

# County government debate

Are our county tax dollars spent wisely? This week, we take a contrasting look at county government and how tax dollars are spent. See our Community Forum page.

# Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD N.J., VOL. 75 NO. 39

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2004

TWO SECTIONS - 75 CENTS

## Firemen's retirement fund has no benefit for volunteers

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

A new state requirement for the Mountainside Police and Firemen Retirement Fund has brought a total of \$38,288 upon the borough's municipal budget, although none of this money benefits the all-volunteer Fire Department.

The volunteer department currently consists of about 42 members, increased by more than three times in the same number of years. The retirement fund used to be paid for by municipalities, prior to the state deciding to absorb the costs itself several years ago. Now, the budgetary item has been dropped on municipalities, forcing upon them a certain amount of budgetary increases, depending on the necessity of the departments.

In Mountainside, the money goes solely toward the retirement of police officers, as volunteers for the Fire Department do not factor into the bill. The amount is based upon starting and payrolls and is considered a combined fund for both departments where applicable.

While Mountainside has always had a volunteer Fire Department, it was not until three years ago that it began to grow in numbers in an effort

to provide the community with greater service.

In 2001, the department had roughly 12 members. With a recruitment program that has helped increase personnel, the department is now staffed well, though members are still volunteers who are not available full-time.

"We talked about that when the staffing level hit an all-time low," Mayor Robert Vighanti said of looking into having a full-time, paid department for the borough.

Vighanti said that the costs would be astronomical to hire a full-time staff for a borough that doesn't necessarily need one.

With mutual aid being supplied by Westfield and Springfield and the infrequency of fires seen in the borough is just as to how beneficial, he said it is unclear as to how beneficial a full-time staff would be.

Firefighter George Urban said he has seen staffing rise since the low was reached, and he attributes it, at least in part, to the World Trade Center attacks that became the center of impact in 2001. Urban felt that the impact those events had on the public inspired citizens to join the department and contribute to their community in any way possible.

Vighanti said that in response to anyone who is critical of the Fire Department's capabilities and availability, he would tell them to join the staff and help out.

The mayor was unhappy with the state's handling of out-of-control taxes, asking "Why Trenton can't go away for five years and leave municipalities alone?"

Vighanti also said that New Jersey government is being hypocritical, as Gov. James McGreevey said that "we have to find a way to lower property taxes, but, in the meantime, the state is the cause for rising budgetary items concerning libraries and recycling centers."

As for the retirement fund, the current bill is only 20 percent of what needs to be paid over the next five years. In other words, close to \$200,000 will be paid overall by 2009.

"It's got to stop," said Vighanti of the state's stronghold on controlling the budgets of municipalities. "We don't know how."

Another state-imposed increase in this year's municipal budget is \$49,000 for the public library budget as a result of the state's new formula for the way local municipalities fund libraries.

## A quality spring cleaning

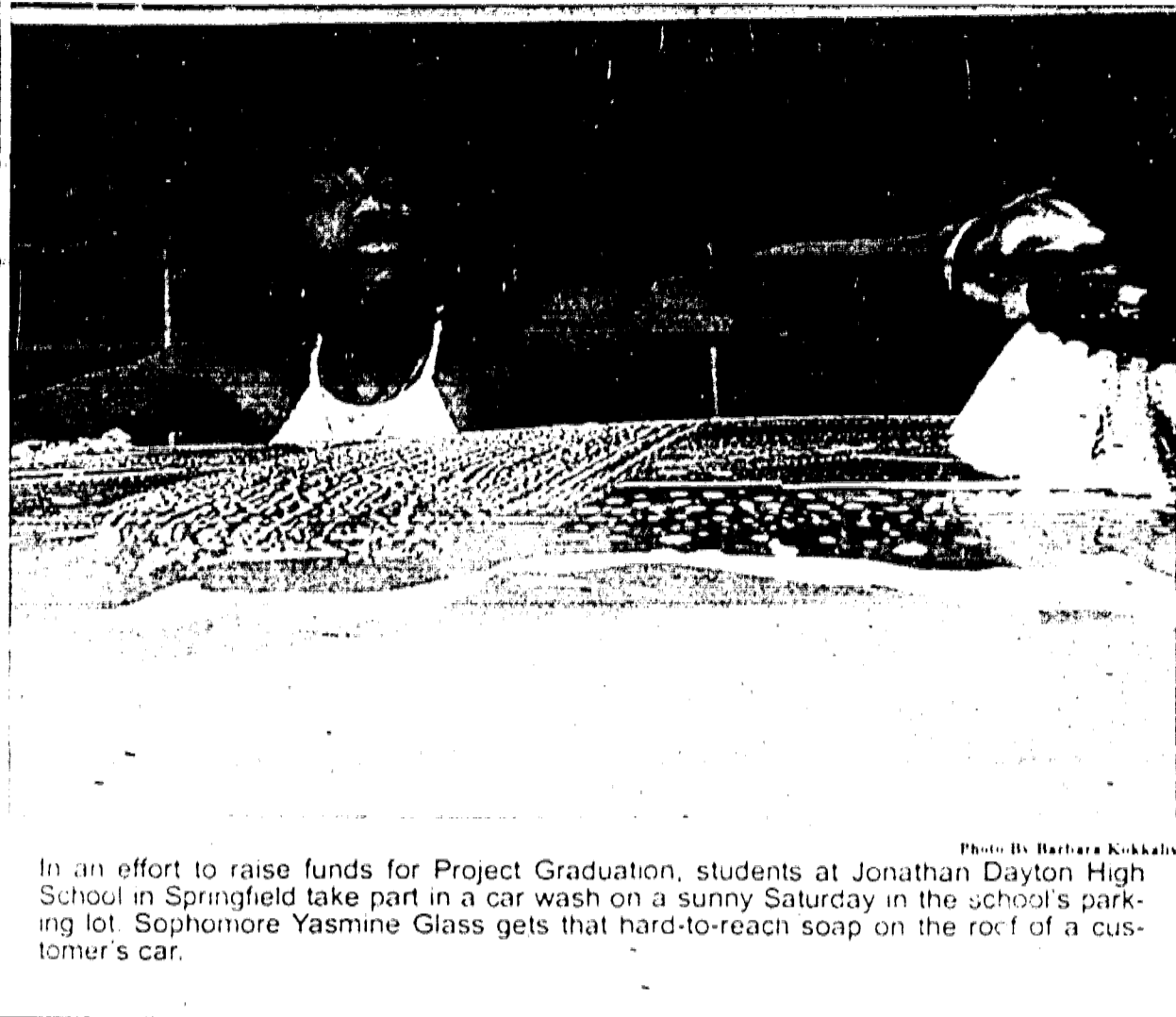


Photo By Barbara Kukkala

In an effort to raise funds for Project Graduation, students at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield take part in a car wash on a sunny Saturday in the school's parking lot. Sophomore Yasmine Glass gets that hard-to-reach soap on the roof of a customer's car.

## Township adds four firefighters

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

Four probationary firefighters were sworn into the Springfield Fire Department at the May 11 Township Committee meeting, helping the level of staffing climb to what town officials feel is a much more adequate level.

"The addition of four firefighters is important in the community at large because it means there will be more firefighters to respond to an emergency," said Mayor Clara Harelik.

The firefighters — Brian Schmitt, Victor Kostin, Michael Mastroeni and Alejandro Colatruoglio — help the Fire Department's staff reach the mid-20s, a number slightly higher than the one that has been recognized by township employees and the public in the past.

In a March 24 letter to Springfield residents from the High Point Group of Insurance Companies, among other insurance companies, policyholders were informed that because of a poor rating given to the Fire Department by Insurance Services Office, premiums would increase for homeowners' fire insurance. Cited as one of the major reasons for this rating was a lack of manpower.

As township officials fight the rating, which they deem to be unfair and based on either a lack of information or wrong information, the addition of four firefighters will certainly be a factor in changing the rating of 10, the worst on a scale of one to 10.

Each fireman is a little bit safer, because there's another body backing them up," said Harelik, noting that the two-in, two-out rule that concerns how many firefighters are needed on the



The Springfield Township Committee welcomes four new firefighters to serve Springfield during an induction ceremony that includes, from left, deputy Fire Chief Donald Schwerdt, Michael Mastroeni, Alejandro Colatruoglio, Mayor Clara Harelik, Brian Schmitt, Victor Kostin

scene for a residential entrance to be made, not including times when a life is in danger.

"I've been the longest advocate on the Township Committee of hiring more firemen," said Committeeman Sy Mullman, adding that this is a long time coming. Mullman said that the committee knows the town has been short-handed.

"It gives us more people on the firegrounds," said Fire Chief William Gras, who noted that on Saturday, an apartment fire in Springfield was put out immediately with the help of having a higher number of men on the scene.

"Mutual aid came and it was already out," said Gras of the fire. "It's

definitely a value to the department to have extra men on the sight. The benefit has already been proven. It's definitely a plus to the community."

Two officers will also be sworn into the township's Police Department at Tuesday night's meeting, as well. With one officer already being sworn in in January, and another that should be sworn in by July at the latest, there will be four new officers by the end of summer.

"As a whole, it helps us have a safer community," said Harelik of the additional firefighters and police officers. "It's a much more positive deterrent to crime and fire. This will give them more time for pre-planning and prevention."

Mullman said that along with helping the community receive better service, a significant cut can be made in overtime costs being done by members of both departments.

"Overtime needs reduction," said Mullman, who also made mention of promotions that will begin to be awarded to certain members of the departments, as well.

"At this time, we've hired four new firefighters and we'll want to see what the future holds," said Harelik regarding whether or not more firefighters will be hired.

"It's a preventive and proactive way to ensure better safety for the community," she said of the additional staff members.

## Cost report pending for community center

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

Mayor Robert Vighanti gave an update concerning Mountainside's proposed community center Tuesday night, invoking several comments from residents present at the Borough Council meeting.

Vighanti explained that the hired architect is currently meeting with 20 to 25 groups and organizations from around the borough to assess the needs of the department.

The process should be over at the end of the month, when the architect will report back to the council.

"Then, we will do a full presentation to the general audience," said Vighanti, adding that during that meeting, cost figures of construction, maintenance and staffing will be estimated. This meeting would come after the summer, said Vighanti.

"I think he's handled it very well," said Recreation Director Sue Winans of the architect who is running the meetings. "I'm very impressed."

Winans added that organizations opposed to the community center are still meeting with the architect to discuss certain items.

"We're trying to be as inclusionary as possible," she said.

When the community center was questioned by one resident, Vighanti suggested that on the November election ballot, a referendum can be asked as to whether or not the center should be built for a certain amount of money.

Vighanti said that a copy of the costs involved with the project would be sent to residents prior to the election, consisting of facts and figures about the costs to build the center, what it costs for taxes, and what the yearly costs minus the yearly revenue would be.

While the referendum item would be non-binding, Vighanti said that he doesn't know if the council would go against popular opinion of the public.

Resident Scott Schmedel said that one of the problems with the center lies in the amount of input the community is receiving from the council and others who are helping the project move along.

The committee overseeing the plans consists of three councilmen and four township employees. Schmedel said that there should be at least four people representing the public on the committee.

In response, Councilman Paul Mirabelli said that the council and committee has moved at the right pace.

"We have not gone too far, too fast," he said.

"All we've done is put something before the community and said that we want to know what you want."

One resident who has an 11-year-old son and is active in both the basketball and youth baseball programs in the borough noted the importance of having recreation space, saying that the 11 teams that made up the basketball league shared one gym at Deerfield School and received an hour of practice each week, at the most.

The resident said that he noticed the need for a community center when he moved to the borough almost 10 years ago, and that it's only become more apparent.

For now, Vighanti said that the meetings with the organizations around the borough will bring them to the next step of determining estimated costs.

The Bambi Tract, located between the Community Pool and the 7-11 on Mountain Avenue is the proposed site.

## Springfield school board to decide on funding for grad education

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

A group of five teachers from James Caldwell School in Springfield went before the Board of Education at its last meeting to update members on the effectiveness of a graduate program they are currently participating in to earn their master's degrees.

Kendra Kinney, Steve Griffiths, Michael Abbate, Laura Beller and Dave Campbell have been going to graduate school — without actually going to graduate school.

Marygrove College offers a program in which a group of teachers can study educational techniques together, using video and audio recordings to display the application of what they learn and discuss.

"The Marygrove College Program is somewhat unique from other college programs that

we've seen," said Assistant Superintendent Judy Zimmerman, adding that it provides for a much more active environment.

The purpose of the presentation was to give board members a chance to decide whether or not they will put money toward the graduation education of the teachers. Currently, they are getting their master's degrees through the program prior to the board's approval. The board will also have to decide if the online college program will result in credit for the teachers' master's degrees.

If teachers get credit for earning their masters through the program, an increase in salary is standard. It is the board's policy to first approve any collegiate or long-distance learning program prior to giving a staff member credit toward a degree.

The teachers previously came before the

board to introduce the master's program as a pilot project. Currently, they are about two semesters into the unique educational format.

"It's made me realize why I wanted to be a teacher in the first place," said Kinney, a second-grade teacher who spoke about the school's credentials and benefits of the program itself.

"Being that this is distance learning, people may assume it's done by typing responses or e-mail," said Griffiths, a physical education teacher. Griffiths explained that the group uses videos, books, and study guides, doing work on an everyday basis. "It's very accelerated and very intense," he said. The program calls for group discussions based on books and study guides to be taped and listened to by a mentor.

The discussions are free flowing and

require active participation by the entire group. While there are grades given out concerning the cooperative effort of all five teachers, individual marks are also earned through papers and other assignments.

"You can't do one thing and forget about it," said Griffiths, comparing the graduate program to primary college. "It's all theory and practical, step-by-step."

A first-grade teacher, Abbate said that as a second-grader with peers that are also beginning their careers, there's certainly a comfort felt in not having to plan around actually attending classes on campus.

"There was such an overload in college, it's tough to apply in the classroom," he said. Abbate said that the mentor calls the group to validate their group study sessions, as well.

"We really do have lively discussions in the

study group," said Campbell, a third-grade teacher. "We can clear things up for each other using concrete examples from within the school." The program also asks for videotapes of techniques being applied in the actual classroom of the students.

Among the techniques described at the board meeting include getting every student involved and keeping their attention, as well.

"It's really opened my eyes to a whole new way of teaching and looking at students," said Beller, a foreign language teacher, adding that other students in the program are from surrounding municipalities, such as Mount Olive, Morristown, and Union. The next step in the process is for the proposal to be looked at more closely by the School Governing Committee, and then the school board will decide whether or not the program will be approved for credit on



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News releases:
News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week.

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

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Public notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers.

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Township closes recycling depot

Springfield Mayor Clara Harelik announced that the Township of Springfield Recycling Depot, located by the Department of Public Works garage on Center Street, is now permanently closed.

With the depot shut down, less money will be spent maintaining it, and DPW workers will previously spend long hours cleaning everything up will now be free for other duties.

Newark man arrested by police

Troy Johnson, 34, of Newark was arrested for contempt of court in Mountaineer at Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East at 11:02 a.m. on May 6.

A theft was reported in the Bally's Total Fitness locker room at Route 22 East on May 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Cedeno was stopped by officers at the Union County Police Department and found to be the subject of an outstanding warrant for \$240.

Among the items stolen from a locker were a cell phone, pants, a shirt, a jacket, and a wallet with \$300 in cash, plus a drivers' license, registration, Visa debit card, checkbook, two sets of car keys, a Bally's card and a Costco card.

Lightning strikes trigger fire alarms throughout borough

On Saturday at 10:59 p.m., Mountaineer firefighters responded to an activated fire alarm at Children's Specialized Hospital on New Providence Road.

The homeowner was advised to contact an electrician to make the necessary repairs to the fire alarm system.

On May 11 at 9:34 p.m., firefighters responded to an activated carbon monoxide detector alarm located at a Park Slope residence.

At 4:14 p.m. on Saturday, firefighters responded to an activated fire alarm at a restaurant located on Route 22 East.

On May 12 at 4:58 p.m., firefighters responded to an activated fire alarm at a restaurant located on Route 22 East.

At 9:30 p.m. May 12, firefighters responded to an activated Central Station fire alarm at a restaurant located on Route 22 East.

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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 conclude its Spring International Film Festival at 10:00 and 6:45 p.m.

Saturday
The Springfield street fair will take place along Mountain Avenue from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., featuring a wide range of activities and events.

Tuesday
A public hearing on the Springfield municipal budget and tax resolution will be held in the committee room of the Municipal Building.

Wednesday
Mountaineer Free Public Library, Constitution Plaza, will offer spring reading programs for children with stories and nursery rhymes.

Thursday
The Westfield Regional Health Department announced today that they will cooperate with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Friday
Trail users across the country can celebrate National Trails Day with a guided nature walk along a hiking trail at Trailside Nature & Science Center.

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

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Land of Oz comes alive at Deerfield

The wondrous story of the Land of Oz came back again at the Deerfield School in Mountaineer.

The play was directed by music teacher Peggy Valente, head of the Children's Theater at Deerfield School, and her enthusiasm was contagious.

Watching the rehearsal was Jill Giannone, the mom of the "Tinman" and she had actually made her costume, it was amazing and glowing.

The Westfield Regional Health Department announced today that they will cooperate with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally when uranium breaks down in the soil and rock formations.

High radon levels are associated with a greater risk of lung cancer. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking.

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The cast of 'Oz' get into character for their performance at Deerfield School in Mountaineer. They are, from front left: Sara Hoffman, 10, as Dorothy; Samantha Schranck, 11, as Glinda the Good Witch; Alyssa Giannone, 11, as the Tinman; Sean Hahner, 9, as the Scarecrow; Jackie Wells, 9, as the Lion; Patrick Eichner, 11, as Oz and Danielle Fine, 11, striking a menacing pose as the Wicked Witch.

Something about putting on the costumes brought the idea home to the actors and everyone did their thing with confidence and talent.

When asked how she pulled the entire cast together for this production, Valente just laughed and said, "I don't know, but I had lots of help as well."

Levels of radon in the home. In about half of the homes that have been mitigated in New Jersey, radon levels have been brought down to less than 1 pCi/L.

For communities participating in the ERAP, the DEP Radon Section provides the local Health Department with radon informational materials, and funds for free test kits, to support local outreach initiatives.

The Health Department will offer free test kits on a first-come, first-served basis for residents of Fairwood, Garwood, Mountaineer, Roselle Park, Springfield and Westfield. Test their homes in a matter of providing information materials to educate

homeowners on the hazards of radon and ways to correct it. Here is the truly "safe" level of radon, since lung cancer can result from very low exposures to radon. However, the risk decreases as the radon concentration decreases.

For information, call the DEP Radon Section at 800-645-0394 or online at www.radon.org or the Westfield Regional Health Department at 908-780-4070.

5th street fair comes to town

The Springfield Street Fair and Craft Show will take place on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Mountain Avenue from Morris Avenue to the Jonathan Dayton High School.

This year's event will feature approximately 100 artists, crafters, and vendors from the tri-state area and beyond. In addition, there will be inflatable rides for children, as well as pony rides and a petting zoo.

Food vendors will sell hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, steaks, sausage as well as desserts and beverages. For information, visit www.StreetsFair.org or call 908-684-1400.

The portion of Morris and Mountain Avenue will be closed from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Residents who live along the closed section of Mountain Avenue may park their vehicles in Township Lot 1 on Hanna Street during the street fair without the need to use the parking meter for that day.

"No Parking" signs will be posted along Mountain Avenue the night before the event and they will remain in effect until the event is over and the street is reopened.

Tickets were \$5 each and \$20 for seniors, if a family of four or more came together, \$20 covered all of them. All proceeds were to go to the Children's Theater.

As we go to press, the play has not happened yet, but this production had all the earmarks of total success already. The Children's Theater deserves all the support it can get.

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Union Center National Bank advertisement featuring interest rates (2.75%, 3.10%, 4.00% APR) and a large image of a man in a suit.

Kearny Federal Savings advertisement featuring mortgage rates, a 'SOLD' sign, and the slogan 'The right mortgage is right here.'



COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Enforcement is key

Speeding is an issue that affects just about every municipality in New Jersey, and particularly, suburban residential communities such as Springfield and Mountainside.

Once again, speeding issues have been raised at public meetings from residents in both towns who feel concerned and frustrated regarding the continued occurrence of speeding. The stories and incidents are often similar to one another, despite coming from different people in different towns.

In Springfield, residents have spoken at public meetings about the need to deter speeders on Evergreen Avenue. According to one resident, drivers use the street to avoid a traffic light. On Temple Drive, complaints have risen about people not only driving too fast but being unnecessarily distracted while they were doing it.

In Mountainside, New Providence Road, Birch Hill Road and Wood Valley have shared the brunt of speeders, particularly with the opening of Beechwood School and parents rushing to drop off their children.

While suggestions of placing additional speed limit signs and stop signs and installing speed bumps and rumble strips were raised at recent meetings, the real solution is one of enforcement and extra police presence, particularly in Springfield.

When speed limits are not enforced on busy roads such as Mountain and Morris avenues in Springfield, it makes little sense to provide extra signage on residential side streets when what's really needed is more police cars. Most people driving greater than the speed limit will slow down when they see a police car. If this is coupled with a speed monitor device, and relentlessly enforced, speeding will be reduced drastically.

Speed bumps provide an unnecessary burden on motorists who do not speed, and rumble strips are not only an eyesore but a noisy nuisance. What needs to change is not the beauty and character of the street, but the behavior of the people who drive on it.

The trouble is, tickets need to be given before drivers awaken and realize what they are doing. People who speed really are putting pedestrians and other drivers at risk and pose a deadly threat to the safety of the community. Getting tough on ticketing is the only way to ensure that these streets are safe.

Street Fair is set

Springfield's fifth annual Street Fair and Craft Show is set for Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., along Mountain and Morris avenues.

The event, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, features approximately 100 artists, crafters and vendors from the tri-state area and beyond. This represents a great way to support a community event, complete with children's events that include a petting zoo and inflatable rides and lots of food. For information about the day's events, call 908-654-1400.

Capturing victory

Governor Livingston High School has more reasons to be proud of their school's sports teams. The GLHS boys track team recently captured the Mountain Valley Conference Championships at Ridge High School in Basking Ridge. GLHS outscored Ridge 27-8, 8-5.

The outstanding performance of Dartmouth-bound senior Mike Carmody garnered the GLHS boys team its first title. Carmody won three events, capturing the 800-meter run in a meet record time of 1:53.9. Carmody was also first in the 400-meter run in 49.1.

Another recent success came when the GLHS boys lacrosse team defeated visiting West Orange 13-5 for its eighth victory. Andrew Egan netted five goals and assisted in two others, while Sam Goodspeed and Brian Arrigoni found the back of the net twice each. GLHS also blanked Oratory Prep 15-0 the day before in Berkeley Heights, where Egan scored eight goals and had one assist.

For track and lacrosse, sports that often get less attention than others, these accomplishments show that GLHS has a strong and vital athletics program that is dedicated to helping students succeed.

Our policy on letters and columns

The Echo Leader welcomes submissions from its readers. Letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

This opportunity also is open to all residents, officials and employees of the both Springfield and Mountainside and County of Union.

The Echo Leader reserves the right to edit submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. Letters must be no more than 500 words long; longer pieces must be arranged in advance with the editor.



SKILLS THAT SAVE LIVES While the American Heart Association only requires CPR recertification once every two years, the Springfield Volunteer First Aid Squad asks all its members to recertify annually to keep skill levels high. During a recent squad class, instructor Jeff Shanes is shown with his son Matthew and squad members Marsha Krupit and Shelley Gornstein as they discuss an obstructed airway maneuver on a teaching mannequin.

A dime on the dollar? Something's wrong

Editor's note: Last month, we invited Union County Manager George Devaney and Summit Councilwoman P. Kelly Hatfield to discuss the findings of Summit's task force on county taxes. The only requirement was a limit of 600 words.

"A dime on the dollar" is the amount of tax dollars that Union County returns to the City of Summit in the form of services according to a special task force convened by the Summit Common Council in November 2002. The bipartisan committee over a 15-month period to investigate the taxes paid to Union County and to gather historical and financial data as well as reviewing what services are needed from the county.

The task force found that less than 10 percent of the city's county tax dollars are returned to the community. For example, in 2002 the City of Summit sent \$18.7 million tax dollars to Union County government and received back approximately \$1.7 million in services. In addition, while Summit represents 4 percent of Union County's population, we pay 11 percent of the county's tax levy.

The task force also investigated the general growth of county government and found that over the past three years, the county tax rate has grown 34 percent. Faster than the school tax rate which increased 22 percent and our municipal tax rate which increased 14 percent. This is obviously of great concern to families, seniors and taxpayers who struggle every day to make ends meet.

Statewide, counties consume on average 20 percent of the total property tax bill. Over the last decade Summit residents send on average 30 percent of their property tax dollars to Union County. While the Union County manager, George Devaney, points to the rate of growth in the Summit school budget, we know that 100 percent of those dollars are dedicated to Summit's burgeoning school-age population. With county tax dollars, we get very little return.

In addition to the tax dollars that the city sends Union County for its operating and capital budget, Summit also sends over \$750,000 for the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. While Summit

Point of View

By P. Kelly Hatfield

I strongly support the original concept of the open-space survey, the task force questions some of the county's recent proposals such as the development of a children's museum, the redevelopment of the Union County Arts Center in Rahway and the funding of athletic scholarships for school children with open-space dollars.

In its report, the task force recognized the need for the more fortunate communities of New Jersey to help those less fortunate, but questioned if property taxes should be used for this purpose especially when those tax dollars are not always well spent. The task force identified several areas where redundant, overlapping and inefficient services exist.

Further, the task force explored the inequities in taxation which treats New Jersey residents differently. For example, if Summit were to join Morris County, the average homeowner's tax bill would be reduced by \$1,507, saving the city's residents over \$10 million. Voters in Millburn, Montclair and Roseland have expressed their frustration at the polls searching for better taxation by supporting referendums to secede from Essex County.

Many of the issues raised by the task force go beyond Summit and Union County. With 21 possible options for action listed in the report, the task force believes that real property tax reform is possible by looking at redundancies and inefficiencies at all levels of government. That is why last week, three members of the task force traveled to Trenton to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 443, sponsored by state Sen. Tom Kean Jr., to study the effectiveness of county government. Something is seriously wrong when your government takes a dollar and returns a dime.

A Republican, P. Kelly Hatfield is a member of the Summit Common Council.

Philosophical differences in providing services

Point of View

By George Devaney

There is a profound philosophical difference between the authors of the Summit report, and the county administration who have defended the ideals of progressive government. For example:

"We believe it is important to provide vital health services at Runnells Hospital for our families."

"We believe it is important to provide a prescription drug plan."

"We believe it is important to provide transportation, educational programs, and activities for our seniors."

"We believe it is important to provide educational opportunities at Union County College, our vocational-technical schools, and computers and recreational opportunities for our children."

"We believe it is important to fight to preserve Union County's last great open spaces for future generations."

"We believe it is important to support our Union County prosecutor, the sheriff and county police in the crackdown on crime."

A review of the Summit report suggests the elimination of many of these important, fundamental, human needs that touch our constituent's lives daily. The document also ignores Summit's own fiscal problems, instead choosing to point fingers at county government. The report did not note we have been able to make great strides into improving our finances, maintaining our bond rating and positioning the county for continued growth.

In contrast, the Summit committee did a disservice by failing to examine its own tax structure in an unbiased manner. One area the committee could have examined is Summit's school taxes. Since 1994, school taxes have gone up 61 percent, while school debt has skyrocketed 146 percent. This committee glossed over this particular issue.

It can be argued that New Jersey's property tax system is burdensome and inherently flawed. Our tax system is not something which Union County created, nor are its problems unique to Union County, the state or our nation. If Summit were to join Morris County the same problems would persist. A review of the Abstract of Tax Rates shows Summit would rank No. 2 among Morris County towns in

taxes paid to that county, again setting up a similar scenario.

The committee did not employ the use of objective resources, nor involve any governmental experts outside of its own employees in reaching these conclusions. A true committee would have brought in expertise from think tanks, organizations that examine governmental efficiency, local universities, rather than rubberstamp Wally Long's handpicked committee.

The report undervalues the 63 acres of open space in Summit the county preserved by purchasing the American Water Company property. This is land that would have been developed, adding strain to Summit's already aging infrastructure.

Finally, the report contains an inherent bias toward Union County's urban areas. It does not take into account the burden borne by Union County's urban areas, which provide the jobs, industry and government base.

For example, Elizabeth houses the county seat and the prison complex. Linden will house the juvenile detention center, and Rahway is home to the resource recovery facility. One wonders if Summit would be willing to accept the same?

Locally, I have met with current Mayor Jordan Glatt and we have opened a dialogue on how we can work together to provide services to Summit.

Already, our meetings have resulted in a massive resurfacing, intersection and traffic signal improvement plan for Summit's downtown. This type of dialogue was not possible with the former mayor and his authors of the Summit report, who engaged in divisive rhetoric and diversionary tactics. We look forward to a brighter future.

A Democrat, George Devaney is the Union County manager.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Annual variety revue benefits us all

To the Editor: The Mountainside Education Foundation held its fifth annual Variety Revue on Friday, April 30, at Deerfield School. There was a special dedication that evening in honor and memory of Dawn Casulli who passed away in January of this year. In fact, the Mountainside Education Foundation dedicated the fifth annual Variety Revue and all future revues to the memory of Dawn Casulli.

As a participant and an attendee of the revue I would like to personally thank Laura Kaplan and Jeannette Maratti for their dedication and hard work. It definitely is a great night and it's especially fun to see all the talented children take those steps onto the stage and perform.

I congratulate the performers for a job well done. I would also like to take the opportunity to ask that the residents of Mountainside, our elected officials and the teachers of Deerfield and Beechwood Schools come out and attend this event and support the annual variety revue. Our children benefit greatly from the funds that the Mountainside Education Foundation raises and this event should be something that we all come out for, not just the handful of people who attend year after year.

With increased attendance and additional monies raised, the Education Foundation can provide a wider range of services and programs for our children. Gary W. Whyte Mountainside

In the name of safety, slow down

To the Editor: Along with other concerned citizens, I recently attended a Borough Council meeting to discuss the issue of speeding in Mountainside. As a resident of Wood Valley Road, a mother, and an avid walker, my concern has been ongoing for over a decade. Since my street is a cut-through to the Deerfield School and ball fields, it is by nature busier than most streets in the borough. Birch Hill Road is in a similar position and experiences the same problem, as many residents present at the council meeting would attest.

The mayor assured us that an aggressive plan of action would be put into place. He was true to his word. Both the mayor and Chief of Police James Debie have seriously responded to our concerns. I appreciated the patrolmen each and every time I see them on my street. I also realize that they cannot and should not have to be permanently positioned in any one given area. I am therefore calling on the good citizens of Mountainside to slow down, not just Wood Valley Road, but on all streets in the borough. Please, glance occasionally at your speedometers.

Better a child get to school or practice a few moments later than experience a horrible, preventable tragedy. Please, in the name of safety for children of all ages, slow down!

Linda Condrito Mountainside

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Visit www.localsource.com, the best source for community information.

Respond to letters and columns that appear on our Community Forum pages and take part in discussion of local issues each week.

Send e-mail to editorial@thelocalsource.com

Springfield Pool sets registration procedures for upcoming season

The Springfield Community Pool has established 2004 registration procedures. Springfield residents must register for a season membership. Springfield residents are also prohibited from entering the pool site as a daily guest.

Members are asked to bring or mail in the following to the Recreation Office: Completed 2004 application form; 2003 pool photo I.D. card; Personal check or money order, cash is unacceptable; Proof of residence, i.e., valid driver's license or voter registration card. A photocopy is acceptable for mail-in registration only.

For mail-in registration only, include a self-addressed stamped envelope. New applicants must register in person in order to take a photo I.D. and produce the proper proof required for the desired class of membership. Any adult or child without a valid photo I.D. will be charged an additional \$10 for a new card.

In person or mail-in registration is accepted at the Springfield Recreation Department, 30 Church Mall, Springfield, NJ 07081. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday.

Special registration dates and times are from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday and from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The pool will open May 29 and each weekend thereafter until June 21, when the pool will open every day until Sept. 6.

Pool hours are weekends, May 29, 30, 31; June 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Starting June 26, weekend holiday hours will be 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Weekdays, the pool is open from noon to 8 p.m.

A child must be 4 years of age by membership application information includes the following:

Family - Permanent residents, husband, wife and all unmarried children up to and including the age of 22, who reside within the same household. Family (Caregiver) - A caregiver should be someone who provides special care to an individual within the family and the caregiver must be 16 years of older.

The caregiver must provide proof of age as well as verification of employment signed by both the employer and employee.

Joint membership will be available to any two persons residing in the same household. One member must be an adult.

Individual - Any permanent resident between the ages of 21 and 61 and not a member of a family group.

Senior citizen - Any permanent resident who is 62 years or older. Proof of age is required for new members.

Nonresident - These memberships are accepted on a limited basis only. Pool membership rates are Family, Resident \$275; Nonresident \$395; Family (Caregiver), Resident \$325; Nonresident \$465; Joint Membership, Resident \$230; Nonresident \$330; Individual, Resident \$185; Nonresident \$265; Senior Citizen Individual, Resident \$80; Nonresident \$115; Senior Citizen Married, Resident \$140; Nonresident \$215.

Daily guest fees for nonmembers only are Monday through Friday, adult \$7, children \$5; Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, adult \$8, children \$6.

A pool member must accompany guests into the pool. The Springfield Community Pool Day Camp program is also accepting registration.

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STUDENT UPDATE

Barocas earns BA from Muhlenberg College

Tiffany Barocas, daughter of Pamela and Jack Barocas of Springfield, received a bachelor of arts degree in business administration...



Tiffany Barocas

Mack joins New Jersey All State Choir

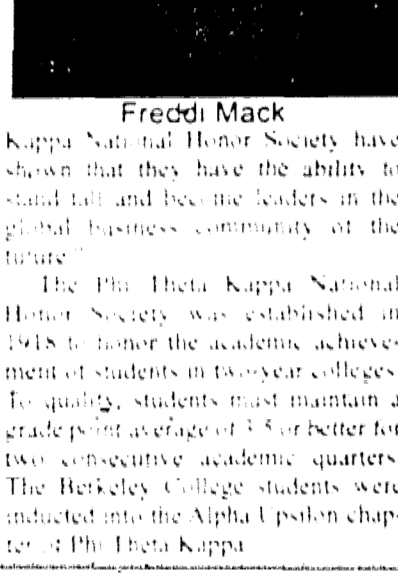
Governor Livingston High School senior and Mountainside resident Freddy Mack has been accepted into the prestigious New Jersey All State Choir...



Freddy Mack

Compton helps mates tap their way to victory

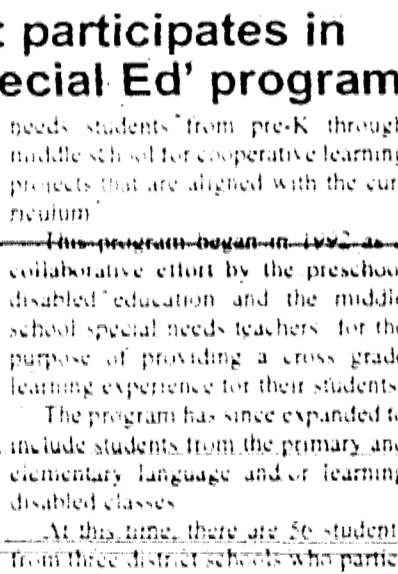
Shannon Compton of Mountainside and her classmates at Cindy Smith Dance Studios tapped their way to victory at the National Dance Showcase...



Shannon Compton

Ficchi joins Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Kappa National Honor Society has chosen that they have the ability to stand tall and be the leaders in the global business community...



Joseph Ficchi

Springfield district participates in 'Innovations in Special Ed' program

Springfield public schools participated in the third annual Innovations in Special Education program...

The program has since expanded to include students from the primary and elementary language and/or learning disabled classes...

At this time, there are 26 students from three district schools who participate in the Friends Across Springfield program...

Hospital partners with WB-11 for golf classic

Children's Specialized Hospital has announced a special partnership with WB-11 for a golf classic...

Since its inception in 1991, the WB-11 Golf for Kids has granted more than \$5 million to outstanding non-profit organizations in the tri-state area...

Harmony Dancers conduct election

Harmony Dancers conducted their annual election of officers at their May first square dance...

For information, call Legal 973-476-3001

Holy Trinity conducts 'State of the School'

On April 26, Holy Trinity Inter-parochial School conducted its inaugural 'State of the School' evening for parents...

Msgr. Bill Harris of St. Helen's spoke about the Archbishop's strategic plan for schools and how this applies to schools at the local level...

Msgr. Joseph J. Massella of Holy Trinity Parish thanked parents for their participation in the evening and said, "We are a family, a family in progress..."

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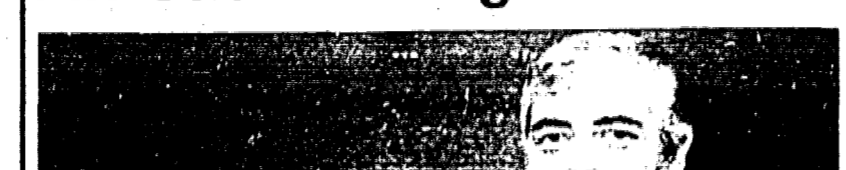
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An outstanding volunteer



Union County Freeholder Dan Sullivan presents John Hermann of Mountainside with a resolution honoring him as a recipient of the 2004 Volunteer Recognition Award...

John Hermann, 66, of Mountainside, is a member of the Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Mountainside, and was a member of the Rosary Altar Society of the church...

Surviving are a son, Joseph, a daughter, Joan Fischer, a sister, Rose Guinza, six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Surviving are his wife, Shirley, a son, Joel, and a daughter, Wendy Slepian.

Surviving are two sisters, Jan Mojzila and Demetra Noll.

Surviving are a son, Ken, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Surviving are his wife, Sylvia, a daughter, Debbie Stern, a son, Andrew, and a grandchild.

Surviving are a son, Joseph, a daughter, Joan Fischer, a sister, Rose Guinza, six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

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Surviving are his wife, Shirley, a son, Joel, and a daughter, Wendy Slepian.

Helen Zimmermann

Helen Zimmermann, 77, of Mountainside died April 28 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Irvington, Mrs. Zimmermann lived in Newark before moving to Mountainside 46 years ago.

Surviving are a son, Ken, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Surviving are his wife, Sylvia, a daughter, Debbie Stern, a son, Andrew, and a grandchild.

Surviving are a son, Joseph, a daughter, Joan Fischer, a sister, Rose Guinza, six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

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Surviving are a son, Ken, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

OBITUARIES

Born in Haynes, Mrs. Stein lived in Jersey City and Hillside before moving to Springfield 13 years ago.

Surviving are two daughters, Elyse Zois and Julie Barnstein, a son, Jaci, and four grandchildren.

Surviving are her husband, Mitchell, a son, Marc, her parents, Howard and Jane Newman, and a brother, Andrew Newman.

Surviving are a son, Ken, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Surviving are his wife, Sylvia, a daughter, Debbie Stern, a son, Andrew, and a grandchild.

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Surviving are two sisters, Jan Mojzila and Demetra Noll.

OBITUARIES

Hoffmann lived in Summit before moving to Hilton Head Island. He was president of Personnel Placements and vice president of Office Genes in Morristown before retiring.

Surviving are her husband, Mitchell, a son, Marc, her parents, Howard and Jane Newman, and a brother, Andrew Newman.

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Day Camps 2004. Swimming • Ceramics • Crafts • Computers • Games. Sports Clinics • Outdoor Activities • Health Lunch Included. Staffed by Professional Teachers.

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# Lectures examine Jewish issues

The Hasidic Chapter of Temple Beth Am, of Temple Drive, Springfield, is the recipient of a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, to support a three-part lecture series titled "Landmark Ideas that Shaped Jewish Life in Our Times."

The distinguished lecturers are members of the faculty of Yeshiva University in Union. The next program on Wednesday will be delivered by Emily Lathan on the subject "JSP History: The American Jewish Princess."

The final program on June 9, will deal with "A Parted World: New Orleans in Religion, Beliefs and Practices" with Gilbert Klein.

All programs begin at 7 p.m. at Temple Beth Am, on Temple Drive, Springfield. Each lecture will be followed by a question-and-answer period and refreshments.

For information, call the temple office at 973-376-0039, ext. 11.

## AT THE LIBRARY

### Video explores the secrets of Stonehenge

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., begins its "Lectures in Living History" series, "Journey Back in Time," on Tuesday, June 1 at 7 p.m.

This story of the British Isles in prehistory covers the hunters and farmers who lived out a living from the land and Stonehenge, the megalithic structure which has become a symbol of those dark and mysterious times. Standing tall on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England, the ancient stone circle is steeped in myth and legend. Even today, it refuses to give up all its secrets.

Completed in the year 125 A.D., Hadrian's Wall at the edge of the Empire built on the orders of Emperor Hadrian marks the northern border of the Roman Province of Britain. Possibly inspired by travelers' tales of the great Wall of China, the wall runs 77 more than 115 miles from the east to the west of England and provides a fascinating glimpse of military life during the Roman occupation of Britain.

Funding for the video series has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library.

Bring a brown paper lunch to the program. Tickets and reservations will be provided. For information, call 973-376-4930.

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### Tale of Persian wars highlights discussion

Over a month, the great Books Discussion Group meets to examine the great books of Western civilization. The spring selection ranges from essays to fiction. The group meets the third Thursday of each month at the Springfield Free Public Library at 66 Mountain Ave.

Herodotus' "The Persian Wars" will be discussed today. In this first prose history of European civilization, Herodotus tells the tale of the Greeks' resistance to the vast invading Persia assembled by Xerxes, King of Persia. The great battles at Marathon, Thermopylae and Salamis are read. The two great Persian invasions of Greece, in 490 and 480-479 B.C., both repulsed by the Greeks, provide us with an opportunity for understanding the interplay of religion and history in ancient Greece on a large scale.

The next two discussions will be Locke's "On Civil Government" on June 7 and Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" on July 1.

The Great Books compilation may be purchased for \$20 at the Circulation Desk. The discussion group welcomes new members. Participants are invited to come to any or all of the discussions. The Springfield Free Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information, call 973-376-4930.

### Orchestra salutes American pop music

The James I. Dean Orchestra will have the Donald H. Baber Music Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library making music on Sunday at 2 p.m. when they present "A Salute to American Pop Music."

The James I. Dean Orchestra, featuring vocalists Van Martin, will play the music of Tony Bennett, Bobby Darin, Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra & Duke Ellington in a free concert made possible by funds from the family of late V. Leigh Baber of Maplewood. The Dean Orchestra has played in various cities throughout New Jersey, including the 1963 Mill Inn, Salari's Restaurant, Harvey's Tavern and the Club House.

Currently, they are appearing monthly on Sunday evenings at the Whiskey Cafe in Lindhurst.

For information, see their Web site at [www.deanorchestra.com](http://www.deanorchestra.com).

Admission to the concert is free for all ages. Tickets will be distributed at the circulation desk of the Springfield Free Public Library located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information, call 973-376-4930.

### Book group gets into life of John Adams

The Good Books Discussion Group of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will meet on Thursday, June 3 at 7 p.m. to discuss "John Adams" by David McCullough.

The Great Books compilation may be purchased for \$20 at the Circulation Desk. The discussion group welcomes new members. Participants are invited to come to any or all of the discussions. The Springfield Free Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information, call 973-376-4930.

### Funds for first aid



**SPRINGFIELD FIRST AID SQUAD**  
ESTABLISHED 1949

Joseph Tenenbaum, right, president of Springfield B'nai B'rith, presents a check to Dan Kalem to go toward a \$40,000 drive by the Springfield First Aid Squad to update their radio equipment. The squad needs new portable radios, radios for their two rigs and a transmitter to replace the police band radio currently being used. Kalem is a former president and captain of the squad.

# 'Shake N' Quake'



Springfield resident and St. Rose School seventh-grader Meredith DeMauro won first place in the school's annual science fair with 'Shake N' Quake,' her study of earthquakes.

## Annual dinner dance raises funds for Temple Sha'arey Shalom

Temple Sha'arey Shalom, located at 78 S. Springfield Ave. in Springfield, will conduct the temple's 22nd annual sustaining fund dinner dance on Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

Advance reservations are required. For information or to make reservations, call the temple office at 973-376-5587. Information can be found on the temple Web site at [www.shaares.org](http://www.shaares.org).

This year, Temple President Liane Dattler will be the honoree. The theme for the evening will be "Cabaret Night." Skits from past original temple shows will be performed.

Tickets for the event are \$60 per person and include a buffet dinner, dancing and entertainment. At the dinner dance, the temple's souvenir advertisement journal dedicated to the honoree will be distributed.

Dattler has served on the Board of Trustees for the past six years. She has served as chairwoman of the Religious School Board, a vice president, and for the past two years, temple president. Dattler was the director of Occupational Therapy at Children's Hospital in Mountainside for 25 years. She is currently an assistant professor in the Occupational Therapy Program at Tuoro College in Manhattan and associate chairwoman of Program Development for that department.

Sha'arey Shalom is a Reform Jewish congregation affiliated with the URJ Union for Reform Judaism, formerly Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC).

The success of the annual sustaining fund dinner dance will be due to the support of the temple members and friends who attend and place ads in the journal and to merchants and local businesses that add their support by placing ads.

## LIFESTYLE

### Moesch and Jacobs exchange their vows

Joshua Howard Moesch, son of Sharon and Bill Moesch of Springfield and Delaware Township, Delaware, and Yaelle Jacobs, daughter of Evelyn and Arthur Jacobs of Ramat Bet Sheshach, Israel, were married December 28, 2003 to Yaelle Jacobs, daughter of Evelyn and Arthur Jacobs of Ramat Bet Sheshach, Israel.

Rabbi Efraim Weingot of Shalom Rav Yeshiva, Istat, Israel officiated at the Genesis Hall in Tel Shevach, Mr. Moesch, a graduate of the Wadsworth Hartridge School, studied Internet business and technology at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont. He is a sales manager for international telecommunications company in Jerusalem and has his own Internet company.

The new Mrs. Moesch is a graduate of Meled Amrit, Jerusalem and is a department administrator at CSM in Jerusalem. The couple resides in Eilat, Israel.

A son, Aaron Michael, was born March 8, 2004 to Jordana and Larry Friedman of Westfield. Maternal grandparents are Sharon and Bill Moesch of Springfield and Delaware Township, Pennsylvania. Paternal grandparents are Bernice and Mitchell Friedman of Scotch Plains.

Aaron Michael was named in memory of his paternal great uncle Orin Score, his paternal great, great uncle Michael Schaffer, and his family friend, Kelly Ann McKenna. The couple also has twin sons.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
<p>TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, NJ</p> <p>RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 12:13-1 APPROVING PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE. THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE HAS RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC SALE OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <p>WHEREAS, the following is a list of certain personal property:</p> <p>1. 2002 Ford Focus Sedan, VIN: 1F8P11C120B000000, 2004 Ford Focus Sedan, VIN: 1F8P11C120B000000, 2004 Ford Focus Sedan, VIN: 1F8P11C120B000000.</p> <p>WHEREAS, said sale must be authorized by Resolution pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12:13-1, and</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, New Jersey, that the public sale of the above described personal property is hereby authorized by Resolution and that the Township Clerk shall cause advertisement of said sale to be published in the following manner:</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk shall cause advertisement of said sale to be published in the following manner:</p> <p>As to each item, the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>Each item may have a minimum price, as set forth in Exhibit A.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>As to each item, the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>As to each item, the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p>	<p>TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION</p> <p>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY, HAS RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:</p> <p>WHEREAS, the following is a list of certain personal property:</p> <p>1. 2002 Ford Focus Sedan, VIN: 1F8P11C120B000000, 2004 Ford Focus Sedan, VIN: 1F8P11C120B000000, 2004 Ford Focus Sedan, VIN: 1F8P11C120B000000.</p> <p>WHEREAS, said sale must be authorized by Resolution pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12:13-1, and</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, New Jersey, that the public sale of the above described personal property is hereby authorized by Resolution and that the Township Clerk shall cause advertisement of said sale to be published in the following manner:</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk shall cause advertisement of said sale to be published in the following manner:</p> <p>As to each item, the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>Each item may have a minimum price, as set forth in Exhibit A.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>As to each item, the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>As to each item, the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p>	<p>TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION</p> <p>PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY, HAS RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:</p> <p>WHEREAS, the following is a list of certain personal property:</p> <p>1. 2002 Ford Focus Sedan, VIN: 1F8P11C120B000000, 2004 Ford Focus Sedan, VIN: 1F8P11C120B000000, 2004 Ford Focus Sedan, VIN: 1F8P11C120B000000.</p> <p>WHEREAS, said sale must be authorized by Resolution pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12:13-1, and</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, New Jersey, that the public sale of the above described personal property is hereby authorized by Resolution and that the Township Clerk shall cause advertisement of said sale to be published in the following manner:</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk shall cause advertisement of said sale to be published in the following manner:</p> <p>As to each item, the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>Each item may have a minimum price, as set forth in Exhibit A.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>As to each item, the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p> <p>As to each item, the Township of Springfield will comply with the conditions set forth in the following:</p>

# Union County

WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2004 - SECTION B <http://www.localsource.com>

## Language skills

Rosa Iannone, a teacher of Italian at Arthur Johnson High School in Clark, has made a career of making foreign languages understandable. She teaches five classes a day at the school, and organizes every second year a trip of over 40 students to spend 10 days overseas.

Iannone has now been granted a prestigious Fulbright scholarship to study for a month this summer in Venice. The training will permit her to offer Advanced Placement training in the language to her students. Since 1996, she has watched the school's Italian program develop into 10 classes with another teacher brought in to meet the load.

## Left Out

Iannone, a Scotch Plains resident also returns each summer to her birthplace of Salerno, Italy. She serves as a bridge that allows the communication to some degree.

After watching the painful Crawford Township meeting last week, I started to think about being a little bridge to permit communication where none exists. The budget passed on a 5-2 vote largely because of the decision to elevate Downtown Management Director Kathleen Prunty to a township employee like an economic development czar.

It struck me that we need interpretation of the budget "code-speak" of which Deputy Mayor Ann Darby and others to a lesser extent were such devotees. In testy exchanges with a few officials, Darby was pitching them without a window.

Darby says she looks to "mitigate the tax burden." A rough translation is that even though the township was sticking it to residents with a big increase almost matching the school's numbers, she had to play down the pain sometime in the future.

Darby spoke about the "search for ratables." Another rough translation is despite studies which debunk the great municipal ratable chase as an ineffective way to keep services without hefty tax increases, Darby thinks it can work.

Later on Darby proclaimed there had been "a positive impact on the budget" and "a leap" for underwriting infrastructure. She says she has a cheery, happy Iannone can translate in Italian or Mike Mays at Rustic Mill Diner can make some Greek out of it.

Darby wasn't alone. Democratic Commissioner George Jern said the budget should not include positions like Prunty's and he was voting no. Heck, the Prunty position allowed him to vote no on the entire budget, never a bad position for one running for re-election.

Enter Commissioner Scott Mease, who in a concise manner explained the need for additional positions in the Construction Code Department. Mease then slipped in that this was a "state mandate." Not true mind you, but in the language debacle of the evening there was no difference between recommendations and mandates.

Still, the evening belonged to Darby. There was the sad tug of war between residents around the high school who get bargained with kids who have every legal right to park in the neighborhood. An ordinance to address the problem said Darby was voting no. After all she found, "a flaw in the process when one-third of the equation is omitted."

A rough translation is despite the fact the school board has zero say about the ordinance, Darby was none too happy about having to antagonize anybody with a vote.

Residents near the school had become another example of a neighborhood being a victim for the "common good." Enter school board member Michael Caulfield, who didn't like his group being criticized. He said residents were suffering from "benign ignorance." No translation needed.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capace is an attorney.



Pastor Reggie Osborne of Bethel Outreach Ministries tears a piece of paper to show how one can become whole again. He was the guest speaker at the first commencement ceremony for Union County Drug Court.

## Drug court marks first graduation

Drug court gives people a chance to change was the underlying message of Union County Drug Court's first commencement and five-year anniversary. Tuesday evening graduates thanked God for such a program.

Union County's courthouse was established about a century ago but its drug court was born in 1999 and according to Judge Joseph Donohue it is a program where recovery of substance abuse and justice go hand-in-hand.

"Anyone living in Union County who is charged with non-violent offenses and who has been assessed as appropriate for substance abuse treatment, whether it is drugs or alcohol, is eligible for this program."

It seems like only yesterday we did not have a drug court," said Criminal Division Manager Andrea Ferraro. "Having a drug court and thinking about it is one thing but actually acting on it is another."

Donohue mentioned that state officials are constantly trying to shift the program on to lack of funding or saying it is unfair to people in other counties that do not have this option and face prison. "I've had to reduce this program to nothing so that politicians can understand," she said.

As of March, the state's statistics show that more than 4,000 people have enrolled in this program and 124 graduates, 8 percent are rearrested after the first year of graduation.

"People always ask me why do you have an extension cord in your pocket," he laughed. "My answer to their question is that because I found the secret to being plugged in."

The biggest lie that people can tell themselves is that once a dope fiend, always a dope fiend.

The ceremony's participants expressed sheer love for the program and care for its graduates.

"I love drug court and I know it changes people," said state-wide Drug Court Manager Carol Venditto. "There is no extreme make-over like graduating from drug court."

"Thank yourselves for being strong enough to succeed and remember that insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and nothing changes," she told graduates.

"I thought I was going to die but drug court helped me get on the right path," said Robert J. a graduate.

Another graduate said that drug court gave him a sense of focus in life.

"I was walking a tight rope without a net before this program," said Sean H. "Drug court gave me a network of people to rely on and help me through the chaos."

Many graduates stated that drug court "saw something in them that they did not see in themselves."

Donohue indicated that working within the judicial system means dealing with case process, not human beings. "But in drug court we deal with people and we deal with the same program for five years," he said.

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## Trust fund targets \$11M in spending

By Joshua Zaitz Staff Writer

Although bondholders allocated slightly more than \$11 million to the Open Space, Historic and Recreation Trust Fund last year, the county spent a little less than \$9 million.

In 2003, bondholders approved the encumbrance of \$11,000,000 in trust fund dollars. However, the county only spent \$8,997,954, leaving a remaining \$2,002,046 that was encumbered from the Open Space Trust Fund last year but not spent.

The trust fund was approved by voters in a 2000 referendum, setting a tax of \$0.15 per \$100 of assessed value directly for the trust fund. The fund generates approximately \$7 million each year.

The two biggest portions of the unspent trust fund money come from encumbrances to the Children's Museum of Central Jersey, which will be located on Morris Avenue in Union, and renovations at the Trailside Nature Museum in Mountainside.

Bondholders encumbered \$1 million from the Open Space Trust Fund last year to support the children's museum. However, the county only paid \$250,000 toward the children's museum in 2003.

Representatives of the children's museum report to the county on a quarterly basis. They must provide reports of what they spent so the county can see if the money is being spent in a way that is consistent with the Open Space Trust Fund.

"If they haven't totally spent the \$250,000 yet, they're not permitted to come back to us for the next round of funding," said Open Space Trust Fund Administrator Angela Devaney.

Devaney said \$1 million for the Trailside project was encumbered in 2001. The county's finance department carries the encumbrance over each year.

"We know that \$1 million is dedicated from the trust fund for X, Y, and Z projects and we may not have drawn down upon it," said Devaney.

The parks department, Devaney said, will be responsible for providing over \$3 million for the Trailside project and the last payment will come from the Open Space Trust Fund.

Last year, the county set aside money from the trust fund to pay T&M Associates \$124,750 for architectural designs at Espirito Park in Clark. However, the county only paid

T&M \$87,732 in 2003. The county has not begun any type of construction at Espirito yet.

"We need to prepare bid documents before money is put against the construction of Espirito Park," said Devaney, explaining that the county anticipates construction on the park could begin as soon as the fall.

The county allocated paying PMK Group \$75,000 last year, yet only paid the firm \$37,117.

Devaney said the county has a blanket contract with PMK. When the county is looking to acquire a piece of property, the state's Green Acres program requires several things, including having the property appraised by two Green Acres-approved appraisers, having environmental assessment completed and survey work.

"When we're in the process of negotiating for a parcel, we obviously can't put our professional consultants on and say that we're doing this analysis to determine a price," said Devaney.

The blanket contract with PMK allows the county to complete some of the state-mandated requirements without jeopardizing negotiations for the piece of property.

"This allows us to meet Green Acres requirements as we're in negotiations for a parcel," said Devaney.

For its Field of Dreams program, the county encumbered \$514,300 last year. However, it only distributed \$411,800 last year. Cranford did not receive its \$52,500 last year, while Roselle Park did not receive its \$50,000. Devaney said Cranford and Roselle Park probably did not fulfill all of the county's requirements to receive the Field of Dreams funding.

"It would seem to me that they have not completed their projects for one reason or another," she said. The funding will be given to the municipalities once all the requirements are met.

Devaney said the \$11 million encumbered last year is a fairly typical amount of money to come from the Open Space Trust Fund during the course of one year.

"It's fairly typical that it's hard to say from year-to-year because you have years when you can have significant acquisitions," she said.

The most significant acquisition by the Open Space Trust Fund last year was \$5,400,000 to acquire the Espirito Park. See MILLIONS, Page B2.

## Bravery in the face of danger rewarded

By Antione Herring Staff Writer

In the eyes of many, sports superstars who score the last-second point to win the big game are viewed as heroes. But according to the 200 Club of Union County, the real heroes are everyday people who serve and protect their community.

Before a crowd of their peers, a few good police officers and firefighters were honored for their significant acts of heroism at the 200 Club's 35th annual Valor Awards luncheon at L'Affaire restaurant in Mountainside.

"These individuals are the true heroes of today," said Valor Award Chairman Brian Gallagher. "The task that the police and fire departments do every day is incredible and it needs to be recognized."

The 200 Club welcomed six new members—and handed them Valor Awards for their courageous efforts. Summit Police Sgt. Joseph Sodano, Plainfield Firefighters Douglas Gierminder and Ronald Carter, and Elizabeth Police Officers Joseph Carratala and Martin Starr were among six officers and firefighters to receive this year's Medal of Valor from The 200 Club of Union County.

"You never know what to expect when you go in there."

The scene continued outside of the apartment with the suspect, carrying the machete knife in his hand, advancing toward and Simas. The officer ordered the man to drop the weapon, but the suspect refused and the Simas fired.

"I had no choice," said Simas about firing his gun, for the first time, and wounding a man. "It doesn't feel good and it's something that I hope I will never have to do again."

The suspect later recovered from his wounds.

When Sodano was assisting a stranded motorist on Route 24 on a late June 7 afternoon last year, during rush hour, he never expected that a sedan operated by a female would have pulled alongside him with a male passenger holding a gun to her head. However, that's what he got.

"Everything happened really fast," Sodano recalled.

The male passenger pointed the gun at Sodano and pulled the trigger, but the weapon malfunctioned and Sodano was able to dive for cover.

"All I saw was the gun," said Sodano, who was, at that moment, unaware that the man fired his gun at him.

"If you're not trained you're not going to get through this, that's what helped me."

The woman was pushed from the vehicle and the gunman eluded the police and was the subject of a three-month investigation that ended with his arrest for attempted murder.

On Sept. 29, 2003, Carratala and Starr were on patrol when they were notified of a fleeing domestic violence suspect who pulled a knife on another officer.

"Unfortunately, in this circumstance, I ended up getting stabbed," said Starr, who checked out his injury. "Your training takes over and you do what you got to do."

Doing what they had to do was what Firefighters Carter and Gierminder did when they responded to 639 E. Sixth St. in Plainfield on a reported structure fire with heavy smoke coming from the 2-story house. Civilians shouted that there was a person trapped on the second floor.

"It was difficult, but I made my best effort to get inside," Gierminder said. "My sole effort was to find the person and we did."

According to Carter, the two some,



Elizabeth Police Officers Joseph Carratala and Martin Starr were among six officers and firefighters to receive this year's Medal of Valor from The 200 Club of Union County.

# Professional Directory

<p><b>Attorney</b></p> <p>Law Office of Ronald Arons, LLC Work Injuries • Disability Claims • Municipal Court • Criminal Defense</p> <p><b>Ronald Arons</b> Attorney at Law</p> <p>115 North Union Avenue Suite 201, Cranford 908-272-0111 Fax: 908-272-8897</p>	<p><b>Chiropractor</b></p> <p>Hecht Family Chiropractic Care</p> <p>Now Featuring The ML 830 Laser. The new, non-invasive COLD LASER treatment for CARPAL TUNNEL SYNDROME</p> <p>235 Mountain Avenue, Springfield 973-564-5885</p>	<p><b>Mortgage</b></p> <p>IVANHOE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Money Down</li> <li>First Time Buyers</li> <li>Credit Problems</li> <li>No Documentation 5% down</li> <li>Investment Properties 10% down</li> <li>Conventional/FHA/VA</li> <li>\$200 Rebate at Closing</li> </ul> <p>973-564-5885</p>	<p><b>Piano Tuning &amp; Repair</b></p> <p>Master Tuner &amp; Technician</p> <p>20 Years Experience</p> <p>Aural Piano Tuning with Computer Accuracy</p> <p>Howard Kupferman 908-903-0964</p>
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# Birders gather at parks

Over 100 birders on Saturday, a group of 100 birders from the Friends of Lenape Park gathered at the park in a field to begin the 21st Annual Wild Series of Birding. Sponsored by the New Jersey Audubon Society, the Wild Series of Birding, is a series of birding events held on the same day as a 24-hour contest to count as many species of birds in the state by team and individual participants. The event is also a major fundraiser for NJAS and other nature and environmental organizations.

Friends of Lenape Park, a citizens group dedicated to maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat in Union County, assembled its Night Hawk team for the third year. Members included team captain Frank DiDuro, Tim Partridge, Betty Ann Kelly, Don Danella and Jack DiCetti.

At 5 a.m., DiDuro and Partridge and Danella met at the trap and scout traps for the first phase of the event between 5:30 and 10 a.m. when birds are most active. The team was participating in the non-competitive Rahway River Greenway which limited them to the narrow greenway of the river, and a goal of 100 species by the 8 p.m. finishing time.

The count jumped off with a flurry of birds, which included an Eastern Bluebird, Tree and Barn Swallows, Wood Duck, Baltimore Oriole, Plained Woodpecker, Black-crowned Night Heron and Wild Turkey. By the time the team left Lenape Park, more than 50 species had been recorded. At 9 a.m., the team moved on to Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. The team recorded a Red-tailed Hawk, Double-crested Cormorant, Brown Thrasher, Chimney Swift and an American Redstart. The next stop on the list, Westfield, was at 11:30 a.m. A flock of 100 was observed on the west bank of the river near the dam along with several other flocks. The next stop was Linden near the Sea Scout Club. A Snowy Egret, Black Duck, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull and a Herring Gull were all that was recorded, for a grand total of 75.

# Millions allocated

Continued from Page B1

To farm. Other trust fund expenditures last year included \$107,149 for various professional service contracts, \$100,000 to refurbish Shanté Walsh Field and \$411,000 to pay some of the debt service on the American Water projects in Summit.

Almost \$844,000 in trust fund money was spent as part of the Green Streets program. Elizabeth, Hillside, Rahway, Roselle, Plainfield and Linden each received \$125,000, while Union received \$91,500. Green Streets, initiated in 2002, aims to add green space to urban areas by allowing citizens to apply for up to \$25,000. A \$50,000 down payment was also paid on the Ponderosa Farm in Scotch Plains.

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# COUNTY NEWS

## Come to GRIPS at NAMI meeting

The public is invited to attend a free presentation on Tuesday where GRIPS, creator and director of the Mental Health Wellness Center in Summit, will present "Coming to GRIPS: an acronym for Grief, Resilience, Independence, Power and Shame," at 7:30 p.m. at Rocca Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Road, Clark.

GRIPS will address some of the emotional issues that face many families dealing with mental illness. Sponsored by the Union County Chapter of The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the presentation offers the opportunity to learn concrete coping skills that contribute to emotional wellness. Questions and answers will follow.

GRIPS is a licensed clinical social worker. Before starting her private practice she served as a social worker clinician for Family Service, a division of Overlook Hospital Atlantic Behavioral Health systems and for Somerset Medical Center in the Women's Trauma Disorders Unit. She is certified as a rape crisis counselor and sex crimes investigation consultant.

GRIPS has provided psychoeducational programs throughout New Jersey and lectures extensively, nationally on such topics as stress reduction, parenting, domestic violence, assertiveness training, sexual assault, anxiety and elder abuse. She has

appeared on local cable access television and radio, where she has addressed various emotional wellness issues. She coaches executives, managers and employees on ways to reduce stress and increase productivity.

Free copies of NAMI's 2004 edition of *Recovery Guide: Help in Navigating the Mental Health System*, a guide to mental health resources in Union County, will be available to attendees. If you would like a copy, call 908-233-1028 or e-mail NAMI at namunion@comcast.net.

Retirements are provided. For information, call 908-233-1028.

## Blood drives scheduled

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

Friday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Collings Hill Road, Union  
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Deutscher Club, Featherbed Lane, Clark, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Masonic

Lafayette Lodge, 1550 Irving St., Rahway  
Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Latria, 403 Spring St., Elizabeth, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Rahway YMC, 1964 Irving St., Rahway  
Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Osceola Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Road, Clark

## Child ID program

Atlas Pythagoras Masonic Lodge, 1011 Central Ave., Westfield, will offer a children's ID program Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Children will be fingerprinted, videotaped and photographed, and identification cards will be made, in cooperation with the Union County Sheriff's Department. There is no charge for this service, which the lodge has been providing to families in the area since 1991.

All tapes, pictures, and cards are given to the parents or guardians of the children, and no records are retained. Children are weighed and measured and special features, such as birthmarks, scars or moles are noted.

In case a child is ever lost or abducted, these tapes, when brought to police and media, would be valuable in helping to find the missing child. Some parents have used the ID cards for air travel.

## WPC meet & greet

The Union County Women's Political Caucus will host a meet and greet cocktail reception honoring Union County women candidates on June 3 from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information, contact Union County Women's Political Caucus President Brenda King at King@panopticon.net, RSNP by Max DeLuca, 1100 J. Williams, 1266 Woodside Road, Scotch Plains, 97076. Suggested donation is \$25 per person. Friends of WPC, \$50 per person.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Conductor anticipates innovation

By Bea Smith  
Staff Writer

As the new music director for the Summit Chorus, a chorus in residence at Drew University, Richard Garrin admitted that "I have big shoes to fill."

The versatile, attractive conductor and college professor, who came by this office the other morning to talk about his new position, also lauded Garyth Nair, who conducted the Summit Chorus for 14 years.

"He's an extraordinary musician, an excellent conductor. But," Garrin smiled, "on the other hand, I'm not a beginner."

Unquestionably, Garrin, who attributes his musical interest to the renowned Fred Waring and His Pennsylvanians, and who sang with him, declared that "one of the things Fred said that stayed with me was, 'Give the singers what they want, but also give them what you want them to have.'" In repertoire "I think that's true. Give the audience what they want to hear along with what you want them to hear."

"Take the program, 'American Idol,' which airs Tuesdays and Wednesdays. These kids on the shows are spectacular and it has rekindled singing in youngsters, introducing them to our wonderful songs. I'm always looking for a way to get youth interested in singing."

He smiled, "So, hopefully, I hope the choral music will have a new surge in popularity because young people are interested in singing again. We need to make the music appealing and accessible to audiences. Give them a little something that they understand and a little something that is new and innovative."

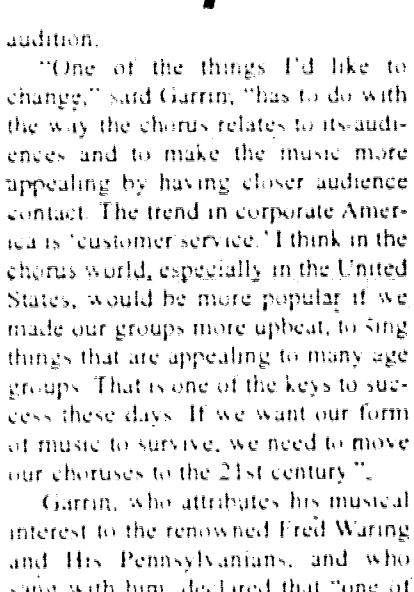
"The Summit Chorus' motto is 'Tradition, Innovation and Excellence.' And I think we're going to live up to that motto with me at the helm. The accent will be on innovation, not to say we won't be excellent. We will," he exclaimed.

Garrin, who became interested in music at the age of 12 or 13, explained that "my sister, Christine, took me to the Arne Crowninshield Theater in Chicago to hear Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians."

"I applied for the job," said Garrin, "and had an audition last fall. It was a very intensive audition process."

Susan Boyan, president of the Summit Chorus, proclaimed recently that "we are delighted to announce Maestro Garrin's appointment to this position. After 34 years under the outstanding and inspiring musical leadership of Garyth Nair, we were challenged to find a successor who would measure up to our expectations. We conducted an extensive search and are looking forward to Richard Garrin's leadership as we approach our second century as a musical organization."

The Summit Chorus is reportedly the oldest continually active organization in New Jersey. It is composed of about 60 volunteer singers, chosen by



Richard Garrin

ans. I was enthralled by the costumes and the music. The program ran for two hours, but for me, it seemed only 15 minutes. I said, 'I have to do this.' Thank you to my sister, I got into the choral event, and I'm still going - at least, I hope for many years."

The Summit Chorus plans a "fund-raising, non-entertaining, silent auction and 'Meet the New Conductor' on Sunday, June 13. I'm really looking forward to it," said Garrin.

"You know, when I moved to the east coast, where the choral music is alive and well, because of that, it makes it a good place for a choral director to be. I'm very happy to have this job. There are not many other groups like this choral. I'm very happy to have been chosen."

Actually, Garrin "felt like my time in California had ended. I always listened to that inner voice. If you don't listen to that inner voice, someone else will take over and listen to it for you."

"I'm already happy here. I think New Jersey is America's secret. I think this is an extraordinarily beautiful state. I'm thrilled to be here. This state is so environmentally conscious and progressive. It's a beautiful place to be."

And, since choral music is Garrin's "passion," the Summit Chorus is his ultimate destination.

## Liberty Hall travels back in time

Liberty Hall Museum is celebrating its fifth season with many special events.

Opened in 2000, the museum preserves the 225-year-old home of the Livingston and Kean families. Tours of the house with professional guides are offered every half hour from April through December.

The home features a large collection of American antiques, jewelry, ceramics and paintings. Explore the 23-acre manicured grounds complete with formal garden and picnic facilities.

Every Wednesday, an afternoon tea is held on the porch

overlooking the garden. This popular event features tea sandwiches, tarts, brownies, and sweets with jam and clotted cream. Advance reservations are necessary. Cost is \$24, and is perfect for Sweet 16 parties, bridal showers, and other special events. Call 908-527-0200 for more information.

Liberty Hall Museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens, and \$4 for children. Children younger than 6 are free.

## Vast experience gives director insight into musical production

Drawing on a career in local theater, Drude Roessler, of Westfield, is director of the current production of Cole Porter's classic musical, "Kiss Me, Kate," which runs through Saturday at the Cranford Dramatic Club, which runs through Saturday at the Cranford Dramatic Club, La., as a little princess in a children's theater production of "Sleeping Beauty," she knew music and the stage would be a major part of her life. Drude's first show at CDC was "South Pacific" in 1982 playing one of the nurses with husband Charlie singing Emilie DeBevoise. "Kiss Me, Kate" is actually her favorite role, as she played opposite her then husband and he liked, and they had great fun with the name calling and slapping each other around. This was at the Scotch Plains Players and it was done at the Lanwood Presbyterian Church.

When asked recently about particular challenges for CDC's "Kiss Me, Kate," Drude commented, "Primarily the complicated set pieces for the many scenes, a problem solved by the clever Marc Chandler of Cranford. Then just coordinating all the production plans with the acting, singing and dancing plans so the show becomes cohesive, flows nicely and is fun for everyone!" Also, the grape-crushing tub and the making the little bird fly up were special challenges! Further she says "that I hope to bring a combined creative talent and energy of my

and crew, many of whom have never worked together before, and mount a show with the highest level of singing, dancing and acting possible." Amazing artists like Jonathan Flowers and Alyson Penelope have given of their excellent musical and choreographic skills to make this possible.

Roessler is a longtime member of CDC with a wealth of experience directing and performing in musical theater, opera, oratorio, and concert music. For CDC, she has directed "Peter Pan," "Lolita," "Annie," "The Most Happy Fella" and "Forever Plaid," and also appeared in "Underrella" and as Mama Rose in "Gypsy." She has served on CDC's board and on many other committees, and been seen in numerous roles with other companies and directed over 200, including 46 student musicals.

She recently retired from more than 40 years of music instruction in the public school systems.

Her future theatrical plans include directing the spring 2005 production of "The Sparrows" for Westfield Community Players. Roessler has been associated with WCP since she was a teenager, saying, "My mother, Gerry Purdy, was the president for four years, and where my sister, Marnie Burke, stage managed more than two dozen shows."



The West Windsor High School Small Chorus Barbershop-Style singing group will be among the featured acts this Saturday at the fourth annual A Cappella Festival of Harmony, sponsored by the Rahway Valley Jerseyans Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America Inc.

## Barbershoppers to sing out on Saturday

The fourth annual A Cappella Festival of Harmony, funded by the Rahway Valley Jerseyans Chapter and hosted by the Rahway Valley Jerseyans Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America Inc., together with other barbershop harmony chapters and Sweet Adeline chapters, continues its interest in high school choral groups to sing a cappella barbershop style.

"Music lovers are invited to see the style of this American style of singing, then come and see 80 high school students perform plus feature performances by the Moonshine Quartet, the 2003 Region 19 Sweet Adeline Champions, and Revellie Quartet, the 2003 Division SPBBSQSA champions, in the auditorium of Rahway High School, 1012 Madison Ave., Rahway, on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information and directions call Hugh Devine at 609-799-8170, Joe Weiss at 908-486-5218, Don Pennell at 973-324-0957, or Carolyn Schmidt at 908-647-4463.

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For more information and directions call Hugh Devine at 609-799-8170, Joe Weiss at 908-486-5218, Don Pennell at 973-324-0957, or Carolyn Schmidt at 908-647-4463.

## Workshop expands summer offerings

Entering its third season, the Westfield Summer Workshop is currently registering students for its 2004 summer program.

The five-week program gives children ranging from pre-school through ninth grade the opportunity to experiment in various artistic fields, including the arts, music, and theater. Students will have the opportunity to participate in art classes such as Toot Jean, where they will learn how to combine basic drawing skills with simple phrases to create cartoon characters. Carving is a favorite class for older kids, where young artists use plaster, clay and wood to create their own sculpture. A new program in fine arts is Scrapbooking, where children will learn to use their photographs to capture memories in creative ways.

Students will also have an opportunity to delve into communication courses such as Radio Broadcast and Video Animation. For the energetic youngsters, Dance Pom, Fencing, and

Gymnastics are a perfect way to express their creativity. The workshop is also offering an array of other courses, including four levels of chess, Exploring Science and Cooking Magic.

For those interested in music, the Westfield Summer Workshop offers various courses in hand, vocal, and woodwinds. Beginning Guitar, a new course to the workshop program, gives children the opportunity to learn the basics of playing guitar while learning to read music along the way. The Workshop Band, an annual course in the program, is designed for those with some experience in music. The band will prepare to play music for the Summer Theater production of "Guys and Dolls."

The drama department offers courses for young and old, including "The Line Is Hot," a new class where students will learn to respond to improvisational situations. Students in grades six through 10 can participate

in Theater Workshop, a five-period, five-day-per-week workshop in which students will learn about all aspects of musical production. At the conclusion of the workshop, students will perform the summer production of "Guys and Dolls," directed by Juan and Valerie Pineda of the Little Opera Company of New Jersey.

The YMCA is once again sponsoring Afternoon Adventures in conjunction with the Westfield Summer Workshop. Students will spend weekly afternoons participating in various traditional camp activities, including group games, sports and weekly field trips.

The workshop also offers programs for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, as well as the option for an early morning drop-off at 7:30 a.m.

The MSSW program runs 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily from June 28 to July 30 at Edison Intermediate School. For information, call 908-729-0906.

## Class offerings have been expanded

The Theater School at Paper Mill has expanded its course offerings for the 2004-05 season and now features classes in two convenient locations: Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, and the Community Congregational Church in Short Hills, less than five minutes from the theater.

Classes are scheduled to begin Sept. 13. All dates are subject to change. The 16-week sessions run for eight weeks in the fall and eight weeks in January/February. Tuition covers both semesters. The 24-week classes have an extended spring schedule.

All Theater School classes taught by professional theater artists and small class sizes guarantee individual attention for each student.

Classes offered:

- Jr. Players, ages 4 to 12: Jr. Musical Theater, Story Book Theater, Creative Drama, Dance Workshop, All-Star Touring Company.
- Teens, ages 13 to 17: Musical Theater, Teen Production, Acting for the Camera, Broadway Dance Styles, Children's Theater on Tour.
- Adults: Breakfast at Paper Mill, Voice Over, The Musical Theater

Audition, Life Stories, special workshops for senior citizens, and much more.

The deadline to return the registration form is May 28 at 6 p.m. All registration forms must be received by that time to be entered into the lottery for class openings. No exceptions will be permitted. Registration forms can be obtained by calling the Paper Mill Education Department at 973-379-3636, ext. 2338. Each registration form must be accompanied by a \$50 non-refundable deposit per student.

All Theater School classes taught by professional theater artists and small class sizes guarantee individual attention for each student.

Classes offered:

- Jr. Players, ages 4 to 12: Jr. Musical Theater, Story Book Theater, Creative Drama, Dance Workshop, All-Star Touring Company.
- Teens, ages 13 to 17: Musical Theater, Teen Production, Acting for the Camera, Broadway Dance Styles, Children's Theater on Tour.
- Adults: Breakfast at Paper Mill, Voice Over, The Musical Theater

MVP seeks actor to join its 'Chorus Line' Musical. Mystic Union Players of Linden is seeking a tenor who moves well to play the part of Al in this summer's production of "A Chorus Line." Auditions will be conducted by appointment. Show dates are July 24 to 31. For information and to schedule an appointment, call director Jill Leonard at 201-337-6513 or send e-mail to jil2001@aoptonline.net.

Express, and check made payable to Paper Mill Playhouse are accepted.

Theater School at Paper Mill uses a lottery system for some classes, such as Creative Drama, to accommodate the many people who apply for classes. Applicants not chosen for placement will be held on a waiting list and notified if spots become available. For information, call Theater School Director Mickey McNary Damiani at 973-379-3636, ext. 2626, send faxes to 973-467-3778, or send e-mail to theatreschool@papermill.org.

**Bill VanSant, Editor**  
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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to: 463 Valley Street, P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040







Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area...

# Stepping Out

## ART SHOWS

MOVING BY ART: The works of artist Joan Jovanovic Simon and Nancy J. Orr will be on exhibit at the Women's Resource Center in Summit...

OTHER AVENUES: Works by Sarah Davis and Bill Westheimer will be on exhibit at the Arts Guild of Ranway through Friday...

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM: Paintings by Cliff Simon will be on exhibit through May 27 at the Donald B. Palmer Museum in the Springfield Free Public Library...

Gallery hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL in Mountaintop will exhibit the works of Lisa Brown, Paula Kolesky, and Dawn Hays...

PAINTER LYDIA R. WATSON will have her works on exhibit at the Pearl Street Gallery in Elizabethtown through June 14...

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FORMS & INCIDENTS OF NATURE: multi-media works by Margaret McConnell will be on exhibit at the Les Malumet Art Gallery in Union Public Library...

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THE LITERATURE OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION will be on exhibit through July 16 at the Westfield Memorial Library...

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION BOOK GROUP: a monthly reading group featuring staff members favorite books...

REEVES-REED ARBORETUM: a monthly reading group featuring the paintings of Suzanne Castellin...

EXHIBIT HOURS: Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## AUDITIONS

MYSTIC VISION PLAYERS: an acting troupe seeking a tenor who will play the part of Alvin in 'A Christmas Eve'...

## BOOKS

AUTHOR JOSIE VARCA will appear Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Town Book Store...

WRITERS WORKSHOP: meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield...

KNIT KNACK KNITTING GROUP: meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble...

WOMEN'S READING GROUP: meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble...

EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS' CIRCLE: led by Cheryl Riccardi, meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month...

CLASSICS BOOK CLUB: meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble...

CLOAK AND DAGGER READING GROUP: meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble...

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS: meets the second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at Barnes and Noble...

MYSTERY READING GROUP: meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble...

PIANIST ANDRE WATTS will appear in concert with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra...

CONCERTS: COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES in Westfield and Springfield will present a series of artists...

OPERA: STONY HILL PLAYERS will present 'The Magic Flute' from Saturday to June 6 at Oakes Memorial Library...

POETRY: POETRY OUT LOUD! will take place at Barnes and Noble 240 Route 22 West, Springfield...

RADIO: TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of the month...

SINGLES: DINNERMATES and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant...

KIDS: 'VERY ERIC CARLE' will be presented by the Mermaid Theatre of New Salem on Saturday and Sunday...

ST. NEWARK: For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN SUMMIT will present Schubert's 'Shepherd on the Rock' and Jack Gottlieb's 'Downtown Blues'...

BRIGHTWOOD PARK BIRD WALK will be sponsored by Trailside Nature and Science Center...

THE SUMMIT PLAYHOUSE ASSOCIATION will present 'Dinner With Friends' by Donald Margules...

WESTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAYERS will present 'The Best Man' by Gail Ziskin through Saturday...

ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR will be sponsored by Our Lady of Peace Church...

ANDREA MARCOVICI will appear in the Cabaret at the Chase rooms on Sunday at 8:30 and 8 p.m.

NUN HISPANIC YOUTH SHOWCASE will take place May 28 at 7 p.m. in the Victoria Theater...

THE BACK PORCH in Ranway will present Open Mic Night every Thursday night...

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor a series of free film classics at the Main Branch...

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ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR



# Shakespeare Theatre goes to camp with its summer programs

The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey is currently accepting applications for its Summer and Senior Corps summer theater programs designed for students ages 14 through 17.

New Jersey's premier theater organization provides a unique opportunity for students to experience first-hand the excitement of the profession of theater while enjoying a wide range of performance skills. During each intensive two- to three-week training session, students take classes, rehearse, create an original short theater production, and participate in behind-the-scenes activities on the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey campus.

**The Junior Corps**  
This program is designed for students ages 14 through 17 who have shown an aptitude for performance in a variety of artistic disciplines. The program includes classes in acting, voice, and stagecraft, as well as hands-on experience in all aspects of theater production. The Junior Corps runs from June 21 to July 10, 2004. The Senior Corps runs from July 12 to July 24, 2004.

**The Senior Corps**  
This program is designed for older students, ages 15 through 17, who have shown an aptitude for performance in a variety of artistic disciplines. The program includes classes in acting, voice, and stagecraft, as well as hands-on experience in all aspects of theater production. The Senior Corps runs from July 12 to July 24, 2004.

**Five Star cuts ribbon on renovated site**  
Five Star Adult Medical Day Care, located at 1201 Heartland Terrace in Linden, sponsored its official grand opening ceremonies on Sunday.

The grand opening celebration was held for the duration of the grand opening event, including a total of six, seven-day seven-night island vacations, which were offered every hour on the hour at beginning of month.

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2101 Deerfield Terrace, Linden 908-486-5750  
E-mail: [Fivestar@comcast.net](mailto:Fivestar@comcast.net)

Junior Corps members also learn valuable lessons in self-esteem, teamwork and collaboration, creative thinking and problem solving.

Registration information: The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, located at 36 Madison Ave. at Lancaster Road, on the campus of Drew University in Madison, is easy to reach by car or train. Tuition for the Junior Corps is \$450 per session, \$425 for returning students or children of subscribers to the theater's 2004 season. Tuition for the Senior Corps is \$525, or \$500 for returning students or children of 2004 Season subscribers. To register, or for more information, call Berger at 973-408-3800 or send e-mail to [Berger@ShakespeareNJ.org](mailto:Berger@ShakespeareNJ.org).

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Coed ages 10 - 18

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**COUNTRY FOLK ART CRAFT SHOW**  
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!  
MAY 21-22-23  
**MORRISTOWN MENNEN SPORTS ARENA**  
From I-287 North exit 36B bear Right turn Right onto Ridgedale Ave. Proceed to third traffic light turn Left onto East Hanover Ave Sports Arena on Left 1/2 mile.

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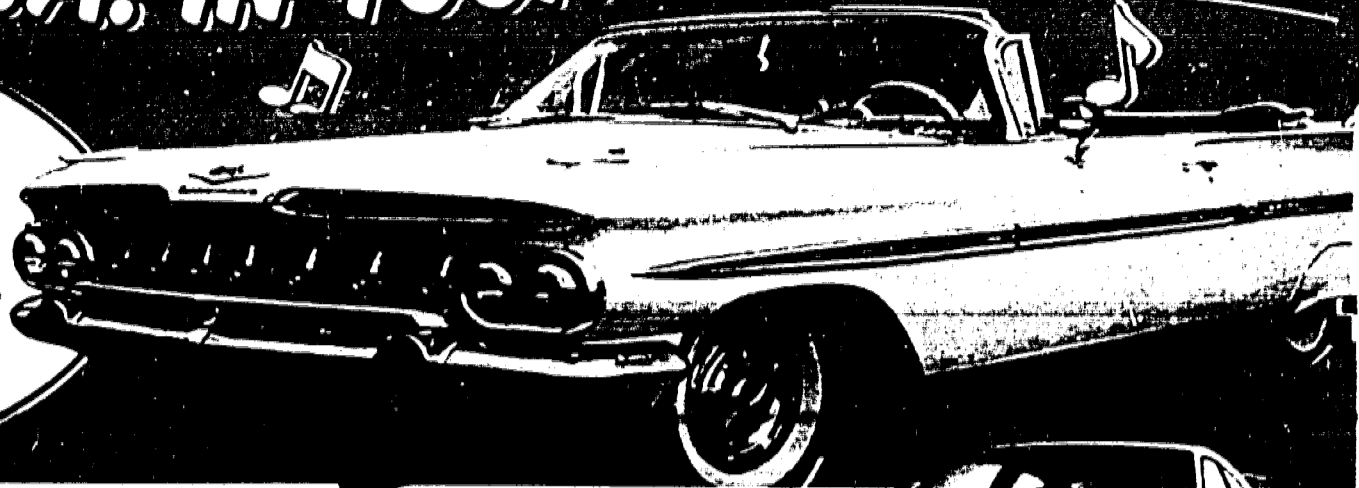
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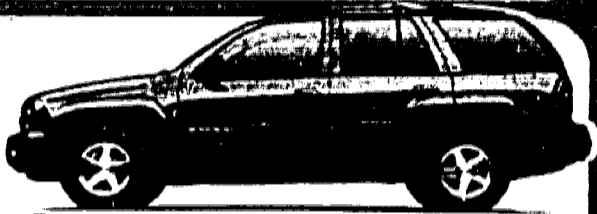


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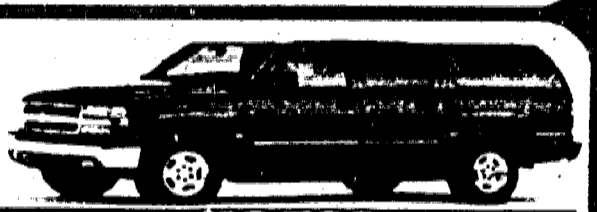


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**\$19,945**

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**\$8145**

**2001 CHEVROLET MALIBU 4 DR**  
6 cyl. auto, p/str/brks/winds, air, cd, security sys, 31,729 mi. S1k#4077 VIN#1154897  
**\$9745**

**2001 FORD FOCUS WAGON 4 DR**  
4 cyl. auto, p/str/brks/winds, air, cass, leath, air, tv, security sys, 12,256 mi. S1k#40574 VIN#1W10358  
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**2001 NISSAN ALTIMA SE 4 DR** SPICY SPIN STARTER  
4 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds, air, cass, sport, sec, sys, 38,797 mi. S1k#40571A VIN#11416487  
**\$12,345**

**2001 CHEVROLET BLAZER 4X4 2 DR** SPICY SPIN STARTER  
8 cyl. auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks, air, cd, 28,797 mi. S1k#40543 VIN#1202770  
**\$13,445**

**2000 JEEP WRANGLER 4X4 2 DR** HAND & GIFT TOPS INCLUDED  
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8 cyl. 5 spd man, p/str/brks, air, air, top, stereo, 13,177 mi. S1k#4057 VIN#1P737137  
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**2000 HONDA ODYSSEY EX 4 DR** FAMILY FUN  
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**2003 CHEVROLET SILVERADO EXT-CAB 71 4X4 2DR** ONSTAR  
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**2002 LEXUS SC430 CONVERTIBLE** ALL THE FUN  
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**\$52,945**

**2001 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN 4X4 4 DR** HIT THE FAMILY  
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