



# Union County

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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1999 SECTION B

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## Salary increases approved

By Mark Hrywna  
Regional Editor

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders approved salary increases for its members along with department heads and other county officials last month.

Freeholders awarded themselves pay hikes of \$1,500, an increase of roughly 6 percent. Freeholders will make \$25,000 in 1998 while the freeholder vice chairperson will earn \$26,000 and the chairperson, \$27,000.

The freeholders also received an increase of \$1,000 last year, according to County Manager Mike LaPolla. Last year's raise was the first in eight years, he said.

Union County freeholders now rank seventh in salary out of New Jersey's 21 counties. Hudson County is the highest at \$30,470 while Cumberland County is the lowest at \$15,000. Those numbers are through 1998 are do not reflect any retroactive

increases that may have been approved.

The salaries are based on the size of the county which puts Union County's freeholders in line with being the seventh largest in terms of population, according to Michael Murray, Union County public information director.

The public information office, he said, researched other freeholder salaries, as well as county department heads and submitted its findings to the board.

A majority of the increases for department heads were approximately 3.5 percent, including those for directors of administrative services, operational services, public safety, financial and county manager. The deputy county manager received an increase of 3.7 percent.

The administrator for Rancocas Hospital in Berkeley Heights received a 4.5 percent increase while the director

of human services received an 8 percent raise.

All increases are retroactive to Jan. 1, 1998. LaPolla said raises for department heads are traditionally approved at the end of the year when negotiations with employees and staff have been completed.

County directors are not on the same standing as employees and general staff, said Freeholder Donald Goncalves, but are in leadership positions. "People want to see some forms of merit-based compensation," he said, and the county administration has been responsible for stabilizing taxes and not increase them for three straight years. "That's obviously something very positive." The county directors have maintained costs, he said, and they have been rewarded for it.

The clerk of the freeholder board received the largest raise — 21 percent — a \$12,000 increase over the

Position	1997 salary	1998 salary	Increase
Freeholder clerk	\$57,782	\$69,782	\$12,000/21%
Director, human services	\$83,569	\$90,254	\$6,685/8.0%
Freeholders	\$23,500	\$25,000	\$1,500/6.4%
Freeholder vice chair	\$24,500	\$26,000	\$1,500/6.1%
Freeholder chair	\$25,500	\$27,000	\$1,500/5.9%
Administrator, Rancocas	\$98,103	\$93,885	\$4,224/5.5%
Deputy county manager	\$96,250	\$99,840	\$3,590/3.7%
County manager	\$119,500	\$123,682	\$4,182/3.5%
County counsel	\$109,233	\$113,056	\$3,823/3.5%
Director, operational services	\$101,810	\$105,374	\$3,564/3.5%
Director, finance	\$99,335	\$92,461	\$3,126/3.5%
Director, public safety	\$85,000	\$87,975	\$2,975/3.5%
Director, administrative services	\$84,378	\$87,331	\$2,953/3.5%

1997 salary for that position. The board believed such an increase was warranted because the current clerk — Elizabeth Genievich — has proven herself to be a competent clerk," said Goncalves, and when she was hired last year, it was at a low salary range.

Murray said the clerk's position is

still the lowest paid department head yet she has a significant amount of work and responsibility with three divisions under her.

A reorganization within the existing structure of the freeholder clerk's office has brought added responsibilities and staffing changes, said Freeholder Linda Stender. She described it

as more of "a salary adjustment than a raise" for the freeholder clerk.

"The freeholders are moving toward a very proactive legislative body versus a pass-through agency of the state. We're putting in more time and are more engaged in setting policy, rather than rubber-stamping," said Stender.

## The Arc marks 50 years

By Phillip Scott Curran  
Staff Writer

At about a little after 2 p.m. workers at the Arc of Union County prepare to leave to go home. It's been another long day at the office, and like most probably they can't wait until the week ends and Friday comes.

And also like most, they look forward to getting their next paycheck. But what makes them different is that they suffer from developmental disabilities. Each new day that they are able to get up and go to work is, in itself, a significant personal victory, seeing that only a short time ago people with genetic problems were ripped from their families and placed in an institution, perhaps never to see the outside world again.

an institutional environment, to keep them at home.

With its first offices in Kenilworth, Arc began as a membership group, though it slowly evolved into an advocacy organization in the '50s and '60s. And within time, schools and group homes were opened, as perceptions about mentally handicapped people slowly changed. Feeling that the word "retarded" carried a stigma, organization members this decade began changing the name, so that the acronym Arc no longer stands for anything.

Today, the state-funded organization is helping not only to care for people with developmental disabilities, but helping them care for themselves.

A herby man, Patrick Calligan acts as director of operations, he supervises all the workers at the Plainfield office. It is here, and at the other offices in Union County, that his "guys" as he calls them, report each morning. He explained that some 22 companies ranging from commercial contractors to Arc, who in turn puts people with developmental disabilities to work.

Sitting together at a table, they do the kind of work no one thinks much about: from putting the spokes covers on lead pipes to the handles on paint cans. Much of the work is assembly-related.

"Guys who work for me are perceived as any work tones: strong, dedicated and very honest," Calligan said.

More than just an employment agency, Arc has facilities for early childhood development, which are located in New Providence and Wil-



Sandra Vincent left, and Jamal Robinson along with other workers at the Arc of Union County carry tubs of door stoppers. The Arc of Union County marks its 50th anniversary this year and the celebration will kick off Jan. 21 with a flag raising ceremony.

## Freeholders to reorganize on Sunday

By Mark Hrywna  
Regional Editor

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will host its annual reorganization meeting Sunday at 11 p.m. in the court of Assignment Judge Edward W. Bugin Jr., first floor tower, Old Courthouse, 2 Broad St., Elizabeth.

Democrat Dan Sullivan, Mary Rucolo and Lewis Mingo Jr. will be sworn in to their three-year terms following their landslide victory over the Republicans in November's election. All nine seats on the board will be controlled by the Democrats for the second consecutive year.

Ralph Froehlich also will be sworn in to his eighth term as Union County Sheriff on Sunday.

Freeholder Vice Chairman Nicholas Scouly of Linden is expected to succeed Sullivan as chairman while Sullivan makes over Scouly's vice chairmanship. The freeholders formally elect their chairperson at the annual reorganization meeting. Sullivan, a resident of Elizabeth, was chairman for the past year following a one-year tenure by Freeholder Linda Stender.

Sullivan was re-elected to his second term following his appointment to a one-year term in 1993. Rucolo, a Westfield resident, and Mingo of Plainfield were elected freeholders for the first time. Both were appointed earlier this year to fill vacancies created by the resignations of Carol Cohen and Walter McNeil. In Cohen took the position of county counsel while McNeil became the chief administrator of Plainfield.

It was 50 years ago this year that a group of resident parents of retarded children ising in the county banded together to form the Association for Retarded Children. Common practice back then was for parents to put their wayward schools would not teach them, and the burden on parents was often times too great a burden.

But that original group of parents defied the conventional wisdom, said Frank X. Caragher, executive director of the Arc. Acting alone and without much community support, those parents were modern day pioneers.

"At that time, many of their kids were being born with Down syndrome or other forms of disability, were told to institutionalize their children," Caragher said. "The parents chose not to do that. So what they did was come together, helping each other."

"A person with disabilities was devalued," he continued. "There was a great deal of stigma in those early days, parents not to place their children in

field park and to group homes which were far from four to five people.

It is a huge agency, and no one really knows what it does," Calligan said.

Back with parental hope for their children growing, small occupational steps are not enough, Caragher said. "Parents' expectations are radically changing and that will be a significant impact on what the Arc can do."

More than just an employment agency, Arc has facilities for early childhood development, which are located in New Providence and Wil-

A new feature of Arc, "Lifetime Support" will provide guardianship services, which will give parents peace of mind knowing their child will be taken care of when they are no longer able to.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary, Arc's executive officials are planning a grand flag raising ceremony that will be held outside the organization's Plainfield office on South Avenue. And throughout the year,

there will be events to mark the anniversary.

Former county freeholder and now Plainfield business administrator Walter D. McNeil Jr. said Arc has played an integral role in Union County. "The Arc of Union County does many great things for people who are challenged, and their families," he said.

For more information about the Arc of Union County call (908) 754-7826.

The awards program, started in 1977, plays an important role in promoting a safer and healthier workplace and is open to all places of employment, public and private regardless of size. It is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Labor, New Jersey State Industrial Safety Committee and the New Jersey State Safety Council. RSVP to (908) 332-0900 by fax your response to (908) 332-3865.

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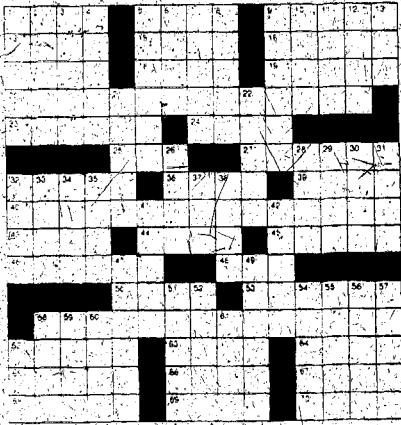
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- 7. Air money.
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(See ANSWERS of Page 10)



Pushcart Players in a scene from Stone Soup and Other Stories' story theater production, a collection of folk tales from around the world for young audiences. For information, call (973) 857-1115.

### Touring children's theater troupe offers educational opportunities

Pushcart Players, touring children's theater company offers the following workshops and residencies:

**Creative Drama Workshop Exercises** — An imagination, movement, story-telling and other theater games tailored to the age and needs of a school or organization. While nurtured, creative, self-expression, self-esteem, and production experience, how to use the skills to act and present dramatic activities suitable to the audience. Excerpts of these workshops include creative writing and improvisations.

**The Informance** — An innovative adventure in learning about the arts. Designed to follow performances, The Informance is a 30-40 minute, multimedia discussion on the components of theater. Structured to be accessible to even young as well as older students, an Informance is tailored to the age, size and specific interests of any audience.

**Partnerships** — An innovative mentoring program designed to broaden the impact of theater arts by pairing older students with younger ones in preparing for attending and following-up on a live theater presentation in the school. Pushcart artists will have a hands-on role in all pre and post-show activities.

**Self-scripting monologue workshop** — An empowering workshop that enables adolescents to express their thoughts and feelings in a safe and

### HOROSCOPE

**For Jan. 11 to Jan. 17**  
**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — Expect an educational encounter with someone in authority. Be alert for opportunities that could help boost your career. Don't second-guess a decision you've made.  
**TAL PIS** (April 20-May 20) — Deal with problems associated with money. Know your rights and make an offer for sale. Within the guidelines of an agreement, travel requires adjustment.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) — Making sudden changes in your financial life at this time is ill-advised. A well-thought-out plan is needed. Work to get over feelings of jealousy or mistrust.  
**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) — A serious partner with a creative spark. Match a holistic, holistic, holistic and social activities. Response to regulations or an agreement, among will be sure.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug 23) — A heavy of

body work schedule is charged. Pace yourself this week as activities require the extra push of capital or stamina. Take a moment and get organized on the homefront.  
**VIRGO** (Aug 24 to Sept 22) — Give a loved one or an important friend some needed extra space. Avoid updating your mobile car. You've got paying bills. Don't come on too strong in a romantic moment.  
**LIBRA** (Sept 23-Oct 23) — The emphasis is on your health and family. Don't use indifference to mask needed changes in the domestic environment. Lay the foundation for your future goals and ambitions.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct 24 to Nov 22) — Strive for clarity and focus. Be true to your own desires and beliefs. If

you're a co-worker or associate. Don't make any promises you can't keep. Plan carefully for a coming meeting.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23-Dec 22) — Review your own financial picture. Review or revise your budget. Cut back on unnecessary spending. An extra family member might appear unexpectedly.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec 23-Jan 19) — You should be well on the road to success and peace. Review your opportunities. Stay on top of quickly developing opportunities.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan 20-Feb 19) — The accent is on behind-the-scenes activity. You can summarize a period of time. Review your plans and make adjustments if necessary. Consider

your own role in the past.  
**PISCES** (Feb 20-March 20) — Club groups or organizations form your activities this week. The focus is on shared goals. Join in and help with important financial decisions.  
**It's your birthday** this week, gather your energy and work to accomplish an important goal during the coming year. Become an authority in your area of expertise and share or teach what you know. Social activities bring a special excitement to your life. Behave as if you're a subject in change. Meet new people who sparkle and enlighten you.  
**Also born this week:** L. L. Cool J., Kirkcaldy, Kasey-Caspe, John-Carper, Jim-Casper, Sammi-Jada, Luke-Matheson, Chad-Lowe, Denise-Avella and Mack-Taylor

### 'Works in Pastel' are featured at hospital exhibit

The new exhibit of Art at Overlook, the Overlook Auxiliary program, featuring the display and sale of original art is "Works in Pastel" by members of the Monroe County Art Association. The paintings by sign-ups of Catherine DeBary, a teacher of pastel painting at the MCAA, will be featured through Jan. 16 at the Auxiliary Gallery on the fifth floor at Overlook Hospital, 99 Boulevard Avenue, Monticello. A percentage of all sales will be used to support cancer care at Overlook Hospital.

DeBary is a graduate of the New York School of Fine Arts and New York University where she received a B.S. in art. She is president of the Pastel Society of America and an active member of the Saltingmire Club and the Catherine DeBary Writers Art Club, both of New York City. Her pastel paintings have been published in several books on the subject and she has won numerous prizes for her work.

The Monroe County Art Association is devoted to promoting the study of the arts in the region. To this end it provides various courses presented by local artists in painting, sculpture and the studio, located at 10 Catherine Lane, Monticello. Interested parties can learn more about the Association by calling (873) 265-1772.

The following artists are participating in the exhibit:

- Barbara Beckman-Davis, Christine DeBary, Robert Easter, Julie Friedman, Pam Gosler, Michelle Guertler, Kate Trusk-Kurz, Ruth Long, Linda McCannell, Danielle Mick, Elaine Pascal, Aaron Presser, Ingrid Sheenfeld, and Ann Zeig.

For additional information, contact Kay Ann Ledbetter, chairperson of Art at Overlook, at (832) 302-1233.



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# HEALTHY LIVING

## NEWS CLIPS

The following free support groups are available at St. Barnabas Medical Center.

- **Parenting Insights** - This informational gathering is an opportunity for new parents to meet, compare ideas about baby care and ask Saint Barnabas' obstetrical nursing team a variety of parenting questions. Meetings are held every Tuesday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Seminar room, Unit 2300 at SBMC. Newsborns in car seats or strollers are welcome, and refreshments will be served. For reservations and information, call Maternal Child Health at (973) 322-5000, ext. 2584.
- **Children of Aging Parents** - If you're caring for an elderly parent, experiencing the demands of the "sandwich generation," and would like the opportunity to talk with others who in the group meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Suite 100 of the East Wing. To register, call (973) 322-2446 or (973) 322-5629.
- **Breast Cancer** - This group is open to women currently receiving treatment for breast cancer. The group provides a supportive atmosphere in which to gain emotional support and practical information about issues specific to breast cancer. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Cancer Center Conference Room, located on the second floor of the East Wing Building. For more information, call (973) 322-8444.
- **Better Breathers Club** - This group is open to all persons interested in helping themselves, a friend or loved one with lung disease. The group offers an opportunity to exchange experiences and self-help techniques with others who have similar concerns. Meetings are held on the first Friday of each month in a classroom on the ground floor of the medical center. For more information, call (973) 322-8900.

The following programs are available for a fee at St. Barnabas Medical Center:

- **Basic Life Support Courses** - The basics of life support and cardiopulmonary resuscitation are taught in this four-hour course for the layperson. The course includes adult, one-man CPR and Adult Foreign Body Manuever / Obstruction Management / Heimlich Manuever for choking victims. Offered once a month either in two three-hour evening sessions or one six-hour day session. Pre-registration is required. Call (201) 533-5023 for further information.
- **The Postnatal Exercise Classes** - **Moms In Motion** is a pre/postnatal exercise series designed to enhance pregnancy and, after the baby is born, to help you get your pre-pregnant figure back. The program is taught by the direction of licensed physical therapists and follows guidelines set forth by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Physical Therapy Department, located on the ground floor of the Medical Center for registration and schedule fee, call the Physical Therapy Department at (201) 533-8990.

**Low vision support group offered**

Low Vision Self-Help Support Group for individuals with macular degeneration and other low vision problems meets monthly at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, and is jointly sponsored by Saint Barnabas and the Gerda E. Fonda M.D. Low Vision Center. For information, call (973) 322-6720.

and friends. Meets the first Sunday of each month in Classroom C/D of the SBMC, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call (201) 325-6546 for additional information.

• **Breast Cancer Support Group** - This group is open to women currently receiving treatment for breast cancer. The group provides a supportive atmosphere in which to gain emotional support and practical information about issues specific to breast cancer. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Cancer Center Conference Room, located on the second floor of the East Wing Building. For more information, call (201) 533-8444.

• **Growing Through Loss: Bereavement** - These support groups offer a caring and supportive environment for persons grieving the loss of a loved one. Some topics of discussion include "Why Does it Hurt So Much?", "Dealing With Feelings of Anger and Changing Perspectives on Life and Living...Go.", The evening group meets on Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The daytime group meets on Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. For further information or to register, call the Pastoral Care Department at (201) 533-5016.

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## Hospital volunteers donate more than time

Volunteers are a valued resource at Union Hospital. More than 400 hospital volunteers donate 50,000 hours annually and serve many vital roles in the hospital from operations to patient care. Recently, two dedicated volunteers donated \$1,000 each in conjunction with Exxon Corporation's Volunteer Involvement Fund. Adelle Bukowsky and Marge Rich of Roselle, both retirees of Exxon, coordinated the donations to Union Hospital.

Bukowsky worked for Exxon for 15 years and has been volunteering at Union Hospital for the past nine years. Rich worked for Exxon for 23 years in the patent law department and has been volunteering at Union Hospital for five years. Both women feel their volunteer efforts at the hospital inspired them to seek the donations.

"I have volunteered for many years, enjoying making those donations to the Union Hospital," said Bukowsky. The generous donations will be used to purchase a new hydraulic patient chair for mammography patients and will fund child safety programs at the hospital's Center for Kids and Family. "Donations such as these directly impact the quality of care at the hospital and enable improvements in various areas." The donations made by Adelle Bukowsky and Marge Rich are very beneficial to the hospital, said James Masterson, foundation president at Union Hospital. "We are very appreciative to both women and the Exxon Corporation. They inspire us to continue serving our patients with the highest level of quality care."



Marge Rich, right; of Roselle, a volunteer of Union Hospital and retiree from the Exxon Corporation, hands a check for \$1,000 to Julianne Trumbur, volunteer services director.

## Cerebral palsy league continues expanding rehabilitation services

The Cerebral Palsy League was founded by a group of concerned and dedicated residents of Union County in 1948. The primary purpose was to establish a treatment center in which persons with cerebral palsy could access needed rehabilitation services. The first center was opened in Elizabeth, where it operated for 16 years.

In 1961, the league moved into a larger facility in Cranford. The programs grew to include the needs of children with cerebral palsy as well as children with other developmental disabilities.

By the early 1970s, the Cerebral Palsy League had transferred its Cranford site and completed the construction of a new barrier-free, modern building at 733 Clermont Terrace in Union by 1973. This building has been expanded and improved in recent years and is a fully updated facility.

The league realized that it needed more physical space in order to expand its programs and services. This was accomplished in April 1997 when the Cerebral Palsy League and Union County entered into a lease agreement for the facility at 6 Myrtle St. in Cranford. Presently, this new center is being specifically designed and equipped to serve the special needs of a severely disabled population, aged 4 years and older, and who may also be medically fragile.

Throughout the league's history, its basic mission remains unchanged: To assist individuals of all ages, with physical and developmental disabilities, in attaining their optimal level of functional independence while maintaining the highest possible quality of life.

Presently, the center's programs include a Private School, Day Care, Medical Day Care, Early Intervention Program, Adult Vocational Center, Health and Clinic Services, and Social Work and Family Support Services.

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## Legislation addresses senior health needs

Senator Donald DiFrancesco, R-22, has taken steps to see to it that senior citizens participating in the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled Program do not see their prescription toll costs increase.

The senator's bill would join Senator Norman Robertson in sponsoring legislation that would reduce the limit for prescribed refills for P.A.A.D. recipients to the 100-unit dose that was in effect before the FY 1999 budget took effect on July 1.

"I heard from many seniors who must take life-saving medications such as heart medications, and I became very concerned because they were being forced to pay three times the cost for the same amount of medication, which placed an incredible financial burden upon this already hardpressed population," said DiFrancesco.

The bill would change the provision in the FY 1999 budget that limits P.A.A.D. recipients to a 34-day supply of prescription medications to allow a 30-day supply, or 100 unit dose, whichever is larger, for refills and a 34-day limit for the initial prescription only.

"The initial change in the program guidelines implemented July 1 was designed to eliminate waste because seniors are developing adverse reactions to medications and must discard the medication. With the 100-unit dose, a great deal of expensive medication was being wasted," DiFrancesco explained.

This measure will enable the state to save money by limiting initial prescriptions for a savings of about \$1.5 million while continuing to provide one of the most generous prescription aid programs in the country of our state's senior citizens.

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# Career & Education Guide

## County colleges offer diverse health care curricula

Looking for a career in health care without working directly with patients? Union County College is offering an opportunity to pursue just such a career through an Associate in Applied Science degree program in Health Information Technology. The college has introduced an opportunity to pursue the program in collaboration with Passaic County Community College, Paterson.

The degree program in Health Information Technology features instruction in the latest medical software used in physician's offices, hospitals and medical insurance companies. Unlike the role of a medical assistant, whose position combines the above skills with direct patient interaction involving clinical duties, a health information technologist focuses heavily on detail with insurance forms and classification in a non-clinical role.

According to Dr. Jackie Kopyak, vice president for academic affairs at Passaic, students who complete the Health Information Technology program can expect to assume a job role comparable to that of the previous

medical records technologist. They will be prepared to classify information used for medical billing purposes. Graduates are eligible to take a certificate examination through Kean University to qualify as a health office manager; credits earned through the program are directly transferable to several four-year colleges and universities.

Under the collaborative collegiate program, members of Passaic's faculty will teach hands-on computer laboratory courses at UCC's Plainfield Campus. Local students attend more technical lectures conducted through the use of interactive television. Here, they report to an ITV classroom at a UCC campus (Sun in

on a presentation conducted at Passaic's campus by one of that institution's faculty members, and communicate with the instructor and classmates as if they were in the same room. These local students will take their general education courses at any one of UCC's campuses — with all credits directly applied toward a Passaic degree in the program.

UCC has also begun a collaborative arrangement for local students to participate in programs in Nuclear Medicine, Technology, with Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center School of Nursing and Allied Health, Plainfield, an affiliate of Solaris Health Systems, and in Ophthalmic Dispensing with Essex County College and Raritan

Valley Community College.

According to Dr. Ernest Cronan, UCC's vice president for academic affairs, the collaborative arrangement for the Health Information Technology program with Passaic is only the beginning of a trend the college plans to pursue with other institutions in offering health care programs to local students. He notes that UCC is doing so to meet the employment training need of the regional economy, where health care jobs are the fastest growing career area. Dr. Cronan said

that some 35 percent more jobs will be available in the health care field over the next 12 years — and employers sorely need qualified professionals to fill these positions.

Those interested in further information about the Health Information Technology program with Passaic should call either Dr. Wallace Smith, provost of UCC's Plainfield Campus, at (908) 412-3590, or Lisa DeLiberato, Passaic's Health Information Technology program champion, at (973) 684-6297.

## Students learn to prevent substance abuse

More than 500 students from around the state participated in the second annual Day of Learning about Substance Abuse Prevention, which is part of a year-round program aimed at preventing substance abuse among middle school students.

This year, 37 new schools joined the Middle School Peer Leadership Initiative and sent teams of seventh and eighth graders to the Day of Learning. In the seven days, students began developing their leadership skills and learning how to teach their peers about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drug use. The students will continue their training on their home districts. During the year, each school aims to conduct substance abuse prevention programs that reach at least 200 students.

The new schools join a growing network of schools involved in the peer leadership initiative. There are now 73 schools participating, including 36 from the first year of the program that are continuing to train peer leaders and conduct prevention programs. Each year, another 35 to 40 schools are expected to join the program.

Governor Chris Christie allocated \$200,000 in the state budget for the peer leadership initiative, which is one part of her Drug Enforcement

Education and Awareness Program. The peer leadership initiative is sponsored by the Department of Health and Senior Services in conjunction with the Department of Law and Public Safety, Education and the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. The Princeton Center for Leadership Training designed and coordinated the initiative.

"School by school, we are spreading the message that kids can make a healthy choice, not to use tobacco, alcohol and drugs," said Health and Senior Services Commissioner Len Fishman. "Kids are under pressure to experiment with drugs. They'll listen when other kids talk about why that's not a good idea."

"Through the Governor's program, we have reaffirmed New Jersey's war on drugs," said Attorney General Peter Vetters. "We have made drug enforcement an urgent priority for the law enforcement community, and we have passed tougher laws against drug dealers. But the Governor's program also recognizes that we must reduce the demand for drugs by educating children, parents and whole communities about their disastrous effects."

Each school sports playing in today's Day of Learning, led a team of 10 to 20 students and three adult mentors. The mentors included two school staff members and a community

representative, usually a member of the local Municipal Alliance on Alcohol and Drug Abuse or other local agency.

Through role playing, discussion groups, and dramatic performances, students began learning how to communicate more effectively with their peers. Students attended various workshops on topics such as teaching their peers how to resist media images promoting cigarette and alcohol use, anti-smoking parent-teen communication. Also featured was the visual presentation, "Be Excellent," by Motivational Media Associates of California. The program emphasized the importance of developing excellence as student leaders and demonstrated how students can use their leadership roles to influence the behavior of their peers.

Students will continue working with their adult mentors to further develop their leadership and communication skills. Students will create their own outreach programs, which will use role playing, drama, discussion groups and other interactive techniques to get the prevention message across to their peers.

Built into this year's peer leadership initiative will be a formal assessment of the program's effectiveness. Which types of prevention outreach

seem to work best, how much students' knowledge and attitudes about substance use are changed, and whether students maintain their negative attitudes about substance use are some of the issues to be examined.

Findings from the program's pilot year showed that peer leaders were successful in conducting programs that reach more than 14,000 students — more than twice the number expected. Students and mentors also reported that the program helped young people see that others shared their views about not using addictive substances. This made it easier for students to refuse offers of substance use, and contributed to a general climate where substance use was viewed less favorably.

The Middle School Peer Leadership Initiative was created following the 1996 release of the Department's Middle School Survey on Substance Use. The survey found that alcohol and tobacco were the most frequently used substances, and that six out of 10 seventh and eighth graders had tried alcohol, tobacco or marijuana at least once. It also noted that substance use tends to increase between seventh and eighth grades.

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## Barbershop chorus sponsors youth outreach programs

The Rahway Valley Chorus of Westfield sponsors a Youth Outreach program available to any chorus director in local schools, according to the Youth Outreach Coordinator, Joseph Weiss of the Jerseyaires. To find out more information about this program, call (908) 486-5218.

The Youth Outreach program is designed to encourage and actively promote the joyful experience of singing in choir harmony among members of the Mid-Atlantic District of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

It fosters the establishment of groups of harmony sin-

gers to area schools as an integral part of the school curriculum to provide an outlet for performance and opportunity for singers and to develop a sense of singing as a rewarding lifelong activity.

Barbershop music has been recognized by Musical Educators National Conference as an American musical art form.

Harmony Explosion has been endorsed by MENC as a method to keep young people singing despite decreasing music budgets in the public schools.

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# REAL ESTATE

## McGill Joins Weichert

Catherine McGill has joined the Short Hills office of Weichert Realty as a sales associate.

A licensed real estate professional, McGill is beginning a full-time real estate sales career. Previously, she was a referral associate with Weichert Referral Associates Co. She brings mortgage sales experience to her new position with Weichert.

A resident of South Orange, she is an active member of Main Street South Orange and the Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills. McGill is a graduate of New York University.

For real estate transactions, call her at Weichert's Short Hills office (973) 376-4545.

## Fischetti is aboard

Rachel S. Fischetti has joined the Short Hills office of Weichert Realty as a sales associate.

A new & licensed real estate professional, Fischetti previously worked as a paralegal for a New York City law firm. She and her husband, Michael, are residents of Maplewood and are

parents of one child.

For real estate transactions, call Rachel Fischetti at Weichert's Short Hills office at (973) 376-4545, located at 305 Millburn Ave.

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# AUTOMOTIVE

## GMC provides structure for demanding drivers

The toughest light truck frame in GMC history, a world-class braking system and best-in-segment structural rigidity are key reasons why the all-new 1999 GMC Sierra full-size pickup delivers the kind of ride-and-handling characteristics that pickup-truckers demand.

The GMC has aggressively applied new technology to construct a frame that will give 10 years or 150,000 miles of reliable service. The unique three-vehicle modular strategy allows front, middle and rear frame sections to be manufactured independently, with different materials and processes for optimum performance.

The front section is made of hydroformed steel for exceptional strength and rigidity, and for enhanced front-end crush performance. This provides greater occupant protection and helps reduce front-end repair costs.

Hydroforming of the front rails and crossmembers eliminates hundreds of inches of weld for improved dimensional control of mounting brackets. Suspension mounting points are also more precise, significantly improving front-end alignment precision.

Because of unique crush caps, the 1999 GMC Sierra 1500 Series features 15 percent more energy absorption. Since the front section of the frame sits independently of sub-components, front-end crush performance is better, and repair costs are lower.

Should low-impact collision repairs become necessary, the new Sierra 1500 Series offers a front bumper bracket service kit for quick and cost-effective replacement. A similar kit is available for hydroformed crush caps that have been damaged in collisions of front-end to 17 miles per hour.

Since the middle section carries the weight from the pickup box to the front axle, it's best the strongest frame section of all. For this reason, GMC uses a process called roll-forming, which locks in the steel. Roll-forming's bending begins with a solid, straight piece of lightweight, high-strength steel and rolls it gradually into shape. This process allows the steel to retain desired strength without requiring heat.

The new Sierra's state-of-the-art strength steel is stamped and aligned in a process that provides the desired strength, but without extra weight.

Standard four-wheel disc brakes elevate the braking systems of the 1999 Sierra. New wheel drive lines, key

advantages of the four-wheel drive over its front-drive drum design include:

- Reduced pedal effort
- Shorter stopping distance
- Reduced brake noise
- Longer brake pad life
- Linear, straight-line feel
- Well-balanced braking with varying cargo loads

Preliminary tests show the 60-0 stopping distance to be 30 to 30 feet less than the current generation Sierra.

Also, the 1999 Sierra repeatedly performs better in the 0-60-0 mph tests than key competitors.

Depending on use patterns, brake pad life on the 1999 Sierra could be extended four times longer than traditional lining. Sierra brakes use a very cool, non-sbestos organic pad material which keeps excessive heat from building up in the rotors.

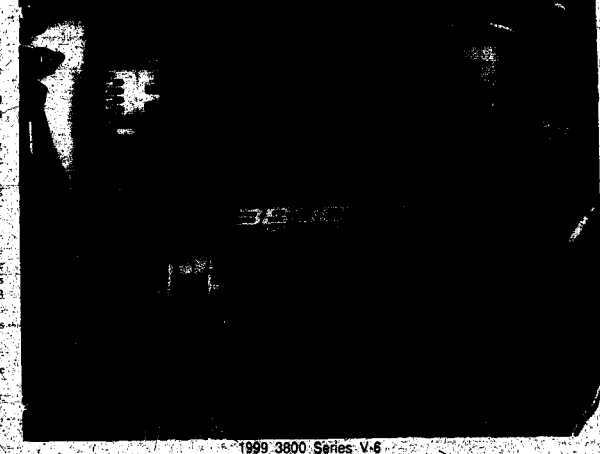
Additionally, the brakes on the 1999 Sierra feature electronic Dynamic Rear Proportioning, which balances front and rear brake use for more uniform wear and better overall brake performance.

The 1999 GMC Sierra offers five suspension packages designed for specific driving needs and preferences. Each package features independent front suspension and a two-stage leaf spring in the rear.

Suspension packages include:

- Solid Smooth Ride: This standard package for 1500/2500 Series Sierra is designed to provide a smooth ride under all driving conditions.
- Handling/Trailing: This suspension increases roll damping to improve handling while trailing and provides a firm ride.
- Off-Road: Large, air-charged monocoque shock absorbers and spring-adjusting microflexion joints are used to handle large suspension impacts with minimal impact on the ride and handling of the vehicle.
- Adjustable Electronic: Providing driver-selectable shock damping via a switch on the instrument panel.
- Snow Plow Prep Package: The high specialized VYU package uses specially increased front spring rates and heavy-duty torsion bars to accommodate the extra weight of the plow.

Customers interested in a clear paint pickup driver want to find out more about the new, but don't want a hearing system to stiff they have to



## Six-passenger Le Sabre powered by Buick V-6

As the best-selling full-size sedan in the United States for the sixth straight year, Buick's LeSabre carries a powerful record of market success into the 1999 model year.

In the 40 years since its inception for the 1959 model year, more than six million LeSabres have been sold.

"LeSabre is one of the best-selling large vehicles of any era when you look at that market performance over four decades," said Joseph J. Frazzetta, Buick's brand manager. "Clearly, LeSabre is meeting the needs of customers for safety, smooth, confident, spacious and spacious."

Year after year, LeSabre racks up awards from independent sources. For example, in 1998, LeSabre was ranked as a "Best Buy" by Consumer Guide. "Five Top Safety Award" winner by Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine. "A Best Overall Buy" by IntelliChoice. "Best Buy" award by J.D. Power and Associates. "Top Value Award" from Strategic Vision Inc.

The six-passenger LeSabre again features the acclaimed 200-V6 engine, standard on the 4T60E electronically controlled four-speed automatic transmission.

Fuel economy for 1999 is again projected at an excellent 19 miles per gallon city and 30 mpg highway.

The smoothly riding responsive powertrain continues to feature low maintenance as well as durability. Engine coolant has a recommended change interval of five years or 150,000 miles. Platinum-tipped spark plugs have a first recommended service at 100,000 miles. The transmission fluid requires no change for 100,000 miles under normal operating conditions.

Again for 1999, LeSabre offers GMC OnStar as a dealer-installed option. OnStar is an in-vehicle communication system combining Global Positioning System satellite technology and a hands-free, voice-activated cellular telephone to link drivers to a center where advisers are available to provide many kinds of assistance, which is emergency services, with navigation and more support. OnStar also provides assistance in situations of air bag deployment and stolen vehicle tracking.

All LeSabre models feature OnStar, even the 4T60E. OnStar is available on the 4T60E. OnStar is available on the 4T60E. OnStar is available on the 4T60E.

All LeSabre models feature OnStar, even the 4T60E. OnStar is available on the 4T60E. OnStar is available on the 4T60E.

LeSabre's Personal Choice features...

