

Echo LEADER

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Local kids awarded for personality

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

Some people have award-winning personalities. Not many get trophies for them.

The "Lil' Miss and Mr. Springfield Personality Pageant" was held Sunday at the Springfield Pool. About 35 children participated, demonstrating character through drawings and questions.

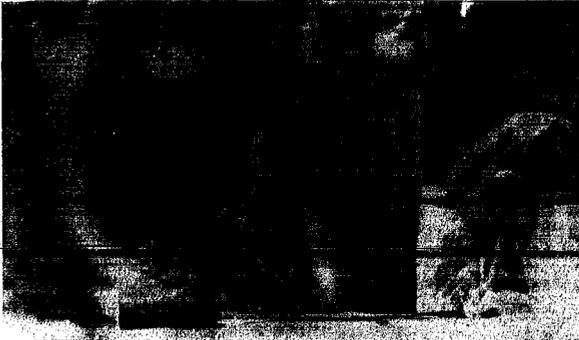
"We wanted to teach kids that they can win with their personalities," said Liz Balfour, the pageant's volunteer-organizer. "It was a fun thing, something they can remember when they're older."

Categories were for boys and girls ages 3 to 6 and ages 7 to 9. The kids were asked to draw a picture of their favorite place in Springfield. Then, depending on their age, they were asked to describe either a favorite cartoon character hero or role model.

"We figured that the younger kids wouldn't be aware of what a role model really is," Balfour said. "Instead, we had them fill the role model notation with a cartoon character hero. The older kids answered the role model question."

Ben Castor, third runner up in the ages 3 to 6 group, drew his home as his favorite place in town — with his mother standing in the doorway receiving a pizza. His favorite character was the Beast from "Beauty and the Beast."

Taylor Zilinek, 8, a second runner up, drew the Springfield pool as her



Springfield resident Seth Benzell, 8, tries to decide what to draw. A picture competition was part of the 'Personality Pageant' at the Springfield town pool Sunday afternoon.

favorite spot, with her mom and dad as role models.

"Taylor swims all year," Zilinek's mother, Diane, said. "She swims competitively for the pool. Between that, soccer and softball, she's pretty busy."

Zilinek, like all the pageant's winners, received a trophy and certificate. The trophy keeps company with her swimming medals.

Michael Masi, 4, a first runner-up also identified the pool as the town's hot spot. "We're at the pool every weekend, and whenever I get free time," his mother, Tina, said. "Michael takes swimming lessons — he's a good swimmer."

Masi's taste in cartoons is international, as he favors the Japanese cartoon Pokemon.

"This is the first time we held this kind of event," Balfour said. "The pool has held events for kids before, but nothing exactly like this. About a year ago, Mike Tennaro, the rec department director, and some of the kids, were sitting around talking about previous similar events and I happened to be there, and I recommended setting up something new. The idea here was to organize an event that focused on something other than beauty and athletics."

"We wanted the focus completely on personality," Balfour continued. "Nothing about bathing suits or matching clothes. The parents were definitely interested. None of them had ever heard of a personality pageant."

Five judges worked the pageant, including Township Committeeman

Sy Mullman. Representatives from two local businesses, Outback Steakhouse and Turning Point Dance Center, also assisted in judging.

All grand prize winners and runners-up received trophies, with grand prize winners being draped in sashes.

Boys Ages 7-9
Second runner up: Tommy Clark.
First runner up: Stephen Cohen.
Grand Prize: Seth Benzell.

Girls Ages 7-9
Third runner up: Emily Hirsch.
Second runner up: Taylor Zilinek.
First runner up: Tracy Horowitz.
Grand Prize: Robin Horowitz.

Boys Ages 3-6
Third runner up: Ben Castor.
Second runner up: Justin Grant.
First runner up: Michael Masi.
Grand Prize: Daniel Perez.

Girls Ages 3-6
Third runner up: Krista Della.
Second runner up: Christina Apicella.
First runner up: Ashley Balfour.
Grand Prize: Jessica Homer.

Photo by Jeff Grant

Borough salary debated in com

By Pamela Isaacson
Managing Editor

A special committee met for the first time at Borough Hall Tuesday night to begin to address the idea of setting salary ranges for members of the Mountainside Borough Council and the mayor.

The nine-person, bipartisan committee, composed of four Independents, two Democrats and three Republicans, have been charged with the responsibility of reviewing an "expense, reimbursement, salary policy for the borough," according to Mayor Robert Vigilanti. The committee plans to meet three or four times and then submit a final report to the council no later than Oct. 15.

Twenty-one residents were asked to serve, as Vigilanti, expecting nine volunteers. "Initially, planned" to include a small number of representatives from the three political parties. The committee includes John Amalfi, Donald Bagger, Donna De Rosa, Patricia Gagliardi, Bob Messler, Gene Ostje, Frank Rubino, George Serio and Lou Thomas.

The initial meeting, closed to the public, included the mayor, who presented background information. Remaining meetings will consist only of committee members.

This committee has been formed after a controversial decision made by council members at their Feb. 16 regular meeting. After more than an hour of public debate concerning setting salary ranges for council members and the mayor, Vigilanti attempted to table the discussion and vote until the regular meeting in March.

"I believe what the council wants to do is fair and right," Vigilanti said Feb. 16. "But, it has not been proven to you. I am asking the council to put together additional documentation for next month."

His motion, however, was rejected,

as no council member would offer a second. Only Werner Schon provided a motion to support postponement. Without a second, the ordinance passed 4-1, with Schon the only member to vote against it and Ronald Romak absent from the meeting.

The resolution set salary ranges for the six council members at \$1,900 to \$3,000 and that of the mayor at \$3,000 to \$6,000 per year.

The next month, council members reversed the ordinance due to a petition signed by more than 400 residents who expressed their opposition. "To be awarded a blanket stipend is not appropriate," said resident Adele Magnolia in February. "When you all ran for office, you did not run on a platform that said, 'I will vote myself a salary.'"

Rather than place a question on the ballot in November, council members nullified the ordinance. The mayor then told the council and members of the audience that he would form a committee to review the issue.

In the past, there has been an ordinance that provided for the reimbursement of expenses without vouchers. A salary would substitute for the unvouchered reimbursement ordinance that was passed last year. "I think the word 'salary' is offending people," Vigilanti said a few months ago. "This is really an advance of expense without the rigmarole of filling out all the slips. The governing body has been experiencing more and more expense as time goes on. It's not fair even if they can afford it."

One of the main arguments put forth by council members for setting salary ranges is that, they said, qualified candidates would not run for office without salaries. "It's getting more and more expensive to 'volunteer' time to the borough," said Councilman Keith Turner in February.

Grades may affect who gets to drive

By John Celock
Staff Writer

A bill pending in the Assembly may make it more difficult for high school students to receive their driver's licenses.

Assemblyman Kevin O'Toole, R-Union, has proposed legislation which states that a driver's license cannot be issued to a student who has not received a 2.0 cumulative grade point average or has dropped out of school. The bill also states that any student who drops out of school without parental permission or a waiver of financial hardship, or has fallen below a 2.0 cumulative GPA, shall have his or her driver's license suspended for one year.

O'Toole said he introduced the bill because of his belief in education. The legislation is pending before the Assembly Education Committee.

"My focus as a legislator has been education. To succeed in life these days, you need to have a quality education," said O'Toole.

He said he feels the legislation is a method of positive reinforcement on high school students and would encourage students to do their best.

"If you do well, you get your license. I believe that driving is a privilege and not a right," said O'Toole.

The assemblyman said his encouragement to introduce the legislation was the fact that the law is presently in effect in the State of North Carolina. In his discussions with North Carolina officials he found that the law could work in New Jersey. O'Toole said he has heard positive feedback from residents of his district, which includes parts of Essex and Union counties.

Local students, school officials and residents have come out against the legislation.

Governor Livingston High School Guidance Director Lane Laustein said, in his opinion, it would be difficult to pass legislation on setting an academic limit for receiving a driver's license. She also said the provision in the bill which states that high schools would need to inform the state division of motor vehicles of students who fall below a 2.0 may hit a legal setback.

"According to the law, we have to have permission from parents to release information to anyone," said Laustein.

GLHS students have expressed mixed reactions to the pending legislation. "I think that no matter what your grades are, you should keep your license. Grades don't matter as long

as you pass the test," said GLHS junior R.J. Fahrion.

"Maybe a 2.0 GPA would be good, then maybe kids like me would not fall asleep at the wheel doing 103 miles per hour," said GLHS senior Tice Gonthier.

Michael Yocius is visiting Mountainside this summer from Houston, Texas. He said when he heard of the legislation, he was immediately opposed to it.

"I think grades have nothing to do with 'how you drive,'" said Yocius, who comes from a state where the legal driving age is 16.

Alice Salz of Mountainside said she can see the pros and cons of the bill. She said it would be good incentive to get students to work hard but may put more pressure on the teachers.

"It is an interesting point. On the one hand, it would be an interesting incentive to get the young people to work hard. On the other hand, there would be tremendous pressure on the teachers to give the right grades. I like the idea that the young people would have to buckle down," said Salz.

"I don't think that will fly with the consensus of the bill. I have seen some people who are stupid drivers," said Dave Ferrell of Mountainside.

'Pride' money given to township

By John Celock
Staff Writer

The regular meeting of the Springfield Township Committee Tuesday featured several ceremonial highlights and the routine resolutions.

Township Emergency-Management Coordinator John Cotage and Union County Chamber of Commerce Vice President Susan Jacobson presented the governing body with a check for \$7,500. The money from the check came from the Fourth of July celebration, "Take Pride in Springfield."

Township Committeeman Sy Mullman, who presided in place of vacationing Mayor Gregory Clarke, accepted the check on the township's behalf.

"You've no idea the work that went into this. I cannot thank the people who are standing up here enough," said Mullman.

He also said "Take Pride in Springfield" should not be a once a year event, but rather an every day celebra-

tion of the township.

"We want to start 'Take Pride in Springfield' now. This is our town, a great town, a great place to live," Mullman said.

Township Committee member Clara Harelik agreed with Mullman that the celebration should occur daily among the township's residents and not just be an annual celebration.

"I think that it was a successful start, and I look forward to it in the future," said Harelik.

In addition to the check presentation, Mullman swore in two new members of the Springfield Fire Department. Fire Inspector Jo Papola and Firefighter Marc Corea were sworn in with their families by their sides.

After the oath of office, members of the governing body took time to congratulate the new members of Springfield's brass.

"Congratulations and welcome to town," said Committee member Steven Goldstein.

"You are now part of our Springfield family," Mullman said.

Members of the panel took time to address the latest controversy to hit the township, concerns regarding the municipal pool.

Committee member Roy Allan Hirschfeld said he feels the entire story is not being told. "I have concerns when a newspaper takes information from residents. There tends to be a distortion," he said.

Hirschfeld said he considers the complaint about the grass being brown "pure stupidity."

"Do we want to spend \$5,000 to water grass? It was one resident who complained," Hirschfeld said.

Mullman said he spent a lot of time at the pool this weekend and he found nothing but praise for it. Mullman noted that all residents who approached him wanted to know what the problem was.

"I have spent a lot of time at the pool and a great percentage of the

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Borough says 'no' to legislation restricting outsourced services

By John Celock
Staff Writer

Mountainside officials and state organizations have joined forces to oppose a piece of legislation currently pending in the New Jersey Legislature.

The bill states that local board of education members would have restrictions placed on their ability to contract out non-educational services, a practice commonly known as outsourcing. Local boards throughout New Jersey commonly outsource services such as custodial, cafeteria and transportation.

If the legislation passes, local school boards could not outsource any services during the life of an existing labor contract. The bill also states that any local board that wants to outsource a service would need to give 90 days notice to the appropriate labor union and the state Public Employees Relations Commission before bids could be sought. During this time, the present employees would be able to negotiate with the board.

The bill, sponsored by Assembly-

man Ron Atianic, Cape May and Cumberland, and State Sen. Shirley Turner, D-Mercer, still has to pass through one more legislative hurdle. The bill has been passed by the Assembly and Senate Education Committees.

When the Senate considered the bill, the upper house passed an amendment excluding county colleges from the legislation, and then passed the amended bill. The amended version of the legislation will return to the Assembly in September for consideration. If passed, it will go to Gov. Christine Whitman for her signature or veto.

Richardson, a spokesperson for the New Jersey Education Association, said his organization supports the bill.

"It adds a measure of fairness to those employed in schools," he said. "While the NIEA is supporting the legislation, the New Jersey School Boards Association has taken the lead in opposing the bill. Mike Yaple, a spokesman for the NISBA, said his organization is concerned that the legislation would prevent local boards

from making a decision on outsourcing for a period of three to four years.

"In terms of budgeting, that is an eternity," said Yaple.

Yaple also said his group has concerns that the bill would cause property taxes to increase when boards have to pay the full cost of services rather than outsourcing the service for a fraction of the cost.

"A 1999 study by NISBA shows that school boards directed savings obtained through sub-contracting toward educational programming and property tax relief. \$-724A-744 would effectively cut off that option," said Acting NISBA Executive Director Edwin Lee in a press release.

Yaple said the NISBA has commissioned a survey of school districts on the outsourcing issue. He said all districts that responded reported saving money by outsourcing services.

"These are savings that can help the taxpayers and go back to the schools," said Yaple.

Yaple said his organization has been joined by several others in opposing the bill. Other groups include the State League of Municipalities, the State Chamber of Commerce, the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the New Jersey Association of Colleges and Universities, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Rutgers University, the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and the New Jersey Catholic Conference.

"We oppose the bill. Privatization is a means to save money. Most school districts who have done this have not laid anyone off," said Jon Moran, a legislative analyst for the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Moran said if the bill was passed, the potential for local school boards to save money would be reduced.

Yaple said that Empower the People, an organization started by Jersey City Mayor Bert Schroeder, is planning on launching a \$25,000 campaign against the legislation.

"This legislation will make it harder for school boards to save money on non-educational expenses. It will put upward pressure on property taxes and, even worse, take dollars out of our children's classrooms," stated Schroeder.

Schundler added that the bill is a political bid meant to please the NIEA in an election year. All 80 seats in the Assembly are up for election this year.

"It's an election year, and that means that special interest bills are coming due. The New Jersey Legislature got a bill from the NIEA that said it wanted subcontracting eliminated, and the Legislature responded fast with a big fat paid in full. It's the Legislature committed to serving New Jersey's hard-working families or special interests, such as the school unions? I think this vote says the latter," said Schundler.

Mountainside officials have come out against the bill. Mayor Robert Vigilanti is sending a letter to Walkman's office calling on her to veto the bill when it reaches her desk.

On behalf of mayors and municipal officials across the state, I urge you to veto A-744S-724S, as this legislation would effectively bar school districts from privatizing non-educational services, and, in doing so, would undermine efforts to con-

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The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To give your community event the publicity it deserves, mail your schedule to P.O. Box 3109, Union 07083.

Wednesday
• Mountaineers ladies are invited by the Mountaineers Newcomers Club for a Ladies Night Out. For more information, call Carole Cahill at (908) 233-8426.
• Visitors to the Trailside Nature and Science Center can learn about dinosaurs and their extinction at 1:30 p.m. The center is located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountaineers.

Aug. 5
• Visitors can learn about the meteor shower, Perseids, at Trailside at 1:30 p.m. The fee is \$3 for each person.

Aug. 6
• Children ages 6 and up, with an adult, can tour the village and renovated church/general store with Trailside from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Meet at the parking lot at the top of Cataract Hollow road off Glenside Avenue. The fee is \$4 for each person. Pre-registration is required. Call (908) 789-3670 for space availability.

Aug. 7
• Volunteers are needed to assist with trail maintenance projects in the Watchung Reservation from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring a lunch, mug for a beverage, shovel, pickaxe and gloves, if possible. Children ages 14 and up are welcome. For pre-registration, call (908) 789-3670.

Aug. 8
• Residents can ask questions and seek answers at the Trailside Nature and Science Center at 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 for each person and \$2.55 for senior citizens.

Upcoming Events
Aug. 10
• The Springfield Township Committee will hold a

regular meeting at 8 p.m. at Town Hall.

Aug. 11
• The Trailside Nature and Science Center will hold "Once Upon a Planet" at 1:30 p.m. Admission is \$4 for each person. No children under four years of age will be admitted.

Aug. 15
• The Sisterhood of Temple Sha'arey Shalom in Springfield will conduct the annual rummage sale in the temple's social hall, 78 South Springfield Ave. Aug. 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. For additional information, call (973) 379-5387.

Aug. 16
• Registration begins for the Springfield YMCA Fall 1 Program session at 7 a.m. at 100 South Springfield Ave. The fall session runs for eight weeks beginning Sept. 7. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call (973) 467-0838.

Sept. 23
• The Newcomers of Mountaineers will hold a new member coffee for anyone interested in joining. For more information, call Teri Schmedel at (908) 301-0147.

Oct. 2
• Members of the Mountaineers Newcomers Club are invited to the club's annual progressive dinner. For more information, call Janine Cardone at (908) 232-6411.

Ongoing
• The Oncology Department at Overlook Hospital has established a free cancer support group for adults living with any type of cancer. The group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the hospital, 99 Beauvoir Ave., Summit. The group is led by Debra Haupt-Saltzman. For more information, call 522-5352.

LIFESTYLE



Peter Carpenter and Sandra Zotti

Zotti marries Carpenter

Sandra Zotti and Peter Michael Carpenter, both of Springfield, were married May 23 at St. James Church. They will reside in Berkeley Heights.

Zotti, daughter of Springfield residents Luigi and Lena Zotti, owns and operates a piano instruction business. She is a graduate of Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

Carpenter, the son of Donald and Teresa Carpenter of Springfield, often and operates the Springfield Home News and Don-Tre Driving School. He attended Wagner College in Staten Island, N.Y.

The bride's sister, Mary Lou Gillikin. Bridesmaids included Carol Policastro, Angela Apicella, Gina Saracino, Theresa DeBella, Cara Malloy, Sherry Graham and Colleen Drummond. The flower girl was the groom's niece, Christine Policastro.

The best man was Gregory Graziano, the groom's cousin. Ushers included Anthony Graziano, Patrick Preziosa, Michael Montanari, Luigi Saracino, Robert O'Neill and Giuseppe Colaninigo.

The bride's dress, a Dutchess silk/satin Victorian-style corset gown was made by her mother.

After the reception at the Maplewood Country club, the couple honeymooned in Turks and Caicos for 10 days.

Policy on weddings and engagements

Couples are encouraged to send their engagement and wedding announcements to the lifestyle editor. Announcements should be typed, double spaced or legibly handwritten and no longer than one page. All announcements should have a daytime phone number for verification or if questions arise.

Information requested for engagements are parents names, high school name and town, college name, town and degree, name of employer and town where located, job title and the date of marriage.

NEWS CLIPS

Churches offer Bible school

From Monday to Aug. 6, from 9 a.m. to noon, the First-Presbyterian Church of Springfield and the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church are joining to offer a vacation Bible school titled "Good News of gospel." During that week, with the help of Bible stories, crafts, music and games, the children will walk along with the disciple Peter and may learn that they are never alone. Children ages 3 through grade six are welcome at Church Hall in Springfield.

For questions and registration information, call (973) 379-4320 or (908) 243-6244. There is a registration fee of \$5 for each child with a \$10 maximum for each family.

Children's Hospital sponsors golf tourney

Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation's 10th annual Golf Classic, scheduled for Monday at the Montclair Golf Club, will include appearances by national Long-Drive Champions Art Sellinger and Brian Pavlet, a "Beat the Pro" competition with two PGA professionals from Seaview Country Club, Absecon and a life auction including four tickets on

the 50-yard line at Giants Stadium for the 1999 football season. Single tickets are available for golf at \$450 each. Foursome packages are available for \$1,800. The Golf Classic has a low net format.

Tickets and sponsorship information may be obtained by calling Katherine Brozyna at (908) 301-5462. Proceeds from the CSHF Golf Classic will benefit Children's Specialized Hospital, New Jersey's only pediatric rehabilitation hospital dedicated exclusively to children.

A subscription to your newspaper keeps your college student close to hometown activities. Call 908-686-7753 for a special college rate.

Clubs use SPL computer

Those organizations in Springfield that wish to have the latest information on their organization in the Springfield Free Public Library's computer, contact the library's reference department at (973) 376-4930, ext. 28.

The library needs the name, address and telephone number of the person to be contacted for anyone interested in further information.

Seniors organize events

The senior citizens of Springfield are alive and well. Join them Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's, beginning in September.

The group also will sponsor the following trips:

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Communities should conserve, not worry about water

By Cheryl Hehl and Joe Lugaro
Although many parts of New Jersey have been forced to restrict water usage because of drought conditions, it looks like residents living in 14 Union County towns will not have to face that problem now or in the foreseeable future. However, officials are still urging conservation.

Residents who live in Mountainside, Cranford, Clark, Elizabeth, Hillside, Kenilworth, Linden, Roselle, Roselle Park, Union, Mountainside, Garwood, Scotch Plains, Westfield or Plainfield won't have to worry about a depleted water supply yet.

"There are no water restrictions in Mountainside or any of our other 34 municipalities," Erin Reilly, spokesperson for Elizabethtown Water Company said.

In fact, considering there has been a significant rainfall since June 8, the reservoirs supplying water to these communities are at 81 percent capacity. Still, although Elizabethtown Water Company indicates, customers should be able to use as much water as needed, they are urging customers to "use water wisely."

According to spokesperson Henry Patterson, despite the lack of rain, towns served by Elizabethtown Water in six counties are "well-equipped to meet the quantity, quality and distribution requirements of its customers this summer."

Primarily, that is because the company's major sources of water are supplied by the Raritan and Milstone rivers and Delaware and Raritan canal. Reports from the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, where Elizabethtown Water purchases its water, confirm supplies are "ample" at state-owned reservoirs, with levels consistent with use for this time of year.

All New Jersey Water Supply Headquarters in Clinton, which is where state-owned reservoirs Spruce Run and Round Valley are located, Execu-

tive Director Thomas Baxter keeps close tabs on water levels. Although not overly concerned about the lack of rainfall because it is not unusual during the summer months, the scenario this year is quite different from 1995 and 1998, when the state experienced drought conditions.

For instance, last year, the state had record rainfall the first six months of the year. This means, although the reservoirs are doing well, it is always wise to conserve water just in case the summer continues to be drier than normal. But, considering the lack of rain, he was cautiously optimistic about getting through the remainder of the summer and September, which traditionally has always been a dry month.

"Considering the lack of rain, we are in good shape," said Baxter, who noted reservoir levels are less than the longtime average. But, while he admits it has been "a little drier than normal," it is typical for this time of year.

Rainfall amounts for the month of July are .47 for the entire state. A rainfall average of 4.4 inches is the norm. What causes concern is the lack of

groundwater coupled with normally dry summer months, which could pose a problem in September, one of the peak months for water usage. But based on the droughts of 1995 and 1998, when the state issued conservation alerts, consumers might face the same scenario this summer, said Baxter. Not that those alerts would mean the entire state was suffering the effects of a drought. Quite the contrary.

Often, he said, the state imposes restrictions in areas of high usage to circumvent possible water shortage problems. Generally, though, when reservoir levels remain at or above peak levels, the state urges conservation rather than restrictions. But weather also plays an important role in determining what will happen.

La Nina continues to impact the weather scene, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, predicting the extended outlook for fall and winter is below normal rainfall. But the lack of rain is nothing new for this area.

Drought conditions actually began last July. Since that time, the state has only averaged 35 inches of rain, or 12

inches short of the normal annual 47 inches. Does that mean the state could be facing a major drought? Unfortunately, weather is not an exact science, but drought is.

Drought is a period or condition of unusually dry weather in an area where rainfall is normally great. Most precipitation depends on water vapor carried by winds from an ocean or other source of moisture. If these moisture-carrying winds are replaced by winds from a dry region, which New Jersey is now experiencing, or if they are modified by a downward motion, which is also happening, the weather is abnormally dry and cloudless. If the drought period is short, it is known as a dry spell, but when it extends longer than 14 days, it is considered a drought condition.

NOAA statistics indicate there is a major drought in the United States every 22 years, usually affecting the Midwest states. Although drought cannot be reliably predicted, certain precautions can be taken in drought-prone areas, such as conservation of water when reservoirs are considered at normal levels. But, there is another important reason water should not be

wasted, according to Baxter.

"Water is a resource," he said, adding "people should always remember that." Typically, he said, when there are warnings of a drought, water consumption decreases, but when the warnings are lifted, usage soars again.

Baxter also explained why some parts of the state have severe problems, while others have none.

Because many areas of the state receive their water supply from wells or sources other than state-owned reservoirs, they experience water shortages due to groundwater problems or the inability to purchase enough water to meet the demand. Consumers, said Patterson of Elizabethtown Water, should understand that because an area close to their locale is having problems, that does not mean they will. It all depends on what municipality you live in and where the water comes from. — It just so happens Elizabethtown Water Company's supply is not suffering a shortage.

Elizabethtown Water services 213,000 business and residential customers in 54 municipalities in Union, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Mercer and Hunterdon counties. Other companies, such as New Jersey American Water Company, services Summit and Springfield.

"At the present time, there are no restrictions," said Lendel Jones, director of Government Affairs at New Jersey American Water. "We're urging our customers to use water carefully, but if the state issues restrictions, we'll relay them to our customers."

Cameo Brook Reservoir, which serves American Water's customers, is at approximately 70.2 percent capacity.

Towns such as Elizabeth split water service between Liberty Water Company and EWIC, while Rahway takes care of its own water needs.

Mullman addresses concerns

(Continued from Page 1)

of the people are very happy," said Mullman, who said he considers the complaints a personal vendetta of township resident Bob Farrell.

In addition, Mullman said the petition being passed around the pool opposing the facility has only collected seven signatures.

After the ceremonial phase of the meeting passed, the governing body turned its attention to the business of the evening.

The committee passed resolutions contracting professional services for a hearing officer, a labor counsel and a public works project, announced the township's opposition to the Home-Based Business Act, which is pending in the Assembly, set the salary for a non-union employee, accepted county grants for economic development

and parks, appointed a deputy township clerk and purchased three Xerox copiers.

Sisterhood sponsors sale

The Sisterhood of Temple Sha'arey Shalom, Springfield, will conduct their annual rummage sale at 78 South Springfield Ave. in the temple's social hall Aug. 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Sisterhood co-presidents Maria Sklar and Rosanne Stoltz announced that this year's Rummage Sale will be the largest and ever. Items for sale include house wares, clothing, furniture and toys. Additionally, Aug. 16 will be "Brown Bag Day." A brown grocery bag can be filled up with assorted items for \$3.

The public is invited to attend. Additional information can be obtained by calling the temple office at (973) 379-5387.

Residents are offered tips to help save water

By Cheryl Hehl and Joe Lugaro

The water supply in this area may not be in danger, but residents should never carelessly waste it. Here are some facts from Elizabethtown Water Company and suggestions to help save thousands of gallons of water. Residents will be surprised at the results they get without any great inconvenience.

- Keep a jug of water in the refrigerator to use when you want a cool drink instead of running the tap. If you dislike the taste of chlorine in the water, which is used for disinfection, leave the jug uncovered and the chlorine molecules will escape into the air.

- The best time to water your lawn is 5 to 6 a.m., certainly no later than 10 a.m. Rapid evaporation makes daytime and breezy day sprinkling of little use. Night-time watering creates moist conditions that can lead to lawn disease.

- Water your lawn deeply. Light sprinkling can kill grass because roots stay shallow and cannot benefit from a soaking rain or withstand a dry spell. A one-inch soaking will ultimately seep down eight inches into the soil.

- If you have an automatic sprinkling system, check the heads periodically to be sure they have not shifted direction and are not spraying water on the driveway, street or sidewalk instead of the lawn.

- If you have a pool, use a pool cover to reduce evaporation.

- Sweep outside with a broom, not the hose. Just five minutes of hosing wastes about 25 gallons of water.

- Figure out how many gallons of water you use to fill your kitchen sink and compare it to the 9.5 to 12 gallons dishwashers use during a regular cycle. If you use a dishwasher, make sure it is filled before running.

Donald A. Spitzer, D.D.S., and Thomas M. Villarosa, D.M.D. are pleased to announce the formation of the Beacon Hill Dental Group at 28 Beechwood Road, Suite 2, Summit, NJ 07901.

Dr. Spitzer, a graduate of the 1977 Class of Northwestern Dental School, and Dr. Villarosa, a graduate of the 1977 Class of Farleigh-Dickinson School of Dental Medicine bring to Summit over 40 years of combined experience in General, Cosmetic, and Implant Dentistry.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Splish splash

It has been a hot summer.

August has not even begun, but the dog days have already created a meltdown. Grass is brown, pavement is scorching, ice cream is melting immediately. For Springfield residents, the community pool used to be a place to cool down, to unwind on the weekends, to splash and frolic with neighbors.

What was once clearly a source of community pride has turned murky with discontent.

Complaints about unsanitary restroom conditions, low levels of chlorine, inattentive lifeguards and a hazardous metal grate have caused a chilling atmosphere.

But it is not those who are raising concerns, or those reporting them, who are to blame. As a family, residents pay \$275 for the season, plus \$1 for chair rentals at each visit. For this price, patrons are demanding more. They have that right.

They also have the right to answers. Pool Manager Patrick Farley has declined comment. Recreation Director Mike Tennaro is blaming others. Township Administrator Richard Sheola says the only registered complaint is an anonymous one to his office. Patrons still are waiting for one of these officials to take responsibility.

It is a shame that Springfield pool-goers are becoming less and less enchanted with what should be a source of summer fun. Successful events such as Sunday's "Personality Pageant," that named "Lil' Miss" and "Lil' Mister Springfield," prove interest and enthusiasm from volunteer organizers and from attendees.

The summer is half ended. Officials should take this time to fully examine pool conditions and temporarily fix problem areas for the remainder of the season. With a complete evaluation, Farley, Tennaro and Sheola can spend the fall and winter months working with the Township Committee to outline and implement improvements for next summer. There is no doubt the community pool has potential; it needs proper analyzation and leadership to turn this potential into a positive reality.

Steps now could help in future

It's been more than one month since New Jersey has seen any significant rainfall, and we're surprised that state officials have not imposed mandatory water restrictions on all municipalities.

Instead, Gov. Christine Whitman has asked only that residents of the Garden State recognize that there is a potential for drought conditions and voluntarily conserve water. We don't think that's enough.

During the last two months, a total of approximately 3 inches of rain has fallen in New Jersey. We're experiencing one of the driest Julys on record, and if we don't get any substantial rainfall between now and the end of the August, we may be headed for mandatory water conservation measures that could include monitoring the number of times we flush the toilet, as well as reducing the number of times we do laundry per week.

Some municipalities have taken steps—the state hasn't as far as water conservation is concerned, and we applaud them for that action—odd-even lawn watering days, banning the use of sprinklers in favor of hand-held hoses, and banning personal car washing are some of the steps local leaders have implemented. It's apparent that these leaders are recognizing that one of the driest summers on record could lead to potential disaster come the fall.

Even though no mandatory measures have been issued, it's time residents recognize the need to conserve water now. Residents should forgo those pristine green lawns and conserve water.

Citizens should question their local leaders if they have not recognized that the potential for drought conditions looms, and why steps haven't been taken to conserve water. Our water supply is something all of us should not be taking for granted. We must consider that the average rainfall for a 12-month period is 47 inches, and we received a total of 35 inches for the period of July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999.

We urge residents not to water their lawns. If that is not acceptable, water twice a week or at least water every other day. We also urge residents to refrain from washing their cars. Steps we take now could help us in the future.

"A society that closes itself to freedom of speech and the press is a society that immediately restricts its own development."

—Walter Cronkite
Former CBS News anchor
1997

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PREPARATIONS — Tom Bopp, left, Blake Williams and Alex Garian to try assemble a trampoline at the 15th annual Marlon Avenue block party July 17.

Photo by Jeff Grant

'Natural' medicines need extensive research

As I See It

By Norman Rauscher
Correspondent

I was brought up in the age when everything was really natural. People got sick, and there were remedies. But, almost all of them were remedies either prescribed by a doctor or handed down in the family or handed over from friends.

When someone had a cold, they suffered. They took hot drinks, maybe some aspirin and watched for a fever to try to avoid the dreaded pneumonia, for which there was really no medication.

In those days, too, when anyone had a "hayfever" attack, they just sneezed. When some type of medication came along, in the late 1930s, while it helped, it wasn't really too effective. Generally speaking, the afflicted person just went on sneezing. When the season went away, the sneezing stopped.

Then along came the beginning of the age of the "miracle" drugs. First it was sulfa. No one could believe what that medication could do. In fact, probably many lives were saved because of the introduction of sulfa. And, while many people were helped, there were a few who developed a reaction that, in some cases, was violent. Sulfa is not in wide use today, but there are still people walking around with the adverse effects.

Sulfa was just the first of all the

We are surrounded by all types of pills, injections, syrups and what have you. We find the public seems to be rejecting these nostrums and is looking for the "natural way."

But, just what is that "natural way"? Nowadays, natural takes the form of everything from medications to food. We are surrounded by products and entire stores full of "natural" and "organic" products. In a nearby community, there is a supermarket where built devoted only to organic foods. And, even the one supermarket in Summit has been emphasizing organic produce for many years.

But natural also is being used to describe remedies for common and uncommon ailments. Without going into a litany of products, what easily comes to mind is Ginseng and St. John's Wort. While it seems Ginseng is supposed to bring vitality to us in our older years, I'm not quite sure what St. John's Wort is supposed to do.

Then there are the treatments for really serious illnesses, including cancer, where people are turning to alternative medicines in hope of a cure. Some of these seem to give some relief; others may not.

Some doctors are in favor of alternative means. Others are skeptical.

And, of course, there is no mention if the FDA has passed judgment on any of these items.

This is a bewildering world. We are in a communications swirl at the same time that the communications capabilities are encompassing the "natural" world of food and remedies. What does a normal person do? Is natural really better? Are organically grown food really better for you. Does using manure make food healthier than using man-made sprays? Does taking herbs and spices make for a healthier life? Or do alternatives really spell doom?

Quite a few years ago, peach pits were being touted as a cure for cancer. But no one was cured in spite of trips to Mexico where the use was legal. Is the present trend going down the same hopeful, but unhealthy, track? We need some research and insight into these areas by people with no vested interest in either natural or artificial foods and fertilizers. Otherwise, the layman is just stuck with using the time-true method of taking some aspirin and going to bed.

A Summit resident, Norman Rauscher is a former newspaper publisher and a frequent columnist for this newspaper.

Cone's game completed a perfect picture

Joe's Place

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

Thank you, thank you, thank you, David Cone.

After 30 years as a fan, my baseball fairy godmother has cracked me over the skull with a Louisville Slugger, leaving a spraining of stitches on the crown and peak of my cap.

My luck changed in 1996. After standing in line with my friend, Maty, for World Series tickets for a period of time only slightly less than the Vietnam War lasted, we decided to get seats for game six — which, as Yankee fans well know, turned out to be the clincher.

In 1998, it was game six against hated Cleveland. My friends, in their jubilation, lifted me and bounded me over their heads as the team celebrated on the field. I pinched a nerve in my neck, but it was worth it.

had given me such a kick for so long, would diminish.

It didn't of course. But my environment, Yankee Stadium, which is so much a part of every Yankee fan's consciousness, hasn't felt quite the same since.

The series game was precise. That's what did it. The game looked and felt exactly — exactly — the way I always imagined it would. I had the great good luck to walk into my own private picture, something that had been developing quietly in my mind for years, and that's as significant an experience as anything I can think of. I understood the importance of that particular fact right then and there, as I jumped up and down in place, yelling my head off.

Everyone has an ideal image for something. Not everyone gets to walk into it. I was very, very fortunate in that way.

As for Sunday, I wasn't crazy about going. I was tired, the weather was bad, and I spent most of my money at Friday's game. But my friend, Vin, had two tickets he couldn't use, so I took them and dragged myself, use, exhausted, with my sister, Beth, also exhausted, just to see Yogi on his day. We had no preconceived notions about what it was going to be like. But we came away with the definitive picture of a Sunday afternoon at the stadium.

However and whenever you get a definitive picture in this life, hang on to it forever. It's as rare as a perfect game.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pool needs adequate supervision

To the Editor:
I'm writing this letter in response to the article in the July 15 edition of the Echo Leader concerning the Springfield town pool.

If you want your children to be swimming under-supervised, this is where to send them. Until two weeks ago, the pool opened each day with only two lifeguards supervising the pool for the first two hours. Now until a concerned citizen of Springfield pointed out the absurdity of two lifeguards trying to view the entire pool it was increased to three.

This is still not enough. The size of

the pool dictates a minimum of four people on watch at all times if all areas are to be viewed. Otherwise, portions of the pool should be closed until there is sufficient protection for our residents. The child-lifeguards who are supposed to protect and monitor our citizens are not properly trained. They let kids fight in the pool and disturb the adults. They watch as children run wild. If any of them open their mouths while on duty, it is to talk with their friends.

Either we should raise the price of pool membership to support adequate supervision at all times or have some-

one who knows how to run a pool do so. It is not okay to have lifeguards go to their posts after people enter the pool area. They should be at their posts when the pool opens.

It is our lives they are supposed to protect, not just a summer job and a good time.

ira S. Messinger
Springfield

Our policy on letters and columns

The Echo Leader welcomes submissions from its readers. Either letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

This opportunity also is open to all officials and employees of the borough and township and the County of Union. The Leader reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification.

For publication, all letters and essays must be received before 9 a.m. Monday at 1291 Snyvesant Ave., Union 07083.

Concerned about an issue facing the governing body or Board of Education in your town? Is your street in disrepair? Our readers can use our Infocourse hot line to speak out about any issue whether it is a question, comment, suggestion or opinion. That way, by telling us, you can tell everyone in town.

Call anytime, day or night. Please speak clearly into the phone when leaving your message. Callers can remain anonymous.

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We're asking How is the Springfield pool?



Flora Giailmo

"I think that the municipal pool is wonderful. I think that Pat Farley does a great job."



Rhoda Epstein

"It's handy to have a town pool, to be able to have very young children go to camp. I hope that it continues for many years."



Taylor Zilinek

"I like it because you can go here on a hot day."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pool reports do not reflect reality

To the Editor:
In reading the *Echo Leader's* front page, it is really scary how information is twisted and blown out of proportion to reality in relation to the town pool.

Some basic math: there are over 200 members of the pool and the paper interviewed three or four residents who had concerns. Their concerns are listened to and addressed promptly, as is every person who has expressed a concern about the pool. What about the vast majority of those who use the pool daily and enjoy it?

There have been complaints about the grass being brown. Read the paper, look outside, there is a drought and over 90 degree weather. Should we spend a few thousand dollars watering the grass, wasting taxpayers' money or protect our water supplies for drinking? The answer is clear—the pool water at times gets debris: Again, think for a minute. There are a large number of people swimming in the hot weather and there are trees near the pool. Of course, leaves and other debris get in the water. Every day, over and over, if one takes the time to look, attendants are skimming the water and cleaning it out. There is no danger, as the chlorine level is checked all day and the pool is kept as clean as possible.

The other complaints from one resident in particular who attended the

Township Committee meeting has a clear agenda and personal vendetta there has never, not once, been any valid proof of his assertions. Possibly one should look at the source and intent of the complaints before making it appear that the information presented is true.

However, this is not the style of the *Echo Leader*. They present information and wait to see if there is any validity. Don't they ever cross reference what someone says? If they did, it would be responsible journalism.

Of course, there are changes and actions needed to be taken to enhance the pool's appearance and grounds. We put in a new men's bathroom last year and, finally, after years of neglect, fixed up the leaks in the pool.

The manager is top-notch and very skilled in pool management and in safety. We upgraded the camp and hired college-level counselors. We have many new ideas and plans for the pool for the future to make it even better and will continue to make our goal, as always, to maintain a top-of-the-line pool facility, one that is safe and secure for all, and fun in the sun for all those who join.

Let the *Echo Leader* or the Township Committee know how you feel. Please call me anytime at (973) 912-2200.

Roy Hirschfeld
Springfield Township Committee

Viglianti displays opposition in letter

(Continued from Page 1)
tain property taxes in New Jersey," Viglianti stated in his letter to Whisman.

Viglianti added that the bill is political in nature and is an example of the Legislature pleasing special interest groups.

The borough's chief school administrator, Gerard Schaller, said passage of the bill could have dire consequences for Mountainside's Board of Education.

"If that bill goes through, it would mean that we would have to buy our own buses," he said.

Schaller said that while he did not

'Fiddler on the Roof' to be screened at library

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its luncheon-video series, "Broadway in Your Living Room and a Dance Event," Tuesday at 1 p.m. with "Fiddler on the Roof."

In this three-hour musical, acclaimed star Topol gives the performance of a lifetime, winning three Oscars. Topol is, a poor Jewish milkman with five unmarried daughters to support in the village of Anatevka in czarist Russia.

With a sharp-tongued wife at home, and growing anti-Semitism in the village, Tevye talks to God about his troubles. His people's traditions keep Tevye strong when his existence is balanced as precariously as a fiddler on the roof.

A new luncheon video series, "Armchair Travel Series: The Exotic and Wild," begins Aug. 17 at noon. This series will be shown every other week as follows:

AT THE LIBRARY

• Aug. 17 — "Egypt: Secrets of the Pyramids," one hour. "Australia's Great Barrier Reef," one hour.

• Aug. 31 — "Everglades: Secrets of the Swamp," one hour. "Sonoran Desert: A Violent Eden," one hour.

• Sept. 14 — "America's Endangered Species: Don't Say Goodbye," one hour. "Thunder on the Mountain," one hour.

Bring a brown bag lunch to the performance. Coffee and cookies will be provided. For more information, call (973) 376-4930.

Library presents 'City Without Walls'

The Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library presents "City Without Walls," the 17th annual video show from now until Aug. 27.

This year's metro show was selected from 508 entries in a wide range of styles, subjects and media, as is typical of this annual art exhibition. The three jurors chose 73 works, 14

percent, which is one of the largest metro shows to date. All works receiving one or more votes by the jurors were included, and the awards were decided by consensus of all three.

The "City Without Walls," an artist advocacy organization, is on a year-long tour throughout the region, taking the exhibit to venues not only of museums and libraries, but also to spaces that bring this challenging work into the everyday lives of people who may have few opportunities to visit art exhibitions or may not yet have developed an inclination to do so.

The Donald B. Palmer Museum is located in the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. The hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For additional information, call (973) 376-4930.

Register to swim today

Registration for the 1999 Springfield swim team, sponsored by the Recreation Department, is available at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, Springfield.

The registration fee is \$25 for the first child in the family and \$20 for each additional child. Payment must be in cash or money order made payable to the "Township of Springfield."

Boys and girls from five to 17 years of age are eligible to participate on the team. All participants should be comfortable in deep water, though need not be Olympic-quality swimmers.

Any Springfield resident or anyone who attends school in Springfield is eligible to swim. Those residing and/or going to school outside of Springfield must be pool members in order to participate on the team.

For more information, call the Recreation Department at (973) 912-2277.

Leaking refrigerator causes potential safety hazard, evacuation

A call for a refrigeration leak sent the Springfield Fire Department to a Ruby Street residence Friday night. A punctured line in an old model refrigerator caused police to evacuate the building. Firefighters, not knowing what kind of refrigerant was used, donned self-contained breathing apparatus. The building was ventilated with smoke ejectors, and the residents were advised to bring the appliance outside for safety reasons. No illnesses were reported.

FIRE BLOTTER

• A brush fire on the center island on westbound Route 22 near Rockaway Bedding was called in Friday at 6:53 p.m. The fire, extinguished by a police officer, was housed down by the department with water. Damage to a nearby utility pole was reported by the department to GPU.

A call for an activated fire alarm at

the Gaudinier School was answered earlier that day.

• A spill resulting from a motor vehicle accident was cleaned July 22. Three medical service calls and two calls for activated alarms also were handled.

• A backhoe in operation at a construction site on Maple Avenue sprung a leak July 21 and began spraying fluid, resulting in a small spill.

Two medical service calls and one

call for an activated alarm also were answered.

• The department responded to Hawthorne and Tooker for a two-car accident July 20. Medical treatment was administered to the two drivers, with one driver being transported to the hospital.

A second two-car accident, at Milltown and South Gate at 7:01 p.m., caused one vehicle to turn on its side. The vehicle was smoking, but the department disconnected the power.

No fire was reported. One individual received medical treatment.

An activated alarm sent the department around the block to Springfield Town Hall at 9:35 a.m., with a second alarm going off at a Skyhawk Road residence at 5:46 p.m.

There were two medical service calls reported on the day.

• A small car fire was extinguished by its owner at a 7-11 on Morris Avenue at 2:49 a.m. July 19.

Three medical service calls and one activated alarm also were answered.

• The department was summoned by State Police early in the morning of July 18 for an overturned vehicle on westbound Route 78 near milepost 49. Engine One responded and stabilized the vehicle, then waited as the vehicle was righted and removed by a wrecker. The driver, who was able to crawl out, suffered no injuries.

One medical service call was reported July 18.

Township's Bob's Store suffers from shoplifters

Bob's Stores on Route 22 West was victimized by one shoplifter July 12, with a second shoplifter arrested and brought to court.

Louis Alberto Lopez Sanchez, a Mexico City native and current Kenilworth resident, was arrested at the store at 7:42 p.m. Police records did not detail the merchandise taken. Sanchez was released on \$500 bail.

Jessica Nacovsky, a Whippany resident, was arrested as the result of an investigation, revealing that she had taken \$129.99 in clothing from the store April 20. The evidence was

POLICE BLOTTER

held by the store. Nacovsky pled guilty in court.

• Sayreville resident Debra Peppow, 28, was arrested at Taco Bell on Morris Avenue July 17 and charged with receiving stolen property, possession and use of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of a hypodermic and other drug paraphernalia.

• For the second time in at many weeks, a car travelling along Route 22 was assaulted by a manhole cover. A

1999 Pontiac Firebird, traveling in the left lane on the eastbound side on July 17, struck a broken manhole cover, damaging the left rear tire and rim. No injuries were reported.

• A two-car-plus engagement ring was taken from a home on Short Hill Avenue during a burglary July 14.

• A Summit resident operating a black 1992 Mazda struck a deer on Summit Road by Hampshire Court and Juniper Way July 16. The front of the Mazda was damaged, although the owner was able to drive the vehicle away.

• A West Orange resident reported her driver's license missing after visiting the Springfield Library July 12. The woman, who indicated that she had been attending a meeting at the library, discovered her license missing when she looked in her wallet afterward.

• On July 12 a Morris Avenue resident reported that he had 23 shrubs stolen from his home. The plants were valued at \$3,800.

• A Whippany man, filling out a change of address form at the Division of Motor Vehicles, said he left

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Federal grant aids borough PD

By John Coleck
Staff Writer

The Mountainside Police Department has received a \$15,000 grant from the United States Department of Justice to continue the funding of an officer hired under a previous federal grant. The Borough Council voted 5-0 at its July 20 meeting to accept the grant and include it in the current municipal budget.

The grant comes to the borough from the Justice Department's Small Communities Grants Program. Justice Department spokeswoman Jessica Robinson said the SCGP is designed to help communities under 50,000 residents retain officers funded from a previous grant from the department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Robinson said a local police department needed to demonstrate to her office that there was a severe budget constraint or fiscal distress which could cause the dismissal of the officer who was hired under the previous grant.

The original federal program was announced by President Clinton in 1993. In his announcement, Clinton pledged to put 100,000 new police officers on the street by 1999. According to a Justice Department statement, the SCGP program achieved this goal May 12 of this year.

All officers hired under the SCGP program are geared toward community policing in their respective jurisdiction. The Justice Department has announced that more than half the police departments in the country have received grants from the SCGP program.

Mountainside Police Chief/Interim Borough Administrator James Debie said when the president announced the first community policing grant measure, his department submitted an application. The money was granted by the SCGP program and one new officer was hired in 1995.

Debie said the department received the SCGP application from the Justice Department to assist with

the retention of the recently hired officer.

"He is here, and he's not going anywhere," said Debie.

Debie said he and his aides are working on getting more federal grant money for the Mountainside police force. He credited Rep. Bob Franks and his office for assisting Mountainside with obtaining the money and researching future federal grant programs.

"They're really on top of what is made available," said Debie.

Franks has come out in support of the SCGP program and the grant received by Mountainside. "The SCGP program has been one of the most effective federal programs ever enacted to assist communities in fighting crime and improving safety. This program has been especially important to small communities, such as Mountainside, which must confront some of the same public safety concerns facing larger communities," Franks said.

Rubber ducky, you're the one



Springfield resident J.P. Ross, 16 months, waters his rubber ducky at the community pool over the weekend.

Photos on display at Children's Specialized Hospital

The New Jersey Photography Forum's annual juried show will be on display from Aug. 15 through Sept. 26 at the Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. The show was curated by Nancy J. Ori and Michael Cream, co-founders of the New Jersey Photography Forum.

Over 300 photographers were invited to submit two prints to be considered for exhibition. Fifty-seven photographs were selected for exhibition by judges Joan Gok, executive director of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit, Larry Capriello, director of the Gallery at the

Arts Guild of Rahway and Glen Diehl, president of the Watchung Arts Center.

An Award of Excellence was given to Douglas Goodill and four awards of merit were given to Norm Adams, Don Halpem, Susan Puder and Gerry Wachtel.

The New Jersey Photography Forum is dedicated to furthering the interests of professional and serious amateur photographers. The group is now in its fifth year of development and has become the largest and most recognized group of fine art photographers in the state, rivaled only by the

American Society of Media Photographers, who are commercially based.

Its monthly meetings at the Watchung Arts Center encourage attendees to share expertise and advance their skills. The meetings provide access to creative and technical information.

Simple presentations, examples and demonstrations by manufacturers are given regularly, and photographers have an opportunity to display their work for critique by others. Exhibition possibilities within the fine art community are explored. The forum is a resource for photographers interested in becoming exhibiting artists.

Trailside Science Center features dino talks

Dinosaurs were once thought to be enormous, cold-blooded, slow-moving swamp dwellers. But more than 50 new species of dinosaurs have been found since 1970. Scientists now wonder whether dinosaurs were social, warm-blooded, successful creatures who were good parents.

How can paleontologists interpret an animal's lifestyle from fossil remains? Learn the 'what's, why's and how's of extinction and what has

become of the bromosaurs when the Trailside Nature and Science Center presents "Dino Doin's" Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

The show, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, is for children ages 4 and up and their families. Tickets are \$4 for each person and may be purchased at the door the day of the program.

"Dino Doin's" is a wonderful addition to Trailside's Wednesday

maine series this summer," said Freeholder Chairman Nicholas P. Sauter. "It's a good opportunity to learn about the latest dinosaur discoveries and to enjoy an afternoon in Union County's largest park."

Trailside Nature and Science Center is located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. For more information about this or other programs, call (908) 789-3670.

LIFESTYLE

Wnek's celebrate gold

Bernice and Stanley Wnek of Springfield celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on a cruise to the Southern Caribbean. Making the voyage with them were three of their children — Mr. and Mrs. Louis Puopolo, Mr. and Mrs. James Wnek, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Pagnotta and two of their grandchildren — Nicole and Louis Puopolo. Bernice and Stanley Wnek renewed their vows at a golden anniversary Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

The Mass was celebrated by Arch-Bishop Theodore McCarrick. The former Bernice Malek and Stanley Wnek were married June 25, 1949 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Irvington. Stanley Wnek was a teacher in the Irvington school system for 24 years, retiring as assistant principal of Myrtle Avenue Middle School in 1983.

He was also a varsity baseball coach for 27 years, which began at Montclair State University, Hillside High School and culminated at Irvington High School. He is active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars as a Past Commander of Post 7683 and District 5 Sr. Vice Commander in Union County. Bernice Wnek is a homemaker and former registered nurse.

The Wnek's have six children: Susan Venezia of High Bridge; Judith and husband, Louis Puopolo, of Springfield; Richard and wife, Lois, of Morrisstown; Patricia and husband, John Nizalowski, of Delta, Colo.; James and wife, Jean, of Oviedo, Fla.; and Karen and husband, Michael Pagnotta, of Kenilworth; They have 12 grandchildren.

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Ahead of the pack



The Summit High School football team, sparked by the play of junior Mike Nelson (No. 23), will look to stay a few steps ahead of the competition this year. Head coach Mike Colombo just completed his first camp at Tatook Field yesterday. The Hilltoppers open the 1999 campaign at home against defending Iron Hills Conference-Hills Division champion Parsippany Hills on Sept. 18. Summit will enter the season with a two-game winning streak. The 1999 schedule is as follows: Sept. 18 Parsippany Hills, 1:30; Sept. 25 at Hanover Park, 1:30; Oct. 2 Dover, 1:30; Oct. 9 at Mendham, 2:00; Oct. 15 at Mount Olive, 7:00; Oct. 23 West Essex, 1:30; Oct. 29 at Parsippany, 7:00; Nov. 6 at Morris Hills, 2:00; Nov. 25 Weequahic, 11:00.

Minutemen baseball team captures division crown

For the first time in several years the two Springfield Minutemen baseball teams have had the league playoffs.

The ages 11-12 team finished its season with an impressive record of 12-4 in league play. Springfield won the division championship and earned the second seed for the playoffs that were scheduled to commence Monday at Rossmore Field in Springfield.

Springfield's ages 9-10 squad concluded at 8-5 in league competition, earning a fifth seed for the playoffs. Springfield was scheduled to face Florham Park Tuesday.

In order to make the playoffs, both teams needed to play well in their last two weeks of regular-season play. Here's a look at how the ages 11-12 team performed:

Millburn 7, Springfield 2 (July 12); Mike Tass and David Tarullo both stole home for Springfield's only run. Leo Silverman advanced Tass, a groundout before Steve Tetamanti lined a single.

Springfield 9, Florham Park 4 (July 14); Springfield scored seven runs in the top of the fifth to support the excellent pitching of Jeremy Marx. After Sara Steinman, Mike Tass and Jeremy Marx singled, lead the base, catcher Steve Tetamanti brought them home with a triple. Pat Cicrelli scored Springfield's first run, Kenneth Suarez drove in a run and Matt Parman belted a two-run double. Marx was the winning pitcher and Tetamanti was presented with a game ball. Mike Mammario also hit safely.

Maplewood 6, Springfield 5 (Saturday, July 24; semifinals); Maplewood scored three runs in the bottom of the fifth to tie the game at 5-5 and then scored the game-winner in the bottom of the seventh.

Despite not coming out on top, Springfield coach Silverman felt it was the best game his team has played so far this season.

Leo Silverman drove in Sara Steinman in the top of the third, while Kenneth Suarez scored Springfield's second run in the fourth after being hit by a pitch and then stealing a base. Scoring for Springfield in the fifth were Steinman, Mike Tass and Silverman.

Here's a look at how Springfield's ages 9-10 team performed:

Mountainside 23, Springfield 2 (Sunday, July 18); Ryan Sabinsky drove in both runs as Evan Ring and Ryan O'Reilly scored for the Minutemen.

New Providence 25, Springfield 17 (Sunday, July 18); Springfield scored more runs, but gave up more as well.

New Providence 7, Springfield 4 (Saturday, July 24; semifinals); David Steinman drove in two runs with a triple and Ryan Sabinsky drove in two runs again. Ben Zweiman reached base after being hit by a pitch and later scored on a single hit by Sabinsky. Ryan O'Reilly executed a successful bunt and Stephen Suarez connected on a single.

Springfield won by forfeit over Mountainide Montclair 7, Roseland 12, South Orange 8, Maplewood 7, Mountainide 2.

Sunday, July 18: Ages 11-12: Springfield won by forfeit over Mountainide Montclair 7, Roseland 4, Maplewood 10, South Orange 8.

Ages 9-10: Mountainide 23, Springfield 2, New Providence 23, Springfield 17, Kenilworth 17, Maplewood 8.

As a result of two weekends of play, four teams in each division survived to play in the semifinal round. The results are as follows:

Wednesday, July 21: Ages 9-10: Mountainide 28, Kenilworth 11, New Providence 7, Springfield 4.

Ages 11-12: Roseland 12, Montclair 7, Maplewood 6, Springfield 5.

As a result of Saturday's single-elimination games, the teams playing in the championship games were:

Ages 11-12: Maplewood 6, Roseland 4, Ages 9-10: Mountainide over New Providence.

At the end of each championship game, trophies were presented to the second-place team and then to the first-place team.

The trophy presentations were made by tournament organizer Fred Silverman, who was ably assisted by Minutemen coach Scott Steinman.

Here's a look at how Springfield's ages 11-12 team performed:

Springfield 19, Montclair 6; Driving in runs for Springfield were Steve Tetamanti, Kenneth Suarez, Jeremy Marx, Pat Cicrelli, David Tarullo, Cory Berger and Brandon Stern-Charles, who belted a three-run triple that scored Mike Mohr and Gregg Stefanelli. Leo Silverman pitched well for five innings to earn the mound victory. Relief pitcher Sara Steinman struck out two Montclair batters in the top of the sixth.

Springfield 19, Montclair 6; Driving in runs for Springfield were Steve Tetamanti, Kenneth Suarez, Jeremy Marx, Pat Cicrelli, David Tarullo, Cory Berger and Brandon Stern-Charles, who belted a three-run triple that scored Mike Mohr and Gregg Stefanelli. Leo Silverman pitched well for five innings to earn the mound victory. Relief pitcher Sara Steinman struck out two Montclair batters in the top of the sixth.

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Dayton hockey wins first

Jonathan Kovacs scored three goals and Jared Cohen and Brett Berger added a goal and an assist to lead the Dayton ice hockey team to its first win in Varsity High School League competition.

Dayton downed the Bridgewater-Raritan Panthers 8-4 last Saturday. A.J. Giacchino played well in goal for the Bulldogs as Springfield opened a quick 4-0 lead against the Panthers in the first nine minutes of the first period.

After Bridgewater closed the gap to 4-3, senior Brian Young took a pass from Kevin Tighe and slipped it past the Panther goalie to increase Dayton's lead to 5-3.

Leading 6-4 with five minutes remaining, Kovacs scored his third goal of the game to secure the win for Dayton.

In outshooting the Panthers 38-23, Dayton raised its record to 1-2. Dayton is scheduled to face Cranford Sunday at the Bridgewater Sports Arena at 5:30 p.m.

Kovacs is the leading goal-scorer for Dayton with five goals, while incoming Dayton freshman Brett Berger leads the team with four assists.

The leading scorers as of Monday for Dayton were: Jared Cohen (3-3-6), Jonathan Kovacs (5-1-6), Brett Berger (2-4-6), Gerardo Roman (2-2-4).

Jonathan Kovacs scored three goals and Jared Cohen and Brett Berger added a goal and an assist to lead the Dayton ice hockey team to its first win in Varsity High School League competition.

Jonathan Kovacs scored three goals and Jared Cohen and Brett Berger added a goal and an assist to lead the Dayton ice hockey team to its first win in Varsity High School League competition.

Swimmers excel in meets against two other towns

Springfield swimmers excelled in North Jersey Summer Swim League meets against Cedar Grove and Berkeley Heights, although they come up on the short end of scored. Cedar Grove outpointed Springfield 253-187, while Berkeley Heights managed a 235-206 victory.

Here's a look at Springfield results of both meets:

Cedar Grove 253, Springfield 187

12-U individual medley: Girls: J. Galante, second. K. Palitto, third. Boys: M. Bocian, second. J. Cottage, third.

13-18 IM: Girls: B. Maul, first. Boys: N. Denner, second. B. Hillman, third.

8-U freestyle: Girls: A. Grywalski, first. Boys: N. Giacchino, third.

9-10 freestyle: Girls: A. Demberger, first. L. Puliti, third. Boys: C. Santana, first. J. Giamo, third.

11-12 freestyle: Girls: J. Galante, second. Boys: St. Stocki, first. M. Bocian, third.

13-17 freestyle: Boys: P. Hearne, first. A. Elekes, second.

15-17 freestyle: Girls: K. Bocian, second. D. Galante, third. Boys: S. Swingle, first. J. Andracko, third.

8-U backstroke: Girls: T. Zilinek, third. Boys: N. Giacchino, third.

9-10 backstroke: Girls: A. Grywalski, second. L. Puliti, third. Boys: J. Palitto, second.

11-12 backstroke: Girls: C. Grywalski, second. Boys: L. Puopolo, second. M. Bocian, third.

13-14 backstroke: Girls: K. Roggerman, third. Boys: P. Hearne, J. Cottage.

15-17 backstroke: Girls: K. Bocian, second. Boys: M. Hollander, first.

8-U breaststroke: Girls: A. Grywalski, first. St. Zilinek, second. Boys: N. Giacchino, first.

9-10 breaststroke: Girls: A. Rodrigues, first. Boys: C. Santana, second. J. Giamo, third.

11-12 breaststroke: Girls: C. Maul, third. Boys: L. Puopolo, first. J. Cottage, second. N. Palitto, third.

13-14 breaststroke: Boys: B. Hillman, first. A. Elekes, second. J. Cottage, third.

15-17 breaststroke: Girls: B. Maul, third. Boys: N. Denner, first. D. DeCagna, second.

8-U butterfly: Girls: A. Grywalski, first.

9-10 butterfly: Girls: A. Demberger, first. A. Corcione, third. Boys: J. Palitto, first. J. Giamo, third.

11-12 butterfly: Girls: C. Grywalski, second. Boys: S. Stocki, first. J. Cottage, third.

13-14 butterfly: Boys: B. Hillman, first. J. Cottage, third.

15-17 butterfly: Girls: B. Maul, third. Boys: S. Swingle, second. M. Hollander, third.

12-under medley relay: Girls: L. Puliti, C. Maul, K. Palitto, A. Corcione, second.

13-over co-ed medley relay: M. Hollander, J. Janowski, S. Swingle, K. Roggerman, second.

8-U mixed relay freestyle: C. Demberger, M. Bonadies, N. Giacchino, R. Yamazone, second.

15-17 freestyle: Girls: K. Bocian, first. B. Maul, second. Boys: M. Reheis, first. M. Quick, third.

8-U backstroke: Girls: A. Grywalski, first.

9-10 backstroke: Girls: A. Demberger, first. Boys: J. Palitto, first.

11-12 backstroke: K. Palitto, second. C. Andracko, third. Boys: S. Stocki, first.

13-14 backstroke: Boys: P. Hearne, first.

15-17 backstroke: Girls: K. Bocian, first. Boys: R. Farrell, second.

8-U breaststroke: Girls: T. Zilinek, first.

9-10 breaststroke: A. Rodrigues, second. A. Corcione, third. Boys: J. Giamo, third.

11-12 breaststroke: Girls: C. Maul, first. J. Galante, third. Boys: L. Puopolo, first.

12-U freestyle relay: Boys: S. Stocki, J. Palitto, C. Santana, L. Puopolo, first.

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12-U IM: Girls: C. Grywalski, second. Boys: L. Puopolo, second.

13-18 IM: Girls: K. Bocian, second. Boys: M. Reheis, first.

8-U freestyle: A. Grywalski, first.

9-10 freestyle: Boys: J. Giamo, second.

11-12 freestyle: Girls: J. Galante, first. M. Bocian, second.

13-14 freestyle: Girls: P. Hearne, third. A. Elekes, second.

15-14 backstroke: Girls: J. Butruk, third. Boys: A. Elekes, second.

17-18 breaststroke: Girls: B. Maul, first. Boys: M. Reheis, second.

8-U butterfly: Girls: A. Grywalski, first.

9-10 butterfly: Girls: A. Demberger, first. Boys: J. Palitto, first.

11-12 butterfly: Boys: S. Stocki, second.

13-14 butterfly: Boys: J. Cottage, second.

15-17 butterfly: Girls: B. Maul, first. Boys: R. Farrell, second.

12-under medley relay: Girls: A. Demberger, C. Maul, J. Galante, A. Rodrigues, first.

12-under medley relay: Girls: L. Puliti, C. Maul, K. Palitto, A. Corcione, second.

13-over co-ed medley relay: M. Hollander, J. Janowski, S. Swingle, K. Roggerman, second.

8-U mixed relay freestyle: C. Demberger, M. Bonadies, N. Giacchino, R. Yamazone, second.

15-17 freestyle: Girls: K. Bocian, first. B. Maul, second. Boys: M. Reheis, first. M. Quick, third.

8-U backstroke: Girls: A. Grywalski, first.

9-10 backstroke: Girls: A. Demberger, first. Boys: J. Palitto, first.

11-12 backstroke: K. Palitto, second. C. Andracko, third. Boys: S. Stocki, first.

13-14 backstroke: Boys: P. Hearne, first.

15-17 backstroke: Girls: K. Bocian, first. Boys: R. Farrell, second.

8-U breaststroke: Girls: T. Zilinek, first.

9-10 breaststroke: A. Rodrigues, second. A. Corcione, third. Boys: J. Giamo, third.

11-12 breaststroke: Girls: C. Maul, first. J. Galante, third. Boys: L. Puopolo, first.

12-U freestyle relay: Boys: S. Stocki, J. Palitto, C. Santana, L. Puopolo, first.

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12-U IM: Girls: C. Grywalski, second. Boys: L. Puopolo, second.

13-18 IM: Girls: K. Bocian, second. Boys: M. Reheis, first.

8-U freestyle: A. Grywalski, first.

9-10 freestyle: Boys: J. Giamo, second.

11-12 freestyle: Girls: J. Galante, first. M. Bocian, second.

13-14 freestyle: Girls: P. Hearne, third. A. Elekes, second.

15-14 backstroke: Girls: J. Butruk, third. Boys: A. Elekes, second.

17-18 breaststroke: Girls: B. Maul, first. Boys: M. Reheis, second.

8-U butterfly: Girls: A. Grywalski, first.

9-10 butterfly: Girls: A. Demberger, first. Boys: J. Palitto, first.

11-12 butterfly: Boys: S. Stocki, second.

13-14 butterfly: Boys: J. Cottage, second.

15-17 butterfly: Girls: B. Maul, first. Boys: R. Farrell, second.

12-under medley relay: Girls: A. Demberger, C. Maul, J. Galante, A. Rodrigues, first.

Community pool offers many recreational activities for all

Adults are also encouraged to partake in the pool's programs. Adult swims are held every hour on the hour from 10 to 5 p.m. during weekdays and adult lap swimming periods are also scheduled.

"We have a pretty good recreational program for a town pool," Farley said. "Most pools don't do this much."

The pool also sponsors a swim team, which Farley coaches. The team is currently in 1-3, competing in Division 4 of the North Jersey Summer Swim League. The team's win came against West Caldwell, a town the team had never beaten before. Four team records have fallen this year.

"We're having a good time," Farley said. "We're holding our own despite our size (about 90 kids, which is smaller than many towns). We are shooting for the division and league championship meet. We are working hard for that."

For those just learning to swim, private swim lessons are available for both adults and children throughout the summer. Private competitive lessons are also available. Call the pool to schedule an appointment. Swim classes are also currently going on. The aqua tots program for ages 3-5 and the pre-school/beginner class are two of the more popular classes, according to Farley.

There are different programs for different age groups, depending on how they swim," Springfield Recreation Department Director Michael Ternaro said.

The Springfield Community Pool is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day during the summer months.

Adults are also encouraged to partake in the pool's programs. Adult swims are held every hour on the hour from 10 to 5 p.m. during weekdays and adult lap swimming periods are also scheduled.

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Photo by Mike Mills

