rewarded all the good little boys and girls.

These are the moments of a unique communion with the universe. Unlike every other day of the year — save for Thanksgiving — you know you are not alone when you are experiencing. These who celebrate Christmas share the bond of forgetting, for a few hours at the least, the obligations of a reality that has little use for the magic of the holiday. For a few hours at least, you live in world of perfection, even if Aunt Martha gave you a pair of socks with Scooby-Do's face just above the ankle.

Of course by about 11 a.m. the magic begins to fade. The great sign is the twinge of sadness when you perform the sanitation detail of gathering all the wildly flung wrapping paper and filling a boring, anti-septic garbage bag. It's the initial harbinger that Christmas is vanishing and that it's going to be another 364 days before you have the chance to experience those special moments before you fall asleep on Christmas Eve.

All holiday sleep is not unlike. The stuffed stomach nap on Christmas afternoon is generally disturbed by the grinding of digestion. The sleep on New Year's Eve has the jagged, confused images seen in Champagne bubbles. And the sleep of Christmas night is tainted by exhaustion and the unspoken worry that in the morning, it's back to a relatively normal routine with all the nagging obligations and worries that had been erased the previous night.

Those last moments of Christmas Eve are so peaceful because it is the one time of the year when faith can arrive uninterrupted. The anticipation of the inexplicable joy of Christmas allows us to suspend everything we have learned since childhood about the corruption of the world. Cynicism and suspicion are banished, for takes a sabbatical. We return to a pristine consciousness where the miracles of the Christmas story cease to be fanciful and entertaining metaphors and instead become wondrous acts of truth. The secular is pushed aside by the sacred, as a faith without words fills the vacuum whose emptiness looms like a stalker in the background of our everyday lives.

It's not a religious feeling in these last seconds of consciousness; it's a sense of existence that transcends all altars because it fits us to another plane where you can eat sugarplums forever without getting a cavity and a single-renting with a shiny red nose can bring happiness to the world.

It is the one moment when the flood of faith washes away the dirt of reality and raises your soul to a contented level where a better world could be achieved if only you believed.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY MEMORY?

 Allison PORCELLA Cranford Listening to my dad's reel-to-reel tape of the Smothers Brothers' comedy routine — it was funny every year.	 GREGORY WINTER Cranford I spent the tail end of a holiday season with my girlfriend in Berlin. I got to experience the holidays overseas, which was a very different experience.	 KARL HEINZE Cranford Probably taking my family to my mother and father's house for Christmas. They got married on Christmas Eve, so Christmas was always an important holiday for them.	 JOANNE SHAVER visiting Cranford Lois and lots of live candles across my house — there are usually two dozen in the living room and dining room.	 CARL JUERS shopping in Westfield My favorite memories are setting up luminaries along the street and lining the driveway.
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Letters to the editor

Cranford Community Council seeks donations

To The Chronicle:

At this time of year, chances are you are being bombarded at work and at home with appeals for donations to charities. Many of them are from reputable organizations, though a few may not be. It can be difficult to sort through them all, to make sure your money is funneled to the places that truly help people in our community. That's why, despite some bumps in recent years, a donation to the United Way's Cranford Community Council still makes a lot of sense.

The strength of United Way is that it is a broad and genuine local effort. The money helps local people — battered women seeking shelter, young people in after-school programs, adults who need a hand toward self-sufficiency through substance-abuse programs, senior citizens, and those in need of mental health services.

The United Way's Cranford Community Council benefits not just a single cause, but programs that serve our entire community through more than 20 health and human service agencies. Each year our board volunteers, all residents of Cranford, carefully review these agencies to develop solid recommendations on how to allocate the campaign proceeds.

Those who find it difficult to sort through an avalanche of charitable requests should keep that in mind. The need in our community remains great, and the United Way is an excellent way to make sure that your gift finds its way to those in Cranford who need help most.

DAN OUSENBERRY
President,
United Way Cranford Community Council

Article's language was misleading, teacher says

To The Chronicle:

I'm writing this letter as a follow-up to an article that was recently published titled, "Sometimes, even teachers need to be taught."

I found that the wording in the article portrayed an inaccurate depiction of my students and my experience working with them. Personally, I believe my

Dems appreciate support

To The Chronicle:

The Democratic candidates of Garwood, Tom Englese and Charles Lombardo, appreciate all the residents who came out to vote for them in this spirited campaign.

As always, the candidates put the needs and concerns of our residents first, and this was reflected back to them by the residents as they went door to door.

We thank all the many people

background in psychology is helpful in understanding all aspects of children.

The students in my fifth grade class at Orange Avenue School are incredibly bright and are full of wonder and positive energy. I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with them.

MEGAN ZAMBELL
Cranford

Letter policy

Letters may be edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. Letters should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime telephone number for verification, if necessary. Send letters to *The Chronicle*, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ, 07066 or fax them to (732) 574-2613.

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County hosts public forum on shuttle project

Union County's Bureau of Transportation will hold a public meeting to introduce the Community Shuttle Efficiency Project at 9:30 a.m. Friday in the first-floor meeting room of the County Annex Building, located at 300 North Ave. East in Westfield.

Transportation planners will describe the project and how it may benefit adjacent communities along the Raritan Valley line, serving residents in Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Plainfield, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains and Westfield. The service is currently operating in Roselle Park.

The Shuttle Project will develop technical operating plans for possible programs in Cranford, Fanwood and Scotch Plains, county officials said. Westfield would potentially receive some shuttle trips from Scotch Plains' service, with the option to consider its own service in the future. Similarly, Garwood and Plainfield could benefit from some shuttle routes originating in a neighborhood.

County news

NJ Transit is a major source of shuttle vehicles statewide, and municipalities can make application for them. The project will plan routes and schedules for shuttles to help reach their stations while leaving their cars at home.

Currently, NJ Transit offers three years of operating support on a declining scale, with the expectation that communities eventually support the program. Markets will be examined for a weekday commuter run, midday town-wide circulator and potential weekend and off-peak services, the county said.

A technical study is being conducted by Abrams-Cherwonik & Associates and funded by a federal grant awarded to the county through the North Jersey

Transportation Authority.

Planning at 300 North Avenue East, processes County identification cards, passport applications, swearings-in of notary publics, and clerk certificates. Normal annex hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. The phone number is (908) 654-9859.

The main office of the County Clerk is located at the Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad St., Room 1134, Elizabeth. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The main office can be reached at (908) 527-4966.

Kids can get free passport pics
The county is offering free passport photos for children aged 16 and younger through the end of the year. The photos can be taken at the main office of the county clerk in Elizabeth and the annex office in Westfield. The normal processing fee for the photos is \$7.

The Westfield annex, located

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This week

THURSDAY DEC. 16

CHRISTMAS TREE AND WEATH SALE — sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 83 in Kenilworth...

FRIDAY DEC. 17

SPACE IS REALLY BIG... — a lecture by Lanny Buitnis of Ramapo Valley Community College...

SATURDAY DEC. 18

LUMINARY SALE — sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 178 of St. Michael's Church of Cranford...

SANTA — at the gazebo in Mayor's Park in Cranford, from 9-11 a.m. and noon-1 p.m. \$3. Trolley rides through town from 1-4 p.m.

WITH SANTA — sponsored by the Garwood Chamber of Commerce...

SKATE WITH SANTA — at the ice skating rink at Warinanco Park...

ESPRESSO DRINKING CONTEST — sponsored by the Rock'n' Joe Coffeehouse...

CHRISTMAS TREE AND WEATH SALE — sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 83 in Kenilworth...

SUNDAY DEC. 19

SKATE WITH SANTA — at the ice skating rink at Warinanco Park...

Thompson avenues near the Roselle/Elizabeth border...

HOLIDAY PARTY — annual event hosted by the Cranford Historical Society...

LUMINARIA PICK-UP — completion of a sale run by Venture Crew 75...

MONDAY DEC. 20

HARPIST PATTY TURSE — the musician will perform medleys of old English Christmas carols...

TUESDAY DEC. 21

CONSUMER EDUCATION PROGRAM — presented by David Biederman of the Division of Consumer Affairs...

COMING UP

RE-ORGANIZATION MEETINGS — local governments welcome newly-elected members...



Students collect food for needy

Members of the Garwood Public Schools Student Council conducted their annual Thanksgiving food drive in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus...

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

Cranford AARP Chapter 4269

The November and December meetings will be held on the third Friday of the month...

THE GREAT GATSBY — a discussion of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic with the book group of the Kenilworth Public Library...

DEFENSIVE DRIVING — courses presented by the AARP 6-10 p.m. Jan. 5-6...

RABIES CLINIC — hosted by the Cranford Township Health Department...

There will be no meetings on Dec. 24 or 31.

Trips sponsored by the Friday Club

Jan. 12 — to Atlantic City \$18, leave from Hillside Avenue School parking lot...

March 15, 2005 — St. Patrick's Festival at Woodlock Pines in Hawley, Pa. \$54...

Dec. 16 — Christmas party, noon at The Westwood, South Ave., Garwood.

Dec. 23 — no meeting. Dec. 30 — no meeting. Trips sponsored by the Thursday Club.

Jan. 11-13, 2005 — to Foxwood's Two Trees Inn Casino Resort. Participants will visit New London and Groton and the USS Nautilus museum...

Sept. 19-23, 2005 — to Niagara Falls and Toronto. \$410 double, \$515 single. Includes guided tours of the falls and the city...

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

Recreation and Parks Department

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department will screen movies for senior citizens at the Community Center...

Dec. 20 — The Terminal (128 min.) Shot in a two-and-a-half day sequence of a full-size airport terminal...

Senior movies will not be screened in January and will resume in February.

The trip to the Duke Gardens is Friday, Dec. 17.

At the Dec. 21 birthday party, there will be a visit from The Bears and Bruins That Care from David Brearley High School...

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

CRANFORD — Venture Crew 75 is holding its second annual Luminaria Sale...

WESTFIELD — The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Ave., will celebrate German Christmas customs...

WESTFIELD — The history of the Central Railroad of New Jersey is revisited through financial documents, books, post cards and photographs...

Community Life

Briefs

Pre-schoolers sought for READY program

CRANFORD — The Cranford Public Schools offer an inclusive pre-school program called READY...

Applications for the READY program will be available Jan. 3 at the main office at elementary schools in the district...

Scouts sell trees in Kenilworth

KENILWORTH — Kenilworth Boy Scout Troop 83 will continue its second annual Christmas tree and wreath sale...

Recreation Dept. hosts youth bowling

CRANFORD — The Recreation and Parks Department, in conjunction with the National Bowling Association...

This 12-week session will start Jan. 12 and meet every Tuesday until May 29. The program starts at 3:45 p.m. Children ages 6 to 14 are encouraged to join.

Participants should bring the registration form on the bottom of the bowling flyer to Linden Lanes during program time to register.

For further information, call the department at (908) 709-7283. The program is for Cranford residents only.

Library book group to read 'Great Gatsby'

KENILWORTH — The book group of the Kenilworth Public Library will meet 7:15 p.m. Jan. 4 to discuss 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Widely considered to be one of the best American novels ever written, the books provides a view into the lifestyles of the rich and not-so-famous during a time when, as described by 'The New York Times,' gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession.

Previous participation in the book group is not required and new members, including people who reside in communities other than Kenilworth, are always welcome.

Pre-registration is requested and may be done by stopping at the library or by calling (908) 276-2451. Copies of the book are available at the library for checkout.

The Kenilworth Public Library is located at 648 Boulevard.

Venture Crew has luminaria for sale

CRANFORD — Venture Crew 75 is holding its second annual Luminaria Sale...

To place an order, call (908) 276-4341 and leave a message or send a note with your name, address, the number of sets ordered, and whether you prefer pickup or delivery...

Orders can be picked from 5-6 p.m. Sunday at the Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 East Lincoln Ave. Deliveries will be made by the afternoon of Dec. 19.

DAR dedicates Washington plaque at park

CRANFORD — Dec. 14 marked the 205th anniversary of the death of George Washington, America's first president...

In 1999, the Mount Vernon Association mounted a nationwide celebration with hundreds of organizations and communities. As the association said, 'George Washington's remarkable leadership guided his country through extraordinary times toward the creation of a free and united American nation.'

The Daughters of the American Revolution and the Township of Cranford partnered to conduct programs and activities. The township was recognized by Historic Mt. Vernon with a certificate of 'outstanding effort.'

State Senator Tom Keen was a guest for the luncheon that followed. Other guests included...

those varieties that Washington grew at Mt. Vernon and that still survive there 200 years later. In December 1999 an American holly was chosen by the Crane's Ford DAR and Recreation and Parks Director Frank D'Antonio...

This plaque inscription reads, 'American Holly Tree honoring the Father of Our Country George Washington's Bicentennial Feb. 22, 1732-Dec. 15, 1799, planted by Crane's Ford DAR.' Barbara Krause, Crane's Ford regent, expressed appreciation for the DAR for the services donated for the plaque dedication...

Robert Fridlington, speaking on behalf of the Cranford Historical Society, offered a commentary on the association between Washington's troops and Cranford.

St. State Senator Tom Keen was a guest for the luncheon that followed. Other guests included...



The Crane's Ford DAR recently dedicated a memorial holly tree plaque for George Washington at Mayor's Park in Cranford. The DAR gathered at the holly tree, which bore berries for the first time this year...

Cranford Township Commissioner George John and incoming Commissioner George McDonough, DAR hostesses were Judy Swan, Elaine Traynor, Peg Campbell and Bonnie Gierkowski. Following the luncheon, Michael Yessenko of Union, a noted...

phone card donations for the DAR national Project Patriot, supporting the military on duty on the Naval ship U.S. Stennis. In December, Crane's Ford will visit the exhibit 'Nicholas and Alexandra' at the Newark Museum.

Brothers embark on Eagle projects

CRANFORD — Frank Krov, 17, and his brother, Edward Krov, 14, Boy Scouts from Cranford's BSA Troop 75, have recently started their Eagle projects...

Frank, a junior at Cranford High School, will educate and alert the public to pollutants entering local waters through storm drainage systems by placing permanent markers on the curb and/or drainage sewers...

Edward Krov, a freshman at Cranford High School, has chosen to build two picnic tables with benches for the Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit, and to create two new picnic areas for visitors of the Arboretum...

Both boys intend to have these Eagle Projects completed in early spring 2005.

Ed Krov (left) and his brother Frank, of Cranford's Boy Scout Troop 75, plan to complete their Eagle projects next spring.



Ed Krov (left) and his brother Frank, of Cranford's Boy Scout Troop 75, plan to complete their Eagle projects next spring.

Holiday festivities in Kenilworth

The Pride in Kenilworth Committee hosted a Holiday Extravaganza Saturday featuring daytime and evening activities for local residents. During the morning festivities at the Recreation Center, Santa arrived on a fire truck, and he and Mrs. Claus spent some time with local youngsters...



JOHN FELICORRESPONDENT

Belsnickel visits Miller-Cory

WESTFIELD — The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Ave., will celebrate German Christmas customs with the arrival of the Belsnickel and a traditional German dinner cooked over the open hearth...

Jack Petersen of Westfield will portray the Belsnickel, a figure from German folklore who visited the homes of children on Christmas Eve. He is a scary visitor dressed in a cape of ratty old pelts and worn clothes.

The Belsnickel is nervously awaited by the children, especially those children who have been naughty. He throws candies to the good children and then disappears until the next Christmas Eve.

Visitors to the museum will meet the Belsnickel, and children can try to catch some of the candies that he scatters. Customized doecots will greet visitors and guide them through the historic farmhouse. Deborah Bailey of Westfield will also present a program on German Christmas customs.

Sherry and Grete Lange of Cranford and Allison Gandy of Westfield will prepare a traditional German Christmas dinner over the open hearth. Visitors to the museum will be able to enjoy taste treats as prepared by the cooks.

Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults and 50 cents for students. Children under 6 years of age are admitted free of charge. For more information, call the museum office at (908) 232-1776.

RR history on view at library

CRANFORD — The history of the Central Railroad of New Jersey is revisited through financial documents, books, post cards and photographs in an exhibit on view at the Cranford Public Library...

Because of the fragility of many of the documents in question, reproductions have been used in many cases. This is the first time that even copies of many of the items have been gathered and presented for public view.

While the items on view span a wide range of the railroad's history, emphasis has been given to its main line at the stations in communities such as Elizabeth and Plainfield. The enlargements from vintage post cards show some stations that are still in use and serviced by NJ Transit...

along with some that no longer exist. Information about other CNJ railroad depots and other facilities can be found in some of the books included in the display. The Cranford — Vol. II book in the 'Images of America' series, available at the library, is also a good source for scenes of the railroad.

The originals of most of the items reproduced for the display are the property of the exhibitor, Bob Kluge of Roselle Park. Providing assistance to Kluge were the Cranford Historical Society, the Cranford Hotel, the Museum of American Financial History in New York City, Jordan Demar of Marlton and Charles Heffrich of Roselle.

The library can be contacted at (908) 709-7272. Kluge can be reached at bobkluge@webtv.net or Box 155, Roselle Park, NJ 07204.

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Gala raises \$275,000 for CSH

NEW YORK — More than 540 guests showed their support for Children's Specialized Hospital at the 17th annual Umbrella Gala at Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers, on Nov. 13. The event raised \$275,000. Proceeds from the evening will go toward the expansion of the hospital's ambulatory care program, making it possible for Children's Specialized Hospital to provide more than 24,000 outpatient visits this year.

The evening's honoree, Kohl's Department Stores, was recognized for its philanthropic commitment to Children's Specialized Hospital through the Kohl's Cares for Kids Children's Hospital Program. In the past four years, the Kohl's Cares for Kids program has donated more than \$1 million for Children's Specialized Hospital through the sale of special collections at the store. Funds from the Kohl's Cares for Kids program have helped build a wheelchair-accessible playground, child-friendly hospital lobby and other important hospital spaces.

The evening included cocktails, dinner and dancing to music provided by the Starlight Orchestras, and Elvis Duran, host of Z100's Z Morning Zoo, served as master of ceremonies. A silent auction, including tickets to Z100's Jingle Ball, vacation packages from the Bernards Inn and items from Cartier and Saks Fifth

Avenue raised \$53,000.

"The evening was an incredible success, and I am truly moved by the overwhelming support our guests showed for the hospital and for the children and families it serves," said Jean Pascutti, chairwoman of the gala planning committee.

Pascutti was joined on the planning committee by Teri Cantello, Barbara Costello, Barbara Kiloy, Suzanne Korn, Francine Leddy, Gemma Lyons, Patricia Maueri, Adele Maguire and Anita Siegel, Esq. The advancement committee was led by co-chairmen Todd E. Bauer, Deloitte & Touche; Tom Kay, J.P. Morgan Chase; and Jeffrey Rosen, Morgan Stanley. The committee members included John P. Boyle III, Boyle Real Estate Group; Barry Brogan, Mercer Delta Consulting; Paul R. Lamb, Engelhard Corporation; Joseph Lamendola, Ph.D., Bristol-Myers Squibb and Rocco Mangiarano, Engelhard Corporation.

Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation is the nonprofit charitable organization that raises funds to support programs and services at Children's Specialized Hospital. The foundation is the only organization of its kind in which every gift has a direct impact on the lives of special needs children.



Pictured from left are the members of the 17th annual Umbrella Gala planning committee: Barbara Kiloy, Anita Siegel, Esq., Francine Leddy, Jean Pascutti, Adele Maguire and Suzanne Korn.

Holiday Gift Guide

Serendipity offer tips for decorating your home for the holidays

CRANFORD — Heather Walano and Johann Ruiz have been in the decorating business for many years and most recently have joined with Jean Merrick to open Serendipity Designs in the downtown.

Walano and Ruiz have helped many customers by designing custom décor for their homes or offices. At Serendipity, they offer custom window treatments, mural painting, hand-painted furniture

and design consultations. Serendipity is also home to an assortment of decorative accessories and gift items.

Both Walano and Ruiz advocate "punching up the color" during this time of year. Just as homes in England and Scandinavia use brighter, clearer colors to combat the gloom of dreary days or long, dark winters, local homes will come to light with the addition of a bit of bright. Serendipity's own-

ers urge your not to depart from your usual color scheme altogether, but if you like neutrals try some gold or rust; if you favor rose or mauve, venture into a little fuchsia or raspberry.

Ruiz likes to add texture at this time of year. A chenille throw, a pretty quilt, or a faux fur pillow can add this element as well as up the comfort level of the room. Setting the table with adding placemats as well as a tablecloth, or

adding a colorful floral arrangement with a rustic basket underneath for added height can add texture as well as interest to your room.

Walano enjoys using shiny to add texture. She often uses metallic chandelier plates and glittery glassware to her holiday and winter gatherings.

Old honey items always seem cozy and comforting at this time of year. Be it an old coffee mug or that silver tea set you inherited from your grandmother, these keepsakes can hold some seasonal

greenery or that supermarket floral bouquet. Silver pieces look warmer when not too well polished, and rustic tapered candles in old pewter or crystal candlesticks area a warm addition to any winter table.

Anything organic is comforting when the outside is cold and gray. Ceramic bowls or small baskets filled with fruit or dried flowers, or even healthy houseplants in colorful pots can add a touch of warmth to your winter rooms. Bulbs and in-home herb gardens can be grown at this time of year without

too much effort or fuss. Scented soaps, potpourri or ever popular candles can help create a warm and cozy atmosphere in your winter home.

Serendipity Design is located at 10 North Union Ave. in Cranford and is open 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and until 8 p.m. Thursday. The store will also be open from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.

For more information or to set up a design consultation for the new year, call Serendipity at (908) 272-0600.

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Santa Claus will pay a visit to Parker Gardens this weekend

SCOTCH PLAINS — Parker Gardens hosts a visit with Santa Claus this Saturday and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days, families are invited to join the jolly holiday icon on a fun-filled horse-drawn wagon ride through Parker Gardens' 14-acre grounds.

"Last weekend's talking Christmas tree was such a big hit with the children, we thought that bringing Santa into our holiday activities was the best way to follow up," said Steven Parker, owner of Parker Gardens. "The

wagon ride will have Santa singing and telling stories to the kids in the decorated wagon, merrymen around the garden center property."

Following each wagon ride with Santa, which will end at Parker Gardens' whimsical Santa's Workshop location, customers will be issued a Holiday Bonus Card good for substantial discounts toward their purchases.

"The holiday shopping season is the single most important time of year when our customers could

use the additional savings, and that's exactly what they'll be getting this weekend," Parker said. "It's our gift to many of them for their loyal patronage."

Parker said visiting children's craft activities designed exclusively for the holiday season. "Kids' crafts have been among of our most popular programs throughout the year, and are especially fascinating during the holidays," he said.

Over the weekend, customers will enjoy special savings on such holiday items as light sets and boxes of Christmas Balls, starting at \$1; lighted lawn ornaments starting at \$10; artificial Christmas trees for 30 percent off and popular holiday inflatables for 40 percent off.

Parker Gardens is located at 1325 Terrill Road, and is open 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, and 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

For more information, call (908) 322-5555 and press 5 for directions or 6 for special events, or visit www.ParkerGardens.com.

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Club offers new edition in its Landmark Series

CRANFORD — The Green Thumb Garden Club of Cranford has announced the latest edition of its Landmark Series, "The Cranford Past Office," is available in time for the holiday season.

The Landmark Series is a group of wooden facades of important Cranford landmarks in the tradition of the Cat's Meow Series.

The Upton Fiddler on Alden Street, owned and operated by Maggie Denny, and downstairs of Martin Jewellers each have a generous supply of the latest installment in the series for holiday gift-giving.

Cranford's pastmaster, Wayne Orshak, wrote the history for the back of this most recent issue. Other available pieces in the series include Cranford High School, The Crane-Phillips House Museum, Dreyer Farm and the Presbyterian Church of Cranford, the Casino, the Crane House and the Pepperidge Tree.

Members of the Green Thumb Garden Club also recently celebrated with a Christmas gathering at the home of Lynda Feder. The club's party planner, Terri McManus, organized an evening of fun and good food. McManus decorated the home with tiny trees and Poinsettias, which became prizes for everyone toward the end of the evening. Members contributed home-made ornaments for the trees and exchanged gifts.

Barbara Wheatley discussed the success of the holiday wreath and arrangement sale held Dec. 5. The wreath sale has become a Cranford tradition in conjunction with the holiday house tour by the Junior Women's Club.



Family and friends came together Dec. 11 to help Mary Baran celebrate her 100th birthday. Baran has lived in Cranford since 1966. She was born in Elizabeth on Dec. 8, 1904 and was raised in Poland. As a young girl, she returned to the U.S. Baran has two daughters, Anne Krowicki and Del DeGaudin, both of Cranford. She also has four granddaughters, Linda Grochmal, Robin Price, Debbi Bromley and Lisa Faraone; and five great-grandchildren, Geoffrey Grochmal, and Nicole, Joe, Erica and Ryan Faraone.

Kenilworth joins prof. development program

Despite the increasing demand for qualified teachers of children with autism and other developmental disabilities, there are not enough teachers to fill the void. Through a recent \$80,000 Higher Education/Public School Partnership grant awarded to Kean University and the Morris Union Jointure Commission by the New Jersey State Department of Education, teachers of autistic students will now have the opportunity to gain professional development, with the goal of enhancing their teaching effectiveness.

Special education teachers of children with autism are often affected by such obstacles as overwhelming student needs, lack of mentorship opportunities, increased student numbers, and most importantly, professional development opportunities that cover all of these issues. Therefore, the overall goal of the program, which will be coordinated by Dr. Michele Pevens, is to improve upon the academic achievement of students with autism by creating a professional development center (PDC) for pre-service and in-service teachers.

The PDC will consist of three schools in the Morris-Union Jointure Commission, including New Providence, Kenilworth and Union Township. The PDC incorporates five primary components associated with professional development schools: teacher education and pre-service opportunities; professional development/in-service initiatives; close collaboration among the partnering entities; a strong parental interaction component; and ongoing inquiry and research with regard to improving the program.

Holiday Gift Guide

Gift certificates are on sale at Cranford Guitar and Music Center

GARWOOD — This holiday season, what gift could be better than the gift of music? Gift certificates for music lessons are now available at Cranford Guitar and Music Center, located at 56 North Ave.

Cranford Guitar and Music Center specializes in top quality music instruction for drums, guitar, piano/keyboards as well as expert guitar repair services.

Cranford Guitar and Music Center also deals in new, used and vintage guitars.

Drum instructor Bob Muskus studied with famous jazz drummer Joe Morello and rock drummer Carmine Appice. Muskus currently performs and records with the rock band Prymoxine with Joe Ferraro on guitar and Bruce Szczygiel on bass.

Guitar instructor/owner Joe Ferraro founded Cranford Guitar and Music Center in 1986. Ferraro founded the popular band Thulacandra, which opened rock shows for such bands as Kiss, J. Geils Band, Rod Stewart, Procol Harum and Deep Purple.

Piano instructor Stephanie De Carlo attended the Monmouth University Music Education

Program. De Carlo has performed as an accompanist for the University Theater Group, AIDS benefit concerts and her church folk group.

Guitar instructor Lane Drum graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a bachelor's degree in performance with emphasis on classical guitar. Drum attended the Berklee College of music and studied privately with Peter Bernstein, Mike Stern and Mick Goodick.

Guitar instructor Chris Brown has been performing with the Brother John Brown Band for the past two years as a guitarist and vocalist. Brown has also performed with the Beau Blues Band and The Sneed Tree band.

Guitar instructor Dave Mondragon toured nationally with E. Town Concrete as part of Ozzfest 2003. E. Town Concrete has appeared with such notable metal bands as Anthrax, Slayer, Incubus, Soulfly, Adema and Biohazard.

Guitar instructor Seamus Kulleher currently plays with a successful Celtic rock band out of Philadelphia called Blackthorn. Kulleher began his career in



Robert Ciardullo, a 10-year-old drum student and Westfield resident, laying down a beat at Cranford Guitar and Music Center.

Inland opening up Thin Lizzy and the Bay City Rollers.

Guitar instructor Yaron Eilam graduated from Rimmon School of Jazz and Contemporary Music in Ramat Hasharon, Israel.

Piano instructor Eitan Mehler has been a recipient of the International Association of Jazz Educators New England award. Mehler holds a bachelor's degree in music from New York University.

Classical instructor Chuck Lerant began his study of the guitar at

Cranford Guitar and Music Center at the age of 12. Lerant currently performs and records with the blues-based rock band The Pleasure Kings.

Guitar instructor Cory Ferraro began studying with his dad, guitarist Joe Ferraro, at the age of 12. Ferraro attended Delaware Valley College.

Anyone interested in lessons should contact the Cranford Guitar and Music Center at (908) 272-1122 or www.cranfordguitar.com.

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Middle schooler will be featured at WSO New Year's show

Ellie Tanji, a student at Westfield's Roosevelt Middle School, will be featured at the Westfield Symphony Orchestra's New Year's Eve concert, *Music of the Night: The Broadway Hits of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Sondheim*. The concert will be held

7 p.m. Dec. 31 at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Ave. Ellie will join the professional musicians of the Westfield Symphony and four singers from the New York stage on New Year's Eve. The concert will highlight selections from the Lloyd Webber hits *Phantom of the Opera*, *Saturn*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Aspects of Love*, and *Jesse Christ Superstar*. Sondheim shows featured in the concert will include *Sweeney Todd*, *Company* and *A Little Night Music*. Ellie will perform "The Last Man You Remember" with one of the professional singers.

The 11-year-old had her first stage experience at the age of 7 with the Westfield Summer Workshop's musical theater class. She has been singing and dancing ever since and now trains with the Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre (WYACT) under the direction of Cynthia Mery.

Her already impressive list of stage credits includes McKinley Kapers and WYACT's spring cabaret tribute to Cole Porter in which she soloed on "Don't Fence Me In." Most recently, she played "Big Girl" in *Gyps and Dolls* at the Westfield Summer Workshop.

Ellie also sings in the sixth grade chorus at Roosevelt Middle School and has taken piano lessons from Shuang Guo-Woo for the past 6 1/2 years. It was Guo-Woo who brought the student to the attention of her husband, WSO Music Director David Wroe. Wroe said, "I was quite impressed with the musical gifts of this young singer when she auditioned for me. I am very pleased to showcase Ellie at our holiday concert."

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NJWA students shine in church concert

On Nov. 14, students of Dr. Theodore Schlosberg of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Music Studio performed at a recital at the Presbyterian Church parish hall on Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

The recital, attended by parents and guests of the participants, provided an opportunity for these students to shine their talents with the audience. They demonstrated their ability to interpret the music of such composers as Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky, Suzuki, Handel, Bach, Mozart, Brahms,

Chopin and others. Musicians who performed on piano included Dhruv Tikku, Amber Johnson, Julia Kuzman, Andrew Delcousa, Connor Sheridan and Sean Bohard. Students who played the trombone were Matt Forman and Tim Woods, while Amanda Marcollo performed on trumpet. Katie Buchinder played flute and Leslie Bartsch and Nathaniel Udel the French horn.

A Christmas carol musical at UC Baptist

A Christmas carol musical will be held at Union County Baptist Church in Clark Sunday, with special music provided by Howie Campbell, an acoustic-guitar gospel artist from Virginia. The refreshment program begins at 10 a.m., followed by the UCBC Prmise Band performing at 10:45 with a Christmas presentation of

music; later, an Advent drama will be performed by children. Christmas carols will complement the program throughout as the audience participates. A candlelight service will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Union County Baptist Church. This special service held in candlelight both inside and out, where family and friends will be singing Christmas carols and enjoying holiday music in open to the community.

The program is a 17th-century worship experience without electricity. Many people have participated in the historic, annual candle celebration, and continue to enjoy the festive spirit. The original church bell has quite a history and will be rung before and after services. The bell originated in a West Indies island church and was brought to Rhode Island as a factory bell. This purchased in 1894 and brought to the dedication of the Bethlehem Union Chapel in that year.

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Nancy Ori's photographs to be displayed at Bouras Galleries

Five time HEART grant recipient Nancy Ori of Berkeley Heights will exhibit her historical photographs of Union County at Bouras Galleries from Jan. 5 through February.

The galleries are open to the public by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Linda Cole (908) 277-6054. Ori created a large body of photographs that were used in a historical guidebook put together by the county. She spent months doing research on the 38 sites and numerous interiors throughout Union County.

Her artistic selection of subject matter is determined by the best summary of images to depict the lifestyle of the people who lived throughout the county during different historical time periods. Ori refers to these images as "portraits" of the architecture and artifacts.

"Since 1970, I have traveled throughout the world working on various photographic and video projects, which has given me the opportunity to explore many popular and cherished places. I have discovered that right here in my own backyard, there are wonderful sites to photograph and images to share," Ori said.

"I proposed the grant project in order to best volunteer my skills to benefit my own community and have since been inspired by not only the interesting subject matter and history of New Jersey, but also by the many volunteers I have met while doing my research

and photographing the sites." The body of work will provide a balance of images between the architecture, furniture, costumes and artifacts of bygone eras to reflect those who lived, worked and played in Union County at earlier times. Some images are romantic in style and provide a contrast to the playful depictions of antique dolls and toys, some are bold forms of toys and objects presented almost as sculptures, and some are planned or contain artistically-composed room setups to provide more formal images.



Westfield's First Baptist Church has a long tradition of hosting successful youth band nights. During a recent sound check at the church, Drew Skibitsky and Andrew Rahner stop to pose for a picture.

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Youth bands take stage at First Baptist

For the second concert of its fall series, First Baptist Church in Westfield will host another youth band night from 8:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday in its downstairs fellowship hall.

Doors will open at 8:15 p.m. Local youth bands are showcased and provided a safe, decent place to test their musical skills before their peers. The bands include The Bank Robbers, Chasing Monkeys, Morning, Post Break Tragedy, For Helen, and Sketto. Admission is granted to youth under age 18 and is \$5 at the door for those who bring an unwrapped toy for charity. Those without a donated toy will be admitted for \$10 at the door.

This band night is coordinated by Westfield High School students, both those who are not normally affiliated with the church and who are youth members of the church, while the Rev. Jeremy Montgomery, minister of local outreach at First Baptist, provides oversight. The students involved in organizing the event are Natasha Carpio, Jeff Greenlaw, Kevin Johnson, Willa Scheffer and Drew Skibitsky. These students are directing the evening's proceeds to benefit local charities that are conducting toy drives for needy families during the holidays. In addition, the toys will be delivered to local charities, such as

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Songwriter remembered at Linden home

Memorabilia of the late singer and songwriter Hank Williams will be on display at the home of Maryann Sheriff, 910 Wheatshen Rd. in Linden, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 1 and 2. Three rooms of memorabilia, collectibles and personal items will be on display. Admission is free, but donations will be appreciated. Jan. 1 is the 52nd anniversary of Hank Williams' death.

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SPORTSCENE

Cranford Hockey Club On Thanksgiving weekend the CHC PeeWee team traveled to Valley Forge, Pa. to participate in the Oaks Center Ice Thanksgiving Tournament.

Billy Davitt. Two minutes later Richie Johnson scored with a top-shelf goal ending the period with the score 3-0.

Monday Cranford beat Solomon Schecter, 107-61 to improve their record to 3-1-1. The co-ed swim team defeated Roselle Catholic, 101-68, with first place finishes in the first eight races Dec. 10 in Cranford.

IL Giardino RISTORANTE PIZZERIA. TUESDAY SPECIAL Large Spin Pies \$15.95. WEDNESDAY SPECIAL Pasta Night \$10.95. THURSDAY SPECIAL Dinner for 2... \$19.95.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK sponsored by Il Giardino. Chris Hediges hauled a 756 high series to place first at the Westfield Tournament last weekend.

Bears girls (Continued from page C-1) tough kids," Murray said. "We like to stick our noses in there and cause some trouble."

Bears girls (Continued from page C-1) tough kids," Murray said. "We like to stick our noses in there and cause some trouble."

Area athletes earn All-State, county honors

Ingram, Drechsel, Coda, Caprio, Brown and Lu earn football honors. Running back Jamar Ingram was named to the All-Group II offensive First Team Sunday in the Star-Ledger.

All-Group I offense First Team and All-Union First Team. All-purpose man Nick Rosales earned honors on the All-Group I offensive Third Team as did line-backer Drew Vandereze on the defensive side.

Union honors. Thompson, Glenn Brown, Brian Mahoney and Kevin Mahoney were named to the Second Team. Berkowitz, Buonaguro, Meise, Rey, Bayak earn field hockey honors.



Kickers finish season undefeated. The Cranford U9 girls travel team, The Kickers, finished their first season together with an undefeated record of 10-0.

The Cranford U9 girls travel team, The Kickers, finished their first season together with an undefeated record of 10-0. The Kickers scored 30 goals against their travel opponents and only gave up two goals the entire season.

Russo named Union County Player of the Year. Russo was named Union County offensive Player of the Year by the Star-Ledger Sunday for accumulating more than 2,410 yards of offense and 31 touchdowns in 2004.

Brown, McKenney, Thompson, Hanke got All-Group II. Cranford's Kevin Brown and Joe McKenney were awarded All-Group II First Team slots in cross country Friday's Star-Ledger.

Kenilworth Blue Dragons. The Kenilworth Blue Dragons U-10 boys travel team finished in first place in the Flight Eight Mid-New Jersey Youth Soccer Association.

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Cranford Chronicle

Vol. 116, No. 52

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INSIDE



Three champs in Hopatcong

Cranford wrestlers Pat Hogan (160), Chris Taglia (140) and Charles Ferrara (171) finished first at the Hopatcong Invitational over the weekend. See Sports, Page C-1.



Taking home the top prize

This Willow Avenue home won first prize in Garwood's annual holiday home decorating contest. To find out whom it belongs to, see the story on Page B-1.



Making history

Members of the Cranford Historical Society recently received several county grants to pursue their research and the organization's general operations. For the details, see Page A-3.

REMAINDER

Don't forget the neediest!

Mobile Meals of Westfield is seeking volunteers to help pack and/or deliver meals to the elderly and disabled of local communities on the mornings of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Those who can spare one hour to drive or two hours to pack on these mornings should call the office at (908) 233-6146.

INDEX

- CommentaryA-4
Community LifeB-1
SportsC-1
Prime TimeB-4
ObituariesA-6
Real EstateC-3
Police LogA-5

Judge upholds board's ruling on Twin Oaks

By GREG MARK THE CHRONICLE

Developer still has approval to build 26 townhouses

CRANFORD — A Superior Court judge has upheld a decision by the Board of Adjustment to deny an application to construct 36 townhouses on a plot of land in the southeast section of the township.

Really was reasonably supported by the facts of the case.

The ruling about the fate of property at Halo and Heinrich streets and Mecker Avenue is the latest chapter in the contentious case, which has stretched on for several years. Following the Board of Adjustment's denial of the application in

2003, the developer submitted a revised application to the Planning Board seeking approval for only 26 townhouses. That version of the project required no variances and was approved earlier this year in a relatively short order.

simultaneously pursued an appeal of the first decision and has not yet begun work on the site. Now that Pisansky has upheld the Board of Adjustment's ruling, Twin Oaks can either file another appeal or proceed with the sealed-down project.

"It's under review at this time," said Joseph Triari, the developer's attorney. "We're looking at the opinion, and we'll be

(Continued on page A-2)



All aboard the Santa Express

The Cranford Chamber of Commerce concluded its downtown Christmas festivities Saturday, offering kids more chances to pose for pictures with Santa Claus and also sponsoring afternoon trolley rides. Above, one Santa Claus welcomes riders aboard the trolley while another takes the reins — or in this case, the steering wheel.

Mayor Jorn and committee prepare for a busy year in '05

By GREG MARK THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — When George Jorn takes over as mayor on Jan. 2, he and the Township Committee will have a full slate to attend to.

In his recent re-election campaign, Jorn argued that his experience on the committee made him qualified to tackle the township's numerous active projects. He is emphasizing the same issues as he prepares to take over the committee's top spot.

Rather than set off in any new directions, Jorn said he and the committee will focus on the township's ongoing efforts. Perhaps most prominent among those projects are Cranford Crossing, where work began in late fall after years of delays, and the township's Northeast Quadrant Flood Control project, the first phase of which should go out to bid in the spring.

On the flood project, Jorn said he and the committee will be again asking the state to restore more than \$3 million in aid, which had once been promised but was cut several years ago.

He added he would seek to push ahead with improvements to the Centennial Avenue streetscape, "an area in town that's been neglected for decades

and decades." Also on the township's agenda is the Riverfront redevelopment plan, across South Avenue from the train station. Builders' proposals for the site were due Wednesday, and the township aims to have an agreement in place with a developer next year. Jorn said the committee's task will be to strike "a delicate bal-

ance," bringing in additional tax revenue without acting the area up for overdevelopment.

As mayor in 2005, Jorn will play a leading role in setting the committee's agenda. But he won't have much more official power than any other member of the Township Committee. In Cranford's form of government, the mayor is not elected directly by voters and thus doesn't have many enumerated powers.

Instead, the committee members themselves choose a mayor

each year. The committee's decision last week to select Jorn was not unexpected: his Democratic party regained a majority in the November election, and the only other experienced Democrat on the committee, Dan Aschenbach, was mayor in 2001; recent practice has been to take turns in the leadership post. Aschenbach will be deputy mayor next year.

The 2004 mayor, Barbara Bilger, did not seek re-election to the committee.

In addition to the change at the top, some other responsibilities on the committee will be passed around. Aschenbach will become public safety commissioner, taking over for Jorn. Scott Mense will remain public works commissioner, but newly-elected Democrat George McDonough will chair the finance subcommittee, taking over for Ann Darby, who will oversee public affairs.

Darby said the change makes sense because "the budget needs to be prepared by someone who has a viewpoint that's representative of the majority." As finance commissioner last year, Darby clashed with Democrats on several issues and was mostly unable to win support for fee increases for a number of township services.

As finance commissioner in 2005, McDonough agreed that

State announces grants for work on local roadways

\$200G for light at Lincoln, South Union

By GREG MARK THE CHRONICLE

The state Department of Transportation last week announced hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants for projects in local communities, including the installation of a traffic light at a dangerous intersection in Cranford.

Among the \$67.5 million to be distributed statewide is \$200,000 to help pay for a new traffic light at Lincoln and South Union avenues, where 12-year-old Christopher Williamson was killed while riding his bicycle last year. Since that accident, the third fatality at the intersection in 14 years, the township has pressed to have a light erected to regulate the flow of traffic at the site.

The state essentially granted approval for the construction of the light in an expedited review process earlier this year, and now has given the project another boost.

"I think it's great news," said Commissioner George Jorn, who led the effort to win speedy approval for the light. "This mitigates an expensive item."

The township had requested \$300,000 in grant funds and had budgeted about that amount for the traffic light, though township engineer Rick Marsden said the final cost could be lower. A survey of the intersection will be conducted shortly, with the drafting of a design

plan to follow, Marsden said. A state review of the design plan should take about two weeks, leaving the township in good shape to start construction in late spring or early summer, he said.

"It's just a dangerous situation there that needs to be corrected once and for all," said Jorn.

Kenilworth, meanwhile, will receive \$140,000 for improvements to North 19th Street. The grant will help pay for reconstruction of the road from Monroe to Sheridan avenues, said Mayor Gregg David.

And in Garwood, the state will be providing \$160,000 for improvements at both Lexington Avenue and East Street. The township's road work agenda for 2005 features drainage improvements on Lexington from Flemlock to Hickory avenues to combat a severe icing problem; drainage improvements on East Street from Locust to Beech avenues, where a new drain pipe will replace an existing pipe that has been damaged by large trees; and a full reconstruction of East Street from Flemlock to Hickory avenues, including the installation of curbing and sidewalks.

More than 400 municipalities in the state received money from the program, distributed according to a formula based on town population and road mileage. Seventy-five percent of the grant money is distributed up front, and 25 percent is distributed after the project is completed.

Hearing begins on Park Drive project

By GREG MARK THE CHRONICLE

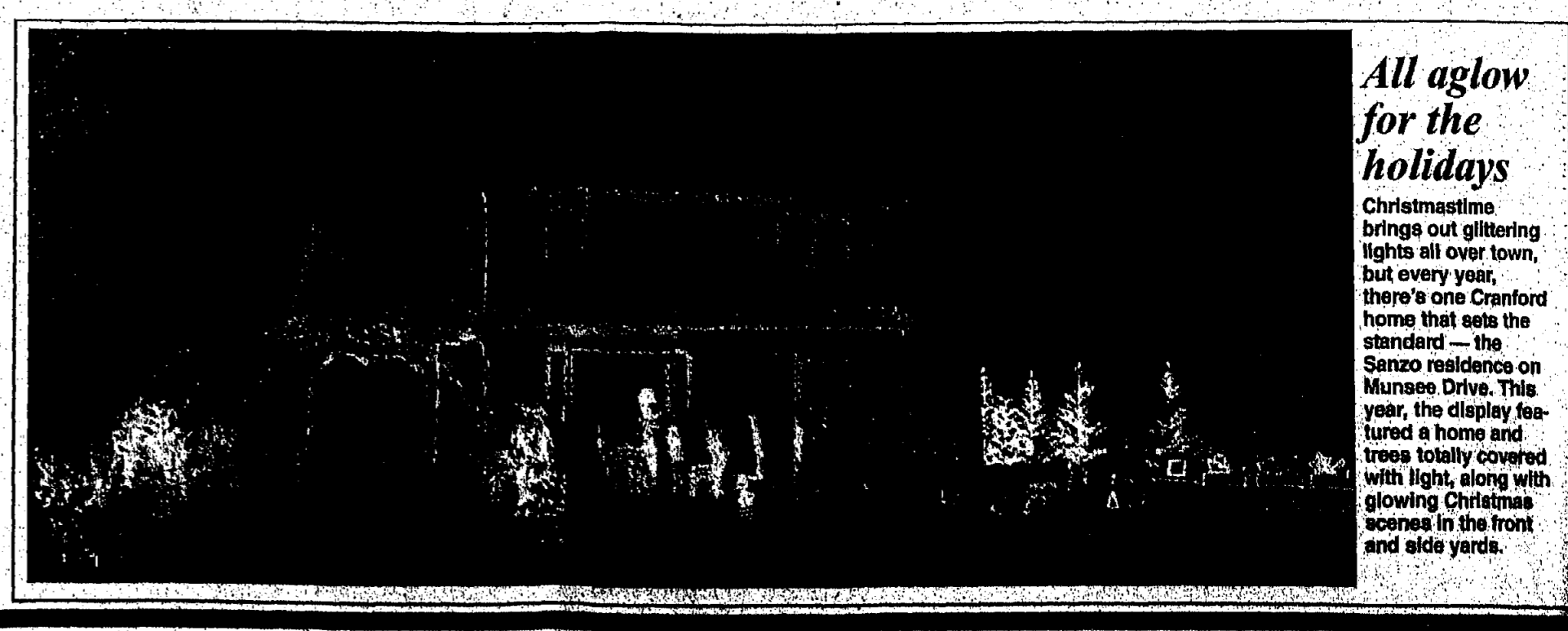
CRANFORD — A hearing on a proposed subdivision on Park Drive has been continued until next year to allow the builder to make modifications to the application.

Developer Kimm Construction, LLC, of Kenilworth has proposed to subdivide the property at 112 Park Drive, where the dead-end street off of Springfield Avenue abuts Nomahgan Park. The builder proposes to leave the existing home standing and to construct a new 2½-story home that it claims "will enhance the neighborhood and bring in added value to the block."

As originally filed, the application asks the Planning Board to grant variances for lot width and side yard setback. But after the developer's planner, engineer and architect testified and faced questions from board members and the public at a Dec. 15 hearing, attorney Robert Weiss asked for a continuance to amend the application.

Most of the objections to the project center around the addition of impervious surface at a property so close to the Railway River and its tributaries. In a review of the original proposal, the township's Development Review Committee stated its concern "with an additional impervious area being created within the flood-fringe area."

(Continued on page A-2)



All aglow for the holidays

Christmastime brings out glittering lights all over town, but every year, there's one Cranford home that sets the standard — the Sanzo residence on Munsee Drive. This year, the display features a home and trees totally covered with light, along with glowing Christmas scenes in the front and side yards.