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SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 73, NO. 44

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2002

TWO SECTIONS

## GL grads take flight

By Brian Pedersen  
Managing Editor

Not even the grey skies, drops of rain and somber reminders of Sept. 11 could dampen the spirits of Governor Livingston High School's graduating Class of 2002.

Although the forecast didn't look too bright at 7 p.m. on June 26, school officials braved the elements and took a chance by hosting the ceremony outside on the school's track field.

A few drops fell but soon stopped as if overpowered by the prevailing spirit of the occasion.

"I ask that we take a moment to reflect on all that has happened over the last four years and especially this year," said Principal Benjamin Jones in his welcome speech. "There are many challenges that have tested their strength of character," he said, referring to the graduates. "They have become stronger individuals because of it."

His hope for the 175 members of the graduating class was that the values and high standards they learned at Governor Livingston would set the tone for their future endeavors, that they would make good choices based on sound judgement.

Before reading his commencement speech, Class President Yiwey Shieh gave a presentation of the class gift.

"Sept. 11, 2001, whether we like it or not, will always be associated with this school year," said Shieh. "We could see the thick black smoke, smothering Manhattan, choking our anxious hearts as we wondered if our loved ones were alright."

Shieh said even though most students at Governor Livingston were not directly affected by the attacks, all

of the students were linked to those at war. He then presented the class gift, which was a memorial to those who lost their lives on that day. Two weeping cherry trees were planted in front of the school to symbolize the Twin Towers and to remember the victims and express the grief still felt over the attacks.

Shieh commended the Class of 2002 for their Sept. 11 efforts in volunteering for blood donations, conducting vigils, selling red, white and blue ribbons for the victims and handling the anxiety with maturity and courage.

Focusing on the theme of change, Shieh based his speech on the foundation that change is a necessary thing for positive growth and development.

"With a final wave today, we are off," said Shieh. "Though you may not realize it, your future decisions, personality and values can be traced back to your development in high school."

He closed by telling the class that despite many changes, one thing remains the same. "You'll realize that deep inside of you, Highlander blood still runs and will continue to run forever."

Senior Brett McMillin gave the second commencement speech, emphasizing the need to say simply that as the graduating Class of 2002, they are proud of what they have become.

More than academic achievements, McMillin said the building of character development was something they were each able to take away from the teachers they've had.

"We started senior year on a high, we were seniors and ready to have the



Walking to their future are the 175 graduates of Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights. On June 26, the school celebrated its 42nd commencement ceremony.

Photo By Frank DiGiovanni

time of our lives," McMillin said. "And then came day two, Sept. 11, and everything changed."

Just as their parents remembered where they were when John F. Kennedy was shot, McMillin said he and his classmates will always remember where they were the day America was attacked.

He thanked all the teachers who offered help and guidance during trying times. "We are proud of ourselves and ready to show the world who we are...well rounded people whose foundations were built right here at

Governor Livingston High School." Presenting the Class of 2002, Jones emphasized his pride in each of the graduates. "This class has been very competitive, compassionate and extremely academic," said Jones. "I have high hopes for these students. Tonight marks a milestone in their lives."

Taking turns to read the long list of names were Shieh and fellow student Allison Dencker, a National Honor Society member. Awarding the diplomas to the students were Berkeley Heights Board of Education member

Donna Romankow, President Helen Kirsch, Vice President Gayll Fisher and Mountainside Board of Education President Richard Kress. Also representing Mountainside at the ceremony was Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller.

Richard Bozza, superintendent of schools for Berkeley Heights, gave a rousing farewell speech to the graduates, showing how the transformation of graduating high school and entering adulthood is an experience that connects families and strengthens bonds.

## Court rules against Springfield, agrees with Pinnacle

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

Pinnacle Communities sued Springfield, alleging that the township's steep slope ordinance is unconstitutional, after the Planning Board denied its application to build housing on Wilson Road, where the former Baltusrol Swim Club lies vacant. The verdict is in and the court has ruled against Springfield.

"It means that the Planning Board's denial of our application was overturned," said Ed Israelow, general counsel with Pinnacle. "It means that the court found that the denial was arbitrary and capricious, which is the standard of review."

The trial began on Feb. 10 and the township learned of the verdict on June 24.

"We spend hours and hours and hours researching and listening to testimony and everything else and then a judge makes a decision and it all goes down the drain," said Township Committeeman Sy Mullman.

The developer, Pinnacle, filed the lawsuit after the Planning Board in 2000 rejected its site plan, by a 7-2 vote, for a high-rise condominium.

"It seems like no matter what we do, we seem to always lose," said Mullman. "To me we're losing every day. We have pollution. We have traffic that is extensive and it's really getting depressing."

Pinnacle's original proposal was to build 96 luxury condominiums in four buildings throughout the site. This would encompass 75 percent of what is allowed under the existing zoning code.

"I have been talking for over a year about how densely populated this northern New Jersey area is, especially Springfield," said Mullman. "We're twice as densely populated as India and three times as densely populated as China. To no avail we have building around here that never seems to stop. The traffic lines get longer. It's getting more dangerous, even for our children just to cross the street."

The Planning Board had denied Pinnacle's site plan application, as well as the company's request for variance relief in regards to the height, 38.5 feet; the number of stories, going from 2 1/4 stories to three stories, and the steep slope ordinance.

"We on the Planning Board felt that we

*"We certainly think that it will be a beautiful job and a great ratable."* — Ed Israelow

should not grant the variances required, such as living on the third floor, or the height, which exceeds 35 feet," said Township Committeeman Gregory Clarke. "I am very discouraged by this because it indicates to me that the voice of the people doesn't seem to count as much as I think it should count."

"I also see that this particular situation will also increase the odds of other people saying now that they want to develop three stories, when it may not be as necessary as the judge considered it was for Pinnacle," said Clarke.

The application was originally put before the Planning Board as a motion to approve, with various conditions.

"That motion was rejected," said Israelow. "The court reinstated that motion."

Pinnacle is not required to appear before the Planning Board again.

"There are other collateral approvals that are needed," said Israelow, citing miscellaneous

things such as water pipes and sewer drains. "Those are other jurisdictions, the only items that would be left to go back to the Planning Board for final approval."

No time frame is set for when construction will begin.

"We certainly think that it will be a beautiful job and a great ratable for the town," said Israelow. "We're anxious to proceed."

Springfield has 45 days to appeal the court's decision.

"We certainly hope it doesn't happen but there's always a possibility of an appeal," said Israelow.

Springfield Attorney Bruce Bergen said he could not comment on whether Springfield plans to appeal the court's decision because "it is still a litigation discussion."

"I'm not happy for the town," said Clarke. "I am not happy for the neighbors, who will have to endure what I see as an unnecessary project."

## Local resident drawn to help girl

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

For Whitney, he'll spend sleepless nights in front of his keyboard, writing letters to company CEOs, to magazine publishers, to sports teams, to celebrities. For Whitney, he'll mail those 1,600 letters, he'll host a comedy night in conjunction with the Mountainside Elks, he'll educate rooms filled with people about Whitney's disease, he'll raise more than \$34,000 for her fund.

Whitney Weldon, a 10-year-old Westfield resident, has a rare disease known as Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva.

FOP is a rare genetic disorder in which bone forms in muscles, tendons, ligaments and other connective tissues. Bridges of extra bone form across the joints in characteristic patterns, progressively restricting movement. FOP is a disease in which the body produces not just too much bone, but an extra skeleton that immobilizes the joints of the body.

"This is what they call an orphan disease," said Gary Whyte, a Mountainside resident, briefly resting before typing and sending out another letter. "Because the numbers are so low on the amount of people who are affected, there really is nobody looking for anything."

There are 200 rare diseases in the United States that are characterized as orphan diseases, which means they affect fewer than 200,000 Americans.

Because so few people are affected, not much research money is available and pharmaceutical companies have little incentive to invest in new drugs.

Last year, Whyte received a letter from Hillary Weldon, Whitney's mother, telling him that they are having a tough time educating people on the disease and raising money for the Weldon FOP Research Fund.

Along with a letter came an invitation for Whyte to attend an FOP awareness seminar that was being conducted in Summit. Whyte went.

"When I left there, I knew I had to do something," said Whyte.

For Whitney, he'll host a racecar event at Wall Township Raceway, he'll talk in front of churches, in front of synagogues, in front of the Mountainside Newcomers Club.

Whyte is in the banana business, director of Northeast Operations for the Staten Island-based Ecuadorian Line. When he first moved to Mountainside 13 years ago, he used to bring two cases of bananas to the Children's Specialized Hospital every Thursday.

It was there, while he was on the board of trustees, that he met Hillary Weldon. The two became friends, as did their children. Whyte's son Eric is only a year younger than Whitney.

"We knew each other from there plus we were social friends," Whyte said. "When we first moved into Mountainside, they still lived in Mountainside."

Whyte used the name of the

Weldon FOP Research Fund goes to the University of Pennsylvania, one of the only FOP research facilities in the country, and goes into gene research, hoping to narrow down the gene responsible for the mutation and one day totally wiping out FOP.

People who have FOP experience different rates of new bone formation; in some the progress is rapid, while in others it is more gradual.

It is estimated that FOP affects 2,500 people worldwide, or approximately one in every two million people. At the present time, researchers are aware of fewer than 200 people in the United States who have FOP; 10 people are afflicted in New Jersey.

The extra bone in FOP forms by a progressive transformation of soft tissue into cartilage and bone, the same process by which bones regenerate, or heal, after a fracture, or break, occurs.

For Whitney, he's planning a demolition derby fund-raiser, another comedy night and a CD single profits of which go toward the Weldon FOP Research Fund.

Kassy Ciasulli and Sal Arpino, both Mountainside residents, recorded a CD single, titled 'The Prayer.' It is a remake of a Celine Dion song.

"We had wanted to record something for a while and when we heard about Whitney we decided to do it," said Ciasulli.

Ciasulli used to babysit for Whitney. See WHYTE, Page 2

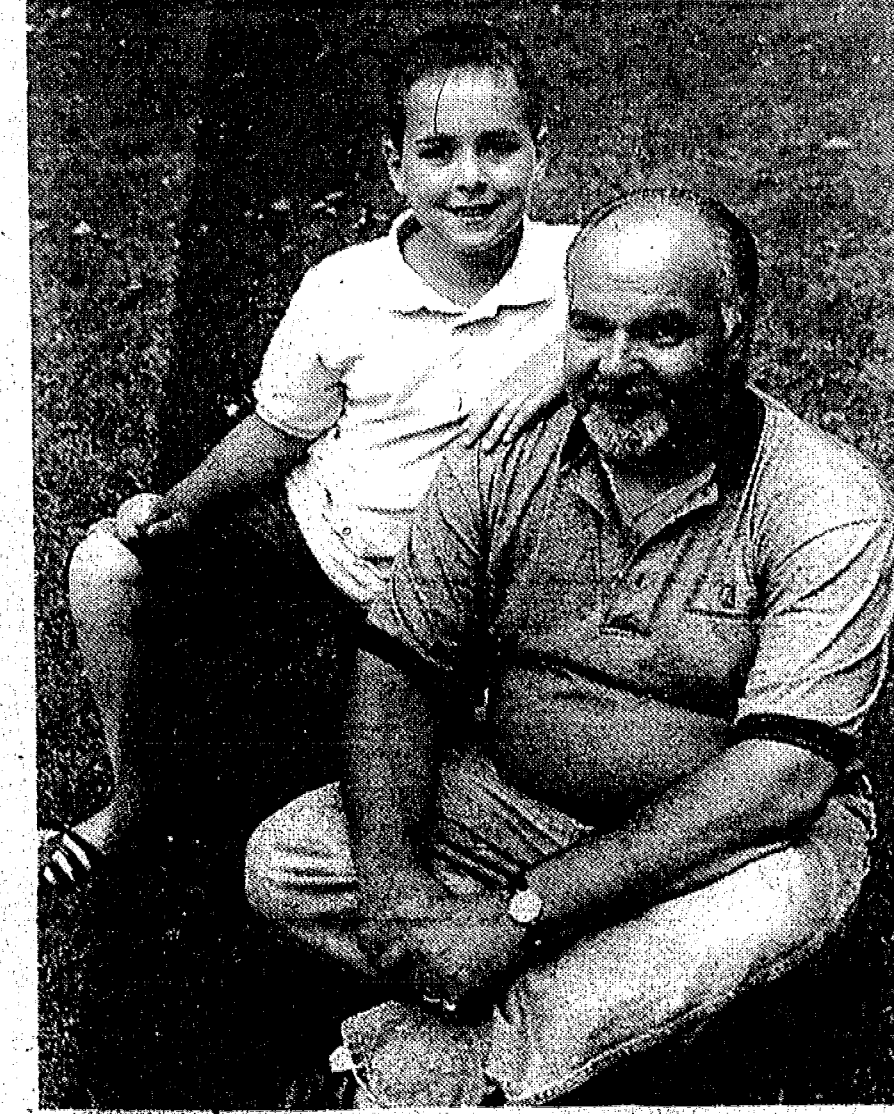


Photo By Joseph Sorrentino

For Whitney Weldon, a Westfield child suffering from a rare bone disease, Mountainside resident Gary Whyte and his son Eric have been doing everything they can in their hopes to raise awareness about the disease through the Weldon FOP Research Fund.

## Fourth July fun for all

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

Springfield and Mountainside are all geared up and ready for their annual Fourth of July celebrations.

Mountainside's fireworks will be conducted on the Deerfield School/Our Lady of Lourdes Field on Central Avenue. Admission is free and families are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets and coolers to enjoy a picnic dinner while watching the fireworks at dusk.

"It's a nice quiet little community thing," said Mayor Robert Vigilanti.

The fireworks, provided by Garden State Fireworks, are sponsored by the Mountainside Fire Department and the Borough Council.

"It's very informal and people have been doing it for years," said Vigilanti. "I know that some of the houses that are around the school there, they've had family barbecues where they have the barbecue in their backyard and then they just walk over and enjoy the fireworks."

Mountainside has conducted the Fourth of July celebration for nearly 30 years.

The borough has a rain date of Saturday scheduled.

Springfield's annual Fourth of July fireworks display is being conducted on the grounds of the Thelma L. Sandmeier School for the first time and the event's officials are saying it's going to be the largest and best show ever.

"It'll be the greatest show we've ever had," said 4th of July Committee Co-Chairman Scott Seidel. "We're going to have the most rides and most games. It's our largest undertaking to date."

The event's new location along South Springfield Avenue will feature some of the same events that patrons have become familiar with in past years, as well as some new surprises. The fireworks, provided by the Garden State Fireworks Company, will start at dusk.

Children can enjoy the trackless train, a sea of balls, a moonwalk, a giant slide, a petting zoo, pony rides, and a dunk tank.

"The trackless train is always popular," said 4th of July Committee Co-Chairman John Cottage. "I think it's our most popular ride but I don't think we've had the giant slide before."

Some new carnival games include a Bob the Builder Game and a Sponge Bob Squarepants game.

"What these are, and we've never had them before, these are like the little booths with the little prizes that kids get," said Cottage.

The gates open at 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 18 years of age.

"The earlier people get there, the longer they'll be able to take advantage of all of the activities for the family," said Cottage.

In past years, people have shown up later in the day, close to when the fireworks are about to start, and they ask where all the events are, the petting zoo, the pony ride.

"People get there at 8:30 and they're looking for all the stuff that we advertise and unfortunately, it's a practical matter, we can't have the animals there when we're setting off the fireworks," said Cottage.

All the games and rides are included with the price of admission, as well as a free hamburger or chicken. See TICKET, Page 2

## Offices closed

The offices of this newspaper will be closed tomorrow in observance of Independence Day. Our offices will reopen Friday, July 5, at 9 a.m. Our newspaper will publish on July 11.

The following are the deadlines for that edition:

- Lifestyle, including church and club news, etc. — Friday, noon.
- Letters to the editor — Monday, noon.
- What's Going On, Monday, noon.
- Display ads — Monday, noon for Section B and 5 p.m. for Section A.
- Sports news — Monday, 9 a.m.
- General news — Tuesday, 9 a.m.
- Classified advertising — Tuesday, 3 p.m.
- Legal advertising — Tuesday, noon.



**Welcome to the ECHO LEADER**

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

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

**To subscribe:**  
The Echo Leader is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$26.00, two-year subscriptions for \$47.00. College and out-of-state subscriptions are available. You may subscribe by phone by calling 908-686-7700 and asking for the circulation manager. Allow at least two weeks for processing your order. You may use MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover Card.

**Missing newspaper:**  
If your Echo Leader did not get delivered, please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation.

**Back issues:**  
To purchase back issues of the Echo Leader please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation. Additional charges may apply.

**News items:**  
News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Pictures must be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news story, call 908-686-7700 and ask for Editorial.

**Story reprints:**  
For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper you must call Tom Canavan at 908-686-7700. All material is copyrighted.

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

**e-mail:**  
The Echo Leader accepts opinion pieces by e-mail. Our address is: Editor@localsource.com. e-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

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

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

**To place a public notice:**  
Public notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers. Public notices must be in our office by Tuesday at noon for publication that week. For more information, call 1-908-686-7700 and ask for the public notice advertising department.

**Facsimile transmission:**  
The Echo Leader is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by Fax. Our Fax lines are open 24 hours a day. For classified please dial 201-763-2557. For all other transmissions please dial 908-686-6169.

**Web site:**  
Visit our Web Site on the Internet called LocalSource online at <http://www.localsource.com>. Find all the latest news, classified, community information, real estate and hometown chat.

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## Ticket allows unlimited access

(Continued from Page 1)  
sandwich and soda, sponsored by Outback Steakhouse.

The adult admission includes a raffle of major prizes, such as a BMW 24-speed bicycle donated by JMK Auto Sales, a La-Z-Boy recliner, a 19-inch television and camcorder courtesy of Sixth Avenue Electronics, a VCR donated by Disco Electronics, and a 32-inch television courtesy of PC Richard & Son.

"The ticket is a great deal," said Cotage. "For a \$5 admission you're getting a lot for July 4. For \$5 you get unlimited use of the rides, unlimited pony rides, food, and a fireworks show. As well as a chance to win in a raffle."

Tickets for a 50/50 raffle, with the proceeds benefiting the Springfield Volunteer First Aid Squad, also will be sold.

The rides and carnival games will be located in the front of Sandmeier School, off South Springfield

Upper Saddle River resident Toni Bilotti Cecere, who was the head cantor for the Pope when he visited America, is performing two 20-minute concerts with her music quartet. Also, the rock band Justice will be back this year, performing classic rock hits.

"This thing should really be incredible," said Township Committee member Sy Mullman.

In case of inclement weather, the fireworks display will be conducted on the next clear night. For event update information, call 973-912-0834.

"If at the last minute we were going to change something, we would change the message at that number and people can call and get that," said Seidel.

From the money collected at the gate, the Take Pride in Springfield Committee will make a donation to the Lee Adler Foundation

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

**Today**  
• The Springfield Planning Board meets in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave., at 8 p.m.

**Thursday**  
• This year's Take Pride in Springfield Fourth of July Celebration kicks off 5 p.m. at the Thelma L. Sandmeier Elementary School grounds, 666 S. Springfield Ave. Fireworks starts at dusk. Highlights of the evening include a petting zoo, 50/50 drawings, carnival games, rides, music and food from Outback Steakhouse.

For updated information, call 973-912-0834. Residents can also call if inclement weather causes changes in the events.

• Mountaintide's July 4th fireworks begin at dusk at Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave.

**Sunday**  
• "Summer Skies" is a planetarium show centering on the summer triangle at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountaintide. Admission is \$3.25 per person, \$2.80 for seniors. The event is for children ages 6 and older.

For information, call 908-789-3670.

**Monday**  
• "Libraries Babies" at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., supports language-building through lapsh games and other activities for babies and younger toddlers up to 18 months old, with a parent or caregiver, 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. No advance registration needed. For information, call 973-376-4930.

• The Mountaintide Board of Education meets in the Media Center of Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave., at 8 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
• The Mountaintide Borough Council conducts a work session in Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East, at 8 p.m.

• The Springfield Township Committee meets in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave., at 8 p.m.

• The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Luncheon Video Series with "The Crossing" starring Jeff Daniels, at noon.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

**Upcoming July 11**  
• "The Mother Goose Group" at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., promotes the enjoyment of language through nursery rhymes, simple stories, songs and activities for toddlers ages 1 1/2 to 3 years old from 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. A parent or caregiver must be present. No advance registration needed. For information, call 973-376-4930.

**Ongoing**  
• The Friends of the Springfield Public Library would like donations of used paperback novels. Also welcome are magazines published within the past year.

## Whyte hopes to shed light on FOP

(Continued from Page 1)  
ney. They'd have tea parties. They'd fight with her brother.

"My mother told me about it and they sent us a video on the disease," said Ciasulli. "I decided to make that CD of 'The Prayer.' Whatever we make off that would go towards the foundation."

The publishing rights to sell the song should be coming in a few weeks. "Once we get them, we're going to sell the CD and give out all the profits to the foundation," said Ciasulli.

At birth, children with FOP appear normal, except for congenital malformations of the big toe.

"If every pediatrician noticed that, it would probably speed the process up and get more people diagnosed," said Whyte.

During the first or second decade of life, children with FOP form painful fibrous nodules over the neck, back

and shoulders, which mature into bone. FOP then progresses along the trunk and limbs of the body. These legions slowly replace the body's muscles with normal appearing bone.

Any attempt to remove the extra bone results in even more robust bone formation.

FOP will progress, or get worse, as a person ages. There is no outgrowing the condition. FOP is part of the person's genetic make-up.

For Whyte, Whyte carries a tote bag with him to the speaking engagements. He calls it, "My Bag Of Hope."

In my letters to clubs, organizations, temples, institutions and churches, I ask them for 30 minutes of their time to tell them about FOP," said Whyte. "All I ask is that they supply the audience, a television, and a VCR, and I'll bring the popcorn."

The body of a person with FOP does not make extra bones all the

time; a person may go months or even years without an additional growth. However, there is always a chance that extra bone can form, either without any warning, or as a result of an injury, such as a bump or fall. There are also times when, in spite of obvious trauma, FOP does not manifest itself. It is unclear why the disease is active some times and inactive at other times.

"I'm hoping that by spreading awareness about FOP, people from across the state will be there for the Weldons," said Whyte.

"After sending out over 1,600 letters, the phone has suddenly stopped ringing," said Whyte. He urges everyone to call his office at 718-442-7525, to schedule him for a speaking engagement or to inquire about sending a donation.

Presently, there is no treatment for FOP.

For Whyte, he'll sit and wait.

## Police warn against fireworks

Mountaintide  
The Mountaintide Police Department warns residents during the July 4th holiday that any use of fireworks is illegal and that the department will be keeping strict watch.

• Jenniele Smith, 22, of Cranford was arrested on June 18 at 2:01 a.m. on Route 22, East, for driving while intoxicated and for leaving the scene of an accident.

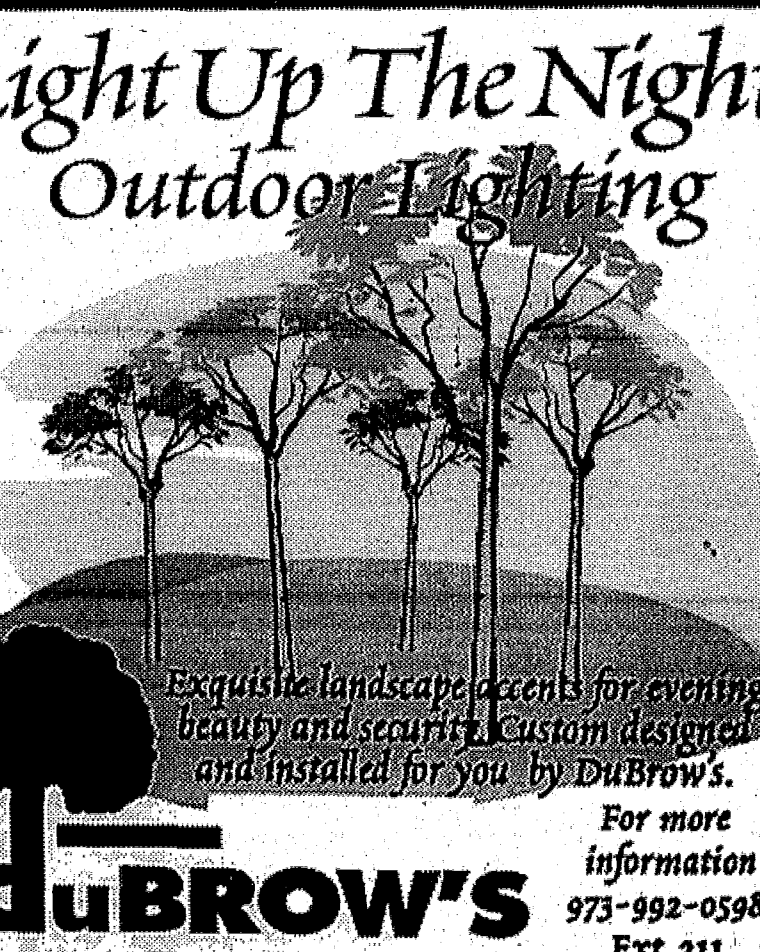
• On June 22 at 11 a.m., a Millburn resident reported that his father's car was broken into at the Loew's Theatre parking lot, Route 22 East.

• On June 22 at 2:26 p.m., a Scotch Plains resident reported that the entire windshield of her vehicle was cracked while she was parked in the Mountaintide Community Pool on Mountain Avenue.

• The snack bar at the Mountaintide Community Pool on Mountain Avenue reported a burglary on June 23 at 8:30 a.m.

Springfield  
On June 17, Jerome Hampton, 37,

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## Hollywood film and TV star can trace roots back to Mountaintide

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

She's acted in scenes with Tom Hanks, her eyes watery, tears streaming down her cheeks. "Are you crying?" Tom Hanks said. "There's no crying. There's no crying in baseball."

Bitly Schram has appeared in several Hollywood movies and television shows but her roots can be traced back to Mountaintide, where she grew up and attended Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield. She didn't perform in high school theater productions there; she played tennis.

"I have never seen anybody do what she did because she did not major in acting as a child," said Linda Schram, Bitly's mother and a Mountaintide resident for 33 years.

Bitly attended the University of Maryland on a full tennis scholarship and graduated with a degree in commercial art.

She did some acting on the side. "When she got out of school, she decided that she loved it and she was going to go full-time on it," said Linda. "She went in and she got a job real quickly."

Within 10 months, Bitly got a part in, "A League of Their Own."

"I thought we had good chemistry," Bitly said, of her famous scene with Hanks. "It was so easy to work off of. That scene was tough because I had to do it so many times, so many takes. There were technical problems,

lighting problems that happened. To muster up crying that much can get kind of hard. But it was great. It was exciting."

By the time she received the offer for the part in Marshall's film about women playing baseball, Bitly had secured herself an agent.

"They sent me on the audition and I ended up getting it," she said. "I had very little time to react because I had to get on a plane the next day to start filming. It's kind of like all a blur. I was so excited. It was so much. You didn't know how to react. It was overwhelming."

In addition to "A League of Their Own," Bitly's film credits include "Sure Hand of God," "Unconditional Love," "Cleopatra's Second Husband," "Kissing a Fool," "One Fine Day," "Marvin's Room," "The Pallbearer," "Caught," "Chasers," "The Night We Never Met," and "Fathers and Sons."

"I've always been kind of dramatic while I was growing up," Bitly said. "I've always been interested in acting."

Her television credits include "Felicity," "Roswell," "Destiny," "Strong

## New law takes effect for easier access to info

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

Citizens requesting information from Springfield or Mountaintide need not go any further than the clerk's office, as a new state law takes effect Monday requiring each local government to designate one person as the "custodian of records" to distribute all information.

The law, known as the Open Public Records Act, is intended to expand the public's right of access to government records, create an administrative appeals process if access is denied, and define what records are and are not "government records" and determine whether they should be accessible to the public.

"Our records will be available to anyone unless it's in litigation," said Springfield Township Clerk Kathleen Wisniewski, the township's designated custodian of records. "We can't give out anything that has personal information on it; a driver's license number or Social Security number."

Those numbers must be blacked out before the documents are distributed. Provisions of the New Jersey Public Records Act allow for public access to government records. However, as Wisniewski said, there are several exceptions, including autopsy reports, child abuse or sex assault victim names or addresses, computer security information, juvenile records, medical examiner photographs, victim records, as well as other such items that fall under the privileged and protected category.

Members of the public who are requesting copies of records must complete the Request for Public Records form.

"The municipality just has to designate a point person, so to speak. In Mountaintide the determination was that it should be the borough clerk but there's no statutory requirement that it has to be the clerk. It could be some other person in local government," said Borough Attorney John Post.

Mountaintide residents can now go to the clerk's office, get the proper request form, fill it out and submit it.

Under OPRA, a requester must be given immediate access to budgets, bills, vouchers and contracts that are readily available to the custodian at the time of the request. The custodian must make every effort to provide access as soon as it is requested.

Little changes for the borough, as the turnaround time to get the document is virtually instantaneous, as it has always been, said Mountaintide Borough Clerk Judith Osty.

However, under OPRA, the local government has up to seven business days to fulfill the citizen's request.

"Usually when they come in it's just something simple like a copy of an ordinance," said Osty. "If it's something we have to look for or research, then granted, we tell them, 'We'll call you as soon as it's ready.'"

For the documents, citizens can be charged fees of \$0.75 for each of the first 10 pages, \$0.50 for each of the next 10 pages, and \$0.25 thereafter, if the governing body chooses to do so.

"You need proper ID," said Wisniewski. "For some records you may even need a picture ID. It's for the residents protection that we are going to be so tight with it."

Citizens need to know what records they want and what government agency has them. The record request should include an accurate description of each specific record sought.

"Residents all submit their requests to me and then I submit them to the proper office," said Osty.



Bitly Schram

## For PTA, the students' agendas come first

By Joan M. Devlin  
Staff Writer

To the rescue once more came the Mountaintide Parent-Teachers Association.

At the June 25 Mountaintide Board of Education meeting, outgoing PTA president Toni Baseil stood to address the board members. "I came to our attention that due to the recent budget cuts, the Board of Education was not going to be able to purchase agenda books for the students in the forthcoming school year," she said.

"Since we are assured how important these are to the students and that they will continue to use them, we checked carefully into our funds, and we will offer to purchase these agenda books for the new school year," she said. Baseil went on to say that the members understood how the agenda books greatly help the organizational skills for the students in all grades.

"We will supply them for grades two through eight. The cost is \$2,980.66, and we ask you to accept this gift from your PTA."

"We were delighted and excited when we learned you were going to do this,"

## Firefighters respond to report of vehicle gas leak on Sylvan Lane

Mountaintide  
On June 17 at 8:30 a.m., Mountaintide firefighters responded to a report of a vehicle leaking gas on Sylvan Lane.

• On June 20 at 10:19 a.m., they investigated an activated fire alarm at a Central Avenue church. At 9:50 p.m., they helped extinguish a small car fire on Route 22 West.

• On June 23 at 11:14 p.m., they performed extrication on a victim who was involved in a multi-vehicle accident on Route 22 East.

• On June 18 at 5:22 p.m., all Springfield firefighter units responded to a Springfield Avenue apartment complex for a reported fire. Police officers on the scene had removed a burnt paint tray, containing the remains of a burnt floor brush.

A burn victim, Joseph Lojek, 55, of East Rutherford, was outside the building. The Springfield First Aid Squad and a Medic Unit were requested to respond to the scene.

Firefighters entered the building and found a moderate smoke condition coming from Apartment 3015. They entered the apartment and found an extinguished fire. It was later revealed that the fire most likely occurred because Lojek was re-finishing the floor with some type of flammable liquid that had its vapors ignited by a source in the hallway closet.

The apartment, as well as other apartments in the area, were searched,

using a thermal imaging camera. Wall areas that were shown to be hot were opened up to check for a possible fire. None were found.

The Union County Sheriff's Department Identification team was paged and responded to the area along with the Union County Arson Task Force Team leader. The Summit Fire Department sent an engine to cover Springfield's headquarters.

Lojek was transported to St. Barnabas Medical Center, where he is being treated for burns.

• On June 16 at 2:31 p.m., firefighters responded to a Beverly Road residence for an activated carbon monoxide detector. At 8:36 p.m., they got a leaking container under control at a Springfield Road business.

• On June 17 at 9:38 a.m., firefighters investigated a suspicious substance at a Mountain Avenue business. At 11:45 a.m., they answered a medical service call at a Morris Turnpike business. At 4:24 p.m., they attended to a motor vehicle accident at Morris Avenue and Maple Street. At 8:20 p.m., they responded to an electrical problem on Morrison Road. At 8:57 p.m., they investigated smoke in a house on Gail Oval.

• On June 18 at 8:18 a.m., they answered a medical service call at a Troy Drive apartment complex. At 9:55 a.m., they attended to a medical service call at a Gail Oval residence. At 1:58 p.m., they responded to an overturned truck on Route 78 East.

• On June 19 at 4:17 a.m., they investigated an activated fire alarm at a Gail Court residence. At 9:20 a.m., they responded a pumper to Millburn Fire Headquarters on a request from Millburn. At 12:06 p.m., they attended to an activated fire alarm at a Morris Avenue business. At 4:38 p.m., they answered a medical service call at an Edgewood Avenue residence. At 6:35 p.m., they extinguished an unauthorized burning of a bush.

• On June 20 at 9:20 a.m., they answered a medical service call at a Mountain Avenue apartment complex. At 9:50 a.m., they investigated an odor in a Hillside Avenue building. At 11:59 a.m., they attended to a motor vehicle accident on Route 78 West near the 24 split. At 2:54 p.m., they brought a pumper to the scene of a house fire in Union, on a request from Union County Mutual Aid. At 4:53 p.m., they answered a medical service call at a Wentz Avenue residence.

• On June 21, at 7:45 a.m., they brought a pumper to Hillside on a request from Union County Mutual Aid, to stand-by Hillside's station for coverage during a commercial building fire. At 10:09 a.m., they investigated an odor of natural gas in the area of Meisel Avenue. At 10:10 a.m., they answered a medical service call at a Route 22 East business. At 11:09 a.m., they responded to Hillside, while providing mutual aid to a Route 22 business for a medical service call. At 10:12 p.m., they investigated an activated fire alarm at a Skylark Road residence. At 10:42 p.m., they investigated a gasoline odor at a Woodcrest Circle residence.

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# Congratulations, Governor Livingston High School, Class of 2002



Lisa Mate and Tyler Wolford congratulate each other upon graduating from Governor Livingston High School June 26.

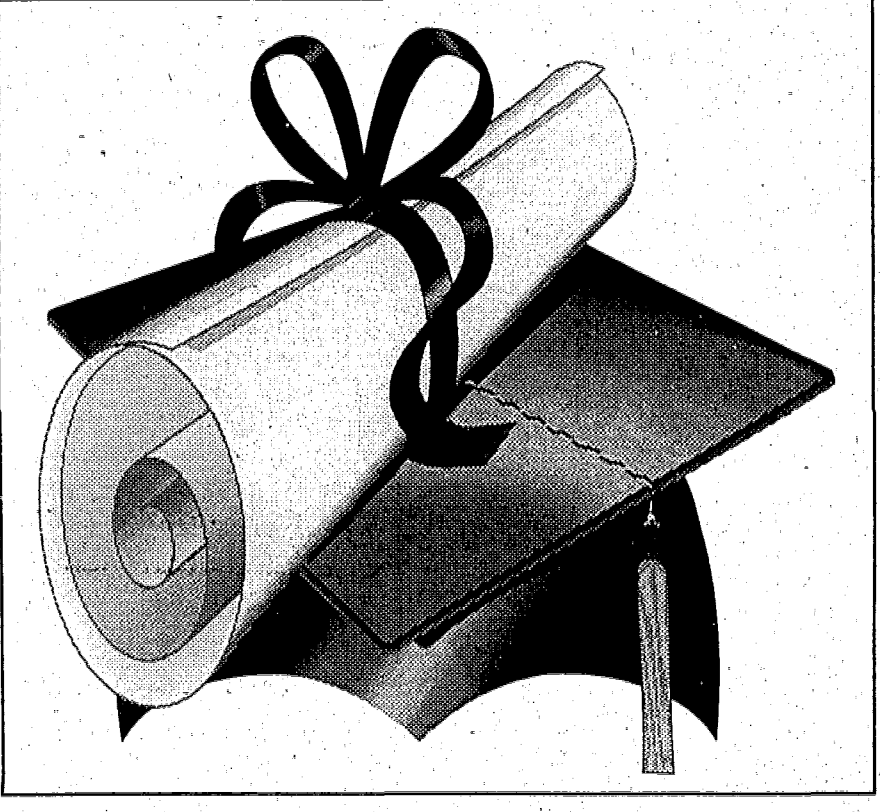


Steven Imbimbo, above, smiles with joy after receiving his diploma. Below, Lindsey Donner covers up Alexandra Batorsky's mouth to stifle her screams of excitement upon the completion of the graduation ceremony.



- Anil Abraham
- Manpreet Singh Anand
- Michael Adam Antkowiak
- Geetanjali Banerjee
- Christopher Thornton Barnett
- Alexandra Batorsky
- Gemma Barnacle
- Beau Barrier
- Brian David Berez
- Nicholas Bernardi
- Leanne Elizabeth Blank
- Kristin Leigh Blanks
- Karen M. Bocian
- Michael T. Boyce
- Steven Charles Brown
- Michael Alan Brunt
- David Joseph Campora
- Pamela Marie Cash
- Chun-Cheng Chang
- Thomas Han Chen
- Zoe Sara Chentiz
- Alexandra Larussa Chomat
- Susanna Chu
- Amanda Pepper Cline
- Stephanie Ann Cook
- Justin Alboom
- Erin Patricia Coughlin
- Jason Michael Corwin
- Jenell M. Crincoli
- Jason M. Crowl
- David Joseph Curcio
- Lauren Kathleen Curtin
- Matthew Ryan Daken
- Lindsey Noel Dann
- Sally Southgate Davis
- Steven R. Davis
- Matthew Eric DeAnna
- Lauren Elizabeth Deitch
- Marisa Jeanine Delia
- Allison P. Dencker
- Natalie Marie Dendinger
- Lauren Denny
- Christopher James Deo
- Jacob Joseph Dhiran
- Lindsey M. Donner
- Scott Thomas Donohue
- Catherine Marie Dotto
- Brian Scott Dressel
- Kristina Anne Dunne
- Oliver Seydar Eng
- Alina Valerie Enkin
- Ryan Feller

- Tina Marie Fernandez
- Tara Marie Finley
- Cecilia Rose Fiore
- Matthew A. Fox
- Frank John Geiger
- Andrew J. Genco
- Jason J. Gionta
- Daniel Gmiterek
- Kira Margo Gorin
- Laura Green
- Ashleigh Brooks Grillot-Kutsop
- Leslie Ellen Guyton
- Kristen Carol Hauser
- Jonathan H. Hawkins
- William Hernandez
- Robin Elaine Hitchcock
- Christopher Holdorf
- Alexander M. Robertson Hotz
- David A. Huber
- Matthew Peter Hurlman
- Kristen Elizabeth Hyland
- Stephen Anthony Imbimbo
- Christine Marie Internicola
- Tara Lynn Invidiato
- Jaime Christine Kardos
- Chelsea Anne Karnash
- Dana Melissa Kaufman
- Sahar Afshan Khim
- Richard Thomas Klumb
- Andrea Elizabeth Knapp
- Karyn Marie Krahnert
- Jason A. Krawczyk
- Laura Ann Kruglinski
- Thomas Peter Lallis
- David Jonathan Lauricella
- Anna Isabel Lee
- Daniel Robert Legiec
- Steven Julian Lesnewich
- Ellen Levitan
- David T. Lin
- Martlene Santos Lourenco
- Dana Skye McCurdy
- Brett Martin McMillin
- Jillian Tino Maloff
- Jennifer L. Manganiello
- Jillian E. Marks
- Crystal Lee Martinez
- Michelle Ann Marvin
- Marc A. Massa
- Lisa Massimo
- Lisa Marie Mate
- Jillian Lee McAdam
- Bridget Helen Melnyk
- Michael R. Meyer
- Dana Marie Mirabella
- Kerri Elizabeth Moore
- Chris R. Morgan
- Martin Gerard Moroney
- Michelle Rose Munick
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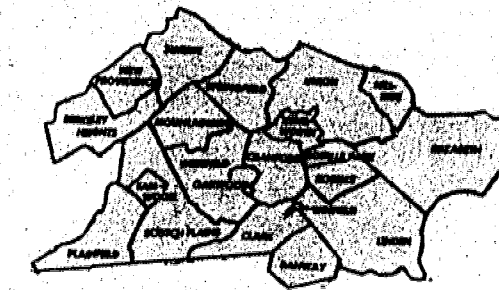
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# Union County

WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2002 - SECTION B

http://www.localsource.com

## Bum raps County to study new juvenile center

**By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor**

A consultant will examine Union County's juvenile detention system and programs before analyzing sites for a new juvenile detention facility. The Board of Chosen Freeholders last month unanimously awarded a \$150,000 contract to Ricci Associates Architects and Planners of New York City to provide architectural, planning and site analysis for the Union County Juvenile Detention Center.

The \$150,000 funds more than half the study — phases one and three of the three-phase initiative — with about \$40,000 coming from an existing grant and the remainder from county and capital funds. The entire study will cost \$295,000.

The first phase will consist of evaluating the existing facility, including suggestions on the feasibility for reuse. Built in 1968, the George W. Herlich Juvenile Center, located on the seventh floor of the parking deck adjacent to the courthouse annex in Elizabeth, has a capacity of 36, but the average daily population rises as high as approximately 55. In recent years, the population had reached as high as 90.

Consultants will inventory all juvenile programs funded or available in Union County and determine what is working and what programs could decrease the jail population, if they were expanded. When the time comes, there will be some data to justify the size of facility Union County needs, officials said.

Freeholder Nicholas Scutari, the board's liaison to the Juvenile Criminal Justice Board, said the county is looking to get an idea of what programs are available for juveniles, outside of incarceration. Part of the analysis will be the evaluation of current programs, he said, adding that if programs that deter youths can be expanded, thus decreasing the jail population, a smaller facility could be built.

"We're trying to make these programs better," Scutari said. "Hopefully, it can drive the number of incarcerated juveniles down so the facility doesn't have to be as large."

Consultants will analyze the county's juvenile population in general, determining where offenders are from, as well as creating projections on what the population will be five to 10 years from now. The study also will identify alternatives to detention.

Phase three will examine what potential sites might be available for a new juvenile detention center. The consultants will analyze the sites, based on size, issues relative to the building, the environment and its availability to public transportation, before ranking the sites.

Scutari said he believes the current facility is "sufficient for now," however, state officials might think it is not.

The state's Juvenile Justice Commission oversees juvenile facilities throughout New Jersey and makes recommendations to counties. In the case of Union County, the center is "clearly one that needs to be upgraded," Howard Beyer, executive director of the Juvenile Justice Commission, said. "It's up there at the top of the list to be replaced," he said, when compared to other counties.

"Clearly, the county needs a new place to house juvenile offenders,"

## County to study new juvenile center

adding that the facility is overcrowded and has its limitations.

"They're ready for a new place," Beyer said. Union County officials have been very receptive in working with the state to improve the facility, and the state is "ready, willing and able to assist them in any way we can."

Phases one and three of the study are expected to take eight to nine months to complete while phase two will determine what type of facility to build.

Scutari was chairman of the county's siting committee in 1997, which came up with three potential sites for a new detention center. The county ultimately purchased one of the sites in 1999 before selling it the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

During the summer of 1997, Scutari sparked a controversy when he proposed a new facility to be located on county-owned land in Summit, to avoid purchasing new property, prompting Summit Mayor Walter Long to threaten secession from the county. The property was revealed to be protected under the state's Green Acres program.

As far back as 1994, the county proposed building a new facility with nearly 100 beds where the Andrew K. Ruotolo Justice Center currently stands on Rahway Avenue, adjacent to the county Administration Building and courthouse in downtown Elizabeth. The cost of that plan, however, would have exceeded \$50 million because of the size of the site. The Ruotolo Center now houses the Prosecutor's Office.

## Left Out

**By Frank Capece**

One very loyal golf course employee announced at the monthly meeting last week to his responsive bosses that the commission was "getting a bum rap" on the problem.

Keeping the public sweltering in a hot hallway for 45 minutes while the commission first discussed some private issues in closed session, as they sat in air conditioning, and later spending more time discussing the automatic ball dispenser, Sheetrock and the delay in Hoefler getting insurance quotes for work, rather than the mayfly problem doesn't help. As one resident quipped passing me, "This commission treats people like they do at Cranford Township Committee meetings." Now that is insulting.

Summit boys shine: Assemblyman Dr. Eric Munoz and U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine both share Summit as a hometown. Both of them also shared the spotlight last week. Munoz put health concerns ahead of party in praising a big increase in the taxes on cigarettes. He spoke from the floor of the Assembly that the tax might discourage teen smoking.

Corzine was seen in the national spotlight with Majority Leader Tom Daschle. The topic was the serious problem of companies "cooking their books," in hiding expenses to fool shareholders. Corzine at one point said his former company, Goldman Sachs, actually had more accountants than the entire Securities Exchange Commission.

Union cable deal: The Township of Union is ahead \$125,000 thanks to a payment from Comcast as part of the local franchise. This is in addition to the payment of 2 percent from the money brought in by subscribers. Officially say the money will go into the upgrade of Channel 34, already one of the better access stations in the county.

The subject of local access is overdue for review. While the cost of cable television has skyrocketed, the role of local access not subject to the real oversight remains on the backburner. The coverage of local sporting contests and the notice of upcoming events is good.

The trouble is the use of coverage of meetings which are geared to highlight the incumbents. But local officials who get stopped in supermarkets by people telling them they saw them on television may find that notoriety too intoxicating to permit change.

Exaggeration: What web site for what daily newspaper falsely posted the death of a Union County mayor? Word has it that the mayor was none too happy about reading his own obituary.

Good news: The vice president of the Federal Reserve in Philadelphia, which monitors the economic growth in New Jersey, said we weathered the recession well and we should experience growth in the second half of the year. Probably the best news of the week.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

## Port Authority to use former juvenile center property for rail connection

**By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor**

More than three acres of land in Elizabeth, originally purchased by Union County to construct a new juvenile detention center, instead will be used by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for a rail connection.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders last month amended an agreement for the purchase, increasing the sale price to \$2.275 million, to include an additional \$75,000. The county had spent about \$125,000 for environmental investigation in anticipation of remediation of the site to residential standards, according to Deputy County Counsel Joseph Ascione.

The legal purchaser of the site is New York New Jersey Railroad Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Port Authority.

Ascione expects the sale to close by the end of next week, following a 20-day period in which the public can make a bid on the land. Freeholders must be aware of any potential offers, he said, but are not required to reconsider the sale.

The Port Authority purchased three parcels, two from the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties, and the one from Union County for a total of \$3 million, according to spokesman Steve Coleman.

The rail connection will allow the Staten Island Railroad to connect to the Chemical Coastline, which CSX and Norfolk Southern use, Coleman said.

Design work currently is under way on the rail connection and the \$36-million project is expected to be completed by December 2004, he said. The initiative includes a realignment of Bayway Avenue.

The new rail connection will allow cargo from Howland Hook Marine Terminal in Brooklyn to travel across the Arthur Kill to Elizabeth, and eventually to the Chemical Coastline, which runs north along the New Jersey Turnpike to various points. Cargo currently transported by truck, and some by barge, would be moved by the freight line, Coleman said.

Freeholders originally purchased the former Olympia Trailways property, under the Goethals Bridge on Relocated Bayway Avenue, in 1999 for \$2.185 million in hopes of building a 72-bed facility for \$15 million to \$20 million. In 2000, freeholders, citing a decline in the juvenile jail population, dropped plans for a new center.

## For local residents, it's time to make the wine

**By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor**

Late in autumn, Robert Varady of Hillsdale walks back to his garage in hopes of hearing a familiar sound. Some days, he walks up his driveway and nothing happens. But one day, he'll hear the familiar bubbling and crackling he looks forward to coming from the garage.

The sound emanating from his garage signals the next step in the wine-making process. It's time for Varady to drain the stainless steel vats and transfer the wine into barrels in his basement. After two weeks of the sugar and yeast converting to alcohol, the wine must be drained from the vats and into poured into wine barrels in the basement where they remain for about nine months.

A crew of as many as a dozen people were in Varady's basement Saturday afternoon. Draining barrels of wine and corking bottles, by the time they'd finish, about 700 bottles of wine would complete the process that began in September by ordering grapes.

The transfer from the garage to basement occurs sometime in October. The barrels of wine ferment in the basement until April, when a couple are drained, and the rest remain until warm weather arrives.

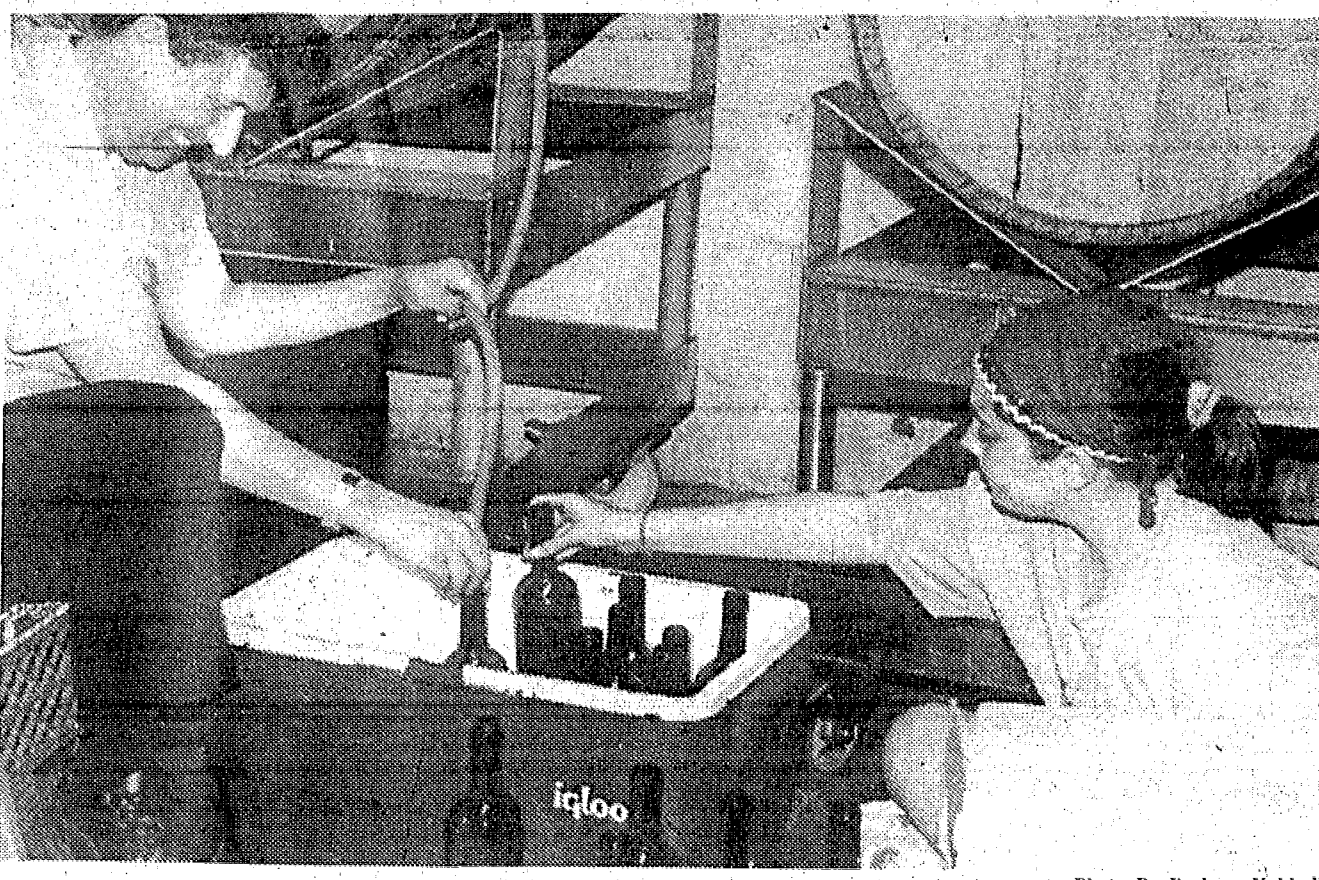
"If we had a better temperature control in the basement, we could keep it in the barrel a year," Varady said. Instead, because of the heat of early summer, it's time to get all the wine into bottles. By the time the process is complete, several families split the more than 1,500 bottles in the annual endeavor.

Varady's basement is stocked not only with hundreds of bottles of wine, but also the proper apparatus. Several barrels, which can take two hours to drain and have the capacity for more than 200 bottles, line the walls.

Louie and Nick Lindiri built a wine refrigerator themselves in Varady's basement in four hours using \$150 in hardware supplies. The fee? "A couple of bottles of wine."

Varady's garage serves as the fermentation station, where the process begins with three stainless steel vats that crush the grapes, separating the stems from the skins and juice.

"It's the same way a commercial winery does it," said Varady, whose full-time job is as an attorney in Elizabeth and has taken an accredited



The Rev. Richard Villanova of St. Catherine's Church and Jessica Varady help drain the first of three barrels of wine at the Varady home in Hillsdale on Saturday.

course on wine making.

Varady's partner, Vincent Grillo, who owns a cryogenics company, constructed all the stainless steel fermentation vats and the filtration system. He had dedicated the basement of his former Roselle Park home to the wine-making process before moving to Colts Neck. The name of their wine, Grivara, comes from the Gri in Grillo and the vara in Varady.

Tradition seems to be as important to the process as the grapes themselves.

Varady's wife, Gina, wanted to pass along the wine-making tradition to their three sons, Dan, Guy and John. Varady has been to the family winery in Italy, where Gina's family is from, and has been making wine in his home for 10 years after many years of learning to make wine from his in-laws.

The Varadys use a bottle-corking device that was used by Gina's family many years ago. A wine press stored in the garage was used by Gina's father when he made wine to squeeze the last bits of juice out before filling the barrels. The stick her father used in Italy many years ago is now employed by his sons to "break the cap," pushing down the juice when it rises during the two weeks it spends in the vats.

Clark resident Al Lordi remembers making wine with his father and brother in "down neck" Newark, and what today is referred to as the Ironbound.

Lordi has fond memories of his part in the process. His father used an old railroad jack, which at times required several men to turn, to squeeze the last

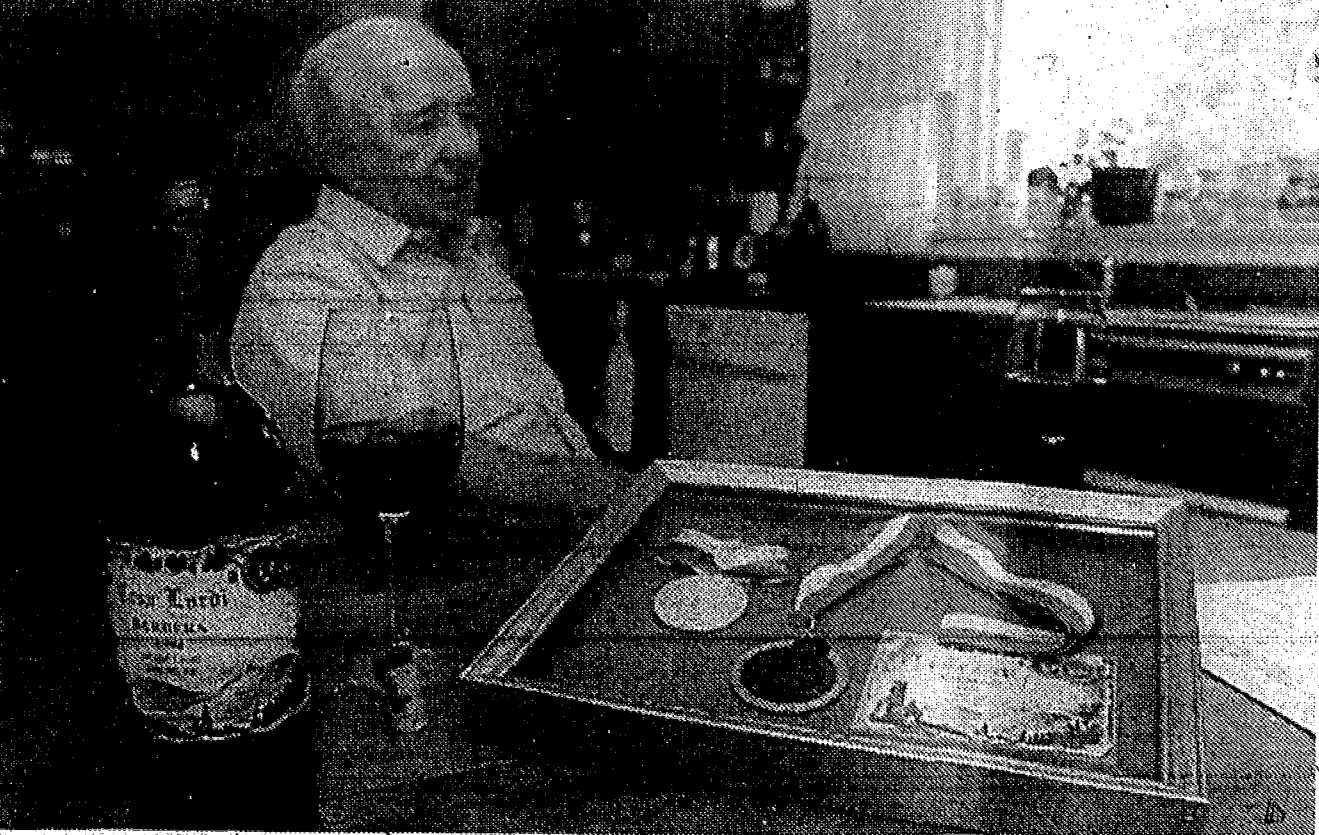
of the juice from the grapes. As a boy, he would get in and wash the wine barrels after they had been drained.

Today, Lordi is a "supervisor" to his three sons — James, Alfred and Joseph — who took an interest in the hobby several years ago.

The retired school administrator and teacher has earned several accolades for his Casa Lordi. His 1994 Barbera earned first in the state and second in the nation at the American Wine Society's annual convention.

Varady was awarded a silver medal

See WINE, Page B2



Clark resident Al Lordi talks about the wine-making process. A bottle of his Casa Lordi, a 1994 Barbera that was awarded first place in New Jersey and second in the U.S. by the American Wine Society, rests on the left.

Robert Varady reaches for a bottle of wine in a refrigerator of his basement.

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16 Robert  
17 No. 1  
19 Dossier  
20 Singers Adams and Brickell  
21 Beach cover-up  
23 Analyzed grammatically  
25 Jack-of-spades feature  
26 Planet  
27 Corn holder  
29 Roman spirit  
30 Portal  
32 Ram's mate  
33 Maxima maker  
37 Sign up  
39 Apprehend  
41 Like used bath water  
42 Captured anew  
44 Seville or Daytona, e.g.  
46 Significance  
47 German pronoun  
48 Dominion until 1806 abbr.  
49 Video game mfr.  
50 Abate  
53 Kitchen gadget  
56 Close or clean follower  
57 Actress Ekberg  
58 To a degree  
59 No. 34  
64 First name among celebrities  
65 Phooey!  
66 Valuable violin  
67 Check, with for  
68 Pouro sounds  
69 No. 37

### DOWN

1 Large credit agcy.  
2 Vote for  
3 Vegas  
4 Erstwhile anesthetic  
5 Forays  
6 Computer key  
7 Uninvited picnic guests  
8 Court VIP of 1995  
9 No. 16  
10 No. 3  
11 Upscale  
12 Pass along  
13 New Hampshire city  
18 Family reunion attendee  
22 Distant Nin  
23 Tending  
24 Cancel, as a lift-off  
26 River to the Baltic  
28 Summer vacation destination  
31 No. 26 or No. 32  
34 River to the Rhone  
35 More suitable  
36 Louis and Carrie  
38 Longest river in France  
40 Dames' spouses, perhaps  
43 No. 35  
45 Attach anew  
50 Balance sheet item  
51 Jostle  
52 Brings under control  
54 One of the film-making Coens  
55 Mother-in-law of Ruth  
57 Urgent memo letters  
60 Pl. of a message  
61 Carwash option  
62 59 Across's WWII command  
63 Tin Tin

See ANSWERS on Page B11

# What's Going On?

**FLEA MARKET**  
SUNDAY July 7th, 2002  
EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show  
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue, Belleville NJ (off Joralemon Street)  
TIME: 9am-5pm  
PRICE: Free Admission. Over 100 quality dealers with an array of bargains, featuring a large selection of clothing, jewelry, sports items, toys and much more. Also a special Garage/Tag sale section. For more information call 201-997-9535

**RUMMAGE SALE**  
TUESDAY EVENINGS July 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd 2002  
THURSDAY MORNINGS July 11th, 18th, 25th 2002  
EVENT: 69th ANNUAL TURNOVER SALE  
PLACE: Morrow Memorial Church, 600 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood  
TIME: Thursdays 9:30am-12:30pm Tuesdays 7:00pm-9:00pm  
PRICE: Free Admission. Bargains in clothing, linens, collectibles, sporting goods, housewares, etc. All proceeds benefit many charitable projects, including inner city causes.  
ORGANIZATION: UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

**OTHER**  
SUNDAY July 14th, 2002  
EVENT: Family Day And Picnic  
PLACE: South Mountain Reservation, South Orange, NJ  
TIME: 10am-6pm  
PRICE: Free Admission.  
ORGANIZATION: (ICONJ) Islanders Cultural Organization of New Jersey

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What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non profit organizations. It is prepaid and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County and Union County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your notice must be in our Maplewood office (463 Valley Street) by 4:00 PM on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at 170 Scotland Road, Orange; 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. For more information call 973-763-9411.

## Kids can 'dig' into history at camp

Children attending this summer's History Day Camp at the Merchants and Drivers Tavern, a museum of early tavern life and stagecoach transportation in Rahway, will participate in an archaeological dig in the tavern yard.

The week-long session, beginning July 8, will include hands-on activities for children between the ages of 8 and 12.

"An archaeologist and professionals in the fields of historic preservation, art history and education will supply an exciting program based in archaeology and history," said Linda McTeague, executive director of the Merchants and Drivers Tavern Museum Association.

Camp activities will range from an actual excavation, which will include mapping, recording, analysis and artifact reconstruction to crafts, games and a field trip to the Belcher Mansion in Elizabeth, former home of New Jersey's Royal Governor. The mansion, which is not open to the public on a regular basis, will provide campers with a glimpse of colonial New Jersey's early government and the lifestyle of the upper classes.

The main hall contains an Isaac Brokaw tall case clock made in Rahway. A rare, 18th-century folding bed is the focal point of one bed chamber. Tavern china matches that were found by Monmouth University archaeologists during investigations of the property.

In the early 19th century, the tavern served a variety of functions. In addition to providing accommodations for travelers, it served as a stagecoach stop. Township meetings and general elections were held at the tavern from 1804 through the 1840s.

Parents can obtain more information and register their children by calling the museum office at 732-381-0411. The cost of the day camp, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, is \$50 for the week. The camp is open to children from all towns.

## REUNIONS

• The following reunions have been registered with Reunions Unlimited. Union High School Classes of 1972 and '73, Aug. 16.  
Summit High School Class of 1982, 20th reunion, Aug. 24.  
Union High School Class of 1977, 25th reunion, Nov. 30.  
Union High School Class of 1983, 20th reunion, 2003.  
Union High School Class of 1993, 10th reunion, 2003.  
Westfield High School Class of 1992, 10th reunion, May 4.

• For information, call Reunions Unlimited Inc. at 732-617-1000.

• Abraham Clark High School, Roselle. Class of 1950 is searching for classmates in preparation for its 52nd reunion. For information, call 908-490-1543 or Bob Brandler at 732-821-5774.

• St. Mary High School, Jersey City. Classes of 1960, '61, '62 and '63 are planning a reunion. For information, call Kep Giordano at 732-549-6600 or 732-946-7075.

• Staten Island's Moore Catholic High School Class of 1982 will conduct its 20th reunion Saturday at the Statens Restaurant and Sunday at Wolfe's Pond. For information, call Charlie Siedenburg at 201-854-4580 or send e-mail to csiedenburg@papermill.org, call Karen Silvers Perina at 718-987-6579, or log onto www.classmates.com.

• Linden High School Class of 1966 will sponsor a reunion picnic Aug. 10. For information, contact Carolyn (Mihalik) Pabon at 908-862-4110 or 4rainbows@msn.com, or Susan (Hughes) Inn, Kenilworth. For information, contact Donna Kimmel-Zolli at P.O. Box 4108, Roselle Park, 07204, or at donna@kimmel-zolli.com.

• Rahway High School Class of 1947 will conduct its 55th reunion Sept. 29 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Grand Centurions, Clark. For information, or to provide contact particulars on classmates, contact Edwin C. Boyle at 207 N. Brook Drive, Milltown, 08850, or call him at 732-247-3914; or contact Kay Casserino at 2365 Seneca Road, Scotch Plains, 07076, or call her at 908-232-3562.

• Batlin High School, Elizabeth. Class of 1952 will conduct its 50th reunion Oct. 12 with a luncheon at the Clarion Hotel in Edison. For information, call 732-381-6447.

## Magic, comedy blend in family program

"The Comedy Magic of Brian Richards" will be presented July 17 at 1:30 p.m. as part of Trailside Nature & Science Center's summer Wednesday Matinee series.

Brian Richards has been entertaining audiences for more than 20 years. At the age of 13, Richards became the youngest magician ever to be asked to lecture for the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Just one year later, he won Best Stage Performer, awarded by the Society of American Magicians.

Today, Richards performs more than 300 shows every year and appears regularly in commercials and on television programs. He also stars in a magic instructional video series titled "Magic for Beginners."

"Every performance features magic, illusion, comedy, mystery, audience participation and fun for all ages," according to Freeholder Chairman Lewis Mingo. "You will hear the gasps as Brian brings the audience into a voluntary state of delightful trickery, and you will hear laughter as Brian's unique personality and wit keep them in stitches."

This show is for children ages 4 and older only; no younger siblings will be admitted. Tickets are \$4 per person and may be purchased at the door the day of the program. For more information about this and other programs, call 908-789-3670.

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## HOROSCOPE

**July 8-14**  
ARIES (March 21-April 19): You have a difficult decision to make concerning a family member. Stay calm and weigh all of your options.  
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stop and redefine some of your thoughts and ideas. Sometimes it helps to write them down on paper and visually review them.  
GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Your values are going through a period of change and transition. Adjust your budget to address your current needs and priorities.  
CANCER (June 22-July 22): A favor or blessing comes back to you much sooner than expected. Stop complain-

ing or explaining and thank your lucky stars.  
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Lay low and be content to work behind the scenes this week. Being the limelight is not all it's cracked up to be and can be quite stressful.  
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Group activities are highlighted. Sign up to offer your service and expertise on a planning committee. Expect your suggestions to go over well.  
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Acknowledge your professional achievements and those who have helped you along the way. Throw a big party to celebrate your success.  
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): A new job or house of residence allows you to make a new start. Keep an open mind and embrace the opportunities that cross your path.  
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Seek the right financial backing for a pet project. Make sure that your proposal or outline covers all of the selling points.  
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a long hard look at how you relate to or communicate with others. You'll find a direct and honest approach works best.  
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Enjoy working in the company of other like-minded people who support your ambitions. You'll get a green light to proceed with a proposal.  
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pay attention to your social life this week.

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Saturday & Sunday (11am - 4 pm)  
Dinner Buffet \$9.99 • Children \$5.99  
Monday to Thursday (4:30 p - 10:00 pm)  
Weekend Buffet \$11.99 • Children \$6.99  
Friday to Sunday (4:30 pm - 10:00 pm) • Sunday (4:30 pm - 9:30 pm)

**JULY 4TH - ALL DAY**  
Senior Citizens 50+  
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Includes: Fried Chicken, Fried Crab, Fried Fish, Fried Noodles, Fried Potatoes, Fried Tofu, Fried Vegetables, Fried Wings, Fried Zucchini, Fried Mushrooms, Fried Onions, Fried Apples, Fried Bananas, Fried Pineapples, Fried Peaches, Fried Plums, Fried Cherries, Fried Applesauce, Fried Syrup, Fried Butter, Fried Oil, Fried Salt, Fried Pepper, Fried Sugar, Fried Honey, Fried Maple Syrup, Fried Vanilla Ice Cream, Fried Chocolate Sauce, Fried Caramel Sauce, Fried Fudge, Fried Candy, Fried Gum, Fried Lollipops, Fried Ice Cream, Fried Soft Ice Cream, Fried Hard Ice Cream, Fried Ice Cream Bars, Fried Ice Cream Cones, Fried Ice Cream Cakes, Fried Ice Cream Pies, Fried Ice Cream Sandwiches, Fried Ice Cream Toppings, Fried Ice Cream Mix-ins, Fried Ice Cream Flavors, Fried Ice Cream Varieties, Fried Ice Cream Brands, Fried Ice Cream Manufacturers, Fried Ice Cream Distributors, Fried Ice Cream Wholesalers, Fried Ice Cream Retailers, Fried Ice Cream Vendors, Fried Ice Cream Suppliers, Fried Ice Cream Manufacturers, Fried Ice Cream Distributors, Fried Ice Cream Wholesalers, Fried Ice Cream Retailers, Fried Ice Cream Vendors, Fried Ice Cream Suppliers.

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# Leisure Lifestyles The Cook's Nook

## Versatile summer fruit recipes can be 'berry' nice, indeed

By Jennifer Mastroianni  
Copley News Service

Isn't it funny how some things in life have the power to take your breath away?

Ones that get me every time are: A baby's giggle, a July Fourth fireworks finale, Elvis in his black leather jumpsuit singing "Can't Help Falling in Love," and fresh berries.

Since this is the food section, I'll skip the Elvis adoration and stick to the berries.

Have you ever noticed that berries are architectural wonders? Look at how a blackberry is built — a multitude of minuscule, fragile, juice-filled pearls, magically connected by a soft but sturdy core. It's the same with raspberries. And how about their color? Berries are painted in some of nature's most magnificent hues. Take blueberries, for instance. The fruit is an otherworldly blue — it is at the same time vibrant and dusky, with such depth of color, it seems a mysterious blend of azure, cerulean, cobalt, indigo and sapphire.

While we have some time before our backyard berries are ripe for the picking, many produce markets are carrying a beautiful selection of berries. Here are a few recipes to whet the appetite before our local crops are ready.

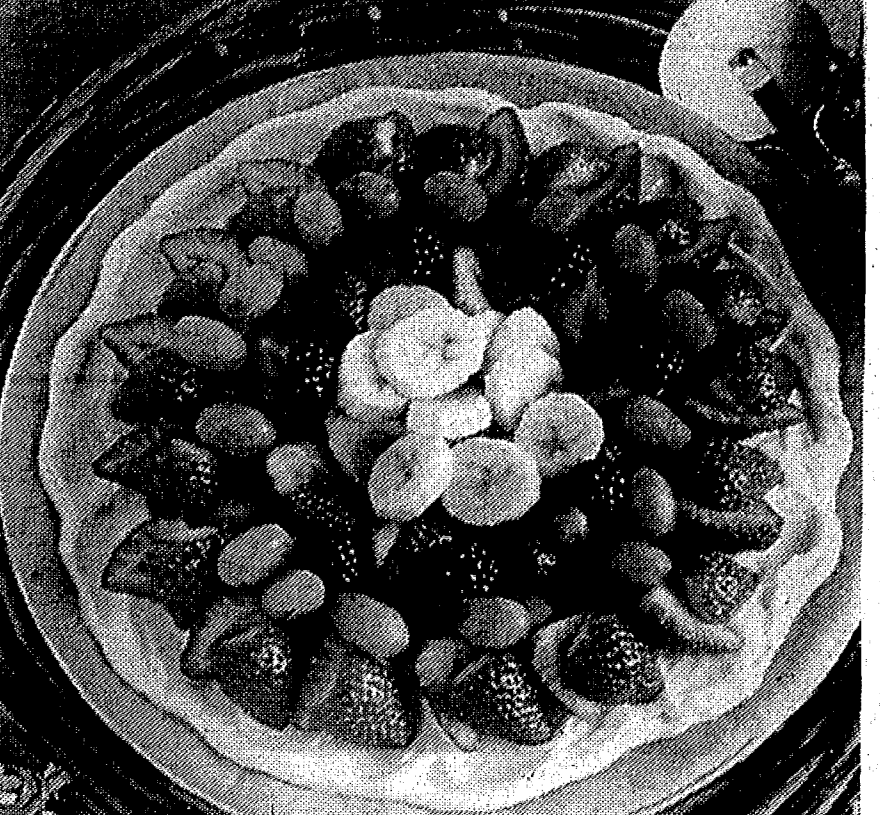
**Very Berry Broil**  
4 cups mixed fresh berries: Raspberries, blackberries and blueberries (total of 2 pints)  
¼ cup reduced-fat sour cream  
4 tablespoons brown sugar  
Yields 6 to 8 servings.  
Preheat broiler. Rinse and drain berries, shaking off excess water. Place in 8-inch baking dish. Combine sour cream with half of brown sugar. Pour over berries. Top with remaining brown sugar. Broil 6 inches from heat for 1½ minutes or until top is caramelized. Do not overcook to avoid mushy berries. Spoon berries into dessert dish and serve immediately.

**Fresh Fruit Dessert Pizza**  
1 (14-ounce) can Eagle brand sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated milk)  
¼ cup sour cream  
¼ cup lemon juice from concentrate  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
¼ cup margarine or butter, softened

½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar  
1 cup unsifted flour  
¼ cup quick-cooking oats  
¼ cup finely chopped walnuts  
Assorted fruits, such as blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, bananas, pineapple, grapes, kiwi, etc.  
Yields 6 to 8 servings.  
Preheat oven to 375 F. In medium bowl, combine sweetened condensed milk, sour cream, lemon juice and vanilla; mix well. Chill.  
In large mixing bowl, beat margarine and sugar until fluffy; mix in flour, oats and walnuts until thoroughly blended.  
On lightly oiled pizza pan or baking sheet, press dough into 12-inch circle forming rim around edge. Prick with fork. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool. Spoon filling evenly onto crust. Arrange fruit on top of filling. Chill before serving. Refrigerate leftovers.  
Note: Crust and pie filling can be made ahead; assemble before serving.

**Berries in Red Wine Sauce**

1 cup red Zinfandel wine  
1 cup confectioners' sugar  
¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon  
2 cups (1 pint) mixed fresh blueberries, raspberries and blackberries, washed and patted dry.  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
Yields 10 to 12 servings.  
Combine wine, sugar and cinnamon in small saucepan and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low, and simmer until mixture becomes syrupy, about 5 minutes. Stir in raspberries and vanilla extract and remove from heat. Cool sauce to room temperature, refrigerate until well chilled. Serve this full-bodied berry sauce over purchased ice cream for a quick, delicious and impressive dessert. Or serve it with mousse or angel food cake.



Fresh fruit dessert pizza is one way to celebrate the splendor of fresh berries.

## Concerts offer 'music under the stars'

A series of Thursday night concerts, Music Under the Stars sponsored by the Union Township Recreation Department, will be presented in Union Center at Columbus Park, located on Morris Avenue across from the Municipal Building.

All concerts will start at 8 p.m. Those attending are advised to bring a lawn chair. In the event of rain the concert will be relocated to the Hannah Caldwell Auditorium, 1120 Commerce Ave.

The schedule of performers and their musical style is:

- Today, Sentimentals, a variety of styles.
- July 11, Gene and the G Men, Polish musical selections.
- July 18, Union Municipal Band, Broadway tunes.
- July 25, Music Makers, the Big Band Sound.
- Aug. 1, Joe Briskick, popular music.
- Aug. 8, Ray Masters, Italian.

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7:30 Municipal Band - Under the Direction of John Bunnell  
Dusk - FIREWORKS

Day Program sponsored in part by T.J. Maxx 'n more

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Rain date July 5th  
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Joseph Florio Commissioner of Recreation  
Patrick J. Scanlon Mayor  
Dominick Fagnoli Superintendent of Recreation

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### Model Railroad Club offers new two-for-one ticket rate

The Model Railroad Club Inc., an activity of the Union County Park System, announced that it will begin offering a new discounted ticket beginning July 6.

The tickets will be available at the club ticket office, located at 295 Jefferson Ave., Union, off U.S. Route 22 east, behind The Home Depot. The club is open to the public every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

The new ticket is called the Discount Return-Trip Ticket. Individuals purchasing a Discount Return-Trip Ticket will receive two admissions to the club one at the regular full fare and a second at half-price. Discount Return-Trip Ticket prices are \$4.50 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and younger. Free parking is available on site and the club is wheelchair-accessible.

The Model Railroad Club Inc. was founded in 1949 in the basement of Paul Malley, a pioneer of the hobby of model railroading. The club occupies a building on Union County parkland designed, built and maintained entirely by the members, under a unique arrangement with the Union County Park System.

For more information about the Model Railroad Club Inc., contact the club at 908-964-9724 Saturdays between 1 and 5 p.m., or 908-964-8808 for a recorded message, or by visiting the club's Web site at [www.trmci.com](http://www.trmci.com).

### Summer concerts live up evenings at Linden parks

The Linden Department of Recreation Community Services and Public Property is sponsoring a free six-week summer concert series.

All concerts begin at 7:15 p.m. The rain location for the performances is the Linden High School gymnasium, West St. Georges Avenue.

Dates and performers are:

- Tuesday — "Polka Night" with Gene Mendala and the "G" Men at Mikusky Memorial Park, Belle Place.
- July 17 — Magic Touch at James Iozzi Peach Orchard Park, Hill Avenue.

Call the Gregorio Recreation Center at 908-474-8027 or the Recreation Hotline at 908-474-8604 for more information.

## Towns pull out the stops for Fourth of July celebrations

**Clark**

Festivities begin at 4 p.m. Friday near the Brewer Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave., including a Moonwalk and other activities for children. Fireworks will begin at dusk.

TV-36 and AM 1700 will have cancellation information.

Rain date is Saturday, same time.

**Cranford**

A fireworks display will be the highlight of Cranford's annual Fourth of July celebration, a day-long community festival which offers something for everyone including canoe races, a one-mile fun run and a four-mile run, a bike decorating contest and field games for the whole family, plus vendors in the park.

The festivities will begin at 8 a.m. with canoe races scheduled at the Cranford Canoe Club. Preregistration for the canoe races is in the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., through today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday through Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Post registration will be immediately before the races at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow at the canoe club.

The races will include the following categories: 13 years and under, 14-20 years, 21 years and older, Parent & child, Ma & Pa, Marathon 17 years & under, Marathon 18 years and over.

Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place in each category.

There will be a bike decoration contest at Nomahegan Park starting at 2 p.m. Age groups are as follows: 4 & under, 5-7 years; 8-11 years. First-, second- and third-place trophies awarded in each age group.

These events are sponsored by the Recreation and Parks Department. Fun games for all ages will begin at 2:30 p.m. with an egg toss and backward race with parent and child. Ribbons will be awarded for first, second and third for each game. All kids receive participation ribbons.

There will be food vendors in the park, including popovers, hot pretzels, pork and beef barbecue, Italian sausage, pizza assorted soda and Italian ice, novelties, face painting and balloon art from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The fireworks will begin at 9 p.m., co-sponsored by the Cranford Recreation & Parks Department and the Union County Board of Freeholders. Limited parking will be available at Union County College, however, residents are urged to walk if possible. Rain date for fireworks only will be Friday.

For more information call the Recreation & Parks Department at 908-709-7283.

The Cranford Jaycees will host the Firecracker four-mile road race, a flat, fast-running event beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Nomahegan Park in Cranford. All four-mile finishers will receive a postcard with overall and complete category results. Compuscore, featuring Champion Chip timing, will do the scoring. Food and awards for various categories of runners will follow the race.

A one-mile "fun run" precedes the race for children at 9 a.m. Entertainment with a clown, disc jockey, balloons and face painting is free, so bring the family. All pre-entrants get a T-shirt. Entry fees are \$15 for adults and \$7 for the fun run. Further details may be obtained by calling the race director at 908-276-4567 or by visiting the web site at [www.ewebcity.com/firecracker4](http://www.ewebcity.com/firecracker4).

**Elizabeth**

The City of Elizabeth will hold a Fourth of July celebration at Veterans Park, Front Street.

A disc jockey will provide entertainment starting at 5:30 p.m. Rides and amusements will be provided for children. The day's activities will include fireworks at dusk.

**Mountainside**

The Borough of Mountainside will sponsor a fireworks celebration at dusk near Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave.

**Rahway**

The Holiday at Home Independence Day celebration begins at 2 p.m. on Thursday in the parking lot behind Rahway City Hall, Main Street and East Milton Avenue.

Games and food will be offered for residents of all ages. The Shirrelles will perform at 7:30 p.m. A fireworks show will take place at 9 p.m. over the Rahway River.

## Museum Guide

The Museum Guide is compiled by Worrall Community Newspapers. It is a list of museums and historical sites in Union County and the surrounding area. To add to the list, send the relevant information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill VanSant at Worrall Community Newspapers, 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, 07083.

- Little-Lord Farmhouse, Museum and Farmstead, 31 Horseshoe Road, Berkeley Heights. Open 2 to 4 p.m. the third Sunday of each month from April through December or by appointment. Call 908-464-0961.
- Dr. William Robinson Plantation Museum, 593 Madison Hill Road, Clark. Open 1 to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of each month from April through December. Call 732-381-3081.
- Crane-Phillips House Museum, 124 Union Ave. North, Cranford. Open 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays from September through June, or by appointment. Call 908-276-6082.
- Belcher-Ogden Mansion, 1046 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. By appointment only. Call 908-251-2500.
- Boxwood Hall, 1073 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 908-648-4540.
- Woodruff House/Easton

www.merchantsanddrovers.org.

- Abraham Clark House, 101 W. Ninth Ave. at Chestnut Street, Roselle. By appointment only. Call 908-486-1783.
- Roselle Park Museum, 9 W. Grand Ave. at Chestnut Street, Roselle Park. Open Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 908-245-1776.
- Osborn Cannonball House, 1840 Front St., Scotch Plains. Open 2 to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of the month. Call 908-233-9165.
- The Cannonball House, 126 Morris Ave., Springfield. By appointment only. Call 973-379-2634.
- Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Public Library, 166 Mountain Ave., Springfield. Open 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. Call 973-376-4930.
- Benjamin Carter House, 90 Butler Parkway, Summit. Open 9:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays; 1:30 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays; 2 to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of the month, and by appointment. Call 908-277-1747.
- Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. Grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk; office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Call 908-273-8787.
- Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Ave., Union. Open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the third Sunday of the month is open house from 1 to 5 p.m. Closed December and January. Call 908-687-7977 or send e-mail to [caldwellparson@aol.com](mailto:caldwellparson@aol.com).
- Liberty Hall Museum, 1033 Morris Ave., Union. Guided tours are conducted Wednesdays to Sundays, April to December, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the last tour at 3 p.m. Admission is charged. "Tea is Served" every Wednesday, 2 to 4 p.m. \$22 per person; reservations are required. Call 908-527-0400 or visit [www.libertyhallnj.org](http://www.libertyhallnj.org).
- Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. Open 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays from September through June — closed during the summer — and 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays in January and February, or by appointment. Call 908-232-1776.
- Deserted Village of Feltsville-Glenside Village, By appointment only during daylight hours. Call 908-527-4911.

## Children's Decorated Bicycle Parade

The children's program, scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., will include pony rides, kiddie rides and other attractions. A Municipal Band concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Fireworks will begin at dusk.

The rain date, for the band concert and fireworks only, will be at the same times Friday.

## Calderone School earns honors

Kindermusik, the internationally renowned music program for children, awarded the Maestro classification, recognizing the top 100 Kindermusik programs in the world, to the Calderone School of Music in East Hanover and Springfield, a professional music school providing private lessons on all instruments.

Classes at Calderone are offered at a variety of days and times.

Summer Kindermusik Camp is offered one, two or three days a week for children 2 to 7 years old Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays mornings, in four-week sessions, beginning July 10. "Our Time" at 9 a.m. is for 2-year-olds, taken with a parent; "Imagine That" at 9:45 a.m. is for 3-year-olds, and "Young Child" at 10:45 a.m. for 4- to 7-year-olds. The curriculum explores musical concepts through active participation and playing musical games and songs. The children will also learn how to play rhythm instruments and enjoy musical experiences related to the child's world.

For information call 973-428-0405 in East Hanover or 973-467-4688 in Springfield, or visit the Web site at [www.home.att.net/calderoneschoolofmusic](http://www.home.att.net/calderoneschoolofmusic).

The annual Independence Day fireworks and children's program will be

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# REAL ESTATE

## Summer market is busy for real estate industry

### 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." "We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis."

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The summer market is a very busy time for the real estate industry. The flurry of activity that you'll see is due to the level of real estate transactions at any time of the year plus the additional activity of families that want to move in time for the new school year.

As a seller, you want the best price for your home. This requires that you market your property to the largest number of qualified and interested buyers. You'll also have to present your property favorably. According to New Jersey Association of Realtors President Rosanne Citta, "Your local Realtor can help with both."

Home sellers work with Realtors to learn about properties being marketed in their community so they develop a strong comfort level with selling prices.

According to Citta, "Today, sellers want to learn more about homes and price trends in their community so

they can reach a confident decision to accept an offer when the time comes."

A great deal of information is available via the Internet. Still, you have to be very careful. You should be aware of differences in what information is published online, how it is gathered and when it is updated. Because of this, savvy sellers often rely upon information provided by their local Realtor.

The Multiple Listing Service is the clearinghouse for Realtor home listing information. In markets where homes can sell after being on the market for several days or even hours, having the latest information is critical when you have to reach a decision whether to accept or decline an offer. Your Realtor will provide you with regular updates on prices and availability of listed homes as well as listed rentals, condominiums and co-ops. Realtors also provide a host of ser-

vices that can help you better present and market your property.

Your Realtor can provide you with ideas on how to make your home show better. For example, move the trash cans, so you don't see them when you drive up. Empty cluttered closets to show how big they are rather than how full they can get. You might want to avoid cooking foods that leave strong, lingering odors. At this time of

year, it would also be a good idea to weed the flowerbeds and to spruce up the mulch.

Another important service Realtors provide is showing houses to prospective buyers and coordinating Realtor and public open houses. "Visitors are often uncomfortable when the sellers are home," Citta said, "and this could affect whether or not important questions are asked."

"As a seller, your Realtors can help create a more friendly environment for prospective buyers by handling the showing of your property," said Citta. "When you are represented by a Realtor, you won't have to wait for appointments and you won't have to be there for showing. You can also avoid having to take time with prospective buyers while looking for a new home in another community."

## Burgdorff ERA honored

Burgdorff ERA was honored for its outstanding performance in two categories at this year's *Cendant Mobility Broker Network International Conference*. More than 900 representatives participated in the annual conference held March 24-27 at the Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa in Palm Desert, Ca.

In addition, Burgdorff was once again awarded Platinum Club status within Cendant Mobility, one of only 28 brokers from more than 1,200 Cendant brokers in the United States to achieve this accomplishment.

Burgdorff was awarded the Cendant Mortgage Most Valuable Partner Award, which is given to brokers who have a close working relationship with Cendant Mortgage by producing high volume and/or a high percentage of their mortgage business to Cendant.

"Once again, congratulations on being a recipient of the 2002 Platinum Club," said W. Bruce Wallin, president of Cendant Mobility Broker Services. "Burgdorff ERA put forth an amazing effort toward meeting and exceeding its 2001 performance goals. The Cendant Mobility Most Valuable Partner symbolizes the attitude, dedication and performance we have come to value from our network brokers. We are proud to be affiliated with such a talented organization."

"These awards belong to everyone at Burgdorff ERA," said Judy Reeves, president of Burgdorff.

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