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**How to reach us:**

Our offices are located at 1291 S. Main Street, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

**Voice Mail:**

Our main phone number, 908-686-7700, is equipped with a voicemail system to better serve our customers. During regular business hours, a recorded message will answer your call. During the evening or when the office is closed, your call will be answered by an automated receptionist.

**To subscribe:**

The Progress is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$15.00, two-year subscriptions for \$28.00. College and out-of-state subscriptions are available. You may subscribe by phone by calling 908-686-7700 and asking for the circulation department. Allow at least two weeks for processing your order. You may use MasterCard or VISA.

**News items:**

News releases of general interest must be sent to our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Pictures must be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news story, call 908-686-7700 and ask for Editor.

**Letters to the editor:**

The Progress provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed double spaced, must be signed and should be accompanied by an address and day time phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

**e-mail:**

The Progress accepts opinion pieces by e-mail. Our address is: WCN22@localsource.com. e-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

**To place a display ad:**

Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Progress must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the B section must be in our office by Monday at noon. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Call 908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

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Visit our Web Site on the Internet called LocalSource online at: <http://www.localsource.com>. Find all the latest news, classified, community information, real estate and community chat.

**Postmaster please note:**

The RAHWAY PROGRESS (USPS 005-571) is published weekly by World Community Newspapers, Inc., 1291 S. Main Street, Union, N.J. 07083. Mail subscriptions \$15.00 per year in Union County, 25 cents per copy, non-refundable. Periodicals postage paid at Union, N.J. and additional mailing office.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the RAHWAY PROGRESS, 1291 S. Main Street, Union, N.J. 07083.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the *Railway Progress* to inform residents of various community activities and governmental meetings. To give you community events the publicity they deserve, mail your schedule to *Railway Progress*, Attention: Chris Sawal, managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

**Tomorrow**

- Trinity United Methodist Church, at 1428 Main Street in Rahway, is sponsoring an Argyle Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. The dinner includes a choice of chicken or fish with chips, coleslaw and homemade dessert. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. All proceeds will help the mission outreach of the church. For more information call 381-1328 or 381-2077.

**Saturday**

- All area residents are invited to Big Band Night at the VFW Post 7363 Home on Broadway Avenue in Clark from 7 p.m. to midnight including dinner and refreshments. **Monday**
- Band and a donation of \$55 per person includes dinner at 7 p.m., refreshments and dancing from 8 p.m. to midnight. For reservations call Carol Brinkerhoff at 276-6031 or the VFW Post Home at 674-8384. No tickets will be sold at the door and the deadline for tickets is April 14.

**Tuesday**

- The April meeting of the Rahway Public Board of trustees, originally scheduled for April 15, will be held on April 22 at 8 p.m. The meeting will be held in the board room at the library, 1175 St. Georges Ave., Westfield.

**Wednesday**

- The Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation and Linden Lakes is sponsoring a free "Senior Social" bowling party for Rahway Seniors at Linden Lakes, 741 Siles St. at 9:30 a.m.

The party will include bowling, use of all equipment, instructional help and light refreshments. Any senior citizen from Rahway is invited, beginners as well as experienced bowlers. For more information call 827-3016.

**Coming events**

**April 24**

- The Concerned Citizens of Union County will meet at the JFK Community Center, 796 East Hazelwood Ave. in Rahway. For time call Bob Caruso at 381-7259 or Kern Blanchard at 396-3722.

The Concerned Citizens are currently involved in examining such issues as the hazards of a toxic waste incinerator. The group uses the model of participatory democracy in their organization and state there is no single person who makes all the decisions, the group decides action.

The Concerned Citizens invite all to join their meetings on the first and third Thursday of every month.

- The Rahway Senior Center, located at 1306 Enterprise Ave., will host the Union County Department of Human Services — Division on Aging and Division of Social Services Senior Citizens — Outreach program. The free program will run from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Discussions will cover topics such as: Pharmaceutical Assistance, Gas and Electric Bills, Grocery Supplies, Seniors Health Insurance, Home Energy, Supplemental Security Income, and Food and Medical Cost Assistance. For information call 827-2016.

**May 8**

- The Rahway Environmental Commission will meet in the second floor conference room of City Hall at 7 p.m.

**May 13**

- Rahway Hospital will offer the popular "Culinary Hearts Kitchen" cooking course beginning on May 13. The three-session course will be held May 13 and 30 and June 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the hospital's occupational therapy suite.

"Culinary Hearts Kitchen" was developed by the American Heart Association in accordance with its dietary guidelines for cardiac patients.

The course features demonstrations of low fat, low cholesterol and low sodium food preparation and is appropriate for all who are concerned with maintaining good nutrition.

The fee for the course is \$50 and includes instruction, a student manual, copies of all recipes and taste-testing of each recipe. Advance registration is required. For more information call Community Outreach at 499-6193.

**May 18**

- There will be a Spring flea market and craft show sponsored by Rahway Boy Scout Troop No. 47 and vendors are needed. The show will be held at Roosevelt School on St. Georges Avenue in Rahway from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the rain date is May 18. For more information call Dave at 381-8922 or Julia at 388-7268.

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## Hundreds gather in honor of Marine vet

(Continued from Page 1)

shipped back to the United States but was back in 1975 to direct the evacuation of American citizens from South Vietnam, including the evacuation of Saigon.

Gray was promoted to general and became commander of the Marines at Highway 10. When asked if he had any comment, Jean Marie Fagan, a junior, replied, "Not really. It's just an honor to have General Gray honored with St. Georges Avenue."

"I think it's really nice that the City of Rahway is putting this together for General Gray," said Jesse Kamidzen, a sophomore in the program.

"He's a very good role model," said Fagan.

A sergeant from the Marine Corps, recreation substitution in Elizabeth. He was there with a number of recruits in civilian clothes.

"It's extremely fortunate to be here and see the young people who have enlisted in the Corps — they're not in taking the first step — and it's a great honor," said Gunnery Sergeant Francisco Barr.

"It's a proud moment and they're very fortunate to be here today," he added.

The renaming of St. Georges Avenue apparently came as a pleasant surprise to Gray.

"This caught me by surprise," he said. "You're not going to catch me by surprise again, Mr. Mayor."

"I think it was a great honor and privilege for Rahway to have one of its sons back," said Sal Mince, a Vietnam War-era veteran. "I think it's an honor for him to sit at the table with the other veterans."

**ADVERTISING**

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ARTH-Rx is available at ROSELLE CENTER PHARMACY, 570 Raritan Rd., Roselle, 265-4600.

## Authority battle ends with new ruling

By Sean Daily  
Staff Writer

It looks like that, at least for now, the Democratic freeholders feel that the UCUA does not have.

Stender has criticized the UCUA in the past for not doing enough to make its per-ton garbage disposal fee or "tipping fee" competitive before a deadline in 1998. At that time, the UCUA will have to compete in a free and open market against other waste disposal facilities. Some of these, particularly landfills in Pennsylvania, charge tipping fees \$40 lower than the UCUA's \$85.05.

The county government is affected because it has guaranteed \$35 million of the UCUA's more than \$280 million in bonds. If the UCUA loses enough business and can't pay its debts, it will have to default on its bonds. The county will have to pay for the \$35 million.

According to Freeholder Vice Chairman Dan Sullivan, also a Democrat, the freeholders will instead sit down with the UCUA "and let them know what the policy of the UCUA should be and what they should do to make the tipping fee competitive."

This group, consisting of Stender, Sullivan, a Republican freeholder and special counsel Jonathan Williams of DeCotis, Gluck and Fitzgerald met with Kulis, Republican Katherine Falcomer, Democrat James Kennedy and UCUA Executive Director Joseph Spolito on Tuesday. In addition to lowering the tipping fees, Kulis said on Monday that he hoped to "cement closer ties with the freeholders. Hopefully, it will be all positive."

About \$40 of the UCUA's tipping fee is earmarked for debt service and cannot be lowered for several years. The UCUA, which is based in Rahway, is already looking into new revenue sources to reduce its fees, such as selling steam for heating and cooling to nearby East Jersey State Prison and bringing in new waste streams, but Spolito has said that he is not sure whether these programs will lower the tipping fee enough to make the UCUA competitive.

While Beglin's ruling invalidated the freeholder's ordinance, it also invalidated a Republican-sponsored bill from the state Legislature that also attempted to block the ordinance. The freeholders said that this affirms their role as the policy-making arm of the county government and the UCUA's role to carry out that policy.

The bill was signed into law on March 24 by Gov. Christine Whitman but was made retroactive to March 3, almost two weeks before the reorganization ordinance passed.

"To have the bill go through the Senate in such a unilateral manner, in my opinion, was a mistake," said Sullivan. He said that he was going to take action and then to make it retroactive is unusual, said Sullivan.

## Poster contest yields memorial design

By Sean Daily  
Staff Writer

What will the public safety memorial look like when it is finished? Well, if the children of Rahway have anything to say about it, it will have a colorful and a stone tablet.

That, at least, is the design by Victoria Sica, a fourth grade student at Roosevelt School, who won a design contest for the memorial's design last Tuesday.

Christine Campanelli, a seventh grader at Rahway Intermediate School, won the contest along with Sica. Campanelli's design was not available.

Sica and Campanelli were just two of 270 designs — posters, really — that were mailed for the proposed memorial, which is to be built in front of City Hall to honor seven public safety employees — six police officers and one firefighter — who died in the line of duty.

The posters, which are still hanging in the City Hall lobby, run the gamut of designs: from graveyards and statues to plaques and endearments.

Along with the posters were 29 essays, which will help in the design of the memorial as well. The award for best essay went to Jamie Segal, a sixth grader at the Intermediate School.

The officers who will be included on the memorial include:

- James Lynch and Jacob Kraus, policemen who were killed on Feb. 24, 1919 while investigating and assaulting.
- Police officer Harry Orr, killed in a motorcycle accident on Dec. 4, 1922.
- Police Officer Frank Remer, a motorcycle traffic sergeant who was killed in 1926 when a truck made a sudden turn in front of him and he ran into it.
- Charles Demoskie, a police officer who died on November 28, 1958, after being shot while investigating a burglary at Miller Pontiac and Cadillac on St. Georges Avenue. This case is still open.
- Police officer John Burns, who died on Jan. 8, 1971 during his first week on the job. He was struck by a train while running down a dog suspect.
- Deputy Fire Chief Nicholas Coppola, who died on Feb. 5, 1984 after suffering a heart attack while fighting.

Also among the winners of the poster contest were Michael Schimmler, a fourth grader at Roosevelt School, and Richard of Gravel Cleveland School, Yi Young Chien of Franklin School and Justin Dubrowski of Madison School.

Finalists in the essay contest were:

## FAA alters flight pattern corridor

By Sean Daily  
Staff Writer

The Federal Aviation Administration announced changes last week to a plan for reducing aircraft noise in Union County.

Last Wednesday, the FAA announced that they were making changes to the Solberg Mitigation Plan for planes leaving Rahway 22 at Newark International Airport.

The plan, which was put into law on Dec. 31, requires planes departing from Rahway 22 to proceed about 9.5 miles south, then turn west toward the Solberg Navigational Aid in Haddonfield. The Solberg plan was meant to reduce the noise of low-flying planes to about 18,000 residents in Union County. But community groups have said that it has just increased the noise in a number of towns, particularly Kenilworth, Roselle Park, parts of Scotch Plains, Fairwood, Westwood and Cranford.

Part of the problem, said Arlene Salas of the FAA, is that the planes are flying in too wide a corridor, spreading out the noise. In some places, this corridor is six miles wide.

According to Salas, the FAA will try to narrow this corridor as of May 1, hopefully getting it down to about three miles in width. This will bring the paths of the planes closer to the paths modeled for the Solberg plan. Salas stressed that no flight paths would be changed and that the Solberg plan would remain the same. To change the paths would require a "lengthy environmental process," she said.

"This would be continued for up to six months and into the warmer summer season, when people open up their windows and are more susceptible to aircraft noise. There will also be another meeting with community groups at that time."

Community groups, including the EWR/Rahway 22 Coalition, took this as an admission that the Solberg plan was not working.

"It sounds like an admission that Solberg failed," said Rick Obrock, the president of the Coalition. "I'm disappointed the FAA couldn't come up with something after years of study and hours of computer modeling and couldn't come up with something that works."

The Solberg Mitigation Plan was part of an Environmental Impact Study that was started in 1990 by the FAA for flight routes across the east coast. This was supposed to last 180 days, with another 180 to implement changes, but instead lasted about six years and ended up costing \$6 million.

According to Jerome Feder, chairman of the Union County Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board, one of the reasons the Solberg plan has not worked is nearby LaGuardia International Airport.

Feder revealed to the Board of Chosen Freeholders in January that planes were not following the Solberg plan. Planes were turning to the west toward the Solberg aid too early, bringing the planes over towns that they were not meant to fly over.

It turned out, said Feder, that the Solberg plan flies its planes into an area used by LaGuardia traffic. Air controllers were having the planes turn early in order that they would not have to juggle a large number of planes in one area.

## We want your news

Your organization should be getting the publicity it deserves and we would like to help. We have a public relations handbook which explains how to tell your story. We would like to publish your club, church, school, news, etc. If you have an idea for a picture or story, call Managing Editor CJ Sawal at 686-7700.

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# SPORTS

## Rahway softball continues fine play with 5-1 record

*Indians bested Union Catholic Monday.*

By Andrew McGann  
Staff Writer

After jumping out to a 5-1 start, first-year pitcher Kieran Karaman led his Rahway High school softball team to victory in the Westfield game made it known that they will be a force to be reckoned with this year in the Watchung Conference.

Karaman said, "I though the game would be a lot closer."

Dana Sides ran her record to 4-1 in the victory over Union Catholic. She also notched a victory in the Westfield game and the clean-up hitter helped her own cause by smacking a three-run home run.

"She's fantastic," Karaman said of Fagen, whom he considers to be one of the top catchers in the conference.

Kim Gustafson knocked in two runs in the win over Westfield.

Surprisingly, Karaman isn't entirely happy with the team's 5-1 record.

The Indians, who were defeated for the only time in the early going against Cranford on Friday, rebounded with a 3-2 win over Union Catholic at home Monday in a closely contested game.

Rahway also picked up a big win on the road last Wednesday when they knocked off Westfield 7-2. "Westfield has an excellent team," runs on the day. Karaman has been very impressed with the play of his junior catcher, who bats in the five hole. Rahway was scheduled to take on Scotch Plains yesterday on the road. They also play today at home against Plainfield at 4.

## Jurick no-hits Newark Central

**By Andrew McGann  
Staff Writer**

Keith Jurick's four-inning no-hitter over Newark Central Friday highlighted a week that saw the Johnson Regional High School baseball team

struck out 14 hitters and walked just one.

Grady, who also won the opener for Johnson, helped himself by knocking in two runs with a single with two outs in the fifth.

and three runs scored. Martucci went two-for-two with three RBI and two runs scored and Mulligan hit a double and scored three runs.

"We're no where near peak form yet, but considering the weather I'd

take two of three games to run their record to 3-1.

Jurick, who is competing for the third or fourth spot in the pitching rotation, struck out 11 batters and walked just two. The 4 1/2 inning game was cut short by the ten-run

Senior shortstop Jason Hassler had a big day against North Plainfield at the plate. With two-out in the second inning, Hassler hit a three-run triple to break the game open. He added another RBI later in the game to finish the day with four

happy with the way we were playing, LaConte said.

Jurick has also been successful behind the plate, mailing two would-be base stealers so far in the young season.

Games were scheduled

"Those were big RBI's," LaConte said of the two-out hits by Grady and Hasler.

"Hasler provided the offense and Ryan provided the pitching gem," LaConte said. "Ryan controlled the

Pitching standout Ryan Grady, an all-county performer last year, ran his record to 2-0 and hurled a complete game, two-hit shutout to lead the Crusaders to a 4-0 victory over Northridge.

**Began week 3-2**  
Karen Kolmos, an all-county per-

former last year and Johnson's top pitcher, took the loss in the Edison game to even her record at 2-2. Kolmes, who was injured in a car accident before the season, hasn't been able to recapture her mound dominance this year in the young season.

"Every start has been better and better for her," Petruzzelli added.

Although a 3-2 record might not look that dazzling, there is more than meets the eye. The defeats came

"If we were strictly worried about our won/lost record we could easily

"We try to play as many out-of-league games as possible to make ourselves better."

Johnson last played yesterday at home against Bound Brook. They play again tomorrow at Immaculata.

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## Made in the shade



Local businessmen show off some of the things other than shades available at Shades & Things in Union. From left: Pat Murtha, Ira Schwartz and Barbara Kozlow.

## Let there be lights 2000 lamps are waiting to be lit

They're worth a trip from anywhere with three floors of more than 2,000 lamps and accessories to light up your life and decorate your home.

Strictly decorating is the way Gail Bace, 44, with 17 years experience, describes her business located on the corner of Washington Avenue and Route 22 East in Green Brook.

Personalized attention and custom design are the key phrase at Lamps N Things. They will design exquisite custom stain glass panels to any size, pattern and color. They welcome their customers to bring in photographs, wall paper, fabrics and color swatches so they can compliment their designs to match your decor. They have more than 200 Tiffany style lamps in stock and a selected amount can be made to any color.

Lamps N Things is not a standard lighting store. They specialize in decorating. You will be amazed at their three floors, with an array of styles of paintings, mirrors, console tables, pedestals, occasional furniture, chandeliers, lamp shades, vases, custom floral arrangements, decorative accessories, lighting fixtures, chandeliers, medallions, and of course, lamps. If you can't find it at Lamps N Things, they can rewire and repair your old lamps and recover your old lamp shades.

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## Homegrown 'miners' turn junk into cash

Kenilworth company pays for discarded metals

By Tomiann Antonelli  
Staff Writer

Spring is a time when many people begin the process of cleaning out their homes in preparation for the warmer months. For many, spring cleaning may include recycling.

While many residents recycle on a regular basis, others tend to wait until they have a large quantity of recyclable items. Some towns even have scheduled pick-ups for bottles and cans that citizens may leave out just as they would their trash. Still other people may choose to bring items to be recycled to specific companies which will pay them a minimal amount of money depending on how much they bring in.

According to Mike Vilta, co-owner of M&A Recycling at 352 Market Street in Kenilworth, most people choose to do the bulk of their recycling beginning in March.

"People are outside a lot more when it's warm, so we tend to get a lot more cans during the summer," he explained. Vilta started M&A Recycling with his father, Andrew, about two years ago. Mike said that his father had been in the recycling business for about 35 years.

"When my father was about 13 he used to go around and collect things to be recycled," said Mike. "After a while he bought a car for his friend and then made him drive him

around on weekends to pick up cans and bottles."

M&A Recycling deals with non-ferrous metals, such as aluminum, brass, and copper. Most of what they get comes from homeowners and small businesses that wish to rid their home of these materials, help the environment, and make money at the same time.

"We give people a chance to recycle things and get money while helping to save the environment," said Mike.

When a load of metal items are received by the company, they immediately sort it out according to the type of metal. It is then weighed and shipped out to various mills that melt it to form shapes that can be used to make cars, and other metal-based goods.

M&A Recycling can accept cans in 30-gallon bags, provided that there is nothing else in the bags. Aluminum can also be accepted in bulk form either in bags, cars, etc. Contributors will be paid for the materials by the pound. The rates depend on the value of the metals, which according to Vilta, change nearly every day.

Did you know that there is no state sales tax levied on goods sold in garage and yard sales? Even items sold at organized block sales are exempt from the tax.

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## Energy efficient windows are priority in remodeling

For the first time, home remodeling is expected to exceed new-home construction next year, according to the National Association of Home Builders. With 79 percent of consumers surveyed by "Better Homes and Gardens" reporting they are most concerned with finding an energy-efficient window, while 78 percent first considered a window's appearance and style, windows are likely to make up a large portion of that remodeling budget.

"A window's energy efficiency and beauty are influenced by a number of factors. One of the biggest is the material the window is made of," said Randy Iles, vice president of marketing for Pella Corp. "There are three widely used alternative window-frame materials to choose from: wood, vinyl and aluminum."

Different frame materials have varying insulating qualities. Aluminum, for example, is a natural energy conductor, causing it to more readily lose heat in the winter and gain heat in summer. An inch of wood, on the other hand, is 1,770 times as efficient an insulator as aluminum, according to the Southern Forest Products Association.

Some people prefer aluminum and wood windows to take advantage of wood's insulating qualities while adding aluminum's low-maintenance benefits to the exterior, according to Iles.

"When it comes to appearance, most people also prefer the natural warmth and beauty of wood windows," Iles said. "Wood frames can be painted or stained to match any interior, whereas vinyl frames look like plastic. Vinyl windows also have been known to contract, expand and even buckle."

"We recommend homeowners collect as much information as possible from knowledgeable salespeople or certified contractors," Iles added. "Being informed about the difference in windows can help you to make a purchase decision that delivers long-term value."

For free literature on making window and door decisions, call (800) 847-3552.

**Different frame materials have varying insulating qualities. Aluminum, for example, is a natural energy conductor, causing it to more readily lose heat in the winter and gain heat in summer. An inch of wood, on the other hand, is 1,770 times as efficient an insulator as aluminum.**



When deciding what type of windows and frames to install, Pella Corp. recommends that people collect as much information as possible. For free literature on making this decision, call (800) 847-3552.

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From Union Market to Union Center

## Local florist grows into neighborhood

By Maddy Vitale  
Staff Writer

Martin Block knows his flowers. With more than 30 years of experience in the flower business, his specialty is pleasing customers with a tremendous selection of flowers, hanging plants, friendly service and a whole lot more. His store, Union Flower Place, is located at 1035 Stuyvesant Ave. between Morris Avenue and Vauxhall Road. There is free parking in the rear of the store.

Block, who was a vendor at the Union Market for 14 years, which was razed in January to make way for a Home Depot, relocated his flower shop to Union Center last month.

"He said he is happy with Union Center and the customers are wonderful. I think Union Center is a nice upscale area. The customer response has been excellent and we have a lot of satisfied customers," Block said.

Gen Benedetto is one of those satisfied customers. "I could spend all day in here. The selection is great and the service is wonderful."

Benedetto said one of the "nice things" about the store is the employees assist in putting together arrangements. "I like to go in, say, for floral arrangements and the

employees really help me choose the right flowers for a particular arrangement," she added.

Block sells a variety of items with something for everyone. Customers can choose from a beautiful assortment of flowers which can be made into fresh bouquets. There is also a wide variety of silk flowers, potted plants, and the newest type of flowers made out of latex and foam. There is also a full line of decorative wall mirrors and fancy balloons.

The service is friendly and quick. "Customers can bring in their own containers and we will do center pieces for them in about 30 minutes," Block said.

The prices are reasonable. For instance, silk potted plants start at \$5. Fresh roses are \$9.99 for a dozen and customers get 20 percent off with a coupon from the Home Improvement section found in this newspaper. There is also a coupon for 20 percent off all merchandise in the store.

There are five employees to assist the customers with the wide variety of gifts, and more centerpieces. The store is open seven days a week. The hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Saturday. The store is open Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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## Futons offer new style & a place for sleeping

The last time belt-bottoms and hip-burgers were popular, futons were being made in basements and garages and used primarily as floor mats. Today, futons continue one of the hottest furniture trends around, with industry experts anticipating double-digit growth in the 1990s.

According to a national survey sponsored by Futon Association International, West Coast residents seem to be leading the charge, showing a near 75 percent awareness of futon furniture in that region, and other areas of the country are catching on quickly.

Today's futons have come off the ground and evolved from basic college furniture into sophisticated versatile pieces that can fit any budget and decor. No longer a floor mat, the word "futon" now generally refers to a mattress-frame-cover combination that can serve as a sofa bed or primary sleeping surface. Futon mattresses are filled with cotton, wool, foam, polyester or a combination of these three. Futon covers and other accessories are available to complete the look.

Compared to other, more conventional furniture, futon furniture has several advantages:

- **Versatility** — Futons and frames are converted easily from sofa to bed and back again; they fit into small spaces and are easy to move. In addition, they feature removable covers that can be changed to fit any decor.

**Today's futons have evolved from college furniture into sophisticated pieces that fit any budget and decor. Futons now are mattress-frame-cover combos that serve as sofa beds or primary beds.**

- **Affordability** — Futons, frames and accessories offer better value than traditional furniture counterparts — particularly so when considering their multipurpose functions. Reusable covers also allow for easy cleaning.

- **Quality** — Futon mattresses, conventional-purpose futon frames, covers and accessories are available in a wide range of high-quality fabrics, woods, wood finishes and metals that are built to last.

- **Comfort** — Europeans and Asians have been sleeping on futons for thousands of years. Americans just now are discovering that a good night's sleep begins with a futon.



Once spotted only in dorm rooms and basements, futons have improved vastly and entered the mainstream. Today, entire rooms can be decorated stylishly and affordably with futon furniture and accessories.

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## Changing a door or rail can alter a home's look

By Toniann Antonelli  
Staff Writer

When people are taking steps to beautify their homes, they often take the most obvious details for granted, such as doors and railings.

The front door, window or railing is usually the first thing people see when they enter a house or store. Such accessories can actually change the look and atmosphere of a home, giving them either a more modern or even a more classic look. Different windows can also brighten up a home, and make small rooms appear larger.

Jeff Cusumano, the owner of the Cusumano Perma-Rail Company in Roselle Park, explained that the addition or replacement of railings, windows and doors can also increase the value of a home or business.

"Not only can it dress up the appearance of the house, but it can also add to the property value," said Cusumano.

The Cusumano Perma-Rail Company, which is located at 213 W. Westfield Ave., has been in business since 1962. The company was originally started by the owner's father, Vincent, who then passed the business on to his son. According to Cusumano, the company manufactures and sells wrought iron railings for balconies and porches, as well as storm doors, security doors, replacement windows and decorative window glazings.

According to Cusumano, people usually tend to pick the warmer months to do home improvements.

"During winter, people don't usually go outside much to do home improvements," he said.

In addition, replacing windows and doors in the summer can help homeowners to prepare their homes for the hot summer months.

Presently, there is also a law that requires those wishing to sell a home to install railings on all open porches and stairs.

"In addition to making the house look much better, they're also a necessity," said Cusumano. "If somebody has an open porch or stairs, the railings can prevent accidents and add to the beauty of the house."

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## Do it yourself decorating can be easy, affordable

In the past, the trend in home decorating was uniformity and formality. Today, when decorating the home, people are encouraged to use a mixture of styles and periods and to express their own personal style.

"American Country Details" Clarkson Potter, by Mary Emmertling, provides home decorators with hundreds of country decorating ideas, as well as more than 550 photographs of these ideas.

The country decorating encyclopedia and handbook tells the secrets of good design by focusing on important elements. Complete with a directory of sources, this book helps do-it-yourself decorators turn plain objects and areas of the house into pretty ones.

The author suggests using every day, all-purpose items that are affordable and easy to find for decorating the home. Bowls, baskets, jugs and jars often are used to hold and store such items as mail, eggs, fruit and keys. However, these containers offer a decorative alternative to drawers and bins and can enliven any area of the home.

Assorted bowls, crocks, baskets and buckets placed around the house not only keep things organized, but also enhance the decor of any home.

There are many ways to use baskets and bowls as efficient and unique decorating ideas. • Cutting boards of all sizes and shapes can be fun to collect; however, they are difficult to store. Try putting these boards into a large wicker basket and leave on a countertop, solving storage problems and making for an interesting arrangement.

• Fill a large basket with pine cones, and set outside the front door to a new twist to a welcoming entranceway.

• Place a photo inside a basket, hang it on the wall, and use it as a pretty picture frame. • Wine bottle corks easily can be converted into a service bar for mixers during parties and get-togethers.

• Place a basket in the bathroom, and fill it with bars of soap, toilet paper or even containers. Filling the container with identical items creates a different effect than filling containers at random. It also lets people know when it is time to restock essential items.

People should remember to avoid preconceived notions of how the decor should look and experiment with items to arrive at an arrangement that is pleasing, comfortable and spontaneous. Decorating is easier than people think, and successful results will be shared with everyone who visits.

## Rooms to grow



Designer Bathrooms and Kitchens II offers complete bathroom and kitchen remodeling, from removal of walls, floors, tubs and sinks to installation of sheetrock walls, electric outlets, whirlpools, ranges and counter-tops. Their craftsmen are insured and licensed by the state, and all work is guaranteed. The owners invite the public to visit their new showroom in Union Center, at 1016 Stuyvesant Ave., where bathroom and kitchen models are assembled.

## Fuel company is going strong after 70 years

By Jacques McCarthy  
Associate Editor

The impression given by the name Reel-Strong Fuel Company has been more than supported by more than 70 years of service to Cranford and the surrounding area.

Owners Clint and Peter Crane have taken a seasonal business and kept it thriving through the ups and downs of unpredictable weather conditions. Now that spring is here and warmer weather is just around the corner, Reel-Strong Fuel is gearing up to "flip the switch" on the heat for their summer standby — air conditioning.

Since Reel-Strong has been providing quality heating service and products since 1925, it is not widely known that they also have a line of products and services for summer temperature needs as well.

According to Peter Crane, the focus turns from heating to cooling in May, when Reel-Strong "puts on its AC hat" to install new central air conditioning units and tune-up existing ones.

"It doesn't have to be done before you flip the switch," he said.

Reel-Strong has been installing and servicing air conditioners for 25 years. They offer several makes and models for residential customers. In addition to air conditioners, oil heat customers can take advantage of the summer season to have their oil burners cleaned and serviced.

"Service is what we sell," said Crane. Reel-Strong Fuel Company is located at 549 Lexington Ave., Cranford. For information, call (908) 276-9900.

**The focus turns from heating to cooling in May, when Reel-Strong 'puts on its AC hat' to install new central air conditioning units and tune-up existing ones.**



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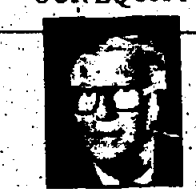
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Delivery service is available. Woodwork & Tile is located at 978 St. Georges Ave., Rahway. The store is open Monday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday by appointment. For information, call (908) 815-1113.

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With a comprehensive stock of unfinished woods and accessories, Elizabeth's Interstate Hardwood is one of the area's leading suppliers to both professional woodworkers and homeowners.

Founded in 1953, the family-owned business has been an Elizabeth tradition passed down to owner Neil Slattery from his father.

Interstate specializes in hardwood and has drawn brisk business from clients interested in using that wood to construct home-cabinets, bookcases and wall units, Slattery said. "That's still the core of our business — the hardwoods — but we also do a lot of business in cedar and pine," he said.

A smaller — but rapidly growing — market is that of Spanish cedar customers interested in creating humidors to store cigars. To accommodate this clientele, Interstate sells humidifiers, hygrometers, and even cigars.

Elizabeth obviously has large Cuban and Mediterranean populations and those customers supply a lot of the demand for cigar-related products, Slattery said.

Customers looking for exotic woods can choose from a selection that includes beech and cocobola, as well as a full line of veneers. Interstate Hardwood, located at 820 Flora St., is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday and is closed on Sunday. They can be reached at (908) 353-5663.

## Local company brings Lennox quality to Union

Lennox' new Elite 14 air conditioner features quality, high efficiency, and quiet operation in a compact design, according to Joseph DiGangi, president, Polar-Air Inc., Union.

Providing energy-saving efficiencies up to 15.60 SEER, the Elite 14 operates at sound levels "almost as quiet as a refrigerator," DiGangi said. "An insulated sound compartment traps compressor noise and allows operating levels as low as 72 decibels.

Less refrigerant is required to operate the Elite 14 air conditioner, thanks to the corrosion-resistant 5/16 inch copper tubing. An aluminum fin coil provides excellent heat transfer and low air resistance for high-efficiency operation. DiGangi also pointed out that the air conditioner's scroll compressor, private high efficiency and reliability.

Durability is enhanced by a heavy-gauge, corrosion-resistant cabinet. Polyethylene support feet keep the unit off of the mounting surface to protect it from damaging moisture. And DiGangi explained high and low safety pressure switches protect the Elite 14 air conditioner during abnormal operating conditions. "These safety features will give the homeowner that extra peace of mind," DiGangi said.

**The Elite 14 air conditioner is available in a wide range of models and is backed by 10-year compressor and five-year limited parts warranties.**

DiGangi added that the Elite 14 air conditioner is available in a wide range of models to provide the best matches for homeowners and is backed by a 10-year compressor and five-year limited parts warranties. "And while you can count on the Elite 14 air conditioner to give you quieter high efficiency cooling, DiGangi indicated, "you can also count on Polar-Air Inc. for promptness, courtesy and expert professional service, since they are part of Lennox' unique Quality Dealer Standards Program."

Call DiGangi at (908) 686-3601 about the Elite 14 air conditioner today. With a history of more than 100 years of quality and innovation, Lennox give one one less thing to worry about.

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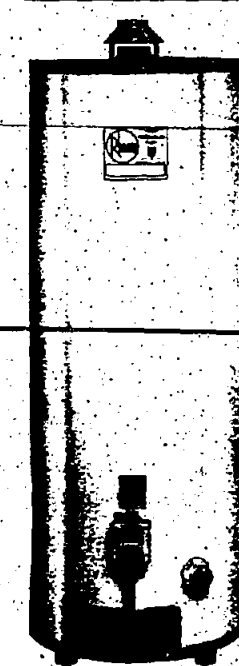


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With a range of pollutants from carbon monoxide to animal dander and dust mites, home living conditions can be dangerous. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency now says air pollution is a greater danger indoors than outside, and a recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health identifies airborne particle pollutants as "killers".

However, air pollution is on the rise this home-heating season, when natural ventilation is reduced and heating systems can recirculate polluted air or even produce carbon monoxide.

Carbon monoxide is the most violent home poison, claiming about 300 lives per year in the United States. In small doses, it can cause headaches and "flu symptoms." In Chicago, ordinance requires carbon monoxide sensors in every residence heated by gas.

Even household pets contribute to hazardous breathing conditions. Hair particles and dander can cause sneezing attacks, burning eyes and other allergic discomforts. Asthma

*Families can protect themselves from home-air pollution sources as diverse as wood stoves or kitchens with a HEPA air purifier, like the Holmes Air Patrol.*

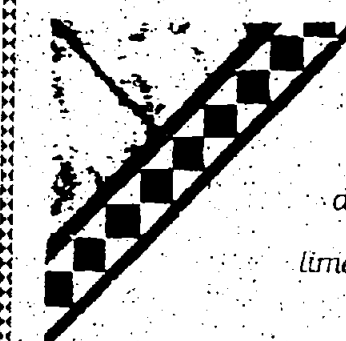
sufferers, particularly are advised to avoid cats.

Families wary of breathing in their own homes may consider an advanced portable home air-treatment system. Modern units are equipped with powerful HEPA, high efficiency, particulate-arresting filters that were developed for scientific "clean rooms" and other sanitary facilities, like hospital surgical suites.

Using air cleaner, the Holmes Air Patrol, is a complete air-processing system that monitors for carbon monoxide while purifying the air. A LED display will report its concentration and sound an alarm. After the air is tested, particulate pollution is removed by the advanced four-stage filter system.

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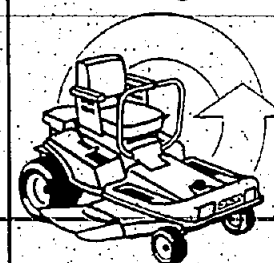
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## Choosing a contractor takes asking questions

You've decided to remodel the exterior of your house. Now for the real tough decision: picking the right contractor.

Hiring a home-improvement contractor is stressful for many homeowners. "They're afraid they'll get a con artist or the Three Stooges," said Larry Cimiglin, an installation guru with siding manufacturer Rollex Corporation.

How do you find competent and trustworthy contractors? They're out there; you just have to do some homework. For starters:

- Look at new siding jobs in your own community. When you see something you like, track down the contractor.

- Ask friends and acquaintances for referrals.
- Talk to local building materials distributors. They don't sell to the public, but they sell to contractors and know the market.

They can point you to professionals with good reputations, Cimiglin said.

- If you're still stuck for names, consult local newspaper classifieds and yellow-page advertisements.

In any case, look for contractors with experience installing the type of siding you've selected.

Meanwhile, closely inspect the exterior of your house. Take notes about everything that looks like a problem. Later, use this as a checklist to see which estimating contractors pay attention to details.

Now, approach each contractor on your preliminary list:

- Ask for local references. To avoid being steered to happy customers, be sure to get the last job he completed, along with one completed several years ago. You'll get a feel for his present-day performance, as well as how well his work holds up.

- Call prior customers, and ask if the work site was kept clean and how any problems were resolved. Would they hire the same contractor again?

- If contractors have to be licensed in your state, get his license number and verify it with the government. Call the Better Business Bureau or local consumer protection agency to check for complaints.

Narrow your list to three contractors and select them to make competitive proposals on the same work requirements: brand of siding and product specifications — thickness or gauge, color, style — scope of the project, and start-up and completion dates.

Ask the contractors to show proof that they're bonded and carry property, personal liability and workers' compensation insurance. Verify this with their insurance companies.

After you've picked a contractor, make sure your written agreement exactly reflects the work described in his estimate. It should indicate who is responsible for obtaining work permits. The contractor should, warily, have his work.

"The manufacturers' warranty only covers the quality of the siding, not the installation," Cimiglin said.

## Trim and molds can help make a kitchen look new

So, you're planning to remodel your kitchen. You've done your homework — diligently clipping ideas and tearing pages from magazines, figuring out your space and function requirements and deciding what you want the cabinets to look like.

However, it will take something more than to transform that empty room into a heart-of-the-home family living space that is a reflection of your personal style. It's the little details, the small touches that will give the room its distinctive flair. You know what you like, but custom cabinetry with lots of special detailing just isn't in the budget.

Nonetheless, you can achieve a custom look with the clever use of stock moldings and trim options, available from ready-to-install-cabinet manufacturers, according to Paul Radoy, manager of design services for Mettil Industries Inc., the nation's largest cabinet manufacturer.

"With a little imagination, you can use these stock components to create a kitchen that will mirror your tastes without emptying your pocketbook," Radoy said.

He offers suggestions for using stock customizing options to create two currently popular styles — Euro-country and Victorian.

For the Euro-country, best described as a cottage look that's more detailed than American country, Radoy suggests a combination of materials and details reminiscent of Old World handcraftsmanship, like ceramic tiles — glazed for the floor and hand-painted for the backsplash, a farmhouse-style apron front sink, walls with a stucco or rough-plaster effect, and multipanel windows.

Cabinetry would be a combination of fitted and unfitted elements — one or more pieces that suggest a freestanding hutches, a center island with a pot rack above it and open shelf areas for both storage and display purposes.

A pierced-valance frame could be used to trim a hatch or other open shelving, like a valance over the sink, or it could be fabricated as the framework for the pot rack.

Heavy crown molding would be another important decorative element, which Radoy explained can be achieved with a composite of several molding components. He also suggested apply simple bead molding, with its half-round shape, to cabinet and countertop edges to provide a softer, more detailed look.

Heavy moldings are also a key feature of Victorian interiors, Radoy said, but Victorian style was more formal and more elaborate.

The taller Victorian baseboards can be created from a buildup of molding components. Fluted fillets, with their strong vertical lines, and molding blocks, with or without rosettes, will add the ornate touches characteristic of Victorian interiors.

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Besides the obvious benefit of no maintenance, today's vinyl windows will stand up to temperature extremes, the harsh effects of ultraviolet rays — especially important at higher altitudes and in subtropical climates — and the rigors of a salt-air seacoast environment. They're compatible with many home exteriors, because they are now available in a wide range of sizes, shapes and styles.

However, like anything else, all vinyl windows are not created equal and homeowners considering them should do their homework before making a purchase decision.

Bob Sweeney, manager of marketing for Weather Shield, the nation's leading manufacturer of windows, Sweeney offers a checklist of design and construction features that set quality vinyl windows apart from the rest.

Ask about the type of vinyl used, Sweeney advises. The best vinyl windows are made from a material called unplasticized vinyl (PVC), which offers distinct advantages over the old plasticized vinyl, because it will not yellow, chalk or crack.

Next, ask to see a cross section of a window frame, he says. When viewed in cross section, the frame should be composed of multiple chambers. These give the frame strength and stability and provide superior insulating ability. Lesser quality window frames will appear as simple box chambers that can warp and twist.

Look at the corners of the sash and frames. They should be welded or fused, rather than simply screwed, together. Welded corners are air-and-water-tight and create a much stronger, more stable window.

The type of glass used and the way it is installed in the frame is important, too, Sweeney says. Insulated glass makes sense in most climates because it offers protection against winter's bitter chills and summer's hot days. It consists of two panes of glass with an inert, non-toxic gas, typically argon, sealed between them. Insulated glass performs better if a sealant is applied to both the space that separates the two panes of glass and to the edges of the glass panes themselves. In addition, most windows now come with Low E glass, which has a special coating that filters out the sun's infrared rays in summer and keeps warm air in the room in winter. A Low E coating improves the insulating value of the glass and virtually eliminates fading caused by ultraviolet rays.

Vinyl windows are attached to the house with a "nailing fin." This rigid vinyl flap should be an integral part of the window frame, rather than an add-on.

## Common bath-modeling questions have answers

Changing your bathroom fixtures will change the look of your bathroom, but deciding to do the work yourself can be intimidating.

Do you have a question about bathroom sink, shower and tub faucets? Here are some of the most commonly asked questions, answered by the experts at Moon, a name recognized as a brand leader by builders, plumbers and homeowners alike.

**Q. Do all faucets fit all bathroom sinks and tub/showers?**

**A. Yes.** Standard-size sink openings and faucet dimensions are used throughout the plumbing industry, and flexible hook-ups allow for variability. However, since there are a few exceptions, it is a good idea to check sizes first. For single-handle tub/shower faucets, the existing opening must be smaller than the faceplate of the new unit.

**Q. Can I replace a two-or-three-handle faucet with a single-handle model?**

**A. Single-handle bathroom sink faucets use four-inch centers, which is the distance between the centers of the hot and cold inlets or mounting holes. Some two-handle faucets also use four-inch centers, and can therefore be replaced by a single-handle model. However, wider spreads are common so be sure to check your size before purchasing a new faucet.**

**Q. Can a new tub/shower faucet be connected to my existing shower and tub spouts?**

**A. Yes.** And this can have a safety benefit as modern shower valves, such as Moon's Posi-Temp and Moistrol, are pressure-balancing. That means they control water temperature within plus/minus 2 degrees F to help prevent hot and cold water surges such as when a toilet is flushed.

**Q. Can I use my already existing drain assembly when installing a new faucet?**

**A. In most cases, yes.** But if you're changing finishes, such as chrome to brass, you'll probably want to change the drain assembly.

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## When laying a floor, knock on wood

If you're planning a home renovation or remodeling project in the coming months, you want to be sure that the products and materials you choose are going to be safe for your family.

However, this is not always an easy task. Fabric, paint and floor covering may seem prudent at the time, but may end up causing health problems later, especially if someone in your family suffers from allergies. The best approach is to ask questions about how the product is made and installed, compare the quality, value and cost benefits, and then, make an educated decision that fits your budget and design needs.

One product category that has long been considered a quality choice for a healthy home is hardwood flooring. There are a number of reasons why this is one of the fastest growing of all floor covering products, according to Neil Poland, vice president of sales and marketing for Harris-Tarkett, a major manufacturer of hardwood flooring.

As an all-natural material, wood flooring is naturally hypoallergenic. There are no fibers or chemical residues. Wood does not trap dust, pollen and other allergens. Wood is available in a broad range of colors and species to meet a variety of design and installation needs, and it is now very competitively priced when compared to other options, according to Poland.

Among the array of wood flooring products now on the market, one type — pre-finished, Longstrip laminated wood flooring — is the best all-around choice when it comes to indoor air quality. According to Poland, it's because this product does not require nails or, more importantly, adhesives for a permanent installation.

"Most home remodeling projects are quite safe, but studies have found that the products themselves — paints, for example — or the adhesives used to install them — wall coverings and some floor coverings — often have Volatile Organic Compound, levels that can prove harmful over time," he noted. The VOC level is the term used to determine the "off-gassing" from various materials.

How can Longstrip hardwood flooring be installed without using nails or adhesives? "It's a combination of precise milling and gravity," said Poland, whose company is distinguished as the only U.S. manufacturer of this popular flooring product.

The Longstrip flooring produced by Harris-Tarkett, called the Longstrip American Collection, is a five-ply, pre-finished, laminated wood flooring product made up of a top layer of selected sliced veneer hardwood — either red oak, white oak, maple, ash or other species — a three-ply middle layer of Aspen cross-laminated hardwood and a veneer bottom layer of Southern pine. The lamination process produces a product that is inherently dimensionally stable, which means it can be installed over most subfloors, even low level carpeting, without the use of nails or adhesives, explained Poland.

**As an all-natural material, wood flooring is naturally hypoallergenic. There are no fibers or chemical residues. Wood does not trap dust, pollen and other allergens. Wood is available in a broad range of colors and species to meet a variety of design and installation needs.**

The product is produced in tongue-and-groove planks measuring 7 1/2 inches wide by 7 feet, 11-and-a-half inches long by 1/2-inch thick. Beads of Harris-Tarkett's Everset glue, basically a nontoxic woodworking glue, are placed at 8-inch intervals along the groove of each plank; the end planks are fully glued. The planks then are tapped together, forming a monolithic surface that expands and contracts as one unit. A 1/2-inch space around the perimeter of the room provides space for expansion. Molding lends the finishing touch.

This installation technique solves two potential indoor air-quality problems, Poland added. Since Longstrip can be installed without being fully adhered, there are no adhesive out-gassing problems to worry about. In addition, since the flooring can be installed over most types of subfloors, if they're smooth, level and in relatively good condition, this eliminates the need to remove any old sheet vinyl or vinyl tile flooring, for example, that may contain asbestos.

Although new adhesive regulations, which took effect in 1996, require that all floor covering adhesives comply with new, safer standards, the best way to be sure there's no residual problem is not to use them in the first place, said Poland.

"It's a real win-win situation for the homeowner and home-remodeler," he noted. In addition to the advances in adhesives, the wood flooring industry also is making great strides in developing water-home finishes and stains to further enhance wood flooring's positive contribution to indoor air quality. Care and maintenance products have long been themselves — he said.

As awareness of the impact home building and home furnishing products have on maintaining a healthy home grows, Poland believes that more and more homeowners will look to wood flooring as a healthy option.

"When you consider that next to the walls, the floor represents the largest expanse in a room, it makes sense to be sure that product choices not only represent good quality and value, but that they're good for you, too," he concluded.



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## On goofs, lies and shrinks

By Sean Daily  
Staff Writer

The Board of Chosen Freeholders has begun investigating the consolidation of the Sheriff's Department and the Union County Police Department.

Sheriff Ralph Froehlich was recently asked by the freeholders to begin a "feasibility study," according to Froehlich, of consolidating the two agencies, both of them arms of the county government.

"We're looking at a number of things throughout the county, just cost savings," said Freeholder Vice Chairman Dan Sullivan.

Sullivan stressed that consolidation of the two police departments is only being considered at this point and will not be taking place in the near future, at least.

"A lot of people think this is imminent, that this is going to happen in a month," said Sullivan. "That's not true. They just want a report, that's all they want," said Froehlich. "They just want information."

## Common Sense

By Judy Hochberg  
Regional Editor

On top of that, the share of the budget that reduces property taxes could be reduced from 56 percent to 54 percent.

I'm not thrilled about all of their spending choices, but this new Board of Chosen Freeholders seems to be off to an admirable start. I hope it continues.

Well, it didn't take long, but Sen. Bob Torricelli is lying again.

It seems Torricelli finally has figured out that the freestats targeted for extinction by former Gov. Jim Florio and President Clinton were chosen for their looks, not their talents.

To explain it briefly, several models of rifles were banned, they were listed by name and model number because of certain cosmetic features that gave them a "military" look. In turn, the gun manufacturers altered the appearance and names of the rifles and they are available legally.

Their entrepreneurial spirit exposed the fallacy of gun control laws and the good for nothing grand-standing politicians who support them.

Anyway, Torricelli's lie is in a letter to Governor Whitman, calling on her to get tougher on gun control, in which he says "the number of innocent lives destroyed by these guns is simply staggering."

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, less than one quarter of 1 percent of the violent crimes reported in this country involve the use of these "assault weapons."

What is so staggering is that, in your shameless lying, Torricelli, more Americans die by the knife each year than by the gun, so why not get moving on some real good anti-knife legislation.

If you are like me, you're all partied out from Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March, but that's no excuse to rest. April is School Psychology Month in New Jersey, so don't forget to remind the kids to blank their bad grades on low self-esteem, attention deficit disorder and, if they're females, on their teachers who only call on boys.

The New Jersey Association of School Psychologists says its reason to be so right "for the rights of all children to receive a public education, tailored to meet their individual needs."

Where were these guys when I was in high school and needed a school day that started at the crack of noon and had less math and more metal shop? Thanks for nothing, NJASP.

## Freeholders request study of police merger

By Sean Daily  
Staff Writer

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Sullivan stressed that consolidation of the two police departments is only being considered at this point and will not be taking place in the near future, at least.

"A lot of people think this is imminent, that this is going to happen in a month," said Sullivan. "That's not true. They just want a report, that's all they want," said Froehlich. "They just want information."

According to Froehlich, this study was done to develop "core functions" to eliminate overlap and duplication of services and to save money.

This study did not consider the Union County Police Department but did look into the State Police, municipal police departments and county sheriffs.

The study does affect the Union County Police, because one of its recommendations was to give a number of county duties to the Sheriff's Department. According to Froehlich, these include the security of the courts, parks and county buildings in Union County, part of the current duties of the Union County Police.

**Froehlich said if the two departments are consolidated, there would be no layoffs or demotions. The Sheriff's Department would absorb the County Police's 65 officers and 22 civilians.**

This, according to Froehlich, applies to any county with both a sheriff's department and a county police department. He added that the two receive their money from the same source and the sheriff's department is larger.

The officers from both departments have the same training from the County Police Academy in Scotch Plains and Morris counties did away with their county police departments in the 1980s, according to Froehlich.

Hudson County also eliminated its county police last year with its Emergency Management and Weights and Measures departments as a cost-cutting measure. This, said Froehlich, was what brought up the subject again. It has also been done in Essex County, though Froehlich said that it was too early to tell the results there.

"Sadly, there's a lot of rumor about this — people are going to lose their jobs over this — and that's just not true," he said.

The number of counties in New Jersey with both departments is small, and getting smaller all the time. Beth Passaic and Morris counties did away with their county police departments in the 1980s, according to Froehlich.

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"Sadly, there's a lot of rumor about this — people are going to lose their jobs over this — and that's just not true," he said.

Union County Police Chief Richard Mannix said "I'd rather not comment on that. I haven't seen the study."

Mannix did say that the duties of the Sheriff's Department and the Union County Police are "completely separate."

Froehlich said that he has received little cooperation from the Union County Police in his study, especially from the president of the Union County Policeman's Benevolent Association, President Tom Riskey, who could not be reached for comment.

The report should be ready in a few weeks but, because of time constraints and "limited cooperation," Froehlich said that it would not be in detail.

## Friendly fireman



Linda Stender, chairman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, presents a resolution to Mayor & Co. Fire Chief Ron Kanterman in recognition of his years of service to the county Fire Services Advisory Board. Ron has contributed much of his time and dedicated many of his talents to the Fire Services Advisory Board, she said. "We acknowledge and thank him for his outstanding contributions."

Kanterman has been a member of the National Fire Protection Association, the New Jersey Society of Fire Service Institutions and the Linden Industrial Mutual Aid Council, among other groups.

## County college has campus career day

High school seniors go to Cranford

Some 500 public high school seniors from throughout Union County received career information opportunities Tuesday through a three-pronged day of activities at Union County College's Cranford campus.

A career fair featuring representatives of 16 local firms, career exploration workshops, and entrepreneurial workshops were part of an effort of the Union County School-to-Work Opportunities Initiative. The program is intended to provide young people with opportunities to learn about various careers, enabling them to choose a career direction.

In effect, a "seamless" curriculum would be established so that students would take many appropriate classes in the secondary level and prepare themselves for the workforce upon high school graduation or for related education at the post-secondary level.

The participating high school students represented 14 public schools from throughout Union County and the following curriculum areas of Engineering, Technology, Criminal Justice, Business, With Marketing, Accounting, and Banking Concentrations; Restaurant Management, Electronics/Robotics, Multicultural/ Desktop Publishing, and Office Administration/Information Processing.

Professors from Union County College, the School-to-Work Initiative's coordinating agency, discussed the college's related curricula, with two business representatives, one of whom is involved in recruitment. As part of panel discussions for each of the areas, they shared their own experiences in their fields, and shed light on related employment opportunities.

In addition, local business representatives were set up in the Commons to recruit these, as well as UCC students, for employment at their firms. They set up a Career Fair arrangement whereby individual students approached company booths and discussed their career goals with representatives in an effort to mesh their backgrounds with company needs.

Companies represented at the Career Fair segment of the program were: Vending Service and Health Services, CA One Services, Tape Appliance City, Robert Half International, Meeker Sharkey Financial Group, Hilton Hotel/ Newark International Airport, Snelling Personnel, Union Center National Bank, U.S. Navy, United Parcel Service, Ladies Footlocker, Aceys Resources, Inc., Reed-Glover, Prudential Preferred Financial Services, Statewide Savings Bank, and Interbank.

Meanwhile, students from 11 schools who are involved in entrepreneurial projects whereby they are conducting year-long "business" to gain experience in a cooperative employment setting, displayed their wares and sold their products. These students represented the Roselle, Union County Regional, Cranford-Fitzpatrick, Linden-Plainfield and Union public schools, as well as the Union County Educational Services Consortium.

Throughout the day, presentations were conducted on resume writing and job interview techniques, using the Internet for a job search, and exploring employment opportunities via the New Jersey Employment Services, all conducted by UCC counseling staff.

## Illness of geese in parks follows a rite of spring

By Sean Daily  
Staff Writer

It is a springtime ritual in Union County, like the swallows coming back to Capistrano: The geese coming back to Union County's parks.

In almost every one of Union County's parks, the parks of the geese and ducks are swelling daily. They look pretty in the parks' ponds and lakes, but on land they eat the grass down to stubble and leave their droppings all over the place. And when they try to cross roads in mass, the large convoys of birds can block traffic.

The geese, which are fairly large birds, have been known to be aggressive and attack humans in other areas of the county, according to Daniel Bernier of the Union County Division of Parks and Recreation, there have been no reports of this happening in Union County.

The birds stick around for a fairly obvious reason — there is food in it.

According to Bernier, the birds are "normally" migratory. But when humans start to feed them, they learn that they don't have to head for a warmer climate and more abundant food in the winter. They just spend the winter in New Jersey and wait for humans to come around and feed them.

The droppings that the birds leave are the number one problem, according to Bernier. A flock of geese can turn a grassy park into a mess of droppings, which is a problem for the parks and it is almost impossible to clean up a flock of geese in a park.

Then there are the health concerns. The geese normally congregate in lawns and other open areas around ponds and lakes. Their droppings are washed into those bodies of water, many of which feed into the Rahway River, the source of drinking water for Rahway.

As to the health effects of this, Bernier said, "I don't think it's been completely studied yet, but having fecal matter in your water can't be good."

Paradoxically, it is the droppings that attract the birds to the area that can lead to mass deaths.

According to Bernier, there have been three reports of ducks coming down with avian botulism, a poisoning resulting from the ingestion of botulism bacteria.

Botulism bacteria builds up in the summer during hot, still days in the summer when the water level in lakes and ponds goes down and water circulation is slower. Large masses of algae or algae blooms grow all at once under these conditions, using up the dissolved oxygen and suffocating all other life in the water. According to Mark Payne of the Rapier Trust in Millington, a wild bird rehabilitation

center, the birds' droppings, uneaten food and fertilizer used on the lawns also contribute.

Then the algae itself dies and settles to the bottom, where it ferments instead of rotting. It is in these oxygen-poor conditions that the botulism bacteria thrive, waiting to be eaten by ducks, which dive to the bottom of holes of water to feed.

Of the ducks that come down with botulism, Payne said, "It's not many amounts. We get five but, to be honest, I don't know how many die on site." Payne said that the Rapier Trust only takes in ducks from these incidents that are still strong enough and, needless to say, that have not died.

At least two Rahway residents have reported birds coming down with an unidentified disease in recent weeks. But both Payne and Bernier said that there have been no cases of sick or dying ducks coming from Union County recently. A Union County bird rehabilitator could not be reached for comment.

Payne was accurate as to whether the botulism posed a health hazard to humans, but, according to Bernier, humans cannot contract the avian form.

"It's not something you'd want to get, but it's not a disease," said Payne. "The Board of Health would quarantine the parks if that were the case. It's common sense," he added, with a laugh. "You don't go over and kiss a dying duck."

According to Payne, the solution to this problem is a simple one — putting an aeration into a body of water to circulate and aerate the water. This would feed oxygenating bacteria that would break down any dead matter in the water.

Not so, said Bernier. "Aerators won't work," he said, calling them a "short-term" solution. "We've evaluated it extensively and aerators only go so far."

At least one resident who witnessed one of these incidents named the incidents partly on the design of the lakes and ponds.

Bernier denied this, saying, "It's not a problem of design. All the lakes in the county system are designed to aerate, but the water level has changed over the years."

According to Bernier, the water level in these lakes changes as streams feeding them become silted up or have their water levels lowered. They change even faster if they are tapped as a water supply.

The Union County Parks System hired a lake management consultant, SX Brooke, Inc., of Lansdale, Pa., to study 11 lakes in Union County. Their report is due in a month, said Bernier. A company representative could not be reached for comment.

## Men in movement



Freeholder Walter McNeil Jr., fourth from right, presents copies of a resolution to Youth Action Movement members in recognition of their civic work. The group, from Plainfield, was established by a dozen youth leaders in that city. YAM has worked increase voter registration, set up an after school program and developed a summer basketball team.



## COUNTY NEWS

## Journal classes scheduled

Kean College of New Jersey's Continuing Education Program will offer the course, "The Art of the Journal," this spring.

This course combines art and writing to help reach new and untapped sources of creativity, and celebrate the importance of personal art using a variety of journal-writing exercises, such as mind-mapping, collage, and more.

The class will run for six Thursdays, from April 24 to June 5, 7-8:30 p.m. The fee is \$95. Michele W. Bernstein, director of the Journal Center, will facilitate.

For further information, call (908) 432-2161.

## Valor awards to be given

The Two Hundred Club of Union County's Annual Spring "Valor Award Luncheon" will be held May 9 at noon at L'Affaire on Route 22, Mountaingo.

Featuring business people and citizens, the Two Hundred Club's annual luncheon honors police and firefighters for bravery above and beyond the call of duty in Union County.

Gdy Christine Whitman will be the main speaker.

This year's guest speaker will be former U.S. Attorney Andrew Maloney, who was responsible for directing a combination of Department of Justice attorneys, federal agents, and state and local police in a probe of major crime heads covering four states.

Scholarships will be announced during the luncheon for high school senior children of police and firefighters who have exemplary academic and civic achievements.

Tickets at \$45 each are available from The Two Hundred Club headquarters at 222 Park Ave. in Scotch Plains or by calling (908) 325-2422.

## Violet show planned

The annual African Violet Show/Plant Sale of the Union County Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., a non-profit group, will be held at the Parish Hall of the All Saints Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave. in Scotch Plains, tomorrow, from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be a plant sale, educational table, and information on growing violets. Admission and parking will be free of charge.

Design arrangements featuring African Violets will carry out this year's theme "The Journey from Africa." Non-members may enter a violet by bringing it to the church today from 6 to 9 p.m.

## 4-H camp to open

Union County 4-H Summer Camp is a sleep-away open to all Union County boys and girls enrolled in grades 4-7.

Union County 4-H Camp will be held from July 21-25, at L.G. Cook 4-H Camp in Stokes State Forest in Sussex County.

Boys and girls who attend will make new friends and participate in activities such as boating, swimming, cooking outdoors, arts and crafts, archery, hiking, and more.

## Antiques sale

The Kiwanis Club of Scotch Plains-Fairwood will hold its semi-annual Antique Show and Sale on May 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Various antiques dealers will offer a selection of wares, including formal and country items, such as glass, art, pottery, trains, toys, jewelry, books, framed scientific instruments, and more.

The show will be held at the Elm Street Ballfield in Westfield. Admission to the show will be \$5 or \$2.50 with a discount card or ad.

There will be several consulting services available, such as on-site appraisal, experts in chair caning, furniture restoration and clock repair.

## Youth and Family Counseling Services

Youth and Family Counseling Services has been operating for more than 15 years serving Union County. It is an independent family counseling and mental health resource which is non-profit and non-sectarian. The agency provides counseling on a sliding fee scale to troubled individuals and families.

For further information about the agency, contact Youth and Family Counseling Services at 233-2042.

## YVCA reunion

The YVCA of Eastern Union County is planning a reunion of past founders, leaders and members who participated in classes, dances, camps and other YVCA activities.

## Battlefield efforts

Not only can citizens become involved in bringing the USS New Jersey home by purchasing a "battlefield license plate," but also by participating in the voluntary tax check-off on the 1996 state income tax forms.

This year's tax form include a special check-off for the Battlefield New Jersey. Funds collected through the check-off will be directly applied to bringing the ship back to our state and opening it as a museum.

Questions about the project and information about making donations out of the check-off can be mailed to Ellen Amato, director of the Battlefield, at 103 Middletown, NJ 07748, or call (908) 671-6488.

The Open House will feature guided tours, demonstrations, displays and video presentations. Instructors as well as trades people will be hand to answer questions. Refreshments will be served and the campus offers ample parking.

Anyone seeking additional information about the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools should call (908) 889-2999.

The schools are located at 1776 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains.

With a book by Otto Harbach and Frank Mandel, lyrics by Vincent Youmans, lyrics by Irving Caesar and Otto Harbach, featuring the lively tapping "I Want to Be Happy" number, "No, No, Nanette" is originally adapted and directed by Burt Shevlin.

Ballard, who has made audiences laugh for years, on the stage and in several television series, joined the cast of "No, No, Nanette" as a young woman, who is always on the verge of quitting. She has her own style of comedy, and she is really fun to watch.

Gallagher, now a soap opera heroine, repeats her Tony Award-

winning role in "No, No, Nanette," as Sue Smith, Bracken's very proper wife. She can still dance with the best of them—and she does—to the delight of the audience.

When the lights ultimately went on, there were those who danced on the aisle humming "Tea for Two." The others were singing "I Want to Be Happy." And for a few hours at the Paper-Mill Playhouse, they were

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# Automotive

## Mercedes Benz set to take on scores of SUV's in '98

Mercedes-Benz has released more information on their M-Class All Activity Vehicle, a new sport-utility vehicle that will set new standards for both on-road performance and comfort and off-road ability. The Mercedes M-Class, which goes on sale in the fall, will offer 2.5 liter, 5-speed manual and 5-speed automatic along with vehicles such as the Ford Explorer and Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited models—with a price starting in the mid-\$30,000 range.

Consumer research has shown that owners of current, truck-driven sport utility vehicles are pleased with the ruggedness and cargo capacity of their vehicles, but they want a more comfortable, better fuel economy, greater passenger safety and improved reliability. Drawing upon this research as well as decades of expertise in four-wheel-drive technology, Mercedes-Benz has designed the M-Class from the ground up, rather than redesigning an existing car or truck platform.

The M-Class combines the core attributes of Mercedes-Benz passenger cars (performing and handling, safety, quality, comfort and luxury) with the benefits of sport-utility design: ruggedness, off-highway capability, storage space, cargo capacity and versatility and towing capability.

The Mercedes-Benz safety standard was designed into the M-Class from the start. A welded steel box frame and a reinforced steel body provide a care-

ful floor for ample third-seat legroom.

The M-Class stands apart from other four-wheel drive SUVs in that it does not lock its axles in an attempt to maintain traction on slippery or loose surfaces. Instead, the M-Class employs a sophisticated four-wheel adaptation system, the company's proven electronic traction system (METS) to maintain stability on traction on wet or snowy roads.

Uncompromised ABS operation is also ensured

fully engineered off-road/line structure, truly maximizing torsional stiffness for a smoother, quieter ride.

As on every Mercedes-Benz vehicle sold in the United States, the M-Class features advanced four-wheel, four-wheel and lock brakes and emergency steering control with belt from the limited-slip front seatbelt. From front-mounted side-impact air bags, currently on all E, S, SL and SLK models, will also be standard. Further, the M-Class is fully equipped.

ment, among SUV's.

While the practical aspects of the Mercedes M-Class design will please buyers into the next century, Mercedes is confident the style will last as well. That is because, just as Mercedes has a "clean sheet of paper" approach to the M-Class chassis, it has a "clean sheet of paper" approach to styling. The M-Class does not seem to seek to copy an existing "look" or trend.

A sleek aerodynamic shape that breaks away from the prevalent boxy design of sport/utility vehicles will

great reduction for serious off-road travel.

Torque distribution is 50 percent front/50 percent rear, so the driver experiences the benefits of full-time four-wheel drive. In slippery or off-road conditions, the driver can shift the torque to the wheels with the most grip.

The benefit of the full-time system is obvious. You even get on dry highways, the system makes the driver feel as though he or she is driving a car with four-wheel drive. The M-Class secures, neutralizes, and handles the road with a confidence and poise that is a real driving characteristic.

In first gear, low range, the Mercedes-Benz M-Class

give the Mercedes-Benz M-Class a quiet ride, and help to achieve class-leading fuel efficiency. The box designs of some SUVs compromise aerodynamic efficiency, which in turn contributes to wind noise and reduces fuel efficiency.

- The Mercedes-Benz M-Class was developed with

will have one of the lowest "crawl speeds" in its class, giving it the ability to negotiate the most challenging terrain and steep descents. When in low range, the M-Class five-speed electronic automatic transmission uses a special shift program to provide smooth shifts in rugged off-road conditions.

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4704	UX Series	4774	Altam	4851	Swift
		4775	Mapina	4851	Estimem
		4776	Pick Up	4852	Sidekick
		4777	Guest	4853	X-90
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4712	Continents	4851	Estimem
4713	Mark VII	4852	Sidekick
		4853	X-90

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4712	Continents
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	4732 Protege	4783	Bravada	4851 Toccata
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	4784 V6E	4785	Edgy-Edgy	4853 Prius
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4741	2-Door Sport Hatchback	4788	Saboteur	4857	Avallon
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