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WORRL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2001 - SECTION B

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Better not faster

The van parked on South Avenue before the intersection at Locust and South avenues in Roselle slowed down traffic on Monday morning. The goal for commuters was to patiently merge to the left and then quickly back to the right to avoid the left-hand turn into Roselle Park.

Ronald Weening also knows something about patience. From his post at Union County's Division of Policy and Planning he spearheaded last week a presentation on the evolving study "to develop a plan to reduce traffic congestion and provide alternate travel choices on Route 28 and South Avenue."

Left Out

By Frank Capece

I like Weening. He avoids publicity like a left-hand turn on North Avenue. Unlike too many municipal planners and engineers, who must evidently complete the course in my way or the highway, Weening is soft spoken and listens and responds respectfully to questions. I also like to remind the populace that last century the county elected two engineers — Carter and Hoover — as president.

But last week was the time for the planners. Using a sharp threat that unless "intelligent transportation systems" are developed, we face Route 22 conditions on North and South avenues, the planners at the meeting in Cranford sure got my attention. Sadly, the paid staff outnumbered the people who were supposed to give input.

The outside consultants hired to assist the county effectively set the task as moving traffic "better not faster." The expected development of Brownfields sites on the roadway between Plainfield and Elizabeth and institution hopefully of light rail transit makes this area ripe for growth.

The key points included the need for intelligent transportation, addressing the terrible conditions on the Gordon Street Bridge between Roselle and Roselle Park and the institution of jiney service were positive. I was none too pleased with the depressing news that the limitation on funds meant that a real quantity of jiney service was not to be expected.

It seems to me that the best way to stop congestion is to leave the car home at the beginning. Jiney service to the municipal train stations and bus locations is a natural. But the planners expect to make their recommendations to the North Jersey Transportation Planning advisory group in the coming months.

I hope the planners reach out to people like Barbara Bilger. A community leader in Cranford, she has lived on North Avenue since 1969. She has watched the growth of commerce and the resulting traffic congestion on the street in front of her house.

But Bilger also has concerns over the new proposals for the Cranford Crossing project on South Avenue in her town. Her concern is that the proposed parking deck for the 60 new apartments envision spaces will open up during the day. Bilger is not so optimistic. She believes that commuters will be attracted to computers for New York and Newark. As such, they will walk to the train and leave their cars at dead space. Heck, they don't even need a jiney bus.

But the planners are planning. When they talk about congestion they see "warning signs" and they are right. The need for better jiney, ability to have a passing lane and a turn lane and better operation of traffic signals are important. Last week the State Senate passed a bill which will give Union County \$14,814,000 for bridge repair. Things are moving forward.

At the end of the evening, Weening was standing and patiently listening and responding to a

See THINGS, Page B2

Freeholders to make first open space purchase

More than 60 acres to be bought in Summit from water company

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

The Board of Chosen Freeholders will become the owner of the largest remaining undeveloped piece of land in Union County by year's end. The county announced last week that it will acquire a 63-acre parcel on Glenside Avenue in Summit, the first land acquisition using the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The wooded land currently is owned by New Jersey-American Water Co. and adjacent to the Watchung Reservation and the Sheriff's Complex.

The sale price of \$9 million will be funded primarily through the trust fund, with \$1.5 million coming from the Garden State Preservation Trust. The remaining \$7.5 million will be raised through the open space trust fund, which likely will occur after the closing. County Manager Michael Lapolla said. The trust fund generates approximately \$5 million annually through a dedicated tax of two cents per \$100 of assessed property value.

The land is assessed at more than \$5.3 million and pays approximately \$114,000 annually in tax revenue. Being zoned for one-family, residential units, the property could accommo-

date 37 residential lots, Lapolla said, making it desirable for developers.

"As the state's largest water purveyor, New Jersey-American recognizes the importance of protecting and preserving our environment," said Bob Gallo, president of the water company.

Lapolla said the water company will retain an easement that will allow it to operate and maintain its existing facilities on the property, namely a few pumping stations. He added that Fountain Baptist Church, a contiguous landowner on Glenside Avenue, might purchase approximately five acres of the property, if for any reason that does not occur, the county will retain those five acres.

The parties are currently negotiating a definitive agreement of sale that will be subject to the approval of the company's Board of Directors and the freeholder board.

The land has been owned by the water company since 1915, said company spokeswoman Maureen Duffy. She said New Jersey-American originally bought the property in case there was a need for it. After re-evaluating property it owns, the company decided the parcel was not needed, Duffy said.

While he praised the freeholders for purchasing the water utility land, Bob Muska of the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission urged the board to act quickly on other land, including two parcels in Berkeley Heights and Scotch Plains that are planned for development.

Muska said the environmental commission had concerns last year about the trust fund that money would be directed too much toward building maintenance and new construction than the acquisition of open space.

The Donato property in Scotch Plains is slated for 100 housing units after developer K. Hovnanian recently won a court battle to build there and has received approval from the Scotch Plains Planning Board. Muska said purchase of the Donato property would prevent "inappropriate development where the streets already flood."

The Baldwin property in Berkeley Heights is a three-acre tract where a developer plans to build 22 housing units. "There's a lot of opportunity but we haven't seen aggressive action," Muska said. "These properties have to be taken now."

Lapolla said the county looked into the Donato property five years ago, but the devel-

oper's asking price for the seven-acre parcel was upward of \$1 million an acre. "That's an extraordinary amount for a passive parcel just to stop development."

"The real issue is not the trust fund but zoning and development issues in the communities," Lapolla said.

He added that the county cannot approach the owner of any land that is designated by a municipality for affordable housing.

Freeholder Mary Ruotolo, who serves on the Open Space Advisory Committee, said the county could easily spend \$100 million on the acquisition of land, however, there are 21 towns in the county to consider when using trust fund dollars. Virtually all of the land the county has identified for acquisition is in the western portion of the county, near the Watchung Reservation.

Negotiations for the New Jersey-American land purchase took six months, Ruotolo said, and the county is trying to accomplish as much as it can with the trust fund.

Freeholders praised county officials for moving as quickly as it did to make the land purchase, as other counties took several years to do anything after a trust fund was enacted. Voters approved a trust fund in Union County last November by a wide margin.

Old jail will close entirely this week

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

By the end of this week, the entire old jail is expected to close for good, County Manager Michael Lapolla said.

The county's closing of the old jail drew protests earlier this year from the union representing corrections officers, who were to be laid off.

The plan to close the old jail was conceived after the state pulled many of its prisoners out of the county's jails, virtually eliminating \$8 million of annual revenue in the county budget derived from state reimbursements.

As part of the plan to close the jail, the county also laid off almost 100 corrections officers, which sparked protests from the Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 108, the union representing more than 300 corrections officers.

More than 70 corrections officers found employment with the state or in other counties while Union County retained more than a dozen officers who were laid off, the county manager said.

Lapolla said the new state budget, passed last week, had \$55 million removed from that it once was used to reimburse counties for housing state prisoners. "The state will no longer be doing that," said Lapolla, who made the announcement during last week's freeholder meeting at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside. "We found out this week the money will no longer be there."

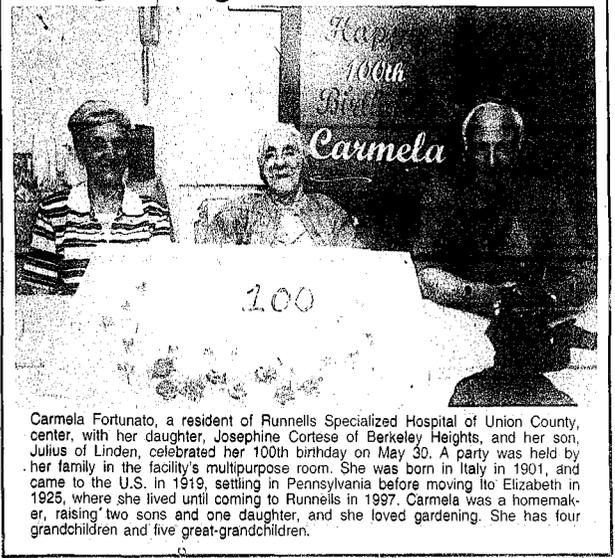
The third floor of the old jail remained open during the transition period of the closing, while prisoners were transferred to either the new jail across the street or to Delancy Hall, a drug treatment facility in Newark.

The freeholders approved a \$5.5-million contract in February with Education and Health Centers in Roseland, which runs Delancy Hall, to service as many as 400 prisoners from the county's jail. The contract included an option for two additional years, 2002 and 2003, for \$12 million.

As of last week, Lapolla said there were fewer than 40 prisoners still being housed in the old jail. The average daily population at the new jail is now approximately 800 to 850 prisoners, with another 200 at Delancy Hall.

Last year, the average daily population was approximately 1,300 to 1,400 prisoners, the county manager said.

Hitting the big 100



Carmela Fortunato, a resident of Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County, center, with her daughter, Josephine Cortese of Berkeley Heights, and her son, Julius of Linden, celebrated her 100th birthday on May 30. A party was held by her family in the facility's multipurpose room. She was born in Italy in 1901, and came to the U.S. in 1919, settling in Pennsylvania before moving to Elizabeth in 1925, where she lived until coming to Runnells in 1997. Carmela was a homemaker, raising two sons and one daughter, and she loved gardening. She has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Honoring D-Day vets



The Board of Chosen Freeholders and the French government honored local veterans with a citation and special medal for their participation in the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944. At the presentation ceremony last month are, from left, standing, Richard Manners, past state commander of DAV, a former POW and member of American Legion Post 328, in Clark, and other post members, Bill Mislovich, Fred Roll and Bob Higbe; and seated, Francis Collins and Charlie Grunder.

Auto Theft Task Force receives grant for laptop computers

Schering-Plough Corporation has awarded a \$17,000 grant to the Union County Prosecutor's Office that will allow the Essex County/Union County Auto Theft Task Force to purchase two laptop computers to increase the unit's mobile data terminal system.

The system is connected to a cellular network that enables police officers to instantaneously link with the National Crime Information Center — an enhanced computerized information system developed by state police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation — to query about license plates and other driver information from their patrol vehicles.

The task force formerly used a "20-year-old, outdated" analogue-based system transmitted through a radio frequency, said Dave Regal, chief of detectives for the Prosecutor's Office in Elizabethtown.

There was a substantial increase in stolen cars in the late 1980s and early 1990s in Essex and Union Counties, with Newark having the highest number of stolen cars in New Jersey. Prosecutors and police chiefs from both counties decided to form the multi-jurisdictional effort to patrol prime areas for stolen and recovered cars in both counties. The task force also was established to apprehend violators who steal cars.

Preliminary plans for nature center presented

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Mary Sudiak moved to Cranford 16 years ago after living in Pittsburgh most of her life. She expected to take her children to museums and other attractions in New York City when they moved to the Garden State. Then she found Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside.

Her son knows that The Big Dipper is not a constellation, but an asterism, while her daughter has learned to recycle virtually everything possible. Sudiak credits the programs and instructors at Trailside for teaching her children such things. "I don't know where I found out about Trailside, but thank God for Trailside," she thanked God for Trailside.

Sudiak thanked the freeholder board for "noticing the needs have outgrown the facilities at Trailside."

The Board of Chosen Freeholders has embarked on a plan to construct a \$2.5-million, 17,000-square-foot addition to the 7,700-square-foot nature center, adding classrooms, exhibit space and storage areas. Architects last week presented to the freeholders preliminary designs for the addition. The current facility also will be restored and connected to the new addition, which is not included in the \$2.5 million cost of the addition.

Freeholders Mary Ruotolo and Angel Estrada each suggested the architects look closely at the potential for alternative energy sources for the new facility.

Ralph Rosenberg of DMR

Architects of Maywood said construction — from groundbreaking to ribbon cutting — should take 13 months and could begin within three to four months. "But there are a lot of hurdles before that."

County Manager Michael Lapolla said the addition will focus on classroom activities and exhibit space. Once the county has final drawings for the addition, they will be presented to the Mountainside Planning Board and architects also will return before the freeholder board with periodic updates when plans are more specific.

If necessary, two other buildings on the Trailside property, the planetarium and museum, will be used for classes or exhibits, as well as the multipurpose room at the Watchung Stables when it is available, Lapolla said.

Opened in 1974, Trailside offers a variety of programs for children and adults and last year had 60,000 people register for its programs.

Funding for the construction at Trailside will come from the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, a fact that has riled Republicans and some residents.

Roselle resident Mary Beth Kelly questioned freeholders as to why the referendum on last year's ballot did not refer to any master plan or to additions at Trailside. She believes residents were "buffaloed" by the freeholders in passing the trust fund.

COUNTY NEWS

Master Gardeners class creates new garden

A new deer-resistant ornamental garden has been created in Lenape Park by the Master Gardener students of the Class of 2000-01, a course provided by Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County. The newly-planted garden is located in the central divider at the end of East Broad Street in Westfield.

Thirty-five adults have been attending the weekly classes since September, learning every facet of gardening, from basic botany to vegetable diseases. Rutgers Cooperative Extension faculty and staff teach their expertise to the class over a nine-month period of time.

One of the volunteer training course requirements is that, as a team, students design, install and maintain a landscape plan for the Union County Division of Parks and Recreation. The Division of Parks purchased the plant material for the Lenape Park project and county park employees cultivated the plot. Master Gardeners planted the new garden in mid-April and will continue to maintain it.

Because deer often roam through the park and the yards of nearby houses, foraging for food, all the students' designs contained only perennials and shrubs that deer are not supposed to like.

"No plant is completely deer-proof," said Madeline Flahive DiNardo, county agricultural agent. "During hard winters, deer have been known to eat almost any vegetation. We can only rely on the plants that they tend to dislike under ordinary circumstances."

Among the 70-odd shrubs and

perennials planted in the new, hourglass-shaped Lenape garden are holly, bayberry and ornamental grasses.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County is currently recruiting volunteers for the Master Gardener Training program scheduled to begin Sept. 25.

For more information, call the Agriculture Department at (908) 654-9854.

All programs are open to the public without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

Golf Classic raises \$27K for United Way

United Way of Union County's second annual Golf Classic raised \$27,000 to support the Dell Raudelunas Fund for Children and United Way's Community Fund. An anonymous donor made a matching donation to bring the total raised to \$54,000.

More than 110 golfers hit the links and hundreds attended the dinner reception on June 11 at Shackamaxon Golf & Country Club in Scotch Plains. L'Oreal USA was the title sponsor for the second annual Golf Classic. Other sponsors included Schering-Plough Corp., Maersk Sealand, Summit Bank and Torcon Inc.

"We are delighted that our second annual Golf Classic brought together so many local people and organizations to support our caring community," said Larry Lockhart, Golf Classic chairman and United Way board member. "Their generous support will boost programs that have a lasting and

dramatic impact, not only on the people who directly benefit, but on our community as a whole."

The Dell Raudelunas Fund for Children supports programs that prepare children throughout the Union County for a lifetime of learning and achievement. United Way of Union County's Community Fund supports local programs and services that work to: provide basic needs services; increase economic self-sufficiency; promote lifelong health, wellness and independence and build strong and supportive families.

United Way of Union County has been investing in a caring community since 1969. Its communitywide fundraising campaign is focused on supporting a network of programs at \$3 local health and human service agencies. These programs lend assistance to children at-risk, families in crisis, people with disabilities, the elderly and hungry and homeless. One out of every three Union County residents received assistance from programs supported by United Way during the past year.

For more information or to support United Way of Union County, call (908) 353-7171.

NCJW installs officers

The National Council of Jewish Women, Union County Section, installed the following officers for 2001-02: president, Gloria Brown; vice presidents, administration, Sandra Panzer, community services, Shari Bloomberg, education, Stuelken Kasoff, fund-raising, Hortense Green and Ruth Harris, program, Gloria Litwin, treasurer, Golde Weiner; assistant treasurer, Sheri Freedman; secretaries, corresponding, Ada Gross,

financial, Gloria Segel, recording, Hana Keselman and Verma Lember, social, Mariene Freeman."

The National Council of Jewish Women established in 1893 is America's oldest major Jewish women's volunteer organization. The Union County Section of NCJW was established in 1917.

For more information about NCJW, call (908) 352-1207.

Senior Outreach Program

Union County's Division on Aging in the Department of Human Services has announced its Outreach Services Program for the month of July.

Union County representatives will be available to offer information and provide assistance in completing the necessary applications for a multitude of programs, including gas and electric support, pharmaceutical assistance, home energy assistance, Supplementary Security Income, counseling on health insurance for Medicare enrollees, and the SHARE Food Program. A bilingual staff person will be present.

The dates, times and locations for applications are:

- Tuesday: Elizabeth — Oakwood Plaza, 380 Irvington, Ave., 10 a.m. until noon.
- Wednesday: Elizabeth — Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, 184 First St., 10 a.m. to noon.
- July 17: Elizabeth — Elizabeth Center Apartments, 809 Pearl St., 10 a.m. to noon.
- July 18: Plainfield — Plainfield Senior Center, 305 E. Front St., 10 a.m. to noon.
- July 24: Linden — Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St., 10 a.m. to noon.

Senior buses ready to be shipped to towns

In some municipalities they will become the backbone of a new senior transportation service. In others, they will supplement existing transportation services. Passenger vans funded through the Union County freesholder board's Seniors in Motion initiative, will be delivered shortly to several municipalities. "This is a good day for Union County's senior citizens," said Freesholder Vice Chairman Lewis Mingo Jr., who is the freesholder liaison to the county's Advisory Council on Aging and Senior Citizens and Disabled Transportation committee. "Transportation is always an issue of concern for senior citizens, particularly here, in one of the state's most densely-populated counties."

Seniors in Motion was one of three Year of the Senior Citizens' initiatives implemented in 2000 by then-Freesholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan. Union County invited all municipalities to apply and worked with the manufacturer to acquire the vans.

In all, 14 municipalities applied for the Seniors in Motion vans — white, 15-passenger Dodge Rams. The county will provide the vehicles to municipalities at no charge. Municipalities will be responsible for their own transportation programs, developing routes, hiring and paying drivers and acquiring insurance.

Participating in the initiative are Cranford, Garwood, Hillside, Kenilworth, Linden, Mountainside, Plainfield, Rahway, Roselle, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Summit, Union and Westfield.

"Through this initiative, Union County purchased vehicles in bulk for municipalities, while allowing towns to determine the best way to utilize their vehicles," said Freesholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "It shows how county government works best when it works with municipal officials."

Besides Seniors in Motion, Union County government developed three initiatives: Senior Focus, which provided each municipality with funds to improve their senior citizen centers, and Senior Scholars, which provided free courses for all seniors at Union County College. In total, Union County gave its 21 municipalities more than \$2.5 million for senior center construction and improvements. More than 200 seniors took Senior Scholar courses. The initiative was so popular that it was continued this year.

Things moving forward

(Continued from Page B1) technical and people skills. Come to think about it, I don't think Weening is an engineer.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capuce is an attorney.

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County honored for 'Four Centuries' event

"Four Centuries in a Weekend... Journey Through Union County's History," a program of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, received the distinguished Heritage Award at the recent 2001 Governor's Conference on Tourism.

Fifteen other heritage programs — including the Atlantic City Historical Museum, the Historic Morris Visitors Center in Morristown, and the State House Tour Program in Trenton — competed for the prestigious award.

"I want to congratulate the 22 sites that participate in Four Centuries in a Weekend," said Freeholder Alexander Mirabella. "The recognition of this annual event by the Office of Travel and Tourism and the New Jersey Travel Industry Association reaffirms the importance of historic preservation as a vital part of the economy."

"Four Centuries in a Weekend promotes tourism in the county by combining culture and history with educational tours," said Freeholder Mary Ruotolo, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. "The Board of Chosen Freeholders would like to congratulate the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs for its fine work in administering this 'wonderful project.'"

County Manager Michael J. Lapolla noted the signs throughout the county directing visitors to the sites. "I commend the Bureau of Traffic and Maintenance for its excellent work crafting the signs that help make the 22 sites easier to navigate for sightseers," Lapolla said.

As New Jersey's second-largest industry after pharmaceuticals, tourism employs an estimated 855,000

people and has \$30 billion in annual expenditures, according to the state Office of Travel and Tourism.

Four Centuries in a Weekend will take place this year Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Oct. 21 from noon to 5 p.m.

Four Centuries in a Weekend sites include: the Lutell-Lord Farmstead and the Deserted Village of Feltsville-Glenside Park, both in Berkeley Heights; the Dr. William Robinson Plantation in Clark; the Crane-Phillips House in Cranford; the Belcher-Ogden Mansion and Boxwood Hall, both in Elizabeth; Evergreen Cemetery and the Woodruff House/Eaton Store Museum, both in Hillside; the Deacon Andrew Hatfield House in Mountainside; the Salt Box Museum in New Providence; the Drake House Museum in Plainfield; Merchants and Drivers Tavern in Rahway; the Abraham Clark House in Roselle; the

Roselle Park Museum in Roselle Park; the Ogborn Cannonball House in Scotch Plains; the Cannon Ball House in Springfield; the Carter House, the Reeves-Reed Arboretum and Twin Maples, all in Summit; the Caldwell Parsonage and Liberty Hall, both in Union Township; and the Miller-Cory House in Westfield.

Four Centuries in a Weekend is funded in part by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a cultural agency in the Department of State, and the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, Humanities Festival Week.

For a copy of the Heritage Festival booklet, contact the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202. Telephone inquiries may be directed to (908) 558-2550 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. New Jersey Relay users call 711. E-mail may be sent to scoc@unicountynj.org.



Summit's Ann Porter, Julia Sann and Tom Belle rehearse for Summit Playhouse's production of 'Free To Be... You And Me.'

Summit's Kaleidoscope kids explore their inner potential

Kaleidoscope Theater for Youth is presenting "Free To Be... You And Me" from the book conceived by Marlo Thomas and Friends. The production is directed by Dave Matlock with musical direction by Paul Tukey and choreography by James Gomez. Thomas conceived a children's book that, instead of telling boys and girls who they should be, would open them to possibilities of what they could be. She gathered many of her supremely talented friends from various worlds of the arts and the remarkable result is highly regarded as a modern classic of children's literature. Life enhancing themes are imaginatively blended with music and humor to expand children's personal horizons, enabling them to invent their own futures without limitations, while dispelling some old constraints and worn out conventions. There is something for the free spirit in every adult and for the wise soul in every child.

na Matlock, Erin Mahon, Julia Sann, Tom Bell, Gregg Bakalar, Tim Lynch, Emily Balzano and Emily Pistell. The play also features Chatham's Kathleen Simon and Arielle Hixson, Madison's Colin Lee, Verona's Matt Wogal and Short Hills' Ali Rappaport. "Free To Be... You And Me" will be performed at The Summit Playhouse, 10 New England Ave., Summit. Performances are scheduled for July 20, 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. and July 21, 22 and 29 at 2 p.m. Tickets for all seats are \$8. For tickets, call (908) 273-2192. Additional information about the production and the Summit Playhouse Association can be found on the web site at www.summitplayhouse.org.

Preservation award nominations being sought

Is there a building in your town that has been lovingly restored? Has your downtown been revitalized through the continuing use or reuse of traditional buildings? Has a local individual or program contributed to the understanding or promotion of Union County history through historic preservation programs?

In order to recognize successful efforts in historic preservation, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is accepting nominations for the 14th Annual Historic Preservation Commendations program.

"The Historic Preservation Commendations illustrate how Union County's historic buildings foster a sense of place and connection with the past," said Freeholder Mary P. Ruotolo, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. "In addition, our historic buildings help keep our downtowns alive and stimulate economic benefits. These awards recognize the valuable contributions of individuals, organizations and local governments throughout Union County."

Nominations for the awards must be submitted by Monday, July 2. Application forms are available from the Union County Division of Cultural and Heri-

age Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202. For information, call (908) 558-2550 or dial 711 for New Jersey Relay Service.

"Commendations are awarded in six categories which include Building Preservation and Restoration, Continuing Use, Adaptive Use and Structure, Object or Site Preservation, Leadership, and Preservation Education," said County Manager Michael Lapolla. "Since the inception of the program, awards have been given to more than 100 preservation projects, groups, and individuals in 17 Union County municipalities."

The annual historic preservation awards are sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, the Department of Economic Development, and the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. Each year nominations are solicited from the public. Although the nominated projects must be in Union County, it is not necessary to reside in the county to propose a candidate.

The commendations are bestowed at a public ceremony each year.

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This production of "Free To Be... You And Me" features the talents of Summit's Ann Porter, Joan-

CDC to hold auditions for 'Fantasticks'

The Cranford Dramatic Club will hold open auditions for its fall musical production of "The Fantasticks" July 13 at 7:30 p.m. and July 15 at 1 p.m. Production dates for the musical will be Oct. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27. The show will be directed by Madge Wittel. The musical director will be Mary Beth McFall and the choreographer will be Mary Webb. Auditions should be prepared to sing a song either from the show or of their own choice.

The following is a list of characters: The Narrator/El Gallo — male, "dashing, handsome," tenor/baritone with an E-flat top note; The Girl/Luisa — "look 16 years old," high soprano with an A-flat top note; The Boy/Matt — "look 19 years old," baritone/tenor with a high F top note; The Boy's Father/Huckleboe — baritone/tenor; The Girl's Father/Bellomy — baritone/tenor; The Actor/Henry — "a sort of has-been look," dramatic character voice; The Man Who Dies/Mortimer — second baritone to Henry, character voice; The Mute — male or female, must be agile, move well, have good memory and concentration or detail — function is, to be functional and assist all actors, no speaking or singing involved.

Scripts for reading are available at the home of Madge Wittel, 1742 Boulevard, Westfield. Call (908) 233-1034 before stopping.

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- Broad National Bank.....http://www.broad-national-bank.com
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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 VanSandt, Worrall Community Newspapers, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

Stepping Out

...present Ave. Union will present a series of musical events. Tuesday night's are "Acoustic Tuesdays," 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.

THE WAITING ROOM, 1431 Irving St., Rahway, at the corner of Lewis Street, presents Open Mike Night every Wednesday night.

THE WASHINGTON AVENUE PUB, 704 Washington Ave., Linden, will present karaoke and the 100-Proof Duo Band every Saturday night. In addition, Thursday is Ladies Night.

For information, call (908) 925-3707.

WORKSHOPS

DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART in Plainfield is offering summer workshops for adults and children, June through August, for all levels of artists from beginners to advanced. Selected offerings are:

Portraits in Watercolor, a two-day session today and Friday, taught by portrait artist Paul McCormack.

Fountain Creations, a six-week class on Monday mornings where students will design and create a working table-top fountain.

The Clay Garden, a four-week class on Tuesday mornings.

Fine art workshops include Figure Painting and Drawing, Silver-Point Drawing, Oil Painting, Intro to Papermaking, Acrylic Painting, Techniques of the Old Masters for Modern Artists, and Colored Pencil and Watercolor Workshops.

For more information, call (908) 757-7171.

WESTFIELD SUMMER WORKSHOP has announced its summer schedule. The program has close to 100 classes in arts and crafts, communications, dance and movement, drama, kaleidoscope, and music for students in grades 1 to 8.

For more information or a brochure, call (908) 518-1551.

ART SHOWS

OUR VIEW: A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE on Life in Union County, a traveling exhibit sponsored by Community Access Unlimited, features the work of 10 adults with developmental disabilities. The exhibit will tour the county. For information call (908) 354-3040, Ext. 304.

SUMMIT FRAME AND ART will exhibit paintings by American artists of the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s. Gallery hours are Mondays to Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursdays until 7 p.m. Summit Frame and Art is located at 465 Springfield Ave., Summit. For information call (908) 273-8665.

ARTIST RON HEDRICK will have his work on exhibit at Evelyn Dunn's Gallery, 349 South Ave., Westfield.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. For information call (908) 232-6412.

BRIDGEWAY CREATIVE ARTS UNIT will have works on exhibit in the Union County Fresheners Gallery of the sixth floor of the County Administration Building in Elizabeth through Monday.

Gallery hours are weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The County Administration Building is located at Elizabeth-Trenton Plaza at Rahway Avenue. For information, call (908) 558-2550.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL, 150 New Providence Road, Mountaineer, will exhibit the work of Summit resident Katie Reinhardt throughout the month of July.

The hospital is located at 150 New Providence Road in Mountaineer.

THE DUCRET ART STUDENT SHOW will be on exhibit at Swain Galleries in Plainfield Saturday through July 31. An opening reception will take place Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Swain Galleries is located 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For information, call (908) 756-1707.

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS will exhibit works created by participants in the Artists With Disabilities Program through Aug. 2 in the Members' Gallery.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For more information, call (908) 273-9121.

THE ANNUAL MEMBERS' SHOW AND SALE, at the New Jersey Center for the Visual Arts, 68 Elm St., Summit, will be on display through Aug. 11. For more information, call (908) 273-9121.

AUDITIONS

CRANFORD DRAMATIC CLUB will conduct auditions for its fall musical, "The Fantasticks" by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, July 13 at 7:30 p.m. and July 15 at 1 p.m. Show dates are Oct. 12 to 27. Being sought are seven men and one woman. For information, call (908) 276-7611.

BOOKS

AUTHOR MARIA LARINO will appear at Barnes and Noble in Springfield July 26 at 7:30 p.m. to sign copies of her book, "Were You Always Italian." Barnes and Noble is located at 240

Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

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.

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

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. In July, the group will meet Wednesday. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

JEWISH BOOK LOVERS meets at 7:15 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, the third Monday of each month.

For information, call (973) 376-8544.

SHAKESPEARE OUT Loud Reading Group will meet at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, at 7:30 p.m. on the third Friday of each month to read a Shakespeare play out loud. The group is led by Kevin Muller.

For information, call (732) 674-1818.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS

The second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m., beginning in August, at Barnes and Noble in Springfield.

Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

CLASSES

THE NEW JERSEY VISUAL CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, 68 Elm St., Summit, will be offering extensive classes and workshops for adults, teens and children this summer season, continuing through July 21.

For a complete schedule including descriptions, time and fees, call the center for information and/or a catalog at (908) 273-9121.

MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATER will be visiting the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway, this summer. The first week runs Monday to July 14 and includes rehearsals and performances of "Red Riding Hood" and the second week runs July 16 to 21 and includes rehearsals and performances of "Treasure Island." Cost is \$125.

For information, call (732) 499-8226.

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) 789-9666.

DU CRET SCHOOL OF ART will offer its Children and Teen Summer Workshops July 16 to 20 and 23 to 27. Classes are available for 6- to 10-year-olds and 11- to 15-year-olds. The DuCret School is located at 1030 Central Ave., Plainfield. For information, call (908) 757-7171.

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE will offer professional classes in performing arts. Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Acting classes will concentrate on improvisation, character development and scene study. Also offered are four levels of tap and three levels of musical theater, which focus on song

selection and interpretation, ensemble work, voice, and musical theater movement and dance. Private lessons in voice and/or acting are available. Westfield High School is located at 728 Westfield Ave. For information, call (908) 233-3200.

UNION MUSIC SCHOOL is accepting registration for the summer 2001 session — now through July 27, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. daily. To receive a brochure of course offerings send name and mailing address via e-mail to unionmusic@hotmail.com, via fax to (908) 687-7332, or call (908) 851-6470.

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN in Westfield offers various music classes to children between the ages of 10 months and 8 years old. For information on class offerings or to reserve a space at either open house, call (908) 232-4881.

CONCERTS

"CONCERTS IN THE PARK", sponsored by the Linden Department of Recreation, will begin Tuesday and run through Aug. 14 at various parks throughout the city.

Tuesday, George N. Milkoski Memorial Park; Gene Mendalski and the G Men, polka music.

July 18, James Iozzi Memorial Park; Sentimentals, contemporary music.

July 24, Wilson Park; The Platters.

July 31, Wilson Park; Jobanano and the Godsons of Soul.

Aug. 7, Wilson Park; Saturday Night Fever, rain site at McManus Auditorium.

Aug. 14, Wilson Park; Jimmy Sturr and his Orchestra, rain site at McManus Auditorium.

All concerts begin at 7:15 and, unless otherwise noted, the rain site is the Linden High School Gymnasium.

BARNES AND NOBLE, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, will present musical performances throughout the summer. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the cafe section.

July 14, Andrew Kessler.

July 21, Christopher Hoyle.

July 27, West of Eden.

For information, including a concert schedule, call (973) 376-8544.

BARNES AND NOBLE, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, will present musical performances throughout the summer. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the cafe section.

For information, including a concert schedule, call (732) 574-1818.

CRAFTS

CREATIVE MEMORIES' CONSULTANT Mickey Howard will conduct a free workshop on photojournalism, using personal photographs to tell a story. The workshop will take place Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Library, 1927 Bartle Ave. For information, call (908) 889-9544.

THE HARVEST QUILTERS of Central New Jersey meet the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Cozy Corner Creations Quilt Shop, Park Avenue in Scotch Plains. The next meeting is July 2. For information, call (908) 755-7653.

DISCUSSION

DANTE'S 'DIVINE COMEDY' will be the topic of a two-part lecture by Louis Marfox, sponsored by Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, Part I. The Music of the Spheres, will be Saturday at 2 p.m.; Part II, Hell by the Numbers, will be Sunday at 2 p.m. The lectures will take place at Mountaineer Borough Hall, Route 22 East and New Providence Road, Mountaineer. For information, call (908) 233-8533.

FILM

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor a series of free film classics at the Main Branch. All films begin at 10 a.m.

The Main Branch of the Elizabeth Public Library is located at 11 S. Broad St. For information call (908) 354-6050.

KIDS

BARNES AND NOBLE, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield will sponsor events for children Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tales for Totals Preschool Storytime, 11 a.m. and Saturdays, Kids Writing Workshop, 10 a.m.

Additional programs are: July 17, 10:30 a.m. — singing and dancing with Candy Nelson.

July 21, 10 a.m. — Craft Hour.

July 21, 11 a.m. — "If You Gave a Mouse a Cookie".

July 28, 10 a.m. — Kids Writing Workshop.

For information, call (973) 376-8544.

UNION RECREATION DEPARTMENT

will sponsor weekly ceramics classes for children between the ages of 7 and 12 at the Recreation Building, 120 Commerce Ave., from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. For information call (908) 964-4828.

POETRY

POETRY OUT LOUD! will take place at Barnes and Noble in Springfield July 27 at 8 p.m. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

OPEN MIKE POETRY NIGHT takes place the second Sunday of every month at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, at 7 p.m.

For information, call (732) 574-1818.

RADIO

TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. The group meets at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of every month.

For information, call (908) 241-5758.

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) 889-5285 or (908) 889-4751.

THEATER

THEATER PROJECT at Union County College will present "An Empty Plate in the Cafe du Grand Bouef" through July 15 in the Roy W. Smith Theater on the Cranford campus. Shows are at 8 p.m. Thursdays to Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sunday and July 15. Tickets are \$14 Fridays to Sundays, \$7 Thursdays; student tickets are \$7 at all performances. UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call (908) 659-5189.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE, Brookside Drive, Millburn, will present "Carousel" through July 15. Family weeks will be July 3 to 15; buy one adult ticket at full price and get one half-price for any child younger than 18 years old.

For tickets, call (973) 376-4343 or buy online at www.papermill.org.

SUMMIT PLAYHOUSE'S Kaleidoscope Youth Theater will present "Free

To Be ... You and Me" July 20 to 29. Shows are 7:30 p.m. July 20, 27 and 28; 2 p.m. July 21, 22 and 25. Tickets are \$8. Summit Playhouse is located at 10 New England Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-2192.

VARIETY

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mike Night every Tuesday at 9 p.m. and karaoke every Thursday night.

The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-6455.

CROSSROADS, 78 North Ave., Garwood presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts. Every Sunday is Comedy Night at 7:30 p.m. Every Tuesday is the Jazz Jam.

For information, call (908) 232-5666.

EAT TO THE BEAT Coffeehouse in Rahway will feature appearances by musical artists during July.

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 July.

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 347 Springfield Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 277-0220.

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 Westfield Ave., Roselle Park. For information, call (908) 241-7400.

VAN GOGH'S EAR CAFE, 1017 Stuy-

Classes are offered this summer

The New Jersey Center for the Visual Arts, 68 Elm St., Summit, will be offering extensive classes and workshops for adults, teens and children this summer season. Summer classes will continue through July 21.

A sampling of the variety of workshops which are offered include: Nationally-recognized photographer Howard Nathenson will be conducting a Still Life Photography workshop, Saturday and June 23. The workshop will focus on creating still life compositions, a traditional genre for painters.

Basha Mon, who recently received a New Jersey State Commission sculpture grant, will be teaching Marks & Bush Strokes — Surface and Texture, July 14 and 21.

Church Miley will instruct a workshop entitled "Pochoir-art of the Stencil" June 30. The workshop will include basic and intermediate techniques of stenciling. Pochoir is used to create those fabulous Chinese and French wallpapers as well as Japanese fabrics.

Classes for adults will feature: Landscapes in Watercolor, with instructor Elizabeth Horowitz. The six-week course will cover all the basic including painting techniques, composition, color and light. For those who would like to try their hand at ceramics, Pottery Potentials with instructor Bill Kaplan affords an excellent opportunity. Explore handbuilding, coiling, texture and throwing.

Elisa Kessler Caporale will instruct students in Beginning/Intermediate Baskets. Four basic basketry beginnings will be taught from cut materials. Kits are not necessary. Corporate's works are widely shown and collected.

NJCVA also offers a wide range of children and teen classes. Partners in Art, for example, is for children 3 to 5 years of age. This is a chance for children to create in collaboration with parents or other adults.

For complete schedule including descriptions, times and fees, call the center for information and/or a catalog, (908) 273-9121.

Founded in 1933 by a dedicated group of local artists, NJCVA has evolved into a major regional art center. It has a full-scale art school taught by award winning faculty. There are two interior galleries and an outdoor exhibition space/sculpture garden.

NJCVA is the largest visual art center in the state. It is specifically devoted to contemporary art. Programs include Artists with Disabilities, docent tours, lectures, demonstrations, art tips, workshops and other activities.

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DRIVERS: TEAMS up to 48 cents per mile, 5,000 miles per week. No domicile home more often. Condo conventionals. Lease options available (no money down). Fuel incentives increased. Higher orientation pay. 0/0 & spots welcome! (no CDL, No Experience, Need training) Call Burlington Motor Carriers 1-800-388-9038

EARN \$25,000 - \$50,000 yearly! Medical insurance billing assistance needed immediately! Use your home computer, get free internet, fast long distances, website, email 1-800-291-4683 ext. 407

EARN while you learn. Work from home \$500 to \$5000 per month. Part time/full time. Free information. 414-230-9447
www.crewall.com

EASY WORK! Great Pay! Earn \$300 plus a week assembling products at home. No experience necessary. Call toll free 1-988-643-1289 extension 135

FULL TIME: grip wrapping, inventory stocking, pricing and displaying merchandise in busy gift shop in Livingston NJ. Hours include Saturday. 973-531-0272

GENERAL OFFICE WORK. Part time work in small office in Verona. Varied duties include typing reports, secretarial, computer WP & Microsoft filing, billing, telephone. Call 973-229-9252

GROWING BUSINESS needs help! Full training. Free information. www.123livefree.com 888-658-8452

HELP NEEDED immediately - Work from home. Explosive industries \$1,800 - \$7,000 plus monthly. Part Full Time. Free information 216-212-9032 www.freemoney.com

HOMEOWNERS NEEDED. \$638 weekly processing mail. Easy! No experience needed. Call 1-866-200-6280 ext. 3520, 24 hours.

INSURANCE NEW BUSINESS CASE MANAGER Well known, value added, life, disability and LTC brokerage agency, based in central NJ, seeks an experienced individual. Applicant must be well versed in all aspects of new business process. Reviewing life & LTC applications for accuracy, ordering medical requirements, negotiating offers with home office underwriters. Full benefit package included. Salary commensurate with experience. Fax resume in complete confidence to: 908-272-2163

LEGAL SECRETARY. Union Township law firm. Salary commensurate with experience. Non-Smoker. Call 908-588-2211

LIVERY DRIVERS WANTED FULL TIME/ PART TIME We offer paid vacations, year end bonus and high volume commissions. Call 973-762-5760

MAINTENANCE. 30 HOURS per week at \$8.00 per hour, Monday thru Friday. Duties to include: parking lot cleaning, landscaping and any common sense maintenance. Property located in Elizabeth. Call 973-467-8000, extension 200 or fax resume to 973-467-8480

HELP WANTED

LOOKING FOR a newspaper job? For a \$20 refundable deposit, the NJ Press Association will post your 40-word summarized resume on www.nja.org and publish it monthly, reaching 19 dailies and over 160 websites. Editorial, Advertising, Circulation, Photography staffers needed. Contact Bill Monaghan, 608-608-0820. Extension 17, email billmonaghan@naja.org or fax 609-408-0300

MEDICAL ASSISTANT, experienced, part time. Assist Podiatrist in two offices. Must be responsible and reliable. Krav license helpful. Call 973-428-7477

MEDICAL ASSISTANT, full time, 1 year experience in Doctor's office, manipulating a mast. Fax resume to: 973-659-5255, Attention: Eve 973-608-3008

MEDICAL ASSISTANT for Cardiologist office. Experienced with EKG, Vancutrine, typing and medical terminology. Fax resume to: 973-608-3008

MEDICAL BILLER. 3 years experience required. Knowledge of CPT and ICD coding, A/R, customer service skills, SOBS insurance follow-up. Fax resume to 973-608-6596, Attention: Jennifer

MEDICAL BILLING Home based. We need claim processors now! No experience needed. Computer required. Great income! Full time. 1-800-240-1348 Dept. 700. www.epsmad.net

MEDICAL SECRETARY experience necessary. Computer literate. No evenings/ weekends. Maplewood area. Call 973-682-1000 or fax resume to 973-762-2820

NANNY WANTED for infant boy in my Maplewood home. Ideal candidate will be loving, patient and flexible. Experience and references required. 5 days/week. Driver. English speaking preferred. Call 973-763-8545

OFFICE ASSISTANT, MSJ office a must. Responsible for inventory control, various office duties, light secretarial. Full time with benefits. Located in Union. Call 908-964-8200, extension #114

OFFICE WORK. Part time. You pick the hours, for small business in Union. Great for moms while the kids are in school. Call 908-954-1000. Fax resume: 908-964-1002

PART TIME RN/ LPN/ MA, for busy Internal Medicine practice. Phlebotomy a must. Contact Linda 908-644-7800 email linda@niamnurses.com

PART TIME After school program of Maplewood/South Orange seeks adult leaders for twice (once) during the school year. Various starting times available: 2:30, 2:45 or 3:00 to 6:00pm daily, following school district calendar. Qualified applicants must be reliable, have EXPERIENCE leading groups of children and have own transportation. Hourly salary based upon experience. Call 973-762-0163 or send resume to: After School Program, 124 Dumlair Road, Maplewood, NJ 07040 or fax-cover letter and resume to 973-762-1669

PORTER Seeking full time employee willing to work weekends as part of a full time week. Full company benefits, vacation and sick time. Must be reliable, willing to work long hours, removal, light maintenance. Please send resume to: Porter, P.O. Box 69, Union, NJ 07093, or fax 908-681-5252

POSTAL JOBS \$48,333.00/year. Now Hiring! No experience paid training benefit details. Call 7 days 800-429-3660 ext. J-3282

HELP WANTED

POSTAL JOBS \$48,333.00/year. Now Hiring! No experience, paid training, great benefits. Call for info: 7 days 800-429-3660 ext. J200. National Recruitment

POSTAL JOBS. Up to \$18,350/year. Hiring for 2001. Paid training. Full benefits. No experience required. Call toll free 7am-7pm 1-888-726-9083 X1700

PRODUCTION BELLEVILLE Food Manufacturer (working for Assistant Manager) Packer/Unpacker \$14,500 and up. Freezing/ Packaging Help. \$31,200 and up. Shipping and Receiving. \$19,750. C.I.P. Clean-Up Help \$16,750 and up. Fax resume to 973-812-9500 or call 973-812-8118. Attention: Special Experience a plus. Best opportunity available.

RECEPTIONIST/ Full time for general office duties, multi-line phones, light computer experience a plus. Friendly office, great benefits. Call 908-688-9959

RECEPTIONIST Bright, personable, self-motivated individual needed to handle busy switchboard and assist in general office duties. Must be computer literate and located in Union. Must have computer (Excel & Word) experience and a pleasant phone manner. Please send resume or copy in person to:

Jason Company
2401 Vauxhall Road
Union, New Jersey 07093
PHONE: 908-688-1111
FAX: 908-954-8200

RECEPTIONIST for Union Health food store must have nutritional background, good with people. Call Gene between 10am - 6pm 908-851-9610

RETAIL SALES mens clothing. Part time, 20-24 hours/week. Men's Sales, sport clothing, etc. For information call Glenn 973-762-4080

RETAIL **MERCHANDISER** "Part-Time" LHE Inc., a National Book Distributor, seeks reliable worker to independently merchandise family and children's books at local retail stores in the Union area. Flexible schedule, no experience necessary. Ideal for homeworker/retiree. For immediate consideration call 800-895-8511, Ext. 308, or fax resume/cover letter to: 732-323-0724. Excellent benefits.

SEAMSTRESS WANTED, full or part time, must have experience in sewing with sports wear and evening gown. Call 973-228-6800

SECRETARY NEEDED immediately for CPA firm in Springfield. Excellent telephone manner, attention to detail and ability to handle multiple projects. Word processing and computer data entry skills required. Please forward resume with salary requirements to: GBCD, LLP, 623 Morris Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081 or fax to 973-379-2599

SECRETARY needed for a prestigious Union law office full or part time. Excellent working conditions. Salary negotiable, hours flexible. Fax resume, references and salary requirements in confidence to: CB-BA, Linda Mandel & Kupler, LLP, Fax 908-354-7531, Att. Office Manager

SOUTH ORANGE couple seeks experienced caregiver to care for and transport two children to school weekdays. Hours 8:45am-5:00pm, during summer, and school breaks; Split days 8:45am-6:00am and 3:00pm-5:00pm during school year. Must have references and own transportation. Call 973-379-8998

HELP WANTED

SUMMER JOB Mornings 8:00am-12 noon, Monday thru Friday. Clean work. Good pay. Some lifting required. Located near Home Depot in Vauxhall. Call Charles for interview at 908-687-9020.

TEACHERS MONTESSORI Pre School-Certification preferred. Full day, part time available. Start September. Call 973-379-3524. Fax resume 973-379-4014

TEACHERS PART time. Morning. Menial. Packer/Unpacker in Maplewood is interviewing for part time teaching positions for the September 2001 school year. Early childhood degree or CDA credential required. Please contact Barbara Weymouth, Director 973-763-7676

TELEMARKETING PART time. No selling. Hourly plus bonuses. Day or evening hours. Call Mary or Greg between 9am-7pm 908-851-9610

WEEKLY PAY CHECKS! Working from home. Processing newsletters! \$2 per newsletter! No experience needed! Males/females! Super! Call now 1-888-584-1952

WHEN REPLYING TO A UNION COUNTY CLASSIFIED BOX NUMBER

Please address envelope to:
BOX NUMBER - - - -
Worrall Newspapers
P.O. Box 158
Maplewood, NJ 07040

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

BAWBY/SITTER FLEXIBLE evenings and weekends. Excellent references, reliable, own transportation. Call Diane at 908-228-4079, 908-851-9610

EXPERIENCE NANNY seeks employment to take care of children, to do housework, live in or out. Have good references. 973-675-7801

HOUSECLEANER AVAILABLE, homes or offices, 10 years experience. Free estimates, own transportation. Call Lucy 908-553-9217

HOUSE CLEANING Perfect job, perfect references, good experience. Own transportation. Call 973-638-3143

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

IN HOME CARE FOR THE ILL AND ELDERLY Certified Home Health Aides. Evening/night/weekend available. * Live in and Hourly Scheduling Available
973-763-6134
Medical Accepted
Office Hours 9-5

LADY SEeks position to clean your home. Excellent references. Reliable and thorough. Evening/night/weekend available. Please call or fax 973-751-5536

NEW JERSEY Certified K-8 teacher willing to tutor in your home or office. Please call Maurine at 908-241-6119

PORTUGUESE House Cleaner available. Wednesday and Saturday with references. Please call after 7:00pm. 908-686-0530

SUPER NANNY seeks full time child care in home to toddlers. Driver's license. Live out references. 973-375-0362 or 973-375-1459

YOUR AD could appear here as well as \$16.00 per week. Call for more details. Our handily classified department would be happy to help you. Call Call 763-8411

COMPOSITION DEPT PART TIME

We are a group of weekly newspapers with an office in Maplewood looking for a person to assemble (paste up) newspaper pages.....

Approximately 21 hours on Tuesday and Wednesday.
Experience helpful, but not required. Entry level position. Call for an appointment.

(973) 763-0700
or send your resume to
Production Director
Worrall Community Newspapers
P.O. Box 158
Maplewood, N.J. 07040

ADVERTISING SALES

Worrall Community Newspapers is looking for experienced and aggressive salespeople for outside and inside sales. Earning potential commensurate with experience.
Call for appointment (908) 686-7700

Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. announcing

24 HOUR CLASSIFIED AD LINE CALL 908-686-9898 ENTER SELECTION # 8100

Place your advertisement and your Visa or Mastercard ready that answer the questions you are asked in a clear voice.

A free press is the strength behind democracy.

At Worrall Community Newspapers, reporters learn what it takes to become good reporters. Why? Because reporting for one or more of our weekly newspapers means becoming involved in the communities we serve. From news stories to features, from council coverage to police blotters, from community events to the Board of Education, reporters are the eyes and ears of all of our readers.
Worrall Newspapers, which publishes 18 newspapers serving 26 towns, has openings for reporters in its Essex and Union County regions. If you think you have what it takes to be a reporter, send resume and clips to Tom Canavan, P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J. 07083, or fax to (908) 686-4169.
Be part of a company whose mission is to preserve democracy.
Worrall Newspapers is an equal opportunity employer.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Brockway awarded

Burgdorff ERA President Judy Reeves recently presented Laura Brockway, a sales associate in the Burgdorff Westfield office, with the company's Rising Star Award. The award is based on her outstanding sales production of more than \$3.3 million during her first year in real estate.

"In her first year, Laura has clearly established herself as one of the real estate industry's best and highest sales professionals," said Reeves. "Laura's caring and generous nature has served her well in not only meeting but exceeding the expectations of her clients, and for this reason I am proud to honor her with the prestigious Burgdorff Rising Star Award."

A longtime New Jersey resident, Brockway uses her intimate knowledge of the Westfield area when assisting her clients. Through a diverse professional background including work in the dental, legal and education fields and a dedication to civic activity through the Welcome Wagon Club, her local PTA, and the Westfield YMCA, she offers tremendous insight into life in the Westfield area. Laura also gained an understanding for the logistical complexities of cross-country relocation through her family's recent relocation after two years in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The Burgdorff ERA Westfield office is a full-service real estate office offering the area's most comprehensive marketing programs through the innovative Burgdorff Signature Service program. The office is located at 600 North Avenue West in Westfield. For real estate assistance call Laura Brockway at (908) 518-5288, or to inquire about a career in real estate, call the Westfield office at (908) 233-0065.



Laura Brockway



Carolann Clynes

committees throughout her career, most recently on the Professional Standards Committee.

Wagner attended Berkeley College and is a graduate of Westfield High School. She literally grew up in real estate, learning about the business from her mother, Dora Kuszma, a popular area Realtor for many years. As a lifetime resident of Union County, Wagner is well informed about local school districts, transportation to Manhattan, neighborhoods, shopping, dining and recreation. She lives in Cranford, where she initiated the town's original recycling program.

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tresca, co-owner of RE/MAX of New Jersey.

"I thank my clients for allowing me to do a job that I love — helping them find their dream homes. I love them, my success and I look forward to serving them again in the future," said DeBiase.

To contact DeBiase, call RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Summit at 908-522-9444.

Three are honored

Harvey Tekel, branch manager, announced that three sales associates at the Westfield office of Weichert Realtors have been honored in May for their accomplishments.

Lola Reed led the office in sales and doll-up volume throughout May. Reed is a member of the 2000 New Jersey Million Dollar Club at the silver level. Furthermore, she earned a place in Weichert's 2000 Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs and Weichert's 2000 Ambassador's Club. Lou Faruolo led the office in listings during May. Faruolo is a member of the 2000 New Jersey Million Dollar Club at the silver level. In addition, he earned a place in Weichert's 2000 Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs.

Soyva Rivera-Hoey led the office in revenue units throughout May. To reach these award winning sales associates, call Weichert's Westfield office, 908-654-7777, located at 185 Elm St.

Snyder to contribute

Merryl Snyder, an associate with RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Summit, has joined the national RE/MAX Children's Miracle Home Program. Under this program, Snyder will donate a specified amount of money to the Children's Miracle Network per sales transaction.

Gendel will display the colorful "Miracle Home" riders on top of her RE/MAX yard signs and the home seller and buyer can feel good knowing that their transaction has made a positive change in the lives of children in New Jersey.

"Participating in the Miracle Home Program is just one way to give back to the community that has given so much to me," said Gendel. "By donating from each transaction, I am consistently helping children, and there is no greater feeling that knowing I helped save a life."

Gendel can be reached by calling RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Summit at 908-522-9444. To search the office listings and view a Grand Tour, visit the RE/MAX of New Jersey web site at www.remax-nj.com.

Gendel joins network

Ellen Gendel, an associate with RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Summit, has joined the national RE/MAX Children's Miracle Network Miracle Home Program. Under this program, Gendel will donate a specified amount of money to the Children's Miracle Network per sales transaction.

Gendel will display the colorful "Miracle Home" riders on top of her RE/MAX yard signs and the home seller and buyer can feel good knowing that their transaction has made a positive change in the lives of children in New Jersey.

"Participating in the Miracle Home Program is just one way to give back to the community that has given so much to me," said Gendel. "By donating from each transaction, I am consistently helping children, and there is no greater feeling that knowing I helped save a life."

Gendel can be reached by calling RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Summit at 908-522-9444. To search the office listings and view a Grand Tour, visit the RE/MAX of New Jersey web site at www.remax-nj.com.

DeBiase among top

Judi DeBiase, a sales associate with RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Summit, has placed among the top selling individual producers in RE/MAX of New Jersey. Ranking among the Top 3 for highest dollar volume for the year to date, DeBiase's sales performance places her at the top of more than 1,600 New Jersey RE/MAX professionals.

"Judi DeBiase is a very dedicated individual. She has greatly contributed to the community and we are very proud to have her as a member of the RE/MAX family," said Joe Vec-

Clynes awarded

Carolann Clynes, the top-producing sales associate for total dollar volume closed in 2000 with the Burgdorff ERA Summit office, was recently awarded inclusion into the Burgdorff ERA President's Council. Recognizing only the top 17 sales associates out of Burgdorff's more than 700-member sales force, membership in the Burgdorff ERA President's Council is the company's highest and most distinguished honor. Clynes ranked 10th in total sales volume companywide.

Announced during the recent Burgdorff ERA annual awards luncheon, the recognition by Burgdorff ERA President Judy Reeves for outstanding sales production for the year 2000 included additional honors. With more than \$13 million in total sales, Clynes was named first in dollar volume for sales production, listing production and total volume production for the Summit office.

"Carolann's dedication to the highest principles of professionalism and integrity have earned her the respect and admiration of real estate professionals across the country," said Reeves. A strong negotiator with 30 years of experience, and well known locally for her ethics and ease of style, Clynes "continues to serve the needs of her clients with uncompromising loyalty and responsibility."

Among her many professional accomplishments, Clynes has qualified for the NJAR Million Dollar Sales Club consistently during the last 20 years and is among a select group of sales associates named to its NJAR Distinguished Sales Club. A real estate broker since 1978, she also holds the Certified Real Estate Brokerage Manager designation and has been a National Residential Appraisers Institute appraiser since 1987.

Wagner joins ERA

Burgdorff ERA recently announced that Lynn Wagner has joined the company as a broker-associate at the company's Westfield office, located at 600 North Avenue West. Well known in the area for being a premier Realtor, Wagner specializes in residential and commercial transactions. She is the former owner-operator of Kuszma Realty, a real estate firm she directed for over five years. While there, she managed a staff of 15 and increased the company's business, profits and visibility. She has vast experience in the industry and enjoys a reputation for proactive service.

With a longstanding record of success, Wagner is eager to take on the challenge of being a broker-associate with Burgdorff ERA. Since receiving her real estate license 25 years ago, she has won many top sales and production awards. She was named to the New Jersey Association of Realtors' Million Dollar Sales Club on numerous occasions for outstanding production. Wagner has a broker's license and is a longstanding member of the Greater Eastern Union Board of Realtors, where she has served on various

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

\$190 PER HOUR: Homecare needed! Large advertising firm pays \$4 for every voice-mail retrieval. Make \$400-\$500 everyday in your spare time. Limited space. 1-800-213-0940 Ext. 400 (24hrs).

ALL CASH Candy route. Do you earn up to \$800 per year? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and candy. All for \$9,995. Call 1-800-998-7690.

AMAZING MAIL ORDER Money Machine turns your mailbox into an ATM! FREE reports tell all. Call 800-733-3295 ext. 1428 (24 Hours) U2

CHEM-DRY Carpet cleaning franchise. Great opportunity in Union County. Fully operational 1 person homebased business with many repeat residential and commercial customers. Can be operated full or part time. Includes van, equipment, starting supplies and customers. Owner and franchisor will assist with training. Resale price, \$25,000. \$57379-7922.

COMPUTER ACCOUNTS Work from home online. 800-921-8521. \$500-\$5700 part time/full time. www.getwebbiz.com

T & M ROUTE Free Business offer! Includes Minimum Investment \$2500. 877-562-ANVIL

TRUCK BUYERS needed! Detailed training/support program gives secrets/strategies to buy great deals and sell at huge profits! No risk! Money back guarantee! Toll free 877-968-4253 6M72.

RENTAL

"All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

APARTMENT TO RENT

ELIZABETH/UNION CHARMING
1 Bedroom available in quiet location, fully upgraded units, hardwood floors, lots of closet space, ample parking, sandy on site, walk to public transportation, no pets. Starting at \$625.
569 Westminster Avenue
908-355-3913

MAPLEWOOD, 3 ROOM upstairs apartment with eat-in-kitchen \$365 month, 1-4 months security. Heat hot water included. Available July 10th. Contact Sonia or Peter, 973-763-3036.

NEWARK-WEEQUAHIC AREA STUDIO 1 AND 2 BEDROOMS
Very spacious, nice quiet building and neighborhood. Near transportation. Superior service program.

ON SITE SECURITY SECURE UNDERGROUND PARKING
Call Ms. D. for appointment
973-705-8488

APARTMENT TO SHARE

SUMMIT, ROOMATE Wanted! Professional female. Age 20-30. Share apartment with 2 females. Great location near transportation. In center of town. \$600/month. 908-918-9154.

OFFICE TO LET

SPRINGFIELD INDIVIDUALLY furnished offices with business support services. Call Terry 973-921-3000.

VACATION RENTALS

POINT PLEASANT, lovely 3 bedroom just on market. AC. 1 1/2 blocks from beach. \$2100 a month. 2000 sq. ft. of July 21st, and July 28th. 732-971-5990 or 908-303-2917.

TIME SHARE Units and Campground Memberships. Distress sales - cheap! Worldwide sales. Call Vacation Network U.S. and Canada 1-800-555-9170. Free info! 973-921-3000. 954-553-5586. www.vradierino.com

NEW JERSEY MORTGAGE RATES

FOR UPDATED RATES CALL **INFOSOURCE 908-686-9898** AND DIAL THE LENDER CODE

LOOK FOR THESE LENDERS ON THE INTERNET @ WWW.CM-MORTGAGEINFO.COM

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 Yr Fixed	7.50	0.00	7.52	30 Yr Fixed	7.13	0.00	7.25
15 Yr Fixed	6.88	0.00	6.91	15 Yr Fixed	6.75	0.00	6.88
1 Yr ARM	6.13	0.00	5.92	30 Yr Jumbo	7.38	0.00	7.50

Call for jumbo mortgage rates

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 Yr Fixed	7.25	0.00	7.25	30 Yr Fixed	6.88	0.00	6.96
15 Yr Fixed	6.88	0.00	6.88	15 Yr Fixed	6.50	0.00	6.62
30 Yr Jumbo	7.63	0.00	7.63	1 Yr ARM	4.00	2.00	5.83

Call us! We'll do the math, shopping for you!

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 Yr Fixed	6.50	3.00	6.80	30 Yr Fixed	6.88	0.00	6.96
15 Yr Fixed	6.75	0.00	6.76	15 Yr Fixed	6.50	0.00	6.62
5/1 Yr ARM	6.63	0.00	6.55	1 Yr ARM	4.00	2.00	5.83

Zero point loan specialist. FHA 228 program. 15 yr to 30 yr.

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 Yr Fixed	7.50	0.00	7.57	30 Yr Fixed	7.25	0.00	7.31
15 Yr Fixed	6.63	0.00	6.71	15 Yr Fixed	6.75	0.00	6.84
1 Yr ARM	6.00	0.00	6.28	10/1-30 Yr	7.00	0.00	6.89

Other products available. Rates subject to change. \$5,000 min.

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
30 Yr Fixed	7.25	0.00	7.34	30 Yr Fixed	7.38	0.00	7.57
15 Yr Fixed	6.88	0.00	6.88	15 Yr Fixed	7.00	0.00	7.00
5/1 Yr ARM	6.75	0.00	6.47	5/1-30 Yr	7.25	0.00	8.39

Loans to \$1 million - percentage down varies according to program. Free floor down options. Limited Program Available.

Rates compiled on June 28, 2001

Contact lenders concerning additional fees which may apply. C.M.I. and The Wall Street Journal are not liable for typographical errors or omissions. To display information, lenders only should contact C.M.I. @ 800-426-4565. Rates are supplied by the lenders, are presented without guarantee, and are subject to change. Copyright 2001. Cooperative Mortgage Information - All Rights Reserved.

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
LINDEN: OFFICE with two 2 bedroom apartments on second floor. Near all transportation. Call for further information 201-959-0028

LAND FOR SALE
UPSTATE LAND SALE 16 acres was \$21,900 SALE! \$14,900 w/boas, 1625sq, spectacular views! local country getaway! E2 to get lot! Terms available! Won't last! 888-925-8277 SNT www.ustalvestland.com

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
80 DOWN HOMES! N'orwalk! Ck! HUD, VA, FHA. Call for listings 1-800-884-9777 ext.19854.

FORCLOSURE GOVT HOMES \$0 or low down! Tax breaks and bankruptcy! HUD, VA, FHA. No credit OK! For listings, 800-801-1777, ext. 199. Fee

MAPLEWOOD, HOME/Office, 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, near train 7 room office, central A/C, finished basement, separate heating 973-782-3712, 973-704-4650.

MENHAWK Drakewick Diamond brics front colonial 5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, huge eat-in-kitchen, 3 car garage. Great neighborhood for kids. Brokers protected. \$799,000. 854-34-0240.

MOUNTAINEERS - Center Hill Colonia, 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 2 car garage. Excellent school district. Termal Call today! 716-720-2020 or 908-232-7162.

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ABANDONED FARM 41 Acres \$23,900. Prime rolling acreage with woods, views, nice setting! Town Road, survey, Termal Call today! 888-925-9277 SNT www.upstateinvest.com

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The Simple Truth About Selling Houses

More Buyers=Faster Sale=Better Price & Terms

FOR SALE
How does Burgdorff ERA do this? With our Proactive Marketing Plan and by placing your listing on the Multiple Listing Service where all member Realtors have the opportunity to sell your home.

WONDERFULLY UPDATED
Terrific 3 Bedroom home in CRANFORD with open front porch, bright, open Living & Dining Rooms. Newer Eat-in Kitchen with oak cabinets. Fenced yard. Near schools & recreation. \$339,900.

PRISTINE HOME
Beautiful MOUNTAINEERS Contemporary offering 5 BRs, 3.5 baths, Formal DR, EIK, CAC, 2-car attach. garage. Lovely serene property with many updates incl. roof, siding, Anderson windows. Skylights & more. \$559,900.

LOCATION! LOCATION!
Well cared for 3 Bedroom, 2 bath home in FANWOOD featuring large Family Room, deck off Eat-In Kitchen, 2-car garage, CAC, hardwood floors, near schools and much, much more. \$297,000.

LOVELY COLONIAL
Well maintained 4 Bedroom, 2.5 bath MOUNTAINEERS home situated on a lovely lot. Living Room with fireplace, updated Eat-In Kitchen, Rec. Rm with fireplace, deck, screened porch, spacious yard and CAC. \$459,000.

SPACIOUS SPLIT
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AUTOMOTIVE

Chev's missing link is rolling toward showroom

By Mark Maynard
Copy News Service

Of the 100 million households in the United States, about 30 million of them have a pickup or SUV in the garage. Chevrolet thinks its 2002 Avalanche could take the place of two vehicles.

It could — and that's a good argument for the head of household who wants a new truck — but at about \$35,000 each, it expects most two-car families would keep a car and dump their older truck for the Avalanche.

Not that the United States needs another big sport-utility on the road, but Avalanche is like nothing else already on the market.

Chevrolet calls its 2002 Avalanche the missing link between the Silverado pickup and the Suburban. It will be a six-passenger transport with a 6½-foot bed that can be flip-folded into a three-passenger pickup with 8- to 10-foot bed.

The Avalanche has a secure cargo area, 8,700-pound trailering capacity and generous seat space for four or five people.

Built from the Suburban, it has a 6½-foot bed instead of a third-row bench seat. And unlike a four-door pickup, the bed is deeper and extendable into the cabin and at the tailgate.

The Avalanche engineers were clever in using the space. Peering back the roof allowed lockable storage bins — top boxes — to be designed into the bed walls. The watertight and lockable boxes are about the size of a large briefcase and are useful storage places for just about anything, including ice and drinks, which the engineers say passed the desert test.

Lights built into the boxes also light the bed.

The greatest asset to Avalanche is in its midgate. Designed as the convertible rear wall of the cabin, the midgate can be used three ways:

- Pop out the window for air flow; the midgate is easily locked into the lower half of the gate.
- Leave in the window but fold the lower half of the gate to open 8 feet of pickup bed.
- Lower the entire midgate to carry an ATV, dirt bike or other piece of bulky, awkward cargo.

Drop the 23-inch-deep tailgate — with built-in cup holders — and you've got almost 10 feet of bed. And an optional bed-extender guard will be offered to convert cargo.

The various conversions can be done by one person, but it is faster with two.

Chevrolet says there are 25,000 reconfigurations possible, including two-door loading to the bed, eight tie-downs and the optional roof rack.

Cutting away the roof line required structural reinforcements, some of which were cleverly disguised in the triangular sail panel that bolsters the rear window. The Suburban floor pan also was reinforced to carry as much as 1,300 pounds.

The bed is protected by a soft tonneau cover, but the optional three-piece hard cover is more versatile. It is watertight, theft-resistant by the locking tailgate, can be removed one piece at a time depending on the load to be carried, and it will support 250 pounds, either cargo or a person standing on it to reach the roof rack.

Climbing onto the bed is simplified

by a step built into the bumper and a hand grab in the corner of the top rail. Stepping into the cab also seems low — but that's only 1 mpg less than a stock Suburban.

Prices start at \$30,965 for a 2WD Avalanche and can go up to \$35,000 with all the factory options. The 4WD model ranges from \$33,965 to \$38,000.

Built at the Silao Assembly plant in Mexico, Avalanche went on sale in very limited numbers in mid-May, with the first trucks being shipped to California, Texas and Florida, the biggest truck markets in the United States.

Chevy expects to sell 100,000 vehicles in 2001, but expects demand to be higher. If all goes well for the launch — no recalls, no strikes — availability should be better nationwide by July and August.

Uplevel Avalanches

In addition to the standard models, there will be a 2500 Series Avalanche, and a North Face Edition, which probably won't be available until late summer.

I had concerns that even a 285-hp V-8 wouldn't be quite stout enough to haul this truck's weight.

It was, but for those who have heavier loads to pull there will be a heavy-duty 2500 Series model built on a three-quarter ton chassis with 8.1-liter V-8 rated at 340 hp and 455 foot-pounds of torque.

Available in two- or four-wheel drive, the 2500 will pull a 12,000-pound trailer and comes with a 37½-gallon fuel tank, 6½ more than the half-ton Avalanche. Prices start at \$32,865 for 2WD and \$35,864 for 4WD.

The North Face Edition is a marketing relationship with the well-known camping and mountaineering firm. This truck will be offered in four paint colors: Sunset Orange, Black, Pewter, White and a special Sage Green Metallic only available on this Avalanche.

The interior will be accented with cedar grain and black leather seats, special door trim panels, heavy-duty floor mats, white-face gauges, two North Face day packs that clip to the seat backs and two North Face "duffles," or rubberized, watertight duffel bags.

Special hardware includes an off-road suspension with specially tuned Bilstein shock absorbers, 17-inch blackwall tires, locking rear differential, skid plates and a high capacity air filter.

Available in 4WD only, prices start at \$37,465.

Avalanche add-ons

Even though a fully loaded Chevy has designed a line of dealer-installed options.

With the launch of Avalanche, accessories are being moved out of the parts department and into the showroom so shoppers can customize their truck at the time of the sale.

Consumers spend \$23 billion a year on aftermarket add-ons for their vehicles and General Motors wants a bigger piece of that action.

"We are now developing accessories with the development of a vehicle," said Jim Komas, marketing chief for GM's Service Parts Organization. "GM is serious about building this business."

It will be more convenient for owners, Komas said, and the dealer-installed items got the full company warranty.

Some of the extras for Avalanche are a grille guard, soft or hard luggage carriers, custom-fitted truck cover, hot/cold beverage console, step rails and running boards, bike-ski-canoe carriers and a second-row seat liner to prevent cargo from damaging the seat back when the midgate is lowered.

Montero Sport is an off-road star

By Laura Byrd
Copy News Service

Someone should send a note to Mitsubishi that reads: "Build it and they will come. Build many, and they will be confused."

Because confused is exactly what shoppers will be if they decide to look at a Montero Sport. Previously available in four trims — ES, LS, XLS and Limited — 2001 has added "SX" to what already was a diverse selection.

The differences? Nothing a salesman can explain without entering a state of Zen. So we'll try to save buyers some head scratching.

There are five trims of the Montero Sport. Each one is available in either a 2WD drive or 4WD version. That means 10 choices total. The least expensive has a suggested retail price of \$22,747.

The priciest option is the one tested for this drive: the Montero Sport Limited 4WD four-door, which retails for \$32,777. It is one of only two versions that comes with the larger 3.5-liter V-6.

And trust me on this: You'll want the four-wheel-drive because "this vehicle's off-highway ability is its best thing about it."

The Limited looks appealing. With a tall stance, high step up and narrow body, its design is as snooty as one of its competitors — the Toyota 4Runner — but still manages to be an inch narrower and an inch shorter.

Ground clearance is nine inches — the 4Runner's is 11 — and the wheelbase is two inches longer. It should add up to greater stability and an easier step-in.

The Limited's sporty and distinctive design rivals the exterior appeal of the competition. Exterior door handles, mirrors, side steps and fender flares are color-keyed and sophisticated.

But where raising the bar ends, duplicating begins. The well-laid-out and nicely appointed interior — wood grain accents and sensible dash controls — are conspicuously Toyota.

In fact, both automakers seemingly must share the same supplier for leather-wrapped steering wheels, cruise control, turn signal arms, dash buttons and fuel-door release levers. It's an interesting coincidence that's easily overlooked when it all works and looks so good.

With the exception of an unwieldy seat ratchet that takes careful examination to understand and practice to operate, the Montero's interior controls are user-friendly and intuitive.

The leather seat is extremely comfortable, although the "legs-out" position of the low seat is disconcerting at first.

The steering wheel sits higher than most, even when tilted all the way down, but it does allow for easy viewing of the instrument panel by a shorter driver, who can still see out over the hood comfortably.

The rear cargo area is easy to reach and accommodates groceries, gym bags and in-line skates just fine.

Getting in and out isn't a problem unless you're a full-size person getting into the back seat. The low roof means that anyone over 5 feet tall who jumps up too high on the side step might easily and painfully bang his or her head on the door opening as I did.

This SUV, newly equipped with LATCH system anchors and tethers designed to hold child safety seats more securely than seat belts, can easily shunt the Limited around.

I drove the Limited for the first time on a rainy night, and it was easy to buckle in, adjust the mirrors, dial in the radio and adjust the heat controls without taking my eyes off the road. This truck made a good first impression and inspired confidence.

Unfortunately, its highway performance does not, and at 68 mph, the Montero gave me a handling heads-up.

The steering felt sloppy and loose as I approached a turn that had no posted speed limit. I decelerated to about 50 mph to make the type of turn I've negotiated easily in other SUVs at 70 mph.

The body roll in the Limited was enough to be alarming, more like the road handled it.

That, despite a new and refined suspension: Rear leaf springs were changed to three-link coil for 2001, and a limited slip differential is standard. It's an improvement on comfort and stability, but the stiff springs and shock absorbers still provide a "track-like" ride.

It was enough to convince me the Limited needed a proper place to show its stuff. The "stuff" being unequal-length double A-arms and

extra-long torsion bars, providing independent suspension that invites off-road driving.

With that in mind, I headed straight for the mountains. And driving straight is a perfectly pleasant experience in the Limited. It cruises along quietly enough, with only a small amount of engine noise, despite the high (2800) rpm at 65 mph.

It comes equipped with adaptive shift control, which factors in accelerator position, vehicle speed, brake application and road conditions to select the proper gear.

The 7-position transmission supposedly eliminates the need for overdrive, but clearly the gearing was not working efficiently at highway speed, and the high rpms took their toll on gas mileage.

Even though the Montero claims to get 16 mpg in the city and 20 on the freeway, I averaged 15.3 mpg on three tanks of gas.

Regardless of the performance reality check, it's hard to dislike driving this truck. Especially when in fresh snow in the mountains. This is where the Limited finds itself. The low-gear transmission — equipped with a winter mode for second-gear starts — comes into its own.

The 4-wheel-drive system can be shifted into 4-high while the vehicle is going less than 30 mph. The two-speed transfer case requires a full stop for shifting into 4-low.

With proper tires, I couldn't shake the Montero loose on snow or ice.

I easily negotiated 14 inches of fresh powder, solid ice and later in the day, packed snow and wet ice. The low-speed torque and responsiveness of the 3.5-liter SOHC V-6 engine was a good match for the slush and ice.

Even when stomping the 3-channel multimode anti-lock brakes, I couldn't easily put the Limited into a skid, even on ice. Steering through fresh snow, the power-assisted recirculating ball system responded by going exactly where I asked it to go contrary to my freeway experience.

Freeway handling aside, the Limited wins big points for styling, ergonomics and off-road ability.

Laura Byrd is a free-lance automotive writer and photographer based in San Diego.

Liccardi Ford plays good neighbor

Liccardi Ford in Watchung hosted a child ID program called "Commitment to Kids" on the afternoon of June 16.

At this time, a New Jersey State police officer was on hand to fingerprint and photograph children and present parents with a book containing this information. Liccardi Ford, a family-owned and -operated dealership in the area for more than 60 years, is proud to be a host of this very important program.

"Community involvement, especially when it concerns our children, is the most important contribution one can give as a local business owner," said Jeff Liccardi, executive officer of Liccardi Ford. "This program is especially relevant to me, being a father of three small children."

Parents also received a kit that day which advised them to keep updated records of their child's physical description along with updated photographs every six months.

Ford Motor Co. instituted this program in May in conjunction with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a center created by Congress in 1984 which works with the FBI, the Justice Department and Law Enforcement agencies. This program will be supported by public service announcements made by actress Jamie Lee Curtis urging parents to take advantage of the program available through Ford dealers nationwide.

For more information, contact Jeff Liccardi at Liccardi Ford in Watchung at (908) 561-5900, ext. 233.

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