

Saab establishes standards for worldwide auto market

Saab automobiles have been synonymous with innovative technology and advanced engineering since the first Saab was unveiled in 1947. The Swedish automaker has continued to pioneer a long lineage of safety, comfort and performance features, many of which have been adopted by other manufacturers. The following are Saab world innovations, and all of these features — small as large — are available on today's Saab 900 and/or 9000 models.

Although 1972 federal safety standards did not require specific side-impact reinforcement, Saab added steel beams to the side-door structure of the Saab 90 model in the fall of 1972. Saab's real-world accident investigation team had found that

many vehicles involved in side-impact collisions were unable to absorb the impact. As a result, Saab engineers integrated longitudinally welded beams into the doors, at a height to provide maximum protection for passengers. These type of welded steel beams were an industry first, and are now used in form by most carmakers.

Side-impact protection is an integral part of the energy-absorbing Saab safety cage design. Saab was one of the first carmakers to design a car with integrated safety cage construction. Sturdy steel reinforcements surround the passenger compartment, diverting collision forces away from the occupants, regardless of whether the impact comes from the front, rear or side. In addition, the front and rear areas of the car are designed to absorb much of the kinetic energy generated in a collision. These so-called "crumple zones" take the brunt of a crash.

Saab was the first carmaker to introduce impact-absorbing, self-restoring front and rear bumpers in the U.S. The non-bumper-mounted on the 1972 Saab 900, one year ahead of the 1973 federal bumper standard that required all cars be capable of sustaining a 5-mph front and 2.5-mph rear barrier collision without damage to the safety systems of the car. The 1972 Saab 900 was the first car that could be towed without the regulation by suffering no damage at all in the low-speed impacts.

Today's Saab 900 and 9000's front-end bumpers are still designed to restore to their original shape following a low-speed impact. Each year, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety subjects new cars to a series of low-speed crash tests to check the strength of their bumpers. In the latest round of tests, the 1994 Saab 900 was the only 4-door midsize car to drive away from the 5-mph front and rear flat barrier impacts without damage. In fact, the 900 is one of only four cars tested since 1990 that suffered zero damage in the flat barrier tests.

Saab is synonymous with state-of-the-art turbocharging. Prior to 1977, other manufacturers used turbos only on limited production or very expensive sports cars. Reliability was low and cost was high. Saab revolutionized the concept of turbocharging family cars by applying an adjustable boost turbo to a small displacement engine with the introduction of the 1977 Saab 900 Turbo, followed by the new Saab 900 Turbo a year later. Saab's turbo engines were engineered to achieve high torque at low speeds — a desirable characteristic for every-day driving.

The 1980 Saab 900 offered the award-winning Automatic Performance Control, APC, which electronically monitored and adjusted the turbo engine for maximum efficiency and low emissions, and compensated for different octane gasolines. Saab's next "first" was the 16-valve turbo engine, introduced as the third generation turbo in 1983. This engine was also equipped with an intercooler to lower the temperature of the intake air, which raises the engine's compression ratio and power output.

In 1992, Saab's remarkable Tronic system debuted, which further improved the efficiency of Saab turbo engines. Electronically, the award-winning Tronic system constantly adjusts the engine's fuel/air mixture, ignition timing and turbo charge.

Saab is still a leader in the production of advanced turbo engines. All of today's Saab turbo engines are inter-cooled, use four valves per cylinder, direct ignition and dual overhead camshafts. Over the years, refinements have reduced the feeling of "turbo lag" to virtually nil, and today's turbos are as reliable as a normally aspirated engine.

The use of daytime running lights has been proven to be an effective, low-cost method of reducing car-to-car crashes. DRLLs come on automatically when the car's ignition is on, and turn off when the key is switched off. For the 1995 model year, Saab was one of the first carmakers to debut this proven safety feature as standard

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Never a dull moment.

A hand-drawn diagram of a cell. It features a large, irregular outer boundary representing the cell membrane. Inside, there is a smaller, roughly circular structure labeled 'Nucleus' with a central dot. To the right of the nucleus is a large, irregularly shaped area labeled 'Vacuole'. The entire diagram is drawn with simple black lines on a white background.

COMMUNITY FORUM

The man who lives

Tomorrow, Christians next door and around the globe will pause from their daily lives to remember the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. We wish all a most joyous and peaceful Christmas.

With the start of 1998 a week away, thoughts of the turn of the century and the end of the millennium pass through our minds. It's understandable; for us, such a milestone will not come again. For Christ, however, it will mark the conclusion of two millennia and the start of His third.

Mankind has known no other kingdom to endure. No empire or alliance, no prince or potentate has led so much of the world through feats of conquest as successfully as has the Prince of Peace through His teachings of unity and love.

That is important to remember because it is that all-seeing force that inspired our Founding Fathers to chart the freedoms that enable us to live as we do, we truly are fortunate.

As you read this, African Christians are being taken prisoner and sold into bondage. On the other side of the world, other Christians are being jailed and killed by the government of America's new good friend, the People's Republic of China. And yet, just 90 miles from Florida, Roman Catholics prepare for the first papal visit to Cuba, where its murderous communist government recently decreed it will be acceptable to celebrate Christmas this year. That is good news that will get even better: Pope John Paul II has a habit of leaving toppled totalitarian dictatorships in the wake of his travels.

Persecution of Christians is as old as Christendom itself, starting with the Passion. In future centuries, Rome was home to further atrocities. Jails were emptied of murderers and grave robbers to make room for bishops, presbyters, scholars and the like, whose churches were smashed to the ground.

And yet, in the face of state sanctioned terrorism, His message survived. Both Paul, in his Letters to the Romans, and Peter, in his First Epistle, write of the need for all people to submit to their governments, since they derive authority from God and will rule justly to benefit all. Their faith cost them their lives at the hands of Nero, but later came the edict of toleration that allowed Christians and all others to worship the deity they choose. The reason, said co-emperors Licinius and Constantine, was for the "welfare and security of the state."

A year later, Constantine converted to Christianity. As those events occurred during the first centuries after the Crucifixion, it would be easy for us today to forget those facts of history — easy, but foolish, as those realities of Africa and China attest. What must never be forgotten, however, are His teachings, handed to us from antiquity as the rule and guide for our faith and practice: Good will defeat evil, then peace will prevail.

In a recent cartoon, there's this gangling kid, probably a high school senior, looking very nervous as he looks at his teacher and asks "Could you tie my shoelaces, Ms. Smith? I still can't get the hang of it." The cartoon is not only funny, but demonstrates the state of some of our youth and the role of the school teacher in the modern world. Of course, if a high school senior "still can't get the hang of" tying his shoelaces, he has no business being in school. On the other hand, teachers are not really teachers anymore. Sure, they teach, but they also administer a great number of tests, attend meetings galore, and in a way become headmistresses to many students. Teaching has become almost secondary.

New rules and regulations mandated by the state make life so intolerable for many teachers. As an example, a teacher cannot tell a student that he or she is wrong, but rather, "Why don't you try it this way?" By being negative and saying "that's wrong," the kid is liable to lose his or her self-esteem, and opens the teacher and school board to a possible lawsuit by an offended mommy or daddy. Absurd! Wait, there's more.

In the first days of 1998, members of local councils, the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the General Assembly, state Senate and the governor herself will be sworn into office. Their jobs aren't easy and we do not envy them, and as they take their seats, we hope they will remember they serve all of their constituents, not just those who supported them.

While their oaths will bind them to uphold secular law, it is not insignificant that they will place their right hands on copies of the Holy Bible. Some small-minded people say the inestimable gift of God to man has no place in government — they've rid our schools of it — but we remember Peter and Paul.

In their letters, the two apostles say no one can govern in a free society without complying with the will of God. Fair laws are rooted in His wisdom, for without them we have no defense against law-breakers.

"If you curtail any part of speech, you're not really protecting people. You're hurting them, you're patronizing them by telling them, 'This is what you can't hear because it's going to hurt you.'"

Sylvia Ibanez
lawyer
1994

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FOOD FOR FRIENDS — The Rahway Ladies Golden Age Club, which meets on Wednesdays at the Rahway Senior Center on Esterbrook Avenue, recently donated \$100 to the Rahway Food for Friends, which is sponsored by the Second Presbyterian Church in Rahway. Pictured is Ladies Golden Age Club President Ann Lukaszewski presenting the check to Rahway Food for Friends Coordinator Dick Talbot.

The diploma is a passport to opportunity

Everyone wants a job that pays well and is satisfying. For as long as I can remember, parents, educators and employers have been telling our young people that the first step to securing such a job is to finish high school. This was sage advice then, but it is even more crucial today. High school diplomas are under attack by a large part of our economy. For them, the American dream can become a frustrating fantasy.

The importance of earning a high school diploma is underscored by statistics from both the U.S. Department of Labor and the Census Bureau. The average high school dropout can expect to earn \$325,000 less in his or her lifetime than a high school graduate. High school dropouts have 42 percent less buying power than they did 15 years ago, and yet, each year of schooling beyond high school can increase their earnings by 8 percent.

In 1995, a male with more than four years of college earned an average of 89 percent more than a male with a high school education. This gap is widening.

For the past 20 years, the rate of high school students graduating has

About Our Schools

By William Petrich

Earnings have nearly doubled during the past 15 years.

Most employers, including our armed services, seek employees with advanced training from apprenticeships, technical schools or colleges. None of these opportunities are available to the young person who has not earned a high school diploma. The diploma is really only the starting point on the road to achieving a well-paying, satisfying career. It has become a *rite of passage* leading to post-secondary education and training. To paraphrase a commercial, "You can't go anywhere without it."

For the past 20 years, the rate of high school students graduating has

time from high school across America has remained steady at about 80 percent. If we add the number of students who return to the classroom, or who complete a general equivalency program, the number of students earning a high school diploma jumps by 10 percent. This places U.S. students at the same graduation rate as students of other industrialized nations.

This fact is important in today's global labor market, where 65 percent of all jobs require skilled labor. Only 15 percent of today's jobs are for the unskilled, and even then, a high school graduate is preferred to a dropout.

Nearly half of all jobs created by the year 2005 will require some type of education beyond high school. It is clear that unless our young people earn a high school diploma, the first step on any career path cannot be taken.

Parenting tips

Encourage your child to complete his or her high school education.

Point out the differences in earning capacities between high school graduates and dropouts.

This time to explain that things worth having are worth working for.

Set an example about the importance of lifelong learning by reading and pointing out the new things you learn.

Read the classified section of a newspaper with your child and discuss each manager's job. Talk about the qualifications and their educational requirements.

If your child is in grades six to 12, make an appointment with his or her guidance counselor to review graduation requirements.

Whether your child is in preschool or high school, help them make the important connection between education and opportunity.

About Our Schools will appear monthly in the Rahway Progress. It is sponsored by the Rahway Public Schools. Write to: William Petrich, P.O. Box 42, Rahway, N.J. 07065, or wpetrich@njnet.org.

Shirking responsibility doesn't make life easy

In a recent cartoon, there's this gangling kid, probably a high school senior, looking very nervous as he looks at his teacher and asks "Could you tie my shoelaces, Ms. Smith? I still can't get the hang of it." The cartoon is not only funny, but demonstrates the state of some of our youth and the role of the school teacher in the modern world. Of course, if a high school senior "still can't get the hang of" tying his shoelaces, he has no business being in school. On the other hand, teachers are not really teachers anymore. Sure, they teach, but they also administer a great number of tests, attend meetings galore, and in a way become headmistresses to many students. Teaching has become almost secondary.

New rules and regulations mandated by the state make life so intolerable for many teachers. As an example, a teacher cannot tell a student that he or she is wrong, but rather, "Why don't you try it this way?" By being negative and saying "that's wrong," the kid is liable to lose his or her self-esteem, and opens the teacher and school board to a possible lawsuit by an offended mommy or daddy. Absurd! Wait, there's more.

In the first days of 1998, members of local councils, the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the General Assembly, state Senate and the governor herself will be sworn into office. Their jobs aren't easy and we do not envy them, and as they take their seats, we hope they will remember they serve all of their constituents, not just those who supported them.

While their oaths will bind them to uphold secular law, it is not insignificant that they will place their right hands on copies of the Holy Bible. Some small-minded people say the inestimable gift of God to man has no place in government — they've rid our schools of it — but we remember Peter and Paul.

In their letters, the two apostles say no one can govern in a free society without complying with the will of God. Fair laws are rooted in His wisdom, for without them we have no defense against law-breakers.

As I See It

By Norman Rauscher

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Plans in the works at Oak Ridge

To the Editor:
This is a short note to alert the golfers who use the facilities at Oak Ridge Golf Club that there are plans in progress to build a new clubhouse. Architect Michael Zankay has been retained at a cost not to exceed \$51,447.88 to proceed with preliminary plans. The freeholders are cognizant of the need for new golf facilities at Oak Ridge. However, on the advice of golf management, no provisions have been made for showrooms. What kind of thinking do you have for lockers and not for showrooms? At least this is better than having people changing their clothes in the parking lot. How can any state of the art clubhouse provide this amenity for its highly priced facilities? The staff says it's too costly to provide. Golfers, being a very intelligent segment of our

community, would soon learn to bring their own towels or pay a small fee if they could not afford it.

If you feel that showers should be part of the new clubhouse, write, fax or phone the freeholders, the county manager or Parks and Recreation with your opinion.

There is also no provision for front doors for the underground car garage. The front and back doors would make it much less time consuming for the cars!

It is unfortunate that too many happenings are presented to the Union County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board after plans are in place. We feel that our position within the county hierarchy has been greatly diminished in the last few years.

Jerry Goldman, Chairman
Union County Parks and Recreation Board

VIEW POINT

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do you think the city should exercise its power to condemn people's property for the sake of downtown improvement?

Responses will be published next week.
Polls close Monday at noon.
Polls are free. Touch-tone phones only.

CALL (908) 686-9698

and enter #7570 - YES #7571 - NO

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Should towns have an ordinance that prohibits elected officials from getting jobs with the town after they are done serving?

YES — 100%
NO — 0%

RAHWAY PROGRESS - CLARK EAGLE

Meaning of holidays is found in miracles

"The sky is pocketed with stars. What eyes the wise man must have had to spot a new one in so many."

It is with these words that Henry II of England comments on the Christmas Eve night sky in James Goldman's award-winning play "The Lion in Winter." Though this 1966 show is set in 1183, I find this sentiment to be timeless.

Imagine looking up at the densely populated sky and being able to pick out a single new star and follow it to a manger to greet a newborn King. That, in and of itself, is a miracle.

But what is the point of the whole holiday season? Is it not miracles, be they the Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or the Wiccan Yule? Of course, the world would have us think it's about presents, decorations, presents, cards, presents, parties and presents. But the world is wrong.

Whether we celebrate a Savior born of a virgin, a meager amount of oil that burned eight days, the fortitude and resilience of a people oppressed, or the rich bounty of Mother Earth as

Vantage Point

By Bill von Sant
Staff Writer

the slumbers, it is miracles which will unite us all in the coming days.

At essence, this is truly a season of miracles, but who today has the eyes to spot one? For all the fine words and sentiments printed in this column over the last few weeks, I'm just as amazed as the next guy. Will I track down those last few miracles for Wanda's delight tomorrow morning? Did we get the New Year's Eve invitations stuffed in the cards? Is everything ready for the Christmas night open house?

Granted, we have managed to mark the season with the appropriate religious observances, but I'm ashamed that I had to say, "managed." I should have been able to say, "After we cele-

brated the true meaning of this season, we managed to get the shopping done. The cards sent and the cookies baked." But, still, no.

Sadly, for far too many of us, the "why" we celebrate is almost an afterthought to the "how" we celebrate. Amid the barrage of one-day sales and endless ads, parties to attend and cards to send, would we have the eyes to see the one new star leading us on to a miracle? And, Lord knows, this is a world sorely in need of one.

Yes, I still believe that miracles do indeed happen every day. We just don't notice them because we've done our best to explain everything away with theories and hypotheses based solely on human "wisdom," which, I'm glad to say, pales in comparison to a good, old-fashioned miracle.

Sadly, though, we seem to live in a Godless society, regardless of the particular faith. Now that's not to say that God — whichever God — does not exist in our world. I simply mean that, as a whole, seem to be doing our best to keep Him out. And one need

only look at the state of the world to see how far that luck has gotten us.

That He still loves and forgives us is perhaps the greater miracle of all. And that, despite our efforts to put ourselves ahead of whatever Supreme Being we choose to worship, we can still find enough God in ourselves to impart the love of the season is also a miracle.

Whether your illumination is the light of a meow, the rich heritage of a race of people, the warm glow of the Earth, or a sparkling Christmas tree, pause this holiday season and open your eyes and hearts to miracles; not only the ancient ones which serve as the basis of our respective faiths and should be the centerpiece of our holiday observances, but some new ones, as well. They've probably been there all along and we've just been too busy — or too "smart" — to spot them.

May you experience the rich blessings of a happy Hanukkah, a merry Christmas, an enlightening Kwanzaa, a beautiful Yule, and a joyous and miraculous holiday season.

Christmas tradition included trees & trains

The Way It Was

By William Frolich

bringing the presents with him.

How he got the tree down the chimney without sweeping all of the soot onto the tree was his problem, but he was a fine engineer. He'd built a little house helper, of course, had a part in his magic, which dictated that all of the very young children had to be in bed very early on Christmas Eve so Santa had time to bring the tree into the house from wherever it had been hidden since it was purchased. Good places of concealment were scarce, but a few evergreen trees around the house made an excellent hiding place for the Christmas tree, as who would notice one more tree standing among the others. Any lingering doubts were

erased on Christmas morning by the sight of a sooty footprint carefully placed on the hearth in front of the fireplace.

Many houses built in the 1880s were of the Victorian style, and all had a fireplace, even some houses built several, so Santa had no trouble finding a chimney for his use, but in later years, many houses were built without the house by way of the chimney. To any doubtful child it was explained that the house was really magical, and had no trouble getting down the chimney and

such a house. It took a lot of reassurance on the part of the parents to calm the fears that Santa might not stop if he could not make his customary entrance.

In a Victorian house at Christmas-time, there was almost no flat surface to be found that was not covered with some sort of appropriate decoration, such as fancy candles, or china knick-knacks. Garlands of evergreen branches were draped here and there, and a fine evergreen tree stood in the decorating was never finished until the tree was set up and trimmed. Popcorn was strung on threads and added to the regular business of wrapping around the tree, with delicate, shiny, colored glass balls hung from every branch. Sparkling tinsel was carefully added to each twig, giving the effect of dripping rain. Some daring persons added small candles to the branches, and it then for brief moments, keeping a bucket of water handy in case of fire.

Another item frequently found under the tree on Christmas morning was the toy train. As long ago as the 1880s, when the first toy trains were made, they were usually made of wood and could be pushed along the tracks by any young child with the imagination to feel that he was the engineer and driver of the engine. His imagination was more than just a mental thought, for his play was accompanied with appropriate whistle sounds and the clanging of a steam locomotive.

There were also wind-up locomotives

that could run around the tracks by themselves, until the spring motor unwound, and had to be wound again. These train lay-outs were not usually very elaborate, there was no need for hands-on operation, but they could be fun to play with.

By the 1920s, however, the pride of every boy's holiday was to receive one was the Lionel Electric Train, which was made not far away in a factory on the Hillside-Invincible town in the Hillside-Invincible town. The train was powered by a transformer that was plugged into a standard wall outlet. Once the power was on, the side-line to their regular business as they did in the toy departments of the big stores such as Barabarger's in Newark, or Quaker's or Levy's in Elizabeth.

An electric train that was received on one Christmas was an ideal source of suggestions for future years, as there was an almost infinite variety of accessories that could be added to the original lay-out. More track sections were always welcome, and the company made locomotives, passenger cars, freight cars, and several different styles of locomotives. A train set-up around the Christmas tree could and through the years did absorb most of the floor space in the room that contained the tree.

William Frolich is a resident of Roselle and a member of the Union County Historical Society.

New message board



The Rahway Senior Center recently was awarded \$1,000 from the Merck & Co. Inc.'s Rahway-Linden Advisory Panel Mini-Grant Program. The money will be used for a new outdoor illuminated message board to announce programs and activities taking place at the senior center. The check was presented to Senior Center Board of Trustees member Ed Schweinhart at a ceremony at Merck on Dec. 3. Schweinhart presents the check to Senior Coordinator Sue Baumgart.

Merck among Fortune's top 10 'best' companies

Southwest Airlines tops Fortune's inaugural list of the "100 Best Companies to Work for in America." To be eligible, a company had to be at least 10 years old and have a minimum of 500 employees. Levering and Merck, who have been tracking the most beloved employees since 1981, searched their database of more than 1,000 companies and selected 238 as the most viable candidates for this list. Of this group, 161 agreed to participate.

Each candidate company distributed to 225 randomly selected employees the Great Place to Work Trust Index, an employee survey designed to evaluate trust in management, pride in work/company, and camaraderie. Each company was also required to fill out the Hewitt People Practices Inventory, a comprehensive questionnaire designed by Hewitt Associates, a leading compensation and benefits consultant. The 20,000 employees who filled out the Great Place to Work survey constituted a return rate of 58 percent.

Fortune collaborated with bestselling authors Robert Levering and Merck to compile the list using technology similar to that used

Rahway Day

Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation announces that they are sponsoring a Rahway Day at Disney On Ice in London on Jan. 29 at the 7:30 p.m. show at the Continental Airlines Arena.

In conjunction with Rahway Day, the Division is providing a discount Special Courtesy Coupon that will allow the public to purchase any price ticket for a \$19.50. Tickets purchased with the Rahway coupon are good at the Jan. 29-30 p.m. performance. Coupons are available at the Division Offices at City Hall.

For more information, call the Special Courtesy Coupon, call the Division at 827-2045.

Winter contests

Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation announces that they are sponsoring a snowfall in the winter, a snow sculptor may be built and a

RECREATION

sponsoring three winter contests. The contests are Exterior Home Decorating, Snowflake and Snow Sculptor.

For the Home Decorating Contest, you decorate the exterior of your home for the holidays and send a photograph to the Recreation Office by Dec. 31. Include your name, address and telephone number on your entry.

For the Snowflake Contest, you create your own special snowflake and send to the Recreation Division along with your name, age, address and telephone number. The most creative snowflake will be awarded a prize. All snowflakes must be submitted between Dec. 5 and 31, and will become the property of the Recreation Division.

For the Snow Sculptor Contest, during a snowfall in the winter, a snow sculptor may be built and a

photograph submitted to the Recreation Office. The deadline for submitting pictures is Feb. 27, 1998. All pictures become the property of the Recreation Division. A prize will be awarded for the best snow sculpture. Include your name, address and telephone number on your entry.

For information call the Division at 827-2045. Participants must be a Rahway resident.

Openings available

Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation announces that they are still interested in winter program openings starting the week of Jan. 5, 1998. Pre-school programs that have openings are Fun Time and Fun Wee Playtime.

For youth, the programs with openings are Kinder Cooking, Introduction

to Oil Painting, Junior and Senior Girls Volleyball Clinic, Junior and Senior Indoor Volleyball and Children's Art. Also, Junior and Senior Indoor Soccer, Junior and Senior Games Night and Boys and Girls Basketball.

Adult programs with openings are Step Aerobics, Slimmestars, Country Western Line Dancing and Art. Also, Daytime and Evening Cranberry Cove Volleyball, Men's Open and Over-35 Basketball Nights.

Some of these programs are free and others charge a fee. Also, participants must be a Rahway resident.

For more information, call the Division at 827-2045.

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Holiday GREETINGS



As the children nestle down to Christmas dreams, we extend our wish for all mankind the great gifts of peace and joy, faith and love. To you and your families we wish to express deepest gratitude for the confidence and loyalty of those whom we are privileged to serve.

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Union County

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Freeholders extend plans to assist county's needy

Earlier this month, the Board of Chosen Freeholders passed resolutions that will continue services for county residents.

Under the resolutions sponsored by Freeholder Carol Cohen, the Department of Human Services will help people with disabilities gain greater self-sufficiency through many forms of support and will provide low-income families with help ranging from comprehensive counseling to cash assistance.

"During this time of year, when the spirit of giving is paramount, it is very rewarding to be able to continue services that make people's lives a little easier," Cohen said. "Our doing this goes beyond the seasonal spirit of giving. We provide these services as part of our continuing obligations to help those less fortunate."

With \$432,965 from the state Division of Youth and Family Services, Personal Assistance Services Program, approximately 30 people with physical or mental impairments who have difficulty walking, seeing, hear-



Freeholders Donald Gonçalves, Dan Sullivan and Linda Stender present a resolution to Victor Fortkiewicz, president of Elizabethtown Gas Co., for co-sponsoring the county's Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs reception in Union during Arts and Humanities Month.

County thanks gas company

To acknowledge the accomplishments of local organizations that remained active with help from the county, a reception recently was held during Arts and Humanities Month.

The reception honored 47 local organizations that received grants through the Union County Arts Grant Program for 1997-98 as well as seven arts organizations, including the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, that received awards from the State Council on the Arts.

"I was pleased to present this resolution to Victor Fortkiewicz on behalf of the Elizabethtown Gas Co.," stated Freeholder Chairman Linda Stender, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. "The company is to be commended for their leadership in promoting the partnership forged between the public and private sectors in supporting the arts in Union County."

ing or caring for themselves will receive such assistance as bathing, feeding and dressing, as well as transportation to jobs and training programs. Services will be provided for 1998.

"Without these services, people with impairments would be unable to care for themselves in their own homes. We help them maintain their independence, self-sufficiency and self-respect," Cohen added. "In addition, we help them lead productive lives by helping them pursue employment."

Another resolution authorizes County Manager Michael Lapolla to enter into a contract to use \$192,627 in state Department of Community Affairs' Community Services Block Grant funds to continue programs for eligible, low-income Union County residents through Sept. 30, 1999.

Serving approximately 600 residents, the program provides counseling for housing matters, at-risk teens, jobs and placement, in addition to cash assistance for shelter, home care-

Golf course will close for winter

The Board of Chosen Freeholders announced that Gallop Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth and Union, will close for the winter.

This will enable the nine holes completed in Phase I of the golf course's reconstruction to "rest" during the winter and reopen to the public in prime condition on or about April 20, 1998.

Progress continues to be made on the county's efforts to improve and renovate Gallop Hill, one of the most popular and widely enjoyed, publicly operated recreational facilities in central New Jersey.

According to Freeholder Vice Chairman Dan Sullivan, the \$4,765,350 rehabilitation project which began in 1995, consists of three phases and is designed to transform the 60-year-old Kenilworth course into one of the best in the state. "Tees, fairways, greens, and sand bunkers on the course's 27 holes are all receiving a well-deserved facelift," he said.

Phase II, which consists primarily of the holes on the "single nine," should be completed and reopened for play on or about Jan. 1, 1998, Sullivan continued. "The final phase, Phase III, will continue throughout 1998 with a reopening of the entire course for the spring of 1999."



Steve Warnock of Scotch Plains, left, demonstrates his technique at the annual Fishing Derby for People with Disabilities held recently in Warnanco Park in Roselle. Watching Steve are Freeholders Frank Lehr, seated, Henry Kurz, liaison to the Americans with Disabilities Act Committee, left, and Ed Force, liaison to the Advisory Board on the Disabled.

County's fishing derby gets residents 'hooked'

To promote sportsmanship and a feel for the outdoors, the county Division of Parks and Recreation recently held its annual Fishing Derby for People with Disabilities in Warnanco Park in Roselle.

The derby, with more than 100 adult and children participants, was co-sponsored by the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club. The day featured a talk by state Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife spokesperson Carol Szwarc and senior wildlife worker Jim O'Ross. They taught the anglers such things as how to identify the species that made up the over 200 blue gill muskies, as well as the five other varieties they tried to catch.

Before the derby, adults and children were given a chance to do more than fish. Some assisted the state representatives in releasing fish provided by the state, into the lake.

"Fishing is one of the popular ways to enjoy the great outdoors," said Freeholder Ed Force. "This wonderful sport can be competitive or offer a time to relax. Individuals with disabilities don't have different interests by virtue of being disabled, they just need a level playing field in an effort to address that, the county's Division of Parks and Recreation worked with the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club to create this annual fishing derby for the disabled."

"This is an opportunity for disabled individuals, their family and friends to participate, learn and enjoy the sport. Without this fun occasion, some of the disabled fishermen at the derby might not have considered fishing a recreational activity. Both equipment and assistance were available at an easily accessible site, leveling the field for the anglers. Hopefully, this derby will start these anglers on a lifetime of fishing and provide material for stories about the usual 'one that got away,'" said Freeholder Henry Kurz.

TV program focuses on seniors

During January, "Vintage Views," a Division on Aging will interview Elizabeth, TKR Cable, Channel 10, Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Plainfield, Comcast Cable, Channel 20, Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Summit area, Comcast Cable, Channel 36, Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

Other county locations, Comcast Cable, Channel 57, Thursdays at 7 p.m.

For further information on "Vintage Views" call Covello at (908) 527-4872.

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social workers and dietitians, the Health and Rehab Center provides a full
range of fitness and wellness programs as well as cardiac, pulmonary and
diabetic rehabilitation.
- Health Centers** —
a continuum of care is provided in private medical office settings offering
services in family practice, women's health and pediatric health.
- Heart Center** —
offering an interdisciplinary approach to the prevention, diagnosis and
treatment of heart disease, the Heart Center boasts two of the state's
busiest Catheterization Labs and combines state-of-the-art technology and
a team of highly dedicated Board Certified Cardiologists to provide
patients with the highest quality cardiac care possible.

- Seton Center for Chemical Dependency** —
providing a variety of levels of care including detoxification, partial
hospitalization (day treatment), intensive outpatient services and
outpatient recovery programs.
- Radiological Services** —
offering full radiological services including open gantry MRI; CT
scanner; ultra sound services; accredited mammographic imaging; and
stereotactic breast biopsy services.
- Wound Healing Center** —
utilizing well-researched, proven techniques and a multi-disciplinary
team of physicians, nurses and foot specialists, this special outpatient
service is devoted exclusively to the treatment of wounds which have
resisted healing.
- Additional Specialties Include:**
 - Laser Surgery
 - 24-Hour Emergency Care Center
 - Complete Oncology Resources
 - Community Health Education Programs
 - Outpatient Clinic Serving 26 Medical Specialties
 - Vascular Laboratory
 - Same-Day Surgery Suite
 - Physician Referral

**St. Elizabeth Hospital Wishes You and Your Family
Good Health and Happiness During the Holidays and in the Year to Come!**

GREETINGS of the NEW YEAR

From The Staff Of



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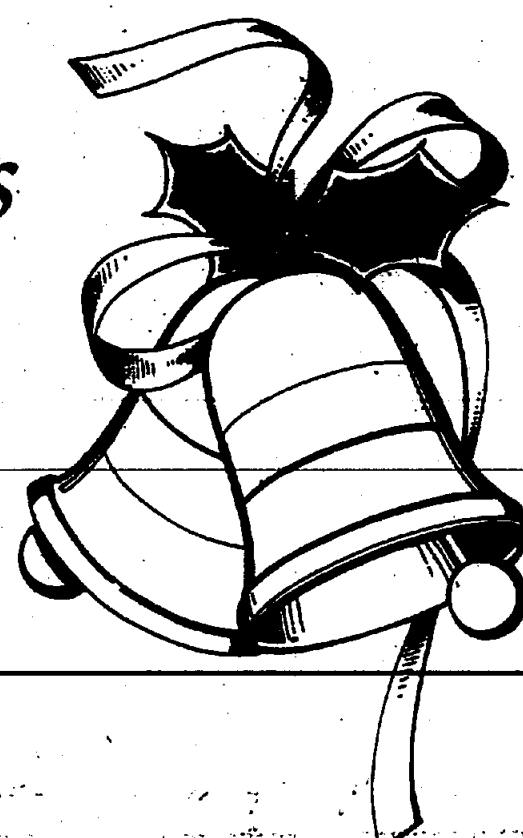
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**Happy
Holidays**

Our wish
for you
this holiday
season -

**Peace, Joy and
Prosperity**



All offices will be closed Christmas Day -
Thursday, December 25 and New Year's Day -
Thursday, January 1.

All offices will close Christmas Eve and New
Year's Eve at 3 pm; Walk-Up/Drive-In
Windows at 4 p.m.

For your convenience, the Cranford office will be
open Tuesday evenings, December 23
and December 30 from 6:30 to 8 pm.
Walk-Up/Drive-In Windows from 9 am to 8 pm.



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**From The Staff At
Worrall Community Newspapers
Season's Greetings
And
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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Lee Wollenberg
Terri Dassing
Yvette Jackson
Betty Squillante
UNION ADVERTISING
Florence Lenaz
Teddi Russo
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See how we can help you shine.

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Happy Holiday
and
Healthy 1998

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Dinner and a show, all at NJ Performing Arts Center

In addition to a world-class performance during the inaugural season at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, a palate-pleasing selection of pre- and post-performance light fare, Sunday brunch, casual cafe lunches and elegant dinners is on the schedule.

The Theater Square Grill, located off NJPAC's main lobby and operated by the arts center's exclusive caterer, Restaurant Marketing Associates Inc., offers the public a variety of dining options.

In the Main Dining Room of the Theater Square Grill, NJPAC patrons will find a moderately priced elegant dinner with seating for 150 and a la carte dining with seating for 60. A la carte lunch menu for afternoon weekday performances and a Sunday buffet brunch are offered as well. Reservations are now being accepted. Call (973) 642-1226.

The dinner buffet features such signature dishes as hand-carved roast loin of beef, poached salmon in lemon-garlic broth and grilled French-cut breast of duck. Priced at \$29.95 per person exclusive of tax and gratuity, this buffet is available 5-7:30 p.m. Reservations are advised.

The la carte menu at the Theater Square Grill features contemporary cuisine like herb roasted salmon and fennel and pepper crusted rack of lamb. Dinner prices range from \$18.95 to \$25 and lunch from \$9 to \$15. Sunday brunches are required and lunch reservations are accepted.

Sunday pre-performance brunch service began on Oct. 26. For \$29.95, exclusive of tax and gratuity, each guest can choose from hot and cold menu selections, dessert table, coffee or soft drink and one complimentary Mimosa. Champagne or Bloody Mary. Reservations are advised.

Private group dining opportunities at NJPAC include a three-course pre-set lunch in the Main Dining Room for groups of 20 or more, Monday through Friday. Prices range from \$19.50 to \$22.50 per person, exclusive of tax and gratuity. Reservations are required. Also, evening pre-performance private groups, maximum 50 people, may reserve space in the main dining room buffet.

The Theater Square Grill's Cafe/Bar features a menu of homemade soups, upscale sandwiches, salad platters and pastas, and a selection of daily entrees, ranging in price from \$7 to \$13. The Cafe/Bar will be open daily for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition, the Cafe/Bar will serve light appetizer fare two

hours prior to all Prudential Hall performances, and dessert, coffee and cocktails one to two hours after all Prudential Hall performances. Reservations accepted for lunch only.

Additional services of the Theater Square Grill at NJPAC include conference catering and salon service, as well as the Round Bar and portable bar open prior to Prudential Hall performances. Charge is \$150 per cost.

Founded in July 1972, Restaurant Marketing Associates originally developed as a privately held, national, restaurant and private club operating company. Today, their efforts are concentrated in the Northeast United States where they are able to maintain a limited client base, focusing on a high level of personalization and attentive service.

The NJPAC is located on the Newark Riverfront near Gateway Center, Newark's Penn Station and the Inland District in downtown Newark. With two theaters, the 2,750-seat Prudential Hall and the intimate 500-seat Victoria Theater, NJPAC is the largest performing arts center built in the northeast in the last 30 years.

Consumerism — changing times for the better or the worse?

It is the habit, almost by now, of environmentalists and other moralists, to decry both our aging and our consumerist society. John Updike, perhaps our greatest satirist, makes use of our almost obsessive worship of consumer products in "Rabbit at Rest" by describing a precocious child's consumerist chatter to her stroke-ridden grandfather to keep them alive in a storm they encounter in a sailboat off the Florida coast. And she hears on television.

Almost all of us think there is too much selling, too many products, an over-abundance of telemarketing, and a deplorable reliance on material goods in our daily life. Yet, as Don DeLillo comments in his new novel, "Underworld," who is to judge who is to be without—saying that there is a "convergence of coverage" that is not that people want the same things necessarily, but they want the same range of choices.

The global trend is amplified by greater affluence, the media raising sights and desires, and simply the continuing increase in population growth. If there is not everywhere an emergence of a middle-class, there is the desire for that from Eastern Europe to China, with all the gadgets that come with it.

There is a relationship and trend these days, too, which multiplies the consumer effect, as reported in the 17 issue of "Science" magazine. Not only is life span increasing, from an average in the U.S. of 47 years in 1900 to 76 years today, and to 83 years in 2050, but the prevalence of chronic disorders and disability in the aging is markedly falling. Surprisingly, most people today in our country in the later period of life are healthier rather than pathological. As "Science" says in an editorial, "the stage is set to enhance the likelihood of older persons not only to avoid disease and disability, but to truly age successfully."

Successful aging includes continued consumerism for this increasingly old but sprightly age group, which will live or surpass children, young adults, and even married and those in their middle life in terms of buying power. They have the money, the leisure and the will to enjoy life as long as their health holds up, and the "science" of life is increasingly the fact. And so, a major competition has arisen among those who sell.

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