

# Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 72 NO. 31

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2001

TWO SECTION

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## Springfield Township Committee introduces bud

### Average home can expect \$50 jump

By Brian Pedersen  
Managing Editor

After the ordinance for the late filing of the 2001 municipal budget was introduced and passed on first reading Tuesday night, the Springfield Township Committee announced an anticipated property tax increase of three points.

For the new budget, balanced at \$18,519,739.40, the tax increase would be about \$0.03 per \$100 of assessed value, roughly \$50 per year on the average home assessed at \$155,000.

"Technically, I am told that this budget is \$30,000 less than it was last year," said Township Committeeman Gregory Clarke.

Clarke explained that the pool of money from the revenue side is not tax effective and

the committee will have to use more money in terms of taxation to make up the difference.

"We truly have taken great pride in the fact that we go line by line and item by item on the budget," said Township Committeewoman Clara Hareluk. "We do that so that we can ensure that we provide the best service for the people of Springfield while at the same time, not overly taxing them."

Several members of the committee agreed that they have succeeded in trying to balance the budget without putting a heavy tax increase on local residents.

"This town has not had an increase at the municipal level in three years," said Mayor Sy Mullman, adding that \$50 or \$60 dollars, "I hope is certainly not a lot of money for the amount of service that we give here. We do

take pride in Springfield and we do the very best we can."

Mullman explained that the committee looked at each item, line by line and evaluated all the disadvantages and advantages from every angle. They came up with what they hope to be a budget that will improve and maintain the fiscal integrity of the township, while at the same time, keep the best interests of the residents in mind, he added.

Emphasizing the need for the public to be made aware of the sources of the tax increase, Township Committeeman Roy Hirschfeld explained that when the committee gets the bill for the budget, it is made up not only of money for the municipality, but of money for the schools and county as well.

"We did a lot of work on this budget," said Hirschfeld. "Please be aware when your taxes

increase at whatever level they will finally be, that our tax increase is three points."

According to some key points in the spending plan of the budget message, approximately 60 percent or \$11 million in costs are either directly or indirectly out of the control of the Township Committee. Some of these costs include insurance, debt service, and the mandatory costs of operating the government.

Grants and other non-tax sources of revenue are also sought by the committee whenever possible.

Another factor the Township Committee has addressed in the spending plan includes labor contracts with police, fire, and public works that have expired Dec. 31 and still have not been settled.

Funding for capital projects also has been addressed in the spending plan, including the

upgrading and construction of the headquarters building.

Infrastructure repairs, particularly those for sewer and storm water management issues have been made a higher priority and important component of the budget spending plan.

Clarke pointed out that some routine items such as road and sewer repair were necessary for balancing the budget. "When you get a 21-percent increase on a large item on your budget, it's very difficult to hold the line," he said. "These routine services do cost mega dollars but they are extremely crucial to our community."

The Township Committee encouraged residents to review the budget message so they are aware of how their property taxes will be affected by the new budget.

The public hearing and final adoption for the budget will be April 24 at 8 p.m.

## State could provide near \$2 million for project

By Joan M. Devlin  
Staff Writer

The Mountainside Board of Education called an impromptu meeting March 20 at Deerfield School to make a long-awaited announcement.

Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller announced that the approval letter from the New Jersey State Board of Education had been faxed to him that day; the receipt of which means the Board of Education can officially move ahead with the Deerfield-Beechwood school expansion bond referendum.

Assistant Principal Elizabeth Keshish said they were all very excited and happy that at last all could move forward. "It was a 15-page letter, expanding on the long-range plans, and approval of them," she said. Now the school board is awaiting the approval of the buildings proposals. The letter, however, did not mention money. That will come later on.

"First they confirm all aspects of the five-year plan going over it, room by room and class by class, approving each item. It did not offer any specific amount of money as yet," said Keshish, "but they will."

Backtracking, Keshish said, "In general, the whole project will cost approximately \$6.8 million. We could get up to 40 percent of this amount from the state, but there are certain things they pay for and certain others that they do not pay for."

Schaller, who had read the letter at the meeting, summarized. "What the letter allows us to do now is, for the district to proceed with implementation of individual facilities projects or other capital projects which have been approved in this draft, this final determination of theirs." Schaller said at the meeting they reviewed everything. Laughing, he added, "We then approved their approval. Now what they do is advise exactly the amount of funding we will have by the end of the month."

Because it is from the State Board of Education, Schaller said everything must be very formal. There is much red tape, but the strain is over, and Mountainside can now present its

*'This had to pass through the New Jersey District Attorney's office, as well as the commissioner of education of New Jersey's office; that is what took so long.'*

— Gerard Schaller  
School administrator

bond referendum to voters on April 17, the same day residents will be voting on the annual school budget as well as for three members of the Board of Education.

On Friday afternoon, Schaller got the news he and the school board have been waiting for. "We are the first public school district that had to go through doing the long-range facility plan in its entirety to get the state share — but we got it."

The preliminary eligible cost for Beechwood School alone was \$3,406,104 and for Deerfield School it was \$1,340,588; a total of \$4,746,692, which is 70 percent of the preliminary eligible cost, but the state has set a cap of 40 percent which they will pay.

For Beechwood School, the district would receive \$1,362,441.60 and for Deerfield School, \$536,235.20, for a total of \$1,898,676.80, or 40 percent."

The remainder of the expansion \$6.8-million expansion project, about \$4.96 million, will be borne by Mountainside taxpayers through a 20-year bond.

The anxiety of waiting for the final phase to come through from the state has been quite a strain on the chief school administrator and he was very relieved on Friday after the news. Asked if it was what he expected, he said, "I knew it would be over \$5 million, but I did not know exactly how much over."

If indeed the people of the Borough of Mountainside pass the referendum on April 17, the funding as listed will be made available to the district.

## Getting a lift



Paula Neuring gets a lift from American Red Cross driver John Brunetto. The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter's senior transportation program, "Motor works," offers transportation to medical and professional appointments within Westfield and Mountainside for residents of Westfield and Mountainside. To arrange an appointment, with two days' notice, call (908) 232-7709.

## Residents to vote on budget with no increase

By Joan M. Devlin  
Staff Writer

The Mountainside Board of Education meeting Tuesday night was like the last act of a play; everything came together, all eyes now on the April 17 date to finalize the plans.

Two separate items were presented and passed, each fully documented in booklets for those present. They were the Board of Education's 2001-02 budget, and the bond referendum to renovate the Beechwood and Deerfield schools, both ready for April 17 and the voting of the public.

Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller, assisted by board secretary Florence Shukis, presented a slide presentation of the material in both booklets, beginning with the budget summary. It was in two parts: revenues and expenditures, simply broken down with copies available for all parents.

The \$9.4-million budget calls for a

local tax levy of \$8 million which residents will decide on via casting their votes in the April 17 school election. The tax levy is the same as last year, which means school taxes will increase as a result of the budget.

Several parents were worried about the overcrowding now at Deerfield and wondered if there was a way of improving that while awaiting the finished building project. Taeschler reassured one mother: "We are not cutting anything now except cooking and sewing and we have plenty of faculty. As long as we know we will soon have more room it makes it easier."

"When a building gets full," Schaller said, "everyone of us here is aware of that; there is a mindset and we all work together. You'll see that the next two years while the building is being built, everyone will do their best."

The referendum complete with site plans also was presented by Schaller.

## Temple services to celebrate Passover

By Joan M. Devlin  
Staff Writer

Passover, or Pesach in Hebrew, is a Jewish holiday of family and freedom, and has been celebrated for almost 3,000 years. This year, April 8 is the first day of Passover, but services of celebration begin at sundown April 7 and the holiday is observed for eight days with religious services and feasting.

The very word, "Pesach," means protection in Hebrew, which is what God did for the Jewish people escaping the Pharaoh, Ramses II's rule in Egypt. The story is recorded in the Book of Exodus and is told over again at seders, or feasts, the first two nights of the holiday.

The story is of Moses, a shepherd, whom God chose to lead the Jews out of Egypt where they were slaves and in great suffering. God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and say "Let my people go," and when Pharaoh ignored Moses, God sent 10 terrible plagues on Egypt. Pharaoh refused Moses until the last plague which was the most terrible: the slaying of the first born in every family, which according to legend, affected the family of Pharaoh himself.

To protect the Jews, God instructed

them to put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts, so the Angel of Death would "pass over" their house that night. Then when Pharaoh agreed to free them after this terrible night, they hurriedly left their homes to flee, with no time to even bake bread for the journey. Thus, the background for the unleavened bread, matzah, which is cracker-like and still eaten in place of bread to commemorate what happened centuries ago.

The Jews were free, but still pursued by an enraged Pharaoh to the Red Sea, where they were trapped. Then a miracle occurred, as God gave Moses the instruction to wave his wand and the Red Sea parted; the fleeing Jews escaped and when Pharaoh's army came after them, the sea closed over them. Down through the ages, the story is retold every year to young and old. The celebration of Passover is always a family celebration, with not just family, but strangers to be invited to share in the event.

• The Conservative congregation of Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, will celebrate Passover on the First Day, April 8, with a 9 a.m. Shaharit service, and a service at 7 p.m. Minya, followed by a 7:45 p.m.

See LOCAL, Page 9

## Springfield school plan calls for \$51 tax hike

By Brian Pedersen  
Managing Editor

The proposed budget for the 2001-02 school year was approved by the Springfield Board of Education Monday night to be placed on the ballot at the annual school election on April 17. The \$23.3-million spending plan includes a local tax levy of \$20.8 million.

The tax impact of the budget will be \$51 per quarter for the average household. Total revenues include state aid, \$1,311,908; miscellaneous revenue, \$292,550; tuition, \$370,233; federal aid, \$204,878, and fund balance, \$290,000. Taken together with the sum for local taxes, the figures bring the total budget to \$23,279,878.

Some of the major challenges facing the board for the upcoming school year include maintaining the technology and pre-kindergarten programs, managing the increase in classroom size and enrollment, particularly in the elementary classes, and dealing with rising health insurance and energy costs.

"We are trying to maintain class size, but it is slowly creeping up because of increasing enrollment and the actual size of our facility," said board President Jacqueline Shanes.

See SCHOOL, Page 9

## Two congregations share church

### Young ministers lead Pentecostal

By Joan M. Devlin  
Staff Writer

Editor's note: This is the 10th part in a series highlighting the various religions and houses of worship in Mountainside and Springfield. A young couple, Paul and Sharon

Dean, are both ordained ministers of the Visions of God Family Worship, a Pentecostal church in Springfield, where membership is growing by leaps and bounds.

So far, they do not have their own church; they meet at the Evangel Baptist Church on Shunpike Road, and hold the services at an afternoon hour, 2 p.m., when Evangel Baptist is not holding its worship services. All is friendly and highly compatible between the two congregations and the Deans are very grateful to the Rev. Frederick Mackey for letting them use the beautiful sanctuary, until such time as the fledgling church is able to secure its own building.

The Rev. Paul Dean is the senior pastor, and his wife, Sharon, who is also ordained, is able to share the pulpit when needed. They both are graduates of Aeon Bible College in East Orange. Like all Pentecostals, they believe in Christian faith which began spreading at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came with "tongues of fire," according to the Bible, and everyone

could speak and understand each other's languages.

The new religion, Christianity, then spread all over the known world from that day forward, which is a feast called Pentecost that is celebrated in all denominations of the Christian church to this day.

"You could say we simply preach and believe in following Jesus, as closely as we can," said Paul. He said, "The name of our congregation, 'Visions of God Family Worship,' is from the Book of Ezekial, chapter 1, verse 1, where the prophet Ezekial has the experience of being caught up into the presence of God. My wife, Sharon, chose that to be our name, because it is part of what we all believe; that you can have a personal experience with God and see visions because of this, like Ezekial."

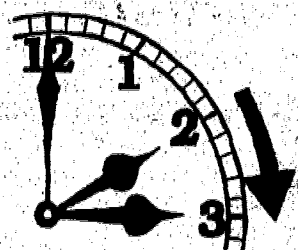
Sharon nodded in agreement and added, "In the same context, part of our belief is in healing; a hurting heart, which can encompass illness, abuse, emotional problems. In other words, we believe God can heal everything."

See TWO, Page 2



The Rev. Paul and Sharon Dean started Visions of God Family Worship, a Pentecostal church in Springfield, about three years ago. Membership started with 12 people and now numbers close to 150.

Photo by Jeff Gram



## Spring ahead

Readers are reminded to push their clocks forward one hour before retiring to bed Saturday in anticipation of Daylight Saving Time, which begins Sunday at 2 a.m.

## Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

**How to reach us:**  
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 us at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

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

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

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

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The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept Master Card, Visa, American Express or Discover Card. A classified representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours or call 1-800-564-8911, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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## Bingo in Espanol



Second-graders Kevin Kirt and Matthew Neubauer of James Caldwell School in Springfield are involved in a Bingo game during Spanish class with their teacher, Laura Beller.

## Two churches share building, services

(Continued from Page 1)

The Deans formerly lived in Springfield, and the congregation was established in 1998; it began in their home with 12 people. Eventually it grew to over 45 people so they met at the Holiday Inn in Springfield, and that became crowded. Then one of the parishioners who was living in Springfield suggested that the Evangel Baptist church may have extra room in between schedules.

"My husband and I thought we would go and meet with Pastor Mackey and talk about it. We did, and he opened the door for us immediately, with warmth and love," Paul added, "They allow us to worship in the sanctuary during Sunday afternoons, and they also allow us to use the church Tuesday evenings for a 7 p.m. service when we have prayer and Bible-teaching."

A majority of the worshippers, now numbering upward of 150, are commuters. Sharon said they come from near and far: South Orange, Maplewood, East Orange and some as far away as Howell. "We have a new family from Jersey City," she said.

Sharon added, "I think it might be because we are young and it is how we preach; the message is practical and simple and completely applied to everyday life. Our members are mostly young families, and we have tons of children; over 40 in the Sunday School." The Deans themselves have two boys, Darion, 11, who plays the drums for the service, and Daniel, 6. The congregation is primarily composed of Blacks, but there are also Hispanic members. "Of course everyone is welcome," both ministers stressed. Music is contemporary Christian music, and there is plenty of it. Sharon herself is a singer and has

been a recording artist of Christian music.

Are they anxious about finding their own church building? Not a bit. Paul said "We really believe that church is not a building; it is a group of believers meeting together. The Lord has provided a place for us to worship, and we never anticipated this rapid growth." He said, therefore, it follows that God will also provide a way for them to have their own building when the time is right.

Mackey has told the young congregation and its ministers to treat the church as their home while they are there. Since the Pentecostals also believe in full-immersion baptism, they are very compatible with Evangel Baptist and use their baptismal pool also when necessary.

Sharon and Paul said they were invited, together with the entire congregation, to share Good Friday worship with Evangel Baptist at 7 p.m. on April 13 and they have accepted. Paul will also be the guest preacher at the shared service. They have so shared the holy days for the past two years, and have a close rapport with the Baptist pastor and the congregation as well.

## Mountainside On-line

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## KILOMETERS FOR KARYN 5th ANNIVERSARY 5K RUN/WALK AND KIDS FUN RUNS TO COMBAT CHILDHOOD CANCERS

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[www.karynresearchfund.org/kilometers.htm](http://www.karynresearchfund.org/kilometers.htm)  
Sanctioned by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

## WATERMAIN FLUSHING NOTICE

To maintain the excellent quality of your drinking water, we need to periodically flush the hydrants in your community. The flushing will primarily occur between 9 PM and 5AM and only during the day when necessary.

We will be flushing in **Springfield, New Providence and Chatham Twp** during the week of **April 2-6, 2001**

While we are flushing in your neighborhood, you may have low water pressure or discolored water.

If the water is discolored, you may want to avoid washing clothes. When flushing is finished, simply run your cold water until it is clear.

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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: Echo Leader, Attn: managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

### Today

- The Board of Trustees of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., hosts a public forum at 7 p.m. A consultant will present his report and recommendations and the public is invited to offer viewpoints and make recommendations about how the library will address changing needs in the coming years. Senior citizens who require transportation for the evening meeting may call (973) 376-4930, Ext. 27 for assistance.

- A special dress rehearsal of Deerfield School's production of "Fiddler on the Roof" at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium, 302 Central Ave., Mountainside, is open to senior citizens free. For information call the school at (908) 232-8828.

- The Mountainside Newcomers Club sponsors a new member coffee at 8 p.m. at Suzanne Streeter's home. For more information and to RSVP call Monica Boenning at (908) 928-0321.

### Friday

- Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave., Mountainside, hosts its annual book fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- The annual Lenten Fish 'N' Chips Dinner/Basket Bonanza sponsored by the Home School Association of St. James The Apostle School takes place in the school auditorium on South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

- The Drama Department of Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave., Mountainside, presents the musical "Fiddler on the Roof" Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. Tickets are \$5.

### Saturday

- The Westfield/Mountainside Red Cross Chapter, 321 Elm St., Westfield, offers CPR for the Professional Rescuer from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, to register or to inquire about the spring course schedule call (908) 232-7090.

- Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave., Mountainside, hosts its annual book fair, open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- The Drama Department of Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave., Mountainside, presents the musical "Fiddler on the Roof" Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. Tickets are \$5.

### Sunday

- Monsignor Francis X. Coyle Knights of Columbus 5560 Springfield hosts a spaghetti dinner at the Council Hall from 1 to 5 p.m., cooked by Knight of Columbus, ColumBietts and The Della Piazza Family, and Chairman Margaret Sanfelice. Admission is \$8 for adults; Children 5 to 12 are \$5, under 5 are free. Call Connie Yannunzio for tickets at (908) 273-3625.

- The Donald Palmer Museum of the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., presents the premier of "Alex," a full-length play by Sid Frank of Springfield at 2 p.m. by Casting Solutions. Free tickets can be obtained at the circulation desk of the Springfield Free Public Library. For information call (973) 376-4930.

- Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, offers its 2 p.m. Sunday family program, a hike through the western loop of the Watchung Reservation looking for waterfowl, bluebirds, resident red-tailed hawks and early migrants. Bring binoculars or borrow the center's. Meet at Seely's Pond at 2 p.m. Donation is suggested.

### Monday

- The Springfield Board of Education conducts a

conference meeting at 7 p.m. in the conference room at Jonathan Dayton High School.

### Tuesday

- "The Bluest Eye," by Toni Morrison is the subject of the next book discussion, in the meeting room at the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Call to reserve your copies and for more information at (973) 376-4930, Ext. 28.

### Wednesday

- The Springfield Planning Board meets at 8 p.m. in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave. Executive meetings begin at 7 p.m.

### Upcoming

#### April 5

- The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its international film festival with "All About My Mother" at noon and 7 p.m. Admission is free; space is limited to 60 people at each showing. For information call (973) 376-4930.

#### April 7

- Volunteers are needed from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to assist with trail maintenance projects in the Watchung Reservation. Meet at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. Bring lunch, a mug for beverage, shovel, pickaxe and gloves if you have them. For ages 14 and up. Pre-register at (908) 789-3670.

#### April 8

- Help staff at the Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, inventory the amphibians of the Watchung Reservation at 2 p.m. Listen for the calls of mating frogs and look for turtles or snakes emerging from hibernation. Meet at Trailside for a slide show and car pool to Lake Surprise.

#### April 9

- The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will present Ellen Parker of Youth Stages in Miss Spider's Tea Party as part of a Creative Dramatics program from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The program is intended for children ages 4 to 6. The performance is free, but pre-registration is required. Call (973) 376-4930, Ext. 33, or stop by the library to reserve your spot.

- The free monthly vision loss discussion group, Program for Partners, will begin from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. Guests must register to attend the free discussion group. For more information and to register, call Markita Vogt, Alliance for Disabled in Action Inc., at (732) 738-4388.

- The Springfield Township Committee will meet for a workshop session at 7:30 p.m. in the Annex Building, 20 N. Trivett Ave.

#### April 10

- The Mountainside Active Retirees will meet at 10 a.m. in Borough Hall, 1085 Route 22 East, for a slide presentation, "The Military expertise of general George Washington in the Battle Campaigns of 1775-1777," by Michael Yesenko of Union.

- The Springfield Township Committee meets for a workshop session at 7:30 p.m. followed by a regular meeting at 8 p.m. in the committee room, Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave.

- The Mountainside Borough Council will meet for work session at 8 p.m. in the conference room at Borough Hall, 1085 Route 22 East.

- The Mountainside Board of Education will meet at 8 p.m. in the media center at Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave.

#### April 11

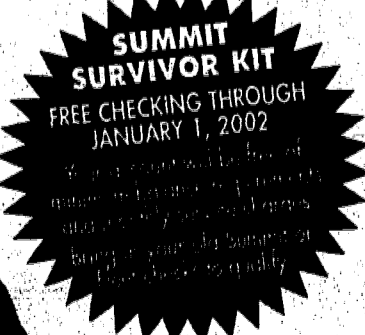
- The Springfield Board of Health will conduct a free rabies clinic from 6 to 7 p.m., which will be offered for the inoculation of both cats and dogs, at the Springfield Public Works Building. No appointments are required.



## "It's 10 P.M. Do you know who your bank is?"

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MEMBER FDIC



# Schools try to identify potential for violence

By Joan M. Devlin  
Staff Writer

Violence in schools has been on the news and across the country of late, deeply upsetting not just parents and children, but also teachers and administrators in the school system.

The Mountainside School District is no exception. Deerfield School Assistant Principal Elizabeth Keshish said the school had taken several measures. "We have sent a letter out to all of the parents of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, whom we feel would be in the age groups aware of this unhappy news."

The letter reads in part, "In the aftermath of these violent events at schools across the country, we have discovered that there are frequently advanced signs of these impending disasters, but all too often, students, parents and teachers will either not recognize these signs or minimize their seriousness."

The letter went on to explain that MTV has prepared an informative program to help viewers identify signs of potential violence, and gives steps to follow when the signs are

observed. The video will be shown by the school resource officer, Patrolman Andrew Huber, to sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders during a lunch period, beginning this week. Huber also will lead a discussion about it, and teachers and faculty are invited to share the meetings.

"Of course, if they are able, we would welcome all parents to share the video as well," said Keshish. The tape is also available for parents to borrow.

Another thing Deerfield School has done is to have a security camera at the main entrance door. "This monitor is on all the time, and is watched by one of our three secretaries since there is always one of them present during the day," said Keshish. "If someone rings the bell, we can see them, although they are not aware of this. Our security is pretty good here; it must be."

Keshish previewed the video provided by Huber, and was impressed with it. "Telling is not tattling," said the educator, "that is what it teaches, and we want everyone — parents and kids — to know that and help by rec-



Photos By Jeff Grant

Left, kindergarten teacher Jana MacMillan rings the bell to get back into Deerfield School. A video camera, in the upper left corner of the photo, allows the main office to see who is at the front entrance. Center, secretary Helene Motherwell checks the monitor in the main office to see who is at the front door. Right, MacMillan enters the school after Motherwell allows access through the front door.

ognizing the symptoms of a troubled child."

Keshish said that if a child is withdrawn, unusually quiet, or even worse, gives away prized possessions and shows a disinterest in life around him, or her, this is a severe warning sign. There are others, and usually those close to the unhappy child could pick up the warning signs. To ignore

them is dangerous; this is what happened in several of the recent violent incidents.

"People frequently ask me what went on that we need a police officer within the school," said Keshish. "My answer is, we have him here so that nothing will happen. Patrolman Huber is great; the children know him as he does the DARE program, and he is

the liaison between the school district and the town."

"His presence is here as an assignment from the Mountainside Police Department, and we are very glad he is here." Having a school resource officer at Deerfield began in 1999, the same year as the Columbine massacre that shook the country in Littleton, Colo. The question is, can safety mea-

asures and precautions prevent horrific events like Columbine?

Nobody can answer that, but Keshish, who also is a mother, believes that by reaching out to the families and children through this video, along with the discussions led by Huber, the closeness will be made stronger between school and home, and the children. "This can only help."

# Second officer for schools discussed

By Mark Hrywna  
Regional Editor

With the possibility of a school reopening in the borough, the Mountainside Borough Council has initiated a discussion about applying for a Cops in School grant.

The Board of Education hopes to reopen Beechwood School on Woodacres Drive if a \$6.8-million referendum on April 17 is approved by voters. The project also would expand Deerfield School on Central Avenue.

Mayor Robert Vigilanti first broached the topic during a work session of the Borough Council earlier this month, asking council members if they plan to hire another police officer. "After a while we're getting heavy costs," he said, "and I think we're going to have to address this."

Borough Administrator and Chief of Police James Debbie suggested sharing the officer currently assigned to Deerfield between both schools unless the council wanted another cop in the schools. The school resource officer, as the position is called, currently splits time between Deerfield and Governor Livingston High School with some of his time spent at headquarters.

Debbie said the borough received a letter from the federal government following a recent school shooting in California announcing another \$10 million would be made available for the Cops in School program. The chief did not recommend hiring another officer, but did pass the application to Berkeley Heights, where Mountainside students attend Governor Livingston.

The mayor advised that the council

take an officer from the current ranks versus hiring another, however, Debbie said Cops in Schools grants require the municipality to hire an officer.

"There's lots of baggage with lots of expenses and one day these grants will run out," Vigilanti said. The borough is currently in the second year of a three-year, \$125,000 Cops in School federal grant.

Councilman Keith Turner said another officer would be "nice to have," however the cost may be prohibitive.

Once the Cops in School grant is completed, there is a condition that the borough keep the officer. "That's the intent," Debbie said. The grants seek a commitment from the municipality to maintain that level of force but it is not a requirement.

Debbie expects the current grant to be renewed once it expires. The borough likely will address the situation if next month's referendum is passed. Beechwood School would not be ready for use until September 2002, he added.

Vigilanti said that when he first

came onto the Borough Council, there were 17 members of the Police Department and now there are 23. "It's the most expensive department to man and equip."

The complexion of the Police Department has changed in the last 10 years, the mayor said.

Officers with 20 or more years in the department can retire to collect their pension. Debbie estimates five Mountainside officers would be eligible within the next two years. Officers are required to retire at age 65. "I don't see a huge retirement in the existing officers soon."

Turner expects four or five retirements in the next five years. With the exception of several of the superior officers, the remaining 17 do not have nearly as many years. He contends there is a substantial difference in the years of experience between the top five officers and the bottom 15.

"The PBA screams to have 20 and out," Vigilanti said, "and at 65 you're using dynamite to get them out." Traditionally, officers do not leave once they are eligible after 20 years of service, he added.

# Fun with fish 'n' chips



St. James The Apostle School moms in Springfield, from left, Ruth Sarango, Linda McGowan, Donna DelSordo, and Carol Wightman recently got together with other moms to assemble and wrap theme baskets that will be raffled off at the annual Lenten Fish 'N' Chips Dinner/Basket Bonanza sponsored by the Home School Association. This year's event is catered by Argyle's of Kearney and will be in the school auditorium on Friday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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# COMMUNITY FORUM

## EDITORIALS

### Harsh realities

Union County and the union that represents its corrections officers always have endured a strained relationship. Last year, the two sides were in litigation over the county's residency requirement. This past summer, the union threatened another lawsuit regarding what seemed to be a typographical error in the new contract until backing off.

Now nearly 100 corrections officers are slated to be laid off when the county is expected to close the old jail on Sunday. The third floor of the jail will remain open indefinitely until all the transfers are complete. As many as 400 inmates also will be sent to a drug treatment facility in Newark.

The vast majority of inmates at the county jail are where they are because of drugs. Either they have been arrested on drug charges, or their situations are drug-related. A treatment facility is the best place for them, not the revolving door justice system we have. It costs Union County more than \$80 per day to house a prisoner while at Delaney Hall, the private drug treatment center, the county will pay closer to \$67 per day.

The impetus behind closing the old jail is because Union County does not receive as many state prisoners as it once did. Currently the state has about three dozen prisoners at the jail when it used to send several hundred, reimbursing the county some \$60 per prisoner per day. But it doesn't pay for Union County to house state prisoners as it loses more than \$20 per day per inmate.

The loss of state prisoners hit the county to the tune of \$8 million in reimbursements that normally is used as revenue in the budget. The county's tax levy already is expected to rise by as much as \$10 million. Another \$8 million could mean a \$35 tax hike for the average household in Union County. That's on top of an average increase of about \$45 should the budget be adopted as presented by the administration. Although that is the average increase throughout the county, property owners in towns such as Summit and Berkeley Heights are on the high end of that scale and would bear the bigger brunt — probably well over \$100 — as they usually do when it comes to county taxes.

Many counties are facing similar problems with state reimbursement because of fewer prisoners. The state has half of the number of prisoners it once held in county jails while the state population has dropped 8 percent the past two years.

Union members held a rally outside the jail last week, complete with a mock casket containing a dummy corrections officer. Any organization has the right to assemble and the union had to go to court to preserve that right. Some of the literature being distributed by the union, however, goes too far with the scare tactics and simply is not grounded in reality. If anything, the wild accusations hurt their credibility when they talk about important issues, such as safety. "Do you want an escaped murderer in your backyard?" one flier asks.

Safety should still be the number one priority at the jail. The union has raised concerns about the security at the new jail and malfunctions with key equipment. These things must be resolved before the consolidation of the inmate population in the new jail, which is only about 10 years old. Union officials say it's taken months, even years, for the county to look at the jail's deficiencies, including OSHA violations. Why are union members only now attending freeholder meetings when these safety concerns have been going on for so long?

The union has been berating the freeholder board because "county spending for family members, friends and political cronies is at an all-time high while dangerous cutbacks at the cost of public safety are being made at the jail." Patronage and nepotism may be alive and well in Union County, but it is disingenuous for the union to raise that now, only in light of their members being laid off. Just as the safety problems must have been present before the layoffs, if there is nepotism and patronage now, there was nepotism and patronage before the layoffs were proposed.

The job of any labor union is to protect jobs and that's what they are attempting to do. The job of the freeholder board is to protect the citizens and taxpayers. The union will disagree, but that is what freeholders and the county manager are doing.

Almost all of the officers who are to be laid off have found work with other facilities, either with the state or in other counties. Granted, some may not be at the same pay level, but surely all can agree that having a job at the ready is better than not.

Many times, elected officials talk about running government like a business. Government should not be in the business of saving jobs. Like any business, it must run efficiently. To save jobs for the sake of saving jobs would mean duplicating services. Even in the private sector, we're seeing layoffs. It's a fact of life.



A TRIP WITH MOMMY AND ME — Among the members of the Mountain-side Newcomers Club on a Mommy & Me trip to the Discovery House, an interactive children's museum, are, from left, Julia Morgan, Kate Gorelick and Jack Gorelick. For membership information about the Newcomers Club call Monica Boenning at (908) 928-0321.

## Hard decision was best for Union County

There have been many news stories lately about the freeholder board's decision to close one of our county jails and lay off 99 corrections officers. It is something we as a board did not take lightly. This is perhaps the hardest decision I ever made as a public official, but I believe it was the best one for the people of Union County.

For many years, the state of New Jersey housed prisoners in our county jails. The state forced the county to accept these prisoners and underpaid what it cost the county to house them. In 1999, the cost per prisoner per day was \$83.34 and was continuing to rise, mostly due to sharp increases in salaries and wages. Yet, the state reimbursed the county just \$58.50 per prisoner-day. This was unacceptable. The county should not be in the business of subsidizing the state.

The state chose not to pay Union County anywhere near what it cost us to house their prisoners and pulled them out of our jails last year. A reimbursement that consistently amounted to \$8 million a year was cut to \$3.5 million last year and practically nothing this year. This cost the county \$12.5 million in lost revenues — a shortfall that has to be made up elsewhere in our budget.

Without the additional state prison-

### Freeholders Forum

By Alexander Mirabella

ers, it became no longer necessary or economically feasible to operate two county jails. As a result, we made the difficult decision to close the old jail.

The combination of available space in the new jail, plus the placement of certain inmates in Delaney Hall, a secure drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility in Newark, means we have enough room to house county inmates now and for the foreseeable future.

County government proposed closing the old jail, an antiquated facility, soon after the new jail opened more than 10 years ago. But then-high crime rates and the presence of state prisoners forced the county to keep it open. Lower crime rates — in part a credit to the excellent work of County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan, Sheriff Ralph Froehlich and local and county police forces — have since produced a smaller inmate population even before the state pullout.

As a result of closing the old jail, the county is laying off 99 corrections officers. That figure was originally

higher, but vacant positions and a restructuring of our layoff plan allowed us to reduce the number of officers affected. Nobody wants layoffs, but with fewer inmates and only one jail open, we will need fewer officers. That's the bottom line.

I come from a law enforcement family — my father, Gene Mirabella, was the longtime police chief of Elizabeth. I know many of these officers personally. I went to school with some of them. The decision to lay off these officers was particularly difficult for me.

That is why I worked with the freeholder board, County Manager Michael Lapolla and Director of Corrections James Coleman to help the corrections officers subject to layoff find other jobs. The county organized a job fair with representatives of the state Department of Corrections and other counties' jails.

County personnel also counseled employees who received layoff notices and worked to match them with job openings. As a result of that effort, 94 corrections officers have interviewed for positions at state correctional facilities and will be offered jobs if they successfully complete the screening process. Others may be offered positions in other county jails.

Our corrections officers have

served the county well over the years. I am happy that we have been able to find new jobs for so many of these employees. Economic realities are forcing the closing of the jail, but this freeholder board never forgot that our actions would affect the corrections officers and their families.

The budget gap has to be made up somewhere. We think it would be unfair to make the people of Union County suffer from reduced services or a larger tax increase in order to make up for a lack of state prisoners.

By closing the old jail and implementing the layoffs, the county will save taxpayers a projected \$4.5 million this year and \$8.1 million in 2002.

I don't expect Union County's corrections officers to be happy with the decision we've made. I understand their anger and disappointment. But I hope they — and every Union County resident and taxpayer — understands that we did what was best for the financial security and quality of life of every person in Union County.

A resident of Roselle Park, Democrat Alexander Mirabella is chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### It's easier to point finger than lift

To the Editor:

A number of letters have been written "for" and "against" the bond referendum for improvement of the fields and track facilities on school and county property. These letters, as well as the referendum vote, indicate a dichotomy of opinion as to the feasibility of improving the athletic facilities.

The board and administration are presently working on a plan to "open the dialogue" between all interested parties in the township in order to determine a suitable alternative for upgrading the deteriorated facilities acquired from the regional high school district in 1997. Presently, the track and field events sections of Meisel Field have been closed for school use until a report is rendered by the insurance company representing our school system.

Each of the letters in the *Echo Leader* have value in identifying issues made by the interested citizens, however, as superintendent of schools I find the letter written about Mrs. Ruth Brinen quite mean-spirited.

The public must understand that our board members serve without pay and are volunteers who devote countless hours in the interest of our students and community. Although they have diversity of viewpoints, their main interest is to improve the school system through its policy making authority and leadership role.

Throughout the past 15 years I have served as superintendent of schools of the Springfield public schools, I have worked with a variety of school board members. Undoubtedly, I have witnessed Mrs. Brinen's and other board members' dedication to the school system though their advocacy for the saving of Walton School, the acquisition of the high school, and their diligence in assuring the district has suitable resources and personnel practices to recruit the highest caliber of staff.

Mrs. Brinen, one of those dedicated community volunteers, still resides within Springfield and is still actively interested in our schools and township. She has a lot to be proud of during her tenure on the board although presently she is no longer serving.

The inferences in Mr. Roden's letter are both mean-spirited and not factual. As superintendent of schools, I have experienced over my tenure misinformation and innuendoes about the Board of Education, the leadership, and the teaching staff of the school system. In most instances, the criticism is not constructive and quite frankly is hurtful.

This is the case with the letter that portrays a resident's dissatisfaction with the referendum's tax impact and implicates a past board member to make a point that is not founded on facts. In addition, it is mean-spirited and discounts the contributions of everyone who serves on a voluntary board and has relocated to another area. If it weren't for this volunteer service, communities would suffer tremendously. The little gratification that comes from serving on a volunteer board is diminished by accusations, criticism and unfounded mis-truths. This type of community behavior by a few discontented individuals eventually leads to the lack of volunteers.

If we expect people to volunteer and serve our communities in the capacity of school board members, township council members, and on other volunteer boards, we need to applaud their contribution and accept the fact that there will be diversity of opinions that strengthens the overall decision-making process. Leadership by countless board members that have served the Springfield public

schools, whether they continue to live in town or not, have benefited the district well over the years.

Mrs. Brinen, undoubtedly, has left her mark on the district. If it weren't for her crusade along with a few others, the district would have had to build another school to house the 700-pupil increase in elementary populations since 1985. In addition, her contribution to the acquisition of the high school, although marked by personal sacrifice, has aided our ability to lift the rankings of Jonathan Dayton High School. Her leadership as board president and as a volunteer on these projects and the public preschool are a tribute to her work and other board members that have served the district in the present and past.

It is always easy to point a finger, but it is much more difficult to "lift it" and help. I would hope that our candidates for election and their supporters focus on the positive. It is positive and constructive ideas that will move our schools forward and create and maintain a synergy of success.

Superintendent of Schools Gary Friedland  
Springfield

### Joy in earning what you receive

To the Editor:

First we had Warren Frank telling us we are stupid and shortsighted. Then it was Stephen Kaplan telling us our negative senior vote was a disgrace. Remember, Mr. Kaplan, that you are one of our children. When we gave you all that good stuff without making you work for it, that was our disgrace. We reared a generation of cry babies who believe all the good things in life should flow as easily as the water from the rock in the desert. Remember Moses made a blunder there also.

What we want to do now, however, is have your children, our grandchildren, learn that there is joy and merit in earning what you receive. As a good friend of mine says: We can give our children everything, but the one thing they may need most — poverty.

Donald F. Roden  
Springfield

### What will be minority in future?

To the Editor:

With the recent revelation shown in the current census, i.e., the trend in the race numbers, what will be designated as a "racial minority" in the future? My guess is "the poor race."

Joseph C. Chiappa  
Mountainside

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**William Raspberry**  
columnist  
1999

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Published By  
Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc.  
1291 Stuyvesant Avenue  
Union, N.J. 07083

(908) 686-7700

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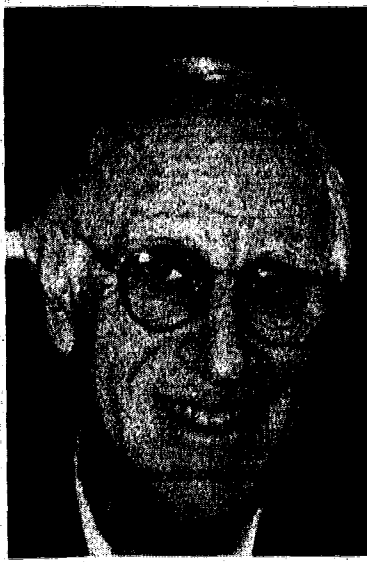
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Harry Lowy

"I can look out the window and do better! We had 1.3 inches of partly cloudy."



Maria Arpino

"No, I don't believe in the meteorologists."

### RECREATION

#### Egg hunt April 14

The Springfield Recreation Department will present an "egg-stra" special event, the Springfield Egg Hunt for children ages 2 to 7 on April 14 at Chisholm Park, behind the community center, 100 S. Springfield Ave., at 11 a.m.

For more information call (973) 912-2227.

#### Karate registration

The Springfield YMCA is offering a karate class for children ages 5 to 12 from March 30-June 15.

Under the direction of Sensei Carmen Puglio, a black belt instructor, students are introduced to a lifelong sport that develops self-confidence, self-esteem, balance, discipline and coordination.

Registration for the March 30-June 15 session is under way. Classes are Friday afternoons. New students meet

from 4 to 4:40 p.m. and returning students from 4:40 to 5:30 p.m.

The cost is \$5 per class, plus a \$5 registration fee. Youth membership to the YMCA costs \$60 annually that allows children to participate in other Y programs throughout the year. The Springfield YMCA is located at the Chisholm Community Center, 100 S. Springfield Ave.

For more information call (973) 457-0838.

#### Golf memberships

The Springfield Recreation Department announces it now has memberships to the Millburn Township Par 3 Golf Course available at the Recreation Office, 30 Church Mall.

The cost is \$160 person for a full membership and \$80 for a limited membership.

For more information call (973) 912-2227.

#### Day trips are planned

The Springfield Recreation Department will sponsor the following trips:

- April 26, Newark Museum, leaving Sarah Bailey at 1 p.m. and returning approximately 4 p.m. There is no charge, but amount of people limited.

- May 14, Liberty Science Center, leaving Sarah Bailey at 10 a.m. Price is \$48 for admission and transportation.

- June 15, Hunterdon Playhouse, lunch and show, "Abie's Irish Rose," leaving Sarah Bailey at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$48 including show, lunch and transportation.

- June 22, Monmouth Race Track, bus will leave Sarah Bailey at 10:30 a.m. and return approximately 5 p.m. The cost is \$6 per person.

Anyone interested in going on any of these trips, can call Theresa Herkalo at (973) 912-2227, Monday

through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and for more information.

#### Afterschool child care

The Springfield YMCA has started enrollment in its Afterschool Child Care program for the 2001-02 school year. In-person registration is taking place at the Y, located at the Chisholm Community Center, 100 S. Springfield Ave.

The YMCA Afterschool Child Care is an afternoon program designed for children attending kindergarten to grade six attending Springfield and Millburn public elementary schools.

Registration for all YMCA child-care programs is on an ongoing basis. The program, begins on the first day of schools, in September.

For fees and more information call Michelle Merezck, Child Care Director at (973) 467-0838 or online at [www.summitareymca.org](http://www.summitareymca.org).

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## RELIGION

## Lenten Vespers will perform at St. John's

The Bach Choir of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New York, will sing a service of Lenten Vespers at St. John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Ave., on Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

The critically-acclaimed Bach Choir is comprised of 12 professional singers, and constitutes the only professional choir in residence at a Lutheran Church in the United States.

Vespers at St. John's will feature two motets for double choir by Johann Sebastian Bach, "The Spirit Helps in Our Sorrow" and "Come, Jesus, Come", composed in 1729 and 1730, respectively. George Moser, Director of Music at St. John's, will play the organ prelude and postlude.

Richard Erickson serves as cantor of Holy Trinity Church and is the third Director of Bach Vespers in its 33-year history. The Rev. Dr. Robert Scholz serves as pastor of Holy Trinity and to the Vespers congregation.

Tickets are not required. However, a suggested donation of \$12 per person is requested. For more information call 918-2505.

St. John's is accessible to the handicapped and offers ample, free parking.

## Our Lady of Lourdes

The Rosary Alter Society of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Mountain-side, will offer a Rosary/Novena Monday at 7 p.m. followed by a 7:30 p.m. service and ballroom dancing by Diana Toni at 8 p.m. All are welcome.

## Moratorium speakers at Temple Beth Ahm

On April 6, at 8:30 p.m., as part of Shabbat worship services at Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, Lorry and June Post from the organization, New Jerseyans for a Death Penalty Moratorium, a group seeking a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in New Jersey, will speak.

All are welcome and an Oneg Shabbat — collation — will follow the Shabbat services.

For more information call (973) 376-0539, Ext. 10, e-mail tbspringfield@aol.com, or visit www.njmoratorium.org.

## Interweave workshops

Interweave, a community learning center in Summit teaching skills for wholistic living, will present "Drinking from the Fountain of Living Waters," with Shefa Gold tonight, 7 to 9:30 p.m., and "A Day with Tilden Edwards," Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community of St. John Baptist in Mendham.

For more information about any of these programs, or to receive a complete spring/summer catalog, call Interweave at 277-2120 or (973) 763-8312, or find visit on the web at www.interweave.org.

## Brown Bag Series at Central Presbyterian

The Adam Brenner Jazz Quartet will be featured Friday at the Lenten Series of Brown Bag Concerts at Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St.

All Brown Bag Concerts begin Fridays at 12:15 p.m. in the church sanctuary and are broadcast live on TV-36, Summit's community cable channel. They are open to the public free and attendees are invited to bring lunch to eat during the concert. Sandwiches with drinks are also available for \$3 in the church kitchen. Performances end around 12:45 p.m.

The final Friday concert in this series will be April 6 with Christopher Kenniff, classical guitarist.

## SJCC adventure series

The Summit Jewish Community Center Religious School invites preschoolers to register for its Jewish Adventure Series.

Children 4 years old will experience an enriching, appropriate program to learn about Jewish holidays and the religious school. Activities will consist of music, arts and crafts, dance, cooking and creative fun. Upcoming events include Israel's birthday on April 22.

All sessions will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the SJCC, 67 Kent Place Blvd.

Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$10 per session, per child for members; \$15 for non-members.

For more information call Stacey David at 273-2800.

## Temple Sinai to host scholar in residence

Dr. Arnold Eisen, Koshland Profes-

or of Jewish Culture and Religion at Stanford University, will be Temple Sinai's second annual Scholar in Residence this weekend. Temple Sinai is a Reform Jewish congregation located at 208 Summit Ave.

Eisen is the author of five books and numerous scholarly articles about contemporary Jewish life and thought in America and Israel. He is a frequent speaker on issues related to contemporary Jewish life before lay and scholarly audiences throughout North America. Eisen has worked closely with synagogue and federation leadership around the country in thinking through issues of Jewish identity, the revitalization of Jewish tradition, and the redefinition of the American Jewish community.

Eisen received his doctorate from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is the author of "The Chosen People in America: A Study in Jewish Religious Ideology," 1983; "Galut: Modern Jewish Reflection on Homelessness and Homecoming," 1986; "Taking Hold of Torah: Jewish Commitment and Community in America," 1997; "Rethinking Modern Judaism: Ritual, Commandment Community," 1998, which won the Koret National Jewish Book Award, and "The Jew Within: Self, Family, and Community in America," 2000.

The following is a schedule of Eisen's addresses:

- Friday at 8 p.m., "Taking Hold of Torah: Jewish Commitment and Community in America." The revitalization of American Jewry depends more than anything else on a passionate re-engagement with Jewish tradition, and particularly on a renewed encounter with the Torah. But how can Jews overcome the obstacles that separate them from a 3,000-year-old text, and enter heart and soul into conversation with a 2,000-year-old tradition? An honest discussion of what needs to be done — and why American Jews are reluctant to do it.

- Saturday at 8:30 a.m., "Torah Studyon Leviticus: Ritual and Community," Leviticus, with its endless detail of bloody sacrifices and priestly duty, is probably the hardest book in the Torah for American Jews to contemplate. Yet it also highlights the two features of Jewish life which many contemporary Jews find most appealing, ritual and community, and argues for a mature sensibility. Getting past the blood and gore to Jewish meaning which can hold us

- Saturday, shabbat luncheon at 12:30 p.m., "The Possibilities for Faith in a Faithless Time" at 1:30 p.m. How can one credibly commit to faith and covenant in a post-modern era which has multiplied the challenges to traditional belief? A look at several Jewish strategies which might be helpful, including feminist, mystical, and rationalist theologies.

- Sunday, community breakfast at 9:30 a.m., "The Jew Within: Self, Family and Community in America" at 10 a.m. Where do contemporary American Jews find meaning in Jewish practice and belief? Why have they retreated from the "public Judaism" of Israel, Federation, Holocaust, and gravitated to a "private Judaism" of introspection, family rituals at home, and renewed synagogue life? What does this mean for the future of Judaism in this country?

## Jewish heritage tour

An all-inclusive Jewish heritage tour of Spain and Portugal will be sponsored by the Renaissance Group of Temple Sha'arey Shalom, Springfield, from Sept. 30 to Oct. 14. The 15-day, fully-escorted deluxe tour includes three nights in Barcelona staying at the Hotel Calderon; two nights in Madrid at the Hotel Wellington; two nights in Granada at the Melia Granada; two nights in Seville at the Tryp Colon; one night in Evora at the Pousada dos Loios, and three nights in Lisbon at the Altis Park Hotel. Departure will be from Newark Airport to Madrid; returning from Lisbon on Continental Airlines. The cost is \$3,345 per person, round trip, double occupancy.

Space for the Sha'arey Shalom Jewish heritage tour to Spain and Portugal is limited. An informational meeting will be April 9 at 7 p.m.

For more information or to make reservations, call Marge Grossbarth or Arlene Newman through the temple office at (973) 379-5387.

## BPW sponsors blood drive on Saturday

Summit BPW will sponsor a blood drive, in conjunction with the New Jersey Blood services, on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the American Red Cross, Summit Area Chapter, 695 Springfield Ave.

For medical questions call the nursing department of New Jersey Blood Services at (732) 220-7026; for any other non-medical questions call the Red Cross at 273-2076 or BPW members, Joan Limitone at work at (973) 539-6122 or at home at 277-3237.



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

HEARINGS ON PROPOSED MERGER  
JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,  
DOING BUSINESS AS GPU ENERGY, AND FIRSTENERGY CORP.

NOTICE OF FILING OF A JOINT PETITION FOR A PROPOSED CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP AND ACQUISITION OF CONTROL OF JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY, AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS THEREON.

Please Take Notice that on November 9, 2000, FirstEnergy Corp., an Ohio public utility holding company ("FirstEnergy"), and Jersey Central Power & Light Company ("JCP&L"), a New Jersey electric public utility doing business as GPU Energy, filed a Joint Petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (the "Board"), under BPU Docket No. EM00110870, seeking the Board's approval of the proposed change of control and transfer of stock ownership of JCP&L to FirstEnergy pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger dated as of August 8, 2000 (the "Merger Agreement") between FirstEnergy and GPU, Inc. ("GPU"), the parent holding company of JCP&L. Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, GPU will be merged with and into FirstEnergy, with FirstEnergy being the surviving corporation. As a result of the merger, JCP&L will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of FirstEnergy.

Under applicable law (including N.J.S.A. 48:2-51.1 and N.J.S.A. 48:3-10), the Board must evaluate whether the proposed merger transaction should be approved. The Board will consider, among other things, the potential impact of the merger transaction upon JCP&L's financial integrity, competition, customer rates, employees and the provision of safe and adequate utility service at just and reasonable rates, and whether the transaction will otherwise be in the public interest.

A copy of this Notice of Filing and Public Hearings on the Joint Petition is being served upon the clerk, executive or administrator of each municipality and county within JCP&L's service areas. The Joint Petition, along with this Notice, has been served upon the Director of the Division of the Ratepayer Advocate, who will represent the interests of all customers of JCP&L in this proceeding. Copies of the Joint Petition are also being made available for public inspection at the Board's offices at Two Gateway Center, Newark, New Jersey 07101, and at JCP&L's business offices during normal business hours.

Please Take Further Notice that the Board has transmitted the Joint Petition in this proceeding to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for the purpose of conducting public and evidentiary hearings thereon, under OAL Docket No. PUCOT 01585-01N, and that the OAL has scheduled public hearings before an Administrative Law Judge at the following times and places:

**Tuesday, April 17, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.**  
Freehold Township Municipal Building  
One Municipal Plaza, Room 114  
(Corner of Schanck Road & Stillwells Corner Road)  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728-3099

-and-

**Thursday, April 19, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.**  
Morris County Administration & Records Building  
Public Meeting Room, 5th Floor  
Court Street  
Morristown, New Jersey 07963

Members of the public will have an opportunity to be heard and/or to submit written comments or statements at the public hearings if they wish to do so. The public hearings will continue at each of the foregoing dates, times and locations until all persons timely appearing thereat have had a reasonable opportunity to be heard. Written comments or statements may also be submitted by mailing or delivering them directly to the Clerk of the Office of Administrative Law, 185 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102.

In transmitting this matter to the OAL, the Board has requested that an evidentiary record be made and that findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to that record be developed by the Administrative Law Judge in the form of an Initial Decision to be transmitted from the OAL to the Board. Toward that end, evidentiary hearings have been scheduled to be held at the OAL, 185 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey, commencing April 30, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.

Dated: March 26, 2001

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President

**FirstEnergy Corp.**  
By: Anthony J. Alexander  
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<b>JACKSON</b> 741 Brewers Bridge Rd.	<b>SPRINGFIELD</b> 52 Millburn Ave.	<b>CRANFORD</b> 104 Walnut Ave.	<b>KENILWORTH</b> 470 Boulevard	<b>EAST BRUNSWICK</b> 227 Route 185	

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## Deerfield kids present 'Fiddler on the Roof'

The Drama Department of Deerfield School in Mountside will present the musical "Fiddler on the Roof" Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium, 302 Central Ave.

Set in the little village of Anatevka in turn-of-the-century Russia, "Fiddler on the Roof" is the classic story of Tevye the dairyman and his struggle to hold onto tradition in the face of a changing world. "Fiddler on the Roof" opened on Broadway in 1964, starring Zero Mostel, to rave reviews and a long Broadway run, before being made into a major motion picture.

The librettist for the show is Joseph Stein, with lyrics by Sheldon Harnick and music by Jerry Bock. The original Broadway production was directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins.

The Deerfield School production will be performed with sets and costumes of the period. Students in the production have learned customs of the Jewish people on the eve of the Russian Revolution, turning their performing experience into a learning experience as well.

Music teacher Jeannette Maraffi is the director and musical director of

the show. Deborah Posner, physical education teacher at Deerfield is choreographer and Wayne DeVico and Elizabeth Perrin designed the sets.

Students in the cast include Anthony Corsi as Tevye, Louise Fristensky as his wife Golde, and Lindsay Thomas, Freddi Mack, Jessica Landis, Stacey O'Sullivan, and Jocelin Thau as their five daughters. Jimmy DeCastro plays the role of the revolutionary Perchik, Jeffrey Aranjio is the Russian Fyedka who wants to marry one of the daughters, Max Deutsch is the poor tailor and Julianne Boyce is the matchmaker whose efforts are thwarted by the three oldest daughters.

Other cast members include Michael Kolanko, Sasha Gordin, Patrick Klebaur, Sal R. Arpino, Scott Foster, Michael Tate, Joel Merrill, Jesse Winter, Jonathan Avelillas, Molly Schmidt, Chrissy McCurdy, Allison Gionta, Sal C. Arpino, Tom Weakley, Lauren Hauser, Hali Alpert, Lauren Arrigoni, Linnea Buttermore, Sarah Dempsey, Karole Fristensky, Massimo Arpino, Noelle Gostyla, Peggy Hennings, Nora Kenney, Ana Lopez, Sarah Magaril, Melissa Mon-



Preparing for Deerfield School's production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' are, from left, front row, Max Deutsch as Motel; the five daughters Lindsay Thomas, Jocelin Thau, Jessica Landis, Freddi Mack and Stacey Sullivan; back row, Julianne Boyce as the matchmaker, Yente; Jeannette Maraffi, director of the show, and Louise Fristensky as Golde, the mother. The show will be Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

tagna, Samantha Panagos, Jillian Richard, Jaclyn Sokol, Lyndsay Thomas, Kara Uzzolino and Dominique

Von Seckendorff.

Tickets for both performances are \$5. A special dress-rehearsal tonight

at 7 p.m. is open to senior citizens free. For information call the school at (908) 232-8828.

## Twin Oaks Oval home burglarized

Springfield

On Sunday, the owner of a home along the 100 block of Twin Oaks Oval reported his house had been burglarized between the hours of 7 and 11:39 p.m. Saturday. Stolen items included approximately \$850 in cash, assorted jewelry, a camcorder, a coin collection, and two bottles of Bacardi rum.

### POLICE BLOTTER

• Brian Burton, 40, of East Orange Johnny Gregory, 43, of Irvington were arrested at 11:43 a.m. on March 22 on charges of an outstanding warrant from Springfield Municipal Court.

• Ahmed Moustafa-Elmenawy, 38, of Brooklyn was arrested at 1 p.m. at the Department of Motor Vehicles agency in Springfield on March 20 for motor vehicle fraud. The disposition will be Monday in Springfield Municipal Court.

• Jason Brown, 22, of Springfield was arrested on Beverly Road at 7:03 p.m. on March 19. Brown was charged with obstruction, hindering arrest, providing a false police report, and motor vehicle violations including driving unregistered and with a suspended license.

• On March 19 at 9:06 p.m., a Scotch Plains resident reported that several items were stolen from his vehicle while it was parked in a parking lot at 126 Route 22 West. Stolen and damaged items included a car stereo, car TV, a passenger side door lock, and a steering column.

• On March 22 at 7:10 p.m., a Millburn resident reported his car had been burglarized while it was parked at Bally's Total Fitness on Route 22 East.

## Firefighters respond to several downed wires in area

Mountside

The Mountside Volunteer Fire Department responded to a Springfield Avenue business Saturday at 8:44 a.m. An investigation revealed no fire.

• On March 22 at 9:09 p.m., firefighters responded to Puddingstone Road on report of a power wire down and ground burning. The Fire Department secured the scene and stood by until the arrival of PSE&G. At 5:40 p.m., an activated alarm was handled at Our Lady of Lourdes on Central Avenue. Unattended cooking was found to be the culprit. No damage was found.

• On March 21 at 1:11 p.m., firefighters arrive at a Fox Trail residence on a report of an oil burner malfunctioning. The unit was shut down by firefighters and the home was venti-

lated. The heating company was called and would respond shortly. At 7:44 a.m., a bathroom fire was reported at a residence on Oak Tree Road. An investigation revealed that a wall switch had gone bad and created a smoke condition in the bathroom. Power to the switch cut off and wires was taped. The homeowner was advised to call an electrician. Prospect Avenue, near the area of the water tower, was the scene where a resident reported seeing smoke in the area at 1:58 p.m. An investigation revealed a broken water pipe was letting steam escape but no fire.

Springfield

Wires burning in a tree brought the Springfield Fire Department out on Friday at 5:27 p.m. on South Springfield Avenue. At 8:48 p.m., firefighters responded to a Route 22 East bus-

ness for a lock-out.

• On March 22 at 2:45 a.m., firefighters responded to Short Hills Avenue for a wire down. At 9:11 a.m., a motor vehicle accident with injuries was handled on Mountain Avenue. A medical service call came in at 1:35 p.m. from a Morris Avenue business. Activated fire alarms were handled at 8:31 a.m. at a Mountain Avenue residence, at 1:36 p.m. at a Highlands Avenue residence and at 2:35 p.m. at a Lelak Avenue residence.

• On March 21, firefighters responded to three medical service calls, at 8:52 a.m. at a Commerce Street business, at 9:43 a.m. at Morris Avenue business and at 4:54 p.m. at a South Springfield Avenue residence.

• On March 19 at 6:30 a.m., firefighters responded to the library for an activated fire alarm and at 9:42 p.m. at

Edward V. Walton School. Firefighters responded to Hillside Fire Headquarters on a request from Union County Mutual Aid at 9:25 a.m. Medical service calls came in at 11:11 a.m. from a South Springfield Avenue residence and at 4:43 p.m. from a Mountain Avenue business. A motor vehicle accident with a spill was handled at 1:14 p.m. at South Springfield Avenue and Meckes Street.

• On March 18 at 10:54 a.m., firefighters responded to a Garden Oval residence for a water condition and

again at 8:32 p.m. to a Wabeno Avenue residence. At 6:56 p.m., an electrical problem was handled at a Commerce Street business.

### Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Thursday noon.

Entertainment - Friday noon.

Sports - Monday noon.

Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m. General - Monday 5 p.m.

## Free rabies clinic will be April 11 in Springfield

The Springfield Board of Health will conduct a free rabies clinic from 6 to 7 p.m. on April 11 which will be offered for the inoculation of both cats and dogs. The clinic will be at the Springfield Public Works Building. No appointments are required.

The public should follow some simple preventive measures to limit the possibility of exposure to rabies:

- Make sure all dogs and cats are vaccinated against rabies.

- Do not leave family pets outdoors overnight or feed animal outdoors.

- Avoid contact with all wild animals.
- Discuss with children not to bring home, pet, or attempt to "help" a sick wild animal.

If bitten by any animal, consult your physician immediately and call the local Health Department at (908) 789-4070, to report the incident.

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# Local Jews prepare for annual holiday

(Continued from Page 1)  
community seder. Candle lighting will be at 8:14 p.m.  
The Second Day, April 9, will begin with a 9 a.m. Shaharit service, and a 7:15 p.m. Minya. On April 13, there will be a Shabbat service at 6 p.m., followed by a candle lighting at 7:16 p.m. There will not be a late service.  
On the Seventh Day, April 14, there will be a 9:30 a.m. Shaharit, and a 7:26 p.m. Minya service followed by 8:20 p.m. candle lighting. The Eighth Day of Passover will be celebrated April 15 with a 9 a.m. Shaharit, and a 7:26 p.m. Minya, as Passover ends at 8:36 p.m.  
• Temple Sha'arey Shalom, a Reformed synagogue in Springfield,

will have a pre-Passover special service on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., called the Chick Danziger Memorial Freedom Seder for the third year. The seder is to serve as a memorial and as a common road to freedom experienced by both Blacks and Jews.  
A service will be April 8 at 10:30 a.m. for the First Day of Passover. On the Second Night of Pesah, April 8, there will be a special congregational seder at 6 p.m. using the Haggadaiah, "A Different Night," when all the people will share the seder together.  
The next celebration will be the Erev Shabbat, the Seventh Night of Passover, April 13 at 8 p.m.  
On April 14 at 9:15 a.m., the Seventh Day of Passover, there will be a Pesah morning study Minyan;

and a Yizkor Memorial Service Shabbat at 10:30 a.m.  
• The Orthodox synagogue, Congregation Israel in Springfield, will begin its celebration of Passover in the dark April 7, since Passover falls after the Jewish Sabbath. Homes will be ready for the holiday April 6.  
With strict observance, unleavened bread is called the bread of slavery, which becomes the bread of freedom; every individual drinks four cups of wine as the Passover narrative is told at each evening table.  
Seders are observed in the homes, as driving is forbidden on this day. A custom observed is before sitting down to eat the festive meal, strangers and those in need are invited to the

table, made welcome, and are provided with the sacred unleavened bread.  
The Orthodox synagogue teaches that every family's house should become a miniature tabernacle before God. At Congregation Israel, both the First and Second Nights of the Passover celebration have 7:05 and 9 a.m. Minchas — prayer services — but all Seders for those two nights are held only in individual's homes at sundown.  
On April 8, 9 and 14 at 7:30 and 9 a.m., prayer services, the Shacharis, will be in the synagogue. The last Passover day, April 15, the Yizkor Memorial service will be at approximately 10 a.m. at the synagogue.

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# School board adopts budget to present to voters

(Continued from Page 1)  
In the budget, the board specifically addressed the need to keep elementary class size down to 23 children maximum, per class. The challenge of meeting this goal is that the rate of enrollment is so high that additional class sections are needed to maintain the desired class size.  
Another costly expenditure, particularly for high schools, is the use of Advanced Placement courses.  
"One of the things that gets factored into having a high school is offering a large amount of Advanced Placement classes," said Shanes. "But we think it's important that they have that opportunity."  
Cutting positions for two administrators and a technology coordinator consultant were more subtle factors that added to the expense of the budget.  
Other items in the budget that the board plans to address are how to cope with the costs of rising out-of-district placement of special education students, the loss of rental income to accommodate local students, and the use of state-mandated programs.  
This year, with the budget at \$23,279,878, the budget increased \$832,011, or

3.71 percent in comparison to the 2000-01 school budget, which was \$22,447,867.  
"There's a lot of challenges for the board and it gets more challenging each year," said Shanes.  
The public will be able to vote on the budget during the annual school election on April 17. Polls will be open 2 to 9 p.m.  
**International film festival features award winner**  
The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its international film festival with "All About My Mother" on April 5 at noon and 7 p.m. The film won the 2000 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Picture.  
"Screwball drama" is what the celebrated director of "Women on the

Jewish Family Service & Temple Beth Ahm present:

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**June 7** "Grief: Survival, Healing and Growth"

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## STUDENT UPDATE



Jason J. Sayanlar

### Sayanlar earns highest honors at Delbarton

Springfield resident Jason J. Sayanlar has received highest honors at Delbarton School for the past two semesters.

Sayanlar recently played two leading roles in separate productions as "Joseph" in Delbarton's production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and as Bobby Van Huesen in Oak Knoll School's "The Boy Friend."

For the past three years Sayanlar has played leading roles in various high school productions including Nathan Detroit in "Guys and Dolls" and Pablo Picasso in Steve Martin's "Picasso and the Lapin Agile."

Sayanlar has been named an AP Scholar with honors and he will attend the University of Pennsylvania this fall.

### Honor roll announced at Governor Livingston

Governor Livingston High School, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights, has announced the honor roll for the second marking period.

#### Grade nine

Stacey Corwin, Meghan Cox, Eric Csaszar, Brittany Dangio, Anthony DeAngelis, Marissa Deanna, Alexandra Denby, Thomas DiDario, Daniel Drury, Paul Ebert, Eric Feller, Katherine Freda, Branden Garland, Jessica Garry, Bryan Gartner, Justin Giannone, Lauren Haas, Jennifer

Hauser, Deborah Hong, Sarah Hu, Sherrie Hui, Ellen Hukkelhoven, Elizabeth Iorio, Allison Kopf, Peggy Lee, Steven LeSage, Michael Lewis, Eric Lin, Ashley Loria, Danielle McCann, Rahul Mehta, Chandrani Mondal, Lisa Mondelli, Priya Nadkarni, Jessica Nilan, Michael Pesce, Andrea Reichert, Megan Reinking, Michelle Rosenthal, Helena Scholz, Cristina Settar, Jennifer Shallcross, Matthew Sincaglia, Jesse Sinkiewicz, Marcy Stickles, Carey Susskind, Paul Tewfik, Frederique Turnier, Paul Vicendese, Cecilia Watson, Sean West, Keli Wong, Kimberly Wong, Brian Wu, Kevin Wyvrat, Helen Yarova and David Yellin.

#### Grade 10

Robyn Andres, Joanna Antkowiak, Salvatore Arpino, Joseph Auchter, Dorothy Bailey, Patrick Barrett, Melissa Bergenty, Veronica Blanco, Katrina Blasi, Charles Bong, Meagan Butler, Marcello Cavallaro, Imee Chan, Marie Chen, Meng-Ju Chen, Nancy Chen, Hyun Woo Cho, Shawn Coughlin, Tara Crane, Steven Delcorso, Elizabeth Dendinger, Megs DiDario, Daniel Drake, Kathleen Dreitlein, Shannon Esposito, Jerry Fang, Loukas Flamos, Christopher Floyd, Brian Frederick, Steven Gadol, Brian Gardner, Frank Giannelli, Kate Gombas, Brittany Grillot, Roger Grosse, Kevin Gudiciopetro, Jaclyn Huff, Susane Hopkins, Nicole Huff, Usuf Husain, Aimee Johnston, Sarah Kolb, Richard Koletar, Amanda Kotch, Estrella Lopez, Kristen Manzo, Caitlin Masters, Kelly McGrath, Christopher Meyer, Michael Michejda, Shaun Modi, Benjamin Nham, Courtney Nichols, Jessica Nichols, Deirdre Norris, Nicholas O'Sullivan, Rebecca Paskow, Amanda Penabad, Gregory Pesce, Jennifer Pflug, Jeremy Pfund, Tiffany Poon, Colin Price, Amy Reinholtz, Kimberly Risch, Ashley Roleira, Stephanie Rude, Evan Schickel, Yuming Shen, Allison Smith, Connie Souder, Joseph Sullivan, Jessica Talbot, Monica Turel, Jerry Vandenhooven, Edward Voytay, Kailey Wheaton and Sandra Zach.

#### Grade 11

Anil Abraham, Michael Antkowiak, Gemma Barnacle, Alexandra Batorsky, Karen Bocian, Pamela Cash, Thomas Chen, Zoey Chenitz, Alexandra Chomut, Amanda Cline, Jason Corwin, Erin Coughlin, Jason

Crowl, Lauren Curtin, R. Steven Davis, Allison Dencker, Lindsey Donner, Catherine Dotto, Kristina Dunne, Oliver Eng, Tara Finley, Cecilia Fiore, Matthew Fox, Andrew Genco, Jason Gionta, Laura Green, Kristen Hauser, Robin Hitchcock, Christopher Holdorf, Alex Hotz, David Huber, Kristen Hyland, Chelsea Kamash, Dana Kaufman, Richard Klumb, Andrea Knapp, Laura Kruglinski, Thomas Lallis, Ellen Levitan, David Lin, Lisa Mate, Dana McCurdy, Brett McMillin, Kerri Moore, Monsterrat Morel, Michelle Munick, Kelly Ng, Derrick Ongchun, Danielle Penabad, Gurpreet Phull, Storey Pizzo, Stephanie Polakoski, Robert Popovitch, Kevin Pritchard, Rahul Ram, Mridula Raman, Jonathan Regenye, Susan Schnakenberg, Lindsey Sheppard, Yiwey Shieh, Jessica Swensen, Micah Thau, David Tuder, Vivek Venkatachalam and Paul Vikan.

#### Grade 12

Linda Ardito, Olivia Banieszewicz, Rhonda Barkan, Kristen Batejan, Lauren Beasley, Jessica Boehmer, Jessica Bong, Paul Bowes, Christopher Brandel, Sharon Brodian, Jenna Burnett, Danielle Cacace, Peter Caggiano, Jenny Calabrese, Frank Cavallo, David Chen, Yvonne Chen, Alaina Clemente, James Cong, Caitlin Connors, Tara Cowie, Kevin Devonshire, Allison DiVito, Patricia Dreitlein, Marc Felezzola, Rob Findlay, Leslie Flora, Kimberley Geraghty, Shabnam Ghaffari, Christopher Gibson, Eric Goldstein, Nicole Goodwin, Jessica Haas, Faith Hubert, Megan Iorio, Kristin Joham, Timothy Kukan, Michelle Laba, Lisa LaMotta, Christine Lay, Courtney Levin, Robyn Long, Emily Luke, Erica Magaril, Michael Mangold, Malcolm Mattes, Susan McDonald, Scott McLuskey, Priscilla Melango, Joshua Moss, Christine Murphy, Arlene Negron, Brett Nichols, Jaclyn Orlando, Annelie Oswald, Jennifer Pagano, Jessica Pfund, Emily Porch, Thomas Robina, Brian Rupp, Chris Sharkey, Bonnie Silberbogen, Erica Smith, Juliet Spinelli, Noelle Tate, George Tewfik, ViJay Varma, Andrew Whitney, Rebecca Williams, Osca Yan and Rose Yannotta.

### Deerfield School honors

Deerfield School in Mountainside

recently announced the honor roll for the second marking period of the 2000-01 school year.

#### Sixth grade

• High honor roll: Lauren Arrigoni, Natalie Basile, Brittany Catalano, Joseph D'Antuono, Amy DeGaetano, Melissa Montagna, Francesca Montalvo, Justin Quaglia, Veronica Thomas, Katherine Wagner, Kevin Wheaton, Benjamin Witt and Matthew Zimmerman.

• Honor roll: Salvatore R. Arpino, Christine Bennett, Daniel Berger, Gregory Chilson, Toni DeCristoforo, Eric DePietro, Lindsey Gilcrest, Robert Gilcrest, Claire Golomb, Peggy Hennings, Reid Kelley, Nora Kinney, Sara Magaril, Samantha Panagos, Nicole Pastore, Gemma Richardson, Andrew Rocha, Jaclyn Sokol, Renee Thompson and Brian Wyvrat.

#### Seventh grade

• High honor roll: Linnea Buttermore, Sarah Dempsey, Scott Foster, Andrew Gennaro, Ana Lopez, Marissa Masellis, Tess Perrin, Mary Jane Pijanowski and Molly Zhang.

• Honor roll: Hali Alpert, Massimo Arpino, Jonathan Aveillas, Joseph Baseil, Julianne Boyce, Katelyn Capodanno, Christopher Chan, Divya Desai, Karole Fristensky, Noelle Gostyla, Jacob Greenberg, Diane King, Justine LaBrutto, Morgan Liss, Jason Massa, Kathleen Melynk, Lauren Parlapiano, Lauren Hauser, Jillian Richard, Andrew Robertson, Jocelin Thau, Lindsay Thomas, Kara Uzzolino, Philip Vitale, Dominique von Seckendorff, Thomas Weakley and Catherine Wilson.

#### Eighth grade

• High honor roll: Brittany Bento, Evan Kaplan, Freddi Mack, Christine McCurdy, Stacey O'Sullivan, Morgan Starkey and Lyndsey Thomas.

• Honor roll: Julia Arpino, Phoinisia Borsellino, Katie Checklin, Michael DeJianne, A.J. DeRose, Ashley Force, Jessica Gelsinon, Allison Gionta, Zachary Januik, Nicholas Keller, Nicholas Margello, Pedro Neto, Joseph Pijanowski, Samantha Pingor, Molly Schmidt, Vera Souvorov and Matthew Taeschler.

### Pingry honor roll has five local residents

Four Springfield residents and one Mountainside resident were appointed to the first semester honor roll in the Middle and Upper Schools at Pingry.

Students from Springfield that were named to the honor roll were Elana Wilf, grade nine; Nicholas De Angelis, grade 10, and Daniel Dorsky and William Weidman, grade 11; and Mountainside resident Ashley Kurz, grade 12. Kurz is the daughter of Mrs. Judith L. B. Kurz of Mountainside and Mr. Robert G. Kurz of Basking Ridge.

This recognition is given to those students who have achieved an academic average of B+ or better.

### Mentlik will spend semester in New Zealand

Jacob A. Mentlik of Mountainside, a junior at Colby College, is spending the spring semester of the 2000-01 academic year in New Zealand enrolled in a course of studies at the University of Otago.

Mentlik, the son of William Mentlik of Mountainside and Judy Mentlik of Westfield, is majoring in environmental policy at Colby.

### Bernstein earns national award in mathematics

The United States Achievement Academy announced that Todd Bernstein of Springfield has been named a United States National Award Winner in mathematics. The award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the academy recognizes fewer than 10 percent of all American high school students.

Bernstein, who attends Union

County Magnet High School for Math, Science and Technology was nominated for the national award by Alice Mansfield-Smith a teacher at the school.

Bernstein will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, United States Achievement Academy winners should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said George Stevens, executive director of the United States Achievement Academy.

The academy selects USAA winners upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors and upon the Standards of Selection set forth by the academy. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability, and recommendation from a teacher or director.

Bernstein is the son of Julie and Hal Bernstein of Springfield and the grandson of Millicent Stein of Springfield and Florence Bernstein of Woodbridge.

### Honors for Sayanlar

Springfield resident Jennifer Lisa Sayanlar has received first honors dean's list at Boston College for the fall 2000 semester.

Sayanlar, a senior majoring in chemistry, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Sayanlar. She also is a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society, into which she was inducted recently.

## WORSHIP CALENDAR

### BAPTIST

**EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH** - "CHRIST OUR HOPE AND PEACE" - 242 Shunpike Rd., Springfield. Rev. Frederick Mackey, Sr. Pastor. Sundays: 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages - Nursery through Seniors: 10:30 AM Worship Service and Nursery care - 5:30-7:00 PM AWANA Club Program for Children ages 4-11; 6:00 PM Evening Service & Nursery care. Wednesdays: 7:15 PM Prayer, Praise and Bible Study; Junior/Senior High Ministry. Active Youth Ministry; Wide-Range Music Program; Super Seniors 3rd Thursday at 11 AM followed by lunch. Ample Parking. Chair Lift provided with assistance. All are invited and welcomed to participate in worship with us. For further information contact church office (973) 379-4351.

### JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE

**TEMPLE BETH AHM** 60 Temple Drive, Springfield. 973-376-0539. Mark Mallach, Rabbi. Richard Nadel, Cantor. Dr. Scott D. Zinberg, President. Beth Ahm is an egalitarian, Conservative temple, with programming for all ages. Weekday services Mon-Fri. 7:00 AM Sun-Thurs. 7:45 PM Shabbat (Friday) 6:00 PM & 8:30 PM Shabbat day 9:30 AM & sunset; Sundays, 8:30 AM. Festival & Holiday mornings 9:00 AM. Family and children services are conducted regularly. Our Religious School (third-seventh grade) meets on Sunday and Tuesday. There are formal classes for both High School and pre-Religious School aged children. The synagogue also sponsors a Pre-School Women's League, Men's Club, youth groups for sixth through twelfth graders, and a busy Adult Education program. For more information, please contact our office during office hours.

### JEWISH - REFORM

**TEMPLE SHAA'REY SHALOM** 78 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield, (201) 379-5387. Joshua Goldstein, Rabbi; Amy Daniels, Cantor/Education Director; Nina Greenman, Pre-School Director; Murray Bell, President. Temple Sha'arey Shalom is a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). Shabbat worship, enhanced by volunteer choir, begins on Friday evenings at 8:30 PM, with monthly Family Services at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning Torah

study class begins at 9:15 AM followed by worship at 10:30 AM. Religious school classes meet on Saturday mornings for grades K-3; on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for 4-7; and Tuesday evenings for post bar/bat mitzvah students. Pre-school, classes are available for children ages 2 1/2 through 4. The Temple has the support of an active Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and Youth Group. A wide range of programs include Adult Education, Social Action, Interfaith Outreach, Singles and Seniors. For more information, call the Temple office, (201) 379-5387.

### LUTHERAN

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH** 639 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, 07081. 201-379-4525. Fax 201-379-8887. Joel R. Yoss, Pastor. Our Sunday Worship Service takes place at 10 a.m. at JONATHAN DAYTON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information about our midweek children, teen, and adult programs, contact the Church Office Monday through Thursday, 8:30-4:00 p.m.

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**, 229 Cowperthwaite Pl., Westfield, Rev. Paul E. Kritsch, Pastor. (908) 232-1517. Beginning Sunday, July 6, Summer Worship Times are as follows: Sunday Worship Services, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning Nursery available. Wednesday Evening Worship Service, 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion is celebrated at all worship services. The church and all rooms are handicapped accessible.

### METHODIST

**THE SPRINGFIELD EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, located at 40 Church Mall in Springfield, NJ invites ALL people of all ages and backgrounds to join us in their spiritual journey. Sunday Worship Service starts at 10:30 A.M. with childcare available for babies and toddlers. Christian Education opportunities for children begin during the Worship Service with a special time for children led by the Pastor before they depart for classes. Service of Prayer and Healing held the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM. Please call and ask about our Adult Christian Education, Young Adult Ministries, Bible Studies, Small Group Ministries, Prayer Chain, Music Ministry and other opportunities to serve. If you have any questions, interest in

opportunities to serve others, or have prayer requests, please call the Rev. Jeff Markay at the Church Office: 973-376-1695.

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** of Summit is located in the heart of town on the corner of Kent Place Boulevard and DeForest Avenue. Church School and Bible Study is held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Worship is at 10:30 a.m.; the emphasis of which is to always have a "good week" because of Paul's reminder to us in his letter to the Romans "that ALL things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose". The sermons are uplifting, Biblically sound and guaranteed to keep you awake. The music and weekly children's message are memorable. All are welcome to hear the Good News of God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ. Our church also offers nursery care, after worship refreshments and fellowship, and many lively programs for everyone. Come worship with us and find out how you too can have a "good week". Call the church office or Pastor Lee Weaver for more information at 908 277-1700.

### PENTECOSTAL-NON-DENOMINATIONAL

**VISIONS OF GOD FAMILY WORSHIP "RAISING PEOPLE OF POWER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"**. 242 Shunpike Road, Springfield (located at Evangel Baptist Church). Office located at 1132 Spruce Drive, Mountainside, Phone: 908-928-0212. Pastors, Paul & Sharon Dean. Worship Service - Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study - Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Ministries include: Singles, married Couples, Women, Men. We welcome everyone who is someone to come and worship with us.

### PRESBYTERIAN

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** 210 Morris Ave. at Church Mall, Springfield, 379-4320. Sunday School Classes for all ages 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning Worship Service 10:15 a.m. (July and August 9:30 a.m.), with nursery facilities and care provided. Opportunities for personal growth through worship, Christian education, Choir, church activities and fellowship. Communion first Sunday of each month; Ladies' Benevolent Society - 1st

Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m.; Ladies' Evening Group - 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.; KuffeeKlatsch - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.; Choir - every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. The Rev. Daniel J. Russell, Jr., Pastor.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC

**THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JAMES**, 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081. 201-376-3044. SUNDAY EUCHARIST: Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sun. 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12 Noon. Reconciliation: Sat. 1:00-2:00 p.m. Weekday Masses: 7:00 & 8:00 a.m.

**ST. TERESA'S OF AVILA**, 306 Morris Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901, 908-277-3700. Sunday Masses: Saturday, 5:30 PM; Sunday, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon, 1:15 (Spanish), 5:00 PM in the Church; Children's Mass - 9:30 AM Memorial Hall will resume September 14th; Weekday Masses: 7:00, 8:30 AM; 12:10 PM; Saturday weekday Mass, 8:30 AM; Holy Days: Same as weekday masses with a 5:30 PM anticipated Mass and a 7:30 PM evening Mass. Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00 - 5:00 PM.

NOTE: All copy changes must be made in writing and received by Worrall Community Newspapers No later than 12:00 Noon, Fridays prior to the following week's publication. Please address changes to:

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UW

**Judas!**  
Palm Sunday April 8 10:30 am  
United Methodist Church of Summit  
17 Kent Place Blvd • 908-277-1700

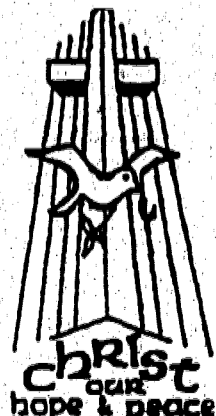
**Church Of St. Catherine Of Siena**  
19 King St., Hillside • 908-351-1515

**RECONCILIATION SERVICE**  
FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 7:30 PM  
NO CONFESSIONS WILL BE HEARD DURING HOLY WEEK

**HOLY WEEK PALM SUNDAY**  
SATURDAY - APRIL 7 - MASS - 5:30 PM  
SUNDAY MASSES - APRIL 8  
8:30 AM - 9:45 am (Spanish) and 12:15 pm  
HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 12 - MASS - 7:30 PM  
GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 13  
3:30 PM - LITURGY OF PASSION AND DEATH OF CHRIST  
7:30 pm - STATIONS OF THE CROSS (Spanish)  
HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 14 - MASS  
EASTER VIGIL - 8:00 PM  
EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 15 MASSES  
MASSES - 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM (Spanish) and 12:15 pm

### Evangel Baptist Church

242 Shunpike Road • Springfield  
973-379-4351 • www.evangelbaptistsp.com



### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

April 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Come worship with us as we celebrate Christ's sacrifice for our sins. Service includes devotional message by guest speaker Pastor Paul Dean and celebration of Communion.

### EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

APRIL 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Service includes a special musical presentation by the Evangel Choir.

## Easter Week

a week of reflection and celebration with Holy Cross Church

\*Register children for a Walk thru Holy Week tour: 973-379-4525  
In Springfield: Holy Cross at 639 Mountain Ave. • JDHS at 101 Mountain Ave.

www.holycrossnj.org

**Palm SUNDAY**, April 8 • 10am at Jonathan Dayton High School  
"Good News, Great Story!" presented by adult & children's choirs

**Maundy THURSDAY**, April 12 • 7:30pm at Holy Cross Church

**Good FRIDAY**, April 13  
Afternoon walk thru Holy Week for Kids\* at Holy Cross Church  
7:30pm Tenebrae Service at Holy Cross Church

**EASTER SUNDAY**, April 15 • 10am at Jonathan Dayton High School  
Celebration Service

Editor: J.R. Parachini  
 Union: 908-686-7700, ext. 319  
 Maplewood (Tuesdays): 973-762-0303

# SPORTS

Union Fax: 908-686-4169  
 Orange Fax: 973-674-2038  
 Maplewood Fax: 973-763-2557

## LOCAL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

### Summit's Curiale scores for Rutgers

Cristina Curiale of Summit, a sophomore member of the women's lacrosse team at Rutgers, scored two goals to help the Scarlet Knights win their first game of the year as they pummeled Marist College 21-1 earlier this month at Yurcak Field in Piscataway.

Rutgers improved to 1-4 with its first victory of the season.

Curiale, a 1999 Summit High School graduate, helped the Hilltoppers win the NJSIAA Tournament championship her senior season in 1999 as Summit finished its best season ever undefeated at 22-0.

### H.S. spring season starts next week

The high school spring sports season commences next week for teams around the state.

The Dayton High School baseball and softball teams are scheduled to face Mountain Valley Conference-Valley Division foe Brearley on Friday, April 6 at 3:45 p.m.

Dayton's baseball team will play Brearley in Kenilworth, while the Bulldog softball squad will play Brearley in Springfield.

### Forum for wrestling coaches to speak

A wrestling coaches clinic will take place May 4 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The College of New Jersey in Ewing Township.

The clinic will feature NCAA champion Brett Matter of the University of Delaware and Delran High School, Brick Memorial head coach John DeMarco and South Plainfield head coach Bill Pavlik.

The clinic is open to high school, middle school, youth and recreation coaches.

Registration information may be obtained by calling 609-259-2776.

### Clinic for soccer coaches upcoming

A boys and girls soccer coaches clinic is scheduled to take place at the Hale Center/Bubble at Rutgers University Sunday from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Clinic instructors include Rutgers men's coach Bob Reasso and staff and Rutgers women's coach Glen Crooks and staff.

The clinic is open to high school, middle school, youth and recreation coaches. Continental breakfast, lunch and clinic materials are included. Call 609-259-2776.

### Sports issues to be discussed

A Conference on Critical Issues in Sports, Physical Education and Health is set for Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Cook College Campus Center of Rutgers University.

The conference is being sponsored by the NJSIAA and New Jersey Development Council.

The conference will feature Linda Morse of the N.J. Dept. of Education talking about, "Health and Physical Education Standards," NJSIAA attorney Michael Herbert talking about, "Critical Issues in Sports Law," and Robert Baly, Supt. of Schools - Watchung Hills discussing, "Communication with the Staff and Public on Sports Issues."

Also speaking will be Rutgers athletic director Robert Mulcahy and Rutgers' Women's Administrator and Compliance Officer Kate Hickey.

Registration includes continental breakfast, buffet lunch and clinic materials. Call 732-247-2424.

### Discussion about booster clubs

An NJSIAA/DSAANJ Conference: "Handling Board of Education Members, Parents and Booster Clubs" is set for May 15 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NJSIAA headquarters in Robbinsville.

The conference will feature school administrators and athletic directors.

Items to be discussed include, "Handling Parents," "Dealing with Board of Education Members," and "Role of Booster Clubs in Athletic Programs."

The conference is open to supt. of schools, principals and athletic directors and is limited to 75 attendees. Call 609-259-2776.

## Dayton hockey excelled



Dayton High School ice hockey coach Todd Drevitch, left, and assistant coach Peter Finkle speak at the Bulldogs' annual dinner. Drevitch praised the team for overachieving and indicated that he had high expectations for next year. "I believe we will be one of the top teams in our conference next year," Drevitch said. "Our goals are to be in the conference championship game and be the first Dayton team to make the state playoffs." Individual awards went to Andre Moczydlowski, Calder Trophy (Rookie of the Year); Clay Boeninghaus, Conn Smythe Trophy (Playoff MVP); Eric Decter, Most Improved Player, Adam Cohen, Hart Trophy (MVP) and Brett Berger, Player of the Year. A special congratulations was offered to four-year player John Laurencelle for his contributions to the program. The senior helped Dayton gain a 6-11-1 record and finish .500 in conference play.

## Santarella and Stapfer selected All-Conference

The Dayton High School boys' basketball team placed two players on the Mountain Valley Conference-Valley Division All-Conference teams.

Senior point guard Carmine Santarella was a First Team choice, while senior center Jeff Stapfer was a Second Team pick.

The Bulldogs finished second in the division behind St. Mary's, which won the title for the third consecutive season. Dayton was also second last year and in 1997 and won the division in 1998.

### High School Boys' Basketball

Dayton finished 19-5 overall and 13-3 in the Valley Division. The Bulldogs captured the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 championship, winning their first sectional title in 30 years.

The following are the Mountain Valley Conference-Valley Division All-Conference boys' basketball teams for the 2000-2001 season:

First Team: Salik Bowman, St. Mary's; Carmine Santarella, Dayton; Mike Klebauer, Bound Brook; Jon Hutton, North Plainfield; Marcus Wooten, Newark Central.

Second Team: Taurean Ogunniak, St. Mary's; Jeff Stapfer, Dayton; Andy Silvagni, New Providence; Erik Baker, North Plainfield; Brad Costello, Manville.

Santarella will be honored Wednesday night at the Westwood in Garwood as one of the Top 15 players in the county as selected by the Union County Coaches Association.

## Summit basketball squad captures Dunellen Tourn.

### Marks named MVP, Fenska outstanding coach

The Summit Recreation 8th grade traveling boys' basketball team captured the 50th annual March of Dimes Dunellen Tournament.

Summit stormed past some tough competition to win its first-ever Dunellen Tournament.

Team members include Matt Fields, John Alpizar, Zach Barber, Henry Dickson, Ian Kelly, Wellington Smith, Pete Melcon, Geoff Marks, Chris Conlon, John Stuckey, Pearce Talbot, Tim Fields and coach Bruce Fenska.

Marks was named the tournament's MVP, while Fenska was named the tournament's outstanding coach.

Summit defeated North Plainfield 64-52 in the championship game after beating Deerfield Middle School of Mountainside 86-51 and before that Valleyview Middle

School of Watchung 84-53. Summit also posted a 63-58 overtime victory as Fields made a three-point basket at the buzzer to send the game into overtime. Talbot scored 11 points in overtime to lift Summit to the victory.

Marks had an outstanding game against North Plainfield, scoring a team-high 28 points. Conlon scored 13 points and Fields 12.

Marks paced Summit with a 19-point effort against Mountainside, while Stuckey, Barber and Melcon scored 16 points each.

Stuckey was high scorer for Summit against Watchung as he poured in 19 points. Marks scored 18 and Barber 10.

Summit entered the league playoffs and the finals of the Springfield Tournament against Wayne with an outstanding 18-3 record.



The Summit Recreation 8th grade traveling boys' basketball team captured the 50th annual March of Dimes Dunellen Tournament. It was the first time Summit ever won the tournament as Geoff Marks was named the tourney's MVP and Bruce Fenska its outstanding coach. Kneeling, from left, are Matt Fields, John Alpizar, Zach Barber, Henry Dickson and Ian Kelly. Standing, from left, are Wellington Smith, Pete Melcon, Geoff Marks, Chris Conlon, John Stuckey, Pearce Talbot, Tim Fields and coach Bruce Fenska.

### Football 101 to be introduced

The Springfield Recreation Department is introducing Football 101.

Sponsored by the Springfield Recreation Department and Minutemen coaching staff, Football 101 will take place April 7 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Chisholm Community Center.

Open to all town residents, Football 101 is a class for those who have an interest in learning the fundamentals of the sport of football. All fathers and mothers, husbands and wives and players and fans are welcome to attend.

Based on attendance, more classes will be offered throughout the summer. There is no fee.

Registration forms may be obtained at Springfield schools and the deadline is March 31.

More information may be obtained by calling the Springfield Rec Department at 973-912-2227.

## Summit talented enough to excel

### Hilltoppers eye big season

By Jeff Wolfrum  
 Staff Writer

"Getting every kid to understand his capabilities and at a high level is the best baseball you can play," is the philosophy of Summit High School baseball coach Jim Dietz.

Dietz is entering his 15th year at the helm and has compiled a 199-150 record over that span. He's been around the baseball program for 28 years, as he was the freshman and junior varsity coach before ascending to the top position.

Coming off a 12-14 campaign, the Hilltoppers will look to their offense to lead the way in 2001.

"Last year we started off at 7-3, but two of our starters that were hitting around .400 came down with mononucleosis and lost significant playing time," Dietz said.

### High School Baseball

Those two players were seniors Mike Nelson, who missed 12 games, and Matt Benedetti, who missed 16 contests.

Both are back and are expected to put up big numbers for Summit. Although he missed more than half the season, Benedetti still batted .436 with two home runs and 22 RBI.

The Hilltoppers are led by senior shortstop Ryan Carey, who batted .382 a season ago. Joining him in the infield will be Nelson at third, junior Mike Mormack at second and Chris Kaiser at first. Kaiser, who hit .308 last year, takes over for the departed Jon Campagna, who now plays at Bucknell. Senior Mike D'Ecclesis and sophomore Evan Cheng will also see time in the infield.

The outfield consists of seniors Matt Williams, Benedetti and Rob Deigado. Junior Pat Murphy will also see action in the outfield along with sophomore Paul Kropp, who hit .306 as a freshman.

Handling the catching will be two-year letterman Nick Monaco. The pitching staff will feature four righties and a pair of lefties. Williams, who was 4-4 last year, will be slated as the No. 1 starter, while Kropp, who went 4-2, is penciled in at the second spot. Benedetti and D'Ecclesis are the lefties, while senior James Sivartsen, who was 0-1 last season, and sophomore Steve Bariexca are two righties that will also see some time.

"We should be strong up the middle and have two solid pitchers that can throw strikes," Dietz said. "Pitching and defense will win baseball games."

Set with Williams and Kropp as his top two moundsmen, the coach hopes that two or three more pitchers emerge to help the team win games.

"You've got to have a deep pitching staff because you sometimes play four games in a week," Dietz said.

Having lost but three seniors from last year's squad, Dietz feels that this might be the most experienced club he's ever coached.

That experience will be needed as the Hilltoppers host Iron Hills Conference-Hills Division rivals Dover and Mendham to start the season.

Summit opens against Dover Monday, then takes on Mendham two days later.

"Dover has a top senior pitcher in Mike Hymio who will probably start against us and Mendham reached the Group 2 championship game last year," Dietz said.

The Hilltoppers will also face stiff competition from Mountain Valley Conference foes Governor Livingston, Scotch Plains and New Providence.

With goals of winning a county or state championship — Summit last won the Union County Tournament in 1998 — the coach feels that this year's team has enough talent to do so.

"Some of these kids were in the program as freshmen," Dietz said. "Hopefully they've learned some things along the way in how to get here."

Hymio batted a hefty .646 for Dover last year. The First Team All-State selection at shortstop slugged nine home runs and 10 doubles and had a 1.170 slugging percentage.

## Dayton ready to play aggressive

By Jeff Wolfrum  
 Staff Writer

Having a philosophy of playing aggressively and winning with good defense, Dayton High School softball coach Dave Rennie feels that those two factors will be the keys to his squad's success for the upcoming season.

Entering his second season, Rennie went 6-13 last year and looks to improve upon that mark.

"Our defense is solid and on the offensive side, I want the girls to be aggressive at the plate and on the basepaths," Rennie said. "We will look to have a lot of bunt-and-runs and steals in our game plan."

The Bulldogs are returning seven players from last season's squad and have a roster of 14, which includes three freshmen.

### High School Softball

Returning players include senior first baseman Christina Florio, senior pitcher Dana Rutkowski, junior outfielders Esther Aizenberg, Lauren Belliveau and Maria Zolotarsky, sophomore third baseman Juliana Stravato and sophomore outfielder Valerie Zlotsky.

The rest of the roster consists of senior infielder/outfielder Linda Agostinelli, junior pitcher Cheryl Denning, sophomore first baseman/outfielder Eliasa Walters and three starting freshmen in catcher Lisa Clark, shortstop Sara Steinman and second baseman Lindsey Brahm.

Rutkowski is recovering from a torn ACL, which occurred at the start of the basketball season.

"Dana is working hard and rehabilitating from the injury," Rennie said. "We are hoping she will be at full strength to start the season."

Denning is up from the junior varsity squad and looks to improve and stay sharp. If needed, the coach can also use Kate Cevillo, the starter for the junior varsity.

Having a number of quality hitters in his lineup, Rennie is seeking for his team to be more consistent at the plate and put the ball in play more.

"They're coming along real well, but they still need to cut down on their strikeouts," Rennie said.

The coach likes his defense and hopes that its commitment goes beyond just making plays.

"I want the girls to think about the situation or what to do with the ball ahead of time," Rennie said.

The coach also feels his team has enough speed to cause problems for the opposition.

"We will steal some bases, but it will depend on who's the runner," Rennie said.

Playing in the Mountain Valley Conference-Valley Division, the Bulldogs will face the likes of rivals Brearley and New Providence and other tough division foes in Bound Brook and North Plainfield.

Dayton starts the season Tuesday at home against North Plainfield. The Bulldogs then travel to face MVC-Valley Division opponent Manville April 5 and are back home the next day to meet Brearley.

Rennie feels his team can accomplish the goal of making the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 playoffs.

"It won't be easy, but if we keep our heads in each game, play good defense and play smart, we can pull off a couple of upsets," Rennie said.

Rutkowski beat St. Mary's 7-2 last year on a four-hitter.

