

# Last minute ideas

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# Echo LEADER

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SPRINGFIELD N.J., VOL. 75 NO. 16

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2003

TWO SECTIONS - 75 CENTS

## Judge throws out joint rail lawsuit

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

The five Union County towns looking to stop the reactivation of the Staten Island and Rahway Valley rail lines will appeal to federal court after a Superior Court judge dismissed their arguments Friday.

Union County Superior Court Assignment Judge Edward Beglin Jr. decided that state courts do not have jurisdiction over the matter, concluding that it is an issue that belongs before the Surface Transportation Board, the federal agency that oversees railroads.

Beglin began by noting the "dramatic effect that this will have on Union County," but as the five towns contended in the oral arguments that the county violated various state laws when it contracted with the Morris-Town and Erie Railway Inc. to have the two freight lines restored, the judge was confused as to what his jurisdiction would be.

Alexander Booth Jr., of Brownstein, Booth and Associates, spoke on behalf of the county, stating that "factually, there's nothing there," concerning the allegation that the freeholders violated both the Open Public Meetings Act and the Public Contracts Act.

Beglin added that he has proof of publication in two newspapers within a 48-hour period and a certification from an official that fliers were posted concerning the railway.

Beglin granted the municipalities 30 days from Friday to prove a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act, which he questioned their exploration of.

Representing the plaintiffs was Vincent Loughlin of the Borough of Roselle Park, who was the main speaker throughout the proceedings. Roselle Borough Attorney John DeMassi, Summit City Attorney Barry Osmun, Kenilworth Municipal Attorney Harvey Fruchter, and Kathleen Estabrooks, special counsel to Springfield.

The Staten Island rail line runs from Cranford to Linden, but those two communities have not joined the other five in the lawsuit.

"It's interesting to note Cranford and Linden aren't participating in these proceedings," Beglin said. The Township of Union also has not joined the lawsuit.

DeMassi argued that the municipalities relied on a resolution that said unless all the communities agreed that they would not be affected, the railroad would be deactivated.

Osmun agreed, saying, "We had the assurance of the county that nothing would happen, and all of a sudden in June, they changed the rules."

In the end, Beglin dismissed everything except for a chance to explore a June 5 freeholder meeting which may be in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act.

In conclusion, Beglin said, "What the county has done here, under state law, appears to be proper governmental function."

According to Springfield Township Attorney Bruce Bergen, who was present at court, each municipality's attorney will go back to their respective governing bodies and seek guidance.

JoAnn Dillon, a Kenilworth resident and co-president of the Stop The Train Committee formed by community members, said that the upcoming state level appeal just helps push the effort along.

"We're moving ahead even more determined," she said, noting that the loss in court was still disheartening. "We're strong as ever, and this is just part of the battle. They haven't won the war," she said.

Estabrooks, who is also the Planning Board attorney for Springfield, said that all towns will consult with their respective attorneys to discuss the appeal.

"Anytime there's an appeal," she added, "it's going to be a very lengthy process."

Although Beglin said that they would have 45 days to appeal the decision from Friday, Estabrooks said that no municipality has received a written notice yet, thus delaying an official beginning of the time period allowed to appeal.

In a statement released by County Manager George Devaney, it is stated that the court ruling has reaffirmed the county's legal research that was previously conducted regarding the matter.

The statement continues to say that the county "negotiated an operating agreement which allows us the maximum amount of control over the rail lines permitted by federal law, including control over the number of trains that will run through every week, and the timing of when they run through, along with control over the size and speed of the train and what they carry."

The M&E intends to have the Cranford to Linden line set up and running by next year and the Cranford to Summit track finished within two years.

## What do you want for Christmas?



Breanne Mooney, 8, of Springfield, accepts a candy cane from Santa Claus during the holiday celebration and tree lighting ceremony in front of the Springfield Municipal Building Tuesday.

Photo By Berna Rose Sibayan

## Holiday ceremony draws ire

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

After a back-and-forth exchange of opinions between Springfield's Township Committee and residents within the municipality, there were two holiday celebrations this year in front of the Municipal Building.

The annual holiday celebration, marked by the lighting of the tree in front of the Municipal Building Tuesday, was highlighted by about 25 Girl Scouts singing on a platform, along with an appearance by Santa Claus, who was happy to take children onto his knee, give gifts, and pose for pictures.

The twist in this year's celebration is that a second gathering, located across the street on county property, also featured Girl Scouts, along with many families and older Springfield residents.

"We got a lot of people to come," said Springfield resident Donna Seale, who helped organize the protest against the red, white, and blue lighting of the municipal property. "I think the snow might have affected the turnout."

Still, Seale noted that the gathering and singing went well.

"We had a great time," said Etan Corcione, who, along with Seale, helped organize the event. "We definitely got our point across."

Although a change in decorations brought white lights to cover the tree in front of the Municipal Building, there were still bushes lined with the red and blue lights, and a lack of "holiday" colored lights and decorations helped maintain criticism.

"I had a very nice time at our Town Hall event," said Committeewoman Clara Harelik. "I think it's sending the wrong message to children," she added, regarding the protest across the street. "I don't believe children should be protesting the colors of the American flag at any time of the year."

Committeeman Sy Muffman noted that it was nice to see everyone come together at the end, as a slight merge occurred when children went over to the Town Hall event by the night's end.

Corcione also criticized the lighting of the tree, observing fewer strands of lights than in past years.

"It's very sad when children are used as pawns when adults have issues within the town," said Harelik, speaking about Seale and Corcione inviting their Girl Scout troops to come along.

## Decision on deer hunt delayed

By Brian Pedersen  
Managing Editor

Citing complaints from residents about the increased visibility of deer in Mountainside, Mayor Robert Vigilanti asked the Borough Council for approval of a Union County-sanctioned deer hunt in the Watchung Reservation, but council members did not reach a consensus at their Tuesday work session.

The county needs approval by January in order to have the New Jersey Fish and Game Council approve a deer management permit at its Jan. 13 meeting for the operation of the program in March.

Vigilanti said the council will not meet for a regular meeting until Jan. 13, putting the decision on hold.

Last week, County Manager George Devaney sent a letter to Vigilanti asking the mayor for the Borough Council to join the other five municipalities spanned by the Watchung Reservation in applying for a permit from the NJDFW, which would allow the county to operate the same program it has each year since adopting it in 1995.

"They need our permission to hold the hunt in Mountainside," said Vigilanti. "We were the only town not to participate last year."

Vigilanti listed a range of recent complaints in the form of letters and calls he received about the high number of deer in Mountainside.

"If you come to my neighborhood, you'll see herds like you've never seen," said Vigilanti. He said he has seen a tremendous increase in the last four years, and felt a hunt is necessary.

"Historically, it has always been a touchy subject," said Vigilanti. "Historically, we have always had hunts without a glitch."

Vigilanti said the first year the hunt took place, demonstrators voiced their opposition, but the hunt went on.

Councilman Paul Mirabelli agreed on the necessity of the hunt.

"Nobody wants to see people shooting poor, innocent deer, but I think it's a necessary evil," said Mirabelli. He said he had seen quite a few deer on Bridle Path, a road that's far from the Watchung Reservation.

Other council members said they'd seen deer in various spots throughout

the town, and Councilman Werner Schon raised the issue of deer-related auto accidents.

Councilman Keith Turner voiced objections about the limited information contained in the county's letter and program packet about the number of deer in the area.

"I can't make a decision if we don't have an accurate count," said Turner. "If they haven't done a survey, how do they know we need a hunt? I don't know how we can make a legitimate decision."

Mirabelli said the county did perform a deer count, but the number was not reflected in the information they received.

According to the program's guidelines, the county's goal is to remove enough white-tailed deer to maintain the population at a density of 20 deer per square mile, with a desired density of 60 deer total.

The removal will be performed by hunters shooting over baited sites. The program will end after operating for three days, or after the removal of 100 deer.

## Boy finds dreams do come true

By Joan M. Devlin  
Staff Writer

Poppy is a 10-year-old little boy who happens to also be a quadriplegic, but like all children, he had one special dream — and this year, it came true.

He calls the Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside his home; he is in their Long Term Care Program, and has been since the age of three months, when he was involved in an automobile accident. Poppy suffered a spinal cord and brain injury at that time.

His dream was to see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in person. Fascinated by the huge and colorful balloons for which the parade is famous, someone from the hospital has always taped the parade for him every year. Not this year.

"He watches it year-round," said Fred Feiner, a public relations officer for the hospital. "You can walk into his room in August and he will be watching the parade." Staff at the hospital never thought it was possible to make his dream come true because Poppy is also ventilator-dependent, and being outside for several hours would be dangerous for him.

Registered nurse Estel Masucci, a devoted friend to Poppy as well as his special nurse, found a way to make it happen. This Thanksgiving, Poppy's

dream came true, however, because medical transportation to and from the parade and a room at the New York Marriott Marquis were donated to make it happen.

"I had a personal friend who works for the New York Dental Society who has an office in the Marriott," said Masucci, "and when my friend heard Poppy's story, my friend presented the situation to Dr. Howard Lieb of the dental society, and he was very moved."

Things started taking wing after that. The doctor got in touch with the management of the hotel, and got a room just for Poppy — it was on the 18th floor.

The room had floor-to-ceiling windows; there was no way Poppy would miss his favorite event of all time. Trina Terzo, senior therapist at the hospital, is, like nurse Masucci, a member of Poppy's "hospital family," and both women shared this event with the child.

Terzo said, "We try to take three trips a month, but this was extra special." Masucci added, "We had to plan for the worst weather — but it was absolutely gorgeous outside."

Poppy's mother, Dayna Sims, and two brothers and an aunt joined the entourage as well, and shared in the happiness of the boy, famous for his

wide grin of pure joy when he is pleased.

Masucci described what happened, that magic day.

"First, we left very early from the hospital, about 7:30 a.m., in a special van donated by On Time Transport. Since Poppy must be on the ventilator at all times, we had to make sure to bring two batteries along for this, which we did. Although we were back home — at the hospital — by 1:30 p.m., it was just one of the greatest days ever," she recalled.

Terzo agreed, "You should have seen his face when the balloons came by. His jaw just dropped; he was so happy."

The hotel sent up breakfast, but although he can eat, Poppy was too excited. They always bring intravenous nourishment for him, however. His every need is considered; both Terzo and Masucci care for him like family.

"When he has a good time, so do we," explained Masucci. Poppy also went outside to watch the parade from the sidelines for a brief period, and Masucci said they had gotten a permit for handicap-accessible curbside.

"We got as close as we could. The people were so wonderful to us — including the New York City policemen and the hotel people," said the



Poppy, a 10-year-old boy who is quadriplegic at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, enjoys seeing his dream come true — having a chance to see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in person. Here he is, sharing his special day in New York City with some friends. From left are: Trina Terzo, recreation therapist at the hospital; Estel Masucci, registered nurse; Jamie Barse, Estel's nephew and Michael Masucci; Estel's son.

nurse. "The event planning person at the hotel was Elena Goldstein, and she cleared the way for us."

Both Terzo and Masucci went to New York City the night before the parade to set everything up, so concerned were they that it would work out. When the hotel showed them the beautiful picture window on the 18th floor, they knew it would be great.

"Balloons seem to be a comfort object for Poppy," said Masucci, "but he had not realized how very large they were. He just said 'Wow!' when he saw them coming."

Another nurse, Elaine Mustacchio, whom Poppy calls "nurse mom," could not go along, but helped make all the arrangements. She knows Poppy from the beginning, as she was

on staff when he was first brought in after the auto accident as a three-month-old baby.

When asked directly which were his favorite balloons, Poppy said, "Garfield and Barney, and Little Bill." But he loves all of them.

Poppy knows now that dreams can come true.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us: The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worrall Community News...

Voice Mail: Our main phone number 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system...

To subscribe: The Echo Leader is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday...

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

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

News items: News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon...

Letters to the Editor: The Echo Leader provides an open forum for opinions and welcome letters to the editor...

e-mail: The Echo Leader accepts e-mails and releases and opinion pieces via e-mail...

To place a display ad: Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday...

To place a classified ad: The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section...

To place a public notice: Public Notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers...

Facsimile transmission: The Echo Leader is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by fax...

Website: Visit our Web Site on the internet at http://www.localsource.com...

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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...

Friday: Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. will continue its Out of This World Travel Video Series...

Saturday: A hands-on workshop for people interested in sketching or "visual journalism" will be offered at Springfield Free Public Library...

Sunday: Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. will celebrate winter time with a special story hour...

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Tuesday: The Mountainside Board of Education will meet at 8 p.m. in the media center at Deerfield School...

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Superintendent search down to 2

By Rick Klittich Staff Writer: The final interviews for a new Springfield superintendent of schools took place earlier this week...

After receiving close to 50 inquiries, 15 applications were completed and narrowed down for interviews based upon criteria that were required for the position...

The field was narrowed to eight, when the first round of interviews occurred on Oct. 27, and then to six, when the second round took place on Nov. 10 and 11.

Originally, Carole Larsen, a senior field service representative from the New Jersey School Boards Association...

On Monday and Tuesday, the two finalists spent a full day in the district, meeting with different groups...

Holiday spreads hope for peace

By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer: All that same day, the temple will host a religious school book fair...

The warm family holiday of Hanukkah, or "Festival of Lights" for Jewish people begins sundown Dec. 19...

In religious terms, Hanukkah celebrates a miracle that happened in 165 B.C. when the tribe of Maccabees triumphed over the Hellenistic Syrians...

The first night of Hanukkah, Dec. 19, there will be the annual light-in-service at 8 p.m. and families are asked to bring their own Menorah...

The Orthodox synagogue Congregation Israel, 339 Mountain Ave., Springfield, will not offer any special Hanukkah service...

The Conservative Temple Beth Ahm hosts its annual Hanukkah party Tuesday at 6 p.m. There will be traditional food, dreidel games, candlelighting...

Rabbi Mark Mallich shared his thoughts on the holiday of Hanukkah with an inspiring story...

"Flames of hope comes to mind," said Mallich. "On Election Day, as I

Students meet African pen pals 'face to face'

By Rick Klittich Staff Writer: When Trueger's trip ended and her class began in September, she talked about her trip with the students...

On the morning of Dec. 3, students in the youngest bracket of Springfield's Discovery Program...

The children spoke to one another about such topics as their favorite colors, types of pets owned, favorite television shows...

The seven-hour difference in time also meant that while the Springfield Discovery Program would be participating in the event from 7:30 to 8:30...

The ice rink, located on the municipal tennis courts at Borough Hall in Mountainside will be open for skating this winter if Mother Nature cooperates...

Ice skating rink set to open for season

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On the morning of Dec. 3, students in the youngest bracket of Springfield's Discovery Program met in the band room of Jonathan Dayton High School to see and chat with their pen pals...

The Mountainside Board of Education will meet at 8 p.m. in the media center at Deerfield School...

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Accident draws officers

At 5:39 a.m. Nov. 28, officers responded to a call of suspicious noises on Route 22 West...

POLICE BLOTTER

While officials investigated, it was observed that the driver had a strong odor of alcohol on him...

At 12:02 a.m. Nov. 29, two males entered a "Fleets on Mountain Avenue and reportedly were told to leave, but instead went behind the counter and grabbed a pack of cigarettes...

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Advertisement for Weichert Realtors, featuring a photo of Robert Spillane and contact information for office benefits and services.

Advertisement for The New Wayside Gardens, featuring holiday decorating services and contact information.

Advertisement for The Bank at Si Bank & Trust, featuring a photo of a person at a computer and details about loan services.

Advertisement for Investors Savings Bank, featuring a large '7%' graphic and details about equity lines of credit.



# Opera ball features Summit residents

An evening of grand opera and high society style took place at recent ball sponsored by the New Jersey State Opera to promote the coming performance of the opera, "Lucia Di Lammermoor" in February.

"The Lucia Di Lammermoor Ball" was highlighted by dining, dancing, and elegant fashions worn by the elite of New Jersey society at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Heddenwister Township. Among those present were several Summit residents who were instrumental for the success of the ball, including Vanessa Shanno, a chairperson. Anthony Boccabella, president of the Board of the New Jersey State Opera, and his wife Cathy, also a member of the board, and Andy J. Florence Infante was the coordinator.

The most excited moment was a concert of "Lucia Di Lammermoor" which is known as one of the finest Italian operas, sung by the noted soprano, Ana Rojas, who also entertained with other light classical favorites.

She was accompanied by David Manulis, famed pianist. Pianist and accompanist were played by The Jerry Devito Orchestra. Devito is known for performing on a variety of "Bret's" talk show. The ball's location was the popular Fiddler's Elbow Country Club. As well as a four-star dinner and the concert, there was dancing and many displays on promoting art and culture in New Jersey.

One of the two honorees of the ball were Dr. Sorosh Roshan, an attending physician at Overlook Hospital, in Summit. She has been awarded for her work promoting the welfare of women and children, and that night was especially saluted for her devotion to music and classical opera. The other honoree, Dr. Joseph M. Marchese, has a similar interest in opera. He is a Glen Ridge native and a physician at Columbia Hospital. Other invited guests included the Hon. Antonio Bondini, Consul General of Italy in New York, and opera legends soprano Lucia Albanese and Anna Melto.

Present at the ball, along with his wife, Caterina, was the New Jersey State Opera's world-renowned and revered conductor and Artistic Director, Maestro Alfredo Siliotti, who recently was applauded for his masterful conducting of the historic North American premiere of a Mascagni opera at Lincoln Center.

Opera is a moment of evaluation and to promote it either by attending performances or endorsing opera companies in each person's home state is to enhance one's life," Maestro said.

One of the principle purposes of the ball was to raise funds for the continuation of the work done by the New Jersey State Opera in promoting



At the New Jersey State Opera's Lucia Di Lammermoor ball are Summit residents and State Opera board members, from left, Ardis Esty, President Catherine Boccabella, honoree Sorosh Roshan and Chairpersons, Anthony Boccabella and Vanessa Shanno.

Opera performance Feb. 19-20 at the "Lucia Di Lammermoor" by the famed Italian composer Gaetano Cappuccini will be performed at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark on Feb. 20 and Feb. 22, 2004. For information call 973-624-3783. Ana Rojas, who performed at the ball, will also star in the studio production performance Feb. 19-20 at the Lincoln Center.

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# TLC bridges age gap for seniors, students

The Learning Circle has started its reading program with area seniors. The program is called "Sharing Stories - Seniors and Students Read Together."

The program puts together TLC students with senior citizens from Senior Connection, SAIG and the Housing Authority of Summit. The program brings the seniors and young children together so they can share books and activities relating to the books.

The goal of the program is to instill each child's reading abilities in order to build confidence in dealing with day-to-day challenges within a child's peer group and outside in a positive and constructive way, said Antonette Frank, director of education and program development at TLC.

This programming with seniors is a first goal of the Learning Circle and to expose both groups to each other through language and literacy skills, and seniors' social skills, said Antonette Frank.

The initial program, which began on Martin Luther King Jr. Day last year, was funded by the Junior League of Summit and the Reading's Fundamentals program.

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## Brain tumor support offered at Overlook

Coping With Change of Brain Tumor Support Group is a free support group for patients and loved ones coping with the issues related to living with a brain tumor, which will meet from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 15 in the Conference Room at the Brain Tumor Center of Overlook Hospital, 900 Beaumont Ave., Summit.

A light lunch will be provided. Patients and family members will be free to leave for appointments and return as needed. The group meets every other Thursday.

For information or to register for this free support call Cathy at 908-522-8852.

## Course shows patients how to face challenges

The Oncology Department at Overlook Hospital will offer a new course series called "Facing the Challenge" from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 15 in the Conference Room at 900 Beaumont Ave., Summit.

Lee Anne Carney and Emilio Rowan will facilitate the series.

## HEALTH

### Stroke screenings help residents reduce risk

Local residents can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke. "Stroke Screening" will be at the Springfield Knights of Columbus, 4500 Shampine Road, on Monday. Appointments will begin at 9 a.m.

A stroke, also known as a brain attack, is a medical condition in which the blood flow to the brain is interrupted, either by a blood clot or a second stroke. The brain tissue that is deprived of oxygen can be greatly reduced.

Each screening includes a complete physical and neurological examination, including the stroke center, artery, and carotid artery, and a blood pressure reading.

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Sunrise seniors have one thing in common. They're all different.

At Sunrise, we celebrate all of our residents for the unique individuals they are. We believe no two people are alike, so the care and services we provide should never be exactly the same.

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Visit or call a Sunrise Senior Living community, and discover how we're different. In Mountainside and Westfield, we offer Assisted Living and Alzheimer's Care.

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- Dual Cool™ Freshness Design
- Elevator™ Shelf Glides Up & Down to Make Room for Tall Items
- Built-to-Last™ Construction
- Slide-Out Freezer Drawer

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Fresh Food At Eye Level!

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- Dual Cool™ Freshness Design
- Elevator™ Shelf Glides Up & Down to Make Room for Tall Items

Double Mail-In Rebate \$30% & \$50%

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### Wide-by-Side Refrigerator

Widest Shelf Space Available\*\*

- Store Large & Odd-Sized Items Easily. Deli Trays, Sheet Cakes & Frozen Pizzas fit flat!
- Adjustable Elevator™ Shelf Glides Up or Down to Make Room for Tall Items.

Mail-In Rebate \$30%

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### Maytag Top-Freezer Performa™ Refrigerator

- 20.8 cu. ft. Capacity
- FreshLock Crispers With Humidity Control
- Adjustable Glass Shelves
- Gallon Plus Door Storage
- Built-to-Last™ Construction

Mail-In Rebate \$30%

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### "Big Deal" Laundry Pair!

Mail-In Rebate \$30%

\$399 MAYTAG Washer

- 2-Speed Motor
- 4 Water Levels
- 4 Wash/Rinse Temperatures
- High Capacity
- Blower
- 10 Wash Cycles

\$399 MAYTAG Dryer

- Auto Dry Control, 7 Cycles
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Plus SAVES up to \$150\* every year in energy & water

The Washer That Can Pay For Itself!

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### Top-Freezer Performa™ Refrigerator

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- Adjustable Glass Shelves
- Gallon Plus Door Storage

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1 Coupon Per Sale

Coupon Valid thru Monday 12/15/03

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TWIN	\$398 - \$100	\$298
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OPEN SATURDAY 10 AM. 'TIL 5:00 PM; CLOSED SUNDAYS

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- AAA
- Union County Employees
- Teachers All Towns
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- Board of Education Employees All Towns
- Elizabeth Gas Customers
- Religious Organizations
- Farmalot Organizations
- SEAG Employees
- Mercer Employees
- Exxon Employees
- Schenck Employees
- Central Motors Employees
- Union County Residents
- Mid Essex County Residents
- All Hospital Employees
- Essex County Residents

PERSONAL CHECKS ACCEPTED





Holiday book sale offers gift-giving ideas

Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, will sponsor a special holiday book sale of new books only during regular library hours...

'Best Treks' on Public Library

Springfield Free Public Library, on Mountain Ave., will continue its Out of this World Travel Video Series with "Best Treks," at noon Friday...

Book group examines 'Origin of Government'

Once a month, the Great Books Discussion Group meets to examine the great books of civilization...

Twain takes viewers on European journey

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

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AT THE LIBRARY

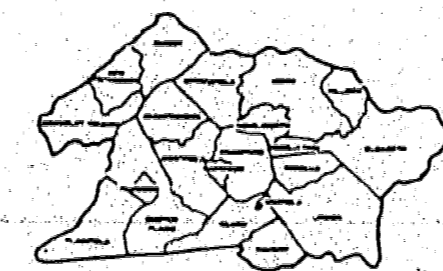
For more information, call 973-376-4930. Library launches children's book drive

Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., has launched its "Books for Kids" book donation drive...

Artist's sketch workshops, exhibit. An exhibit of sketches pulled from more than 60 artists' sketchbooks...

An artist's sketchbooks are normally private visual journals and notebooks, but as Laura Schreiber began sharing them with both friends and strangers...

Quantity is limited, so indicate whether you need one when signing up. Registration is requested. Hours of the exhibit are 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday...



WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2003 - SECTION B

- News
• Arts
• Entertainment
• Classified
• Real Estate
• Automotive

http://www.localsource.com

A better deal

With the snow falling Friday, Union County Assistant Judge Edward Beglin Jr. authored a ruling that issues over the future of the reactivation of the Railway Valley rail line...

Left Out

Railroad lawyers will venge in the federal law, which severely limits the oversight that can be imposed by county or state officials...

Governor backs off gas tax increase

Local legislators open to linking tax to elimination of Parkway tolls. At 14.5 cents per gallon, New Jersey's gas taxes are the fourth lowest in the nation...

Pay hikes approved

Despite members of the public pleading that now was not the time to approve retroactive pay raises, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders unanimously approved pay hikes for department heads...

Table with 2 columns: County and Salary. Lists salaries for various counties like Hudson, Essex, Monmouth, Ocean, Union, Bergen, Passaic, Morris, Middlesex, Salem, Mercer, Burlington, Atlantic, Somerset, Sussex, Cape May, Warren, Gloucester, Camden, Hunterdon, Cumberland, and Average.

Legal action threatened over detention center

Union County has still not purchased or disclosed a site for construction of a new juvenile detention center which has led an Elizabeth-based youth activist to possibly pursue legal action against the county...

Total Wine & More SUPERSTORES

Advertisement for Total Wine & More Superstores. Northern New Jersey's Largest Wine Stores. Lowest Prices • Largest Selection. Includes holiday hours and store locations.

Wine selection grid with columns: PERENNIAL FAVORITES, SPARKLING WINES, VALUE BRANDS, BOURBON, GIN, RUM/CORDIALS, SCOTCH, VODKA, WHISKY. Lists various wine and spirit brands with prices.

Wine selection grid with columns: DOMESTIC, IMPORT & MICROBREW BEER. Lists various beer brands like Sam Adams, Budweiser, Corona, Heineken with prices.

Total Wine & More logo and address information. 650 Springfield Road, Union, NJ 07083. Hours of operation.

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Our Team at the Edgewood Barrel Room in Napa, California

Our team at Chateau La Louviere in Bordeaux. To Find The Best Wines For You!

Second edition of county volunteer directory expanded

Glennon, chief executive officer of United Way of Greater Union County. The directory will also help promote community spirit and inspire people to lend a helping hand in our community...

COUNTY NEWS



James Feehan

Feehan named chairman of 2004 St. Pat's parade

The 2004 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee has selected James Patrick Feehan as general chairman for the 2004 parade, to be March 13 in Union.

Feehan has been an active parade committee member since its inception eight years ago. He most recently served as vice chairman, responsible for oversight of all committees affiliated with the parade.

Feehan was born in Elizabeth over 50 years ago to Thomas and Susan Feehan. He attended Blessed Sacrament Grammar School and Sacred Heart High School. Feehan then enlisted in the United States Navy.

Mary Ellen Feehan and his daughter reside in Union. His wife Pauline died in 1990. He is employed as a sales executive with the Haco Aluminum Company of Jamaica, N.Y.

Selk, Amalfe appointed to Board of Taxation

Gov. James McGreevey last week submitted to the state Senate the nomination of Melanie Selk of Roselle Park and the reappointment of Anthony Amalfe of Roselle for the Union County Board of Taxation.

Surrogate reminds of Sept. 11 filing deadline

Family members of men and women who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks have until Dec. 22 to file a claim for the U.S. government's Sept. 11th Victim Compensation Fund. The Dec. 22 date was established in the law creating the fund that was passed by Congress in March 2002.

Union County lost 60 residents in the Sept. 11 attacks, mostly workers in the World Trade Center complex. Union County Surrogate James LaCorte mailed letters to the families of those victims last month in which he notified them of the approaching deadline and directed them where to find more information.

Appliances must be made in advance by calling 888-714-3385. The two nearest centers to Union County are at 101 Hudson St., Jersey City, and 1551 Washington Ave., Piscataway.

30th annual meeting for Gamblers Anonymous

The Union Sunday Chapter of Gamblers Anonymous will host its 30th annual meeting Sunday from 7 to 9 p.m. at United Methodist Church, corner of Bergen and Overlook streets.

UCUA annual meeting

The Union County Utilities Authority, 1499 Route 1409, Rahway, will convene its annual public meeting Wednesday at 6 p.m. regarding the Union County Resource Recovery Facility.

SKATE WITH SANTA CLAUS

You better watch out, you better not cry, Santa Claus is coming to town. Santa Claus is coming to the Warmacco Ice Skating Center and he wants to skate with you.

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 23rd annual Women of Excellence Awards.

Blood Center of New Jersey sponsors blood drives

The Blood Center of New Jersey will sponsor the following blood drives: Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Parish Hall, 111 South St., New Providence.

Pay raises adopted

Union County Republican Chairman Ron Frigero said he was not surprised by the salary increases.

Pay raises adopted

Union County Republican Chairman Ron Frigero said he was not surprised by the salary increases. "I'm not surprised because they can do it," he said. "They do it because they can do it."

Exhibit highlights NJ Photography Forum

Children's Specialized Hospital, the largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the United States, will exhibit the work of the New Jersey Photography Forum and artist Jerry Winiak.

IT'S YOUR WATCH THAT TELLS MOST ABOUT WHO YOU ARE.

Advertisement for SEIKO watches featuring various watch models and the text 'IT'S YOUR WATCH THAT TELLS MOST ABOUT WHO YOU ARE.'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Clara's Dream' injects jazz into Nutcracker



Folk artist Greg Greenway will perform at First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 E. Board St., Westfield, on Saturday as part of the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series.

Folk singer highlights Coffee with Conscience

The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series of Westfield will present acoustic-pop sensation, Greg Greenway, in concert at First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 E. Board St., corner of North Avenue, Westfield, on Saturday.

Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$12. All net proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.

Greenway is known as a one-man tour-de-force, and is a formidable presence in the modern singer-songwriter arena. He is a powerhouse singer and guitarist with a notable talent of expressing universal emotions in personal frames.

The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series of Westfield is a 10-show series running from September through June at First United Methodist Church of Westfield. The concerts are also being recorded for broadcast by Westfield's TV-36.

Residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountaintop can catch each month's concert on Fridays at 10:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., and on Saturdays at 9:30 p.m.

The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series of Westfield supports the following charities: The Eric Johnson House in Morrisville, the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, the Names Project - more commonly known as the AIDS Quilt - Habitat for Humanity and the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.

For more information about the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series, the upcoming performance, or ways in which to get involved with one of these charities, contact Abbie Maros, owner of the series, at 908-232-8723, or go to www.coffeewithconscience.com.

"Clara's Dream: A Jazz Nutcracker," a high-voltage adaptation of Tchaikovsky's fairy-tale ballet masterpiece, will be performed on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 and 7 p.m. at Kean University's Wilkins Theatre.

In a uniquely American jazz-tap celebration, "Clara's Dream" is a classic coming-of-age story in which a young girl named Clara transcends the traditions of her parents to discover her own place in the world through the magic of jazz music and dance.

Guided by her wily Auntie Groove - created and danced by tap pioneer Brenda Bufalino - and her clever Uncle Dross, Clara seeks to find her way through a Christmas party and a family nightclub scene featuring a swinging six-piece live band that blows hot jazz originals of the cool classical Nutcracker themes.

"Clara's Dream" is recommended for ages 5 and older. Tickets are \$15 for the public, \$11 for seniors, and \$9 for students and children.

For more information, to order tickets, or request a brochure, call the Wilkins Theatre Box Office at 908-737-SHOW (7469).

Spring semester at DuCret begins Jan. 19

Students may register for the spring semester at duCret School for Art in person at 1030 Central Ave., Plainfield, or by telephone at 908-757-1771, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Day and evening courses are offered on a full- or part-time basis. Classes meet once a week for three hours. The spring semester begins on Jan. 19 and ends May 14.

Monday - Design I: Quark Xpress, Stained Glass, Anatomy, Mating and Framing, Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, Concepts in Art, Advanced Illustration, Drawing and Advance Drawing.

Tuesday - Color I: Photography I&II, Ceramics and Ceramics I&II, Printmaking I, Layout Advertising Design, Watercolor, Figure Drawing.

Wednesday - Picture Making, Oil Painting, Fashion Illustration, Silk Screening, Fantasy Art, Photoshop for Photographers, Spirit of Art, Quark Xpress, Digital Fine Art and Illustration, Graphic Studio Practices, Composition for Graphic Design, Advanced Water Media, Drawing I and Macro media/Flesh.

Thursday - Renaissance Oil Painting, Illustration I&II, Portraiture, Painting and Drawing the Figure, Children's Book Illustration, The Business of Art, Animation, Intro to Macro media/Dream weaver/Marker Rendering, Digital Prepress, Oil Painting I and Watercolor I/Rendering.

James E. McGreevey Governor, State of New Jersey. George E. Pataki Governor, State of New York.

Holiday Sights & Sounds

CHRIST IS THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS. HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH. 301 Tucker Ave., Union • 908-688-0714. CHRISTMAS EVE, Wednesday, Dec. 24. 7:30 p.m. Family Oriented Candlelight Communion Service.

The Evangel Baptist Church of Springfield. Evangel invites you to our Choir Musical. 10:30 AM. December 14, 2003. Christmas Eve Candle light service. Wed. Dec. 24 at 7:30pm.

Celebrate the Joy of Christmas. The Orchestra and 3 Tenors of St. Peter by the Sea. Conducted by the Rev. Alphonse Stephenson. Former Conductor of Broadway's "A Chorus Line". December 17, 2003, 7:30 p.m. • St. Theresa's Church, Kenilworth.

Michael Kohn JEWELERS SINCE 1906. 226 North Avenue West • Westfield, New Jersey 07090. (908) 233-8811.

www.localsource.com Internet Directory. Agape Family Worship Center, American Savings Bank, Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, Burgdorf ERA, Crossroads Christian Fellowship, Eye Care Center of NJ, First Night of Maplewood/So. Orange, Forest Hill Properties Apartments, Grand Sanitation, Holy Cross Church, Hospital Center at Orange, JRS Realty, LaSalle Travel Service, Mountaintop Hospital, Nudely Pet Center, Pet Watchers, Ret's Institute, Skincare Products, South Orange Chiropractic, Summit Area Judo/Jujitsu, Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad, Synergy Federal Savings Bank, Trinity Hospital, Turning Point, Union Center National Bank, Uniterian Universalist Church, United Way of Bloomfield.

ATTENTION WELDERS. Manganese poisoning can produce immediate health related problems including: Parkinson's Disease, Muscle Stiffness, Respiratory Difficulties, Tremors/Weakness. DUFFUS & ASSOCIATES. WELDING RODS. Scientists have discovered that elevated manganese exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with Parkinson's disease.

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# Healthy Living

## Support groups at Kessler Institute

Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, one of the nation's leading providers of physical medicine and rehabilitation services, hosts monthly support groups that encourage current and former patients, family members and caregivers to share their insight with others.

The support groups held at Kessler include ALS, amputee, brain injury, caregiver and spinal cord and stroke. These support groups are hosted by members of the clinical staff, whose experience and expertise have earned Kessler a reputation of success among patients.

Kessler's intensive treatment programs, combined with its focus on individualized patient care, have led Kessler to be consistently named among the country's best rehabilitation centers. In fact, Kessler Institute was again named the top rehabilitation hospital in the East by U.S. News & World Report. And Kessler holds accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and is a Federally-designated model system for the treatment and research of spinal cord injuries.

Kessler continues to provide a continuum of care to its patients, by offering support group services for its program. For more information on the Support Group Services offered by Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation or any of Kessler's other rehabilitation services, call 888-KESSLER, ext. 6800.

- Support groups**
- **Alcoholics Anonymous**
  - **West Orange**, Every Friday and Sunday, 7:30 to 9 p.m., contact Bonnie Evans, Administration, 973-234-0810
  - **Amputee Support Group**
  - **Saddle Brook**, Every Tuesday, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., contact Dr. Gerald Donohue, Psychology Department, 973-234-0937
  - **Amputee/Stroke Support Group**
  - **Saddle Brook**, Third Wednesdays of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
  - **West Orange**, First Thursdays of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
  - **Contact**: Kayvan Freeman R.N., ALS coordinator, 973-234-0850
  - **Brain Injury Support Group**
  - **East Orange**, Last Tuesday of the month, 6:30 to 8 p.m., contact Betty Collins R.N., Neuropsychology Department, 973-234-4343
  - **West Orange**, First Wednesday of the month, 6 to 7 p.m., contact Delores Hensel, Brain Injury Coordinator, 973-234-7602
  - **Elgin**, After-Stroke Support Group
  - **West Orange**, First and third Tuesdays of the month, 4 to 4:45 p.m., contact Dr. Jeffrey Kriestadt, Psychology Department, 973-234-0516
  - **Moving Forward**
  - **East Orange**, Last Wednesday of the month, 6 to 7 p.m., contact Julie Anderson, Therapeutic Recreation Department, 973-234-4425
  - **Overeaters Anonymous**
  - **Saddle Brook**, Every Tuesday, 7:45 to 9 p.m., every Wednesday, 8 to 10 p.m., contact P. Bonnie Evans, 205-845-5294
  - **Self-Help Amputee Group**
  - **West Orange**, First Saturdays of the month, 10 to noon, contact Ann Silvestro, 973-258-4142
  - **Spiritual Care/Family Support Group**
  - **West Orange**, Every other Tuesday, 7 to 8 p.m., contact Diane J. Grzymko, SCI Resource Group coordinator, 973-731-3900, ext. 2774.

## HEALTH

### KidsPeace intends to assist with fostering

Now is your chance to make a difference in a child's life by helping KidsPeace New Jersey and opening your heart and your home to a child in need. There is no better time to step forward. Unfortunately, there are hundreds of children in the area in need of loving, caring families.

"The need for foster parents is an all-time high," according to Dana Madri, family resource specialist for KidsPeace New Jersey.

"It is so important that more parents come forward to make a difference in a child's life by providing the loving home environment that so many of our children desperately miss," Madri continued.

In addition to free training, foster parents receive monthly financial assistance for the living and medical expenses of each foster child in their care.

Prospective parents can call the KidsPeace New Jersey hotline at 800-817-9192 to find out if they qualify to become foster parents. If qualified, KidsPeace New Jersey will schedule each person for an orientation.

### Hospice seeks volunteers

Atlantic Hospice, serving terminally ill patients and their families in Essex, Union, Morris and Somerset counties, is recruiting volunteers.

Volunteers will be prepared to assist hombound, terminally ill patients and their families in non-medical ways, such as providing companionship and emotional support, running errands, listening and offering respect to caregivers. Volunteers should be available for two to three hours a week when they have patient assignments.

To become a hospice volunteer, or for information on the next training session, call 973-396-4444.

### Stroke survival is key

Much will be written about stroke prevention, and the signs and symptoms of stroke, both of which are important, but the stroke survivor is forgotten.

Very little will be written about stroke survivors and recovery after a stroke.

Stroke means nothing to you unless you or someone you love has been struck. Facts about stroke are not well known like cancer or heart attack. Over 14,500 New Jersey residents will have a stroke this year and stroke is the leading cause of adult disability.

The New Jersey Stroke Activity Center is trying to make a difference. As a nonprofit organization, NJSAC offers services to stroke survivors and caregivers alike.

In too many cases, after the health professionals left the stroke survivor there is nothing more the caregiver and therapist has, and the stroke survivor does not know where to turn.

### Hospice of N.J. offers care with compassion

Hospice of New Jersey, based in Bloomfield and Lyons River, provides compassionate and specialized care for the terminally ill.

The hospice concept begins when comfort, not cure, is the main concern. This is available to terminally ill patients who are no longer under treatment for cure of their disease and are in the final stages of their lives.

Hospice of New Jersey believes death is a natural process of life which should be accompanied by dignity and meaning. To accomplish this purpose, Hospice of New Jersey provides comprehensive and individualized care for physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients and their families and the caregiver. Our services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurers. We are available in the comfort of your home, nursing home and in our rehomed inpatient unit at St. Joseph's Wayne Hospital. We are here for you. Call us for a free consultation.

### Volunteers are needed for Cornell Hall program

Cornell Hall Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, a 70-bed long-term care facility located in Union, is seeking volunteers for the Silver System program.

Silver System is a dining assistance program for residents who need help during mealtimes.

Volunteers are needed from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 5 p.m., especially during weekends and holidays. All volunteers will be asked to participate in a brief education program.

For information about the Silver Spoons program or to volunteer, contact the Recreation Department at 908-624-2517.

Cornell Hall Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, located at 234 Chestnut St. in Union, is an affiliate of the St. Barnabas Health Care System.

### LOSING A LOVED ONE TO DRUGS?

If addiction is killing a loved one, we have the answer. We deliver the most effective drug and alcohol rehab program in the world, with a success rate over 70%. It's a 3-6 month long-term residential program located on a private lake in Battle Creek, MI. Naqua detox, crisis and drug residues out of the body, eliminating physical cravings. Life skills training course, prepare our students for long-term success in life. We have a large job referral network in place.

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 www.narcononstonehawk.com

**HOSPICE OF NEW JERSEY**

Hospice of New Jersey, the nation's leading hospice in New Jersey, provides comprehensive care for terminally ill patients and their families. Our services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurers. We are available in the comfort of your home, nursing home and in our rehomed inpatient unit at St. Joseph's Wayne Hospital. We are here for you. Call us for a free consultation.

Hospice of New Jersey 400 Broadacres Drive Bloomfield, NJ 07003 Phone: 973-893-0818	Hospice of New Jersey, South 77 Route 37 West Lyons River, NJ 08753 Phone: 973-818-3460
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# Holiday Dining

## Fine Food, Friends & Blessings

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Seasonal greens tossed with grilled shrimp, sliced tomatoes, cheese en croute, with vinaigrette dressing  
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**FIVE HOUR DELUXE OPEN BAR INCLUDED**  
Platters of Fresh Fruit & Rijjalah Noise Makers  
Limited Reservations  
**NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS**  
8:30 PM to 1:30 AM \$115.00 per person

## Railroad club's sound and light show' concludes this weekend

The Model Railroad Club Inc., an activity of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, will present its annual "Sound and Light Show" Friday through Sunday at the club building, located on Jefferson Avenue off Route 22 east in Union, behind The Home Depot. The show times are: Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays from noon to 9 p.m.; and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m.

Advance sale, discounted tickets are being offered. Tickets are on sale at the club on Saturdays, between 1 and 4 p.m. or available by mail by sending a check or money order payable to The Model Railroad Club Inc., P.O. Box 1146, Union, 07083-1146. Tickets, if purchased in advance, are priced at \$5 for adults, \$2 for children ages 12 and younger, and \$3 for senior citizens age 60 and older, if purchased in advance.

Fickets purchased at the door on show dates are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 12 and younger, and \$4 for seniors 60 and older.

The show features the club's 1,600-square-foot HO Scale layout. A 30-by-27-foot, double-decked N Scale layout is featured, as well as outdoor and indoor garden railroad display loops.

Visitors will also be able to view the progress that has been made on the 60-by-80-foot addition to the HO Scale layout and enjoy displays in the gallery area. The "Sound and Light Show" is a perennial favorite with children and adults alike.

It is the organization's major fund-raising event for the year and proceeds from admission, donations and purchases made at the club's gift shop will help fund the club's activities.

The Model Railroad Club Inc. was founded in 1949 in the basement of Col. Paul Mallers, a pioneer of the hobby.

### NEWS CLIPS

**UCC seeks new plays**  
There are still a few openings for the monthly playwright's workshop at The Theater Project, Union County College's professional theater company. The workshop meets once a month, in addition to a monthly script-in-hand, public performance/discussion of one of the plays in development. Organizers are particularly interested in writers who can contribute to the process of the other participating playwrights.

Playwrights interested in developing their work through readings and critiques by actors, directors and other writers should submit scripts; self-addressed stamped envelopes with a cover letter, including a brief summary of writing background to Mark Spina, The Theater Project, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 07016.

**Chorale plans its season**  
The Summit Chorale has announced its 2003-04 season.  
• Community "Messiah" Sing at 8 p.m. on Tuesday at Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St., Summit.  
The public is invited to sing at this free, annual event.  
• Madrigals, art songs and the Ave., Cranford, 07016.

Durfee Requiem will be presented in concert at 8 p.m. on March 6, at Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St., Summit.  
• "Bach's Requiem" - Narr's gala farewell concert at 8 p.m., on May 1, at a location to be determined. The chorale will be accompanied by a 100-member orchestra.

Additional information and tickets can be obtained from the Web site at [www.summitchorale.org](http://www.summitchorale.org) or from 973-762-8486.

Under the leadership of music director and conductor Garyth Narr, Summit Chorale is one of the state's most respected choral organizations, now in its 95th year. It is composed of non-professional singers, chosen by audition.

The chorale maintains a reputation for adventurous programming of lesser-known masterpieces in addition to popular works. It is Chorus in Residence at Drew University.

**Paper Mill collects coats**  
Paper Mill Playhouse will collect coats for the Jersey Cares Annual Coat Drive throughout the run of "The Sound of Music" through Dec. 14. Receptacles for coats and signage will be placed in the brookside entrance to the lobby.

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**Sheffield's Catering House**  
By David Learn  
Staff Writer

If you're looking to start the day off right with your family, Sheffield's Catering in Mountainside is a great way to do it.

"My wife and I took our two daughters to Sheffield's on a recent Sunday morning. We were greeted at the door by the restaurant's courteous and accommodating staff and ushered to a four-seat table in the building's main room, a cheery, well-lit dining area with a gas fireplace. Following the complimentary muffins, we started our meal off with Sheffield's silver dollar pancakes, an eight-pancake deal that delivers a plate of fresh hot pancakes to your table that are light, fluffy and delicious. My elder daughter, who has never liked pancakes in her entire life, ate these with obvious relish.

The most popular items on the Sheffield's menu are their eggs Benedict and Sheffield's omelet, each served in generous portions at reasonable prices. The eggs Benedict were among the finest I have ever eaten. Served atop a lightly toasted English muffin with Canadian bacon, the poached egg at the heart of the meal was smothered in a delicious Hollandaise sauce.

The other item we tried was the Sheffield's omelet, a mouth-watering omelet stuffed with broccoli, mushrooms, red onions and Swiss cheese that melted on the palette. Like the eggs Benedict, the omelet came with two slices of cantaloupe and a side of home fries. We left as little on our plates as we could.

Just as important to parents as the food is the treatment a restaurant gives to children. Sheffield's is a very child-friendly place to eat. Staff produced a high-chair that was easy to adjust to fit our younger daughter, and there is a changing table in a restroom accessible to fathers as well as to mothers.

Now in its fourth year of serving the area, Sheffield's is a family business owned by Jim Sheffield, who also serves as its main cook. The restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekends. The restaurant recently received approval to offer dinner hours, which it expects to do in January.

For companies looking to host a business lunch and those hoping to cater special personal events from bar mitzvahs to weddings, Sheffield's staff provides that as well, both on site and off. Catering service and more information about the restaurant are available by calling 908-233-2822.

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Jody, Michele & Staff

HOLIDAY HOURS:  
X-MAS EVE: WEDNESDAY 12/24 7AM-5PM  
X-MAS DAY: CLOSED TO OPEN PRESENTS • NEW YEARS EVE: WEDNESDAY 12/31 7AM-5PM  
NEW YEARS DAY: THURSDAY 1/1/04 7AM-10PM

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AUTOMOTIVE

E55: sedan or sports car?

By Jerry Garrett
Copy: News Services
The 2004 Mercedes-Benz E55 AMG is "quicker than any production sedan we've ever tested," write the editors of Car and Driver magazine.

"It's the fastest production Mercedes ever," proclaims Dantier-Chrysler.
Drag factors might quibble over the distinction between "quickest and fastest." To them, "quickest" relates to elapsed-time, fast relates only to top-end speed.

Because all Mercedes-Benz cars are governed to no more than 155 mph, they are all capable of being equally fast.

Quick? Now that's where the E55 is special.

Slam on the gas pedal, and it is seconds later you'll be comparing its mph. For comparison, the Corvette Z06 takes 4.0 seconds.

The E55 will hit 150 mph in 20 seconds through the quarter-mile. And just for the record, about 2.5 seconds will elapse between a standing start and its 155 mph top speed.

All that from a fairly old-fashioned sedan, weighing more than 4,200 pounds, at least 450 pounds heavier than the model it replaces.

While the weight doesn't seem to slow it down too much, one can't help but wonder what numbers might be possible if you could lose out a few hundred pounds of so-called excess passenger accommodations.

A 7.3-liter V8, however, might tempt 185 in converting, making sure lane-change maneuvers where it's preferable to compete in 100. And the BMW? Maybe the most attention-span feel of the steering wheel impresses as well.

It's important to remember: This is a sedan, not a sports car. It just thinks it so.

Besides the fairly obvious fact the E55 has four doors, it is also distinguishable in other, more subtle ways.

Its five-cylinder AMG badging means the E55 is 3.0-liter V8 engine from the S-Class 5.0-liter V8 engine from the 1998-2000 models.

A supercharger with intercooler was added, valves and valve springs were upgraded, cam timing revised, throttle response enhanced, compression ratio reduced from 10.1 to 9.1, and, voilà, the result is 409 horsepower and the 6,100 rpm redline and a mind-boggling 110 foot-pounds of torque.

The potent stock 5.0-liter now seems comparatively puny with its 302 horsepower and 339 foot-pounds of torque, no wonder it "only" runs 0-60 in 5.8 seconds.

The goal of horsepower provides plenty of margin for effortless high-speed motoring.

But the torque is as astounding, it's almost worrisome, I mean, what is it that torque doing to the DOT's precious pavement, as the 18-inch 295-35-ZR rear tires dig in? Not to mention related drive-train components.

At launch, you expect to see ruts in your rearview mirror.

Concerns about all that torque prompted AMG to beef up the standard five-speed automatic transmission and electro-magnetic clutch. To make it handle better, AMG equipped it with a variation of its Airmatic suspension.

Side skirts and aprons fore and aft combine with an inch lower stance to give the E55 a marginally more sinister aero look outside.

AMG stipulated higher performance seats, which can be ordered with blue or red inserts to relieve the otherwise unrelenting blackness of the interior.

A number of features that are options on the E55's sister ship come standard, or fact, the E55's estimated base price of \$76,000 is a surprisingly reasonable value in its class, e.g. the Audi RS 8 is about \$100,000 more.

There are, however, three significant options that are available on an E55 that you can't get on the E55's sibling: the navigation system, and AMG's all-wheel-drive, which the Audi has.

That AMG might help boost sales in the Snow Belt, but the system would saddle the E55's ponies with even more weight. Not to mention packaging issues.

AUTOMOTIVE

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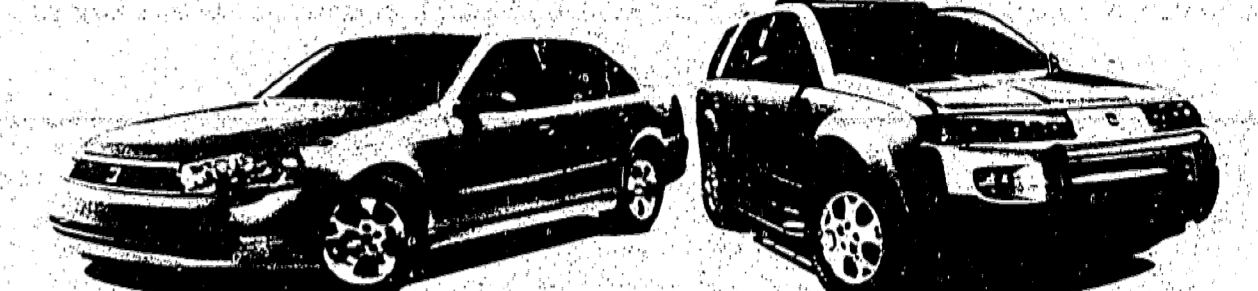
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\$16,995

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