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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1998 • SECTION B

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Haulers are still battling with UCUA over charges

By Sean Daily Staff Writer

The battle between the garbage haulers and the Union County Utilities Authority continues.

According to the UCUA, some garbage haulers have not been paying a special Environmental Investment Charge on the garbage they collect in Union County.

To fight this, the county Board of Chosen Freeholders, at the request of the UCUA, has passed an ordinance that will help them collect information on the garbage that is taken out of Union County.

The ordinance was passed at the freeholders' Dec. 10 meeting. It was based on a resolution passed by the UCUA on Oct. 14.

According to Joseph Spatola, executive director of the UCUA, the haulers are supposed to pay an \$18.51 EIC for every ton of garbage not coming from certain towns in Union County.

These are towns that did not sign 25-year garbage disposal contracts with the UCUA. Thirteen towns in Union County signed these contracts.

Haulers bring trash from anywhere other than these 13 towns are supposed to weigh their trucks at weigh stations located in the county. This gives the UCUA an idea of how much garbage these trucks are hauling.

From this, the UCUA can determine how much in EIC costs they can charge.

Spatola said these haulers get around paying this fee — which is on top of the per-ton garbage disposal fee of "tipping fee" at the UCUA's garbage incinerator in Rahway — by taking their garbage to out-of-county weigh stations and transfer stations. Spatola did not know how much this practice was costing the UCUA.

The freeholders' ordinance demands the county's solid waste disposal plant to let the UCUA get daily records from the transfer stations. They will use these to see how much the haulers are charged in EIC fees.

Ed Cornell of the Waste Management Association in Park Ridge did not have enough information on the ordinance to comment on it.

"These cases are still in court," he said. "We don't know if the authority is able to tax. I don't know if it's freeholders or the authority that has the power to collect this tax."

The EIC fees are meant to pay the incinerator's stranded debt. This is any money the UCUA would still owe if it sold the incinerator and used every penny to pay its debt.

The UCUA has sold \$284 million in bonds to pay for the construction of the incinerator. However, Ogden Martin's system has bought \$173 million of these bonds, a 25-year lease of the incinerator, the 25-year waste disposal contracts signed in Union County are part of this lease.

This means the UCUA owes \$119 million in stranded debt. The Bergen County Utilities Authority will pay

for \$40 million of this, leaving \$79 million in stranded debt.

A number of county garbage disposal have imposed EICs on the garbage coming into them.

Cornell doesn't like EICs. "We're totally opposed to it," he said. "Not to our constituents. We pass it through anyway."

According to Cornell, the EIC is a tax on garbage, no matter what the county garbage disposal facilities want to call it.

He said these charges should be paid for by the state. This would level the competition between the county facilities and other local disposal sites.

Lawyers for various garbage haulers have said this is an EIC fee that should be imposed on the people generating the trash, not the people hauling it.

A number of towns and haulers have called lawsuits against their county's waste disposal facilities because of the EIC.

Among these are the city of Passaic. It has sued its garbage to the Passaic County Utilities Authority. This case is the farthest along of several EIC lawsuits.

According to Sandra Acres, attorney for Passaic, the EIC would have a disproportionate impact on her client, Passaic. It's the third largest city in New Jersey and generates the most trash in Passaic County, so it would be responsible for 70 percent of the EIC going to the UCUA.

Access 2000 checks delivered

Union County Freeholder Linda Stender recently delivered checks to county school officials that will fund computer equipment and training for teachers. From left are Stender, Rahway Technology Manager Barbara Martin, Roselle School Business Administrator John D'Angelo, Roselle Park School Business Administrator Bob Zaglarski, Springfield School Business Administrator Ellen Ball, and Summit Technology Coordinator Catherine Hathaway.

Susan Pepper, director of Access 2000, said the county's goals are to have a computer with high speed Internet access available in every Union County classroom by the end of the year 2000 and to have every Union County teacher trained in computer technology.

"These goals parallel state and national technology goals," she said. "Access 2000 funds will accelerate each district's Five Year Technology Plan by supplementing current district technology spending, not replacing it," Pepper said, adding, "The result will be a \$6 million infusion of funds for computer technology in the public schools."

Magnet School sets session for information for parents

The Union County Magnet High School for Science, Mathematics and Technology will host its third and final informational session for interested applicants and their parents, for the class of 2000.

The event takes place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 9, in the main auditorium. The Magnet School is located in Manalapan Hall on the 1776 Rantan Road Campus of the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools in Scotch Plains.

Students are admitted to the Magnet High School from all districts within Union County and attend the school on a full-time basis. Transportation is provided. The rigorous academic curriculum prepares them for entry into baccalaureate degree programs. The school, in collaboration with Union County College, also offers the opportunity for students to earn up to one year of college credit prior to Magnet High School graduation.

According to Christine Wyck, director of Student Services, the Jan. 9 informational session will feature speakers

who will describe the nature of magnet high schools and how they differ from the local comprehensive schools. In addition, admissions policies will be explained in full detail along with an in-depth rundown of the curriculum and other services being offered.

Wyck added that the Magnet High School features a 36-station multi-media, high-tech classroom with full audio/visual/data network, interactive capabilities. A commitment she adds, has been made to high intellectual standards that incorporate both academic and technical training through an integrated curriculum in block-schedule format. Learning is project-based and special emphasis is placed on the development of critical thinking skills.

For additional materials on the Union County Magnet High School for Science, Mathematics and Technology, and to make reservations for the informational session, where seating will be limited, call Corinne Wozniak in Student Services at (908) 889-3800, Ext. 301.

Scutari to lead freeholders

By Staff Sean Curran Staff Writer

The leadership of the nine-member freeholder board will change slightly next year as the chairman and the vice chairman will trade places.

A final vote by the board to elect Scutari does not take place until next year, but Nicholas R. Scutari of Edison is expected to replace Daniel P. Sullivan to lead a board comprised of nine Democrats.

"It's exciting," Scutari said from his law office Tuesday. "I was certainly interested in holding the leadership position."

He said he is putting together a plan that he wants to follow next year. His colleagues "widely" supported his ascension to the top position, and one said Scutari's fiscally conservative approach will be clearly evident next year.

"I'm very excited in Nick taking the helm," Freeholder Donald Gonzalez said. "I think Nick's hallmark is one of good government."

"He knows the issues that are important to Union County," Gonzalez said.

Holding the same title he had two years ago, Sullivan said students saw many projects get accomplished in 1998, and he believes there will not be any drastic decision from the panel followed this year compared to next year. "I am sure the board will lead in the same general direction," Sullivan said.

The political aspects of making Scutari chairman played a factor into making the decision, the chairman said. Next year, Scutari must run for reelection.

The result was not unexpected, Sullivan said, noting that two other board members have run for

reelection. "The result was not unexpected," Sullivan said, noting that two other board members have run for

reelection. "The result was not unexpected," Sullivan said, noting that two other board members have run for



Nicholas Scutari

to set the agenda for the freeholder meetings.

Freeholder Al Straballa said the decision to elect Scutari chairman should be unanimous during the reorganization meeting.

Judge declines to make early decision in UCUA firing suit

By Sean Daily Staff Writer

The lease of the Rahway trash incinerator to Ogden Martin Systems in June led to the firing of more than 30 Union County Utilities Authority employees.

Two of those employees were in Superior Court Dec. 11 to sue their former employer.

Attorneys for the two employees — former Deputy Director Harry Pappas

and senior bookkeeper Lois Mikowicz — and the UCUA, went before Superior Court Judge Edward Beglin Jr. to give their oral arguments.

Pappas and Mikowicz are suing for breach of contract. They say they had five-year employment contracts that the UCUA had signed less than two years before the lease — contracts that were broken when they were let go.

The long and short of it, is that

these people had a contract with the authority, said Mikowicz's attorney, Robert Renaud of Cranford. They entered into them voluntarily and now they want to break them.

Beglin, though, decided not to make a decision that day.

"I think the arguments today have crystallized things for me," he said. "I still need to study this, but I recognize the need for a quick decision."

To understand why the UCUA fir-

ing employees, you have to go back to a time when the Ogden Martin lease wasn't necessary.

Before December 1997, the UCUA was operating under a system of solid waste flow control laws that guaranteed it business — that is, garbage for it to dispose.

These laws set up a regional waste disposal facility in all 21 counties, then forced towns to send their trash

to their county's waste disposal facility.

These laws were struck down by Justice Joseph French of the State Supreme Court, who called them unconstitutional. In the case Atlantic Coast Recycling and Decontamination v. Atlantic County Board of Chosen Freeholders,

French had imposed a two-year stay on abolishing the state's waste flow control laws to give the counties and

state time to prepare. However, this stay was struck down when the state government appealed the case. The U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to hear another appeal in the case in November put the final nail in the coffin for these laws.

With the laws struck down, the UCUA had to compete with other facilities for Union County's garbage. It first reduced its per-ton garbage dis-

See JUDGE, Page B2

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Board honors Neil Cohen

Assemblyman Neil Cohen received a Resolution of Congratulations from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders on the occasion of Cohen being awarded Community Access Unlimited's Public Leadership Award for 1998.

Cohen, representative of 225,000 freeholders who have elected him to the Legislature, Rahway and Roselle and deputy minority leader in the Assembly, where he serves on the Rules and Regulatory Committee, and the Joint Legislative Committee on Official Standards, received the award from the 11-member board of public safety's service agencies for his extensive work on behalf of those with disabilities.

The Resolution and the Public Leadership Award were presented to Cohen at the local service agencies' 15th annual gala dinner and celebration at Atlantic Montpelier recently. Union County Manager Meddel Lapolla was asked to present the award to Cohen by the Assembly. Unhappily to Cohen because of a long, long-standing friendship with



Assemblyman Neil Cohen, fourth from left, receives a resolution of congratulations by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. With Cohen are, from left, Freeholders Chester Holmes, Alex Mirabella, Dan Sullivan, Lewis Mingo Jr., and Linda Stender.

both Cohen and Community Access Unlimited.

"I was pleased to present Community Access Unlimited's Public Leadership Award to Neil," said Lapolla. "Neil is a committed, caring individual. During his time in the Legislature, he has had over 90 legislative initiatives signed into law. Among them are Medicare supplemental insurance

coverage for those whose eligibility is due to having a disability and expansion of eligibility for the Pharmacists' Assistance to the Aged and Disabled program," said Lapolla. "Freeholder Mirabella and I were pleased to co-sponsor a resolution congratulating Neil Cohen for receiving this award," stated Freeholder Lewis Mingo Jr. "In addition to his

law practice, this former member of the Union County Freeholder Board keeps very busy with his duties as an assemblyman." The fact that he has spent years committed to the civil rights of people who have disabilities and is an ardent advocate for mental health issues is a testament to Neil's caring nature and excellent organizational skills.

Judge declines to make early decision

(Continued from Page B1) possible for "tipping fees" from \$83.08 to \$50 but this caused it to hemorrhage money.

This was worrisome to the county government because the UCUA was unable to keep up on paying the interest on its \$294 million in bonded debt. It defaulted on this debt, it might drag down the county, which had guaranteed \$5 million of these bonds.

The lease was struck to stem the flow of red ink. Ogden Martin bought \$175 million of the UCUA's bonds in return for a 25-year lease on the manor.

Part of this lease included a reorganization of the UCUA. This was based on a report made up by and for his committee of the UCUA's Board of Commissioners.

The UCUA's attorney, Lee Uchelman, argued that Pappas and Moskowitz's offices were let go because the functions that they performed were eliminated. These functions

were taken over by Ogden Martin, leaving a grand total of six UCUA employees, including Executive Director Joseph Spadola.

Both were let go because of financial difficulties and because the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders had ordered the UCUA to reduce its total salaries to \$530,000.

Reinold and Pappas' attorney Tom Scervo thought raised some doubts as to how the UCUA decided on let go Pappas and Moskowitz.

Reinold didn't like the UCUA's reasoning for these firings.

"These have been financial emergencies of every kind in authorities and municipalities," he said.

"There is no case that allows this."

He cited in particular Stone vs. Old Bridge Board of Education, which prevented teachers from being fired in the middle of the school year even during a financial emergency.

Pappas' attorney, Scervo, also pointed out that the UCUA had reduced its salaries to \$541,000,

below what the freeholders required. Thus there was enough money to pay Pappas and Moskowitz.

According to Scervo, the job descriptions in the ad hoc committee's report included job descriptions based on outdated material from his former Executive Director Jeffrey Callahan.

There were also notes from the meetings of the ad hoc committee. Reinold said had about 25 words of notes from Commissioner Ed Kattu and two or three pages of "little notes" scribbled by Spadola.

Both attorneys also questioned the timing of the employees' contracts.

Their contracts were signed in December 1996, according to Scervo, well after Reinold's first ruling in the Atlantic Coast Case. These contracts were changed in March 1997, three or so months before the second Atlantic Coast decision and 18 or so months before Reinold's stay was expired.

According to Scervo, one of the changes was a clause saying Pappas' position would not be abolished. Reinold also said his client was supposed to stay in some function, even if he was fired.

Scervo said the UCUA had some idea that something was going to happen to the state's wage flow controls when they signed their contracts. If they knew they were going to get into trouble, they shouldn't have signed the contracts.

This apparently bothered Reinold when the basic business of the authority was going to change and all this was in flux, he asked.

Feldman, though, pointed out that these contracts were signed almost a year before these laws were finally abolished, while the state was appealing the first Atlantic Coast decision and while Reinold's stay was still in place.

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And lest "old acquaintances be forgot", we urge you to look out for others by not allowing anyone who is intoxicated get behind the wheel.

We care about our friends and neighbors, and look forward to seeing you during and after the holidays!

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Shakespeare Festival provides a charming holiday alternative

When, in late 1953, self-proclaimed "Welshman, drunkard, lover of the human race," Dylan Thomas died in New York City at the age of 39 after a period of depression and heavy drinking, the world lost one of the most original and best-known British poets of the mid-20th century. Known primarily for his energetic and vivid imagery, Thomas left as part of his poetic legacy the enchanting prose poem: "A Child's Christmas in Wales," a musical version of which graces the stage of the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre at the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival this holiday season through Dec. 27, and provides a charming alternative to the usual "Christmas Carol" and "Nutcracker" productions.

This adaptation by Jeremy Brooks and Adrian Mitchell captures the magic and wonder of a Christmas long past, celebrated in a small covey across the Atlantic Ocean, as seen through the eyes of a young boy. The lilting poetry, classic Christmas carols and traditional Welsh folk tunes weave a whimsical and heart-warming holiday tale. Capturing the audience's imagination early on, Thomas reminisces: "I can't remember if it snowed six inches the Christmas I was 12 or 12 inches the Christmas I was six," and the action is off and running!

Theater View

By Ruth Ross
Theater Correspondent

On a set evoking the ghastly outline of houses covered in snow and the snug coziness of a Welsh home of the 1920s, director Robert Duke and his talented actors bring Thomas' words to life. Andy Paterson's wonderful young Dylan is all wide-eyed and full of hi-jinks as Christmas snow blows in from the sea. Aided and abetted by childhood chums Jim, played by Dann J. Dunston; Jack, played by Francis Kelly; and Tom, played by Christopher Wisner, he wages war on the neighborhood cats, annoys Smokey the park keeper, engages in a battle with the Tawn Hill Boys and bedevils his cousins.

It was especially heart-warming to hear children in the audience laugh loud and long at some of the antics on stage, they certainly made the connection with the young Dylan Thomas. The freshness and vitality of Thomas' language draws the audience in to the poem and reveals the universality of the boy's experiences. So "step dad" is over to the New Jersey

Shakespeare Festival in Madison before Dec. 27 so you won't miss this Christmas treat. A special gift for children from six to 90. "A Child's Christmas in Wales" is a perfect holiday outing for the whole family, especially if they are unfamiliar with the particulars of Thomas' tale. For we are all children once.

Performances of "A Child's Christmas in Wales" continue through Dec. 27 Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m., and Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. There are no performances on Dec. 24 and 25. A family matinee has been added on Dec. 23 at 2 p.m. For this performance, children's tickets purchased by Dec. 19 are half-price. An audio-described performance for persons who are visually impaired or blind will be performed Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. Prior to the performance, a sensory seminar will be held to introduce patrons to some of the key props, costumes and set pieces that will be described. The F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre is fully accessible, with ramp access and an elevator to all floors. Wheelchair seating is available in both the orchestra and balcony sections. An entire row of seats is always available at all performances. For more information or to order tickets, call the box office at (973) 408-5500. Group rates are available for groups of 10 or more.



Andy Paterson as young Dylan Thomas investigates the contents of his Christmas stocking in the NJ Shakespeare Festival's production of Dylan Thomas' family holiday musical, "A Child's Christmas in Wales."

Summit area opera singers present Christmas concert

All the memories of Christmas past — the rattle of wrapping paper, the twinkle of lights, the scent of pine — inspire joy and serenity for the holiday season. On Dec. 11, Brown Bag Concert Series at Central Presbyterian Church in Summit presented just such an inspiring holiday treat, "Christmas Remembrance," an operatic concert featuring William and Jean Donbaugh of New Providence.

Accompanied by Phyllis Turner on the piano, William, tenor, and Jean, soprano, presented a beautiful and memorable tribute to the Christmas holidays. To begin the program, the duo sang a medley of familiar carols, asking the audience to join in "O Come All Ye Faithful."

The first section, "Childhood Memories," featured the duet "Away in a Manger," arranged by Gilbert M. Martin. After a reading from "The Barn," a poem by Elizabeth Coatsworth, the couple presented "The Friendly Beasts," a 17th century English tune, and "Toyland," by Victor Herbert.

"Present Day Memories" began with a reading of the poem "So My Sheep May Safely Graze," followed by "The Little Road to Bethlehem." The duo accented and complemented each other perfectly in their rendition of "A La Nanita Nana," a Spanish carol, and followed up with a polished performance of the grand "Glory to God" from Handel's "Messiah."

Jean Donagh's final section of the program, "Memories for the Future," with "Remembrance is Sufficient," a reading by author E.B. White, which she read, was especially appropriate for Christmas. Bill followed the reading with "I Came Upon a Midnight Clear," which showcased his strong tenor voice perfectly. The duo

Joyful Noise

By Jacquie McCarthy
Associate Editor

sang "Ding, Dong! Merrily on High," an upbeat song based on a 16th-century French tune.

Referring to the reading by E.B. White, Jean said, "Remembrance is not always sufficient," when it comes to favorite Christmas carols, which modern composers, she said, often arrange in ways different from the traditional. "We want to end the program as we began it, with 'Away in a Manger,' and we'll do it the old-fashioned way." With that, the audience joined in singing the familiar carol.

William is well-known at Central Presbyterian Church as a soloist; his opera credits include leading tenor with the Bach/Solothurn opera house in Switzerland; leading tenor with the New York City Opera, and soloist with the Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati symphonies.

Jean's lovely, light soprano voice is featured often at St. Paul at UCC Congregational Church in Plainfield. She has sung in both opera choruses and leads in Maine, New York and Newark.

Both William and Jean are recognized as board members and performers for Stony Hill Players in Summit.

Brown Bag Concerts are presented on Fridays, beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 18. Sandor Szabo, music director at New Providence Presbyterian Church, will perform a selection of classical favorites on Central Presbyterian's Schantz 63-rank organ.

Program offers student discounts to many cultural sites, events

New Jersey students can enjoy over 6,000 bargain-priced tickets to some of New York's hottest cultural events this season — theater, music, dance and film, and reduced-price admissions to the city's top museums — on sale now to junior and senior-high school students by High Five Tickets to the Arts, the award-winning program that aims to create new audiences by making the arts affordable for the young.

High Five tickets, available exclusively to teenagers, can be purchased in New Jersey at 35 Ticketmaster outlets in 40 counties throughout the state, as well as 100 participating Ticketmaster outlets within New York's five boroughs. Tickets must be bought by someone under 19 years of age. A junior or senior high school ID card or a valid passport ID card from 11 to 18. Middle school tickets are \$5 each, Monday through Thursday events are two for \$5 and an eligible teen may bring a friend or family member of any age. High Five's daily museum admissions are also two for \$5.

High Five's current catalog lists more than 400 arts events, from live performances to films. The catalog is available free of charge at participating Ticketmaster outlets, as well as participating public libraries and select Barnes & Noble bookstores in New York City. It also is available in the lobby of High Five's executive offices at One East 53rd St., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The catalog can also be viewed online at www.highfivetickets.org. By phoning (212) 445-8587, callers can add their names to the mailing list for future High Five catalogs and information on special High Five events.

Singers 'celebrate' the season with much song and laughter

"Wonders of the Holidays," this weekend's choral presentation of holiday songs by Celebration Singers, was a little different than the usual Christmas season concerts. Where one might expect an evening of traditional Christmas melodies sung in a lackluster way, the local talents that make up the members of the Celebration Singers added themselves and their own "wonderful" evening of entertainment. Both traditional and classic compositions kept the audience riveted for the entire hour-and-a-half.

Saturday evening's performance held at the Cranford United Methodist Church was a wonderful way to enjoy the holiday season. Directed by Tom Podas and with piano accompaniment by Conrad Erdi, the Celebration Singers put on a show they should be proud of. Irregan with Kwanzaa and Hanukkah songs, then moved into the more traditional Christmas carols. At the end of the first half, an awe-inspiring version of Handel's "For Unto Us A Child is Born" came right before the song "Joy" from the film "The Producers." The singers' well-trained voices, full of laughter, surprised and eagerly awaiting the second half of the program during the intermission.

In Brooklyn, teens can enjoy the First Annual Brooklyn Film Festival in Queens, the Queens Theatre at the Park, in the Bronx, the Bronx Opera Company, and in Staten Island, the Staten Island Symphony. Also featured this season is a festival of the works of Federico Garcia at INTAR, Hispanic American Arts Center and a performance of the Pao Asian Repertory Theatre.

For art lovers, High Five offers two for \$5 admissions to some of the hottest museum shows in town: the Jackson Pollack retrospective at MOMA, and Mark Rothko at the Whitney and Walker Evans at the International Center of Photography, while at the Jewish Museum on Fifth Avenue teens can see two art form-isle, and at The Guggenheim Museum SoHo contemporary architecture and design from France.

The second half of the show began with the Children's Chorus performing three songs. The first, "Lullaby for a Child," by Felix Mendelssohn, displayed the hard work these children had put in rehearsing for the evening. The haunting and beautiful song was only overshadowed by the "Jingle Bell Swing," which they ended with after performing only three songs. Upbeat and catchy, the children seemed to really enjoy performing this arrangement.

The adult choir again took center stage and performed one of the high

lights of the evening "The Nutcracker Jingles," an arrangement of "Jingle Bells" to the music of the "Nutcracker Suite," was incredible. Arranged by Charles Brindwell and directed by Kristin Dabelli, the way the choir was able to conform a modern carol to the classical piece, was fascinating and very well done.

The choir then performed a Nigerian carol, "Betelehemu," which was perfectly executed but seemed to lack a certain spark. After this, the adult and children's choir were joined by the audience in a rousing rendition of "Folk Navidad," "Silver Bells" and "Let It Snow." The chorus came out into the audience and sang along while the whole auditorium seemed to erupt into song and camaraderie.

After the sing-a-long, both choirs performed three more songs. One of these was the other highlight of the show — an arrangement of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." With lots of ad-libbing by the children's choir and wonderful harmony from the adults, the whole audience was tapping their feet and bobbing their heads.

After a much-too-long speech by the director, the show was closed with an invitation to all former members to join the singers on stage and perform "Let There Be Peace on Earth." All in all, the show was the perfect length, very professionally done and really got the audience into the holiday mood. It was a wonderful evening.

Joyful Noise

By Rebecca Flores
Correspondent

lights of the evening "The Nutcracker Jingles," an arrangement of "Jingle Bells" to the music of the "Nutcracker Suite," was incredible. Arranged by Charles Brindwell and directed by Kristin Dabelli, the way the choir was able to conform a modern carol to the classical piece, was fascinating and very well done.

The choir then performed a Nigerian carol, "Betelehemu," which was perfectly executed but seemed to lack a certain spark. After this, the adult and children's choir were joined by the audience in a rousing rendition of "Folk Navidad," "Silver Bells" and "Let It Snow." The chorus came out into the audience and sang along while the whole auditorium seemed to erupt into song and camaraderie.

After the sing-a-long, both choirs performed three more songs. One of these was the other highlight of the show — an arrangement of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." With lots of ad-libbing by the children's choir and wonderful harmony from the adults, the whole audience was tapping their feet and bobbing their heads.

After a much-too-long speech by the director, the show was closed with an invitation to all former members to join the singers on stage and perform "Let There Be Peace on Earth." All in all, the show was the perfect length, very professionally done and really got the audience into the holiday mood. It was a wonderful evening.

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'Insurrection' marks turning point in battle for quality filmmaking

The dictionary defines "insurrection" as an uprising or revolt. In "Star Trek: Insurrection," we see a revolt in quality and a result from controversial studios.

"Insurrection" is the fifth installment in the highly successful film franchise. It is also one of the better films to emerge from the Star Trek mythos. The standout feature of this story is the fact that the long-time "Next Generation" writers Rick Berman and Michael Piller reunited and returned to what made the series the phenomenon it is: You, even with all the right elements, this film still falls just short of the mark, especially when compared with the television series that spawned it.

The foundation of a newly formed alliance with a race called the Borg led by the smug Dr. Murray Abram, are involved in the next installment of a race of people known as the Borg. Heron has the moral dilemma: how do you best defend your people from a species that has the knowledge of your planet? For the crew of the Enterprise, the answer is quite simple: You don't. It is a clear and blatant violation of the Federation's Prime Directive. Heron's intervention in all these races is headed by Capt. Jean-Luc Picard, as portrayed by glowing actor Jean-Pierre L  aud. The enterprise plans to defy orders, and Picard's role is to find out why the Borg are so successful in eliminating their enemies.

The hallmark of Gene Roddenberry's vision for every installment of "Star Trek" was to weave philosophy and action to give the audience something to truly think about while cheering at the explosions and phaser fire. Unfortunately, "Insurrection" does not effectively weave these two elements consistently throughout the film. Rather, under the directorial guidance of Jonathan Frakes, who is also Commander Will Riker, we have two separate films joined together.

Fade In

By Mike Ream, Correspondent

In the first half, we are given an oblique treat on how morally repugnant the federation's involvement is and how questionable an ally the Son'a are. In the second half of the film, we are treated to all the special effects wizardry we've come to expect from both "Star Trek" and space action films in general. As amazing as these intergalactic battles are, you would expect the challenge to be raised, and I must see things not possible on television, yet any well produced episode was able to show them the same, or even more.

The film does receive all the usual things regulars from the series. Right before we get to the stand-out scene where he gets to sing "A Brijian Tale" from "Forbes of Pericles" while suffering a malfunction, Michael Dorn reprises his role of the Klingon warrior, somehow an "leave brain" just enough to join our television's "Deep Space Nine" "Mima Sirtu" character of Deanna Troi regains her dormant relationship with Riker.

Even though a cookbook from a former chef can help anyone be a better cook, they are not by any means a master chef themselves. This film has all the right ingredients, except the pressure cooker environment of weekly television, which may be the missing key. The creative forces behind "Next Generation" are not just reformed to fit all these elements in a one-hour format, with commercials and keep the audience's attention. They are allowed to take their time to build momentum, which is the biggest drawback of this film.

Rating: 2 1/2 photos torpedos

REUNIONS

- Roselle Park High School Class of 1954 is planning a reunion for February 1999. For information, contact Jean Caspelli Mangini, 2120 Valla Way, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32169.
- Former crewmen of USS Kenneth D. Bailey will have a reunion in the spring of 1999 in Jacksonville, FL. For information, contact Robert Lavigne at (617) 327-3286.
- Coast Guard Veterans of the USS Calhoun will have a reunion in the spring of 1999 in Lancaster, Pa. For information, contact Mike Neumann at (561) 263-0543, or David Stoll at (419) 738-1966.
- Former crewmen of USS Fargo will have a reunion in April 1999 in Hickory, NC. For information, contact Fred Huntington at (757) 399-8076.
- Former crewmen of USS Pawcatuck will have a reunion in April 1999 in Biloxi, MS. For information, contact Richard St. Jeor at (413) 569-5294.
- Former crewmen of USS Purdy will have a reunion in April 1999 in San Antonio, TX. For information, contact Larry DiPasquale at (616) 433-4487.
- Former crewmen of USS Tarawa will have a reunion in April 1999 in Hickory, NC. For information, contact Cliff Gardner at (410) 539-1149.
- Former crewmen of destroyer USS Yorktown will gather in Norfolk, Va from April 16-18, 1999. For information, contact Walter VanNest, 116 Irving at (516) 382-2269.
- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1969 reunion is scheduled for April 25, 1999. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Men Stopped in Hometown, Hills as part of 4665th AAF, 5th USAF, 2nd Sig Div, are planning a reunion for April 22-23, 1999. For information, contact (713) 692-0400.
- Bath High School in Elizabeth, Class of 1945 is planning a reunion for April 30-May 1, 1999. Contact Joan Oberholtzer, 5 Westmoreland Drive, Livingston 07039, (201) 992-8456.
- Westfield High School Class of 1979 reunion is scheduled for July 25-26, 1999. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1979 reunion is scheduled for July 31, 1999. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Thomas Jefferson High School in Elizabeth, Class of 1949 is planning a reunion for October 1999 in Atlantic City. For information, write to: 11 Class of 1949 Reunion, 826 Garden St., Elizabeth 07201.
- James Caldwell High School Class of 1979 reunion is scheduled for Nov. 26, 1999. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1974 reunion is scheduled for Nov. 26, 1999. For information, call Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1989 reunion is scheduled for Nov. 26, 1999. For information, call Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- James Caldwell High School Class of 1978 reunion is planned for Nov. 27, 1999. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Linden High School Class of 1978 reunion is scheduled for Nov. 24, 1999. For information, call Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1979 reunion is scheduled for 1999. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
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- Summit High School Class of 1989 reunion is scheduled for 1999. For information, call Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Westfield High School Class of 1974 reunion is scheduled for 1999. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

Youthful artists invited to enter 'world of knowledge'

The World of Knowledge Foundation invites budding young artists and photographers to enter its \$45,000 "Me, My Heritage, My World" Art and Photography Competition. Ten winners will be selected from each of three age groups, with each winner receiving a U.S. Savings Bond to be used for their future education. Entries must be submitted before Dec. 21, 1998.

Five to seven-year-olds are invited to submit a drawing, painting or photo in the "Me" category. The "Me" subject of the picture may be the child or a family member. Ten winners in this age group will each receive a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond.

Eight to 11-year-olds are asked to depict an art or photography what their heritage means to them. This could include something important in their family or an ancestor's history, or a custom, tradition or holiday that is special. Ten winners in this age group will each receive a \$1,500 U.S. Savings Bond.

Twelve to 14-year-olds should illustrate using art or photography, a celebrating of cultural diversity. This could be a community event, or perhaps a scene from another country. Ten winners in this age group will each receive a \$2,000 U.S. Savings Bond.

The foundation requests that all entries be packaged "carefully" and mailed that way that they are not damaged. All of the art and photography should include the student's name, address, telephone number, age and title of picture work. Entries must be accompanied by a completed, legible entry form signed by a parent or guardian. Art must be no smaller than 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches and no larger than 20 inches by 30 inches. Photos must be no smaller than 4 inches by 6 inches and no larger than 9 inches by 10 inches. Artists may use pencil, crayon, ink, paint or colored markers, and artwork may not

be two-dimensional or include mixed media. Photos may be in color or black and white. Only one entry will be accepted per person.

The World of Knowledge Foundation is dedicated to helping people in America's culturally diverse communities, foreign national students and immigrants meet with success by providing funding for educational scholarships, programs and materials.

More information and an entry form for the "Me, My Heritage, My World" Art and Photography Competition can be obtained by calling (888) 953-7737 or by accessing the World of Knowledge Web Site at www.worldofknowledge.org.

For further information about the World of Knowledge Foundation, write to: Janice Burg-Lee, Executive Director, World of Knowledge Foundation, Princeton Forest at Village (2525) Village Boulevard, Princeton, New Jersey 08502 or call (609) 491-9000.

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FTC offers advice on protecting your holiday purchases

The holiday season is here and consumers are doing their shopping. Each year the Federal Trade Commission receives more complaints about mail order purchases and credit problems than any other subject — and many of these complaints relate to holiday purchases. To help avoid problems this year, the FTC would like to offer consumers advice on their rights and some holiday shopping tips for mail telephone order shopping, fair credit billing, credit card and telemarketing fraud.

Many consumers enjoy the convenience of shopping by mail. Each household in the U.S. receives a wide variety of different mail order catalogs each year.

The FTC's Mail or Telephone Order Merchandise Rule requires merchants to ship mail order merchandise within 30 days of receiving a completed order unless a longer time is clearly specified in advertisements or catalog listings.

For orders that cannot be shipped on time, the merchant must notify the consumer of the new shipping date and give the consumer the option of canceling for a full refund.

If the company cannot meet the revised shipping date, it must send the consumer a second notice and unless the consumer expressly consents to a second delay, cancel his or her order and issue a prompt refund.

If a consumer cancels the order, the rule requires a merchant to make a full refund within seven days for cash and in money order sales, and within one billing cycle for charged sales.

Consumers should remember that the above requirements now apply to telephone orders, including sales where a computer, fax machine or similar means is used to transmit an order over a telephone line. Many mail order companies provide toll-free phone numbers, including toll-free 800 or fax numbers, to make purchasing easier.

The FTC offers consumers the following advice on making mail telephone order purchases:

- Order early to allow plenty of time for shipment and delivery. The holiday season is traditionally the busiest time of year for both mail

order companies and the Postal Service.

- Examine the company's return policy. If the ad does not tell what it is, often you can call and inquire before you order.
- Read all product descriptions carefully and do not rely solely on pictures.
- If you have not dealt with a company before, check the firm's reputation with your local Better Business Bureau or state or local consumer protection agency.
- Keep a copy of the company's name, address, phone number, the date of your order, the ad or catalog from which you ordered, the order form you sent to the company and a canceled check or charge account record.

General tips during the hectic holiday season: shoppers may take advantage of buying products by telephone. While most telemarketing calls are made by legitimate businesses offering legitimate products or services, consumers should be aware that telephone fraud is a billion dollar business that involves selling everything from bad or non-existent investments to the peddling of multiple scented products and services. Everyone who has a telephone is a prospective victim. Whether a consumer becomes a victim is largely up to the consumer.

Could that caller be a crook? Consumers should question the legitimacy of a telephone sales call wherever:

- a high-pressure sales technique is used;
- an invoice on an immediate decision is requested;
- the offer sounds too good to be true;
- a request for your credit card number for any purpose other than to make a purchase is made;
- an offer is made to send someone to your home in order to pick up the money, or some other method such as overnight mail to get your funds more quickly;

• a statement that something "free" followed by the requirement that you pay for something;

- the investment is presented as one that's "without risk";
- There is an unwillingness to provide written information or references that you can contact;
- it is suggested that you should make a purchase or investment on the basis of "urgency";

Victims of telephone fraud seldom get their money back — or, at best, no more than a few dollars on the dollar. Sellers generally do the same thing: father people do when they get money — they spend it. However, consumers can avoid becoming a victim by taking the following precautions:

- Don't allow yourself to be pushed into a hurried decision.
- Always request written information by mail about the product, service, investment or charity and about the organization that's offering it.
- Don't make any investment or purchase you don't fully understand.
- Ask what state or federal agencies the firm is regulated by and be sure to be regulated with.
- Check for the company's address and telephone number.
- If an investment or major purchase is involved, request that information also be sent to your accountant, financial advisor, banker or attorney for evaluation and an opinion.
- Ask what recourse you would have if you make a purchase and aren't satisfied.
- Beware of testimonials that you may have no way of checking out.
- Don't provide personal financial information over the phone, unless you are absolutely certain the caller has a bona fide need to know.
- If you are simply not interested, if you come subject to high-pressure sales tactics (if you hear your own sales judgment whispering that you may be making a serious mistake, just bring it up).
- Consumers will probably be using their credit cards more than usual during the holiday season and the FTC would like to alert them to a multi-million dollar problem — a credit card fraud.

People "misappropriate" credit card numbers — that is, use card numbers but the card itself — without permission. Such fraud can occur if dishonest sales clerk or telephone salesperson make extra copies of a credit card number when taking an order and use those numbers illegally, or if a thief picks up the numbers from discarded receipts or carbons and then uses those numbers illegally.

The FTC advises consumers to especially wary of two new types of "misappropriation" that are being used to increase consumers' credit card numbers fraudulently. One involves telephone telemarketing companies that have got a price as the result of a drawing of charge card number for prize verification. The other involves calling for offers at an "unbelievable price."

The FTC recommends that consumers take the following precautions to guard against credit card fraud:

- Sign new credit cards as soon as they arrive and keep records of credit card numbers and expiration dates, along with the card company's address and telephone number.
- Keep an eye on credit cards during transactions and, resist, them promptly.
- Avoid signing blank receipts whenever possible. When signing, draw a line through the blank space above the total and keep copies of the receipts to compare with charges on the monthly billing statements.
- Destroy all carbons and make sure that any incorrect receipts are destroyed.
- Never give your credit card number over the telephone, unless you have initiated the transaction and are dealing with a reputable company.
- Review credit card accounts promptly every month and report any questionable charges to the company in writing.
- Never lend credit cards, leave credit cards or receipts lying around or write credit card numbers on a postcard or on the outside of an envelope.

If a credit card is lost or stolen, consumers should call the card company immediately. Most companies have toll-free numbers for consumers to report missing or stolen cards. Consumers should be liable up to \$50 for unauthorized purchases made after their cards prior to their call. However, under federal law, once consumers report a loss or theft, they are not liable for any unauthorized charges after they call.

Shopping in November and December often means paying credit card bills infrequently and frequently. As a result, consumers should be aware of their bills because, while billing errors occur, they are easy to resolve. If consumers know how to use their Credit Billing Act:

The FBA generally applies only to open-end credit accounts. Open-end accounts include credit cards, revolving charge accounts and overdraft checking. The periodic bills, including statements, consumers receive for such accounts are covered by the FBA. The act does not apply to bills for credit sale which is paid according to a fixed schedule until the entire amount is paid back.

The FBA settlement procedure applies only to disputes involving errors on periodic statements. When many consumers find a mistake on their bill, they pick up the phone and call the company to correct the problem. Consumers will do this if it is the wisest, but phoning does not trigger legal safeguards provided under the FBA.

To be protected under the law, the consumer must send a separate written billing error notice to the creditor. The notice must reach the creditor within 60 days after the first bill containing the error was mailed to the consumer. The consumer must send the notice to the address provided in the bill for billing error notices. The consumer's letter must include the following information:

- The consumer's name and account number.
- A statement that the consumer believes the bill contains a billing error and the dollar amount involved.
- The reason why the consumer believes there is a mistake.

It's a good idea for consumers to send it by certified mail with a return receipt requested. That way the consumer will have proof of the dates of mailing and receipt. If the consumer wishes, he or she may send the notice by registered mail and receipt. If the consumer wishes, he or she may send the notice by registered mail and receipt.

While the bill is being disputed, the consumer may withhold payment of the amount in dispute, including the affected portions of minimum payments and finance charges, until the dispute is resolved. Consumers are still required to pay any part of the bill which is not in dispute, including finance and other charges on installment contracts.

While the FBA dispute settlement procedure is going on, the following practices may be useful for consumers to collect the amount in dispute. The consumer's account may not be closed or restricted in any way except that the disputed amount may be applied against the consumer's credit limit.

Finally, disputes about the quality of goods and services are not necessarily billing errors, so the dispute procedure may not apply. However, if the consumer purchases unsatisfactory goods or services with a credit card, the FBA allows the consumer to take the same legal actions against the credit issuer as the consumer could take under the state law against the seller.

If consumers experience mail-order, credit or warranty problems, the FTC recommends that they first phone the retailer or the manufacturer and attempt to resolve their problems. If that does not work, they should contact the local Better Business Bureau and state consumer protection officials. They may also wish to consult a consumer protection attorney and, for mail order orders, the U.S. Postal Service of the Direct Marketing Association, an industry-sponsored organization, at 1125 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y.

The FTC is interested in hearing from consumers as well because, though the agency cannot help individual disputes informing from consumers of their experiences and concerns is vital to the agency's enforcement of these laws.

Christmas tree farms abound in The Garden State

New Jersey is known for its terrific tomatoes, perfect peaches and sensational sweet corn, but at this time of year, Christmas trees head the list of the Garden State's " Jersey Fresh" agricultural bounty.

"Our Christmas tree farmers treat the trees like any other crop," Brown noted. "Christmas trees are planted, sheared and cultivated for harvest in

the fall. Whenever a tree is cut or lost to insects, diseases, wildlife or other factors, two or three new seedlings are planted for future harvest."

In addition to providing the seasonal greenery we've all come to love, Christmas tree farmers also provide green belts throughout the state that refresh the atmosphere and provide habitat for a wide variety of wild-

life and migratory birds. Brown added, "Christmas trees also cleanse the air that we breathe by consuming huge amounts of carbon dioxide and producing large quantities of oxygen into the atmosphere."

The Garden State's more than 3,000 Christmas tree growers and more than 7.8 million Christmas trees, on 28,845 acres, of the million or so live

trees New Jerseyans buy each year about 600,000 are harvested right here in the Garden State.

The New Jersey Christmas Tree Growers' Association 1998 guide to the state's Christmas and cut Christmas tree farms is available. The guide includes information about the situation of each of the Christmas tree farms. Many offer their customers a

wide selection of decorations — wreaths, poinsettias, tree stands and ornaments — to complete their tree selection, and even Santa Claus's list of scheduled seasonal visits during December. Since Christmas and cut Christmas trees are harvested so close together, they can be replanted after the holidays.

For a free copy of the guide, contact New Jersey Christmas Growers at 805 Brookside Drive, Toms River, NJ 08725.

Also, directions to a farm near in your area can be found by visiting the NJCTGA web site at: <http://www.njchristmastree.com>

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MORRISTOWN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

If you haven't been to Morristown lately you just can't imagine what you've been missing. This quaint historic town of less than three square miles is currently experiencing a renaissance unlike any community in all of New Jersey. There is so much packed into this exciting and vibrant town that you'll want to spend the day enjoying its unique charm and plentiful amenities. What better time than the holiday season to take the short trip to visit the crown jewel of Morris County. You'll even be treated to free on-street parking through Christmas Day courtesy of the Morristown Partnership on behalf of the entire Morristown business community.

Morristown is a shoppers' delight offering all that the malls serve up with some added pleasures for both kids and adults alike. Mother Nature's mild winter has made walking the historic tree-lined streets that much more enjoyable this year. You'll be able to shop our mix of recognizable national stores as well as quality specialty shops that you just won't find anywhere else. You'll be sure to find the perfect gifts for everyone on your list while enjoying the special ambience of this special little town with the energy of a mini-city.

Santa sets up shop in a very big way in Morristown for the season, transforming the town's centrally located park - the Green, into a child's delight. Christmas on the Green has been welcoming the vivid

Continued on Page B10



SHOP MORRISTOWN FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Walk the festive streets of our quaint downtown while you choose your gifts from our selection of fine national stores and unique specialty shops.

FREE HOLIDAY PARKING

AT ON-STREET METERS ALL OVER TOWN
thru Christmas Day

Courtesy of the Morristown Business Community
(TWO HOUR TIME LIMIT REMAINS IN EFFECT)



STOP HERE BEFORE YOU SHOP THERE

www.morristownnj.com

for more information contact:

Morristown Partnership

(973) 455-1133



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Let me show you Morristown

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George P. Jenkins Jr.

Broker / Owner

- Born and raised in Morris County
- Full time Realtor for 20 years
- Broker/Owner of RE/MAX at Morristown Since 1991
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RE/MAX at Morristown

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MALLED

Come visit EPSTEIN'S, New Jersey's most unique and exciting department store. Our store is chock full of treasures for the entire family and home you will not find just anywhere. We offer a civilized shopping experience and superior services unlike the overcrowded, impersonal malls.

Holiday Gift Wrap and Most Standard Alterations are FREE OF CHARGE!

EPSTEIN'S

ON THE GREEN IN MORRISTOWN, 973-538-5000

Home For The Holidays MORRISTOWN



There is no one like us!
Marty's Reliable Cycle



Christmas Sale -
Soooo Many Shoes



Gifts that would
be appreciated!



Give Grin
Marty's Reliable Cycle



Bring
Marty's Reliable Cycle

The Perfect Holiday Gift
A New Bicycle

MARTY'S RELIABLE CYCLE

BICYCLES ARE A GIFT THAT IS
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
AND A GREAT WAY TO A
HEALTHY LIFE STYLE

All
Bikes in
Stock
10% OFF
all Dec
24th



Bring
this
Ad in
for Free
Gift

Celebrating
20 Years

MARTY'S RELIABLE CYCLE

Hours:
Sun 12-5, Mon-12-8, Tues 10-6, Wed 12-8, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-6, Sat 10-6,
Dec 24 10-2
173 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown 973-538-7773
38 Route 10 West, Succasunna 973-584-7773
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MAN

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WEEK
SPECIAL!**
ALL SHOES &
HANDBAGS IN THE
STORE-THIS WEEK
ONLY!

**20-30-
50% OFF**

OUR ALREADY
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Soooo Many Shoes Warehouse
AND NOW
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Mon & Tues 10am-8:30pm • Wed & Thurs 10am-8pm
• Fri & Sat 10am-6pm • Sun 11am-5pm



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VISIT OUR BACK DOOR STORE
WHERE EVERY PAIR OF SHOES
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DRAWING

Prize
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Home For The Holidays

MORRISTOWN

Weichert



ULTIMATE UTOPIA
RANDOLPH • Beautiful Lexington model in Heritage Village! This grand Colonial exudes every upgrade and amenity! Partial stone front porch (see facade), hardwood floors, partial finished basement, large deck, kitchen with center island open to family room with attractive fireplace. \$479,900. (928-0954991)

(973) 455-1900



ROLLING HILLS DELIGHT
BERNARDSVILLE • Young Colonial in new subdivision! Many amenities including hardwood flooring on the first floor, gas fireplace, upgraded kitchen, Master suite with tray ceiling, beautifully landscaped lot. Walk to train, bus. Move right in! \$399,900. (928-905840)

(973) 455-1900



ROOM TO ROAM
RANDOLPH • Meticulous Colonial offers neutral decor, flowing floor plan, hardwood floors throughout, generous room sizes, brick walkout fireplace, sliders from family room to deck, central air, and all these amenities, can be yours! \$279,900. (928-905491)

(973) 455-1900



REALITY WITH OPULENCE
MORRIS TOWNSHIP • 4,000 sq. ft. with 3 fireplaces, and finished with granite, marble, hardwood floors, Brown-Cofax custom kitchen, volume ceiling, open, spacious and bright! Security system, recessed lighting, full length sliders at the main entrance, no deck, private inground pool. \$604,000. (928-905631)

(973) 455-1900



HERITAGE VILLAGE '07'
RANDOLPH • 4 1/2-story community built by BIC/Burgh, U.S. Co. of New York. Proposed Golf Course! Generous selection of elegant home designs situated on a acre lots, each with fine. Storage features, double fireplace, multiple views of 65,000 sq. ft. in-home theater, 4th Master Suite, W/F, A/C, spa and home security system. Visit the Sales Center Saturday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. Priced from \$439,500!

(973) 455-1900



WOW WHATT A HOUSE!
MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP • Wow Whatta Neighborhood! Better than new young colonial on premium lot loaded with upgrades including extra large cedar deck, professionally landscaped, and professionally finished full basement and more! \$292,500. (928-095831)

(973) 455-1900



COUNTRY UTOPIA
HARDING TOWNSHIP • Custom home to be built to suit on close to 5 acres in sought after Harding Township, Come and turn this private setting into your "foreverly styled dream house!" Lot also available for \$349,000. \$999,000. (928-005479)

(973) 455-1900



HEAVEN IN HARDING
HARDING TOWNSHIP • Wonderful Center Hill Colonial with rural ambience. The neighborhood home offers exceptional flow and all amenities: back yard family room with fireplace, oak kitchen with center island, first floor den, vaulted master suite, bonus office or spare bedroom. \$539,900. (928-905959)

(973) 455-1900



BEAUTIFUL!
MOUNTAIN LAKES • Renovated, new kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, large wonderful family room, wine cellar, indoor pool, spacious in-law suite with kitchen, bath, LR, DR & 3BR and just across of the best of this wonderful home. \$750,000. (928-095386)

(973) 455-1900

Continued from page B8
 imaginations of wide-eyed kids of all ages each year since 1913. Santa and his elves sit in the center of the park surrounded by giant rocking horses, holiday trees and lights and plenty of festive music filling the crisp seasonal air. Young visitors can preserve their special experience and fond memories forever with a picture of themselves on the lap of old Saint Nick.

As with most area shopping destinations, this annual year-end holiday shopping period is one of the busiest times of year for the business community. It's a time when Morristown's business owners with their many years of valuable experience and exceptional customer service can make holiday shopping a lot easier for you. As you attempt to fulfill the wish lists of your most favorite people, Morristown's local merchants will be working overtime to assure that you'll find everything you are looking for in our friendly downtown atmosphere. Many offer special services during the holidays like free gift wrapping and entertainment to treat for the kids.

While in town to shop you might choose to take a break and experience a bit of history. Morristown, commonly referred to as "The Military Capital of the Revolution" offers insight into our great country's beginnings. The Historic Morris Visitors Center located at 6 Court Street right in town can offer you information and directions to a

Continued on page B12

YOUR PARTNER IN SUCCESS

Meet Your Morristown West Office

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Carol Poandl
 Morristown West
 973-455-1900

Agency and Professional Credentials

- Membered for 3 Years
- Member of NJ Association of Realtors
- Member of Morris County Board of Realtors
- Member SARESS
- Weichert Million Dollar Sales Club
- Weichert National Golden Martlet Club
- Coldwell New Home Specialist
- Prior Business Experience
- Real Estate Broker/Engineer
- Realtor for 18 years

Business Philosophy:

- Committed to providing the very highest level of service in the real estate industry
- Excellent record highlighting as a quality realtor
- Extensive marketing tools
- Accompany and observe experience in auction of real estate
- Leadership in building "High Performance Team"
- Proven 600+ sales
- Statewide reputation, extensive analytical, networking and financing experience

Community Involvement:

- Member of Morris County Youth Center
- Formerly Cancer Society and Program Health Association
- Member of Morris County Chamber since 1983

Take a break from all that Shopping at

MONGEY'S

FAMOUS RESTAURANTS & IRISH PUBS

Serving the area for more than twenty five years

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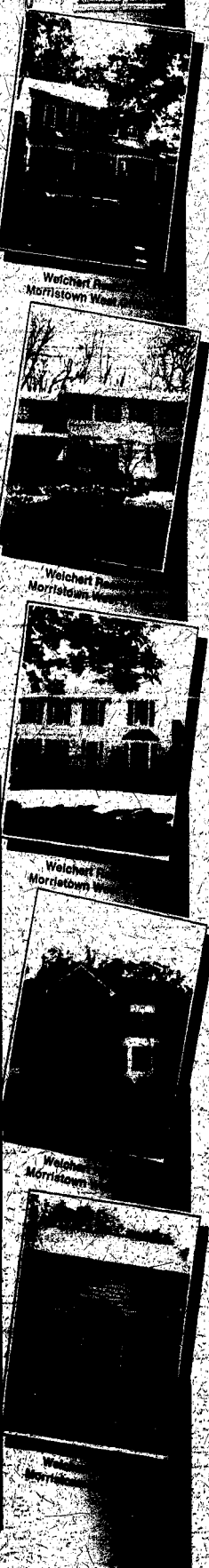
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MOLLY MALONES

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 Whippany, NJ

887-5070



Weichert
 Realtors

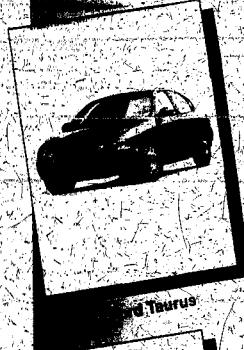
Home For The Holidays MORRISTOWN



Chevrolet Corvette



Ford Explorer



Ford Taurus



Ford Cherokee



Ford Taurus

*Best Wishes
for a Very
Healthy Holiday
and
Happy New Year!*

DRIVE WITH CARE

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THERE REALLY IS A DIFFERENCE!

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| Warnock Ford 170 Ridgedale Ave. Morristown, NJ 07962 (973) 844-3200 | Warnock Nissan 111 Ridgedale Ave. Morristown, NJ 07962 (973) 267-0800 | Don's Chrysler/Plymouth/ Jeep 111 Ridgedale Ave. Morristown, NJ 07962 (973) 267-8300 | Warnock Chevrolet 200 Ridgedale Ave. Morristown, NJ 07962 (973) 684-4700 |
|---|---|--|--|

Home For The Holidays MORRISTOWN

Continued from page B10

multitude of sites ranging from the Revolutionary, Gilded or Industrial Ages. Many are within walking distance or a short drive from the town's central business district.

Although Morristown is steeped in its historic past it is also at the forefront of current technology. If you need some help locating a particular Morristown merchant before you venture to town - try logging onto the Internet at morristownnj.com and use the searchable database with all types of businesses all over town. You can even print out comprehensive travel directions to ease your mind as you plan to navigate the roadways from home to our variety of special destinations.

Once you've made your way to Morristown you'll find that the friendly business people and down to Earth townsfolk will ensure that your visit is a pleasant one and that you'll want to come back soon. But while you're here please stay for lunch or dinner - Morristown boasts a selection of nearly 100 restaurants to please the palate of almost any preference. Don't miss the chance to visit the Dublin Pub, a Morristown original now celebrating its 25th anniversary. The Pub, as it is commonly known by regulars, offers a diverse menu that includes traditional Irish fare of corned beef and cabbage, Dublin-style fish and chips, and a weekly special of Irish beef shepherd's pie. Of course you can also share in the multitude of libations including the pride of the Pub - the 20 ounce imperial pint of Guinness stout.

If you need some help in deciding on that special gift for that special someone try another Morristown institution - Marty's Reliable Cycle. In business for 20 years, Marty himself is recognized as a local icon and his now famous shop offers a full selection of quality bicycles. You'll find bikes and trikes for the first time rider, as well as juvenile and BMX for the kids. You can also choose from mountain bikes in all price ranges, and road or hybrid machines for the enthusiast or casual rider. A top notch service department and an extensive selection of parts, accessories and clothing are what make Marty's a shop unlike all others and worth the trip.

You'll want to look your best for the holidays as well - Morristown offers a fine selection of clothing in all price ranges, styles and even specialty lines. Frank's Big and Tall has operated its chain of stores for 52 years. For the hard to fit proportions of extra large and very tall. Frank's offers customer service that is unparalleled. Each of its seven locations offers a full service tailor shop for onsite alterations when needed. BIG & TALL is Frank's exclusive business - clothing the customer from head to toe. A full-fledged footwear department provides styles in extra wide or extra long. Frank's serves the needs of many high caliber athletes as well as people from all walks of life - it would be their pleasure to welcome you to the world of Frank's Big and Tall.

Right around the corner you'll find Soco Many Shoes - offering one of the largest selections of quality footwear available anywhere. You'll find just what you're looking for to fit the sizes and tastes of the entire family. Discounted prices alone make this destination worth the trip. The selection of both common brands and unique brands provides a selection you'll be hard pressed to find elsewhere. The helpful staff will

joyfully welcome you as they help you locate just what you're looking for.

If you're having trouble deciding what to get for certain people on your list you can offer them the gift of choice with a Morristown Partnership Gift Certificate. With it your recipient can choose just what they want from dozens and dozens of fine shops including the GAP, GAP Kids, Godiva Chocolates or they can even treat themselves or a friend to a great meal! You can take in a movie at the Clearview Cinema or a show at the Community Theatre. The certificates are accepted as cash by just about any business in town and offer you the convenience of finding the perfect fit for anyone on your gift list.

Okay so now you've we've introduced you to some of what makes Morristown so great - so we know you'll want to come back often. We'd like to make the ride as enjoyable as possible so why not check out the latest cars from one of the area's most distinguished automotive dealerships - Warnock Automotive Group. For over 22 years the Warnock family has offered one of the largest selections of fine automobiles through its six dealerships. You can choose from Dodge, Jeep/Eagle, Chrysler/Plymouth, Ford, Nissan, Chevrolet, or Lexus. There really is a difference with Warnock and selection is just the beginning - hard to beat pricing and award winning sales and service are what keep customers coming back year after year. The folks at Warnock have made major contributions to the quality of life in our community as well - particularly in Morristown as the presenting sponsor of the annual Fall Festival on the Green held each September.

Although the drive to Morristown is a relatively short one, we'd love it if you'd consider becoming part of our wonderful community. Morristown is home to a number of great realtors that can provide you with a line on your dream house right here in town. Weichert Realtors is the number one broker in Morris County listing and selling more homes than any one else. Weichert's Morristown West Office, one of the company's top offices has just opened a new state of the art facility that offers one stop shopping for all of your real estate needs. They include buyer specialists, new construction, condo/townhouses, and luxury properties and estates. You can make the move from Essex or Union County to lower taxes, great schools, and an easy commute to NYC and we'll welcome you with open arms.

Another option for your real estate needs in Morristown and the surrounding communities is RE/MAX at Morristown. George P. Jenkins, Jr. Broker/Owner was born and raised in Morristown and brings 20 years of full time real estate experience to your service. Stop in and see George at his new location, 237 South Street in Morristown and let him show you all that Morristown has to offer!

On behalf of the many people who choose Morristown as the premier community in which to live, work, play or do business we wish you and your families a most enjoyable holiday season and prosperous and healthy New Year. We look forward to your anticipated visit. If you are in need of any additional information on the town please feel free to call your new friends at the Morristown Partnership at (973) 455-1133.



Nine West
Soco Many



The Church of The
founded in 1860



Soco Many
Soco Many



19th C
Cherry



A
Home of
Newark

100% College Placement!

Morristown-Beard School

Preparing young people, grades 6 - 12, for a changing future

- Small Classes
- Individual Attention
- Challenging Academics
- Championship Athletics
- Fine and Performing Arts Programs

Open House

Ready To Make The Right Move?

Select a Multi Million Dollar Profession...
...to Work for You!

With John Lobo, Broker/Owner Representative with Weichert Realtors, you can be the one who makes the difference. John is a full-time professional and has been in the real estate business for over 20 years. He has a proven track record with commercial and residential sales, and is a member of the National Association of Realtors. He is a member of the Morris County Board of Realtors and the Morris County Board of Education. He is also a member of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce.

Before you make a commitment to any real estate program, you should first ask yourself: "Can I afford to make the move?" Weichert Realtors can help you find the right buyer for your home when you're ready to make the move.

JOAN LOBO, GRI
Broker/Sales Representative
Weichert Union Data Sales
E. Morristown, NJ
NJAR/MORC Data Sales
200-198-1900
Weichert Ambassadors Club
Corporate Relocation Specialist

Weichert Realtors
Morristown West Office
(973) 455-1133

Stepping Out is a weekly calendar... in the Union County area.

Stepping Out

will display 'An Visions from the Heart of Scotch Plains'...

Tomorrow, King Norris... Saturday, Strunge Brue, Eric Clapton tribute.



The Nutcracker will be presented by NJ Ballet tomorrow through Dec. 27 at Paper Mill Playhouse in Milburn.

ART SHOWS TOMASULO GALLERY at Union County College in Cranford will feature...

ART AT OVERLOOK Hospital in Summit will feature 'Works in Progress' by student members of Morris County Art Association...

THE COVE in Roselle will feature the following bands: Tomorrow, The Casualties, Tuna Doom, The Epitones, Skulls, Enemy Me, A.O.O.

CLASSES

LINDEN ART ASSOCIATION will hold classes at Sunnyside Recreation Center...

COMEDY

JOE'S RESTAURANT in Tavern in the Park in Roselle Park presents comedians featured on HBO and VH1 on Fridays.

NEW YEARS

LINDEN Knights of Columbus will host a New Year's Eve dinner dance from 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

ST. THOMAS Parish in Rahway will host a New Year's Eve Party from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Three Squares Restaurant in Summit... Celebrate Kwanzaa on Saturday at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at NJ Performing Arts Center.

OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE

will be on display through Dec. 30 at NJ Center for Visual Arts in Summit.

CLARK LIBRARY

will display the oil paintings of Rahway resident Art Schaefer through January.

CASUAL TIMES

restaurant features comedians on Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.

RADIO

PIPEDREAMS, a program featuring pop music, is aired every Saturday at 9:30 p.m. on WVVE-FM 91.5.

SKATE WITH SANTA

WBOG 88.3 FM serves the metropolitan area with mainstream jazz, blues and public affairs programming.

will take place Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wannaco Joe Skating Center in Roselle.

LAM Gallery

in Elizabeth will display jewelry by painter Thomas Kirkwood through Dec. 24.

CLARK LIBRARY

will display the oil paintings of Rahway resident Art Schaefer through January.

CLARK LIBRARY

will display the oil paintings of Rahway resident Art Schaefer through January.

FILM

ELIZABETH LIBRARY will screen 'Swinglow to Heaven' on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

SOUL BEGINNINGS

is a weekly feature on KISS-FM 98.7, airing on Sundays from 10:10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

WINTER HOURS

at the Golf Course, is closed through April.

WINTER HOURS

at the Golf Course, is closed through April.

SKULLS ART GALLERY

of the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark will exhibit the paintings of Polish artist Franciszek Kulon through Dec. 31.

SUMMIT FRAME AND ART

is currently featuring Pulper Fantasy dating from 1909 to 1922.

CLARK LIBRARY

will display the oil paintings of Rahway resident Art Schaefer through January.

GOLF

WINTER HOURS at Ash Brook and Oak Ridge golf courses are 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Mondays.

KIDS

CLUB BABY at Barnes and Noble book store in Springfield will feature music.

WINTER HOURS

at the Golf Course, is closed through April.

JACOB TRAPP GALLERY

will display color prints by James Whiffen through Jan. 3.

EDITIONS: TEN

Specializations will be on display through Jan. 6 at NJ Center for Visual Arts in Summit.

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IMAGES OF THE AMERICAN WEST

by photographer Hal Norman (Kroger) will be on display through Jan. 7 at Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Library.

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Alma Patricia Brandon Farley, seated, will speak at the Fellowship Club of Summit today at 1:30 p.m. Standing: Helen K. Arrieta of the Fellowship Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION: The following information is being provided to you for your information. If you have any questions, please call the appropriate office.

SCOTT DRUKKER
973-857-4004 Anytime

ENTERTAINMENT

GREAT SCOTT!
IT'S MAGIC

PERSONALS

DIAL A BIBLE MESSAGE
908-964-6356

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ANTIQUES

FLEA MARKETS

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ANTIQUES

FLEA MARKETS

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MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

STEEL

STEEL

WANTED TO BUY

MAX WEINSTEIN SONS, INC.
HONEST WEIGHTS—BEST PRICES
Always Buying Scrap Metals
2426 Morris Ave. (near Burnet) Union
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BATHROOMS

BUSINESS SERVICE

SERVICES OFFERED

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BUSINESS SERVICE

FLOORS

KENNY FLOORING
BEST DEALS

GUTTERS/LEADERS

FLOORS

KENNY FLOORING
BEST DEALS

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KENNY FLOORING
BEST DEALS

GUTTERS/LEADERS

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

GENERAL REPAIRS

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HOME REPAIRS

LANDSCAPING

HOLLYWOOD LANDSCAPING
ARTISTIC LANDSCAPING DESIGN

LANDSCAPING

HOLLYWOOD LANDSCAPING
ARTISTIC LANDSCAPING DESIGN

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Real Estate

Is now the right time to put home on market?

Homeowners who are thinking about selling their homes in the near future may want to consider putting it on the market now. According to Coldwell Banker...
Conventional wisdom says the housing market slows for the holiday. In fact, homeowners are often told to wait until the first of the year to put their house on the market. While that may have been good advice years ago, it's no longer the case. Coldwell Banker sales professionals find that people are shopping for a house all year around — even in December. — The onset of the holiday season stirs images of a family coming

together to dinner in the dining room, opening presents in front of a crackling fireplace, and partying with friends in the spacious, family room. These powerful images make even the most frugal home buyer very appealing to buyers during the holiday season. Coldwell Banker sales associates find that the people shopping during the holidays are serious buyers. They just to move, or they are waiting for just the right house to come available because they haven't been able to find what they want. The prospect of having a house of their own or a larger house for next year's holiday can be a powerful motivator to make a buying

decision. All hopes are worn and wearing at the holiday season. In some ways it's easier for a homeowner to market their house during the holidays. Most homeowners have cleaned their house for the holidays anyway. They are already making an extra effort to keep the house tidy. They may even have holiday music on the CD player and a fire in the fireplace. Even the extra effort can be attributed to holiday enthusiasm. Homeowners who want to buy a new house next year will find putting their house on the market now the most advantageous. They will be in a

much better position to get the best price they want when the market heats up in the spring. Homeowners who have a contract on their house, have a need that over the people who want to move. It's a competitive market and Coldwell Banker sales associates have found the best houses go to the people who can make an immediate offer — without many contingencies. There are many good reasons to put a house on the market now rather than waiting. Call your local Coldwell Banker office to find out what's going on in your market, and if they think it's a good time to sell your home.



Anthony D'Agostino of ERA Village Green Realtors in Clark meets with Bob Yapp to discuss a new partnership.

ERA, Bob Yapp unite to protect consumers

ERA, Village Green Realtors and About Your House with Bob Yapp have teamed up to help consumers protect and maintain the sizable investment made in the American home. In October of this year, ERA became the exclusive real estate sponsor of the popular PBS program for the 1998-99 season. ERA Village Green Realtors is proud to be a sponsor of About Your House with Bob Yapp, said Anthony D'Agostino. Like Bob Yapp, we at ERA Village Green Realtors are committed to providing Americans with information they need to make decisions about buying. Yapp's home property developer and home capsules, offer tips and strategies for improving, renovating and maintaining a home. The seven-part reality television series and guide for the do-it-yourselfer as well as those who prefer to hire a contractor. One of the leading real estate companies in the world, ERA network is comprised of more than 2,600 independently owned and operated brokerage offices with more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 19 other countries. Through its innovative products and services, ERA is committed to providing its brokers and agents with a higher level of training and technology, resulting in a higher level of professionalism. ERA Franchise Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of Century Corporation (NYSE:CD), is a leader in the residential real estate industry with over 25 years of experience in developing consumer-oriented products and services. ERA is available to consumers on the internet at www.era.com

Weichert guide offers tips for selling your home

A new edition of "Selling Your Home" is available to no charge to homeowners who want to get the best offer when selling their homes. The guide, published by Weichert Realtors, explains the importance of having a well-thought-out marketing plan when preparing to move. The guide covers the top strategic steps that Weichert Realtors' sales agents use — identifying your market; adding value to your home; determining maximum price; and maximizing market. According to the guide, "Good offers come typically as the direct result of good marketing — and that begins with the research and planning that occurs before the lawn sign goes up." The type of research and planning that your sales agent should do includes: imagine people who are most likely to buy your house; promoting your house through advertising, the internet, and open houses; and pricing your home accurately right from the start. Often, a few small cosmetic improvements can make a big difference in whether or not buyers react favorably to your home. In the "Selling Your Home" guide, Weichert Realtors provides specific suggestions for getting your house ready for maximum sale. It includes a free, 30-day, helpful tip included in Weichert's 12-step program for adding value to your home.

The front door should be clean and painted. If no door, and the lawn should be fertilized, well mowed and edged.

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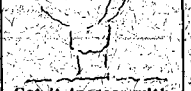
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