

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD N.J., VOL. 75 NO. 15

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003

TWO SECTIONS

New homes going up

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

Three subdivisions will bring new, million-dollar residential homes to Mountainside.

"This should have nothing but positive effects on the borough," said Mayor Robert Vigilanti. "I think it's not the amount of homes that really matters, but the way we're utilizing the property. These are high-quality homes that may cost anywhere from three-quarters of a million to a million dollars."

The first subdivision, which is located slightly up the hill of New Providence Road off Route 22, will be named James T. Egan Jr. Court. The Planning Board approved the project in April.

Of the three, homes being built, at least one already has a foundation up, and there already has been an open house.

The five-bedroom homes are being sold by Coldwell Banker. According to Mountainside Planning Board member Robert Messler, the houses should be selling for prices ranging from \$1.2 million to \$1.6 million.

The second group of homes are going up toward the end of Mill Lane near Echo Lake Park.

The subdivision, which gained



Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

Subdivisions approved in Mountainside this year have opened the door to construction of three new residential developments within the borough.

Planning Board approval in September, will be called Echo Lake Estates and will consist of about 10 homes.

The land, owned by Robby Gaglioti of P.O.P. Realty, has been cleared and should be ready for construction sometime soon.

According to Gaglioti, he is extremely busy with the subdivision and is receiving more offers than he expected, adding that he almost wished the word wasn't out yet about the project.

The third subdivision, which hasn't had any work done yet, will be located just off of Mountain Avenue and was approved by the Planning Board in June.

According to Messler, a new street will have to be named, as the homes will be located near a point tapering off the main road into a cul-de-sac.

"I think it's going to help the town bring more tax ratables without many more families," said Messler. "These are large houses on large properties."

"We'd be pushing the envelope," said Messler, regarding more building in Mountainside. "Most of the developments are already close to zoning ordinances."

Vigilanti agreed there's not much space left in Mountainside to build, other than subdividing property.

"I don't know where else we'd build," he said.

"There isn't much more property in Mountainside. There's really hardly any vacant land left."

Separation of church and state?

Township mixed on how to celebrate

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

As the holiday season begins to turn towns and cities into glowing winter wonderlands, donning decorations that usually include candy canes or snowflakes, some Springfield residents are questioning the colors that are going to be on display this year at Town Hall.

For the first year ever, it has been decided by the Township Committee that the tree in front of Springfield's municipal building will be decorated by red, white and blue lights. The township's ceremony will be Tuesday at 6 p.m.

"I didn't see any lights after Sept. 11," said Springfield resident Donna Seale. "I don't see why they would go up now."

Township Committee members explained that the issue is one of separating church and state, and Township Attorney Bruce Bergen has advised the committee to display neutral decorations.

Last year, the town had white lights decorating the town, including the tree at Town Hall.

"We thought that red, white, and blue would be very patriotic," said Township Committeewoman Clara Hareluk. "Instead of being neutral with white lights," she continued, "we thought, 'Why not be patriotic?'"

"If we're doing a patriotic theme," said Seale, "then why not take tolerance out of schools, too. If we can't teach children tolerance of people's views and rights during the holidays, why bother teaching it in schools," she said.

The committee maintained that not everyone can be pleased, and that there were complaints regarding last year's white lights, as well.

"We just can't please everyone on this subject," said Hareluk. "People were coming to meetings last year, too."

"We're trying something new," she continued. "Every year, we get complaints. We could always go back to white lights next year."

Hareluk added that some people who didn't like the idea of white lights last year changed their mind at season's end, saying that they were beautiful.

For some, the issue is more of simply not using holiday or religious decorations to raise spirits around town.

Longtime Springfield resident Hazel Hardgrove has helped start a petition to bring back holiday decorations around the community.

It states, "We, the undersigned, as members of the Springfield senior age group, wish to advise the Springfield Township Committee that we desire to have the usual holiday decorations in front of the town hall, as we have seen in previous years. We would remind you and the residents that there is a huge Christmas tree on the White House lawn, as well as many decorated trees inside the White House itself."

It continues, "It is particularly important that at this holiday time of the year, our diverse religious freedoms should be expressed, as they are part of the foundation of this great nation. These time-honored traditions should continue to be observed since they have helped to make Springfield such a special and wonderful place to live and raise our families."

"We started a petition three weeks ago and it was ignored," said Springfield resident Muriel Sims, regarding the seniors' petition that was presented at a Township Committee meeting.

"There are a lot of people upset about this," said Hardgrove, "and we've gotten a lot of signatures."

"There's been a long line of litigation concerning this issue," said Bergen. "It has always been my advice to the Township Committee that the constitutional path to take is to have no deeply religious items displayed. It's a clear division of church and state," he said.

Several residents noted that other towns have continued to put up religious decorations, but that it's too early to know for sure what's in store for the holiday season this year in surrounding communities.

"Each town has their own attorney that gives an opinion to the governing body," said Bergen. "They could still be going against the law in other towns."

See TREE, Page 10

'Final touch-ups' being made at Beechwood

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

The time for Beechwood School to be open draws closer and closer, according to the Mountainside Board of Education, and barring any unforeseen problems, optimism seems to be warranted.

Gerard Schaller, chief school administrator, gave a Beechwood update during a school board meeting last week.

"The cafeteria's new tile floor is now going in, there are final touch-ups with painting, and the Sheetrock is already up in the gymnasium," he said.

Schaller said the board is hoping to have the technical certificate of occu-

pancy by this week; inspectors are there every Tuesday and Thursday. The fire alarm system also is awaiting final approval, he said.

"We still need to continue with the electrical work, as it must be inspected again," he added.

Schaller said wiring is exposed overhead and must remain so until that is inspected and passed, but with the full TCO expected sometime this month, he said they can plan on occupancy.

"We are already getting bids from moving companies — so that tells you where we are," he added.

Although the remainder of the board meeting involved planning for the next school year, budgets in the

making, and announcements of a growing enrollment, talk again returned to Beechwood.

One mother asked how many classrooms will be at Beechwood in total.

"Every grade has their own classroom," said Schaller. "Every section has four classrooms. Even Moppet has its own class."

"There is the art room, media room, and so on. In other words, there is ample space for everything. It will be beautiful."

The board has been keeping the community advised by mailing letters periodically as well.

Mountainside voters had overwhelmingly approved a \$6.8-million bond referendum to expand Deerfield

School and renovation Beechwood School in April 2001. The state was to provide approximately \$1.9 million in school construction funding.

Construction in 2002 and the original plan was to have Beechwood ready for grade K-1 for the start of school in September 2002.

But problems emerged with Randazzo Construction Company, which failed to meet deadlines and to complete work, according to school officials. The Board of Education fired Randazzo, and things were put on hold until a replacement could be found.

Litigation is still in progress over the original fiasco while Paul Otto Construction is now at take the helm to finish the job.

Township to bring Meisel Avenue Park plans to county officials

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

Two separate meetings during the past couple of weeks have helped move along the planning for a new Meisel Avenue Park.

A nine-person committee that includes Board of Education members, Recreation Department officials, and members of the Township Committee, was formed to help develop plans and take them to the next level: county government.

An architect was hired by the Board of Education to help design plans for the field, which include a baseball field, softball field, and a football field within a soccer field, in addition to bleachers and a fieldhouse. The park will also feature a six-lane track oval, along with designated areas for javelin, shotput and discus events.

Township Administrator Richard Sheola said the plans

were drawn up four years ago, but may require some modifications.

According to school Business Administrator Matthew Clarke, an idea is being examined to create the track using Nike sneakers, as the company provides \$50,000 grants to have their recycled footwear produce an all-weather track.

Township Committeeman Sy Mullman said the two meetings held were not advertised to the public simply because it was easier to get things done with only the committee looking over the plans. Mullman added that the plans have included everything that residents have asked for, and after the meetings, the designs are available for public viewing. They were also presented at the Board of Education meeting earlier this week.

Board of Education Vice President of Irwin Sablosky called Meisel Field a "clean palette that is ready to be created," referring to the completion of a \$1-million remedia-

tion project to clear contaminated soil from the site and bring in new, clean top soil.

According to Charles Serson, principal of Jonathon Dayton High School and also a member of the Meisel committee, the meetings went well.

"Things looked pretty good," he said. "We reviewed what we would like to have there" and now Sheola and Clarke are working on the next step.

That next step, which was originally assumed to be calling the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, has not yet occurred, as there is now one more step in between.

While Mullman has been optimistic about meeting with the freeholders, Clarke feels the process may move a little more slowly than hoped.

Mullman had originally said that if plans were approved at the first meeting, they would most likely meet with the county within 10 days.

The last meeting occurred the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week, and after that, Sheola got in contact with Deputy County Manager Elizabeth Genievich.

According to county spokesman Sebastian D'Elia, Harold Pollock, who last month won a seat on the Township Committee and will be sworn in next month, called three weeks ago asking the county to let him know when there would be hearings regarding Meisel.

"We have no record of Rich Sheola calling," said D'Elia. "Unless he's calling somebody specific, I don't know, but nobody here is aware of any calls. I'd be happy to give him information."

Freeholder Chairwoman Deborah Scanlon also said that she spoke with her staff and confirmed that they have gotten no phone calls over the past several days, and that the

See TOWNSHIP, Page 10

Borough gets federal FD dollars

By Brian Pedersen
Managing Editor

Mountainside has received a \$84,600 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for improvements to the borough's Fire Department. The borough will be paying \$9,400 as their share for the federal grant. The Assistance for Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the U.S. Fire Administration, which is part of FEMA.

The news came at the Nov. 25 Borough Council meeting, and Fire Official George McGrath, having written the grant application gave some details.

"It's a long process," said McGrath. "We apply for it each year, since 2001. The grant is supposed to go towards fire safety. There's certain money set aside for each category."

For the first two years, McGrath said the borough applied also for fire apparatus, but it was always too low on their priority list. This year,

McGrath said apparatus will be included in some of the items to be acquired through the grant, which was applied for in April.

The Mountainside Fire Department focused primarily on upgrading fire safety and equipment, said McGrath. These items included improvements to the air purification system, a booster pump for an airfill station and a communication upgrade to increase availability of staff and modernize their radio equipment.

"We're gonna upgrade communication between all three groups," said McGrath, meaning police dispatch personnel, firehouse staff and firefighters who are out on a call.

McGrath said an air purification upgrade is needed for diesel recovery in the firehouse so that when fire apparatus are activated within the building, fans will go on to pull the diesel fumes out of the building.

The improved booster pump to the air fill station will allow the depart-

ment to continuously refill bottles for their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, McGrath said this is helpful for prolonged incidents such as hazardous material cleanups or bioterror situations.

"Not having enough air to breathe, if you don't have it then you can't do your job," said McGrath. "With bioterrorism, you have to constantly be on air."

Since June, 5,800 fire departments throughout the United States have received more than \$406 million to support their role as first responders to the neighborhoods and communities they serve, according to the USFA Web site.

Also, for the fiscal year 2002, the program's total funding distribution gave 84 percent to firefighter operations and fire safety, 12 percent to firefighter vehicles, 3 percent to fire prevention and 1 percent to Emergency Management Services.

'Tis the season

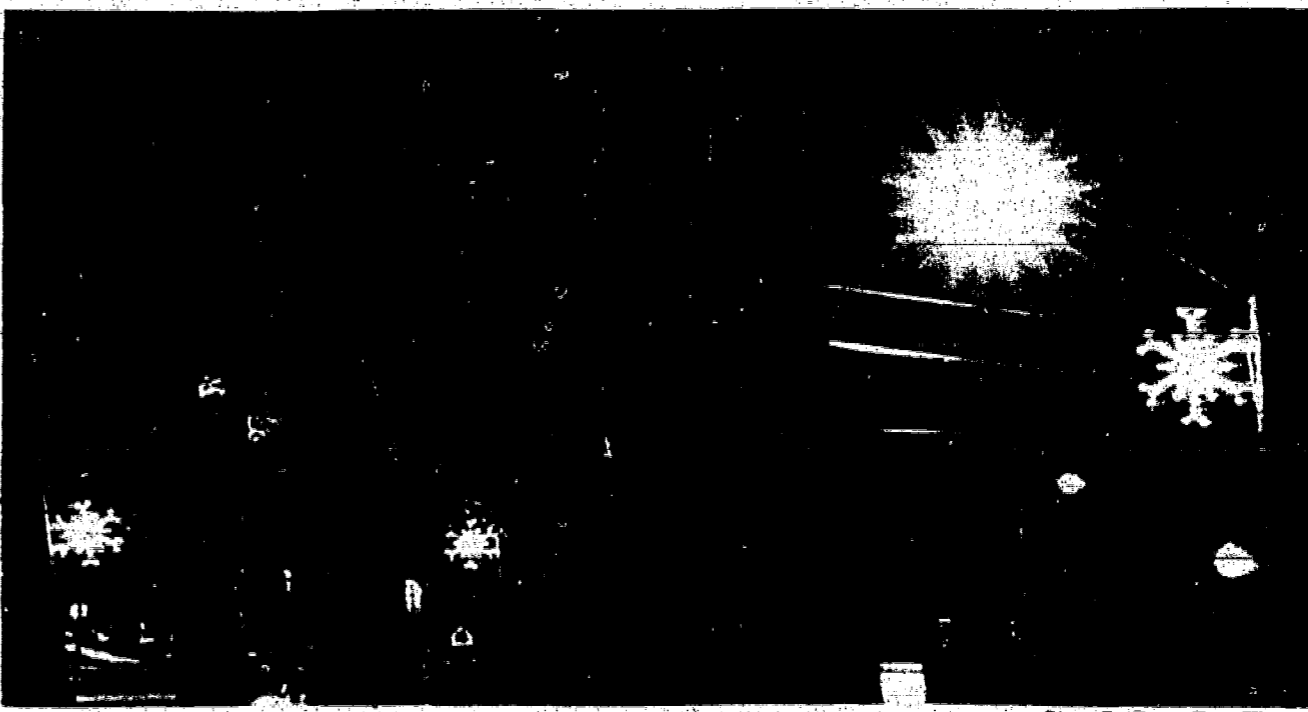


Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

With the approaching holiday season, snowflakes adorn the utility poles along Mountain Avenue in Springfield. The township will have its tree lighting ceremony Tuesday starting at 6 p.m. in front of Town Hall.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- The Community Calendar is prepared by the *Echo Leader* to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To mail a schedule, send it to *Echo Leader*, Attn: managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083.
- Today**
- The *Excellence Club of Mountaintops* luncheon will take place at noon at B.G. Fields Restaurant. "A Christmas Boutique" will be held featuring new and gently used items. The boutique has been an annual fundraiser for many years. For reservations, call 908-232-3626.
 - Friday**
 - Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its "Out of This World Travel Video Series with 'Great Historic Sites'" at noon.
 - An exhibit of sketches pulled from an artist's sketchbooks spanning 24 years will open at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., and run through Jan. 8.
 - For information, call 973-376-4930.
 - Saturday**
 - The Springfield Historical Society will host a Christmas open house from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Historic Cannon Ball House, 126 Morris Ave., Springfield.
 - For information, call 973-376-4784.
 - "Encounters," a group of one-act plays written and directed by Naomi Yablonsky of Springfield, will be performed at 2 p.m. in the Donald B. Palmer Museum of Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.
 - For information, call 973-376-4930.
 - Monday**
 - The Westfield Regional Health Department, serving residents of Springfield and Mountaintops, will sponsor a pneumonia vaccination program from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 Broad St., Westfield. Pre-registration is mandatory.
 - For more information, call 908-759-4070.
 - Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will sponsor the Mother Goose Group, from 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. with nursery rhymes, simple stories, songs, and activities for toddlers ages 1 1/2 to 3 years old and their parent or caregiver. No advance registration.
 - For more information, stop by the Youth Services Desk or call 973-376-4930, ext. 232.
 - The Mountaintops Recreation Department will offer etiquette classes for children with a Manners Matter Workshop for boys and girls ages 7 to 12, from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m. in the conference room of Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East.
 - For information, call 908-730-8238.
 - The Springfield Township Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. for a workshop session in the Annex Building, 20 N. Trivet Ave.
 - Tuesday**
 - The Springfield holiday celebration will begin at 6 p.m. outside Town Hall on Mountain Avenue with a tree lighting and a visit from Santa Claus, followed by refreshments at the firehouse in back of Town Hall.
 - Guests can drop off any new, unwrapped toy at the tree lighting for the Toys for Tots drive, sponsored by the Fire Department.
 - The Springfield Township Committee will meet at 8 p.m. for a regular session in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave.
 - Wednesday**
 - Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its "Out of This World Travel Video Series with 'Best Treks'" at noon.
 - For information, call 973-376-4930.
 - Dec. 13**
 - A hands-on workshop for people interested in sketching will be offered at Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., at 1 p.m. for students in grades eight through 11. Bring a sketch pad and pencil or pen. Sketchbooks will be available for \$3.50 at the workshop. Quantity is limited, so indicate whether you need one when signing up. Registration is requested.
 - For information, call 973-376-4930.

Court martial may be early next month

By Rick Klitnick
Staff Writer

Accused on Sept. 10 for suspicion of espionage while serving in a Guantanamo Naval Base camp, former Springfield resident James Joseph Yee has made complaints regarding his treatment while being held in a Naval installation brig in South Carolina. A letter that his lawyer has sent to President Bush.

According to *The Star-Ledger*, Yee and his lawyer are demanding that he be released from the brig, where he is confined with terrorist suspects considered among the most dangerous in the nation.

Yee would like to return to his normal duty status until the case against him is resolved.

Yee's lawyer, Eugene R. Fidell, said in the letter that Yee is "entitled to the full panoply of constitutional protections, including the right to a fair and speedy trial." The case, however, is being treated as if he were an enemy combatant rather than a commissioned officer.

According to the timeline given by Raul Duany, a spokesman for South Command Headquarters, less than a month after Yee's arrest, the former graduate of Jonathon Dayton High School can be held for up to 120 days.

According to *The Star-Ledger*, Capt. Tom Crosson, another spokesman for the military's Southern Command, reiterated these facts, saying that under military law, a court-martial should be held by Jan. 10, which is within 120 days of Yee's arrest.

Crosson added that there was a 45-day delay in the case once Yee was arrested.

In the letter sent to the president, Fidell added that for the first six weeks of his arrest, Yee was kept in isolation in a small cell for all but a single hour of the day.

Required to wear hand- and leg-irons when leaving his cell, Yee was forced to endure several other harsh and legal conditions of confinement, the letter noted.

Yee's lawyer also said that the guards no longer recognized him as an Army captain and referred to him as an enlisted instead.

The letter also said that Yee was "barraged" from practicing his Islamic faith, which, after converging from Christianity, Yee took very seriously.

This is the first time since his arrest that the 35-year-old West Point graduate has made any public statement.

The Rev. Remo Madsen, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, which Yee attended with his family during his childhood in Springfield, had no comment regarding Yee's situation.

Yee used to attend the church with his family, and, reportedly, Yee's mother still goes to service regularly.

A whale of a time



Minnie Goldberg, PTA president of James Caldwell School in Springfield, and parent Rich Citron, have a whale of a time at the school's annual fall festival.

Walton kindergartners get personalized books

By Rick Klitnick
Staff Writer

At a time when phone usage and learning to read become two new concepts of life for a kindergarten, a telephone company has put literacy ahead of its own corporate.

The Telephone Pioneers of America, a non-profit organization connected with telecommunications giant AT&T, is donating books to 164 kindergartners at Edna and V. Walton School in Springfield.

The books, which are personalized, are about 30 pages long and will help promote the character education program initiated throughout the school district.

Each book will have the name of the child, personal school information printed inside of it, making it special to the owner and allowing the children to appreciate the book to its fullest.

Entitled "A Book About Me," the books are supposed to help the children build both self-esteem and positive values.

"It'll help children develop a positive self-concept," said Lisa Ferrare, principal of Walton, "while also helping them gain an understanding of reading."

According to Ferrare, the book tells of the importance of sharing, responsibility, and making good choices in life.

The donation was just recently approved by the Springfield Board of Education, which was delighted to see that the donation was being planned for the telephone company, as they agreed that a well-learned gesture, such as this, is greatly appreciated.

According to Ferrare, Springfield resident Joseph Yee, a retired member of the Telephone Pioneers of America who was helping as a volunteer during Election Day last month, brought it up to her.

Kenith Allen of Springfield, a senior majoring in sociology, was among 28 students from the College of New Jersey selected as national outstanding campus leaders and will be included in the 2004 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory have included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success.

Students will each receive a certificate and join an elite group of students from more than 2,000 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign nations. Since its first publica-

Automobile fire put out

On Friday at 5:47 a.m., firefighters responded to a report that a motor vehicle was on fire at New Providence Road and Route 22 West.

The motor vehicle had been involved in a hit-and-run accident and was totally disabled by damage to the engine compartment.

The flames were extinguished by firefighters and one passenger was taken to Overlook Hospital by a Mountaintops EMS ambulance.

On Nov. 19, at 10:44 a.m., firefighters responded to a central station fire alarm at an elderly care facility on Route 22 West. It was determined that the steam from a steam cleaning machine caused the alarm to go off.

At 8:21 a.m. Nov. 19, the Fire Department responded to a downed wire at the corner of Mountain Avenue and Route 22 East.

Firefighters remained on the scene until a PSAFC emergency service crew arrived to make the necessary repairs.

At 5:52 a.m. Nov. 21, firefighters responded to a garbage truck that was on fire at a corner of building parking lot on Route 22 West.

The fire was quickly extinguished.

At 4:45 a.m. Nov. 24, firefighters responded to New Providence Road and Route 22 West for a report of a disabled motor vehicle that struck an object on the road.

The vehicle's transmission pan was punctured and the gas line was ruptured, and firefighters quickly contained the transmission oil and gas and staked up the fluids.

FIRE BLOTTER

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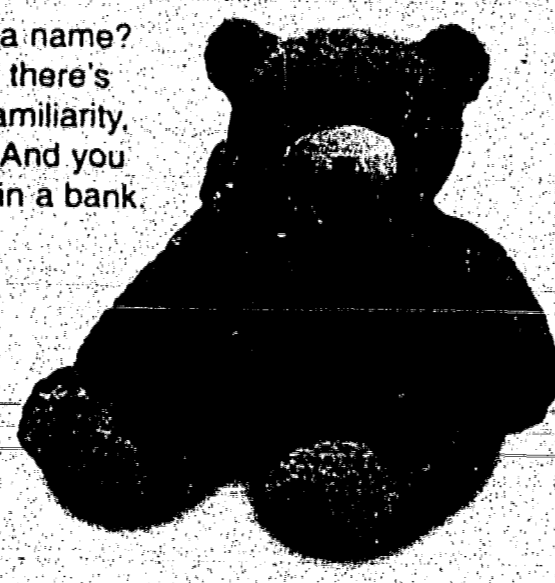
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Allen to be among Who's Who of campus leaders

Kenith Allen of Springfield, a senior majoring in sociology, was among 28 students from the College of New Jersey selected as national outstanding campus leaders and will be included in the 2004 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory have included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success.

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FOR MORE INFO REFER TO: WWW.BETTERWAYTODIVORCE.COM

As endorsed by The N.J. Association of Professional Mediators.

Winter Open House

Saturday, Dec. 6th, 2003

9:00am - 2:00pm in the Van Fossan Theater
Corner of Franklin & Fremont Streets, Bloomfield, NJ

Take time out to discover Bloomfield College at the winter open house program. Enjoy a guided tour and meet new friends.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

A sense of place

A town's history can tell us not only about the past, but also our future. It tells the story of what we've done as a collective human race and can point the way to our future. History is the story of ourselves.

Often, we can learn a lot about what is important to a community by studying its traditions, values and people. One way to do this is through photographs. While words string sentences together to tell stories, pictures can do the same thing, but without words. They can provoke strong emotions or feelings, capture a mood, and in the case of historic photographs, they can evoke another era.

Right now, sixth-graders at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School in Springfield are on a mission to capture this history of their town by helping collect black and white photographs so Springfield can have its own book for the "Images Of" series, created by Arcadia Publishing.

The Gifted and Talented program at the school is helping to coordinate the project, making sure each photograph has an accurate description, including names, and that the photos are properly returned to their owners after use. Requested are pictures of sports teams, prominent citizens, descendants of early settlers, maps of Springfield locations that no longer exist, brides from the 1920s, and the actual people whose names have been given to two schools in town, Florence Gaudineer and Thelma Sandmeier.

It's a worthy initiative as it will give Springfield residents a sense of their own place in history. What's important is that this sense of Springfield's history can be preserved for future generations to look back on, to see how far they've come.

Related to this initiative is the Springfield Historical Society's upcoming Christmas Open House on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Historic Cannon Ball House, at 126 Morris Ave., one of the most historic sites in Springfield.

According to records, the house, built in 1741, was the home of the family of Dr. Jonathan Dayton — hence the name of the high school — during the American Revolution and was operated by his widow, Keziah, as a tavern stop on the main road between Elizabeth and Morristown, where George Washington and his army were at Jockey Hollow.

It's surprising that this house still stands today and is in fairly good shape, having been maintained by the society. The house played a pivotal role in the Battle of Springfield on June 23, 1780. It was hit by an American cannon ball, which lodged in the wall and gave the house its famous name.

Visiting historical sites such as these cannot only be enlightening and educational, but can also give us a deep respect for the important roles people play in creating history every day and keeping it alive.

Shop locally

The holiday season has begun. And with Thanksgiving falling late on the calendar, the number of available shopping days are fewer than most years. Christmas Day, after all, is just three weeks away.

A survey released last week by the Conference Board, the Manhattan-based business analyzer, indicates consumer confidence is growing. In fact, consumers felt better about the economy in November than they have in more than a year. This news is promising for local merchants; however, whether it will translate into a boost in holiday sales at the retail level is never easy to predict. But one thing is certain: this December just as it has been every December. The stores will be crowded, parking spaces will be scarce, and most of us will be spending plenty of time walking the aisles of retail establishments.

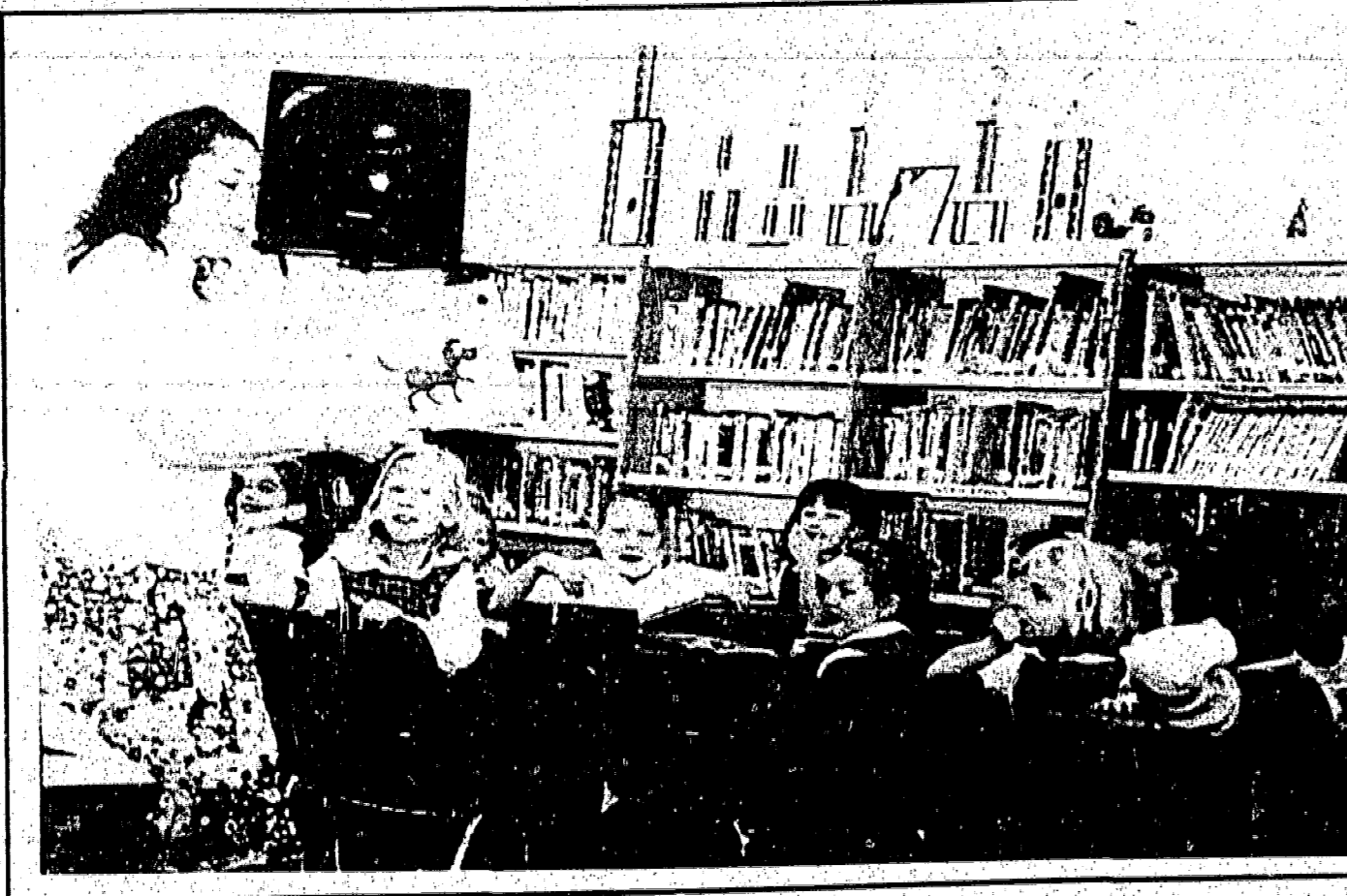
May we make a suggestion? Visit our local shops. Spend time shopping in those very same stores you know and trust and that have served you and your family so well.

No shopping plan is complete without a trip to our local stores. These are the merchants who serve us all year long. They know our family. They know our town. They know what's happening in our schools. They will take the time to answer our questions because we are neighbors. Throughout the year, they have tried to stock their shelves with products they know we need and want. The December holiday season is no different. A visit downtown to these shops just might surprise you.

And commercial districts become so festive during the holidays. Lights decorate the trees and shop windows. Traditional music often can be heard. Special events are to be seen. It's a wonderful time to visit and see what your local neighborhood merchants have placed on display for the 2003 holiday season.

"The media [are] the most powerful entity on earth. ... They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent. ... because they control the minds of the masses."

—Malcolm X, activist 1963



GOVERNOR'S BOOK CLUB — Tracy Kearney, media instructor at St. James the Apostle School in Springfield, reads to first-graders one of several books donated to the school through Gov. James McGreevey's Book Club. The club aims to raise awareness of the importance of early literacy, encourage parents to read with their children, and help young students read for pleasure. At St. James, book readings are conducted Thursdays. Parents and children can visit the club's Web site, www.nj.gov.

State commission gives rail plan rubber stamp

Yesterday before the Blue Ribbon Transportation Commission, I hoped for understanding that the restoration of archaic rail freight service at street level to carry marine cargo and trash out of Staten Island would create commuter gondola and along-track shared with passenger rail through Northern New Jersey. I had hoped that state Department of Transportation Commissioner Jack F. Lethbrun would understand that existing freight lines like the Lehigh Valley, Erie-Lackawanna and the Reading and those planned for tracks at the Hudson Valley and Staten Island were far out through farmland more than a century ago and that 50 years of disuse had caused the freight lines to be disintegrated and rail communities around them to be both destroyed and already overbuilt.

I had hoped that the commission would understand that the unrelenting non-stop construction of new lanes and tracks across local streets and commuter rail lines would result in thousands of hours of lost productivity as commuters waited for the passage of freight trains, immense amounts of air pollution from idling vehicles and locomotives, and significant losses of track and available site capacity on roadsways as pre-war freight movements would be displaced.

Instead, the commission's report reads like a rubber stamp for endorsement of a DOT wish list to privatize James McGreevey's rail plan. I hope myself from the accompanying proposal for increasing the state gasoline tax by 12.5 cents per gallon.

Point of View

By Alan F. Fuchs

Unfortunately, the DOT is willing to pay port-related projects forward and ignore any environmental impacts. Despite the fact, reaching conclusions to improve New Jersey.

These plans go forward, New Jerseyans will have the geonimous disapproval of paying additional taxes so that Staten Island can ship imported goods and trash to Raritan, Stamford, Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Montreal. The Staten Island and Raritan Valley railroads in Hudson County, across the Hudson River, are in Stamford and Roselle Park on the Lehigh Valley through Union, Middlesex, Somerset and Hunterdon counties, along the Reading System from Port Reading to Bound Brook, on the Passaic and Harsimus, on the Morris and Essex, and on the Erie-Lackawanna through Summit, Morristown, Dover and beyond.

Those unaware of the local implications of freight movements over time may want to consider that over time along the Reading System would block Route 35 near Woodbridge Public Library. That shipping on the Raritan Valley would block Route 22 in Union. That the Gladstone Branch already has a freight stop at a chemical company in Berkeley Heights and a currently

unused freight siding in Millington. That the commuter trains on the Morris and Essex are already experiencing delays from equipment failures. That the Lehigh Valley crossing on Westfield already causes gridlocking conditions. That the Raritan Valley commuter line at Cranford shares track with both the Lehigh Valley and Staten Island Railway freight lines.

For our trouble, we will still consider gondola in our trains and vans along the affected routes.

As things stand by 2010, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey plans to double the amount of marine cargo brought through the big area, increasing the annual number of truck containers by 2.2 million more than 60,000 additional trucks with trailers each day.

Public concern over the impact of road and rail can be expressed at open meetings today at Newark 34th Side High School, Jan. 23 at Jersey City's Cordero School and the Bayonne City Hall. The need for additional meetings in affected communities along freight lines should be clearly stated for the coming year.

Although planners at the Port Authority have been looking at impacts caused by port operations in terms of truck movements, the Port Authority needs to consider the vehicular impacts it creates from personnel movements, service vehicles and port-dependent operations cited for port-related economic contributions.

"Economic benefits" of port expansion need to be considered in relation to increases in air pollution and lost productivity, including losses

to all commuters, related by delays caused by road and rail and any job losses caused by "underpricing" operating practices and equipment and "underpricing" working practices.

In addition, considering the fact that container traffic in the port has doubled since 1991, ports along the coast, such as Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Seattle, San Francisco and Chicago, might be better served by more efficient and less impactful rail

connections to the Port of Halifax, rather than having heavy freight through one of the most densely populated areas of New Jersey.

Division to Halifax would also serve the important shipping needs for the Port of Halifax, a port of call for the Atlantic Ocean, a system with high standards of efficiency, environmental and economic success, container ships to ports along the northern tier as far west as Duluth.

For that matter, considering the traffic congestion in northern New Jersey, options for alternative deep-water port development in the Northeast, such as on the Delaware Bay near Camden, could be more viable.

Furthermore, given the DOT's intention to use the proposed gas tax increase to fund rail freight development to force port cargo through city, suburban and rural municipalities, our state legislators need to be told that there should be an increase in the gas tax.

William L. Fidurski is chairman of the Clark Environmental Commission.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We need your help collecting photos

The sixth-graders at the Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School were asked to collect pictures of our town. Springfield was the focus. This company writes books about towns and has decided to write a book about Springfield. We are asking the residents of Springfield to help us with this task.

All pictures must be 30 years or older and black and white. Only original pictures will be accepted. We promise to return all pictures. You will be asked to fill out a form of basic information and to write a brief description of your picture. All pictures must be received no later than Dec. 18.

Some of the things we are looking for are — old shops; the old bowling alley, the airstrip on Pitt Road, Miss Gaudineer, Miss Sandmeier, 1920s brides, veterans, etc.

If you have any questions, call us at 973-376-1025, ext. 1020, or visit us at http://www.expage.com/Springfield_Snapshots. Your support is appreciated.

Sixth-grade Discovery students
Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School
Springfield

AARP has violated its commitment

The AARP, also known as the American Society for Retired Persons, has continually violated its commitment to its members.

During the past five years, the AARP national dues have been raised two times without any input from the general membership. Now, the hierarchy of the AARP at its post headquarters in Washington, D.C., complete with its president, William Novelli, who earns about \$300,000 per year, together with other highly paid executives, have suddenly switched their weeks of opposition to officially approving the disastrous Congressional bill for revising Medicare and providing an expensive scheme for senior citizens to obtain prescription drugs.

My dues have been paid, but my fellow members and I have not been asked for our opinions on this issue. AARP members, particularly those who belong to local AARP chapters around the state of New Jersey, plus many senior citizen clubs, are steadfastly questioning and protesting many of the revisions contained in the Congressional bill. Many members are tearing up their membership cards or letting their already paid dues expire.

Kevin Reicho
Linden

WHAT? WHY?

HERE'S A CHANCE for all readers to share their answer to questions presented in this column. We will publish responses a week later. Send comments or suggest another question to WHAT and WHY, P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J. 07083 or e-mail to editorial@thelocalsource.com. Please include your town name.

Freeholder pay raises no surprise

It is with no surprise that I read in the Nov. 20 edition of your newspaper that the Union County Democrat freeholders have again proposed salary increases for themselves and the department heads. With all the political advertising that they did during the last campaign, I never did see the salary-increase proposal advertised in their literature.

While property tax was touted as being a top priority issue during the campaign, the taxpayers who again voted these people into office took the bait with a bigger bite. Instead of trying to decrease the county budget, which would be very easy to do, the freeholders are simply ignoring their responsibilities to the public.

The average worker in the public sector is not receiving a 6-percent salary increase this year like the county manager. By implementing such high increases, they are setting a precedent whereby all county employees would expect to receive the equivalent. The county must have torn a page from the teachers union's play book.

Kevin Reicho
Linden

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Holiday concert Dec. 20

Antioch Chamber Ensemble will present its first Christmas concert in its "Concerts at Calvary" series on Dec. 20. The concert will be followed by a dessert reception and the introduction of its new CD, "Winter Songs."

Antioch is an 11-voice chamber ensemble that moved its base of operations this year from Trinity Church on Wall Street to Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit, where they are the vocal ensemble in residence.

The young singers in the group met while singing and touring together at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton.

For the past five years the group has sung together both as a chamber choir and as individual artists in larger ensembles such as the Choir of Trinity Wall Street, the National Choral, Canton New York, and the well-known Westminister Choir, with whom the young singers toured Asia, and performed at the Festival International de Colmar in the North of France.

The next concert in Antioch's four-performance "Concerts at Calvary" series in Summit, will be "An Antioch Christmas" on Dec. 20 at 7



Antioch Chamber Ensemble will present its first Christmas concert, "An Antioch Christmas," in its Concerts at Calvary series. Tickets for the Dec. 20 concert at Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Ave., Summit, are \$25. A dessert reception and introduction of its new CD, "Winter Songs," will follow.

p.m. The group will sing some of the season's best-loved carols and anthems, including "Three Carol Anthems" by Herbert Howells, and "A Boy Was Born" by Benjamin Britten.

"We encourage music-lovers to try something new to celebrate the holidays this year," said Joshua Copeland, the group's artistic director. The concert will be at Calvary Episcopal Church, at the intersection

of Woodland and DeForest Avenues in Summit at 7 p.m. Tickets to the concert and the reception are \$25.

For more information about Antioch, visit their Web site at www.antiochonline.com.

Holiday bus trip to NYC set for Tuesday

The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, 67 Elm St., Summit, will offer upcoming events for the winter season. For information on any of the following, call 908-273-9121.

A docucent tour of "Contemporary Japan," an art exhibition at the NJCAA will present works by Archi Hironaka and Susan Martin Miller, on view through Jan. 4. The show is free and open to the public at 10 a.m. Wednesday. On Tuesday, Friends of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts will host a holiday bus trip to some of New York City's old and important houses of worship.

The tour guide will be Matt Postel from the New York City Municipal Art Society. He is a leading authority on the historical and architectural details of the city's landmark buildings.

Scheduled destinations are Trinity Church where Alexander Hamilton is buried, St. Paul's Church; Eldridge Street Synagogue and Old St. Patrick's Cathedral on Mulberry Street.

The trip is open to the public and includes a special luncheon in Little Italy. The bus will leave at 8:30 a.m. from the rear parking lot of the New Providence A&P. Return is scheduled for 6 p.m., traffic permitting.

The 18th annual International Juried Show will take place at the NJCAA

from Jan. 25 through March 19. The International Juried Show comprises individual artwork from around the globe.

The exhibition is open to artists in all media from across the United States and abroad. A distinguished member of the arts community is chosen as juror each year. Charlotte Kotik, curator and chairwoman of Contemporary Art at the Brooklyn Museum of Art will serve as this year's juror. A free panel discussion will be in January.

Approximately 1,000 slides are received annually and reviewed by the juror in two segments. The juror then narrows the slides down to approximately 100. The artwork is received by NJCAA and upon final inspection included in the show.

Individual artists are selected to receive a number of awards including Best in Show, three Merit Awards and two Memorial Awards — one for photography and one for watercolor.

Past jurors have included Anne L. Lind, associate curator of the Department of Painting and Sculpture at SOFAA, Bill Jensen, New York Times art critic, Dan Cameron, senior curator at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, and Lisa Demmon, deputy director and chief curator of Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. The International Juried Show is an NJCAA annual event.

Pipes of Christmas will return to Summit

The Pipes of Christmas, Clan Currie's popular holiday concert, returns to Summit on Dec. 20 at Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St., Summit.

Seating is limited and tickets will only be sold in advance of the concert. No tickets will be sold at the door. All seats are \$25.

To purchase tickets, send payment, specifying matinee or evening performance, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Clan Currie Society, P.O. Box 541, Summit, 07902-0541.

Tickets may also be purchased in downtown Summit at specialty menswear retailer, John Hyatt, at 354 Springfield Ave.

Tickets are also now available for Clan Currie's third annual Burns Supper. The dinner, dance, commemorating the life and contributions of Scotland's immortal bard, will be Jan. 23 at the Grand Summit Hotel. For information on these events, call 908-273-3509 or e-mail the Society at clancurrie@gmail.com.

The Pipes of Christmas made its debut in Summit in 1999 and has played to sold-out audiences ever

Young thespians



Kent Place Primary School students Caroline McDermott and Keli Hobson participate in the third-grade play "The Legend of Blue Bonnet." Each year, the third-grade class at the Summit school, under the direction of drama teacher Brenda Pepper, performs a Native American tale for the entire Primary School and parents.



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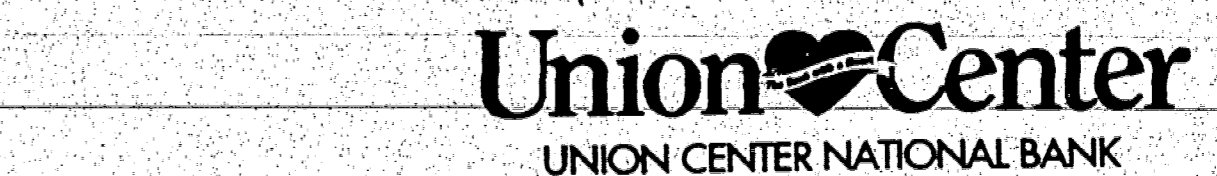
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New trustee elected

The Board of Trustees of The Learning Circle has elected Gloria M. Ron-Fornes to become a member. She has a history of volunteerism and professional experience that will make her a valuable addition to the organization that had been known as the Summit Child Care Centers.

She is a marketing executive for IBM and works from facilities across the East Coast. She has been at the company for 22 years and now helps translate the company's marketing strategy into sales.

She and her husband have two sons, ages 5 and 2, who attend The Learning Circle. Their oldest began in February 2000.

"I am an active parent and I wanted to help improve The Learning Circle's programs to benefit the children, families and teachers," she said. "I believe in constantly improving the well being of the children. And I am committed to helping children become aware of how diverse the world is and how they fit into it."

And to that end, she has helped bring more awareness of other languages into the classroom. Many schoolroom components, like a desk or a window for instance, are labeled with their name in more than just English now.

This is a philosophy she practices at home, too. She is a native of Cuba and she speaks exclusively with her sons in Spanish. Her husband, a native of Portugal, speaks with them in Portuguese.



Gloria M. Ron-Fornes, a new member of The Learning Circle Board of Trustees, reads a story to a class.

She is a graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, has done volunteer work with IBM and has worked for the Children's Specialized Hospital, Odessa of the Mind and the Summit Municipal Alliance.

The Learning Circle is a non-profit organization that serves more than 600 children from six weeks old to kindergarten.

It offers full- and part-time programs as well as summer camps. It is committed to helping children from area working families grow, learn and thrive.

Drives provides seniors with essential needs

Most people want to make the holidays special for children, but often the needs of the elderly are overlooked. As a result, many older people in the Summit community go without the most essential items for living.

SAGE, a not-for-profit eldercare organization with headquarters in Summit, hopes to help these seniors with its second annual "Essentials for Seniors" drive.

SAGE will collect basic items through Dec. 15 at several locations where collection bins will be displayed.

Items needed include towels, razors and shaving cream, new bed sheets, new basic clothing articles such as his undershirts, socks, shirts, sweaters, size extra large, slippers, gloves and hats, household paper goods, and gift certificates to area supermarkets.

Items, preferably unwrapped, should be brought to the following locations:

- Summit Medical Group, 120 Summit Ave., Summit
- Hiltop Bank, 385 Springfield Ave., Summit
- Summit Housing Authority, Summit City Hall, 512 Springfield Ave., Summit
- SAGE, a not-for-profit eldercare organization, 50 DeForest Ave., Summit
- Summit Medical Group, Watchung Office, 40 Sterling Road, Watchung

Community Messiah Sing at Central Presbyterian

Summit Chorale's annual Community Messiah Sing, conducted by Gary Naim, music director and conductor of Summit Chorale, will take place Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St., Summit.

The sing will be accompanied by David Enlow of New York City. In the event of severe snow, the sing will be postponed to Dec. 12. Sponsored jointly by the Chorale and Central Presbyterian Church, admission to the event will be free. The audience becomes the chorus in this reading of the Christmas portion of Handel's popular oratorio.

SENIOR NEWS

SAGE Provides Services

SAGE (Summit Area Geriatric Education) provides services to seniors. It offers full- and part-time programs as well as summer camps. It is committed to helping children from area working families grow, learn and thrive.

Drug research the topic at Old Guard meeting

Summit Area Old Guard members met last week to discuss drug research. The meeting was held at the New Providence Municipal Building, 100 Elkwood Ave., Summit, on Tuesday, Nov. 25. The meeting was held at 10 a.m. at the New Providence Municipal Center, 350 Elkwood Ave.

Summit Medical Group

Summit Medical Group, 120 Summit Ave., Summit, is providing services to seniors. It offers full- and part-time programs as well as summer camps. It is committed to helping children from area working families grow, learn and thrive.

Dwyer works in the department of chemical research where he specializes in tumor biology and infectious diseases. He is responsible for the preparation and development of novel agents for inflammatory diseases. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois and has a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Texas. He is a resident of Scotch Plains.

OBITUARIES

Walter Yannunzio
Walter "Gino" Yannunzio, 72, a lifelong resident of Summit, died Nov. 23 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Mr. Yannunzio was a custodian at the United States Post Office in Summit for 32 years and retired in 1986. He was a member of the Italian-American Club in Summit and the Knights of Columbus Council 5560 in Springfield.

Surviving are his wife, Concetta, a sister, Fannie, and a brother, Anthony.

Frances Schumann
Frances Schumann, 91, of Manchester, N.H., formerly of Summit, died Nov. 17 in the Courville Health Care, Manchester.

Born in Mount Airy, Mrs. Schumann lived in Summit before moving to Manchester.

Surviving are two sons, Frederic and Douglas.

Felipe Astudillo
Felipe "Felipe" Astudillo, 57, of Charleston, S.C., formerly of Summit, died Nov. 27 in Wall Township.

Born in Cuenca, Ecuador, Mr. Astudillo lived in Summit and Bedminster before moving to Charleston in 1994. He was the vice president of marketing development for TV Host in South Carolina.

Surviving are a daughter, Desiree Marie Astudillo Giovannini, his parents, Eugenio Jose and Maria Dolores Astudillo, three sisters, Maria, Raquel and Karina, and a brother, Fabian.

Joseph Cise
Joseph Cise, 77, of Tampa, Fla., formerly of Summit, died Nov. 21 at home.

Born in Bayonne, Mr. Cise lived in Summit before moving to Tampa in 1996. He was a precision tool maker with AT&T Bell Labs in New Jersey for 39 years and retired in 1990.

Surviving are his wife of 49 years, Maria, three daughters, Karen Flaherty, Ellen Mejias and Joanne Jacobs, three sons, Mark, John and Philip, and 10 grandchildren.

Vivian Wadmond
Vivian Cecile Wadmond, 86, of Summit, died Nov. 26 at home.

Summit resident Mrs. Wadmond moved to Summit 50 years ago. She was a volunteer manager at the coffee shop and a member of Overlook Hospital, TWIG 48, both at Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Wayne Martin
Wayne Martin, 61, of Englewood, Fla., formerly of Mountainside, a retired police officer, died Nov. 20 at home.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Martin lived in Mountainside before moving to Englewood in 1993. He was an officer with the Mountainside Police Department for 29 years and retired in 1995.

Mr. Martin was a member of the Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 126 in Mountainside, the Elks Lodge 2378 in Englewood and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3 in Sarasota, Fla.

He was a member of the Gulf Coast

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OBITUARIES

Carmela Tarullo
Carmela Tarullo, 80, of Springfield died Nov. 17 at home.

Born in Connecticut, Mrs. Tarullo lived in Italy before moving to Springfield in 1958. She was a seamstress with McGregory Clothing, Summit, for many years before retiring many years ago.

Surviving are three daughters, Kristin Wadmond Williams, Marin Wadmond Mixon and Deborah Wadmond Ryan; a son, Mark Ahquist Wadmond, a sister, Lilian Esberg, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Marjorie Plante
Marjorie "Marge" Plante, 87, of Port Charlotte, Fla., formerly of Mountainside, died Nov. 17 in Charlotte Regional Medical Center in Florida.

Born in Bayonne, Mrs. Plante lived in Mountainside and Costa Beach, Fla., before moving to Port Charlotte five years ago.

Surviving are three daughters, Arlene Goodman, Carole Olszewski and Alyce Eckert, a son, Paul, a sister, Marie Trejo, 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Lotte Melamed
Lotte Melamed, 92, of Mountainside, formerly of Elizabeth and Union, died Nov. 21 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Mannheim, Germany, Mrs. Melamed came to the United States in 1938 and lived in Newark, Elizabeth and Union before moving to Mountainside in 1997. She was a waitress at Ramp Restaurant, Newark, for 35 years before retiring.

Mrs. Melamed was a member of the Sisterhood of Temple B'nai Abraham in Livingston.

Surviving are two sons, Warren and Howard, a brother, Kurt Silberberg, and five grandchildren.

Margaret Lengyel
Margaret R. Lengyel, 88, of Springfield died Nov. 21 at home.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Lengyel lived in Irvington for many years before moving to Springfield 19 years ago. She was a bookkeeper for U.S. Realty, Newark, for 25 years and retired in 1980.

Mrs. Lengyel was a former member of the Senior Citizens and Rosary Society of St. Paul the Apostle Church, Irvington, and a volunteer and driver for the American Red Cross during World War II.

Surviving are two sisters, Helen Bergen and Elizabeth Lee; and two brothers, William I. Donald and Raymond Jones.

Helen Edwards
Helen M. Edwards, 91, of Springfield died Nov. 23 at home.

Born in West Orange, Mrs. Edwards lived in Union and Irvington before moving to Springfield 62 years ago. She also was a summer resident of Lavallette for 35 years.

Surviving is a son, Robert Jr.

Wayne Martin
Wayne Martin, 61, of Englewood, Fla., formerly of Mountainside, a retired police officer, died Nov. 20 at home.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Martin lived in Mountainside before moving to Englewood in 1993. He was an officer with the Mountainside Police Department for 29 years and retired in 1995.

Mr. Martin was a member of the Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 126 in Mountainside, the Elks Lodge 2378 in Englewood and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 3 in Sarasota, Fla.

He was a member of the Gulf Coast

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Local firm wins award

Ace Printing Company of Springfield received four awards for quality printing in the International Gallery of Superb Printing sponsored by the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen Inc.

The 2003 competition was held in June with more than 3,000 entries from printing companies worldwide. At an awards ceremony on Oct. 9, the company was presented with the four award plaques.

The company received a Gold Award for the design and printing of the 110th Anniversary Tribute Book for the Family and Children's Services of Elizabeth.

A Silver Award was presented for the Find a Kindred Spirit, Adopt-A-Shelter Cat Manual for the ASPCA. The company



Catherine Kurtzo, customer service representative, and Michael Marantz, president, of Ace Printing, present a Gold Award Plaque to Ghiliana Dickerson, development coordinator, and Regina Bradshaw, director of programs, of Family and Children's Services for the design and production of the 110th Anniversary Tribute Book.

"This award was the result of a collaborative effort between the customer and our customer service, design, desktop publishing and production staff," Michael Marantz, president of Ace Printing, said. "I am proud of the superb effort of everyone at Ace and the recognition for the results we achieved."

EVENTS

Historical Society hosts holiday open house

The Springfield Historical Society will host a Christmas open house Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Historic Cannon Hill House, 126 Morris Ave., Springfield.

The house, built circa 1741, was the home of the family of Dr. Jonathan Dayton and during the Revolution was operated by his widow Keziah as a tavern stop on the main road between Elizabeth and Morristown, where George Washington and his army were at Jockey Hollow.

Located in the heart of the fighting during the Battle of Springfield on June 21, 1780, the house was hit by an American cannon ball which lodged in the wall and gave the house the name by which it has been known for many years. Seven rooms are open to the public and several will be decorated in colonial style for the holiday.

The society requests that anyone with photos or maps of Springfield locations which no longer exist, prominent citizens or descendants of early settlers, call 973-764-754 or come to the open house on Sunday.

The Acadia Publishing volume on Springfield for the "Images of America" series is in process and all material shared with the society will be considered for the book.

Refreshments will be served. For information, call 973-764-754.

Tree lighting highlights town holiday festivities

Springfield's seasonal greetings celebration will be in front of Town Hall Tuesday at 6 p.m.

The township encourages residents to participate in lighting the Town Hall tree and welcoming a special visitor.

Everyone is welcome to Fire Headquarters immediately following the celebration, sponsored by EMBA.

Israeli folk dance offered in Springfield

As the days get cooler, Springfield area residents are moving back indoors for aerobic exercise.

Through Dec. 16, Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, will host Israeli folk dance lessons with master dance instructor Miriam Handler.

Handler has been teaching Israeli folk dancing for more than 25 years. All levels of dance experience are

Little helpers sought for Santa's Workshop

A Santa's Workshop will be Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish House auditorium, 17 Church Hill, Springfield.

Springfield Presbyterian Church will host this annual working so children get a chance to be busy little elves by making gifts for family, friends and teachers.

This event is open to children between the ages of 5 to 13. Call the church office 973-739-4320 to put a child's name on Santa's "helper list."

There is a \$5 charge for this Yuletide activity to help pay for craft supplies and refreshments.

RELIGION

Advent wreath sale

Saint James Troy 73 Boy Scouts of Springfield will host their annual Advent wreath sale after Saturday and Sunday Masses at Saint James the Apostle Church, South Springfield Avenue, Springfield.

The sale will continue for Saturday and Sunday and Dec. 13 and 14.

Jewish Seniors sponsor lecture series on history

The Jewish Seniors of Springfield is sponsoring a fall winter lecture series, "Topics in American History."

The lecturer will be professor Eugene Lieber. The lectures begin at 1:30 p.m. with blood pressure screenings available 1 p.m. at Temple

Beth Shalom

The lectures will be held Mondays and the topics to be discussed are Monday, "American Agricultural History," Dec. 15; "American Business History," Jan. 5; "American Immigration History," and Jan. 19; "American Labor History." The program is open to the public without fee or reservation.

For information, call 973-739-5587 or go to the Web site, www.shalom.org.

Christians-minded social group forms

A new social group for ages 35-60, has formed in Springfield. The group's mission statement is to

Clean Air Council

Gov. James McGreevey submitted to the secretary of state the appointment of Dr. Leonard Belton of Springfield, to the state's Clean Air Council.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Thursday. Entertainment - Friday noon. Sports - Monday noon. Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

With our annuity, there's payback every day.

Invest in a Charitable Gift Annuity from Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation. By doing so, you'll gain extra regular, flexible monthly income, while supporting your family and provide America's largest pediatric institution hospital with the resources it needs to help more kids recover from traumatic injuries and illnesses every day.

Gift Annuities start at \$5,000 and deliver a host of tax benefits too. Go to www.childrens-specialized.org/annuity to evaluate your potential annuity income. For more information, call us today at 908-301-5110.

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130 New Providence Rd. Mountainside, NJ 07042
www.childrens-specialized.org
Children's Specialized Hospital is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

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- Three Meals Daily
- Scheduled Entertainment & Activities
- Fitness Center with Licensed Trainers
- 24-Hour On-Site Nurses and Aides
- Emergency Call Systems
- Respite Care Available
- Assistance with Bathing, Dressing & Grooming

Professional Directory

<p>Optometrist</p> <p>CONTACT LENSES Vince McGlone, O.D., P.C. Lic. 5694 Cert. 1124 Fittings for all lenses from post-surgical to disposable Family Eye Exams Office hours by appointment</p> <p>150 Main Street, 2nd Floor (973) 467-2288 Millburn, NJ 07041 Fax: (973) 467-1455 www.njcontactlenses.com</p>	<p>Piano Tuning & Repair</p> <p>Master Tuner & Technician 20 Years Experience Aural Piano Tuning with Computer Accuracy</p> <p>Howard Kupferman 908-903-0964</p>	<p>Space Available</p> <p>SEND US YOUR PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS CARD CALL 800-564-8911</p>	<p>Space Available</p> <p>Make your Business More Visible Place an ad in this directory 800-564-8911</p>
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Smith Barney On Planning:

Every good investment strategy begins with a plan.

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Mayor Gregory Clarke congratulates Robert Maul of Springfield upon achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Maul achieves Eagle Scout level

On Saturday, one of the members of Sam's Scouts, Robert W. Maul, of Springfield, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. Maul, 17, is the first person in the township to achieve this rank. He has been a member of the troop since he was 11 years old. Maul is currently attending Springfield High School. He has completed all the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout, including a service project and a leadership position. Maul's service project was to help with the cleanup of a local park. He was elected as the troop's assistant manager during his tenure. Maul's parents, Gregory and Susan, are proud of his achievement. They hope it will inspire other young people in the township to join the scouts.

The completion of an Eagle Scout is a dedication to community service and leadership. Maul's achievement is a testament to his hard work and dedication. He has been a role model for other scouts in the township. Maul's service project was to help with the cleanup of a local park. He was elected as the troop's assistant manager during his tenure. Maul's parents, Gregory and Susan, are proud of his achievement. They hope it will inspire other young people in the township to join the scouts.

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Township ready for next step

Plans for the scoreboards have not been made yet and are not included in the designs that have been drawn up, but according to members of the committee, this will be looked at later on in the process. Another concern that has been brought up is the possibility of the Highway Valley rail line being reactivated, leading to the narrowing of the time just outside of the west end of the park. According to Clarke, however, the park will not be affected because the train will be outside of a fenced-in area. "It's not an issue that the county will have to address," Clarke said, "and hopefully, with our suggestions, we can work around that."

Committee member Steven Goldenstein suggested that a committee be formed by residents next year to decide on the park's future. He also suggested that a survey be conducted to determine the interests of the residents. Goldenstein also suggested that a survey be conducted to determine the interests of the residents.

Tree lighting set Tuesday

On Tuesday evening, the Township will host its annual tree lighting ceremony. The ceremony will be held at the Township Office. The tree to be lit is a large evergreen tree that has been donated by a local business. The ceremony will be held at 7:00 p.m. and will include a presentation of the tree to the Township. The ceremony will be held at 7:00 p.m. and will include a presentation of the tree to the Township.

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Benefit planned Friday for Springfield police officer

A benefit dinner will be held on Friday for a Springfield police officer. The dinner will be held at the Springfield Community Center. The officer is recovering from a serious injury sustained while on duty. The dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. and will include a presentation of a plaque to the officer. The dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. and will include a presentation of a plaque to the officer.

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

SPORTS

THIS IS H.S. FOOTBALL

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor
Union just won in 1993
Scotch Plains' only playoff title came in 1990

Both towns will be representing Union County football Saturday in East Rutherford, playing in a back-to-back sectional championship game. Union (10-1) will face Piscataway (8-5) in the North 2, Group 4 final at 4:30 p.m. before Scotch Plains (10-1) lines up against Ridge (10-1) in the North 2, Group 3 title game at 7:30.

Union has won the most playoff titles in North 2, Group 4 with 10 and has a 10-3 record in the title game, which it last appeared in in 1995. Scotch Plains, which has won a school-record 10 games, defeated West Morris 25-12 in the 1990 North 2, Group 3 final for its only playoff championship. As many as nine of the 16 football playing schools in the county finished with winning records, while Johnson finished an even 5-6 at 8:5.

Elizabeth (6-4) lost four games in the regular season for the first time since 1988 when it finished with a 5-5 record. That was Elizabeth's last sub-.500 campaign as the Mountain now has a streak of 23 consecutive winning seasons. The Watching Conference champions are Immaculata in the Mountain Division and Scotch Plains in the National Division.

The Mountain Valley Conference champs are Immaculata in the Mountain Division and Scotch Plains in the National Division. Immaculata and Ridge will be leaving the MVC. Immaculata won the Mountain Division for the seventh straight season and captured the crown 16 times in its 22-year run in the MVC.

Roselle Park, which finished one game better than last year with a 4-6 mark, will enter the 2004 season with a two-game winning streak after gaining victories over Metuchen and then Roselle on Thanksgiving. "Heide improved a great deal, going from 1-2 to 4-1 and making the state playoffs."

Summit ice hockey to face Old Bridge in Cron Tourney

The 21st annual George I. Cron High School Ice Hockey Tournament will commence Monday night at the Warnanco Ice Skating Center in Roselle. Eight of the best ice hockey teams in New Jersey will compete at the Warnanco rink, located in Warnanco Park, a facility of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation.

The first round schedules are as follows: Monday: Old Bridge vs. Summit, 6 p.m.; Morris Knolls vs. Westfield, 8:30 p.m.; Tuesday: West Essex vs. St. Joseph's, 6 p.m.; Cranford vs. Mendham, 8:30 p.m.

Summit's McVeigh wins race in record time

Joe McVeigh, 40, of Summit, for the third consecutive year, led the field of 275 runners in the third annual Summit 10.5 five-mile that took place Oct. 19. His time of 26:53 set a new course record. Diane Ross of Flanders led the women with a time of 35:21.

The five-mile run, a two-mile fitness walk, and the 5K Girls on the Run event were held to benefit the Women's Resource Center, which is now located in their new home at 57 New England Ave. in Summit, next to Christ Church. The event raised approximately \$30,000 on a cool day that was perfect for the run walk event.

THANKSGIVING SCORES
Wednesday, Nov. 26 (1)
Immaculata 35, Rahway 0
Thursday, Nov. 27 (7)
Union 14, Linden 7
Scotch Plains 6, Elizabeth 0
Speweed 44, Johnson 13
Hillside 18, Brearley 12
New Providence 10, G.I. O.
Roselle Park 13, Roselle 12
Plainfield 9, Westfield 7
Summit and Cranford seasons were complete.

NJSIAA FINALS PICKS (2)
Union 14, Piscataway 13
Scotch Plains 21, Ridge 12
Last week: 6-2
This year: 89-25-1 (781)
UNION COUNTY
1. Union (10-1)
2. Scotch Plains (10-1)
3. Summit (9-1-1)
4. Plainfield (7-3)
5. Elizabeth (6-4)
6. Cranford (8-3)
7. New Providence (8-3)
8. Westfield (4-6)
9. Hillside (6-4)
10. Brearley (6-4)
11. Johnson (5-5)
12. Gov. Livingston (4-6)
13. Roselle Park (4-6)
14. Rahway (2-8)
15. Linden (2-8)
16. Plainfield (3-3)
17. Elizabeth (3-3)
18. Roselle (4-9)

Soccer standouts



The Summit Blast 10-and-under boys' soccer team had an outstanding season in the Union-Essex Intercity League, finishing with an impressive league-best 10-1 record. Kneeling, from left, are Anthony Parenti, Kyle Candela, Dane Burrough, Jason Mendez, Michael Zamora, Luke Murray and Stefano Stadinger. Standing, from left, are captain Jonathan Almeraz, J.P. O'Malley, captain Andrew Palmer, Anthony DeGraco, coach Susan DeGraco, Clayton Meyer, Luis Ramirez and Juan Gonzalez.

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17. Elizabeth (3-3)
18. Roselle (4-9)

Summit Boys' Basketball
Dec. 19 at Morris Hills, 7 p.m.
Dec. 22 at Mount Olive, 7 p.m.
Dec. 27, 30 Millburn Tournament
Dec. 29 at Rahway, 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 9 at Parsippany, 7 p.m.
Jan. 13 at West Essex, 7 p.m.
Jan. 16 at Weequahic, 7 p.m.
Jan. 20 at Hanover Park, 7 p.m.
Jan. 23 at Parsippany Hills, 7 p.m.
Jan. 27 at Dover, 7 p.m.
Jan. 29 at Morris Hills, 7 p.m.
Feb. 3 at Mount Olive, 7 p.m.
Feb. 5 at Mendham, 7 p.m.
Feb. 10 at Parsippany, 7 p.m.
Feb. 12 at West Essex, 7 p.m.
Feb. 17 at Weequahic, 7 p.m.
Feb. 19 at Hanover Park, 7 p.m.
Feb. 24 at Parsippany Hills, 7 p.m.
Feb. 26 at Dover, 7 p.m.

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Feb. 10 at Parsippany, 7 p.m.
Feb. 12 at West Essex, 7 p.m.
Feb. 17 at Weequahic, 7 p.m.
Feb. 19 at Hanover Park, 7 p.m.
Feb. 24 at Parsippany Hills, 7 p.m.
Feb. 26 at Dover, 7 p.m.

Summit Ice Hockey
Dec. 2 Wayne Valley, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 3 Westfield, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 6 at Verona, 6 p.m.
Dec. 8 Cron Tournament, 6 p.m.
Dec. 9 Cron Tournament, TBA
Dec. 11 Cron Tournament, TBA
Dec. 14 Cron Tournament, TBA
Dec. 16 Cron Tournament, TBA
Dec. 17 Cron Tournament, TBA
Dec. 23 Clifton, 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 6 at Wayne Valley, 5:15 p.m.
Jan. 8 at Mont. Kimberley, 8:15 p.m.
Jan. 13 Verona, 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 15 at Bayonne, 6:30 p.m.

Summit Winter Track
Dec. 9 Bound Brook, 3:45 p.m.
Dec. 12 Millburn, 3:45 p.m.
Dec. 16 Caldwell, 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 18 at Livingston, 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 19 Holiday Relays, 9 a.m.
Dec. 23 DeSchriver Invite, 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 27 Polar Bear Invite, 9 p.m.
Dec. 27 Holiday Classic, TBA
Dec. 29 Passarelli Invite, 9 p.m.
Dec. 31 Valentine Invite, 9 p.m.
Jan. 2 IHC Championship, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 5 at Hanover Park, 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 7 U.C. Relays, 6 p.m.

Summit Bowling
Dec. 3 Hunterdon Cent., 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 4 Livingston, 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 9 Irvington, 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 11 Linden, 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 16 Kearny, 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 18 Westfield, 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 23 Newark East Side, 3:30 p.m.
Dec. 30 Union, 3:30 p.m.
Jan. 13 Elizabeth, 3:30 p.m.

Brearley sports a 6-4 winning mark

By Jeff Wolfrum
Staff Writer

KENILWORTH - In a battle between two Mountain Valley Conference schools that qualified for the state playoffs, Mountain Valley member Hillside came out on top 18-12 over Valley Division foe Brearley at Ward Field last Thursday. This was the fourth consecutive year that the teams played on Thanksgiving, with Hillside winning last year and Hillside the two years before. Brearley, which finished with a 6-4 record, qualified for the Central Jersey, Group 1 playoffs, falling at New Providence 42-20 in the quarterfinal round. Hillside, which also finished 6-4, qualified in North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 and lost at Summit 20-7 in the quarters. The Comets improved from last season's 2-8 finish.

In last year's Thanksgiving Day game, Brearley blanked the Comets 34-0 at Hillside's Wood Field Stadium. "Hillside is a very good team with a lot of speed," Brearley junior quarterback Vinny Russo said. "We knew they would be a tough team to beat. We put out our best, but they just came out with the upper hand."

A defensive struggle at the onset, Hillside finally broke the scoreless deadlock early in the second quarter thanks to its speed. Facing a third-and-six from its own 39-yard line, Hillside senior fullback Sultan Scott took an inside handoff, found a crease on the right side, bust through an opening and sprinted 61 yards en route to a touchdown. However, the extra point was blocked by Nick Mascaro and the Comets led 6-0. "We knew that they like to run the toss because of their speed," Russo said. "We came out and stopped it early."

The Bears slipped into a bit of good luck on the ensuing kickoff. Hillside kicker Aaron Desir tripped on an apparent outside kick attempt that Brearley recovered at the Comet 41. After Russo kicked up 10 yards on a keeper, the ball was brought back five yards on an illegal procedure penalty. Russo, who rushed for 26 yards on 16 attempts, then earned on the next three plays to bring the ball to the Hillside 31. Facing a fourth-and-11, Brearley head coach Scott Miller elected to go for it and the gambit paid off as Russo dumped off a screen pass to junior running back Dorrin King that turned into six points. On the play, Russo rolled to his right and tossed a short pass to King on the flat, who then spun and turned his way through the middle en route to a 31-yard TD reception. The extra point was missed as the game stood tied at 6-6.

"I just threw it at old Dorrin caught it," Russo said. "He ran it and made some moves and got there. Russo completed five of 25 passes for 83 yards and one touchdown. Brearley's special teams play helped set up another score. On the ensuing kickoff, sophomore kicker Jake Floyd squibbed a ball that was fumbled by Hillside and recovered by Floyd at the Hillside 41 with 6:20 left before halftime. Brearley would then embark on a 12-play drive that was capped on a Russo 10-yard scamper up the middle on a keeper. Mascaro was stopped just short of the goal line on a direct pitch from center on the two-point attempt as the score remained 12-6 in favor of the Bears.

"This year was a great experience for me," Russo said. "Heading into next season, I think I'll have an advantage because I got a good feel for what I need to do." The second round is scheduled to commence Thursday and then continue on Dec. 15. The semifinals are set for Dec. 16 and the finals will take place on Dec. 17. Spectator admission to the tournament is \$2 for adults and \$1 for those 17 and under. Warnanco Ice Skating Center is located off Thompson and Seyen avenues in Roselle and can also be approached from the St. Georges Avenue and Park Street entrances to Warnanco Park. More information about the tournament may be obtained by calling 908-298-7850.

BEARS FOOTBALL

KENILWORTH - Brearley (6-4) finished an even 3-3 at Ward Field and outscored the opposition by a 227-157 margin in 10 games. The Bears are 15-5 in head coach Scott Miller's first two seasons, both winning campaigns that included back-to-back state playoff appearances. Brearley also posted three shutouts, second in Union County to the four that Scotch Plains has. The Bears blanked Roselle 19-0 at home, Manvelle 48-0 at home and Newark Central 7-0 on the road in consecutive weeks.

GAME TEN
Hillside 18, Brearley 12
FIRST DOWNS: Hillside 7, Brearley 7
RUSHING YARDS: Hillside 33-222, Brearley 11-76
PASSING YARDS: Hillside 6-14-0, Brearley 6-29-17
PUNTS: Hillside 18-6, Brearley 10-4
FUMBLES-LOST: Hillside 3-6, Brearley 0-0
PUNTS-AVG: Hillside 5-32, Brearley 5-30
PENALTIES: Hillside 5-40, Brearley 5-30

Hillside (6-4) 0-6-6-18
Brearley (6-4) 0-12-0-18
Hillside - Scott 61-run, kick failed (11-0-0)
(Second quarter, 3 plays, 66 yards, 1:06 used)
Brearley - King 31 pass from Russo, kick failed (6-6)
(Second quarter, 5 plays, 41 yards, 2:06 used)
Brearley - Russo 10 run, run failed (8-12-6)
(Second quarter, 12 plays, 41 yards, 6:05 used)
Hillside - Scott 3 run, pass failed (12-12)
(Third quarter, 4 plays, 57 yards, 2:56 used)
Hillside - Scott 36 run, run failed (11-18-12)
(Fourth quarter, 4 plays, 61 yards, 2:54 used)

RUSHING: Hillside - Sultan Scott 23-221, three touchdowns, Cheyenne Pittman 4-17, Curtis Davila 2-6, Shawn Gibson 4-12. Totals: 33-232, three touchdowns. Brearley - Dorrin King 12-43, Vinny Russo 16-26, one touchdown, Ryan McMenamin 3-6, Justin Roman 1-2, Jake Floyd 1-4-1. Totals: 33-76, one touchdown.

PASSING: Hillside - Shawn Gibson 6-14-0, 28 yards, Brearley - Vinny Russo 5-25-1, 83 yards, one touchdown, Nick Mascaro 1-4-0, 21 yards. Totals: 6-28-1, 104 yards, one touchdown.

RECEIVING: Hillside - Ali Abrams, 3-18, Fuquan Brownridge 2-8, Curtis Davila 1-2. Totals: 6-28. Brearley - Ryan Hoag 4-53, Dorrin King 1-31, one touchdown, Nick Mascaro 1-20. Totals: 6-104, one touchdown.

INTERCEPTIONS: Hillside - Fuquan Brownridge, Brearley - None. FUMBLE RECOVERIES: Hillside - Curtis Davila, Brearley - Jake Floyd, Jason Warner. SACKS: Hillside - Hensley Charles, David Scott, Brearley - Ryan McMenamin. KEY TACKLES: Hillside - Jami Coleman, Khalil Minor, Hensley Charles, Brearley - Jake Floyd, Ryan McMenamin, Vinny Russo.

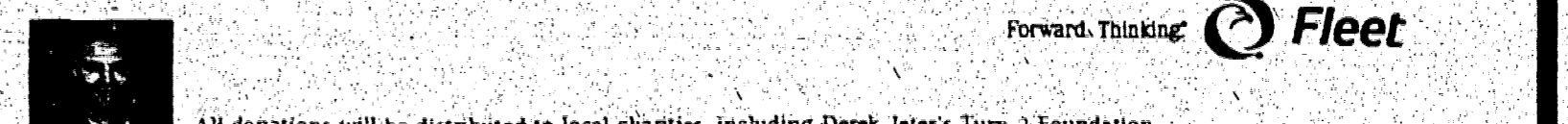
JEFF WOLFRUM

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Fleet Holiday Toy Drive. Make a deposit.

Just bring a new, unwrapped toy to your local Fleet branch. Or make a financial donation at the branch or through Fleet HomeLink™ Online Banking at fleet.com. The program runs from November 10 through December 19, and all gifts go to charities right in your local community. So please give generously.



AT THE LIBRARY

Holiday book sale offers gift-giving ideas. Mountside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, will sponsor a special holiday book sale of new books only during regular library hours.

Armchair travelers can explore historic sites. Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its Out of This World Travel Video Series with "Great Historic Sites" on Friday at noon.

Book group examines 'Origin of Government'. Once a month, the Great Books Discussion Group meets to examine the great books of civilization. The winter selections range from essays to fiction.

Twain takes viewers on European journey. Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its Lunchtime Video Series, "Mark Twain," on Dec. 30 at noon.

Teen Center opens. The Teen Center at the Springfield Recreation Department, 100 South Springfield Ave., has officially opened.

Etiquette classes offered. The Mountside Recreation Department will offer etiquette classes for children with a Manners Matter Workshop for boys and girls ages 7 to 12.

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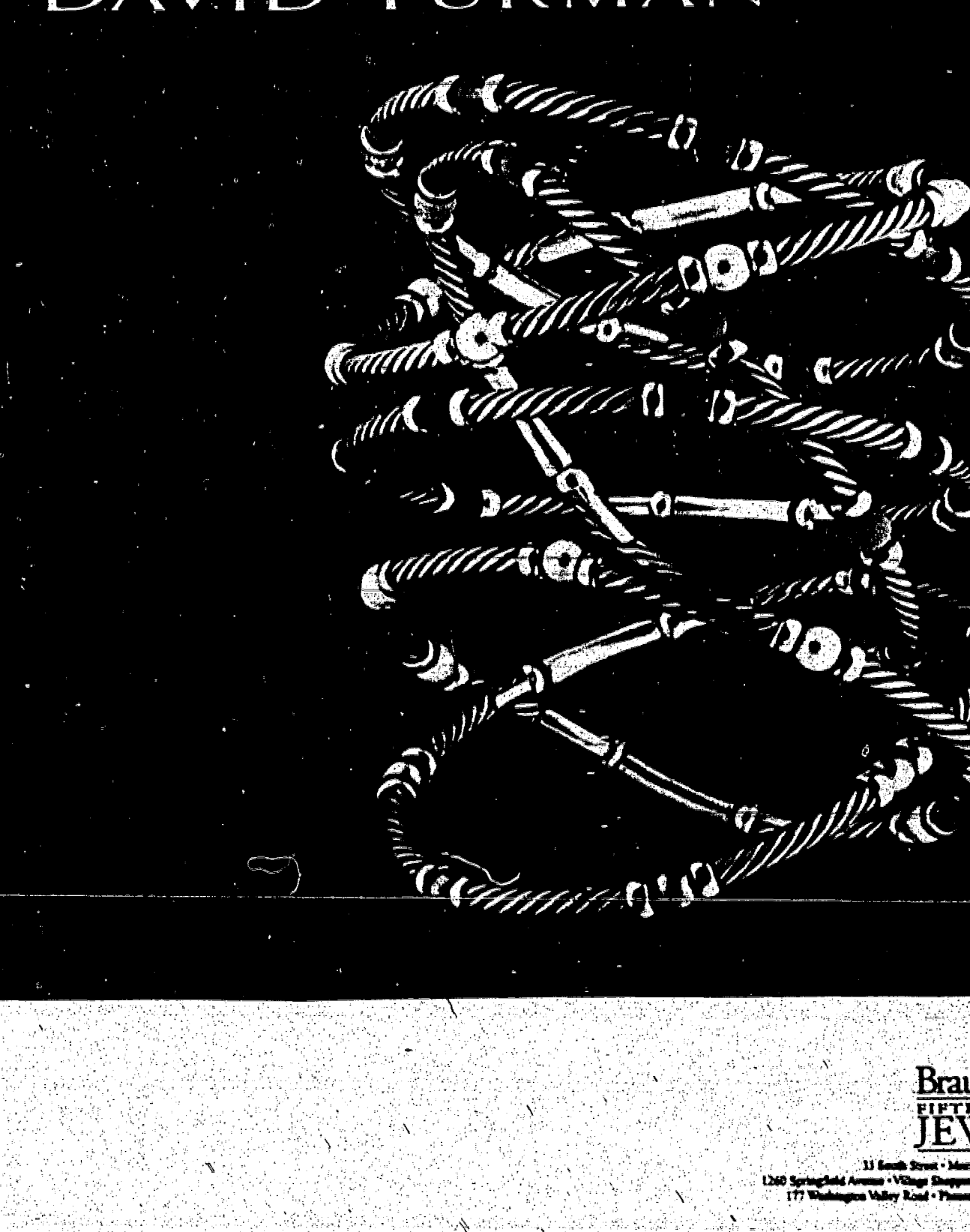
An exhibit of sketches pulled from more than 60 of an artist's sketchbooks spanning 24 years will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., beginning Friday and continuing through Jan. 8.

Two hands-on workshops for people interested in sketching or "visual journaling" will be held on Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. for students in grades eight through 11 and on Dec. 15 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. for adults.

Artist's sketch workshops, exhibit

An exhibit of sketches pulled from more than 60 artist's sketchbooks spanning 24 years will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., from Friday through Jan. 8.

DAVID YURMAN



Winter stories bring warmth and magic. What can parents and children do when it's cold and winds? Come to Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., and celebrate winter time with a film and a special story hour.

Raymond Briggs' "The Snowman" film will be Dec. 20 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Winter stories will be told on Dec. 15 from 7:30 to 8 p.m.

Join Youth Services Librarian Kipria Sankaran on a storytelling and singing adventure on Dec. 15. Come warm yourself by the storytelling fire to listen, laugh and learn. The event is for ages 3 to 7.

Parents, guardians and children are welcome to a special winter film screening of Raymond Briggs' winter story "A Young Boy's Snowman" comes to life and escorts him on a magical flying visit to the North Pole on Dec. 20.

The Mother Goose Group promotes the enjoyment of language through nursery rhymes, simple stories, songs and activities for toddlers ages 1 to 3 years old and their parent or caregiver. Plan to stay and play afterward. The program will be Mondays, Dec. 8 and 20 from 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. No advance registration.

All programs will be at the library. For more information, stop by the Youth Services Desk or call 973-376-4930, ext. 232.

Friedman earns certificate

Susan M. Friedman, a 10-year-old resident of Springfield, has been awarded a diploma in therapeutic massage at the Piscataway Campus of the Somerset School of Massage Therapy.

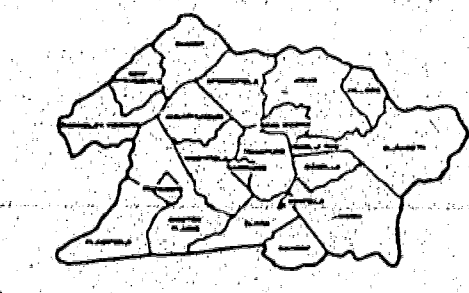
Friedman, a graduate of New York University, plans to conduct outreach for massage therapy and continue her studies with advanced myofascial and geriatric techniques.

Together with more than 70 autumn graduates from both Wall Township and Piscataway locations, Hanks successfully completed a professional track program of academic courses, technique instruction and clinical practice in all facets of contemporary Western massage therapy, exceeding New Jersey state certification requirements.

In addition, core curriculum courses at the school are recommended for thirteen college credits by the American Council on Education college credit recommendation service.

As a graduate, she is eligible for listing in the prestigious American Massage Therapy Association's registry of approved massage therapy schools and practitioners.

Hours of the exhibit are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday hours are from 1 to 3:30 p.m. For information, call 973-376-4930.



WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2003 - SECTION B

Union County

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• Arts
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Fiber of community

The two volunteer firemen standing erect at the casket of Harry Krouse were young enough to have been his grandchildren. Along with many in Roselle Park, they showed their respect at Mastapeters Funeral Home last week for a good man, who raised a family, ran a local business and volunteered to help improve the fiber of his community.

The firetruck in the parking lot was shiny as usual. The flowers in the casket were fitting. Inside, the mourners listed the attributes of a good man who also dedicated 40 years of his life to serving the community as a volunteer firefighter.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

Seven years earlier, they actually remained the Lorraine Howe Company in his honor. Krouse moved to the borough in 1935, saw a mother killed in World War II, and even though exempt by age, served on a minesweeper in the Atlantic and came back to live a valuable life.

Lately, visits to Mastapeters are coming more frequently. They remind you of your own mortality. You also appreciate that a community is made up of the people who find time to make things better for others.

The cost of community seems to be on a lot of people's minds lately. Gov. James McGreevey is joining the bevy of editorial writers complaining about how balkanized New Jersey has become and high property taxes. The hue and cry is that towns and school districts must consolidate and merge anything to cut property taxes.

Here's an alternate position. The cost of consolidation may be a whole lot more expensive. Oh sure, there are probably inefficiencies in having smaller communities. I'm still not sold on a long shot that bigger is so much better. When the chief of police lives in the town, and his wife shops at the local store, that is still in my mind a big plus. It's still the case in most of our county's communities.

When the guy plowing your snow knows he will hear about any problems Saturday at the ShopRite or Sunday at Assumption Church, that is a very big plus. As an example, the people running the tree-lighting ceremony in Cranford this Saturday are giving their valuable time to benefit their community. It really matters.

I guess some consolidation could be helpful. Let's start with merging out the Roselle Park High School girls' tennis team. After all, they consistently beat the daylights out of communities a whole lot bigger. In the name of consolidation, we can end the embarrassment.

The two big fears of inefficiency and duplication imply that bigger schools, regional negotiations for teacher salaries, or town mergers mean better quality. Based on New Jersey's high rank in test scores, we must be doing something right.

In lieu of consolidation, let's move for some real efficiency. McGreevey speaks about ending the "fruitless chasing of rabbits for development they don't want for tax revenues they desperately need." That's something everybody buys into.

Let's also examine the tenure laws and the bevy of mandated costs. A constitutional convention, where teachers and mayors list the 10 impediments to cutting costs that they have to struggle with daily might be a valuable exercise.

The proof is that the average resident likes his community as it is, and understands you get what you pay for. He also appreciates the value of community spirit. The cost of not losing that fiber is probably the best bargain we could have.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Estrada expected to be next chairman

By Joshua Zaitz, Staff Writer

The next chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is expected to be Angel Estrada of Elizabeth, who served as the vice chairman in 2003. Freeholder Rick Proctor of Rahway is expected to be the next vice chairman.

Estrada and Proctor would be sworn in at Union County's annual reorganization meeting on Jan. 4. Freeholders Deborah Scanton of Union, Alexander Mirabella of Fanwood and Chester Holmes of Rahway will be sworn in to new three-year terms on the county's governing body. The trio was re-elected to their third term in November's General Election.

"I think Ange is going to do great," said Freeholder Nicholas Scutari. "He's a hard-working guy. He's looking forward to taking the leadership role. He's been my running mate and I think he's going to do an excellent job."

The current freholder chairman, Scanton, said she is looking forward to Estrada taking over the chairmanship. "I know that he'll do an outstanding job," said Scanton. "He's an exceptionally bright man who really puts the interests of the county ahead of everything else."

Estrada has served on the freholder board since 1999. Freeholder Daniel Sullivan, who also served on the Elizabeth Board of Education with Estrada, said he is confident Estrada will do a fine job as chairman.

"I'm sure he's sitting down now thinking about what his plans are for the coming year," said Sullivan.



Angel Estrada

was effective. Everyone on the board worked very closely with me and was very helpful. I will miss being chairman."

Estrada, who emigrated to the U.S. 42 years ago as a 10-year-old refugee from Cuba, is employed as a Department of Motor Vehicles agent in Elizabeth, where he also resides. He declined comment.

Appointed to the freholder board in 2002 to replace Linda Stender, Proctor was elected to the board in 2002.

A Rahway resident, Proctor serves as his city's Democratic chairman. He is employed as the city's health officer and as the health officer of Scotch Plains.

The chairman of the freholder board earns an annual salary of \$29,000, compared to \$28,000 for the vice chairman and \$27,000 for freeholders. All are considered part-time positions.

In the past several years, the next year's chairman has been selected during the annual League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City, which took place the week of Nov. 4-7.

NUI Corporation to sell by early '04

By Joshua Zaitz, Staff Writer

NUI Corporation, the parent company of Elizabethtown Gas Company, anticipates reaching a final agreement on its sale in the first quarter of next year. "The process leading up to the purchase will be invisible to our customers," NUI spokesman Christopher Reardon said. NUI announced the pursuit of selling the company in September, as a result of the negative impact on the company arising from recent credit downgrades and adverse business conditions.

"We are in the process of seeking a purchaser," said Reardon. "In the meantime, we are continuing to operate the company. Before the purchase is finalized, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities will conduct a nine- to 12-month regulatory review process and based on its finding will then decide whether or not to approve the purchase."

"The BPU is still gathering information," said BPU spokeswoman Gloria Monteleagre. The BPU is a regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate, and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Services regulated by the BPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The BPU has general oversight responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents.

The board will review the specifics of the sales agreement and determine if there's any impact on the customers. "They will ensure that the interests of the customers are paramount," said Reardon.

The BPU currently has a focused audit under way of NUI and its subsidiaries. The audit will be completed by the end of the year. "The company must file for approval of any sale of NUI and the BPU will conduct an investigation to determine the impact of the sale on the competition in the industry, the effects on employees and customers," said Monteleagre, explaining that the entire process typically takes between nine to 12 months.

Reardon said it would be "speculative" to determine if the sale of NUI will result in an increase in customer fees. Gas rates are regulated by the state. "Any impact on rates would be reviewed and approved by the state," said Reardon. NUI, based in Hightstown, is an energy company that operates natural gas utilities, as well as businesses involved in natural gas storage, pipeline activities, wholesale energy portfolios and risk management. NUI's utilities companies include Elizabethtown Gas Company in Elizabeth, City Gas Company of Florida and Elton Gas Company in Maryland.

Reardon said NUI is seeking a buyer who will purchase the company as a whole, including all its entities. Elizabethtown Gas was founded in 1855 to provide energy for the 300 gaslights lining the streets of Elizabeth. The company became part of NUI Corporation when NUI was created in 1960. Today, Elizabethtown Gas serves more than a quarter of a million residential, commercial and industrial customers. All of Union County is served by NUI, with the exception of Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Plainfield, Springfield and Summit.

Legislation would ban nepotism, dual offices

By Joshua Zaitz, Staff Writer

Hoping to jumpstart ethics reforms, state Senate Co-President Richard Codey, D-Essex, is expected to introduce legislation today to ban nepotism, dual office holding and professional employment contracts for legislators within their district.

"I believe that by the end of this legislative session, we can be making substantial progress towards shaking the public's perception that we run for office to enrich ourselves and families," Codey said in a prepared statement. Bill S.2756 will forbid lawmakers from hiring their mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters in their district offices or for partisan staff positions in the State House. The ban on dual office holding would apply to all elected officials throughout the state.

To implement the ban effectively, Codey said dual office holders would be authorized to complete the terms of their current public positions under a "grandfather clause."

The contract ban would not be designed to apply to teachers, firefighters or any full-time municipal employees who wish to serve in the Legislature. Codey's legislation falls along similar lines to an order issued by Assembly Speaker Albio Sires, D-Hudson, which prohibits members of the Assembly from hiring relatives to serve on their staffs.

" Voters in the recent election clearly expressed dissatisfaction with the long-standing practice of individual legislators hiring relatives to work in their respective district offices," Sires said in a prepared statement. "Although the hiring of relatives is not specifically prohibited by law, it is my intent to use my powers as presiding officer of the General Assembly to put an end to nepotism by individual legislators."

Sires' order does not state exactly which relatives are considered family members. The order would also still allow the spouse or child of a legislator to work in the district office of another lawmaker or in the Assembly's main office in Trenton.

However, Sires is a dual office holder, as he has been the mayor of West New York since 1995. Sen. Raymond Lesniak, D-Union, said he would be supportive of Codey's legislation, though he would not elaborate on whether or not there's a negative perception from the general public in regard to nepotism and dual office holding.

Freeholder Nicholas Scutari, a Democrat, was recently elected to represent the 22nd District. He said he would have to take a close look at Codey's initiative before he decides if he's in favor of it. "It really depends upon the breath of what he's looking to do," said Scutari. Scutari, who also serves as Linden's prosecutor, does not see a conflict between holding two government positions.

"I would oppose any legislation that would not allow me to hold both of those positions," he said. Scutari, who will be sworn into the Senate on Jan. 13, will remain as a freholder until he's ready to step down later in the year. "I've said consistently if the voters put you in there, I don't see the problem in dual office holding," he said. Although supportive of Codey's legislation, Republican legislators in the 21st District said they have introduced similar legislation to ban nepotism and dual office holding in the past. Assembly Eric Munoz, R-Union, introduced a bill on May 5 — A-3619 — which would prohibit legislators from gainfully employing a member's relative in any position in a legislative office that the member maintains in his or her legislative district. "It'll be the really abominable stuff that is going on," he said. State sen. Thomas Keane, R-Union, said dual office holding for members of the Legislature leads to conflicts of interest. "Which set of constituencies is that individual seeking to serve?" said Keane. For example, if a legislator is also the mayor of one of the municipalities he represents, is he biasing things toward that municipality, asked Keane.



LENAPE PARK CLEAN-UP — Cranford High School seniors, above, from left, Ruthanne McCarthy, Krista Fincke and Suzanne Morris volunteer their time Saturday to help clean up Lenape Park. Below, brothers Ben Wei and Albert Wei of Mountainside get to work with pitchforks. Several volunteers gathered Saturday morning to clean the county park that stretches from Westfield into Cranford and Springfield, eventually connecting with Echo Lake Park.



See MEASURE, Page B2



Staff Sgt. James Russo, left, presents Prosecutor Theodore Romankow with the American Flag at the Prosecutor's Office in Elizabeth at the courthouse complex. Russo, a Prosecutor's Office detective, is back serving in Iraq, helping U.S. forces create a national police force.

Detective helps create Iraqi police force

For one year now, a Union County Prosecutor's Office detective has been serving his country in Iraq, helping the country develop its own national police force. Staff Sgt. James Russo, who left his assignment as a training instructor and task force supervisor last December with the 1st Special Airborne Task Force, came home for a few days over the Thanksgiving holiday and is back on assignment now with Special Forces in Iraq. "It's truly been an honor for me," said Russo, who had to say goodbye to his wife and children again this week to return to Mosul and Kirkuk in Iraq for another month of duty in the 104th Civil Affairs Unit. Russo, who was a head instructor at the 10th Airborne Union County Police Academy in Scotch Plains, has tremendous field experience as well as five years of teaching courses such as physical training, verbal de-escalation, officer safety and survival. For that reason, he was assigned to the 10th Group, Special Forces, to help assist in the development of the new national police force. "Yes, it's true, I left behind a legacy of service and a void at the 10th Airborne Task Force, but we are total professionals. Theodore Romankow, who was extremely moved last week when Russo came home to come to a present him with an American flag. The prosecutor said that investigation didn't stop.

Measure would ban dual office holding

Keen introduced a Senate bill last January, S-2273, which would ban dual office holding for members of the Legislature. Under the bill, legislators would be limited to one elected office, meaning they could not also hold the office of freeholder, mayor or council member. However, a legislative committee has appointed government positions, such as municipal prosecutor. Sen. Codey's bill goes further to include, for example, prosecutor and I would be very supportive," said Keen. He said it's been frustrating that his bill to ban dual office holding has been opposed for about a year now.

COUNTY NEWS

Nominations sought for Women of Excellence

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Commission on the Status of Women are accepting nominations for the 12th annual Women of Excellence Awards. The commission is looking for outstanding women nominees of Union County who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following categories: Arts and Humanities, Business Entrepreneur, Community Service, Education, Government, Law, Law Enforcement, Medicine/Health Care, and/or Women's Advocacy. The women selected from the nominees will be honored at the Westwood, 458 North Ave., Garwood, on March 12 at 7 p.m. Due to the overwhelming interest in this annual event, the Union County Commission on the Status of Women is encouraging all nominations to be submitted as soon as possible. To submit a nomination, send a cover letter, resume and biographical statement about the woman, highlighting her accomplishment in a particular category to Joan Abtante, 322 Dietz St., Roselle, 07201. For more information, call Abtante at 908-241-2890.

UCUA annual meeting

The Union County Utilities Authority, 1499 Route 180, Rahway, will convene its annual public meeting Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. regarding the Union County Resource Recovery Facility, to be conducted by Covanta Union Inc., formerly Ogden Martin of Union Inc., as the solid waste facility permittee. The open public meeting is to provide local officials and the general public with an annual forum to allow public input and exchange of ideas relating to the Union County Resource Recovery Facility. Following the special meeting, the UCUA regular meeting will begin at 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 732-382-0200.

Sheriff on 'Newsmakers'

Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich appears on new editions of "Newsmakers" airing on cable television stations this month. In the first program, "Crime Scene Investigation," Froehlich discusses the instrumental part his office's Identification Bureau plays in investigating major crimes in Union County. "It is one of our primary functions," Froehlich said. "These officers do an amazing job with the scientific and technical aspects of criminal investigation." In the second program, "More Than Force," the sheriff discusses the many charitable causes and other community service projects in which his sheriff's officers participate. From helping to feed hungry families through "Operation Breadbasket" to funding transmitters for Alzheimer's disease patients in "Project Lifesaver," the officers take part in a large number of activities. "Newsmakers" is a five-minute interview program, is seen throughout New Jersey and surrounding states. It airs at the end of every half-hour on channels showing CNN-Headline News. For more information, call the Office of the Sheriff at 908-527-4450.

Volunteer recruiting fair

Potential volunteers will be able to find an unprecedented amount of information about groups that need their help at the first ever community volunteer recruiting fair, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the United Way of Greater Union County, at Jersey Gardens Mall on Friday from 2 to 8 p.m. The county's Office of Volunteer Services will also release a greatly expanded second edition of its Volunteer Directory on that date. More than 30 organizations and agencies that rely on volunteers to provide important services from feeding hungry families to tutoring school children will participate in the fair, including the "Caring Community" event and the directors have been supported in part by a grant from Verizon. The Office of Volunteer Services released the first Union County Volunteer Directory in April. Created with the United Way of Greater Union County, the directory is an unprecedented resource to connect those in need with those who can help. The new edition has doubled in size to list more than 100 nonprofit organizations and agencies and has

Dec. 14, 1 to 4 p.m., Westfield First Street Block Association, 519 First St., Westfield. Donors must be 17 years of age. There is no upper age limit to donors provided they meet health requirements. Donors should know their Social Security number and bring a signed or picture form of identification. For more information, call the Blood Center at 1-800-652-5663, ext. 140, or the Red Cross at 908-553-2500.

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Tax volunteers sought

RSNV's operating years, 55 and older volunteer to help prepare tax returns for the elderly, frail, low-income and disabled citizens of Union County. Tax counseling will be offered at various sites within Union County. A special tax law training session will be offered free at Community Access Unlimited for the volunteer tax counselors in early January. Last year hundreds of tax returns were completed through this program. If you are interested in becoming an RSNV volunteer tax counselor, call Steve at 908-354-3040, Ext. 160.

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: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Manning Lafayette Lodge, 1550 Irving Highway, Rahway. Monday, 4 to 8 p.m., Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue and Randolph Road. Dec. 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Parish Hall, 111 South St., New Providence.

Volunteers sought

The YWC of Eastern Union County, 11311 Jersey St., Elizabeth, is seeking volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, call Lynn at 908-355-1800, ext. 18.

Editorial deadlines

Editorial deadlines for news, Church, Club and Social: Friday noon. Entertainment: Friday noon. Sports: Monday noon. Letter to the Editor: Monday 9 a.m.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

For Noone, the music is what really matters

Almost 40 years ago, they topped the charts and set adolescent hearts a-flutter. Today, as Irving Berlin put it, the melodic lingers on. Led by Peter Noone, Herman's Hermits took the world by storm, outselling every recording artist on the planet in 1965 — including The Beatles. The band's prolific body of work encompassed into pop-culture consciousness such timeless hits as "Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Daughter," "I'm Henry VIII," "There's a Kind of Hush" and "I'm Into Something Good," among many others. Fast-forward to 2003, and the British band is ready to take Central Jersey by storm, with an appearance this Saturday at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. While much has changed in the music industry in roughly four decades, one thing has remained a constant for Noone. "I'm excited to play," he said excitedly. "I love to work. I had a few weeks off, so I'm chomping at the bit again." Noone shared his enthusiasm for playing large showplaces such as UCAAC, pointing out that such venues lend themselves to his style of music. "You see a building like that," he said, "and you go, 'Ah ha, this is a better room for rock 'n' roll.'" And he would know, having been among the rock era's early superstars, a status he still enjoys with today's music fans. "The audience got younger and younger, the fan club got younger," he noted. "Because they know that we're not preposterous sex symbols." However, once upon a time, Noone and his mates were indeed sex symbols, joining the ranks of the Brit equivalents of America's Fabian and Frankie Avalon. "We never wanted to be," he said of his former heartthrob status. "That's why we called it Herman's Hermits, we didn't call it Billy Fury and the Scorpions. We came up to do what those guys do, we wanted those people out of the way." The concept of "sex appeal over musicianship" somewhat rankles Noone, though his good nature prevails. In discussing today's pre-packaged pop stars — the Britney's, the Justin's — his graciousness comes through. "I like the records, and they're nice people," he said. "These guys do good because they're nice people and you can take your kids to see them." There's the real heart of the matter: the fact that people will come to see an artist. "What makes musicians famous is the people who like them," he observed. Such a symbiotic relationship has its parameters, though, and Noone has little patience for artists insulting the fans' taste by putting down their own past songs. "Such behavior is not in keeping with Noone's approach to celebrity, or to music. But it's also a byproduct of the 'manufacturing' of 'stars' that's infected the music industry. Noone mentions greats such as The Who and Fleetwood Mac as being "bands



Liz Zazzi and Gary Glor rehearse for 'It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play,' to be presented Saturday by the Theater Project at Union County College in Cranford. See 'Theater' in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B8.

Bill VanSant, Editor. Worrall Community Newspapers Inc. 2003 All Rights Reserved. Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 463 Valley Street, P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040.

Artist 'spits' for his art

Now through Dec. 18, the exhibition "111 First Street," featuring the works of artist Edward Fausty, will be on display in the Tommaso Gallery, located on the first floor of the Kenneth MacKay Library on the Cranford campus of Union County College. Fausty's exhibition is a series of pigmented digital inkjet prints, known as giclée — in French, meaning "no spit" — output on plain, uncoated "Arches" cover, which is 100-percent rag cotton paper. The Tommaso Gallery is located on the first floor of the MacKay Library at Union County College, 1031 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and on Saturdays, and from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays. For information, call 908-709-7155.

Holiday house tour is set

One of the houses on this year's Reeves-Reed Arboretum Holiday House Tour is a doll house, which, like the six full-size houses on the tour will be lavishly decorated for the holidays. The Holiday House Tour is scheduled for Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Proceeds from the tour benefit Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit. Three of the houses on the tour are Tudor-style, one is Georgian, and one is Arts-and-Crafts. Wisner House at Reeves-Reed will be decorated in a Victorian style. House tour participants are invited to enjoy punch and cookies at Wisner House during the tour. More information about the tour is available on the Arboretum's Web site, www.reeves-reedarboretum.org, or by calling 908-277-1190. Tickets will be available for \$25 at the Garden Shop at Reeves-Reed, 165 Hobart Ave.

Miller-Cory welcomes 'Belsnickel' on Sunday

The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Ave. in Westfield, will celebrate German Christmas customs with the arrival of the Belsnickel and a traditional German dinner cooked over the open hearth on Sunday. The program will be from 2 to 5 p.m.; the last tour begins at 4 p.m. Jack Peterson of Westfield will portray the "Belsnickel," a figure from German folklore who visited the homes of children on Christmas Eve. He is a scary visitor dressed in a cape of ratty old pelts and worn-out clothes. The Belsnickel is nervously awaited by the children, especially children who have been naughty. He throws candies to the children and then disappears until the next Christmas. Visitors to the museum will meet the Belsnickel, and children can try to catch some of the candies that he scatters. Costumed docents will greet visitors and guide them through the historic farmhouse. Deborah Bailey of Westfield also will present a program on German Christmas customs. Sherry Lange of Cranford and Athene Soong of Plainfield will prepare a traditional German Christmas dinner over the open hearth. Visitors to the museum will be able to taste treats as prepared by the cooks, while learning about 18th-century cooking techniques and methods. The museum's gift shop offers many unique gift items, such as colonial reproductions, toys, cookbooks, recipes, tea, etc. Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults and 50 cents for students. Children younger than 6 years of age are admitted free of charge. The holiday spirit continues at the Miller-Cory House Museum with Gingerbread Sunday, a program for young children, Dec. 14. For information about the museum and its winter schedule of events, call the museum office at 908-232-1776.

Railroaders honor responders

The Model Railroad Club Inc., an activity of the Union County Park System, announced that it will be honoring first responders during the second weekend of the club's annual Sound and Light Show. This Saturday is "Armed Services Appreciation Day." Active military personnel showing their military I.D. at the ticket window will be admitted free of charge. Sunday is "Police, Fire, and EMT Appreciation Day." Guests showing a valid, current police, fire, or EMT I.D. at the ticket window will be admitted free of charge. "These people are true heroes," said club President Ray Russell. "They put their lives on the line for us every day of the year. Some of our members belong to their local volunteer rescue squads and know first-hand the tremendous job first responders do. We're pleased to be able to honor them with this token of our appreciation." The show runs through Dec. 14 at the club building, located on Letterson Avenue off Route 22 east of Union, behind the Home Depot. Free parking is available on site and the club is wheelchair accessible. For information, contact the club at 908-304-9724 on Saturdays between 1 and 5 p.m. or 908-304-8808 for a recorded message, or by visiting the club's Web site at www.mrcc.org.

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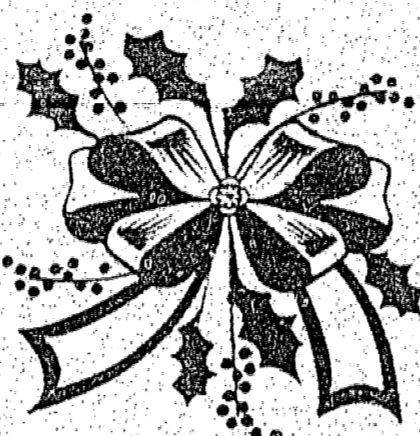
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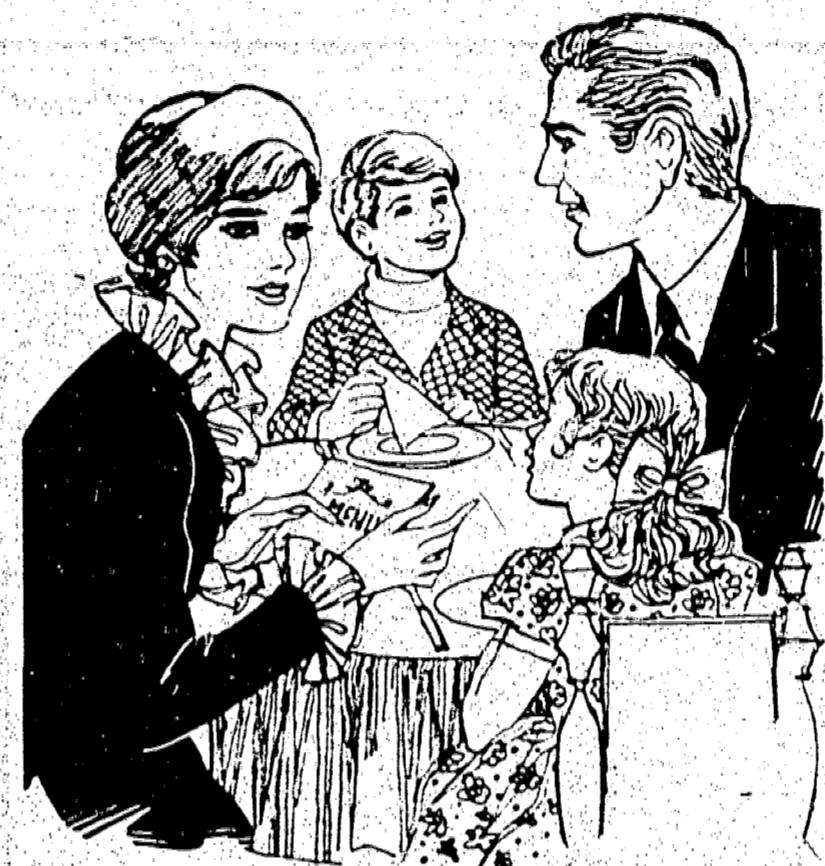
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JUNIOR'S CAFE
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Menu

By Steven Reilly
Staff Writer

There is a quaint cafe conveniently located in the heart of Union Center that offers quality dishes and friendly service for reasonable prices. Junior's Cafe, directly across from Union Theater on Stuyvesant Avenue, has something for everyone - soups, salads and sandwiches are served all day long. The cafe is a family-run eatery, serving the casual setting is perfect for the informal service and family-like atmosphere.

The food is an adventure offering such culinary delights as Rosemary prosciutto with mozzarella, penna ala vodka with chicken and Da New Yorker wrap. Co-owner Julio Velasco Jr. has built a menu that includes some old favorites as well as some new twists on traditional dishes.

"The quality of our food and good service is something we always offer to our customers," Velasco said. "No matter if someone comes in for a sandwich or has a catered event, we always give them whatever they want."

One popular dish is the Cuban sandwich. A lean pork loin with ham and swiss cheese are piled onto a roll and hand-grilled to perfection. The juices from the pork blend with the swiss cheese to create a delicious meal.

Besides the Cuban, Junior's Cafe offers a wide variety of sandwiches and wraps that will satisfy anyone's appetite. If you're hungry for something homemade try the lasagna or one of the many pasta dishes that fill the menu. But the real treat is the many Spanish dishes which are made fresh each day. These tantalizing meals add a whole new flavor from the many restaurants in Union. The roasted chicken served with a side of vegetables and rice and beans has a crisp skin that helps keep the tender meat inside nice and juicy.

Junior's Cafe offers a wide variety of delicious meals all for about \$6.00 daily. There are not many places that offer Spanish beef stew and roast pork with red onions and hominy beans alongside Italian hot dogs and Jersey cheese steak sandwiches.

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Junior's Cafe is located at 985 B Stuyvesant Avenue in Union. Parking is available in the free municipal lots located in the rear of the restaurant. Junior's offers catering services and delivery. The hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Phone 908-688-7336, fax 908-688-6877.

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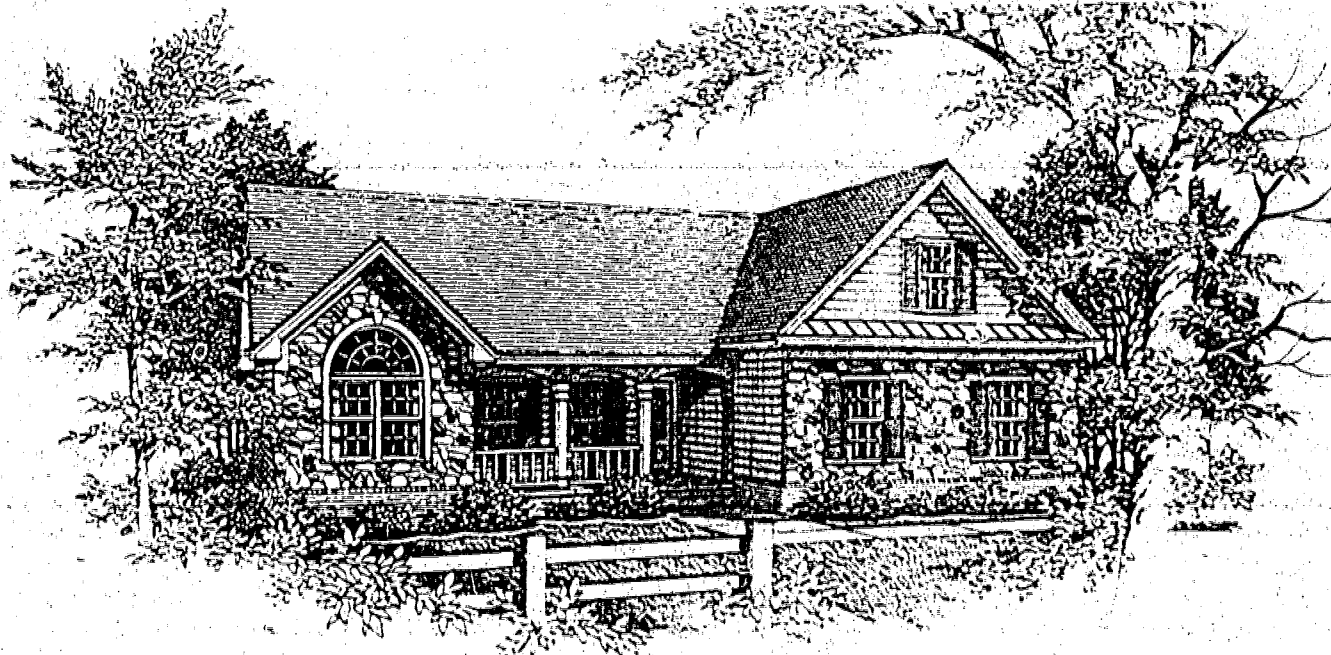
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RENTAL. BELLEVILLE



The airy, restful master bedroom is embellished with a tray ceiling while the master bath includes a sloped ceiling. The bath may accommodate a double vanity and a separate shower and tub. The room also has an adjacent walk-in closet.

Home has informal comfort

Expansion options are an impressive feature of this home. Over the garage is a 12-by-23 room, which has limitless possibilities. Additional expansion space is also provided in the basement of the home.

Entry to the home is from a covered, front porch with a recessed door. A foyer continues back to the vaulted trapezoidal room with a fireplace and rear sun deck access. A formal dining room, which is only visually separated by columns from the family room, is the kitchen is L-shaped with one side being open to the dining room. A small breakfast bay is indicated for those quick meals on the go. A laundry room is tucked away at the entrance to the garage and basement access is from this room.

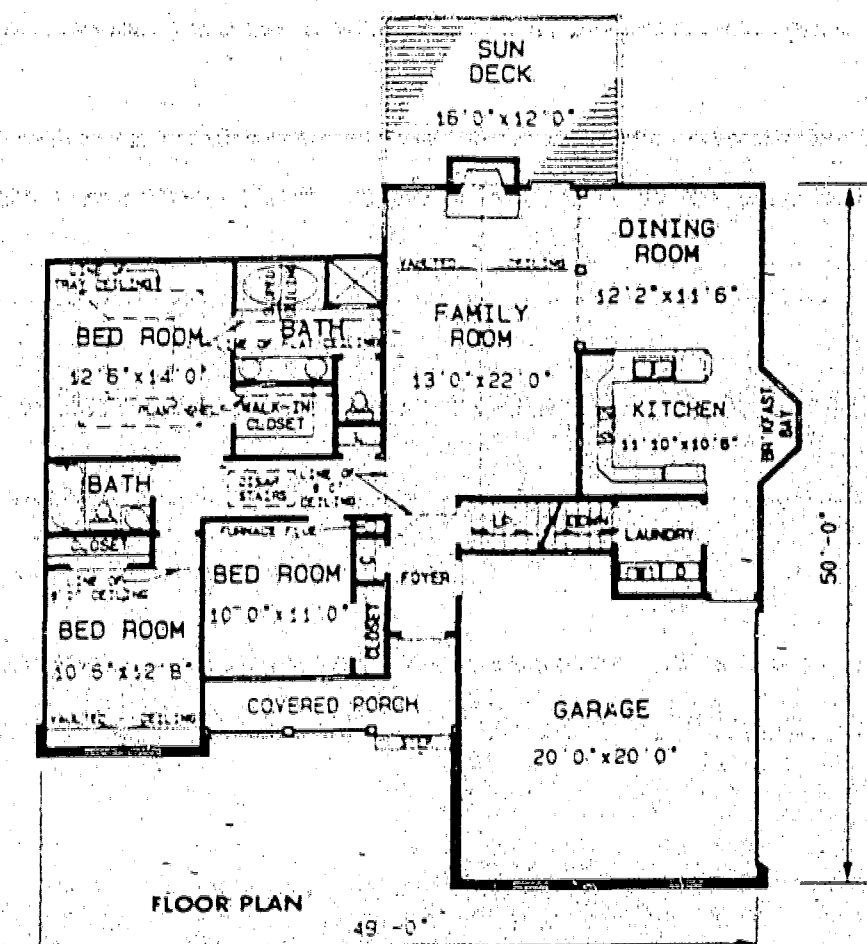
The quiet zone of the house includes three bedrooms and two baths. One bedroom is adorned with an arched window and includes a vaulted ceiling.

The airy, restful master bedroom is embellished with a tray ceiling while the master bath includes a sloped ceiling. The room also has an adjacent walk-in closet.

The quiet zone of the house includes three bedrooms and two baths. One bedroom is adorned with an arched window and includes a vaulted ceiling.

Weichert Financial, RRI to merge

Fred Watkins, president of Weichert Financial Services, announced that RRI Mortgage Services has reached a final agreement to merge with Weichert Financial Services. This announcement comes as part of the acquisition of RRI that closed on April 16.



A covered porch. All W.D. Farmer plans include construction details for substituting brick, frame, or stucco exterior finish. Plan number 2-522 includes 1,523 square feet of space on the first floor and 283 square feet of space on the bonus rooms. The basement is under the entire heated space of the first floor.

Home equity borrowing has advantages

While the country has enjoyed record-low interest rates during the past 24 months, there has been a great deal of talk about mortgage refinancing and home equity loans. Many consumers have taken advantage of the opportunity to save money each month by refinancing to a lower interest rate, obtain a cash-out refinance to pay for much-needed home improvements or consolidate credit card debt, or change the terms of their mortgage from 30 to 15 years.

But that boom is nearing the end, and interest rates are starting to rise. And when interest rates begin to rise, there is typically a shift in the source of consumer financing.

In the case of homeowners who may be looking at the equity in their home to help out with bills or life's big expenses, the shift usually is from home equity loans to home equity lines of credit (HELOCs). The reason being is that with interest rates on the rise, a HELOC allows you to borrow smaller amounts at a time and therefore only pay interest on smaller

chunks of money at a time - saving you interest. Like a home equity loan, a home equity line of credit is a source of money available to homeowners who have equity in their home - either from an increased value of the home, a large down payment or having paid down a first mortgage over a number of years.

Unlike a traditional mortgage, a HELOC gives homeowners access to a pre-determined amount of money over time - a revolving credit account. It operates similar to a credit card or a checking account - you draw upon the funds as you need them and, likewise, as you pay off your balance, your credit revolves and can be used again.

Home equity lines of credit can be used for almost any need. They can pay off high-interest credit card debt, pay for college tuition, car repairs, home remodeling, medical expenses, or act as a safety net during times of financial uncertainty. An added benefit of a HELOC is that the interest is often tax deductible. Be sure to check with your tax advisor for more details.

Generally created with a 10-year "draw period," during which homeowners can access their money, HELOCs offer interest rates lower than fixed-rate or adjustable-rate mortgages.

Homeowners considering tapping into their equity should always do so in the context of an overall financial plan. Always use caution when working with a mortgage lender to obtain a home equity loan or home equity line of credit - always work with a reputable lender who will only make a loan that is in your best interest. The benefits of a home equity line of credit are:

- borrow money only as you need it;
- pay interest only on the outstanding amount;
- monthly payment is based on amount used; and
- access credit line by using checks as many times as you like during the draw period, up to your credit limit.

Burgdorff ERA buys Schweppe

Burgdorff ERA's parent company, NRT Incorporated, announced the acquisition of Schweppe & Co. Realtors in Upper Montclair. Schweppe & Co. Realtors' single-office firm is one of the most productive individual offices in the state, generating \$11 million gross commission during the past 12 months.

Pat Hotterkamp will continue in her role as president and chief operating officer of Burgdorff ERA. Jay Schweppe, president and chief executive officer of Schweppe & Co., will become NRT vice president of strategic initiatives for the Northeast region. He will continue to co-manage the Upper Montclair office, which will do business as Schweppe Burgdorff ERA, along with Denise Riordan, who will continue as co-manager, and become vice president.

"Over the past 40 years, Burgdorff ERA and Schweppe & Co. have evolved to become the two stellar companies in the Upper Montclair marketplace," said Hotterkamp. "By uniting these powerful forces, we believe the synergies will shine brightly for consumers looking for superior market knowledge, experience and an unwavering commitment to excellent service."

In 2002, Schweppe & Co. accounted for \$290 million in total closed sales volume. Schweppe & Co. was founded in 1960 by Jim and Mary Schweppe, parents of Jay Schweppe. It has grown since then from a four-agent storefront office to a team of 56 sales associates who are highly trained in the industry's state-of-the-art technological advancements.

"By joining NRT and Burgdorff ERA, we are able to tap immediately into opportunities for growth of our Upper Montclair office that extend far beyond our local marketplace and into an established network across 30 major metropolitan markets," said Jay Schweppe.

"We see this as a terrific opportunity for our agents to gain more referrals and traffic to their listings - which is an excellent upshot for the consumer," he said.

With this announcement, Burgdorff ERA now has 16 offices and 700 sales associates serving northern and central New Jersey.

During the last 12 months, Burgdorff ERA and Schweppe & Co. Realtors generated a combined \$2.2 billion closed sales volume.

NEW JERSEY MORTGAGE RATES

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

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR
Columbia Bank	6.00-6.25	4.99		Kentwood Financial	6.00-6.25	4.99	
30 YEAR FIXED	5.88	0.00	5.89	30 YEAR FIXED	5.63	0.00	5.75
15 YEAR FIXED	5.00	0.00	5.04	15 YEAR FIXED	4.98	0.00	5.00
1 YR ARM	3.75	0.00	3.86	30 YR JUMBO	5.88	0.00	6.00
Call for jumbo mortgage rates							
Commet/Fmr Cmwlth Bk	6.00-6.25	4.99		Lighthouse Mortgage	6.00-6.25	4.99	
30 YEAR FIXED	5.75	0.00	5.79	30 YEAR FIXED	5.50	0.00	5.58
15 YEAR FIXED	5.00	0.00	5.04	15 YEAR FIXED	4.88	0.00	4.95
30 YR JUMBO	5.88	0.00	5.89	30 YR JUMBO	5.88	0.00	5.95
No Application, commitment or broker fees!							
First Savings Bank	6.00-6.25	4.99		Loan Search	6.00-6.25	4.99	
30 YEAR FIXED	5.55	3.00	5.78	30 YEAR FIXED	5.75	0.00	5.82
15 YEAR FIXED	4.50	3.00	4.71	15 YEAR FIXED	4.88	0.00	4.92
5/1-30 YR	4.63	0.00	4.31	5/1-30 YR	4.50	0.00	4.22
15 year fixed is biweekly							
Fleet	6.00-6.25	4.99		North American Mtge	6.00-6.25	4.99	
30 YEAR FIXED	5.75	0.00	5.88	30 YEAR FIXED	5.75	0.00	5.92
15 YEAR FIXED	5.00	0.00	5.23	15 YEAR FIXED	5.13	0.00	5.45
30 YR JUMBO	6.13	0.00	6.19	30 YR JUMBO	5.75	0.00	5.99
Custom Construction loan 95% LTV (loan doesn't home avail)							
Investors Savings Bk	6.00-6.25	4.99		Sterling Bank	6.00-6.25	4.99	
30 YEAR FIXED	5.88	0.00	5.90	30 YEAR FIXED	6.00	0.00	6.05
15 YEAR FIXED	5.00	0.00	5.03	15 YEAR FIXED	5.25	0.00	5.32
5/1-30 YR	4.50	0.00	4.04	10/1-30 YR	5.75	0.00	5.17
Loans to \$1.5 million dollars. Percentage down varies on jumbo. Other products available please contact us for more details & rates info.							
Rates compiled on November 28, 2003 N/A - Not provided by institution				Union Center Natl Bk			
				908-688-9500			
				30 YEAR FIXED			
				15 YEAR FIXED			
				7/1-30 YR			
				Low/Mod Program Available			
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UNION - BEAUTIFUL CUSTOMER COLORADO. MANY UPDATES MOVE IN CONDITION CLOSE TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. ALL MAJOR HIGHWAYS \$339,800

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UNION - PRESTIGE CONDITION SPLIT LEVEL HOME. FEATURING 3 BEDROOMS & 2 BATHS. GROUND LEVEL & LOWER LEVEL. FORMAL ROOM & SEASON PORCH & MORE! \$299,800

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ROSELLE - Charming Side Hill Colonial features spacious LR, FDR, EIK, enclosed front porch, office, 4 BR's, 3 1/2 BA's & fin. bmt. New HWY, 6 yr old roof & beautiful Chestnut Wood Trim. UN18482 Offered at \$209,900

ROSELLE PARK - Why rent when you can own this perfect starter home on nice, oversized lot. Splitter townhouse living! Features include front & back porch, LR, lg EIK & 2 BR's. Willing to hear all offers! UN18352 Offered at \$249,900

UNION - Charming 3BR Dutch Colonial features LR, DR, EIK, 1 1/2 baths, fin bmt, hw flrs & 2 car garage. Close to school & transportation. UN18344 Offered at \$305,000

UNION - Lovely Center Hill Colonial located on nice street boasts 3 BR's, 1 1/2 baths, LR w/fr, FDR & EIK. Convenient to transportation & shopping. All appl. & window A/C incl. Sold as is. UN18202 Offered at \$269,000

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Mercedes SL 500 wins Silver Award

Multi-Chevrolet collecting 'Toys for Tots' donations

NO PAYMENTS! NO INTEREST! 'TIL MARCH 2004!

SIGN AND DRIVE!

Customer \$0 Cash! Security \$0 Deposit! Due At Signing!

SAVE OVER \$7700 OFF MSRP

END YOUR LEASE 7 MONTHS EARLY! COME IN FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

0% APR Financing - 72 MOS.

OVER 400 NEW VEHICLES IN STOCK!

0 Due At Signing

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET MALIBU SEDAN
GMAC SMARTBUY OR BUY FOR ONLY \$159 \$13,999 PER MO. 48 MOS. SAVE \$5076 (NOT A LEASE... YOU OWN IT!)

SAVE \$721 0 Due At Signing
NEW 2004 CHEVROLET VENTURE MINIVAN
GMAC SMARTBUY OR BUY FOR ONLY \$198 \$15,999 (NOT A LEASE... YOU OWN IT!)

SAVE \$771 0 Due At Signing
NEW 2004 CHEVROLET BLAZER LS 4x4 ADR
GMAC SMARTBUY OR BUY FOR ONLY \$199 \$19,999 (NOT A LEASE... YOU OWN IT!)

SAVE \$747 0 Due At Signing
NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4x4
GMAC SMARTBUY OR BUY FOR ONLY \$229 \$23,999 (NOT A LEASE... YOU OWN IT!)

USED CAR SUPERSTORE
GUARANTEED AUTO CREDIT!
REGARDLESS OF PAST CREDIT HISTORY!
NO CREDIT - Tax Liens - Repossession - Bankruptcy - Divorce - 1st Time Buyers
YOU'RE APPROVED!
YOUR JOB IS YOUR CREDIT!

'01 MERCURY SABLE LG \$11,999
'01 MAZDA TRIBUTE 4X4 \$11,999
'00 CHEVROLET BLAZER LS 4X4 \$13,999
'02 MITSUBISHI DIAMANTE \$16,599
'01 CHRYSLER 300M \$17,999
'01 MAZDA TRIBUTE 4X4 \$11,999
'00 CHEVROLET BLAZER LS 4X4 \$13,999
'02 MITSUBISHI DIAMANTE \$16,599
'01 CHRYSLER 300M \$17,999
'01 MAZDA TRIBUTE 4X4 \$11,999
'00 CHEVROLET BLAZER LS 4X4 \$13,999
'02 MITSUBISHI DIAMANTE \$16,599
'01 CHRYSLER 300M \$17,999

OVER 150 USED VEHICLES IN STOCK!
ALL MAKES & MODELS
• Family Cars • Minivans
• SUV's • Luxury Cars
• Trucks • Imports/Domestic

Prices incl. all costs to be paid by the consumer except lic., reg. taxes & bank fee. Prices valid from 72 hrs. of publication. All payments based on primary lender approval. GM & Lease programs subject to change without notice. Call dealer for updates. Lessee responsible for excess wear & tear. All ad prices incl. \$400 coll. grab rebate if qual. (Must be recent graduate of a 2 or 4 yr accredited college. See dealer for complete details). \$1500 Chevrolet Loyalty Rebate if qual. (Must own and retain a 1996-2000 Oldsmobile. See Dealer For Details) & \$750 Current Military Rebate if qual. **On select models, if qual. Subject to primary lending source approval. Rebate in lieu of financing. 15 months of credit may affect down payment and choice of vehicle. Bankruptcies must be disclosed. See dealer for details. Vehicles subject to prior sale and programs subject to change due to advertising deadline. ***The 48th pymnt has an option of paying cash, refinancing or turning the car back into GMAC.

2675 ROUTE 22W. • UNION • 908-686-2800

