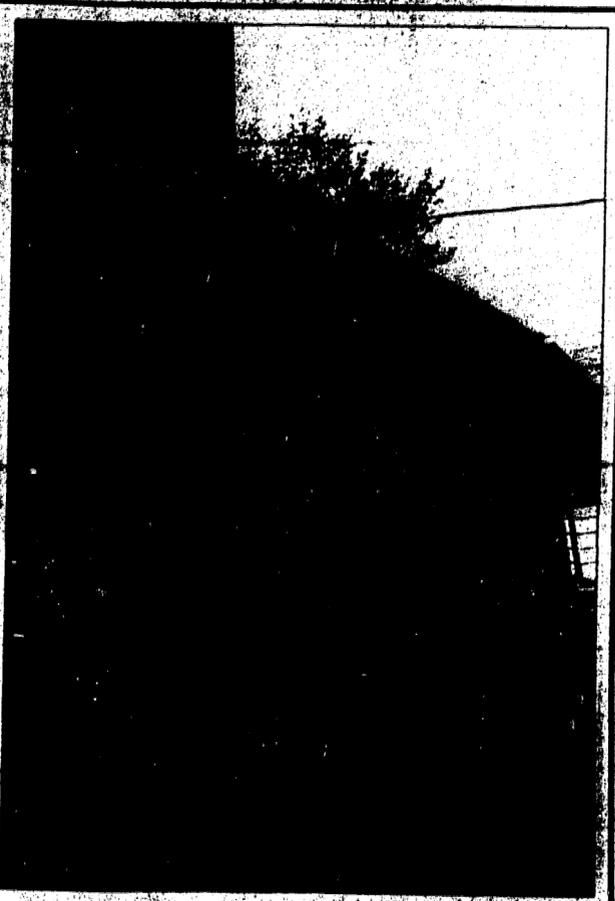


Echo LEADER

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Bud tensions increase

**By Brian Pedersen
Managing Editor**

By the time Springfield residents read these words, a verdict on how much or how little the Township Committee will cut from the defeated \$31 million school budget will already be known, having been announced at a special meeting past our press time at Town Hall last night.

But before the Township Committee went into closed-session during its public meeting on Tuesday, many residents came forth to voice their concerns, some pleading for leniency in making any budget cuts, others asking the Township Committee to show much less restraint.

"I am one of the overwhelmingly large majority of voters who voted down the school budget," said Shelley Seangler. Her main argument for doing so was the initial \$345,000 technology cost of the one-to-one laptop program proposed by Michael Davino, superintendent of schools. The program would provide a laptop computer to every middle school student in the district. His plan is to eventually continue the program so every student at the high school will also have a personal laptop.

She presented packets of scientific research which she claimed backed up her belief that the one-to-one laptop program does not provide any sound educational benefits to students.

She also stated that the Township Committee should cut the laptop program from the school budget.

"You will be making a mockery of the voters if you fall to this," she said.

Theresa DeLuca also disagreed with the laptop proposal, calling it "fiscally irresponsible." She said most children in the community already have access to computers at home, in school and in the library.

"A nickel and dime cut won't cut it this year," agreed Harry Pappas, referring to a previous year when the committee cut out \$30,000 from another defeated school budget.

"Be guided accordingly; the people in this town have spoken," he said.

Other residents stood behind not only the laptop proposal, but their support of the school budget.

"Two years ago, we stood before you when the budget got voted down," said Laura Della.

She said there was a heavily negative response to this year's budget, adding that any cuts made to this budget will compromise the learning tools and materials children need.

"I ask you to consider this for our children and for our future," said Della.

David Steiner emphasized the importance of having a school system that would attract new residents, adding that it's "short-sighted" to think cutting money out of a school budget will solve problems.

"This town is at issue, not just the schools," said Steiner. "People come to a town primarily for education. That brings value to a town."

Steve Wolcott, president of the Springfield Education Foundation, said the role of the Township Committee is to consider everyone when making their decision.

"I have never seen a town so consistently divided," said Wolcott. "The worst thing that can happen to a town is to have a school budget that divides. The school board presents a fiscally responsible budget."

Other residents pointed to the rise not only in school taxes but municipal taxes, voicing concerns over the rising costs of providing a safe and healthy environment for a new township administrator, in addition to the plan to build a new police department building project.

TIME TO PLAY — The warm weather on Monday spelled a picture-perfect day for playing outside. Above, Chloe Pennington, 9, and her sister, Hannah, 6, ride their scooters down the driveway of their home in Mountainside. At right, Lauren Bruno, a fourth-grader at Springfield School, shoots some hoops, enjoying the early dismissal from school. This photo was taken on her 10th birthday.

Corporate sponsorship raises issues for districts

**By Keith Shaw
Correspondent**

With most states having realized and pending state budget cuts, the issue of raising alternative sources of revenue to fund schools is becoming more and more prominent.

As far as corporate sponsorship is concerned, Michael Wolcott, superintendent of schools for the Springfield district, said it's an avenue the board has discussed and will continue to discuss in the future. It's very premature at this point, he said, adding that "there's a lot of questions that need to be asked."

"We've talked about it," said board member Irvin Sablosky. "The problem is, it poses a lot of questions."

Sablosky noted, for example, the opinion of many is that vending

machines filled with unhealthy soft drinks or snacks may not be wanted all over school grounds.

The other issue comes in regard to accepting donations, as there are certain rules that the Board of Education must follow. The Board of Education Foundation, which is the organization in place of the Board of Education, as it sorts out some of the legal issues pertaining to the acceptance of funds.

"It's a difficult issue for public schools to accept donations from private donors," said Wolcott. "Corporate sponsorship with the Board of Education can be a gray area."

Wolcott was contacted in September by Commerce Bank, who is offering a contribution to the Springfield Education Foundation.

Based on the average balance in the affinity banking program accounts of the bank's members, along with other factors, Commerce agreed to donate to the fund-raising program.

Over in the Mountainside school district, corporate sponsorship is something the Board of Education has been reluctant to do, according to Walter Rusak, interim chief school administrator.

As an example, in the Irvington school district where he previously worked, Channel One supplied a dish to the middle school building and a TV and VCR for every classroom. The

company showed a five- to 10-minute newscast everyday in homeroom, in turn, allowing for the company to air advertisements in between educational programming.

While this had to be approved by the school board, Rusak said he did not believe the Mountainside district would pursue something like this.

"It depends on the district and what the project is and what they want to do," said Rusak. "If they want to come into the district and do advertising, the bottom line is, what is it going to cost you?"

He added that the Parent-Teacher Association often raises money for the district through various fund-raisers.

Laurie Kaplan, president of the Mountainside Education Foundation,

said the district has not done much with corporate sponsorship in the past and most likely won't in the future either.

The only time corporations do any advertising for the district is when they donate to or sponsor for certain events and productions, Kaplan explained.

She also said many teachers are often on the lookout for grants that will help fund various items for the district, but not necessarily through the MER.

Raising money through other means would be a great idea, she said, as oftentimes items that get cut from school budgets can be reinstated if funding can be raised from other sources.

Author prepares to pen borough's next chapter

**By Keith Shaw
Correspondent**

The updated version of the history of Mountainside, which will cover from 1946 to the present, will be written by Connie McNamara, a retired English teacher and Mountainside resident.

McNamara, who was born in Elizabeth and grew up in Roselle, moved to Mountainside shortly after her marriage in 1974 and has been living there ever since. She taught English at Cranford High School for 30 years and after her retirement worked three years as an assistant editor for New Jersey Heavy Living magazine and has been freelance writing for a number of publications.

The new history of Mountainside that McNamara will be writing will cover all important historical events that have taken place from 1945 until the present. The current version of the history of Mountainside only contains the events from 1895, when Mountainside was founded, ending with the year 1945.

The writing of the new history of Mountainside is being funded by the Brick Project, put on by the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee. The Brick Project creates an opportunity for people in the Mountainside community to dedicate bricks along the walkway at the historical Hetfield



Author Connie McNamara of Mountainside prepares to sign her contract to write a book that will update the history of Mountainside from 1946 to the present. Joining her during a special program at the historic Hetfield House on Sunday are Mauragen Giannone, secretary to the Mountainside Historic Preservation Committee, and its treasurer, Carol Clark.

House to their loved ones or anyone else they feel have been important in their lives. For approximately \$100, people can buy their own brick and write any name they choose on it. The project is a never ending one and the committee hopes to some day fill the whole walk with dedicated bricks.

Don Jeka, a member of the Historic Preservation Committee, said that "there is no reason to stop" when it comes to this fund-raiser. When asked about the committee's goal to finally write the second history of Mountainside, Jeka said "it was just about time" to start documenting all of the important events that have occurred through the past 60 years. He hopes the book will be a good reflection of what has happened here.

Writing the new history of Mountainside will be no small task, as there is approximately 60 years of information that will need to be pieced together into a single book. What motivates her thoughts on the large project? On hand, McNamara said it "should be challenging and exciting."

She said it will take "about a year and maybe a little longer" to produce the final edition.

In preparing to start her first book, McNamara is working on the initial outline that will give her a defining structure and timeline to help her with her research and writing. She is working

diligently with the members of the Historical Preservation Committee, going through numerous records and documents in order to gather all of the information she needs to write a complete, detailed history.

McNamara will be working a "few hours a day, a few days a week" for the next year in order to finish the book on time. She also said she will be spending a lot of time at the Noble Bookellers and the local library in order to completely focus on her writing. She said she is looking forward to writing the new history of Mountainside, and wants to "find the link between the first and second parts of the history."

School district violence, vandalism report shows low figures

**By Keith Shaw
Correspondent**

The 2004 Report on Violence, Vandalism and Substance Abuse in New Jersey Schools taken by the state Department of Education was released recently and both Springfield and Mountainside school districts' results were impressive.

The Springfield district, which is the 16th largest district of the 24 in the county, had a total of 11 instances reported in the 2003-2004

school year, with eight involving violence, two involving vandalism and one involving weapons. Springfield's results were especially admirable when compared to the 13th largest school district, the borough of Roselle Park. The Roselle Park school district, which only has 10 more students enrolled in its schools, had a surprising 46 instances, compared to Springfield's 11.

Most of Roselle Park's 46 instances involved vandalism, 29, and violence, 17, along with a few weapons and substance cases.

Springfield's success can be credited to their Board of Education staff, which has implemented non-environmental prevention sessions over the past couple of years.

"We're always aware of what's going on. Our primary concern is safety," said Irvin Sablosky, a member of the Board of Education.

Along with their sessions, Sablosky said the Board of Education has also helped reduce violence in the schools by installing peer

mediation programs and passing new safety resolutions every year.

Mountainside, the 19th largest district in the county, also had impressive results in the 2004 survey. Having a total of five instances reported throughout the year gave them the sixth lowest total in the county. Although a considerably smaller district, Mountainside still provided some of the best numbers when compared to districts of similar size. Union County Vocational School, which enrolls 770

students compared to Mountainside's 1,123 last year, had 11 instances of violence reported.

Walter Rusak, the interim superintendent of the school district, credited the school district as one of the best in the county. "We are very proud of the low numbers we reported," he said. "Our safety program is excellent, we have a lot of support."

Other residents pointed to the rise not only in school taxes but municipal taxes, voicing concerns over the rising costs of providing a safe and healthy environment for a new township administrator, in addition to the plan to build a new police department building project.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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

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

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

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

Story reprints: For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper you must call Tom Canavan at 908-686-7700.

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

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

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

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

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

Facsimile transmission: The Echo Leader is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by fax.

Website: Visit our Web Site on the internet at http://www.theecholeader.com

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Today

• Robert Butts, conductor and lecturer, presents "From Shakespeare to Sunset Boulevard: The Story of the Broadway Musical" at Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza at 7:30 p.m.

To register, call 908-233-0115.

Friday

• The Springfield Msgr. Francis X. Coyle Council Columbiettes will host an "Old-Fashioned Card Party" and tricky tray event at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Old Shumpike Road in Springfield at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$10 per person and cards, chips and snacks must be brought by participants.

Card tables will seat either four to six or 10 people. The admission price includes cake, coffee and one sheet of tricky tray tickets.

For reservations or information, call Pam Cirelli at 973-379-4569 or Fran Corcione at 973-376-6386.

• The public is invited to join the Mountainside Education Foundation and Steve Rosloek of SteveSongs for a special musical performance on at the Deerfield School gym on Central Avenue in Mountainside at 7 p.m.

Rosloek is a multi-award-winning children's songwriter and performer for children ages 3 to 10. Children and parents alike will be singing and dancing along to favorites like "On a Flying Guitar," "Gravity," "Yee Haw" and "The Pirate Song" to name a few.

The fund-raiser will benefit the MEF. Tickets for the event will be \$5 in advance with a \$20 family maximum and \$7 at the door, with a \$25 family maximum. To purchase tickets in advance, send a check, payable to the Mountainside Education Foundation, to PO Box 1203, Mountainside, NJ 07092.

Saturday

• Adults ages 18 and older are invited to discover the ancient art of basket making with Elisa Kessler Caporale at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside from 1 to 4 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. The fee is \$35 per person for Union County residents and \$45 per person for non-county residents.

Monday

• The Springfield Township Committee will meet in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday

• Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will begin its Luncheon Video Series, "Song & Dance," at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch to the program. Coffee and cookies will be provided.

For more information, call 973-376-4930.

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

Wednesday

• Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will show the film based on the book "The Human Stain" at noon in a Read the Book/Watch the Movie presentation. Bring a brown bag lunch to the program. Coffee and cookies will be provided.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Upcoming May 26

• The Springfield Chapter of Hadassah will host its 50th Installation of Officers at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. at 12:30 p.m.

The installing officer is Lila Barsky, a vice president on the Northern NJ Region of Hadassah Executive Board. There is a \$12 charge for the luncheon. For reservations, which are a must, call Janice Reischer at 908-686-2228 before May 20.

June 1

• With "Frogs by Flashlight," children ages 6 and older, accompanied by an adult, are invited to view a brief slide presentation about these elusive amphibians who breathe through their skin and sing at night at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Search for frogs and toads using head lamps and nets in nearby wetland areas. Participants are encouraged to wear shoes that get wet and bring a flashlight. This program is conducted, rain or shine.

June 2

• The Good Books Discussion Group of Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will meet at 7 p.m. to discuss "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult.

Employee robbed at gunpoint

Springfield On May 11, an employee at the 7-11 on Route 22 west in Springfield was robbed at gunpoint. The suspect stole \$2,000 in cash from the register.

POLICE BLOTTER

• Money and personal property were reported stolen from a secure locker at Bally's Total Fitness on Route 22 east in Springfield on May 12.

• On May 6 at 9:48 p.m. at 272 Route 22 west in Springfield, a woman reported money had been stolen from her wallet. She had left the wallet in the restaurant and, when she returned, \$110 had been missing from it.

• A total of \$1,800 was reported stolen from a safe located in Checkers on Route 22 in Springfield on Saturday at 8:38 a.m.

Mountainside

Ronald Brison, 42, of Plainfield, was arrested for possession of marijuana on Monday at 9:29 p.m. after police stopped the vehicle for having a driver's side brake light out.

The vehicle was stopped on Route 22 west.

• Armin Spann, 27, of Irvington, was arrested for driving with a suspended license at Route 22 east in Mountainside on Monday at 1:43 p.m.

Spann was stopped by borough police for a motor vehicle violation. He was also charged with having an unregistered vehicle, failure to make repairs, being an uninsured motorist and for having a warrant out of Warren Township.

• Johnathan Morgan, 18, of Plainfield, was arrested on Route 22 west in Mountainside on Sunday at 9:29 p.m. for receiving stolen property.

He was discovered to be a passenger in a motor vehicle that was reported stolen out of Manville on May 7.

While traveling on Route 22 west, a borough police officer noticed a green Ford Escort wagon with a bent rear driver's side axle. A check of the vehicle registration revealed it to be a stolen vehicle. As officers approached New Providence Road, headquarters was notified and, shortly after, they were able to confirm the status of the Ford.

Surrounding towns were notified while other officers proceeded to follow the car. Shortly after entering

Scotch Plains, with several patrol units from Mountainside, Union County Police and Scotch Plains following one of the borough police officers, all patrol vehicles activated their emergency lights and pulled over the vehicle.

The two occupants were removed and arrested without incident. The operator of the vehicle was identified as a 16-year-old juvenile.

• On May 11 at 4:18 p.m., police responded to Woodland Avenue as backup for a police officer who was taking an accident report on a vehicle that struck a house while backing down the driveway.

On the scene, it was learned that the driver of the vehicle, Anthony Alva, 22, of Jackson, had a suspended license with a warrant out of Monmouth County for failure to appear in the amount of \$500.

It was also learned from Alva that he was at this Woodland Avenue residence as a result of a drive-by look at the victim's driveway, in which he approached the woman and gave her a price of \$2,000 to seal her driveway and patch a couple of small areas.

The victim agreed to have the work done and Alva proceeded to buy the materials for the job.

However, the accident stopped the work from ever getting started. Based on the officer's discussion with Alva and the homeowner fibers that were in his vehicle, Alva was charged with soliciting without a permit and issued a complaint based on a borough ordinance.

After assessing the work to be performed at the Woodland Avenue residence, Alva had struck the house with his vehicle, causing roughly \$6,000 in property damage to the house.

The driver presented police with a valid Florida driver's license, but after police headquarters checked the drive through the state of New Jersey, it was discovered that Alva was suspended from driving in New Jersey for contempt of court out of South Brunswick Township Court in the amount of \$500 in full cash.

He was then arrested by borough police at the Woodland Avenue residence for driving with a suspended license.

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Four local lawyers earn state designation

The Springfield-based law firm Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks & Zarin has announced that four members of the firm have been selected as 2005 New Jersey Super Lawyers.

Attorney Kenneth S. Javerbaum was designated as one of the top 10 Super Lawyers in New Jersey, the only Union County lawyer to be so recognized.

Jack Wurgaft was also included within the top 100 Super Lawyers and Robert Hicks and Dennis Baptista were also designated as Super Lawyers.

The highlighting and selection process for 2005 New Jersey Super Lawyers was conducted by the research department of Law & Politics, which used peer review and independent research to develop their list.

The results are published in the May 2005 issue of New Jersey Monthly.

With approximately 70,000 lawyers in New Jersey, it is extremely humbling to be personally designated as one of the top 10 attorneys in the state and for my three colleagues to have earned the distinction of Super Lawyers. It is particularly gratifying to be the only Union County representative in the top 10," said Javerbaum, senior partner of Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks & Zarin.

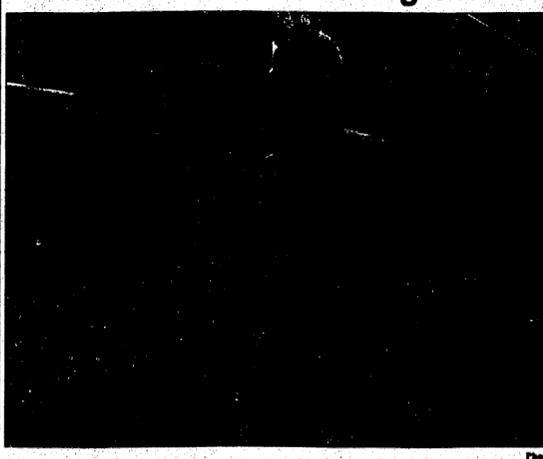
Hicks is a certified civil trial attorney. He handles cases involving airline/airport negligence, auto negligence, construction site negligence, legal malpractice, medical malpractice, product liability, professional malpractice, police negligence and premises liability claims.

Hicks earned his bachelor of arts from Montclair State University in 1978 and his juris doctorate cum laude from New York Law School in 1982. He has authored a book on legal forms and is a master of the Richard J. Hughes Inn of Court. He is also a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

Baptista is a certified workers' compensation attorney. As such, he is one of less than 35 lawyers in New Jersey representing injured workers who is so certified. His practice focuses exclusively on workers' compensation litigation.

He has successfully litigated numerous "complicated workers' compensation cases and has been instrumental in shaping the law in this area. Baptista received both his bachelor of arts and his juris doctorate from Rutgers University.

An award for outstanding service



Capt. Thomas Young of Mountainside is a 200 Club Medal of Valor Award-winner for his service as captain of the Elizabeth Fire Department. For complete coverage of other local award-winners, see the story on Page B1.

Accident brings firefighters

Springfield On May 10 at 7:10 p.m., firefighters responded to Morris and Maple avenues for a motor vehicle accident.

FIRE BLOTTER

On May 13 at 7:47 p.m., firefighters responded a pumper to Union Fire Headquarters on a request from County Mutual Aid.

On May 13 at 8:27 p.m., firefighters responded to a Route 22 west business for a medical service call.

On May 12 at 5:44 p.m., firefighters responded to a Mountain Avenue apartment complex for a mulch fire.

On May 11 at 8:05 a.m., firefighters responded to a New Brook Lane residence for a house fire.

On May 11 at 2:14 p.m., firefighters responded to a Route 22 for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

Firefighters responded to Route 78 west mile post 50 for a motor vehicle accident with injuries on May 11.

EDUCATION

Preschoolers sought for special ad services

Disabled preschoolers ages 3 to 5 who are in need of special education and related services are being sought by the Springfield school district.

Preschool children with disabilities demonstrate delays in cognition, speech, language, vision, hearing, motor or social/emotional development. Springfield offers a program for preschool disabled youngsters called SPROUT, Springfield School Readiness Opportunities for Unique Tot.

Anyone who knows a preschooler who may be eligible for this program, may call the Springfield school district, Department of Special Services at 973-376-0948 to request an evaluation of the youngster.

Film festival explores perceptions of Jews

Temple Beth Ahim, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, will continue its film festival Sunday at 7 p.m.

Beginning this past September, Jews across America began a yearlong celebration of the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in North America.

As part of this celebration, the film festival will look at two films that depict perceptions of Jews in America through the eyes of Jewish people and those of their neighbors.

They include the 1947 Elia Kazan film, "Gentleman's Agreement," starring Gregory Peck, and the 1992 Robert Mandel film, "School Ties," starring Brandon Fraser. For information on this program, call the temple office at 973-376-0539.

Chapter blood drive will take place on June 1 from 3 to 8 p.m.

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 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 Tuesday 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 today from 6 to 10 p.m. and June 3 from 9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

First Aid Basics teaches participants how to check a conscious and unconscious victim, how to recognize and care for life-threatening bleeding.

The course will be Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. Class enrollment is limited.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Latchkey program would be a big help

We live in a society of ever-increasing costs and, often, the way for a couple to afford their lifestyle is if both work. This becomes a balancing act when children are involved. Who will make sure they're ready for school or that they get there on time? Who will pick them up after school? Who will watch them after school and see to it that they don't get into any trouble? Too often, when both parents work, the answers to these questions aren't very forthcoming.

But now there's the latchkey program proposal by the Springfield Board of Education, which would allow the township's students, from prekindergarten to all elementary school ages to be dropped off at school as early as 7 a.m. and stay as late as 6 p.m. In the past, there have been other programs available, including after-school care provided by The Learning Center of the Summit YMCA. The latchkey program would work in a similar fashion, providing "home-work helpers," student remediation, arts and other co-curricular types of programs for the students administered by Springfield teachers and student aides.

Of course, there would be an expense involved. The cost for parents to send their children to school early, which would include breakfast, would be \$5.55 each day, based on a 180-day school year. The cost for an after-school program, which lasts until 6 p.m. and includes food as well, would be \$15 each day. For a parent to send a child to school early and pick him or her up late, costs would be approximately \$3,700. According to Springfield Superintendent Michael Davino, this is comparable to what other districts charge for similar programs.

No one wants to spend time away from their child, but sometimes there simply is no other way. Finding a sitter who is responsible, will take your child to school and/or pick them up, feed them, watch them properly and be affordable is no easy matter. We urge the district to support the enactment of the latchkey program and take steps to initiate it as soon as possible, so it can be available for every resident of Springfield to take advantage of next school year.

Not in the spirit of trust fund

Five years ago, Union County voters adopted an Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The additional 1.5-cent property tax, to be intact for 20 years, would be dedicated to open space, recreation and historic preservation. At the time, it was expected to fund the vast number of improvements, as outlined in the county's Open Space Master Plan, totaling \$56 million at the time of its draft. Since the trust fund was created, the county has been able to acquire 127 acres of open space, including 63 acres in Summit, and the 13-acre Esposito Farm in Clark, which likely will break ground this year for Esposito Park.

The trust fund can be used to pay debt incurred as a result of acquisition, which has been the case in several instances. But the ballot question also allowed the trust fund dollars to be spent on "maintenance of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes." There appears to be the rub.

Now Union County officials want to create six new laborer positions in the Department of Parks and Recreation and fund them through the trust fund. The new positions would be effective July 1 and are "necessary" to maintain the park system now that it has expanded by more than 100 acres in the last five years. The six laborer positions, however, will not be assigned strictly to maintain the new parkland that's been acquired in Berkeley Heights, Clark, Plainfield, Summit and Union. The county budget will be voted on after a public hearing during the board's May 26 meeting.

The trust fund, which generates more than \$7 million from taxes each year, should not be used to cover operating expenses or new personnel. This is a tax that will continue to raise money each year until 2020. And each year, as property values rise, more money will be raised while less open space is available to be purchased.

The trust fund must not prop up the Department of Parks and Recreation's budget. It was intended to acquire land that is in danger of development or that has recently become available for preservation. Union County has been able to move quickly to do that. But the county also seems to be looking for more creative ways to spend the money that's generated by the trust fund.

"The more a government chooses to provide information to its citizens on a 'need to know' basis, the more citizens probably need to know what their government is up to."

— Editorial
Detroit Free Press
2002



Photo by Barbara Kokkalis

TAKING A TOUR
Margaret Bandrowski, president of the Springfield Historical Society, leads residents on a walking tour of historic Springfield during the annual street fair on Saturday. The tour started at the Morris Avenue/Church Hill intersection near the Revolutionary War-era cemetery and ended at the Cannonball House.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Budget reductions can yield savings

By the time this letter appears in the *Echo Leader*, the reductions, if any, will have been made in the defeated Springfield school budget and the documents have been sent to Trenton.

However, there is still time to suggest reductions in the Springfield municipal budget which is scheduled for its final approval on May 24 at the regular meeting of the Springfield Township Committee. Once the five members of the Springfield Township Committee cast their votes at this meeting, there is virtually no chance of any savings for another year.

There are some miscellaneous items, large and small, which could be taken out completely without any great hardship for which taxpayers are charged. Remember that small savings here and there add up to a large amount. Here are two examples:

The jitney bus issue is again on the table. Taxpayers are being charged so that about 50 persons, including some non-residents, can park their cars all day in special places and ride back and forth on a small bus going to trains at the Short Hills Station several times a day.

This procedure involving the maintenance of the bus, the pay for the driver, gasoline and oil, bookkeeping and paper work.

About four years ago, the bus was a pail from the New Jersey Department of Transportation as a futile effort to keep persons from using their cars in order to lessen pollution. How much pollution is decreased when the passengers have to drive back and forth to the bus's pick-up place? There are four well-established bus lines with access to Newark and New York City and elsewhere going through Springfield that traverse Mountain Avenue, Morris Avenue and two lines with stops on Route 22. These riders pay only \$400 per year, which covers their round-trip bus rides plus an all-day parking spot. A simple solution would be to charge these passengers more money in line with \$705 in Westfield and \$625 in Summit per year for a first-class, first-served parking place only and not have the taxpayers subsidize their duplicated riding desires.

Another saving could be made by eliminating the job of a "business manager." The last one left as of Jan. 1, 2005 while earning a salary of approximately \$100,000 per year with access to a municipal car for round-trip rides to his home about 25 miles from Springfield. He was also given a secretary called an administrative assistant. Since that time, the job has been absorbed by some current township employees. For more than 200 years, Springfield never had such a position until recently. The job description does not warrant such a high salary and, perhaps, part-time help could be considered. For union negotiations, an expert could be hired for a short time.

With a little more scrutiny, there are other larger savings to be made in the municipal budget. A free budget document is available from the office of the township clerk in the municipal building. Interested voters should attend the May 24 meeting in the Town Hall at 8 p.m.

Hazel Hardgrove
Springfield

Thanks to all for wishing me well

To the Editor:
I want to thank the Springfield Recreation Department Staff, Mike, P.J. Bobby, Patty, Jason and Ruth for organizing my retirement brunch that was conducted at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center on April 28.

I also want to thank everyone that stopped by to wish me well.

Theresa Herkalo
Springfield

Latchkey program will be inadequate

To the Editor:
Regarding the May 12 article on the proposed latchkey program in Springfield, the readers should be made aware of some additional information not mentioned. In short, the proposed latchkey program will not provide adequate coverage for most working parents and, despite its deficiencies, will likely be quite costly.

1) The proposed program does not provide prekindergarten wrap around coverage, nor coverage for school vacation days. This is unacceptable, since most working parents depend on such coverage. This is not merely a matter of convenience, but is rather a matter of critical need.

2) Working parents in the district were never consulted on what they need from a childcare care program. If they had been, prekindergarten wrap around and vacation day coverage kindergarten wrap around would have been included from the beginning. Further, The Learning Circle and, more importantly, families who depend on TLC's services were never told that TLC's contract with the school district will not be renewed for the upcoming school year.

The district did mail parents a letter describing the proposed latchkey program together with a survey intended to gauge parents' interest, but the mailing represented the program as an alternative to existing programs, not as a replacement for existing programs.

3) TLC provides before- and after-school care, a vacation day program and a prekindergarten wrap around program at the public schools — at no cost to Springfield taxpayers. In fact, TLC pays the district to use school facilities. They administer their programs with well-trained staff and more than 50 years of child care experience. Virtually all parents who have used TLC's services, including several with professional backgrounds in education and child development, have been quite pleased with the results.

The proposed latchkey program, however, will be quite costly and it is not clear that the proposed fees will cover the costs. It also has not been explained how any deficits of the program would be funded.

In conclusion, the proposed latchkey program provides woefully inadequate coverage, has been poorly communicated, will likely be too expensive and, given that programs such as TLC currently provide adequate coverage, attempts to fix something that is not broken. As the school year draws to a close, I am sure I am not alone in looking for alternative care for my children for next year and doing so has been a huge drain on my time and energy.

As a taxpaying citizen of Springfield, I am sorely disappointed.

Suzan Bianco
Springfield

Remember those who sacrificed

To the Editor:
America will soon observe Memorial Day and our citizens will engage in various activities that have become associated with this holiday over the years. Some view the Memorial Day weekend as the beginning of the Jersey shore season. Others take advantage of the sales that abound while others will kick off the summer with back yard picnics with family and friends.

Whatever we choose to do on Memorial Day, we must be mindful of the fact that we have the liberty to participate in such activities because we live in the greatest democracy yet created.

During the course of history, our freedom has been threatened by the evil forces of tyranny. But Americans have always held the rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" to be so precious that they are willing to die to protect them.

The true meaning of Memorial Day is to remember the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice. They died so that we may continue to enjoy the many liberties afforded us by our Constitution and I urge all citizens to remember them on this Memorial Day.

For God and Country.

James Valard
State Committee

Pointy heads are not so sharp

To the Editor:
While I am a person of few words, I cannot help but to comment on the recent closing and demolition of the Lenape Park Trap and Street Range in Cranford on May 1, the parking lot of Lenape Park was filled with cars of park patrons and their children wanting to visit old friends and say goodbye to a place they have held dear for so long. They felt a need to visit once more a place they had known and enjoyed with fathers and grandfathers for the past 77 years.

It seemed as if something grand should have happened to mark the passing, something more than the warming up of bulldozers for the following day's demolition.

Now that all is said and done, there are perhaps a few lessons of value we all can take away with us. When the public speaks to our elected officials, we still for some reason like to think they listen. If that means, after the people have had their say, the politicians take a five-minute recess before announcing their plans, then so be it.

At least let the people have the illusion that what we have to say matters just a little to someone. Sadly, this was not the case at the April 28 developer meeting in Elizabeth. If there is any wonder why the people were upset and may have grumbled as they exited the meeting, the answer lays in the cavalier fashion in which they were treated.

In a column published on Page B1 of the May 5 edition, *Cranford resident* Frank Capone, an attorney who does legal work for the county, speaks to the good quality of the public speakers at the April 28 meeting. There was, however, an exception made for what he called "a few inept people" who mentioned personal illness. When a private citizen takes the time to come out and speak to a group of politicians, they must have a personal passion about the issue.

Whatever they have to say, we should listen to with respect and they mention personal or family illness in the process, we need not criticize them and call them "inept" for being human. Rather, we can take what is relevant to the issue from what they had to say and politely disregard the rest. Some have wondered if it was a good taste for an attorney affiliated with the county to write a column as a loss of credibility. Still others might even wonder who actually took pen to paper. As for myself, I don't have those doubts. I think it's OK to support your friends. It's only human.

There are many thoughts as to why the Lenape Park Trap and Street Range others say it's the freeholders' fault.

Ronald Reagan once said: "Government is not the answer, it's the problem." Certainly President Reagan is as right today as he was then. The people of Union County decided to support in a large vote to support this park, but no one in government decide what was best for the people in the guise of an "administrative decision," young man, you spoke of government being the problem. I didn't really get it back then but I think I do now.

Robert Williams
Middlesex

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EVENTS

Columbettes plan card party in Springfield

The Springfield Magr. Francis X. Coyle Council Columbettes will host an "Old-Fashioned Card Party" and tricky try Friday at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Old Shunpike Road in Springfield.

The cost is \$10 per person and cards, chips and snacks must be brought by participants. Card tables will seat either four to six or 10 people. Admission includes cake, coffee and one sheet of tricky try tickets.

Seating is limited and no cash gambling is permitted. The event begins at 7 p.m.

For reservations or information, call Pam Circelli at 973-379-4369 or Fran Corcione at 973-376-6386.

Board of Health to meet

There will be a joint Boards of Health meeting, encompassing the municipalities of Fanwood, Garwood, Mountaintop, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield and Westfield, Monday at 7 p.m., for the purpose of review and completion of the Local Public Health Governance Performance Assessment instrument for Local Boards of Health.

The meeting will be conducted in the community room on the first floor of the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Deerfield musical concert benefits MEF

The public is invited to join the Mountaintop Education Foundation and Steve Rosonek of SteveSongs for a special musical performance Friday at the Deerfield School gym on Central Avenue in Mountaintop at 7 p.m.

Rosonek is a multi-award winning children's songwriter and performer for children ages 3 to 10. Children and parents alike will be singing and dancing along to favorites like "On a Fly," "Guitar," "Cravity," "The Hat" and "The Pirate Song" to name a few.

The fund-raiser will benefit the MEF. Tickets for the event will be \$5 advance with a \$20 family maximum and \$7 at the door with a \$25 family maximum. To purchase tickets, call 973-379-3670 or visit the MEF website at www.mef.org.

The MEF is a facility of the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities. Call 908-789-3670 for information.

Outdoor adventures

Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountaintop, will conduct a variety of spring programs for children and adults.

For information or to register for any of the following, call 908-789-3670.

"Ducks," "Salmonander Search" at Trailside on May 28 from 2 to 3 p.m., visitors of all ages are invited to hike to an area along the Orange and Blue Trails to search for elusive amphibians under rocks and logs.

"Learn how to catch, identify and release northern two-lined, redback and slimy salamanders. There is no pre-registration for this program and the fee is a suggested donation of \$1 per person."

"With 'Eggs by Flashlight' on June 1, children ages 6 and older, accompanied by an adult are invited to view a brief slide presentation about these elusive amphibians who breathe through their skin and sing at night from 7 to 8:30 p.m."

Search for frogs and toads using head lamps and nets in nearby wetland areas. Participants are encouraged to wear shoes that can get wet and bring a flashlight. This program is conducted rain or shine.

Pre-registration is required as space is limited. The fee is \$6 per person for residents of Union County and \$7 per person for non-residents.

Step by step



Step by step, Meaghan O'Brien of Springfield is on her way to becoming a star as she demonstrates her Irish dancing for the James Caldwell School Variety Show, "Catch a Rising Star."

EMS Week shows pivotal role First Aid Squad plays

For Emergency Medical Services Week, from Sunday to Saturday, Fredrick Steinkopf, president of the New Jersey State First Aid Council, along with Elizabeth Fritzen, president of the Springfield First Aid Squad, want to encourage township residents to consider becoming volunteer EMTs.

Among the indelible images of Sept. 11, 2001 is the continuous flow of disaster victims who were taken to hospitals for treatment. Many of these people were injured by the thousands of emergency medical first responders who made their way to Ground Zero or remained stationed on this side of the Hudson River to receive the masses as they escaped the island by whatever means possible. Scores of New Jersey volunteer emergency medical technicians were among those who dropped whatever they were doing that day and raced toward New York City.

The Springfield First Aid Squad stationed an ambulance and crew at a Hoboken staging area during this disaster and transported victims to local hospitals.

The nationwide observance of Emergency Medical Services Week, May 15-21, offers a timely reminder opportunity that volunteer EMTs provide an invaluable service to the Garden State community in terms of lives and tax money saved.

The New Jersey State First Aid Council, which celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2004, represents more than 15,000 volunteer EMTs affiliated with more than 400 first aid and rescue squads throughout the state. Given New Jersey's demonstrated importance in mass-casualty incident responses and our nation's heightened state of alert, having an established, reliable volunteer EMT base in place is more critical now than ever.

Potential terrorism aside, consider the aging baby boom population, as well as everyday accidents and illnesses that require emergency medical attention. As these numbers increase, the burden on our state's emergency services are covered. Not only do volunteer emergency responders help alleviate some of the financial burden, they also provide communities with much-needed, capable, dependable medical assistance around the clock.

In 2003, NJSFAC-affiliated EMTs dedicated almost 3 million hours responding to more than 432,000 emergency calls. Those volunteer EMS efforts in 2003 alone saved New Jerseyans more than \$170 million in taxes they would have paid to hire responders.

The goal is to move volunteer EMS service from being the state's best-kept secret to one of its best-known assets.

For information, visit the First Aid Squad Web site at www.springfield-fa.com.

Workshop raises issue of living wills

When the Rev. Elaine Wing, pastor of Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, and Congregant Sharon Santiago of Springfield attended a recent workshop at Overlook Hospital on Palliative Care, their eyes were opened to the consequences of not having an Advance Directive or one that is either too vague or restrictive in its language.

"We learned from case studies how certain language commonly used in a Living Will or Advance Directive often worked against a person's intentions because the words were outdated by medical advances and procedures that typically return a patient to a productive life," they explained.

The women's newfound awareness has led to the church offering a workshop open to all, ages 18 years or older on June 7, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The workshop, "Advance Directive: Myths and FAQs" will be led by Dr. John Gregory, chairperson of the Bio-Ethics Committee and director of Palliative Care at Overlook Hospital. He will address many of the questions and issues raised during the recent case of the late Terry Schiavo, and other individuals in need of medical care at various ages and for different reasons in their life.

Gregory and his co-presenters will also role-play how to discuss these sensitive subjects with your loved ones or friends. They will introduce what is called "Five Wishes," a project of the "Aging with Dignity" Organization.

These wishes are: "The person I want to make care decisions for me when I cannot," "The kind of medical treatment I want or don't want," "How comfortable I want to be," "How I want people to treat me," and "What I want my loved ones to know." These wishes are suitable for persons of all ages to discuss.

The church is encouraging singles, couples, family and friends to attend the June workshop together. A \$5 donation per person will be encouraged to cover the cost of handout materials.

Pre-registration is requested by calling 973-376-1695. The church is located at the far back end of Church Hill near the intersection of Morris and Mountain avenues in Springfield.

Committee seeks colonial descendants

The committee for the 225th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Springfield and the Springfield Historical Society are seeking descendants of Springfield residents who fought in that battle on June 23, 1789.

A major commemoration of this significant Springfield battle has been planned for June 25 and 26.

Historians point out that this battle was crucial to the outcome of the War for Independence. It marked the last attempt by the British to invade the northern colonies which, by that time, thought of themselves as states. In this attempt, they also failed, for the final time, to capture Gen. George Washington, his army and their store of ammunition.

Those who are descended from any participants of this battle on either side are encouraged to contact the committee. The Web site is www.springfieldbattle.com. The Springfield Historical Society can be reached at 973-376-4784.

Historian explores town's role in battle

In preparation for the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Springfield, the event coordinating committee will host a lecture by noted historian Thomas Fleming at the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield on the corner of Morris Avenue and Church Hill on June 5 at 2 p.m.

Fleming will discuss his book, "The Forgotten Victory, the story of the Battle of Springfield." The American Association for State & Local History cited this book, about the 1780 battle of Springfield, for "brilliantly illuminating little known aspects of state and local history." Fleming has written numerous award-winning historical books. He was born in New York City and currently resides in New York with his wife, Alice, a writer of books for young readers.

This lecture will coincide with the Springfield display of John Ward Dunsmore's painting, "Give 'em Watts General" — Monday, 5 p.m.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, call the committee chairman, Scott Seidel, at 973-376-0421.

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.
General — Monday, 5 p.m.

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With his wife, Alice, a writer of books for young readers.

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Understanding the Business of Living

Please join us for an informative presentation about Patient Advocate Solutions, an organization that guides individuals, families, corporations and medical organizations through the many challenges of the healthcare and health insurance maze. Our guest speaker is Robin Miller, Director of Advocacy. Light refreshments will be served.

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AT THE LIBRARY

Speaker explores history of musicals
Robert Butts, conductor and lecturer, presents "From Shakespeare to Sunset Boulevard: The Story of the Broadway Musical" at Mountaintops Public Library, Constitution Plaza, tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Few musical forms are so distinctively American as the Broadway musical. Growing from plays with songs to full-blown musicals, the Broadway show emerged at the beginning of the 20th century with a vitality drawn from the spirit and talents of the lyricists, composers and performers.

It developed fully during a Golden Age of theatrical music led by the creative personalities of Rogers, Hammerstein, Lerner, Loewe, Kern, Porter, Gershwin, Bernstein, Webber and Sondheim. As the 21st century begins, the Broadway musical remains one of the world's most popular musical forms, reflecting the styles, trends and personalities of all who enter its world.

This program is free and open to the public and offered through the Horizons Speakers Bureau of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. To register, call 908-233-0115.

'Goodbye Lenin' concludes film festival
The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., concludes its spring International Film Festival today with "Goodbye Lenin" at noon and 7 p.m. This 2004 German film is 118 minutes and rated R.

Admission is free for all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing. Refreshments will be served. For information, call 973-376-4930.

'The Human Stain'
Springfield Free Public Library will show the film based on the book "The Human Stain" on Wednesday at noon in a Read the Book/Watch the Movie presentation.

The series will continue on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday. The series will continue on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE
SHERIFF'S NUMBER CH758290
DIVISION: CHANCERY
COUNTY: UNION

DEFENDANT: THE CHASE MANHATTAN TRUST COMPANY FOR THE TRUST OF EQUITY ONE ABS INC. MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST
PLAINTIFF: MICHAEL P. GELLER AND ANTHONY PETRILLI AKA ANTHONY D. PETRILLI

WRIT OF EXECUTION DATE: MAY 09, 2005
SALE DATE: JUNE 02, 2005

By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I will expose for sale by public auction, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ELIZABETH, N.J., on WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., the following real estate:
ALL SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST HAVE 20% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE IN CASH AT THE TIME OF THE SALE.

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Governor Livingston students earn honor roll

Governor Livingston High School has released the names of students who made the honor roll for the third marking period.

Grade nine
Thomas Abitante, Michael Adams, Melissa Addonizio, Courtney Auchter, Charlotte Azarian, Gabriella Basile, Matthew Baxter, Adam Bobella, Jessica Botwick, Sara Boyle, Nancy Brown, Nancina Buccini, Thomas Caranante, Gary Chan, Brian Chase, Andrew Chen, Nancy Costa, Giovanni Crozier, Olivia Dawson, Christina DeCosta, Peter DeJanne, Laurie Delator, Katrina Delgado, Kristina Dwyer, Megan Dotter, Alexander Dundon, Molly Dwyer, Meghan Eichler, Alana Feldman, Allison Fleming, Kaitlin Floyd, Cynthia Frederick, Tomoyo Fukumori, Joseph Gilfedder, Derek Flynn, Bridget Greeley, Nicole Heersma, Joshua Hu, Laura Kaplow, Catherine Kim, Joseph Kizmann, Michele Kleban, Cassandra Kontar, Alexandra Kyriacou, Megan Lam, Melissa Leary, Ryan Lee, Olga Linowich, Elena Lopez, Omar Lopez, Allison Lynch, Gregory Magliano, Scott Mahoney, Claire MacGinn, Britany Mangold, Erin McGehee, Fiona McKie, Ann Marie Mea, Sara Miller, Allen Mo, Steven Monteleone, Michael Okrend, Eric Olmo, Ashley Oseja, Robert Paone, Mark Paras, Gwendolyn Perrin, Eric Peterson, Gabriella Potievsky, Andrew Quek, Candace Reilly, Joseph Rodgers, Kristina Romeo, Elena Rubino, Michael Saldia, Christopher Sangiovanni, Kelly Schoenkecht, Gita Scutari, Carl Smith, Katelyn Spadacini, Amanda Stamler, Ashley Tisdale,

Nicole Ruggiero, Ryoko Sadoshima, Jane Samuels, Marc Schilder, Kaitlyn Schulz, Nicholas Schumacher, Chantelle Simeone, Amber Smith, Kevin Tadmori, Jason Tenenbaum, Veronica Thomas, Renee Thompson, Katherine Tierney, Eric Toglia, Sarah Traub, Leonard Turner, Chuxuan Weng, Benjamin Witt, Adam Witzburg, Brian Wyatt, Chrystal Yan, Lydia Yau, Tracy Zetterstrom and Britany Zwillich.

Grade 11
Bruno Barros, Leigh-Ann Bartsch, Eric Bernston, Jennifer Bernston, Erin Bradley, Timothy Brown, Linae Burtomere, Eugene Byuen, Christopher Chan, Lauren Crewell, Brian Cunningham, Caitlin Davis, Joan Davis, Alexandra Davison, Abbie Dearman, Michael Delatour, Michael DiStefano, Dana Drew, Amanda Egan, James Ellis, Dane Finley, David Foregger, Jonathan Fuller, Michael Gádo, Sarah Glacken, Jessica Goldstein, Samantha Gonnelli, Aileen Gutch, Donovan Hall, Kelsey Hall, Thomas Hansen, Sam Hogan, Richard Holsten, Andrew Hoydick, Nicholas Hryckiewicz, Capri Hunt-Catalano, Michelle Jane, Jamie Kanaley, Keen Kelly, Nora Kinney, William Knocicki, Gina LaGreca, Jennifer Larson, Richard Lipman, Michael Loria, Hannah Loxley, Nicholas Mathis, Katherine McNelis, Lindsey Melfi, Michael Melfi, Michael Mirabella, Melissa Montagna, Francis Montalvo, Timothy Morgan, Kelli O'Connell, Samantha Padellaro, Vidya Puthugupura, Justin Quaglia, Manjula Raman, Stephen Reedy, Michel Robertson, Andrew Rodas, Jennifer Rosalsky, Rachel Rosalsky, Stephanie Rosamilia,

ine Wilson, Rossalie yan, Katherine Zach and Molly Zhang.
Grade 12
Stacey Azelrod, Brittany Bento, Kristine Boise, Lauren Boss, Jillian Bottia, Nicholas Chin, Karina Cornejo, Elizabeth Dabbagh, Philip Dabbagh, Stephanie Davis, Elise Deo, Catherine Dewling, Lauren DiStefano, Lawrence Dorney, Kelly Drew, Margaret Edinger, Sarah Esposito, Anthony Fibore, Jesse Fiorito, Ashley Force, Courtney Fox, John Frank, Simone Gaborca, Nichole Galatits, Jessica Gelsion, Shayna Germansky, Andrew Gheath, Heather Goldstein, Craig Gorin, Emily Grosse, Kate Hansen, Andrea Hart, Tariq Hasan, Lana Horfan, Chi-Chao Hong, Mindy Hsu, Ann Humphrey, Yasim Husain, Evan Kaplan, Nicholas Keller, Jenna Kelsey, Michael Kolanko, Dana LaGreca, Peter Lake, Vincent Lau, Samantha Liao, Rebecca Lipman, Michelle Loria, Fredi Madda, Maria Martin, Michael Mangano, Vanessa Mattes, Allison Mathies, Diana Mazzuca, Christine McCurdy, Kevin McHale, James Muehner, Colleen Nord, Jeanine Olmo, Kelli O'Reilly, Mary O'Sullivan, Stacey O'Sullivan, Joseph Pijanovsky, Samantha Pindig, Rachel Lee Potter, Stephanie Ringer, James Romond, Armanda Rosenberg, Jennifer Rothman, Jessica Ruedelstil, Rebecca Schaaf, Jason Schickel, Molly Schmidt, Jeffrey Schulz, Allison Sheppard, Bethany Sheppard, Heather Sieff, Pedro Silva, Vera Souvovov, Matthew Teschler, Andrea R. Tamayo, Helen Toodiso, Lyndsey Thomas, Albert Tsai, Irene Tsao, Verna Venkatchalam, Ian Vo and Lisa Wortzel.

STUDENT UPDATE

Stamatis achieves Pingry honor roll
Mountaintops resident William Stamatis, an eighth-grader at The Pingry School, was among the seventh- and eighth-grade students who were

Mountaintops Newcomers to meet

The Mountaintops Newcomers Club announces the following activities:
• Mommy and Me — Give Dad something he'll treasure for father's day by creating something for him at Color Me Mine's pottery studio in Summit, Monday from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

recently appointed to the middle school's third-quarter honor roll, for the period. The honor roll recognizes students for achieving a B+ average or better with no individual grade lower than a B-.

The children will be creating Father's Day gifts. The cost is \$15 per child. If you are interested, call Sheri Bolckom by today.

For information, call 908-233-0115.

• New member coffee — A New Member Coffee will be conducted on June 2 at 8 p.m. at Anne Eicke's home. This is an informal way of meeting other club members and to learn more about the activities of the club.

For information, call Tricia Brancatella at 908-301-1498.

• The Mountaintops annual garage sale will be conducted on June 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Residents interested in hosting a garage sale may call Natalie Zuzovskaya 908-233-2988.

• The annual June barbecue will be conducted on June 11.

For membership information, call Tricia Brancatella at 908-301-1498.

• The Mountaintops Newcomers Club Inc. is a social organization dedicated to providing a friendly greeting to new members, to help them meet others and extend a welcome to the community.

For information, call Tricia Brancatella at 908-301-1498.

Residents interested in hosting a garage sale may call Natalie Zuzovskaya 908-233-2988.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO
DEFENDANT: FRANCIS FISHER
WRIT: MARCH 02, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD PLANNING BOARD
TAKE NOTICE that on the 1st day of June 2005, the Board of Planning and Zoning Ordinance relating to the rezoning of the following property...

By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I will expose for sale by public auction, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ELIZABETH, N.J., on WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., the following real estate:
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Seniors share 'Poems from the Heart'

Join residents of Summit Senior Housing and their friends Monday at 2 p.m. in the Arts & Crafts Room of 12 Chestnut Ave., Summit, as they continue their monthly poetry group, "Poetry: Poems from the Heart," led by Marion Mansfield.

AARP will host year-end luncheon next month

Summit AARP 5040 will have its year-end luncheon meeting on June 6 at the Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Road, Hanover.

SHS welcomes seniors for annual dance

Summit High School will open its doors to the city's senior citizens today at noon for the 19th annual senior citizen luncheon and dance.

PREP group gathers

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.

Program enhances memories of elderly

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 words you are looking for while in the middle of a conversation? Remember the directions to an unfamiliar location?

Old Guard to hear about coronary bypasses

Summit Old Guard members will hear Dr. Grant Van S. Parr, a heart surgeon, talk about "Improving Results After Coronary Bypass Grafting" at the 10 a.m. Tuesday meeting.

Artist exhibits at Bouras Galleries

Award-winning artist Lydia Watson of Plainfield will be showing her 2005 En Reale Arte exhibit at Bouras Galleries, 25 DeForest Ave., Summit, through June. The galleries are open to the public by appointment only.

Curves to present weight loss seminar

Curves of Summit will present a special workshop utilizing hypnosis for weight loss on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Curves, 447 Springfield Ave., Summit.

Program shows how to lead a smoke-free life

Sage Eldercare, a major community resource for the elderly, will offer their final "Living Well Lecture Series" program of the season on Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at SAGE Eldercare's new location at 290 Broad St. Admission is free.

Health

SAGE offers Fall Prevention programs. The SAGE Eldercare Fall Prevention Initiative includes a series of comprehensive programs about fall prevention for the elderly.

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. General — Monday, 5 p.m.

Skaters support cause

WEST ORANGE - The second annual Dayton High School Alumni Hockey Game was held last Friday night at South Mountain Arena.

GL softball out for fourth UCT crown

LINDEN - It was the kind of Union County Tournament semifinal game neither team deserved to lose, but one team had to.

Dayton socks four homers to reach 1st UCT final since 1963

RAYHAY - Veterans Field turned into a launching pad for the Dayton High School baseball team last Saturday afternoon.

SuperStars triumph

The Springfield SuperStars 14-and-under girls' soccer team defeated the New York Yankees 4-1 May 8 in ICSV action at Dayton, High School.

Elizabeth Rodriguez went 2-for-3 and scored two runs

Elizabeth Rodriguez went 2-for-3 and scored two runs to help spark the Dayton High School softball team past visiting Hillsdale 13-3 May 11 in Springfield.

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Artist exhibits at Bouras Galleries

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Curves to present weight loss seminar

Curves of Summit will present a special workshop utilizing hypnosis for weight loss on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Curves, 447 Springfield Ave., Summit.

Program shows how to lead a smoke-free life

Sage Eldercare, a major community resource for the elderly, will offer their final "Living Well Lecture Series" program of the season on Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at SAGE Eldercare's new location at 290 Broad St. Admission is free.

Health

SAGE offers Fall Prevention programs. The SAGE Eldercare Fall Prevention Initiative includes a series of comprehensive programs about fall prevention for the elderly.

Editorial deadlines

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SPORTS

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

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Dayton Junior righthander York Cook (No. 32) went the distance in earning the mound victory over Governor Livingston 11-9 last Saturday in a Union County Tournament semifinal at Rahway's Veterans Field. Cook will be back on the mound for this Saturday's 2 p.m. title game against Roselle Catholic at Linden's Memorial Field. Dayton defeated Roselle Catholic 4-3 at home back on April 5 at Ruby Field in Springfield. Dayton won its only UCT crown in 1954 and Roselle Catholic captured its lone title in 1971.

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THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2005 — PAGE 9 Sports Numbers Phone: 973-763-0700 Fax: 973-763-2557

GL softball out for fourth UCT crown

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Advertisement for 'DUPES' featuring various home services such as Air Conditioning, Carpentry, Cleaning, Electrical, and Landscaping. Includes contact information for Helene and various service providers.

Elizabeth Rodriguez went 2-for-3 and scored two runs to help spark the Dayton High School softball team past visiting Hillsdale 13-3 May 11 in Springfield. Julie Schneider was 4-for-4 with a double, three runs and four RBI. Dayton beat Technology 17-2 the next day at home to improve to 7-9.

OBITUARIES

Ralph Sterling
Ralph T. Sterling, 95, of Washington Township, formerly of Summit, died May 11 in Hackettstown Community Hospital.

Born in Christfield, Md., Mr. Sterling lived in Summit before moving to Washington Township in 2004. He was vice president of import buying for F.W. Woolworth before retiring in 1975. Mr. Sterling received a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Maryland.

He was an Army veteran of World War II. Mr. Sterling was a 60-year member of F&AM Lodge 9, Richmond, Va., and a 40-year member of the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield.

Surviving are two daughters, Diane S. Galotta and Cheryl Sterling Udell; a sister, E. Josephine Casey, and two grandchildren.

John Gilmartin

John J. Gilmartin, 85, of Summit, formerly of Mountaintop, died May 12 in the King James Nursing Home, Chatham.

Born in Philadelphia, Mr. Gilmartin lived in Westfield and Mountaintop before moving to Summit 12 years ago. He was an accountant with RCA Radio Corp. at various locations. Mr. Gilmartin graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business, where he received a bachelor of arts degree. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. Mr. Gilmartin was a member of the RCA Retirement Group.

Surviving are his wife, Genevieve; a son, John J. Jr.; a daughter, Eileen Schradner; two sisters, Mary Dougherty and Margaret Golden, and three grandchildren.

Mary McCluskey

Mary McCluskey, 100, of Wall, formerly of Springfield, died May 9 at home.

Born in April 5, 1905 in Harrison, Mrs. McCluskey lived in Springfield before moving to Wall 20 years ago. She was a teacher in the Harrison school system before retiring many years ago. Mrs. McCluskey was a graduate of the former New Jersey State Teachers College, now Kean University, Union.

She was a member of the Christ Child Society at St. Rose of Lima Church, Short Hills. Mrs. McCluskey also was a member of the Family Rosary Society of St. Mark's Church, Sea Girt, where the group made more than 100,000 rosaries that were sent to missions throughout the world.

Joseph Siejek

Joseph S. Siejek, 88, of Mountaintop died May 9 at home.

Born in Bloomfield, Mr. Siejek lived in Mountaintop since 1957. He was a head laboratory technician for

Union Carbide, Bound Brook, for 50 years and retired in 1980. Mr. Siejek served in the Army during World War II as a sergeant.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10136 in Mountaintop; the Mountaintop Senior Citizens Club; the Paul Pomantowski Group of Bloomfield.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Rose; a son, Leonard, and two grandchildren.

Michael L. Weiss

Michael L. Weiss, 33, a lifelong resident of Mountaintop, died on May 5. He was born in Livingston. Surviving are his mother, Cynthia Weiss, and two brothers, Daniel Weiss and Erik Smithweiss.

Jean Zaitz

Jean Zaitz, 85, of Springfield, formerly of Elizabeth and Union, died May 12 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Belts, Romania, Mrs. Zaitz came to the United States in 1949 and also lived in Elizabeth and Union.

She was a seamstress many years ago working out of her homes in Elizabeth and Union.

Surviving are a son, Marvin; two daughters, Ellen Fischbein and Yeda Fish, and eight grandchildren.

Raymond Pochopin

Raymond J. Pochopin, 67, of Linden, formerly of Hillside, a volunteer Springfield fireman, died May 15 in Union Hospital.

Born in Newark, Mr. Pochopin lived in Hillside before moving to Linden 30 years ago. He was a truck driver for 20 years for Atlantic Metal, Springfield. Mr. Pochopin was a volunteer fireman with the Springfield Fire Department and a member of the Neighborhood Watch in Linden. He served in the Army National Guard from 1957 to 1960.

Surviving are his wife, Lucy; a son, Dennis; a daughter, Cindy Butti; two sisters, Diane Sommer and Deborah Moyes, and a grandchild.

Anthony D'Uva Sr.

Anthony D'Uva Sr., 91, of Edison, formerly of Springfield, died May 14 in JFK Medical Center, Union.

Born in Campobasso, Italy, Mr. D'Uva lived in Newark and Springfield before moving to Edison six years ago.

He was a sheet metal worker for Public Service Electric and Gas Co., Newark, for 39 years before retiring many years ago. He was a former member of UNICO in Springfield.

Surviving are a daughter, Josephine M. Hearon; a son, Anthony Jr.; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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Joseph S. Siejek, 88, of Mountaintop

side died May 9 at home. Born in Bloomfield, Mr. Siejek lived in Mountaintop since 1957.

He was head laboratory technician at Union Carbide, Bound Brook, for many years before retiring in 1980. Mr. Siejek was a staff sergeant in the Army during World War II.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 10136 and the Senior Citizens, both in Mountaintop. Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Rose; a son, Leonard, and two grandchildren.

Anna Maszczak

Anna Maszczak, 80, of Springfield died May 11 in the Virginia home of her daughter, Annette Anderson.

Born in Harrison, Mrs. Maszczak lived in Harrison and North Arlington before moving to Springfield last month.

She worked for the Harrison Board of Education before retiring many years ago.

Also surviving are three more daughters, Rosanna O'Donoghue, Sandra Flatey and Lorraine Cicchino; a son, Henry; a sister, Olga Dlugosz; a brother, Robert Makey; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Christopher Chambers

Christopher P. Chambers, 48, of Burlington, formerly of Mountaintop, died May 13 in Vitis Memorial Hospital, Mount Holly.

Born in Ridgewood, Mr. Chambers lived in Allendale and Mountaintop before moving to Burlington. He was a self-employed electrician. He served in the Army during peacetime.

Surviving are a son, Justin; a daughter, Charis; a brother, John, and four sisters, Kathy Hansen, Mary Beth Chambers, Diane Khorey and Ellen Westberg.

Rose Marie Pollick

Rose Marie Pollick, 67, of Springfield died May 13 in Overlook Hospital, Summit. Born in Newark, Mrs. Pollick moved to Springfield 12 years ago.

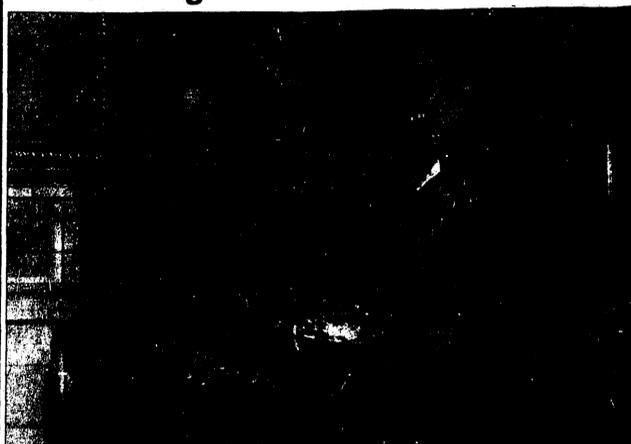
Surviving are her husband, Robert Jr.; a son, Robert III; three daughters, Evelyn Leshko, Barbara Beam and Denise Shann; five sisters, Mildred LaVacca, Antonette Agrillo, Diana Flanagan, Janice Pino and Maryann Farr, and six grandchildren.

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. For more information, call 908-686-7700.

Outstanding achievement



Kerry Soccodato of Summit, right, a major in Fairleigh Dickinson University's International School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, is presented the Outstanding Achievement in Hospitality award by Administrative Assistant Ruth Hladky on May 1. The event recognized academic achievement and student leadership among the Class of 2005.

Temple Sinai sponsors dinner

Temple Sinai, a reform Jewish congregation in Summit, is sponsoring a Friday Shabbat service and Shabbat dinner for prospective congregants, June 10. Come meet Rabbi Gershon, Cantor Merel and the religious school director, as well as other congregants during an informal Shabbat dinner or after the services. The event is open to anyone thinking of joining their congregation or seeing their renovated home at 208 Summit Ave., Summit.

There will be two services that night to fit different needs. A Tot Shabbat will begin at 6:30 p.m., which is an appropriate 25 minute service for preschool age children and their parents. From 7:00 to 9 p.m. there will be a traditional Friday night Shabbat service with music. In between the two services starting at 7 p.m. sharp, there will be an informal Shabbat dinner that anyone from either service can attend.

Whether you are a young couple, growing family with children, single, senior or interfaith family, Temple Sinai welcomes all. R.S.V.P. no later than June 3, by calling the temple office at 908-273-4921. At this time advise if you have any special dietary needs.

Jazz in June benefits Summit Chorale

Jazz in June, featuring the Bill Tally Trio with Julia Dolsion, is a fun-filled benefit for the Summit Chorale. The evening's program includes live and silent auctions, festive food, and a wine tasting. Jazz in June takes place on June 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., at the corner of Springfield Avenue in Summit. Tickets are \$25 at the door. Visit www.summitchorale.org or call 908-542-0850 for information.

Junior League awards grants to non-profits

The Junior League of Summit announced that through its Community Assistance Program, the League has selected and awarded grants totaling more than \$12,000 to six Summit non-profit organizations. The grants were awarded for the following programs: \$2,500 to the

Summit YMCA to expand its Parent Education program for Hispanic families to two more schools; \$2,755 to the Reeves-Reed Arboretum to develop and update a Woodland Circle Guide to provide interpretive materials to all visitors; \$2,572 to The Learning Circle for literacy programs and materials for children and volunteers; senior adults; \$1,498 to Mount Olive Temple to establish appropriate spaces to be used for classes and adult and family events; and \$2,985 to Summit Helping In People — SHIP — for the purchase of a freezer for food to support the services for the homeless.



Union County

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

Martin and Dan

Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks woke up early last Sunday. Sitting on his porch, drinking coffee and reading the paper, he was struck by an analysis showing he paid more property taxes than any of his seven fellow Republicans who are running for governor. Turns out a whole lot of Union County residents also pay more.

I trust Marks. I really have to be considering he performed four root canals on me in recent years. Marks did a whole lot of drilling a few weeks ago when he challenged the big wigs of the Legislature at a conference of the League of Municipalities to stop the charter and get on with finally addressing property tax reform. Marks can read off past efforts like the Democrats "Fair Tax Plan" and the Republicans "Blue Print for Tax Reform" which both fizzled.

Left Out

By Frank Capace

A constitutional convention is needed, according to Marks because "history is on the side" of something getting done. Ever the realist, Marks said he is "all but resigned" that there will be no convention this year.

Turns out Marks has an ally in the need for tax reform in Prosecutor Daniel Sullivan of Elizabeth. Sullivan is also in the front lines of taxing assessing the taxpayer's burden. A member of the board in terms of assessing Sullivan has the tough task of clearing the Fiscal Affairs Commission.

Sullivan did not say how long he would stay in the job, but he said he would stay as long as it took to get the job done.

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Elizabeth Police Capt. Ronald Simon speaks at the 200 Club's annual Valor Awards luncheon last week. Behind Simon are, from left, Valor Award recipient David Conrad, with his wife, and Antonette Miele, accepting on behalf of her son, Christopher, who is training Iraqi police, and his fiancée.

Heroism recognized

By Doug McNamara

Staff Writer

The 200 Club of Union County honored 10 Union County police officers and firefighters for their outstanding bravery and courage at a luncheon on Friday at L'Affaire Restaurant in Mountaintop.

The 200 Club, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting police and firefighters, picked these 10 individuals for their "heroic acts above and beyond the call of duty," said John J. Dugan Jr., the club's president.

Capt. Thomas Young of the Elizabeth Fire Department received the award for rescuing two people from a burning car on the Garden State Parkway.

Young, while driving home from a vacation at the New York State Thruway, saw the victim's car crash into a tree. He stopped and pulled the victim out of the car. He was injured but not seriously.

He said the most difficult part of the incident was working without his equipment, but his training quickly took over. He added that any firefighter in the same situation would have responded similarly.

Officers David Conrad and Christopher Miele of the Elizabeth Police Department were also honored for their quick thinking. One night while on patrol in February, they stopped to talk to a man wearing heavy clothing despite the mild evening.

The man then pulled a shotgun from his coat and pointed it at the officers. Both officers quickly exited their car and fired four shots at the man, hitting him twice.

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Redrawn ballots to cost \$50,000

By Lauren DeFilippo

Staff Writer

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi estimates that the upcoming June 7 primary will cost the county between \$30,000 and \$60,000 more than usual.

The extra costs are a result of a May 6 decision by the state Supreme Court which ordered the clerks in each of the state's 21 counties to redraw the ballot positions for all seven of the Republican gubernatorial hopefuls.

The court's decision came on the heels of two lawsuits. Candidate Doug Forester filed one against Bergen County and Bret Schundler filed one against Gloucester.

Rajoppi said the new positions were drawn May 9 for the 35 different ballot forms that serve Union County.

The situation was further complicated by the fact that some of the absentee ballots had already been

milled out, the clerk said. Now, the office staff will have to work to get all 35 different forms of the ballots ready for the primary which is now just 12 business days away.

The different ballot forms reflect the different races going on simultaneously in each of the county's 21 municipalities, Rajoppi said. Some towns are also electing a mayor and council members, she noted, while others are not. There are also four Congressional districts within the county, and four legislative districts that are represented in the Assembly and state Senate.

The County of Union will have to pick up the additional costs for the printing of the ballots because, Rajoppi said, the candidates who initiated the lawsuit were not ordered to do so by the court.

Grant would fund traffic investigator

By Lauren DeFilippo

Staff Writer

The Union County Prosecutor's Office is seeking \$81,174 in grant funding from the state Division of Highway Traffic Safety to fund a county investigator position that would oversee the investigation of traffic fatalities in the county.

According to a study by the Tri-State Transportation Commission, in a 2004, there were 22 bicycle and pedestrian fatalities in Union County.

According to First Assistant County Prosecutor Albert Cernadas, of the county, only eight to 12 result in prosecution. He said the Prosecutor's Office's decision to pursue the grant was completely independent of the TSTC's study.

The \$81,174 grant would go entirely toward the funding of the new position, he added. However, it is not certain whether the county will receive the entire amount requested.

The new position would require the detective to oversee all parts of the investigation process, which includes working with accident reconstructionists, evaluating the scene, and completing reports in a timely manner, Cernadas said.

Once the reports regarding the incident are completed, they are passed along for review by the Prosecutor's Office so it can be determined whether or not the incident was in fact an accident or requires some kind of litigation, he said.

Cernadas said the Prosecutor's Office hopes to receive an answer from the Division of Highway and Traffic Safety by mid-summer.

After that, he said, "We will look to fill the position within a month."

Spring Clearance The Mattress Factory. Multi Sizes & Box Springs Available. Open To The Public. Weylan Allen. Mattress, Box Springs, Custom Beds, Electric Beds, Folding Cot, Split Box Springs, Ortho Mattresses, Sofa Bed Mattresses, Custom King Size.

HealthLink Radio. SUNDAY MORNINGS, 8:30AM on WFDU-FM, 89.1. or ANYTIME ON YOUR COMPUTER at www.TheUniversityHospital.com. This Week's Topic: Making the Most of Your Sight When You're Legally Blind. The University Hospital. University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey. Newark, New Jersey.

Enjoy a great meal and a very tasty home equity deal. Home Equity Line Of Credit. Only. NOVEMBER 11TH BANK.

Book chronicles the history of Turnpike

By Lauren DeFilippo

Staff Writer

In just one day's history, the New Jersey Turnpike has written a new chapter in its history.

Lawrence Lapolla, the author of the new book "Images of America: The Turnpike," has just published the book's first issue.

Lapolla, who has written the book for the past 18 months, said he was inspired to write the book after seeing the turnpike's history from 1949 to the present.

"It took about six months," Lapolla said of the writing process. He said he had a lot of fun and that the book was a labor of love.

Lapolla, who now lives in Westfield, grew up with the turnpike in his own backyard.

"I grew up in Elizabeth," he said, "where I could see the Turnpike from my bedroom window."

The Turnpike, which opened in November 1951, was completed in just 23 months, on time and on budget.

And the force behind the project was then-Gov. Alfred E. DuSable. Estimated to cost \$100 million, the construction project was entirely privately funded. The bonds for the construction were to be repaid from toll revenue.

"It would take 20 years to build it today," Lapolla said, "at a cost we probably couldn't collect."

For its time, the Turnpike was revolutionary. The sign that listed the roadway were changed to alert drivers to dangerous road conditions like fog and severe weather. Of course, in the 1950s speed and weather warnings and alerts were changed by hand.

Sullivan points out property taxes hit the poorest the hardest. Marks, meanwhile, said he is not a socialist. When Marty Marks talks about pain, I sure do listen.

An attorney, Frank Capace is a resident of Cranford.

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IRON DOG AMERICA — State Police Officer Debbie Fafello, left, carries her K-9 partner across the finish line during Saturday's Iron Dog competition at the Watchung Reservation. State Police Officer Chris Quirk, below, and his K-9 companion race through the park. The competition consisted of a 2-mile run through the reservation, crossing Lake Surprise in a rowboat, a 12-foot low crawl, and conclude with each police officer carrying their partner across the finish line.

COUNTY NEWS

UCLSA to install new officers on Tuesday

UCLSA, the association for legal professionals, will hold its annual installation of officers dinner on Tuesday at Aliperti's Restaurant on Raritan Road, Clark.

The following officers will be installed for the 2005-06 fiscal year: Mary Lou Einhorn of Roselle, president; Susan A. Mack of Fords, vice president; Marjorie Sawicki of Union, secretary; Barbara Lemley of Middlesex, treasurer; and Helena Gowcock of Elizabeth, governor.

Bio-blitz at Lenape Park

Scientists and skilled environmentalists, assisted by community volunteers, will fan out across Lenape Park in Cranford over a 24-hour period Friday to Saturday to conduct New Jersey's first "urban bio-blitz."

RV Coalition to hear from project team

The Raritan Valley Rail Coalition's third meeting of the year will feature a special presentation by the Access to the Region's Core Project Team.

The coalition will meet Monday at 8:15 a.m. in the Westfield Municipal Council Chambers, 425 E. Broad St.

Free parking is available in the adjacent parking lots located behind and to the west of the Westfield Municipal Building.

Training offered for rape crisis advocates

The Union County Rape Crisis Center is looking for caring, supportive, and committed individuals who can assist survivors of sexual assault during daytime, evening and weekend hours.

Drop off American flags

Residents with tattered, torn and otherwise damaged American flags can drop them off at eight Union County locations for proper disposal through June 14, Flag Day.

Coalition offers CAP training prevention program

The Union County Coalition for the Prevention of Substance Abuse functions as an autonomous arm of Prevention, Links & Union County, The Clergy Task Force, a branch of the Union County Coalition for the Pre-

Club honors firefighters, officers

(Continued from Page B1) Hillside Police Officer Matthew Cove received the award for rescuing a woman from a burning home.

The female victim — defenseless and covered with blood — had fallen to the ground. Showing great restraint, the officers repeatedly warned the man to drop his weapons.

Relay for Life at Kean University

In towns across Union County, neighbors will come together for a single cause — to fight cancer and honor survivors. Union County residents will join 4,200 other communities across America in a celebration of survivorship and hope at the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Union.

The overnight event is a movement that has swept the nation since its inception in 1985. Relay For Life is the largest grassroots fund-raiser in the world and is designed to give everyone an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer.

Trained Auto Technicians Are In Demand!

Coming in that puts Driver's Seat. Moring, day and evening classes are available. Financial Aid is available for those who qualify. Call toll free for class start dates.

LINCOLN TECH advertisement with contact information: 800-393-5988, www.lincolntech.com, Area campuses in Union & Mahwah NJ

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dancers and direction are spectacular in ballet at Kean

With each passing year, the New Jersey Ballet Co. seems to improve immensely. And now, in its 46th season, it has perfected its productions, performances and dancers to such a degree that it has fulfilled its promise above and beyond the call of duty.

Given by Gabriella Noa-Pierson, who is accompanied by an equally fine performer, Andrea Neira, in "Satinella," taken from the full-length ballet, "Carnavale in Venice." It was choreographed by Marius Petipa, staged by Leonid Kozlov with music by Codace Pugnani.



Dancers in a scene from the New Jersey Ballet performance at Kean University's Wilkins Theater last Saturday.

For this reviewer, however, the most stunning, most outstanding production was "Mystery," in which the beautiful couple, Era Korotseva-Jourvieve and Arndrei Jourvieve, married in real life, performed the love act with such electricity, it was bound to

"Macbeth," a very dramatic production with outstanding dancing skills by Julia Vorobyeva and Konstantin Dourmy interpreting their difficult Shakespearean roles as the "bloody thane and his lady." It was choreographed by Vladimir Vasiliev with music by Kiri Moltchanov and staged by Dourmy, himself.

NJB as a major arts institution in recognition of "artistic excellence, substantial programming and broad public service."

There's plenty to do in the Union County arts scene in the coming weeks

So it's late May, and you're itching to get out there and do something. With the rain finally behind us — or so we hope — you've got the chance you were longing for to finally do something. Problem is, you don't want to break your budget in search of entertainment.

For Thursday performances, Student tickets are always \$10, and the first Sunday of the show is "Senior Sunday," with senior tickets priced at \$10.

And art can even be found in the many corporate spaces in the area. A Union County Art Exhibit will be featured at Elizabethtown Gas Company, Liberty Hall Center, 1085 Morris Ave. in Union. The exhibit will continue through June 12.

Nadler delights with comedy and energy

Going out to a dinner and a show midweek can be hard on a couple of working people who get up at 9:30 a.m., but Thursday night found a fine and fun night at the Manayunk restaurant where we were entertained by the attentive staff, fabulous food and a delightful show featuring the multi-talented Mark Nadler afterwards in Le Dome.

Imagine if you cast the movies yourself

Imagine your favorite movies, TV shows and plays with a cast of current newsmen. Who would you pick to be Rhet Butler? How about Senator Corns — he's got the mustache. But I can't imagine him saying Rhet's line: "I want you more than I have ever wanted any woman."

Stars come out for arts center gala

Los Angeles, said she is always looking for something to work on with OSPAC theater director Jim Glosman and would consider performing Shakespeare.

At 9 p.m., we repaired to Le Dome, the nightclub stop the dining room where, under a "strut" sign, peeking through the glass ceiling, a large crowd enjoyed the talent of singer/pianist/comedian Mark Nadler, on a return visit to the venue. His show is a mélange of zany comedy, terrific vocalizing and virtuosic fingering of the ivories.

Now that I've destroyed, "Gone With The Wind," let's see what I can do with "Casablanca." Who shall play Rick, the Humphrey Bogart part? Or Ingrid Bergman? Ah, I got the perfect couple: Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton. Let's see what I can do with "The Godfather." Who shall play Al Pacino? Well, I'll live on it for the rest of my life. But why did you urinate all over my new Vera Wang gown? Other Paris Hilton changes: Rhet drops her in disgust after being forced to carry her little doggie everywhere they go and returns to marry Belle Welling. Scarlett's parting plea, "If you go, what shall I do?" must have been "What shall I do?"

Acting Gov. Richard Codey, scheduled to appear, did not show. "The amount of support and the quality of their performances further establishes West Orange as a significant performing arts center," said Assemblyman and West Orange Mayor John McKeon, who hosted the event for OSPAC.

UCSB advertisement: Are you looking for a neighborhood bank with friendly, personal service which also offers the highest interest rates and the lowest fees of any bank in the county? That bank is Union County Savings Bank.

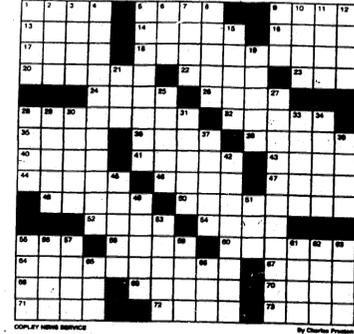
WELTMAN advertisement: RIGHT & Right Away. Plumbing, Heating & Air. Your Neighbor Knows... We Care! 908-386-8485

EASTERN REFINISHING CO. advertisement: DON'T REPLACE YOUR OLD BATHTUB... REGLAZE IT! \$279. We also do Sinks, Tile, and Surroundings & Color. 800-463-1879

ACROSS

- 1 Hindu garb
- 5 Washington bigwig
- 9 Dueling weapon
- 13 Auditor
- 14 Chorus section
- 16 Sutter's Mill discovery
- 17 Gaucho's device
- 18 From "Gypsy"
- 20 Fracture remedy
- 22 Jacob's wife
- 23 Solution
- 24 Zola novel
- 28 Bret
- 28 From "The Pajama Game"
- 32 Wharton's Frome
- 35 Grapes
- 36 Carol
- 38 Urban conduit
- 40 Judy's daughter
- 41 Preserved
- 43 Current fad
- 44 Politician Bentzen
- 46 Forbidden action
- 47 Goofs
- 48 Acoustical measures
- 50 From "My Fair Lady"
- 52 Fairy tale start
- 54 Lincoln, and others
- 55 Turkish title
- 58 Conditment
- 60 Light yellow cheese
- 64 From "Porgy and Bess"
- 67 Vegetable
- 68 Algonquian language
- 69 Sun-related
- 70 Small liquid container
- 71 Suspended
- 72 Selma
- 73 Sicilian landmark

ECHOES OF BROADWAY



DOWN

- 1 Reacts emotionally
- 2 Upon
- 3 Small stream
- 4 From "Oklahoma"
- 5 Imminently
- 6 Shade tree
- 7 And others, for short
- 8 Warsaw native
- 9 Seller
- 10 Political patronage
- 11 U.S. magazine
- 12 Whirlpool
- 15 Patio flooring
- 19 Sharpens
- 21 OT book
- 25 Piscean neighbor
- 27 From "Oliver"
- 28 Ship section
- 29 Moral wrongs
- 30 Mississippi tributary
- 31 Accredited messenger

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B10

REUNIONS

The following schools will conduct reunions in the coming months:

- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, June 11.
- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1975, 30-year reunion.
- Union High School, Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, 2005.
- Union High School, Class of 1995, 10-year reunion, 2005.
- Union Hill High School, Class of 1975, 30-year reunion, 2005.
- Union High School, Class of 1976, 30-year reunion, 2006.
- Union High School, Class of 1981, 25-year reunion, 2006.
- Union High School, Class of 1986, 20-year reunion, 2006.
- Westfield High School, Class of 1980, 25-year reunion, 2005.

For information on any of the above reunions, write to Reunions Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown 07726 or call 732-617-1000.

- Hillside High School, Class of 1965, is holding its 40th reunion on June 25.

If anyone has information regard-

ing former students or would like to join the committee, contact Barry Zins at BZins111@aol.com.

- Hillside High School, class of 1955, is planning a reunion on May 20 at the Grand Summit Hotel in Summit. Contact Paul Ladell at 973-715-7688.
- Hillside High School, class of 1975, will hold its 30th reunion at Costa's Restaurant, Roselle Park, on Nov. 26. Anyone with information about missing classmates may contact Shirley Anne at 908-241-8298, or send an e-mail to hhsclassof1975@comcast.net.
- Cranford High School, Class of 1980, will hold its 25th reunion on June 17 at 8 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, Edison/Raritan Center in Edison. The cost is \$72 per person. This event is being coordinated through Reunions Unlimited, and can be accessed on the Web at www.reunions-unlimited.com, or by phone at 732-617-7000. R.S.V.P.s are requested by May 27.

The following day, there will be an

informal event at Nomahagen Park in Cranford, open to friends and family, as well as Cranford High School graduates. This is a good place to show off your children, meet old friends, make new ones and play softball. This third annual event is being coordinated by the Class of 1978: Any questions on either event can be directed to Roseann Cermak-Capobianco at 908-272-3267, or by e-mail at mcapobianco@comcast.net.

• Union High School, Class of 1955, will have a 50th reunion celebration dinner on June 18 at 6 p.m. at the L'Affaire Restaurant, Route 22 East, Mountainside. For information, call Elaine Weismantel at 732-714-7233, send an e-mail to UHS1955@aol.com, or call Rosemarie Bergel at 908-646-6098.

Linden High School, Class of 1955, will have a 50th reunion celebration dinner on Oct. 29 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 36 Valley Road, Clark. For more information, contact Janet Melley Patrick at 732-458-8843, or Janice Cabarty Wenk at 732-370-4103.

RUMMAGE SALE
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
 June 3rd & 4th, 2005
 EVENT: Giant Rummage Sale
 PLACE: Calvary Church—31 Woodland Avenue, Summit
 TIME: 9am-3pm
 PRICE: Free Admission
 1/2 price sale from noon on Saturday
 ORGANIZATION: Women of Calvary, Calvary Episcopal Church, Summit, NJ

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non profit organizations. It is prepared and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County of Union County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your notice must be in our Maplewood Office (483 Valley Street) by 4:00 PM on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisements may also be placed at our other offices: 268 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. For more information call 800-564-8911

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

HOROSCOPES
May 23 to 29
ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Studious is the word that best describes your mood this week. Approach a learning opportunity with focus and a desire to gain new understanding.
TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: Financial adjustments may be necessary now. Carefully review your budget and make an honest effort to eliminate wasteful or unnecessary spending.
GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: You will find yourself on center stage. Shake off any nervous energy or tension and confidently utilize your talents and skills to perform well.
CANCER, June 22 to July 22: Spending quiet time alone gives you an opportunity to replenish or regenerate on the mental, emotional and spiritual levels. Go within and heal.
LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Group participation has its benefits. Plan to take on and conquer a challenging project or assignment with the help of close friends or associates.
VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: Strive to be the best that you can be. Expect to be recognized for your willingness to go beyond established limits in order to succeed and prosper.
LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: You cannot control the individuals or situations around you, but you can regulate your reaction to them. Do your best to remain optimistic and stay stress-free.
SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Avoid making a hurried business or investment decision. Avert or delay tossing your hat into the ring until all facts and details are revealed.
SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Commitment issues will demand your attention this week. Search your heart for the clues or secrets to maintaining a balanced relationship.
CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: Figure out a way to interject some excitement to your life or routine.
 Shake up a lackluster regimen with the addition of fun and adventure.
AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: Festive or social activities are indicated. Plan to get together with a few of your closest friends and celebrate a special occasion or milestone.
PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: A family crisis comes to a head and begs for clarification. Be wary of disappointment, hurt feelings or issues of forgiveness that need to be resolved.
 If your birthday is this week, you can run, but you cannot hide from the problems or questions that are present in your life during the coming year. Face the fears or concerns stemming from a close, personal relationship and work toward a solution. Avoid manipulation or power plays and find peace and harmony in your togetherness.
 Also born this week: Bob Dylan, Artie Shaw, Mike Myers, Jay Silverheels, Vincent Price and Ian Fleming.

'Spitfire Grill' by Westfield group
 Director Drude Roessler of Westfield Community Players and the cast of the James Velez and Fred Alley musical "The Spitfire Grill" will present their final performances this weekend at the WCP theater at 1000 North Avenue West, Westfield. For tickets and information, call 908-232-1221.
 The story unfolds as Percy Talbot, played by Kathryn Comiciotto of Flemington, arrives in the economically depressed town of Gilead after five years in prison and finds work at the Spitfire Grill. There, her life intersects with Shelby, played by Kristen Umansky of Carteret, and Hannah, played by Janice Lynn of West Paterson as she slowly builds herself a new life.
 Other skeptical citizens of Gilead are Sheriff Sutter, played by Jeff DeGard, son of Garfield, Caleb Thorpe, played by Matthew Donohue of Fords, and Eddy Krayneck, played by Andrea Barra of Hillsborough.
 Assisting Roessler are musical director Larry Rothweiler, a Scotch Plains resident, stage manager Stephanie Neal and lighting director Bob Murray.
 "The Spitfire Grill" is a compelling story that flows with grace and carries the rush of anticipation.

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YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR FUTURE

Kean will present a new professional equity theatre program
 Kean University announces Premier Stages, a new professional Actor's Equity Association theatre program. Actively engaging and enhancing the professional theatre academic programs at Kean, Premier Stages will also serve a culturally diverse audience, children-at-risk, and a broad pool of artists.
 Premier Stages features four uniquely conceived projects that will nurture and encourage the work of students, introduce children to the arts, 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 at Kean University, or to get on the mailing list, please call 908-737-6397, ext. 4-410, or send an e-mail to jwooten@kean.edu.

Westfield Community Players present last nights of season run
 The Westfield Community Players present the final performances of "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 on Friday and Saturday 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 over 190 comedies, dramas and musicals in their 150-seat theater in Westfield. With four productions for the upcoming season, they continue 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 the 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.

Artist to exhibit
 Art work by Robin Tedesco, which will be on display at Domo Gallery, 477 Springfield Ave., Summit, starting on June 7. For information, call 908-808-0079.

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Ruskin-White's art hangs at Union County College
 Through July 28, Union County College will be host to an exhibition by Gayle Ruskin-White titled, "Large Scale Works from 1990-1994." This exhibition will be hung in the Commons on the College's Cranford campus at 1033 Springfield Ave. Due to extensive renovations being made to the MacKay Library, the Tomasulo's offerings are being moved from the gallery space to various venues on the Cranford Campus.
 Ruskin-White describes her works as abstractions, using a combination of organic, painterly gestures with line. She works on five or more paintings at a time, which allows her to create a wonderful dialogue between the pieces. The paintings all seem to come together at the same time. The paintings are worked on in layers, allowing them to manifest a sense of depth.
 This allows the viewer to establish their own dialogue with each painting; there is no correct interpretation of what is seen. The paintings in this exhibition are oil paint on unstretched canvas, wood panels, and steel. They incorporate tonal works of black, gray, brown, and white, with hints of color. The paintings have an urgency of life and death to them, not in an ominous way, but instead, they reach out to a universal acknowledgement of the human condition.
 Ruskin-White lives and works in New York City. She studied art as a child in school and was enrolled in a special college art program for high school students. She went on to study, with the encouragement of her teachers, at Pratt Institute in New York City, receiving a BFA in drawing. Following graduation, she lived in Mexico for a while, working in a lithography studio. Ruskin-White has exhibited in New York City, California, Mexico, Chicago, Arizona, Florida, and Germany.
 Attended gallery hours are from 10 to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and on Saturdays. Evening hours are from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays. For more information please call 908-709-7155.

Latin pop queen hits The Ritz Theatre
 On May 28 at 8 p.m., The Ritz Theatre and Allgood Concerts will present an evening with Paulina Rubio.
 Rubio, a recent winner of three major Latin Billboard Music Awards, is one of the few artists in the world with a music career that has survived almost 30 years of recording and touring and is still at the top of her field. Paulina Rubio, with her high-energy stage show and electrifying presence has been compared to the likes of Madonna. Rubio became an instant crossover artist with her English-language hit, "Border Girl." Her newest recording, "Fau-Latina" brings the singer back to her Mexican roots and her Spanish language heritage.
 The May 28 concert will be the first for Rubio at the Ritz Theatre. The Ritz Theatre, one of the three largest venues in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area, is easily accessible from all major roadways.
 Tickets are available at the Ritz.

Band comes to Watchung
 Dave's True Story's smart, sexy sound blows a cool breeze through the world in which we live with its fourth release, "Nature." The band will perform at the Watchung Arts Center, 18 Sterling Road in Watchung, on June 4 at 8 p.m. For information, call 908-668-8092.
 Like all great art, Dave's True Story stands outside of its era, with a sensibility that encompasses the past, lives in the present, and hints at the future. The New York City group utilizes a stylish, elegant jazz/pop sound that contrasts the thorny thickets of songwriter/guitarist Dave Cantor's deliciously devilish lyrics. The group's resident siren, Kelly Flint, coos former playwright Cantor's crafty, acerbic missives as if they were tender messages of love, but songs about psychic readings, beatnik poets, and prescription medication are seldom the stuff of late-night saloon songs.
 Over the course of three albums, enough people have noticed Dave's True Story for the band to sell over 50,000 records without the benefit of a major label or big press machine. Instead they've been winning hearts and minds in a more subversive, covert manner, flying under the big boys' radar even as they've been lauded everywhere from *The New York Times* to CNN and had their songs included in the feature film "Kissing Jessica Stein."

In a world primed for sophisticated, jazzy pop by the likes of Norah Jones and Diana Krall, Dave's True Story injects the crucial element of sharply observed irony with mordant, masterfully crafted tunes. Whether the songs wed a global ennui to a sinuous bossa nova beat or a loveborn protagonist searches for missing mojo against bongo-driven beat-era jazz grooves, Dave's True Story audiences clearly hear the sounds of a different drummer.
 So when *The Wall Street Journal* observes that "Harry Connick Jr. and John Pizzarelli should have new material that's as witty as what Mr. Cantor creates," they're not consigning Dave's True Story to an adult contemporary niche market. They're simply wrenching their brains for artists with enough old-school spit and polish to do justice to the sparkle of a sound that's at once postmodern and timeless. It's clear that Dave's True Story is a musical island unto themselves, offering a shrewd, sometimes salacious, but strangely luxurious escape from the banal world of mainstream pop music.

Community Dining Guide

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Flynn's has all eyes smiling
 The luck of the Irish is with diners who venture into downtown Rahway and step into Flynn's Irish Pub on Main Street.
 Unlike most of the Irish pubs that hang green curtains and call it done, Flynn's is the real deal, with owner Morris Flynn himself hailing from the Emerald Isle. The menu boasts truly traditional pub fare, with such dishes as bangers and mash and the ever-popular fish and chips - which, on a prior visit, a friend described as the best she'd had outside of the U.K.
 The décor is as pub-like as the menu, with the dark wood bar being the focal point upon entering. The slate floor, the Irish-themed prints, the traditional music all add to the feeling that one has "crossed the pond" and landed in the heart of Ireland.
 The floor is as pub-like as the menu, with the dark wood bar being the focal point upon entering. The slate floor, the Irish-themed prints, the traditional music all add to the feeling that one has "crossed the pond" and landed in the heart of Ireland.
 On a recent visit, my dining companion and I walked out onto one of the tables near the bar overlooking Main Street. After perusing the menu - which we've done many times before on several visits - we began our meals with the appetizer course. We both selected the garlic shrimp, which boasted half a dozen plump and firm shellfish swimming in a rich but tangy particular sauce. The shrimp were succulent and quickly vanished, leaving a headliner of the entree to be mopped up with bread.
 After our favorite entree of fresh fried greens, we moved into our main course.
 I chose one of my favorites on the Flynn's menu: the shepherd's pie. The deliciously seasoned mixture of vegetables and ground beef is topped with a dollop of Cheddar, a traditional mashed-potato dish. From top to bottom, this meal was both hearty and filling, without weighing me down, and left me comfortably satisfied when I'd finished.
 My companion chose the popular Steak Diane, with its rich cream sauce offsetting the tender and lean steak.
 Each main course comes with a choice of side dishes.
 It being a warm summer night, we bypassed the Belgian profiteroles - delectable cream puffs - and chose from the many varieties of ice cream treats for dessert. The wide selection of coffees combined with the frozen treats for the perfect ending to our meal.
 Flynn's offers smoking and non-smoking sections, and major credit cards are accepted. The full service bar features several beers on tap, with Guinness being the centerpiece.
 Flynn's is located at 1482 Main St. in downtown Rahway. For information and reservations - which are often a good idea at dinner hour on Saturdays - call 732-361-4700. In addition to the regular menu, daily specials are offered to tempt the palate.
 No need to book a flight to Ireland when this pot o' gold is as close as Rahway!

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To Be a Diner in the Dining Guide
Call Connie Sloan
 908-686-7700 ext. 339

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

phony Orchestra, will host the Meet the Orchestra series for children ages 3 to 8.

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

DANCE

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

Web site at www.tmrcl.com. **THE HARVEST QUILTERS OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY** will meet the first Monday of each month at Cozy Corner Creations quilt shop, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.

KNITTING GROUP meets every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. Knitters are encouraged to bring a favorite project to the Springfield Barnes & Noble Café. For more information, call 973-376-6581.

JAZZ IS BACK AT THE COVE! "Wednesday's Jazz Cocktails" will feature the house band, Tempo, playing at Dusty's Place, formerly known as "The Cove," 112 Chestnut St., Roselle. For information, call 908-241-5675, or 908-241-1224. Patrons may also send an e-mail to salange@bellatlantic.net.

SATURDAY JAZZ SHOWCASE features top acts from the New York Metropolitan area, at Dusty's Place, formerly known as "The Cove," 112 Chestnut St., Roselle. For information, call 908-889-5265 or 908-889-4751.

ART SHOWS

ANDRA SAMELSON will be the focus of an exhibit at the Domo Gallery, 447 Springfield Ave., Summit, through June 4. For further information, call 908-608-0079, or visit www.domogallery.com.

UNION COUNTY ART EXHIBIT will be held at Liberty Hall Center, 1085 Morris Ave., Union, through June 13. For more information, call 908-558-2550.

WORKS BY LYDIA WATSON will be shown at Bouras Galleries, 25 DeForest Ave., Summit, through May. For information, call 908-522-4468.

BOOKS

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

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

THE "LORD OF THE RINGS" READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Rantan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

KEAN UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS and *The Star-Ledger* have partnered to publish a new book titled "World of Wonder: Exploring the Realms of History, Science, Nature and Technology."

THE COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES OF WESTFIELD will take place at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, 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 concerts@causes@aol.com. Also, visit the Web site, <http://www.coffeewithconscience.com>.

CRAFT EXPERT KELLI RONCI presents the easiest way to crochet with 15 fun, colorful projects, including a poncho, hat and cupcake-shaped pin cushion in her latest book, "Kids Crochet: Projects for Kids of All Ages." Children of all ages are invited to learn to crochet with Ronci at a special event and signing of *Kids Crochet* at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at 240 Route 22 West, in Springfield, Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. All materials will be provided and no purchase is required, however, registration is necessary since space is limited. For more information, or to register, call 973-376-6581.

VANITA BRAVER will sign copies of her two books, "Party Princess" and "Pinky Promise: A Book About Telling the Truth," on May 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. at The Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For more information, call 908-233-3535.

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 908-757-1121, fax 908-757-2626, or visit the Web site at www.ducret.edu for details.

FRONT & CENTER will host an Open House on Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. at 95 Victory Road for its new Triple Threat Summer Workshop in conjunction with Youth Theater Classes. Children and teens ages 8 to 18 will study acting, singing and dancing in two-week sessions. Each session includes a performance showcase and a Broadway field trip.

The "Triple Threat" workshops are Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and tuition is \$375 for each two-week session. Session 1 will be held June 27 to July 8. Session 2 is July 18 to 29 and Session 3 is August 1 to 12. Students who register at the open house will receive a discount on tuition. Call 973-258-1123 or visit www.front-center.com for more information.

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 973-376-4948, or visit the Web site, 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 Sym-

Summer theater classes



Students from the Youth Theater Classes program, which has relocated from Maplewood to Springfield. Call 973-258-1123 to register for the 2005 Triple Threat Summer Program.

phonian Center, call 908-241-1224. Patrons may also send an e-mail to salange@bellatlantic.net.

KIDS TALE FOR TOTS PRESCHOOL STORYTIME will be offered at Barnes and Noble, Route 22 West, Springfield, Mondays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. and the Kids' Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

RADIO TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of the month at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. For information, call 908-241-5675, or 908-241-1224. Patrons may also send an e-mail to salange@bellatlantic.net.

DISCUSSION

THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF FRESHOLDERS invites local nongovernmental organizations, individual artists and scholars to apply for funding from the

winning women's chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in barbershop style, meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the New Jersey Youth Symphony Music Center, 570 Central Ave., New Providence. Open to residents of both Essex and Union counties. To learn more about Sweet Adelines, Hickory Tree and its quartets, women and teen-aged girls who sing are urged to visit the Web site, hickorytreecorus.org, or call 973-968-6815. To engage the chorus for a performance, call 908-547-0867 or send an e-mail to bookings@hickorytreecorus.org.

INTERNET

THE INTERNET-LOUNGE, 256 South Ave., Fanwood, hosts an Open Mic/

Westfield. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., shows start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$14. For information and reservations, call 908-522-1501 or visit <http://www.coffeewithconscience.com>.

Also, visit the Web site, <http://www.coffeewithconscience.com>.

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 TMRClc@aol.com or visit the

Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

HOBBIES

LANA'S RESTAURANT will offer dinner and live jazz with Warren Vache every Thursday, beginning at 7 p.m. For information, call 732-568-9024.

JAZZ

For information, call 908-889-5265 or 908-889-4751.

THEATER

"A DELICATE BALANCE" by Edward Albee, will be performed through Saturday at the Summit Playhouse, 10 New England Ave., one block from the Grand Summit Hotel, just off Springfield Avenue. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students. For reservations, call 908-273-2192, or order tickets online at www.summitplayhouse.com.

"THE SPITFIRE GRILL," a musical by James Vafiq and Fred Alley, will be presented on Friday and Saturday at the Westfield Community Players Theatre, 1000 North West in Westfield. Refreshments will be served at 7 p.m., showtime is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person and non-transferable at the GSWRC Service Center, 201 Grove St. East in Westfield, or by calling Vafiq at 908-232-5226, or order tickets online at www.summitplayhouse.com.

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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 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is \$7.

For information, call 908-888-8816.

MEN AND WOMEN 60 to 70+ years are invited to a Jewish singles gathering to meet, greet and make new acquaintances at Dominus, 230 W. Westfield Ave., Roselle Park, on June 28, starting at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are required, because space is limited. Admission is \$24 with your R.S.V.P. due by June 11. Admission includes a complete buffet. Same day admission will not be allowed. Call 907-70+ at 908-687-0274 for details.

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Strollers' production of 'Arsenic' offers old-fashioned humor at its best

By Ruth Ross
Correspondent

In an age when what passes for comedy is cutting remarks and four-letter words, the 25th Stroller production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" is a real breath of fresh air!

The longest running and most successful comedy of its day, this 1941 farce of murder and deception provides just the right escape from the end of the Depression and the entry of the United States into World War II.

The plot, if you're unfamiliar with it, focuses on the foibles of the two spinster Brewster sisters, Addy and Martha, who live in the same home their family has inhabited since their father purchased it and used the laboratory to concoct his quack potions, the sale of which netted him the princely sum of \$1 million. The two women raised their nephews, Jonathan, Mortimer and Teddy, and are living out their old age in a house that celebrates the "virtues of another time," as the minister of the church next door calls them.

But Addy and Martha have a secret: they kill lonely old men who come to rent a room by spiking their elderly wine with arsenic, strychnine and cyanide. The bodies are then disposed of by the cuckoo Teddy who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt and digs locks for the Panama Canal — located in the basement — which serve as graves. The sisters provide the appropriate funeral services. Unfortunately, when drama critic Mortimer discovers a fresh, unburied body hidden in a



From left, Mary Claire Cardoni playing Abby Brewster, Roger Dunbar of Bloomfield as the nephew, Mortimer Brewster, and Cynthia S. Ross of Newark, playing Abby's sister Martha Brewster, in the current Strollers' production of Joseph Kesselring's 'Arsenic and Old Lace,' at the Burgdorf Cultural Center, 10 Durand Road in Maplewood, through Saturday. For tickets, call 973-761-8453, or go to www.brownpaperickets.com/event/791.

window seat, all heck breaks loose. The situation is further complicated by the arrival of long-absent criminal Jonathan and his sidekick Dr. Einstein, who are on the lam and looking for a place to hide out. Add to this an aspir-

ing playwright cop, and the result is hilarious.

Sherrie Ahlin has directed her cast to portray insanity very well, from the sweet dottiness of Abby and Martha, as played by Mary Claire Cardoni and

Cynthia S. Ross, respectively, to the sociopathic madness of Bill Poutre's Jonathan. Joe Edkin as Teddy looks the part, and his side-splitting antics — blowing the bugle and charging up San Juan Hill — keep the audience rolling. Glen Albright offers solid support as the bumbling "nurse" Dr. Einstein; David Kozzo's Officer O'Hara is appropriately dopey for an aspiring, but not very good, playwright; as Lt. Rooney of the NYPD, Peter Stoffers is suitably, officiously exasperated at the antics of his ineffectual officers, and Jeanette Gerould is lovely as the ingenua Elaine Harper.

But the star of the show is Roger Dunbar as Mortimer Brewster. While he exhibits real chemistry in the "love" scenes with Elaine, his frenzied attempts to protect his aunts while fending off his evil brother show an actor in control of his craft. Frazzled, frightened, frustrated, Dunbar convincingly "owns" the stage whenever he's on it. He's a delight to watch.

All this gentle silliness takes place on a nifty set designed by Bob Coe, complete with stairs to serve as San Juan Hill for Teddy's charge.

Bill Poutre's lighting adds to the atmosphere and Becky Zielinski's costumes helped set the scene for a genre time — note the sisters' turn of the century duds — colliding with the modern, more malevolent time of gangsters and nasty critics.

Playwright Joseph Kesselring must have had great fun writing the script, poking jabs at drama critics and the plays they are forced to

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MISCELLANEOUS
SEE PUZZLE PAGE 4

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GARAGE/YARD SALES

MAPLEWOOD & EUCLID Avenue Saturday May 21st 9:00am-3:00pm. Great stuff! Camping supplies, weed whacker, electric equipment.

SPRINGFIELD, MULTI Family Coles Road (Off Short Hills Ave) Friday, Saturday, May 20th and 21st.

SOUTH ORANGE, 2200 Village Road (Off Prospect) Friday, Saturday, 9am-4pm.

UNION, 1276 WILSHIRE Drive, (Vauxhall to Glenn to Highway) Saturday, May 21st.

UNION, 670 CARLYLE Place May 21st Saturday 9:00-5:00pm.

UNION, 1991 MOUNTAINVIEW Avenue (Off Stuyvesant Avenue) Saturday May 21st 8:00am-4:00pm.

UNION, 1031 WARREN Avenue, (off Vauxhall Road) Saturday, 9am-4pm.

UNION, 81 ELMWOOD Avenue, Saturday, May 21st.

WEST ORANGE, 316 S. Cloud Avenue, Sunday, May 22nd.

WANTED TO BUY
ANTIQUE & OLDER FURNITURE, Dining Rooms, Bedrooms, Breakfronts - Secretaries, Etc.

Antiques Wanted
Home and Used Furniture - Brics & Brac Collectibles - Rug & Carpet Sales - Complete Home Services.

COMIC BOOKS WANTED
TOP \$\$\$ PAID 973-227-5188 (Call 9am-5pm)

PETS
PUP SALE!!! \$50 up on order puppie + 113 Quarter Pups.

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A.D. Carpentry Specializing in Custom Kitchens and Cabinetry. All Types of Mounting, Wall Units and Kitchen Installation.

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Kitchens to your designs. Specializing in Door, Windows & Floors.

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DRIVEWAYS

MATERNO PAVING
Driveways - Parking Lots. Concrete Sealing, Concrete Sealing, All Type Curbs, Gutters, Driveways, Sidewalks, Driveways, Sidewalks, Driveways, Sidewalks.

ZAVOKI PAVING CO., INC.
Asphalt Driveways - Extensions, Resurfacing - Parking Lots, Retaining Walls - Vertical Drains, Railroad Ties - Brick Paver Walks & Patios.

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All Home Improvements. 30 Years Experience. Call 908-241-3813 (Kearlincourt).

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Siding - Windows - Roofing, Estimation - Concrete - Masonry.

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EDEN CONSTRUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL DESIGN & BUILD SERVICES
Professional Design & Build Services. Kitchen & Bath Remodeling, Additions, Decks, Siding, Windows, Roofing, Masonry, Concrete, Driveways, Sidewalks, Driveways, Sidewalks.

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Interior and Exterior Carpentry - Kitchen Cabinet Installation and Finishing - Doors - Windows - Basements - Bathrooms - Siding - Roofing - Additions - Patios - Decks - Retaining Walls - Outdoor Structures. Fully Insured. Call For Free Estimate.

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Work Done on Specializing for Less - Painting - Dry Wall/Spackling - Masonry - Wood Work - Interior/Exterior. The Repair and More Free Estimate.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Diab earns an award

One of the top producers at Burgdorff ERA, sales associate Madeleine Diab from the Summit office earned the NJAR Circle of Excellence Award Gold Level for 2004.

Adding to her already impressive list of achievements, Diab is on the Burgdorff ERA President's Council for the third time, which is reserved for the top 17 agents out of 700 sales associates. She is also a past member of the President's Elite and earned the

NJAR Circle of Excellence Gold Level in 1998, 1999, and 2003.

Diab also holds the senior real estate specialist designation, and is a luxury and historic home specialist. She also received her real estate broker's license, which is the highest designation a Realtor can attain.

A consistent top producer since entering the field nine years ago, Diab is well respected in the real estate industry, and is known for her strong negotiating skills, technological savvy, and commitment to excellence. A graduate of Tulane University, Diab

is an experienced professional with an extensive corporate background who provides impressive leadership and market knowledge to her clients.

"This fantastic honor comes as no surprise to those of us who know Madeleine," said Marion Weiss, vice president and manager of the Summit office. "She is an incredibly talented professional who really has a gift for selling real estate."

Diab can be reached by phone at 980-522-8774, by e-mail at MDiab@verizon.net, or by visiting her at the Burgdorff ERA Summit

office located at 401 Springfield Ave.

D'Agostino honored for 25 years of excellence

Anthony D'Agostino, broker and owner of ERA Village Green Realtors in Clark, was recognized at a special anniversary reception where he received a distinguished service award

for 25 years of membership and commitment to service excellence. The reception was held at the 2005 ERA International Business Conference held in Orlando, Fla. The award was presented by Brenda Casery, president and COO of ERA Franchise Systems Inc.

A member of the ERA Real Estate system, a leading residential broker-

age network, D'Agostino and his associates, Mary D'Agostino, Fernando "Freddy" Rivera, Marie Rivera, Melanie Selk and Richard Buontempo, joined nearly 4,000 of the industry's leading real estate professionals from all over the world to learn advanced business strategies, network and share ideas.

Set it with a classified ad. 1-800-564-8911

NEW JERSEY MORTGAGE RATES

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR		
American Federal Mortgage									
30 YR FIXED	5.125	1.50	5.285	APP	30 YR FIXED	5.825	0.00	5.877	APP
15 YR FIXED	4.750	1.13	4.968	FEE	15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.00	5.005	FEE
30 YR JUMBO	5.750	0.00	5.769	\$300	1 YR ARM	3.250	0.00	5.310	\$495
All rates and fees are guaranteed in writing!									
New Jersey's Lowest Jumbo Rates!									
www.Loansearch.com									
AMH 800-924-9091 National Future Mortgage 800-291-1212									
30 YR FIXED	5.500	0.00	5.540	APP	30 YR FIXED	5.250	0.00	5.410	APP
15 YR FIXED	5.250	0.00	5.290	FEE	15 YR FIXED	4.875	0.00	5.120	FEE
30 YR JUMBO	5.750	0.00	5.790	\$0	1 YR ARM	1.000	0.00	5.330	\$375
No Application, broker commitment or broker fees!									
Lowest jumbo rates! No cost closings available!									
Call now for residential loans as low as 1.495%!									
Commercial loans from \$500k to \$5ml on all prop types									
Columbia Bank									
30 YR FIXED	5.875	0.00	5.921	APP	30 YR FIXED	5.875	0.00	5.912	APP
15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.00	5.075	FEE	15 YR FIXED	5.125	0.00	5.185	FEE
3/1 ARM	4.375	0.00	4.738	N/P	15 YR JUMBO	5.750	0.00	5.811	\$395
Rates and terms are subject to change without notice.									
Call for further details.									
Kastle Mortgage									
30 YR FIXED	5.500	0.00	5.580	APP	30 YR FIXED	5.875	0.00	5.920	APP
15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.00	5.080	FEE	15 YR FIXED	5.250	0.00	5.320	FEE
3/1 ARM	4.375	0.00	4.738	\$325	10/1-30 YR	5.625	0.00	5.800	\$125
Reverse Mortgages & Free Refinancing									
Other products available, please contact us for more details and rate information									
LightHouse Mortgage									
30 YR FIXED	5.375	0.25	5.483	APP	30 YR FIXED	5.625	0.00	5.844	APP
15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.25	5.088	FEE	15 YR FIXED	5.125	0.00	5.184	FEE
30 YR JUMBO	5.750	0.00	5.838	\$375	10 YR FIXED	4.625	0.00	4.679	\$350
Arms to \$1,000,000. Interest only + No income loans available. Low closing costs									
Rates were received on 5/18/05 from the lenders and are subject to change. Contact lenders for more information.									
C.M.I. assumes no liability for typographical errors or omissions. To display information, lenders call 800-426-4665									
Copyright 2005, Cooperative Mortgage Information - All Rights Reserved. Visit lenders at: om-mortgageinfo.com									

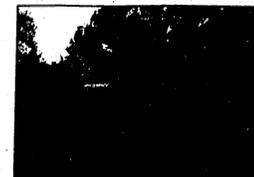
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UNION Offered at \$379,900
Beautiful 4 BR Cape in Washington School section features new roof, siding, gutters, windows & bathrooms. MBR has lg walk in closet. Oversized garage, hw flrs & freshly painted.
UN19169



Union Offered at \$409,900
Pristine Washington School Brick Cape features LR, FDR, EIK, 5 BR's, 1.1 baths, full finished basement, CAC & newer timberline roof. This is a must see!
UN19172



Union Starting from \$379,900
Custom Cape in prime location. Features LR, FDR, EIK, beautiful floor w/br, 4 BR's, 1.1 baths & CAC. Move in condition.
UN19173



Union Offered at \$399,000
Move right into this Expanded Cape in the Washington School section! Features 3 BR's, 2.1 baths, EIK, FDR, LR, flr bmt & 1 car garage. Must see!
UN19174

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UNION 367 Chestnut Street 908.688.3000

Weichert

BUY FOR \$1,284/month



Charming Expanded Cape!
UNION TOWNSHIP - Great location! Offering 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bth, Living Room, formal Dining Room, Eat-in-Kitchen & a Rec Room in a partially finished basement! 2 car detached garage, central air, and large back yard with deck! A must see! \$350,000.

BUY FOR \$1,686/month



Original Owner!
MAPLEWOOD TOWNSHIP - Beautiful and large two family with 6 rooms over 6 rooms! Separate utilities (2 gas furnaces), hardwood floors, Lower Level Rec Room, 2 built-in garages, and so much more! A must see! \$459,800.

BUY FOR \$1,452/month



Magnificent Custom Cape!
UNION TOWNSHIP - Recently renovated & features beautiful hardwood floors, backsplash tiling, brand new baths and much more! 3BR, 2.5 BA, mod EIK w/box bay window, DR, Fam Rm w/FP, and a one car attached garage! \$395,999.

BUY FOR \$2,365/month



Gorgeous Two Family!
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP - Great home on a huge lot! First floor offers 2 bedrooms, 1 full bath, Living Room, Eat-in-Kitchen & Family Room! Second floor offers 1 bedroom, 1 full bath, Living Room & Eat-in-Kitchen! 2 car detached garage! \$645,000.

1307 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union
908-687-4800

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REALTORS

Visit us at burgdorff.com to see all our homes for sale.

CRANFORD \$520,000

One of a kind, 1910 stone front Colonial features chandelier, woodwork, wood floors, oversized lot, central air conditioning, 8-foot ceilings, oversized windows, park-like property. Ideal for expansion. New roof. A pleasure to show!

CRANFORD \$439,000

Custom, designed with large living room that opens to the dining room, remodeled Eat-in-Kitchen, new central air conditioning, 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, attached garage, wood floors, near NJ transportation, Adams Park and Brookingsdale School.

CRANFORD \$388,000

Newly renovated 5 room, 2 bedroom English Village Condo offers washer/dryer hookups, new windows, gleaming oak parquet floors and eat-in-kitchen.

LINDEN \$319,000

Fabulous 8 room home offers 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths on private, fenced property. This home also offers a spacious kitchen with separate eating area, gas heat, CAC, wood floors and much more.

UNION \$349,900

Gorgeous 3 BR, 3 bath home has been professionally decorated and updated throughout. Also offers a master BR suite with full bath and sitting room, finished basement with bath and separate entrance. Formal DR, eat-in kitchen, wood floors, gas heat, 1-car garage and much more. Close to NY bus and major highways.

LINDEN \$293,000

Cute, cozy cape with a fenced yard, above-ground pool, basement family room, eat-in kitchen and located close to town and transportation. This lovely home has 2 bedrooms upstairs and an office-bedroom on the first floor. Enjoy low taxes too!

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16 Offices Throughout New Jersey
welcome home

AUTOMOTIVE

AUTO FOR SALE
ACURA INTEGRA 1998 Gold Silver with spoiler, 68,000 miles. Powered windows/locks. Sun-roof, auto start, new tires, factory installed alarm. AM/FM CD player, black/silver interior with Intake music. Wind for sound boost/amps. Call after 6:00pm 908-887-0388, \$8,000, will negotiate MUST SELL!

AUTO FOR SALE
AAA Rated Dealer. Donate Your Car, boat or real estate. IRS tax deductible. Free pickup/low any model condition. Help Underprivileged children. 1-800-568-9211. Out-reachcenter.org

BMW 328i, 1997 ABSOLUTELY MUST SELL! Black with black leather interior, CD, moon-roof, 86K, Excellent Condition. Sold for 1st offer over \$10,000. Priced well below market value. 618-957-3144

CHEVROLET AVEO-LS, 2005, 1,900 miles. 4 door, auto, CD player, AM/FM radio, AC, anti-theft protection. Must Sell \$11,000. Call Dave at 732-708-8991

CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY LX, 1998. Fully loaded, DVD, Alarm, remote start, blind spot monitor, 98K miles. \$7400. Call 908-337-1222.

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FORD TAURUS 2001, All power, AC, AM-FM w/ CD, 2 new tires. Very clean, 82,000 miles. Asking \$6,700. 908-954-0737.

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MERCURY COUGAR V8 1999, Silver. Power steering, power brakes, CD, A/C, 59,000 miles. One owner, excellent condition. \$7,800. 908-241-6341.

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MINI VAN, Nissan Quest, GXE, 2001, v-6, 3.3 lt, silver 7 passengers, auto, all power, cruise, air, video 59,500 miles, \$10,750, 973-256-4813.

OLDSMOBILE CUTLASS Supreme, 1990. 70,000 miles, good condition, 4-door white, \$2800 or best offer. 908-265-1263.

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Value Certificates.



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cruise. Stk#50730. VIN#52285231.
MSRP \$29,725. Price includes
\$3000 Factory Rebate, \$1000 Hot
Button Bonus Cash & \$1000 Instant Value Certificates.



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Price includes \$1000 Hot Button
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doors, a/c, cd, dtx r TV/DVD ent sys, rr pncg
asst, alum whls, rem start. Stk#5083.
VIN#5D240639. MSRP \$29,230. Price
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\$1000 Instant Value Certificates.



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susp, trailering pkg. Stk#50808.
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Rebate, \$1000 Hot Button Bonus
Cash & \$1000 Instant Value Certificates.



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2001 KIA SPORTAGE 4X4 4DR

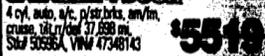
4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks,
a/c, cd, alum whls. 44,317 mi.
Stk#50786A. VIN#15030225.



\$8719

2000 Chevrolet CAVALIER 4 DOOR

4 cyl. auto. a/c, p/str/brks, air/in,
cruise. 18,700 mi. Stk#50558A.
VIN#15030225.



\$5519

2001 KIA SPORTAGE 4DR

4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks,
a/c, cd, alum whls. 44,317 mi.
Stk#50786A. VIN#15030225.



\$719

2001 KIA SPORTAGE 4DR

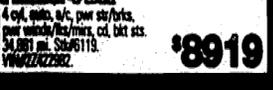
4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks,
a/c, cd, alum whls. 44,317 mi.
Stk#50786A. VIN#15030225.



\$8919

2002 CHEVROLET HHR 4DR

4 cyl. auto. a/c, pwr str/brks,
pwr windows/lks/mir, cd, tilt sts.
34,881 mi. Stk#506119.
VIN#15030225.



\$8919

2000 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO LS

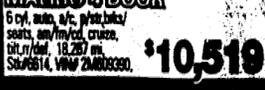
6 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds, a/c,
cass, alum whls, sec sys.
29,653 mi. Stk#50628A.
VIN#15030225.



\$9719

2002 Chevrolet MALIBU 4 DOOR

6 cyl. auto. a/c, p/str/brks/
seats, air/mir/cd, cruise,
tilt/mir. 18,287 mi.
Stk#50614. VIN#240320.



\$10,519

2001 KIA SPORTAGE 4DR

4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks,
a/c, cd, alum whls. 44,317 mi.
Stk#50786A. VIN#15030225.



\$11,919

2001 KIA SPORTAGE 4DR

4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks,
a/c, cd, alum whls. 44,317 mi.
Stk#50786A. VIN#15030225.



\$12,919

2001 NISSAN XIV 4DR

4 cyl. auto. a/c, pwr str/ABS, pwr
winds/lks/mir/sts,
cass, tilt, roof rack.
37,285 mi. Stk#50655A.
VIN#15030225.



\$12,919

2004 TOYOTA COROLLA LE 4DR

4 cyl. auto. a/c, pwr str/brks, pwr
winds/lks/mir/sts,
cass, tilt, roof rack.
15,231 mi. Stk#50242A.
VIN#4C15228.



\$13,919

2001 SUBARU FORESTER AWD 4DR

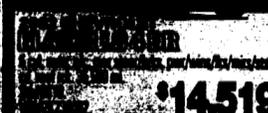
4 cyl. auto. a/c, pwr str/ABS, pwr
winds/lks/mir, cd,
roof rack, trailer hitch.
37,165 mi. Stk#50487A.
VIN#1H743341.



\$13,919

2001 KIA SPORTAGE 4DR

4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks,
a/c, cd, alum whls. 44,317 mi.
Stk#50786A. VIN#15030225.



\$14,519

2001 KIA SPORTAGE 4DR

4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks,
a/c, cd, alum whls. 44,317 mi.
Stk#50786A. VIN#15030225.



\$15,719

2004 GMC CANYON SLE EXT CAB

4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/
lks, a/c, cd, alum whls, tilt,
cruise. 2130 mi. Stk#50517A.
VIN#48148611.



\$16,819

2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4DR

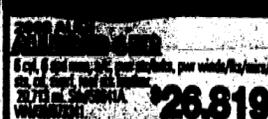
6 cyl. auto. a/c, pwr str/brks, pwr
winds/lks/mir, cd,
roof rack, trailer hitch.
17,183 mi. Stk#50538.
VIN#2223714.



\$19,919

2001 KIA SPORTAGE 4DR

4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks,
a/c, cd, alum whls. 44,317 mi.
Stk#50786A. VIN#15030225.



\$28,819

2001 KIA SPORTAGE 4DR

4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks,
a/c, cd, alum whls. 44,317 mi.
Stk#50786A. VIN#15030225.



\$18,819

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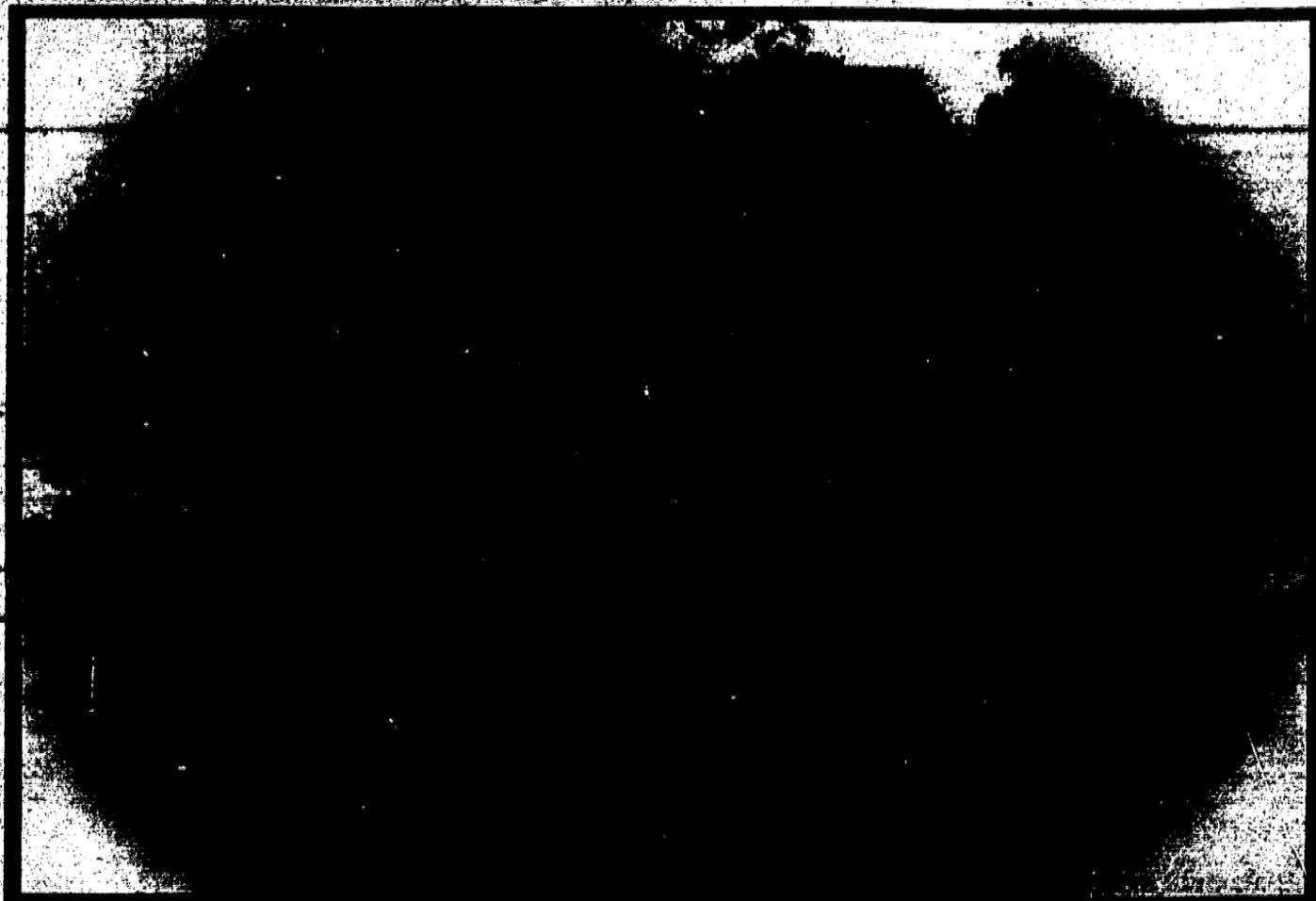
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D'Agostino receives award for 25 years of service

Anthony D'Agostino, broker and owner of ERA Village Green Realtors in Clark, was recognized at a special anniversary reception, where he received a distinguished service award for 25 years of membership and commitment to service excellence.

The reception was at the 2005 ERA International Business Conference in Orlando, Fla. The award was presented by Brenda Caserly, president and chief operations officer of Era Franchise Systems Inc.

A member of the ERA Real Estate system, a leading residential brokerage network, D'Agostino and his associates, Mary D'Agostino, Fernando "Freddy" Rivera, Marie Rivera, Melanie Selk and Richard Buontempo, joined nearly 4,000 of the industry's leading real estate professionals from all over the world to learn advanced business strategies, network and share ideas.

The conference — built around the theme "ERA... The Only Way" — covered a number of topics, including technology tools to enhance the real estate experience; improving customer service and satisfaction through local and national alliances, and best practices for making optimal use of ERA system products and services.

Other conference highlights included a trade show featuring more than 50 vendors

and service providers, a keynote presentation by Tony Robbins and the annual awards gala that recognized the "Best of the Best" in the ERA Real Estate system during 2004.

Located at 35 Brant Ave. in Clark, ERA Village Green Realtors has more than 20 sales associates serving home buyers and sellers throughout Union County and northern Middlesex County and use the latest technology and ERA Products to provide better service for their clients.

ERA Franchise Systems Inc. is a global leader in the residential real estate industry with more than 30 years experience in developing consumer-oriented products and services.

ERA Real Estate has earned the prestigious 2004 J.D. Power and Associates Award for "Highest Overall Satisfaction For First Time Home Buyers Among National Full Service Real Estate Firms."

The ERA real estate network includes approximately 33,200 brokers and sales associates and more than 2,600 offices throughout the United States and 30 other countries and territories.

Each office is independently owned and operated except offices owned and operated by NRT Incorporated. ERA Franchise Systems Inc. is a subsidiary of Centant Corporation and part of its Real Estate Franchise Group. ERA information is available to consumers at ERA.com.

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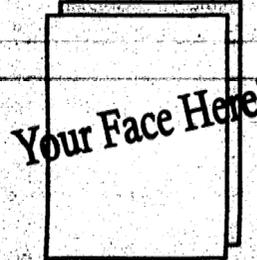
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Sales Representative
Specializing in buying & selling in Union County
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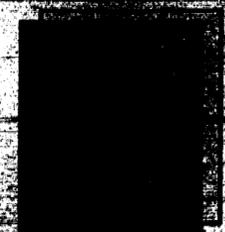
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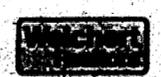
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Prudential to host rummage sale fund-raiser for The Sunshine Kids

The Summit Office of Prudential New Jersey Properties will be having a rummage sale to raise funds for The Sunshine Kids, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children with cancer through positive group activities. The rummage sale is a part of Prudential New Jersey Properties' company-wide initiative to support The Sunshine Kids Foundation through events organized by individual sales associates and offices.

The sale will take place at the Summit office, located at 428 Springfield Ave. in downtown Summit, on June 4 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Donations of new and used

items, in good condition, can be dropped off from June 1 through June 3 between 4 and 8 p.m. The Prudential team will be accepting the following items: furniture, art, toys, bicycles, small appliances and household and garden items. Unfortunately, the office cannot accept donations of board games, puzzles, books and clothing.

The event will also feature a silent auction, and free coffee, courtesy of the Summit Food Market, will be provided to all purchasers.

For more information about the sale or to donate items to be sold, call 908-273-7794 ext. 245 or 310.

Century 21 named No. 1 office

"I believe this distinction is due in large part to the agent training Century 21 Corporate makes available for our agents" said trainer J.R. Sangiuliano, when asked how he felt about the award for recognition as the No. 1 office in Clark and Rahway for sale production in 2004.

"We spend an inordinate amount of time training our agents to have the ability to service our community the way realtors should service the public," he added.

Century 21 JRS Realty was notified by IMS Inc. that they are the No. 1 office in Clark, Rahway, and Clark and Rahway combined for the 2004 fiscal year.

IMS Inc. is a real estate statistics management company that tabulates real estate pro-

duction statistics each year for individual agents and offices in New Jersey.

"We are very proud of this award; however, we are more proud of our top agents, Vinny Spingola, Audra Loccisano, Punit Shah, and Dawn Boyden, who have all contributed mightily to our continued success," said broker/owner George Sangiuliano.

"Century 21 JRS Realty is a family owned and operated business and each one of our clients/customers are treated like family. Individual, personal service is our goal for every transaction," J.R. Sangiuliano added.

The No. 1 office in Clark and Rahway is Century 21 JRS Realty, located at 138 Westfield Ave. in Clark for more than 20 years.

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ERA Village Green Realtors recognized by J.D. Power

Local real estate company ERA Village Green Realtors in Clark is part of the international global real estate network which was the recipient of the 2004 J.D. Power and Associates Award for "Highest Overall Satisfaction For First Time Home Buyers Among Real Estate Firms."

"We are honored to be recognized by such a well-respected organization as J.D. Power and Associates," said Anthony D'Agostino with ERA Village Green Realtors.

"This award symbolizes the personalized service we provide homebuyers from the local community to help them find their ideal home while making the buying process a pleasant experience."

According to a recent survey by the National Association of Realtors, first-time homebuyers are satisfied for 40 percent of all homebuyers in the United States. Locally, ERA Village Green Realtors offers a variety of programs and services dedicated to meeting the unique needs of first-time homebuyers.

New Jersey Awards Gala at Mayfair Farms, West Orange, some of our award-winning staff of sales professionals proudly met with executives from the ERA network, including ERA President Brenda Casserly, and had the opportunity for a photo opportunity with the J.D. Power Award, the highest sought award which sets ERA apart from other national full-service real estate firms," stated D'Agostino.

The J.D. Power and Associates 2004 Home Buyer/Seller Satisfaction Study was based on responses from 4,977 home buyers and sellers and was conducted for Candant Corporation by J.D. Power and Associates.

Located at 35 Brant Ave. in Clark, ERA Village Green Realtors has more than 20 sales associates serving home buyers and sellers throughout Union County and northern Middlesex County and use the latest technology to provide better service for their clients.

To learn more about ERA Village Green Realtors and the award-recognized programs and services they provide, call 732-381-7477 or visit www.ERAVillageGreen.com.

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UN9146 Offered at \$299,000



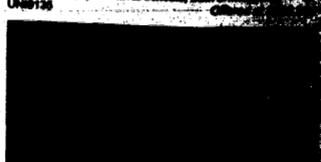
CRANFORD - Charming Dutch Colonial home in sought after neighborhood. Features 4 BR's, 2 1/2 Baths, formal dining room, PDR, large office, finished basement, separate breakfast area, walk-in refrigerator, hot tub & great yard. Walk to schools, bus & shopping.
UN9139 Offered at \$499,000



ROSELLE PARK - Nice small family features 3 BR, full bath, BR & LR on 1st fl & 1 BR, full bath, BR & LR on 2nd fl. Newer heating system, partially finished basement & maintenance free vinyl siding.
UN9168 Offered at \$442,000



UNION - Beautiful 4 BR split in the Washington School section features updated kitchen, new floor on walkway leading to new Florida room w/porcelain tile, 15 x 12 deck, CAC, new roof & underground sprinkler system.
UN9113 Offered at \$430,000



UNION - Nice condition split level in the Washington School area with view of private golf course. Features 3 BR's, 2 1/2 Baths, PDR, BR, LR, finished basement, hot tub & full bath, walk-in refrigerator, hot tub & great yard.
UN9028 Offered at \$499,000

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The "Real" Professional in Today's Real Estate World

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In today's real estate world so consumed with computers and technology, we are constantly hearing about different types of brokerages including computer brokers, "discount" brokers, etc., etc., who are trying to convince the public to save one, two, three, or even four thousand dollars on their fees. This article has been written to shed some light on and discuss the importance of the "Real" real estate Professionals to acknowledge those Professionals whose lives have always been and will continue to be truly dedicated to their profession and their clientele.

"GOOD OLD FASHIONED SERVICE"
You are a homeowner and you are exploring the possibility of selling your home. What does this signify to you? It is most likely that:
1) Your home is your largest asset in monetary value.
2) Your home has been the building block of your life-it is where Johnny, who is now graduating high school, took his first step seventeen years ago! A "Real" real estate professional knows and will understand these two factors and guide you toward a successful closing.

The "Real" real estate professional has a NAME, a FACE, and a CHARACTER. He is not a dot-com! He will guide you through the processes of selling your home and will be there every step of the way: from open houses to pre-qualifications to inspections to offers to closing and even after!!!

Jill Gusman has achieved the ultimate distinction of being among the TOP 1% of more than (approx.) 7,000 Active Real Estate Professionals by units of listings sold in the year 2000!

He will personally show your home with pride, and point out the fireplace where your family gathers on holidays and the playroom where Johnny first learned to read. Can this be proudly pointed out on a "Virtual Tour" or logging onto the Internet? There are many real estate professionals in our community, in our state, and in our country who pride themselves on this type of service, and as one of these service-oriented brokers for many, many years, I am acknowledging the 100% client service and the "Real" real estate professionals who dedicate to it.

We hear and see on the media technological real estate brokers who claim that Realtors must change large commissions to pay for "push" offices. As a down to earth, family-oriented Realtor, my agency offers a simple home-style atmosphere where every client feels comfortable with a cup of coffee!

Our clientele has been built over the years by word of mouth; one happy homeowner to another in this manner no matter how technological our society becomes.

Hats off to the "Real" Real Estate Professionals

(This article was written by Jill Gusman of Jill Gusman Realty, Inc. Look for Jill's column, 'Let's Ask Jill', in your local paper!)

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Tips help market properties through home design

Now that the real estate spring market is here, sales associate Daria Knarvik from the Burgdorff ERA Maplewood office explains the importance of "staging" a property to appeal to the buyer and offer tips to sellers, who will be placing their homes on the market.

"A home must be desirable to the buyer, not only on a practical price it right level, but also on an emotional level," commented Knarvik. "This may mean to 'stage' the seller's home in order that the buyer may be able to feel at home. Therefore, when a Burgdorff ERA agent walks through a client's home, we may suggest what pictures should be taken down, how to position furniture or even remove furniture, and we offer to change a few things in the home. These suggestions are important and help the potential buyer to walk through the house and visualize their things in it."

Knarvik continued, "Doing a couple of small things can also add to the price of the property. What may be overlooked by the seller could be a sore thumb to the buyer, so we try to give the seller a sense of what people will be looking at when touring the home."

These couple of small changes have, in the past, included taking down drapes, furnishing clients' living spaces with antique furniture, helping with landscaping for better curb appeal and even changing status schemes to better suit a specific buyer.

Preparation for showcasing a home usually takes one to two weeks, because paint, carpet cleaning or other intensive activities may be required. But many other, smaller improve-

ments can also make a big difference in buyers' eyes. Here are a few tips that Knarvik suggests that sellers can quickly implement to make their homes more appealing to prospective buyers:

- The first thing a buyer looks at is the front door. It gives a good indication of what to expect on the inside. Make sure there are no torn screens, rust or dents.
- A coat of fresh paint goes a long way toward making the home brighter and more attractive.
- Place fresh flowers on tables.
- Remove clutter. Put things in boxes. Buyers will not have a problem seeing boxes in the basement, especially since they know that a move is pending.
- In the kitchen, remove anything on counters and on top of the refrigerator. It shows the buyer that there is not enough room in the cabinets with items on them.
- Clean the windows. Some sales associates always have cleaner in their cars just in case they come across a client's home that desperately needs a window washed.
- "People who take our advice get their listing price and above. And it doesn't cost that much to do a touch up. I look at it as 'elbow grease' for the home. The ultimate goal is for the seller to receive the best value for the property," remarked Knarvik.

Daria Knarvik can be reached by phone at 973-378-2284, by sending a message via e-mail to Daria-Knarvik@Burgdorff.com or by visiting her at the Burgdorff ERA Maplewood office, located at 145 Maplewood Ave.

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For being the #1 Agent in CLARK & RAHWAY for 2004

Burgdorff's Gould earns NJAR Bronze Achievement Award

Sales associate Nancy Gould from the Burgdorff ERA Maplewood office recently earned the New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence Sales Bronze Award for production in 2004.

"Nancy is a consummate professional whose depth and understanding of real estate sales has served her well," said Cynthia Grieger, vice president and manager of the Maplewood office. "By applying her talent

to the Burgdorff commitment to excellence, she has succeeded in joining the elite of the real estate industry. I am very proud of Nancy."

A Realtor since 2001, Gould provides diligent, compassionate service and has been successful with many recent residential transactions in the area. She also achieved membership to the NJAR Circle of Excellence in 2002 and 2003.

Prior to becoming a real estate agent, Gould worked for an architectural engineering firm as a project manager, where she was responsible for overseeing new construction, interior rehabilitation, master planning and development. Her marketing work also included projects as far away as Saudi Arabia and China.

Gould has a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology from Grinnell College in Iowa

and a master's degree in urban planning from Columbia University, N.Y. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

The award-winning Nancy Gould can be reached by phone at 973-378-2285 by sending a message via e-mail to Nancy-Gould@Burgdorff.com or by visiting her at the Burgdorff ERA Maplewood office, located at 145 Maplewood Ave.

June is designated garage door safety month at Skillman Doors

Whether buying or selling a home, take a look at the garage door and, especially, the garage door opener, to make sure they meet current safety requirements.

"The garage door is the largest and heaviest piece of moving equipment in most homes and, although garage door openers have a life expectancy of approximately eight years, some can last as long as 40," said Bill Kohlman Sr. of Skillman Doors LLC. "So, despite the reliability and sophistication

of today's automatic garage door systems, they must be periodically adjusted and maintained to stay safe."

To promote garage door safety, The International Door Association has designated June 2001 as "Garage Door Safety Month."

Skillman Doors, an accredited local member that has been serving Essex County for more than 60 years, is working with the IDA to increase awareness of the possible hazards of garage doors and automatic opener systems and the need for periodic inspection and maintenance to keep them safe.

Garage doors and openers should be tested as part of the home inspection during the

sale/purchase process. "Springs, cables, rollers, pulleys and other door hardware are under extremely high tension," Kohlman explained.

ERA Meeker tops in real estate

"Since our inception, ERA Meeker Realty has been committed to providing exceptional service to the Union County community," said Vita Zoltak, broker/owner. Buying and selling a home is a major decision. Choosing a reliable Realtor can make a difference to your financial success.

Perhaps you are thinking of purchasing or selling in the near future.

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For a career in real estate, contact Vita Zoltak by e-mail at VitaZoltak@msn.com.

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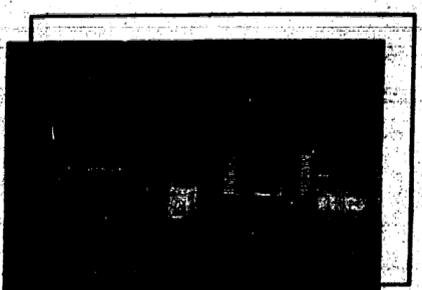
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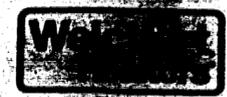
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INSIDE

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Volume Eight, Number Six
June 2005

TopOff 3 and planning help local hospitals prepare for disaster

Practice drills turned into real life experience recently when Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth received patients from a hazardous chemical accident.

The incident was on a far smaller scale than the planning exercise that took place at the end of April, which involved all area hospitals receiving hundreds of "victims" from a bio-terrorism incident, but the real life incident required the hospital to implement its decontamination plan and tested co-ordination with the county.

The incident was created when a maintenance worker at an Elizabeth motel accidentally mixed cleaning agents that created hydrofluoric acid, a highly volatile and toxic compound. Three workers were contaminated and were transported to Trinitas for decontamination. One was later admitted for treatment.

As had been practiced in previous drills, hospital workers were alerted of the

incoming victims by the Union County Central Command system and were ready when the victims arrived. They also used the hospital's new computer program, HazSoft, to quickly research hydrofluoric acid and its treatment.

"As a front-line provider of hospital services in a very busy, metropolitan area, Trinitas must be ready for any emergency that might happen," said Gary S. Horan, Trinitas president.

The real life situation was on a smaller scale, but similar to, the exercises carried out during TopOff 3, the most comprehensive terrorism response exercise ever conducted in the United States. The drill was staged around a simulated terrorist attack using pneumonic plague released in Union and Middlesex counties, but with ramifications that stretched to Connecticut and into Canada and Great Britain. Pneumonic plague, which affects the lungs, was selected for the test because it can be transferred from one person to another, is not endemic to the United States, is difficult to diagnosis, is a real terrorism possibility and spreads quickly. The international ramifications involved infected people traveling on airplanes to other countries.

Union Hospital in Union, which is part of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, along with other local hospitals, tested its facilities during the drill. Before 9/11 the hospital had disaster plans in place, but after that time, planning changed to consider additional likely disasters.

"If we have a group of patients coming in with the same symptoms, the nursing supervisor notifies the administrator on call and all department heads go to command central and coordinate the response," said Charlotte Clark, a spokeswoman for Union Hospital. "The central command system enables those in charge to assess supplies, determine what we need from vendors, and determine how to deal with the existing situation and the situation if it worsens."

Union Hospital has the capability of quickly setting up a

(Continued on page 5)

Union Hospital Emergency Department staff review the charts of a volunteer patient in one of the treatment tents erected in the parking lot behind the hospital during the TopOff 3 drill. The hospital cared for more than 300 TopOff patients in addition to its real patients during the three days that it was involved in the drill.



<p>Inside INSIDE This ISSUE... ISSUE...</p>	<p>Articles</p>	<p>New Jersey's foreign born population requires added services from hospitals 3</p>	 
	<p>Profiles</p>	<p>Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital 4</p>	
	<p>Gateway to Growth</p>	<p>The Moral of the Story is the Story 2</p>	

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Gateway to Growth

The Moral of the Story is the Story

By John L. Picard

When I was a small child, my father would come in and tell me a story of a boy (who's name just happened to be John) and his errant dog named Chimpanzingo. One day, in excitement, the dog ran off into the street. Blam! Chimpanzingo lost his nose! They searched every store in New York City to find someone who sold dog noses. Nothing. Finally, a manager of a '5 & 10 cents' store took pity and found a light bulb that fit perfectly. Chimpanzingo was going to be ok. He would listen from now on. There was only one small difficulty... Every time the dog walked, the bulb would light up and then turn off with each step.

The two morals of the story - Though the moral of the above story is about listening and the need to persevere, the broader moral, for us all, is the sharing of the story itself. Storytelling is a way to use both sides of your audience's brains to get them to listen and relate to your message.

Touch your customers - In this world of information overload, the messages that stand apart from the crowd are the ones that touch us personally. By sharing stories with your customers, you go beneath the surface transactions to form a powerful bond of intimacy and trust.

Overcoming information clutter - Stories get your audience personally involved. We have all shared personal moments about our kids, vacations or growing up. Too often, we think of this as filler before the real conversation begins. Rather than seeing these moments as incidental, you can weave your story into all your marketing, service and communications. Aligned with your marketing messages, these tools will take on personality and meaning that will resonate deeply with your customers.

You are your story - Great business stories can turn into "magic beans" that you can plant in the marketplace. Harley-Davidson's story is about "taking to the road". Kodak shares family memories. Nike talks about athletic passion and "just doing it". Each company has truly become their story in the minds of their buyers.

It's a two way street - Success demands that you also listen to your customer's stories. When you move beyond the sound of your own corporate voice, you can hear the customer's tale and see your relationship from their perspective. The sum of their experiences and history forms the glue that turns marketing into understanding and action.

Listening can be a powerful resource - These customer stories can be a great source of new product and services ideas. Additionally, the act of listening and paying attention can transform your customer relationship. Being truly heard by another is one of the most profoundly satisfying experiences in life. Your customers will sense the difference and listen to you in turn.

Quick suggestions for story telling - 1. Make your story personal - touch your true feelings and emotions. 2. Use all of the senses to make the story real (taste, feel, sight, hearing and even smell). 3. Use language that sounds like you and your audience. 4. Don't forget your point - tie the story to your message and marketing destination. 5. Be creative. 6. Use humor and be able to laugh with your customer. 7. Ask questions and turn your stories into shared experiences.

Storytelling is opportunity - Most of us follow our noses. Like Chimpanzingo, if you light up the bulb at the end of their noses with energy and imagination, they will listen from now on. Soon you will hear your customer say: "Tell me the story again? Please!"

JOHN PICARD is principal of Picard & Company, a strategic marketing firm specializing in business growth and customer retention. Functioning as a "relationship architect," the firm strengthens customer relationships to optimize long-term returns and profitability. Picard can be reached at 908-771-0512 or via e-mail at jpicaard@picardmarketing.com or visit www.picardmarketing.com.



New Jersey's foreign born population requires added services from hospitals

New Jersey has one of the highest percentages of foreign born residents in the United States, behind only California and New York, and the size of this population is growing in all of the states.

California has the overwhelming majority of the foreign born residents, but New Jersey's diverse population also accounts for a large portion of the foreign born who reside in this country. Nationally the percentage of foreign born residents, compared to the overall population, increased from 7.9 percent of the population in 1995, to 9.7 percent in 1997, to 11.5 percent in 2002, according to the Center for Immigration Studies. Each year, the percentage of New Jersey residents who are foreigners tops the national average. In 2002, it reached 18.5 percent and is still growing. In addition, the number of different nationalities represented among those foreign born is increasing.

All of those numbers boil down to the fact that many of the people who call New Jersey home do not speak English at all or do not speak it well. This presents special problems for institutions, such as hospitals where communication with the patients is crucial to good care. Each hospital has developed a system for dealing with the issue.

"Overlook Hospital's service area has a diverse population," said Raul Cadavid, health educator, who is fluent in Spanish. "The Healthy Avenues Van is used for outreach education and screening programs such as blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol, and distributes information in both English and Spanish," he explained.

Overlook Hospital, which is located in Summit, is part of the Atlantic Health System. It has a language telephone system known as Cyraphone, which is a 24-hour-a-day telephone translation system with two handsets so that the patient and doctor or nurse can both be on the line at the same time. An interpreter translates the conversation, allowing both parties to hear the "tone" of the questions and answers, as well as the words. This helps patients from all backgrounds receive translations in very short period of time after their arrival.

All patient areas are also equipped with language cards to help facilitate translations. In addition to CyraPhone or CyraCom, as it is also known because that is the

company that produces it, Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth has a network of 374 employees who volunteer to staff a "language bank." The employees speak a total of 42 languages and work throughout the hospital. When a translator is needed, the hospital tries to find an employee on site before using the telephone translating system.

"We work hard to hire front line staff in the emergency department, admitting and registration areas who are bilingual," said Gary S. Horan, FACHE, president of Trinitas. "Understanding the needs of our patients, and giving them accurate information regarding their condition and treatment, is absolutely vital to a successful outcome."

At Union Hospital, which is part of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, any patient who enters the hospital undergoes an assessment and special needs, including languages, are noted, said Charlotte Clark, director of public relations.

"For non-English speaking patients, we have a data base of 'language buddies,' who are employees who have volunteered to act as translators when needed. We use them whenever they are available. If not, we have a language line with dual telephone headsets that provides translators."

The hospital provides all documents in Spanish or any other language. Part of the hospital's training is to school employees in cultural differences and train them to deal with languages, the deaf, religious preferences or whatever special need arises, she said.

All of the hospitals in the Atlantic Health System and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway also have the CyraCom system.

"We can translate 135 languages but we usually deal with Spanish, Polish, Russian, Italian, Korean and Portuguese and a growing number of Arabic languages, where there are many dialects," said Florey Cruz-Cerpa, community health outreach coordinator for an Atlantic Health System hospital. "We also have employees fluent in Spanish. There is often a gap in health care for non-English speaking people, so whatever accommodation we need to make, we are sensitive to that need."

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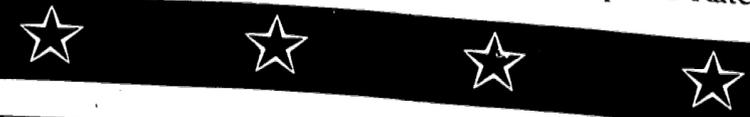
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Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway Hospital provides a health care campus of diversity

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway is a unique community hospital providing a diversity of services. With licensed facilities covering acute, subacute, hospice, and long-term care, along with fully upgraded outpatient services and access to the extended campuses of the Robert Wood Johnson Health System, the community can expect the best in health care.

A member of the Robert Wood Johnson Health Care Corp., the hospital's mission is to deliver comprehensive, quality, cost-effective health care services providing access and value to the community through a unified effort that meets individual needs with dignity and respect.

Acute Care

RWJUH Rahway offers a health care continuum designed to parallel life-long individual needs. The hospital offers services and modalities for the early diagnosis of disease processes; same-day treatment options; and comprehensive inpatient acute care that can help to prepare individuals to function at their highest possible potential.

In addition, the hospital offers a number of other specialized programs and services to meet the needs of the patient population. These include cardiac catheterization, the Nicholas Quadrel Healthy Heart Center, a diabetes self-management program, a state-of-the-art emergency department, psychiatric emergency services, geriatric outreach program, and a pain management center.

Outpatient Services

RWJUH Rahway has made scheduling appointments for outpatient testing faster and more convenient with more available appointment times, extended scheduling hours, plus evening and weekend appointments. In many cases, same day or next day service is available.

The hospital has completely renovated its Radiology Department, by replacing or upgrading all equipment in a newly designed space. New and upgraded equipment includes: MRI, CAT scan, mammography, DEXA Scan (bone densitometry), and five new X-ray rooms.

Subacute Care

Subacute is a term used to describe care that does not require hospitalization, but cannot be given in a home or a custodial care setting. Generally, it is care provided

after a stay in the hospital following an illness or after surgery. The subacute unit provides skilled nursing services, along with physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. The unit is designed for a short term stay and the goal is to transition individuals from the hospital to home, assisted living, or to long term care.

Hospice Care

Home hospice care serves the terminally ill through the traditional values of the patient-doctor-family relationship. Through RWJUH Rahway Hospice, persons with terminal illnesses are provided with a full range of medical, nursing and support services, which are delivered to them in their homes.

Hospice benefits include: a complete spectrum of home care provided by the hospice team; pain control and symptom management; home visits and supervision by registered nurses with around-the-clock availability; comprehensive social services for the patient and family, including counseling, spiritual support and bereavement services; home health aide/homemaker services; volunteer services for companionship and family respite; medical supplies and equipment; and nutritional consultations.

Long Term Acute Care

In October 2004, Kindred Healthcare, Inc. officially opened Kindred Hospital New Jersey-Rahway. Kindred Hospital New Jersey-Rahway is a 28-bed 'hospital within a hospital' located on the 4th floor of RWJUH Rahway. Dr. Vinod Sinha serves as the hospital's medical director. Kindred, which has operated a pulmonary unit since the fall of 2002, is a national health care services company operating hospitals, nursing centers, institutional pharmacies and a contract rehabilitation services business.

Access to the Latest Technology

RWJUH-Rahway, as a member of the Robert Wood Johnson family, has access to the world renowned facilities of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. RWJUH Rahway signed an affiliation agreement in October 2003 with the Robert Wood Johnson Health Care Corporation making it the fourth member of the Robert Wood Johnson Health System, joining RWJUH at New Brunswick, RWJUH at Hamilton and Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountaintop. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, one of the nation's leading academic health centers, is the principal hospital for UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and The Robert Wood Johnson Health System and Network.

Local hospitals prepare for disaster

(Continued from page 1)

portable decontamination center on site, or transporting it to another location if it is needed elsewhere.

"Everything is ready on site, down to details such as robes for patients whose clothes had to be destroyed," said Clark. "A hospital cannot be forced to rely on outside resources. We have to be prepared to rely on ourselves."

Both hospitals reported a good response, with some lessons learned.

"We did learn a few things, which was the intent of the exercise," said Michael McIntyre, director of support services at Trinitas. "but in general all of us were pleased with the way the Trinitas staff performed."

In all, the TopOff 3 exercise involved 10,000 participants, representing more than 200 federal, state, local and international agencies, private sector organizations and volunteer groups. All of New Jersey's 83 acute care hospitals participated to some degree. Outside observers assigned by the federal government assessed the hospitals reactions, although results have not been released as yet. TopOff 3 was a larger version of the type of disaster drills and planning that are routinely done by all local hospitals.

"We look at everything that could happen from technological to biological to terrorist disasters, and rate the likelihood of each threat," said Kevin Sullivan, director of operations at Children's Specialized Hospital, which has hospitals in Mountaintop and elsewhere in the state. "We have an 'all hazards' approach, so that we test everything at some point. But we are different from other hospitals because we deal strictly with children and we do not have an emergency room."

Those differences mean Children's Specialized Hospital concentrates on such things as preventing children's abductions. It has a mutual aid agreement with other hospitals to assist in any way possible in a regional emergency.

"What came out of TopOff was a dialogue among the different facilities and agencies in the state - police, fire and first aid, hospitals, health departments and local, county, state and federal government agencies," Sullivan said.

Northern New Jersey has been identified as one of the most dangerous areas of the country with more likely terrorist targets than almost any other state. The state's Office of Counterterrorism is attempting to cajole as much money as possible out of the federal government to safeguard those dangerous facilities. But if an accident or attack were to happen, plans need to be in place to deal with the patients.

One result of 9/11 and the planning that took place afterward was the installation of a high-tech and redundant radio system connecting all the hospitals so that communication can be maintained no matter what outside broadcasting facilities are destroyed, according to the state Department of Health and Senior Services. Hospital drills, such as TopOff 3, then test those facilities.

"This was an opportunity to stress the system and see how we would do," said Alan Robinson, director of public safety and security for Atlantic Health System, which includes Overlook Hospital in Summit. "We did well but what we found was a need to improve communications with other agencies. We were receiving the same instructions from several different agencies, which is better than receiving no instructions, but it could be improved."

"On a daily basis, the type of thing we prepare for is a potential derailment involving hazardous materials. We have rail lines going through communities near all three of our hospitals, so that is something we have to prepare for," Robinson said. "We also are prepared to seamlessly divert ambulances from one hospital to another if someone becomes overwhelmed."

Likewise, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway has a mutual aid policy in place so that hospitals can back each other up when necessary.

"Our county is pro-active for emergency management in the health care system" Terry McCarthy, director of clinical services for RWJUH at Rahway, said. "We do drills regularly. Because of the nature of Union County, we may have to deal with exposure to chemicals regularly. Many industries do their own drills, and we participate in them. We have an incident command system that allows anyone to step into a particular role in an emergency and know what to do."

"But TopOff 3 was the first statewide drill and one that crossed state and national borders. It opened up communication lines with people we do not often talk to," McCarthy said. "It allowed us to get to know the resources available beyond the hospital walls into the towns and beyond."

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President's Message

My income tax returns were fading into a bad memory when I was rudely awakened by a notice from the State of New Jersey Division of Taxation informing me that I owed them another \$84 plus interest on my state income tax return. Of course there was no explanation of why I owed more money, just a list of numbers. After several hours of hunting, I determined that I did indeed owe the money. The tax program I was using had carried forward a number it should not have.



I would probably have been better off just to pay rather than determine why I should pay. The value of my time spent on this was worth more than the \$84 I owed.

When you include all the time I spent preparing my return in the first place, the amount that it cost me to pay the government all the money it wanted has become quite substantial. In fact, the IRS estimates that Americans spent 6,600,000,000 (that's 6.6 billion!) hours preparing their tax returns this year. Many consider this to be a conservative estimate.

Think of the cost of this. If we value our time at only \$10 per hour, the cost of preparing tax returns is \$66 billion! If we value our time at \$20 per hour the cost jumps to \$132 billion. In reality, both these numbers are too low. Probably the cost of tax preparation this year will exceed the cost of the Iraq war. It's incredible to think how much it costs us just to give the government its share of our earnings.

The last time the federal tax code was simplified was in 1986. Since then, the U.S. Congress has spent the last 20 years re-complicating it. Though computer programs have made tax preparation somewhat easier, the burden of new forms and schedules and especially the Alternative Minimum Tax (ATM) have still left this whole system an unconscionable burden.

There is a growing chorus, of which I am part, that believes the tax system is not in need of a fix, it is in need of a complete overhaul. There are two basic alternatives to our present graduated tax system, one is a flat income tax and the other is a consumption tax, though both of these have many permutations.

Philosophically, I favor a national sales tax. I think that tax should not just be about raising money, but it should also be about encouraging people to do good things. Encouraging people to save rather than to spend is a good thing in my view, and if we don't do it and don't start doing it soon, our economy will be on a disaster course.

This said, however, the reality is that a flat tax is a more palatable option. Like a progressive tax, the rich pay more than the poor. It can be set up to exclude people under a certain income level. Collections can be transferred to the poor through various programs to provide for income redistribution. In other words, it can accomplish everything a graduated tax accomplishes.

The main benefit of a flat tax is that these accomplishments come at far lower cost than our present system. Since collection is at the workplace, like for social security, the amount collected increases and the ease with which it is collected increases. Because a flat tax eliminates or curtails most deductions, the simplicity of using it substantially lowers the filing burden as well. So, no more weekends and late nights trying to figure out which form you need to file, or adding up all your medical expenses only to find you don't qualify for a deduction.

Outside the fairness issue, the most common objection to the flat tax is that it just hasn't been tried. In fact, that is not true. Flat tax systems have been introduced in numerous countries, mainly in Eastern Europe. The result has been very encouraging. Collections have risen and economies have flourished. A flat tax system is something that needs to be tried. Hey if not on a national level, maybe we could start here in New Jersey.

Where the Chamber stands...

Renewed communication needed to prevent disasters

News stories about one spill or chemical industry accident after another during the 1970s and 1980s led to improved handling of chemicals and other dangerous materials, at least for a time. But now, despite the additional warning signal sent by 9/11, industry seems less prepared to deal with potential disasters than in the past.

You would think people would learn from past mistakes. We know that companies that deal with chemicals and hazardous materials need to be prepared to deal with problems, whether it is an accident or a terrorist attack. And we know that people in industry need to communicate with police, fire, first aid and government agencies to keep the public safe. But apparently that is not happening, according to experts in the field, for a couple of reasons: because companies have pared resources to the bone and no longer have the needed personnel to devote time to disaster planning, and because government is not providing the leadership and money needed to see that protection is provided.

In the 1970s and 1980s, a series of accidents and spills nationwide sparked a move to set up disaster plans, including all the necessary communication avenues, needed to respond to problems. But human nature then took over, and people became complacent. Combine that with the fact that companies now have to compete in a global market and have cut resources in order to do so and you end up with not enough people to do the job of planning for disasters.

At the same time the 9/11 attacks woke up some people to potential problems. We learned we could be attacked on our own territory. Now there is a lot of talk about putting fences around chemical plants, and other similar action. Unfortunately, much of these well-intentioned efforts are misdirected and will cause more harm to businesses than what good they will do to protect the people.

Some improvements have been made. Hospitals and officials apparently are more coordinated in their communications now. A system of high-tech radios is in place in the hospitals in case other communications systems collapse, as they did on Sept. 11 when the antennas on the Twin Towers disappeared. And the hospitals have drilled in communicating, in a coordinated fashion, with first responders and government agencies.

But there is apparently a gaping hole in our preparedness efforts and that is the communication needed among people in industry with each other and with the hospitals, first responders and government officials.

New Jersey has more chemical plants, pharmaceutical companies using sometimes hazardous materials, heavy industry and potential problem areas than almost any other state. A federal survey identified the two miles between Newark Liberty International Airport and the Ports of Newark and Elizabeth as the two most dangerous miles in the United States.

Despite these warnings, much of the federal anti-terrorism money is being distributed by political formulas, rather than need, giving Montana more money per capita than New Jersey. Local police are being asked to patrol more and more of the potential problem sites, with fewer and fewer resources.

The Chemical Industry Council and individual plant owners and operators have taken steps to try to secure the facilities. But the big problem here also comes down to money. According to experts who deal with these issues, the communications between people in industry and the public officials and emergency responders was actually better in the 1990s than it is now.

It will not matter if the spill, explosion or derailment is caused by terrorists or a simple accident. It is going to leave people, once again, wringing their hands, and wondering why we were not ready. Why did we not have plans in place so that everyone would know what to do in an emergency. And why, with all the high tech equipment available, were people in industry not able to communicate with each other, emergency responders and the public when they needed to.

Resources may be scarce on all sides, but it is an issue that needs to be in the front of emergency response discussions. A person would think we would be more aware of potential problems now than ever before and would be doing everything possible to work with industry and to protect ourselves. But, as of right now, that person would be wrong.

Capital Page

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Commissioner Fred M. Jacobs, M.D., J.D.



Training exercise tested New Jersey's preparedness

Imagine a group of terrorists planned and carried out a biological attack in the Garden State, spraying plague-causing bacteria into the air along Central Jersey's highways. How would the state respond? The federal government? How about county and local public health departments, hospitals, businesses and the general public?

In early April, federal, state and local responders responded to just this scenario in the congressionally mandated TOPOFF 3 exercise, the largest full-scale test of our country's homeland security preparedness ever held. Making the exercise even more taxing were fictional bomb attacks in Connecticut and the United Kingdom, and the very real flooding throughout the state.

Exercises are vitally important to our preparedness efforts. These tests help us to know what to do in the case of terrorist attacks and other public health emergencies. When plans are exercised responders can practice and learn their roles, and strategies are tested to find places to strengthen.

Though there were two previous TOPOFFs in other states, New Jersey is the first to test its public health and security plans statewide. New Jersey's entire emergency response system — including the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), hospitals, emergency medical services, county and local health departments, the Governor's office, State and local police, the National Guard and 43 private sector businesses — participated in the exercise. In all, more than 10,000 government workers, health care staff and volunteers participated in this exercise.

The fictional scenario started when DHSS learned that a number of emergency rooms had patients with serious breathing difficulties. It looked like the flu season was ending with a bang, but became more ominous when many more people continued to get ill and eventually die.

By that evening the disease was identified as pneumonic plague, which indicated terrorism since plague is not endemic to New Jersey. New Jersey's emergency response system faced a biological attack that under this scenario affected more than 38,000 residents and caused about 9,000 deaths.

Integral to the exercise were 82 acute care hospitals and six community health centers. With TOPOFF calling for 10,000 infected people going to emergency rooms, these medical facilities were pushed to the breaking point. Beds were scarce, departments understaffed and medicine sometimes ran out.

Every facility performed extremely well, especially as the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) plan was activated to "airlift" 100 notional non-plague patients to hospitals in Dallas. That opened up beds and freed staff to focus on the plague patients.

With a disaster of this scope it was vitally important to test the coordination and communication between everyone involved in responding to the emergency. DHSS acts as the central data collection and dissemination point for all public health information.

To ensure rapid and accurate information was available to everyone concerned, we opened both the Emergency Communications Center to handle calls from the public and the Health Command Center to coordinate the public health and medical response to the incident.

Additionally, the state opened the Joint Information Center at the State Police Headquarters. There communications experts from state and federal agencies worked with a fictional cable news network called "VNN" to get out accurate, helpful information to the public to protect themselves and inform them how to get medicine.

In the case of plague, getting antibiotics quickly to people who may have been exposed is key to stopping its spread. The first "victims" showed up in hospitals throughout Central Jersey, and soon there were patients in most of the state. Thus, the decision was made to give medicine to everyone in New Jersey.

To do so, each county opened at least one Point of Dispensing with hundreds of volunteers, and was able to test and verify that they could care for between 500 and 1,000 people an hour. In addition to the 22 dispensing points staffed with real staff and volunteer "victims," the exercise assumed an additional 450 locations that would have been opened to medicate everyone in the state within 48 hours. The participants' experience through this very challenging exercise will help preparedness planners to adjust their programs to provide even better dispensing in a real emergency.

The TOPOFF 3 exercise was an excellent test of New Jersey's ability to respond to an emergency, whether a biological attack or any other public health emergency. The personnel, facilities and plans used for TOPOFF demonstrated our state's commitment to protect the public health. As we begin to analyze the lessons learned from TOPOFF, we will move forward to strengthen our preparedness efforts for the people of New Jersey.

What's Coming Up!

Date	Event	Times	Location
June 2	Scholarship Awards Reception	8:30 AM	Kean University Alumni House, North Avenue, Hillside
June 2	Workforce Education Committee	10:00 AM	Kean University Alumni House, North Avenue, Hillside
June 8	Kenilworth Chamber Meeting	8:30 AM	Location to be announced
June 9	Decision Maker's Forum Breakfast Seminar "Network and Market More Effectively" presented by Bob Baulch of R K Baulch & Associates	8:00 AM	Crowne Plaza Hotel, GSP exit 135, Clark
June 10	Local & County Affairs Committee	8:30 AM	Municipal Building, Twp of Berkeley Heights, 29 Park Avenue
June 14	Industrial Safety Council 2005/2006 Planning Session	8:30 AM	Chamber Office, 135 Jefferson Avenue, Elizabeth
June 20	Linden Chamber of Commerce 4th Annual Scholarship & Business of the Year Awards Dinner	6:00 PM	Amici III Ristorante, 1700 W. Elizabeth Avenue, Linden
June 22	Clark Chamber Group	8:30 AM	Clark Nursing & Rehab. Center, 1213 Westfield Ave, Clark
June 23	Springfield Chamber of Commerce	8:30 AM	EMS Office, Springfield Fire Department, Mountain Avenue
June 28	Linden Chamber Meeting	8:30 AM	Call for Location

For additional event information call the Chamber at 908-352-0900 OR visit our website at www.gatewaychamber.com

INSIDE BUSINESS

A publication of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce is a business organization which represents and advances the business interests of its members

Member Moments...

Provident Bank in Jersey City has appointed Anthony Tufaro as vice president corporate cash management.



Infinium's Lois Bass, Liz Garcia (standing), and Lissette Gonzalez, among other employees from local businesses and the City of Linden, joined Linden Environmental Commission Chairperson Mary Purves (sitting first from left) and Linden Councilman Tom Boland (standing) to judge the commission's Earth Day 2005 Poster Contest hosted at Infinium's Linden Business and Technology Center. Linden students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade participated in the annual poster contest coordinated by the Linden Environmental Commission and sponsored by the City of Linden and local businesses. More than 25 employee volunteers from ConocoPhillips, Epicor, Safety-Kleen, Mercer Coating, Merck, and Infinium joined employees from the Linden Public Library, the Environmental Commission, the fire, police and engineering departments to judge the students' art work. Winners received a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.



(left) Lindabury, McCormick & Estabrook, a Westfield law firm, has hired Jaime A. Martinez as the firm's first executive director. Martinez, an experienced law firm administrator, is the first non-lawyer to be given the responsibility of overseeing the administrative functions of the firm. Martinez will oversee the business operations of the firm, freeing attorneys to concentrate on their clients.



(right) Cecil House of South Orange has been named vice president, customer relations of PSEG, Newark.

Greg Clarke of Manahawkin has been named vice president, small business, of Commerce Bank based in Cherry Hill.

Union County Freeholder Alexander Mirabella was honored by Prevention Links for being a strong public supporter of substance abuse prevention education and of the agency. Prevention Links is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to prevention of and early intervention for alcoholism, tobacco use, drug abuse and related problems. The agency awarded Mirabella the Alan M. Augustine Prevention Award. Prevention Links also awarded the Small Business Award to Fogel & Business Essentials and the Corporate Award to Independence Community Bank.

Richard deGroot has been named vice president/officer, small business lending for Commerce Bank, based in Cherry Hill.

(Continued on page 9)

Member Moments

(Continued from page 8)

Urban Widen has been appointed general manager of Schering-Plough in Kenilworth. He succeeds Jan Nittson.

Synergy Bank, based in Cranford, has opened a branch at 142 Broad Street in Elizabeth. The bank is in the first floor of a historic building built in 1900 that once housed the Union County Trust Company and features a refurbished vault from the original bank. The branch will have a 24-hour ATM, Internet banking, safe deposit boxes, and extended lobby hours. Prizes and gifts will be given out through May 29 in celebration of the grand opening. The bank has 19 branches in three counties.

Thomas J. Cloffe, president of Compensation Solutions Inc. of Oakland, has been nominated for the Entrepreneur of the Year Award by Ernst & Young. The award is given in recognition of individuals who have shown visionary leadership and entrepreneurial ideas. Compensation Solutions is one of the tri-state areas leading Professional Employer Organizations.

Compensation Solutions, also known as COMPSolutions PEO, also was recognized as one of the Best Places to Work in New Jersey by NJBIZ and The Best Companies Group. The award is designed to recognize companies that benefit the state's economy, its workforce and the business community.



Valley National Bank, Wayne, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Valley National Bancorp, has appointed Martin J. Carbotti as senior vice president for commercial lending covering Valley's Central Division in New Jersey. Carbotti joined Valley in 1997 and has more than 32 years of business and finance experience in the New York and New Jersey markets. In his position he will be responsible for Valley's commercial and industrial loan activity and business development efforts in Hudson, Essex, Morris and Warren Counties.



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We've also invested millions of dollars in the clinical computerization of Muhlenberg. From a robotic pharmacy to electronic medical records—Muhlenberg is among the

leading hospitals in the state aggressively placing innovative computer technologies in the hands of physicians and nurses in order to enhance patient care and safety.

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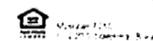
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