## Echo 」尸，ت「」



Siblings Jacob Kesselhaut， 5 ，and Julie， 8 ，donate some toys to firefighter Tom Ernst，as
the Springfield firehouse begins its annual toy drive The program is co－sponsored by the he spring la frehouse begins

## Toy drive begins at firehouse

## by Rick Klittich

For close to a decade，the Springfield Fire Depinmen has helped increase the township＇s holiday spirit through
ase the most admired facet of the scason：the gift of giv
ing．Until Dec．17．the Fire Department is asking for toys during Christmastime．
Theng Chistmastime which must be new and not come in wrapping， will be distributed to children throughout the township who are in one way or another financially unstable．The Fire Department works with churches．temples and the Welfare Department，The United States Marine Corps then takes the ciations，specialized hospitals，and varying organizations that focus on helping children in northem New Jersey．The Marine Corps is contacted every year by agencies in Marine Corps is contacted every year by agencies in help out，＂said＂Scot Seidel，co－chairman of the Chamber
advance，asking for help in general during the holidays，as of Commerce．＂We went out and bough about $\$ 700$ worth
＂It＇s a great way to provide gifts for children who may
not get to enjoy the holidays as much as other poople，＂said firsfighter Tom Emst
Last year，Springfield received more than 18,000 don tions toward the＂Toys for Tots＂program，which is co－ sponsored by the township＇s Chamber of Commerce．Gifts range anywhere from yo－yos and dolls to bicycles and tel－ evisins
＂The Toys for Tots＂program is very imporant for the
township，said Mayor Clara Harelik；＂because it teaches the lesson of giving．
Harelik said that the donations make for a win－win situ－ ation，noting that for cvery resident who feels the satisfac－
tion of giving，someone less foriunate will get to bencfit from the program．She looks forward to donating to the program herself．
hey came to us two years ago，asking us if we could

Aftermath shows some crossing of party lines

Teas declane impasse

By Rick Klittich After an Aug． 31 meeting that produced no arcement betwea the
Mountainside school district＇s tach ers union and representatives of the
Bourd of Education for a new teach ers＇contract，the negotiating commit tees are hopeful wat the next meet－
ing，scheduled for tomorow，will see img，scheduled for tomorrow，will
better ressuts．The contracts cove
threc years and expired June 30 ． We recelved a letter saying they
Heclared an impaisse，＂said Board of Education President Peter Goggi teachers are looking to go to media tion instead of repeatedly pegotiating with no success．Still，both sides are
willing to give negotiations another
try．Jeannette Maraffi，president of the Mountainside Edueation Assoclation，
Mhe district＇s teachers＇union，has sai Moe district＇s teachers＇union，has said
that offers coming from the opposing that offers coming from the opposing
side have been＂insulting．＂． As to why it＇s been more than tw
months since the last negotition months since the last negotiation
took place，Goggi said thar＇s a good question．＂They said not July，and after w gave then（at least eight）dates in
August，they chose Aug 31＂ August，
Goggi．
After that letter was sent to the
Board of Education following the Board of Education oulowid they
August meeting，Goggi said to
responded by requesting to continue as soon as possible． While Marafte said in a phone message that after the Nov． 11 meet－
ing，negotiations will then go to
mediation，Guggi did not confirm that．don＇t know if that will be the
 ers went into the school year withou new contracts was three years ago，as negotiated and eventually went to mediation．It took until December of that school year for cveryilhing to be resolved，although Maraff said that
the issues the issues surrounding negotiations are somewhat different this time
around．Maratit said in September
and that the issues concerned salary an health benefits．
Goggi said that if necessary，a
mediator would be appointed and mediator would be appointed and
could range from cither a profession could range from either aprofess
al mediator to an attorney that pe forms mediation on the side． While Goggi，vouldnt say whether of not the negotiations look
to be hicading into mediation Gogei to be heading into mediation，Goggi
noted he would＂like to pave the way noted he would＂ike to
The atmospliere of the district， however，hasn＇t been disrupted Goggi said． is that we work out problems out，
Everybody is extremely profession al．＂Goggl said．
Goggi is part of a negotiating team that includes fellow board member Patricia Knodel and Ray Haggar
along with Board Secretary Paul Viz along with Board Secretary Paul viz
zuso and board attorncy David zuso and board attorncy David
Rubin．Maraff is joined by a New jersey Education Association repre sentatives，four teachers and one sec retary from the school district They
represent not only the teachiers，bu represent not only the teachers，bu dians，as well．
Maraffi previousty said that sh does not understand why this is problem in Mountainside．but tha she hopes an agreement
reached in a timely fashio

## Township seeks two－year extensions for unions＇contracts

By Rick Klittion
Staff Writer
Unlike the last several years of ongoing debate between the Township of Springfield and its fire，police and municipal unions，con
tracts for the public employees appear to be on track for agteement before the start of the new year．
According to Township Conmitteeman
Steven Goldstein，almost everything has already been agred upon，
＂Esentially we re uss poing over the lan－ ＂Essentially，we re just going over the lan－
guage of the contracts，＂said coidstein．a guage of the contracts．
lawyer．
The most reeent contract hat was setued between the tewnship and its poliee and fire
unions expired in Decmber 2000．

December．All changes．including rate of pay increases and schedule
tive to that last contract．


Municipal contracts are not subject and are usually tevecording to Goldstein upon the decisions regarding the eontracts of the police and fire departments．
While the arbitration decision was made he end of 2003，it was a four－year contrac mitte just one year to negotiate once again ＂We＇re looking for two－year extensions of the Wracts＂said Goldsten．who noted that on attorney fees by attompting moncy spen directly through members of the Township

Harelik，who is also a lawyer．
cally changing any items，＂he said． Harelik said that negotiations went very worked very amicably together
The extension allows the Township Com mittee and township employees to functio for two years without being entrenched in lik added
Goldsten added that what is alwass nto are minor issues and raises，buit sidd there are no foresecable problems in the future． The municipal contracts cover the public works and road departments in the township， among others，and Goldstenn said that along
the same raise for members of all departments． Goldstein sad that there has been excellent communication and relations between the ee departments．
＂We were able to discuss items inteligent ly and maturely，＂Goldstein said＂The atmos phere was completely devoid of adversity．The culmination of this has shown that the inions and mü．
saries．＂
Lasties．year a rally conducted at Town Hall appeared to be the best display of urgency on the parts of the potice and firefighters who fel disrespected and unappreclated by the Town
ship Committe hip Committe
be settled．as arbitration had lasted longer than was expected to when if began in 2001 ． hat the township had little to do with the arbi ration process．and these sentiments were reiterated in 2004 when Harelik said that all parties were vietims of the system After no appeal was made by either pary ochange the arbitrator＇s decision，it wa
apparent that the ongoing struggle had ended Still talk of a two－year extension tha began in January likely will be applied to the contracts in the coming months，thus avoiding ＂This goes to
＂This goes to show you what can be don in the spirit of cooperativeness．＂said Gold



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Firefighters rush to Rt. 22 accident

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