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Serving Springfield and Mountainside
 glu, the event will begin at 211 Mou ffices whose owner gave pernission use the property throughout the

Afer such speakers as Roselle Park Mayor Jceeph Delorio and Sen. Ton Kean speak from outside the nearb a ouse, walking an Monus venue to the familiar string of store cated there, and eventurlly crossing in accordarice with the strce raffic light directions: The raliy wil onclude when they reach theier starting ome at the medical offices
ne rilly is tha fold he pose
First, he pointed out that it is being one to "dispel the myth from people's de hat (me tran's reactivation) is He also hopes that the protest wi

## Rt. 22 project eyes traffic improvements

## By Rick Klittich

 taff Writer An Oct. 4 becting at Springficld Town Hall may have solicited some opinions regarding the problems and he dangerous Route 22 highway bu whether or not plans can be effecvely developed as of now is uncer-The Pedestrian Safely Improve ment Project is an investigation into he problem of pedestrian access and Route 22 that is characterized by rexe 22 ane of -turn lanes, inadequate sidewalk nd crossing facilitics along with hack of traffic signals.
Some of the concepts being con dered include adding signage to drect pedestrians, relocating and , ctur sidewnt pithe and and igh-visibility crossing areas ost convenient locations possible However, Union Police Chie Thomas Kraemer said there is only ne way to ensure pedestrians' safety white crossing the highway - keep hem off the road altogether
We have been saying the same hing for years We need pedestrian ridges to cross the highway. Any hing else will
Kraemer said the state has been ooking for ways to improve the safe of residents crossing the highway nce 1997. But the state agency ha fused to ate on the most obvious lution, pedestrim bridges, due to ncern for the cost. . over the past ryo meetings wid lacing tratfic lioths in some area nd building sidecualks. Both propos 15 were rejected by Kraemer as dan gerous. Iong (Route 22), cars will be backed up to Newark And drivers ill start driving on the shoulder to woid wating, Kraemer said, sidealks would only encourage people not a good idea.
Republican Harold Poltrock the de committec member who attend o noticed a similar pattern of ques
hons asked at the Union meeting he recently attended regarding the sam project. "How do you examine pedestrian patterns?" asked Poltrock hat traffic ly, adding that in his opinion one thing that should be looked at is not helping pedestrians cross the busy highway, but rather 10 discourage travel by foot.

Thus far, the state Department of Transportation has reviewed materi, als from previous studies, including and Mobility Access: Study and Union County Commuter Crioices Project, among others : Representaives have also used software and with photographs, in conjunction and Springfield, to view areas specif ically and as a whole. Land use pitry and traffic volume have ateo been studied
Poltrock also wondered wha effects the possible reactivation of Rahway Valley line would have on - Before they even consider spending more money and implementing any ideas," he said, "they need to wait and see what happens with the even poltrock said that without schedule, it would be hard to develop plans that are based on traffic flow Springfield Mayor Clara Harelik said that she feels the highway is extremely dangerous, especially with pedestrians running across it.
Anything to make it safer, Im in avor of," said Harelik, adding that she would still like to see the amount Harelik said she was unable to on the meting due to prior artane ments regarding other municipal business.
Now, the DOT will look to con plete draft treatments of pertinen areas in need of improvements along the highway while continuing to solicit input from communities. Complete cost estimates are still to come. will take place "said poltrock adding that no timeline has been meetings have not been specific Staff Writer Steven Reilly con-

Concerned Springfield residents and members of the Stop the Train Committee gather outside the office of Automated Quick Printing on Mountain \&venue, the site where a rally gainst the reactivation of the Rahway Valley

tion to Stop the Train is a force that is
determined to fight. Finally Kitapl oglu looks to give the Port Authority New Jersey Department of Transporation, Union County Frecholders and the Morristown and Erie Railway representatives bad publicity.
The coalition hopes to rally in a way that will not present safety concerns to Springfield Potice Chicf William Chisolm and Fire Chief Donald Schwerdt prior to the event.
Springfield Mayor Clara Harelik Township least one member of the Township Committec present at the event, saying that while she is conthe protest efforts, noting that the coali-

## Township Attorney Bruce Bergen

 said that public safety concerns will b addressed, especially the effects of house. If concerns are complied with he said he'd imagine there would be nc problems with holding the rally. "The firehouse is the biggest hurdle at this point," said BergenKitaplioglu said that the goal is to receiving support from the Township Committec at their most recent meeting, nother member of the coalition said that a more realistic number of people present would be between 300 "The po
The point is to demonstrate to the off traffic will be," Kittiplioglu added:

Participants will park a the approx mately 200 spots in the medical the Jonathan Dayton High School lot, if
necessary
Kitaplioglu, who voluntecred to be the contact person for the part Spring feld is playing in the coalition's stan gainst the raillway's reactivation, said olfices where the rally wrill begin had already written a letter to the group in upport of their protest, noting that train would hurt patient access and the vibration of it would also upset the us and effectiveness of delicate equip
$\qquad$ Mis," Kitaplioghe said "It dusis bog gles the mind".

## Challengers cri handling of Mei

Staff Writer

## At one impe the stans of Nesisel Avenue Park secmed

 ronmental reviess may have assured residents that the progeBut the still stagnant piece of land is waiting for a contactor to play the role o ect is waiting to co out to bid, and being a county-owned park, the Union Count Board of Chosen Freeholders is in thirge of elting the projec completed so the park can reopen In the meantime. Springfield candidates runting for the Townshin Committee in November's election have kept in mind the importance of pushing Meisel Avenue Park's development ahtead.
aid Mayor Clan Committee would want nothing more than to see it completed.
a Harelik explat hat has nothing the township or county could have don occurred not once. but twice. In the end, she said. it was necessary for the township - I would have been down there in their face," said Republican candidate Gary Russikoff, who is running alongside fellow Republican Frances Graziano-Corcionc The duo agreed that the main problem with the Meisel project was a lack of communication tetween the Township Committee and county frecholders, saying that at and did nothing. Something cruld have been done eyenmpror to the identification of the environmental problems, they said
obviously, Committeeman Steven Goldstein, an incumbent Denocrat, said tha another park and field for use in the community but also around not only having eyesore,
Goldsten said that since he was mayor in 2002, the Township Committec has een in constant contact with he county. Goldstein said that sor the committee physicaly conteng he 1 wir, 1 do

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& \text { he frecholders how important it was to } \mathrm{e} \\
& \text { "Communication is me hio bing " }
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er," she said, specifying the relationship between the Nobody taks to one anou Conmittee and comparing it to the communication between the conmittee and the county officials in charge of the Meisel project.
"Somebody has to be hild accountable," said Russikoff, referring to both the ownship Committee members and county frecholders. "This is probably the number one issue in our face right now. I'm completely enuralled and exhilarated by the going on."
While Harelik has maintained that the land is owned by Union County and it wa push from Springfield that eventually got the ball rolling, she added that when she secame mayor, there was an imm
nittee to move the project along


The Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project is an investigation into the problem of pedestrian access and safety issues along a 2.5 -mile area of Route 22 , including this section, at the start of the eastbound side of the highway heading into Springfield.


The area that the Route 22 study targets is one that is characterized by an excessive a lack of traffic signals, including this section in Mountainside

## Police officers promoted

Staff Writer

During a Springficld Township Committec meeting that eentered on the appointed volunteer groups, Police Officer Richard Mickles and Auxiliary Police Officer Nicholas D'Achille were promote
tively

- Miekles, who was swom in at the mecting but will not officially become
sergeant until Nov. 1, is a 23 -year veteran of Springfield that has reached such accolades as receiving a combat award for an armed arrest and two life-saving awards for c
tion rescues.
"He has always been a good officer in the Police Deparment," said Police
Chief William Chisolm, "and I think he'll make us proud as a sergeant." Chisolm added that Mickles carned the highest score on the test nedded to be eligible for the promotion out of the 20
people who took it: The number one thing about his word." said Committecman Steven Goldstein, who serves alongside Mayor Clara Harelik, among other members, on the Public Safety Committee. "If he tells you he's going to do something, he does it. For you and your family, we're
very proud of what you've done and wery proud of happy to appoint you this evening." year rotation of the Detective Bureau worked closely with the Drug Awareness Resistance Education program around the township and received a citaduring the tragic cevents of Sept 11 2001 ,
DAchille,- who has been named Auxiliary Police Officer of the year two also praised for his effors within the community.
"I wish you all the best at your new capacity as chief," Harelik said, noting
that the promotion is effective immediUhat the promotion is effective inmedi-
ately. Nick for the past 10 years," said John Cottage, an Office of Emergency Management veteran, "He will respond and
stay out all night if necessary." stay out all night if necessary. D'Achillc is only the fourth auxiliary chief of plite in its 38 -year history,
replacing Harvey Taub. who retired last


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Summit and GL girls' tennis sought today's section final


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$\stackrel{y}{4}$he drive behind everything we do is Higher Standards. It means always trying to be better than we were the day before. And it's a belief we've lived by for over two hundred $y$ tars.
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