

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 73 NO. 45

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2002

TWO SECTIONS

Springfield christens new policing option

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Springfield's Reverse 9-1-1 system is in place and in the event of an emergency, the interactive community policing system can call residents whose phone numbers are listed. However, the township is going to address residents whose phone numbers are not listed, urging them to provide the township with their numbers.

"We're going to be putting a mailing out within the next couple of weeks looking for all unlisted numbers," said Township Administrator Richard Sheola. "It is absolutely critical that we get as many unlisted numbers as we can as soon as possible. It's going to enable us to expand our base and the number of people we can notify at any given time."

Residents and business owners will receive a form, briefly explaining Reverse 9-1-1 and asking them to provide the township with their telephone number.

"We thought about having a call-in but the disadvantage of having a call-in is there could be a breakdown in the communication between the caller and the call-taker," said Sheola. "This

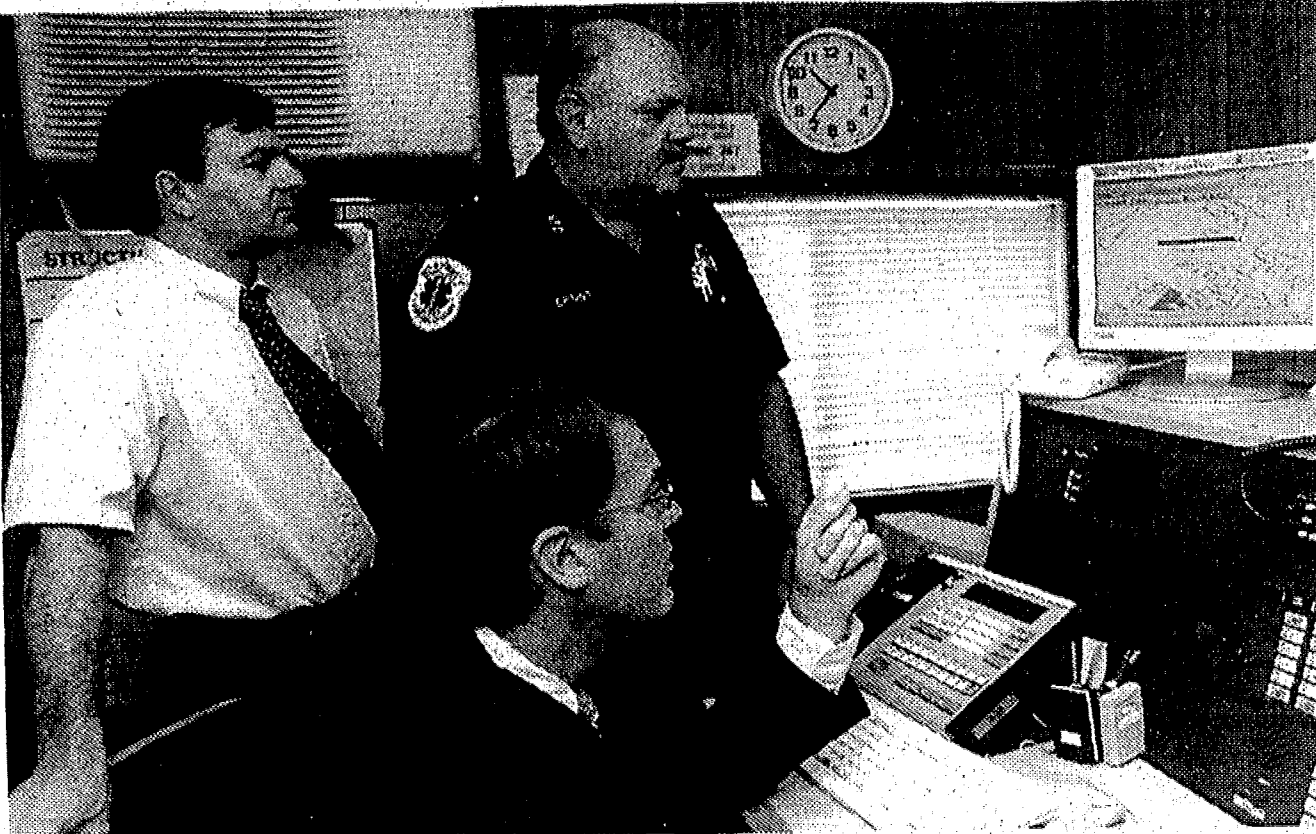
way it's in writing. It's a record we can go back to in case there's an error. We can verify the information and make sure it is correct."

Reverse 9-1-1 was developed by Sigma/Micro Corporation in 1993 to give public safety agencies and other service groups the technology to quickly contact citizens in a very specific geographic area and communicate urgent information to them.

A basic system is capable of activating an auto-dial mechanism that calls residents and business owners while a recorded message provides emergency information along with safety precautions.

Reverse 9-1-1 is a Microsoft Windows-based system program that uses a combination of database and computer mapping technology, allowing the user to quickly target a precise geographic area and saturate it with thousands of calls per hour. Or the system can create a list of individuals with common characteristics and contact them quickly whenever necessary.

The system automatically selects all phone numbers within the map area specified on screen and allows users to include or exclude any num-



Standing by Springfield's Reverse 9-1-1 interactive community policing system are from left, Scott Seidel, emergency management deputy coordinator, Firefighter and 9-1-1 Coordinator Tom Ernst and Kevin McCarthy, vice president of Sigma Communications Inc.

ber in the selected map area in the call session.

"If you get a massive incident or something like that, they tell you to listen to your local TV or radio station," said 9-1-1 Coordinator and Firefighter Tom Ernst. "Unfortunately, if you're not listening to the radio or watching TV at that time, you're not going to know about it."

In the event that a resident is not home while the system is making the calls, Reverse 9-1-1 lets the user know that it left a message on an answering machine.

Reverse 9-1-1 was installed in June and the funding came from a state grant. The grant paid for the equipment, software, training and installation. The ongoing annual maintenance of the system will come out of Springfield's operating budget each year, which is minimal compared to the value it provides, Sheola said.

"They have a new optional feature that they just purchased called Haz-Mat," said Kevin McCarthy, vice president of Sigma. "It's a module that will allow them to identify an area on a map that they want to call. Based on the origin of a particular chemical spill, it will model an evacuation area. It will start calling closest to the origin of the evacuation area."

While the Reverse 9-1-1 is calling

all the residents in the evacuation area, a second message can be recorded and then sent, telling residents in the outer vicinity of that area that a hazardous spill has occurred and what they should do.

The Haz-Mat feature takes into consideration wind factors and the time of day the spill occurred.

Springfield is the first township in New Jersey to purchase the Haz-Mat option.

Reverse 9-1-1 makes calls to residents using simultaneous phone lines. In the event of an emergency, Springfield has set aside 16 phone lines for the machine to use. A 15- to 20-second message will be recorded on the machine and sent to residences in the "danger" area.

"If we had a 15- or 20-second phone message, we anticipate with hang-ups and answering machines, again this is based on our list which is a list of all the public phone numbers, we can do this entire town in about 3 1/2 hours," said Ernst, "which is pretty good because we couldn't evacuate people that fast."

An initial evacuation would use police, fire and first aid resources, who would be at the incident trying to contain it, Ernst said. "To start the evacuation we would need to be calling in other towns and then bringing

in extra people to start going door to door."

Reverse 9-1-1 would help to expedite the initial phase of an emergency.

The system will not just be used to inform citizens about an emergency. A message can be set-up to inform residents what the holiday garbage pick-up schedule is, when the next trash day is or when to put items out for recycling. Also, citizens will receive a directory in the mail, listing four-digit extensions they can dial to learn about other township functions, such as library hours or if schools are closed because of snow.

By next year, township officials hope to have a wellness checkup system in place on Reverse 9-1-1, where senior citizens can be called at a certain time of the day to make sure everything is OK.

If a senior answers the phone there is a pre-recorded message saying this is your daily check-up call, press 1 if everything is fine. If the senior does not answer, Reverse 9-1-1 can flag dispatch, telling them to send a patrol car to the senior's home to check on them.

"We hope that we don't have an emergency where we have to use this," said Ernst. "I hope this thing goes for 20 years and we never have to use it to call out an emergency. But it's an insurance policy if we do."

Voucher may have no impact

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Officials in the Springfield School District say it is very unlikely that the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on a school voucher program will have a significant effect on the township.

The voucher program can allow parents to transfer tax money from the public schools where their children would normally be educated to a private school.

"It will have no impact on us for several reasons," said Springfield Superintendent of Schools Walter Mahler. "For one, we're not identified as a Title I school in need of improvement and two, we would really only have, with most situations, only one school for the child to attend, with the exception being Sandmeier and Caldwell."

Thelma L. Sandmeier School and James Caldwell School house students in grades first through fourth. The determination of which school a child will attend is based on where the child lives in Springfield.

"I can't ever imagine either one of those schools not being able to meet the regulations," said Mahler.

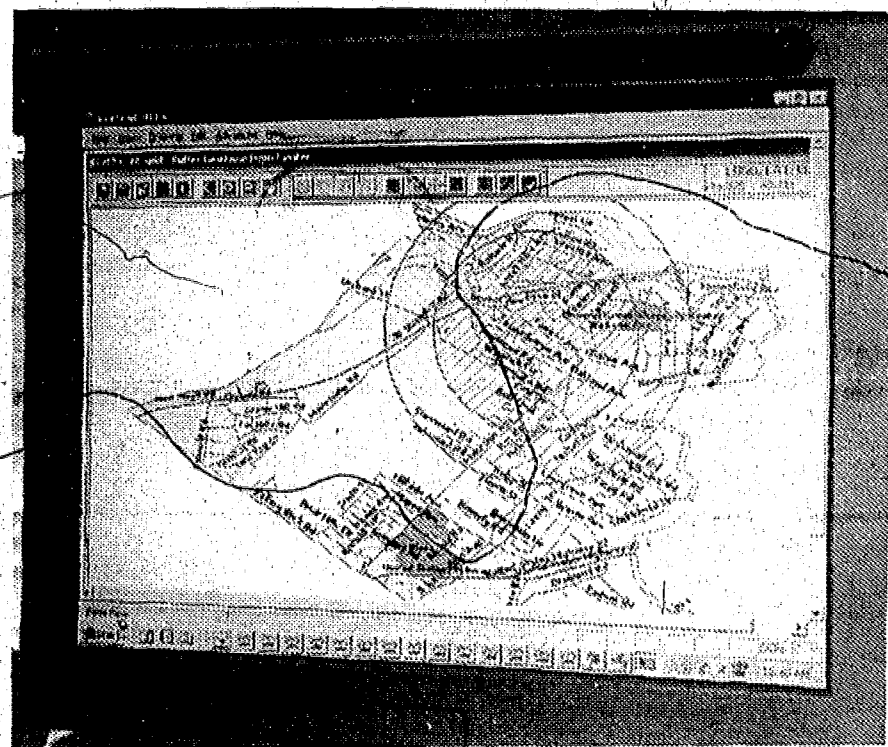
But, Mahler said, although the regulations do not require school districts of limited size to offer a choice of schools to attend, the regulations do encourage districts to establish cooperative agreements in those cases or to consider supplemental education services or other choices within the curriculum.

Mahler said one scenario where this might play out is when a school system only has one school at a particular grade level.

Springfield Board of Education President Linda Duke gave her opinion, speaking as a Springfield resident rather than a representative of the board.

"I don't particularly like the idea," she said. "I don't think it will have a great deal of impact in Springfield because of the excellence in curriculum, activities and programs available to our students."

Duke said there may be some people outside of Springfield who try to come to this school district on a voucher but she does not think there will be too many cases.



Springfield is the first town in New Jersey to purchase the Reverse 9-1-1 system's Haz-Mat option, which can be used to zero in on residential areas affected by hazardous chemical spills.

For Trimmer, it's time for some tragedies

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

"I have that Jim Carrey face," said Greg Trimmer. "Watching me sing is like watching Jim Carrey sing. That's what I've been told by everyone. But I'm slowly moving towards more dramatic roles."

Greg Trimmer is a 16-year-old Mountainside resident who started acting when he was 5 years old.

"I've always loved doing comedic roles but now I'm ready — I want to start doing dramatic roles. It's time for me to stop doing comedic roles. It's time for me to move on," he said.

This summer Trimmer is participating in the Paper Mill Playhouse's Summer Conservatory Program. More than 400 students auditioned for this year's conservatory. Trimmer was one of only 115 students, from more than 70 towns throughout the state, to make the cut list.

Classes are five days a week from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and students range in age from 10 to 18.

"It's a five-week intensive where here they are taking classes, taking voice lessons, dance classes, working with professional directors and choreographers," said Charlie Siedenburgh, press representative for Paper Mill Playhouse. "They get a private voice lesson each week. We have guest artists come in to teach the kids."

Trimmer said when he comes on stage, says something funny, and the audience laughs — the audience actually laughs — the feeling is indescribable. This fall he is going to be a junior at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights.

Every year GL usually presents three plays, two dramas and one musical. Trimmer tries to participate in all of them.

"This year I only did the fall play and the musical," he said. "This spring, I was actually in 'South Pacific' in the Cranford Dramatic Club."

Trimmer said he does not really come from a performance-driven family. He has two older sisters and a younger brother. His sisters used to take dance lessons and his brother is into sports.

"My Mom can carry a tune," Trimmer said. "But my Dad on the other hand, he's just a lost cause."

Students have been participating in the Paper Mill's summer conservatory for seven years. Classes used to culminate with a one-night performance. "Now it's grown to three performances," said Siedenburgh.

Trimmer will be one of the featured soloists in "Paint Your Wagon," a play that runs July 26-28.

"It's like school only the hours you go during the day are longer," said Trimmer. "You go there and you study dance and acting and singing. There's a new class this year, improv."

Trimmer said he loves the improv class because it teaches you to stay on your toes, to be prepared for anything.

"If something goes wrong at an audition or when you're on stage, it teaches you how to work around it," said Trimmer.

Auditions for the conservatory took place in February. "Phone calls started coming in to book appointments," said Siedenburgh. "The auditions were only supposed to be one day. It was supposed to be a Saturday. Well, they had to spread the auditions over three or four days because of the overwhelming response."

"They came in singing a ballad or an uptempo and then we made our selections and everything," said Siedenburgh. "They also did dance. It was a full-fledged audition for the conservatory."

Some of the past participants in the summer conservatory have gone on to appear in shows on Broadway.

"It's through the generous support of American Express and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation that we're able to do this with the kids," said Siedenburgh.



Photo By Joseph Sorrentino

After years of tackling comic roles, Greg Trimmer of Mountainside is ready to delve into something more dramatic. This summer, the young actor will get the chance to do just that by participating in Paper Mill Playhouse's Summer Conservatory Program.

"To pay for the teachers. To pay for the rent and keep, because that isn't donated. We have to pay for the space that we rent."

Trimmer is torn between participating in GL's fall play or partaking in Cranford's fall play, "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown."

He said his favorite role that he ever played was last year, in high school, in GL's production of "Children of Eden," as Adam.

Township Committee agrees to be designated as hiring authority

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

The Springfield Township Committee introduced an ordinance clarifying the hiring authority, meaning the committee itself must approve the hiring of all township employees.

Current Township Administrator Richard Sheola, and all future township administrators, must first ask the Township Committee for permission to fill a vacant township employee position and then, once prospective candidates are interviewed, the Township Committee will decide whether or not to approve the hiring of that particular person. The introduction of the ordinance came at a

committee meeting Tuesday night.

In the event that all five Township Committee members are not present when voting occurs, the majority of those who are present is needed to approve the hiring.

The ordinance is similar to the way the state's school systems work, where staff members are hired only after the Board of Education votes to approve their hiring.

Discussion at a Township Committee workshop meeting last month focused on the pros and cons of the ordinance.

"The advantage that I see to this is that we have five people who sit on the Township Committee and if Mr. Sheola puts forth a list

of names for potential hires it may be that Mr. Sheola doesn't necessarily know some things that the other five of us may know in terms of background information," said Committee member Clara Harelik.

Committee member Sy Mullman said that if the Township Committee members do not conduct the interview then they would not be able to make an accurate decision on the hiring.

"I think that the real crux of this should be that we know when a pool manager is being hired, if a new secretary is being looked at, whatever," said Harelik. "I'm not as concerned about whether or not I get intricately involved."

The Township Committee sets the range of a salary for a given position within the township. It is up to the administrator to decide what the employee will receive as a salary based on that range.

"If you're going to put forth a recommendation and we're going to go as far as to say based on this person's credentials that we think you should go ahead and hire him, then it only stands to reason that if there's a salary range and you're deciding that it should be at the top of the range — if we're going to go this far we may as well give the OK whether to go to the top of the range or bottom of the range based on credentials," said Harelik.

Currently, the heads of each of Springfield's departments interview the various positions that need to be filled and then the administrator approves the hiring based on the department heads' recommendations. For example, the police chief would conduct interviews pertaining to Police Department hirings.

Harelik posed the question that if Township Committee members are going to approve the hiring of township employees, then, maybe, they also should approve the firing.

"If we're going to go through a committee

See HIRING, Page 2

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Hiring authority debated

(Continued from Page 1)
approval for termination, we could be waiting a week and a half before we can get everyone together," said Sheola.

Harelik said they could call an emergency meeting.

Sheola asked if he is to seek Township Committee approval after he has found someone he thinks would make a good hire or before he even starts the process of looking for someone to hire.

"A discussion should take place before hand," said Committee member Gregory Clarke. "Are we hiring more cops or aren't we? What are we doing here with our personnel?"

Mayor Steven Goldstein was opposed to the ordinance. He said that keeping the decision of hiring personnel away from the committee maybe takes pressure off the administrator to hire favorites of the Township Committee.

"My theory of management is that if we hire someone to take care of our business then we let him do it," said Goldstein. "If we don't think he's doing it properly then there's an evaluation. I understand the other side of the argument but there's a reason we're paying this man what we're paying him and it's so we don't have to get involved."

"Rich is still taking everything from A to Z," said Harelik. "The only thing that's being added here is that the Township Committee is having the courtesy of knowing what the final results of what he's done is, and being apprised of those results before it's already a done deal."

Sheola said he can see the reasons behind the Township Committee wanting this ordinance. "I'm not disputing it because there is an advantage to more people looking at it. I'm looking at it from the perspective that sometimes we come across a candidate that is good, we want to make a decision to get him on board, and if I have to wait two weeks, a week and a half, then we might lose that person."

Harelik said if it's that urgent then an emergency meeting can be held. "We were elected by the people to oversee the workings of the town and I think this is just an ordinance that will allow us to do that," said Harelik.

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: Management editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

• "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.

Today

• Volunteers are needed to help with trail maintenance projects in the Watching Reservation. Interested participants can meet at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, at 9:30 a.m. Bring a lunch, beverage, shovel, pickaxe and gloves if possible. Call 908-789-3670 to pre-register.

Sunday

• "Summer Skies," a planetarium show centering on the summer triangle, takes place at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. 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.

• The First Presbyterian Church of Springfield hosts the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church at the 9:30 a.m. worship service at 210 Morris Ave. in preparation for the joint Vacation Bible Camp. All are invited.

For information, call 973-379-4320.

• The Sisterhood of Congregation Israel of Springfield, 339 Mountain Ave., hosts a brunch at 10 a.m. The fee is \$10 per adult, \$8 for seniors and students over bar mitzvah age and \$3 for younger children.

For reservations, call 973-467-9666. All are welcome.

Tuesday

• The Mountainside Borough Council meets for a regular session at 8 p.m. in Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East.

• The Springfield Zoning Board of Adjustment meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave.

Wednesday

• The Gadabout Senior Group of Mountainside sponsors a bus trip to a show called "Ragtime Grannies" in Lake Hopatcong. The trip includes a sit-down luncheon and a boatride cruise. The fee is \$69, plus \$5 for non-members.

For reservations, call 908-232-1404.

• The comedy magic of Brian Richards comes to Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, at 1:30 p.m. Admission is \$4 per person.

For information, call 908-789-3670.

Upcoming

July 29

• Learn how to make folded paper sea creatures in an Origami demonstration with Mary Kao at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., 7:30 to 8 p.m. The event is for grades third through fifth. Register by calling 973-376-4930. Ext. 232.

Aug. 14

• "Fiction Writing 101: Synopses and Query Letters" will be presented by Amanda Harte at 7:30 p.m. in Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield.

For information, call 973-376-8142.

Ongoing

• Every Monday at 7:30 p.m. the Writer's Workshop meets at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. The workshop is for writers of all workshop levels. For information, call 973-376-8544.

EVENTS

Volunteers needed for trail maintenance

Volunteers are needed to assist with trail maintenance projects in the Watching Reservation on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Interested volunteers can meet at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside.

Bring a lunch, mug for beverage, shovel, pickaxe and gloves, if possible.

The event is for ages 14 years and older. Participants must call 908-789-3670 to pre-register.

Comedy Magic comes to Trailside

On Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., the Comedy Magic of Brian Richards comes to Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside.

For information, call 908-789-3670.

Sisterhood plans a Sunday brunch

The Sisterhood of Congregation Israel, 339 Mountain Ave., Springfield, is planning a brunch Sunday at 10 a.m. The cost will be \$10 per adult.

\$8 for seniors and students over bar mitzvah age, and \$3 for the younger children. A special program will be planned for the children.

The speaker will be Jay Levinson who will speak on Israel today and in the future. Levinson, a resident of Israel, was born in Newark. A citizen of both Israel and the United States, he has lectured throughout the world on forensic science and law enforcement while working for the Israeli National Police.

In 1988, he traveled to Lockerbie, Scotland, which was the sight of the Pan Am crash where he was in charge of body identification.

For information, call 908-789-3670.

He also has lectured on mass disasters and victim identification in many countries. Levinson is the author of many books and articles. All are welcome to attend.

Reservations are to be made through the synagogue office at 973-467-9666.

Football Club pool party

The Football Club of Mountainside, a community service group, will conduct its annual pool party July 18 at the home of Mary Ann Anderson.

The club meets monthly between September and May for lunch, socializing and special programs.

Anyone interested in joining the Mountainside Football Club can call Ruth Goense at 908-233-5253.

Something to sell? Telephone 1-800-564-8911.

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Fourth of July fun



Photo By Barbara Korkalis

Springfield's Fourth of July celebration spelled hours of family fun on the grounds of Thelma L. Sandmeier School. One of the highlights was the petting zoo, which let visitors get a closer look at some farm animals. Here, Joan Taub climbs aboard Vanity, with a helping hand from Perry of Cloverland.

Committee still seeks old photos

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

The Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee is still seeking photos of historic Mountainside to use for a book they plan on funding, completing the borough's written history past 1945.

"We have solicited photos from people in town to add to our collection," said Committee Chairman Scott Daniels. "We haven't had a great response so far. It's just tough to get people to go through their old boxes of stuff and pull out pictures."

The borough does have a book of its history, however, "The History of the Borough of Mountainside Union County, N.J.: 1895-1945," only goes to 1945. Some of Mountainside's most substantial growth occurred in the years following World War II. The borough more than tripled its population in those years.

The original date that the borough wanted a completed version of the book was for the borough's 100th anniversary in 1995. Over the years, three different authors have signed on to write the book but they all backed out.

"We've researched this, also, through Arcadia Press," said Daniels. "They're the ones who do the sort of sepia-covered town history books that are available through the stores. They're probably the way we're going to go but they require you to have a minimum number of pictures even before you start the project. You're looking between 160 and 240 pictures and so far we're not even close when it comes to that."

The committee's annual newsletter is going to be mailed to residents in September and it is going to request that residents send additional historic photos.

"Right now the time frame is pretty open ended for us," said Daniels. "If we can get the materials for the book together this fall, it would be at least nice to begin to write it based around the pictures."

To find the book, Mountainside's Historic Preservation Committee sold bricks, inscribed with a family or company name, that have been placed on the walkway at the Hefield House, adjacent to the library.

"Originally we were going to publish the book ourselves so we could

have used plenty more money," said Daniels. "If we go with these people, the up-front money from us is considerably less."

The bricks cost \$100 each and went toward the cost of restoring the walkway, as well as the completion of the borough's written history.

"We're collecting names for the next buy on bricks, to add more bricks to the front walk," said Daniels. "That will probably happen around the end of this year. We're going to add about 50 bricks to the walk. We're going to keep going on that project in case the Arcadia thing doesn't work out."

Residents interested in purchasing a brick can call the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee at 908-232-2400, Ext. 590.

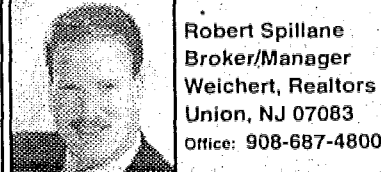
If residents have historic photos, they can be mailed to the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee, Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, 07092.

The photos will be returned to residents in the exact same condition that the committee received them.

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Architect pushes for progress

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

Architect Noel Musial gave an update to the Mountainside Board of Education meeting Monday night, which gave the impression that the honeymoon was over with the construction people, Randazzo Construction Company.

The meeting was hosted as always in the library of Deerfield School, which was stocked with boxes and other moving materials, as Musial said, "It is obvious that no work has started yet here at Deerfield, but at Beechwood School it is nicely under way and the work has taken shape." He noted that steel was erected in the gym, bricks cleaned and washed down.

Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller asked, "As far as the asbestos removal at Deerfield School, did you receive bids on this?" Musial replied,

"The contractor claimed there was a delay caused by removal of asbestos, and asked for an extension, for more time, which I rejected. I felt he could do the work in the time agreed to, and it is moving along, but not as fast as I wanted it," said the architect.

Musial also noted he had been out there every Saturday and Sunday, but they were not working then, just on weekdays only. "The contractor assures us that they will be done at the start of school in September; the schedule which we agreed to shows completion of both schools by the start of the school year," said Musial.

Financial discussions were to be discussed in closed session. However, Musial left no doubt that he was insistent that the contractor have both schools completed by the opening of school in September.

"Yes, bids have been coming in. We are on top of this."

President of the Board of Education Richard Kress asked, "Are there any questions from the board members?" There were none, and then Musial added one more point. "The contractor submitted his request for payment which I found full of errors. We sent it back and told him to correct it, and we are still asking for a breakdown of values for Deerfield's construction."

Financial discussions were to be discussed in closed session. However, Musial left no doubt that he was insistent that the contractor have both schools completed by the opening of school in September.

Board accepts bid for Vogel

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

Many organizational problems are looming with the forthcoming school year for the Mountainside Board of Education, with two new schools opening instead of one. Both Deerfield School and Beechwood School will be ready

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The Women Resource Center's annual Board Dinner showcased the naming of new board members, including, from left, Ann Marie Finn of Westfield, Maureen Kitzler-Lange of Millburn and Sarah Sangre of Summit. Finn served this past year as the volunteer coordinator for the center.



Beth Gramigna of Summit is a new WRC board member while Nora Holley of Summit is the center's new chairwoman for the Board of Trustees.

Dinner honors members

The Women's Resource Center of Summit had its annual Board Dinner last month to honor retiring board members and to install new board members. Nora Holley of Summit is the new chairwoman for the Board of Trustees succeeding the retiring Terri Tauber, also a Summit resident. Located in the parish house of the Calvary Episcopal Church on the corner of Woodland and DeForest Avenues in downtown Summit, the Women's Resource Center is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization celebrating 18 years of programs and services designed for and by women in North Central New Jersey.

For directions, registration information and a complete program guide, call the center at 908-273-7253 or go to www.womensource.org. Scholarships are always available for all programs.

Springfield Emanuel to host Bible Camp

The Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church in conjunction with the Springfield Presbyterian Church will host the "Smile! Jesus Loves You!" Vacation Bible Camp at 40 Church Mall Tuesdays and Thursdays, including Tuesday and July 23, 25 and 30 — from 8:30 to 7:30 p.m. with a closing picnic scheduled for Aug. 1.

Each day, stories of Jesus' unconditional love will be reinforced using related crafts, games, drama and music. Children should come in bathing suits, and dinner will be served each evening.

This will be the place to be for friendly family fun and fellowship. All ages are welcome with special events for children age 3 through sixth grade.

For information and registration, call 908-245-6244 or 973-379-4320.

First Presbyterian hosts joint service

The First Presbyterian Church of Springfield will host the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church at

RELIGION

the Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m. at 210 Morris Ave., in preparation for the jointly run Vacation Bible Camp which begins Tuesday and continues on July 18, 23, 25, 30, and Aug. 1.

This continues a tradition of Christian Unity events with these two congregations. Fellowship Hour will be observed on the side lawn of the church, weather permitting.

All are welcome to attend this or any service of worship. Everyone is invited to sign up for the Vacation Bible Camp, named "Smile, God Loves You!"

Call 973-379-4220 for more information and to sign-up. Dress is casual, bathing suits are suggested.

Temple installs new officers and trustees

Springfield's Temple Beth Ahm conducted a joint installation of officers and trustees of the Temple's Men's Club, and Women's League on June 21. The installation ceremony followed Friday night's religious services. Rabbi Mark Mallach installed the officers and trustees of each arm of the temple.

Lawrence Horwitz, a resident of

Springfield, was installed as temple president. The other temple officers installed were Linda Lieb, Selig Adler, Marilyn Garlen, David Biebel, and Richard Falkin, vice president. Jonathan Hirst, treasurer; Bruce Fish, financial secretary; Mitchell Bookbinder, recording secretary; and Helen Jeny, corresponding secretary. The temple trustees installed were Steven Dorsky, Peter Herzberg, Howard Gerber, Karen Kerstein, Lynn Haliczzer and April Modlinger.

The Men's Club co-presidents installed were Bernard Flashberg and Richard Yablonsky, both residents of Union. Other Men's Club officers installed were Robert Modlinger, good and welfare; Kenneth Melman, membership; Gerald Weiss, programming; Warren Frank, special projects; Lee Lichter, treasurer; and Maurice Carchman, recording secretary.

The Men's Club trustees installed were David Appel, Al Bornstein, Leo Goldberg, Joe Gruenberg, Morton Padish, Robert Roth, Ray Schaffer, Leslie Schulman and Joe Todres.

Installed as fund-raising vice presidents for Women's League were Karen Cohen and Karen Manders.

Howard Gerber was chairman of the evening.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Summit residents honored for service

Several Summit area residents were honored for their community service at Family & Children's Services' recent annual meeting in Elizabeth. Nancy King of Summit was elected to a second term as president of the Board of Trustees and recognized for her service. King also chairs the agency's Development Committee and is a long-time member of the Children's Service Committee, an all-volunteer group that raises funds for Family & Children's Services.

Margaret Corbet of Summit was elected to a second term as treasurer of the board and also recognized for her service. Corbet has previously chaired the agency's Finance Committee.

Other Summit residents recognized were Willis King, for senior service, and H. Taylor Layne, who was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees. Both King and Layne have played key

roles in corporate sponsorship of Family & Children's Services annual golf tournament, which raises \$40,000 toward agency services to children, youth and families.

Rafferty completes hearing courses

Richard Rafferty of Summit recently attended the three-day Northeast Conference of Hearing Health Professionals in Atlantic City. A licensed audiologist and board-certified hearing aid dispenser, Rafferty received continuing education units for completion of the courses. In New Jersey, the requirements for renewing a license include attendance at education seminars.

Rafferty was invited by Siemens Hearing Solutions, the largest manufacturer of hearing aids, to attend advanced training with TRIANO, a new family of intuitively advanced digital hearing aids. He also recently participated in the Centres State health fair.



Richard Rafferty

With more than 21 years of experience, Rafferty is a frequent speaker at schools, club meetings, wellness centers and hospitals.

Editor: JR Parachini
Can be reached in
Maplewood at 973-763-0700

SPORTS

Lawrence student before athlete

By Jeff Wolfrum
Staff Writer

A student before an athlete. That's what David Lawrence of Summit considers himself.

The Pingry School graduate was honored at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset as one of the Somerset County Scholar Athletes by the Somerset County High School Principals' Association.

The award was given out among 31 of the county's finest athletes and scholars, who have excelled in the classroom and on the playing fields and represent their school in exemplary fashion.

"It's quite an honor," Lawrence said. "I was surprised that I was selected."

After looking at his resume, one might not be.

Lawrence earned the Rensselaer Mathematics and Science Award and the Whitlock Prize for Mathematics. "I like math," Lawrence said. "But, I will probably major in economics in college."

Lawrence will be attending Princeton University in the fall.

A member of Pingry's Cum Laude Society, Lawrence was also named an Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar and a National Merit Finalist.

"What I'm most proud of winning is the Nick Gusz Award," Lawrence said. "It's given by the NJSIAA to the best student-athlete from an independent school."

Lawrence was a four-year varsity award-winner and team captain for both the boys' ice hockey and lacrosse

teams. These achievements earned him All-Conference honors in both. "Ice hockey and lacrosse are very similar to each other," Lawrence said. "It was nice because I was surrounded by the same core of players."

A right winger in hockey, Lawrence led his team in scoring in his junior and senior seasons.

In lacrosse, Lawrence set the school's all-time record for groundballs with 490. A midfielder, Lawrence tallied for seven goals and five assists in his junior year and 18 goals and five assists as a senior.

"The reason I've been successful is because I've worked hard," Lawrence said. "It was a great experience for me and I learned to win as part of a team."

Lawrence will now learn how to win as part of a team in the Ivy League.

Springfield 14s baseball excelling

The Springfield Minutemen age 14 baseball team won three consecutive games to start the month of July with a 3-1 record.

Coached by Drew Stern-Charles and assisted by David Floyd, Stan Parman and Stephen Yasinski, the team consists of Paul Belliveau, Brian Burdulia, Matt Canfield, John Cox, Jeff Feder, Jake Floyd, Jesse Galkin, Randy Hering, Adam Hirst, Joe Palitto, Marco Pannella, Matt Parman, Greg Stefanelli, Brandon Stern-Charles, Kenneth Suarez and Andrew Yasinski.

After falling at Westfield, the Minutemen came back to beat Millburn East 5-2 as the road team at Springfield's Ruby Field.

The Minutemen then defeated Millburn West 9-5 and came back to beat Summit 4-3 in 10 innings.

In the win against Millburn East, Springfield scored three runs in the top of the seventh to erase a 3-2 deficit. Cox singled in a run and Burdulia drove in a run with a sacrifice fly. Stefanelli pitched well for the first four innings, while Yasinski did a good job in the last three to earn the mound victory.

In the bottom of the fifth against Millburn West, Yasinski and Burdulia walked back-to-back with the bases loaded. Stefanelli, Tetamanti and Pannella also drove in runs, while Cox stole his way to third in the second and Stern-Charles stole home in the third. Stern-Charles pitched four strong innings to get the win. Yasinski pitched well in relief.

Hering connected on a single that brought home Burdulia with the winning run in the bottom of the fifth against Summit, snapping a 3-3 deadlock. Summit took a 2-0 lead in the top of the second before Springfield scored three times in the bottom of the third for a 3-2 advantage. Summit tied the game at 3-3 with a run in the top of the fourth.

Stefanelli pitched well for the first six innings, while Stern-Charles tossed four shutout innings to earn the victory.

Minutemen football alive and kicking

The Springfield Minutemen Football program, under the direction of the Springfield Recreation Department, is ready to begin a new season with a new attitude.

The sole purpose of this program is to promote youth football. The program is designed to teach the fundamentals of football to children in grades 2-8.

The Minutemen have an established Flag program for youngsters in grades 2 and 3, a new developmental tackle team for 4th graders and competitive tackle for those in grades 5-8.

The program stresses good sportsmanship, safety and fun for all those who participate and guarantees that everyone will play. Residency is not a requirement.

Springfield's 2002 schedule features Westfield, Scotch Plains, Perth Amboy, Summit, Staten Island, East Hanover, Millburn and Berkeley Heights.

A new coaching staff which includes commissioner Bob Conte, Dino DiCocco, Frank DiProffo, Frank Fryer, Charles Robertson, Bob Yarnazzone and Jordan Gerber — the junior coach — is prepared and excited to teach football. Those interested in coaching are encouraged to apply at the Springfield Recreation Center.

Applications for all levels of football are available at the Springfield Recreation Department, Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, Springfield, NJ.

More information may be obtained by calling 973-912-2227.

Clinic turnout impressive

The third annual Minutemen Football Clinic was held June 15. Despite the rain, the turnout was impressive. Approximately 45 youngsters between the ages of 7-13 showcased their skills on the field.

For the upcoming season, all players regardless of size or skill will play in every game and will be given the equipment and knowledge that will enable them to engage in a fun, safe, but competitive style of football.

Members of the Dayton High School ice hockey team opened their sixth High School Varsity Summer League campaign with a 3-1 win over Morristown last Sunday night at Bridgewater Sports Arena in Bridgewater.

While Dayton improved to 1-0, Morristown fell to 0-2.

The league is made up of teams from Dayton, Governor Livingston, Cranford, Morristown, Westfield, Chatham and Morris Knolls.

League play continues to the end of August.

[Comprised of all the players from last year's team, along with several incoming freshmen, the Springfield team dominated play against a tough Morristown squad and was backed by the stellar play of senior goaltender Michael Rodrigues.

Sophomore Cory Berger opened the scoring midway through the first period, breaking in all alone and firing the puck past the Morristown goalie.

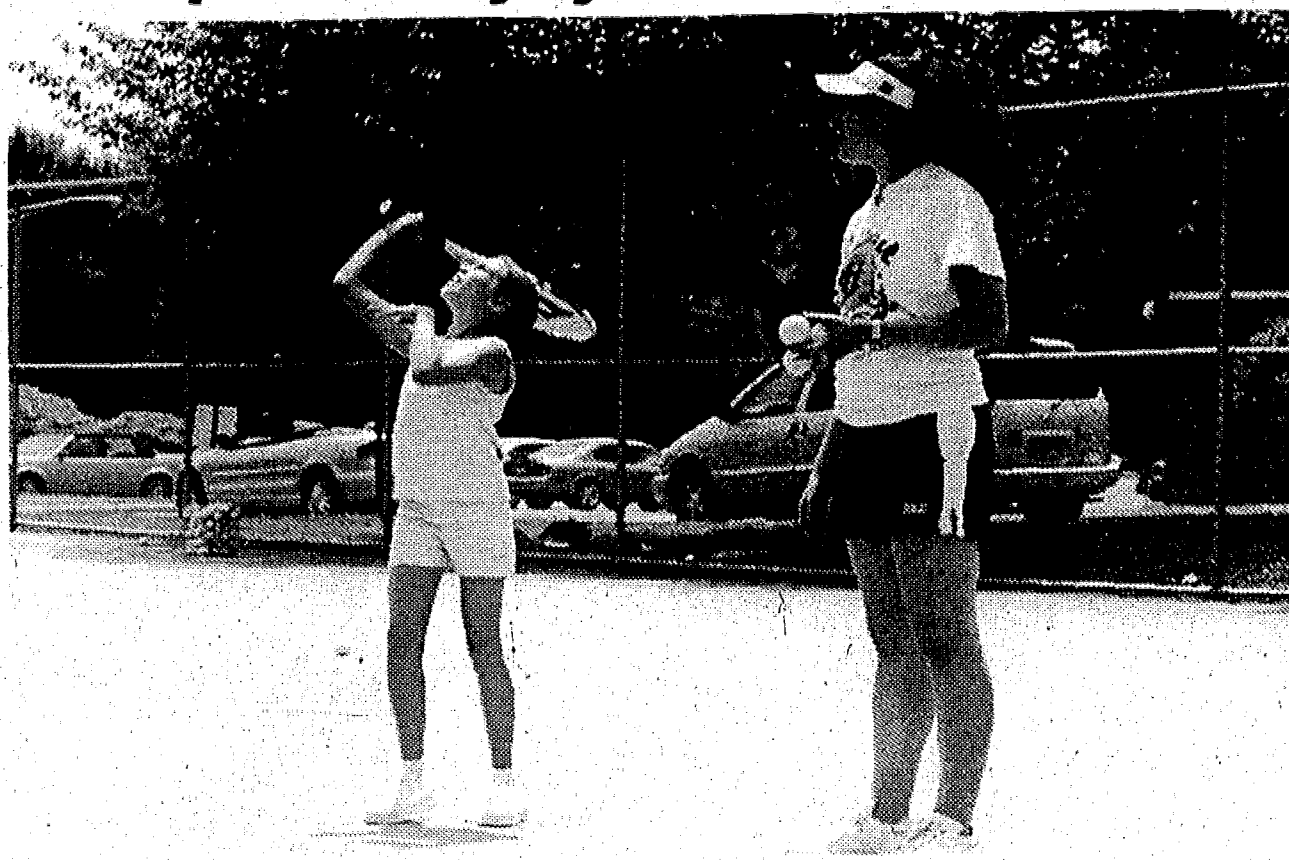
Shortly thereafter, incoming Brearley freshman Rob Carroll fired a slapshot from the left point that found the net to make the score 2-0.

Before the first period ended, incoming Dayton freshman Greg Stefanelli lifted his own rebound over the Morristown netminder to give the Bulldogs a 3-0 lead.

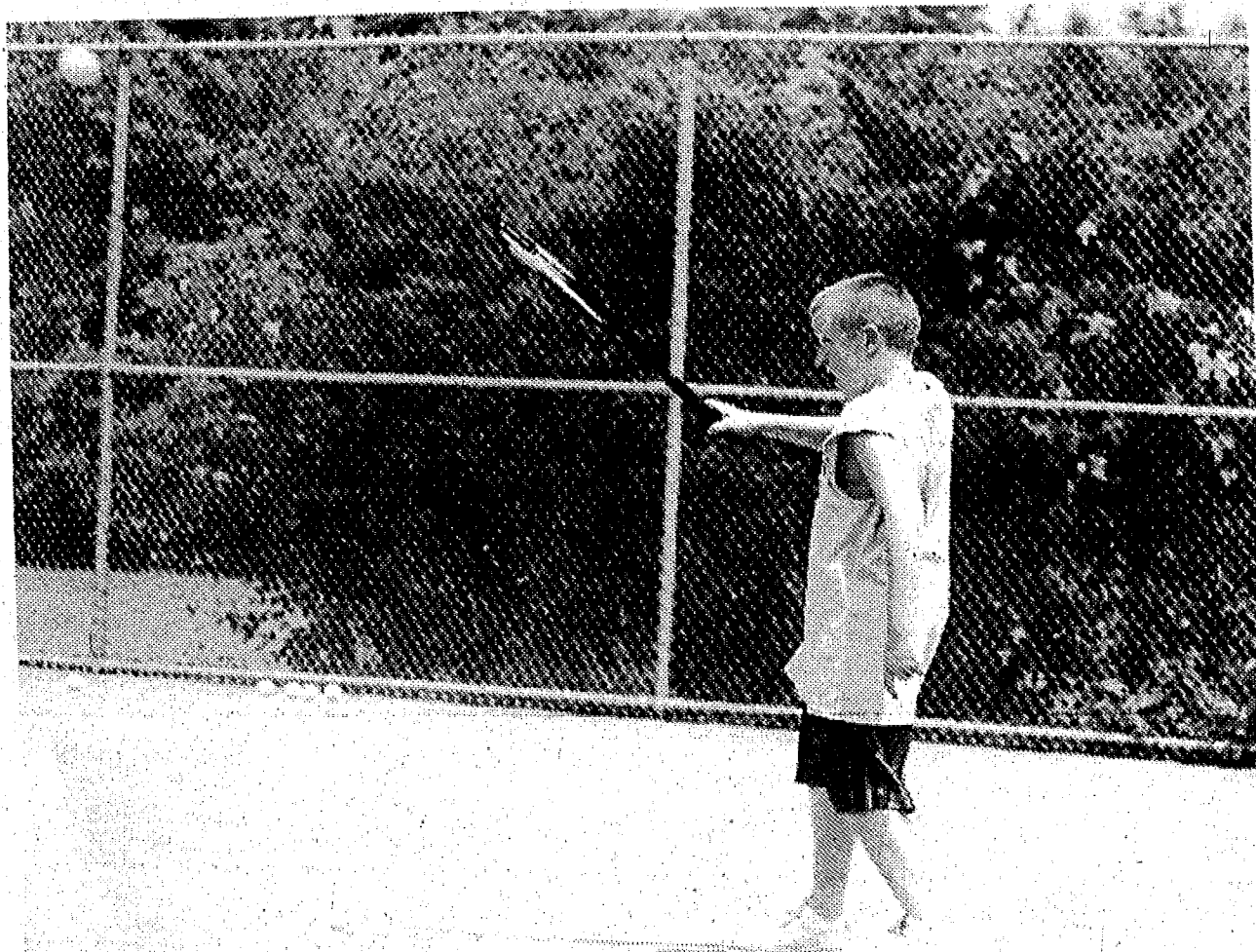
The goals held up thanks to Springfield's solid defense and strong goaltending.

Dayton's next scheduled game is against Cranford on July 21 at 4 p.m. at BSA in Bridgewater.

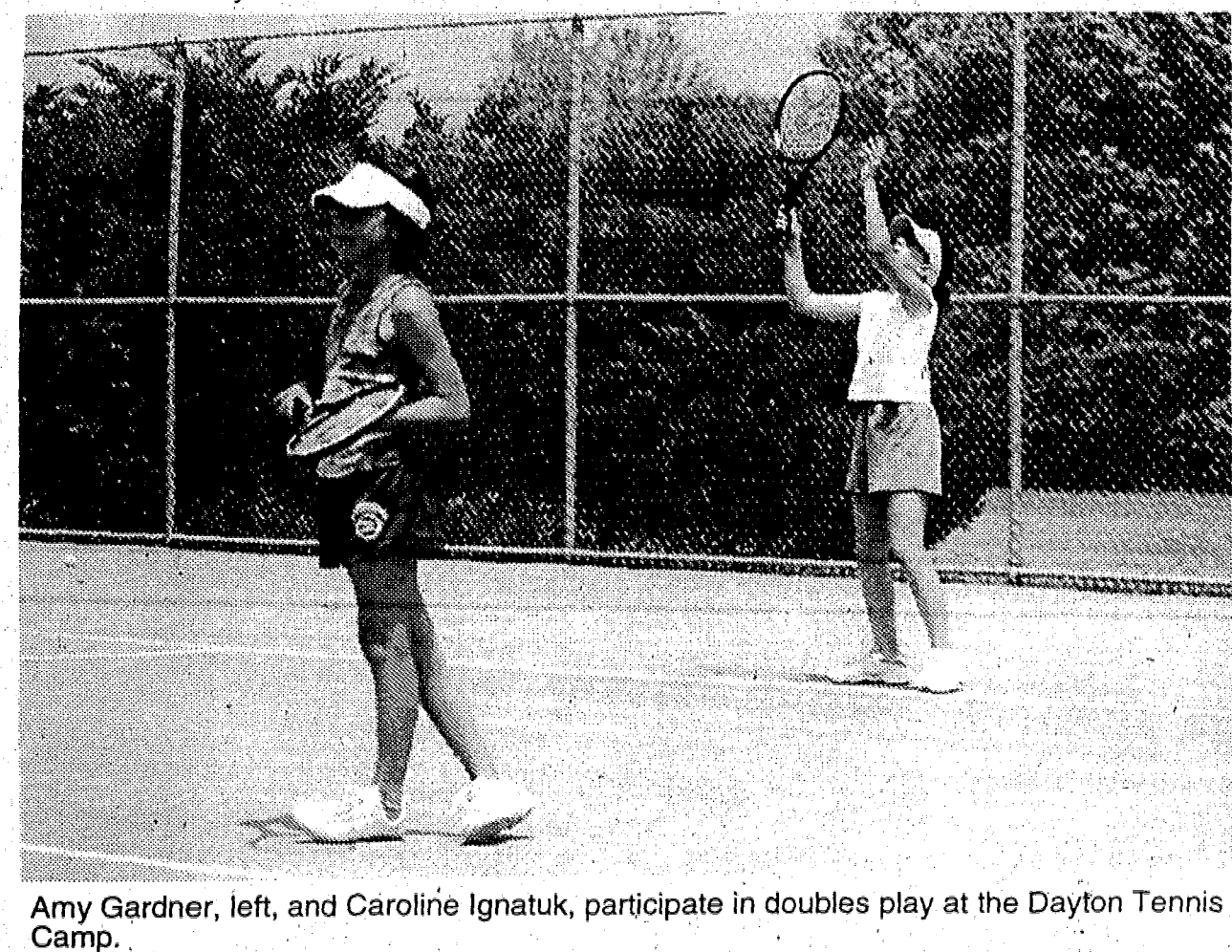
Campers enjoy instruction



Rachel Mandel, right, gives instruction to Blair Godfrey at the Dayton High School Tennis Camp. "Everyone came away with something," said Dayton coach Bill Prisco who, along with Mandel, served as a camp instructor. "We try to make it a positive experience for the kids."



Colin Dretten returns a serve at the Dayton Tennis Camp. The camp ran the last week in June at the Dayton tennis courts.



Amy Gardner, left, and Caroline Ignatuk, participate in doubles play at the Dayton Tennis Camp.

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Prosecutor looks back on his term

(Continued from Page B1)
from his home several doors away to protect her. Burdge was in a drunken stupor after a shift party spent bar-hopping with fellow officers in December 1997. Defense attorneys told the judge someone slipped Burdge a mickey.

The case involved preferential treatment when officers who responded to the break-in took Burdge to a treatment center where he signed himself out the following day, rather than arresting him and administering an alcohol test.

Burdge was convicted of third-degree aggravated assault and two disorderly offenses and received a sentence that included 90 days house arrest, three years probation and an automatic forfeiture of his position.

Since then Manahan made sure each officer in the county undergo ethics training, which resulted in everything being handled by the book

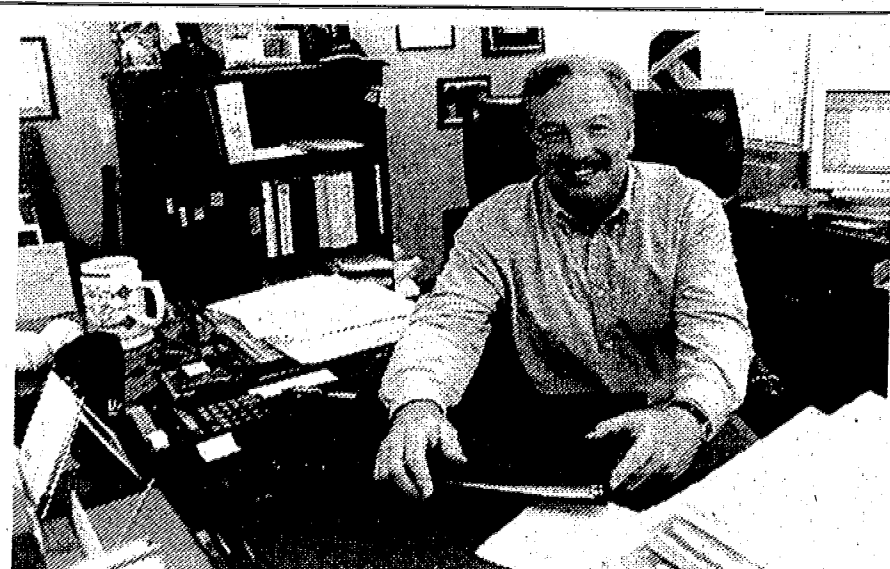


Photo By Bob Helfrich
Thomas Manahan of Scotch Plains completed his five-year term as Union County prosecutor earlier this month.

in the 1999 case of an Elizabeth officer accused of participating in the homicide of a city man.

Breaking the so-called Blue Wall of Silence, helping solve the 1959 mystery murder of Rahway Police Officer Charles Bernoskie and instituting a mandatory policy for all county police departments to record

data on traffic stops to detect racial profiling were all in a day's work, co-workers said.

"Tom will be missed both professionally and personally, especially his legendary wit," said Executive Assistant Prosecutor Robert O'Leary said. "His vision and leadership qualities are unmatched."

Election board will seek new administrator

(Continued from Page B1)
Republican Commissioner John DeSimone told Kobitz and Moussalem moments after the decision was announced. "If that's not possible then you have to bring it to our attention."

Although the election board meeting was open to all, only one citizen attended as a member of the public.

Alan Schuhmann of Hillside was there in opposition to the candidacy of Kobitz. He was adamant in his brief statement, accusing Kobitz of allowing his brother Steven to sign a nominating petition for a candidate in the April 16 Hillside Board of Education, even though his brother resides in East Hanover. Kobitz currently is president of the Hillside Board of Education, having been elected in 2000.

Dennis Kobitz knew or should have known that his brother Steven was ineligible because of his residency in East Hanover, something the Union County Prosecutor's Office proved in a subsequent investigation.

Union County police get new leader

(Continued from Page B1)
necessity to reduce crime.

"Our core responsibility is to provide security for those who use park lands," Vaniska said.

For 30 years, Vaniska never thought he would become the chief of the Union County Police and reach the zenith in local law enforcement. The Linden native and father of three did not begin his career with hopes of someday leaving a legacy behind, but as he embarks on a new chapter in his professional life he hopes that when his days of policing are over he can be remembered as helping propel the Union County Police, Department down the road to better policing.

The Division of Police, which has 70 officers and 10 civilian employees, falls under the auspices of the Department of Public Safety and provides protection and enforcement services for all county-owned properties and

facilities. County police also assist and support the courts, prosecutor, sheriff and law enforcement agencies. The division also has a traffic enforcement weigh team that patrols for unsafe trucks on county roads, as well as a traffic enforcement unit that conducts child safety seat inspections.

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COUNTY NEWS

Community blood drives

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

- Friday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Gallop Hill Road, Union.
- Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Union Elks Lodge, 281 Chestnut St., Union.
- Monday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Gallop Hill Road, Union.

• July 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Westfield Rescue Squad, 335 Watson St., Westfield.

• July 22, 3 to 7 p.m., Gran Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Road, Clark.

• July 23, 6 to 9 p.m., Masonic Atlas Pythagoras Lodge, 101 Central Ave., Westfield.

• July 26, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Gallop Hill Road, Union.

• July 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 1034 Jeanette Ave., Union.

• July 31, 6 to 9 p.m., Clark Fire Department, Broadway and Valley Road, Clark.

For more information, call 1-800-BLOOD-NJ or 1-800-652-5663, Ext. 140.

Free watershed walks

Ever wonder why there has been so much talk about watersheds in the news today? To know how it affects you or how it's related to the current drought and water quality?

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, has announced a series of free watershed/water resource based nature walks to help you understand this important issue.

Hosted by AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador Mike Aita, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Schering-Plough Corp. in partnership with the Greater Newark Conservancy, Middlesex County, the Weequahic Park Association, and the state Department of Environmental Protection, a three-dimensional watershed model will be presented followed by a short nature walk along a river or lake in the area.

These educational walks will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, as follows:

- Saturday, Merrill County Park, Woodbridge.
- July 20, Elizabeth River Park, North Avenue and Riverside Drive, Hillside.

• July 27, Weequahic Park, Newark.

Open to all, but children must be accompanied by an adult, and proper outdoor hiking attire is needed.

Call Mike for registration, directions, and more information at 908-527-4032 or maita@unioncountynj.org.

Boating safety course

The Union County College Division of Continuing Education and Community Services is once again offering the New Jersey Boating Safety Certification on its Cranford campus at 1033 Springfield Ave.

The course is required for those who are 16 years old and over who wish to operate personal watercraft and for those 13 years or more to operate power boats. The course will cover the following topics: boat handling, rules of the road, safety regulations, necessary equipment, and legal responsibilities. Upon successful completion a state approved for issuing for a New Jersey Boating Safety Certificate will be issued. The certification is NASBLA approved.

The certification program begins July 23. For more information on this certification or any other program offered by the Division of Continuing Education and Community Services, call 908-709-7600.

• July 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Westfield Rescue Squad, 335 Watson St., Westfield.

• July 24, 3 to 7 p.m., Gran Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Road, Clark.

• July 25, 6 to 9 p.m., Masonic Atlas Pythagoras Lodge, 101 Central Ave., Westfield.

• July 26, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Gallop Hill Road, Union.

• July 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 1034 Jeanette Ave., Union.

• July 31, 6 to 9 p.m., Clark Fire Department, Broadway and Valley Road, Clark.

For more information, call 1-800-BLOOD-NJ or 1-800-652-5663, Ext. 140.

• July 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Westfield Rescue Squad, 335 Watson St., Westfield.

• July 22, 3 to 7 p.m., Gran Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Road, Clark.

• July 23, 6 to 9 p.m., Masonic Atlas Pythagoras Lodge, 101 Central Ave., Westfield.

• July 26, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Gallop Hill Road, Union.

• July 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 1034 Jeanette Ave., Union.

• July 31, 6 to 9 p.m., Clark Fire Department, Broadway and Valley Road, Clark.

For more information, call 1-800-BLOOD-NJ or 1-800-652-5663, Ext. 140.

The Westfield annex is open from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and can be reached by calling 908-654-9859.

Volunteers needed to be rape crisis advocates

Caring, supportive and committed individuals are wanted to volunteer to assist rape survivors during day, evening and weekend shifts at the Union County Rape Crisis Center.

There is especially a need for bilingual and multilingual individuals. Training will prepare advocates to respond with support and information on the 24-hour hotline, provide emotional support and accompaniment at the hospital, police department, Prosecutor's Office and/or court.

The 40 hours of specialized training to become a rape crisis advocate, which is mandated throughout the state, will be scheduled twice a week from Sept. 24 to Nov. 21. Training addresses the different types of sexual assault, the trauma experienced by sexual assault survivors, their family members and related issues.

In addition to serving as a rape crisis advocate, volunteers may become involved in making educational presentations to schools or to groups in the community on sexual assault topics.

The Union County Rape Crisis Center is located at 300 North Ave. East in Westfield. The center is a program in the Department of Human Services, Division of Planning that is designed for comprehensive work with survivors of all ages of sexual assault. Some people may believe that only young women would need its services, but they are offered to adult males, females, teen-agers, children and their families whether the sexual assault/abuse took place recently or in years past.

The center also offers crisis intervention, short-term counseling and therapy with referral for long-term services as needed, which are provided free of charge by qualified professionals.

Dates for the volunteer training are as follows: Sept. 24 and 26; Oct. 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, and 31; Nov. 7, 12, 14, 19 and 21.

Training is from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Styles, talent fuse in Persun

By Bill VanSant
Associate Editor

Webster's defines "fusion" as "a fusing or melting together" and "the state ... of being united."

Thus it is with Persun, the Maplewood-based band that will appear at The Crossroads in Garwood July 18.

In musical parlance, primarily rock, fusion describes that form of music that melds other genres, a hybrid of sorts.

Persun's most recent album, "Empty Rooms," is such a hybrid — the listener is able to perceive a vast array of influences in musical styles, the result of the band members' diverse tastes in music.

And that's fine with the band, according to drummer Anthony Vanacore of Maplewood. "That's what really sets it apart in many ways," he said of the fusion genre. "When we travel in each other's cars, we listen to completely different things."

"I'm really into very technical music. That's what really inspires me to play," Vanacore continued. He also mentioned progressive influences such as Dream Theater and Rush, and added that his inspiration for individual songs can come from such disparate sources as a movie, video game or book.

His bandmates — lead guitarist Nick Menza and bassist/vocalist Brett Tabano, both of Maplewood, and vocalist Adam Wink of South Brunswick — each bring their own tastes to the table.

Menza's influences began in the '80s with Poison, Bon Jovi and glam rock bands. "Then as I got older," he said, "I started listening to more classic rock for writing purposes."

Wink cited Phish, jam bands and classic rock, while Tabano said, "I just listen to everything there is out there. Basically, the entire umbrella of music." The lead singer specified classic rock, music from the '70s and '80s, and rap.

The fusion continues into the collaborative process, with no one person credited on "Empty Rooms" as songwriter. Just as they fuse styles, the members of Persun fuse their composing skills.

"Usually what happens is one of the two of us — me and Brett — will come up with a riff," Menza said, adding that it's then fleshed out and arranged by the entire band. "When we're writing songs, we like to please ourselves," Vanacore said. "You have to please yourself first before you can go out and please an audience. It's a personal thing — you have to enjoy what you're doing."

Non-fiction narrative reads like a novel

On the Shelf

By Brian Pedersen
Staff Writer

One of the challenges of writing any narrative account of a real event is keeping the story alive.

Often, the writer's need to present the details of the setting and clear facts of what occurred can threaten to bog the story down entirely.

Luckily, Robert Frump's "Until the Sea Shall Free Them: Life, Death and Survival in the Merchant Marine" is one tale that avoids this fate.

Throughout his rendering of the events that unfolded and led up to the shipwreck of the SS Marine Electric off the coast of Virginia in 1983, the storytelling thread of Frump's tale remains intact.

The Marine Electric is on a routine run carrying coal from Virginia to an electric utility at Brayton Point in Massachusetts, but it's soon discovered this trip will be anything but routine.

The story unfolds when the characters begin their voyage and start to talk about the uncertainty of life aboard the ship. We get the chance to meet and see these people interact, knowing that not all of them will be alive when their voyage comes to a tragic end.

As the disaster strikes, the characters scramble to save themselves as the pulsing urgency of the event shatters their illusions of safety. The ship's chief mate, Bob Cusick, becomes the story's hero, battling for his life as the cold sea begins to devour the ship and his mates. He will to survive is extraordinary and inspiring as he fights the approaching specter of death to stay alive.

One chilling section reads, "The men were all in the water now, chilled, splashing; swimming, crying, dying. That part was simple. It was the rescue that would be complex."

As a reporter for the Philadelphia Inquirer at the time, Frump uses his investigative skills as a journalist to not only tell the story, but show how these people reacted to the tragedy in the aftermath. He shows men determined to tell the truth behind the sinking, people who are bent on fixing a bureaucratic system struggling to cover up their responsibility for the tragedy.

With a description of the sinking of similar ships, such as the Theodora

and the Golden Dolphin, Frump prepares us for the tragedy to come, without distracting the reader with extra storylines. Once the tale of the SS Marine Electric's sinking is told, he sprinkles separate historical accounts of previous shipwrecks and rescue missions in separate chapters to show the mechanics of each event.

But rather than distract the reader from the story being told, Frump's technique enhances his narrative with these separate storylines that reveal tiny anecdotes and facts. He succeeds in letting us know such things as how difficult it is to rescue a man out of a lifeboat only inches from safety or the proper way to spread steam coal into the holds of the ship without stepping up to a lectern and spouting dry facts.

It's a technique that's engaging, offering a break from the action, yet keeping the pace moving as the narrative of the shipwreck and the rescue mission comes to a close.

The second part of the book shows the legal action that ensues once the true origin of the shipwreck is revealed. Playing a major role in finding out the facts is the Philadelphia Inquirer, which mounts an investigation into the sinking and discovers the drastic statistics of former Merchant Marine ships. Even though the ships were falling apart and in poor condition, they find these ships were still sent out to sea with crews on board, resulting in countless casualties.

As the courtroom drama unfolds, the American Bureau of Shipping, the Marine Board of Investigation, the Coast Guard and the lawyers all enter the legal tangle with shifting degrees of success.

As a former reporter, Frump is clever at putting the human face on the legal battle and showing all sides of the action.

We get to see the motivations behind "the tiger in the tall grass," Thomas Rohrer, one of the attorneys driven to shift the true origin of the shipwreck onto someone else.

We also get to see the ambitious drive of Jesse Calhoun, the whistle-blower and head of the maritime union who fights for an end to the use of the old ships.

Although the author wrote the book as a non-fiction account, the story itself reads like a novel, with colorful, unique characters that come to breathing life, revealing how much of a hold the sea has upon them.

The sea itself becomes an imposing character, alternately deadly yet endearing, taking nearly all the men, regardless of age, class or stature. "The wind moaned through the waves. Not like a moan. It was a



Persun appearing live in concert.

manufacture this band, and you're gonna like it."

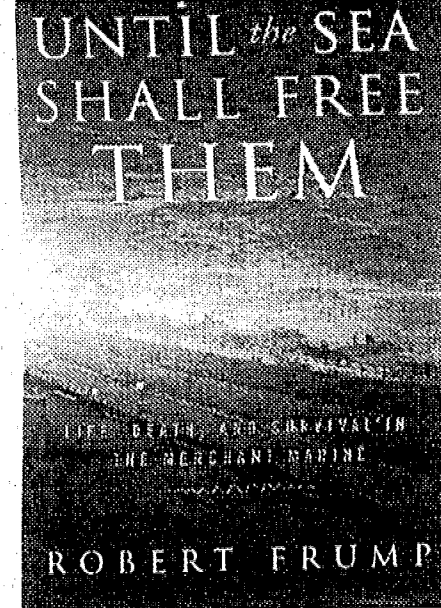
The non-manufactured Persun will be going back into the studio in August to record four more tracks.

"We love it," Tabano said of the process. "We can't stop recording. They're gonna be totally different than what's on 'Empty Rooms.'"

Taking their sound in a new direction on the new recordings, the four will be melding their differing tastes in music, which affords them the chance to resist being pigeon-holed, thus becoming stagnant — or worse, "selling out."

"David Gilmour once said, 'As soon as you accept a label people give you, you limit yourself,'" Vanacore said, quoting the lead singer and guitarist of Pink Floyd. "We're not restricted."

"When we write songs, we don't throw it out because it 'doesn't sound like us.' If it sounds good, it sounds good," added Wink.



moan. A sad, singing, howling moan. It had a pitch, timber and tremolo that were almost human."

Those who survive and bear witness to the disaster find they can never completely be free of the sea.

The author has a real knack for storytelling, letting the story take on a life of its own while steering clear of any unnecessary detours.

Those who are looking for an intriguing and intellectually entertaining summer read can find themselves in good, steady hands with Robert Frump at the wheel.

Robert Frump is a resident of Summit.

Concerts live up parks in Linden

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 — Magic Touch at James Iozzi Peach Orchard Park, Dill Avenue.

- July 23 — Total Soul at Wilson Park, Summit Terrace.

- July 30 — Johnsoniano and the Godsons of Soul at Wilson Park, Summit Terrace.

- Aug. 6 — The Nice 'n' Easy Orchestra at Wilson Park, Summit Terrace.

- Aug. 13 — Jimmy Sturr Orchestra at Wilson Park, Summit Terrace.

Call the Gregorio Recreation Center at 908-474-8627 or the Recreation Hotline at 908-474-8604 for more information.

Editorial deadlines

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

Entertainment — Friday noon.

Sports — Monday noon.

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Leisure Lifestyles The Cook's Nook

Recipes provide s'more on marshmallows

By Jennifer Mastrianni
Copley News Service

I'm sitting beside the campfire, sticky stick in hand, contemplating how many layers of skin I just scalded off the roof of my mouth, when the thought hits me: Just what the heck is a marshmallow?

And how can something that tastes so good cause such excruciating pain? So I did a background check on the mysterious marshmallow. It's classified as a confection, a candy. It's been around since ancient Egypt.

Marshmallows got their name when the pharaohs discovered that part of the mallow plant grown in marshes could be made into a confection. Nobody knows when marshmallows were first roasted, but I would bet that pharaohs ingenious enough to build mammoth quadrilateral masonry structures were smart enough to hold a marshmallow over a flame. Homemakers through the ages made marshmallows from sugar, mallow plant and other ingredients. By whipping the mixture, the sugary concen-

tion became light and airy, but had nowhere near the sponginess of today's store-bought marshmallows.

It wasn't until the 1950s that food companies began commercially manufacturing marshmallows from corn syrup, sugar, gelatin and gum derivatives. It was then that Kraft Foods introduced Jet-Puffed marshmallows, which got its name from a manufacturing process that infused air into the marshmallow, giving it the squishy texture we know and love.

Roasting the fluffy puffs over an open fire is surely one of the joys of summer. Whether you prefer your marshmallows golden brown or blackened, it's the caramelized sugar that makes them taste so good. It's that same sugar, which can reach up to 350 degrees, that can scorch the bejibbers out of your roof and tongue if you forget to let the marshmallow cool off before popping it into your mouth.

Did you know that it's pretty easy to make marshmallows from scratch? It's true. I recently made a batch.

You're wondering, why in the world would anyone want to make their own when a bag costs about a buck?

Think how fun to show up at a cookout with a plateful. When the sky darkens and the gang gathers around the campfire to pass out sticks and marshmallows, you can hold up your hand and pull the ultimate Martha-esque snobism.

"Oh, no thank you. I prefer to make my own. My family is worth it."

Actually, I wanted to know what in the world a marshmallow is made of. Were they boiled? Baked? It's an interesting process, and one kids definitely will have fun with.

Homemade Marshmallows

1/4 cup cornstarch
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
1 envelope unflavored gelatin
1/2 cup water
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup light corn syrup
Pinch of salt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Yields 38 marshmallows

Sift cornstarch and confectioners' sugar into bowl. Lightly grease 8x8-inch square baking pan and sprinkle 1 tablespoon of cornstarch and sugar mixture into it. Tilt pan to coat sides and bottom. Leave excess in pan. Sprinkle gelatin into water in small saucepan and let soak for 5 minutes. Add granulated sugar and stir over low heat until gelatin and sugar dissolve. In large bowl, combine gelatin mixture, corn syrup, salt

and vanilla, and beat by electric mixer or with hand mixer for 15 minutes on high speed, until peaks form.

Spread fluffy mixture in prepared pan and smooth top. Leave for two hours or until set.

With wet knife, cut marshmallow mixture into quarters and loosen around edges. Sprinkle remaining cornstarch and sugar mixture on baking sheet and invert marshmallow blocks onto it. Cut each quarter into nine pieces and roll each in starch and sugar.

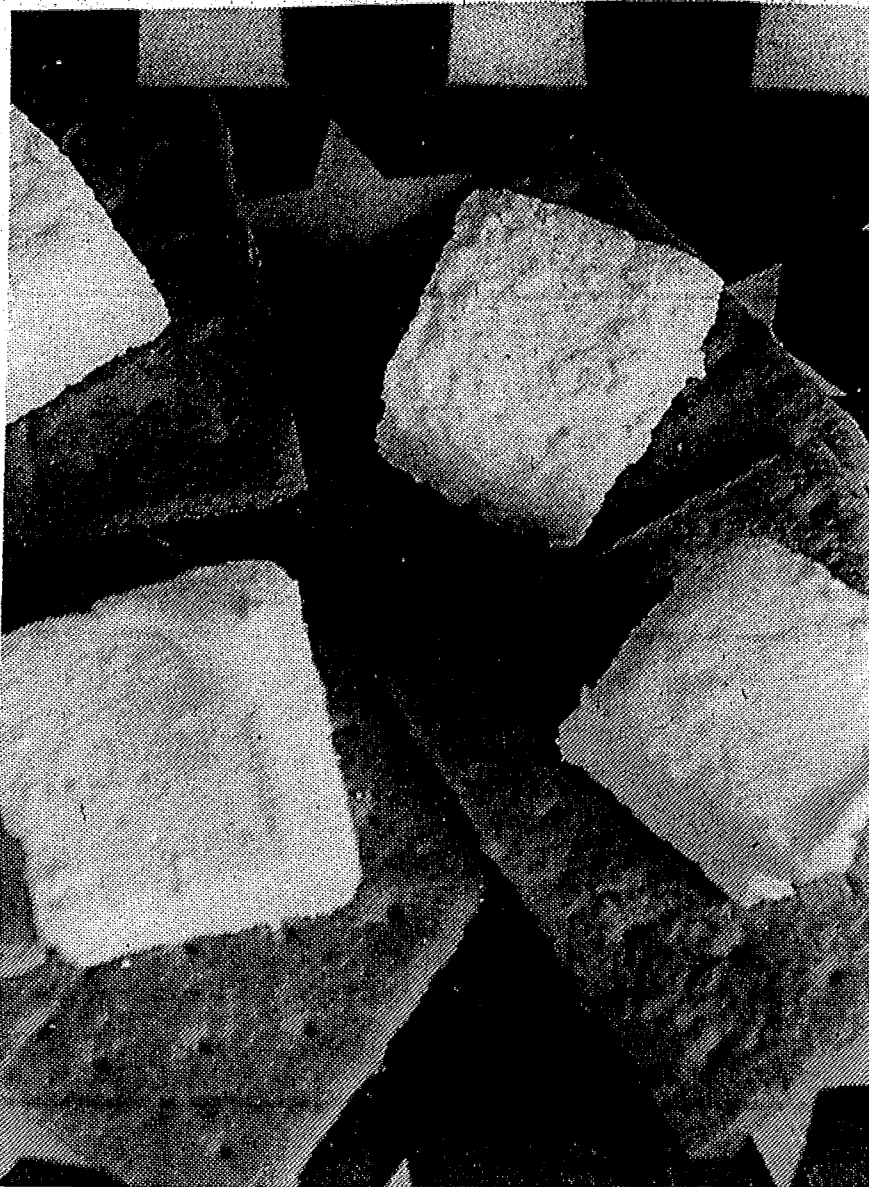
Place marshmallows on cake rack covered with paper towels and let stand overnight to air-dry surface slightly. Store airtight. Will keep for a month.

S'Mores and More

The classic summertime recipe has three ingredients: marshmallow, graham crackers and a piece of chocolate bar. Simply toast marshmallow and place it with piece of chocolate between two graham crackers.

Variations: Instead of plain chocolate, try slices of candy bars such as Snickers, Milky Way or Three Musketeers. Try a slice of fudge, Andes Mints or caramel chunks softened over the fire.

Spread peanut butter on graham cracker. Or sprinkle on shredded coconut. Instead of graham crackers, try Walker's shortbread cookies. Spread fruit preserves on cookies.



Homemade marshmallows have all the flavor and sponginess of store-bought marshmallows, and are fun to make.

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 the 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 Columbia Ave.

The schedule of performers and their musical style is:

- Today, 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 Briskie, popular music.
- Aug. 8, Ray Masters, Italian.

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Healthy Living

University Hospital partners to open cardiothoracic center

Take one of the leading cardiac surgery programs in the world and combine it with the clinical and research talent at New Jersey's largest academic medical center.

The result? The new cardiac surgery program at The-University Hospital/New Jersey Medical School in Newark.

Officials at University Hospital and New Jersey Medical School have announced an affiliation with the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons for the establishment of a new division of cardiothoracic surgery at the hospital and school. Columbia faculty members will assume leadership positions in the division and will join the team at University Hospital July 1.

"Through our affiliation with Columbia, we'll take an immediate leap forward in the services and quality we can bring to our patients," said Sidney E. Mitchell, president and chief executive officer of University Hospital. "As an academic medical center, University Hospital has the existing talent and technology necessary to support the introduction to New Jersey of new procedures that are currently being pioneered and perfected in New York by Columbia." University Hospital is owned and operated by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

New Jersey Medical School Dean Russell T. Joffe M.D. agreed. "This innovative affiliation agreement provides enormous opportunity for the Medical School as well as the hospital. The combination of the best of both schools allows us to move quickly in broadening our clinical, education and research capabilities in the entire range of the cardiac sciences."

Columbia physician Dr. Barry Esrig will become the director of the division of cardiothoracic surgery at University Hospital/New Jersey Medical School. Dr. Esrig is a superbly skilled surgeon, with a 0.0 percent coronary bypass mortality rate as reported in the latest Cardiac Surgery Report published by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

Also joining the University Hospital team from Columbia will be Dr. Douglas Jackson. Dr. Jackson will be named vice chairman of critical care in the department of anesthesiology and will direct the new Cardiothoracic Surgery Intensive Care Unit currently under construction.

Drs. Esrig and Jackson join Dr. Michael Banker, director of cardiac surgery at University Hospital. Dr. Banker has more than a decade of experience in New York State and New Jersey and a trace record of excellent outcomes.

Overall administration and quality assurance for the division of cardiothoracic surgery will be provided by Dr. Eric Rose, chairman of the department of surgery at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. "This new relationship between our two centers brings together talented, experienced clinicians and creative innovators to serve the Newark community and the residents of New Jersey," Dr. Rose comments. "The results will be outstanding patient care and a continuation of the great tradition of teaching and research at the New Jersey Medical School."

Consistently ranked as one of the top cardiology programs in the nation, the Columbia Presbyterian Heart Program has been the home to a host of clinical innovations in heart care. More heart transplants have been performed at Columbia than any other hospital in the U.S. for the past two decades and its groundbreaking work in the use of the LVAD — Left Ventricular Assist Device — has brought longer life to thousands of people suffering from end-stage heart failure. These specialized services and others, such as robotic surgery, will be easily accessible to New Jersey residents through the new affiliation with University Hospital.

For more information about the new cardiac surgery program at University Hospital, call 973-972-5742 or visit the Web site at www.TheUniversityHospital.com/njci.



Columbia physicians Dr. Douglas Jackson, left, and Dr. Barry Esrig join Dr. Michael Banker at The University Hospital's new cardiothoracic surgery center.

Lightning strikes more than once in summer

Each year hundreds of people are injured and an average 100 people die after being struck by lightning, a situation that could often be prevented if individuals engage in safe behavior during thunderstorms.

As part of its mission to educate the public about burn prevention and fire safety, the Education Department of The Burn Center at St. Barnabas Medical Center has compiled factual information on lightning safety.

Lightning facts
Approximately 75 percent of lightning strikes occur in the summer months, usually between 2 and 6 p.m. Those most likely to be hurt are engaged in activities involving open fields and recreation and swimming areas. Males are struck by lightning four times more often than females.

Lightning safety
It is important to remember that no place outside is completely safe so always check with a reliable forecast such as the National Weather Service when planning activities. Thunder indicates one is already within the range of where the next ground flash may occur. Lightning can travel as far as 10 miles so strikes can occur "out of the clear blue sky." It is, therefore, very important to seek adequate shelter immediately. Experts recommend that individuals wait 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning

or sound of thunder before resuming outdoor activities.

The Lightning Safety Group of the American Meteorological Society and others recommend the following — choose a safe location during a thunderstorm:

- Large, enclosed structures are safer than smaller or open structures.
- Once inside, stay away from any conducting path to the outside: corded telephones, headsets, lighting and electric sockets, fireplaces, or plumbing.
- Do not bathe, shower or wash dishes. Unplug and stay away from electrical appliances, computers, power tools and television sets.
- Stay clear of windows and doors.
- Fully enclosed metal vehicles are quite safe.
- Avoid being in or near:
 - Areas that are higher than the surrounding landscape.
 - Wide-open areas, including sports fields and beaches.
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Then a physician at the Wound Healing Center encouraged me to begin treatment. The results were nothing short of a miracle. My husband and I took our first vacation in seven years. And I can even run around after my grandchildren. I really owe them my life.

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From left, Burgdorff ERA President Judy Reeves, Summit Office Manager Joanne Tedesco-Kloud, Summit Mayor Walter Long and ERA Senior Vice President Pat Hofekamp cut the ribbon marking the grand opening of Burgdorff's offices in the historic Roots building.

Open house celebrates beginning in Summit's historic Roots building

Burgdorff ERA hosted a gala open house celebration for 400 guests on the evening of June 26 to celebrate its new office in the historic Roots Building, located at 401 Springfield Ave., in Summit. Summit Mayor Walter Long participated in the festivities, leading off the event with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony with Burgdorff ERA President Judy Reeves, Burgdorff Summit Office Manager and Vice President Joanne Tedesco-Kloud and Burgdorff Senior Vice President Pat Hofekamp.

Reeves said, "We are thrilled with our new location here in Summit and are so pleased to be a part of this building's rich heritage. Our goal was to maintain the historical integrity of the Roots building while offering the staff and clients an elegant, comfortable setting in which to conduct business. We've also implemented the newest in technology advances, as in the other Burgdorff offices, to enhance service to our clients."

Long remarked, "The Roots Building is special to this town. Burgdorff's renovation and remodeling efforts are magnificent. I am very, very impressed."

The new Burgdorff offices occupy 40 percent of the Renaissance Revivalist structure, with a heavily ornamented brick door marking the entrance on Springfield Avenue. Christopher Welsh, local architect, designed the renovation.

The Summit Historic Preservation Commission explains that it designated the site as a landmark building. Long-term area residents may remember bygone days when the site hosted the Roots clothier, a bank or even when the property lay dormant for many years.

Today, the Burgdorff space is appointed with granite, brass and mahogany and was professionally decorated to highlight the building's unique architectural detail. Carriage lights adorn the building's facade, and burgundy awnings shade the windows, making it easily identifiable. The office includes three reception areas and two private conference rooms, in addition to private workspaces with computers and high-speed Internet connectivity for instant communications. Passersby can view up-to-the-minute real estate offerings on flat-panel monitors positioned by the office windows.

Regarding this newest Burgdorff location, Joanne Tedesco-Kloud, Summit office manager, said, "This centrally located office allows our sales team to provide their expertise to a wider variety of locales. We're honored to be here and looking forward to serving a broader territory."

For real estate assistance or to inquire about a career in real estate, call the office at 908-522-1800.



Burgdorff ERA President Judy Reeves greets one of the youngest guests.



Folks enjoy the atmosphere of the historic Roots building.

Consulting with professional results in happy home buyers

Once the decision to sell a home has been made, a homeowner should next consult with a real estate professional who can provide expert advice about what improvements will appeal to more buyers and help a home sell faster and for a higher price.

According to Joe Gulino, broker/owner of ERA Princeton Corridor Realty, "Today, most buyers are looking for homes in move-in condition. Our experience shows that a small investment by the seller in their home can yield a significant increase in the

selling price. We have seen investments of \$700 for a handyman generate a \$5,000-plus increase in the selling price, and larger investments have yielded higher selling prices, depending on the location and price of the home."

Simple things such as changing the colors, new carpet and updated lighting can make a tremendous difference. One of the most noticeable improvements a homeseller can make is to paint the interior and exterior of the home, giving it a fresh, updated

look. Interior colors should be kept neutral to help buyers imagine their furniture fitting into your home.

Also, consider replacing worn carpeting with new neutral-colored carpeting and, if you have hardwood floors, have them refinished unless they are in excellent condition. Agents also recommend replacing old, dated light fixtures with newer ones.

The first impression potential buyers have of a property occurs as they drive to the house and walk to the front door. In the case of landscaping, less is more. A home that is too crowded with shrubs and trees can give buyers a negative impression.

The same philosophy applies to a home's interior. According to a national survey of real estate professionals, 90 percent of agents surveyed recommend cleaning and decluttering a home, including the garage, to improve its sale.

While the aforementioned recommendations concern a home's aesthetics, it is equally important to take care of minor maintenance needs, such as fixing leaky faucets, grouting around tubs, cleaning gutters and so on.

"Buyers are comforted when they see a well maintained home, trusting that what they cannot see has also been well maintained," said Gulino.

Before investing time and money in preparing your home for sale, talk to your local real estate professional, who is familiar with both your neighborhood and the expectations of buyers.

For more information about selling your home, contact your local ERA office, which can be found by visiting the ERA Brokers of New Jersey web site at www.ERA.NJ.com.

ERA is a global leader in the residential real estate industry with 30 years of experience in developing consumer-oriented products and services. The ERA Real Estate network includes 2,600 independently owned and operated brokerage offices with more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 26 other countries and territories.

Survey results reveal trends

RE/MAX firms again lead the recently published 2002 REAL Trends 500, a survey of the largest real estate firms in the United States by leading industry publisher, REAL Trends, Inc. The 170 independently owned RE/MAX firms named make up 30 percent of the elite "500" list.

As in past surveys, the 12-office operations of RE/MAX Greater Atlanta under the direction of broker/owner, Lee Finch was the highest-ranking RE/MAX operation, finishing this year at number 14, a notch higher than its 15th place ranking last year. RE/MAX Equity Group, with 17 offices in the Portland area led by Jim Homolka went from 34th last year to 26th in 2002. The 14-office operations of Church Ochsner's RE/MAX Alliance based in Arvada, Colo., captured the 29th slot.

"As the industry has grown more diverse, we are presenting the ranking information in several ways," state the introductory comments from co-editors Stephen H. Murray and Laurie Moore-Moore. "The Real Trends 500 Report is the only report of its kind that requires verification from outside sources. We believe this creates a true picture of the results of the leading firms in the United States."

Among the variety of presentations of information, 40 RE/MAX firms were identified in the list of 114 "Up-and-Comers." RE/MAX firms filled half of the positions in the "Top 10 Firms by Productivity per Office by Sides," and half of the "Top 10 Firms by Productivity per Office by Sales Volume." Seven of the "25 Fastest Growing Firms in 2001" are RE/MAX operations as are 77 of the 116 "Single-office Companies Which Closed 1,000+ Sides in 2001"

Taxpayer Relief Act can help keep more profits

Steady growth in real estate sales across the nation is one of the major catalysts moving homeowners to sell their current homes and purchase dwellings that better suit their needs.

Not all homeowners want to upgrade. Some are seeking smaller houses that require less effort to maintain and are much easier on their budgets. The challenge with upgrading to a smaller home is that a large profit made from the sale of the existing home brings a whopping capital gains tax that eats up most of the profit. To relieve this situation, Uncle Sam has come to their rescue.

Anyone who is considering selling their home but is concerned about paying a high capital gains tax may benefit from the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. Created to permit most homeowners to sell free of taxpayer repercussions, single homeowners may be able to exclude up to \$250,000 from federal capital gains tax on their primary residence and married couples up to \$500,000 with certain restrictions.

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Being in a hurry can be hazardous

By Jon Woods

Copley News Service

Everyone always seems to be in a hurry. Hurry to get the kids to school, hurry to get to the movie theater, hurry to get to work. Of course it's obvious why we're always in a hurry — we are always running late. And the reason we are always running late is because we are trying to do more stuff than we have time for. We sleep just a little longer or make just one more widget before we leave.

I don't have a problem with other people trying to do more stuff than they have time for, so long as they don't foist their I'm-in-a-hurry frustrations on me. If you are running late while driving to work, please don't run me off the road just because you wanted to get just a few more minutes of sleep.

Sometimes we're late due to the actions of someone else. Some other driver on the freeway, going too fast because he's running late, has an accident that snarls traffic, causing the rest of us to be late.

"Hurry up" is a standard phrase in the auto repair business as well. I love

it when a customer tells me, "Don't hurry on the repairs because I want the job to be done right, but I absolutely need the car done by 3:00."

I don't think these people realize the absurdity of this statement. Folks, all sorts of things can go wrong while servicing a car. Employees can call in sick, parts can be delivered late, the wrong parts can be delivered, bolts can break, phone systems and computer systems can go down, tools can break, and even we human mechanics can goof. Any of these things can put the repairs off schedule. And don't forget, your car is not the only car that the shop is servicing that day. And everyone else wants their car by 3:00 as well.

Servicing and repairing cars for a living can be very dangerous and asking a mechanic to work in this dangerous environment and hurry at the same time is asking for disaster.

I was reminded recently of this fact the hard way. I goofed. I sliced my hand because I was not following one of the safety rules. Rule number 127: Never hold a connector in one hand while simultaneously pushing on the

connector with the other hand while holding a sharp screwdriver. Obviously, the screwdriver slipped and impaled my hand. I'll live, but obviously the reason I hurt my hand was because I was in a hurry — I refuse to believe it was because I was stupid — and didn't take the time to go get a leather glove to protect my hand. And I'm paying the price. Already today I've had to explain to five customers why my left hand is bandaged up. I've managed to get the explanation down to: "I hurt it. Isn't it obvious?"

So for the next week or so I'll be working a little less efficiently with the bandaged hand, which will cause my car repairs to be completed a little later than normal, which in turn will make more of my customers late to whatever it is they have to do. Vicious cycle, isn't it?

I think the cycle needs to be broken and I think it will take a joint effort. We mechanics will still strive to get cars ready on time but when circumstances beyond our control occur, and sometimes when we simply goof, it would be nice if the customers could give us a break.

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