

# Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

## PD project eyes old Annex site

By Rick Kitch  
Staff Writer

A meeting last week regarding possible final plans for the structuring of a renovated Town Hall and Police Department has moved the Springfield Township Committee one step closer to developing specifications for the buildings.

According to Mayor Sy Mullman, a proposal could be approved by the Township Committee on Tuesday. At that point, a construction plan will be put together by engineers and the entire project could go out to bid by the end of the summer.

While plans are not final, the current renovations call for the destruction of the Annex Building, located on Center Street across from Town Hall.

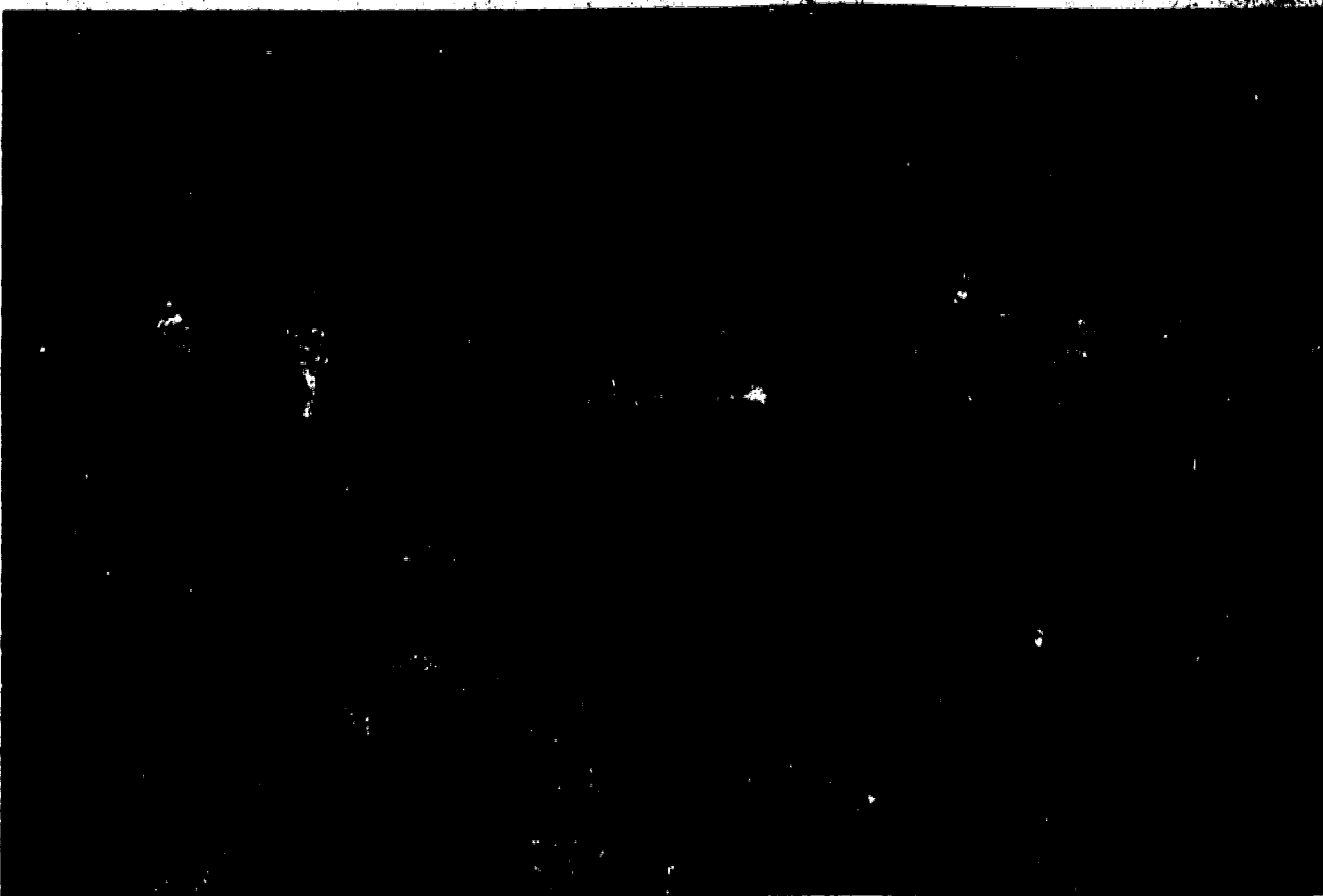
An addition, or wing, will be added on to Town Hall and cross over Center Street, blocking its current exit onto Caldwell Place.

This building will be used solely for the housing of the Police Department, eliminating not only the spreading of the force throughout the township, but also the overcrowding of its offices in Town Hall.

The bidding process for a contractor is expected to take one to two months. Construction is estimated to probably last a little more than one year.

Plans for the new Police Department, though still in need of approval, show the structure to be a two-story colonial that is about equal in height to Town Hall.

The township's engineering and building departments, currently housed in the Annex Building, will be



The Annex Building at the corner of Center Street and N. Trivett Avenue in Springfield will be demolished as part of the expansions and renovations to the Police Department and Town Hall.

moved to Town Hall, whose offices are also going to be renovated throughout the entire building.

These departments, and everything in the Annex Building, will occupy the space left by both the Fire Department and Police Department in Town Hall.

Mullman said virtually all of Town Hall will be renovated, including administrative offices.

"The courtroom could be the only thing left untouched," Mullman said. Mullman added that the building will still have a fully functioning workforce as construction takes place.

Last year, Cornerstone Architects had come before the Township Committee with plans that would have

cost upward of \$8 million. Those plans, however, were out of the question.

Mullman said he would like to keep the project around the cost of the \$3.5 million firehouse, a new building located a short distance away on Mountain Avenue that was finished early last year.

Committee member Harold Poltrok said that, while he is favor of the department's renovation, which is certainly necessary, he did not realize the plans were going to be so expensive.

"I'm concerned, from a cost standpoint," Poltrok said, adding that the budget will already be rising in areas concerning Union County and the

Springfield Board of Education.

Poltrok said he isn't sure the town is ready to engage in a project of such a grand scale on the heels of the Fire Department's completion.

Drawings have centered around concerns over parking and security, as well as the best use of space within the department itself.

Similar to the firehouse, the money for the Police Department renovations is expected to come from bonding, although the Township Committee has maintained that grant money is always being sought for these sort of projects.

Mullman said grants have been hard to obtain and that, currently, all grant applications are on hold.

## Mountainside d sees tax decrea

By Joan M. Devlin  
Staff Writer

While most school districts are dealing with school tax increases, the Mountainside district will actually see a decrease.

The Mountainside Board of Education passed the proposed 2005-2006 year school budget which came in at \$13,279,940 on March 31. According to Business Administrator Paul Vizzuso, there will be a school tax decrease of \$81. The reason is the application of the dissolution funds.

The total amount of these funds applied to tax relief was \$2,488,327 for the fiscal year 2005-2006.

These funds are being distributed back to both Mountainside and Garwood over a period of several years from the other districts that were once a part of the Union County Regional High School district, which was dissolved in 1997.

The total surplus applied to the 2005-2006 tax relief was \$1,167,025. The estimated school tax actually went down and is now at \$3,455, or 2.3 percent less than last year, which was \$3,536.

The total operating budget for the Mountainside district is an 11.9 percent increase from this year, due to growing enrollment, expenditures, fixed costs and other factors.

Vizzuso received high praise for his work on the budget by interim Chief School Administrator Walter Rusak and other board members.

"Tonight we will look at the growing enrollment, expenditures, fixed costs and how the district uses the dissolution funds, among other things," said Vizzuso.

Like most school districts throughout the state, enrollment increases every year. The total of all students projected for the 2005-2006 year is 1,023, up 28 students over this year. Three new teachers have been hired, bringing the faculty roster to 59 from 56.

The budget for capital outlay projects was \$500,000, which will be used to install 12 roof-top HVAC units at Deerfield School with structural steel, sheet metal, mechanical demolition and insulation, rigging and automatic temperature controls. Funds from this will also be used for renovation and expansion of the media center at Deerfield School.

Board member Ray Haggard also noted the board had approved a spending growth limitation adjustment of \$710,990.

Board member Gene Nagel read a statement saying he agreed with the budget but registered a protest amendment regarding the way in which the county superintendent had presented the dissolution funds to the district and the way they were being dispersed. Other members agreed, except for Pat Knodel and Carmine Venes. The amendment was approved by the board.

For fiscal year 2004, the district received \$861,930 in dissolution funds. For 2005, a total of \$1,302,943 was received, while the district anticipates receiving \$1,149,926 in 2006.

Residents have the opportunity to vote on the budget on April 19, from 2 to 9 p.m., at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Central Avenue, Borough Hall on Route 22, and at the Presbyterian Church, Meeting House Lane and Deer Path.

## Pope's passing mourned by many

When Pope John Paul II passed away, his death was mourned by many people around the world. The Pope's death was a significant event for many people, especially those who are Catholic. The Pope's death was a significant event for many people, especially those who are Catholic.

"To commemorate his many accomplishments and deeds of service to the church and the human family, would literally fill volumes," said the Rev. John J. Myers, archbishop of Newark, in a written statement. "Both the Catholic and secular media will serve us well as we reflect on this giant among the servants of God and God's people in the days ahead. May he rest in peace."

Mountainside resident Tony Whyte said the pope will be missed by not only Catholics from around the world, but by scores of others who were touched by his compassion, love and unending quest for world peace.

During a brief opportunity in which Whyte visited Rome to meet the pope, Whyte found it hard to describe the feeling of actually coming into contact with his holiness.

"It's extremely difficult to put into words the feeling that surges over you as the pope stretched his hand to each

of us," he said. "I have been blessed by his presence. He has been the pope," said the Rev. Bob Stagg of St. James the Apostle Church in Springfield.

Stagg said he has been following John Paul II's vision of the church. He gets a large say in things, Stagg said, and it filters down to local churches.

For the 11 years that Stagg has been a pastor, the pope has been a tremendous influence.

"He gestures are very powerful and very symbolic," Stagg noted.

For example, Stagg said, John Paul II would visit the ground of every new county he entered. More well-known, too, is the fact the pope publicly forgave the man who tried to shoot and kill him in 1981. After two bullets hit the pope, missing major arteries and allowing him to live, John Paul II visited the man, Mehmet Ali Agca, in jail, just two years later.

"We have all been blessed by his

presence," Stagg said. "His devotion to both God and his people, and his immense sense of humor," said Myers. "During these days of solemn mourning, I ask that the faithful of the archdiocese take every opportunity to come together in prayerful remembrance to pray for the repose of the soul of Pope John Paul II."

"Pope John Paul II was a powerful presence in every sense of the word, both in action and in deed; and he will live in our hearts forever," Whyte added.

Stagg said a shrine at the church includes the papal flag and the pope's picture. He has also addressed parishioners, bringing up such topics that will affect the future of the church, including whether or not a new pope will lean toward decentralizing authority or display an image of an imperial Roman pope.

"He was a man of strong values," added Stagg.

St. James School will have off of Friday in observance of the pope's funeral.

Pope John Paul II was born in Poland in 1920 as Karol Jozef Wojtyla. Elected pope in 1978, he became the first non-Italian pope in more than 400 years.

## Candidates weigh in on laptop plan

By Rick Kitch  
Staff Writer

Each year, a municipality's school budget proposal coincides with the campaign of residents wishing to run for a Board of Education seat.

In Springfield, where seven candidates are competing for the 2005-2006 year seats, the idea of having laptop computers to every student in the Florence M. Gaudinier Middle School next year has become a topic of interest among residents and, therefore, among the candidates themselves.

"I think it's a very worthwhile initiative," said incumbent July 2005-2006 candidate, Michael Devino.

Devino said that, while the project would come improved curriculum and test scores, and that overall, the benefits outweigh the costs of the plan.

"I think it's an exciting process," said Fran Sandler. "It brings our schools to the forefront of technology."

Anytime your school system can be a leader in progress, Sandler said, the opportunity should be taken advantage of.

Some candidates, however, were critical of the project, which calls for a

\$530,000 rise in instructional technology equipment over last year.

"The idea is good in theory," said Lloyd Christman, "but I still need more facts about the benefits, implementation and process overall."

Christman said that, along with having the laptops, he wants to know exactly where the money is coming from.

"I think laptops are a luxury whose educational benefits have not been proven," said Steven Friedman, adding that the negative effects and risks have also not been researched.

While computer instruction in schools is essential, Friedman noted, keeping kids up-to-date is an alternative that should be considered before the one-to-one proposal.

Don Rulf said the project is, essentially, an experiment which was initiated by Michael Devino, superintendent of schools.

"I commend him for the initiative," Rulf said.

While it's important to introduce students to computers early on, Rulf said only time will tell if the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Students may become too dependent on the technology, he said, and limit

thinking on their own.

Daniel Burke said the proposal worries him, because it could turn a lot of longtime budget supporters against the passing of the 2005-06 budget.

Most children in Springfield own computers already, Burke said, and that is not the reason why a project like this makes children into better students.

As a teacher, Burke said, he knows that the one-size-fits-all approach should not be taken, as not all students will benefit in the same way as each other.

Incumbent Scott Samanthy said the project worked in Devino's old school system, the Michael J. Ferriter Educational Complex, so it should work in Springfield.

The more expensive students can have to technology, Samanthy said, the better. Like it or not, computers have become a way of life, and the educational experience that the Internet allows students to have while in school is difficult to place a price tag on, he said.

The total technology budget in Springfield schools is \$804,018, more than doubling last year's total of \$396,830.

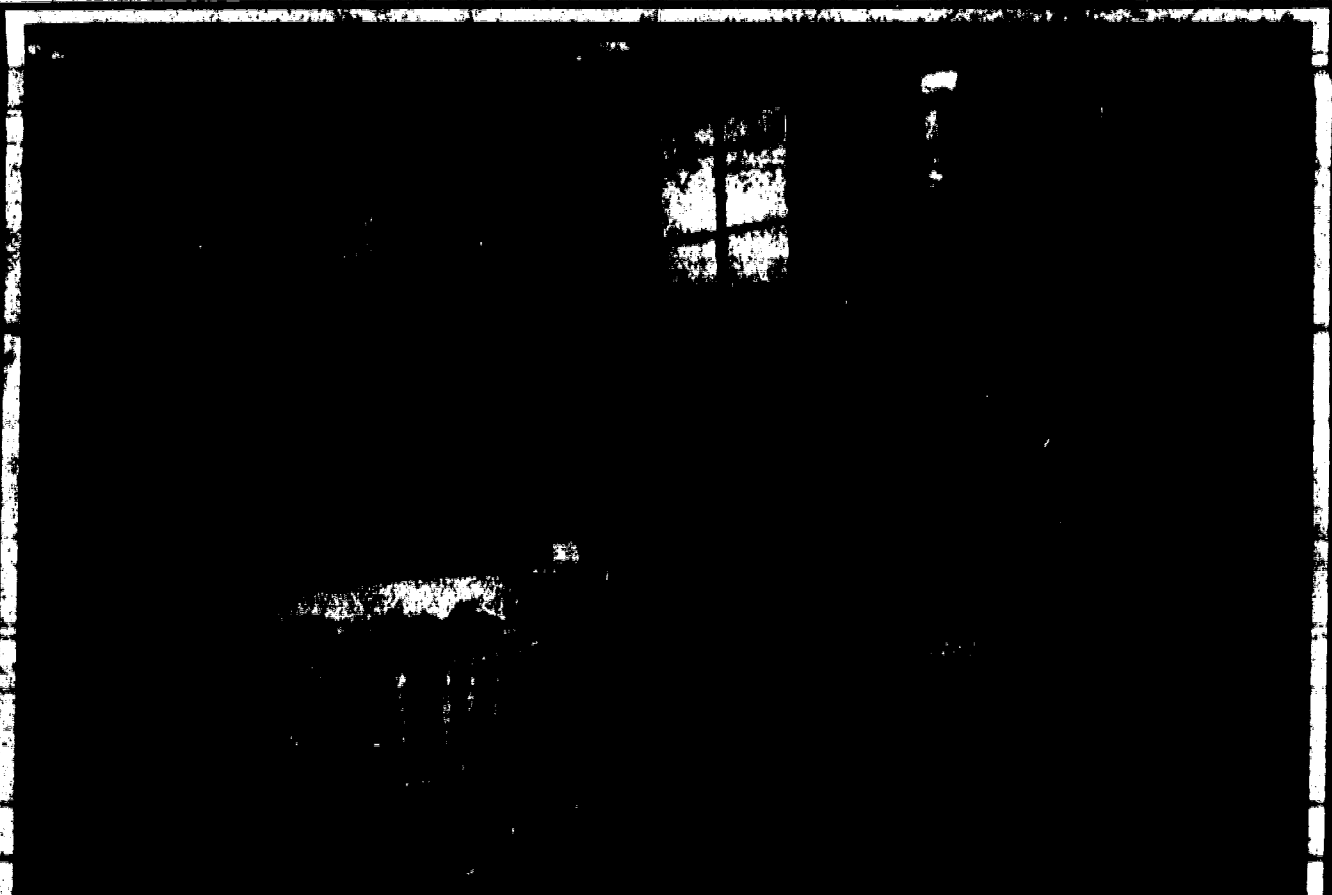


Photo by Barbara Koblitz

### HEALTHY KIDS DAY

The Springfield YMCA celebrates Healthy Kids Day on Saturday with lots of fun-filled activities that promote exercise and healthy eating. Above, Sabrina Bibbo, 8, and Casey Sheehy, 10, both of Springfield, make fresh fruit kabobs. At left, Isabella Wide, 5, reacts with excitement after selecting a lucky numbered duck. She is a kindergarten student at the Edward V. Walton School.



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How to reach us: The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Wormal Community Newspapers, an independent family-owned newspaper company.

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

To subscribe: The Echo Leader is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$26.00.

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Postmaster Please Note: The ECHO LEADER (USPS 512-720) is published weekly by Wormal Community Newspapers, Inc., 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083.

Employee faces state prison term

A 59-year-old Neptune man is facing a six-year state prison term after standing before a Superior Court Judge in Elizabeth on Monday and admitting that he stole more than \$500,000 from his employer in Mountaineer over an eight-year period.

Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow said Eddie McGill, who worked as the controller at the small plumbing contracting firm, pleaded guilty before Superior Court Judge Joseph Perfito and was ordered to begin serving \$520,902 in restitution immediately.

"Not long after he became in charge of all their payroll accounts and petty cash years ago, he started siphoning off company money and paid himself for non-existing expenses and overtime," said Romankow, who called the thefts "outrageous."

Mountaineer Police Chief James Debbie said the thefts came to light early last year when the owner discovered an

Unauthorized Christmas bonus that McGill paid to himself and then ordered a company audit.

A detailed follow-up investigation conducted by Mountaineer Detective Michael Jackson uncovered a pattern of thievery dating back to 1996.

In the fall, detectives executed a search warrant signed by Superior Court Judge Joseph Donahue. It was executed at the defendant's condominium, where detectives found \$50,000 in cash inside a linen closet and records showing \$300,000 worth of stock portfolios and bank accounts.

According to Assistant Prosecutor Ann Rubin of the Special Prosecutions Unit, the defendant began his job earning about \$37,000 and was immediately fired from his \$45,000 post after the audits.

McGill will be sentenced by Perfito on Sept. 9 after the restitution is paid.

Man arrested for drug possession

On March 31 at 5 p.m., Devon Samaroo, 22, of Montclair, was arrested on Knightsbridge Road for possession of marijuana, less than 50 grams. Samaroo also had a warrant out of Elizabeth for \$250.

Shahed Spruill, 20, of Plainfield, was arrested on Route 22 east Friday

POLICE BLOTTER

at 11:02 a.m. after being stopped at a road check. Spruill was driving with a suspended license and had active warrants.

On Friday between 5:40 p.m. and 10:40 p.m., an attempted motor vehi-

cle theft was reported to have occurred at a Route 22 west restaurant. A pair of sunglasses were reported missing.

On March 31 at 5:57 p.m., Ildardo Laraque, 20, of Union, was arrested on Route 22 east after being stopped for improper display of license plates. Laraque had a warrant out of Union Township for \$304.

Auto accident draws firefighters

On March 30 at 3:33 p.m., firefighters responded to Route 24 east near the Route 78 split for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Saturday at 2:14 p.m., firefighters responded to an Oak Ridge residence for an activated fire alarm.

On Friday at 7:09 p.m., firefighters responded to Route 78 west for a motor vehicle accident.

On March 31 at 10:08 p.m., firefighters responded to a Wilson Road apartment complex for a refrigerator problem.

FIRE BLOTTER

On March 31 at 1:14 p.m., firefighters responded to a Lakeland Avenue residence for a microwave oven problem.

On March 31 at 10:17 a.m., firefighters responded to Morris Avenue near Caldwell Place for a mulch fire.

On March 29 at 4:40 p.m., firefighters responded to a Bryant Avenue residence for smoke coming from a dishwasher.

On March 29 at 10:10 a.m., fire-

Authors trace history of town

The Union Township Historical Society will meet on April 17 in the historic Caldwell Parsonage located at 909 Caldwell Ave., Union at 1 p.m.

Authors Jean Rae Turner and Richard T. Koles will speak about their new book in the Images of America Series, "Springfield, New Jersey." "Springfield" traces the unique history of a community that began as an agrarian hamlet of three houses and became a modern suburb. The township was called Springfield because of the large number of springs in the area.

Important in the Revolutionary War, it was the site of the final battle fought in the North.

Turner and Koles have collaborated on six other Arcadia histories of New Jersey communities.

The Springfield book will be available for sale at \$20 per copy.

Both authors will sign copies for the visiting public following their presentation.

At 1:45 p.m., secretary Nancy Segale will update members about recent activities of the society.

Treasurer Anita Centeno will report on the January, February and March income and expenditures of the society in maintaining the eighteenth century Caldwell Parsonage and

museum of Union Township history and culture.

Vice President Michael Yesenko will explain the outreach programs with Union Senior Center located at Bonnell Court, that the society will produce for the 225th commemoration of the American Revolutionary War in Union County, then called Essex County.

On April 21, senior citizens registered at the Senior Center will take a bus tour of the places that 2,500 Continental soldiers commanded by Major General William Alexander Lord Stirling took on Jan. 14 and 15, 1780, to assault a British Post at Staten Island, N.Y.

Phyllis Monguso, supervisor of Union Senior Center, will oversee the registration of vehicles, bus arrangements, facilities for group discussions, and program evaluations.

Historians presenting the story will be William Frolich, past president of the Roselle Historical Society; Robert Fridlington, professor of history emeritus Kean University; Jean Rae Turner, secretary Union County Historical Society, and Michael Yesenko, township of Union historian.

Funding for this project was made possible in part by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural Affairs.

Red Cross courses teach lifesaving skills

The local Westfield/Mountaineer Chapter of the American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, has announced its spring health and safety course schedule.

To register or for information on any of the following courses and programs, call 908-232-7090. Unless otherwise noted, all courses will take place in the chapter house. First aid kits and supplies are for sale at the Chapter house.

Chapter blood drives will take place from 3 to 8 p.m. on June 1. A complimentary cholesterol screening will be offered for all blood donors.

The Infant/Child CPR course teaches how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in infants and children. The fee is \$45. The course will be offered April 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; May 10, from 9:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and May 26, from 6 to 10:30 p.m.

Infant CPR teaches how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in infants. The fee is \$35. The course will be April 14 from

9:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; May 17 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. and June 2 from 9:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Child CPR teaches how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac

emergencies in children ages 1 to 8. The fee is \$35. The course will be Wednesday, from 9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; May 19, from 6 to 10 p.m. and June 3 from 9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To mail a schedule, send it to Echo Leader, Attn: managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union NJ 07083.

Today

The Good Books Discussion Group of the Springfield Free Public Library will meet in the meeting room at 66 Mountain Ave. at 7 p.m. to discuss the One Book New Jersey selection "To Kill a Mockingbird," by Harper Lee.

Call the reference department at 973-376-4930 ext. 228 to reserve a copy of the book.

Saturday

Children of all ages when accompanied by an adult, can explore the unique habitat of vernal ponds at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountaineer from 10 to 11 a.m.

Participants should dress appropriately for the weather. The fee for this program is a suggested \$1 donation. Call 908-789-3670 for information.

Sunday

Sample Kosher wines and cheeses from around the world and learn about the art of wine tasting in a program offered in The Cocktail Room at Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The cover charge is \$10 per person. Wines will be available for purchase with delivery in time to grace the Passover table. Proceeds of the sale will accrue to the benefit of the Temple Beth Ahm Men's Club.

To attend, call the Temple Office at 973-379-0539.

Monday

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.

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

The Mountaineer Borough Council will conduct a work session in Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east at 8 p.m.

The Springfield Township Committee will meet in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave. at 8 p.m.

Tuesday

The Union Township Historical Society will meet in the historic Caldwell Parsonage located at 909 Caldwell Ave., Union at 1 p.m.

Authors Jean Rae Turner and Richard T. Koles will speak about their new book in the Images of America Series, "Springfield, New Jersey." "Springfield" traces the unique history of a community that began as an agrarian hamlet of three houses and became a modern suburb. The Springfield book will be available for sale at \$20 per copy. Both authors will sign copies for the visiting public following their presentation.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is sponsoring a "Build a Better Birthhouse Contest" at Trailside Nature and Science Center during the 15th annual Wildlife Sunday event which will be conducted from noon to 5 p.m. at 452 New Providence Road in Mountaineer. Participants, ages 6 through adult, are invited to design and construct an original birthhouse and enter to win bird-related prizes.

The deadline for entries has been extended to Tuesday. Prizes will be given in each of three age groups: 6-10, 11-15 and 16-Adult. All birthhouses will be displayed at the Trailside Museum during Wildlife Sunday.

For information, call 908-789-3670.

April 18

The Mountaineer Public Library Board of Trustees will meet in the library on Constitution Plaza at 7:30 p.m.

April 19

The Springfield Board of Adjustment will meet in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave. at 8 p.m.

The Mountaineer Borough Council will meet in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east at 8 p.m.

April 20

Community Access Unlimited will host its 21st annual Awards Night Celebration to recognize and honor staff, members and community persons and organizations. The event takes place at L'Affaire, Route 22 east in Mountaineer. Cocktail hour is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The award ceremony will be at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is \$25 per guest; table of 10 is \$200; \$15 CAU members and staff. For information, call Vivian Fox at 908-354-3040 ext. 376.

April 21

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.

April 22

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

Planners sought for downtown

By Rick Klittich Staff Writer

Moving slowly, but surely, the Township Committee is taking steps to find the right planner for one of the largest improvements ever in Springfield: The downtown.

After reviewing two planning studies prepared in 1991 and 2001 concerning the downtown area of the township, a planner came before the Township Committee and developed a plan that included the procedural requirements that have to be undertaken in order to effectuate a "redevelopment project" in accordance with the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law.

Prior to this report, no formal designation of the area as a site in need of redevelopment had ever been made before.

Mayor Sy Mullman said that, after hearing the planner, who he wished to remain anonymous, the Township Committee had gone ahead with requests for proposals, soliciting planners to help with the Springfield project.

The three-part plan that has been reviewed by the Township Committee includes steps taken to designate the redevelopment area which runs on Morris Avenue from Mountain Avenue to Caldwell Place. It also calls for the creation of a specific redevelopment plan and, eventually, the implementation of that plan.

Committee members have maintained it was this type of outline needed to move in the direction of actually choosing a planner and starting construction.

"He made a presentation," said Committeeman Harold Poltrok, "telling us, technically, how to proceed. I was impressed."

Mullman and Poltrok said the presenter is near the top of the list of prospects they could hire.

Mullman added that he is expecting to receive applications from a number of planners, giving the township plenty of options and a better ability to choose one which suits Springfield's needs.

By May, Mullman said, he hopes the Township Committee can decide on a planner.

"We're moving as quickly as we can," he said.

Within the first step of designating the redevelopment area would be a Planning Board hearing that considers a report regarding the block of Morris Avenue specified. Once the Township Committee adopt a resolution to designate the area in need of redevelopment, no additional public hearing would be required.

A specific plan would then have to be adopted, by ordinance, by the Township Committee.

In implementing the plan, the developer may be public agencies or private developers, including non-profit organizations. A contract would be developed to describe the responsibilities of both the township and developer.

The process is described as "flexible," offering the township many options. In his report, the planner also notes it has been his experience that there will be tremendous communitywide interest in a project such as this, which the Township Committee is aware of, and he suggests the inclusion of as much public information as possible.

The report also stated interested property owners will be aware that the redevelopment entity will have the power to purchase their properties through eminent domain provisions.

Mullman said it could be two years before the last step of the outline is reached.

"Nothing is happening overnight," he said.

Squad continues capital fund drive

The Springfield Volunteer First Aid Squad will continue its 2005 capital fund drive. Fund drive Chairman Ray Netschert stated that mailers have been sent to every home and business address in Springfield.

Netschert reminds residents that the squad is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing emergency first aid services to all residents, including their families and those working in or passing through the township.

It responded to more than 1,250 emergency calls last year and there has never been a charge for its services.

The costs of operating this service for the community are significant and each and every household and business must lend its financial support to ensure that the squad can maintain and upgrade its equipment to the highest standards said Netschert.

Netschert asks that residents look for the mailing and respond immediately with a fully tax-deductible donation. Call 973-376-2040 or visit the squad's Web site at www.springfieldfirs.org for more information.

Racing to the finish line

Mountain Side Back 177 Cub Scouts conducted their annual Pinewood Derby Race at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, due to the crowd reaching more than 250 people. Here are the Pinewood Derby winners, with Mike Benmet, assistant cubmaster and derby coordinator, and Jo Vargo, committee chairwoman.

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An honorable award



Union County Freeholders Betty Jane Kowalski and Deborah Scanlon present Ethel Christie Smith, center, of Springfield, with a resolution and plaque honoring her as a Union County 2005 Woman for Lifetime Achievement. The annual awards ceremony is hosted by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women.

Volunteers take part in terror drill

By Rick Klittich Staff Writer

Starting in Union County and expanding outward throughout the state, an account of what would happen should a biological terrorist event hit New Jersey was acted out this week, testing emergency response systems everywhere.

TopOff, a congressionally mandated homeland security exercise, began Monday and will end Friday, involving the simulation of attacks in New Jersey and Connecticut by a well-organized enemy.

Springfield's main role in the drill was Tuesday, when the Police Department, Fire Department, First Aid Squad, Board of Health, Department of Public Works and Office of Emergency Management convened early in the day at the Office of Emergency Management, located in the new fire headquarters.

"They haven't told us any details," said Office of Emergency Management Coordinator John Cottage, prior

to the operation. "They want you to react to it."

Part of the reason that Union County was chosen was due to its five acute-care hospitals, high population density and proximity to New York City.

Springfield and Mountaineer, however, were not focused on during the activities.

Mountaineer Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Keith Turner, who is also a councilman, said in a small municipality like Mountaineer, where funds are limited, the reliance on the county during a high-scale emergency becomes important.

Cottage said this kind of drill is great in that it forces all emergency personnel to work together.

"Usually, our different departments work independently," said Cottage. "The purpose is to overtest everything."

This sort of problem is never really planned for, Cottage explained, so acting out something on such a large

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# COMMUNITY FORUM

## EDITORIALS

### Rethink priorities

The plan to get a laptop computer into the hands of every middle school student, and eventually, every high school student in Springfield is an ambitious proposal, but it's one that falls short of being feasible.

Michael Davino, superintendent of schools for the Springfield district, has already implemented this one-to-one laptop program to students at the Michael J. Petrides Educational Complex in Staten Island, where Davino served as chief school administrator for six years. He has touted the benefits of this program, calling it a success in that district.

According to a representative in the technology department at Petrides, a K-12 school, the one-to-one laptop program is a success with students, one that provides long-lasting educational benefits. The program, which was started at the school five years ago, allows for every student from sixth to eighth grade the ability to use their laptops during classroom instruction and take them home at the end of the school day. Students return the laptops, which cost approximately \$1,200 each, at the end of the school year and get them back again in September. According to the representative at Petrides, money for the laptops was raised through a combination of funds from the school budget and educational foundations.

In contrast, the Springfield Board of Education is planning to use \$345,000 from the budget for instructional technology equipment, namely, the one-to-one laptop program. It would have been more cost-effective if the board were able to raise at least a portion of these costs through the township's educational foundation or some other non-profit fund-raising groups. Taxpayers should not have to bear the entire burden of these costs.

There are many benefits to providing laptops to every student, but technology is a tool that can enhance learning, not replace traditional teaching methods. Technology can open many doors, but it can also leave students, parents and teachers vulnerable. Our over-reliance on technology within the classroom runs the risk of increasing poor grammar skills through the constant use of e-mailing, instant-messaging, and gathering information solely through the Internet. The information superhighway offers an unlimited amount of information at one's fingertips, but it also means that anyone with a tiny shred of technological skills can set up a Web site.

Also, there's no real educational playing field that needs to be leveled if the majority of students are already using computers at home. Springfield is not an ideal district for a one-to-one laptop program to take place, since the majority of students already have computers at home, in addition to the computers that already exist in technology labs within the school buildings.

A less wealthy district would benefit more from a one-to-one laptop program since many of the students would not have ready access to computers.

It's a worthwhile idea, but not something that Springfield should try at this time, not when this money could be used elsewhere within the budget.

### A special place in our communities

"The public library has been historically a vital instrument of democracy and opportunity in the United States.... Our history has been greatly shaped by people who read their way to opportunity and achievements in public libraries."

— Arthur Meier Schlesinger  
National Library Week, first started in 1958, is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association, celebrated this year from April 10-16. It's a week to recognize contributions of the nation's libraries, librarians, library workers, and to promote library use. National Library Workers Day is Tuesday.

Libraries have evolved throughout the years, but their missions and place in communities always have remained constant. It's just the format in which they provide their services that has changed in some cases. Regardless of the area, the library has been the place to turn for information. It's at the library where one usually can find dozens of different types of magazines and newspapers, compact discs and movies, and volumes upon volumes of assorted reference materials. And of course, what libraries are best known for — all those millions of books that can be borrowed for free.

Only our youngest residents probably can't recall memories of scouring the library for information on that important report on the New England Colonies for their fifth-grade social studies class. With the emergence of the Internet, much of that research is now done from in front of a computer screen. But that hasn't made our libraries obsolete.

**Echo Leader**  
Published Weekly Since 1929  
Incorporating Springfield Leader and Mountaineer Echo

Published By  
Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc.  
1291 Sluysant Avenue  
Union, N.J. 07083

908-686-7700

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## CANDIDATE'S CORNER

**Lloyd Grossman**  
My name is Lloyd Grossman. I have been living in Springfield for 19 years. My wife, Marcia, grew up in town and went through the Springfield school system. We have two boys, Elliot, a sophomore at Jonathan Dayton, and Max, a fifth-grader at Gaudinier.

I graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business management from Fairleigh Dickinson University as well as a master's in business administration in personnel and finance. I have my own business managing real estate and have taught economics, finance and business courses at the collegiate level. I am a member of the Springfield Junior Baseball

### Steven Friedman

I have been a resident of Springfield for two years and a resident of Union County for more than 10 years. I am married and have a 3-year-old son and a 15-month-old daughter.

I have a bachelor of arts in economics from Brooklyn College and have been working at the NYSE for more than 13 years as a trading specialist. Before that, I worked part-time at a bank while putting myself through college. I am currently serving on Springfield's Zoning Board of Adjustment and on a local community organization's finance committee and long-range planning committee.

After moving to Springfield, I fell in love with the town, with its people and became concerned with the issues that affect us all and it all began when a car flipped over on my street. It then realized how vulnerable our children

### Judy Millman

My name is Judy Millman and I am a product of the Springfield school system. I graduated Jonathan Dayton in 1976 and received my bachelor of arts from Rider College in 1980.

I received my law degree from Vermont Law School in 1983 and am a partner in the law firm of Garrubio and Capece, located in Westfield, where I have worked for the last 16 years.

My husband, David Floyd, and I moved to Springfield 14 years ago to raise our two sons, Jake Floyd, a junior at Dayton, and Zach Floyd, an eighth-grader at Gaudinier. I have been active in school and community activities since our children were young. These include the PTAs and PTOs of their schools, Community Conference, various sports programs

### Fran Sandler

My name is Fran Sandler and I am an excellent candidate for the Springfield Board of Education.

I have been a resident of Springfield for 11 1/2 years and am married with two children, one in the middle school and one in Sandmeier. I have a bachelor of fine arts degree from Ohio University and am presently employed part-time in Maplewood.

My previous work experience includes three years as an executive recruiter in the accounting field and two years as a graphic designer doing logo development for large corporations.

Currently, I am completing my second term as PTA president at the Thelma L. Sandmeier School. I have also served as vice president and interim treasurer at Sandmeier and have successfully chaired numerous fund-raisers there over the past five years. As PTA president, I am fully versed in budget development and school

### Benjamin Ruff

Every town in New Jersey has a board of education which has the legal authority to manage the town's public school system.

This includes budget, facilities, personnel and curriculum, subject to state laws.

Being a member of the board is a civic service to our town, a member of the board needs to work in a team, bringing to the board his, or her, experience, expertise and good character.

I am running for a seat on the board because I want to contribute to the effort of providing our children with a good education at a time of severe budget constraints.

I am a retired engineer and physicist with a masters degree in electronic engineering and Ph.D in physics. I taught math and science at both high schools and universities. I also worked in industry as a researcher and engineering manager. Prior to moving to Springfield in 1996, my family and I lived in Westfield, where I was twice elected to the board of education.

As a member of the board, I used my engineering expertise to make sure that we were getting our money's worth from contractors that worked for us.

I also worked with the staff to improve the curriculum in the areas of science, mathematics and technology, since at that time I was the only board member with a professional back-

ground in these areas.

Another area of great concern is the property tax, which is the main source of funding for our public schools. They are a particular hardship to our growing population of retired senior citizens, who feel squeezed by the rising taxes and are sometimes opposed to approving the school budget. As a retired senior myself, I can understand their problem and know how they feel. I hope to be able to help the senior population to realize that commitment to education shouldn't stop when your kids graduate from high school.

It is a lifelong commitment that makes a town an attractive place to live in and maintains the value of our homes. This problem can only be

### League serving as head of the

unimpaired on the committee dealing with the state, picnic and also in charge of fields. I coached my older son in baseball, basketball and soccer and presently coach my younger son.

I am running for the Board of Education position because I believe I can make a difference in the lives of our children. I believe parental involvement is the most important determinant of success in the school system. This is why I am becoming more involved and this is why I am seeking a role on the board.

To me, the top three issues are 1) parental involvement. We cannot expect our teachers and administrators to carry the burden of student achievement by themselves. I repeat the central

theme of my campaign: parental involvement is the key determinant of student educational success, along with the student commitment to excellence.

2) Raising scores on SATs and other standardized tests. Standardized scores provide a benchmark against which to measure progress toward achievement of goals, as well as a way to compare ourselves to schools with similar demographics. 3) Discipline in the schools, disruptive Students must be disciplined progressively. If students fail to comply with accepted community standards of behavior, there needs to be a low level of tolerance.

A Board of Education leader must present a vision of where we want to go in the future. They must be able to convince others to believe in that vision. If they can, we will have a good chance to be successful. A Board of Education leader that can build a consensus and direct efforts in a unified manner will be an asset to our community. Consensus-building and visionary skills are the two most vital leadership skills a Board of Education member need possess. I feel I possess these traits and I am asking for your vote to help the Springfield school system continue to improve.

### involve-ment

required by both academic as well as social. It is critical that children know that the education they are receiving and the life decisions they face. It is through my involvement that I am confident I will contribute to the school district in many positive ways.

My rapport with the teachers, administrators, parents and community members will prove to be invaluable as a member of the Board of Education.

Springfield has an excellent school system. By electing me to the Board of Education, I will continue to work very hard to maintain the high standards that have been established and will do my best to bring our schools to the next level.

I would not be looking for answers through this paper. All your questions have already been answered at recent Board of Education meetings. In fact, I raised some of your questions at a meeting in December. Why do you continue to ask your questions through the Echo Leader?

Although, I as well as many other residents, was quite disappointed by the changes made in the construction plans, I can tell you for a fact that the Springfield Board of Education as well as the superintendent, legally cannot divert

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To summarize, I believe that my experience and professional background would make me a good candidate and I promise to serve our public schools well, if elected to the Board of Education on April 19.

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## CANDIDATE'S CORNER

### Daniel Burke

Within the last five years, the Springfield Board of Education has achieved much, but the time has come for us to look to the future, recognize the challenges that still face us and begin to work toward their solutions.

At the same time though, we must never lose sight of what I call the three A's of education: not only academics, but also athletics and the arts. We should always pay attention to standardized tests and strive to improve the scores. I believe this district should formally adopt a "wellness" curriculum in which every grade and every school in the district is as far as stating exactly what skills each child should have at the end of each year.

We need to realize that every student has a different learning style and, when planning a curriculum and considering instruction, we cannot take a one-size-fits-all approach.

We cannot begin to ignore those

### Scott Samansky

My wife, Carol, and I have lived in Springfield since we were married in 1992.

Our son, Matthew, attends Gaudinier, and Zachary attends Sandmeier. I am a senior trial attorney with the firm of Fishman & Callahan, concentrating in civil litigation.

Since our boys were eligible to play, I have coached baseball, basketball and soccer. On April 19, I ask that you elect me for the opportunity to continue the board's efforts in providing a high quality of education for our kids.

Before deciding to run for a position on the board in 2002, I attended numerous board meetings. During the public input sessions, I asked questions. I spoke with some of the members individually outside of the meetings, and obtained a clear overview of their responsibilities. In social and recreational settings, I spoke with Springfield residents to be sure their interests and concerns were clear.

As a board member, I have learned it takes time to understand the inner-workings of running our school district. It is always easy to point to money as both the most important resource and the biggest obstacle to accomplishing our goals. Well, the board has extremely minimal control over the amount of money available and how it can be used.

This necessarily requires board members to familiarize themselves with not only the terminology, but with the understanding as to how to make and implement decisions for the benefit of the school district.

The various committees assigned

### State doesn't need another gov. office

To the Editor:

New Jersey does not need a lieutenant governor's office. It's just another expensive level of government to burden taxpayers.

I urge not only Mrs. Hardgrove to attend these meetings, but all residents of Springfield because you walk away with an enormous amount of information about how the schools are run.

These meetings are held on Monday nights, at Dayton. You could attend once a month and still be kept up-to-date on all issues. At the end of each meeting, you can ask as many questions as you would like. I ask you stop writing incorrect statements in the paper. Get your facts correct before you post your next letter!

Laura Della Springfield

### President's actions weren't political

To the Editor:

Whose side of life is Bush on? I think the answer is quite simple. The president believes that it is wrong to kill babies because having them may be inconvenient for the parents. He believes it is wrong to starve a disabled woman to death because others believe her life is not a quality life. In your addition of March 31, Arlene Murphy asserts that President Bush's actions were motivated by politics. This president cannot run again. There is nothing for him to gain. It's the same old arguments coming from the Bush-baiting crowd. Can't beat him, then attack him. I realize that, for eight years prior to this president, we had a leader who didn't believe in anything but self-preservation, but that has all changed.

As far as the president presiding over 152 executions when he was governor of Texas, I am glad to see that he believed the punishments that were imposed to be carried out. Unlike Iraq, Iran and North Korea, we have a constitution that we are governed by and it specifically allows for the death penalty. I personally am comforted in the knowledge that there are 152 murderers that no longer will be able to prey upon society.

We don't execute people for political dissent, unlike the previously mentioned countries.

Ms. Murphy, thanks to President Bush's tremendous leadership and the great courage of our fighting men and women, Iraq will no longer be humped together with Iran and North Korea.

Unfortunately, there have been close to 1,600 Americans killed in the liberation of Iraq, but they have sacrificed so that we can continue to live our lives without fear. It will take time but Iraq will be successful in their transition to democracy.

There are signs that democracy will spread in the Middle East and when it does the United States will be safer.

William F. Lavery Union

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## CANDIDATE'S CORNER

seemingly non-educational items that are in reality very important in developing the interpersonal skills of our prekindergarten and kindergarten students, namely playground equipment.

We have a wonderful prekindergarten program in Springfield but, unfortunately, not everyone can take advantage of it. Many couples are unable to pick up or leave off their child in the middle of the day because both the mother and father work. I believe we should continue with the half-day program, but with the option that, for a fee, parents can keep their child in the class for the whole day. This way, the parents will not be forced to put their child in day care, the taxpayers will not be burdened because it will be revenue coming into the district and, most importantly, all of our children will be able to get a head start to a high-quality public education they all deserve.

Finally, I must mention the subject of state aid. I am not of the belief that

### With Steve and Keith toward

keeping the education in our schools current with the most current techniques and state-of-the-art resources available.

As a board member, I have learned it takes time to understand the inner-workings of running our school district. It is always easy to point to money as both the most important resource and the biggest obstacle to accomplishing our goals. Well, the board has extremely minimal control over the amount of money available and how it can be used.

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Laura Della Springfield



PEOPLE IN THE SERVICE

Klebaur completes Marine Corps training

Marine Corps Pvt. Peter J. Klebaur, son of Heidi R. and Peter J. Klebaur of Mountaineer, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

drill and operated as a small infantry unit during field training. Klebaur and other recruits also received instruction on the Marine Corps' core values — honor, courage and commitment, and what the core values mean in guiding personal and professional conduct.

Traina graduates from training course

Army Reserve Pvt. Matthew Traina Jr. has graduated from the Light-wheeled Vehicle Mechanic advanced individual training course at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

The course is designed to train soldiers to perform maintenance, troubleshoot, and repair wheeled vehicles and related mechanical components, including suspension systems, internal combustion engines and power trains, spark and compression-ignition engines, wheel-hub assemblies, hydraulic brake and steering systems, and operate a wheeled vehicle crane, hoist, and winch assemblies.

Traina graduates from training course

His stepmother, Sonja Wassam, resides on Lyntz Road, Lordstown, Ohio. He is a 2004 graduate of Lordstown High School.

AT THE LIBRARY

Group discusses Harper Lee classic

The Good Books Discussion Group of the Springfield Free Public Library will meet tonight in the meeting room at 66 Mountain Ave. at 7 p.m. to discuss the One Book New Jersey selection "To Kill a Mockingbird," by Harper Lee.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" is a coming-of-age story of Scout Finch and her brother, Jem, in 1930s Alabama. Through their neighborhood meanderings and the example of their father, they grow to understand that the world isn't always fair and that prejudice is a very real aspect of their world no matter how subtle it seems.

Call the reference department at 973-376-4930 ext. 228 to reserve a copy of the book.

Donations accepted for upcoming lobby sale

Beginning April 18, The Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., are accepting donations for their lobby sale to benefit the library.

Group meets for memoir writing tips

Writer and teacher Zella R.P. Geltman continues to bring her counseling and training services to the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., in the ongoing course, "Write Your

Life Stories — Memoir Writing Made Easy." Geltman teaches methods by which memoir writing can be simple and rewarding: how to get started, having a purpose, how to tell stories, making a list of ideas from your life experiences, tips on editing, suggested reading, and how working with a group provides feedback for each other and enhances people's stories.

A resident of West Orange, Geltman has been facilitating memoir workshops for 20 years. Her published work includes "Tales of Our Lives," an anthology of and tips for writing memoirs.

The group will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:15 a.m. to noon at the Springfield Public Library.

No writing experience is necessary, and no registration is required — just come and enjoy the group. Newcomers welcome. For information, call 973-376-4930.

Library upgrades online materials catalog

The Mountaineer Public Library has recently upgraded its online catalog, giving it the look and feel of today's popular online bookstores.

The addition of an "Enriched Content" module has enhanced the library's materials catalog with tables of contents; book cover art; book reviews; fiction and biography profiles; excerpts and complete first chapters.

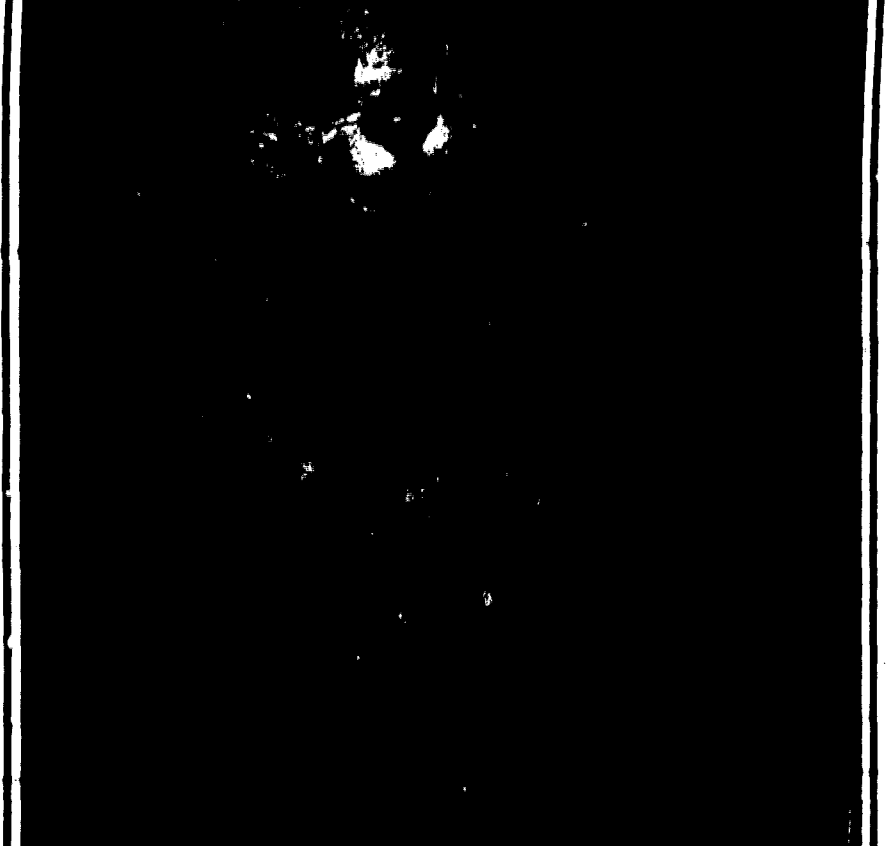
Library users will first notice the cover images taken directly from book jackets. In addition to the attractive graphics, the Mountaineer Public Library catalog now offers lots more. Book reviews from standard sources such as Publishers Weekly, Booklist and Library Journal are available with a click of the mouse. Children's reviews are also included through articles from School Library Journal.

Many citations offer first chapter excerpts that can be read online. It's no longer necessary to retrieve the physical book for a quick read or search for a review in a magazine database. The library catalog offers the information right at your fingertips. Other options readily available include book summaries and annotations; tables of contents just as they appear in the books; and fiction and biography profiles which provide a broad range of headings for research or discovering read-a-likes.

"Both book groups and individual readers will love this enhancement," said Library Director Miriam Bein. "It's transformed the library catalog into an encyclopedia.

Hello, Easter Bunny

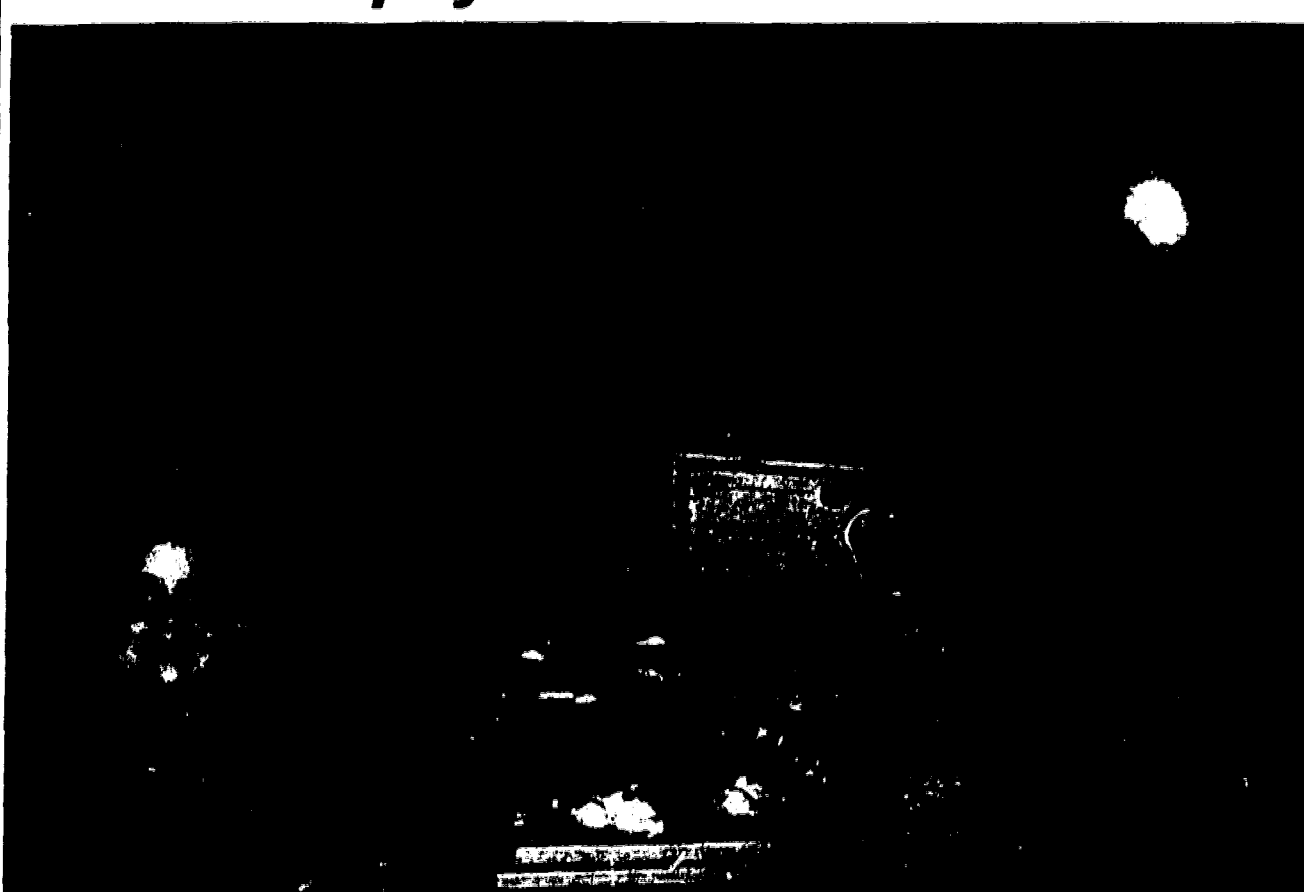
Three-year-old Mountaineer resident Julie Disko says hello to the Easter Bunny who visited the Community Presbyterian Nursery School Easter Egg Hunt.



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Advertisement for 'DIVORCE and the High Net Worth Family'. It offers a free divorce seminar focusing on complex financial concerns, including learning about assets, assessing income, and structuring settlements. The seminar is held on Wednesday, April 13, 2005, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at The Short Hills Hilton.

Teamwork pays off



Springfield Environmental Commission member Bill Levidow kicks off Clean Community Day events in Springfield by awarding winners of the poster contest and creating an EnviroScav game with some young helpers. They included Taylor Friedman, Adam Gelo, Samzar Sekyi-Williams, Erkan Sidar, Jessica Zambrana and Christian Sambrano.

Hospital sponsors April art exhibit

In April, Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountaineer is exhibiting selected works by artists Tom Kimball and Darcy Hoelzer.

Monthly exhibits are sponsored by the Auxiliary of Children's Specialized Hospital. All artwork is available for purchase with a portion of the sales benefiting the auxiliary.

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The Learning Circle in Summit and Starbucks Coffee are embarking on a community collaboration to inspire the love of reading and learning in young children. The Learning Circle's kindergarten class of 5- and 6-year-olds visits Starbucks Coffee one Friday morning a month for story hour. Starbucks employees read a story to the children and engage in conversation with them about the elements of the story.

TLC Joins Starbucks for literacy program

The Learning Circle in Summit and Starbucks Coffee announce a community collaboration to inspire the love of reading and learning in young children.

The Learning Circle's kindergarten class of 5- and 6-year-olds visits Starbucks Coffee one Friday morning a month for story hour. Starbucks employees read a story to the children and engage in conversation with them about the elements of the story.

They share relevant background knowledge together in two-way dialogue to foster critical thinking skills and interactive verbal skills using the story as a basis for common ground.

Once the story-reading component of the session is complete, the children engage in a fun activity that reinforces the ideas of the story coupled with the children's imaginations. The stories that are read aloud as well as the corresponding curriculum have been developed by The Learning Circle and Reading is Fundamental Inc., the nation's oldest and largest children's literacy organization based in Washington, D.C.

On March 18, the children had a special session at the Learning Circle. The children were able to bring home a book to read to their families. In addition, the class was able to choose the story they wanted to celebrate Hanukkah. On this occasion, Starbucks enabled the children to be "employee-instructors" to the children.

Golf league offered

Registration is now being accepted for the Summit Board of Recreation Spring Ladies and Junior Instructional Golf League. The Ladies League is offered to Summit women ages 18 and older and the Junior League is offered to Summit boys and girls ages 8-14. Eight Fridays will be offered beginning April 15 and leading up to June 10.

Each day will offer instructional clinics and pre-game warm-ups beginning at 9 a.m. to noon for the Ladies League and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. for the Junior League. The league will meet at the Summit Municipal Golf Course. Registration forms may be picked up at the Board of Recreation Office, 100 Morris Ave. There is a \$150 non-refundable registration fee per person.

RECREATION

Library partners with Y

Summit Free Public Library and Summit YMCA will partner to bring a series of bilingual story hours to the community.

The monthly bilingual story hour offered at Summit Free Public Library, 75 Maple St., will focus on fairy tales that teach values. The fairy tale speaks to the collective wisdom of the heart that brings the global village together.

This program aims to foster an appreciation of diversity and a love of language. Native English speakers will benefit with exposure to simple stories in Spanish, which is the designated world language of the Summit school district, and children who have English as a second language will certainly benefit from the language arts component of the program.

This program for children in grades kindergarten through five will be offered on Mondays from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Summit Free Public Library, 75 Maple St. No registration is required.

Registration ongoing for spring scuba

Registration is ongoing for the Spring Scuba Program at the Summit YMCA. Classes meet for four sessions, Wednesdays, from 6 to 10 p.m., Wednesday to May 4, at the Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St., Summit.

The fee for the program is \$230 and is open to community.

For information about the program, call Treasure Cove Watersports at 908-654-8808. To register, call Cindee Young, senior aquatic director at 908-273-3330 ext. 156 or cindeeyoung@summitymca.org.

Registration opens for Outdoor Golf Camp

Registration is now being accepted for the Summit Board of Recreation Youth Outdoor Golf Camp.

This camp is being offered to Summit girls and boys in grades two through eight. The camp will offer a two-hour session each day which will combine instruction on the fundamentals of the short game and full swing with the application of those skills on the golf course. The camp will be conducted at the Summit Municipal Golf Course from April 25 to April 28, with a rain date of April 29.

Hours are as follows: Session one, 9 to 11 a.m.; Session two, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Session three, 1 to 3 p.m. Registration forms may be picked up at the Board of Recreation Office, 100 Morris Ave. There is a \$125 non-refundable registration fee per child. For information, call the Board of Recreation at 908-277-2932.

Lifeguard certification offered at YMCA

Aspiring lifeguards can get certified at the Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St., beginning April 18. Registration is ongoing for the YMCA lifeguard course, which will grant certification to participants who successfully complete the training.

The Lifeguard Training class will run April 18 to May 25 and meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 10 p.m., and Sundays, April 24 and May 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and May 15, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Summit YMCA.

Participants must be at least 16 years old and attend all classes to receive certification. They should also be able to swim 500 yards in the pool, retrieve a 10-pound brick from a depth of nine feet and tread water for two minutes.

The course includes First Aid, CPR and Automatic External Defibrillator training. This certification is open to members and non-members. The fee for the class is \$225.

For information, call Cindee Young, senior aquatic director at 908-273-3330.

Registration opens for child care at YMCA

Summit YMCA child care registration for the 2005-06 school year is now open from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St.

There are several child care programs offered at the Summit YMCA: Preschool Child Care, for ages 3 to 5; Kindergarten, for children in half-day kindergarten programs; After-school Program/Middle School Adventures, after school care for children in first grade through middle school. Each program offers two days to five days a week options, holiday and extended care.

For information call Priti Patel, Child Care Director at 908-273-3330 ext. 162, send a message by e-mail to prtipatel@summitymca.org or visit www.summitymca.org.

Registration opens for spring soccer

The Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St., is now hosting open registration for Youth Spring Soccer leagues.

The season runs Sunday to June 5. Registration will be conducted at the Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St. Space is limited.

Super Sports Soccer has three divisions: Champions for second- and third-graders; Winners for first-graders; and Rookies for kindergartners. Winners and Rookies are coed leagues. The Champions division will be split into boys and girls divisions.

Practices are conducted on Saturdays and games are played on Sundays. Sportsmanship and self-esteem are encouraged.

For more fees, practice and game schedules, visit the Summit YMCA at www.summitymca.org or call 908-273-3330.

Teen camps offer tons of choices

The Summit Area YMCA's camp catalog offers many choices for outdoor activities this summer.

Teens enrolled in the day camp can enjoy adventures, challenges and lots of fun. Perhaps spending a week at UNITY's Basketball camp, taking the week-long expedition to climb, hike and hike in Blue Ridge, N.C., and learning team skills in Team Camp's "Wilderness Survival" and "Water Wars" would suit them just fine. For information, call 908-273-3330.

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Advertisement for Medical Assistant Training. It features a starburst design and text: 'Medical Assistant Training', 'Classes Starting Soon', 'Union Location', 'AAMA Accredited'. It includes a call for information at 973-256-3444 and the website www.berdaninstitute.com.

Advertisement for 580 South Men's Store. It features a large '580 SOUTH MEN'S STORE' logo and lists clothing items like Paper Denim & Cloth, Lucky, Earnest Sewn, John Varvatos, Ted Baker, Penguin, and Energie. It also lists brands like Kenneth Cole, DKNY, Donald Pliner, Nike, The North Face, Buffalo, and Le Tigre. The address is 580 S. Livingston Avenue, Livingston, NJ • 973-758-0580. It includes a call for information at 800-564-8911.

Advertisement for The Trio of Hope Cancer Centers. It features a large 'THE TRIO OF HOPE' logo and text: 'The Trio of Hope Cancer Centers', 'The Cancer Center at Overlook Hospital', 'The Cancer Center at Overlook Hospital', 'The Cancer Center at Overlook Hospital'. It includes a call for information at 1-800-347-9500 and the website www.attentivehealth.org.



## Oratory Guild conducts gala

The Oratory Preparatory Parents' Guild, based in Summit, will conduct its annual spring gala, "A Night in Monte Carlo," at the Bridgewater Marriott Hotel on Friday. The event is a major fund-raiser for the Parents' Guild, as well as an opportunity for Oratory parents to honor two faculty members, Steve Fava and Vicki Candon, who have devoted 25 years of service to Oratory Prep.

Anyone interested in 50-50 tickets may call Arlene Braço of Warren at 908-647-7604. Highlights of the evening will include a beautiful cocktail hour featuring silent auction gifts, followed by a dinner reception and open bar, plus casino games and dancing.

## Donations give troops a 'touch of home'

The Summit Area Chapter of the American Red Cross is in need of "Touch of Home" items for distribution to U.S. troops. Donations will be given to military members who are deploying to or returning from overseas assignments or have been activated for assignments at a New Jersey military installation. This is a good project for Scouts, church groups and other community groups wanting to do something for the Armed Forces.

Individually wrapped soft toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste, travel size shaving cream, double edge individually wrapped disposable razors, Chap Stick/lip balm, travel size mouthwash, small bottles of unscented baby or foot powder, eye drops, ladies hygiene items, bug guard with DEET, sun block, SPF 45 or higher, travel size bottles of shampoo name brands preferred, travel size hand lotion, unscented baby soap, small packages of wet wipes, small bottles of hand sanitizer and one gallon zip lock bags.

The following items will be distributed to military members at a comfort station:  
Writing tablets and envelopes, black ink pens, individually wrapped snacks, crackers, cookies, granola bars and powdered drinks.  
Although individual notes are welcome, they should not be religious or political in nature and should not include last names or addresses.  
Call 908-274-2076 to make arrangements for dropping off donations at the Summit Area Chapter, 695 Springfield Ave., Summit.

To help the volunteers at Fort Dix in assembling these items into "Touch of Home" kits, the list below must be followed closely. Items must be the correct size and type to be provided to the troops. Do not mix donated items, i.e., soap, razors, toothpaste, etc. They should be in separate large plastic bags or cardboard boxes clearly labeled with the contents.

On behalf of the troops, the Summit Area Chapter of the American Red Cross extends its thanks and appreciation for your help and generosity.  
The Summit Area chapter of the American Red Cross serves the communities of Berkeley Heights, Long Hill Township, New Providence, Springfield and Summit. This voluntary organization supports communities in disaster situations, training in lifesaving skills and transporting ambulatory patients to medical appointments. Services are free of charge.

## Donations aid women in military

Summit Supports Our Troops invites the public to help women defending the nation by sending them "R&R in a box." Items and financial contributions will be collected through April 14. Items can be deposited in the SSOT container located in the lobby of the Bassett Building, 382 Springfield Ave., Summit, SSOT headquarters.

Financial contributions should be sent to The SAFF Foundation, P.O. Box 867, Summit 07902-0867. Make checks payable to: Summit Area Public Foundation-SSOT-WIMN.

For information, call the WIMN Committee at 908-274-1142 or send a message by e-mail to [dtruhe@truhe.com](mailto:dtruhe@truhe.com). Visit the Web site at [www.ssot.org](http://www.ssot.org).  
The Women in the Military Now project of Summit Supports Our Troops was launched as a result of research on the particular needs of deployed military women. WIMN recognized two key concepts from talking with women in the military:  
1. Women at the fronts do have the need for particular items to aid their health and enhance their morale.  
2. Women in the military have acquired, after generations of dedicated service and advocacy, recognition of the significant and varied capacities of women in military service.

The WIMN project was initiated by Christine Ring, a sophomore at Kent Place School, after listening to an inspirational speech this past summer given at a Summit Rotary Meeting by Summit Supports Our Troops Executive Director Christine Truhe. The WIMN Committee consists of: Christine Ring; Annie Burns, a senior at Summit High School and volunteer administrative assistant at SSOT; Annie's mother, Virginia Burns; Christine's mother, Helena Ring, with Christine Truhe as advisor.

The main objective of the WIMN project is to show appreciation for the women in the armed forces of the United States serving around the world by encouraging their good health and positive morale.  
The activities of the effort include gathering items and raising funds for shipping and provisioning items not collected. The items being collected, including hygiene and health and beauty supplies, must be in travel size.

## Sale benefits youth chorus



The New Jersey Youth Chorus, a non-profit audition chorus that provides area students with the opportunity to enhance their choral arts experience, will conduct a rummage sale on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bernardsville High School. Sorting through the items are Summit residents Alison Sterling, Sarah Twardock and Emily Snyder.

## Summit Chorale conducts auditions

Experienced choral singers in all voice parts who wish to audition to sing in Summit Chorale's third concert this season are invited to attend the group's rehearsals, under the leadership of music director Richard Garrin, Tuesday evenings, from 7:30 to 10 p.m., on the campus of Drew University in Madison.

This final concert takes place on May 21. For specifics on the audition procedure, call 973-762-8486.  
Information about Richard Garrin and the Chorale may be found at [www.summitchorale.org](http://www.summitchorale.org). Included in the repertoire for this concert is the Robert Ray Gospel Mass, as well as arrangements of songs by Gounissin, Porter, Berth and others. Summit Chorale is Chorus-in-Residence at Drew University, Madison.

Funding for Summit Chorale is made possible in part by the NJ State Council of the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.

## 'Mostly Watercolor' exhibit on display

"Mostly Watercolors" is the name of an exhibit by Verona artist Ann Taylor. This exhibit of 40 watercolor and pastel paintings is on view at the Bouras Galleries in Summit on DeForest Avenue. The exhibit will be at Bouras Galleries through April 28. The galleries are open to the public by appointment only.

Taylor began studying watercolor when she was 15. A graduate of the High School of Industrial Arts in Manhattan, she has a bachelor of arts in fine and applied arts from Brooklyn College.

Further studies include courses at The School of Visual Arts, the New School for Social Research and most recently, the Yard School of Art in Montreal.  
Taylor is a member of several professional organizations. She is also an associate member of the New Jersey Watercolor Society and the Garden State Watercolor Society.

To make an appointment, call Linda Cole at 908-277-6054.  
Taylor is an award-winning artist who finds challenge in interpreting a wide variety of subjects, frequently utilizing water as a compositional element. Her love of color and light is evident in her paintings as is her passion for travel.

Taylor just completed a three-year presidency of the Essex Watercolor Club — New Jersey's oldest watercolor society.  
Presently, she teaches watercolor painting and is a trustee of the Verona Park Conservancy for whom she designed tote cards as a successful fund-raiser.  
Bouras, owner of the Bouras Building, is very community-oriented and has supported many charitable and civic organizations in town and throughout the country. Bouras Properties has also been the location for various city-sponsored events. Along with artists goes the added bonus that part of the proceeds from any sales at the Bouras Galleries goes to benefit Overlook Hospital.

### Spring 2005 High School Information Nights

Presented by The Catholic High Schools of the Archdiocese of Newark

<b>Tuesday, April 19</b> Newark Archdiocesan Center Auditorium	<b>Wednesday, April 20</b> South Orange Our Lady of Sorrows School Gym	<b>Thursday, April 21</b> Montclair Queen of Peace School Multi-Purpose Room
<b>Tuesday, April 26</b> Paramus Annunciation Parish Parish Hall	<b>Wednesday, April 27</b> Jersey City Hudson Catholic Regional H.S. Gym	<b>Thursday, April 28</b> Union St. Michael School Gym

All Sessions from 7 PM to 9 PM

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...NOW SO YOUR KID CAN!  
For more information, call The Jill Powell Experience at 973-243-9497  
[www.jillpowell.com](http://www.jillpowell.com)

## Alfred Riddick Sr.

Alfred E. Riddick Sr., 89, of Orange, formerly of Summit, died March 24 in the Honor Health Care Center, Mountainside.

Born in Roper, N.C., Mr. Riddick lived in Summit before moving to Orange 50 years ago.  
He was the supervisor and conference coordinator of Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, before retiring. Mr. Riddick previously worked as a maître'd at the Old Mill Inn, Bernardsville, and at the former William Pitt Inn, Clatham. Earlier, he worked at Piscataway Arsenal, Dover. Mr. Riddick was active with Wallace Chapel AME Church, Summit.

He was a trustee, an usher and a member of the Men's Chorus.  
Surviving are a daughter, Sandra; a brother, James; a sister, Josie, and a grandchild.

## Philip Musum

Philip "Felipe" Musum, 70, of Summit died March 25 at home.

Born in Irvington, Mr. Musum lived in South Orange for 20 years before moving to Summit 47 years ago. He owned both the Lyndhurst Haircutters and the Belleville Haircutters for 20 years and co-owned the Musum Beauty Supply Co., Newark, for 50 years.

Mr. Musum served in the Army during peacetime.  
He was a former Scoutmaster with the Boy Scouts of America Troop 162 and a Little League coach, both in Summit.  
Surviving are his wife of 46 years,

## Jeannette Torhan

Jeannette O. Torhan, 85, of Summit died March 27 at home.

Born in Linden, Mrs. Torhan lived in Summit for 45 years. She was a legal secretary at Hughes, Hartlaub, Thorne & Dutton, Summit, for 10 years before retiring in 1988.  
Before that, Mrs. Torhan worked for Kemper Insurance, Summit.  
Surviving are a son, Douglas; a daughter, Susan, and two grandchildren.

Mr. Schneider served in the Army for two years during peacetime. He was a member of the Cornell University Alumni organization and past president of the Smartwood Lakes Watershed Association. Mr. Schneider also was an active volunteer at Newton Memorial Hospital and the Historical Society of Stillwater.  
Surviving are his wife, Barbro;

## OBITUARIES

### Helena R. Smith

Helena R. Smith, 83, of Mountainide died March 31 in the Berkeley Heights Convalescent Center.

Born in Atlantic City, Mrs. Smith lived in Ohio, New York, North Brunswick and Woodbridge before moving to Mountainide last year. She was an elementary school librarian for the Hempstead school system in Long Island, N.Y., for three years before retiring in 1979. Before that, Mrs. Smith was a receptionist at Wright Field Air Force Base in Ohio.  
Surviving are her husband of 55

### Glen Bliwise

Glen D. Bliwise, 58, of Short Hills, formerly of Mountainide, a Mountainide businessman, died March 29 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Irvington, Mr. Bliwise lived in Mountainide before moving to Short Hills 21 years ago. He owned and operated the Bliwise Liquor Store, Mountainide, which was started by his grandfather in 1917. Mr. Bliwise was a 1969 graduate of Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pa. He received a bachelor's degree in English. Mr. Bliwise was a former president of the Omicron Gamma Omega fraternity at Moravian College.

### Helen S. Born

Helen S. Born, 97, of Lakewood, formerly of Springfield, retired Springfield librarian, has died.

Born in Duluth, Minn., Mrs. Born lived in Nutley, Springfield and Millburn before moving to Lakewood in 1972. She was a librarian for the Springfield Public Library before retiring in 1972. Mrs. Born also was a school librarian in Babylon, N.Y., Passaic and Bloomfield. She was a member of the order of the Eastern Star, Nutley.  
Surviving are two daughters, Nancy Keller and Renee K. Hill; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

### Peter A. Bottino

Peter A. Bottino, 66, of Springfield died April 2 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Newark, Mr. Bottino lived in the Vailburg section before moving to Springfield 25 years ago. He worked in the limousine business for many years.  
Surviving are his wife, Angela; a son, Peter Jr.; a daughter, Robin, and two grandchildren.

### Mary Kenny

Mary Kenny, 79, of Summit died April 3 in the Berkeley Heights Convalescent Center.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Kenny lived in Summit for 51 years. She was a registered nurse at Overlook Hospital, Summit, and St. Vincent's Hospital, Montclair, for 20 years before retiring 21 years ago. Mrs. Kenny graduated from All Souls Hospital, where she received a nursing degree in 1946 and was a cadet nurse in the Army.  
She was a member of the Rosary Society of St. Teresa of Avila Church, Summit, Seton Hall Parent Mothers' Auxiliary, the St. Teresa Parent-Teacher Association and the Crestview Swim Club. Mrs. Kenny volunteered for SAGE in Summit.  
Surviving are two sons, John and Mark; two daughters, Patricia Price and Ellen Haley; two brothers, John and Patrick Drury; a sister, Margaret DeBaus, and 11 grandchildren.

### Debblynn French

Debblynn French, 53, of Fredon Township, formerly of Springfield, died March 30 at home.

Born in Summit, Mrs. French lived in Springfield and Union County for many years before moving to Fredon Township in 1995. She graduated from Seton Hall University, South Orange, where she received a bachelor's degree in accounting. Mrs. French was a member of the Junior Rockettes Traveling Dance Company in Springfield.  
Surviving are her husband, Ray; four sons, Jason D. Chace, Steven, Scott and Kenneth French; a sister, Darcy Rieg, and five grandchildren.

### Obituary policy

Obituary notices submitted by local funeral homes or families must be in writing. This newspaper cannot accept obituaries by telephone.  
Obituary notices must be typed and include a telephone number where writer may be reached 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Call 908-686-7700 for details.

## WORSHIP CALENDAR

**BAPTIST**  
EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH — "SERVING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY" 242 Shippole Rd., Springfield. Rev. Frederick Mackay, Sr., Pastor. Sundays: 9:30 AM Bible School; 10:30 AM Church Service; 11:30 AM Adult Education. Youth groups provide a variety of fun and educational programs. For further information call the synagogue office at 973-467-9666.

**JEWISH - REFORM**  
TEMPLE SHAR'EH SHALOM 78 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield, (973) 379-5387. Rabbi: Alan J. Yanc, Rabbi Emeritus: Solomon Greenfield, President. Conservative level in a Modern Orthodox synagogue. There are two daily weekday morning Minyanim at 6:14 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Daily weekday Minyan/Hebrew services are also held. Call for office hours. There are two Shabbat morning services: 8:30 AM and 9:30 AM. Shabbat services are available for children ages 2 1/2 through 4. The Temple has the support of an active Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Renaissance Group and Youth Group. A wide range of programs include Adult Education, Social Action, Interfaith Outreach, Singles and Seniors. For more information, call the Temple office, (973) 379-5387.

**METHODIST**  
SPRINGFIELD EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (SEUMC) — is a faith community inspired by God's love for all people. Join us for Sunday worship which begins with the entire congregation at 10:30 AM before children exit for Sunday School. Express God's compassion through outreach activities. Beginning and experienced vocalists and musicians are invited to participate in the music ministry led by professional musician John Johnson and Dan Crist. Bible study, prayer, youth group and fellowship events enable all to grow in their faith. SEUMC is located at the far back end of Church Hill, near the intersection of Morris and Mountain Avenues, Springfield. Call 973-376-1695 for more information.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC**  
THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, 300 Central Avenue, Mountainside, 908-232-1162. Celebrate the Lord's Day: 9:00am-5:00pm; Sunday at 7:30am; 9:30am, 11:30am. Weekdays: Monday-Friday 7:30am, Saturday 8:00am. Sacrament of Reconciliation, Saturday at 1pm. Perpetual Adoration Chapel for personal prayer and devotion. [www.ourladyoflourdes.org](http://www.ourladyoflourdes.org).

**JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE**  
TEMPLE BETH AHM 60 Temple Drive, Springfield. 973-376-0579. Mark Malachuk, Rabbi. Richard Nadel, Cantor. Marilyn Golan, Musician. Active Youth Ministry, Wide-Range Music Program. Ample Parking. Chair Lift provided with assistance. All are invited and welcomed to participate in worship with us. For further information contact church office (973) 379-4351. Mondays - 7:00 pm - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.

**LUTHERAN**  
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 639 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, 07081, 973-379-4525, Fax 973-379-8487. Ramo Madson, Pastor. Our Sunday Worship Service takes place at 10 a.m. For information about our individual children, teen, and adult programs, contact the Church Office Monday through Tuesday, 8:30-4:00 pm.

**PRESBYTERIAN**  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 210 Morris Ave. Church Hill, Springfield, 973-379-4320. Sunday School Classes for ages 3yrs. - Senior High 9:00 a.m. in our Parish House. Sunday morning worship service 10:15 a.m. Children's Church is held during the worship service. Nursery care and facilities are provided. Opportunities for personal growth through worship, Christian Education, Bible study, ongoing church activities, and Fellowship. Holy Communion is held the 1st Sunday of every month; The Ladies Evening Group-3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST**  
UNITARIAN CHURCH IN SUMMIT, 4 Morris Ave., Church Hill, Springfield, NJ 07081, 908-273-3245. [www.uu-summit.org](http://www.uu-summit.org). Rev. Vanessa Link, Southern Minister; Michelle Vines, Music and Choir Director. Sunday Services and religious education classes at 9:30 and 11:00 AM. Adult Education and other programs.

**JEWISH-ORTHODOX**  
CONGREGATION ISRAEL OF SPRINGFIELD 339 Mountain Avenue, Springfield. 973-467-9666. Chaim Meizman, Rabbi; Alan J. Yanc, Rabbi Emeritus; Solomon Greenfield, President. Conservative level in a Modern Orthodox synagogue. There are two daily weekday morning Minyanim at 6:14 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Daily weekday Minyan/Hebrew services are also held. Call for office hours. There are two Shabbat morning services: 8:30 AM and 9:30 AM. Shabbat services are available for children ages 2 1/2 to 4.

**REMEMBER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**, 229 Copperfield Pl., Westfield, N.J., Paul E. Borch, Pastor (908) 232-5117. Teaching: Sunday, July 3, Summer Worship. Times are as follows: Sunday Worship Service, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.; Sunday morning Nursery available; Wednesday Evening Worship Service, 7:30 p.m.; Holy Communion is celebrated at all worship services. The church and all services are handicapped accessible.

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Editor: JR Parachini  
Can be reached in  
Maplewood at 973-763-0700

# SPORTS

Sports Numbers  
Phone: 973-763-0700  
Fax: 973-763-2557

## Gov. Livingston Baseball

Home dates  
April 9 Millburn Tournament  
April 12 Union Catholic, 4 p.m.  
April 19 North Plainfield, 4  
April 21 New Providence, 4  
April 23 Summit, 4  
Yogi Berra Stadium, Little Falls  
April 26 Roselle Catholic, 4  
April 28 Chatham, 4  
May 3 Rahway, 4  
May 10 Roselle Park, 4  
May 15 Shore Challenge, 1:30 p.m.  
May 17 Johnson, 4  
May 23 Metuchen, 4

## Gov. Livingston Softball

Home dates  
April 7 Roselle Park, 4 p.m.  
April 15 Dayton, 4  
April 22 Scotch Plains, 4  
April 25 Watchung Hills, 4  
May 3 Rahway, 4  
May 9 Oak Knoll, 4  
May 9 Bernards, 4  
May 9 Union Catholic, 4  
May 16 Caldwell, 4  
May 16 North Plainfield, 4  
May 21 New Providence, 4  
May 26 Roselle Catholic, 4

## Gov. Livingston Boys' Tennis

Home dates  
April 7 Newark Tech, 4 p.m.  
April 14 Union Catholic, 4  
April 15 Somerville, 4  
at White Oak Park  
April 21 Bound Brook, 4  
April 25 Somerville, 4  
May 3 Dayton, 4  
May 5 Johnson, 4  
May 12 New Providence, 4  
May 16 J.P. Stevens, 4  
May 19 Oratory Prep, 4  
May 25 Johnson, 4

## Gov. Livingston Girls' Lacrosse

Home dates  
April 16 Wayne Valley, 10 a.m.  
April 22 St. Benedict's Prep, 4 p.m.  
April 26 St. Peter's Prep, 4 p.m.  
May 2 Morris Catholic, 4  
May 4 Newark Academy, 4  
May 10 Verona, 4  
May 12 Mount Olive, 4

## Gov. Livingston Track and Field

April 9 Cougar Classic at Cranford  
April 12 Rahway, 4 p.m.  
April 16 at Morris Hills, 10 a.m.  
April 19 Roselle, Hillsdale, 4  
April 23 Randolph Relays, 9 a.m.  
April 26 Newark Central, Rahway, 4

## Locals star in college

Max Benedetti of Summit and Brian Butler of Wyckoff walked to open an inning and then executed a double steal for the Montclair State University baseball team in a 10-6 win at Wilmington, De. March 26.

## Max Tehyan of Summit is a sophomore attack on the Haverford College team.

He made the Centennial Conference Honor Roll for the last week in March after scoring four goals and assisting on four others in a 1-1 week.

## Mike Sartorius of Summit is a goalie and returning starter on the Franklin and Marshall squad.

At the end of March, he was third in the Centennial Conference in goals and percentage at .663 and fourth in goals-against average at 7.09.

## Elizabeth Starker of Summit is a member of the Hamilton College women's lacrosse team for the 2005 season.

Starker, a sophomore, was a stand-out for the Summit High School girls' lacrosse team.

## Anson Fraser of Summit is a freshman midfielder at Notre Dame. Standing at 6-3, 179, he is wearing No. 14 this year.

Mike Amalfi of Mountaineer had a solid rookie campaign for the Drew University men's basketball team. He averaged 9.2 minutes, 3.2 points and 1.4 rebounds.



The Dayton High School baseball team is sparked by the play senior Cory Berger. He batted out three singles and scored three runs to help the Bulldogs best host St. Mary's of Elizabeth 14-2 last Friday in the season-opener for both.

## Dayton baseball opens with a 'W'

### Tarullo a perfect 4-for-4 at plate

The Dayton High School baseball team got off to a good start this year, beating Mountain Valley Conference rival St. Mary's of Elizabeth 14-2 last Friday on opening day in Elizabeth.

The Bulldogs were scheduled to play at New Providence Monday afternoon and host Roselle Catholic Tuesday afternoon in their home-opener.

Dayton is scheduled to face Manville today at 4 p.m. at Ruby Field in Springfield.

The way the weather has been so far this year, every scheduled game should read: weather permitting.

Junior righthander Joe Furnaguer, a returning starter, tossed a six-hitter in six innings pitched, striking out nine and walking none.

Dave Tarullo, Cory Berger and York Cook excelled at the plate for Dayton. Tarullo was a perfect 4-for-4, with four singles, two RBI and four runs. Berger batted out three singles and scored three runs.

Cook connected on two singles, drove in three runs and scored twice.

Dayton finished 16-9 last year and reached the Central Jersey, Group 1 quarterfinals.

## GL diamond teams triumph

Both Governor Livingston High School varsity diamond teams opened their 2005 seasons with victories last Friday against Rahway.

The baseball team blanked the Indians 7-0 in a game called due to darkness after six innings. It was played in Berkeley Heights.

Senior righthander Joe Pjanowski allowed two hits in five innings, striking out nine and walking one.

Senior catcher Mike Manganiello belted a two-run homer and sophomore shortstop Brooks Miller tossed a solo shot.

Standout senior athlete Chris Bergeski connected on a double and triple for the Highlanders.

The softball team also won by shutout, by a 4-0 score in Rahway. Sophomore righthander Capri Catalano tossed a one-hitter, striking out 16 and walking none.

Sam Pingro was 2-for-3 with three runs, while Jen Masters and Heather Bergman were both 2-for-4 with one RBI.

GL improved to 2-0 on Monday with a 5-0 victory against Pingry in its home-opener.

## Summit boys' lacrosse evens record

The Summit High School boys' lacrosse team evened its record at 1-1 after beating Morristown 15-6 in Morristown Monday.

Summit was edged by Southside High School of Long Island 7-6 last Friday in Rockville Center, New York in its season-opener.

Mike Dugan scored three goals for the Hilltoppers, while Todd Kaiser, Ian Kelly and Jake Lecky found the net once each. Lecky had two assists.

Goaltender Pete Britt made 12 saves.

## Dayton softball to host Roselle on Thursday

The Dayton High School softball and softball teams are scheduled to face Manville today in Mountain Valley Conference competition.

The baseball team is scheduled to host Manville at 4 p.m., while the softball team is to play at Manville at 4 p.m.

Both teams are scheduled to play Hillsdale Tuesday with baseball home at 4 and softball on the road at 4.

Both will compete against Roselle Thursday, with baseball on the road at 4 and softball home at 4.

The boys' tennis team is at Bound Brook today at 4 and is scheduled to host Cranford tomorrow at 4.

The girls' tennis team is to compete against Oratory Prep today at Oak Ridge in Clark beginning at 3:20 p.m.

The Bulldogs co-ed track team is scheduled to compete at Breatley Tuesday at 4.

The following are upcoming Dayton spring sports schedules:

- ### Dayton Baseball
- April 7 Manville, 4 p.m.
  - April 12 Hillsdale, 4
  - April 14 at Roselle, 4
  - April 15 Gov. Livingston, 4
  - April 19 at Newark Central, 4
  - April 21 Bound Brook, 4
  - April 22 at Union, 4
  - April 26 at Technology, 4
  - April 28 at Oratory Prep, 4
  - April 29 at Roselle Park, 7:30 p.m.
  - May 2 at South Amboy, 4
  - May 3 St. Mary's, 4
  - May 9 New Providence, 4
  - May 10 at Manville, 4
  - May 12 at Hillsdale, 4
  - May 16 at Millburn, 4
  - May 17 Roselle, 4
  - May 19 Newark Central, 4
  - May 24 at Bound Brook, 4
  - May 26 Technology, 4
  - May 27 Oratory Prep, 4
- ### Dayton Softball
- April 7 at Manville, 4 p.m.
  - April 12 at Hillsdale, 4
  - April 14 Roselle, 4
  - April 15 at Gov. Livingston, 4
  - April 19 Newark Central, 4
  - April 21 Bound Brook, 4
  - April 22 at Union, 4
  - April 26 Technology, 4
  - April 28 Mt. St. Mary's, 4
  - May 2 Duellon, 4
  - May 3 at St. Mary's, 4
  - May 5 at Breatley, 4
  - May 10 at Manville, 4
  - May 12 Hillsdale, 4
  - May 17 at Roselle, 4
  - May 19 at Newark Central, 4
  - May 24 Bound Brook, 4
  - May 26 at Technology, 4
  - May 27 at Mt. St. Mary's, 4
- ### Dayton Co-ed Track
- April 12 at Breatley, 4 p.m.
  - April 19 at Manville, 4 p.m.
  - April 23 Millburn Relays
  - April 28 at Bound Brook, 4
  - May 3-4 MVC Relays
  - May 7 Spring Relays at Plainfield
  - May 10-11 MVC Champs-GL, 4
  - May 14 UCT meet at Plainfield

## HEALTH

### Free YMCA lectures explore nutrition topics

The Summit Area YMCA will run a series of lectures throughout the month of April covering several nutrition topics and concerns. These lectures are free and open to the community.

- Sports Nutrition/Food for Fitness will be the topic of the first lecture, today at Summit YMCA, from 1 to 2 p.m.
- Vitamins, Minerals and Supplements, will be conducted on April 20 at Berkeley Heights YMCA, from 9 to 10 a.m., at the Springfield YMCA, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., and on April 21 at Summit YMCA, from 1 to 2 p.m.
- Menopause and Nutrition, will be conducted on April 27, at Berkeley Heights YMCA, from 9 to 10 a.m., Springfield YMCA, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., and on April 28, at Summit YMCA, 1 to 2 p.m.

The Berkeley Heights YMCA is located at 550 Springfield Ave., Berkeley Heights. The Summit YMCA is located at 67 Maple St., Summit. The Springfield YMCA is located at 100 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield.

For information call, Susan Fieseler, Summit Area YMCA nutrition counselor, at 908-273-3330 ext. 167, or send a message by e-mail to suefieseler@summitymca.org.

### St. John's Church hosts blood drive

In an effort to meet the demands of the community's critical need for blood, St. John's Lutheran Church of Summit is sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday at 587 Springfield Ave. from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The drive is open to the entire community. A continuous and steady supply of volunteer blood donors is essential to replenish the community supply on a regular basis.

Almost anyone can be a life-saving hero. Blood donors must be between the ages of 17 and 75, weighing more than 110 pounds and be in good general health. The blood donation process takes less than an hour and includes a free mini medical exam including temperature, iron count, pulse rate and blood pressure.

Remember one hour of your time can mean a lifetime for someone in need of a blood transfusion.

Donors will need to know their social security number and have ID. For information, call the Summit Area Chapter Red Cross at 908-273-2076.

### Free programs eye health and fitness goals

True Health Chiropractic in Springfield will continue to offer a free program designed to guide participants through the steps necessary to achieve their 2005 health and fitness goals.

Participants will require a strong support group, encouragement, and a resilient spirit to keep their goals on track. This free program will offer six bi-weekly interactive workshops on current health and wellness topics, a free trial membership to a local gym, frequent chances to win prizes, a support group/network of people who share common goals, and the opportunity to embrace an alternative healthy lifestyle.

All workshops will take place on Monday night from 7 to 8 p.m. Workshops are free to the public but participants must pre-register to attend.

### Older persons with range of April speakers

The Old Guard of Summit announces the following schedule of topics and speakers for April:

- Tuesday: Ottawa: A Modern, Historical City: Stanley Cooper, CLU.
- April 19: Coin Collecting and Grading: Carl Becker.
- April 26: Songs of Yesterday by the Links, Bill Haupt, director.
- Currently celebrating its 75th anniversary, the Summit Old Guard invites retired men from the Summit area to attend its weekly meetings at the New Providence Borough Hall at 360 Elkwood Ave. Meetings begin at 10 a.m.
- Members are involved in golf, swimming, fishing, bridge, tennis, and step-to-the-dance, speaking events, and new luncheons. Also featured are "Timely Topics" discussions of contemporary issues.

### PREP group offers

SAGE Eldercare, a major community resource for elders, offers a monthly support group for caregivers the third Wednesday of each month at SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad St. in Summit.

PREP — People Responsible for Elderly Persons — provides caregivers with emotional support, community resources, effective problem-solving and coping strategies, and the chance to share common concerns with others who are caring for their aging loved ones.

For information, call Ellen McNally, SAGE In-Care director, at 908-273-5550.

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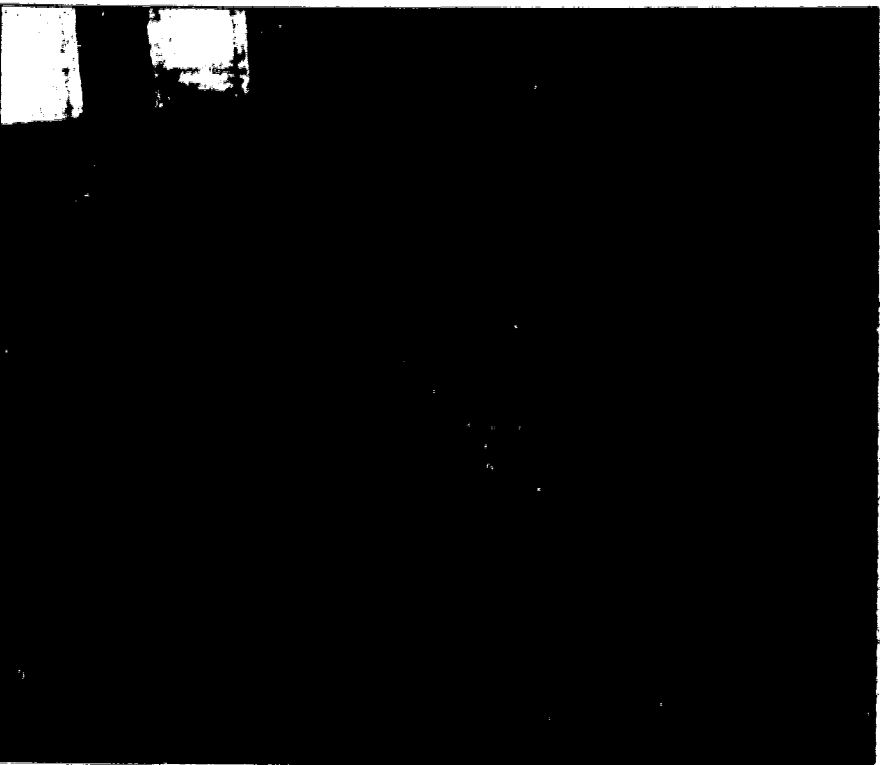
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SAGE Eldercare's eight-week educational program called The Gathering — A Memory Enhancement Program offers seniors a comfortable place to come and learn how to exercise their minds to improve mental fitness.

## Program offers help with memory loss

Are you misplacing your keys more often? Do you want to improve your memory's ability to recall the names and faces of people you meet? Retrieve the word you are looking for while in the middle of a conversation? Remember the directions to an unfamiliar location?

SAGE Eldercare's eight-week educational program called The Gathering — A Memory Enhancement Program offers a comfortable place to come and learn how to exercise your brain to improve mental fitness. This free group will provide practical information to effectively assess memory problems, thus allowing the participant to set goals, create a positive mental attitude, plan for the future, spark creativity and exercise the brain. Many causes of early memory lapses can be reversed. We all exercise our bodies; why not come learn how to exercise your brain?

The group is the first of its kind in the Union County and is a collaborative effort between SAGE Eldercare and the Greater New Jersey Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The Gathering provides access to a broad range of speakers, resource materials and area referrals. Come learn how your memory works and how to improve memory capacity.

For information, call Cori Brandon, LSW at 908-558-5516 to register and learn more about the upcoming dates and topics. This free program is open to all seniors and will include refreshments.

Funding for The Gathering group is made possible by the Grota Foundation for Senior Care. This foundation funds programs which enhance the quality of life for the elderly and their families in New Jersey.

SAGE Eldercare serves as a major community resource in the establishment and delivery of innovative services for older adults and their caregivers; providing them with dignity and choice. These services allow the elderly to remain independent and living in their own homes. Present SAGE Eldercare programs include HomeCare, Meals-on-Wheels, SHIP — State Health Insurance Assistance Program — of Union County, Bill Paying, a shopping service, InfoCare and Speed-A-Day Adult Day Health Center. SAGE Eldercare serves 5,000 older people and their families. For information, call 908-273-5550.

## SAGE grant aids new initiative

SAGE Eldercare has announced a grant has been received from the Henry H. Kessler Foundation to launch a new fall prevention initiative for seniors.

The project will include a series of comprehensive programs aimed at fall prevention for the elderly, for the public-at-large and for SAGE's volunteers, home health aides, staff, elders and caregivers. The program will be designed in collaboration with health care providers in SAGE's service area, covering Morris, Union, Essex and Somerset counties. With approximately one-third of adults aged 65 and older in the community falling each year, the program will play a vital role in helping to prevent falls and the risks of injuries in the elderly.

SAGE Eldercare has hired Short Hills resident Julie Reich as the fall prevention coordinator.

"The goal of this important initiative is to reach out to the elderly in our community and educate them about this important health problem," said Reich. "Prevention is a key factor to get them familiar with new program development and I am excited to be part of this important new program component of SAGE Eldercare."

The first fall prevention program, "Fall Prevention Facts & Strategies," is scheduled for May 26 at the SAGE Eldercare Headquarters at 290 Broad St. in Summit.

Refreshments are served at 9:30 a.m. and the program begins promptly at 10 a.m.

This program is provided free of charge.

For information about this initiative, call Julie Reich at 908-598-5552.

## SAGE celebrates open house

In celebration of SAGE Eldercare's move to its new location at 290 Broad St. in Summit, Board of Trustee President Mary Anne McDonald, a resident of Summit, has announced an open house event on April 17 from 1 to 4 p.m.

After 50 years of serving the community from its headquarters in a Victorian home at 50 DeForest Ave., the non-profit organization is excited to have moved to a new state-of-the-art facility.

As part of the open house event, local artist and Summit resident Katie Reinhardt will have her artwork on display throughout the building for viewing. Buyers interested in purchasing any of her pieces on display in the new building will be pleased to know that a considerable portion of the proceeds from the sale will be donated to SAGE Eldercare by the artist. In addition to more than a decade in Latin America, Reinhardt's medium is acrylic, and she is primarily a colorist. As a trained art therapist working for many years in an adult psychiatric hospital, she knows the power color has in evoking feelings. Katie received her bachelor of arts from the University of Michigan and her masters of arts in art therapy from New York University.

The community at large is invited to the open house event to learn more about the programs and services of SAGE Eldercare. Refreshments will be served. For information, call 908-273-5550.



Katie Reinhardt of Summit with one of her many colorful acrylic paintings, which will be on display at the SAGE open house event on April 17.

## SENIOR NEWS

### givers providing them with dignity and choice. These services allow the elderly to remain independent and living in their own homes.

Present SAGE programs include HomeCare, Meals-on-Wheels, SHIP — State Health Insurance Assistance Program — of Union County, Bill Paying, a Shopping Service, Chore Service, InfoCare and a Resale Shop and Speed-A-Day Adult Day Health Center, currently located in Berkeley Heights. SAGE serves 5,000 older people and their families. For information, call 908-273-5550.

### Future workshop returns to SAGE

After a temporary hold as SAGE Eldercare moves to its new facility at 290 Broad St., Summit, the SAGE Workshop is now accepting items for sale.

Do you need a chair covered or reupholstered? Does a table need to be refinished? If you need furniture repair, the volunteer members of the SAGE Workshop are here to help.

Call the SAGE Workshop at 908-273-5550 for more information.

### Workshop has especially

needed a repair for expertise in reupholstering chairs.

Prices depend upon the condition of the chair or furniture item and the materials required in the restoration process. The woodworkers also offer handcrafted gifts or decorative items for sale.

For example, a decorative wooden kitchen step stool or a child's named "Teddy Bear" chair is available in three sizes.

They will also accept special orders. The workshop is located in the basement of the SAGE building and is only accessible for information, call 908-273-5550.

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Prices depend upon the condition of the chair or furniture item and the materials required in the restoration process. The woodworkers also offer handcrafted gifts or decorative items for sale.

For example, a decorative wooden kitchen step stool or a child's named "Teddy Bear" chair is available in three sizes.

They will also accept special orders. The workshop is located in the basement of the SAGE building and is only accessible for information, call 908-273-5550.



# LWV delves into Social Security

Four speakers have agreed to participate in a wide-ranging panel discussion of the current status and future condition of Social Security on April 20 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Parish House of Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Ave., Summit.

Panelists appearing will be:

- Marcus Raymer — Dist. director on the NJ staff of Congressman Mike Ferguson
- Mada Leffman — Senior advisor on the NJ staff of Sen. Jim Cooper
- Charles Alberts — Summit resident, chartered financial analyst, most recently portfolio manager at Oppenheimer. Now retired.
- Paul S. Nadler — Summit resident, professor of finance at the Rutgers University Graduate School of Management, author, speaker and award-winning teacher.

For questions about the program or the League of Women Voters, call 908-273-6773 or 908-273-7472.



Planning for the April 20 League of Women Voters panel discussion on Social Security are, from left, Barbara Packer, LWV co-president; Paul Nadler, panelist; Ed Kessler of the Planning Committee, and Pam Kuhn, LWV co-president.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Celestini joins Summit Prudential office

Prudential New Jersey Properties has announced the appointment of Patti Celestini to the company's Summit office.

"We are thrilled to welcome Patti to our team," said Karen Hedges, manager of the Prudential New Jersey Properties Summit office. "She is eager to build strong relationships and assist her clients in finding or selling a home."

Specializing in marketing, public relations and communications, Celestini relocated to Summit seven years ago and is a stager, space planner and interior/exterior design consultant.

She recently joined the New Jersey Association of Realtors and the Garden State Multiple Listing Service, and has worked in the real estate profession for the past year. In previous years, Celestini has created publicity for Summit's First Night committee.

Celestini recently completed Prudential New Jersey Properties' comprehensive, three-week Academy Sales Training Program. This hands-on course includes simulated real

estate situations created to help agents refine various skills.

She can be reached at the Summit office, located at 428 Springfield Ave., at 908-273-0400.

### Summit doctor featured on Montel discussion

The Connie Dwyer Breast Center at Saint Michael's Medical Center will begin showing a videotaped discussion hosted by Montel Williams to help mark its first six months of operation — a period that saw more than 9,000 women receive top-quality breast care at the facility.

Also featuring Dr. Michele Blackwood, the Center's founder and medical director, who also has a practice in Summit, and Lois Greene, the director of nursing at Saint Michael's Medical Center, the video emphasizes the importance of regularly scheduled mammograms and follow-up treatment.

"It is our mission at St. Michael's Medical Center to provide advanced breast care from screening to diagnosis to treatment for all women," said Blackwood. "Mammograms are our

most important tool in preventing stage three and stage four breast cancer, yet we find that many women are not aware of their importance. Montel is helping to deliver our message."

The videotape, which will be shown continuously at The Connie Dwyer Breast Center, features Williams on his talk show set with Blackwood and Greene discussing early detection and prevention, treatment options, and the importance of follow-up exams.

"It is my hope that this tape will help demystify several health-care issues," said Williams.

### Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social — Friday, noon.

Entertainment — Friday, noon.

Sports — Monday, noon.

Letter to the Editor — Monday, 9 a.m.

# Junior League offers Literary Luncheon

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield has announced the sixth annual Literary Luncheon. The event will take place on April 22 at The Grand Summit Hotel, 570 Springfield Ave. in Summit, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$75, and go on sale to the public starting Feb. 17. The Literary Luncheon has sold out for the past five years. In addition to the luncheon, the event will include a silent auction and raffle, book sales and author remarks. Books will be available for purchase and signing by the authors.

The 2005 panel of authors includes:

- Adriana Trigiani as returning mistress of ceremonies. Trigiani is the author of the "Lucia and Queen of the Big Time and the Big Stone Gap Series: Big Stone Gap, Big Cherry Holler and Milk Glass Moon."
- Linda Feinstein, author of "The Killers," "The Bone Vault," "The Deadhouse," "Cold Hit," "Final Jeopardy" and "Likely to Die." Her newest novel, "Entombed," came out in January.
- Frank Delaney is a prolific author of biographies and history. His works of fiction include "The Sins of the Mothers," "Telling the Pictures" and "Ireland: A Novel."
- Margie Palatini resides in Plainfield and is the author of children's books including "Moo Who?," "Sweet Tooth," "Mooskit," and many others.
- Jon Katz is the author of "The New Work of Dogs: Tending to Life, Love, Family," "A Dog Year: Twelve Months, Four Dogs and Me" and "The Dogs of Bedlam Farm."

To purchase tickets, call the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield at 908-709-1177.

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism.

To learn more about the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield, visit [jlepj.org](http://jlepj.org).

Proceeds from this event will support JPEP efforts that benefit families in crisis in greater Union County.

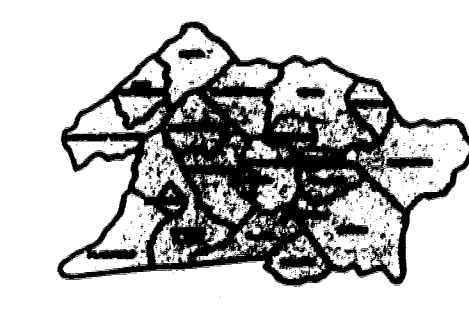
# BRIDGES seeks help for feeding homeless

In honor of National Volunteer Week, BRIDGES invites all volunteers and those interested in volunteering to join the BRIDGES board, staff and other volunteers for coffee on either April 15 or April 16, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Christ Church's Life Hall, 561 Springfield Ave., Summit.

BRIDGES focuses on visiting the unsheltered and sheltered homeless and achieves its mission by making "runs" to designated stops in lower Manhattan, downtown Newark and Irvington with a caravan of committed volunteers and a truckload of soup, beverages, bag dinners, clothing, blankets, toiletries and other goods. More important than the items distributed are the conversations and social interactions shared between homeless friends and volunteers.

Volunteers are essential to BRIDGES. More than 1,500 volunteers annually help to make almost 200 runs per year. Volunteer groups are formed through schools, houses or worship, businesses and friends and families who prepare bagged lunches, collect clothing, toiletries, and other essentials. Several members of the group then partner with BRIDGES on a run to distribute the items with fellowship, compassion and respect.

Individual volunteers are welcome to sign up to make soup, drop off bagged lunches, clothing, toiletries, and other needed items to help supplement the run.



# Union County

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

## Serving the warrant

Ralph Froehlich the cop knew all too well about the late night call he got. In his career, he had been shot at, and seen the same happen to partners. Still, this was the sheriff being informed that one of his investigators, Anthony Gialanella, had been severely wounded. That was different.

Froehlich immediately traveled to University Hospital in Newark. Sitting with the family of the young investigator, Froehlich, like others in-law enforcement, knew the place. The trauma center at the facility handles some 3,000 shootings a year.

## Left Out

After traveling some time, the sheriff spent to Union Memorial Hospital to visit three of his officers who had been brought there for observation after the incident.

By this point, the facts had been brought out. Members of the Sheriff's warrant squad were pursuing a fleeing Michael Johnson at the Mill Run Apartment Complex in Union.

Johnson owed child support and was trying to elude the Sheriff's officers. Only after Johnson fired did the Sheriff's officers in self defense return fire.

Gialanella was hit in the chest. He was taken to University Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The other officers were relieved that Johnson was dead.

A few days after the incident, Froehlich collected on the warrant of the 22 member of the Warrant Squad. Night warrants are also known as the Domestic Violence Unit.

They have the job of serving all the court-mandated restraining orders, weapons seizures as well as catching the domestic court fugitives.

Froehlich speaks about the "quality of selection" and training that involves the members of the squad. They have to have the right temperament and patience.

Arriving at night, ringing the bell, they don't know what or what is going to happen. "There is something called the home field advantage, and inside of your house you have the advantage. We have found hiding spots that appeared to have been made by a carpenter to hide a person in the wall and not be detected. Not wanting to go to jail is a big incentive for creativity," the longtime sheriff said.

The warrant officers usually travel in teams of four. They are experts in firearms and they wear bulletproof vests.

It's still a very dangerous job. In the past five years, more than 2,500 have been arrested. Of those, 61 have been charged with resisting arrest and 34 with aggravated assault.

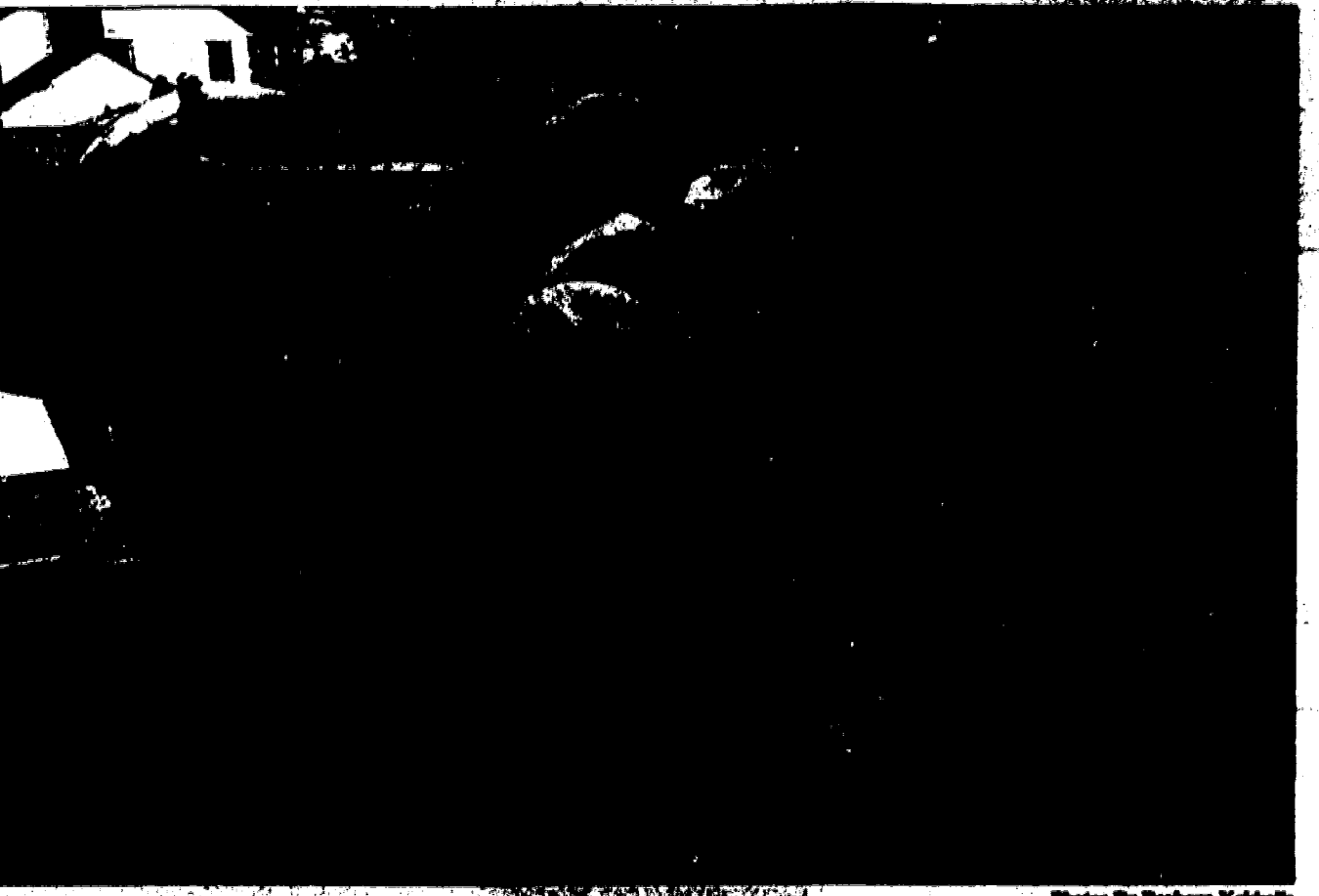
They run into problems with the people in the house who can be arrested for obstruction.

The sheriff speaks about the foot and car chases and fugitives jumping out of windows. They have hidden inside refrigerators, washing machines, cabinets and luggage, all to avoid capture by authorities.

Arriving at the Union County Administration Building the days after the shooting, and discussing the incident with a Sheriff's officer, I said most people never think of that kind of danger. He said, "I do everyday."

Probably most of us will do so in the future.

An attorney, Frank Capace is a resident of Cranford.



Union County Bomb Squad experts suit up alongside the bomb eater unit at the start of Tuesday's simulated bioterror drill.

## Hi-tech equipment tested in drill

It started with a suspicious vehicle on the east campus of Keen University at 8:45 a.m. Monday morning. The plates of the vehicle didn't match any of the employee or student plates, so Keen police called the Hillsdale Police Department.

Soon, the Union County Office of Emergency Management and its Hazmat team were involved, as well as the local squad, Hillsdale fire department, FBI, ATF, and the prosecutor's office.

It was the start of TopOff, the nation's largest homeland security simulation to date.

While the radio-controlled robot, equipped with an x-ray and motion-sensing device, moved in, officials gathered around to see the impact the robot transmitted back to the command unit.

As the morning wore on, law enforcement attempted to identify the robot, which, the East Union County Police Chief Dan Vardola, the simulation only tested first response. There was no containment of the vehicle, and the initial investigation was truncated.

"Had this been a real event, it would have taken much longer," he said, adding that the law enforcement response was expedited because it was a simulation. "We would have been there long into the day," he said. "It wasn't carried to the extent that we would do it in real life. The point of the exercise was to test first response."

For example, there would have been containment, evacuations, and other law enforcement agencies would have been called to provide mutual aid.



The exercise tests the worth of emergency response.

## Somewhere, over the Rainbows, there's an ear during crisis

Every year, somewhere over the Rainbows, there's an ear during crisis. It's not just a saying, it's a reality. The saying is "Somewhere, over the Rainbows, there's an ear during crisis." The reality is that every year, somewhere over the Rainbows, there's an ear during crisis.

That something to helping children cope with a crisis or disaster in their lives, particularly the death of a family member or a divorce, something that Rainbows programs have been doing for two decades.

Even with the 196 sites for Rainbows programs across the state, LaBar estimates that more than 472,000 children deal with such a crisis every year, and Rainbows programs reach only a portion of those affected.

"We deal with a lot of people of all ages, all ethnicities, all cultures, all religions, all socioeconomic levels, all family members, the splitting apart of families due to immigration, or entrance into foster care as some of the issues that we deal with," LaBar said.

## Trust fund spending reached \$16M in '04

Expenditures from the county's Open Space Trust Fund last year increased sharply from 2003, from \$9 million to \$16.4 million, county records show.

Freeholders allocated a total of \$20.9 million of Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund money for projects last year, but \$2.9 million that was budgeted was not spent.

"We have not expended the money in cash," said Lawrence Caroselli, the director of finance, adding that the money is then set aside for future disbursement.

One of the biggest expenditures in 2004 was for the Eposito farm property in Clark. The county expended \$5.46 million to acquire the property, and another \$4,000 in architectural fees, leaving \$5,500 earmarked for architectural fees encumbered.

"The cash flow at the time of the Eposito property allowed us to purchase it instead of issuing bonds," Caroselli said. Debt service payments on other projects funded by the Open Space Trust Fund, such as acquisitions of Green Lane property, Fonderosa farm, the former New Jersey-American Water property in Summit, and Rizzuto Park, came to over \$1.6 million in 2004.

On those projects, Caroselli said, "The decision that was made was instead of taking the money out of the fund, we bonded for it."

In addition to the debt service on the property, the county spent another \$407,000 from the trust fund for the down payment and taxes on the American Water property.

"At closing, there were taxes the county was responsible for," said Caroselli, who clarified that as a part of the deal the county paid the seller's share of the property taxes.

"I'm thrilled that the county acquired the property, but we have to make sure the money is spent carefully," said Henry Ogden, a former Summit councilman and member of the county's Open Space Advisory Committee.

"How much money is out there, and how many properties are out there to be saved?" he said, expressing concern that trust fund expenditures were for things other than were intended when the fund was created in 2001.

Another major expenditure, \$1.9 million, went to the down payment and acquisition of the Green Pasture Farm property on Cushing Road in Plainfield. The farm, which includes a farmhouse, barn and pool, will continue to be cared for and operated by its former owner, Charles Peterson. The farm, built in 1885, is home to cows and chickens, and continues as a working farm.

A \$1 million payment for the renovations at Thelma Nature and Science Center that was encumbered in 2001 was spent last year as well. The project was only partially funded through the trust fund, with the rest of the money coming from the parks department.

Of the \$630,000 budgeted for the Union County Arts Center in Rahway, \$80,000 was expended in 2004. According to Caroselli, those funds went toward a preliminary architectural study of the center, which he said was "more in line with the historic preservation part of the fund."

In addition to the study for the arts center, the county spent \$1.6 million on the new forensic lab, which is to be housed on the third floor of the new building. The lab will enable the county to test substances suspected to be drugs and perform DNA tests, and officials have said that a complete forensic laboratory will allow the county to do testing superior to other law enforcement agencies in Union county and its municipalities.

Originally scheduled to be completed in 2003, the opening of the facility has been delayed several times, and has not yet been officially opened.

Stefano D'Elia, communications director for the county's Office of Public Information, was asked as to when the building would be opened. He said officials had not yet decided when the building would be opened, but he said the building is to be open this summer.

During the simulation, the new building was a positive activity. As busy as officials were during the event, comments were overheard from county officials who had just stepped out of the building to be open this summer.

See TRUST, Page B2

See MUCK, Page B2

See GROUT, Page B2

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### Groups helps those dealing with crisis

(Continued from Page B1) meeting with the faculty, staff, or other potential volunteers, and a coordinator for the program is selected, usually by the principal, priest or head of the community organization.

From there, all the facilitators receive seven hours of training from the Rainbows staff, and the programs, which run in 12-week sessions, begin.

Rainbows Inc. has programs for children of all ages, from the Rainbows program for children of preschool age through middle school, to the Kaleidoscope program for individuals in college and older.

Each program runs similarly, with small groups led by a facilitator in a set of activities around a certain theme. The theme changes from week to week, but the activities do not, though they vary from site to site.

"Each site has the flexibility to run it in a way that works for them," LaBar said, though usually the activities start with participants catching up with each other, then an activity such as a craft, journaling, and then a discussion, closing with a prayer or med-

itation depending on the site.

The routine helps children struggling with grief, LaBar said, and all levels of the program get the same topic each week. The shared topic allows family members of different ages to share a common ground throughout the program.

"Everyone in the family is working to integrate the loss into their lives," said LaBar, noting that many sites offer the full set of programs so family members of all ages can participate simultaneously.

While many sites do not need volunteers, LaBar said the organization always needs new sites, especially those that could run programs during the summer, as most sites run sessions during the spring and fall.

There is also a program called Silver Linings, which runs for six weeks. "It's in response to a crisis, something completely unforeseen," LaBar said, giving the example of the death of a fellow student or teacher, or an environmental crisis such as a fire or flood.

Schools request the program, but

"not as often as I wish they would," she said. The office has received four requests this year, however, which may indicate the program is picking up.

The work by Rainbows employees and volunteers carries great rewards. Alice Forsyth, who works with LaBar in Summit, is at the front line for requests for help.

"The stories of success snowball from school to school and church to church," she said. "I try to give them as much support as they need, and the return on my time is more than worth it."

While Rainbows runs many sites around the state, two of the largest individual sites are at St. Mary's of the Assumption in Elizabeth and St. Michael's Church in Cranford, both of which provide programs for 40 children.

"I love working with the volunteers and knowing that we're making a difference for children," LaBar said. "That's why I went into nonprofit work."

Free dogwood trees

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has a gift for schools this spring: free flowering trees. While supplies last, each school in Union County may receive a 5- to 6-foot-tall dogwood tree. Schools can use this white flowering tree to beautify their grounds, add shade to their property, and to celebrate Arbor Day, April 29.

In addition to a free tree, the freeholders also are offering free training. Through the Union County Shade Tree Advisory Board, students and accompanying adults will be trained in how to plant and care for a newly planted tree.

Training sessions will be held three different days from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at Williams Nursery in Westfield. On April 19, a session will be for fourth and fifth-grade students; on April 20 for sixth- through eighth-grade students; and on April 21 for high school students and adults. The dogwoods will be given out after each training session along with a protective cage for each tree.

See your school principal if you are interested in representing your school at a training session.

You also may contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Agent and chairman of the Union County Shade Tree Advisory Board, James Nichadowicz at 908-654-9854, or e-mail Nichadowicz@aesop.rutgers.edu.

County News

Evening Amphibian Watch' at Trailside

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will offer "Evening Amphibian Watch" for adults ages 18 and older at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, on Friday from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Spring is the perfect time to investigate the diversity of amphibians that live in the Wachung Reservation. Join a Park Naturalist for a brief slide presentation to discover which frogs and toads inhabit the area and learn to identify calls of common singers, such as Fowler's toads, spring peepers, bullfrogs, green frogs and pickerel frogs.

Participants will hike to nearby wetlands to search for these elusive amphibians that breathe through their skin and sing at night. A beginner's wetland field guide highlighting local amphibian populations will be provided.

Patrons are encouraged to bring a flashlight and wear shoes that can get wet. Pre-registration is recommended as space is limited. The fee is \$10 per person for residents of Union County and \$15 per person for out of county residents. For more information on "Evening Amphibian Watch" or for information on upcoming spring or summer programs and special events at Trailside, call 908-789-3670.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Three decades, and Southside Johnny's still rockin'

By Jeff Cummins  
Associate Editor

Southside Johnny always sang when he grew up. After all, it was the '60s, and music was everywhere. But one day, things changed.

Someone asked him to sing in his band.

"I sang at parties, and a guy named Sonny Kenn said, 'Come on, I want you to sing.' That's truly the way it was. I didn't take it seriously."

Maybe he didn't take it seriously, but after a while, it was pretty obvious that club-goers took him and his music pretty seriously. And now, after performing professionally for some 30 years, Southside Johnny will come home to the Garden State, where he'll perform at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway on April 16 at 8 p.m.

Unlike fellow Jersey Shore native Bruce Springsteen, Southside Johnny wasn't bound and determined to achieve big-time success with his music. His interest in music was sparked by listening to some of his parents' old jazz records, which included the music of Big Joe Turner and Count Basie. Listening to those hip records in sleepy Ocean Grove left a strong impression on the young performer.

"When my parents played their records, it sounded like someone was having a party, and we weren't at the party," he said.

In the excitement of the '60s, Southside Johnny and his friends would head to New York City, where they'd see acts like Cream, Muddy Waters and Paul Butterfield. They'd see shows at the Wolman Skating Rink, and new rock 'n' roll radio stations like WNEW-FM were starting to sprout up, and rock music just seemed to be gathering momentum at every turn.

That momentum carried all the way down to the Jersey Shore, where clubs in Asbury Park catered to the young music set.

"When the Upstage Club opened, it had two floors above a show store, one floor was folk and acoustic, and the other had rock, and all you had to do was bring a guitar," reminisced Johnny. "There were bands all over. It was the '60s; we were all really garage bands back then."

By 1975, Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes certainly raised their profile beyond garage band status. "I Don't Want To Go Home," the group's first album, was released to critical acclaim, and Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes became an odyssey that's spanned 30 years to date. Part of his success had to be attributed to his unabashed enthusiasm.

"I enjoy it, and when I get on stage, I don't go through the motions. As long as the band is good, and I'm into it, everything is good," he said.

Over the years, plenty of things have changed Johnny noted the banding success has been raised considerably, due to some bands in the '70s that sold millions of copies of their albums.

On the other hand, the advent of the Internet has made music easier to produce for the average musician who doesn't have money to burn on production costs.

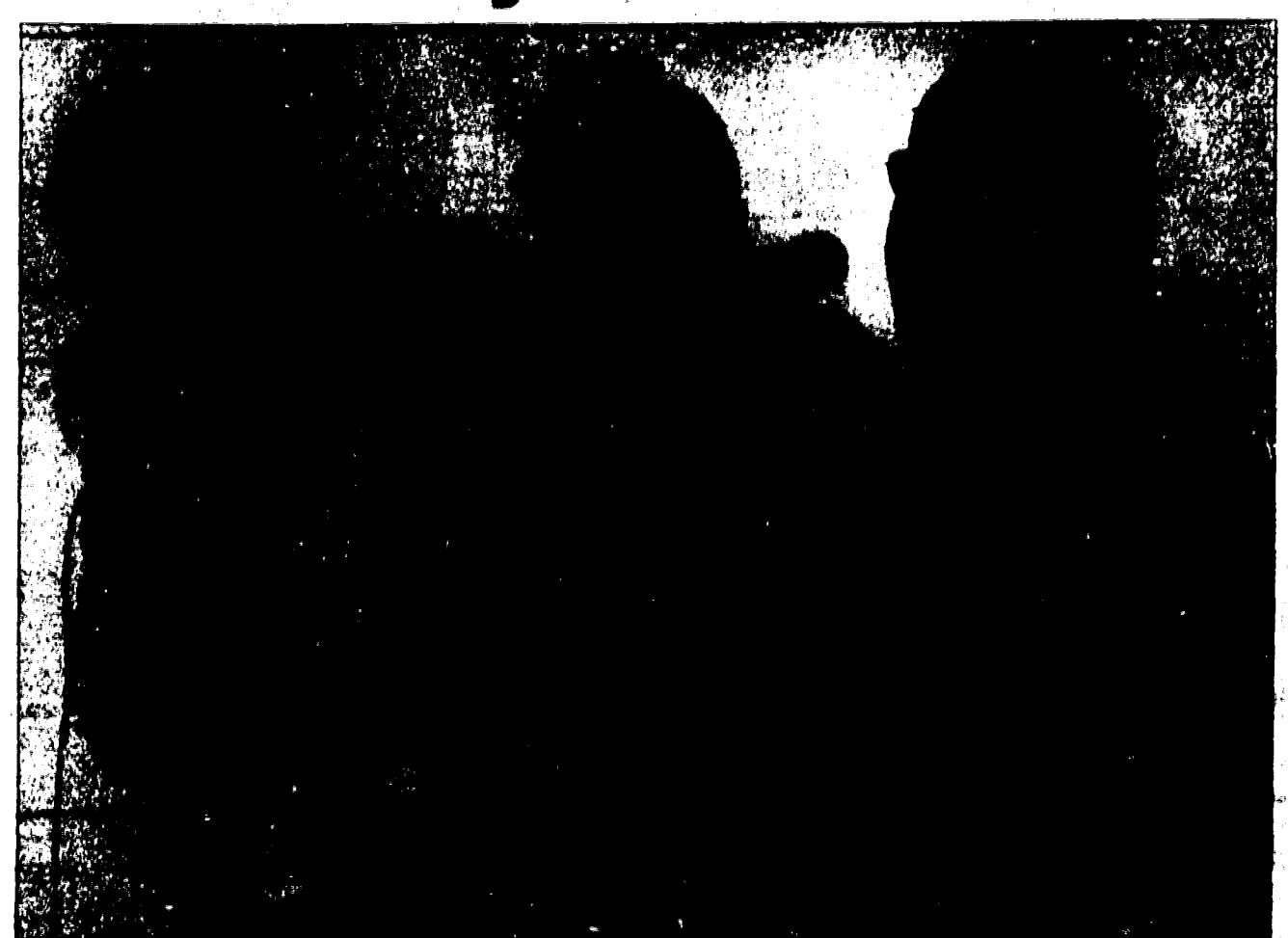
In the end, though, it's the burning desire to make music that keeps him going, and that, as much as anything else, is the key to his longevity in a business that can often churn up talented artists like link sausages.

"The idea isn't to make one popular record and not be able to follow it up," he said. "The idea is that you're a musician because you're compelled to do it and you want to do it until you feel over dead. At least that's what I thought."

And after 30 years of turning out records and playing professionally, Johnny still takes the same low-key approach to performing that he always has, planning things by the seat of his pants.

"Where do I go from here? Only to the store," Johnny deadpanned. "I want to make an acoustic album and a Jukes album, tour and play live, that's the real fun, as far as I'm concerned. I don't have some grand plan."

For more information on Southside



Southside Johnny will perform with his band Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway on April 16 at 8 p.m. For information, or for tickets, call the box office at 732-498-8226. Tickets to the concert cost \$45 and \$35, and can be purchased by calling Ticket Central at 732-499-8226, or visit www.uccac.org.

### Trust fund spending reaches \$16 million

(Continued from Page B1) center, the county expended almost \$700,000 of the \$1.1 million budgeted for what is listed as professional services. Those services, performed by PMK Group, DMR Architecture, and Jimgoli & Sons, among 12 others, did not include \$20,000 paid to an organization listed on the county's record of expenditures as The Funding Group. That organization was paid to write a grant application for the county, Caroselli said.

The Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

Trust Fund was established through referendum by the voters of Union County in 2000. The trust is funded through a tax of 1.5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value.

If the ratable base is currently \$56 million, as the proposed county budget indicates, the trust fund will generate about \$8.4 million in 2005. State Green Acres grants also contribute funding to the Open Space fund, and has already accounted for \$4.56 million since the trust fund's inception, though it was unknown how much Green Acres funding was expected this year.

Special waste recycling at Nomahegan Park

The County of Union will sponsor a recycling event April 16, so Union County residents can get rid of household special waste and old automobile tires in an environmentally safe manner.

The collection will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Union County College campus in Cranford, 1033 Springfield Ave., opposite Nomahegan Park.

All residents of Union County are eligible to participate at no cost. Pre-registration is not required for this special Saturday collection.

All that residents need to do is drive to the site with their household special waste and automobile tires. Workers at the site will unload the



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AVE

### Mock drill tests responders, equipment

(Continued from Page B1) Tuesday's part of the scenario also included a move to a state of emergency, with closed businesses and limited travel, announced by the governor.

Communications Director of the Union County Office of Public Information Sebastian D'Elia confirmed that while a staged rush by "patients" of the POD had occurred, there had been no major breakdowns in protocol or procedure during the second day of play.

The participating hospitals around the county had also been posting vic-

tics, more than 300 by the close of play on Tuesday.

After the simulation finishes, analysis will be done of how participants handled the scenario and the unexpected events staged during the course of play. Those results will not be available for several months, according to information provided by the Department of Homeland Security.

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### Creativity, drive fuel student's art

By Jeff Cummins  
Associate Editor

It's not just the every drawing in Dominick Danby's portfolio is impressive, but what he discussed his creative process. "I think of an idea, then I try to bring up the 'value' of the picture."

"What is a drawing?"

It's probably best to back up a bit here. Danby, a junior at East Orange Campus High School, takes an art course taught by Vincent Potito, a teacher who encourages students to open their eyes to the virtually limitless possibilities of drawing.

In the case of the drawing of the truck, Danby said, the vision, were there that would bring out the picture.

"With the drawing of the truck, it was my first time using charcoal with grayscale, and of course Mr. Potito had to remind me about the values," said Danby. "The background was there just to bring out the picture more. I was trying to find a background I could relate to."

If there's one thing that a lot of teachers, coaches, tutors and mentors could relate to, it's the fact that Potito comes to inspire his students. The art teacher, reportedly pushes his stu-

dent, exhibiting the interesting mix of dependence and creativity that lies within every student.

"I always had an interest in art, and Mr. Potito told me I had an eye for it," said Danby. "I really had to strive for perfection to get his approval on my projects."

Obviously, Potito's approach works. He finds talent in young artists, and gives them the opportunity to see just how creative they can be.

But still, there's a little more to it than that. In a world dominated by animation and technology, there's something about the traditional art class that's hard to replace.

If most artists were Air Jordan sneakers, Potito would be the one standing in his classic canvas Chuck Taylors.

To that end, Potito doesn't let his students rely on animation alone. First, before anything else, he encourages them to draw.

"I remember going to an animation festival a few years ago, and someone who worked with Stephen Spielberg was there, and he asked, 'Who can draw?'" said Potito. "Then he asked, 'Who can animate?' and everyone raised their hand. He said 'I'll hire the people who can draw, because

I can't teach you to draw, but I can teach you animation."

Potito's art students use animation, but only when they're students. During their creative years, his conventional art skills, being over things like observational drawings, shading values, almost anything that a traditional art class would do.

Potito said his classes draw cell by cell — or drawing by drawing — and his students use a light box. All their work is hand-drawn, and he insists on developing the traditional principles of animation.

The result, for Danby, is acceptance as a summer art program at the School of Visual Arts in New York. The program is open to all, but most students would have to pay. Because Danby was selected as the winner of the VSA Arts New Jersey Student Arts Excellence Award in the Visual Arts category, he will attend the summer program on scholarship.

Danby also received the Governor's Award in arts education, which Potito referred to as "the highest award in arts in New Jersey." He'll receive his award on May 26 at the College of New Jersey in Ewing.

### Nothing like humor in advertising

By Helen Argers  
Correspondent

Be very careful when you turn on your television, you may come face-to-face with a disgusting, fat, slimy character who stars in a frequent television commercial. He is shown as invading your chest so deeply, you can't cough him out. He just sits inside you, relaxing on a Lazyboy, until the sponsor's product sends him packing. I always switch when that one comes on. Unfortunately, the next channel has an ugly, yellow character that wants to creep under the nail of my big toe and invite his friends in to relax and frolic under my toenails.

Why are so many commercials like this? Because like a cat, advertisers think we can't help watching anything that repels us.

Or because if presented as cartoons, it brings us back to our childhood's simple draw-out answers. "Yeah, reminds me of my coloring books. I feel comforted enough to buy your product." Gotcha!

Then, there are the frightening commercials. Deceptively, they start out promising you'll never worry ever again about allergy, asthma, arthritis, indigestion, insomnia, etc.

It's all sweetness and light and you're crumpling over all known bodily ills. And then, before the commercial is over — Wham! They hit you with the whiplash end effects. "Use of this product may result in a stroke, heart-attack, cancer, blood-clot, or all combined — but, hey, we may cure the minor problem you started out with."

"Stop! Stop!" you cry, and turn the channel. Remotes are the primary person's life line. Switch. Switch. At last, up pops a happy cartoon commercial. And then, before the commercial is over, other bees, who look just like him but with big red lips and fluttering long lashes.

However, Ms. Bee is congested, and therefore, not in the mood for love. But Lothario bee has the solution. He flies her over some decongestant spray and they live and love happily ever after — under Lothario's final line: "Love means never having to say you're congested." This drug commercial, unlike the others, neither terrifies nor disgusts. So I give it a seven.

The Art of Laughter

By Helen Argers

Obviously, I'm revealing my weakness for humorous commercials. A recent favorite features a guy having a meeting with a man in a kayak suit, one in a trunk and another in a golf bag.

Abruptly, he announces their eviction from his garage. The face of the kayak guy is devastated, the trunk man is practically sobbing. They call him, "Walter." Walter is often used in the arts, usually in a doggy bone to the serious crowd as comic relief from the rest of the scene.

That's the role of the grave digger scene in "Hamlet." And in melodramatic movies, directors always add a dollop of humor at the end. Such as a dog jumping around the couple's final cliché, so you exit upbeat, assured that, unlike in life, in fiction, there's always a happy ending. Dogs especially are handy for comic relief.

Late night television programmers promote that by sending out their non-threatening, mugging, canine-lookalike comedians from Leno to Letterman to Kimmel to end a day of nonstop "CSI," "ER" and reality dramas. Here's their thinking: "Forget about our scaring you in prime time, at night we're smart enough to jolly you along before bedtime, so you'll come back for more misery in the morning."

Humor columns are similarly the comic relief amid the tragic news of death, corruption, war, contamination, and the celebrity murder trial dr. Joe. Medical surveys support the benefits of humor.

A laugh a day not only helps you live longer, but assures you'll feel better and "play well with others" while you're here. So, let's salute the funny commercials, and let's salute the funny columns. Like this one. See how valuable I've been to your general well-being? Keep this in mind the next time you skip my column to go to the sports news.

Helen Argers is an award-winning novelist and playwright.

Information Sessions

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Tuesday, April 12 6:30pm-8:00pm

Saturday, April 16 9:30am-11:00am

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Forest Hill Properties Apartments...http://www.foresthillproperties.com

Grand Sanitation...http://www.grandsanitation.com

Holy Cross Church...http://www.holycross.org

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LaSalle Travel Service...http://www.lasalletravel.com

Mountaintop Hospital...http://www.mountaintophospital.com

Nalley Pet Center...http://www.nalley.com

Pat Wachters...http://www.patwachters.com

Rats Institute...http://www.ratsinstitute.com

Skincare Products...www.skincare.com

South Orange Chiropractic...http://www.southorangechiro.com

Summit Area Jaycee...http://www.jaycees.com

Suburban Essex Chamber of Commerce...http://www.suburbanessexchamber.com

Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad...http://www.summitvolunteer.com

Synergy Federal Savings Bank...http://www.synergyfederal.com

Trinity Hospital...http://www.trinityhospital.com

Turning Point...http://www.turningpoint.org

Union Center National Bank...http://www.unioncenter.com

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United Way of Bloomfield...http://www.uwbloomfield.org

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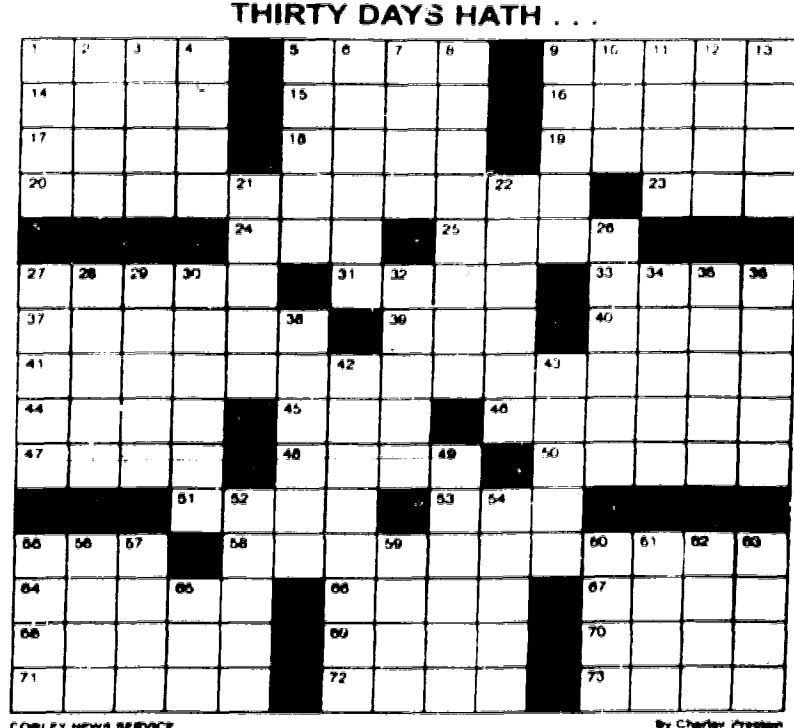
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ACROSS

- 1 Car radio button
- 5 On deck circle swimmers
- 9 "Carterbury"
- 14 Sundowner
- 15 Fidelio feature
- 16 Scatall work
- 17 Caesar's date
- 18 Existed
- 19 Fred's role on "The Wonder Years"
- 20 November event
- 23 Rorschach pattern, with 25 Across
- 24 Pension fund, for short
- 25 See 23 Across
- 27 Companion of live
- 31 Gore
- 33 Cold War letters
- 37 The \_\_\_ trick in the book!
- 39 "Chorus Line" song
- 40 Camp conclusion
- 41 November event
- 44 Thames town
- 45 Have second thoughts
- 46 The Toiler
- 47 "Cglio, ergo sum" sayer
- 48 Run in place
- 50 Hall rats
- 51 Reuben's home
- 53 "All Things Considered" network
- 55 Whiz
- 58 November event
- 64 Word with eclipse or energy
- 66 Yulidie
- 67 Deftness
- 68 Court excuse
- 69 Apple leftover
- 70 Like Professor Moriarty
- 71 Obscure
- 72 She played Frankenstein's bride
- 73 Bargain



DOWN

- 1 Switchblade
- 2 Secret language
- 3 Foster
- 4 Sniffer
- 5 Storybook elephant
- 6 Reunion and Rupp, e.g.
- 7 Haberdashery supply
- 8 Duna
- 9 Godzillia setting
- 10 Mimic
- 11 First name in denim
- 12 \_\_\_ go brag
- 13 Scuttled
- 21 Dishwasher cycle
- 22 Even though
- 26 Scrap
- 27 Fortune's fool
- 28 Overjoy
- 29 Supplement
- 30 Curbed
- 32 Sweet absorber
- 34 Move laterally
- 35 Laundry problem
- 36 Point \_\_\_ National Seashore
- 38 Roller coaster ride, e.g.
- 42 Theatergoers
- 43 The N in TNT
- 49 Matriculates
- 52 Spine-linging
- 54 Ornamental nettle
- 55 Urgent letters
- 56 Rum's partner
- 57 New Heaven students
- 58 Nippy
- 60 Have to have
- 61 Brubeck, of jazz
- 62 Atlas section
- 63 Participate in a pep rally
- 65 Bodybuilder's pride, for short

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B9

HOROSCOPES

April 11 to 17

**ARIES**, March 21 to April 19: Follow up on a need or desire to heal a special relationship.

Use charm, compliments or kind words to break the ice and make some leeway.

**TAURUS**, April 20 to May 20: Plan to spend quality time alone this week.

Organize your affairs and prepare to blaze new trails in pursuit of your dreams and goals.

**GEMINI**, May 21 to June 21: Be aware that the contribution you have to make to a club or group is very important.

Step up to the plate and make a conscious and wise choice.

**CANCER**, June 22 to July 22: It is very close to goal-achievement time. When the light turns green in your professional arena, get in gear and proceed at full speed.

**LEO**, July 23 to Aug. 22: Avoid sitting in judgment of others.

Keep an open mind and you are

likely to benefit immensely from their knowledge, wisdom and insight.

**VIRGO**, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: With effort and will power you can make a wish or dream come true.

Do not hold back and wait for success to come to you. Focus and push forward.

**LIBRA**, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Take steps to improve your communication style.

Practice speaking out and saying what is on your mind. Also encourage your partner to do the same.

**SCORPIO**, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Figure out the best way to increase morale and productivity on the job.

Break new ground and win favor with an inventive idea or suggestion.

**SAGITTARIUS**, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Make great strides in the social arena this week.

Partake in a special hobby or pastime and share the joy with a few of your closest friends.

**CAPRICORN**, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: Take time to enjoy the comforts of home.

Stop, get quiet and appreciate all you have that helps to make your nest a special place.

**AQUARIUS**, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: Assumptions or guessing could spell disaster.

Express yourself clearly and do not leave any room for doubt or misunderstandings.

**PISCES**, Feb. 19 to March 20: A timely review of your budget will reveal areas of weakness. Take control of your spending and avoid accruing additional debt.

If your birthday is this week, regeneration is your key word for the coming year. Most of the changes will be prompted by circumstances that seem to be beyond your control. Look for old loves, situations or friendships to resurface and play a major role in your personal transformation.

Take advantage of an opportunity to clear the air and correct a frustrating mix-up in communication.

Also born this week: Ethel Kennedy, Vince Gill, Al Green, Pete Rose, Roy Clark and Charlie Chaplin.

THE ARTS

Final play this season set by Westfield Players

The Westfield Community Players ends the season in May with the James Valco, and Fred Alley musical "The Spitfire Grill."

With a score inspired by American folks music, this story of redemption and hope takes place at a restaurant in a small town that serves up more than food to weary souls.

The play will be presented April 30 through May 21, with all tickets priced at \$20.

Westfield Community Players, founded in 1934, is one of the oldest

continuously operating community theaters in the state of New Jersey and has brought to life more than 190 comedies, dramas and musicals in their 150-seat theater in Westfield.

The theater continues to be a vibrant part of the cultural scene in Union County.

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

Kean will present a new professional equity theater program

Kean University announces Premier Stages, a new professional Actor's Equity Association theater program.

Actively engaging and enhancing the professional theater academic programs at Kean, Premier Stages will also serve a culturally diverse audience, children-at-risk, and a broad pool of artists.

Premiere Stages features four uniquely conceived projects that will nurture and encourage the work of students, introduce children to the arts,

What's Going On

FLEA MARKET

**SATURDAY April 9th, 2005**  
 EVENT: Monthly Flea Market and Collectible Show  
 PLACE: New Jersey Transit Lot, Bayonne, NJ, 34th Street Light Rail Parking Lot (off Route 440)  
 TIME: Outdoors 9AM-5PM  
 DETAILS: Held every 2nd Saturday of the month featuring new merchandise, crafts, collectibles and garage/tag sale items!  
 For information call 201-997-9535  
 ORGANIZATION: Sponsor By Bayonne Fire Canteen

AUCTION

**SATURDAY April 15th, 2005**  
 EVENT: Auction Of Fine Art  
 PLACE: Mother Seton R.H.S., Valley Road, Clark  
 TIME: Preview: 7pm, Auction 8pm  
 PRICE: \$10/person, \$15/couple  
 Includes Hot D'ouyres, Wine & Cheese, Coffee & Cake. For tickets and information call 908-769-3029  
 ORGANIZATION: Mother Seton Regional H.S. Parent Guild

OTHER

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY April 15th, 16, 22nd, 23rd, 2005**  
 EVENT: Mystic Vision: Players presents NUNSENSE  
 PLACE: St. George Byzantine Church, 417 McCandless Street, Linden (corner of Husa)  
 TIME: 8PM  
 PRICE: Tickets \$15. Call 908-925-8669  
 DETAILS: Directed by Joe Schreck. Choreographed by Patrick Stanga. Vocally directed by Howard Whitmore. Starring: Maria Florio, Alison Copewell, Laura Dowling, Kimberly Dyane, and Beth Getlik  
 ORGANIZATION: Mystic Vision Players

GARAGEYARD SALES

**SATURDAY April 9th, 2005**  
 EVENT: FLEA MARKET  
 PLACE: Cranford United Methodist Church, corner of Lincoln and Walnut Avenues  
 TIME: 9:00AM - 2:30PM  
 DETAILS: Luncheon available, bake sale, 1:30 p.m. \$1.00 a bag sale. For more information call 908-276-0936  
 ORGANIZATION: Cranford Methodist Church

THURSDAY-SATURDAY

**April 9th, 2005**  
 EVENT: Super Garage Sale  
 PLACE: Unitarian Church in Summit, corner of Waldron and Springfield  
 TIME: Thursday 12noon-7pm; Friday 9am-5pm; Saturday 9am-2pm  
 PRICE: Admission Free  
 Clothing, housewares, electronics and electrical items, sporting goods, giftware, toys, games, jewelry, linens, books, CD's, videos, and more special bargains Saturday. For large items visit [www.summit.org](http://www.summit.org)  
 ORGANIZATION: The Unitarian Church in Summit

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

**April 15th, 16th, 2005**  
 EVENT: HUGE RUMMAGE SALE: Short Hills  
 PLACE: Short Hills Community Congregational Church, 200 Harshorn Drive  
 TIME: Friday 9am-3pm Saturday 9am-1pm  
 DETAILS: Clothes, Furniture, Household items. For information call 973-379-5600  
 ORGANIZATION: Community Congregational Church

RUMMAGE SALE

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY April 15th, 16th, 2005**  
 EVENT: HUGE RUMMAGE SALE: Short Hills  
 PLACE: Short Hills Community Congregational Church, 200 Harshorn Drive  
 TIME: Friday 9am-3pm Saturday 9am-1pm  
 DETAILS: Clothes, Furniture, Household items. For information call 973-379-5600  
 ORGANIZATION: Community Congregational Church

SATURDAY

**April 9th, 2005**  
 EVENT: Huge Cranford High School GARAGE SALE  
 PLACE: Cranford High School, 201 West End Place, Cranford, NJ 07016  
 TIME: 9am - 3pm  
 DETAILS: Rain or Shine No Early Birds  
 ORGANIZATION: Cranford High School

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**Jeff Cummins, Editor**  
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Music in Summit

Floridian Amy Carol Webb will perform as a soloist in the Fall/Winter series on Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Room of the Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit. For more information, call 908-925-1801.

attract high-profile artists to the institution and provide a forum for the development of new plays.

The Premier Stages Play Festival will present the work of emerging dramatists living in the greater metropolitan area through readings, workshops, and fully-produced world-premiere productions. For more information on Premier Stages, call 908-737-6397, ext. 4410, or send an e-mail to [jwooten@kean.edu](mailto:jwooten@kean.edu).

**THE UNION COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENTS COURT NIGHT**  
**An inside look at the Union County Courthouse**

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2005 5:00PM - 7:00PM  
 UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE - ATRIUM ENTRANCE - 2 BROAD STREET, ELIZABETH, NJ

Program to include presentations and information regarding Civil Lawsuits, Landlord Tenant Disputes, Probate and the Surrogate's Office, Union County Clerk's Office, the Union County Sheriff's Office, Judicial Volunteer Programs & Courthouse History.

There will be a special presentation by the 2005 Union County High School Mock Trial Champions, Linden High School. As part of the Courthouse Centennial Celebration, Linden will recreate a famous criminal trial that took place in 1926.

This program is free. Parking available in Elizabethtown Plaza Garage. Sandwiches and refreshments will be served. For more information, call the Union County Bar Association 908-354-5984.

This project is co-sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation and is made possible with funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey.

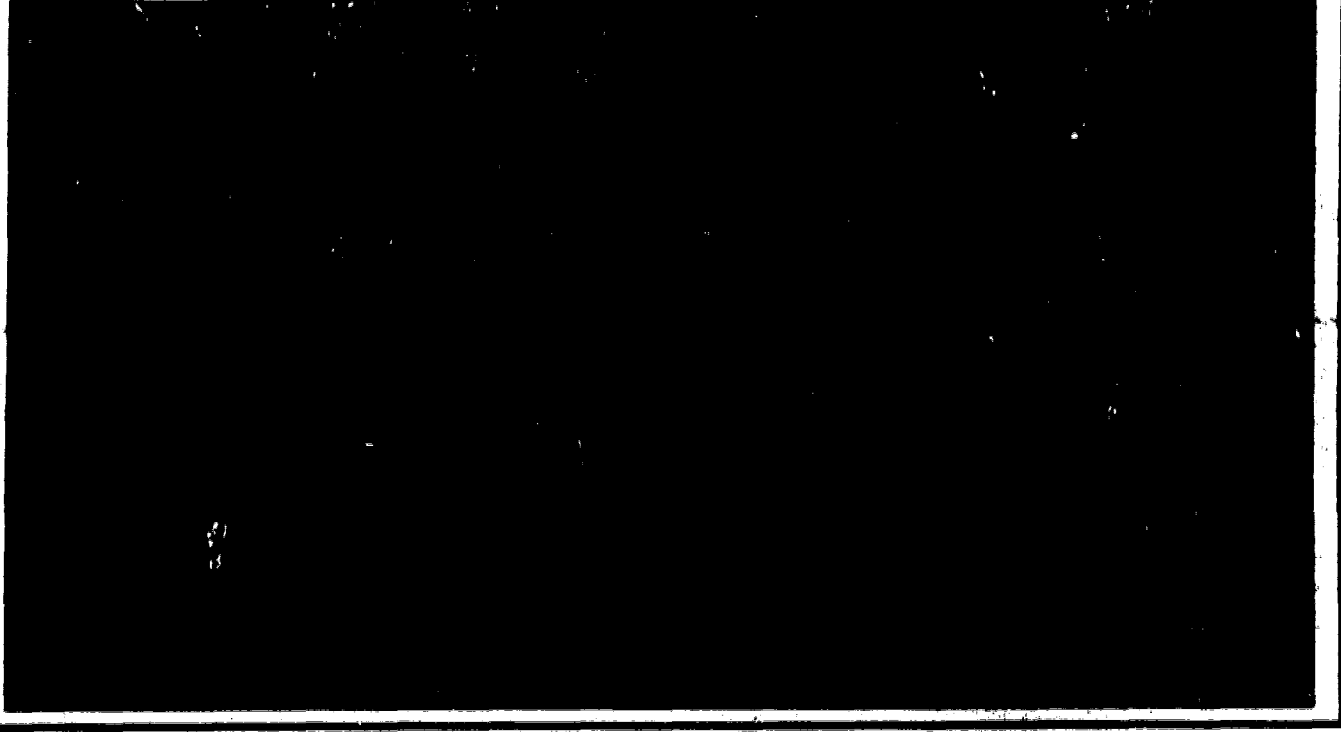
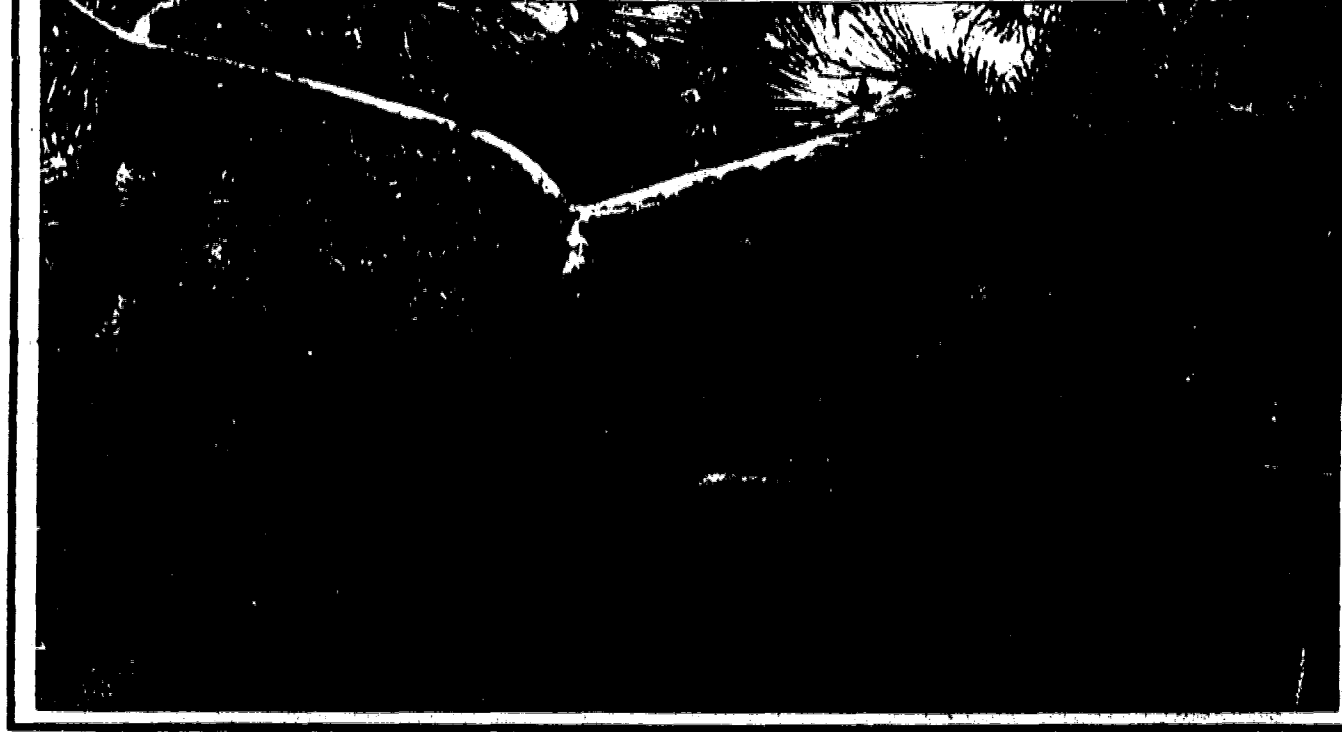
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**THIS MAN CAN DRAW** — Clockwise from top left are drawings of a fruit bowl, a bicycle scene, a street scene and a tree, drawn in charcoal by youth artist Dominant Dansby, who won the Governor's Award for artistic excellence.



Nuzova, Society ready to perform Beethoven

The Society of Musical Arts will present its 24th annual concert on May 22 at 3 p.m. in the imposing auditorium of the Maplewood Municipal Building, 574 Valley St. Gary M. Schneider will conduct an all-Beethoven program, including the Fifth Symphony and the Fourth Piano Concerto, with soloist Irina Nuzova. Admission is free.

SOMA was founded in 1981 by the late Samuel Applebaum, music scholar,

to enable dedicated musicians to meet and give our community an orchestral concert without extensive rehearsals or even remuneration.

Music teachers, retired professional musicians and amateurs participate happily and audiences enjoy.

Nuzova was a featured piano soloist at age 14, performing in major cities in her native Russia. Coming to the United States in 1992, she studied at the Manhattan School of Music, received numerous fine awards, performed with noted music groups and later was accepted at the Academy of Music in Frankfurt, Germany.

Gary Schneider, leading SOMA for the second time, likewise has had a notable and extensive musical career as conductor in this country and Europe and is also an active composer.

SOMA has more than proven its objectives and worth. In its more than 20 years of existence, SOMA has attracted large enthusiastic audiences. It has renewed interest in amateur string playing and has presented an array of talented young soloists. Several young composers have conducted their own works with the orchestra. Sam's legacy has given our community a precious gift and will forever warm our gratitude.

Dining Guide

**Mr. Nino's Restaurants & Pizzeria**  
 Monday-Thursday: Wednesday  
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- 1 Large Pie \$8.99
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**Salsa's Mexican Grill**  
 By Tommaso Antonelli  
 Staff Writer

Next time you decide to make a run for the border, ditch the typical Mexican fast food fare and head to Cranford for Mexican cuisine with a more authentic flair.

Salsa's Mexican Grill on Eastman Street in downtown Cranford has everything a good Mexican restaurant should. Steadily serves simple, colorful decor and some of the best Mexican food in Union County.

The restaurant, owned and operated by Joseph Procopio, opened on Eastman Street three years ago in a small storefront building once owned by a florist. The flowers are gone now, but the colors that fill the dining area are just as vibrant - deep red tablecloths, strings of tiny red lights, desert-themed artwork and a large multi-colored wall hanging add Mexican "spice" to the interior of the restaurant.

About 12 well-spaced tables, adorned simply with glowing candles, give patrons plenty of room to stretch their legs and enjoy their meal - something that begs to be avoided.

Patrons, after being seated, are immediately served a basket of freshly fried tortilla chips and homemade salsa, which, as one would expect at a restaurant called "Salsa's," rivals any version of the bottled Mexican condiment available in the supermarket. Tomatoes, onions, peppers, olives and spices blend together perfectly in the restaurant's mild, chunky topping.

And since true Mexican food lovers know that no tortilla chip is complete without guacamole, Salsa's has created a recipe that allows the rich flavor of the avocados to come through. My dining companion, who has never been a fan of guacamole, practically finished the entire bowl.

When tortilla chips just aren't enough, Salsa's offers a number of tasty appetizers from black bean soup and shrimp sauteed in garlic to quesadillas and traditional nachos. Two salads - a taco salad and a unique mango salad, each served in a crispy tortilla bowl, are also a great way to start a meal at Salsa's.

For the main course, I selected the restaurant's specialty - steak al carbon. Two large, warm flour tortillas topped with perfectly grilled and seasoned steak and a plain filled with complementary items such as sliced tomatoes, chili con queso and sour cream. Refilled bowls and Mexican rice completed the meal.

My dining companion feasted on the cheese quesadillas, which are usually part of the appetizer menu, but, at our request, were served as an entree. The large, grilled, slow-broiled steak was bursting with spicy melted cheese, scallions and pico de gallo. It's the kind of food you find yourself thinking about and then craving again hours later.

Other main courses include grilled carne asada - marinated steak; fajitas, burritos, crispy tacos filled with spicy beef or chicken and chicken sauteed in garlic sauce. Salsa's also offers some unique dishes including shrimp chilaques and grilled swordfish. Another one of Salsa's signature dishes is the enchiladas, which are stuffed with cheese and topped with a tomato-based sauce. Vegetarians also have an extensive menu to choose from including vegetable enchiladas and fajitas.

As good as the food is at Salsa's, plan to leave room for dessert. The tres leches is not to be missed. A delicious cake made with evaporated, condensed and whole milk then topped with chocolate syrup and whipped cream was a perfect ending to our meal.

A variety of Mexican sodas, virgin cocktails, cappuccino and espresso are also available, along with various specials.

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- SUN., APRIL 3rd 8 PM
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- SAT., APRIL 9th 10 PM
- SUN., APRIL 10th 4 PM
- SAT., APRIL 16th 10 PM
- SUN., APRIL 17th 4 PM
- SAT., APRIL 23rd 10 PM
- SUN., APRIL 24th 4 PM
- SAT., APRIL 24th 8 PM
- SAT., APRIL 30th 10 PM
- SAT., MAY 7th 10 PM
- WEDNESDAY'S

- SEQUOIA
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- BRUNSWICK
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- ROBERT RAFF ACOUSTICS
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 Includes Seafood Station, Carving Station, Buffet & Beautiful Sided Bar, Includes Open Bar Drinks & Desserts

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 Every Sunday 11:00am - 3:00pm  
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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area.

# Stepping Out

Book Store, 255 E. Broad St. in Westfield, on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 908-233-3535.

**JEAN HANFF KORELITZ** will sign copies of her book, "The White Rose A Novel," at the Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St. in Westfield, on April 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 908-233-3535.

## CINEMA

**REEL WOMEN GO TO THE MOVIES** will screen the 2003 John Sayles drama, "Casa de los Babys," on Monday. Bring a brown bag lunch at noon for the 12:30 p.m. show time followed by discussion. The film group meets at St. John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Ave., Summit, and requests a \$5 donation. Call 908-498-0565 for information on the monthly spring schedule.

## CLASS

**THE DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART** is located at 1030 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in a 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.

For information about the spring term, call 908-757-7171, fax: 908-757-2626, or visit the Web site at [www.ducret.edu](http://www.ducret.edu) for details. **KEAN UNIVERSITY'S PREMIERE ARTISTS SERIES CONTINUES** with a visit from the star of "Guiding Light," three-time Emmy-Award winner Kim Zimmer and her husband, director A.C. Weary. Zimmer and Weary will work with students from the Media & Film and Theater departments in a two-hour intensive Acting for Television master class. The master class is limited to Kean University performance majors, but the evening event is open to the public. Following the class, at 7 p.m., Zimmer and Weary will take questions from the audience and discuss their careers in television, stage and film. Tickets for the question-and-answer session are \$10. The event begins at 7 p.m. in the Wilkins Theatre, located at 1000 Morris Avenue in Union. To reserve tickets, call the Wilkins Theatre box office at 908-737-7469.

## 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.sanctuaryconcerts.org](http://www.sanctuaryconcerts.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. For more information, call 908-730-0700. **DIANNE REEVES** will perform at 8 p.m. on April 23 at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, [www.uccac.org](http://www.uccac.org). Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway.

**WESTFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** will perform at the Union County Arts Center on Saturday at 8 p.m. For information, call the box office at 908-828-0127 or send an e-mail to [info@scoc.org](mailto:info@scoc.org).

**ACUSTIC-FOLK SERIES** has begun at Watching Art Center, 18 Sterling Road, Watching. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$15. For information and reservations, call 908-753-0190 or send an e-mail to [wacenter@aol.com](mailto:wacenter@aol.com). Visit the Web site, <http://www.watchingarts.org/Afolk.htm>. The following artists will perform as part of the Watching Art Center Acoustic-Folk Series: May 7, John Flynn; June 4, Dave's True Story.

**THE COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES OF SPRINGFIELD** will take place at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Hill, Springfield. 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 [concerts4causes@aol.com](mailto:concerts4causes@aol.com). Also, visit the Web site, <http://www.coffeewithconscience.com>.

The next show is May 14, featuring Basya Schechter & 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 908-828-0127 or send an e-mail to [info@scoc.org](mailto:info@scoc.org).

**WORLD-CLASS VIOLINISTS**, join forces with piano, bass, drums, guitar and cello and take on the stage by storm. They also sing, dance, tap dance and march in precise formations during "Bowline," which takes place Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Wilkins Theatre at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. For more information, call the box office at 908-737-7469, or visit the Web site, [www.wilkinstheatre.com](http://www.wilkinstheatre.com). **BROADWAY BABES AND BABIES** blend their talents in "Leading Ladies & Friends," a tribute to musical theater's greatest women in song. Kean students Jennifer Vaughn and Kristen Bussiere appear in these performances, April 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m., and April 24 at 3 p.m. at Wilkins Theatre at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. For more information, call the box office at 908-737-7469, or visit the Web site, [www.wilkinstheatre.com](http://www.wilkinstheatre.com).

**THE MODEL 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 [TMRClub@aol.com](mailto:TMRClub@aol.com) or visit the Web site at [www.tmrclub.com](http://www.tmrclub.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. For information, call 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via e-mail to [TMRClub@aol.com](mailto:TMRClub@aol.com) or visit the Web site at [www.tmrclub.com](http://www.tmrclub.com). **THE CRANFORD REPERTORY THEATRE** will present "How To Eat Like A Child and Other Lessons in NOT Being a Grown-Up," which will open Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Orange Avenue School in Cranford. The cast consists of children between the ages of 6 and 15 from several area towns and is directed by Tom Pedas. Additional performances are Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. For ticket information, call 908-730-0567. Tickets are \$8 and seating is limited. No one under the age of 6 will be permitted.

**THE INTERNET LOUNGE**, 256 South Ave., Fairwood, hosts an Open Mic/Karaoke Night on Sundays at 7 p.m. Join the group for a cup of gourmet coffee and a wide variety of organic foods and participate in an original poetry reading, a stand-up comedy routine or a musical number. There's no cover charge, and patrons can come in with new friends, surf the Web, play a game of Diablo2, Neverwinter Nights, WarCraft or Counter-Strike. To ask about a schedule of events, call 908-490-1234 or visit its Web site [www.theinternetlounge.com](http://www.theinternetlounge.com).

**JAZZ** LANA'S RESTAURANT will offer dinner and live jazz with Warren Vache every Thursday, beginning at 7 p.m. For information, call 732-669-9024.

**KIDS** TALES FOR TOTS PRESCHOOL STORYTIME will be offered at Barnes and Noble, Route 22 West, Springfield, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. and the Kids' Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

**POETRY** POETRY OUT LOUDI will take place at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544. **OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT** takes place the second Sunday of every month at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Rantano Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

**RADIO** TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of the month at the Wilkes Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Rantano Road in Scotch Plains. For information, call 908-241-6758.

**SINGLES** DINNERMATES and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant, wine and mingling to 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](http://www.dinnermates.com). **INTERFAITH SINGLES**, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call 908-889-5265 or 908-889-4751. **SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING**, for 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Yankee Buffet Grand Ballroom, 2660 Alons Ave., Union. Admission is \$7. For information, call 908-686-8816.

**HOBBIES** THE MODEL 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 [TMRClub@aol.com](mailto:TMRClub@aol.com) or visit the Web site at [www.tmrclub.com](http://www.tmrclub.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. For information, call 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via e-mail to [TMRClub@aol.com](mailto:TMRClub@aol.com) or visit the Web site at [www.tmrclub.com](http://www.tmrclub.com). **THE CRANFORD REPERTORY THEATRE** will present "How To Eat Like A Child and Other Lessons in NOT Being a Grown-Up," which will open Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Orange Avenue School in Cranford. The cast consists of children between the ages of 6 and 15 from several area towns and is directed by Tom Pedas. Additional performances are Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. For ticket information, call 908-730-0567. Tickets are \$8 and seating is limited. No one under the age of 6 will be permitted.

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## AUTOMOTIVE

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### ADVERTISE

## GM introduces hybrid pickups

By Mark Maynard  
Copley News Service

General Motors has started down the road to hydrogen-powered vehicles by introducing gasoline-electric hybrid versions of the 2005 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickups. They will be the first hybrid pickups from any maker.

GM says it will build only 2,500 of the hybrids, and at first they'll be available only to buyers in California, Florida, Nevada, Alaska, Oregon and Washington.

The extended-cab, short box pickups with 5.3 liter V-8 engines, in two- or four-wheel drive, will be available with a gasoline-electric hybrid option costing \$2,500. Sales started in September.

The so-called mild hybrid system works three ways to improve fuel economy and emissions: by shutting off the engine at idle, by enabling early fuel cutoff to the engine during deceleration and by regenerative braking. It's said the system can improve fuel economy by about 10 percent to 15 percent, compared with the conventional 5.3 liter V-8.

California's air-quality regulators are embracing a plan to enlist everyday vehicles to gradually reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases by nearly one-third, starting with the 2009 model year.

Hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles will be the ultimate weapon for General Motors, and hybrid power is just one way GM and other carmakers will reach that goal.

GM will debut other mild hybrid systems in the Saturn Vue SUV in 2006 and in the Chevrolet Malibu a year later. A full hybrid system, using gasoline, battery power or a combination of both, is expected to be available in 2007 on GM pickups and the Chevrolet Tahoe and GMC Yukon SUVs.

Fuel savings on the full hybrid trucks might be about 30 percent.

General Motors sells about a million pickup trucks a year, and a 5 percent hybrid sales rate could put about 45,000 emissions-reducing and fuel-saving vehicles on the road.

First-year sales of less than 5 percent are anticipated, but for about the cost of a premium package upgrade, the hybrid option is not cost-prohibitive. Actual sales will depend on where fuel economy falls in a buyer's purchase decision.

Offering a hybrid system on the pickup gets the advanced technologies on the road in high numbers, says GM spokesman Dave Barthmuss. He said the hybrid pickup is just one of several ways to meet emissions standards.

Among them at General Motors

will be the Displacement on Demand engines that can vary the number of cylinders that are firing continuously. variable transmissions and 155 mpg fuel vehicles.

"We will be able to conserve a significant amount of fuel," Barthmuss says.

GM also will offer hybrid powertrains to transit agencies, replacing more conventional diesel buses. The hybrid buses have extremely clean emissions and give upward of 60 percent fuel economy, Barthmuss says.

A recent week's test of a GMC Sierra hybrid pickup was a ride into the future, though short, pending the arrival of the full heavy hybrids in a couple of years.

The hybrid experience is fairly transparent, but there will be a period of adjustment as people grow accustomed to the power system.

For the traditional trucker, the specs are all in place:

Horsepower is still 295 with 330 foot-pounds of torque. The two-wheel drive tow rating is 7,800 pounds, and fuel mileage around town is between 14.6 and 16.6 mpg, according to the average fuel economy readings from the onboard computer.

EPA mileage ratings for the Sierra 4WD hybrid with automatic transmission are 17 mpg city and 19 highway. The comparable gasoline-engine model is rated 15/18, so there are some quickly realized benefits to hybrid.

Of particular interest are its 120-volt AC outlets, two in the cab and two in the bed. The power outlets will be useful to campers and to contractors who use chargeable power tools.

In the event of a power failure at home, the truck can be used to power a couple of lights, microwave and TV, or more power-intensive appliances one at a time.

The core of the advanced technologies in the hybrid pickup is its fly-wheel alternator starter system.

Instead of a conventional starter motor and alternator, the hybrid uses a compact electric motor integrated between the engine and transmission. The motor gives fast, quiet starting power and the ability to generate up to 14,000 watts of continuous electric power.

Energy is stored in a 42-volt, lead-acid battery pack, adding 350 pounds to the truck's curb weight.

That energy storage module provides all power functions when the truck is stopped and the engine shuts off. Air conditioning and other cabin functions are maintained and steering and braking are maintained by an electro-hydraulic system.

And when the batteries are shot,

they will be recyclable like any other car battery.

The lag time between moving between battery power to auto start was slower than other full hybrids I've driven. In those offerings, such as the Ford Escape hybrid, the start-up time is just milliseconds. The GM system seems more like a second.

The slight hesitation isn't an issue when resuming power from a stop at a traffic light, but it is more noticeable at four-way stops when the stop durations are brief, almost stop and go.

At those times, between the deceleration mode, auto stop and back to acceleration, the system had to do a lot of microprocessing, which translated to engine hesitation.

This mild hybrid system, which does not do any propulsion with the electric system, is unlike the full or heavy hybrid systems in the Ford Escape or Toyota Prius, which have larger electric motors and smaller internal combustion engines, says Tim Perzanowski, a GM hybrid engineer.

"Therefore, when you lift off the brake pedal, the engine has to start before you begin moving. This would account for the lag on takeoff vs. medium or heavy hybrids," he says. "If it is a long stop then there may be a slight additional delay (milliseconds) while the sensors are verifying parameters."

Also, the transmission — a standard GM 4L60E automatic with a slightly smaller torque converter — seeks gears on moderate inclines, shifting back and forth to find the optimum speed and fuel economy.

In frequent start-stop driving, heavy traffic or on long grades, the hybrid system can be switched off by activating the tow-haul mode switch, on the end of the column shift lever. The auto-stop function resumes when canceling tow-haul or restarting the engine.

GM's medium/heavy hybrids, available in 2007/2008 for the large trucks and SUVs, should log 30 percent to 35 percent better fuel economy with little or no reduction in performance, Perzanowski says.

However, it takes some driver effort to get top fuel economy, whether in a hybrid or not. That means looking ahead to anticipate acceleration and braking needs to stretch every drop of gas.

When it comes time to merge on the highway, this pickup has full power. It isn't easy driving green, but every effort is one more mile toward energy independence.

Mark Maynard is driving in cyberspace at mark.maynard@uniontrib.com.

## New Audi line is winning praise

Audi has a rich history of producing premium cars that raise the bar of innovation and luxury. With the new Audi Product portfolio, the reputation continues to push forward.

The Audi vehicles highlighted at the New York International Auto Show include the all new A3 Premium compact, the new A4 sedan and Avant, and the all-new A6 Avant.

Audi's Latest generation of German luxury can be now easily recognized by the single-frame grille. The dominant grille leads off the new design language giving the Audi lineup a sense of refined confidence and a hint of Audi's aggressive road presence. The clear-glass headlights and the sloping bodylines have been styled to give the premium imports an even more dynamic look.

The A3, the newest addition to the German automaker, is the first four-door sedan with the sportiness of the TT Coupe. This new Audi promises to break ground in the premium compact class. The A3 will be launched in May as a 2006 model with a 2.0 T FSI

engine producing 200 horsepower with 207 lb-ft of torque at 1,800 to 5,000 rpm.

The A4, Audi's best-selling model, recently hit dealer showrooms with a new design, new engines, a significantly improved suspension and many new technologies. The A4's innovation lives up to the promise of its sporty exterior with a choice between the 2.0 T FSI engine producing 255 hp with 243 lb-ft of torque at 3,250 lb-ft of torque. Innovative sophisticated technology are integrated throughout the vehicle through offerings such as Xenon-plus headlights with pivoting dynamic adaptive light technology; continuously variable multitransmission, quattro all wheel drive and the revolutionary FSI (fuel straight injection) engine technology.

With the new A6 Avant, Audi adds another dimension to the A6 model line: utility. Not only does the Avant model increase the A6's cargo volume, it has its own distinct styling, and ingenious rail system in the cargo area. These new elements, in conjunc-

tion with A6's advanced engineering, leads to an enviable new 2006 model arriving at dealer showrooms in July.

The A6 sedan, which went on sale in November, is already winning awards for its luxury, innovation and design. A committee of over 45 prestigious international automotive journalists has recognized the progressive, sporty Audi A6 as the "World Car of The Year." The award was presented at the Canadian International Auto show in Toronto on Feb. 16 to Johan de Nysschen, executive vice president of Audi of America Inc.

March 2005 marks the 25th anniversary of Audi's Innovative Quattro all wheel drive system. First introduced in 1980, Audi Quattro was shown to the public at the Geneva Motor Show. It was the beginning of a legend that achieved innumerable motorsport victories and a demonstration of still unquestioned road supremacy. Audi is the leading international manufacturer of passenger cars with permanent all-wheel drive in the premium segment of the market.

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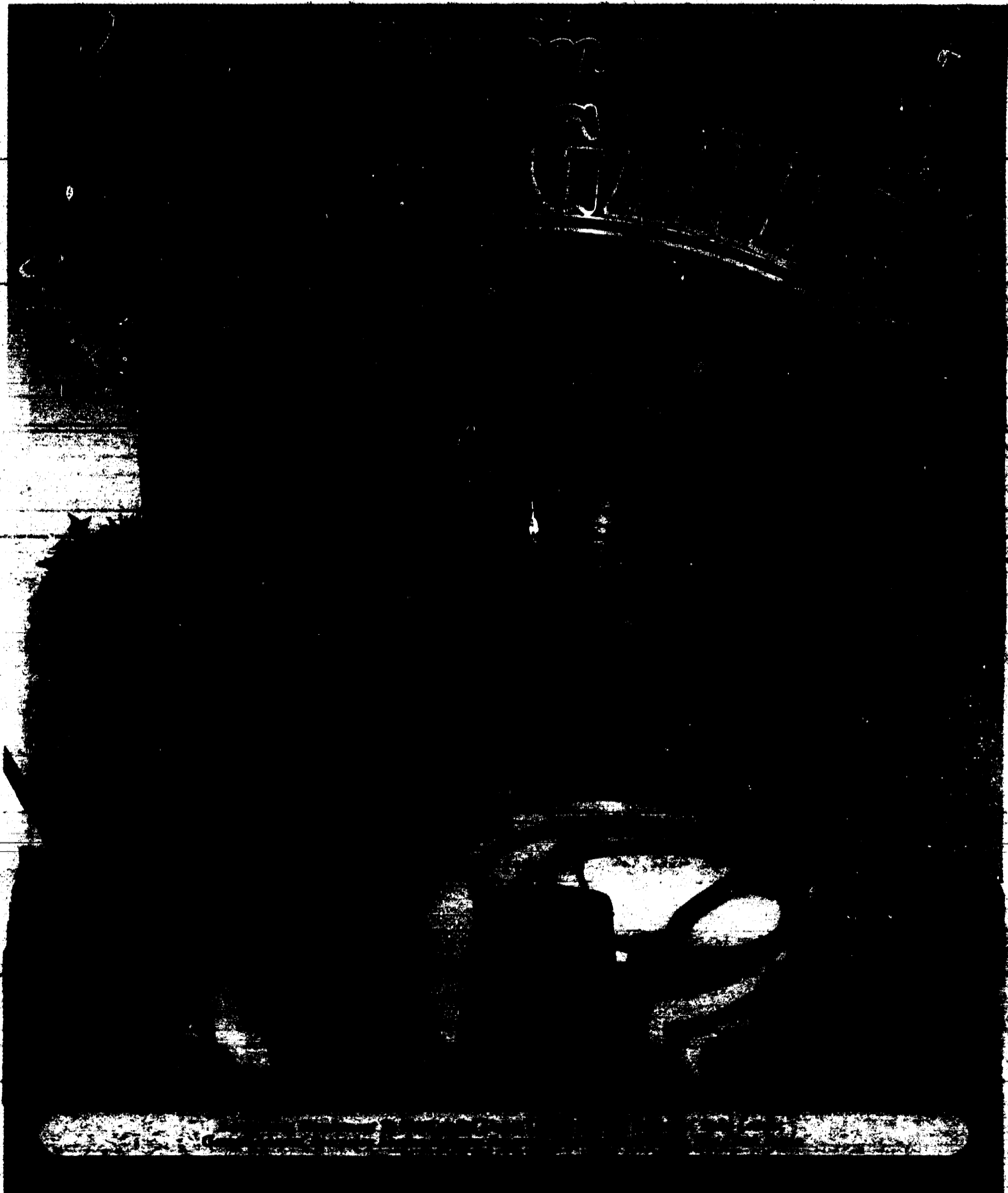
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## Fade-resistant decks offer eco-friendly improvements

Spring isn't the only thing that's sprung. That's because more and more composite decks are popping up in backyards across the country.

By now, there's a good chance you've seen spectacular photos of these decks in magazines along with large displays in home improvement stores. Sure, they look beautiful brand new, but how will they look five years from now?

That's a question you need to ask yourself if you're in the market for a composite deck.

The biggest complaint among composite deck owners is that their decks' color fades over time. It's a common problem.

Composites are typically made from a blend of recycled plastics and recaptured sawdust or wood by-products. Wood flour and wood chips contain high amounts of Lignins — a major contributor to fading of composite material. Therefore, over time, composite decks gradually lose their original color.

Luckily, not all composite brands are made to fade.

GeoDeck is blended with Biodac, a proprietary product made by the recovery of purified cellulose fibers and other minerals. Biodac, unlike wood flour or wood chips used in most composite products, does not contain high amounts of Lignins. The result is a composite deck that is virtually fade resistant.

"Fading is not something that a homeowner expects to see in their composite deck," says Ed Mangold, owner of Home-Check Construction in Ellington, Conn.

"GeoDeck makes my customers happy with its fade-resistant colors that are richer than other composite decking products."

Fade resistance is just one item to put on your checklist when shopping for a composite deck. Here are five other questions to ask: Can composites be used for other applications?

Yes! A product this creative was meant to live outside the deck. You can use composites to build porches, patios, pool and hot surrounds, walkways, docks and boat slips — with an understructure composed of structural wood. Whatever application you can imagine, there's a good chance it can be built with a reputable composite brand.

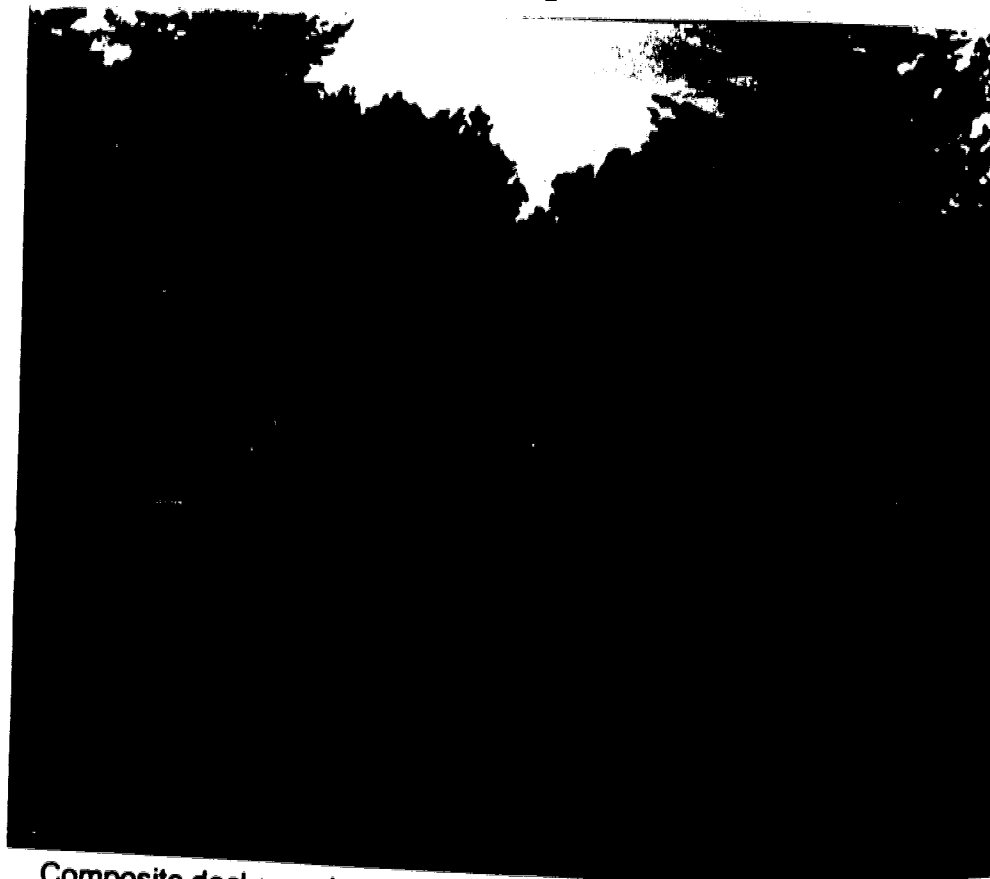
How long do composite decks last? The estimated life expectancy for composite decks is more than 50 years and warranties typically range from 10 years to life. Composites rarely split, warp, crack, rot or decay. Most are even resistant to termites.

How much maintenance is required?

Most brands — such as Trex, WeatherBest and GeoDeck — don't require any painting or sealing. They're usually easy to keep clean, too. On some composite decking brands, most dirt and stains can be removed with water, a brush or with a household cleaner.

Do I need to hire a contractor to install my composite?

No, you can install it yourself. Most composites are easy to drill, cut, saw and nail with standard woodworking tools. If you decide to install your own composite deck, it's wise to follow the installation instructions carefully as the plastic content of composites needs to be taken into consideration for expansion/contraction purposes.



Composite decks made by GeoDeck are blended with Biodac, a proprietary product made by the recovery of purified cellulose fibers and other minerals that is virtually fade resistant.

Composites also can be used for other applications. They're usually easy to keep clean, too. On some composite decking brands, most dirt and stains can be removed with water, a brush or with a household cleaner.

Are composites safe and environmentally responsible? Yes, composites are eco-friendly. They're

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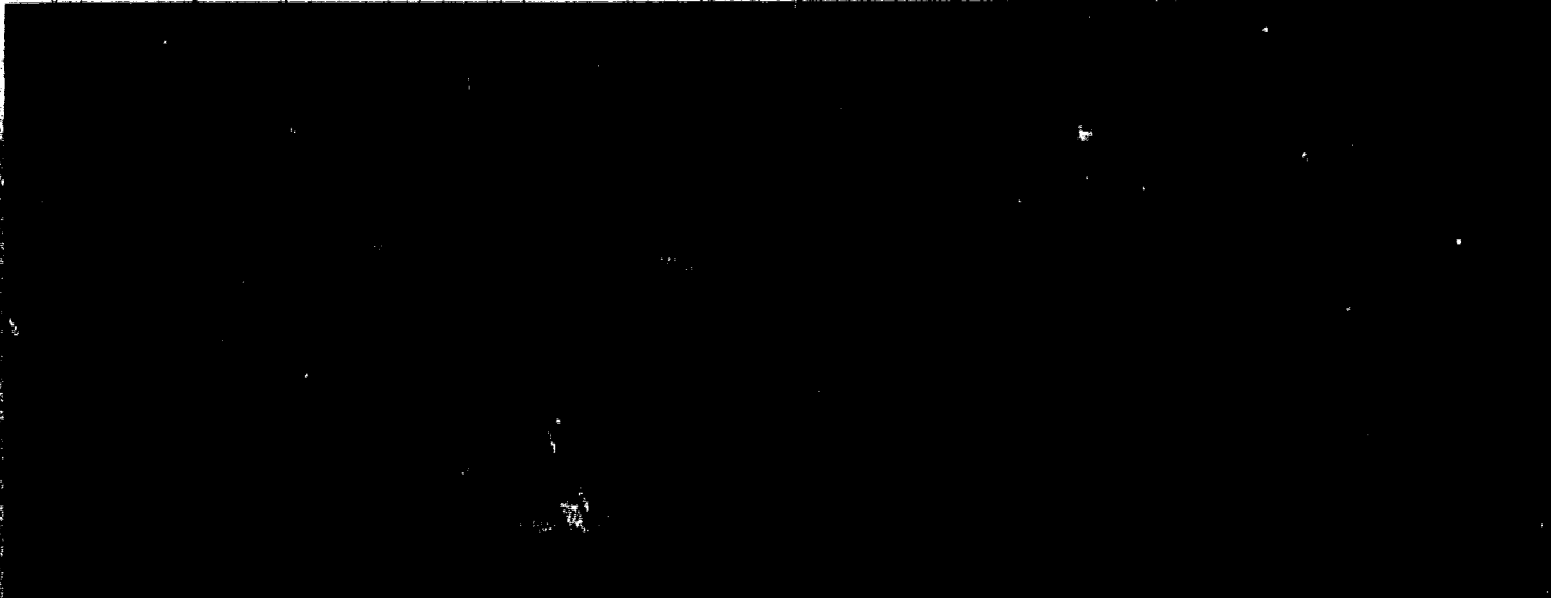
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## Garages are becoming an essential part of homes

One-car garages have become almost a standard feature of new homes. In fact, many homeowners are now building two-car garages, a trend that is expected to continue.



Garages are becoming an essential part of homes. They provide a place to store cars, tools, and other items. They also offer a space for hobbies and projects.

They were a few years ago, in addition to becoming showpieces, with fancy floors and even fancy floors. Flooring can help beautify the garage, as well as

protect the floor from damage. It also helps in keeping the garage clean and organized.

Once you've finished sprucing up your garage, consider other ways to beautify it. The floor is a great place to start. It provides enough cushioning action to make it more comfortable to stand and walk on. It also provides impact resistance in case of dropped tools or wine bottles and the surface pattern lets spills be easily wiped up.

The G-Floor is made totally in the United States and carries a 5-year limited warranty. Better Life Technology products are now available through major catalogs such as Frontgate, Orion Garage, Northern Tool, Huntington, Sky Mall, Auto Sport, Sporty's, Solutions, HomeMaster, Parkland Living and California Car Covers. Major Web site marketers for their products are jdkproducts.com, samsclub.com, samsclothing.com and www.sporty.com. The product is also available at all Menard's home centers and can be special ordered through Luma Home Centers nationwide. Installers include The Accessories Group and House Wall Garage System. For more information or for a retailer near you, visit www.blb.com or call 877-810-6444.



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# Outdoor trim can accent your home's beauty

Whether you are building a new home or remodeling an existing one, you want your house to look its best inside and out. More important, you want it to look great year after year with as little maintenance as possible, right?

One simple way to set your home apart from your neighbors is to install or replace the exterior wood trim that frames your windows and doors, caps roof lines and serves as column wraps, porch trim, corner arches and a variety of other decorative applications. It is an excellent finishing touch and a convenient and inexpensive way to accent the beauty of your home's style.

When choosing an exterior trim, material selection is perhaps the most important factor. Available materials include wood, engineered wood composites, hardboard and PVC.

Wood products such as redwood, cedar and primed spruce, can look great when first installed, but may split and swell over time. Many homeowners also complain about paint peeling, chipping and discoloration of wood trim, as well as warping and decay.

Hardboard trim products are made of two pieces of hardboard siding that are glued together.

Over time and with extended outdoor exposure, these products may separate and lose their durability, requiring additional maintenance and repair. PVC products may expand or contract with temperature variations, are not environmentally friendly, and cost two to three times that of engineered wood composite trim boards.

Engineered wood composite trim is a functional, economical and easy-to-use option. Some composite trim is treated to withstand harsh weather conditions and to provide enhanced performance.

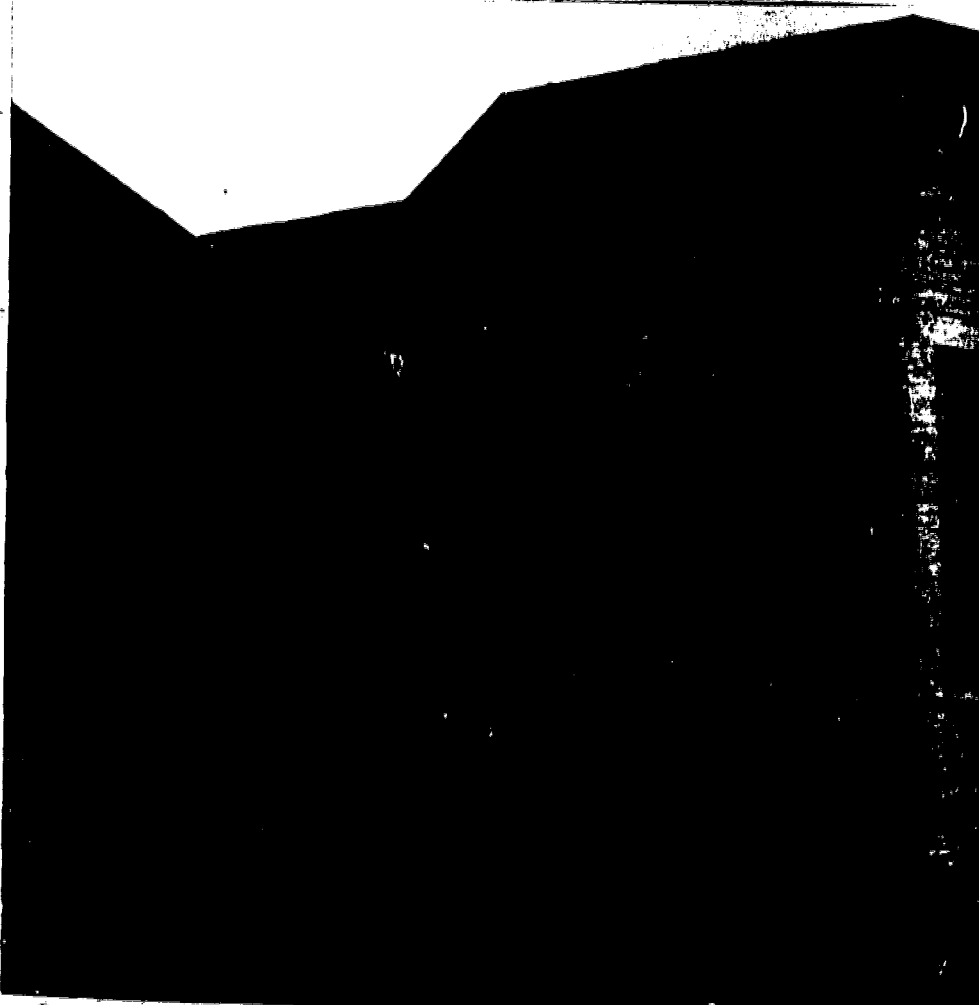
For instance, MiraTEC Treated Exterior Composite Trim from CraftMaster Manufacturing Inc. is treated with zinc borate and made with phenolic resins to offer moisture, rot and termite resistance. Hardboard trim products do not offer such protection. Additionally, MiraTEC Trim is coated with a mildew-resistant primer on four sides, making it easy to paint, thus eliminating the need to repaint as often as standard wood trim products.

Available in 16-foot boards, as well as a variety of thicknesses and widths, CMI's MiraTEC Trim delivers enhanced durability and performance in non-structural trim applications. It is reversible to meet any home's style.

The smooth side offers a contemporary look, while the side with a warm-cedar texture is perfect for traditional homes. Unlike other trim products, MiraTEC Trim is backed by a 25-year warranty that covers rot, hail damage, warp, delamination and splitting — it's the most comprehensive warranty for any trim product on the market.

When building your next home or remodeling your current one, be sure to ask for MiraTEC Trim.

It is available at most local building material suppliers. For more information or a free brochure, call 1-800-255-0785 or visit [www.miratectrim.com](http://www.miratectrim.com).



One simple way to set your home apart from your neighbors is to install or replace the exterior wood trim that frames your windows and doors, caps roof lines and serves as column wraps, porch trim, corner arches and a variety of other decorative applications.



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# Utilizing all of your bathroom space effectively

Traffic jams should happen on the highway, not in your bathroom. But according to the "Bathroom Inventory" survey conducted by Moon Incorporated, the reality is that more than half of master bedrooms are less than 75 square feet — forcing most couples to make do with limited space.

Yet there are ways to reduce the congestion in this crowded room, believes Tim Bitterman, senior product manager of the Inspirations by Moon line of bath accessories. "Careful design, dedicated space for each individual and a willingness to compromise can make even the smallest room feel more spacious."

Following are some of his top tips to create a comfortable bathroom for two:

**Organization is key**  
 Small spaces require organization. Too many toiletries, cleaning products and hair dryers can make a small space feel smaller. Clear off the sink, clean out the medicine cabinet and remove products from under the sink. Take stock of what you own and what you use on a daily basis. Pare down the excess and keep only what you need. Baskets and bins will provide order to the items you plan on keeping.

"It's all about creating more room and carving out your own space," explains Bitterman. One such example is installing a glass shelf. "This easy project is perfect for the DIYer, doesn't take up counter space and gives both of you more room to store smaller or toiletry items as well as keep them easily accessible."

**Mirror, mirror on the wall**  
 Mirrors have the ability to visually double the size of your bathroom. By reflecting natural light, they can give your bathroom the appearance of being more open and bright. Full sink to ceiling mirrors create the most significant illusion of increased space. But if that isn't an option, consider a single mirror in a unique shape to create a point of visual interest. The Sage Collection from the Inspirations by Moon line features a large, oval-shaped pivoting mirror. This pivoting function allows you to adjust the mirror to meet your specific needs, which can be handy if you and your partner differ significantly in height.

**Rethink the sink**  
 Two sinks can make sharing a bath much easier — provided you have the space. Many newer vanities can accommodate two sinks. You'll need to allow at least 5 feet



Bathroom space is sometimes very limited, but this doesn't mean that couples can't make the most of what they have in a stylish yet effective manner.

when adding a vanity for double sinks. No room? Consider side-by-side, small pedestal sinks instead. No budget for new sinks? Change your faucet with one of today's newer high arc styles. The longer neck and spout of these faucets makes it easier for both of you to have the room to brush your teeth, wash your face or even shave — at the same time.

**Shed a little light**  
 A dark room feels cramped and crowded, while natural light can make the bath feel open and larger. Add sheer blinds or apply a film treatment to your window to let in more light, while still allowing for privacy. Consider changing the lighting fixtures as well. Overhead lighting tends to add unflattering shadows to your face when you look in the mirror. Try installing wall sconces level with the top of the mirror. This puts the light in front of you, creating the most optimal lighting for grooming.

**Double up**  
 Consider installing two double robe hooks for items such as robes, pajamas and towels. Keeping robes and towels off the

**Share your shower**  
 Transform your shower into a spa experience with a massaging showerhead with multiple spray settings. This will allow you to choose and personalize your settings. Choose a vigorous massage for him and a soothing rain shower for her.

**Decorating duo**  
 Most importantly, according to Bitterman, "Don't impose your decorating styles and tastes on your mate. Talk about color selections and look at wallpapers and paints together. By incorporating colors you both like, it's possible to create a room that brings the best of both worlds together, creating a retreat that can become the calm in your morning storm."

For more information on bath style trends, or accessory product available from Creative Specialties International, call toll free 1-800-882-0116 or visit [www.csi.moon.com](http://www.csi.moon.com).

Creative Specialties International, a division of Moon Incorporated, is a market-leading organization that provides creative and innovative solutions for today's bath. The company designs and manufactures a complete line of fashionable bath accessories in a wide assortment of styles and finishes. Creative Specialties International manufactures four brands of bath accessories. These include: Inspirations, Moon, Donner and Home Care.

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# Home remodeling projects might demand mortgages

Home remodeling projects come in all shapes and sizes: from simple projects that breathe new life into a home to major projects that involve gutting a house and redesigning the floor plan to customize it for your lifestyle. The reasons people remodel are as varied as the projects that homeowners can undertake: adding a room, modernizing a kitchen — even improving the energy efficiency of a home by adding new doors and windows.

The nationwide housing boom of the past few years is extending beyond the initial purchase of a home. People are putting money into their homes to improve comfort, safety and protect their initial investment. According to the Remodeling Activity Indicator used by Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies, homeowners continued to invest in their homes by spending almost \$127 billion on remodeling in 2004 — up by almost 6 percent over 2003 levels.

One reason for the jump may be a mortgage option that allows borrowers to purchase and renovate a home using a single loan.

"Renovation loans give homebuyers some options when it comes to considering houses that aren't perfect," says John Sway, renovation program manager for Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. "With the majority of the nation's housing stock at least 25 years old, there's demand for mortgage products that address the needs of homebuyers who are looking at older homes that need some TLC."

In the past, financing options were limited, especially if the owner didn't have sufficient equity in the home. These days, however, homeowners have choices that were developed specifically to help buyers and owners

finance home improvement projects.

The Federal Housing Administration's 203(k) loan is one of the more popular renovation loan programs. This loan is generally used to update or improve a house or condominium needing a minimum of \$5,000 in essential repairs such as new wiring, plumbing, roof repair/replacement or structural repairs.

Other renovation loan programs offer higher loan limits, allowing buyers to obtain more financing toward the purchase and improvement of the property. In addition to essential repairs, these loan programs can sometimes allow financing for luxury items such as swimming pools, hot tubs and sun rooms.

"These mortgage products are great tools for homeowners and important for community revitalization," says Sway. "Homebuyers and neighborhoods benefit from the improvements these loan programs make possible. Investing in a home contributes to the financial well-being of the owners and it certainly contributes to the financial well-being of a community because the homeowners are preventing these older homes from deteriorating and falling out of the housing stock."

A recent study by Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies showed that minority homeowners are expected to become a major growth market for home remodeling and repair. From 1995 to 2000, minorities accounted for 60 percent of the increase in households and 40 percent of the increase in homeowners. It is only a matter of time before these homeowners start spending on remodeling projects and have an important impact on home improvement activity.

Over the coming decade, many metropoli-



Home remodeling projects need a careful assessment to determine how much it will cost in the long run and whether certain parts of it can be put off until the homeowner is more financially stable.

tan areas are expected to see a noticeable pick-up in remodeling activity, especially as rising home prices force an increasing number of buyers to look for older, more affordable homes.

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is the nation's No. 1 retail mortgage lender, the No. 1 lender to low- to moderate-income customers and ethnic minorities and one of the country's leading servicers of home mortgages. It operates

the country's largest mortgage network from more than 2,000 branches and Wells Fargo banking centers nationwide. Based in Des Moines, Iowa, it serves about 5 million customers in all 50 states through its retail and wholesale lending channels.

For more information, contact your local Wells Fargo Home Mortgage office or through the Internet at [www.wellsfargo.com](http://www.wellsfargo.com).



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# Outdoor barbecues can be connected to home gas

Whether your favorite summer pastime is going to the beach, playing golf or just soaking up the air conditioning at your local multiplex, the one activity almost all Americans partake in sometime during the season is an outdoor barbecue.

That people love to grill and eat outdoors should come as no surprise. A total of 14.4 million barbecue grills were shipped to stores last year to meet the demand and the trend is expected to continue in 2005, according to the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association.

On its Web site, HPBA, [www.hpba.org](http://www.hpba.org), reports that the average grill owner has 22 cookouts during the grilling "season" from mid-May to September. Some 71 percent of all grill owners fire-up their grills on the

Fourth of July, making the nation's birthday the most popular holiday for barbecuing, followed by Memorial Day, 62 percent, and Labor Day, 55 percent.

Most grill owners, 63 percent, fuel their barbecues with liquid petroleum gas, better known as propane, and the majority of these grills use portable gas canisters that must be refilled or exchanged at designated locations when the canister is empty.

For the 63 million American households with access to natural gas or a propane supply, usually through a permanently installed propane tank, there is an easier way to barbecue that doesn't require refilling gas canisters.

Just as a gas fireplace, oven, water heater or clothes dryer may be permanently con-

nected to a home's gas supply, so can an outdoor barbecue. Connecting a gas branch line to the grill is a relatively simple procedure that a qualified plumber can perform in a matter of hours.

To help keep installation costs down, make sure your plumber uses flexible soft-temper annealed copper tubing. Sold in 50- and 100-foot coils, it can be installed in one long, continuous run — without the time-consuming jointing and threading required for rigid steel "black" pipe. It's also less expensive and easier to work with than corrugated stainless steel tubing, known in the industry as CSST.

Another option for homes with a gas supply is installing a gas-convenience outlet outdoors. This makes plugging in your outdoor

appliances, like grills and patio heaters, as easy as plugging in an electrical appliance inside.

Convenience gas outlets have a built-in safety device that prevents the gas from flowing if the appliance is not properly connected. The grill can be easily attached and disconnected from the outlet, so moving the grill for storage or cleaning is never a problem.

Grill manufacturers sell gas conversion kits separately to allow their grills to be used with either natural gas or propane, so you don't have to get rid of your favorite grill.

For more information on the many uses for copper tube in your home, visit the Copper Development Association's Web site, [www.copper.org](http://www.copper.org), or log on to [www.copperisyourhome.com](http://www.copperisyourhome.com).

# Energy efficiency a major consideration and gas is fuel of choice

In the excitement of purchasing or building a new home, buyers often find it difficult to tell which features add real value to the home and which are merely "window dressing."

Buyers need to look "below the surface" to evaluate what they're really getting, says Tracey Lynn Shiller, manager of Marketing and Communications for the American Gas Association. Eye-catching décor items like granite countertops are nice, but over time they may not contribute to a home's resale value, and they won't help you manage your day-to-day energy bill.

A good place for buyers to start their evaluation, she says, is with the home's heating and cooling system. According to the Department

of Energy, heating and cooling are a home's biggest energy users. To find out if your "dream home" is energy-efficient, ask your builder or realty agent a few basic questions.

- Does the house use natural or bottled propane gas, fuel oil or electricity for space heating?

- If it is an existing home, how old is the furnace?

- Are tax incentives available from the state, or rebates from the builder, if you install a newer, more energy-efficient heating system?

If the answer to the first question is gas, you'll be happy to know that natural gas will cost less in 2005 than any other home energy source, according to DOE estimates. Bottled

gas costs slightly more, but is typically lower in price than oil. Electricity is the most expensive option — costing twice as much as natural gas, on average.

When considering a home's energy needs, you'll want to include appliances as well. The variety of energy-efficient gas appliances available today is virtually unlimited, and includes stainless steel barbecues grills, indoor/outdoor fireplaces, professional-grade ranges and ovens, and heaters designed especially for garage, pool, patio or spa.

If the home you're buying doesn't have gas service, installing it before you move in can save you money in the long run. Municipalities and gas utilities frequently offer incentives for

doing so and installation costs are typically low. And even if you can't afford that gas fireplace in the master bedroom just yet, having gas service gives you the option of adding appliances throughout your home at a later date.

According to the Copper Development Association, the best choice for fast-gas installation is both new construction and renovation is flexible copper tubing. Unlike rigid steel "black" pipe, copper tubing is easily maneuvered through confined spaces and doesn't rust. And unlike corrugated stainless steel tubing, or CSST, flexible copper tubing is far less expensive and readily available at most plumbing supply houses.

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# Better home landscaping starts on the roof

Homeowners across the country spend millions of dollars and countless hours improving their landscaping. They carefully select bushes and shrubs based not only on good looks, but also the composition of their soil and the amount of sunlight their property receives. When it comes to the landscaping that surrounds their homes, they should also consider how to prevent roof runoff, which can wreck their best attempts at landscaping and put a dent in their wallets as well.

Plants drowned by a cascading torrent of rainwater splashing over clogged gutters don't stand a chance. Of even greater concern is potential home damage. Gutters clogged with everything from leaves and twigs to animal and bird nests can cause rainwater washing over their sides to accumulate in pools around

walls and foundations. This can lead to leaky and cracked foundations or flooded basements that can require expensive home repairs.

Climbing a ladder to keep gutters clean and free flowing is a difficult and dirty job that tops the list of homeowner chores most people hate to do. It can also be dangerous. The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons reports that, each year, more than 511,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms, doctor's offices, clinics and other medical settings because of injuries related to ladder use.

The addition of an effective gutter cover system can eliminate the hassle and worry of gutter cleaning and protect landscaping so that your home can achieve maximum curb appeal. While some products require the total replacement of your existing gutters, adding to the

overall cost, Gutter Topper installs over your existing gutters and is compatible with all types of roofing materials including asphalt and slate shingles, wood shakes and ceramic tiles.

With Gutter Topper, water flows easily from the roof into the gutters while leaves fall to the ground. It prevents clogged gutters by keeping out pine needles, leaves and other debris. In a downpour, rainwater flows smoothly through the pre-adjusted openings, following the curved shape right into your gutters. Gutter Topper's patented design is effective because of surface tension, a principle of physics that states that water will flow along the contours of a curved surface.

Gutter Topper has been independently tested by PRI Asphalt Technologies in Tampa,

Fla., and is certified to enhance the overall strength of your gutter system, resist winds of 110 mph, withstand torrential rains and handle ice easily with its unique Ice Release System that allows ice and snow to slide off the gutter during the winter months.

Your local garden center or a professional landscape consultant can provide advice about plants that tolerate extreme amounts of moisture or the benefits of a French drain system to minimize the possibility of water damage to your home and garden. However, keeping rainwater from your roof and gutters away from your plants and shrubs is your first step towards better landscaping.

For more information about Gutter Topper, call 877-MY-TOPPER or visit [www.guttertopper.com](http://www.guttertopper.com).

# Utilize garage storage space more effectively

If you're like most people, your garage is mess. Garden tools are stacked in one corner, there's a pile of paint cans in another, the kids' bikes are parked in front of the cars, and your work bench — well it's under those boxes — you think.

A lot of people try to make their garages more user friendly by putting up peg board for the tools, hanging the bikes from hooks in the ceiling to get them out of the way, and building shelves along the walls to stack things on. "Those solutions are all well and good, but they don't utilize the available storage space to its full potential," says Kevin Shaha, president of Racor Incorporated, a Sandpoint, Idaho compa-

ny that specializes in garage storage solutions. Shaha's company is about to introduce a new garage storage device that he says will revolutionize the industry. The HeavyLift system will allow you to store virtually anything out of the way and off the floor by making use of the space on the ceiling.

The easy-to-install do-it-yourself kit, which will be available through retailers nationwide, the Sears' catalog and online at [www.racorinc.com](http://www.racorinc.com) in March 2005, includes heavy duty steel support beams which you will secure to the rafters, a 4-foot-by-4-foot platform, a winding axle, enough vinyl coated steel cable for a ceiling up to 12 feet high, a hand

crank and all the mounting hardware.

All you have to do is screw the support beams into the ceiling, attach the winding axle with the enclosed hardware, thread the steel cable through the support beam wheels and attach to the platform, then use the provided hand crank to raise and lower the platform. "You can safely store up to 250 pounds on it," says Shaha.

An added plus is the safety factor. The American Ladder Institute reports that each year, more than a half million people are injured and 165,000 visit emergency rooms after falling off ladders. With a HeavyLift system in your garage, you'll never have to climb a ladder

again. All you'll have to do to get down something heavy is hook up the hand crank and lower the load, then take whatever you need off the platform and crank it back up to the ceiling.

And once you get those bulkier items out of the way, you can make better use of the limited shelf space you have in the garage. So instead of using shelves to store boxes and other bulky items, you can put cleaners, auto accessories and other things you need immediate access to on them.

For more information about the HeavyLift system, or any of the other garage storage solutions offered by Racor, call toll-free at 1-800-783-7725 or log on to [www.racorinc.com](http://www.racorinc.com).

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# Easy tips on financing your remodeling project

Has being cooped up in a room or given you the itch to expand your home? If so, it's time to start home improvements and interest rates are attractive, but don't get carried away until you've done your homework.

A home improvement project can add value to your home. Before you decide on what part of your home to improve, consider a few facts in mind.

According to the National Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association, the cost of the project can be a major factor. Adding a new room to your resale value can be a costly project, and a room that adds a 60 to 80 percent return on investment, such as new windows or replacing the heating system, is a good but they necessarily won't increase profits.

Of course, your decision shouldn't be based solely on the payback. A home improvement project that is useful for you and your family, says the author, vice president of public relations at Experian, a global information services company. "In addition to resale value, you should take into account your quality of living."

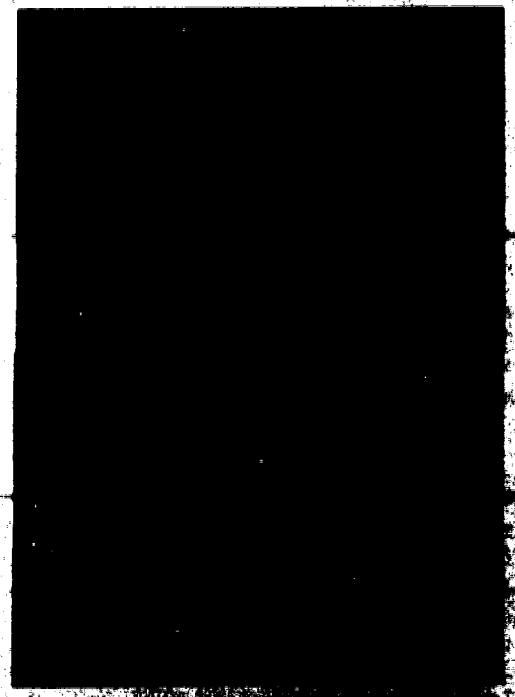
Once you decide on the scope of your project, get bids from contractors so you can compare prices and services. With these bids in hand, you'll have a better idea

of how much money you'll need. But be realistic — don't let that vision of your dream kitchen get in the way of common sense. Figure out how much debt you can take on and plan accordingly. If your budget doesn't allow for a complete kitchen remodel, perhaps you can replace your cabinets or countertops now and put off the new appliances until next year.

Home equity loans are a great tool for financing a home improvement project. Because the loan is secured by your home, it will likely have a lower annual percentage rate and, in many states, you may gain some tax breaks on interest. With a home equity loan, the amount you can borrow is limited by the equity you have accumulated in your home. You can calculate your equity by subtracting the unpaid balance of your mortgage from the fair market value of your home. Other factors may also influence the amount you can borrow, such as your credit history, income and current financial responsibilities.

To make sure your credit history won't keep you from qualifying for a home equity loan, visit a credit reporting company online such as [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com) to quickly and easily access your credit report. Make sure all the information on your credit report is accurate. "If you notice anything questionable, such as accounts you don't recognize or payment disputes, deal with those issues before applying for a home equity loan," says Sweet.

Sweet offers these tips about shopping for a home equity loan:



Find out your repayment options. Remember, your home is being used as collateral, so be certain you are able to make your payments on time or you risk losing your home.

Once your loan is arranged, make a final decision on a contractor for your project. Ask around among friends, neighbors and co-workers for recommendations. If you don't know anyone who has used your contractor, be sure to ask them for client references — and check them out.

A great tool for researching businesses that many people aren't aware of is SmartBusinessReports, also available through Experian at [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com). These business credit reports provide consumers with background information, comprehensive financial information and credit risk facts in an easy-to-read, online format. Other good resources to check before you sign a contract include the Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Bureau, the state attorney general or your local consumer protection agency. Your lender may be familiar with the reputation of your contractor and you can also check out other professionals in the area.

Make sure all credit fees, terms and charges are clearly spelled out in your contract, if applicable, including the "pay" or closing cost and the amount of the interest rate. Look into all available tax breaks that apply to your credit line, such as a maximum amount per window.

SmartBusinessReports provide consumers with background information, comprehensive financial information and credit risk facts in an easy-to-read, online format. Other good resources to check before you sign a contract include the Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Bureau, the state attorney general or your local consumer protection agency. Your lender may be familiar with the reputation of your contractor and you can also check out other professionals in the area.

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# Find paradise in your own backyard

Wouldn't it be great if the next time you needed to just relax and unwind, you could jump into your backyard hot tub and soak your troubles away? More and more people are doing just that these days.

According to a survey by the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, an international trade association of more than 5,300 manufacturers, distributors, retailers, service companies and builders in the pool and spa industry, there are six million hot tub owners in the United States alone. Industry experts suspect one of the many reasons hot tubs are so popular is they provide a perfect, private venue for relaxing and renewing the spirit.

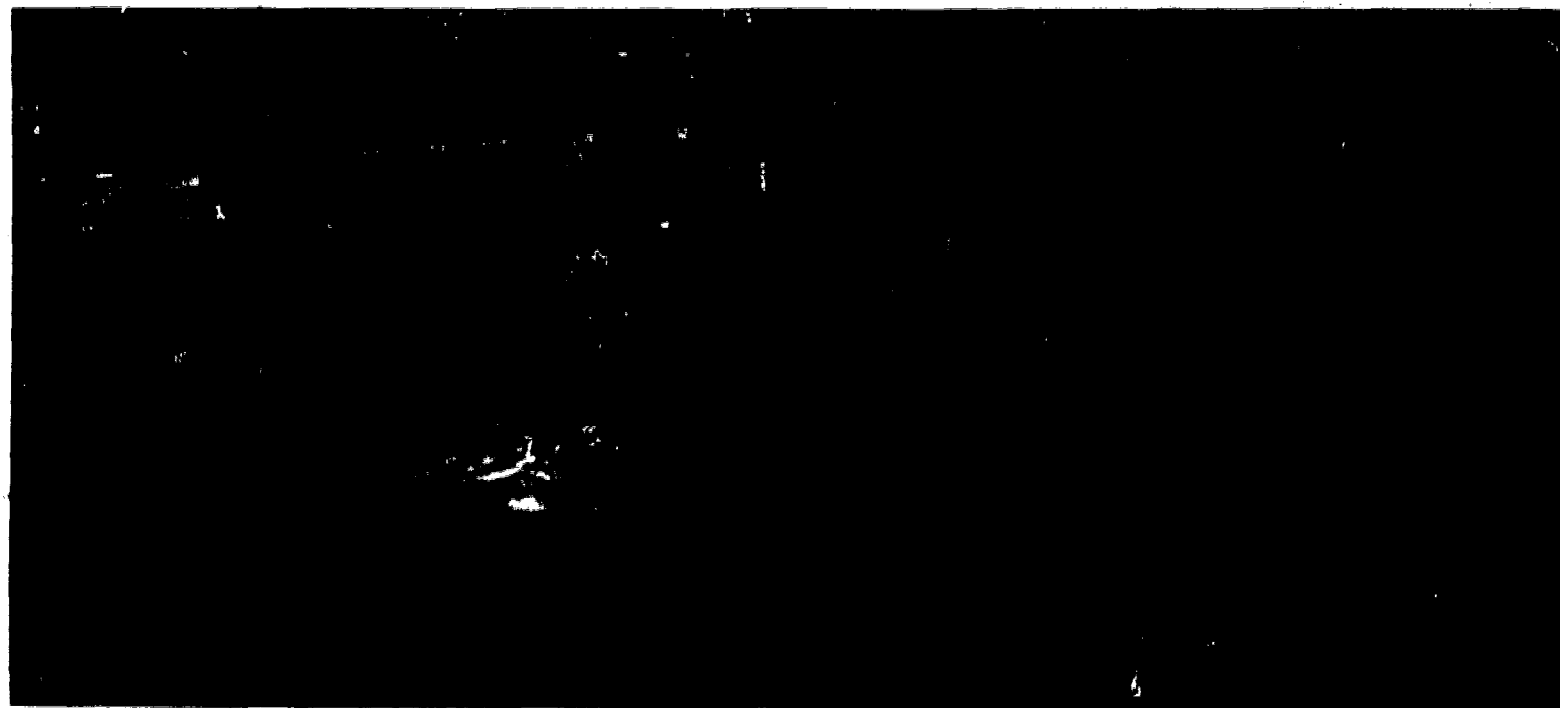
Hot tubs used to just pump out warm water through massaging jets to soothe and massage tired muscles. These days, they are more sophisticated than ever, integrating sensation, sight and sound to achieve a total sensory experience that is extraordinarily easy to enjoy.

"Today's hot tubs have built-in surround sound systems that belt out your favorite tunes; adjustable colors; new chemical systems; lights and waterfalls that allow the hot tub to become a focal point in the yard," says Bob Hallam, owner of Dimension One Spas Inc. He also points out that hot tub manufacturers and designers are constantly coming up with new and attractive ways to get the water moving.

Today's hot tubs have powerful — but not punishing — jets that target specific muscles from back to neck to calves and even wrists. There are directional and rotary nozzles which create a variety of sensations, allowing you to customize your soak. There are foot wells to ease aching feet and clusters of jets to relax lower backs; and these are housed in sleek, smooth, comfortable units with seating to accommodate various body types.

A company called Master Spas takes in-water therapy a step further with a patented Master Force Bio-Magnetic Therapy System. Powerful magnets strategically placed in the hot tub's molded seats apply magnetic therapy to pressure points on the neck and back. This technology grew from practical application. Master Spas' president Bob Lauter was having problems with a shoulder.

His massage therapist recommended magnetic therapy. "It worked for me," he says. When his daughter, who plays college soccer, hurt her knee, the surgeons placed her leg in a knee brace outfitted with magnets to promote healing. That was good enough for Lauter, who then set about incorporating the therapy into his company's hot tubs. "Most of the people buying spas today are aging baby boomers," he



Hot tubs are an increasingly popular way to relax and unwind and, according to a survey by the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, there are six million hot tub owners in the United States alone. Hot tubs are not just a soothing comfort; they offer a colorful accommodation that adds to the appearance and value of a home as well.

points out. "They want relaxation, but they also want the ability to have therapy, too."

**Saravand Seward**  
The very sound of water is calming. Some hot tubs are equipped with a "tranquility" mode for the hushed and gentle sound of moving water. Others have waterfalls built right in, and the relaxing sound of water isn't all you get to enjoy.

The serious audiophile can find hot tubs that come with amplifiers embedded inside the tub's casing. The SpAudio System offered by Hot Springs Portable Spas lets you feel the music. This accessory sends sound waves through the spa shell, essentially transforming the spa surface into a giant high-fidelity stereo speaker. There's sound enough to overpower even the strongest jets without disturbing the neighbors.

The amplifier's components are coated to protect them from damage by water, heat and the elements. A close-at-hand dial on the edge of the tub controls volume and equalizer settings. Playing music is easy. Just place the CD/MP3 player into a weather-resistant carrier, take it to your hot tub and plug it into the receptacle on the spa cabinet.

**Illuminating Ideas**  
In addition to the music and pulsing water, today's hot tubs add illuminated light to the sen-

sory experience. There are illuminated water arcs as well as gently flowing backlit falls. These water features look magical at night, and they create a nice white noise, Hallam says.

There are also **ambient lights** such as automatic daylight-sensing (photo-cell-controlled) step lights that come on when needed. Other spas have lights that can be positioned on the steps or around the top edges of the spa, depending on what you want to illuminate. Still

other hot tubs can change colors. Color-changing bulbs or colorwheels paired with fiber-optic lighting make it possible and easy to do.

The very idea of a hot tub can be **visually attractive**; these trends toward a spa-focused living space just offer more to love.

For more information on what's hot with hot tubs, visit [www.hotubliving.com](http://www.hotubliving.com), [www.poolandspaliving.com](http://www.poolandspaliving.com), [www.thespap.org](http://www.thespap.org) or contact APSP at 1-800-323-3996.

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