

Town aims to increase business

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

While business in Springfield is one agenda item that has been in need of improvement for years, township officials say the solutions to solving problems throughout the business district are hard to come by.

Still, Mayor Clara Hareluk looks forward to tackling the issue and has offered several ways to improve business throughout the township.

Hareluk said that one idea could be to offer residents a business directory that could list every business in Springfield by category.

Hareluk also said that in working with the local Chamber of Commerce, which meets every fourth Thursday of the month at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center and is a frequent participant and contributor in Springfield activities, some type of information piece can be produced. In this document, the businesses can include a coupon or incentive to visit them.

Hareluk said that because of the way Springfield businesses are spread out, a street fair wouldn't make for a good promotional effort.

The two biggest problems also include parking and the lack of an anchor store, as Hareluk called the township more of a "drive thru business district."

Committee member Harold Poltrok agreed, contrasting the business district of Springfield to a mall, where people can walk around and figure out what they want in time. In Springfield, Poltrok pointed



Photo By Joseph A. Surrentino

With several vacant storefronts in the downtown business district on Morris Avenue in Springfield, township officials are searching for ways to attract more businesses and shoppers.

out, people do more "destination shopping," knowing what they want and where they are going.

Poltrok also feels that parking is the biggest obstacle to overcome, and that quick fixes such as a neighborhood business association or the repairing of the storefronts have been proven to not work in the past.

"The goal here is to entice people to do business here and for businesses to promote themselves," said Hareluk.

With new flag banners going up around town, Hareluk pointed out that businesses can promote themselves by sponsoring one of these, while at the same time helping to

beautify the community.

Committee member Sy Mullman suggested that maybe a "Meet the Merchants" weekend could be a strong idea, as in Millburn last October, when businesses stayed open until around 10 p.m., so customers could get to know the shops and stores.

Mullman said that he has been kicking around the idea of a Springfield credit card, as well.

"We want business not to survive, but thrive," said Mullman.

Poltrok noted that outside of a redeveloper coming into town and taking over all the property in the downtown district, a permanent solution is hard to come up with.

Poltrok said that there is no sense of a town center like in Westfield or Millburn, and he attributes this mostly to the configuration of businesses around town, or, as he said, "the lack there of."

Hareluk has encouraged people to come forward with ideas and will continue to meet with the Chamber of Commerce in discussion of these and other issues.

Hareluk said that when businesses come to town, she hopes that Springfield can be seen as business-friendly, making the application process and every other aspect of owning a store easier.

"In the end," she said, "we should all be helping each other."

Architect slate for community center

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

After meeting with four different architects, the Mountainside officials are looking forward to moving closer to beginning construction of a new community center.

According to Borough Councilman Bob Messler, a member of the Planning Board, four architects gave presentations of previous, comparable projects that they completed in the past, giving the borough a chance to determine the one who would be the best fit for their center.

At Tuesday night's meeting, the Borough Council passed a resolution to commit to the firm of Fentlowitz and Kosten of Livingston for the preliminary stages of planning the community center.

The firm will be paid \$8,000, as the municipality will be able to use money left over after Borough Engineer Mike Disko used part of the \$10,000 Community Development Block Grant to do a study of topography around the area where the center will be built.

It was resolved at the Borough Council meeting that Fentlowitz and Kosten will be engaged to perform outlined services, including speaking with associations and clubs of every sort to help decide on what should be a part of the center.

Mayor Robert Vighnanti said this initial contract will be broken down into four or five stages, and that the borough can break it at anytime.

Vighnanti was clear to say that this way, a commitment can be avoided if anything seems to be going wrong, adding that right now the borough is trying to get needed costs, needs, and dimensions of the center.

Messler said that opinions from

local Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts as well as senior citizens will be taken into account during this process.

Open space and community grants, among others, have been applied for and are currently in early application stages.

Messler said he wants to get ideas and use the architects' planning so that additions to the center will not be necessary after completion.

When asked when construction could begin, Messler said that in a perfect world, it could start during the fall of this year.

"More realistically," said Messler, "spring 2005."

As for completion, Messler said that it is expected to be a one year project after construction gets under way.

"I think the young and old residents of the town can look forward to having a place they can call their own," said Messler.

"It's my belief that the community is in dire need of a community center," said Vighnanti, who noted that the borough has one of the highest percentages of senior citizens in Union County and also is going through a transition of new younger families moving into town, as well.

The center, which will be built on the Barnes Tract between the 11 and the community pool on Mountain Avenue, will feature a full size gymnasium, craft rooms and a physical fitness room. The Recreation Department will also be stationed at the center.

"I cannot stress enough that it is a community center," he said, adding that it will be geared toward everyone in the borough, no matter the age or gender.

School board candidates look forward to working with new faces

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

As the borough of Mountainside undergoes changes throughout the community, the school district is also in the midst of reorganizing and developing from within.

The transition that the district faces as a new chief administrator and principal enter the school system is certainly on the minds of this year's Board of Education candidates.

According to Ray Haggar, the lone incumbent, criteria that prospective heads of schools must meet has been developed by the school board and New Jersey State Board Association representative Carole Larsen, along with other staff in the district.

The new chief school administrator will replace Gerard Schaller, who will leave the district in June.

Once the new chief school administrator is chosen, that

person will be given the opportunity to choose a counterpart to serve as principal at Deerfield School, replacing the current interim Principal Walter Rusak.

"We would need experience in a K-8 district," said Haggar, "experience as a principal, and someone that is an effective communicator."

Candidate Carmine Venes agreed that communication is key.

"Accurate communication with real facts is important," said Venes. "Communication with substance."

Candidate Gene Nagel feels that along with the importance of communication in a small town such as Mountainside, a new chief administrator should be open-minded and aware of the school population's strengths and weaknesses.

"If you pick the right people," said Nagel, "change is excellent. It's a new way of looking at things."

Haggar said that the new leader needs to use the resources of the district, bringing the community, parents and teachers together.

"We'll need to push toward the same goals and bring everyone together," he said.

On the topic of what the new chief administrator should possess, Venes said "leadership, communication skills, K-8 knowledge, and experience, and expertise with K-8 curriculum."

While Venes said it was unfortunate for the district to be undergoing these changes all at once, with new leadership at different levels, he feels it to be very important that both the chief administrator and principal work well together and be on the same page.

Nagel and Haggar are ready to take the change in stride.

"There's always changes," said Haggar. "You can't

expect things to stand still," he said, adding that the challenge is to simply turn the changes into positives.

"What is good timing," asked Nagel. "Honesty, you pick the right person, support them and move on," he added, saying that there are also positive changes, such as the dissolution funds Mountainside will likely gain from the break-up of the regional high school district years ago.

Legally, the newly elected Mountainside Board of Education will have to be the people choosing the new leadership in the district. Therefore, approval will be necessary from the reorganized board, after voting takes place in late April, although the search process has already begun.

According to Haggar, it isn't definite whether or not the new chief administrator will necessarily wait until next year to begin, or start late in the current school year.

Candidate Michael Melango was unable to be reached by presstime Tuesday.

A bit o' Irish cheer



Photo By Barbara Kalkhoff

Joshua Boyle and Kevin Connolly of Mountainside show off their Irish cheer as they watch the St. Patrick's Day parade in Union on Saturday.

Candidates share their goals for district

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School hosted this year's "Candidates Night" on Monday, giving the voting public a chance to know those residents who want to represent the Board of Education in Springfield.

Close to 40 people sat in front of the candidates as they first spoke about why they were there and what they would bring to the board.

"Each of us brings special and diverse skills," said incumbent Linda Duke. "I am not your typical Board of Education member," she continued, explaining that she is single with no children.

"I love what I do," said Duke, adding that the board needs to be responsible for student progress and achievement more than anything.

The current board president, Irwin Sablosky said the system is so dynamic, one can never say that the work has been completed.

Sablosky noted that one of the most difficult tasks the board faces is to balance the needs of the taxpayers with those of the students.

"I have worked hard to earn the trust that the people of Springfield have given to me," said Sablosky.

Brian Sheehy, a candidate who is running for the second straight year, included in his short-term goals an elimination or reduction of county-owned land that Springfield depends on for sports programs. Sheehy felt that even in the future, playing on Meisel Field still makes Springfield athletes "guests."

Sheehy also envisioned in his

long-term goals the creation of a new, modernized high school.

In ending his opening statements, Sheehy was clear to say that he would place importance on respecting the opinions of everybody in the township.

Patricia Venezia is the current vice president on the school board. She said that while she is proud of the board's efforts, there is always room for improvement.

Venezia explained that being a school board member means a lot more to her than simply making decisions during board meetings.

"I need to see the faces of those we affect," said Venezia. "It isn't an easy job, but to me, it's what I love."

Among the questions answered by the candidates included the subject of low math scores within the district.

Venezia explained that there has been a curriculum change and classes are being offered to help students, while Sheehy put his faith in Assistant Superintendent Judy Zimmerman, saying that he has confidence in her and that it is good to see the issue being addressed.

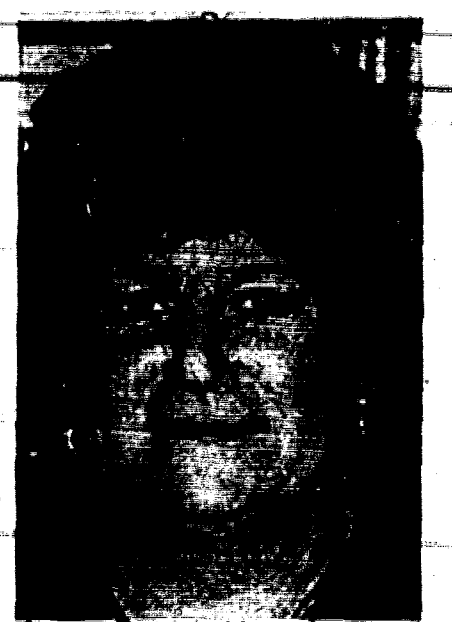
"On the successes of the board, Sablosky pointed out the list of Springfield students who go on to college, calling it a wonderful, all-inclusive, impressive list.

Duke said that the district is dynamic, and that one of the most notable marks of the system is the experimenting that helps improve upon learning. Duke said that the district teaches the teachers, who, in turn, teach the students.

In closing, Sablosky urged the pub-



Linda Duke



Patricia Venezia



Irwin Sablosky



Brian Sheehy

lic to let him know its concerns, saying that he will always give the deserved attention.

Duke and Venezia both specified the importance of voting on the candi-

dates and the budget come April, and Sheehy finished by saying that he appreciates what the board has done, but is trying to give fresh ideas to the district.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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

Voice Mail: Our main phone number, 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system to better serve our customers.

To subscribe: The Echo Leader is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$28.00.

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

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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-mail news releases and opinion pieces by e-mail. Our e-mail address is: Editor@theecholeader.com

To place a display ad: Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m.

To place a classified ad: The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m.

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Facsimile transmission: The Echo Leader is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by fax. Our fax lines are open 24 hours a day.

Websites: Visit our Web Site on the internet at http://www.local9source.com

Postmaster Please Note: The ECHO LEADER (USPS 512-720) is published weekly by Warral Community Newspapers, Inc.

After chase on foot, police arrest man for trespassing

Springfield Police responded to a call regarding a young male who was seen at business establishments on Smithfield Drive and Evergreen Avenue.

POLICE BLOTTER

Inside were two pried open vending machines that had an undetermined amount of money stolen from them.

Mountainside firefighters help Summit battle dealership blaze

Mountainside On March 9 at 10:54 p.m., firefighters responded to a mutual aid call to Summit Fire Department and supplied water to trucks from both Summit and Union for five hours.

FIRE BLOTTER

On March 8 at 8:32 a.m., firefighters responded to Route 78 West for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Springfield Hadassah will conduct its first meeting of 2004 at Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, at 12:30 p.m.

Springfield Township Board of Education will meet in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School at 7:30 p.m.

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Students hear Devils star's lessons on life

By Juan M. Devlin Staff Writer The Mountainside Police Department provided a treat for fifth-graders on March 10.

The children were very excited as they filed into the cafeteria where Driver, a Stanley Cup champion and hockey team's alumni association, awaited them.

Huber added: "We talk to you about role models and setting goals. Well, he is retired now and goes out to speak to children your age and older, so listen up."

About 90 children were present with several teachers, and they were quiet and polite as Driver welcomed them, and began his talk.

"I do a lot of school seminars... this program has been going on for at least four to five years now and other ex-players do this as well, we try to talk to all kids," said Driver.

"For me, this was one of the most important decisions of my life," said Driver. It decided out, the first year he was there, on the team, they won the national championship.

"That summer, I was drafted by the Colorado Rockies which became the New Jersey Devils," he told the children, and they applauded.

He asked them what happens every four years in sports, "The Olympics," said one boy.

"I had the confidence and I made it. It worked out... as I said, I played with them for 15 years."

He stressed to the children that sometimes things work out, but that sometimes they might not work out, but that they had to keep on trying.

"I was just like any one of you. I was a kid with a dream. Dreams and goals are very, very important."

"After the Olympics, I had a very important decision to make. When they started, the Devils were in last place, not a very good hockey team."

"I had the confidence and I made it. It worked out... as I said, I played with them for 15 years."

He told them that they were growing up in the greatest country in the world, the land of opportunity, and that they could be absolutely anything they wanted to be.

"After the Olympics, I had a very important decision to make. When they started, the Devils were in last place, not a very good hockey team."

"I had the confidence and I made it. It worked out... as I said, I played with them for 15 years."



The Mountainside Police Department provided a treat for fifth-graders on March 10, when the department hosted New Jersey Devils star Bruce Driver at Deerfield School for a program on setting goals and learning lessons from a positive role model.

Council eyes TV-35 for schools

By Brian Pedersen Managing Editor Hoping to increase the potential of TV-35 for use by Mountainside schools, the Borough Council agreed to look into the possibility of putting additional money into the municipal budget to hire a teacher to run the local cable channel at both Deerfield and Beechwood schools.

The action was approved at the March 9 work session but so far, no communication has taken place between the Board of Education and the Borough Council.

Borough Administrator Police Chief James Debbie said he contacted Gerald Schaller, the chief school administrator about the plan but has not received a response from him by press time.

"What the council is looking for is something perhaps after school," said Debbie. "I know a lot of teachers who coach basketball and softball for a small stipend, that's what we would like to extend. Have an after school class."

Councilman Keith Turner said the salary range for paying a teacher to run TV-35 would be roughly \$1,200 to \$2,000.

"We probably can't do this until next school year," said Mayor Robert Vignani. "It's difficult for some parents to see all the activities that are going on. Anybody who's watched it since we've gone digital, it's great."

Debbie said TV-35 does have a Comcast fiber optic drop in the school and a computer for doing announcements, but the technology has not been used by the district.

The council currently uses TV-35 to tape all of its regular council meetings.

Springfield YMCA earns national honor

The Summit Area YMCA recently announced that YMCA of the USA — the national governing body of all YMCAs — has recognized the Springfield Y for its achievement in providing high-quality, mission-driven programs and experiences to members and the Springfield community at large.

The Springfield Y is being recognized for practices that are consistent with both the standards set by the Y-USA and with the organization's mission of building strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

In addition, the Y-USA recognizes that the Springfield branch continues to demonstrate characteristics of high quality programming and excellent facility operations.

The Springfield Y offers health and fitness facilities for people of all ages, provides community outreach programs to underserved populations and has child care programs, including a day camp.

"We are proud of the great work that Margie Bauman, executive director, and her staff are doing in Springfield," said Jim Weidman, president and CEO of the Summit Area YMCA.

"When our national organization gives local Ys an excellent report card, we know that our members are extremely happy, and that we are truly fulfilling the Y's mission through our efforts."

Tips on proper dental care



Recently, Dr. Robert Wortzel spoke to fourth-graders at Deerfield School in Mountainside about the importance of dental hygiene. The students enjoyed learning how to keep their teeth in tip-top shape during for Dental Health Month at the school.

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RELIGION

Day of Recollection planned at Lourdes
The Our Lady of Lourdes Rosary Altar Society...

Lectures examine issues of Jewish life
The Hazzan Chapter of Temple Beth Ahm in Springfield...

Free Medicare seminar shows how to fight fraud
A free seminar titled "Medicare: Do You Know Your Rights?"...

Rosary and Novena conducted at Lourdes
The Rosary Altar Society of Our Lady of Lourdes Church...

Senior group continues to collect yarn for projects
The Hazzan Chapter continues to collect yarn for projects...

Free Medicare seminar shows how to fight fraud
A free seminar titled "Medicare: Do You Know Your Rights?"...

Caregivers' support group offered free of charge
PRIP is a caregivers' support group offering free of charge...

People attend the meetings to meet
People attend the meetings to meet...

SENIOR NEWS

Seminar shows seniors tips on financial health
Can You Afford to Grow Old? is a free seminar offered at Brighton...

JEWISH-REFORM TEMPLE SHARAY SHALOM
The Jewish Reform Temple Sharay Shalom is located at 1350 Route 128...

JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE TEMPLE BETH AHM
The Jewish Conservative Temple Beth Ahm is located at 1350 Route 128...

LUTHERAN HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Holy Cross Lutheran Church is located at 1350 Route 128...

JEWISH-ORTHODOX CONGREGATION OF SPRINGFIELD
The Jewish Orthodox Congregation of Springfield is located at 1350 Route 128...

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH
The Baptist Evangelical Baptist Church is located at 1350 Route 128...

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EVENTS

Hadassah meets
Springfield Hadassah will host its first meeting of 2004 today at 12:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Ahm...

Fish and chips dinner offered at St. James
A Lenten fish and chips dinner, catered by Thistles Fish and Chips Restaurant in Keamy, will be held on March 20 at St. James the Apostle School...

ROMAN CATHOLIC THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES
The Church of Our Lady of Lourdes is located at 1350 Route 128...

PENTECOSTAL-NON-DENOMINATIONAL VISIONS OF GOD-FAMILY WORSHIP
The Pentecostal-Non-Denominational Visions of God-Family Worship is located at 1350 Route 128...

PRESBYTERIAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The First Presbyterian Church is located at 1350 Route 128...

LIFESTYLE

Naggar, Bechick to wed
Max and Harnet Naggar of Springfield announce the engagement of their son Eric J. Naggar to Rachel M. Bechick...

Event promotes camp, early childhood programs
On Wednesday, Congregation Israel of Springfield's Early Childhood Program will host a Spring Sing Celebration...

Football Club gathers
The Football Club luncheon will be held on April 1, noon, at B.G. Fields Restaurant in Westfield...

Culinary tradition continues at local church
Patrons of the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church fish and chips dinner will catch more than a whiff of St. James the Apostle...

Atlantic City trip benefits Project Graduation
To raise funds for Project Graduation in Springfield, an Atlantic City Trip to Trump Plaza Casino is scheduled for April 4, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Guests visit duck species
A Wintering Waterfowl van trip is scheduled for March 27, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

RECREATION

Fencing class offered
A new adult fencing class will be offered at the Springfield YMCA for six weeks beginning March 28...

Department sponsors arts and crafts program
The Springfield Recreation Department will sponsor a new arts and crafts program designed for children ages 5-15...

Fund-raiser aims to improve fields, programs
The Opening Day Auction sponsored by Mountanside Youth Baseball is scheduled for April 17 at Deerfield School...

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BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Grid of business and service advertisements including: ADDITIONS, AIR CONDITIONING, CAREGIVER NEEDED, CARPENTRY, CLEANING SERVICE, DRIVEWAYS, ELECTRICIAN, FLOORS, GARAGE DOORS, HANDYMAN, HOME IMPROVEMENT, KREDER ELECTRIC, LEGENDARY Overhead Door, MOVING, PAINTING, ROOFING, TUTOR, WRITING COACH, HOME REPAIRS, CLEANING SERVICE, PAINTING, VILLAGE HOME REPAIR, Eviara's Cleaning Service, ADTIQUES WANTED, ANTIQUES, WATERPROOFING, TIRE OF THE CLUTTER?, TREE SERVICES, FRIENDLY TREE SERVICE, CARLSON BROTHERS ROOFING, PRETTY TILE, UGLY GROUT?, TREE SERVICES, FRIENDLY TREE SERVICE, ADTIQUES WANTED, ANTIQUES, WATERPROOFING, TIRE OF THE CLUTTER?, TREE SERVICES, FRIENDLY TREE SERVICE.

The right mortgage is right here.

Advertisement for Keamy Federal Savings featuring a photo of a family and text about mortgage services, including current mortgage program 3/10/04 and a table of rates.

BEAUTIFUL Smiles by Dr. Harold A. Pollack

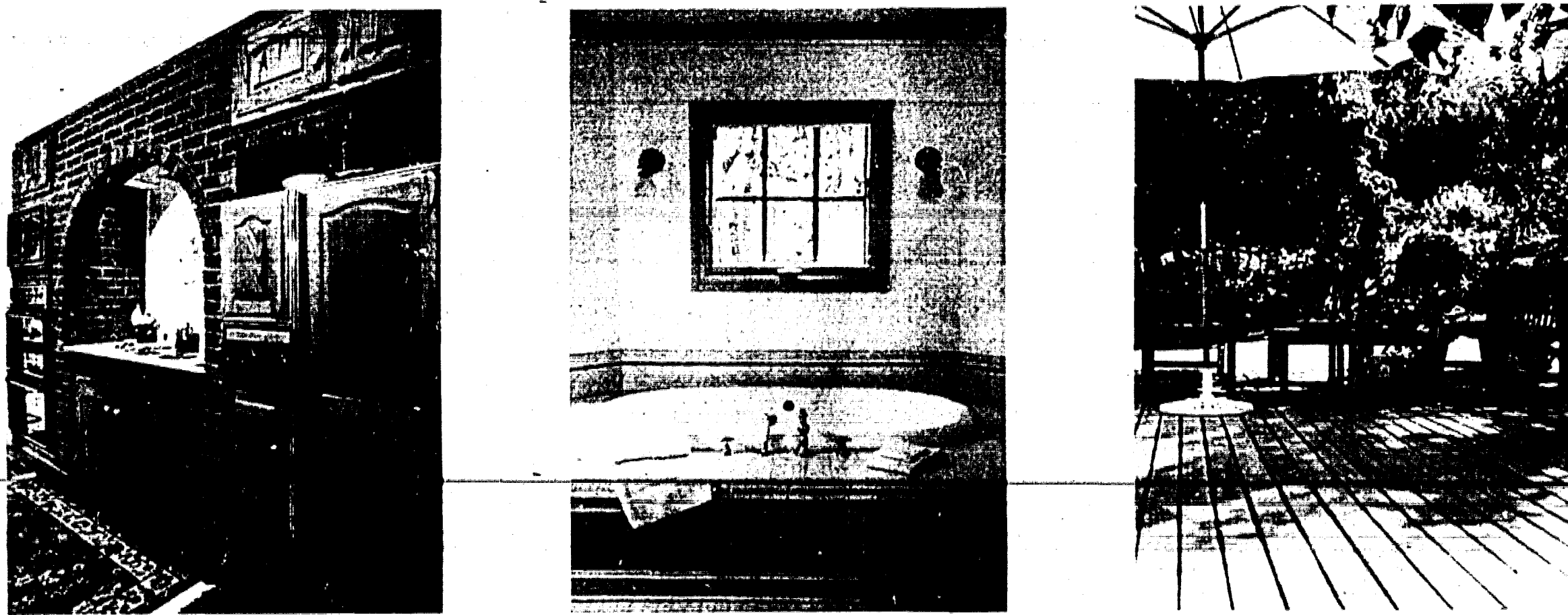
Advertisement for Dr. Harold A. Pollack's dental services, featuring a photo of a smiling man and text about advanced cosmetic and restorative dental care.

Professional Directory

Grid of professional service advertisements including: CHIROPRACTOR (Hecht Family Chiropractic Care), OPTOMETRIST (CONTACT LENSES), PIANO TUNING & REPAIR (Master Tuner & Technician), SPACE AVAILABLE (SEND US YOUR PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS CARD CALL), and other services like Tired of the Clutter? and Get Ready for a Busy Spring.

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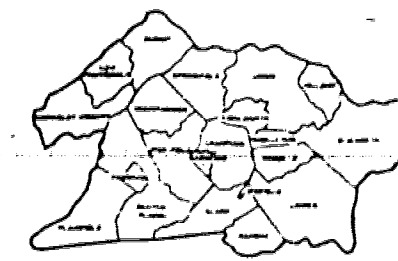
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Union County

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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2004 - SECTION B

http://www.localsource.com

All business

Saturday morning Roselle Mayor Garrett Smith was at his usual spot in the corner of the Abraham Clark High School gym. The same week the dailies rallied over the money in exchange for access at the federal and state level, Smith is very available. Standing close to the entrance, he knows the kids coming into his program, and the residents who readily come up and speak with no pretense. It's a nice compliment to him.

Left Out

Three months into his term, the young mayor is attacking his new job just like the full court press at the morning basketball league named for him. The horn-rimmed glasses, the smile, and the rapid-fire approach from a guy with a degree in finance is part of his style.

Smith focuses on the recent \$50,000 State Seed grant to spur the St. Georges Avenue and Chestnut Street growth. These two problems historically concern the mayor of Roselle. To his credit, he speaks in positive terms about his Transit Village concept. The access to the Roselle park and Cranford stations allow him to talk about Park-and-Ride and bringing commerce into the downtown.

He stops during the discussion to scold two young female preteens who are getting a little disruptive. He turns serious and they know it. Later, they will ask for permission during a break to go shoot hoops which he smiles and says go.

He likes committees and talks a lot about community involvement. He wants the Borough Council Finance Committee and school board finance committee to begin budget talks even before the school vote. Roselle school budgets are a hot spot.

Smith reels off his plans for seminars with residents on education, seniors and property taxes as problems facing the borough.

As an outsider who took on the party organization and won't on the party last June, I ask him if there were some pleasant surprises. He praises his relationship with the business administrator and police chief who preceded him. About past enemies he says, "It's all business now."

Still, the three-month effort has had its bumps. As to the battles with his counsel, the horn rims drop a little, and the voice is lower as he concedes "it hasn't been going well."

The battles have included a petty argument about the use of the mayor's office. The tug of war over appointments continues. Smith has been able to appoint a new attorney and prosecutor.

Smith, a business consultant by profession, is picking up a lot of the buzz words. He talks about the need for shared services, quality of life and enforcing ordinances against loitering. The guy clearly believes that tough law enforcement is good for his town.

The enthusiasm and the people skills are there. He will again be battling the local Democratic organization this year with opposing candidates in the 4th Ward and A-larges seats. You get a sense that the combination of enthusiasm plus his financial background may show some big results in terms of development of the central business district and fighting crime.

Interspersed in the conversation are a lot of references to state aid. His focus and enthusiasm are refreshing. Still, his hope for increased state assistance to help his town, seems impractical. You almost want to say it's not very business like.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capace is an attorney.

Protesters decry goose program

and the passing of a no-feed ordinance for the parks. "These methods proved to be ineffective on a large scale," Devaney said.

An adult Canadian goose consumes about four pounds of grass per day and produces one to two pounds of feces a day. The Union County Department of Parks and Recreation has received hundreds of complaints about geese from park users, a county official said.

The parks department spends more than \$6 million a year to maintain county parks. A growing part of its budget is spent on seeding and reseeded grassy areas eaten bare by geese and on cleaning walkways, fields and docks that have been covered with feces.

"To say that's not a health hazard is also irresponsible," said Devaney. Railway resident Kerry Hinchard called for the county administration to find an "appropriate" way to maintain the wildlife population.

"What is the cost to the community when you decide to exterminate innocent animals?" she said. During last week's freeholder meeting, geese activists made reference to a machine used by the town of Oyster Bay, N.Y., that sweeps up geese feces from grass, as an alternative to removing the geese.

The AA-Tech Sweeping System uses a cyclone vacuum mounted to a vehicle. As the vehicle moves through the grass, the cyclone action of the vacuum sweeps up the grass. The machine is capable of clearing about 52 acres of park land in approximately eight hours.

The cost of a small machine is \$75,800, while the large machine costs \$21,000, significantly less than the \$115,500 contract the county entered into with Metuchen-based Geese Control Technologies of New Jersey, Inc. for services that include "trapping and removing geese in a mass to make it unpalatable to geese."

See PROTESTERS, Page B2



As grand marshal, Matthew Glackin of Clark leads the eighth annual Union County St. Patrick's Day parade in Union on Saturday.



Riders from the Watching Stables in Mountainside were among those in the parade procession, left, while Erin Purcello of the Irish-American Society of Union, right, marched with a group, giving out candy to the crowd of onlookers.

Expansion at vo-tech school pushed back to April

Expansion of the Union County Vocational-Technical School in Scotch Plains has again been delayed. The new completion date is tentatively set for mid-April.

Unforeseen electrical problems had pushed back the completion date from December until mid-February. "That's what backed up the project from the beginning and that's why it hasn't been done as expeditiously as it could have been done," Union County Vocational-Technical School Superintendent Thomas Bistocchi said.

The \$14-million, two-story, 69,000-square-foot expansion will enable the vo-tech school to accommodate more students. Bistocchi said the vo-tech school is not currently overcrowded because it was able to borrow space from the UMDNJ building.

"Our kids are there and they can stay there for the entire school year," said Bistocchi. If the construction is completed next month, and Dentistry of New Jersey, which is also located on the Scotch Plains campus. The UMDNJ building was constructed after the vo-tech school. The original building plans for the vo-tech school when it was first constructed did not show the shared electrical lines with the UMDNJ facility.

County officials also said weather problems have contributed to the delays. "It's not a project that we manage," said Union County Manager George Devaney. "We just fund it and they do the management of the construction."

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vo-tech school officials may not even utilize the expanded space this year. "At this point, it's so late in the year, we may or may not even go into the building until after the summer," said Bistocchi. The construction delays will not cost any additional money. "We're still within our budget figures. We don't anticipate any problem with that," the superintendent said.

The project will add 12 academic classrooms, three computer labs, four science labs, a multi-media center library, nurse's office, administration office, and fitness center and gym, which will serve as a multipurpose room for theatrical productions. State construction funds provided 40 percent of the funding, approximately \$5.6 million, with the remainder, approximately \$8.4 million, coming from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The Union County Vocational-Technical School opened in 1968 and shares a campus with UMDNJ, the Union County Magnet High School, and the John H. Stamler Police Academy. Approximately 1,100 students are attending the vocational-technical school this year, 600 full-time students and 600 share-time students; who only attend the vocational-technical school for half a day, either in the morning or afternoon. Once the expansion is completed, the school could hold an additional 50 full-time students in addition to maintaining the school's current share-time student numbers.

Candidates selected for freeholder races

Democrats appoint Wohlrab to vacant seat on board

The Republican ticket for Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is set, while Democratic candidates wanting a slot on their party's ticket will square off in the June primary. During the Union County Republican Committee's annual convention on March 13, delegates nominated Joseph Penna of Cranford, Bruce Patterson of Garwood, Frank Arena of Westfield and Patricia Quattrocchi of Garwood as the party's four candidates seeking freeholder seats.

During a meeting Monday night, Union County's 21 Democratic chairmen nominated Freeholder Daniel Sullivan of Elizabeth, as well as three first-time candidates — Plainfield City Council President Adrian Mapp, B.J. Kowalski of Cranford and John Wohlrab of Hillsdale — to run on the party's freeholder ticket.

However, additional Democratic candidates from Elizabeth will challenge for the party-line during the June 8 Democratic primary. George O'Grady, who has run for freeholder in the past, Edmund Proc-

tor, who ran for Assembly last year and Congress two years ago, and first-time candidate Wanda Santana, have been nominated by Elizabeth Councilman Robert Jaspas as challengers in the primary. Jaspas will challenge Mayor J. Christian Hollibaugh in the primary. Normally, only three freeholder seats are up for election each year. However, this year a fourth seat is open since state Sen. Nicholas Scutari, D-Lincoln, vacated his seat on the board.

Last week, Wohlrab was selected by the Union County Democratic Committee to fill Scutari's seat for the remainder of the year. Jaspas's Democratic faction has not named a fourth candidate to run for Scutari's unexpired term. Freeholders Lee Mings of Plainfield and Mary Rusbilo of Westfield will not seek re-election to a third three-year term on the freeholder board.

During their convention, Republicans decided that Paterson will challenge Wohlrab for the remaining year of Scutari's unexpired term. According to Republican by-laws, two candidates cannot hail from the same municipality and run on the same ticket. Paterson and Quattrocchi both are residents of Garwood. Choosing Paterson to go after the unexpired freeholder term, Union County Republican Committee Chairman Ron Frigerio said, was an easy decision for the committee because Paterson was very amicable.

"He didn't have a problem with it," said Frigerio. In addition to the four seats up for election on the freeholder board this year, voters will also decide who fills the county surrogate and sheriff posts. Democratic incumbents, Surrogate James LaCorle and Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, are seeking re-election. The Union County Republican Committee did not nominate a candidate for sheriff. However, the committee did nominate Mike Paragone of Westfield as the Republican candidate for surrogate. The surrogate serves a five-year term and is responsible for probating wills and appointing executors, administrators, guardians and trustees.



John Wohlrab, Republican incumbent Mike Ferguson for the congressional seat in District 9.

As far as the other congressional districts that fall within portions of Union County, Frigerio said the Republican Committee will endorse whatever Republican candidates are put forward by neighboring counties that reside within the same congressional district. Additional Democratic candidates for Congress have not been named by Jaspas.

ACROSS

- 1 Hiding half dozen
2 Deb's dance
3 'S taken up during
Lightening
4 Dash instrument,
bruffly
15 Most e-gible
16 'The Chronicles'
17 China setting
18 First man
19 Stephanie's actor
dad
20 Rapidly
23 Actress Barstyn
24 Not all generous
28 Sandwich selection
29 Acba, of Israel
33 Scott's tols
34 Plants w/in snowy
fowels
36 Send out
37 Rapidly
41 Disparage
42 On cloud nine
43 Go back on one's
word
46 Ag
47 CIA predecessor
50 Onslaught
52 Third rock from the
sun

WASTING NO TIME
Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-52.

- 7 Grazing areas
8 Reading aids
9 1962 Tommy Roe hit
10 The blue, so to
speak
11 Make public
12 B.F. connection
13 Darby, of 'Ted Grit'
21 Aho beginning
22 Isr. neighbor
25 'In Duice'
26 Agitated condition
27 President after FDR
30 Chopped
31 Connors
32 Adversary
33 Armstrong and
Sekada
34 Actually
35 Flip out
37 Same sites
38 Sisters
39 '60s Pontiac
model

ANSWERS ON PAGE B17

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET SATURDAY March 20th, 2004
FLEA MARKET SATURDAY April 3rd, 2004
FLEA MARKET SATURDAY March 26, 2004
RUMMAGE SALE FRIDAY & SATURDAY March 19th & 20th, 2004
WEDNESDAY March 31, 2004
What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations.

Circus once again proves to be truly timeless as family entertainment

For generations Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has attracted millions of fans.

While the circus can indeed transform even the most jaded grown-up...

Jason Peters commands The Beasts, incidentally, represent the largest group of performing male lions in the world.

Reid, always easy to please, enthused, "I didn't have any favorites. I liked them all."

While the show was in progress, I found him leaning forward for the clowns and the various acrobats and daredevils, notably Crazy Wilson.

And speaking of thrills and chills, both kids found themselves holding their respective breaths. For Lori, it was Crazy Wilson's act on the Wheel of Wonder, wherein the daredevil defied gravity and a few other laws of physics.

It was difficult to keep my eyes on the kids and my notebook. Because I, too, was caught up in the wonder of it all, thus proving the adage that spectators do indeed become children of all ages.

The lion, the animal lover, found herself self in her favorite act. "I have two favorites," she said. "The lions and horses," adding that "the lions were smart decks" because they sometimes chose to ignore trainer

more \$24 later. Lori had her station lion and Reid had his elephant-shaped ring from a show earlier, which was the most delicious I've ever tasted by a...

While Lori admitted that "I liked the animals more than anything else," her overall reaction was more all-encompassing. "It was the most amazing thing I've ever seen or my whole life," she said with an 11-year-old's seriousness.

Reid's rave "It was good! Good times, 100!" Parents who haven't been to the circus in a while will want to remember inflation. As with any arena event, refreshments and souvenirs abound.

Reid said that they'd be telling all their friends about their trip to the Big Top and recommending that they see it for themselves.

Reid said that the elephants would be the first thing he'd tell his class-



Troy Metzler leads his troupe of performing pachyderms through their paces in the 134th edition of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, opening tonight at Madison Square Garden.

maters about "They're cute and they looked kind of odd and crazy."

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Rio Cafe CHARCOAL GRILL
Portuguese-Spanish Specialties Seafood Steak House
20% OFF Early Bird Special on food only Mon.-Fri. 11-5:30
BUY ONE DINNER Get 2nd Dinner at 1/2 Price Mon.-Fri. 11-Closing
CATERING ON OR OFF PREMISES OPEN FOR LUNCH & DINNER MON. - SAT. 10 - 10 CLOSED SUNDAYS

March 22-28
ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may feel unappreciated by loved ones or family members this week. Banish all doubts or fears and work toward attaining your goals.

HOROSCOPE
March 22-28
ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may feel unappreciated by loved ones or family members this week.

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is prepaid and costs just \$20.00 for Essex County and just \$30.00 for both Counties.

Community Dining Guide III
Los Faroles RESTAURANT
Windsor DINER • RESTAURANT
Molly Maguire's IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT

Crescent GOLF RANGE
WE'RE OPEN
We Welcome All Our New Friends & Old Friends TO START THE SEASON WITH US!
Need a place to practice? (ALL WEATHER)
2235 Springfield Ave., Union
908-688-9767

Delaire Nursing & Convalescent Center
A Family of Caring
Providing Comprehensive Healthcare
Long Term Care
Sub Acute Transitional Care
Hospice Care
Delaire Nursing and Convalescent Center
400 W. Stimpson Avenue
Linden, NJ 07036

"The Port Authority gives people professional flight plans."
Newark Liberty International Airport generates over 110,000 on- and off-airport jobs. That's why The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and its airline partners created the Council for Airport Opportunity (CAO).

Los Faroles RESTAURANT
Spanish & International Cuisine
Banquet Facilities
624 Westfield Ave. Elizabeth
908-289-9289

plapp's
Open 7 Days for Lunch & Dinner
A certified Angus Beef Steakhouse
The tastiest, juiciest beef makes our burgers the most mouthwatering burgers around... Try One Today!

The Park Diner (Formerly The Oasis)
Homemade Cooking & Great Food
Breakfast Specials from 7:00am-11:00am
Lunch Specials from 11:00am-3:00pm
Early Bird Dinner Specials & Kids Menus

La Cucina
Casual Italian Dining
430 North Wood, Linden
908-587-2773
www.lacucina-linden.com

Open 7 Days For Lunch & Dinner
Casual Cajun Dining
Cajun Specialties Live Music On Sat.
1467 Main Street, Rahway
732-499-7100

Windsor DINER • RESTAURANT
Always Something New To Please Everyone
BLACKBOARD LUNCH SPECIALS
\$5.95 includes Soup or Tossed Salad & Beverages
Kids Night • Hot & Cold Salad Bar

IHOP
465 N Broad St. • Elizabeth
(908) 351-8633
KIDS EAT FREE
Monday through Friday
Evenings After 4:00 PM

Soreffle Restaurant
"Ultimate French Dining"
Rated "Excellent" by Zagat Survey 2003
For Food Service and Decor
A La Carte menu served daily
Private Parties Available

Polusa Night Club
NEW R&B Thursdays starting at 9:30 p.m.
Classy European Ladies, Handsome Gentlemen, Terrible music, sound, and lights! 2 dance floors, 3 bars! Classical dancing shows. Happy hour! Beer \$2.50! All the fun, all night long!

Latin Loco Sunday
Dance salsa with us! Hot, hot, hot, night at POLUSA 9:30 p.m. salsa lessons
Come with your buddies or make new friends at the POLUSA Night Club.
FREE PASS
This Friday, Saturday, or Sunday!

Molly Maguire's IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT
JOIN US FOR SUNDAY BRUNCH
FROM 11-2
FULL BUFFET INCLUDING OMELET STATION \$12.95
A La Carte Menu Also Available

Polusa Night Club
NEW R&B Thursdays starting at 9:30 p.m.
Classy European Ladies, Handsome Gentlemen, Terrible music, sound, and lights! 2 dance floors, 3 bars! Classical dancing shows. Happy hour! Beer \$2.50! All the fun, all night long!

REUNIONS

The following schools will conduct their 25-year reunion...
High School, Berkeley Heights, Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Nov. 26...

PUBLIC NOTICE

For information on any of the above reunions, write to Reunions...
High School, Berkeley Heights, Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Nov. 26...

PUBLIC NOTICE

ELIZABETH 07002, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003...

PUBLIC NOTICE

RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003...

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PUBLIC NOTICE

RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003, RAMAY 07003...

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Thursday noon. Entertainment - Friday noon. Sports - Monday noon. Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m. General - Monday 5 p.m.

NEW JERSEY UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

"IT'S OUR PLEASURE FINDING YOUR TREASURE"

"NOTICE OF NAMES OF PERSONS APPEARING TO BE THE OWNERS OF ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTY."

TO THE PERSONS LISTED BELOW, TO THE OWNERS OR BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF, OR PERSONS ENTITLED TO PERSONAL PROPERTY PRESUMED TO BE ABANDONED.

TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned has been appointed guardian of the property of the persons listed below...

Table listing names and addresses of persons whose property is presumed abandoned, including names like A. BOB, A. C. THOMAS, A. G. HARRIS, etc.

Table listing names and addresses of persons whose property is presumed abandoned, including names like ALAN, ALAN, ALAN, ALAN, ALAN, ALAN, ALAN, ALAN...

Table listing names and addresses of persons whose property is presumed abandoned, including names like ALAN, ALAN, ALAN, ALAN, ALAN, ALAN, ALAN, ALAN...

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice listings for various businesses and services, including legal notices, real estate, and professional services.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice listings for various individuals and businesses, including names and addresses.

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Public notice listings for various individuals and businesses, including names and addresses.

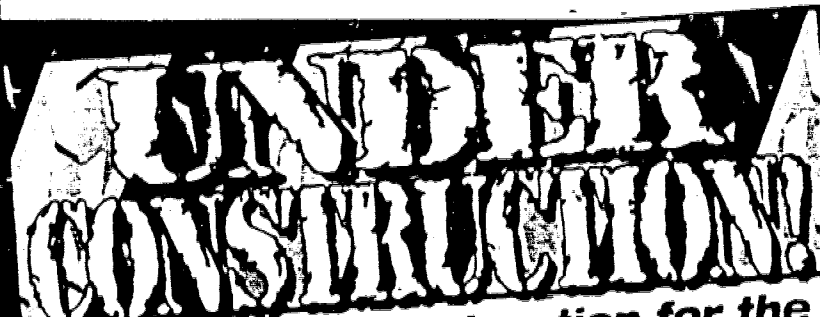
PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice listings for various individuals and businesses, including names and addresses.

Advertisement for 'Saddle Up Super Deals' featuring a horse and text: 'DON'T TAKE LESS FOR YOUR USED VEHICLE. YOU KNOW THE VALUE THAT THE VEHICLE IS WORTH. Let Us Help You With Our AUTO SPECIAL. 10 WEEKS of Exposure for \$39.00 in UNION COUNTY or 10 WEEKS of Exposure for \$59.00 in WINKON and ESSEX COUNTY. Union County Publications Essex County Publications. For More Information, Please Call The Classified Department - 1-800-564-8911'

Form for 'NEW JERSEY UNCLAIMED PROPERTY CLAIM FORM'. Includes instructions and fields for: 1. Print name and address EXACTLY as it appears in this newspaper. 2. My interest is that of: Executor/Comptroller, Guardian, Beneficiary, Attorney, or Company Official. 3. My Social Security Number is. 4. Is the address as it appears in the ad your current mailing address? Social Security Number / ID # associated with printed name. Includes checkboxes for 'Yes' and 'No'.

www.fordworldnj.com



We're Under Construction for the Next Few Months, Once the Renovations are Finished So is this Special Offer! HURRY IN!!!

Bare Bottom Deals

Spring Clean-Up SALES EVENT!!!

Grid of vehicle ads including Ford Explorer XLS 4WD, Focus LS, Taurus LX, Escape XLS 4WD, Freestar S, Expedition XLS 4WD, Silverado 1500 2WD, AVEO 5-DR, Impala LS Sedan, Malibu Sedan, and Avalanche 1500.

WE HAVE A HUGE SELECTION PRE-OWNED VEHICLES INCLUDING FORD CERTIFIED. Grid of used car listings with prices and descriptions.

Ford World advertisement with BlueOval Certified logo, Roselle Park 28, and 'Tool Belt' Saturday promotion.

LOAN & LEASE RELEASE PROGRAM NOW IN EFFECT AT UNION DEALERSHIP!



GET OUT OF YOUR NEGATIVE EQUITY AND DRIVE A BRAND NEW CHEVY!

This program allows customers to pay an '89 fee and be released from their current loan or lease when they purchase a new or used vehicle from the dealer.

NEW '04 CHEVY CAVALIER 2-DR COUPE ONLY \$7,999

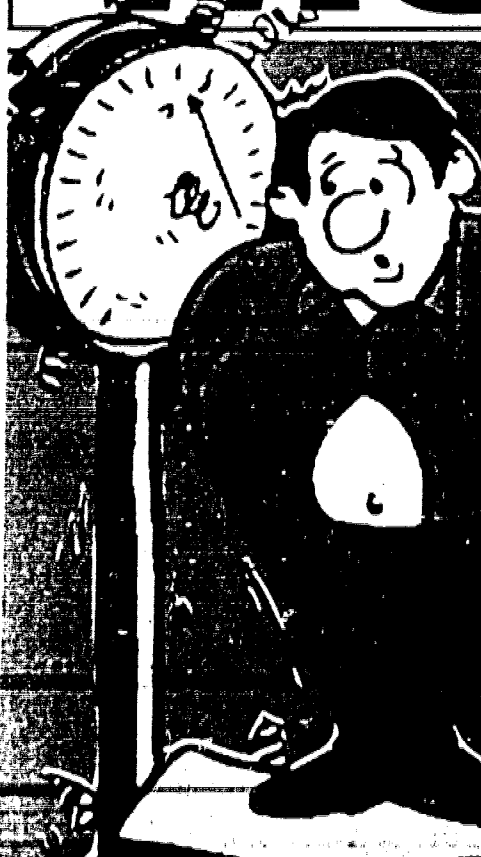
Grid of vehicle ads for Chevrolet models: New 2004 Corvette Coupe, New 2004 Trailblazer LS, New 2003 Venture LT Ext, New 2003 Express Cargo Van, New 2004 Blazer LS 4WD 2-DR, New 2004 Silverado 1500 2WD Reg-Cab, New 2004 AVEO 5-DR, New 2003 Impala LS Sedan, New 2004 Malibu Sedan, and New 2004 Avalanche 1500.

\$0 DOWN! ALL CERTIFIED VEHICLES COME WITH 6-MONTH 6,000 MILE WARRANTY

Grid of used car listings for various models including Chevy Cavalier, Chevy Express, Mercury Sable, Chevy Prizm, BMW 328i, Ford E-150, Chevy Express, Dodge Ram, Chevy Montana, and VW Passat.

Chevrolet advertisement with logo, website www.multichevrolet.com, phone number 800-287-7906, and address 2675 RT. 22W - Union, NJ 07083.

WIGDER CHEVROLET



Spring is Here... get in shape with Wigder's

LOW-DIET!

"ALL NEW" 2004 CHEVROLET AVEO 4 DR
 4 cyl. 5 spd man. p./str./brks. air. cd. \$14,406.11. VIN#48156561. MSRP \$11,990. Price Includes \$1000 Factory & \$500 Value Coupon Rebates.
SAVE OVER \$2150 OFF MSRP
\$9820
 BUY FOR

"ALL NEW" 2004 CHEVROLET MALIBU 4 DR
 4 cyl. auto. p./str./brks./winds. air. cd. \$18,497.50. VIN#48142794. MSRP \$18,995. Price Includes \$1000 Factory \$500 Value Coupon & \$750 Bonus Cash Rebates.
SAVE OVER \$675 OFF MSRP
\$15,320
 BUY FOR

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET EXPRESS 1500 CARGO VAN
 6 cyl. auto. p./str./brks. air. stereo. rr. door. fixed. gls. \$16,407.50. VIN#481182500. MSRP \$23,465. Price Includes \$2500 Factory & \$500 Value Coupon Rebates.
SAVE OVER \$6025 OFF MSRP
\$17,420
 BUY FOR

0% APR FINANCING
 AVAILABLE FOR 60 MONTHS ON SELECT VEHICLES
OR
\$4750
 UP TO **CUSTOMER CASH**
GET OUT OF YOUR GMAC LEASE UP TO 9 MONTHS EARLY!
 ASK FOR DETAILS

"ALL NEW" 2004 CHEVROLET COLORADO Z85 2 DR
 4 cyl. auto. p./str./brks. air. cd. \$16,407.50. VIN#48140829. MSRP \$18,060. Price Includes \$1000 Factory & \$500 Value Coupon Rebates.
SAVE OVER \$2625 OFF MSRP
\$15,420
 BUY FOR

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET IMPALA 4 DR
 6 cyl. auto. p./str./brks./winds. air. cd. \$16,870. VIN#49293009. MSRP \$22,670. Price Includes \$3000 Factory \$500 Value Coupon & \$750 N.E. Bonus Cash Rebates.
SAVE OVER \$580 OFF MSRP
\$16,820
 BUY FOR

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4X4 4 DR
 6 cyl. auto. p./str./ABS/winds. air. cd. lugg. rk. \$16,407.50. VIN#492315947. MSRP \$30,740. Price Includes \$3000 Factory \$500 Value Coupon & \$750 N.E. Bonus Cash Rebates.
SAVE OVER \$6925 OFF MSRP
\$23,820
 BUY FOR

IN SHAPE PRE-OWNED PRICED TO GO!!!

1999 HONDA ODYSSEY 4 DR
 6 cyl. auto. p./str./ABS/winds. air. cd. security sys. \$14,920. VIN#48140774A. VIN#48145111.

2000 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE
 8 cyl. 5 spd man. p./str./ABS/winds/seats. air. cd. health. traction ctrl. security sys. \$15,320. VIN#48140774A. VIN#48145111.

2003 VOLKSWAGEN GTI VR6 2 DR
 6 cyl. 5 spd man. p./str./ABS/winds. air. cd. security sys. \$17,520. VIN#48140774A. VIN#48145111.

1999 HONDA CIVIC LX 4 DR
 4 cyl. auto. p./str./brks. air. stereo. \$8120. VIN#48140774A. VIN#48145111.

2001 CHEVROLET MALIBU 4 DR
 4 cyl. auto. p./str./brks./winds. air. cd. security sys. \$9720. VIN#48140774A. VIN#48145111.

2001 HONDA CIVIC EX 2 DR
 4 cyl. auto. p./str./brks./winds. air. cd. security sys. \$10,720. VIN#48140774A. VIN#48145111.

2001 CHEVROLET IMPALA 4 DR
 6 cyl. auto. p./str./brks./winds. air. cd. security sys. \$10,720. VIN#48140774A. VIN#48145111.

2001 CHEVROLET TRACKER LT 4X4 4 DR
 6 cyl. auto. p./str./brks./winds. air. cd. security sys. \$11,920. VIN#48140774A. VIN#48145111.

2001 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE GLS 2 DR
 4 cyl. auto. p./str./ABS/winds. air. cd. security sys. \$13,920. VIN#48140774A. VIN#48145111.

2001 CHEVROLET EXPRESS 12 PASS VAN 4 DR
 6 cyl. auto. p./str./brks. air. stereo. \$14,520. VIN#48140774A. VIN#48145111.

2001 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LT 4X4 4 DR
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2001 CHEVROLET BLAZER LT 4 DR
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2002 NISSAN XTERRA SE 4X4 4 DR
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2003 LAND ROVER FREELANDER SE-3 AWD 2 DR
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2002 CHEVROLET AVANCHE 4X4 Z71 4 DR
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 6 cyl. auto. p./str./ABS/winds/seats. air. cd. security sys. \$21,520. VIN#48140774A. VIN#48145111.

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