

Taxes due

First quarter taxes are due at the Tax Assessor's Office at Town Hall by Tuesday, February 1.

Making Progress

Towns are choosing redevelopment plans and other creative ways to boost rates. See our annual Progress section inside.

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

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Sandmeier library project completed

By Rick Kiltich
Staff Writer

Five years after she began working at Springfield's Thelma L. Sandmeier School, librarian Susan Baldassano's cramped workplace has been renovated, improved and, best of all, expanded.

Monday night's Board of Education meeting, conducted at the elementary school, began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked the opening of the new media center, which was part of the district's 2003 referendum. Standing between Board of Education President Irwin Sablosky, Vice President Patricia Venezia, Sandmeier Principal Michael Antolino and Superintendent of Schools Michael Davino, Baldassano cut the ribbon with a smile.

"We all can be proud of what's happened here," said Sablosky to the crowd of parents and children. "Our referendum dollars have been well-used and the students will be well-served."

The new media center replaces a library that was previously just larger than a kindergarten classroom.

That room, filled with paintings, a few computers and an antenna, was so small that only a couple students could search for books at any one time.

The new media center is a 4,000-square-foot room that was transformed from a 900-square-foot room as part of the 2003 construction referendum.

square-foot media center, filled with spacious shelving units that aren't completely filled as of yet, along with space for twelve computers that the school hopes to eventually acquire. Baldassano is eager to allow students to use the facility.

"This really makes it easier for them to truly use the library," she said. "Now, they can learn the life skill of finding information in any library."

Baldassano also noted the importance of having access to more information, especially via the Internet, because of the grade shift that is going to accompany the end of the Edward V. Walton construction.

With a fifth-grade coming to Sandmeier, a more research-oriented curriculum will demand much more use of the media center.

The library will include videos and software, including an area for digital video disks and a projection screen. With places to store all the resources and better accessibility to books, students may have more fun finding themselves and less trouble finding information.

"The students get to find out who they are," said Baldassano of the effects of reading. "What they like, what their talents are. When they're choosing books for a few minutes, they're learning who they are."

Baldassano said she hopes to eventually have a reading area with a variety of books for students to read.



Photo By Barbara Kozlowski

The renovations to the new media center have now been completed. The previously 900-square foot room was transformed into a 4,000-square foot facility as part of the 2003 construction referendum.

goal of every school in the state having the capabilities that the new media center will have.

"I need my little space," Baldassano said. "Our books were sitting in a closet. We were running into

added. "We need room to get the children excited."

After presenting "thank you" cards to the board, contractor and community at large, Baldassano was given a new wooden chair. "I'll sit in her

while reading to students. In the end, she said, it's all about the children.

"They've been so excited," Baldassano said, "and so upset that they haven't been able to take out a book the past week or two."

Teachers' contract finalized

By Rick Kiltich
Staff Writer

A four-year contract between the Mountainside school district's teachers, assistants, and custodians was finalized after a long negotiating process when the Board of Education recently voted to approve the contractual changes.

The most negotiated item was in regards to salary increases, which were set at 4.3 percent for the next three years. The contract is retroactive to July 2004.

The Mountainside Education Association voted to approve the most recently negotiated contracts Jan. 4, while the board agreed on the terms at their Jan. 11 meeting.

"I think we got the best that we could get under the circumstances," said MEA President and Deerfield School music teacher Jeannette Maraffi, emphasizing that the contract was fair.

Maraffi said she wishes she knew how the long negotiation process could be avoided.

"I think when society, in general, decides that education should be at the top of the list," she said, "putting the education of the children at the top and not the bottom," then the process could change. "But, we're not getting much of the bottom of the priority

fundamentally," Goggi said, "virtually all terms and conditions stayed the same."

Goggi said that some were modified titles and positions, along with some language changes to the contract.

Salary guidelines, which stipulate the increases for elementary, the different steps, and the district were also modified.

Goggi said that he is satisfied with the contract.

"I don't think there was anything else the board could have done," said Goggi of the extension negotiations.

Goggi said that the negotiations were to avoid negotiating problems would be to either make the decision more public, which isn't necessarily the best idea, or to lay out a number of meeting dates that would be shared to by both sides.

When asked if a teacher's decision to stay within the district would be affected by the negotiation process, Maraffi said, "Of course. Absolutely."

Goggi, however, thought differently.

"I don't think so," he said. "Mountainside is an attractive place to work, and I don't buy into the philosophy that it isn't."

Maraffi maintained that certain items discussed during the negotiations were the advantage of teachers, mostly to the benefit of the district.

"It's a very, difficult process," she said.

Negotiations, both sides will be negotiating. It should be a win-win process, she said.

The contract will be in effect for the 2007 school year.

Deer feeding

Deer feeding is a popular activity in the winter months, but it can have negative effects on the environment.

Deer feeding can lead to increased feeding on less nutritious foods, which can result in the deterioration of deer range.

Any food that's left out, not only gets deer to come, but other animals, too," said Josephine Cohen, a 23-year resident of Laurel Court.

Cohen said that she has seen wood piles across her property, as well.

"They come in packs," she said of the deer.

The Deer Feeding and Wildlife also says that it is important not to introduce large quantities

of the council. The council is made up of representatives from the various townships in the area. It is responsible for managing the deer population in the region.

The council is currently working on a plan to manage the deer population. This includes increasing feeding on less nutritious foods, which can result in the deterioration of deer range.

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In the backyard of one resident, a herd of deer gather to feed. Residents are feeding deer and currently, the borough is considering whether to ban deer feeding.

of deer, and walk through our yard to where they know they will be fed."

Residents who feed deer are also responsible for the health of the deer. Feeding deer can lead to increased feeding on less nutritious foods, which can result in the deterioration of deer range.

The Deer Feeding and Wildlife also says that it is important not to introduce large quantities

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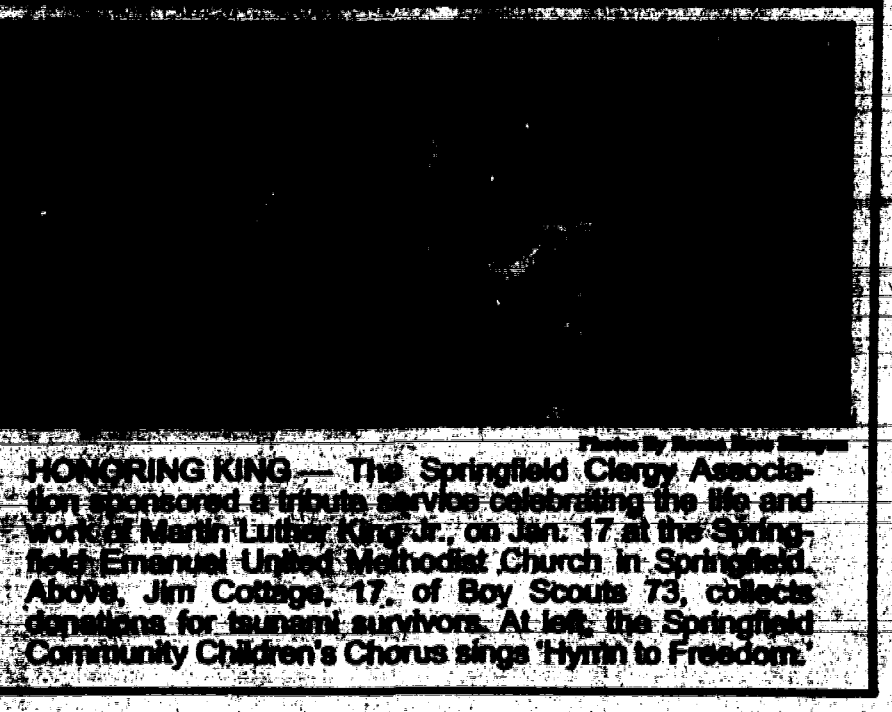
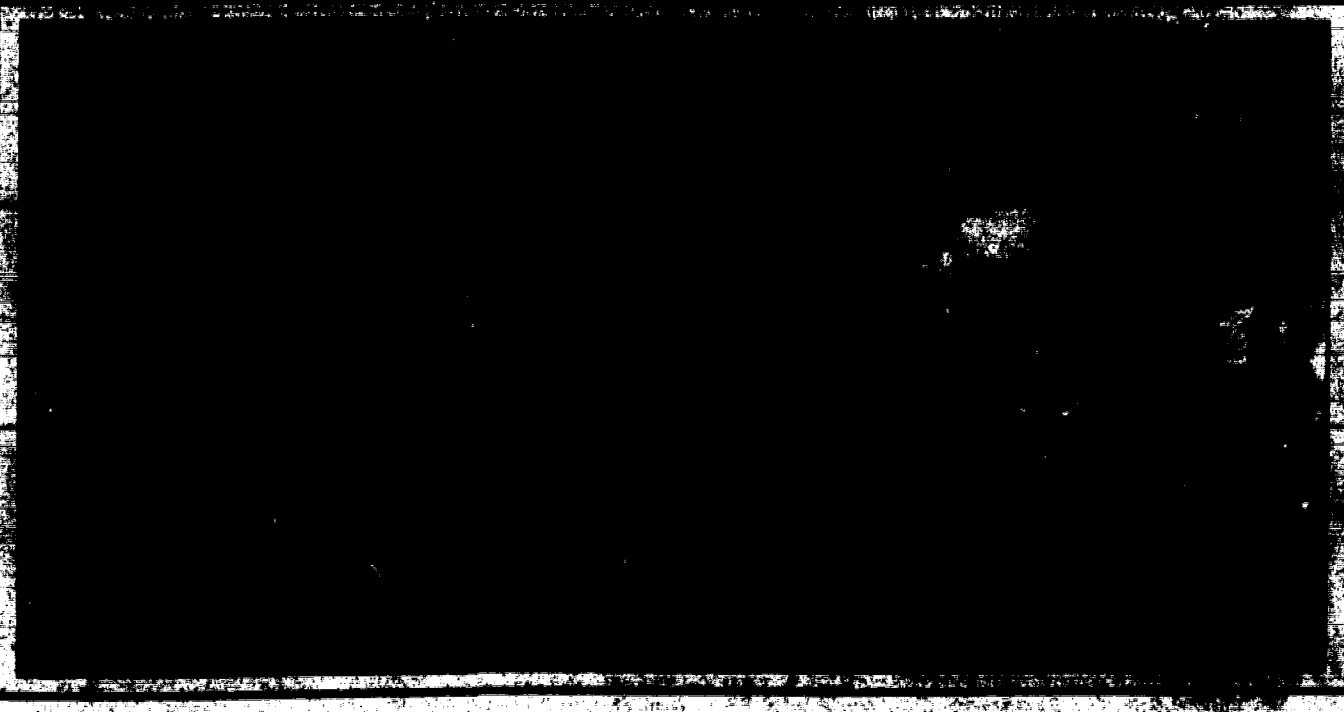
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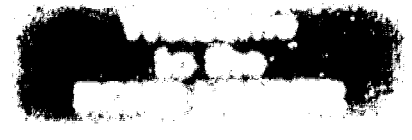
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HONORING KING — The Springfield Clergy Association sponsored a tribute service celebrating the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 17 at the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church in Springfield. Above, Jim Cottage, 17, of Boy Scouts 73, collects donations for tsunami survivors. At left, the Springfield Community Children's Chorus sings 'Hymn to Freedom.'



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FIRE BLOTTER

1000 Ave business burglarized

POLICE BLOTTER

Continues to assemble health kits

Volunteers sought for public health team

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...business owners.

...workshop aids small business owners.

...Book group explores 'Brave New World'.

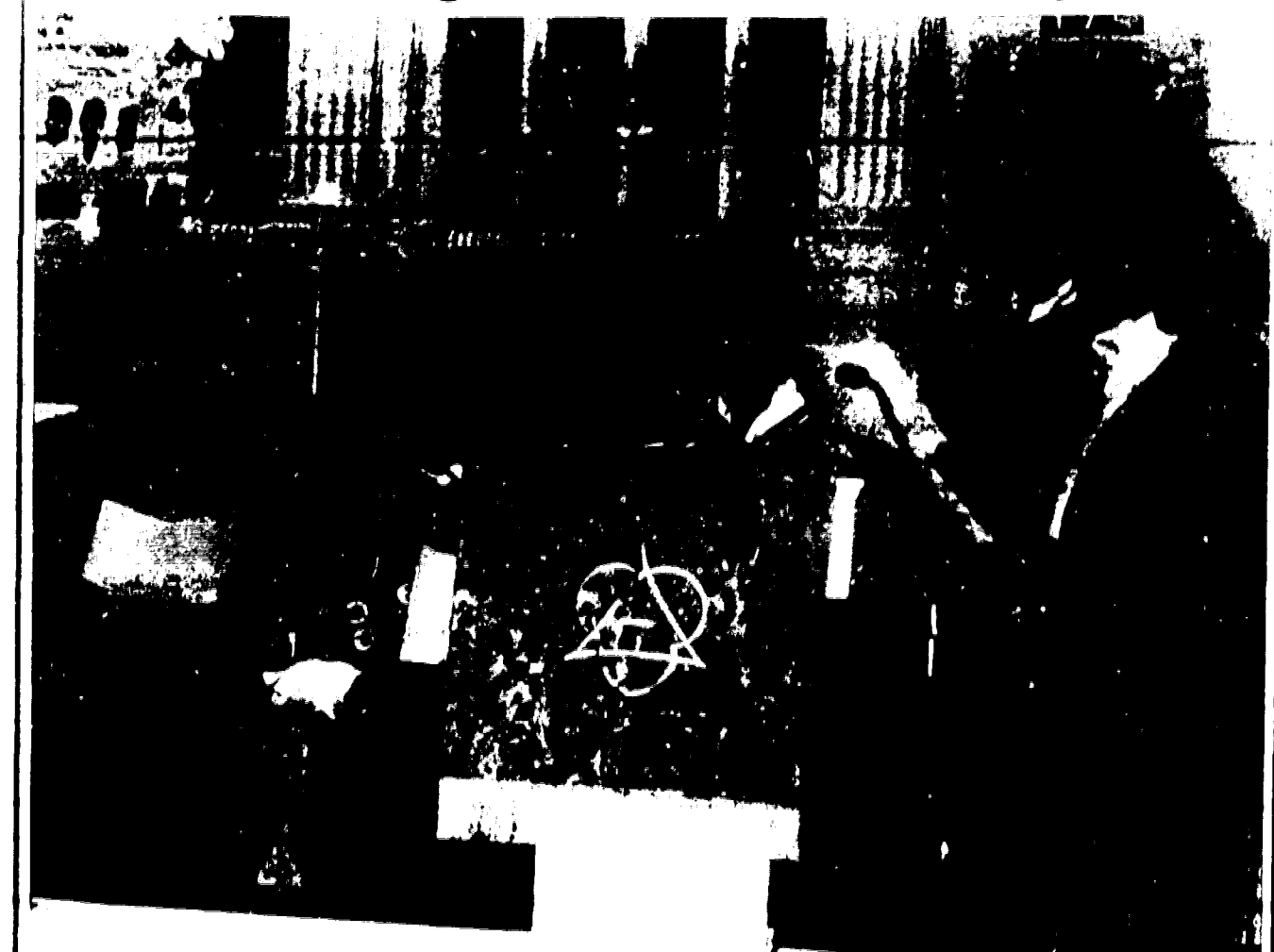
...Video series continues with action sequel.

...Youth activities planned.

...Beirne earns honor from HFHN.

...Library offers new technology resource.

Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.



Several students from Saint James the Apostle School in Springfield take part in the service honoring the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. at the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church in Springfield on Jan. 17. The students performed a choral reading of the original poems written by two of the students present.

Beirne earns honor from HFHN

Tom Beirne of Springfield was named the Habitat For Humanity Newark volunteer of the year at the annual meeting recently conducted at headquarters in the project's 11th year in June. Beirne was praised for his dedication and service as a member of HFHN's Newark chapter.

Mike Mangan, vice chairman of Habitat For Humanity Newark, presented Beirne with the award. Mangan also organized a new crew to help with the project's ongoing work.

Beirne began his work with Habitat For Humanity Newark in 1991. He has since been involved in the Newark area, including the Newark Public Library and the Newark Public Schools.

Beirne said he also enjoys outside work. "Actually, my wife and I would like to go to Italy," he said. "I would like to go to Italy, she thought I would be good at it, said Beirne."

Beirne says at first he was not sure he wanted to get involved on a regular basis, but after a few years he found it a great challenge and we have been doing some good things for other people.

Library offers new technology resource

The Springfield Free Public Library Web site is a resource for the collections of public, school and academic libraries throughout New Jersey by searching JerseyLink. They can search the collections of 15 libraries at a time, locate magazines and newspaper collections by selecting the New Jersey Union List of Serials on the JerseyLink menu, and submit requests for interlibrary loan materials from home.

Welcome to our open house

Please Come To Our Open House

Sophia Dilonia, Vincent Ruzek, Samantha Lopez, Conor McGlew and Michelle Ferrar, students of Holy Trinity Interparochial School at the Mountainside campus, invite the public to an open house on Friday. Call 908-233-1899 to arrange for a tour.

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VIEWS OF NOTED ISRAELI AUTHOR/
RADIO PERSONALITY GADI TAUB

Join us for an experience not to be missed
Shabbat Evening Service followed by Dr. Taub's incisive look at Israel and Israelis

Friday, February 4, 8:00 pm

Dr. Taub is an essayist and dramatist for radio and TV and edits Mikarov, an Israeli journal of literature and society

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Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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

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

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

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

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

E-mail: The Echo Leader accepts news releases and opinion pieces by e-mail. Our e-mail address is Editor@theecholeader.com

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

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

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

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

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

Firefighters respond to accident

Springfield On Jan. 15, at 6:39 a.m., firefighters responded to Route 28 east for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

FIRE BLOTTER

On Jan. 18 at 9:03 a.m., firefighters responded to a Lenape Road residence for a lock-out.

Morris Ave. business burglarized

Springfield On Jan. 22 at 5:32 a.m., it was reported that someone burglarized a Morris Avenue business and took approximately \$300 in cash and a metal case that stored receipts.

POLICE BLOTTER

building were damaged when a vehicle backed into it. At 9:30 p.m. Jan. 20, a man attempted to steal a pair of Chippewa work boots, valued between \$75 and \$140, from a Route 22 west business.

Church continues to assemble health kits

Members of the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church invite individuals or organizations to join them in a simple, "hands-on" project: benefiting survivors of the South Asia and Africa Tsunami.

Each health kit contains basic hygiene items needed to stop the spread of disease. Contents of each kit must exactly meet accepted country regulations.

expiration dates must be six months or longer from February 2005, and six adhesive medium-size plastic strip sterile bandages, approximately 1 x 3 inches.

Organizers ask donors to pay attention to the specific details listed for the items. Donors are asked to contribute \$1 for each complete health kit they bring to the church to assist with shipping and handling costs.

Volunteers sought for public health team

The Westfield Regional Health Department is recruiting members of the public who would be interested in being a member of the Public Health Emergency Response Team.

professionals and lay citizens who will give critical support to local public health personnel to conduct mass prophylaxis/vaccination clinics.

For information, call the Health Department or visit their Web site at http://www.westfieldnj.net/health.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Friday
• Marc Jaffe will share personal anecdotes from his summer experience in Athens, where he served as the team chiropractor for the 540-member USA Olympic Team at the 2004 Summer Olympics.

Saturday
• Boy Scouts from troops in Summit, New Providence, Berkeley Heights, Gillette and Stirling will join with other Scouts of the Patriot District of the Patriot's Path Council in their 48th Klondike Derby sled race and scout-skill contest at 8:30 a.m. at the playground area above Surprise Lake in the Watchung Reservation in Mountainside.

Wednesday
• The Springfield Planning Board will meet in the Committee Chambers of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave. at 8 p.m.

Upcoming Feb. 3
• The Foothill Club luncheon will be at noon at B.G. Fields Restaurant in Westfield.

Feb. 5
• The Mountainside PTA invites the public to a Community Pancake Breakfast at the Deerfield School Cafeteria, 302 Central Ave. from 8:30 to 11 a.m. The snow date is Feb. 12.

Feb. 7
• The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the instructional media center of Jonathan Dayton High School, 139 Mountain Ave., at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 8
• The Mountainside Board of Education will meet in the media center of Beechwood School, 1487 Woodacres Drive, at 8 p.m.

Feb. 9
• SNAP - Special Needs Advocate for Parents - is a national non-profit public benefit corporation which will be hosting a workshop on "Planning for the Future of Your Child or Dependent with Special Needs" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Children's Specialized Hospital Auditorium at the Mountainside facility, 156 New Providence Road.

AT THE LIBRARY

Workshop aids small business owners

A free workshop offered by SCORE called "Starting Your Own Successful Business: Special Tips from the Experts" will be Monday, at 7 p.m. at Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. In case of snow, the workshop will be conducted on Feb. 7 instead.

Small business owners wear many different hats. On any given day, they manage product development, marketing, sales, operations, personnel and finances.

SCORE, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, is a non-profit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of small businesses nationwide.

The Good Books Discussion Group of Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will meet Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. to discuss "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley.

Video series continues with action sequel
Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., begins its Luncheon Video Series, "Books and True Stories," on Tuesday at noon.

Video series continues with action sequel
In this action-packed sequel to the 2002 blockbuster "The Bourne Identity," Jason and Marie are jolted out of their idyllic life in self-exile and once again find themselves in the crosshairs of Jason's former employer, the shadowy intelligence agency that molded him into an elite assassin.

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Beirne earns honor from HFHN
Tom Beirne of Springfield was named the Habitat For Humanity Newark Volunteer of the Year at the annual meeting recently conducted at headquarters. In the framed citation given to him, Beirne was praised for his dedicated service in support of HFHN goals and standards.

Youth activities planned
Mountainside Public Library has a variety of activities planned for the upcoming winter months for children in the community.

Preschool Storytime will be conducted on Thursdays, from today through March 3, from 2 to 2:30 p.m. Toddler Storytime will be conducted on Wednesday mornings, from Jan. 26 through Feb. 16 from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Call 908-233-0115.

Welcome to our open house

Please Come To Our Open House
Sophia Diloris, Vincent Ruzak, Samantha Lopez, Conor McGraw and Michelle Ferrer, students of Holy Trinity Interprotestant School at the Mountainside campus, invite the public to an open house on Friday, Call 908-233-1899 to arrange for a tour.

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Shabbat Evening Service followed by Dr. Taub's Inclusive look at Israel and Israelis
Friday, February 4, 8:00 pm
Dr. Taub is an essayist and dramatist for radio and TV and edits Mitzvah, an Israeli journal of literature and society.
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Artist's reception planned at arboretum

Local artist Elissa F. Merkl is scheduled to exhibit a series of serigraph prints at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 165 Hobart Ave., through Feb. 12.

SENIOR NEWS

Bill paying service offered by SAGE

Do you struggle to balance your checkbook? Do you have a problem organizing your monthly bills? If so, SAGE's bill paying service can help.

Speaker explores aspects of aging

John Bullock will speak on the physiology of the normal aging process of humans at the Tuesday meeting of the Summit Old Guard at the New Providence Municipal Center at 10 a.m.

and Polish-speaking institutions, organizations and media to reach those in need of services. If you would like more information about SHIP, call 908-273-6999.

In the spirit of 'the Dream'



One thousand worshippers packed the Summit High School Auditorium on Jan. 16 when three Summit churches came together in the spirit of the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Chorale conducts 'Holocaust Cantata'

"Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps," will be performed by Summit Chorale, under the direction of Richard Gartin on Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. at the new Concert Hall adjoining the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts at Drew University in Madison.

Senior Club meets

The Senior Citizens Club of Mountaineers meets the second and fourth Friday of the month at Community Presbyterian Church, Deer Path and Meeting House Lane, at noon.

PREP group meets

SAGE Eldercare, a major community resource for elders, offers a

Union County

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

Political capital

Some of the advisers to state Sen. Nicholas Scutari of Linden cautioned him about the pitfalls of his legislation, S-2200.

Left Out

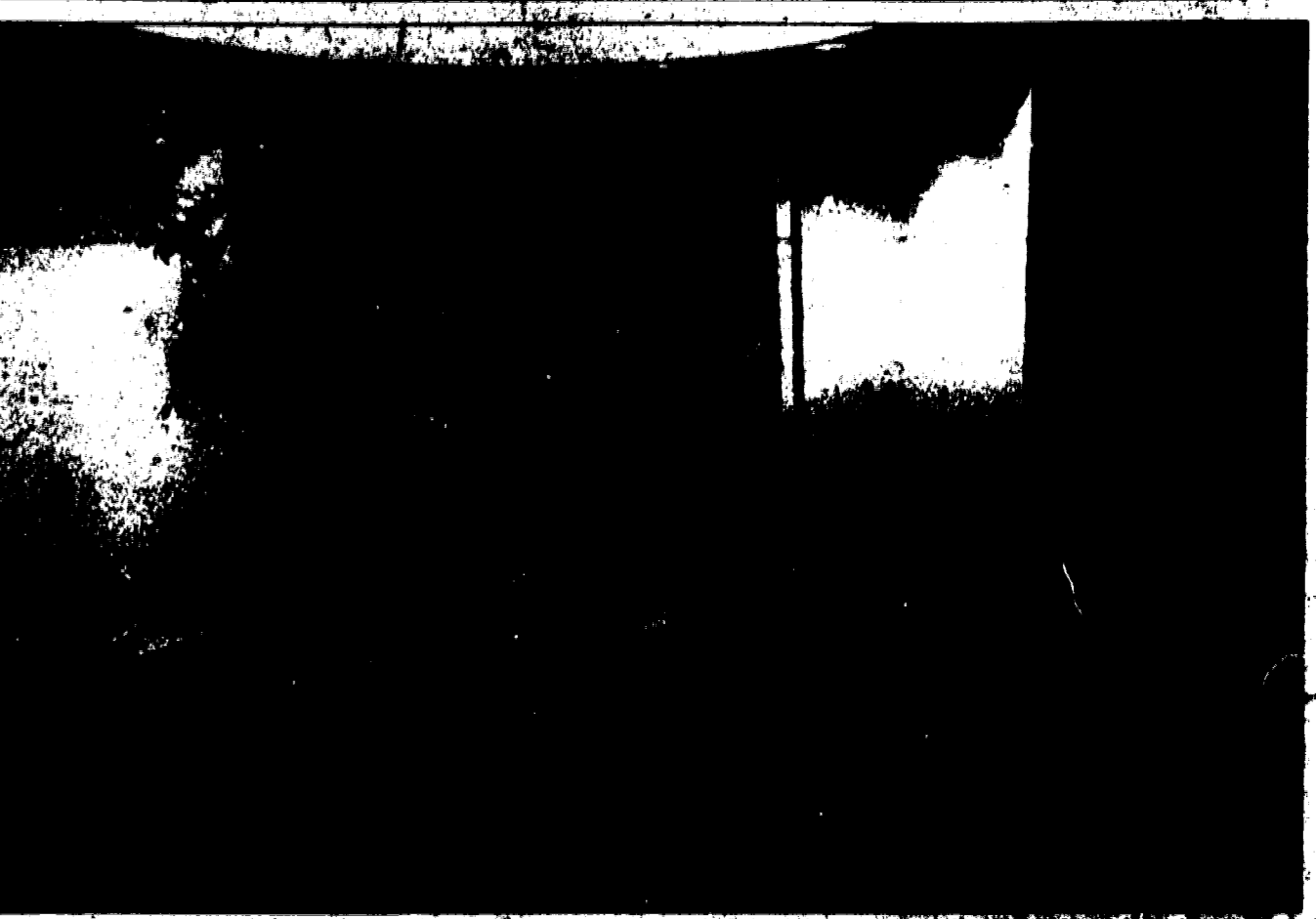
Under the tight nature of the proposal, the state Department of Health and Senior Services would issue registration cards to the people who doctors certify they are suffering from the debilitating effects of diseases such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, glaucoma, positive HIV or AIDS.

Geese and deer in county's crosshairs

Officials contend that the goose population in county parks is once again a problem due to issues such as disease and fecal pollution of county grounds and waterways as well as rising maintenance costs to combat damage to the parks from the geese.

'They round up and physically remove the geese.'

This year's resolution, scheduled to be voted on last night, was a second contract for the same company. According to Sigmund, the county has already renewed its state permit to remove up to 2,700 geese, but the county has not removed that many.



The Sharing Network, based in Springfield, has 14 quilts with names and messages for people who have died and donated their organs to others.

Learning how to 'share'

Springfield organization educates public on organ donation. In 1987, the nonprofit organization has two missions: one, to recover organs and tissues for donation, and two, to educate the community about donation.

SAGE receives grant to support SHIP

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' Division of Aging will be awarding SAGE Eldercare a grant to support its State Health Insurance Assistance Program.

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Edible Arrangements advertisement featuring various fruit designs and contact information.

Advertisement for WTC Area Firms providing various services.

Juniper Village at Chatham advertisement highlighting amenities like meals, transportation, and staff services.

College library will be 'state-of-the-art' facility

With its enrollment the highest in history, Union County College's Cranford campus needed to do something about the library.

Why areas and group study rooms, she said. The rooms will be available to students working in groups, and they will have places to come together to work on projects or study for exams.

Sunrise Senior Living advertisement for Mountainside and Westfield communities, featuring amenities and contact info.

EDGE SELECT FREE advertisement for pickup services.

Union County College's Cranford campus, the largest of the two-year institution, is in the midst of renovations that include adding a third floor that will include classrooms.

Sale of two parcels at hospital expected to raise \$785K

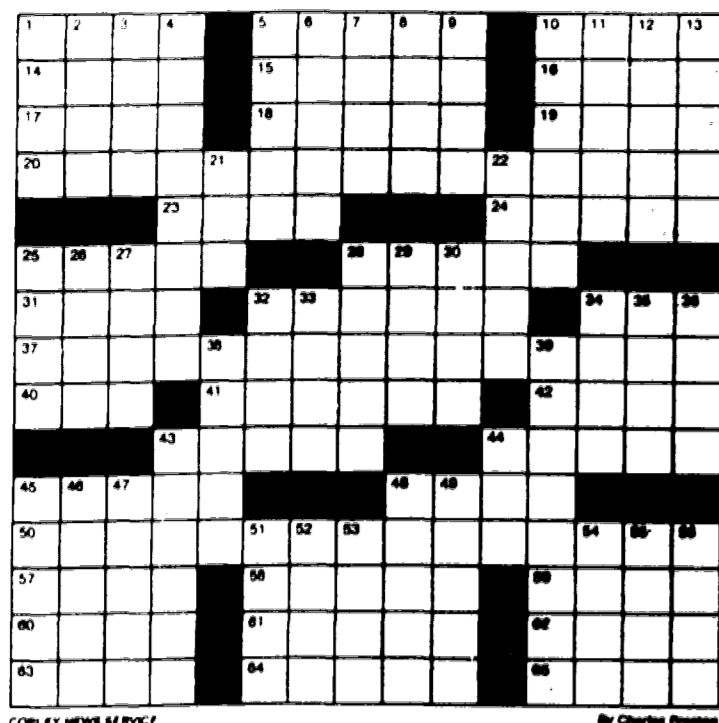
In a bid to raise revenue and lower costs, the county wants to sell two parcels of land that are currently part of the Cranford Hospital campus.

The parcels are being sold as a result of a major restructuring of the hospital's land holdings, and the proceeds from the sale will help offset other county programs.

ACROSS

ROCK LEGEND

- 1 Candler and Gray
5 Done in
10 Page
14 Equal: prefix
15 Piebald horse
16 Wheel spinner
17 Lordy!
18 Autumn bloomer
19 Pour
20 Dylan, once
23 Incipient fallow
24 Disarranged
25 Two, cubed
28 Leon, of old flicks
31 Philippine knife
32 Youngster
34 Churchillian sign
37 Hit by 20 Across
40 Musical
41 Kind of measure
42 Car part
43 Increases
44 Nanny's mate
45 Necessary letters
48 of mandamus
50 Hit by 20 Across
57 Anathema for Elijah
58 Computer data
59 Mob boss
60 Morada
61 Expletive
62 Bar brews
63 Trueheart, of the comics
64 Revue material
65 Sprite



By Charles Penick

- 8 Bit of gossip
9 'Cheers' regular
10 Fee
11 Term enders
12 Inventor Howe
13 Offer for thoughts
21 Boring routine
22 Heart in up
25 Pulls away
26 Kansas city
27 Healthy look
28 Coastal birds
29 'The Godfather' composer Nino
30 German river
31 Tiffin
32 Needle holder
34 Orchestral string

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B10

HOROSCOPES

Jan. 31 to Feb. 6

ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Do not allow yourself to be misled by friends. Avoid unnecessary confusion by staying focused and on track with your goals. Honesty is key.
TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: Make up your mind about what you want to do and you can expect success in professional endeavors. Take the plunge and come out on top.
GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: A friendly discussion could quickly get out of hand and turn into a heated argument. Walk away before saying something you may regret.
CANCER, June 22 to July 22: Tap into a new level of personal or artistic expression. Put passion and enthusiasm into a creative project and allow it to blossom.
LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Join forces with a powerful and influential partner and conquer all opposition. When working together toward a com-

mon cause, you can move mountains.
VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: You are your own best analyst. Defend yourself against unwarranted or undeserved criticism and sell your best qualities.
LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Stay away from a speculative venture that has little chance for success. Put your money and energy into a promising or productive project.
SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Enjoy a stimulating emotional exchange with family members. Listen to their concerns and consider a compromise in order to keep the peace.
SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: It helps to share your thoughts and ideas with a sibling or neighbor. Open up, speak from the heart and get your point across.
CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: An overhaul of your budget is long overdue. Turn your attention to your finances and make some realistic and

necessary adjustments.
AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: The challenge is on to produce or promote a new product or service. Stay active and involved in every phase of the operation.
PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: Acknowledge a feeling or strong urge to escape your current reality. Plan a much-deserved trip to a relaxing spa.
If your birthday is this week, make a conscious effort to keep your feet on the ground and your head out of the clouds during the coming year. Because of your desire to see the best in everyone, you are susceptible to folly or deception. Do not allow anyone to force you into a decision or situation that you are not comfortable with. Keep striving to make a dream come true.
Also born this week: Justin Timberlake, Clark Gable, Farrah Fawcett, Norman Rockwell, Rosa Parks, Henry 'Hank' Aaron and Ronald Reagan.

New SAT Academic and Strategic Certified H.S. Teachers. Our 20th year! IMPROVED SERVICES CENTER 1-800-368-6378 www.ecostestprep.com

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VIEWING THE WATCHING MOUNTAINS WEDDING DREAMS COME TRUE 5 Hours Open Bar, Cocktail Hour, Full Course Dinner... FROM \$4495. Lets do Brunch! Every Sunday 11:00am - 3:00pm. Mediterranean Seafood Buffet \$29.95 per adult.

FLEA MARKET SUNDAY January 30th, 2005. EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show. PLACE: Arthur L. Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Avenue, Clark. TIME: Indoors & Outdoors 9-5PM. DETAILS: New merchandise, collectibles, crafts, including new merchandise, crafts, collectibles and a garage/tag sale section!

REUNIONS The following schools will conduct reunions in the coming months: Westfield High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, May 21. Scotch Plains High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, June 11.

Paintings at Springfield Library Heat up for winter and dream of warmer times with an exhibit of oil paintings titled "The Beach Show" by Jim Fuess. The show will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library from through Feb. 24.

Redfield Blonsky & Co., LLC CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS NJ, NY, CA More Than 40 Years Experience. Investment Management, Tax & Estate Planning, Tax Return Preparation, Retirement Planning, IRS Audits - Certified Audits, QuickBooks® Programs.

TAX RETURN Tax Returns Prepared • Same Day VERY Reasonable Rates • Electronic Filing Rapid Refunds • Tax Planning & Preparation. No Tax Return Too Small or Too Large. We Can Help Everyone Save Tax Dollars.

Play illustrates the danger of unchecked power

Playwrights Theatre presents the New Jersey premiere of Lee Blessing's "Whores," featuring Jonathan Cantor, Cindy Carver, Lea Eckert, Corinne Edgerly, and Carol Todd. Directed by Playwrights Theatre's artistic director, John Pietrowski, "Whores" previews on Feb. 3 and runs for three weeks through Feb. 20. The press opening is on Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets from \$25 to \$27.50 are on sale now, with discounts available for students, seniors and groups.

Quiet creek

Play contains adult situations, complex subject matter and strong language. For mature audiences only. No one under 17 will be admitted. The question to be asked about this play is what does one do when the denial becomes the reality? Although jarring in its subject matter, don't judge this play by its cover. The challenge lies in thinking outside the box of our own securities and exploring the dual nature of mankind.

Art at the Hall

"La Mena Pederosa," part of Voces y Visiones, El Museo del Barrio's Permanent Collection, on display through May 13 at Seton Hall's Walsh Library Gallery. For information, call 973-275-2533.

YOUR FUTURE CAREER STARTS HERE

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Country Folk Art Craft Show JANUARY 28-29-30 Edison New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center

ANTIQUES & Crafts Furnishings SOMEVILLE CENTER ANTIQUES

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Somerville Center Antiques NJ's Largest Antique Complex 220 Tables - \$2,000 in value or more

Be Part Of This ANTIQUE CORNER To Put Your Antiques Or Furnishings Business In The Spotlight Call Connie Sloan 908-686-7700 x339

Monday Sales 11:00 am - 5 pm 1531 Main St., Rahway 732-381-0883

Edison New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center FREE PARKING! 908-686-7700 x339

Gifty Kitchen The Best Specialty Selection! Photo albums & accessories - shadow boxes for collectibles - materials to make altered books



Catholic Schools Week

January 30 - February 5, 2005

Graduate is honored

St. Michael School in Union has announced that the National Catholic Education Association, or NCEA, has named Raymond Pruszkowski a 2004 NCEA Catholic elementary school distinguished graduate...

The first Distinguished Graduate Awards were made in 1991. As an award winner, Pruszkowski joins a stellar group of hundreds of Catholic school alumni across the country...

Mukalel wins the Bee

Kevin Mukalel, an eighth-grade student at St. Michael School in Union, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on Jan. 10...

Jeff Cummins, Editor

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

Saint John Vianney School

420 Inman Avenue - Colonia 732-388-1662 "Faith in Every Student" Grades Pre-School - Eighth

St. Theresa School

540 Washington Avenue, Kenilworth, NJ 07033 OPEN HOUSE for PreK 4 - 8th grade February 1 - 9:00am to 11:00am

Small, child centered classes. Excellent Pre-K Program for 3-4 year olds. Solid Catholic Values. Rich Academic Program.

BENDER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

Bender Memorial Academy has for 85 years been a leader in private, Catholic elementary education in Union County.

OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2005 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M. WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2005 7 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

For information and directions please call: 908-352-4406 416 Linden Avenue, Elizabeth www.benderacademy.org

Open house Sunday at St. James the Apostle

An Open House will be held on Sunday at St. James the Apostle School located at 41 S Springfield Ave. in Springfield. All are welcome to attend the Student's Opening Mass at noon at St. James the Apostle Church...

Education with the theme of "Faith - In Every Student." In celebration, St. James is planning a week of fun and games and educational information...

including a student faculty volleyball game. Wednesday: Variety Show Day. Students entertain their classmates and faculty with their talents.

Bender Memorial Academy plans open house

Bender Memorial Academy, 416 Linden Ave., Elizabeth, will hold its annual open house for interested students and their families during the upcoming week.

runs from pre-K for 3- and 4-year-old school children through eighth grade. Students enjoy the challenge of always reaching for the high expectations of their well-trained teachers.

their children and the student who enjoys the challenge of learning in a nurturing environment there is no better educational choice than Bender Memorial Academy.

Searching for the right high school?

Benedictine Academy Providing students individualized attention and encouragement. All female college preparatory program, grades 9-12.

The Smart Place to Be

100% College Acceptance Varsity Sports Transportation Available 1645 Highway 22 @ Terrill Road Watchung, New Jersey

Benedictine Academy

840 North Broad Street, Elizabeth 908.352.0670 x 104 Fax 908-352-9424

All Girls & GREAT!!! Come see for yourself. MOUNT SAINT MARY ACADEMY

A Tradition of Excellence in Mercy Secondary Education for Young Women 7th Grades - Come to spend a day this Spring! 8th Grades - Visit now before time runs out!

St. Joseph the Carpenter School

140 E. 3rd Avenue • Roselle Middle States Accredited NEW STUDENTS OPEN HOUSE Sun., Jan. 30 • 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

St. Theresa School

705 Clinton Street, Linden 908-862-7551 www.st-theresaschool.org MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITED

St. John the Apostle School

Valley Road - Clark, NJ www.stjohnapostle.org Middle States Accredited Progressive Educational Curricula Dedicated certified staff

St. Michael School

at their annual Catholic Schools Week OPEN HOUSE Sunday, January 30 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon 100 Alden Street, Cranford

St. Michael School offers daily religious education, academic excellence, faculty dedication and expertise, parental involvement, personal attention, discipline, accountability and attractive class sizes.



Catholic Schools Week

January 30 - February 5, 2005

St. Michael eighth-grade students receive \$78,200 in scholarships

Eighth-grade students at St. Michael School in Union spent the last nine years preparing for high school. In November of last year each of the 27 students took a COOP test, which is similar to the Terra Nova exams...

scholarships to help defray the cost of tuition. The students competed for the awards along with applicants from many other schools.

for three students; Union Catholic, \$4,000 over four years for two students; Benedictine Academy, \$38,700 offered over four years to four students; Seton Hall Preparatory School, \$4,000 over four years to one student; and Roselle Catholic, \$11,500 over four years to three students.

"We are very proud of our students and all of their achievements," said Adele K. Ellis, principal. "The faculty and staff, from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, focus on fostering academic success while nurturing all talents each child possesses," she added.

our students is a positive result of the combined efforts of parents and teachers enhanced by the ease and availability of open communication. The students will accept the admissions to the schools by the second week of February. The scholarships are only valid for the student's attendance at the school offering the scholarship.

Events are set all week at St. John

The parish community of Saint John the Apostle Church, Clark/Linden, will present its parish school during Catholic Schools Week, Sunday to Feb. 4, with open houses and registration sessions.

music, art, world language, physical education, health and technology. The world language program begins in kindergarten and continues through eighth grade. To further the development of its students, Saint John the Apostle School offers a wide range of extracurricular activities.

Catholic School Week are: Sunday, 9 a.m., Catholic School Week Mass. Open house and registration of new students, grades pre-K to seven, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wired into knowledge

Eighth-grade social studies students at Saint John the Apostle School in Clark use their laptop computers to conduct research. In addition to individual network computers in each classroom, the school has 30 wireless laptops which are used for whole classroom instruction in the middle school.

St. Joseph plans a full schedule of activities for Catholic Schools Week

Banners, bulletin board posters and decorations featuring the theme "Faith in Every Student" will be on display at the school. Registration for the school's annual Family Fun Day will be held on Sunday, Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

week, Monday's events will occur on academic achievements and future educational goals. Tuesday, Feb. 2, 9:30 to noon, middle school career morning.

to enhance their learning skills. School parents are invited to share the classroom experiences with their children during the open house, Tuesday, Feb. 2, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

the Parents' Association meeting. His presentation, "Positive Discipline," promises to be both enlightening and empowering.

filled activities, i.e., a spirit rally, class cheers, games and special treats. Catholic Schools Week will conclude Feb. 4 with a special service focused on the theme "Faith in Every Student."

Events start Sunday at St. Michael's

St. Michael's School, Alden Street, Cranford, will begin its 2005 Catholic Schools Week festivities on Sunday with an open house at the school between 10 a.m. and noon.

This year's theme is "Faith in Every Student." Parishioners, school parents and prospective school parents are invited to visit the school on Sunday to learn more about the school.

Events start Sunday at St. Michael's

During the week, Catholic Schools Week highlights include the Eighth Grade Plus Communion which takes place during the 9 a.m. special Mass attended by the entire school.

Tuesday features the Jump Rope for Heart, a fund-raiser for the American Heart Association and fun-raiser for the school.

Events start Sunday at St. Michael's

Wednesday afternoon, an open house will be held during school hours from 12:30 to 2 p.m. for those who would like to glimpse the school, staff and students in action.

Thursday is an Out-of-Uniform Day - one dollar per student. The school closes for the day with all proceeds going to the World AIDS Memorial Relief Fund.

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: JAN. 30, 2005 - FEB. 4, 2005

A Catholic Education goes beyond academics, to include both the spiritual and intellectual development of every student. Catholic schools provide the right environment for your child's natural love for learning.

ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Catholic Elementary, Pre-K - 8 247 West Essex Road, Essex, NJ 07027 Open House Reception Thursday February 24th, 2005 7:00 PM

Saint James the Apostle School

COME INSIDE AND SEE... WE HAVE FAITH IN OUR SCHOOLS! Open House January 30, 2005 - 1-3:00 PM FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 973-376-5194

Stepping Out

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

ART SHOWS

PASTELIST JUDITH BANYAS reveals what she sees of the Delaware River from her kayak in her solo exhibit, 'My Favorite Places,' which will take place from Saturday to Feb. 26 at Swan Galleries in Plainfield.

ELISSA F. MERKL is scheduled to exhibit a series of serigraph prints at Reeves-Rood Art House, 165 Hobart Ave., Summit, to Feb. 14. Wisner House is wheelchair-accessible and open to the public.

BOOKS

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOOK GROUP will meet at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, for information, call 732-574-1818.

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield.

THE 'LORD OF THE RINGS' READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark.

CLASS

THE DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART is located at 1030 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in an historic residential area of Plainfield. The school offers full-time and part-time day and evening classes in fine art, graphic design, computer graphics and illustration.

CONCERTS

SANCTUARY CONCERTS in Berkeley Heights will present musical acts in the coming weeks.

Concerts are presented at Union Village Methodist Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights. For more information, call 973-376-4946 or visit the Web site, www.unionvillageconcerts.org.

MEET THE ORCHESTRA concert series continues at the Suburban Community Music Center, 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill. For the 18th year, the Suburban Community Music Center, in cooperation with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, will host the Meet the Orchestra series for children ages 3 to 8.

"A NIGHT WITH THE STARS OF ROCK & ROLL" featuring Speedo &

Start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$14.

For information and reservations, call 908-522-1501 or send an e-mail to concertscasues@aol.com. Also, visit the Web site, http://www.casueswithaconscience.com. March 19, Peter Mayer, April 16, Lower & Navarro, May 21, the Kennedys, June 18, the Dreamscapes.

DANCE

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Hehly School, Raritan Road.

FELIX CAVALIERE'S RASCALS will perform on Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center. Cavaliere founded The Rascals and had hit songs, including 'A Beautiful Morning' and 'Good Lovin'.

Watching artist

This is one of the paintings by Althea Scheller of Watching that will be on exhibit at Lea Malamut Art Gallery in the Union Library through Feb. 16.

CLASSIC

THE WATCHUNG ART CENTER ACOUSTIC-FOLK SERIES has begun at Watching Art Center, 18 Sterling Road, Watching. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the shows start at 8 p.m.

THE COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES OF SPRINGFIELD will take place at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, Springfield.

THE SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS meet Friday, 8 to 10:30 p.m., at the Connection, Morris Ave. at Maple St. in Summit.

THE GREAT ESCAPE, starring Steve McQueen, James Garner and Richard Allenborough, will be shown on Saturday, 8-9 p.m., at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St. in Rahway. All tickets are \$6.

THE COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES OF WESTFIELD will take place at First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 East Broad Street, Westfield.

DOORS open at 7:30 p.m., shows start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$14.

For information and reservations, call 908-522-1501 or send an e-mail to concertscasues@aol.com.

Also, visit the Web site, http://www.casueswithaconscience.com.

Feb. 12, Nadine Goelner & Friends, March 12, Amy Space & Friends, May 14, Baya Scher & Friends.

THE SECOND SATURDAY COFFEE HOUSE SERIES will be at Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., shows start at 8 p.m.

ADMISSION is \$14. For information and reservations, call 908-822-0127 or send an e-mail to info@secondaturdays.org.

APRIL 9, see Amy Carol Webb. Sign-up is at 7:30 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m.

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Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. For information, call 908-241-5758

SINGLES

DINNERMATES and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant, wine and mingling is at 8 p.m., dinner is at 9 p.m. Two age groups are available. For information on dates and locations, call 732-822-9796 or visit www.dinnermates.com.

INTERFAITH SINGLES

For single adults older than 45 years old, we meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donations are \$2. For information, call 908-689-5265 or 908-888-4751.

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING

FOR 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Yankee Buffet Grand Ballroom, 2660 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is \$7. For information, call 908-888-8816.

HOBBIES

THE MODER. RAILROAD CLUB INC. meets at 295 Jefferson Ave., Union, behind Home Depot on Route 22 East. The club is open to the public Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. For information, call 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via e-mail to TMRClnc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

THE HARVEST QUILTERS OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

will meet the first Monday of each month at Cozy Corner Creations quilt shop, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.

THEATER

THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL OF DRAMATIC ARTS announces its partnership with 12 West Theater Company at 562 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield. For more information, call 973-566-9700 or visit the Web site, www.westtheater.com.

"PROOF" by David Auburn will be performed on Feb. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. Seating is reserved, all seats are \$15. For tickets, call 908-276-7611.

"PASSION" ALBORADA SPANISH DANCE THEATER, will be performed at the Union County Arts Center on Feb. 5 at 8 p.m. A steamy Havana nightclub in the 1950s is the setting for this exotic blend of tango and flamenco dances danced by powerful Cuban rhythms. Regular tickets are \$25, student tickets are \$18. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, www.ucac.org.

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 908-522-1501.

For information and reservations, call 908-522-1501 or send an e-mail to concertscasues@aol.com.

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NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS... DONALD PHELAN, CLERK SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY...

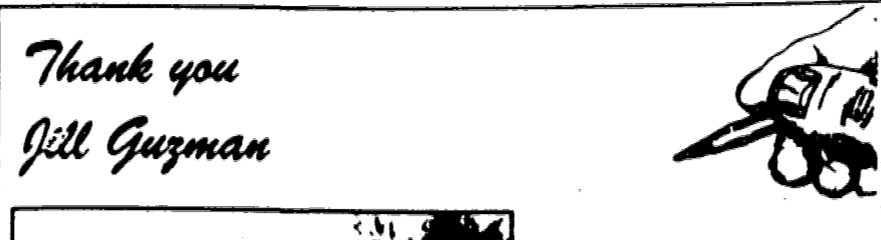
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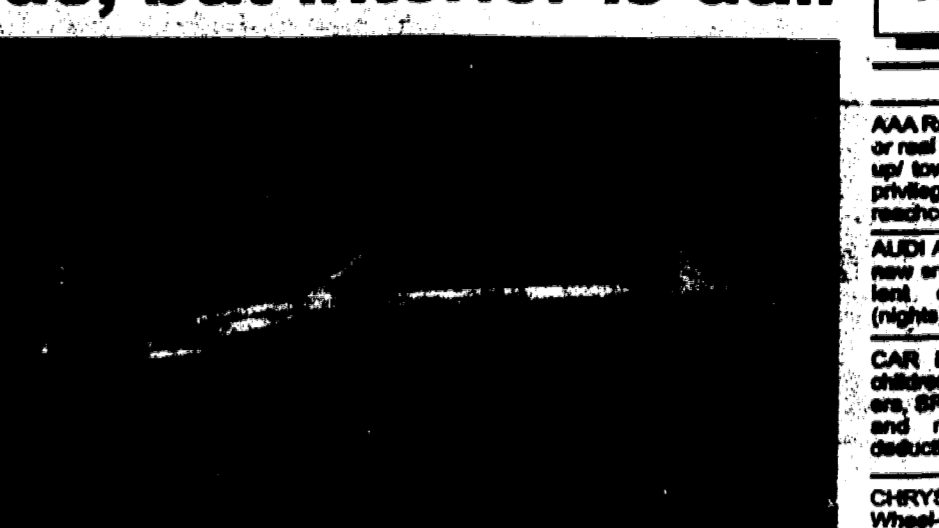
Ralliart looks great outside, but interior is dull

By Mark Maynard Copley News Service. The good thing about focusing fuel prices is that it's focusing attention on the variety of new vehicles on the showroom floor.

Standard Ralliart equipment includes remote locking, air conditioning, six-speaker stereo with CD, power windows-locks-mirrors, cruise control, side air bags and front belt pretensioners and force limiters...

The Ralliart treatment adds an Evo gauge cluster, a strip of textured metallic trim across the front of the instrument panel, a sport-touch steering wheel and leather-wrapped shift knob and brake handle.

But even Ralliart can't do much for the base Lancer interior. The econobox plastic isn't easily camouflaged, and the interior presentation is underwhelming.



2004 Mitsubishi Lancer Sportback Ralliart. Body style: Compact, front-wheel drive, five-passenger wagon. Engine: SOHC, 16-valve 2.4 liter four-cylinder with variable valve timing. Horsepower: 162 at 5,750 rpm. Torque: 162 foot-pounds at 4,000 rpm.

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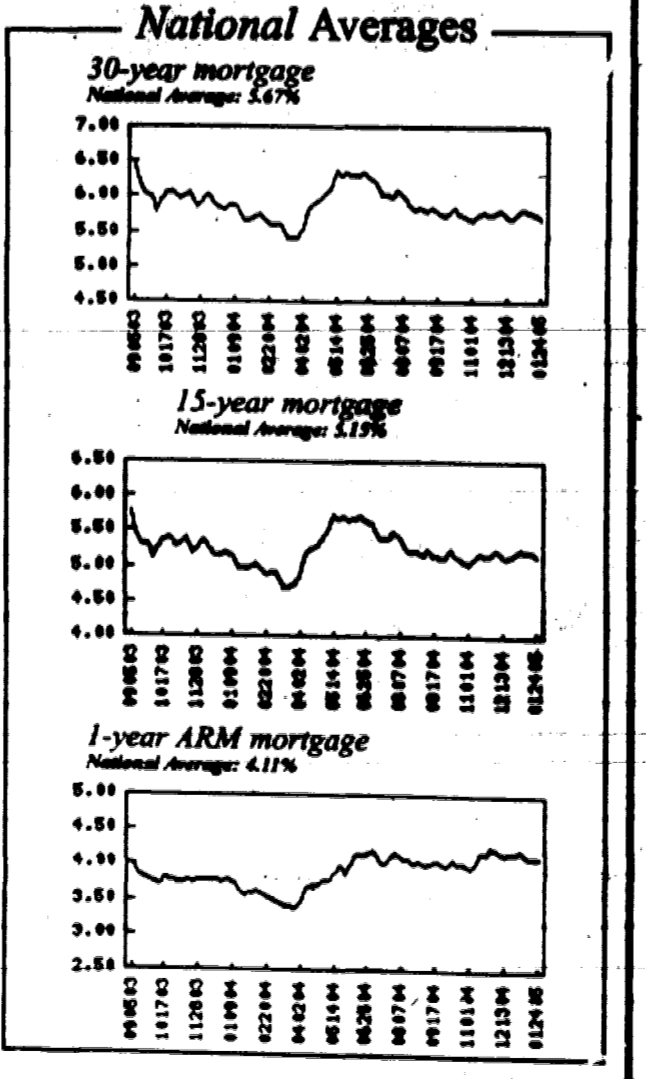
mortgage market place

Table with columns: Lender & phone, 30yr fixed rate, 15yr fixed rate, APMs (year), Additional programs/information.

Weekly Mortgage News

McLean, Va. - Freddie Mac (NYSE:FM) today released the results of its Primary Mortgage Market Survey, in which the 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) averaged 5.67 percent, with an average 0.7 points for the week ending January 20, 2005, down from last week when it averaged 5.74 percent.

National Averages



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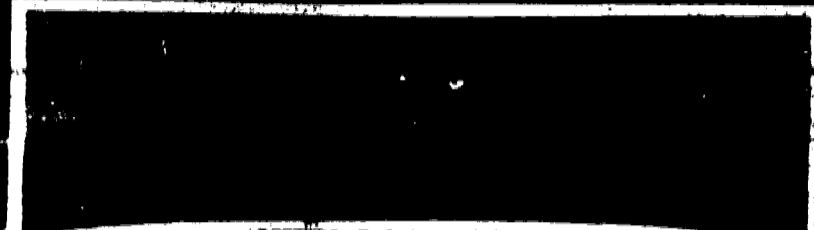
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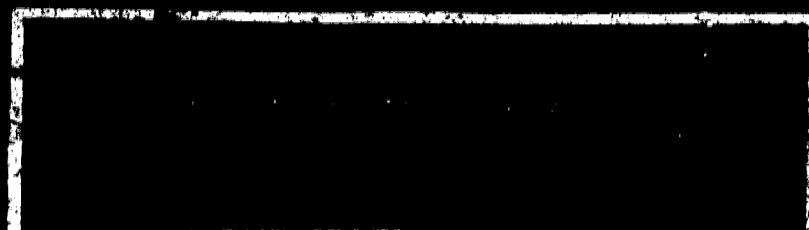
VIN #57176232, Stk #05225, 2 DR, 4 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/h, cd, MSRP: \$16,305. Includes \$3000 factory rebate, \$1500 GM owner loyalty, if qual., & \$500 military rebate, if qual.

SAVE UP TO



NEW 2005 CHEVY IMPALA

VIN #58180614, Stk #05643, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/h/winds/blo, con, MSRP: \$22,998. Includes \$2500 factory rebate, \$1500 GM owner loyalty, if qual., & \$500 military rebate, if qual.



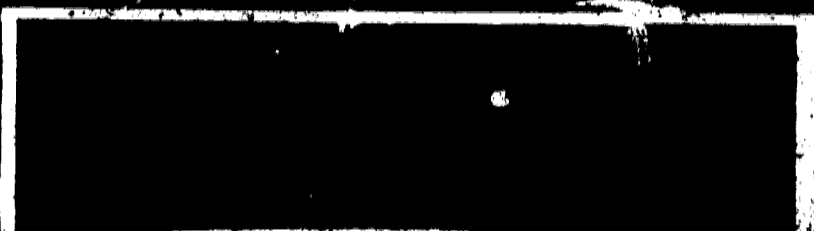
NEW 2005 CHEVY MALIBU

VIN #58204901, Stk #05057, 4 DR, 4 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/h, cd, MSRP: \$21,528. Includes \$2000 factory rebate, \$1500 GM owner loyalty, if qual., & \$500 military rebate, if qual.



NEW 2005 CHEVY ASTRO CARGO VAN

VIN #58183367, Stk #06317, 8 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/h, sun/ro storage, a/c outside, MSRP: \$23,580. Includes \$3000 factory rebate, \$1500 GM owner loyalty, if qual., & \$500 military rebate, if qual.



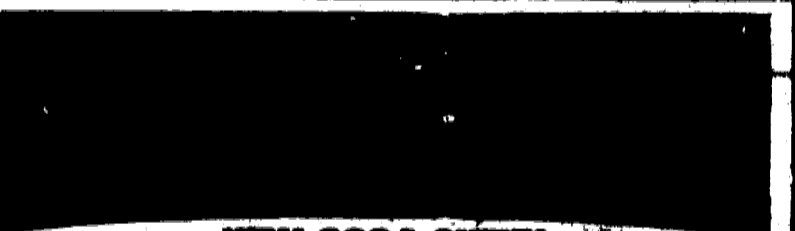
NEW 2005 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER SUV

VIN #58272074, Stk #05182, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/h/winds/blo, sun, MSRP: \$24,998. Includes \$2500 factory rebate, \$1500 GM owner loyalty, if qual., & \$500 military rebate, if qual.



NEW 2005 CHEVY AVALANCHE AWD

VIN #58204901, Stk #05057, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/h/winds/blo, sun, MSRP: \$24,998. Includes \$2500 factory rebate, \$1500 GM owner loyalty, if qual., & \$500 military rebate, if qual.



NEW 2004 CHEVY TAHOE LS 4WD

VIN #4L220863, Stk #03334, 4 DR, 8 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/h/winds/blo, sun, MSRP: \$41,085. Includes \$1500 GM owner loyalty, if qual., & \$500 military rebate, if qual.



NEW 2004 CHEVY SUBURBAN LS 4WD

VIN #4L220863, Stk #03334, 4 DR, 8 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/h/winds/blo, sun, MSRP: \$42,995. Includes \$1500 GM owner loyalty, if qual., & \$500 military rebate, if qual.



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VIN #58204901, Stk #05057, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/h/winds/blo, sun, MSRP: \$24,998. Includes \$2500 factory rebate, \$1500 GM owner loyalty, if qual., & \$500 military rebate, if qual.



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2005

Key to the Future

January 27, 2005

Township of Union shaping itself for future

By Steven Kelly
Staff Writer

The past year has seen a number of public and private developments in the Township of Union, all aimed at enhancing the township's unique location as well as its massive transportation system.

A number of private businesses opened their doors this year and found Union a welcoming community. Popular eateries such as Hoegaarden, Applebee's, Ruby Tuesday's and LAI Fridays all opened across the township.

While the franchise restaurants such as Hoegaarden and Ruby Tuesday's remained on the reliable Route 22 corridor, Applebee's took a chance coming into the heart of Union.

Located in the old Cost Cutter building of the former Bradloes shopping center, the restaurant along Morris Avenue has reported above average sales and a high turnover in its curbside take-out service.

While the eatery is up and running at the site, construction for the planned Lowes Home Improvement Center was slowed this

year due to concerns over zoning code changes.

However, officials from the township have stated that the concerns have been addressed and construction will resume this spring. Lowes will replace the old Bradloes complex and act as the anchor store to the newly complete Morris Avenue shopping plaza.

Residents can clearly watch the progress of the construction by cruising by the site. The old white Bradloes building was demolished early this year and all that remains is the renovated Toys 'R' Us building.

All of the other stores have relocated to the renovated Cost Cutter building which now houses retail clothing stores, shoe outlets and electronics shops as well as the popular Applebee's restaurant.

When completed, the Lowes Home center will offer customers a traditional hardware center, lumber yard and home furnishings as well as a garden center and special contractor

services. Down the road from the Lowes site, another group of buildings were recently razed to make way for a new shopping center and bank. Work at the Sparta Supermarket site along Stryvesant Avenue just a block from Vanhall Road began last fall.

The site, which previously housed several one-story buildings, has been cleared to make way for a new specialty supermarket and bank branch.

New work and construction is expected to continue through the end of the year. The new shopping center is scheduled to open in late 2005 or early 2006.

Developers are also looking at the neighboring Toys 'R' Us property as a future location for a super center. The plans, still in the preliminary stage, propose razing the existing building and excavating the site at the corner of Stryvesant Avenue and Vanhall Road to make way for a super center and parking garage.

Developers hope by next year to have the Corporate Suites Hotel, next to the Union train station at the corner of Green Lane and Morris Avenue, open for clients. The hotel will cater to business travelers and offer long-term room accommodations for visitors to Schering-Plough and Kean University.

The continued interest of private investment into Union has also spurred a number of public work projects as well. The township has just completed an overall study of Union Center with emphasis on increased parking and the redevelopment and construction of a high number of buildings in Union's historic business district.

Improvements to the destinations and buildings in Union has also increased the need for improved roads and infrastructure. To this end the township is working on an ambitious plan to renovate Morris Avenue which includes improved walkways and street designs as well as renovated traffic patterns and wider streets and turning lanes at

Renovating one of a kind for Crawford is plentiful

With Crawford's historic architecture, the township is a treasure trove of historic buildings.

With Crawford's historic architecture, the township is a treasure trove of historic buildings. The township is currently renovating one of its historic buildings, the Crawford House, which is a prime example of the township's rich architectural heritage.

The long-awaited start of construction at Crawford House in November brought a historic moment to the township.

"This is the largest redevelopment project the township has undertaken in over a century," said Tom Garkins, president of the Township Committee, the project's lead.

Located at Walnut Street and South Street, Crawford House is a prime example of the township's rich architectural heritage. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

By year's end, said Garkins, the 315-space parking garage should be completed, and the structures of both the east and west buildings of the project should also be

completed. The project is a prime example of the township's rich architectural heritage. The township is currently renovating one of its historic buildings, the Crawford House, which is a prime example of the township's rich architectural heritage.

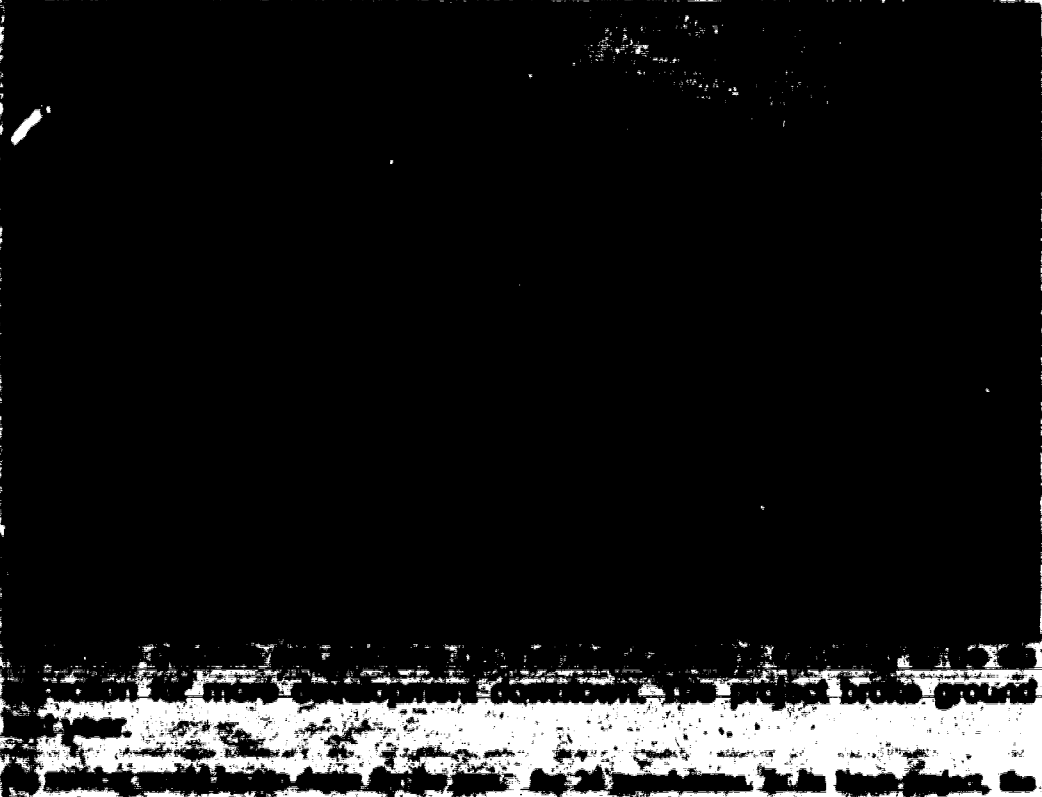
Construction is expected to last 18 to 24 months. Currently, workers are nearly complete with site preparation and the builder is in the midst of installing the necessary structure.

Construction for Tyin Oaks, a 26-unit townhouse development on South Avenue East, is expected to begin within the next month. Anna Tymoczka, a developer with the project, said:

"By the end of 2005, Tymoczka expects to have the project completed. The project is a prime example of the township's rich architectural heritage.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The township is currently renovating one of its historic buildings, the Crawford House, which is a prime example of the township's rich architectural heritage.

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See CHARTER Page 15

'All aboard' for Linden's Transit Village designation

By Dan Burns
Staff Writer

Details about luxury housing construction projects near the Linden train station still haven't been worked out by city officials, but the message to train commuters who want to live in Linden is clear: All aboard.

Linden's City Council has approved one downtown redevelopment project for the three blocks south of the train station on South Wood Avenue and will consider two more proposals this year. Those proposals call for commuter housing to be built on West Elizabeth Avenue, just a short walk from the station.

Buildings currently in the South Wood Avenue area will be demolished and replaced with apartment buildings with commercial space on the ground floor. The buildings are expected to house 135 total residential units and 25,000 square feet of commercial space. Mayor John Gregorio said the project will turn that portion of downtown Linden into a

"SoHo district" of sorts.

The Linden Planning Board is also considering a request to turn a three-quarter-mile stretch of West Elizabeth Avenue into a state-designated Transit Village. That would mean more commuter apartments on that street and priority for state grants. The city would have to change the character of the area and the zoning, which currently calls for residential use on the north side of the street and light industrial on the south side.

Linden has to apply for the designation of Transit Village which it will likely do, according to Gregorio.

John Gregorio Jr., the mayor's son, owns part of the light industrial zone property on West Elizabeth Avenue and is in the middle of a zoning hearing. He wants the Zoning Board to change his property into a residential zone so he can erect an eight-story luxury apartment building. Gregorio Jr.'s proposal is separate from the Transit Village proposal, but is consistent with the concept, according to Gregorio's attorney,

Joseph Paparo.

Gregorio Jr.'s proposed building will hold 210 one-, two- and three-bedroom apartment units that will cost between \$250,000 and \$500,000 each. They will be sold, not rented, according to Paparo.

The plan is a scaled-down version of an earlier proposal which called for a 20-story apartment tower to be built, complete with a pool, fitness area, day care center and 22,000 feet of street-level commercial space. Gregorio Jr. and the design team he employed for the project decided to change the proposal because they felt an eight-story building was more compatible with the character of Linden, according to Paparo.

Many community members were opposed to a 20-story tower because of its height and the possible impact it could have on traffic and the school system. Many of those opponents were appeased by the reduction in the proposed size, but not all of them.

Hillside targets former brownfields sites for redevelopment

By David Dankwa
Staff Writer

The Township of Hillside is engaged in negotiations to sell a stretch of abandoned properties on Central Avenue to a developer.

Hillside owns what amounts to a 5-acre site valued at \$2.1 million, and has been moving toward redeveloping it for retail use ever since it seized the properties from owners who owed tens of thousands of dollars in back taxes.

Councilman John Kulish confirmed that the town is talking to parties interested in building a medical research center on the site. The councilman, however, declined to provide details.

Last summer, Township Council Presi-

dent Peter Corvelli said the township was on a fast track "to put the sites back on the tax rolls."

"We want to get this program moving and put in there a viable business, not one that would close down in two years." Hillside officials, he said, were talking to planners to help determine what types of development would best suit each individual property.

Town officials have indicated they intend to prepare their own specifications for the properties, and require potential developers to abide by them. This ensures that they have more say in what is built there and that it complies with the overall township's master plan.

In July, preliminary assessment and site

investigations were conducted at 1267-1269 Central Ave. and 1239 Central Ave. to identify and begin remediation of suspected contamination.

Township officials said they wanted to attract developers who may be interested in purchasing the properties for redevelopment purposes, enticed by the possibility of recovering up to 75 percent of the environmental clean-up cost.

Varying degrees of contamination were identified on all the sites, according to an engineer with PMK Group, consultants for the county hired to spearhead a Brownfields Pilot Project in Hillside.

At 1267-1269 Central Ave., a 3-acre site formerly owned by Superior Poly Bags,

engineers found flammable solvents and gravel material was found in one of two in-ground concrete chambers.

At 1239 Central Ave., a 2-acre site formerly owned by Russo Graphics, investigation found asbestos in wall insulation, floor tiles and ceiling, as well as some confined groundwater contamination.

In other townships, Kulish said the town is also considering redeveloping the under-utilized War Memorial Building and making it part of the municipal building, located just across the street.

The Hillside Public Library desperately needs parking, he said, and an expansion would help provide that kind of space.

Springfield will examine downtown redevelopment

By Rick Kiltich
Staff Writer

After a Jan. 10 meeting with the representative of a buyer who may be interested in redeveloping Springfield's downtown area, the Township Committee plans to send the issue to the Planning Board for further review.

According to Mayor By Mullman, the buyer, who has purchased a large percentage of the downtown property, has nothing to tell committee members that they did not already know, and neither did his representative.

"We'll proceed to send it to the Planning Board," Mullman said.

Mullman said that the man may end up selling the property to somebody else that will want to redevelop the area in one shot, which is preferred. While he was disappointed that there were no plans presented Jan. 10, Mullman said the committee is ready to move on.

"We're not waiting for him anymore," he said of the buyer.

Committee member Clara Haralik said the meeting was productive in that the status of the downtown area was updated.

"We know what direction we as a Township Committee need to go in," she said, adding that Township Planner Bob Michaels was present at the meeting. His role was to get a grip on what could be anticipated, what has not worked in the past, as well as what a possible process may be.

Haralik also said that without a plan in place, it is tough for the committee to discuss anything from the entity that has purchased property.

"It's not the Township Committee's place, at this juncture, to tell anybody what to do with the property, unless we have a redevelopment plan ready," she said.

Haralik said that essentially, as long as someone stays within Springfield's municipal land use ordinance, he or she has control over what can be done with the property.

Mayor Mullman is optimistic that slowly, but surely, a plan will be put to action.

"Downtown is becoming too flat," he said, "but we want to program."

Mullman said it should take at least a couple of months for the Planning Board to make an assessment of the downtown area, which includes how to classify it as an area in need of redevelopment, as compared to rehabilitation.

Mullman added that the committee will actively pursue grants to help pay for any restorations, as the federal government is already hurting municipalities by cutting back on available funding for projects such as this one.

Still, much of the redevelopment process will depend on what the buyer and township can legally do, and the committee has maintained that this is a major piece of information they need to figure out before moving forward.

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Roselle plans major renovations for library

By Dan Burns
Staff Writer

Roselle officials believe the public library is too small for their community's needs...way too small. That's why they plan to quadruple its size within the next few years.

The borough purchased the property adjacent to the library on West 4th Avenue in November with the intention of adding up to 30,000 square feet to its facility. It's a long overdue renovation, according to Library Director Keith McCoy.

The proposed three-story annex will add between 20,000 and 30,000 square feet to Roselle's 7,400-square-foot library. Much of that space will be used for community group meetings, and special activities like arts and crafts. A cafe could also be added.

Some community members request meeting space at the library, but are turned down due to lack of space, according to McCoy. Only the youth chess club and the Oprah Book Club currently meet at the library. The book club is almost too big to meet there now, he added. Roselle Art Association members used to display their works there, but there hasn't been enough space for them to do it recently, according to the association's president, Sylvia Weidemann.

The renovation will also give Roselle room to expand its book collection. The 44,000 volumes it currently owns are stuffed tighter than a turkey on Thanksgiving. The

renovation will give the library room to "almost double" its collection, McCoy said. The standard collection for a community of Roselle's size is 75,000 volumes.

The library's circulation increased by 7 percent last year, despite the limited collection, according to McCoy.

Acquiring the land next door was just the first step of a long renovation process, according to Borough Administrator Vincent Belluscio. He estimates the project will be completed by 2009 if all goes according to plan. A few setbacks could push the completion date back as far as 2011, Belluscio said.

Construction of the facility should take about 18 months and cost \$8 million. Construction will begin by spring 2007.

Officials hope to get half of the money from a state bond issue that provides approximately \$160 per square foot of a project. They also plan on applying for other grants and soliciting private donations. Library Board Vice President Elizabeth Brody got the financing process rolling herself by donating \$25,000 to the project in November.

Roselle added a 1,600-square-foot addition in 1983 that will be eliminated when construction of the new facility begins. The parking lot will be relocated, since the plan calls for the building to be built on top of the current lot. The front entrance will also be relocated to somewhere in the new building. McCoy isn't sure if that entrance will face West 4th Avenue or Chestnut Street.

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Redevelopment to spur job growth for Elizabeth

By Antone L. Herring
 Staff Writer

Progress and expansion will be the key words of the year as the Elizabeth has big plans in store for 2005.

Late last year, Mayor J. Christian Bollwage announced a redevelopment agreement that promises to bring new jobs and millions of dollars in new revenues to Elizabeth.

Pending approval from the state Department of Environmental Protection, the plan will revitalize an 177-acre brownfield site on North Avenue East.

The site, which currently is owned by Continental Airlines, will be bought by Catalina, a Dallas-based company. Elizabeth is poised to purchase the land from Catalina for \$5 million, which it would then sell to the Port Authority for \$22.5 million — a \$17.5 million profit for the city.

The area will house 850,000 to 1.2 million square feet of warehouse space.

The project will generate 145 to 250 temporary construction jobs and 250 to 400 permanent warehouse and office jobs with annual salaries ranging from \$26,500 to \$33,200. Elizabeth residents will receive priority in the hiring process.

"Our plans have always been focused on bringing hope and opportunity to our residents by implementing feasible projects that create lasting and permanent community improvements," Bollwage said.

A new \$7.5-million fire headquarters and emergency command center will open in March.

The emergency center will consist of a state-of-the-art command post, training facilities, a reverse 9-1-1 system and a 9-1-1 system for the city and mutual aid dispatch connecting all 21 Union County municipalities.

County residents will be able to reap the benefits of a new \$26-million, state-of-the-art cancer center at Trinitas Hospital.

The new addition will be a five-story building and will add 40,000 square feet to Trinitas' medical and radiation oncology programs and provide room to expand several other programs. Construction began last spring and should be completed this year.

The United Counties Trust Savings Bank in Middtown has laid vacant and deteriorated over the last decade.

However, in March the building will be idle no more thanks to a \$1.5-million investment by the Elizabeth Development Company. The property will house office space and a branch of SunTrust Bank, resulting in the creation of 30 new jobs.

A redevelopment agreement also was approved for a \$12-million project on Broadway and Post Street in Elizabethtown.

The initiative will generate over 39,000 square feet of supermarket, pharmacy and retail space, as well as 50 units of market rate rental housing and over 100 new permanent jobs for residents by year's end.


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Cash on Hand and in Banks	\$ 11,092,188.81
U.S. Government Securities	794,104,842.28
Other Bonds	72,738,888.28
Stocks	70,458,918.28
Real Estate Mortgages, Net	181,148,884.28
Commercial Loans	2,187,284.48
Other Loans	28,658,888.28
Furniture and Fixtures	889,288.14
Banking Premises	1,475,284.88
Investment Allowance on Investments	9,282,288.28
Other Assets	2,892,712.28
	\$ 1,888,888,881.28
LIABILITIES	
Due Depositors	\$ 888,888,888.28
Official Checks Outstanding	1,184,788.28
Mortgages Payable	888,888.28
Other Liabilities	888,888.28
Surplus and Reserves	1,107,288.28
	\$ 1,000,000,000.28

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See how the new
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Improvements slated near Roselle Park train station

By Shawn Barry
Staff Writer

Planning for the future to generate more money for the borough is what Roselle Park has in store for 2005 with a variety of planned projects.

The area around the Roselle Park train station platform on Locust Street will be undergoing a major overhaul this year. The borough is planning to install decorative lighting, have landscape work done and repair or, in some areas, lay new sidewalk as part of a massive railroad station enhancement project, according to Borough Engineer Ed Dec and his business partner, Don Guarriello of Guarriello and Dec Associates.

Guarriello said in May that the main commuter parking lot will be getting 30 more parking spaces, because the enhancement project also includes realigning the current parking lot.

"The enhancement project will extend all the way down Chestnut Street to the library," he said. "Aesthetically, it will blend the railroad area with the downtown business area and it will also loosen up some much-needed parking."

The project will be funded by a \$350,000 grant through the state's Transportation Enhancement Act for the 21st Century — TA-21 — which falls under the umbrella of the state Department of Transportation, Mayor Joseph Delorio said in May.

"The project is moving along and it is expected to go out to bid this spring," Dec said this month.

The project was originally included in the borough's 2000 master plan but the project is only coming to fruition now because of all the red tape that was associated with the state grant and the fact that the enhancement plans were modified a few times.

The project will not only be pleasing to the eye but will make the area safer for the public as well, according to borough officials.

The overflow commuter parking lot is currently dangerous to walk to because there are no sidewalks in spots and people must walk on the grass or even in the street in some areas just west of Locust Street.

"There is nowhere to walk in some areas. This project is also aimed to increase pedestrian safety," Delorio said in May.

The borough was contacted last fall about

the possible installation of a cell tower directly behind the municipal building and officials have been in discussions with the interested party regarding the proposal since October.

The governing body approved a cell tower ordinance in August listing various guidelines that interested parties would have to adhere to if a tower is to be installed, and it appeared the ordinance was passed just in time.

The ordinance allows private property ownership of the antennas in industrial zones and the borough stands to gain financially if a tower is built on municipal property.

The borough would be able to collect usage fees, something that could bring the borough extra money for each company with equipment on the tower. Exactly how much money the cell tower would generate for the borough is yet to be determined.

The Anthony Signorillo Youth Center officially opened in December and as of press time, more than 100 borough youths had signed up for membership.

The youth center is located next to the Roselle Park Post Office on Chestnut Street and it is in memory of Roselle Park student Anthony Signorillo, who died in an all-terrain vehicle accident more than three years ago.

The more than 30,000 youth center has received close to \$200,000 in grants and donations since the idea was first discussed several years ago.

The borough entered into an agreement with the Boys & Girls Club in 2004 but did not relinquish ownership of the center which had been a major concern of the town.

The center will continue to offer after-school programs, improve their accessibility, as well as other services such as study groups.

The center will not only give kids somewhere to go, keeping them off the streets, but will also offer other programs for them. The borough is in touch with the local PBA in terms of the police force stop by and other programs.

The Boys & Girls Club is in touch with the supervisors with the necessary and necessary materials. It was expected that the borough a few months ago would have everything at the center without the Boys & Girls Club involvement.

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Boulevard eateries reinvest in their appearances

By Shawn Barry
Staff Writer

Expansions, renovations and more events where the business community can mingle are some steps that Kenilworth has taken to promote growth in the Borough.

The Kenilworth Diner/Restaurant has been a longtime fixture on the Boulevard and during the summer the building experienced a facelift as owners John and Steve Glynos put about \$100,000 into dressing up the front entrance to the building.

The work done included removing the

aluminum siding on the building and replacing it with wood and stucco. They removed a large part of the awning from the side and front of the building, leaving only a 15-foot section above the main door, and replaced the canvas overhang on the other side of the building with a more decorative awning.

The building may date back to the 1920s or 1930s, according to John Glynos. He and his brother first took over the diner in 1973, before buying the entire property in 1980. Glynos said the building also underwent major renovations in 1985.

"We added the dining area and redid the windows," he said in June. "Before 1985, it just looked like a house. Now we try and do a little something every few years."

A new eatery is still under construction down the street from the diner at the location formally occupied by Cafe Repetti and borough officials said in June that it will offer similar dining and catering services much like Cafe Repetti did.

JDN Properties of Cranford has the building permit for the property and its construction was estimated to be completed around

October but it is yet to open.

The interior of the Recreation/Community Center next to Borough Hall was renovated in 2004 thanks to the generosity of area merchants who provided both the supplies and work crews. The center was painted, re-tiled, and carpeted and the Borough Council plans to install new windows for the front of the building in 2005.

The project was supposed to be done last year but it hit a snag when it was determined that the brick work surrounding the windows also needed to be replaced.

Mountainside plans to install decorative clocks

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

After making plans for the installation of a clock tower outside Valley National Bank on Mountain Avenue, Mayor Robert Vigilanti, Borough Administrator/Police Chief James Debbie and Councilman Keith Turner thought it wouldn't be a bad idea for another one to be placed outside of Mountainside's Borough Hall.

The main difference between the two clocks is that the latter will honor former Capt. Todd Turner, who died in car accident while off-duty in August 2003.

"I had asked the clock manufacturer for some other faces they had done," said Vigilanti. When he saw one that had been done in honor of a mayor who passed away in a nearby community, Turner came to mind.

The clock, which is being fully funded by the Mountainside Police Benevolent Association, will be two-faced, compared to the Mountain Avenue tower's four faces. Slightly smaller than the four-faced clock, Turner's will not be controlled via a GPS satellite, either.

"I think it stands for a symbol of those who knew my brother," said Keith Turner. "I'm very grateful to the Mountainside PBA for wanting to honor him in this way, having a place in front of the Municipal Building that my brother cared about so much."

The clock, Vigilanti estimated, will cost about \$17,000. The exact phrasing and appearance of print that will be seen on the clock to honor Turner has yet to be finalized.

Turner asked that anybody wishing to donate in honor of his brother should do so through the Mountainside PBA.

As for the clock that is to be placed on the property outside Valley National Bank, Vigilanti said that approximately \$15,000 has been raised thus far. The overall cost of the project will be around \$40,000.

Verdin Design Group, a manufacturer based in Union County, recently designed the clock and superimposed it into digital photos that allow for a visual picture of what the intersection will look like before the actual installation.

Mailings have been sent to businesses and companies around the borough, soliciting donations. Vigilanti said that

by the beginning of January, residents should be receiving mailings, as well.

Four main plates located on the base of the clock will bear the names of three companies and the borough itself. Valley National Bank contributed \$5,000 to have its name on a plate, while PSE&G has donated \$2,500 toward the clock to bear its name on another plate. A third business wishes to remain anonymous for now. Any excess money raised in funding the Valley National Bank clock will be donated to the Mountainside First Aid Squad.

As nearby Mountainside and Woodland avenues, the site work for a subdivision of seven houses is currently being prepared.

The cul-de-sac will consist of upscale homes, whose prices are not yet set. Currently known as Primavera Estates, the property does not yet have a street name, though the main entrance will come off of Mountain Avenue. Most of the houses will be parallel to Woodland Avenue.

Depending on the weather, Planning Board member and Borough Engineer Mike Diako said construction could begin in the springtime.

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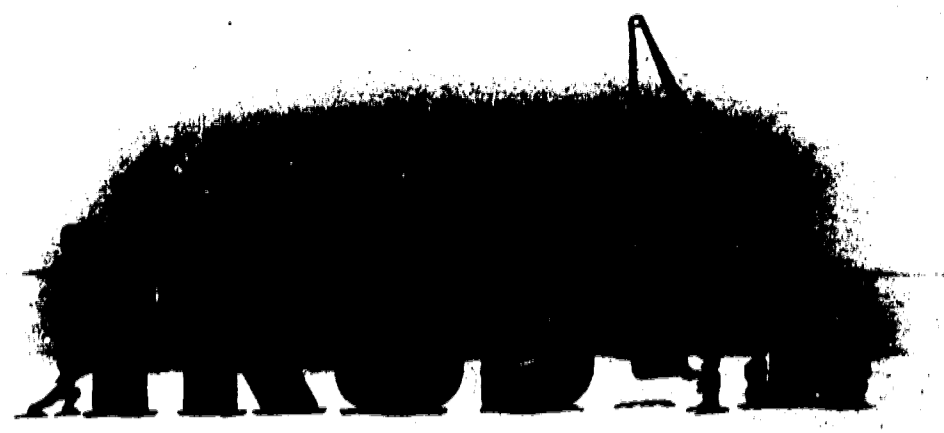
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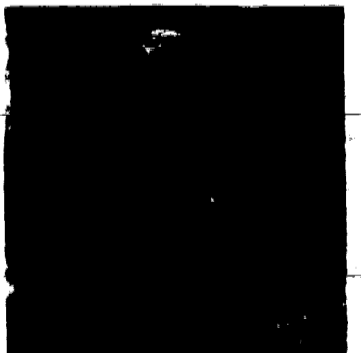


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SAGE ready to open new downtown headquarters

By Brian Pedersen
Managing Editor

One of Summit's most noteworthy neighbors is getting a fresh look in 2005.

SAGE Eldercare, formerly SAGE Solutions, is a nonprofit organization that has been supporting and serving the community of Summit and the surrounding area for 50 years out of a tiny, Victorian home on DeForest Avenue.

Now, SAGE is preparing for a move to a new location at 290 Broad St. on the site of a former Oldsmobile auto dealership adjacent to the train station. The moving date is Feb. 11, with operations set to begin on Feb. 14.

"I'm pleased to say that we're right on

target," said Jacqueline Vogelmann, executive director of SAGE.

"They are really putting the finishing touches on the building. Our furniture is being delivered next week. Hopefully, we are going to make it on time."

While the move is taking place, Vogelmann said all of SAGE's activities and services will still be operational, aside from the Spend-A-Day facility in Berkeley Heights, which will be closed for a few days.

"It's just exciting, the walls, the painting, the carpeting is all done," said Nicole Zamerovsky, a member of SAGE's public information and development office.

"As we've evolved over the last 50 years,

we've been expanding our programs to better serve the people."

Once the move is finalized, all of SAGE's programs and services, with the exception of the Resale Shop, will be housed under one roof, alleviating the cramped headquarters on DeForest Avenue.

Vogelmann touted the many benefits of the new two-story, 27,000-square-foot facility. The new facility will include a personal care beauty salon for clients, a resource library for caregivers, increased space for public programs, an enhanced training room for home health aides, and a Senior Day Care Service among other programs. In warmer weather, an outdoor seating area will be

made available for Spend-A-Day clients.

Vogelmann said the Chore Service — which helps seniors with minor home repairs — is "growing by leaps and bounds" and will be better housed in the new facility. The furniture repair shop will be much more expanded in the basement of the new site, with an elevator throughout the building.

The building was constructed by J.R. Prisco, and the project has come a long way since its genesis in 1999, when SAGE staff started to feel they were running out of space. While the organization is based in Summit, it offers services to the elderly and their caregivers in four counties, serving roughly 5,000 elderly people annually.

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Clark targets Westfield Ave. as its downtown corridor

By [Name]

Imagine it's 2005 and you're driving your car along Westfield Avenue in Clark Township and you see "Welcome to downtown Clark" signs.

There will be sidewalks to walk on, and modern streetlights, and most of all new business establishments.

As you drive along Westfield Avenue from Brant Avenue to Madison Hill Road it will have the look of a downtown.

By 2015, there is the possibility that some of the existing buildings on Westfield Avenue may be torn down, to be replaced by commercial and retail establishments.

Now back to 2005 with the Township Council beginning to embark on the long-range plan to create a downtown.

Township Administrator John Loonan has said that the next project the council will undertake will be "the upgrading of the downtown shopping area."

Initial plans call for upgrading the Westfield Avenue corridor from Brant Avenue to Madison Hill Road. A downtown program will include new lighting and sidewalks and the council will come up with a plan to attract new businesses.

"I think it is a wonderful idea, many other towns like Cranford and Westfield have lovely downtowns, why shouldn't Clark?" said Karen Bernardo, a Clark resident.

Michelle Clerical of Clark said beautifying Westfield Avenue from Brant Avenue to Madison Hill Road and having a downtown section would be "pleasing to the eye."

But, she added that Mayor Sal Bonaccorso and council members should carefully consider how much progress they want to make to create a downtown Clark.

"You could make it nice without an exorbitant cost, and we don't need to compete with Cranford or Westfield, just spruce it up," Clerical said.

One resident said that what Clark Township does not currently have is a downtown.

"I think Clark could use a real downtown because most other towns in New Jersey, no matter how small or large have a quaint downtown area, and it would add some 'warmth' to Clark," said Vera Redziniak of Clark.

Progress in Clark is not just confined to the creation of a downtown area.

Housing, especially for senior citizens, is key for Clark's future.

In September, plans were unveiled for a \$40-million senior citizen residence on Terminal Avenue.

Clark Developers LLC, a subsidiary of Garden Homes, proposed a 300-unit complex complete with a courtyard and community meeting rooms.

The council supports the plan and has rezoned the 10-acre site for an age-restricted affordable housing overlay district.

ELIZABETH [Name]
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Rahway welcomes senior housing construction

By Tomlin Antonelli Staff Writer

Through its ongoing redevelopment efforts, Rahway is helping senior citizens know that they're welcome in the city, and there will soon be places for them to live to accommodate their demographic.

According to the city's demographics, more than 16 percent of the population is over the age of 62, but senior housing in the city has always been limited — until recently.

Rahway's ongoing redevelopment efforts, which will add new apartment units and condominiums throughout the municipality, will also include a new senior housing unit dedicated specifically to seniors.

The Rosegate senior housing development and 150-unit senior apartment complex are the first of their kind to be constructed. Officials began ground on the Rosegate project in March at the southeast corner of Capobianco Plaza and Routes 1&9.

The Rahway Redevelopment Agency in October completed the acquisition of property along East Hazelwood Avenue where the \$20.3-million, 150-unit Rosegate Senior Housing development will be developed by Conifer Development.

The property, once undeveloped, is expected to net the city a minimum of \$25,000 in tax revenue per year. Currently, the city can only collect \$3,000 a year in taxes from the property.

The affordable senior housing building will be the first of its kind in years in Rahway, according to officials. The tenants who occu-

piated the building that stood on the site for several years were relocated by the agency when the property was seized through eminent domain.

The Rosegate project is located within the city's East Hazelwood Redevelopment Zone. It will address the growing need for senior housing in the area, as identified in the city's Master Plan.

Peter Pelessier, executive director of the Rahway Redevelopment Agency, said the new apartment complex will offer a variety of services, such as a community garden, for residents to tend themselves.

The Rosegate Association is actually a partnership between Community Investment

Strategies and Procidis Realty Construction Corporation.

There will be 134 one-bedroom apartments with rents ranging from \$740 to \$900, and 16 two-bedroom units ranging \$880 to \$950. The size of the units ranges from 650 to 835 square feet.

Amenities inside each unit will include air conditioning, appliances, and ample closet space. Rosegate will also have a community center/meeting room, fitness center, wellness room, multiple lounges, a library and laundry facilities. Administrative offices will be on site. The project is expected to take at least a year to complete.

On the other side of the city, not far from

the Linden border, the Park Terrace age-restricted apartments are nearing the end of construction.

The buildings, which feature parking and private terraces, are located across the street from Rahway River Park, in the site once occupied by the Huffman Koos furniture store.

Park Terrace will offer market-rate housing, rather than assisted-living rentals, such as those that will be offered at Rosegate, where rent is determined by factors such as income.

City Planner Lenora Sletkower said Park Terrace will maintain 140 units of age-restricted housing.

Cranford Crossing, Riverfront among Cranford's priorities

(Continued from Page 1)

to redevelop the 3.5-acre Riverfront area, which runs across the street from the train station, along South Avenue and High Street.

Township officials have already narrowed the list to four potential developers that include Pulte Homes, S. Hekman, K. Hovnanian and Lincoln Property Company. Each proposal contains a mix of retail, residential and office space with the differences lying in how much of each.

One developer, Lincoln Property Company, proposes a four-story, 80-room hotel and conference center at the current site of the train station parking lot.

The Riverfront redevelopment project team will narrow the list to two developers by mid-February. The project team will send recommendations to the Township Committee, which will hold a public hearing Feb. 24. Developers who have been recommended will make a public presentation about their proposal. If all goes according to schedule, construction could start by spring 2006.

The Centennial Avenue Business District is do for a facelift; one

that could cost the township more than \$500,000.

Specifically, the improvement project to the local intersection area would include the removal of existing curbs and sidewalks and the installation of a new brick and concrete sidewalk with landscaping.

Commissioners hope area business owners will pay for about 50 percent of about \$150,000 for curbing and sidewalk improvements.

Union County is expected to pay for a traffic study and for part of the intersection improvements.

Currently, the project is in the planning phase, with the township commission, they are still deciding whether to improve the project. The Springfield and Orange streets, was approved by the state Highway Department. The project will help them acquire grants for the project.

The building project will be completed by the end of the year. The project is planned to be completed by the end of the year. The project is planned to be completed by the end of the year.

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Personal Background
 Kathy is a resident of Union County, giving a unique perspective and familiarity to her clients regarding such areas as available public transportation, information, neighborhoods, public transportation, and dining. Kathy is the daughter of the late Joe Collins, a well-known local figure. Kathy's father, Joe, was a member of the Union County Board of Supervisors from 1948-1958. Union honored her father by naming a street on Liberty Avenue after him.

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