

# Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 74 NO. 04

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2002

TWO SECTION

## State report shows crime's rise and fall

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

Crime in Springfield has dropped slightly, while crime in Mountainside has increased, according to the 2001 Uniform Crime Index, an annual report issued by the State Police.

Each year, the State Police records the violent, and non-violent crimes submitted by local police departments throughout the state and produces the index. The index number includes the combined total of seven major offenses, or Class 1 crimes, used to track crime rates in a specific area. These crimes include murder, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and car thefts.

However, the UCI numbers do not include Class 1 crimes such as fraud, stolen property, weapons charges, sex offenses other than rape, or narcotic convictions.

The UCI number in Springfield dropped from 417 in 2000 to 406 in 2001. However, in Mountainside, the UCI number increased from 121 in 2000 to 145 in 2001.

A more detailed look at Springfield shows that violent crimes were cut in half, going from 22 incidents in 2000 to 11 incidents in 2001. Nonviolent crime stayed the same at 395 incidents.

"There's less opportunity out there to do it," said Springfield Police Chief William Chisholm. "People are more aware of it. The average person is more aware of their surroundings so the opportunity may not be presented to the person out there to commit the violent crime."

Chisholm said Springfield police officers are trying to be more visible. "Years ago we rode two men to a car,"

he said. "Now we're in one-man cars for about the last 10 years. So you get more visibility with police officers on the street, which I think offers a deterrent. It's not fool-proof but if you see a police car driving around chances are you're not going to do anything."

However, burglaries in Springfield increased from 38 reports in 2000 to 61 reports in 2001.

"It's really hard to explain," said Chisholm. "Is it based on the economy? I don't really know. Back in the 1970s we had them up in the 200s. We've arrested quite a few burglars in town."

Violent crimes in Mountainside rose from five in 2000 to 11 in 2001. Nonviolent crimes increased from 116 in 2000 to 134 in 2001. Robberies within the borough doubled from two in 2000 to four in 2001. Aggravated assault more than doubled with 3 in 2000 and seven in 2001. Burglaries decreased slightly from 10 in 2000 to nine in 2001.

Marian Kelly, a 40-year resident of Mountainside, said she hasn't noticed any crime in her neighborhood in recent years but was a victim of a house robbery nearly 30 years ago. She said that one of the reasons she feels safe in Mountainside is because she hasn't been robbed since then.

"The Police Department, you see the police cars drive around quite frequently," she said. "They drive up and down the streets and you see them around."

Motor vehicle thefts also increased in Mountainside, going from 38 in 2000 to 57 in 2001.

Mountainside Police Chief and

See RESIDENTS, Page 3

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Burglary	39	37	31	38	61
Larceny	256	263	238	256	247
Motor vehicle theft	112	78	86	101	87
Nonviolent crime	407	378	355	395	395
Rate per 1,000	29.8	27.7	25.9	27.4	27.4
Robbery	6	6	5	10	7
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	2	0	1	0	0
Aggravated assault	5	5	2	12	4
Violent crime	13	11	8	22	11
Rate per 1,000	1.0	0.8	0.6	1.5	0.8
Arson	0	2	2	0	0
Domestic violence	144	118	101	126	110
Bias crime	3	0	1	6	1
Crime Index Total	420	389	363	417	406
Rate per 1,000	30.7	28.5	26.4	28.9	28.1

Source: Uniform Crime Report

The rate per 1,000 indicates the number of incidents per 1,000 residents.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Burglary	18	18	9	10	10
Larceny	78	87	67	68	68
Motor vehicle theft	42	42	25	38	57
Nonviolent crime	138	147	101	116	134
Rate per 1,000	20.7	22.1	15.1	17.6	20.3
Robbery	1	2	0	2	4
Murder	0	0	1	0	0
Rape	1	0	0	0	0
Aggravated assault	5	4	4	3	7
Violent crime	7	6	5	5	11
Rate per 1,000	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.7
Arson	0	1	0	1	1
Domestic violence	5	18	28	19	3
Bias crime	0	1	2	0	0
Crime Index Total	145	153	106	121	145
Rate per 1,000	21.8	23.0	15.9	18.3	22.0

Source: Uniform Crime Report

The rate per 1,000 indicates the number of incidents per 1,000 residents.

## Cen Com plans \$0.50 call increase

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

Mountainside is in the process of renewing its contract with Central Communications, an outside medical emergency dispatcher unit used to handle the borough's medical emergency calls, whose contract expires next month.

Mountainside has been using Cen Com since 1993. The borough was one of the company's first customers. Cen Com was contracted by Mountainside to act as the borough's medical emergency dispatcher at a cost of \$6 per call. Since 1993, Cen Com has added approximately 15 other municipalities within the state. The company wants to increase its cost to the borough from \$6 per call to \$6.50 per call, with a \$0.50 increase each year for the next three years.

"We proposed a sliding scale for this contract round to bring them closer to what our newer contracts are paying," said Garreth Williams, communications manager for Cen Com.

Williams said that a solution will be reached shortly and the contract will be renewed by the time it expires next month.

"We're waiting for Cen Com to get back to us to discuss a reduction in their request," said Borough Administrator and Chief of Police James Debbie.

Cen Com is based out of Overlook Hospital in Summit. It is a subsidiary of Atlantic Healthcare, which owns a number of hospitals in New Jersey.

"We're a regional-based 9-1-1 communications center here at the hospital," said Williams. "For Mountainside, we've provided medical call screening and dispatching of our local ambulances."

If a Mountainside resident dials 9-1-1, they will get the Mountainside Police Department. The borough's police dispatchers are not medically trained. They cannot give the victim pre-arrival instructions for a medical emergency while the victim awaits an ambulance. Therefore, medical emergencies are transferred to Cen Com, which then sends an ambulance.

"As soon as the police identify that it's a medical call, there's a one-button transfer on the 9-1-1 phone system that routes the call up to us," said Williams.

The dispatchers take over the screening of the call. They find out exactly what the problem is then dispatch a local ambulance while pre-arrival instructions are being given over the phone.

However, the Mountainside Police Department also monitors the calls and sends officers to the victim's location along with the ambulance.

"We listen to what Cen Com is telling people and then we relay it to the officer," said Debbie.

Debbie said there are several reasons that the borough uses Cen Com, such as avoiding the cost and time of intense training sessions that are required under 9-1-1 regulations for medical dispatchers.

"Any dispatcher who handles a medical 9-1-1 call has to have basic telecommunicator training in addition to emergency medical dispatch training, which is a 32-hour program," said Williams. "On top of that they have to maintain eight hours of continued education every year for their certification."

## Stop & Shop continues in quest to build Springfield supermarket

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

When the Stop & Shop Supermarket application was denied last month by the Springfield Zoning Board of Adjustment, James Segreto, attorney for Royal Ahold, the supermarket's parent company, said his firm had three options. They could either file an appeal, renovate the interior of the existing building and open it as is, or do both. Segreto said his firm will be doing all of the above.

The Zoning Board adopted the formal resolution denying the Stop & Shop application last week. Therefore, Royal Ahold has 45 days from the date the resolution was adopted to appeal the decision.

"We'll be preparing a prerogative lawsuit which we will seek to invalidate the denial," said Segreto.

Segreto said that a decision from a judge, ruling on the appeal, can typically take five to six months from the date the appeal was filed.

"They're allowed to file what is

known as prerogative action, to take it before the Superior Court to review the determination by the Board of Adjustment," said Township Attorney Bruce Bergen. "The judge makes a decision and that's up to appeal as well."

If the judge overturns the Zoning Board's denial of the application, then Springfield could file an appeal.

Meanwhile, Segreto said Royal Ahold is having its architects prepare plans for an interior renovation of the existing building, which once housed a Saks Fifth Avenue.

"Once we have those plans completed we'll fine tune them and apply for a building permit," said Segreto.

According to Segreto, Royal Ahold does not need Zoning Board approval to renovate the inside of the current building and open a Stop & Shop in the building exactly as it stands.

"We may not be doing anything until they take some action," said Bergen. "We're not going to set out to

stop them if they're not doing anything. They, just like everybody else, regardless of other circumstances, if they want to do something with their building, they have to comply with the law, whatever that might be depending on what it is they want to do."

Bergen said that he is sure that Royal Ahold would have to apply for a certificate of occupancy, ensuring that the building has to be safe and up to code.

On Aug. 20, the Zoning Board denied the application by a vote of 5-2. Those voting no claimed the site plan jeopardized the safety of residents in the area due to tractor-trailers having to circle residential streets in order to make deliveries to the supermarket, when loading docks are occupied by other trucks.

The supermarket would be located at 92 Millburn Ave. A portion of the property also lies in Millburn Township.



The former Saks Fifth Avenue building on Millburn Avenue in Springfield is where Royal Ahold plans to open a Stop & Shop supermarket, despite having their application denied by the Zoning Board. The company plans to appeal.

## Committeeman brings quarry windmill plans to county and state officials

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

With a vision of building windmills at the Houdaille Quarry, which may generate enough electricity for Springfield and four neighboring townships, Springfield Committeeman Sy Mullman met with state and county officials, hoping to drum up support for his proposal.

Officials in attendance at the Sept. 10 meeting included members of the Board of Public Utilities, Assemblyman Thomas Kean, Union County Manager George Devanney, Jersey

Central Power & Lighting, a representative for Congressman Michael Ferguson, and a representative for U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine.

"We all sat around the table and I presented a plan for the future of what I thought would be in the quarry," said Mullman.

For more than a year, Mullman has pushed for 30 giant windmills to be installed on the 165-acre Houdaille Quarry, which is owned by the state.

"The interested parties went up to the quarry to look at the site," said Mullman.

The county uses the land for a pistol firing range, a county maintenance garage and leaf composting operation.

Mullman said the leaf composting operation cannot be removed. He said the quarry would have to be able to house both the composting and the windmills.

"If they're compatible, then the program seems to have a chance," said Mullman.

Tests have been performed that have determined that the composting and windmills are, in fact, compatible. Mullman said that, hopefully, the

county will confirm it in writing in the very near future.

Once the paperwork is completed by the county, Springfield must conduct a windmill wind study, which takes approximately nine months to complete.

Mullman said it is necessary to obtain the county's permission to conduct tests at the quarry, to even see if the windmills would be able to supply enough electricity.

"There are several issues that need to be worked through on the municipal, county and state level," said

Kean. "My angle would be that there needs to be legislation that would need to be amended to be able to put these windmills on this particular piece of property."

When the state purchased the land, the original legislation was worded in a way that would not allow for the property to be used as a windmill farm.

"If the town, the surrounding communities, the county come to an agreement, and the citizens are behind it, the next step would be to amend this early legislation that passed, to

allow for this as one of the approved uses for that parcel of land," said Kean.

Kean said he has the amended legislation prepared and is going to move it once Springfield asks him to, which should be some time this week.

Mullman said that this week he hopes to get permission from the county to go ahead with the testing so the tests can begin within a month.

According to Mullman, the windmills would generate enough electricity for all Springfield residents as well

See WINDMILLS, Page 2

## Township Committee says 'no' to reactivation of railroad line

By Joshua Zaitz  
Staff Writer

The Springfield Township Committee adopted a resolution opposing the reactivation of the Rahway Valley Railroad line, which runs through residential neighborhoods, major highways and county parks.

According to Mayor Steven Goldstein, the county said no portion of the railroad will be opened without the permission of the township whose property that specific portion of the railroad resides on.

"We were told that if any of the municipali-

ties opposed it, it would not happen," Goldstein said.

A portion of the tracks cross Route 22 in Union, then head into Springfield cutting across Meisel Avenue, leading onto Mountain Avenue and weaving its way through residential properties, and then crossing over Shunpike Road by the Summit border.

Committeeman Gregory Clarke said he attended a meeting in Kenilworth where discussion centered around opposing the reactivation of the railway line.

"I think it's something that concerns more than just the town of Springfield and it was

my opportunity to let them know they have friends here at least, if not in other communities," he said.

The Kenilworth Borough Council was expected to pass a similar resolution during its meeting last night.

Clarke also said that he thinks those who live along the Rahway Valley Railroad tracks should invite some of the members of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders to their homes so the freeholders can see how it affects the local neighborhoods.

"I would think that some of the residents of

Springfield who live up and down that line might wish to do the same thing," said Clarke.

Tracks located at Meisel and Mountain avenues are buried under layers of asphalt. The former Springfield station, across Mountain Avenue from where the new fire headquarters is being constructed, is still in use, only now as a business.

The state spent \$25 million to acquire the rail lines and an additional \$7.8 million in state Transportation Trust Fund money is going to be used to clear the tracks and lay new rails.

As to who would be responsible for restor-

ing the conditions of the tracks is still under consideration.

The state purchased the abandoned railroads under the Bridge and Railroad Right-of-Way Preservation Act, which was adopted in 1989.

"We here have taken a step to put together a resolution that will memorialize our position, obviously in writing, so that not only will we take the initiative on this but there will be the opportunity for other towns to take heed of what we have done and join in on our action," said Committeewoman Clara Harelik.

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Postmaster please note: The ECHO LEADER (USPS 512-720) is published weekly by Worral Community Newspapers...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings.

Friday
The Thelma L. Sandmeier School PTA sponsors a garage sale "Sell-A-Thon" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 455 Mountain Ave.

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Monday
The 21st annual Harvest Festival takes place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Trailside Nature & Science Center.

Tuesday
The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Lunchtime-Video Series.

Wednesday
The Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, offers "The Reluctant Dragon."

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Windmills a possibility

(Continued from Page 1)
as four other communities, which will be determined at a later date.
Mullman said federal funding for the project is not available until 2004 at the earliest.

Policy on weddings and engagements
Couples are encouraged to send the engagement and wedding announcements to the lifestyle editor.

Staff report places educational emphasis on kids
Springfield's Assistant Superintendent of Schools Judy Zimmerman presented a curriculum and staff development report to the Board of Education Monday.

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Deerfield School has opened as promised on Sept. 17.

Approved by the national government. It's called "No Child Left Behind," which Zimmerman said was absolutely critical to the work that the district is doing this year.

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Schaller added that he had already supplied the Board of Education members with a list of five draft goals, all preliminary, and expected Church to present the educational plan by the end of October.

Board member Sally Riviccio reported about discussions with Schaller regarding joint use of cable access Channel 35 as well as using the Town Hall bulletin board, as well as reviewing suggestions in committee for public input.

At the final public opinion portion, one mother hoped there would be some parents on the communications committee, and a review of possibly videotaping Board of Education meetings.

"We are going to meet and we will make plans for this," Riviccio said.

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

Entertainment - Friday noon. Sports - Monday noon.

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

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For this lucky star, blondes do have more fun with MTV

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer
Pop star Madonna may not actually live in Springfield but she certainly could have the closest thing to the Material Girl.

Marnie Fish won an MTV contest where she was transformed to look, act and sing like a "Wannabe" Madonna.
Fish, a senior at Jonathan Dayton High School, auditioned for and won the Madonna episode of "MTV's Becoming Presents 'Wannabe.'" Her episode aired earlier this week on the Music Television station and is also scheduled to air Sunday.

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FDIC
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Residents feel safe

(Continued from Page 1)
Borough Administrator James Debbie explained that when someone breaks into a motor vehicle and tampers with the ignition switch in an attempt to take the vehicle, the incident is considered a motor vehicle theft, even if the car is not stolen.

Marnie Fish, a Springfield resident and senior at Jonathan Dayton High School, stands with Nicholas, a casting coordinator for MTV. Recently, Fish transformed herself into a "Wannabe" Madonna for one of the station's contests and was chosen as the winner. Her episode aired earlier this week on the music television station.

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

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Minimum to open \$5,000

Plus, The Town Bank will donate \$5.00 to the Westfield High School Booster Club for each certificate opened!

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Fax: 908-518-0803

APY (Annual Percentage Yield) is variable and based upon the current prime rate plus 1.50%. The current 91-day US Treasury Bill is 1.25%, resulting in an APY of 2.25%.

FDIC
Member of FDIC

Residents feel safe

(Continued from Page 1)
Borough Administrator James Debbie explained that when someone breaks into a motor vehicle and tampers with the ignition switch in an attempt to take the vehicle, the incident is considered a motor vehicle theft, even if the car is not stolen.

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"Whoever acts most like the artist gets to perform the final song with the band and the background dancers."

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# Local designers win awards competition

Four area interior designers were among the winners of the 2002 Residential Design Awards Competition sponsored by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers. This competition, which is conducted every two years, is judged by a panel of professional interior designers from outside the state.

The honored designers are Summit residents Marilee Schempp, ASID, Design I; Jo Ann Alston, Allied Member, ASID, J. Stephens Interiors; Lori Margolis, Allied Member, ASID, J. Stephens Interior; Loti Margolis, Allied Member, ASID, Commercial Design Group, and Karla Trincanello of Florham Park, Allied Member, ASID, Interior Decisions, Inc.

In the Single Space category, Marilee Schempp, ASID, Design I, Summit, received a Gold Award of Excellence for an elegant, walnut-paneled study/library that includes a floor-to-ceiling walkout bay, zero-clearance fireplace, and generous partner's desk with leather armchairs.

Karla Trincanello, Allied Member, ASID, Interior Decisions, Inc., received a Bronze Award of Excellence in the Single Space category for a luxurious home theater with ultrasuede walls, comfortable seating and acoustically perfect sound.

A Silver Award of Excellence in the Residences Over 5,000 Square Feet was presented to Lori Margolis, Allied Member, ASID, Commercial Design Group for a contemporary western farmhouse in Colorado ski country.

Jo Ann Alston, Allied Member, ASID, J. Stephens Interiors, received a Bronze Award of Excellence in the Residences Under 5,000 Square Feet category for updating a 1952 center hall colonial to provide it with architectural and design consistency with luxuriously appointed traditional ambience.



The New Jersey Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers recently announced the winners of the 2002 Design Awards Competitions. Honored designers included, from left, Summit residents Jo Ann Alston, Bronze Award; Marilee Schempp, Silver Award; and Karla Trincanello of Florham Park.

## RELIGION

**Fountain Baptist has vigil Saturday**

For the second time in two months, the Rev. J. Michael Sanders, the pastor of Fountain Baptist Church, is leading the congregation in a prayer vigil as the church continues in its struggle to acquire additional acreage for expansion. The entire community is invited to participate in the "Seven-Hour Vigil" of continuous prayer to be conducted Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

The 911<sup>th</sup> ecumenical Service of Remembrance underscored the importance of the land acquisition as a public issue of city-wide concern.

"The image of Summit is on the line. It is one thing to display religious and communal harmony on special occasions. It is another to adopt practices and principles consistent with that image. It is time for everyone to know where Summit is as a community really stands, vis-à-vis the issue of worship." The church continues to receive opposition from Glenside Avenue neighbors as well as the Summit Common Council.

Hill expressed dismay at the views of some Common Council representatives to Fountain's proposed expansion. "Most civic leaders recognize that sacred places are also community spaces and will do all they can to support them in meeting their commitment to their ministries. I find it surprising in a town like Summit, which depends so much on volunteerism to aid those who may be less fortunate, that Fountain would encounter opposition, rather than support from City Hall."

Hill contrasted the current attitude of the Common Council with that in the late 1980s when the mayor's office and the council worked with the church to effect its relocation to the current Glenside Avenue site from its original Chestnut Avenue location. "I would like to believe that the city leaders acted out of a concern for the entire community and not just a narrow interest in erecting a new City Hall monument."

Fountain Baptist Church, located at 116 Glenside Ave., was organized in 1898 by six domestic workers. It relocated to its current site in 1989. Today, with a congregation of nearly 2,000, the church supports many out-

reach ministries, including a senior citizen program with hot lunch, SHIP, Summit Homeless Interfaith group, Alcoholics Anonymous and numerous community-wide workshops open to the general public.

In addition to Vacation Bible School, the church regularly runs a Summit Enrichment Program for school-age children. For information on the prayer vigil, call the church office at 908-277-1199.

**Calvary Chorale season**

Calvary Chorale begins its 29th season of monthly performances of sacred and secular music with the Chorale debut, Sunday of Arts Musica Antiqua, an early music ensemble based in Plainfield.

Created by Walter and Jane Canter more than 25 years ago, Arts Musica Antiqua has performed all over New Jersey with great success. Musicians for Sunday's concert, scheduled for 4 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit, include Jane Canter, viola da gamba and recorder; Vivian Lipcon, recorder and commesse; Marilyn Spesak, alto; and Paul Di Dario, piano and harpsichord. Di Dario received his bachelor and master's degree from the Juilliard School and has extensive solo and orchestral performing experience throughout the Northeast. He is also the executive director of the Long Hill Music Center in Madison, a community school of the arts, which offers private lessons to students of all ages. His first CD release, "Two Part Creation: Solo Works for Harpsichord and Piano," will be on sale following the concert.

Calvary Church is located at the corner of Woodland and DeForest Avenue in downtown Summit, and is handicapped-accessible.

Other fall highlights in the Calvary Chorale series include an "All-Mozart Concert" on Oct. 27, "Opera Highlights" on Nov. 17, and "Music of Advent" on December. Funding for Calvary Chorale has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

For information or to receive a series brochure, call 908-277-1547.

**Jewish Adventure Series**

The Summit Jewish Community Center Religious School invites pre-schoolers to participate in its Jewish Adventure Series. Children 4 years old, pre-K, will experience an enriching, appropriate program to learn about Jewish holidays and the Bible. Activities will consist of music, Torah and holiday stories, arts and crafts, dance, and cooking.

Upcoming Sunday events include: "The Book of Genesis," Oct. 13; "Chanukah Fun," Nov. 17; "Happy Birthday Trees," Jan. 12; "Passover Celebration," April 6; and "Israel's Birthday," May 11. Eash session will take place from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the SJCC, 67 Kent Place Boulevard.

Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$15 per session, per child for members, \$18 for non-members. For information, call Stacey David at 908-273-2800 or stacey@bavelle.com

**Gospel minister preaches Sunday**

On Sunday at 10:15 a.m., the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, on the corner of Morris Avenue and Church Hill, will welcome the Rev. Jennifer Butler of the Association for Global Concerns, Presbytery Office of the United Nations. This gospel minister will preach on Matthew 21:23-32 in which Jesus elicits the rejection. Butler will host an informal question-and-answer, and discussion group immediately following worship in the fireplace room.

The church reminds members of the congregation that on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be a follow-up on-site church "retreat" to pursue the ongoing "Discerning Our Future" project with distinguished speakers, David Scelba and the Rev. Pedro Rivera. Lunch will be provided.

**Evangel Baptist plans 150th anniversary**

The Evangel Baptist Church had its beginning in 1852 in New York City under the leadership of a lay Pastor Frederick Hof. Now, 150 years later, the church is located at 242 Shunpike Road in Springfield.

This year, being the anniversary, the church is planning to celebrate the 150 years of blessing with a weekend of inspiration and celebration Oct. 19 through Oct. 20 will be the dates of this special anniversary. Three of the former pastors will be with the church — the Rev. Warren West, the Rev. William Schmidt Jr. and the Rev. Joseph Lombardi.

On Saturday afternoon, Evangel Baptist Church will be making arrangements to visit the former church in Newark. At 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, there will be a covered dish dinner, followed by the evening service celebration with West speaking. On Sunday, services begin with a combined Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., when the three pastors will participate in an interview concerning their memories of their ministry period at Evangel.

**Holy Cross has Kidy Trax program**

Holy Cross Church, 639 Mountain Ave., Springfield, introduces Kidy Trax, a new after-school program for children in grades two through five. The students will see and hear clips of favorite movies and music, followed by a discussion of what God's Word says about the main point.

Afterward, they may choose their favorite activity "trax."

**Lombardi will speak at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.** After the service, there will be lunch served in the Fellowship Hall. At 2 p.m., the church will have the final celebration service with Schmidt speaking. All are welcome to attend.

For information, call 973-379-4351.

**Community CPR, a popular course for those wanting only CPR training,** will be offered on Oct. 15 and 17 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. For individuals who want to renew their existing certificate, a Community CPR Challenge course will be offered on Oct. 8. This is a 3½-hour course to renew the adult and/or infant & child CPR certificate.

Also offered Oct. 10, will be Adult CPR with AED. This is a four-hour course that provides instruction in adult CPR and teaches defibrillator operation. The cost for this course is also \$35.

All classes are conducted in the Red Cross chapter house at 695 Springfield Ave.

For information, or to register for a course, call the Summit Area Chapter at 908-273-2076.

**Perfect for playtime**

For 18-month-old Jackson Tyler, a warm and sunny September afternoon is perfect for playtime at the Mabie Park playground in Summit.

Photo by Joseph Sorrentino

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# October schedule begins

The American Red Cross Summit Area Chapter has opened registration for its October course schedule with classes in CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, Infant and Child CPR, Community CPR, and Adult CPR with Automated External Defibrillator training.

In October, CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, a course which teaches professional rescuers — those with a duty to act and provide care — the skills necessary to respond appropriately to breathing and cardiac emergencies, including the use of an automated external defibrillator, will be offered on Wednesday and Oct. 3 from 6 to 10:30 p.m. The fee for this course is \$70.

On Oct. 21 and 22, Infant and Child CPR, a six-hour course, which concentrates on recognizing and caring for child and infant breathing and cardiac emergencies will be offered between 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$35.

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# New bags feed trees

"They're all over Chicago," said Carolyn Lydon, horticulturist at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, who recently visited the Windy City, where she noticed that even though it borders Lake Michigan plants and trees there were suffering a lack of water.

Gardeners there have begun using "Treetagor Bags," sturdy polyethylene bags that fit around the trunks of new shrubs and trees and allow water to seep into the soil slowly.

"If you try to water too much at once, the water can just run off," said Lydon. "The Treetagor Bag holds up to 20 gallons, seeping slowly into the soil around the shrub or tree."

Lydon has been using Treetagor Bags at the arboretum since 1999. She recommended them to the managers at The Garden Shop at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, who have responded to the current water shortage by keeping Treetagor Bags in stock. Lydon predicts that as more people learn about them, their popularity will spread.

The Garden Shop at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 165 Hobart Ave., Summit, is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call 908-277-1190.



Tree gator bags, like this one around a Sourwood tree at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, help allow water to seep into the soil slowly.

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## WHY DO THEY HATE US? AMERICA IN A NEW WORLD

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Congregation B'nai Jeshurun  
Short Hills

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY - FREE ADMISSION  
7:30 p.m. Refreshments 8:00 p.m. Program

Sponsored by: AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Funded by a grant from LUF MetroWest and a gift in memory of Edward "Bud" Blau

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newjersey@ajc.org

CareOne at Livingston  
Community Education Seminar

### Ask The Elder Law Attorney.

Brenda McElnea, Esq., will join us on October 1, 2002 to answer questions and provide valuable information on:

- Long-Term Care Planning
- Trusts and Wills in Estate Planning
- Asset Preservation
- Power of Attorney
- Guardianships

Brenda McElnea, a partner with the firm of McElnea & WanderPolo, is certified in Elder Law by the ABA. She has chaired and served on many Elder Law committees, and has taught, lectured and written about lifetime and estate planning and elder law. She received degrees from New York University Law School and Rutgers University Law School, Newark.

When: Tuesday, October 1, 2002  
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Where: CareOne at Livingston  
Call to RSVP - 973-758-9000  
Refreshments will be served.

CareOne at Livingston  
A CareOne Senior Care Community  
68 Passaic Avenue  
Livingston, NJ 07039

Visit our Web site at www.care-one.com.

# Night on the Town planned

Summit Child Care Centers will host its Night on the Town to benefit the scholarship program on Saturday. This year's theme is "SCCC Rocks the Cradle."

Eighteen people will host cocktail parties in their homes. Participants then will have dinner at the 95 Morris Ave. center followed by auctions and dancing. The dress is casual and costumes are welcome.

Some of the auction highlights are a Nantucket golf and tennis weekend, champagne vineyard tour and weekend in the Finger Lakes, girls' weekend at the Red Door spa, a weekend at the Plaza Hotel with show tickets and dinner included, a super golf package and a guest appearance as the weather person on Fox News. SCCC provides scholarships for more than 50 Summit-area children, who live in households at or below the poverty line. Without these scholarships, many of these children would not be able to find high quality child care.

"This is our most important fundraiser, and a critical way for us to generate income to provide the scholarships that many working families in the Summit area depend on," said Laura Gump, president of SCCC's Board of Trustees.

This is the 16th year for Summit Child Care's Night on the Town. Approximately 500 guests are expected and many more will support the event through donations, raffle ticket purchases and advertisements.

# Summit Old Guard has October events

John Buckstone, program chairman for October, has put together a menu of subjects and speakers for the October meetings of the Summit Area Old Guard, including the traditional Ladies Day program.

Tuesday: Lee Harris, author of The Christine Bennett Murder Mysteries, will talk about what attracted her to murder mystery writing; why she selected an ex-nun to be her detective and the joys and tribulations of producing 13 books in this series starting in 1993.

Oct. 8: Ladies Day, a gala event attended by Old Guard members and their wives or friends at the Grand Summit Hotel.

Oct. 15: Jim Andrews will cover his experiences as both an FBI and DEA agent, the mission and activities of the DEA, the importance to him of protecting our youth from drug addiction, and the effectiveness to date of the war on drugs.

Oct. 22: "Patient Satisfaction Initiatives At Overlook Hospital" will be discussed by Matry Salvatorelli, Overlook Hospital patient representative.

The Summit Area Old Guard lists 357 members who reside in Summit and 34 neighboring communities. Retired men from all walks of life are invited to attend as guests and, if interested, join.

Call Bob Regan at 908-464-5329 for information or log on to the web site at <http://www.summitoldguard.homestead.com>

**We want your news**

Your organization should be getting the publicity it deserves and we would like to help. We have a publicity handbook which explains how to tell your story.

# WRC offers life-enhancing skills with upcoming fall programs

The Women's Resource Center, 31 Woodland Ave., Summit, has many upcoming fall events aimed at helping people achieve mental, physical and emotional well-being. Unless otherwise listed, all programs will be conducted at the center.

For more information on all of these programs, call 908-273-7253 or go to [www.womensource.org](http://www.womensource.org).

"Self-Defense for Women" is a three-part series that includes a lecture, demonstration and practice of basic self-defense principles and techniques, both psychological and physical. Emphasis is on practical, effective solutions that are easy to learn, do not rely on physical strength and will provide options for diffusing potentially violent situations. Ruth Goldsmith, an instructor with Chimera Self-Defense for Women, will teach this workshop.

The program will be on three consecutive Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. beginning Saturday. The fee will be \$90 for members and \$120 for non-members.

Working through the crisis of separation and divorce can sap too much of one's emotional energy and make normal daily problems seem insurmountable.

"Relationships in Transition," an eight-week session program beginning today, offers assistance in getting through a difficult time. The participants, who are all going through the same process, can work toward finishing up the business of the past and look toward the future with a renewed self-confidence. Lisa Grossi M.S.W., L.C.S.W., and a Westfield resident, will facilitate the sessions.

This program will be conducted on eight successive Tuesdays beginning Oct. 1 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Register by Friday. The fee for the program is \$105 for center members and \$135 for non-members.

"Adult Sibling Grieving Group for Those Who Lost a Sibling on 9/11" explores the adult sibling grief.

of children whose parent or parents died as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Telling their story and sharing with other children in a similar situation helps the mourning process for children, allowing them to express their feelings and not keep them bottled up inside. This facilitator-led peer support group for children is co-sponsored with the Madison YMCA and Rainbows NJ, an international nonprofit organization.

"Grieving Our Losses — Reconnecting Our Lives" is a group for women whose spouses were killed Sept. 11. All these grief support groups will meet for eight consecutive Thursdays beginning Oct. 3 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The Women's Resource Center also offers fall Rainbows programs for children in kindergarten through grade 12 and adult women.

The aim of "Kids Grieving the Loss of a Parent on 9/11" is to relieve the pain of children whose parent or parents died as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks.

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COUNTY NEWS

Board seeks volunteers

The Child Placement Review Board Program in Union County is looking for volunteers to assist the courts in speeding up permanency for children. There are no special requirements other than the ability to read and write. A one-year commitment is appreciated.

The CPRB volunteers are appointed by a judge to review cases of those children placed outside of their natural homes by the Division of Youth and Family Services. Based on a thorough review of case records and discussion, the CPRB makes recommendations to the Family Court judge.

CPRB makes every attempt to make certain that these children do not remain in placement for longer than is necessary before permanency is restored to their lives. Permanency for a child could mean return to a parent once stabilization has occurred, adoption, long-term foster care, placement with a relative or individual stabilization.

The CPR boards meet biweekly on Mondays in Elizabeth. Currently, there are openings on the morning and afternoon boards. Board No. 5 meets at 9:30 a.m., Board No. 4 meets at 10:30 a.m., Board No. 3 meets at 11:30 a.m. and Board No. 2 meets at 2 p.m. Depending on the amount of cases scheduled for review, each board meets between two and three hours. All information regarding the cases will be sent to one's home, to read ahead of time.

Training is given by court staff, experienced CPRB volunteers and professionals from related fields. If one is looking for a worthwhile way to contribute his or her time and would like to make a difference in a child's life, call Donna Madrigal at 908-659-3589 or e-mail at DonnaMadrigal@judiciary.state.nj.us.

Self Advocacy Program

The Arc of Union County will sponsor its 2002 Self Advocacy Program on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Union County Vocational-Technical School, 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains.

The cost for the event is \$30. The registration form must be with individual participating in the workshops. The Self Advocacy Program is offering various workshops from leisure, nutritional cooking, grooming, health and fitness and safety. Registration and continental breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. Workshops will start at 9:00 a.m. and the closing remarks and awards will wrap up around 2:15 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Contact Lynnette Swenson at the Arc of Union County, 1225 South Ave., Plainfield, 07062, for more information, or call 908-754-2666 or fax 908-754-3942.

Annual coalition meeting

The Union County Coalition for the Prevention of Substance Abuse will

Correction

In the Sept. 19 edition, "Costs to be determined for expanding arts center," the City of Rahway provides approximately \$100,000 annually, not \$300,000, to the Union County Arts Center. It is the policy of this newspaper to correct all significant errors that are brought to the editor's attention. If you believe that we have made such an error, write Editor in Chief Tom Canavan, 1291 Stayvessant Ave., Union, 07083, or call 908-686-7700, Ext. 329; weekdays before 5 p.m.

present its second annual coalition meeting Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Prevention Links Inc., Walnut Avenue, Clark.

Refreshments and hors d'oeuvre will be served.

To RSVP or for more information, call 732-381-4100.

Women's fall workshop

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders Commission on the Status of Women's fourth annual fall workshop will focus on time management for today's woman on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Costa's Ristorante, 120 Chestnut St., Roselle Park.

This year's themes is "Managing The Time Of Our Lives," and features speakers Dr. Nancy Marie Bride and Dr. Margaret Pipchick. Bride will address the topic of time management while Pipchick provides techniques for helping minimize the stress that accompanies the numerous roles that contemporary women handle.

The goal for the series is to provide information and offer support to Union County women. Pandora's Book Peddlers of Madison and Bridges Book Center and Afro American Research Library & Museum of Schuylkill will provide incisive reading material for sale. There will be a \$5 registration fee for the workshop. Light refreshments will be served. Seating is limited and checks can be made payable to The Commission on the Status of Women and sent to Joan Abianite, 322 Dietz St., Roselle.

For more information on the commission or series call 908-241-4889.

'Effective Writing' offered

Don't allow your career to idle in neutral because of writing skill limitations. You can enhance your expression of the written word — and your employment marketability — through an eight-week, non-credit course in "Effective Writing" starting Oct. 3 at Union County College.

"Effective Writing" covers the proper way to target a reading audience based on the purpose, message, and style of writing content. Students will gain an understanding of proper word selection, the use of the apostrophe, eliminating unnecessary words, sentence structure and punctuation, avoiding run-on sentences, subject-verb agreement, placement of words in sentences for readability, and building paragraphs that are unified, coherent and complete.

Participants will obtain practical, hands-on instruction in writing for business as well as for collegiate and other purposes. Assignments will feature essays and the approach to writing materials such as e-mails, memos, reports and other documents — all in an accepting, non-judgmental environment. While students typically have a wide range of backgrounds and educational levels, they share a need for strengthening their writing skills for enhanced communication.

"Effective Writing" is designed for adults who, due to either a lack of usage or a concentration in another area, have writing limitations. It is geared toward people who learned effective writing skills years ago but need a brush-up, as well as for people who never properly learned to write clearly and concisely. Students whose native language is not English but who have a strong facility with English and wish to further develop their skills are also encouraged to enroll.

"Effective Writing" will be offered from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Oct. 3 through Nov. 21 at the college's Cranford campus.

For more information and to register, call the college's Division of Continuing Education and Community Services at 908-709-7600.

Special recycling day

The County of Union will sponsor a special recycling day for used electronic equipment and old automobile tires. All residents of Union County are eligible to participate at no cost. Preregistration is not required for these special recycling days.

Today from noon to 6 p.m., Union County residents can properly dispose of old computers and unwanted electronic equipment, plus old automobile tires, in the parking lot of the Warranaco Park ice skating center, off St. Georges Avenue on the Roselle/Elizabeth border.

Computer monitors and televisions, the source of a considerable amount of lead — about 5 pounds per screen. This is a responsible way to recycle the hazardous metals from monitors, hard drives, modems, keyboards, CPUs, mice, printers, scanners, speakers, televisions, VCRs, fax machines, and circuit boards.

The Union County Bureau of Mosquito Control will also be on hand at Warranaco Park today to assist with the automobile tire recycling. County residents may bring up to six tires — no rims — for recycling at no charge.

Refrigerator washers and dryers, microwaves, and air conditioners will not be accepted.

This recycling program is for Union County residents only. No businesses. The special recycling collections will be rain or shine. Proof of Union County residency is required.

For more information, call the Bureau of Environmental Services Hotline at 908-654-9889.

Irish festival and picnic

The Joseph Nugent Sr. Association of Union County will sponsor its 16th annual Irish festival and picnic to benefit a child with a life-threatening illness through the Make-A-Wish Foundation on Oct. 6, rain or shine. The Make-A-Wish Foundation raises funds to grant these special children their favorite wish.

The picnic will be at the Elks Lodge, 281 Chestnut St., at Five Points, Union, from 1 to 6 p.m.

Admission is \$20 per person or \$40 per family which includes food, beer, soda, Irish vendors and activities for the children. There will be continuous Irish-American entertainment featuring The Willie Lynch Trio, The Carrie Callahan Band and "DJ Joe Colletti." For information, call Bob or Linda White at 908-241-7341, Maureen

Dowling at 908-206-9107, or Kevin Dowling at 732-594-1763.

The Nugent Association was founded in 1933 and is the oldest independent Irish-American organization in New Jersey. The association has been recognized many times for its civic involvement.

Donations may be sent to: The Joseph Nugent Sr. Association, P.O. Box 9559, Elmora Station, Elizabeth, 07208.

Community blood drives

The Blood Center of New Jersey and the Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross will sponsor the following blood drives:

• Sunday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, Stuyvesant and Chestnut avenues, Union; 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Michael's Parish, 1212 Kelly St., Union; 1 to 4 p.m., Westfield First Street Block Association, 539 First St., Westfield.

• Monday, 3:30 to 9 p.m., Kenilworth Gospel Chapel, Newark and 23rd streets, Kenilworth.

• Oct. 3, 3 to 8 p.m., Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield.

• Oct. 4, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union.

• Oct. 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Union Elks Lodge, 281 Chestnut St., Union; Hillside health fair, Hillside High School, 1035 Liberty Ave., Hillside.

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

• Oct. 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., Cranford.

• Oct. 14, 4 to 8 p.m., Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield.

Internet safety course Oct. 12

More and more parents are discovering that they don't know what dangers are lurking for their children when they use the computer, according to law enforcement officials in Union County.

There are sexual predators, thieves looking to steal credit information and criminals using the computer to commit sophisticated fraud schemes. To help families learn about these problems, the Union County Prosecutor's Office is again offering a popular Internet education and safety course for parents. Using a "hands-on" approach offered in a special computer training laboratory, detectives and assistant prosecutors will present "The Internet and Your Child" once again on Oct. 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains.

The course was filled to capacity last year after detectives from the Prosecutor's Office High Tech Task Force gave parents a live demonstration of how criminals use the computer and offered practical working tips on ways to safeguard families.

"Parents need to be able to spot signs and arm themselves with knowledge in this area," said Prosecutor Theodore Romankow. "A simple web site or Internet address may not always be what it appears."

Authorities said supervision, location of the family computer and common sense are part of the arsenal used in preventing the risk of harm, said Lt. Patricia Leonard of the Special Prosecutions Unit.

Officials from Merck have urged their employees to attend the special presentation, which is free and open to the public. To reserve a seat, residents can call Joan Marjio at 908-527-4517.

Historic plan in works

Historic sites in Union County. Identify potential acquisitions. Assess historic sites already owned by the county and prioritize for rehabilitation and renovation purposes.

Identify and evaluate grant programs at the state and federal level, as well as from private sources.

Among the components of McTeague's plan are:

• Create an inventory of significant

Arc golf classic scheduled for Oct. 10

The Arc of Union County will hold its Arc Golf Classic on Oct. 10. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. at Shackamaxon Golf & Country Club in Scotch Plains.

For more information regarding The Arc Golf Classic registration or sponsorship opportunities, or the spectrum of services offered by The Arc, call The Arc of Union County's Resource Development and Community Outreach Office at 908-754-7422 or 908-754-7826.

Are we navigating by 'sliding scales'?

Editor's note: This is the third in a series from the book "Freedom Tide." We are reprinting it in serialized form, with permission.

When I entered the corporate world, my beliefs and dreams were suppressed because the popular mantra was — and is — "do not talk about religion and politics." You know — don't offend anyone, don't step on people's toes. Be politically correct. A good friend of mine once said, "If you don't talk about religion and politics, then you are going to end up voting for someone who doesn't believe in what you believe in and they will end up legislating you right out of business."

If you don't know where you stand on religious and moral issues, you develop what I refer to as a "sliding scale of absolutes." An absolute is an unchanging standard. Webster's defines absolute as "free from imperfection, perfect, pure, fundamental, ultimate, having no exception or qualification." It is sad that many have adopted the standard of not having any real standard.

The experts today call this "situational ethics." That's a broad term that means you define right and wrong based on the current situation. When people run into a standard that they don't like, they slide the scale to fit their behavior and absolute truths are replaced or "distorted." On The



By Chad Connelly

frame of reference isn't fixed; it's in constant motion! The real problem in our scenario is obvious: By the fixed stars, anyone can navigate successfully; but by the light on the mast, no one can navigate at all.

It sure seems like a lot of people in our world today are attempting to navigate their lives with "sliding scales" of absolutes, or by the mast light on top of their own masts. Can anyone deny that our country has experienced massive moral decay, social problems, and a general confusion of what's right and what's wrong?

The whole world recognizes America as the beacon of the world. America is the greatest country in the world, our wealth, our standard of living, our productivity, and our free enterprise are the envy of all. What made our country great, and why?

Can we sustain its greatness for our children's children? Do the standards and absolutes established at our founding have anything to do with our greatness?

Chad Connelly is founder and president of Freedom Tide Foundation, an organization committed to educating Americans about the foundational principles that have made America great. More information can be obtained at www.freedomtide.com.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

County actors, directors prepare for Sunday's Perry Awards

By Joshua Zaitz and Brian Pedersen

First, there's the endless preparation. Then, the countless hours of rehearsals. Finally, the curtains do go up, and there's the excitement of the audience.

Afterwards, there's cheers and hopefully, recognition for the quality of the performance. And there's no higher recognition for New Jersey community theater than the Perry Awards.

"I think it's really exciting how much quality theater is coming out of New Jersey, not just in North Jersey but all throughout the state. It's really encouraging to stay in the area," said Shayne Austin Miller, a Fords resident.

Miller received his first Perry nomination for Best Director of a Musical for the Cranford Dramatic Club's presentation of "South Pacific," which received nine Perry Award nominations, the most of any show in the state.

This year's nominations were announced Aug. 10 at Westfield Community Players. The awards ceremony will take place Sept. 29 at the Woodbridge Sheraton.

The awards are presented by R.E.C.T., Recognition of Excellence in Community Theater. The awards were originally launched in October 1997, with the first presentation taking place in September 1998.

The Perry Awards are like the Tony Awards of New Jersey community theater. They are named for William Perry Morgan, who conceived and founded the Avy Awards, which were named for his hometown of Aveget.

"South Pacific" is the 27th show that Miller has directed and he said that this production was an absolute pleasure to be involved with.

"I had a really good feeling about the show," said Miller. "I had 32 cast members and not one 'diva' in the bunch. I mean everybody was just sweet and supportive. If I wasn't using one group of people on the stage, everybody else was out in the lobby practicing choreography or going over lines. Everybody really cared about the show."

Elizabeth Howard was nominated for two Perry awards for "South Pacific" — as the producer of the Best Musical nominee and for costume design.

"It was a fairly difficult show to put up," Howard, a Cranford resident, said. "A lot of people put a lot of hard work into it so it was very nice to be recognized."

Howard has produced shows for the Cranford Dramatic Club for the past seven years, producing three to four shows a year. She previously won a Perry Award as the producer of "Mame," which was named Best Musical in 2000.

"When you're standing there, once the show is up it's like your job is done and when people come out and express how much they enjoy it, of course that is very fulfilling," said Howard.

"I was pleased to get the recognition in the form of a nomination," said Roger Hayden, a Westfield resident, who was nominated for Lead Actor in a Musical for his portrayal of Emile de Becque in "South Pacific." "I was really more happy about the club as a

whole because it's good publicity for the club and will hopefully bring in some good people who will audition for shows and such."

Hayden said he heard about his nomination from Miller. Hayden and Miller were working on another show, "Annie Get Your Gun," when Miller called Hayden with the good news.

"I was more excited that we were nominated for Best Musical because the cast can get back together," said Miller. Of the 32 cast members, 30 will be at the awards ceremony to perform. All six nominees for Best Musical will be performing.

This is Hayden's first nomination. He began acting in high school, where he appeared in several musicals and then went on to perform in countless operas in college as well as after graduation.

"It's nice to be nominated," said Hayden. "I think that's the real honor because not all of the judges see the same show. I think it's just great to get the recognition."

Mystic Vision Players, a Linden-based theater, received the most nominations, tied with Triple Threat Foundation for Arts with 12 nominations.

Rita Greco, who is nominated as the producer for MVP's presentation of "Pippin," which up for Best Musical, was not only thrilled about her nomination but also ecstatic because her children Barbara Greco Brady and Anthony Greco, as well as her son-in-law, Kevin M. Brady, were nominated as well.

"Everybody who is involved is so active that people get nominated," said Rita. "I wasn't surprised and I wasn't shocked. I would say I was pleasantly grateful that their hard work, which I think is very notable, was recognized by other people."

Rita has been nominated as a producer before. Mystic was nominated in 2000 for "Gypsy," as well as in 1999 for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

Barbara, a Linden resident, said she was so excited when she received two nominations, one for Best Choreography for "Pippin" and one as the coproducer of Best Original Musical for MVP's "American Rapture 2001."

"It's neat because you put your fingers and your hands into so many different areas of theater and it's nice to see the rewards for your labors," she said.

Barbara said that although she's won several Perry Awards before, including one for producer for the 2000 version of "American Rapture," she has never won a Perry Award for choreography.

Rita said she will attend the award ceremony this year and would have still gone even if she wasn't nominated.

"It's just a lot of fun to get together and to network and to see people and to talk about families and what they're doing in their life. We have a lot of fun," she said.

"The nomination to me, as well as many other people in community theater, is more important than anything else because winning is just a matter of numbers, but being noticed is the more important thing," said Rita.

Despite his extensive experience in theater in both acting and directing, Bill VanSant said it was the first time



The ensemble cast of 'Pippin' at Mystic Vision Players in Linden will be among the performers at Sunday's Perry Awards in Woodbridge. The Stephen Schwartz musical is nominated for eight awards including Best Musical.

he was nominated as an actor for the Perry Awards. VanSant was nominated for his role as an ensemble actor in MVP's "Pippin."

"I've been acting for 34 years," said VanSant, a lifelong Rahway resident who serves as the Arts and Entertainment editor for Worrall Community Newspapers. Having been on stage for so long, "it's really nice to be recognized for that side of what I do."

As a director, he's been nominated for various awards nine times, which included musicals and straight plays. In 1996, he won the A.C.T. Award for directing "The Lion in Winter." He has also worked Off-Off-Broadway in numerous productions as an actor and director.

Although he enjoys acting, his ultimate goal is directing. "As an actor, I'm limited by my type," whereas with directing, it doesn't matter what I look like," said VanSant.

He likens directing to storytelling. "I like taking something intangible and creating something tangible," said VanSant. "The human element is what makes it live and breathe."

Laurie Zuccarelli-Melia, a Linden resident originally from Rahway, is no stranger to the excitement of the stage, having been dancing since age 4.

Zuccarelli-Melia was nominated for her role as one of the ensemble actresses dancing her way through "Jerry's Girls," a musical presented at Westfield Community Players.

"It was one of the most wonderful productions I've ever been in," she said. "It was such a joy to do. It was one of those experiences where I felt, 'This is why I'm doing theater.'"

She calls dancing her "first love" and has been doing theater for about 10 years. Her previous credits include "Gypsy" at Mystic Vision Players; and one production of "American Rapture." Most recently, she finished "Nunsense II" this summer at the Say-

reville Main Street Theater Company. She recalled feeling very close to the whole cast while being one of "Jerry's Girls." When she first signed on for the audition, she had no idea where it would lead or how far it would take her.

She didn't expect to be nominated and has no acceptance speech planned, but she did say if she wins, she'll create one "on a wing and a prayer."

Prayer. Starega of Winfield Park is happy to be nominated, but feels the Perry are not about who walks home with the award.

"It's about getting together and celebrating," said Starega. "It's our night to congratulate ourselves, nominated or not. It doesn't matter who wins."

Starega, who was nominated for his choreography and direction of "Children of Eden" at the Sayreville Main Street Theater Company and his performance in "American Rapture 2001" at Mystic Vision Players, has been performing in theater since he was in grammar school and has been involved with community theater since the age of 14.

For Starega, choreography is the "pinnacle of theatrical emotion," and said that unlike actors, choreographers have no information directly in front of them, taking their creativity

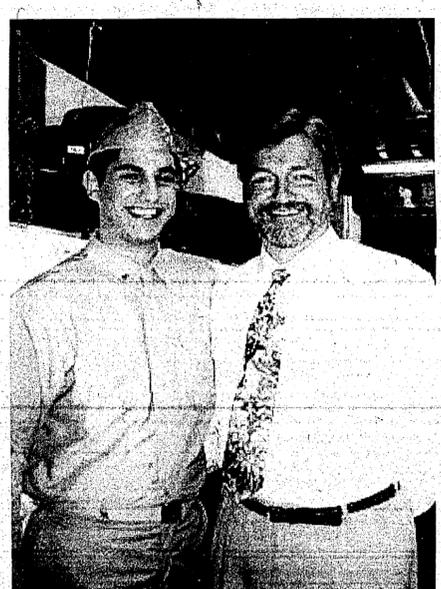
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See MYSTERIES, Page B8



Best Lead Actor in a Musical nominee Roger Hayden, right, pauses backstage at Cranford Dramatic Club with Rich McNanna during a performance of "South Pacific."



Anamaria Lianos, left, is hugged by her on-stage daughter, Debra Bassin, at Cranford Dramatic Club. Lianos scored two nominations for her work on "South Pacific," cited as Featured Actress in a Musical and as the show's lighting designer.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Shared services could be the answer for school-budget woes

With 2002-03 school district budgets—especially tight, due to the state's fiscal crisis—many local school districts are practicing what teachers have always told their students: it's good to share.

Federal funds have bypassed New Jersey's schools

By Glenn B. Ewan
It's no secret that New Jersey's property taxes are among the most onerous in the nation.

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Healthy Living Hillside prepares for the 32nd annual health fair Oct. 6 Elizabeth Germlinder, Health Fair coordinator, announced that the final preparations are completed for the 32nd annual Hillside Health Fair.

Westra earns advanced certification from NSCA Kristen Westra M.S.P.T., C.S.C.S. has attained certification as a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist from the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

Collaboration seeks to reduce exposure to smoking For almost two years, the Union County Tobacco Control Program has been making significant advances in the fight against the No. 1 preventable public health cause of death, smoking.

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FRANKLIN H. SPIRN, M.D. has relocated his practice of ophthalmology to 1656 Oak Tree Road, Edison

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GET TO KNOW OUR STAFF Karen Schultz-Soltysik graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor degree in athletic training and a masters in physical therapy in 1998.

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# D'oh! Shakespeare Festival welcomes one-man show combining Bart and the Bard

Shakespeare and "The Simpsons" come together for two performances of an acclaimed one-man show, "MacHomer," Oct. 5 at New Jersey Shakespeare Festival.

Written and performed by Montreal actor Rick Miller, this one-man vocal extravaganza features more than 50 voices from TV's favorite dysfunctional family, "The Simpsons," in an imaginative one-hour performance of Shakespeare's bloodiest tragedy, "Macbeth." Homer Simpson stars as Macbeth, Marge Simpson plays Lady Macbeth and Mr. Burns plays King Duncan — to name just a few — all immediately recognizable to anyone who watches the popular animated sitcom.

Most of the script remains in Shakespeare's words, but embellished with pop culture references, creating a rare treat — a hilarious show for all ages that blends contemporary wit with a classic hit. Audience members will find it

amazing to watch vocal virtuoso Rick Miller, clad in period garb, switch effortlessly from one "Simpsons" voice to another, each one a dead ringer for the character on the show, all the while telling the Bard's story of Macbeth.

Said artistic director Bonnie J. Monte, "We were thrilled to find yet another opportunity for young people to experience Shakespeare in a new and exciting way. This is a must-see for anyone who is a 'Simpsons' fan!"

Managing director Frank Mack agreed, saying, "This special event will be a real treat for audiences that love Shakespeare and 'The Simpsons.' We're always eager to present truly inventive twists on Shakespeare's work, and because Rick Miller is such a gifted actor and impersonator, this show provides a delightful mixture of Shakespeare's language with the zaniness of 'The Simpsons.'"

In an ingenious blend of spoof and homage, appearances are made by virtually every character from "The Simpsons" to fill out the large cast of "Macbeth," from Bart and Lisa to Groundskeeper Willie, Ned Flanders and Barney. Highlights include Principal Skinner, The Sea Captain and Apu as the three witches — "Double, double, toil and trouble; fire burn and cauldron bubble..." — and of course Homer as the ill-fated Macbeth — "Is this a dagger which I see before me, or a slice of pizza? Mmmm... pizza!"

This show has played to sold-out houses across the United States, Canada and Europe — a testament to the international popularity of both Shakespeare and "The Simpsons."

The Oct. 5 engagement at New Jersey Shakespeare Festival is the only area performance of "MacHomer" currently scheduled. Performances are at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. at New Jersey Shakespeare Festival's F.M. Kirby Shakes-

peare Theater, located at 36 Madison Ave. at Lancaster Road, on the campus of Drew University in Madison. Tickets are \$35. For reservations, call 973-408-5600 or visit [www.njshakespeare.org](http://www.njshakespeare.org).

New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, the eighth largest Shakespeare festival in the nation, is New Jersey's only professional theater company dedicated to Shakespeare's canon and other classic masterworks. The longest-running Shakespeare festival on the east coast, N.J.S.F. celebrates its 40th anniversary season in 2002.

New Jersey Shakespeare Festival's programs are made possible, in part, by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as contributions from numerous corporations, foundations and individuals.

# Choral Art Society is seeking soloists

The Choral Art Society of New Jersey will conduct auditions for soloists for two works: Bach's "St. John Passion" and Handel's "Judas Maccaebus." The society is seeking soprano, alto, tenor and bass soloists for both works. However, in the Bach, the tenor will be auditioning for the aria only, not for the role of the Evangelist.

The auditions will take place Oct. 5 beginning at 10:30 a.m. and Oct. 6 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Ave., Summit.

For information or to make an appointment, contact James Little, musical director of the Choral Art Society, at 908-277-1547.

The Choral Art Society of New Jersey is a nonprofit community chorus dedicated to the study and performance of great choral works and is celebrating its 40th anniversary season this year.

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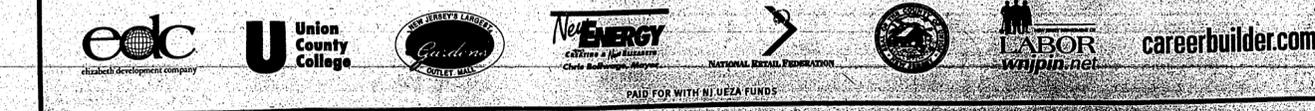
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# Liberty Hall takes guests back in time for spot of tea

For most people, daily life can be quite hectic. Sometimes it seems as if we run from chore to chore. Rarely do we find the time to relax and reflect on the days when life was simpler and lived at a slower pace.

It is possible to capture this experience, within minutes from home, in a place both beautiful and serene. Liberty Hall Museum, a National Historic site, welcomes those who wish to step back in time.

A perfect way to be reminded of earlier times when the art of conversation was alive and people joined for a mid-afternoon break is to pay the Liberty Hall staff for Afternoon Tea.

Each Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m., guests are treated to tea in the glass porch of the 18th-century mansion,

which overlooks the formal parterre garden. Hostesses dressed in the style of the 1930s serve delicate sandwiches of shrimp salad, smoked salmon or cucumber with herb cream cheese, rich petite fruit tarts, assorted shortbread or brownies, and spoon clotted cream and jam on carefully baked petite scones. While sipping their freshly brewed tea and indulging in these delicacies, guests are told the stories and history of Liberty Hall.

For this special experience, which combines the luxury of afternoon tea with a visit to a magnificent, historical home, call Liberty Hall at 908-527-0400.

Private teas can also be arranged for groups of as many as 24 people. This might be a perfect idea for your organization or to celebrate a special event such as an anniversary or birthday.

Of course, for those who can't step out of the fast lane for an afternoon of tea, the museum is open for regular visits Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays. The last four begins each day at 3 p.m.

Liberty Hall at 1003 Morris Ave., Union, is directly across from Kean University. Visit the web site at [www.libertyhallnj.org](http://www.libertyhallnj.org) or call for a calendar of special events which include craft workshops, seasonal events and more.

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A table set for tea is among the gracious amenities awaiting visitors to Liberty Hall Museum in Union. Afternoon Teas take place every Wednesday at the National Historic site.

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# Seniors' artwork is now on exhibit

Senior adult artists from throughout Union County have their work on display in the Freholders Gallery at the Union County Administration Building in Elizabeth through Oct. 4.

The art exhibit, titled "Monday Magic: Enjoying the Process," includes 20 works created by nine artists who study under instructor Lillie Bryen in the Senior Adult Art class at the Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey.

Among the works on display are watercolors and collages by Marjann Rotmensch of Elizabeth; pastels by Rose Gelfman of Westfield and Sophie Sulzberg of Plainfield; collages by Sharon Silverstein of Cranford, Dana Ayoli of Westfield, and Maria Mandelbaum of Hillside, and collages and pastels by Martha Brief of Fanwood, Fay Pell and Claire Weintraub, both of Westfield.

"The artists have been meeting regularly on Monday mornings at the JCC in Scotch Plains to learn new skills or brush up their techniques," said Freholder Rick Proctor, liaison to the Advisory Council on Aging. "Now their talents are being recognized and we're glad to have their work on display."

The Monday morning art instructions at the JCC are supported by the Union County Division on Aging and the Van Winkle Foundation.

The Freholders Gallery is located on the sixth floor of the Union County Administration Building, Elizabeth-town Plaza at Rahway Avenue in Elizabeth. The art exhibit, organized by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, is open to the public free of charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

For more information, contact the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 908-558-2550 or send e-mail to [scoen@unioncountynj.org](mailto:scoen@unioncountynj.org).

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Sik #KHP1906, VIN #X7616995, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/winds/dlks, cruise, burgundy, 33,988 mi. REAL NICE CARE = WINTER'S COMING.

BUY FOR **\$15,995**

2001 VW  
JETTA  
GLS



Sik #EV20359A, VIN #1M077065, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/winds/dlks, sunroof, cd player, cass, silver, 33,500 mi.

BUY FOR **\$17,995**

1999 AUDI  
A8 4.2L  
QUATTRO



VIN #XN003678, 4 DR, auto, a/c, 8 cyl, p/s/b/dlks/seats, cd, lthr, sunroof, ming blue, 47,332 mi.

BUY FOR **\$29,995**

2002 JEEP  
LIBERTY  
SPORT  
4WD



Sik #KHP1839A, VIN #2W121406, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/winds/dlks, cruise, alloys, silver, 12,865 mi. OWN IT NOW!

BUY FOR **\$19,995**

2001 LEXUS  
IS300



Sik #EA25230A, VIN #10005953, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/winds/dlks/seats, cd, cruise, leather, alloys, sunroof, silver, 15,001 mi. THIS IS A REAL NICE CAR.

BUY FOR **\$25,995**

2002 JAGUAR  
X-TYPE  
AWD



Sik #EA25200A, VIN #2WC37445, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/winds/dlks/seats, leather, sunroof, cd, alloys, black, 10,742 mi.

BUY FOR **\$33,995**

2000 AUDI  
A6 4.2  
QUATTRO



Sik #EVP0251, VIN #YV000613, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/winds/dlks/seats, cd, cruise, leather, alloys, sunroof, black, 33,176 mi.

BUY FOR **\$35,995**

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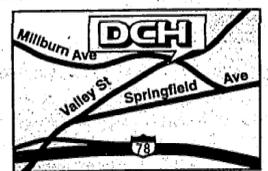
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**Drivers wanted.**

NEW 2002  
VW  
GOLF  
GLS



VIN #20224500, Sik #EV20284, 4 DR, auto, 4 cyl, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, am/fm cass/cd, tilt, cruise, a/c, r/del, tint gls, int wprs, flr mats, cloth bkts, alarm, dual air bags, moonroof, alloys, keyless entry, MSRP: \$19,350.

BUY FOR **\$16,488**

LEASE FOR **\$149** PER MO 24 MO  
\$1995 down + \$149 1st mo. pymt + \$0 sec dep + \$575 bank fee = \$2719 due at inception + licensing, reg & taxes. Tot pymt/residual: \$3576/\$12,190.50.

NEW 2002  
VW NEW  
BEETLE  
1.8



VIN #2M427370, Sik #EV20319, 2 DR, 4 cyl, 5 spd, a/c, p/s/b/winds/lks/mirrs/trunk, am/fm cass, leather, cruise, sec sys, dual air bags, MSRP: \$21,400.

BUY FOR **\$18,911**

LEASE FOR **\$199** PER MO 24 MO  
\$1995 down + \$199 1st mo. pymt + \$0 sec dep + \$575 bank fee = \$2769 due at inception + licensing, reg & taxes. Tot pymt/residual: \$4776/\$13,054.

NEW 2002  
VW JETTA  
GLS TDi



VIN #2M023171, Sik #EV20064, 4 DR, 4 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/lks/mirrs/trunk, am/fm cass/cd, moonroof, cruise, sec sys, dual air bags, MSRP: \$20,785.

BUY FOR **\$17,891**

LEASE FOR **\$189** PER MO 24 MO  
\$1995 down + \$189 1st mo. pymt + \$0 sec dep + \$575 bank fee = \$2759 due at inception + licensing, reg & taxes. Tot pymt/residual: \$4536/\$12,886.70.

NEW 2002  
VW CABRIO  
GLS  
CONVERTIBLE



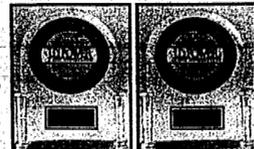
VIN #2M814310, Sik #EV20724, 2 DR, 4 cyl, auto, p/s/b/winds/lks/mirrs, am/fm cass, a/c, cruise, alloys, MSRP: \$22,125.

BUY FOR **\$18,981**

LEASE FOR **\$229** PER MO 24 MO  
\$1995 down + \$229 1st mo. pymt + \$0 sec dep + \$575 bank fee = \$2799 due at inception + licensing, reg & taxes. Tot pymt/residual: \$5496/\$13,053.75.



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PROTEGE  
ES



VIN #20S02866, Sik #EM20025, 4 DR, 5 spd, 4 cyl, p/s/b/winds/lks/mirrs/trunk, am/fm cass/cd, a/c, tilt, cruise, r/del, tint gls, int wprs, flr mats, cloth bkts, dual air bags, moonroof, alloys, keyless entry, MSRP: \$17,060. Includes \$500 recent college grad rebate, if qual.

BUY FOR **\$12,988**

NEW 2002 MAZDA  
MILLENNIA



VIN #21272381, Sik #EM20111, 4 DR, 6 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/trunk, am/fm cass/cd, leather bkts, moonroof, tint gls, cruise, dig dash, sec sys, mats, whl lks, MSRP: \$29,615. Includes \$500 recent college grad rebate, if qual.

BUY FOR **\$21,388**

NEW 2002 MAZDA  
626  
ES V6



VIN #25286846, Sik #EM20167, 4 DR, 6 cyl, auto, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/trunk/seats, a/c, am/fm cass/cd, leather, tilt, r/wiper, cruise, mats, MSRP: \$24,455. Includes \$500 recent college grad rebate, if qual.

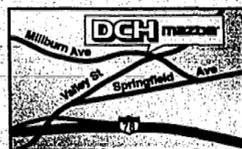
BUY FOR **\$17,888**

NEW 2002 MAZDA  
MPV  
LX



VIN #20320927, Sik #EM20193, 4 DR, auto, 6 cyl, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats/taillgate rel, a/c, am/fm cass/cd, tint gls, r/wiper, cruise, roof rk, sec sys, mats, dual air bags, fog lights, keyless entry, MSRP: \$26,630. Includes \$500 recent college grad rebate, if qual.

BUY FOR **\$21,688**



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