

## The big picture

Kathleen Miller Prunty will mark four years in June on the firing line as the director of Cranford's Downtown Management Corporation. An offshoot of the community's Special Improvement District, it provides "administrative and other services" to benefit the downtown. But what I wanted really to know is why she was involved in so many controversies of late.

Miller Prunty reels off easily the movement of the downtown from a decade ago, of "declining property values, little investment and renovation." In her view, part of the change has been "people knowing and talking about Cranford." She provides a two-page sheet on development and investment projects totalling over \$22 million for just last year. But that includes \$14 million in the highly-political and economically-questionable Cranford Crossing project.

Left Out

#### By Frank Capece

This week as is often the case, Miller Prunty will host officials from another county desirous of studying the Cranford model. She is often called upon to speak at state economic seminars on the progress in Cranford's devotion. She does this work well. I find that telling people you are from Cranford is positive, and to some extent Miller Prunty has helped in fostering the image.

Why then, I ask should there be so much controversy about a position which should, in a word, be noncontroversial? Recent battles over the scope of the work, who she should take direction from, a nasty war of words with the reporter from Worrall's Cranford Eagle newspaper and debate involving some business owners, appear almost weekly in the local press. Recently, the issue over the split of cost of the maintenance of the downtown between the township and DMC heated up. In another battle, a hard editorial in the local Worrall paper attacking Miller Prunty brought a response by former Township Attorney Albert Stender, terming it "unwarranted character assassination...beneath contempt." Last weekend Tony Mack, a major property owner in the downtown and strong critic of some DMC actions, patiently answered my questions. "I want to emphasize I am not after Kathleen Miller Miller Prunty." He lays out his criticism. "I frankly think she is overqualified for the position." In Mack's view, the thrust of Miller Prunty's duties should be to focus on frequent meetings with the retailers, addressing their problems and assisting in the filling of store vacancies. The priority of duties may be at the heart of the dispute. Miller Prunty talks about the "big picture". when she speaks about her vision of the downtown. She points to the DMC newsletters, her other promotion efforts, her efforts in speaking to community organizations, and her recognition of needs of businesses on second and third floors as part of her efforts. When she challenges the community to "raise the bar and hike expectations," her voice strengthens and the cadence of her words picks up. But I am troubled by local merchants, who I respect, who have never met Miller Prunty and are angered she has never visited their stores. Despite my support for Ms. Miller Prunty and asking the questions a few different ways. I never got a real answer to the criticism. The recent incident where Mack and former Mayor Ed Force were dismissed from a finance meeting of the DMC was disrespectful and strikes me as arrogant. The explanation of the potential violation of the open public meetings law does not negate a greater effort at accommodation was required. As to my favorite bugaboo, the excesses of the local perky meter See NO, Page B2

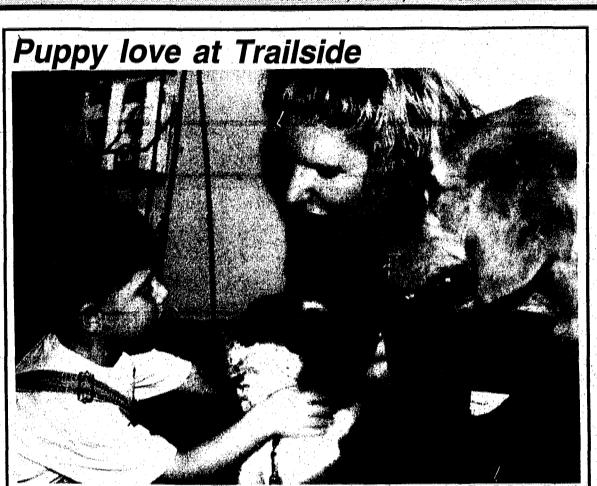


Photo By Barbara Kokkalls At the county's Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside, Jacob Kaltman, 3, hugs Cleo, a St. Bernard/Akita mix, while owner Sara Miniman and her other dog Connor, a golden retriever, during the 22nd annual Pet Fair on Sunday. Clerk looks to have records on the web

#### By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

Instead of sorting through records and heavy books in the records room at the county courthouse, Union County residents can expect to have access to land records of the county clerk via the Internet later this year.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders last month approved a contract with Aspedient Technologies of Miami, Fla., to provide services to support computerized web and image processing for the clerk's recording and business offices for \$40,000, which will come from the County Clerk's Trust Fund. The contract will initiate the first phase of consulting and programming for the web page and processing as well as design a specific safe-guarded web site where public documents can be viewed.

County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi said the first wave of documents available will be those most accessed by the public, such as deeds, mortgages and other land records. Eventually, all the clerk's documents will be available online. Residents would be able to view the first page of any document for free and any additional pages they wish to view could be purchased and viewed over the Internet.

Rajoppi, who is confident the new system will be in place by the end of the year, said security is vital to such documents, so the site will be designed with a fire wall, which only allows information one way.

The clerk's office maintains copies of all documents dating to 1857 on file in the record room at the county courthouse in Elizabeth, which is open to citizens, attorneys and title searchers for reference and study. The system could eliminate the need for the three-story, 14,000-square-foot records room, if it meets state requirements.

Rajoppi told the freeholder board that the equipment to implement the system could cost as much \$100,000, which would be planned into the capital budget, however, she stressed that costs have not been completed yet.

# Parks and rec union ratifies new contract offer

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

The labor union representing more than 100 employees within the Department of Parks and Recreation ratified a new four-year contract offer from the county last month, leaving the final step to be approval from the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The contract, which covers 2001 through 2004, was ratified by a 33-14 vote of members from United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Local 494, which represents painters, carpenters, plumbers, masons, greenskeepers, stable workers, welders, mechanics, laborers and other parks and recreation employees. The settlement stipulates salary increases of 1.5 percent in the first half of this year and 1.5 percent the second half. Union members not at the maximum on the salary guide would receive increases of 3.5 percent in 2002, 2003 and 2004 while those at maximum would earn 4-percent increases in each year. About 80 percent of the 109 union members are at the maximum on the salary guide.

Other changes in the contract include a \$10 per month contribution by employees for their health plan, increased disability pay, and changes in various clothing allowances.

"We wanted an early contract," said Union

President Joseph Petrosky, who hoped to have a deal by the end of the first quarter of the year. Negotiations on the previous contract for parks employees continued into the next contract period. A new agreement was settled just last summer for a deal to cover 1998 through 2000. Employees had been working nearly three years under the terms of the old contract, which expired at the end of 1997.

Petrosky said this is the earliest members of UE 494 have ever ratified a settlement in his 14 years with the union.

Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella said he expects discussion and action on the new contract during the board's meeting on Wednesday. The freeholder board was scheduled to meet for a work session tonight and a regular meeting on May 17, however, the two meetings will be combined and conducted on Wednesday.

"It's a good contract for the county and a good contract for the union," Mirabella said.

Depending on approval from union members in Council 8, Mirabella said the freeholder board also might be taking action next week on a second settlement. The county's largest labor union was expected to take a vote this week on a contract offer from the county.

**COAH** adopts new limits

The Council on Affordable Housing adopted the 2001 regional income limits at its May 2 meeting. COAH adopted the maximum increase allowed on the re-rental of affordable units at its April 4 COAH meeting. The income limits are used to determine the eligibility of low- and moderate-income households, to price new sales and rental units and to index the maximum resale price of existing sales units.

Low income is defined as 50 percent or less of the median gross household income for households of the same size within the housing region. Moderate income means more than 50 percent but less than 80 percent of the median gross household income for households of the same size within the housing region.

Affordable rents may be raised a maximum of 3.6 percent, based on the U.S. Consumer Price Index for the Northeast Region. However, federal low income tax credit developments may increase rents based on the federal low income tax credit regulations.

The income limits are based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 8 income limits — uncapped — according to COAH's six housing regions. COAH started using regional income limits, rather than county ones, in 1994.

For Region 2 — Essex, Morris, Union and Warren counties — where the median income for a four-person household is \$74,000, the maximum sales increase for an affordable unit is 4.82 percent. Therefore, a household of four people earning between \$59,200 and \$37,000 could qualify for moderate income housing while a four-person household earning \$37,000 or less could be eligible for low-income housing in that region.

While the increase from 2000 to 2001 determines the percentages allowed for pricing new sales, resales, rentals and rerentals of affordable units, these figures are merely maximum limits. The real estate market may determine that developers, landlords and owners will have to ask less than the maximum permitted sales or rental price, as owners or landlords of market housing often have to do, to sell or rent their units.

See COAH's rules, N.J.A.C. 5:93-7.4 establishing rents and prices of units, for more information on pricing. N.J.A.C. 5:93-9.15 refers to annual indexed increases on sales and rental units while controls are in place.

Burglary	<b>1999</b> 1,387	2000 1,393
Larceny	4,835	5,037
Motor vehicle theft	1,879	1,969
Nonviolent crime	8,101	8,399
Rate per 1,000	15.5	16.1
Robbery	589	607
Murder	9	9
Rape	40	40
Aggravated assault	422	429
Violent crime Rate per 1,000	1,060.	1,085 2.1
Arson	58	21
Domestic violence	2,535	2,536
Blas crime	7	9
Crime Index Total Rate per 1,000	9,161 17.5 ment of Law and	9,484 18.2



On hand to greet visitors to last year's Union County Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Fair and Plant Sale are, from left, standing, Tom Wilkinson of Clark, Barbara Wyciskala and Erica Hanlon of Cranford and Nilda Riveria of Springfield, and seated, Kimiko Spitz of Westfield and Jillene Harvey of Scotch Plains. This year's fair will take place May 20 from noon to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

## Master Gardeners' annual fair May 20

Spring is here at last, and so is the Union County Master Gardeners' 20th annual Spring Garden Fair and Plant Sale. Mark your calendars for May 20, noon until 5 p.m., rain or shine, at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. Parking entrance and all exhibits are free.

"The event is our only fund-raiser, and also gives us an opportunity to showcase our organization, encourage new people to join and use the services we and Rutegers Cooperative Extension offer," said Patti DeBlass, president of the Union County Master Gardeners, and cochairwoman of the fair. "We have free lectures, displays, Rutgers leaflets, and a 'Problem table' where visitors can bring plant and insect problems to be diagnosed. There will be Rutgers soil test kits for sale too."

"Check out the arts and crafts, the homemade bake sale and the children's activities," added Joanne Krueger, who co-chairs the fair. "This is a great day out for the whole family."

Master Gardeners have been preparing since the fall. Pernennials from their own gardens were divided, potted and over-wintered in their new demonstration garden at Trailside, ready to be sold at the fair. "Several people return year after year to get these great bargains," said Krueger, "and the Arts and Crafts Committee, chaired by Nancy Peterson, has also been hard at work all year to provide attractive and useful items for sale."

"We also have bedding plants, vegetable plants, shrubs, hanging baskets and houseplants from local merchants for sale," said plant sale co-chairs Pamella Scwierk and Lenni Peskin.

The lecture schedule will start at 1 p.m. with The Use of Common Culinary Herbs Today by Mary Van der Mude; 1:45 p.m., Vegetable Gardening, Stephen Schoemann; 2:30 p.m., Dazzling Dahlias, Eric Hamburg; and 3:15 p.m., The Art of Pruning, Ellie Gural.

For the kids there will be planting and craft activities, face painting, nature walks and storytelling coordinated by co-chairs Lou Stiglitz, Irene Soppas and Beverly Warmbrand.

The Master Gardener Association of Union County is a volunteer outreach program of Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Proceeds from the Spring Garden Fair enable the Master Gardeners to provide services to the community, such as community beautification, a year-round Gardening Information Line to answer county residents' gardening and pest questions; horticultural therapy programs for seniors, adults and children with disabilities; gardening with children; a Speakers' Bureau, and more.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity employer. Educational programs are offered without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, disability or handicap, or age.

For information and directions to the fair, or to find out more about the Master Gardener Association, call (908) 654-9854. For the Gardening Information Line call (908) 654-9852.

## Millon Mom chapter to mark anniversary

Million Mom March chapters in Union, Morris, Essex, Sumerset, Warren and Sussex counties are joining together on Saturday for a free Family Day to celebrate the first anniversary of the national grassroots movement to fight for common sense gun legislation. The moms and their family, friends and other supporters will meet at Lewis Morris Park in Mendham from 1 to 4 p.m. for an afternoon of food, music, crafts, children's activities, speakes and legislative letter writing. At 3 p.m., there will be a moment of silence in memory of all the children and adults who have lost their lives in gun violence.

Last year's Mother Day events brought together over 750,000 people on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and in 73 cities across the country to call for sensible gun laws to protect our nation's children. Since that time, the Moms have actively supported legislation and candidates throughout the country and helped make sensible gun laws a mainstream issue at the state and local level.

The Milliom Mom March believes gun ownership is a privilege, not a right," said Julia DeSantis, head of the Union County chapter. "Reasonable controls on firearm production, distribution and sales are urgent matters of public health in the United States."

On Monday, the Moms are meeting with elected officials on the state and federal level to discuss proposals to stop interstate gun trafficking, mandate trigger locks on handguns and require gun show background checks. Of particular concern to Million Mom chapters in New Jersey is the Childproof Handgun Bill, which passed overwhelmingly in the State Senate by a 34-2 vote last May. However, Assembly Speaker Jack Collins has yet to allow the bill to come up for a vote in the Assembly.

For more information on the free Family Day or how to join a local chapter of the Million Mom March, call (973) 267-7676 or e-mail MMMnionNJ@aol.com or MilliomMomMorris@aol.com

#### Two Hundred Club to fete police and fire

More than 400 people are expected to turn out on Friday at L'Affaire Restaurant, Route 22 East, Mountainside, to honor Union County's police officers and firefighters who have been selected for bravery performed in the year 2000. Each winner will recive the prestigious Two Hundred

Club Medal of Valor for their work above and beyond the call of duty. The luncheon also will be addressed by Acting Gov. Donald DiFrancesco who is fulfilling the unexpired term of Christine Whitman. For tickets call The 200 Club Office at (908) 322-2422.

## No real answers to criticism

(Continued from Page B1) maid, Miller Prunty politely supports an overall study of the parking problem.

Mack also points to the limits of a \$200,000 budget where half goes for debt reduction. The question of affording Ms. Miller Prunty is laid out. Of more concern to me are the reports that the township administrator has asserted that Ms. Miller Prunty reports directly to her and the DMC is merely an advisory board. If that is determined to be a legally defensible position maybe a change in the ordinance is needed.

ram can use greater focus of the administrator leaving the DMC to the DMC. Even the attractive advertising

effort in New Jersey Monthly subjected Ms. Miller Prunty to some criticism by the DMC and the local press as to the need for the campaign.

But through the criticism, absence of a unified purpose and confusion over the chain of command, Ms. Miller Prunty fights for her grand vision of Cranford. One thing about attacking Ms. Miller Prunty's big picture, it sure takes the heat off what everybody else is

Capece is an attorney.

#### Union County College open house Saturday

Union County College will host its spring open house on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Roy Smith Theater on the Cranford campus, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

Information will be available about admissions, financial aid and scholarships, CLEP, international student admissions, allied health programs, student activites, how to transfer to a four-year institution and more.

Registration for summer classes is now taking place. The fall semester will begin Sept. 5.

To make a reservation call (908) 709-7518.

#### Adult evening classes

A variety of courses ranging from international cuisine to computer repair to kitchen remodeling will be offered this spring semester in the Adult Evening School at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools.

The Adult Evening School is located at the Union County Vo-Tech campus on Raritan Road and is open to all Union County residents. The spring semester begins Monday and runs through June 15, and most classes meet from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., twice a week. The fee for most courses ranges from \$100 to \$150.

- Among the courses offered this spring are: Auto Body and Auto Mechanics Workshops; International Cuisine; Furniture Repair and Restoration; Kitchen Remodeling; Computer Repair; Drafting; Construction Estimating; Electrical Blueprint Reading; Basic Plumbing Repair; Masonry; Basic Home Repairs and Maintenance; Locksmithing; and Welding.

The school also will offer a course covering Environmental Protection Agency requirements for air conditioning and refrigeration technicians requiring certification in the proper usage and safe handling of refrigerants.

In addition, the school will offer a no-fee course focused on English as a Second Language, and two computer

## COUNTY NEWS

courses - MS Word and MS Windows — which will meet once a week for five weeks. The fee for each computer course is \$100.

In-person registration for the Adult Evening courses is under way in West Hall at the Vo-Tech High School and continues through May 11. The hours for in-person registration are from 1 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday. Registration also can be done through the mail.

For more information and applications forms call the Adult Admissions Office at Union County Vo-Tech at (908) 889-8288, Ext. 304.

#### **Fishing Derby Saturday**

One of the most anticipated rites of spring in Union County is the Fishing Derby for People with Disabilities. The annual event, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Eastern Central District Elks, is scheduled for Saturday at 10 a.m. in Echo Lake Park, on the border of Mountainside and Westfield.

Enjoy fishing with your own pole or borrow one from the Elks. Equipment will be provided for those who need it. Preregistration is required for this free event, so call ahead. Everyone who is preregistered is treated to lunch and there will be a chance to win prizes in various categories.

Information and registration materials may be obtained by calling the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4900.

#### Nugent reappointed

Acting Gov. Donald DiFrancesco submitted the nomination of Christine M. Nugent of Westfield to the State Senate to be reappointed to the Union County Board of Taxation.

#### 'Something Different' sale May 17 at Runnells

The Runnells Specialized Hospital Volunteer Guild will sponsor "Something Different," a sale featuring products seen on television, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 17 in the multipurpose room of the facility, 40 Watchung Way, Berkeley Heights.

The sale will include umbrellas, tap lights, Orange Glow-Oxi Clean, the Wonder Mop tapestries shop for Christmas, and much more. Checks, Visa and MasterCard will be accepted at the sale.

The public is always invited to attend the vendor sales, thanks to the efforts of our Volunteer Guild. All the income the guild receives from the sales is used to purchase items for residents and patients, such as televisions, VCRs, and prizes for the bingo games. The Volunteer Guild also sponsors a Christmas party/gift distribution and a summer picnic each year, in cooperation with the Berkeley Heights Lions Club.

The Volunteer Guild and the Office of Volunteer Services are interested in recruiting new volunteers. Flexible hours and a variety of opportunities exist with resident contact, as well as performing other tasks.

For more information call the Office of Volunteer Services at (908) 771-5847.

#### Blood drives scheduled

The Blood Center of New Jersey will conduct the following blood drives:

• Monday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union; 4 to 8 p.m., Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park and Randolph roads, Plainfield.

• May 18, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union.

• May 22, 6 to 9 p.m., Masonic Atlas Pythagoras Lodge, 1011 Central Ave., Westfield.

• May 23, 4 to 9 p.m., Masonic Lafayette Lodge, 1550 Irving St., Rahway.

For more information call (800) BLOOD-NJ.

#### United Way Golf Classic

On June 11, United Way of Union County will host its second annual Golf Classic and dinner reception at the Shackamaxon Golf & Country Club in Scotch Plains, sponsored by L'Oreal USA.

Proceeds generated from the second annual Golf Classic will be

directed to United Ways Dell Raudelunas Fund for Children and United Way of Union County's Community Fund that works to provide basic needs services; increase economic self-sufficiency; promote lifelong health, wellness and independence, and build strong and supportive families.

More than 120 golfers will tee off and hundreds more will attend the dinner reception to support our Caring Community. A team of local volunteers and United Way of Union County staff members have formed a planning committee to help organize the event.

To participate or help support the event, call (908) 353-7171.

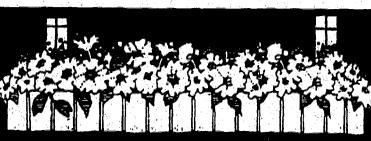
#### Sheriff's scholarships

The Sheriff's Officers of Union County, members of Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 108, are offering scholarships to eligible college-bound students who currently attend high school in Union County. Applications are now available and they must be picked up in person at the Sheriff's Office in the Union County Administration Building, first floor, Elizabethtown Plaza at Rahway Avenue in downtown Elizabeth.

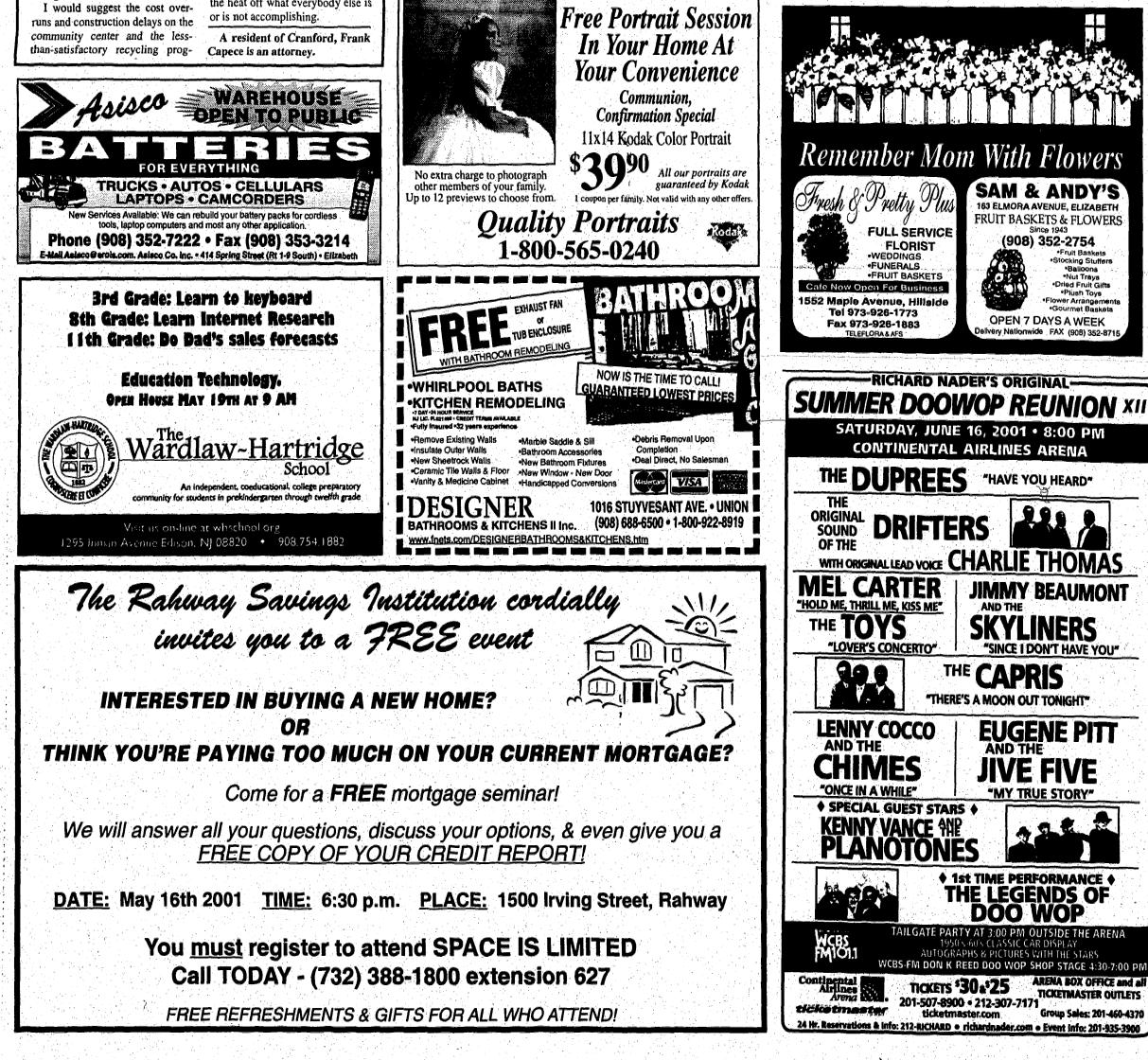
Although it is encouraged that applicants pursue courses of instruction in the areas of law and public safety, it is not a prerequisite for being granted a scholarship. Two scholarships will be allocated to qualified applicants by the scholarship committee.

Any high school senior who has successfully completed his or her studies and will graduate this spring is eligible for this scholarship. A student who is the son or daughter of a Union County Sheriff's Officer is not eligible. The information on these applications, together with any attached documents, is confidential and will be for use by the Scholarship Committee only.

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



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WORRALL NEWSPAPERS

#### THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2001 - PAGE B3



## Core aeration can get to the root of hardness problem

By Jeff Rugg **Copley News Service** Q. The soil beneath my grass is so hard and bumpy that it is painful to walk barefoot on it. Is there anything I can do, short of tearing it all up and starting over?

A. Many people have lumpy lawns after the actions of winter weather and from poor lawn management. Starting over may be the best solution if there is mostly bare soil and not much grass.

If the grass is a good variety for your area and is getting plenty of sunlight, fertilizer and water, you will need to work on the soil. Tilling it up and adding lots of organic matter may be best, but the next best thing is to do a core aeration.

Soil scientists and turf grass experts recommend that cores a minimum of four inches long be pulled from the soil in a grid pattern every two to three inches in both directions. If the tines on the machine are farther apart, the machine needs to go over the same area multiple times. Any companies bidding on doing a core aeration need to know what they are bidding on. They need to know in advance if they will need to have a machine with longer tines and how many times they will have to go over the property to do the job correctly and effectively.

The cores can be left to degrade naturally or they can be broken up a day or two after the aeration. Organic matter that is made up of fine particles can be spread on the lawn. The whole lawn then should be raked or otherwise loosened up so the organic matter and the cores can be broken and sifted back into the holes.

Do not try to do an aeration by sticking sharp objects into the soil that do not remove a core. These objects have to push soil aside to be able to get into the soil; in other words, they actually compact the soil even more. Wearing spikes on your shoes while mowing the grass actually damages the grass plants, spreads disease and is

absolutely no good at relieving compaction.

Rolling the lawn with a heavy roller will not only smash the grass plants. back into place, but it will compact the soil more and cause an even greater need to do a core aeration. For the average homeowner, a roller is not a good lawn management tool.

Q. My lawn has lots of creeping Charlie and violets. How do I get rid of these? I've tried Roundup and regular weed-fighting fertilizers with no luck.

A. There are three similar plants that are often called creeping Charlie. Creeping Charlie (lysimachia nummularia) has roundish small leaves that come from a creeping stem, and has yellow flowers in the spring. Ground ivy (Glechoma hederacea) has nickel to quarter sized round leaves that are scalloped on the edge and are borne on a stalk off the horizontal stem. The stem is square in cross section and the leaves look like small umbrellas held up over the stem. The flowers are blue or purple. Henbit (Lamium amplexicaule) has the square stem and purple flowers, but the leaves are more heart-shaped. They grow on the sides of a vertical stem and the upper leaves attach directly to the stem.

All three plants grow well in shade and compete with grass that is not growing well because of the shade. If these plants are doing well and the grass is not, then you may want to stop growing grass and plant more shade tolerant perennials.

These plants all root easily and yet can be pulled up easily, but they will. send up new stems from the parts left behind. If you pull them up frequently (at least weekly) then you can beat them, but if you let them grow for a couple of weeks, you will be back to where you started. The same holds true for weed killers. They will need to be re-applied until the plants do not come back.

First, figure out which plant species

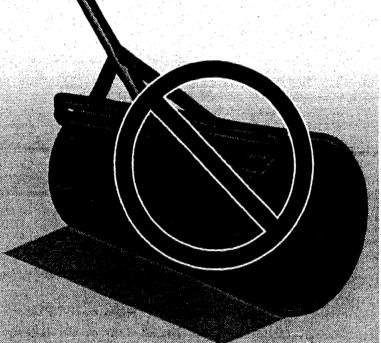
## GARDENTIP

## Lawn health after winter

Many people have lumpy lawns after the actions of winter weather and from poor lawn management.

If the grass is a good variety for its area and is getting plenty of sunlight, fertilizer and water, a homeowner will need to work on the soil. Tilling it up and adding lots of organic matter is ideal, but the next best thing is to do a core aeration. Core aerations are best left to professionals.

Do not do an aeration by sticking sharp objects into the soil that do not remove a core. Wearing spikes on shoes while mowing the grass increases compaction, too. E Rolling a lawn with a heavy roller smashes grass plants back into place, but also compacts soil and creates an even greater need to do a core aeration. For the average homeowner, a roller is not a good lawn management tool.



you have and make sure it is on the label of the weed killer. Make sure you keep applying it until the weeds are completely dead. If the neighbors yard has them, they will come back, so you have to work together to finally stop them.

Henbit is a winter annual that sprouts from seeds in early fall and grows until the cold stops it. It has a head start on the other plants in the spring. A pre-emergent applied in August will help prevent it from growing. Violets are very weakly rooted and in many cases pull up easily, if the soil is moist. They have a thick root that stores nutrients so it will have to be pulled or sprayed

In gardens and large areas of your lawn that are to be re-planted, you can kill these and many other weeds with darkness. Cover the whole area with several layers of newspaper. Wait a week or two and then rototill the whole thing under. Black plastic works well too and can be left in place for a vegetable garden area to help keep down the weeds.

E-mail questions to Jeff Rugg at agreenerview@altavista.com.

## People of all backgrounds can help monitor bird populations

By Jeff Rugg **Copley News Service** 

Seeing a vermilion-colored male cardinal on an evergreen, glowing in the sunlight after a fresh snow, never fails to make me stop my snow shoveling. He will nervously flit and chirp as he hops from branch to branch seemingly knowing he is the brightest object in the area. He is also the most easily frightened bird sitting at my bird feeders.

If anyone walks into the room where the feeder can be seen, he will be gone in a second. The female cardinal will grab a seed before she, too, flies off. The finches and chickadees will wait until someone gets right up to the glass before they leave. Unfortunately, the starlings don't leave even when I pound on the window. I have to start to open the door before they leave.

The cardinal has been known as a southern bird for many years, but its range has been expanding north and west. It has been released in Hawaii along with many other exotic birds that do not belong there. Technically, it is known as the Northern Cardinal, because of other related cardinals in Central and South America.

They have been expanding their range with the help of people. They do well in the mixed habitat of suburban landscapes. They nest in dense shrubs, evergreens and undergrowth. Along the Gulf Coast, they may raise four broods a year, while in the Northeast, they may only raise one.

They have a diet of insects, seeds and fruits. The variety of shrubs in urban areas provides a variety of food, but bird feeders have a greater impact. Feeding backyard birds began in earnest in the 1950s. Today, at an estimated expenditure of more than \$500M, one-in-three North American households makes available an average of 60 pounds of supplemental seed each year.

Cardinals come to almost 70 percent of the bird feeders nationwide. Only six bird species are more common. The dark-eyed junco is the most common, coming to around 85 percent of feeders. In second-through sixth-place are the mourning dove, downy woodpecker, house finch, blue jay and goldfinch. To round out the top 10, we have the black-capped to feeders and are expanding their ranges northward. In a number of areas where supplemental food is plentiful, some species, such as the mourning dove, no longer migrate.

Feeding may pull many birds, especially weak individuals, through the extremes of winter. Birds increase their visits to feeders in harsh weather, particularly after snowfalls and ice storms that make naturl foods inaccessible. During extreme cold spells, juncos, finches and other winter residents unable to find sufficient food before sunset often will not survive the night.

Much research still needs to be done on how bird feeding and effects of weather, habitat changes and many other local and regional inflences, change bird populations.

Now, people of all ages and backgrounds can help monitor bird populations, including several species that are declining in numbers, by participating in the annual Great Backyard Bird Counts.

Begun in 1998, the count has engaged more than 100,000 people of all ages and skill levels in the effort to keep common birds common. A project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society with funding provided in part by Wild Birds Unlimited and Ford Motor Co., the Great Backyard Bird Count combines high-tech Web tools with "citizen-science" observations of birds. The GBBC asks families, individuals, classrooms and community groups to count the numbers and kinds of birds that visit their feeder, local parks, schoolyards and other areas during any or all of the four count days.

Participants enter their observations at BirdSource (www.bird-source.org), a userfriendly, state-of-the-art Web site developed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Quail are easy to identify and are representatives of brushland habitat. Loss of this haibitat and the results of some land management practices are the primary reasons for declines in quail numbers. In suburban areas, predation of these ground-dwelling birds by cats in also a serious concern.

Visitors to the GBBC Web site can learn more about all six species of

## Gardening is a pleasure, but also is a challenge

Gardening is a pleasure, but until you know what to do and how to do it, gardening can also be a challenge. Luckily, a new book, "Creating Good Gardens" - Creative Homeowner, \$20 - has come out just in time for the spring 2001 gardening season.

In easy-to-understand language, lush photographs, and instructive drawings, this book clears up many of the mysteries new gardeners face. In it, you will learn how to design beautiful gardens that suit your lifestyle and are also kind to the environment. Throughout, authors Roger Holmes and Eleanore Lewis make easy maintenance and time-saving techniques a priority. If you're just starting to garden or want to improve gardens you already have, this book is a must. The following excerpts illustrate how well this book gets you started.

ways, storage areas, and play areas. And remember to coordinate your garden with any outdoor structures such as arbors, fences, and paths.

Tricks of the Trade

Although the urge to grow a variety of different plants is strong, in the end, garden may turn out looking messy and out of control. When designing your garden, think simplicity. One trick that professionals use is repetition. Repeating the same plant or color several places in the same bed helps tie everything together by giving context and order. It's also much more pleasing to the eve. Another trick for designing a memorable garden is to create a focal point - an element that quickly catches the viewer's eye and draws them in. A focal point doesn't have to be huge and overbearing, but it has to be large enough to attact attention. Try a reflecting ball, or a structure such as a gazebo, wooden bench, or birdbath. Specimen trees such as a weeping cherry or Japanese maple work well also.

repeatedly to kill it.

#### **Planning for Success**

Few people would consider building a house without a blueprint or plan. It is important to apply this rule to your garden as well. The best way to succeed at designing your garden is to start small. The experience and knowledge that comes with each project will help in the next. Planning a garden that accentuates your property, addresses your family's needs, and is easy to maintain are important factors to consider. Coordinating plant colors, textures, and blooming seasons requires experience and knowledge, not to mention more effort. Decide what's best for you early on. If you have a large family that uses the yard for fun and entertainment, keep your garden small, and isolated from access to entry-

#### **Buying Healthy Plants**

A well-designed garden starts with healthy plants. When shopping, look for a nursery or garden center that supplies quality plants and gardening supplies year round. Some suppliers also offer a replacement or credit if the plants die within the first year, which is always a plus. Select those plants that are native to your region and climate. Smaller plants that have not yet bloomed are more likely to perform better than those already in flower.

chickadee in eighth and then the white-breasted nuthatch and house sparrow.

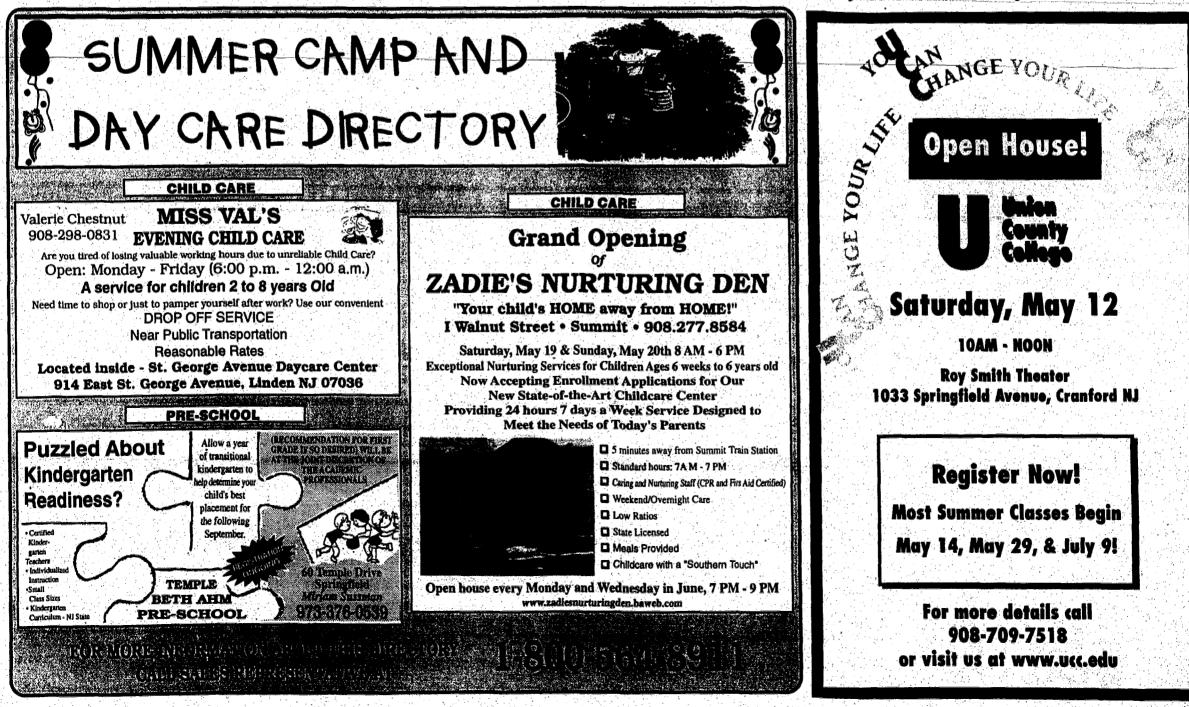
The effect that bird feeding has on the survival, population stability and migration patterns of our birds is uncertain, but ornithologists speculate that if handouts were to stop tomorrow, there would be neither species extinctions nor major population declines, although some recently enlarged ranges would contract and there might be detectable decreases in some regions.

Besides the cardinal, the tufted titmouse, re-bellied woodpecker and mourning dove are all birds that come North America quail.

The Cornell Lab and Audubon are also asking participants to pay special attention to several species of woodpeckers and the northern flicker, which are showing signs of serious. population decreases. The Web site will include several features relating to these species in need of special attention.

Instructions for participating can be viewed by going to www.birdsource.org and clicking on "Great Backyard Bird Count." There is no fee or registration required.

E-mail questions to Jeff Rugg at agreenerview@altavista.com



#### PAGE B4 - THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2001

Stepping Out is a weekly calendar. designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill VanSant, Worrall Community Newspapers, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

## ART **Shows**

ART IN WESTFIELD, the annual sidewalk art show and sale in downtown Westfield, will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. More than 65 artists, local and regional, will exhibit original paintings, sculpture, photography and graphics in oil, watercolor, acrylic, encaustic, pastel, pencil, pen and ink, metal, clay, wood and stone on the sidewalks of downtown Westfield. Bands will be playing throughout the event in the downtown area. Rain date is May 19.

For more information, call (908) 233-3021.

THROUGH OUR EYES: "2001 Graduate Exhibit" will be on display at the James Howe Gallery in the Vaughn Eames Building at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union, through Wednesday.

Gallery hours are Mondays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.; Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon, and by appointment. For information, call (908) 527-2347.

YOM HASHOAH: "Remembering the Holocaust" will be on exhibit at The Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St., through May 18.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.; and by appointment. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

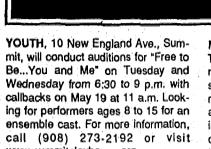
**IDENTITIES: CONTEMPORARY** PORTRAITURE will be on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, 68 Elm St., Summit, through May 20.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays from noon to 4 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

**ARTWORKS** by members of the board of the Les Malamut Art Gallery in the Union Public Library will be on exhibit through May 23.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Union Public Library is located in Friberger Park on Morris Avenue in Union. For information, call the library at (908) 851-5450 or Kean at (908) 527-2273.

**NEW FIGURATIVE PAINTINGS.** by Dan Gheno and Jerry Weiss, will be on exhibit at the Tomasulo Gallery in the Kenneth Campbell Mackay Library Building at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, from Saturday to June 21. An opening





THE TOWN BOOK STORE, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield, will host two author appearances Saturday, From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sherry Lazarus Ross will promote his new book, "Light of Lucinda." The first 20 children to purchase the book at the signings will receive a colored, frameable print of the book cover signed by the author and artists. A \$2 discount is being offered off the \$14.95 cover price and \$6 will be donated from each purchase to the Westfield middle schools' libraries.

From 2 to 4 p.m., Westfield native John Griesemer will promote his new novel, "No One Thinks of Greenland." For more information, call (908) 233-3535.

SPRINGFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield, will sponsor its Great Books Discussion Series in the coming months. The group meets at 10 a.m. in the library meeting room.

May 17: "The City of God," St. Augustine

June 21: "Symposium," Plato

July 19: "Of Experience," Montaigne For information, call (973) 376-4930.

JANE AUSTEN MYSTERY SERIES Reading Group will meet at Barnes & Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, tonight at 7:30 p.m. The group will meet the second Thursday of each month to discuss books by Stephanie Barron, skipping the month of December.

For information, call (732) 574-1818.

LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE, a book by Laura Berman Fortgang, will be discussed and signed at Barnes & Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. In her newest book, "Living Your Best Life," Fortgang offers a simple plan by which people can exchange the life they have for the life they want to have. Fortgang will lead a discussion and answer questions.

NEW JERSEY GARDENER'S GUIDE, by Pegi Ballister-Howells, will be discussed and signed at Barnes & Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The book is the first of its kind for New Jersey because it provides read-



www.summitplayhouse.org.

NEW JERSEY WORKSHOP FOR THE ARTS is currently accepting registration for its Music Studio. Lessons include instrumental, voice and music theory, with beginner through advanced classes. Additional courses include art classes for children and toddlers, the Westfield Fencing Club and the Drawing Workshop. Classes take place at 150-152 E. Broad St., Westfield.

For information, call (908) 789-9696.

## **CONCERTS**

NEW ARTISTS/CLASSIC SOUNDS - a concert series sponsored by the New Jersey Chamber Music Society, the Ernesto Lecuona Foundation and the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs - will continue through Saturday at 8 p.m. in Wilkins Theater, Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and students; series tickets are \$30 and \$25, respectively.

For information, call (908) 527-4100.

in concent at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$28 to \$40. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call (732) 499-8226.

VERDI'S REQUIEM will be performed by the Choral Art Society at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield on Saturday at 8 p.m. Preceding the concert will be John Sichel with a preconcert lecture at 7 p.m.

SONGFEST 2001 presented by the Sangerchor Newark, men's chorus, Schwabisher Sangerbund, mixed chorus, with Manfred Knoop, director, will take place May 20 at 4 p.m. at the First Presbysterian Church of Westfield, corner of Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$20 at the door. For information, call (732) 382-4900.



Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at The Connection, 79 Maple St., Summit. Upcoming meetings are Friday and May 25. Fee



REPOSE by Jerry Weiss will be among the new figurative paintings, by Dan Gheno and Weiss, on exhibit at The Tomasulo Gallery in the Kenneth Campbell Mackay Library Building at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. An opening reception will take place Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. with the exhibit running until June 21.

CONCORD SINGERS present Unity in Song with harmony singers, directed by Michael Sanflippo and accompanied by Caroline Parody and Carrie Stewart, on May 19 at 7:30 p.m. in St. John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Ave., Summit. Music by Handel, Schubert, Randall Thompson, Dave Brubeck, Rodgers & Hammerstein and others.

is \$2. For information, call (973) 467-8278

#### DISCUSSION AN IDEA EXCHANGE will be pre-

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE will con-

tinue the 2000-01 season with "Funny Girl" by Juley Styne and Bob Merrill, starring Livingston native Leslie Krit-

#### WORRALL NEWSPAPERS

with Visa, MasterCard or Discover at www.papermill.org.

THE THEATER PROJECT at Union County College will present "The Dining Room" by A.R. Gurney through Saturday in the Roy W. Smith Theater on UCC's Cranford Campus, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Shows are at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are \$14 for general admission, \$7 for students; all Thursday tickets are \$7. For information, call (908) 659-5189.

**MYSTIC VISION PLAYERS** of Linden will present the New Jersey premier of "Teachers' Lounge" by John Twomey through Saturday at the Linden Presbyterian Church, 1506 Orchard Terrace at Harvard Road. Shows are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens.

For information, call (908) 925-9068.

CRANFORD DRAMATIC CLUB will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's The Sound of Music" through May 19. Shows are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, with a 2 p.m. matinee May 13. Tickets are \$15. The CDC Playhouse is located at 78 Winans Ave., Cranford. For information, call (908) 276-7611.

ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will open "My Heart's in the Highlands" by William Saroyan on Friday and run through June 3. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$6 for senior citizens and students; all tickets at Friday performances are \$5. The playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth.

For information, call (908) 355-0077.

WESTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAY-ERS will open "Sabrina Fair," the romantic comedy by Samuel Taylor on Saturday and continue May 18, 19, June 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 8 p.m. in the WCP Theater at 1000 North Ave. West, Westfield. All tickets are \$12 and first night patrons are invited to stay for WCP's traditional opening night celebration featuring coffee and dessert with the cast and crew.

## EAT TO THE BEAT Coffeehouse in

Rahway will feature appearances by musical artists during May.

Eat to the Beat Coffeehouse is located at 1465 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of East Cherry Street. For information, or to sign up for Open Mike Night, call (732) 381-0505.

FLYNN'S IRISH PUB and Steakhouse in Rahway will present entertainment at various times throughout May.

Flynn's Irish Pub is located at 1482 Main St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-4700.

HILLTOP CAFE AND GRILL in Summit presents "From Broadway to the Silver Screen" every Sunday at 6 p.m., preceded by an all-you-can-eat dinner from 5 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$29,95 and reservations are required. The Hilltop Cafe and Grill is located at 447 Springfield Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 277-0220.



AZZ

JAZZ ETC., a concert series spon-

sored by the Arts Guild of Rahway con-

tinues Friday at 8 p.m. with Vic Juris

and Kate Baker. Tickets are \$10. The

Guild is located at 1670 Irving St., Rah-

way. For information, call (732)

POETRY

**OPEN MIKE POETRY NIGHT will take** 

place at Barnes & Noble, 1180 Raritan

Road, Clark, on Sunday at 7 p.m.

Open Mike Poetry Night is sponsored

the second Sunday of every month in

For information, call (732)

**SINGLES** 

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single

adults older than 45 years old, will

meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30

a.m. for discussion and continental

breakfast at the First Baptist Church,

170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2.

For information, call (908) 889-5265 or

the Music Department.

381-7511.

574-1818.

(908) 889-4751.

eception will take place Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m.

Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 1 to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, 6 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays 1 to 4 p.m. For information, call (908) 709-7155.

ANIMAL ART KINGDOM, sponsored by the Westfield Art Association, will feature artists' demonstrations and many media on May 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Westfield Community Room, 425 E. Broad St. Admission is free. For information, call (908) 667-2945.

### **AUDITIONS**

GARDEN STATE BALLET will conduct auditions for children between 7 and 12 years old on Saturday. For applications and information, call (973) 623-1033.

KALEIDOSCOPE THEATER FOR

ers with information on what plants will thrive in New Jersey backyards. Attendees will receive a free gift with the purchase of the book, while supplies last.

For information, call (732) 574-1818.



NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR VIS-UAL ARTS will offer a class in monoprint - or monotype. Call NJCVA at (908) 273-9121 for information. A collograph workshop will be offered Saturday.

THE ARTS GUILD OF RAHWAY will offer a workshop in encaustic -- "with wax" - painting taught by awardwinning encaustic artist Francesca Azzara May 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Guild, 1670 Irving St., Rahway. Workshop fee is \$80. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 in advance, and \$5 for students. For information, call (908) 464-1466.

SUMMIT SYMPHONY will appear in concert May 19 at 8 p.m. at Summit High School, Kent Place Boulevard, Summit. Admission is free.

MOSTLY MUSIC Chamber Music Series will present a concert featuring violinists Ani Kavafian and Robert McDuffie, violist Robert Rinehart, cellist Carter Brey, and oboeist Sherry Sylar May 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 756 E. Broad St., Westfield. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$18 for senior citizens, and \$13 for students.

For information, call (973) 762-0108.

MANHATTAN TRANSFER will appear

sented by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield.

Presenters and a working lunch session will provide opportunities to discuss issues and share ideas among arts organizations within the county. A registration fee of \$12 includes lunch and all materials and must be submitted by Fridav.

For information, call (908) 558-2550 or e-mail scoen@unioncountynj.org.

THE EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRI-**TERS CIRCLE** will meet at Barnes & Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, on Monday at 7:30 p.m. The Writers Circle meets the second Monday of every month and new members are always welcome.

For information, call (732) 574-1818.

zer. The show runs through May 20 at the theater on Brookside Drive in Millburn.

Evening performances are Wednesdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m., and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. There are no Sunday evening performances May 13 or 20.

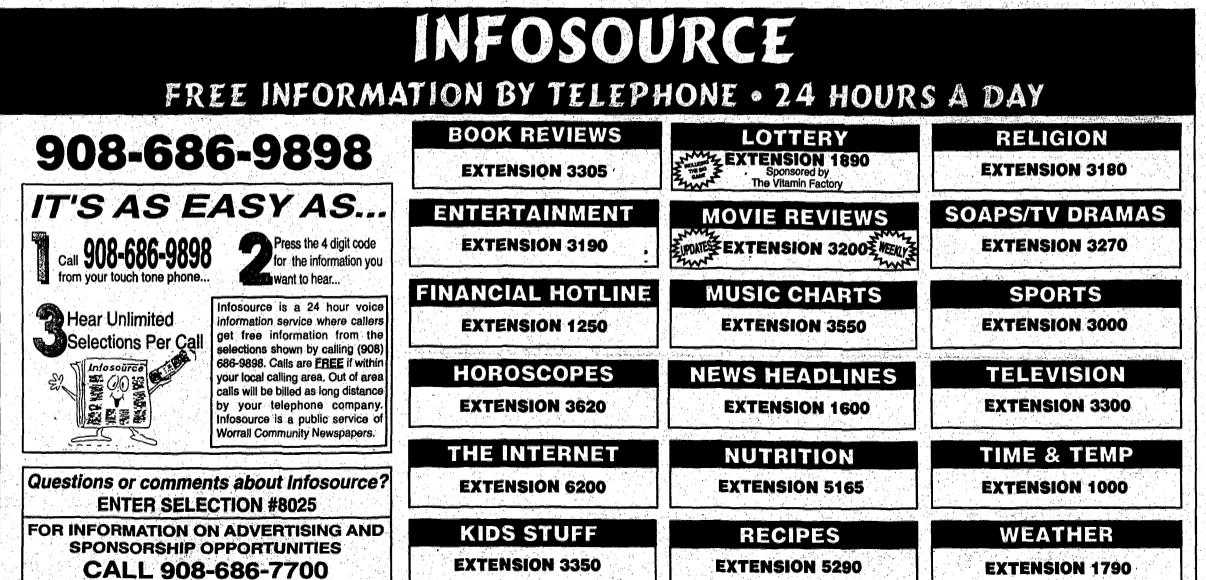
Special performances and events are the Coversation Series at 7 p.m. in the mezzanine today; audio-described performances today at 2 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and Sunday at 7:30 p.m., all with sensory seminars 90 minutes prior to curtain; signinterpreted performances Friday at 7:30 p.m.; Gay and Lesbian Night Wednesday at 8 p.m., with post-show reception; and Singles Night, May 17 at 8 p.m., with post-show reception.

Tickets are \$37 to \$60. For information, call (973) 376-4343, or buy tickets

TAVERN IN THE PARK in Roselle Park will present Teddy Halek in "An Evening of Frank Sinatra" Saturdays at 9 p.m. Tavern in the Park is located at 147 W. Westfield Ave., Roselle Park. For information, call (908) 241-7400.

VAN GOGH'S EAR CAFE in Union will present a series of musical events in the coming weeks. Tuesday nights are "Acoustic Tuesday," with open mike from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians, followed by a featured folk performer. Open mike participants sign up at 7:30 p.m., and get 10 minutes at the microphone. Jazz and blues are featured Sundays at 8 p.m. Cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday concerts.

Sunday: Dan Crisci Trio



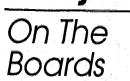
#### WORRALL NEWSPAPERS

# The Theater Project offers an invitation to 'The Dining Room'

A buffet of 18 vignettes. "The Dining Room," by A.R. Gurney --now being served up by the Theater Project at Union County College offers audiences a sampling of flavors from the lives of people who gather around the table in the room from which the play takes its name.

Unlike most plays which follow the progress of a number of characters through various times and places, this one follows one place - a formal dining room --- through a nonsequential progression of characters and times spanning 70 years. The resulting feast of scenes is a tour de force for the show's eight performers who portray 60 different characters.

The dining room itself is not merely the anchor for the scenes, nor is it any one room in any one home. Rather, it is a physical metaphor for a nearly



#### By Maria Zingaro

bygone way of life; a WASPy social order and its accompanying luxuries and strictures. The room, displayed for its beauty like the furniture that fills it, is also there to be examined for the imperfections time and use ravage on its polished surface.

The current offering of this play by the Theater Project is fluidly and thoughtfully produced. Gurney's script, which calls for one new vignette to pour on to the stage moments before the last one has evaporated away, only allows director Mark Spina to capitalize all the more on his own adroit sense of pacing. Not a drop of time is wasted here.

For the actors, the challenge is in these transitions too. They must bounce between characters of widely divergent ages and stations in life. As a whole, the able cast is up to the task though with varying degrees of individual success.

Be it playing a slightly disturbed architect or a curmudgeonly grandfather, Mark Szabo brings an edgy comic sense and solid character interpretation to his many roles. He cooly creates too the character who best embodies the crux of the play: a college student who takes his proud aunt's china and silver for archeological relics of the passage of a mannered gentility.

Barbara Guidi shows a vibrant

range of colors from scarlet women to jaded housewives. She skillfully conveys an impotence tinted by hope which marks so many of her characters.

While less credible as the little girls she plays in two of her scenes, Lisa Alford is poignant at the other end of human life, as an old woman who no longer recognizes her own home.

Alford is quite moving too in her visceral portrayal of a newly single mom who seeks a fresh start back in her parents' home only to be devastated by her father's rejection. Her opposite in this scene, Andre DeSandies, is equally affecting as the disaffected father, personifying the social order and veneer of control symbolized by the dining room.

Daaimah Talley is obviously com-

fortable playing the lady of the house but shows her range too when she becomes a young girl torn between the promise of adventure with an offbeat aunt and the pressure to conform to her mother's sense of propriety.

Solid and adaptable, Gary Glor takes his best turn as an indignant brother, unable to dirie until a wrong is righted. He is the social order turned in on itself. Deborah Pires, who often plays a domestic servant, leaves an aptly apathetic layer of unquestioning acceptance on many of her protrayals.

The final member of the cast, Chirstopher Allen, is nothing less than a trooper. Called to stand in at the 11th hour for an original member of the cast, his need to carry a script during

some scenes did nothing to hamper his performance. He produced some of the show's most amusing and believable characters.

Those who have attended past productions by this company will be familiar with the unorthodox use of the theater space where players and audience share the stage and the action is turned so the darkened auditorium seats are the backdrop. The arrangement sacrifices dramatic effect, for intimacy and does it most successfully in "The Dining Room." The piece fits the close setting, inviting audiences right into the room with the characters. It's an invitation they should accept.

"The Dining Room" runs today through Saturday. For more information call (908) 659-5189.

### Orlando shares his gift with audience at Paper Mill

Tony Orlando, whose performance Monday night at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn turned a quiet, well-behaved audience of all ages into a raving, roaring, adoring, loving audience, has a precious gift. That is, in addition to his many talents, he can gather hundreds of people into the depth of his heart, by bringing them into the realm of his performance, by enticing them to take part in the joyful sounds of his songs and even by encouraging them to step on stage and



do a singing, comical act with him. The show opened with his young son, Jon, providing enough comedy to warm up an already-warmed up audi-

ence. And when he pointed to the wings and introduced "My father," with affection, the applause shook the walls of the theater. Orlando, who has been around for more than three decades, and who looks his age of 57 - a little on the chubby side - had the audience sing his introduction to his sensational "Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Ole Oak, Tree," then brought total nostalgia to the people

FREE

**CHIPS & SALSA** 

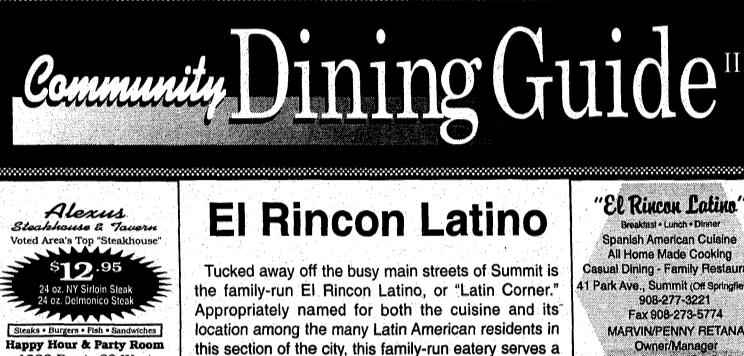
All Major Credit Cards Accepte

- many of whom were war veterans. With a great five-piece band behind him, several accompanying him on songs, and one in solo, Orlando's powerful voice rang out building momentum as he sang many of his favorites, such as "Candida," "Bless You," his sensational "Sweet Gypsy Rose" and "Cupid." He introduced in the audience and sang in gratitude to the man who first recognized his musical talents, record producer Don Kirschner, who began in Newark.

In brief moments, he resembled Englebert Humperdinck and Tom Jones, physically, but Orlando was truly himself, especially when he kept the lights on, honored the servicemen of all wars, talked about his Puerto Rican and Greek heritage, a little bit about his life, but mostly about America.







wide selection of fresh homemade dishes.

Owners Penny and Marvin Retana opened their doors in August, bringing with them years of experience from some of new jersey's finest restaurants as well as their own establishment in Marvin's native Costa Rica. The bilingual dinner menu features several Latin dishes alongside many American favorites, served with a special accent. Daily specials are available in addition to full menu, which includes pastas, salads, seafood and a wide assortment of meat dishes. Several steak specialties are featured, including their special Tica Steak, flavored with a delicious marinade and topped with sautéed peppers. A special source of pride at El Rincon are the hearty soups, which are large enough to serve as a meal, and made from scratch daily. Patrons are often surprised by the generous portions filled with large chunks of meat and vegetables, and served with rice and tortillas. Don't expect burritos and enchiladas, though -- this isn't Mexican fare. Rather, the dishes carry a Central American flavor, accented by fried plantains. the ever-present rice and beans, and plenty of fresh seafood. It will come as a pleasant surprise to those with sensitive tastes that there is no need to fear spicy food here, but not at the expense of great flavor. The kitchen happily accepts special requests, and will do what they can to please. There is no liquor license, but patrons are welcome to bring their own beverages with them. Opening daily from 6 a.m. for breakfast, a full deli and grill menu are also available for lunch, and at a great value. Dinner entrees range from \$6 to \$12. At heart, El Rincon is a neighborhood eatery, offering fresh, homemade dishes in unassuming surroundings

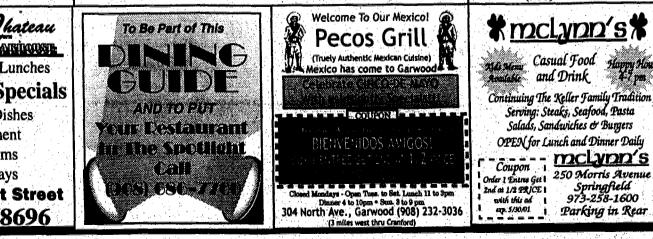
"El Rincon Latino" Spanish American Cuisine All Home Made Cooking **Casual Dining - Family Restaurant** 41 Park Ave., Summit (Off Springfield Ave.) MARVIN/PENNY RETANA Hours: Sun. thru Frl. 6-10pm Sat. 6-11pm All Major Gredit Cards Accepted

BASILICO

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2001 - PAGE B5



Located at the Murray Hill Inn 535 Central Ave. • New Providence (908) 771-0020



# Ballet at Kean offers night of boundless energy and strength

Ballet devotees had a double treat last Saturday evening when the New Jersey Ballet Co. presented "An Evening of Contemporary Repertory," at the Wilkins Theater at Kean University, Union. Their very favorite ballerina, Rosemary Sabovick-Bleich, appeared back to back in "Satinella Pas de Deux" and, with an immediate change of costume, in "Coppelia."

This unique ballet star takes command of the stage the moment she glides forth. One patron shook her head in astonishment, muttering, "Twenty years of dancing, and she's absolutely amazing. She doesn't look a day older than when she first started." Her boundless energy and enormous strength and skill and beauty always astound an audience.

Carolyn Clark, New Jersey Ballet's director, takes pride in announcing that the company is in its 42nd season and is now comprised "of the most talented dancers in the world of ballet. They're American, Russian, Chinese, South American and Mongolian."

The opening ballet, "Minkus Pas de Trois," choreographed by George Balanchine with music by Ludwig Minkus, featured the talented married couple Era Korotaeva-Jouravleva and Andrei Jouravlev, with Michelle de On The Boards

By Bea Smith Staff Writer

Fremery. The three wore beautiful costumes of red, white and gold, and they demonstrated technical versatility. The best part of this program was that all three appeared to be enjoying themselves immensely.

"Esmeralda Pas de Six," choreographed by Agrippina Vaganova after Petipa, staged by Leonid Kozlov, with music by Cesare Pugni and Riccardo Drigo and costumes by Nancy Reed, has an exciting Spanish flavor and the dancers hold tambourines during their numbers. The excellent Julia Vorobyeva thrilled the audience with her bourees, where she danced on pointe twice across the stage. Her partner, Tuvshin Bold, complemented her perfectly. And the other four, Michelle De Fremery, Gabriella Noa, Saule Rachmedova and Christina Theryoung, showed their powerful skills. Their extensions were excellent. There was good eye contact between the dancers, and their facial expressions involved the audience.

"Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux," choreographed by Balanchine with music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky and costumes by Vasia Benusi, once more features the intimate, married couple Korotaeva-Jouravleva and Jouravlev in a magnificent performance. He is exceptionally skillful, and she is a lovely dancer, always smiling. They dance marvelously together.

One of the highlights of the evening was "Gypsy Pas de Deux," choreographed by David McNaughton with costumes by Vasia Benusi, which explores the relationship of a man and a woman in a chance meeting. It features Marnie Shapiro and Andres Neira, and combines gypsy dancing with ballet. Neira's costume included simulated boots for authenticity, and Shapiro's brilliant, red hair was appropriately outstanding and uncovers her fiery personality. She gives one of her finest performances in the two years she has been with the ballet company. She has improved immensely, and she and Neira perform well together. Her skill on pointe across the stage had the audience applauding, and Neira continued to demonstrate his highest level of skill and strength.

"Santinella Pas de Deux," choreographed by Marius Petipa, staged by Leonid Kozlov, with music by Cesare Pugni and costumes by Toodie Wittmer, is from the full-length ballet "Carnavale in Venice." It is here that Sabovick-Bleich, who is perfectly partnered with Konstantin Dourney, takes over the production with her versatility and talent. She takes comical little steps to the music, is flirtatious and dances across the stage on pointe. She smiles at Dournev and at the audience as if what she is doing on stage is the easiest thing in the world. But what she was doing required a great deal of strength and skill. Dournev has strong arms and legs, and is a very good partner to Sabovick-Bleich. It was a performance to remember.

In "Coppelia," Act III, which has choreography by George Tomal after Arthur Saint-Leon, with music by Leo Delibes, costumes by Paul H. McRae and scenery by Michael Babyak, is a great comedy of classical ballet. It has a case of mistaken identity, and ballet's finest, Sabovick-Bleich has two roles, Swanilda and Coppelia. Others



Star ballerina Rosemary Sabovick-Bleich performs a perfect pirouette in 'Satinella Pas de Deux,' featured in 'An Evening of Contemporary Repertory, at the Wilkins Theater, Kean University, Union.

featured in the large cast are Dourney, Jouravley, Korotaeva-Jouravleva. Julia Vorobyeva, de Fremery, Noa, Shapiro, Theryoung, Bold, Neira, Jeremey Pierson and David Tamaki. There is an excerpt of a marriage on stage, as Sabovick-Bleich demonstrates her flair for comedy and her outstanding dancing skills, and she is appropriately partnered by Dourney. The others do a fine job and provide a

really enjoyable performance. The Wilkins Theater had a nearly full audience, and it's wonderful to see a mixed audience of young people and seniors having such a great time and whistling and shouting, "Bravo! Brava." It is about time that ballet is being truly appreciated here in New Jersey. It makes for great theater, and it turns its audience into enthusiastic advocates of the ballet.



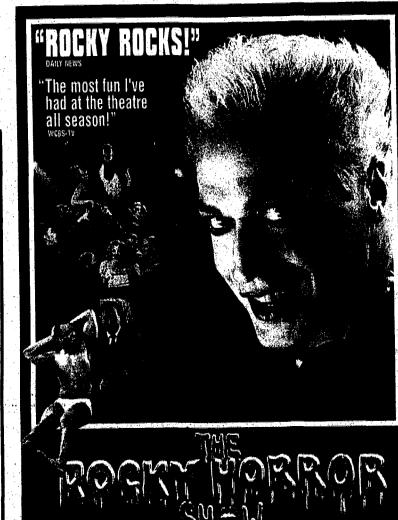
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#### ACNE

Acne affects most people at some point, especially during the teenage and adolescent years. Breakouts typically begin during puberty when the production of sex hormones accelerates, sparking increased activity of the sebaceous (oil-producing) glands. In the pores, excess oil combines with existing keratin, dead skin cells, and bacteria, which often results in the inflammation called acne. Acne is characterized by whiteheads, blackheads, and pimples. In severe cases, pustules, cysts, and nodules may develop. Most mild to moderate acne cases can be successfully treated with simple cleansing and over-the-counter medications. Prescription medications are available for tougher cases. Because appearance is so important to teenagers, acne can be stressful and should be handled with sensitivity.

The adolescent years present so many challenges for growing boys and girls that it seems unfair to add severe or chronic acne to the list. To schedule a consultation to discuss solutions for your children's specific health issues, call NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE SERVICES, conveniently located at 2780 Morris Avenue, Suite 2A in Union at 908-687-3300. We treat children from birth through dolescence, and provide preventive health maintenance, as well as treatment for chronic conditions, injuries, and illness

P.S. Acne is not the result of poor personal hygiene.



# Free movie at Paper Mill explores 'follies'

#### By Bea Smith **Staff Writer**

A unique program, part of the Paper Mill Playhouse's Humanitarian Series, "Florenz Ziegfeld and His 'Follies,' " will be offered free Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Millburn theater. What makes it unique is the fact that in addition to Bob Dorian as host of the symposium — he plays Ziegfeld in the current stage production, "Funny Girl" — the MGM classic film, "The Great Ziegfeld," will be shown with footage of the real Fanny Brice.

Dorian, former host of television's "American Movie Classics,' explained that "it is obvious that I would host this film made in 1936. I usually get called especially when I'm working with films. You know, I was the original host of American Movie Classics and stayed there for 16 years. I started in 1984, and left last June, But, theater is my first love, even though I grew up with films. They are like old friends to me."

Dorian's love of films extended itself to 23-year-old Leslie Kritzer, who has had overwhelming success playing the title role of Fanny Brice at the Paper Mill Playhouse. "I've been introducing Leslie to all the classic geous clothing - eh, what there was of it."

Fanny Brice, Dorian said, was a real part of the film. "She was arnazing. The stars were William Powell and Myrna Loy. In between, there were Louise Rainer, who was considered another Garbo at the time, and Frank Morgan, William Demarest and Will Rogers."

Dorian, who has loved show business ever since he was a child, explained that "I was an early TV kid. When they were doing 'Studio One' and 'Suspense Theater' live, I had kid parts in them. I started in the business when I was 14 years old," he said.

"I just finished a Woody Allen film," he said, "called "The Curse of the Jade Scorpion.' I play a detective friend of Woody's, and I have seven or eight scenes with him. The movie should be out next month."

Dorian said he would have liked to have known Ziegfeld. "He was almost like P.T. Barnum - he was a great promoter. His Follies also included such stars as W.C. Fields and Bert Williams. In addition, there were Anna Held, his first wife; Marilyn Miller, Ruth Etting - all Ziegfeld stars. Anna Held originally came up with the idea of calling it the Follies. She suggested that Ziegfeld call it 'The Follies of the Year,' which was the name of a newspaper column. But he was superstitious," said Dorian. "He wanted a title with 13 letters, and that's how it started with 'Follies of 1907."

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movies. She's a young lady and hasn't been acquainted with many of these movies."

"Recently, at a pizza party," said Dorian, "I showed this film, 'The Great Ziegfeld,' to 13 or 14 members of the chorus. It was so great to see this old film and the wonderful chorus dancers. Our chorus members were thrilled when they saw the movie and the real Fanny Brice.

"Why was Ziegfeld so popular among show people?" Dorian asked. "If Ziegfeld hired you, you wouldearn about four or five times as much as other chorus people. His women follies idea was so wonderful. A lot of stars were part of the Ziegfeld people and they were always treated with dignity. Other producers used their chorus girls to try to get across the idea of sex. Not Ziegfeld. He admired the women for their statuesque beauty. They existed simply to be beautiful. They existed only to show gor-

Bill Van Sant,

Editor

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Westfield, NJ - A new free report has recently been released that reveals information every car soldent victim should have before they speak to anyone Research shows even a "fender bender" can cause pain, headaches, even Sany car accident victim more about their car than in notifs if your

"There was no question about it. He was the Great Ziegfeld."

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> VS. Long Island Ducks 7:05 p.m. **Riverfront Stadium**

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WORRALL NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2001 - PAGE B7



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#### PAGE B8 - THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2001

WORRALL NEWSPAPERS



## HOROSCOPE

### For May 14 to May 20

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your conscience and your reputation clean. Make an honest effort to pay back a loan to a friend who has been very patient.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your best foot forward, and walk through an exciting door of opportunity. A special blessing falls into your lap. Make the most of it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): The Sun entering Gemini this week will make it feel like your own personal "springexample in a club or group situation. All eyes are on you and waiting for some instructions. Put your expertise to work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A career opportunity comes through some unusual channels. Play it safe, and get what appears to be a great job offer in writing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change of scenery is just what the doctor ordered. Get out of town for a little rest and relaxation and take a loved one along.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): It's time to make some drastic financial changes Start by simplifying your lifestyle. Put away your credit cards and pay cash for what you need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The pace of a romantic affair speeds up. Hold on tight to your hat and your heart while enjoying a wild and wonderful emotional ride.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Face up to your feelings, and don't allow unresolved issues to continue to undermine your happiness. Communicate openly and heal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The mental and creative sparks are flying this week. Write down your thoughts or ideas, and walk away with a treasure chest of information.

If your birthday is this week, break away from a dull and boring routine and welcome a little excitement into your life during the coming year. Mentally, you're pulled in many different directions. Go along with the changes that are asked of you or you'll be faced with sudden disruptions and frustration. Relationships are intesne, but satisfying on an emotional level. A secret romance is not out of the question. Also born this week: Bobby Darin, Madeleine Albright, Janet Jackson, Dennis Hopper, Frank Capra and Malcolm X.

# What's Going On?

SATURDAY

PLACE: Redeemer Lutheran Church,

134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington, NJ TIME: 9:00AM-2:00PM

May 19th, 2001 EVENT: FLEA MARKET

#### FAIR

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Red Cross.

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY May 20th, 2001 EVENT: 6th Annual Red Cross Spring-

Entertainment, Pony Rides, Petting Zoo,

DJ Mario & Karaoke, 200 Vendors, Spe-

Dol For information call 201-998-8331. ORGANIZATION: Nutley Chapter of the

SATURDAY

PLACE: First Presbyterian Church in

Orange, Main Street and Scotland Road,

Orange. TIME: 9am-4pm, (Rain date, June 9th) PRICE: For Reservations call 973-674-6120.

**ORGANIZATION: Board Of Deacons** 

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-

profit organizations. It is prepaid and costs just \$20.00

(for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just

\$30.00 for both. Your notice must be in our Maplewood

office (463 Valley Street) by 400 P.M. on Monday for

publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may

also be placed at 170 Scotland Road, Orange, 266 L Serty

St., Bloomfield or 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, For more

· Westfield High School Class of

1991 will conduct its 10th reunion

June 16. For information call, Reun-

ions Unlimited Inc. at (732)

· Summit High School Class of

1981 will conduct its 20th reunion

July 21. For information, call Reun-

ions Unlimited Inc. at (732)

• Linden High School Classes of

1950 to 1959 will conduct a '50s

reunion picnic Aug. 25 from 1 p.m. to

dusk at Memorial Park, South Wood

Avenue, Linden. Participants are

asked to bring their own chairs. For

information call, Gail Hudak at (908)

• Summit High School Class of

1991 will conduct its 10th reunion

Oct. 5. For information call, Reunions

Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

information call 763-9411.

(908) 688-2394.

617-1000.

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862-4272.

June 2nd, 2001 EVENT: Outdoor Flea Market

fest Street Fair PLACE: Held along Franklin Avenue from Chestnut Street to Harrison Street,

PRICE: New and used clothes, shoes, TIME: 10am-6pm PRICE: Food, Kiddie Rides, Crafts, Live

records, housewares, books, jeweiry, etc. Tables available for \$15 (per table). For information call 973-372-0084 or 973-763-3281 between 9am to 6pm. **ORGANIZATION:** Redeemer Lutheran Church cial Kid's Corner With Stuff For Kids To

#### RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY

May 19th, 2001 EVENT: St. Rocco's Children's Fund Antique Car Show PLACE: Watchung Reservation (Surprise Lake)

TIME: 10am-4pm PRICE: Pre-registration, May 1st \$12.00; Day of Show \$15.00, For more information call 732-381-8042. ORGANIZATION: Big Top Cruizers

#### CRAFT

SATURDAY

May 12th, 2001 **EVENT:** Craft Fair PLACE: Patterson Memorial Presbyterian Church, 80 Washington Street, West Orange. TIME: 10am-3pm

PRICE: Featuring outside vendors of various home-made crafts (Jewelry, woodworking, ceramics, pinatas, baby quilts and more), plus a flower sale, bake sale, and lunch. Held rain or shine. For information, 973-325-2273 **ORGANIZATION:** Patterson Memorial Presbyterian Church

REUNIONS

• Union High School Class of 1951 • Union High School Class of 1971 will conduct its 50th reunion June 15 will conduct its 30th reunion Oct. 27. at the Kenilworth Inn. For informa-For information call, Reunions tion, call Kay Coats Macrae at (908) Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000. 232-0283 or Phyllis Daniel Lang at • Westfield High School Class of

1981 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 10. For information, call Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

 Jonathan Dayton Regional High School Class of 1976 will conduct its 25th reunion Thanksgiving Weekend. Classmates are currently being sought. For information call, Nancy Frischtman at (908) 580-0878 or send c-mail to murrayco@idt.net.

• Roselle Park Class of 1976 will conduct its 25th reunion Nov. 25. For information, e-mail your name and address to Bob Milici at RP1stward@aol.com or Joanne (Kennedy) Smith at hrjojo@hotmail.com. For other information call, Milici daytimes at (908) 241-5255.

#### OTHER

FRIDAY

May 18th, 2001 EVENT: '50s Rock & Roll Party PLACE: Maplewood Woman's Club, 60 Woodland Road, Maplewood. TIME 7om-110m

PRICE: Featuring 1950's Music, Dance & Costume Contests, Karaoke, Silent Auction, Food & Drinks for Sale, AND AN ELVIS SIGHTING IS GUARANTEED!! \$15 Stag/ \$25 Couple. For information call 973-763-7322. Tickets available at the door

ORGANIZATION: Jersey Animal Coalition (JAC)

PUBLIC NOTICE

WILLIAM M.E. POWERS, JR., CHARTERED 737 Slokes Road P.O. Box 1088 Mediord, New Jersey 08055 (609) 654-5131 Attorneys for Plaintiff (2000-0929)

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT Superior Court of New Jersey Chancery Division Union County Docket No. F-7026-01 STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: Wilfred Cubillos, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives and his/ her, their, or any of their successors in right, title and interest

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answer or motion. The action has been instituted for the purpose of fereciosing a mortgage dated June 17, 1992, made by Maria Mendoza and Reyes Yecid and Wilfred Cubillos to Realty Mortgage Co., Inc. and duly assigned to plaintiff, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., and concerns real estate located at 36 Raymond Avenue, Plainfield, NJ.

Plainfield, NJ. YOU, Wilfred Cubillos, his heirs, devi-Plainfield, NJ. YOU, Wilfred Cubillos, his heirs, devi-sees, and personal representatives and hisher, their, or any of their successors in right, title and interest are made a delendant because you are the maker of the bond/note and mortgage and/or an owner thereof and Plaintilf is unable to delermine the whereabouts of the defen-dant, and therefore, does not know whether he/she is living or dead, and therefore, names as defendants Wilfred Cubillos, his heirs, devisees, and personal representa-tives and his/her, their, or any of their suc-cessors in right, title and interest. An individual who is unable to obtain an attorney may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling toil free 800-792-8315 (within New Jersey) or 609-394-1101 (from out of state). You may also communicate with a Lawyer Referrat Service, or if you cannot afford to pay an attorney you may call the Legal Services Office. The phone numbers for the county in which this action is pending are: Legal Services (908) 353-4340, Lawyer Referrat (908) 353-4715. DONALD F. PHELAN, Cierk of the Superior Court

DONALD F. PHELAN, Clerk of the Superior Court U4976 WCN May 10, 2001 (\$64.50)

time." Tie up loose ends and prepare to start a new cycle. CANCER (June 22-July 22): Lead by

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**Internet** Directory

 Union High School Class of 1951 will conduct its 50th reunion Oct. 6. For information call, Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

• Classmates are being sought from the Class of 1961 from Jonathan Dayton and Governor Livingston regional high schools for their 40th reunion Oct. 13 at L'Affaire, Route 22 East, Mountainside. For information, call Beverly Rottstock (Grush) at (908) 245-4333 or (800) 424-5430; Millie Beurer (Scorese) at (908) 276-8283, or Donna Sayka (Prince) at (973) 425-0633.

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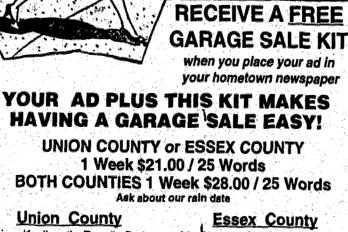
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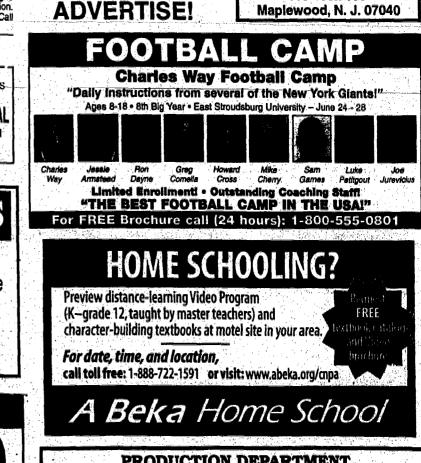


PART TIME Manager needed Saturday and Sunday only. Lackland Self Storage Mountainside, must have neat appearance and pleasant personality, retirees welcomed. Call Monday Friday 8AM- 6PM 908-928-1400.

PART TIME After school Program of Maplewood/South Orange seeks adult leaders for state licensed elementary and middle school sites in a recreational program designed for children of working parents. Various starting times available: 2:30, 2:45 or 3:00 to 6:00pm daily, following school district calendar through June. Qualified applic-ants must be reliable, have EXPERIENCE leading GROUPS of children and have own ence. Call 973-762-0183 or send resume to: After School Program of Maplewood South Orange, 124 Dunnell Road, Maplewood, NJ 07040 or fax cover letter and resume to

973-275-1692.

**Production Director** Worrall Community **Newspapers** P.O. Box 158 Maplewood, N. J. 07040



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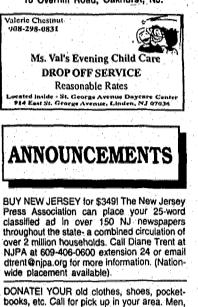
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#### See PUZZLE on Page B8

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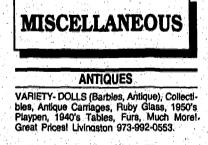
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3ando Popular N.A.	8()0-4	191-2265		1768	Investors Savings Bk		252-8119			
0 YEAR FIXED	7.50	0.00	7.58		30 YEAR FIXED	7.25	0.00	7.34	APP	
5 YEAR FIXED	7.00	0.00	7.12	and the second se	15 YEAR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.88	FEE	
YR ADJ.	7.13	0.00	7.20	\$ 100	7/1-30 YR	6.75	0.00	6.65	\$_350	
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Columbia Savings Bk	800-9	962-4989			Kentwood Financial	800-2	353-6896			
30 YR FIXED	7.38	0.00	7.40	APP	30 YEAR FIXED	7.00	0.00	7.13	APP	
15 YR FIXED	6.63	0.00	6.66	FEE	15 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.65	FEE	
YR ARM	6.13	0.00	6.26	N/P	30 YR JUMBO	7.25	0.00	7.38	\$ 150	
Call for jun	nbo mort	gage rate	06		Call us! We'll do the loan i	shopping for	yout Los	n officers	neededl	
Commonwealth Bank	800-9	924 9091			Loan Search	8063	591 3279	INF()>>	1757	
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5 YEAR FIXED	6.63	0.00	6.63	FEE		6.60	0.00	6.60	FEE	
OYR JUMBO	7.63	0.00	7.63	\$ 0	7/1 JUMBO	6.63	0.00	6.73	\$ 390	
Close at home! No App Fee	I No cost	refinance	al Free Bi	wooklyl			ta da ta			
Congressional Mortgage	8003	342-2520			National Future Mtge	800 ;	291-7900			
30 YEAR FIXED	7.13	0.00	7.17	APP		6.75	0.00	6.89	APP	
15 YEAR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.85	FEE	15 YEAR FIXED	6.25	0.00	6.37	FEE	
5/1-30 YR	6.50	0.00	6.53	\$ 400	1 YR ADJ.	4.00	2.00	5.63	N/F	
100%+Finencing;FHA/HUDW	A Loans;	Construct	lon/Perm l	Financing	Purchase, Refi or C	onsolidate	now! Fr	oriq <del>qe ee</del>	valt .	
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15 YR FIXED	6.63	0.00	6.63	FEE		6.50	0.00	6.59	FEE	
5/1-30 YR	5.75	0.00	6.72	\$ 350		6.75	0.00	6.89	\$ 12	
Zero point loan speciali	st,FTHB	program.	. 15 yr is	biwkiy	Other products available;p	lesse contact	us for mor	e detaile &	rate info	
Gibraltar Savings Bk,FSf	B 973-	372-1221			Union Center National Bk 908-688-9500					
30 YEAR FIXED	7.50	0.00	7.57	APP	30 YR FIXED	7.13	0.00	7.18	APF	
15 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.59	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.63	0.00	6.62	FEE	
1 YR ADJ.	6,00	0.00	6.62		5/1-30 YR	6.25	0.00	7.43	\$ 350	
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Tips when By Jon Woods and Gary Nugent

**Copley News Service** Around the early 1980s, cars started coming equipped with "check engine" lights. But what is the significance of this light and just what is one supposed to do when it comes on? Should you stop or keep going?

When your "check engine" light comes on, glance down at your car's other warning gauges. If the other gauges (oil pressure, engine temperature, etc.), read normal, and there are no unusual sounds, power loss, odors, etc., you can feel free to keep driving --- so long as it's not a couple hundred miles. But even if there are other symptoms (rough running, power loss), you almost always can safely keep driving to the nearest service facility so long as the other warning lights/gauges are normal.

So just what is this "check engine" light, and what does it mean? Your car has a computer that constantly monitors many parts of your car and it has been programmed to turn on the "check engine" light if it senses something out of the ordinary.

For instance, the computer may notice that your engine's emissions are too high or a particular actuator isn't responding properly to the computer's commands, or a fuel injector is shorted out. In any of these events, the computer feels that it's only wise that it not keep this information from you. After all, you are the owner --- and the computer knows that it's going to need your help in eventually getting the car fixed, so it turns on the "check engine" light.

What's my mechanic going to do? After you get home, again assuming "home" isn't 200 or 300 miles away, take it into your mechanic. If your car is under five years or 50,000 miles old, the repair may be covered under the federally mandated emission warrantee, in which case you'll want to take it to an authorized new car dealer. When you take it in, the mechanic will "access" the computer and get it to tell him just what it saw wrong the other day when the light came on. We call this "pulling codes." Sometimes it's like pulling teeth.

## 'check engine' light is on After we pull the codes, we then use a

diagnostic sequence to narrow down the exact problem and fix the car. Aren't computers wonderful! Actually, it's not always as easy as it sounds. Now if you're still confused as to which warning lights mean "pull over right now" and which warning lights will allow you to keep driving, try to remember what I call the "amber rule." If an amber light comes on --all "check engine" lights are amber in color — you can keep driving. But with caution. But if a red warning ever comes on, you should pull over as quickly as you safely can and turn off the engine. Don't try to make it to the next exit or the gas station three blocks away. Because if you do, you may ruin your engine and your day. Drive safely.

Jon Woods and Gary Nugent are certified master mechanics who host an auto talk show on station KSDO in San Diego and can be reached through their web site at www.signonsandlego.com/marketp lace/autocenter.

#### Could you possibly be intermittent? an

By Jon Woods and Gary Nugent Copley News Service

Does your mechanic hate to see you coming? Does he have your name and license number posted on the wall next to the phone? Or worse yet, has he developed a signaling system where the mechanics use short burst with their air impact wrenches causing the whole area to empty when you get out of the car? You must have an intermittent.

Yes, an intermittent, a condition that immediately disappears as soon as you bring the car into the shop. For instance, you're driving down the street minding your own business, maybe even listening to "All About. Cars," a cheap attempt at a free ad spot, and all of a sudden the car stops. After coasting to the side of the freeway, you try the ignition key and -voila - it starts right back up. Unfortunately this only happens twice a month. But you're sure that one of these times the car's going leave you stranded.

Of course when you take the car into your mechanic, the problem doesn't occur. Welcome to the world of auto electronics. You think you're frustrated? What about the technician

that has taken your car apart three times already and still can't find the problem. I know of one case where the customer has taken the car back to the dealer 12 times and still no luck. Does the term "lemon law" mean anything to you? If these events sound all too familiar, then I've got a few suggestions that should help you.

The most important part of curing your intermittent is accurate and complete communication between you and your technician. When did the problem first occur? Did you have any work done to the car just prior to the problem developing? At what speed did it happen? How long after you started the car did it occur? Up hills? Down hills? Under acceleration or during coasting? All of these are questions you need to be prepared to answer. Without complete information, your mechanic's chances of fixing that intermittent problem are somewhere between slim and none. Finally, it may be necessary for the technician to install a "scan tool" to your car's computer and leave it there while you drive it for a week or so. A scan tool is a small hand-held computer that interfaces with your car's computer. If the problem appears while the scan tool is hooked up, it

can take a "snapshot" of the sensors and actuators during the event. With luck, the technician might be able to identify the circuit that is causing the problem.

The bottom line is have patience. Believe me, your mechanic does not want to see you come back into the shop again for the same problem, any more than you want to go back. Or as one of my friends once told a customer, "Why do you keep bringing it back - if I couldn't fix it the first time, what makes you think I can this time?'

Jon Woods and Gary Nugent are certified master mechanics who host an auto talk show on station KSDO in San Diego and can be reached through their web site at Signonsandiego.com/marketplace/autocenter.

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