

Echo LEADER

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SPRINGFIELD, N.J., NOV. 11, 2006

www.localjournal.com

TWO SECTIONS

Towns pay tribute to veterans

By Tracy A. Politowicz
Managing Editor

On a cold Friday morning, ceremonies to honor the men and women of the U.S. armed services were held in Springfield and Mountainside.

In Springfield, Ethel Smith, commander of American Legion Ladies Auxiliary 228, opened the Springfield Veterans Alliance's 32nd annual Veterans Day tribute at Veterans Memorial Park with an unscheduled introduction of former Army Specialist Ziad Shehady, who attended as a spectator, but stood out in the crowd dressed in his fatigues.

The 21-year-old indicated he was

there "to support other veterans, especially those more senior, and to show my dedication to my country."

Master of ceremonies Myron Katz, commander of Jewish War Veterans Elin-Unger Post 273, emphasized, "We cannot forget our veterans, those who gave their lives, those here and those around the world."

After an invocation by Warren Sim, chaplain of American Legion Continental Post 228, and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sal Gibaldi of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7683, Yokenha Cadet, a senior at Jonathan Dayton High School, sang the national anthem.

Sixth- and seventh-graders from St. James the Apostle School read poetry, while fourth- and fifth-graders sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

A POW/MIA flag was set at the site by Herb Quinton of Legion Post 228 and Stan Wnek of VFW Post 7683. Richard Shipman of JWV Post 273 spoke of its significance, followed by the singing of "God Bless America," led by veteran Gregory Clarke, a former mayor.

Bob Grimm and Ray Schramm of VFW Post 7683 and Legion Post 228, respectively, placed a memorial wreath at the park. William Smith explained its meaning, indicating "the wreath is a circular, never-ending symbol of our love and devotion to our great country, and to the many men and women of our armed services who have served it so well.

"The flowers of this wreath may wither and die, but the spirit that they symbolize will live forever."

Smith, vice commander of Legion Post 228, is the husband of Ethel, who opened the tribute.

Members of the Springfield Community Children's Chorus performed "This Land Is My Land."

After a benediction by Ira Epstein, chaplain of JWV Post 273, the program closed with a three-volley salute by the Springfield Auxiliary Police Honor Guard and the sounding of "Taps" by Ben Krupit, a Jonathan Dayton High School senior.

Krupit, who has been performing at the township's Veterans Day observances for the last four years, said, "I used to use 'Taps' as a warm-up song. Until the war in Iraq, I didn't know what it meant. It is amazing how four notes can evoke such emotion. It is an honor to play for these veterans."

Former Springfield resident Sada Weber, now of Hillaborough, attended on behalf of her husband, William, a U.S. Army World War II vet, who died 10 years ago. A pear tree was planted at the park in 1995 in his memory.

Following the tribute, William Smith noted while turnout was strong, there were fewer children in attendance than usual due to the closure of the public schools for the state teachers' convention. He stressed the importance of making children aware of the meaning of Veterans Day. Otherwise when veterans "are gone, who will know?"

Mountainside's ceremony was held at the veterans monument at the Fire Department on New Providence Road. Bob Farley, commander of VFW Post 10136, led the obser-



Photo by Barbara Kakkalis

Post 228 Vice Commander William Smith salutes the flag during Friday's ceremony.

vice that included prayers by Bill Leber, chaplain of VFW Post 10136, the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner," a tribute to POWs and MIAs, and the placement of two wreaths at the monument. One wreath was donated by Mountainside Elks Lodge 1585.

Farley concluded the event by requesting everyone to pray for world peace, which is "not only desirable, but attainable."

Earlier in the week, the Deerfield School Student Council hosted a veterans tribute. Students spoke of the significance of Veterans Day, the national anthem was played, and Farley and Bill Fitzgerald of VFW Post 10136 spoke of their experiences in the U.S. Navy.

Tracy A. Politowicz can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 115, or echoleaderj@yahoo.com.

Zoning Board to revisit supermarket

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer

In the case of a proposed Stop & Shop supermarket in Springfield, a state appellate court handed down a decision Oct. 28 to send the case back to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for further proceedings.

The Appellate Court determined that the Zoning Board had improperly rejected Stop & Shop's application for a site plan. The court's mandate reverses the board's decision and gives the board "an opportunity to impose appropriate conditions, consistent with the ordinance, in conjunction with the grant of final site approval."

The site for the proposed Stop & Shop is the old Saks Fifth Avenue site on Millburn Avenue, near where it intersects of Morris Avenue. Springfield, along with Millburn and others, have been fighting the plan to put a Stop & Shop at the site.

When Stop & Shop initially applied to the Zoning Board for approval, the board denied the application after many hearings, which led Stop & Shop to file an action claiming the board's denial was unreasonable.

Ruling in Stop & Shop's favor, a judge invalidated the board's decision and approved the site plan, with 26 conditions.

The Township of Millburn, the Colonial Association of Springfield, Village Super Markets Inc. and Sumas Realty Corporation, a related entity, filed separate appeals and Springfield intervened as an appellant.

According to the state Supreme Court, Stop & Shop was entitled to the

same variance Saks, previous owner, was granted. Then, the case came before the Zoning Board again, with the board rejecting Stop & Shop's proposal because of the design of the truck unloading area. The board worried the store did not have enough loading docks, which would lead to congestion on neighboring streets.

In its conclusion, the appellate court wrote, "We anticipate the Springfield Planning Board will impose appropriate conditions and restrictions on Stop & Shop's proposed development and use of the property in order to minimize any intrusion on or inconvenience to the continued use and enjoyment of those neighboring residential properties."

Township Attorney Bruce Bergen said the Board of Adjustment will hear the case again and determine what reasonable restrictions they may place on the plan.

Attorney James Segreto, who argued the case for Stop & Shop said, at this point, the Zoning Board must meet promptly to decide which of the 26 restrictions they will impose.

"We have already said we would agree to all of them — the restrictions," Segreto said, noting Stop & Shop agreed to all 26 conditions a long time ago. After the board meets, Segreto continued, "We'll then be able to make our plans to start building." He did not specify a date for breaking ground on the site.

Meave Sheehan can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 117, or echoleaderj@yahoo.com.



WW II veteran Bill Fitzgerald reflects during a veterans tribute at Deerfield School.



Staff builds wheelchairs as unique as their clients

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer

Wheelchairs line the hallway of the Rehabilitative Technology Department at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. Here, on the basement level of the state's largest rehabilitation hospital exclusively for children, busy staff members work to customize wheelchairs for patients with varying needs and of different sizes.

Theresa Defosse, a staff member in the department, explained that the department's overall goal is to increase function and help their patients become more independent. Staff members customize wheelchairs for specific cases, helping some of the patients make the transition from hospital care to living at home.

When Defosse sees new patients in the Rehab Technology Department, her approach includes doing an assessment to see how that child's body moves. She also works with therapists to learn more about the

patient's range of motion.

David Savage, a rehabilitation engineer, explained that many factors must be considered when customizing a wheelchair for each patient. Since the Rehab Technology Department works with children with several different kinds of diagnoses, each patient's needs are unique.

The patients, up to age 21, use different parts of their body to navigate in their wheelchairs. Some patients have full use of their hands, while others use their forearms or their fingers to direct their wheels. Other patients may move their wheelchairs through hand motions or by breathing through a straw to propel the chair forward.

Discussing the case of an adolescent on whose wheelchair he is working, Savage said he listened to the patient's preferences and the patient's abilities, such as the use of his left arm, making it possible to use a hand-controlled joystick. Savage noted

other limitations of a cultural and social nature when designing wheelchairs. For instance, children who practice Orthodox Judaism may not be able to use electric switches during the Sabbath.

Though there are wheelchair manufacturers and vendors throughout the country, customized wheelchair programs such as the one at Children's Hospital are not that common. Wheelchairs are mass-produced, but manufacturers do not necessarily customize them for users.

Savage, Defosse and other professionals in the field get a chance to share the unique solutions they come up with at conferences.

As an assistive technology provider, Defosse has been working with children at the hospital for 14 years, treating patients with a wide array of diagnoses. With a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Defosse decided she wanted to work

See WHEELCHAIRS, Page 2

Hurwitz appointed to Township Committee

At its Nov. 9 meeting, the Springfield Township Committee appointed Mark Hurwitz to the committee seat left vacant by Steven Goldstein's resignation last month.

"I am honored by the trust that has been shown me in asking me to serve," Hurwitz said, after being sworn in to the position.

The Township Committee had 30 days to name a replacement from the date Goldstein's resignation became effective, Oct. 21. Of Hurwitz's appointment, Mayor Sy Mullman said in a later interview, "We picked someone that we felt was dedicated to the town."

Mullman also said they wanted someone "non-political," a newcomer to public office. This appointment is the first of its kind. Hurwitz will hold the seat until Dec. 31.

Former committeeman Harold Poltroff was named from the vote to approve the city's appointment, Mullman said there seemed to be a consensus among the committee Hurwitz was the right candidate.

The governing body chose Hurwitz over two other candidates presented by the Springfield Democratic Committee, former committeeman Roy

Hurwitz will serve through next year, when the remaining year of the original three-year term is up for election. Goldstein's term officially expires Dec. 31, 2007. Last year, he was re-elected to his third, three-year term. Next election day, in addition to the one-year term, the three-year terms of Poltroff and Ken Falgenbaum will be on the ballot.

Most recently, Hurwitz participated in the township's 225th anniversary of the Battle of Springfield celebration in June and was in charge of the Revolutionary War re-enactments that were conducted on high school grounds. A member of the 3rd New Jersey Regiment since 1974 and a member of the National Brigade of American Revolution, Hurwitz has also served as commander and president and on the board of directors.

A Springfield native and 1969 graduate of Jonathan Dayton High School, Hurwitz can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 117, or echoleaderj@yahoo.com.



Theresa Defosse, a staff member in the Technology Department at Children's Specialized Hospital, and David Savage, rehab engineer, help customize Alexey Smirnov's wheelchair.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us: The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Wormal Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below:

Voice Mail: Our main phone number, 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system to better serve our customers. During regular business hours, a receptionist will answer your call. During the evening or when the office is closed, your call will be answered by an automated receptionist.

To subscribe: The Echo Leader is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$26.00, two year subscriptions for \$47.00. College and out-of-state subscriptions are available. You may subscribe by phone by calling 908-686-7700 and asking for the circulation department. Allow at least two weeks for processing your order. You may use Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover.

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

News items: News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Pictures should be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news story, call 908-686-7700 and ask for Editorial.

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Letters to the Editor: The Echo Leader provides an open forum for opinions and welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double spaced, must be signed and should be accompanied by a return address and day-time phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

The Echo Leader accepts news releases and opinion pieces by e-mail. Our e-mail address is Editor@theecholeader.com. E-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising is also accepted by email under certain guidelines at ads@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. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the B section must be in our office by Monday at noon. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Call 908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

To place a classified ad: The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover. A classified representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours or call 800-564-8911, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Today

The Great Books Discussion Group, which meets on the third Thursday of each month, will meet at 10 a.m. to investigate various aspects of the short story by Henry James "Beast in the Jungle."

Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its fall international film festival with "Since Otar Left" at noon and 7 p.m. Admission is free for all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing. Refreshments will be served.

Monday

A special dress rehearsal for senior citizens of "Guys & Dolls" will be at 6:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave., Mountainside.

Friday

Jonathan Dayton High School's Drama Department will present its fall production of "The Fall of the House of Usher," by Tim Kelly in Halsey Hall auditorium at Jonathan Dayton High School, Mountain Avenue, Springfield, at 7 p.m. Parental discretion is advised for children younger than age 13, as some of the staged images may be frightening to young viewers.

Tickets can be purchased at the door, \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. Call Karyn Chomko at 973-376-1025, ext. 5188, for ticket information.

Saturday

Adults and children of all-ages are invited to learn about wild turkeys lurking in the woods from 10 to 11 a.m. as part of the Outdoor Adventure Series at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside.

Learn what turkeys sound like and find out how it was almost our national bird. Take a hike to search for turkeys and look for turkey tracks. Pre-registration is not required. The fee for this program is a suggested donation of \$1 per person.

Jonathan Dayton High School's Drama Department will present its fall production of "The Fall of the House of Usher," by Tim Kelly in Halsey Hall auditorium at Jonathan Dayton High School, Mountain Avenue, Springfield, at 7 p.m. Parental discretion is advised for children younger than age 13, as some of the staged images may be frightening to young viewers.

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Sunday

A harvest pancake breakfast, sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Rosary Altar Society, will be from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in Msgr. Pollard Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 300 Central Ave., Mountainside. Tickets cost \$5 for adults; \$3 for children younger than 12. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Tickets sold after all Masses on Nov. 12-13. Rosetta will perform at Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., at 2 p.m. The free program is offered as part of the Sunday Afternoon Concerts at Springfield Free Public Library.

Monday

The Board of Trustees of Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, will meet in the meeting room at 7:30 p.m.

The Springfield Township Committee will meet for a workshop session in the Municipal Annex Building, 10 N. Trivet Road, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Tuesday

Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., begins a new Lunchtime Video Series, "Classic/Classy Comedies and Mysteries," at noon.

The Mountainside Board of Education will meet in the media center at Beechwood School, 1497 Woodacres Drive, at 8 p.m.

The Mountainside Borough Council will meet for a regular meeting in Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east, at 8 p.m.

The Springfield Township Committee will meet for a regular meeting in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave., at 8 p.m.

Wednesday

A used clothing drive to benefit Project Graduation for Governor Livingston High School's Class of 2006 will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Berkeley Heights Community Center, 29 Park Ave., Berkeley Heights, and Deerfield School, Central Avenue, Mountainside.

Wheelchairs can ease transition

(Continued from Page 1)

"I've grown with the hospital and with the department," Defosse said, noting the department consisted of only a handful of people when she started.

The department is serving more children each year and staff often work with the same patients for several years, according to Lynda Samples, Children's Hospital's media relations representative.

New administrator sworn in

(Continued from Page 1)

School, Hurwitz returned to live in the Central Jersey for many years. Hurwitz works for Big Color Systems in Upper Saddle River, a digital color printing company, where he is vice president of sales. Prior to his career in sales, Hurwitz was an art teacher for eight years at Montgomery High School.

Stating he was proud to accept the committee seat, Hurwitz said, "We need to work together to move the town into the 21st century." Hurwitz also said he brought a unique perspective to Springfield's Revolutionary War history.

Asked why he had been chosen by the Township Committee in a later conversation, Hurwitz credited his work on the battle anniversary celebration, which led him to bring the project's concept to the Township Committee.

Over a two-year period, Hurwitz worked with committee members and the members of the anniversary committee to prepare for the weekend celebration on June 25-26.

Thanking his family, Hurwitz noted community service has been a family tradition since he first moved as a child in 1957.

Hurwitz's father, Murray Hurwitz, was involved with the Springfield First Aid Squad, Temple Sha'arey Shalom and other community groups.

home to evaluate access. For example, ramps may need to be installed. Defosse encouraged families with children who need wheelchairs to make the wheelchairs a priority, since giving younger children more mobility helps them in cognitive and social development, allowing children to make decisions and gain greater independence. "Get the kids driving as young as possible," Defosse said.

Meave Sheehan can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 117, or echoleader@yahoo.com.

(Continued from Page 1)

A resident of Meisel Avenue, Hurwitz is executive vice president of the Brotherhood, a men's club at Temple Sha'arey Shalom on South Springfield Avenue, and has served on the Board of Trustees at the temple. With his wife, Hurwitz has one daughter, a junior at Jonathan Dayton High School.

In other appointments, Committee member Kenneth Faigenbaum was appointed deputy chairman of the Township Committee and New Township Administrator Edward Fanning was sworn in after a final vote by the committee, with Poltrok the only committee member to vote no.

Meave Sheehan can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 117, or echoleader@yahoo.com.

Girl prepares for opening number

(Continued from Page 1)

based on everyday life. "If something great happens or someone annoys me, I write a song about it," she said.

Taylor's interest in performing isn't surprising as several of her family members are in the entertainment business. Her mother is an actress, her aunt Betty is a jazz vocalist, and her cousin Orlando plays the bongos.

Taylor's previous credits include photo work with her mother when she was 2 and 4 years old for Parents Magazine, a training video for Mercedes-Benz at the age of 3, performing the national anthem at Springfield's Veterans Day ceremony in 2004, and roles in the middle school's "Crazy for You," as the lead of Polly Baker, in December and Jonathan Dayton High School's "Wizard of Oz" as a munchkin in March.

A self-described fashion diva who "never goes anywhere without my silver hoops" earrings, Taylor likes actor Ashton Kucher, "hanging out" with her friends Sara and Kirsten, and spending time with her aunt Maggie, who, upon hearing of Taylor's successful audition, asked her niece for her first autograph.

Tomorrow Taylor begins a series of weeklong preparations in New York City for the Thanksgiving Day show. She will attend various workshops, rehearsals, costume fittings and run-throughs.

Next month, she will play Mrs. Macafee in the middle school's production of "Bye Bye Birdie."

After Taylor was born, her maternal grandfather, Antoine Duchantier, gave her a crystal star paperweight engraved with her name, birth date, and the phrase "A Star is Born." It seems as if her career in show business was written in the stars.

Tracy A. Pollock can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 115, or echoleader@yahoo.com.

Offices closed

This newspaper will be published on Wednesday, Nov. 23. The offices of this newspaper will be closed Thursday in observance of Thanksgiving. We will reopen Friday, Nov. 25.

The deadlines for the Nov. 23 edition are as follows:

- Lifestyle, including church and club news, etc. — Friday, noon.
Legal advertising — Friday, noon.
Letters to the editor — Friday, 9 a.m.

- What's Going On — Friday, 4 p.m.

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Two selected for children's chorus

Springfield Community Children's Chorus members Gloria Bangiola and Alexandra Golden have been selected to the 2006 Eastern Honors Children's Chorus.

More than 500 children, ages 10 to 15 auditioned from 11 states; 154 were selected.



Alexandra Golden and Gloria Bangiola will perform New York City in February as part of the 2006 Eastern Honors Children's Chorus.

Resident reports theft of Rolex watch

Springfield On Nov. 3, there was a report of the theft of a Rolex watch, valued at \$5,000, from a home on South Springfield Avenue on Oct. 29.

On Oct. 31, Eric Jones, 42, of Newark was arrested at the Essex County Jail for an outstanding warrant out of Springfield.

On Oct. 31, there was a report of damage to the driver's side door lock of a vehicle at a home on Briar Hills Circle.

On Oct. 31, there was a report of the theft of the contents of a locker at Bally's Sports Club, including \$80, credit cards and clothing, on Route 22 east.

On Oct. 31, there was a report of the theft of an E-Z Pass device from a 2001 Lincoln at a home on Linden Avenue.

On Oct. 31, there was a report of damage to the driver's side door lock of a 2004 Nissan at a location on Colonial Terrace.

On Nov. 1, there was a report of the theft of batteries from CVS on Morris Avenue.

On Nov. 1, there was a report of the theft of 31 no parking signs during the

POLICE BLOTTER

repairing of Tooker Avenue. On Nov. 2, there was a report of a broken windshield on a 2001 Jeep at a location on Franklin Place.

On Nov. 3, there was a report of an attempted theft of a 2001 Audi from a home on Beverly Road.

On Nov. 3, there was a report of the theft of a Meyer eight-foot snow plow, valued at \$3,000, from a location on the 500 block of South Springfield Avenue.

On Nov. 4, there was a report of the theft of a Mongoose bicycle, valued at \$80, from the Florence M. Gaudinier Middle School.

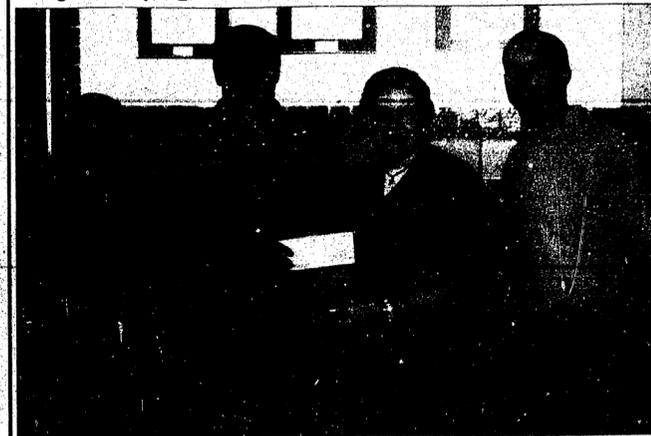
On Nov. 4, there was a report of the theft of a North Face fleece liner, valued at \$165, from the Sports Authority on Route 22 east.

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Dayton High School receives grant



Jonathan Dayton High School Principal Elizabeth Cresci and Athletic Director Joe George accept a \$500 grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program, which will support the school's swim and softball teams. Guy Seale of Brookside Friendly Service in Summit and his wife, Donna, worked to secure the grant.

Mountainside firefighters rescue kitty

Mountainside Firefighters responded to a report of a cat stuck in a storm drainage pipe on Creek Bed Road at 11:02 a.m. on Oct. 31.

Fire officers at the scene requested assistance of DPW personnel to remove the large grate from the catch basin, then lowered a ladder into the 10-foot deep manhole. Firefighters were unable to see the cat, but could hear the sounds of a small kitten.

Deciding to flush the cat out of the drainage pipe, firefighters moved to a nearby catch basin and lowered a fire hose into the drainage pipe, flushing the cat out of the pipe. Firefighters took the kitten to Westfield Veterinary Group for a check-up and named it Lucky.

On Friday at 5:34 p.m., firefighters responded to an activated fire alarm at an office building on Route 22 west. Firefighters could not determine the cause of the alarm activation, advising the manager to contact the

FIRE BLOTTER

alarm company for inspection. Firefighters responded to an activated fire alarm at a Hedge Row residence. Firefighters determined smoke from unattended cooking activated the alarm.

Fire officers determined the opening of a fire door at the rear of the building set off the alarm. Firefighters locked the door and reset the alarm.

On Nov. 9 at 10:32 p.m., firefighters responded to an activated Central Station fire alarm at the Trailside Nature and Science Center in the Watchung Reservation.

Fire officers could not determine the cause of the alarm's activation and advised the stable manager to contact the alarm company for inspection.

Firefighters responded on Nov. 9 at an unspecified time to a report of an electrical transformer fire on a utility pole on Birch Hill Road.

The minor fire downed a high voltage electrical cable. Firefighters remained on the scene until a PSE&G emergency crew arrived to make repairs.

On Oct. 30 at 8:19 p.m., firefighters responded to an activated fire alarm at a Hedge Row residence. Firefighters determined smoke from unattended cooking activated the alarm.

Firefighters responded to a report of a fire near Loop Road in the Watchung Reservation. Oct. 29 at 8:10 p.m. Firefighters fought a small bonfire in a barbecue pit and extinguished it.

On Oct. 29 at 7:31 p.m., firefighters responded to an activated fire alarm at a Mountain Avenue commercial building. Firefighters determined the alarm was accidentally activated by an employee cleaning the store.

Firefighters responded to a report of a vehicle fire in the driveway of a Blazo Terrace residence Oct. 31 at 9:42 p.m. The vehicle dashboard fire, caused by a malfunctioning headlight which was extinguished.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Good luck

The Springfield Township Committee appointed Mark Hurwitz to fill a seat on the governing body, left vacant by last month's resignation of Steven Goldstein. To Hurwitz, we say good luck. It's a rather thankless job serving on a governing body, though Springfield's Township Committee members do get a modest stipend and are offered health benefits. But for the hours it takes to do a good job, that's not exactly a giant incentive.

Hurwitz will serve for the next year until the 2006 election, when the final year of Goldstein's seat will expire. It remains to be seen whether Hurwitz will seek that final year or someone else steps forward to run. Regardless, we wish him the best of luck during his tenure on the governing body.

Turning out

Voters in Mountainside and Springfield did a great job last week. Even though there was no real local race, as both Republicans were unopposed, Mountainside voters still went to the polls at a good rate; 56 percent, better than the state wide turnout of 49 percent. Springfield voter turnout was more than 50 percent, where there was a race for one of the seats on the five-member Township Committee.

While both towns locally displayed a better showing than voters statewide, it's all a matter of context. Half of the eligible registered voters going to the polls is considered good in a gubernatorial election. Next year, expect turnout to be closer to a third, when only the U.S. Senate and Congressional seats lead the ballot. In presidential elections, turnout nationwide is generally better than 50 percent, while it might spike to 60 or 70 percent locally.

As we said, it's a matter of context. When you expect to get low turnout and you get 50 percent, it's "good." While in Iraq, soldiers and civilians are dying and the reason has been that it's for democracy. In its most basic terms, democracy is government by the people, and the way that happens is through voting.

Commit to quit

They know the health risks involved; they're aware of the money spent each week that could be spent on something else; and they know that their nasty habit can make them unpleasant to be around. So why do smokers continue to light up? The answer is different for everyone, and for those who have unsuccessfully tried to quit in the past, the thought of trying again can be intimidating — even scary.

Today, however, is a new day. It also happens to be the American Cancer Society's 29th annual Great American Smokeout, and we urge all smokers to join the scores of others who will make another attempt today to snuff out the unhealthy habit.

Society's attitude toward smoking has changed throughout the years. What was once glamorous has become unattractive. And it's no secret that smoking has been linked to a variety of illnesses such as cancer, emphysema and heart disease. Still, statistics show that more than 40 million people, including teenagers, continue to light up. While some smokers claim to derive some satisfaction from lighting up, others wish they had never started. What they need to know is, it's never too late to quit.

As part of the Smokeout, many schools are launching local campaigns to encourage teens and adults to quit. Chapters of the youth-led smoking-prevention group REBEL — Reaching Everyone by Exposing Lies — will sponsor various lunch time activities in high schools. In addition to handing out literature, teens will encourage others to make the commitment to quit smoking.

In recent years, government involvement has led to strict regulations regarding cigarette advertisements and marketing, as well as additional taxes on cigarettes, forcing smokers to burn upward of \$6 per pack in most stores.

Despite the facts, it's inevitable that people will continue to smoke. Many will take the plunge and attempt to quit, only to relapse in a day or so. We urge those people to keep trying. Don't be afraid to seek assistance and support. For those who are ready to quit and move toward a healthier lifestyle, New Jersey offers the Quitline, a free service available in 26 languages, six days a week. Counselors can be reached at 1-866-NJ STOPS or at www.quitnet.com.

Even if you've tried to quit before and failed, we urge you to give it another shot. Take advantage of the Great American Smokeout. There's no time like the present.

"To silence criticism is to silence freedom."

— Sidney Hook
Philosopher
1951



Photo By Barbara Kozak

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU — Pre-K through third grade students from St. James the Apostle School show their support at Springfield's annual Veterans Day Tribute at Veterans Memorial Park.

Anti-American rallies shouldn't be taken lightly

It is one thing for idle students and wastrels to march in the streets chanting "Death to America!" It is quite another for the president of the country to join them. Yet this is just what happened in Iran recently.

In his bid for international harmony, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran made a speech calling for Israel to be "wiped off the map." The sincere sentiments were made on the Sabbath, a day when people are supposed to be filled with kindness toward others.

After the hate-spewing diatribe, what else could President Ahmadinejad do but join the mobs? They demonstrate regularly in Iran, a country where no one seems to work, where the men are either students or terrorists — or perhaps both.

It was difficult to believe at first. I mean, this is the president of the country. What do you think would be the reaction if Bush marched in a parade chanting "Death to Iran!" with clenched fist and twisted mouth?

But we have come to expect such things from Iran. We shrug our shoulders and move on. This is a mistake. Remarks like that are akin to a declaration of war and should be treated as such.

The president of the country has proven himself to be a thug. His remarks are criminal. No one has the right to say any country should be wiped off the map. When the leader of a country says it, something is seriously wrong.

Officials tried to downplay the terrorist's remarks, but there's absolutely no excuse for this, or-for-iran-in-general. In the 1970s, the Ayatollah put a death sentence on an English novelist, because the writer, in Khomenei's opinion, ridiculed Islam. In 1979, Americans were held hostage in Iran, a despicable crime supported by the Iranian government, while President Carter, terrified and befuddled beyond belief, did nothing.

Point Of View

By Richard Lime

Then, in 1980, we elected a tough president, but instead of giving the Iranians hell, Reagan gave them weapons. Who knows what else they have done. It may be they had a hand in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and I believe they are shielding Osama bin Laden.

How long are we going to let this terrorist-supporting scourge just do as they please? All of us must face the consequence of our actions. But not Iran. Now they are on the verge of nuclear weaponry, and who do you think will be the first target? President Ahmadinejad just told you. Antagonizing Israel is not the smartest thing to do, but Iran has not yet learned this. Again and again, I read in amazement of the 1967 war: "Israel was attacked from all sides, outnumbered, and yet they were on the verge of crushing both Egypt and Syria in six days. In the 1956 Suez War, Israel warned the Soviet Union to stay out of the Sinai. You have to admire someone who is not afraid of anyone."

Now, in the light of some truly terrifying threats by a radical criminal nation, not unlike Nazi Germany, that is known to support terrorism and is aggressively seeking nuclear capability, we must also remember: there will always be an Israel. An Israeli-Iranian conflict would result in Iran being wiped off the map.

The righteous and the just will endure and prosper and the wicked shall be vanquished and cast into the pit.

Let me tell you something — Israel will never be defeated in a war. Since 1948, they've been trying to

Richard Lime is a resident of Union.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for support, encouragement

To the Editor:
I'd like to thank the residents of Union County for their support and overwhelming vote which re-elected me to the position of Union County clerk on Nov. 8.

During my 30-year career in public service, my commitment has been to provide outstanding service to the residents of our county. Aided by a dedicated professional staff I renew my pledge to you for cost-efficient, excellent programs and services by the Union County Clerk's Office during my next five-year term as your county clerk.

Thank you again for your support and encouragement.

Joanne Rajoppi
Union County Clerk

I would like to thank Mr. Mullman for all the effort and time he gave to Springfield. I commend him for his dedication and spirit.

Steven Gray
Springfield

Voters deserve commendation

To the Editor:
We would like to extend a heartfelt and resounding thank you to all of those residents of Union County who came out to support us for Union County freeholders on Election Day 2005. Whether you distributed literature, put a sign on your lawn, worked on the telephones, were poll workers/challengers, or were the "gofer" for the day, you need to know that in our eyes you were all wonderful.

It is a nice feeling as well to know that there are so many people who still cherish and exercise their right as citizens of the United States to have a voice in the electoral process and go out of their way to vote, you are all to be commended.

Patricia Quattrocchi
Stuart Kline
Al Dill

Change takes time and dedication

To the Editor:
I would like to thank every citizen that chose to exercise his or her right to vote. Whether you cast your vote for Mr. Mullman or myself shows that you are concerned about our community. This is now the time to bring every resident of Springfield together. Divisions need to be erased and it is time to start to serve the people of Springfield. I promise to work with the best interest of Springfield in mind.

The process of change takes time and dedication. With proper strategic planning and a high level of energy we can implement all the necessary changes to bring back a sense of pride that has been missing for sometime. To do this we need people to come out and be a part of our decisions. Come to the Township Committee meetings and voice your opinions.

It is time to open up the communications between the elected officials and the people that put them there. I promise to do my part in making this happen.

Thanks to squad in time of need

To the Editor:
I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Springfield First Aid Squad who responded to the call to help my mother on the night of the election. She suffered a slight stroke, and though I was not there myself, I was told, to no surprise, what a professional job they did.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all the residents of our town that the Springfield First Aid Squad greatly depends on donations, and although you may not have needed their services in the past, and I hope you never do, they are always there to answer our calls of distress, should it become necessary.

I thank you all again for your wonderful help in our time of need.

Cheryl Mullman
Springfield

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Send e-mail to Editorial@thelocalsource.com

Hester Street Troupe featured at annual Shabbat

Temple Sha'arey Shalom, 78 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield, will celebrate its eighth annual Inter-generational Klezmer Shabbat with a special service on Friday at 8 p.m.

Featured again this year will be the renowned Hester Street Troupe. At this service many generations of the congregation and community come together to celebrate the Sabbath and have a meal together and participate with full body and spirit in soulful and toe-tapping worship led by Cantor Amy Daniels, Temple Sha'arey Shalom choir and the wonderful musicians of the Hester Street Klezmer Troupe.

Prior to the service at 6:30 p.m. will be a family Sabbath dinner.

This special service is co-sponsored by the Tem-

ple Sha'arey Shalom Renaissance Group and Religious School.

On Dec. 11 at 10 a.m., the annual Hanukkah brunch will take place featuring delicious food, crafts for the kids and holiday shopping.

Sha'arey Shalom is a Reform Jewish congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, formerly Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Membership is from the communities of Cranford, Millburn, Springfield, Union, Westfield, and other surrounding communities. The temple serves as a social, educational, and religious focal center for the communities. Active Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Youth and Renaissance groups are always welcoming newcomers.

Diverse programs suit many interests including

adult bar/bat mitzvah classes, conversational Hebrew, a Rosh Hodesh women's study group, study minyans, book discussion groups, and speakers and trips sponsored by a very active Renaissance group.

Monthly Tot Shabbat services, for those up to age 4, begin at 6:30 p.m.

Advance reservations for dinner are required by Nov. 11 and tickets cost \$15 per adult, \$6 per child, with children younger than 6 free.

For more information, or to make reservations for dinner, call Mindy Schreff, family educator, through the temple office at 973-379-5387 or e-mail office@shaarey.org.

Additional information can also be found on the temple's Web site www.shaarey.org.

EVENTS

Greeting card-making class to meet Fridays

Learn to make your own greeting cards at the greeting card stamp class offered through the Mountainside Recreation Department. Participants can make cards for birthdays, Christmas, Halloween or any occasion.

The class will meet Dec. 9 at Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east. The class is for adults, and the registration fee is \$14 per person.

Stop by the Recreation Office for a registration form or call 908-232-0015 for information.

'Mom's Night Out' planned at FMG

Edward V. Walton School PTA is planning a "Mom's Night Out" at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School cafeteria in Springfield on Friday from 6 to 9 p.m.

The event will be a fund-raiser for various projects related to the school. The PTA is currently looking for crafters and vendors to display their wares. Exhibit spaces are available for \$40 each and tables can be rented for \$8.

Checks can be made payable to "The EV Walton School PTA," and sent to 601 Mountain Ave., Springfield 07081. The fax number is 973-258-0753.

For information, call 973-376-1304.

The event is open to all adults in the community.

'The Fall of the House of Usher' at Dayton

Jonathan Dayton High School Drama Department will present its fall production of "The Fall of the House of Usher," by Tim Kelly, Friday and Saturday in Halsey Hall auditorium at

Jonathan Dayton High School, Mountain Avenue, Springfield, at 7 p.m.

Here's Edgar Allan Poe's most famous tale of supernatural horror brought to the theater by Kelly, the screenwriter responsible for many of the highly acclaimed Poe films.

It begins in Baltimore, in a tavern called The Raven, during a howling storm.

The city is fascinated by a recently discovered case of premature burial. Actresses and dancers from a nearby theater can talk of nothing else. Soon a stranger and a mysterious woman suffering from some curious malady seek shelter.

The tale the stranger unfolds soon has listeners mesmerized. It is the account of a visit to a gloomy mansion where Roderick Usher and his sister, Madeline, are possessed by an evilness that endangers them physically. The family doctor, Fortunado, searches for a cure while the menacing walls take shape and speak out:

"Harken to the voices graven, listen to the call of doom. We are the moss-encrusted bastions, are the stones that make this tomb of the House of Usher."

Madeline "dies" and is buried only to claw her way free and accuse her brother of entombing her alive. Eventually, the house is destroyed and its darkest secrets forever buried. The stranger flees the tavern, and the listeners, including Detective Dupin, are left to ponder the truth of the account and the identity of its teller.

Parental discretion is advised for children younger than age 13, as some of the staged images may be frightening to young viewers.

Tickets can be purchased at the door; \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. Call Kaye Chomko at 973-376-1025, ext. 5188, for ticket information.

Pancake breakfast

A harvest pancake breakfast, sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Rosary Altar Society, will be Sunday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in Msgr. Pollard Hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 300 Central Ave., Mountainside.

Tickets cost \$5 for adults; \$3 for children younger than 12. No tickets sold at the door on Sunday. The breakfast will be catered by McDonald's Restaurant, 1967 Route 22 west, Scotch Plains.

Used clothing drive

A used clothing drive will be held on Nov. 26 to benefit Project Graduation for Governor Livingston High School's class of 2006. The public is urged to bring wearable, used clothing to the following locations from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.:

- Berkeley Heights Community Center, 29 Park Ave., Berkeley Heights
- Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave., Mountainside.

Items to be collected include all clothing, shoes, belts, handbags, hats, gloves and scarves. In addition, table linens, bedspreads, towels and stuffed animals may be donated. Pillows and blankets will not be accepted. Items should not be torn or stained and must be delivered in tied plastic bags.

Brighton Gardens conducts craft fair

Brighton Gardens of Mountainside, 1350 Route 22 west, is having their first annual craft fair on Dec. 3. Doors open to public at 10 a.m.

Crafters are needed for the event, set up time is 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$5 per table for crafters. The event is free to the public. The fee for this program is a suggested donation of \$1 per person.

Brighton Gardens of Mountainside is an Assisted Living Community. The benefits will go to the residents activities who live at Brighton Gardens of Mountainside.

Farmers' Market

Springfield will host a Farmers' Market at Ruby Park on Caldwell Place, every Tuesday from noon to 6 p.m., from September through November. A variety of seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables are available.

For information, call Linda Donnelly at 973-912-2201.

Booster Club fair seeks vendors, crafters

The Governor Livingston Highlander Booster Club invites community vendors/crafters of all types to participate in its Highlander Market Jan. 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Governor Livingston High School, 175 Watching Blvd., Berkeley Heights.

Part of Super Saturday, an annual event that draws more than 700 fans and participants of all ages, Highlander Market offers local vendors and crafters the opportunity to showcase and sell their wares.

For more information and to reserve space, call Adrienne Trivella at 908-464-4520 or e-mail to ade81458@aol.com.

Lurking wild turkeys

Learn about wild turkeys lurking in the woods on Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. as part of the Outdoor Adventure Series at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside.

Learn what turkeys sound like and find out how it was almost our national bird. Pre-registration is not required. The fee for this program is a suggested donation of \$1 per person.

Far Brook School Open House

Wednesday, November 30, 2005

For Students Entering Grades 4-7

The critical years — 4th through 8th grade. A few years can make a big difference!

- Individualized attention
- Challenging curriculum & experiential learning
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Academic achievements last year:

- 100% of 7th Graders qualified to take SATS
- 7th & 8th Graders scored an average of 15% higher than private school standardized testing norms

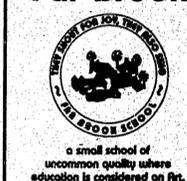
Where recent graduates are now:

- Network Academy • Pingry School • Kent Place • Montclair Kimberley
- Morristown-Bard • Dellbarton • Gill St. Bernard's • Phillips Andover • Phillips Exeter
- Lewistonville • Hotchkiss • Public schools and more

All decisions on admissions are made without regard to race, religion, sex, or national origin.

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Far Brook



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OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2005

RSVP: 973-379-3442

Far Brook School

52 Great Hills Road
Short Hills
www.farbrook.org

All decisions on admissions are made without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin.

When I'm Old

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Third place for St. James



St. James the Apostle School in Springfield took third place honors in this year's Scholastic Olympic Competition held at Roselle Catholic High School. This was based on the total number of points scored by each school. Eighth grade boys and girls from 16 area Catholic grammar schools competed in nine categories. Individual plaques were presented to the first-, second- and third-place finisher in each of the boys and girls division for the nine competitions. Individual awards were presented to Villius Stankovicus and Tara Nicola, first place, history; James Kocur, third place, science; Erica Ratti, first place, science; Nisha Matthew, second place, religion; and Sharleen Garcia, third place, mathematics.

Nutrition lecture series

The Summit Area YMCA will continue its series of free nutrition lectures this fall and winter. Lectures are free and open to the community. They take place at three branches of the YMCA in Summit, Springfield and Berkeley Heights.

- "Enjoy the Holidays, Without the Weight Gain," will be today 1 to 2 p.m., Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St.
- "Get the Skinny on Fat," will be Nov. 30, 9 to 10 a.m. at the Berkeley Heights YMCA, 550 Springfield Ave.; 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Springfield YMCA, Dec. 1, 1 to 2 p.m. at Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St.
- "Meal Planning, Why, When and How," will be Dec. 7, 9 to 10 a.m. at

the Berkeley Heights YMCA, 550 Springfield Ave.; 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Springfield YMCA, Dec. 8, 1 to 2 p.m. at Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St.

• "It's time to Start Planning Those New Year's Resolutions," will be Dec. 14, 9 to 10 a.m. at the Berkeley Heights YMCA, 550 Springfield Ave.; 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Springfield YMCA, 100 S. Springfield Ave.; Dec. 15, 1 to 2 p.m., Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St.

For more information about any of these lectures, call Sue Fiesler, YMCA staff nutritionist, 908-273-3330, ext. 167, e-mail to suefiesler@summitymca.org, or visit www.summitareaymca.org.

Flu vaccine clinics

The Westfield Regional Health Department will have flu clinics on the following dates:

- Wednesday, 7 to 8 p.m., Garwood Municipal Building, 403 South Ave.
- Nov. 28, 7 to 8 p.m., Mountaintop Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east.
- Nov. 29, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Council Chambers, Fanwood Municipal Building, 75 Martine Ave.
- Nov. 30, 7 to 8 p.m., Committee Room, Springfield Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave.
- Dec. 7, 7 to 8 p.m., New Providence Municipal Building, 360 Elkwood Ave.

Widowed Persons group seeks members

The Widowed Persons Association of Our Lady of Lourdes, 300 Central Ave., Mountaintop, is looking for new members.

Meetings are the second Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m.

There is a program, followed by refreshments, consisting of wine and cheese, followed by coffee and cake. A fee of \$3 is charged. All widowed persons are invited.

On Dec. 11, the association will have a Christmas party at Gran Centurions, Clark 1 to 5 p.m. \$40 cash bar.

Beth Ahm Men's Club welcomes comedy hour

The Men's Club of Temple Beth Ahm and the Springfield B'nai B'rith will co-sponsor a comedy hour with veteran comedian Bobby Ramsen at Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Way, on Dec. 4 at 9:30 a.m.

A bagels and spreads brunch will precede the entertainment. There will be a \$5 charge for non-paid-up members of either organization, wives, significant others and other persons interested in attending.

Ramsen, who started out in the Borscht Belt and, early on appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show," has had key humor roles on such TV programs as "Bob Newhart Show," "Mary Tyler

CLUBS IN THE NEWS

Moore," "Diff'rent Strokes," "T.J. Hooker" and many other shows. He has also appeared in numerous TV specials.

In addition, the comedian has had principal roles over the years in about a dozen films as well as appearing in numerous night clubs, casinos and cruise ships.

For more information, call Joe Tenenbaum, president of the Springfield B'nai B'rith, at 973-379-9306 or Jerry Rosenberg, program chairman, at 908-351-1819.

GL Booster Club raises money for athletics

The Governor Livingston Highlander Booster Club invites fans of all ages to kick off another year of fundraising.

The Booster Club is a volunteer organization of parents, alumni, friends and community members that supports the 24 athletic programs and all student-athletes at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights.

Last year, the Booster Club raised a record \$36,000 that was channeled directly back to the school's athletic community, including the launch of new programs, expanded activities, scholarships, and team grants.

To support these programs, the Booster Club sponsors a variety of

ways for community members to get involved.

Businesses and families wishing to support the Highlanders may also take an ad in their sports journals, published three times per year. Those who wish to participate can send an e-mail message to Coordinator Susan Winter at susanwinter@comcast.net for details.

The entire community is invited to support the club. Donations may be sent to 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights, 07922.

All proceeds from club fund-raisers and special events go directly to support GL athletes and athletics through its programs of grants, scholarships and awards.

Handcrafter Group gathers in borough

The Handcrafter Group of the Women's Association of the Community Presbyterian Church, 1459 Deer Path, Mountaintop, will meet on the second Saturday of every month in the church's Memorial Room at 10 a.m.

Those attending can use their own skills or learn new ones.

The group is currently making blankets for Rannels Specialized Hospital.

For information about the group, call the church office at 908-232-9490 and leave a name and telephone number with Janet.

HEALTH

The vaccine will be given out on a first come, first serve basis. If you are Medicare eligible, bring your card with you.

The following are the priority groups which should be targeted to receive inactivated influenza vaccine, i.e., the flu shot:

- persons aged 65 years and older, with and without chronic health conditions
- residents of long-term care facilities
- persons aged 2 to 64 years with chronic health conditions
- children aged 6 to 23 months
- pregnant women
- health-care personnel who provide direct patient care
- household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children less than 6 months old.

The clinic is only open to the residents of Fanwood, Garwood, Mountaintop, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield and Westfield. Proof of residency is required.

Free immunizations offered to children

The Westfield Regional Health Department, which serves Springfield and Mountaintop, offers free immunizations and physicals to all children from the age of birth to 18 years.

This is done through the department's child health clinic. This clinic is conducted twice a month by appointment only. The department's pediatrician performs the immunizations and physicals.

The child health clinic is for children who do not have insurance or whose insurance does not cover well visits.

The Westfield child health clinic only cares for children who are well. The clinic does not offer medical treatment to children who are suffering from any illness.

For information or to make an appointment, call Anne Trivisano, public health nurse, at 908-789-4070.

AT THE LIBRARY

'Since Otar Left'

Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its fall international film festival today with "Since Otar Left" at noon and 7 p.m.

Director Julie Bertuccelli deftly spins the delicate thread of familial conflict and maternal love into a bewitching tangle of intergenerational duplicity. This film is 102 minutes and is Unrated.

The series will continue on Dec. 15 with "Hero." Funding for the film festival has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the arts through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the Friends of the Springfield Public Library.

Admission is free for all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 973-376-4930.

Miss Candy Sing-a-long

Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will present Miss Candy Sing-a-long, as she sings in the key of "F" 10:30 to 11 a.m. today and Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving, in the Palmer Museum, for children up to 5 with a caregiver.

The Miss Candy series continues on Thursdays in December, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22, from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

"F" for people — so everyone can sing along. Children love to sing, especially action songs. And who wouldn't want to go on a bear hunt, or visit the ballpark, or hear about the old woman who swallowed the fly?

Miss Candy's enthusiasm encourages even the shyest child to participate, and of course, she gently encourages good manners.

"I love how their faces light up when they recognize an old favorite," said Miss Candy. Children feel proud when they realize they can do a good job of singing along.

For more information, call 973-376-4930.

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

Classic comedies

Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., begins a new Lanchtime Video Series, "Classic/Classy Comedies and Mysteries," on Tuesday at noon.

William Powell and Myrna Loy star as Nick and Nora Charles, a married couple who liked to dabble in mysteries, martinis and witty repartee. When not busy with their endless

Great Books to discuss short story

The Great Books Discussion Group, which meets on the third Thursday of each month, will meet today at 10 a.m. to investigate various aspects of the short story by Henry James, "Beast in the Jungle."

John Marcher, the protagonist,

believes that his life will be defined by some catastrophic or spectacular event, lying in wait for him like a "Beast in the Jungle." Mary Bartram, whom he knew 10 years earlier, remembers this and decides to take a flat nearby, curiously waiting to see what fate has in store for him. This engrossing psychological drama is said to have laid the foundations for a technique called "stream of consciousness."

The Great Books compilation may be purchased for \$24 at the Circulation Desk. The discussion group welcomes new members. Participants are invited to come to any or all of the sessions.

The program is free and open to all.

For more information, call 973-376-4930.

Rosetta to perform

Rosetta will perform at Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Sunday at 2 p.m. The free program is offered as part of the Sunday Afternoon Concerts at Springfield Free Public Library.

Rosetta is Andrew Mc Donough, vocals, guitar and keyboards; Elizabeth Cabrera, cello and keyboards; Kris Lamb, flute, whistle, recorder and several other wind instruments, and John Lamb, vocals, bodhran, whistle and harp. They specialize in the traditional music of Ireland, Scotland, and Spain, presenting a mixture of lively dance tunes, show airs, light-hearted ditties, serious ballads, romantic love songs, and much more.

Artists' Showcase

Local artists are invited to join the Artists' Showcase to be sponsored by the Friends of the Mountaintop Public Library in February.

Painters, photographers, printmakers, sculptors and others in the fine arts are encouraged to participate. Exhibit your works for one low entry fee and keep the sale's proceeds! Suggested price range is \$25 to \$150 per piece. Deadline to join is Dec. 15.

Call the library at 908-233-0115 for more information.

Lunchtime Video Series

Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its Lunchtime Video Series, "Classic/Classy Comedies and Mysteries," Dec. 6 at noon.

The second film in the series came two years after the original husband and wife hit starring William Powell and Myrna Loy. This time they're out to solve a series of murders, while ever engaging in bubbling repartee and champagne.

SNAP Digital Camera Class offered

Learn to upload your digital photos, create and save them to folders, and attach them to e-mails in the SNAP Digital Camera Class.

The class will meet in the computer room at Mountaintop Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 west, Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The fee is \$15 per class.

Pre-registration is required, and

Picking out pumpkins



The 4-year-olds enjoy picking out pumpkins at the Community Presbyterian Nursery School pumpkin hunt in Mountaintop.

RECREATION

Basketball tryouts

The Springfield Recreation Department will have the following tryouts next week:

- Nettes Girls Travel Program, today, 5:30 p.m. for grades five and six, and 7 to 8:30 p.m. for grades seven and eight in the Gaudineer School girls' gym.
- Minutemen basketball, which participates in the Bi-County League and competes against surrounding communities, today, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for grades five through seven, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., for grade eight, at Gaudineer School in Gym 1.

See 'Disney on Ice'

The Springfield Recreation Department will sponsor a trip to see "Disney on Ice: Incredibles," on Nov. 25 at Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford. The performance will begin in the lower tier seats at 3 p.m.

The bus departs at 1:30 p.m. from the Chisholm Community Center. The price is \$32 per person and includes bus transportation to and from the Continental Airlines Arena, parking price, and seating.

Register at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, or call 973-912-2227. Checks should be made payable to Township of Springfield. Register with payment by Wednesday.

Survive in the wild

Adults with children ages 5 and older are invited to discover what it takes to survive in the wild on Dec. 10 from 1 to 2 p.m. as part of the Outdoor

Adventure Series at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountaintop.

Each family will learn the fundamentals for shelter and fire building. Together the group will build a shelter warm enough to sleep in.

Pre-registration is not required. The fee for this program is a suggested donation of \$1 per person.

For more information, call 908-789-3670.

PLT workshop Dec. 1

On Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. formal and informal educators are invited to take part in an interactive and educational Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshop at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountaintop.

PLT activities will engage your students in interdisciplinary, hands-on experiences that develop skills in problem solving, evaluation and research.

The fee for this workshop is \$10 per person. Light refreshments provided.

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"Let Us Be Thankful"

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2372 Morris Ave., Union 908-687-2120
Rabbi, Meyer H. Korban • Cantor, William Walton
President, Ira Paskana

Mountaintop Chapel
1180 Spruce Drive, Mountaintop 908-232-3456 • www.mountaintopchapel.org
Dr. Gregory Hagg, Senior Minister • Mr. Keith Wintz, Director of Ministries
We invite you to our Thanksgiving Eve Service Wed., Nov. 23 at 7:00 PM
Sunday Worship Celebration at 11:00 AM

Springfield Evangelical Baptist Church
242 Shunpike Road, Springfield 973-379-4351
Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, November 23rd at 7:30 p.m.
Everyone is invited to attend

Smell Gas? Act Fast.

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If you smell gas, do the following:

- Alter your course and leave the area immediately.
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- Do not use a phone away from the area and call 911.

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SENIOR NEWS

Therapeutic Foods

The Women's Issues Group of SAGE ElderCare will present Joseph...

Fall prevention series

The SAGE ElderCare Fall Prevention Initiative includes a series of...

The speaker for this event is Greg Davis, a physical therapist from McRie...

Hilltop Community Bank, 555 Springfield Ave., Berkeley Heights...

"We hope to continue its success this year, so that we can meet the needs of the elderly in SAGE ElderCare's service area of Union, Morris, Essex and Somerset counties."

For more information, call Suzanne Lyon at 908-598-5514.

SAGE ElderCare serves as a major community resource in the establishment and delivery of innovative services for older adults and their caregivers...

On Dec. 8, the public is invited to the free "Fall Prevention Forum & Screening" from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m. at SAGE ElderCare, 290 Broad St. The program, for adults 65 and older, will focus on prevention screening to protect seniors from falling.

These services allow the elderly to remain independent and living in their own homes. Present SAGE ElderCare programs include HomeCare, Meals-on-Wheels, State Health Insurance Assistance Program of Union County, Bill Paying, a Shopping Service, Info-Care, and Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center.

Learn how changes in activities, lifestyle and the home environment decrease the risk of falling. Free screenings will include balance assessments, bone density and blood pressure evaluations. Strength and balancing exercises will be demonstrated through Tai Chi exercises.

For more information, call 908-273-5550 or log onto www.sageelder-care.org.

Essentials for Seniors

SAGE ElderCare will continue its fifth annual "Essentials for Seniors Drive" until Dec. 12, providing seniors with basic items for living. You can help seniors in Union, Morris, Essex and Somerset counties by donating new items such as towels, razors and shaving cream, bed sheets, toiletries, supermarket gift certificates, and/or new clothing items such as gloves, hats, shirts, slippers, undershirts and sweaters. Items should be new, unwrapped and delivered to the following locations:

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Stories and photos may be emailed to UnionCountySports@yahoo.com

SPORTS

Dayton boys' do well to reach final Standout senior Tereschuk nets 2

SPRINGFIELD - Dayton and Brearley have seen plenty of each other. The two Mountain Valley Conference boys' soccer squads battle each other twice a season. This year, however, they met a third time with the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 title on the line last Friday.

The fifth-seeded Bears traveled to the second-seeded Bulldogs and upset the higher seed, coming away with a 4-2 triumph. Brearley moved on to Tuesday's Group 1 semifinals, where they were scheduled to play North 1 champion Pompton Lakes at Livingston. The final is this weekend.

The wind was out of control last Friday at Dayton, making it almost impossible to get a solid shot off on the north side of the field. The home team was able to take advantage of the strong wind just 13 seconds into the match when it jumped out to an early 1-0 lead.

Dimitri Tereschuk opened the game up with a bang when he scored in the opening seconds on a bouncing shot that got caught up in the wind and ended up getting past Brearley keeper Tim Hoagland for the game's opening score. It was Tereschuk's 29th goal of the season.

"The wind was real tough in the first half," Hoagland said. "It was blowing right at me. After they scored right at the start I had to put it out of my mind and play like it never happened." "I told the team before the game that we were going to have to overcome some adversity today," Brearley head coach Vince McGowan said. "I didn't know it was going to come in the first minute, but I knew it would come."

Brearley responded to the adversity like a true champ, knotting the contest up at 1-1 some 27 minutes into the contest when Chris Moreno scored on a header off David Barbone's corner kick. Dayton responded eight minutes later by regaining the lead at 2-1 when Tereschuk scored his second goal of the contest and 30th of the season from 15 yards out.

Trailing by one goal coming out of the halftime intermission, Brearley knew it was in good shape with the wind at its back for the second half. The Bears were able to take advantage of the conditions five minutes into the stanza when Barbone collected a loose ball in front of the Dayton net and powered it into the back to knot the game up at 2-2.

Eighteen minutes later, Brearley would take the lead for the first time when Dayton scored an own goal. Brearley played a long ball towards the Dayton goal, which a Bulldog attempted to head. The Dayton player was able to get his head on the long shot, but, unfortunately, was unable to change its direction. The ball ricocheted into the Dayton goal, giving Brearley the lead for good at 3-2.

While the own goal was the winning goal, Brearley was able to score once more just a minute later to stretch it to 4-2. Moreno netted his second goal of the game on the best play of the match for either team. The senior cut through the Dayton defense, gliding past three defenders. He then hit an open shot from about 15 yards out that reached the far corner of the net.

"I thought I struck the ball well," Moreno said of his second goal. "I wasn't sure if it was going to go in, but I knew it had a chance." The shot beat Dayton goalkeeper David Sauerhoff, who, like Hoagland, came into the match playing extremely well. Hoagland had eight shutouts and Sauerhoff seven.

"Winning the section is a great accomplishment for the team," Moreno said. "We got this far two years ago and lost, which makes this win even sweeter." Brearley, as the seventh seed, fell at home to ninth-seeded New Providence 1-0 in the Central Jersey, Group 1 final in 2003, finishing 12-9-1. Brearley opened that season with a 3-0 loss to New Providence.

Brearley went 9-8-2 last year, reaching the Central Jersey, Group 1 semifinals. "I can't say enough about the way the team played today," McGowan said. "Dayton has some real talented players and for us to shut them down in the second half showed the kind of team we have."

Brearley entered Tuesday's Group 1 semifinal vs. Pompton Lakes with a record of 14-3-2. The Bears had won six in a row and were 6-0-1 over their previous seven matches. Dayton concluded a fine season at 14-5-3 as the Bulldogs had a three-match winning streak snapped. Dayton's third win in a row was a 2-1 overtime triumph over third-seeded Bound Brook Nov. 8 in Springfield. Tereschuk scored both Dayton goals as the Bulldogs beat the 2004 Central Jersey, Group 1 champs.

Dayton finished 8-7-2 last year, falling at Bound Brook 3-0 in the sectional quarterfinals. NOTES: Dayton began the sectional playoffs with an 8-0 home win over seventh-seeded Bloomfield Tech, which was just coming off its first-ever state playoff victory. Fred Vilaso and Tereschuk each netted a hat-trick. The two proved to be one of the top 1-2 scoring tandems in Union County this year, along with Union County Tournament champion Elzabek, who had tenor Petik Marnsey and Max Irgoyen.

Sauerhoff stopped six shots to put his seventh shutout. Dayton tied Gill St. Bernard's 1-1 three days before in a non-conference game. Dayton began the season 5-0-2 before it was finally beaten. New Providence topped the Bulldogs 1-0 in New Providence on Sept. 27. Dayton rebounded to win its next five matches before falling at 3-0 in the first round of the UCT.

Dayton-Brearley gymnast Andie Sablosky did well to place in the balance beam competition at the state tournament held at Rutgers last Saturday. The Springfield resident who attends Dayton finished tied for 12th with Gabrielle Guider of Nutley, each scoring a 9.05. Sablosky was second in the balance beam event at the sectional meet with a score of 9.25. She was also second in floor exercise at 9.2 and third in vault at 9.5. Union won the section with a score of 104.325, while Dayton-Brearley was second at 103.325. Dayton-Brearley captured the sectional title last season.

Lead runner



The Brearley football team is led by the play of senior running back Jake Floyd (No. 44). The Springfield resident, who attends Dayton, led all rushers with 164 yards on 22 carries and scored two touchdowns in Brearley's 35-7 playoff win over Keyport last Friday night at Ward Field in Kenilworth. Brearley will host Burlington City tomorrow night at 7 p.m. in a Central Jersey, Group 1 semifinal. Brearley is attempting to reach its first sectional final since last winning North 2, Group 1 back in 1991.

GL girls' soccer team wins Central Jersey, Group 2 title Ragonese scores winning penalty kick

By Timothy Denman Staff Writer BERKELEY HEIGHTS - Last year was prettier, but this season they simply got it done. The Highlanders were not scored upon last season until their final game of the year when they were eliminated from the North 2, Group 2 playoffs by Chatham 3-1 in a heart-breaking fashion in the final.

On Nov. 8, the Governor Livingston girls' soccer team continued to overcome the loss of standout senior forward Christie Sidie by winning a sectional championship this time. GL's last loss was a 1-0 setback at home to Haddonfield in the UCT quarterfinals.

The second-seeded Highlanders outlasted fifth-seeded Rumson-Fair Haven 2-1, winning on penalty kicks 4-3 to claim the Central Jersey, Group 2 title at home. Dana Ragonese scored the winning penalty kick goal. GL (17-2-3) put a three-game winning streak on the line Tuesday against South Jersey champ Haddonfield (21-1) in the Group 2 semifinals at Red Bank Regional in Little Silver. The Highlanders were two wins shy of a first state title since 1985. GL lost to Haddonfield 1-0 to finish 17-3-3.

The Highlanders didn't have any scoreless streak to contend with this season, having given up their share of goals, although not a large amount by any means. That may have played to their advantage in the section. GL learned the value of adversity last fall and was able to call upon their lessons in the championship game this season. Senior center midfielder Meredith Talbot scored for the Highlanders 16 minutes into the first half on a nice crossing pass from Danielle Ivanich to put the home team out in front 1-0.

Just two minutes later however, Alex Giamo evaded the game up at one apiece when her long bouncing shot found its way past Highlander senior goalie Alye York. Nine times out of 10 York makes the save on Giamo's goal, but on this windy afternoon she was unable to get her hands on it. The teams played an evenly matched first half, but in the second half, GL began to take over. The Highlanders had six corner kicks in the half and dominated the time of possession. However, they were unable to break the tie and the game headed to overtime.

The teams remained the same following two overtime periods and the match had to be decided in a shootout. Rumson-Fair Haven shot first in the shootout, with senior captain Brooks Keany scoring to put her team out in front. Talbot was next to shoot and tied the shootout at 1-1. The Highlanders took the lead at 2-1 after Hope Torevira missed for Rumson and Andi Barton made her chance. The penalty kicks were knotted up at 2-2 following the third round of shooters, with Rumson's Bridget Wacławik scoring and GL's Tatiana Kingston missing.

Next up was Kara Abbot for Rumson and the sophomore missed her chance. Anne Marie Bacino converted her attempt for GL and the Highlanders were up 3-2 after four rounds. "In a shootout, all you are trying to do is get the lead,"

Sablosky places in state gymnastics

After finishing third with an all-around score of 36.675 at the Nov. 5 North Jersey, Section 2 meet at Wayne Hills, Dayton-Brearley gymnast Andie Sablosky did well to place in the balance beam competition at the state tournament held at Rutgers last Saturday. The Springfield resident who attends Dayton finished tied for 12th with Gabrielle Guider of Nutley, each scoring a 9.05. Sablosky was second in the balance beam event at the sectional meet with a score of 9.25. She was also second in floor exercise at 9.2 and third in vault at 9.5. Union won the section with a score of 104.325, while Dayton-Brearley was second at 103.325. Dayton-Brearley captured the sectional title last season.

Dayton JV football wins to finish 3-5

The Dayton junior varsity football team completed a successful 3-5 season with a 22-0 win at Bonton Nov. 7. Scoring touchdowns were leading scorer Jimmy Guarino on a 35-yard run, Jessie Alava on a 20-yard pass from Jason Capps and Capps on a one-yard run. Dayton posted shutout wins in two of its three victories. Varsity football will return in 2006 for the first time since the 2000 season.

Springfield Skyhawks 3, Summit 3

The Springfield Skyhawks 9-and-under traveling boys' soccer team earned a crucial point in the standings by tying Summit 3-3 in Summit Sunday. TJ Kanarek and Max Cohen powered Springfield to a 2-0 lead with goals in the first half. Goalkeeper Mark Jessen and defenseman Connor Grune, Brendan Burke and Daniel Stein held Summit in check in the first half. Larry Boyle scored in the second half and the Springfield offense had 10 shots on goal from Ryan Kanarek, Johnny Appicella, Eric Periera and Zachary Wolf. The Skyhawks close out their season this weekend with two games against the NJ Rangers, with first place and the flight championship on the line.

Mountain Lakes 9, Springfield Roadrunners 4

The Springfield Roadrunners 9-and-under boys' squad was defeated by the Mountain Lakes Metro Stars 9-4. Kazari Trought scored twice for the Roadrunners, while Tommy Walsh and Will Francis netted one goal each. Also playing well for the Roadrunners were Ryan Fitzpatrick, Zack Skamisky, Boomer Sack, Kyle Schmidt, Vinnie Nagy, Jason Barriera, Tyler Citrin and Chris Vega. The Roadrunners are scheduled to conclude their fall campaign with a home and home series vs. the Roxbury Fire this weekend. Springfield will host Roxbury Saturday at 10 a.m. at Gaudineer School and then play at Roxbury Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

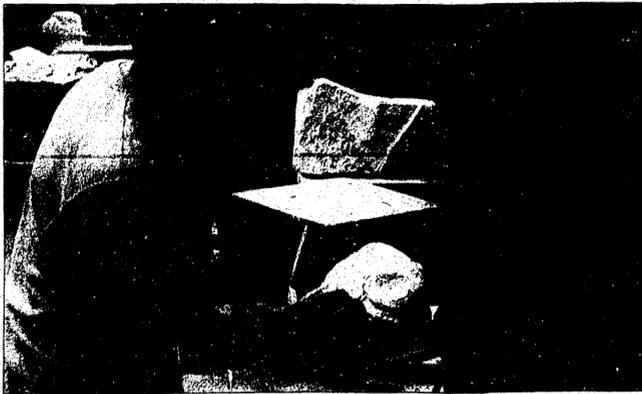
Arts center offers workshops

The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, 68 Elm St., is offering fall workshops designed to expand your knowledge of various mediums in a short time.

Open to everyone of high school age and older, the workshops are appropriate for those from beginner to advanced levels and are perfect for those who don't have the time to take a full semester course.

Get into the 21st Century and take your photographs to the next level with two digital workshops, "Scanning and Printing Basics" and "Beyond the Single Image." "Scanning and Printing Basics" will be offered Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The workshop will emphasize the basics of understanding film screening and inkjet printing. Students will use Nikon film scanners to scan film from 35mm to medium sized negatives or slides.



Sculptor Alfredo Cardenas works with a student in a sculpture workshop at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey in Summit.

The image scans will then be used to learn printing basics for black and white and color printing. Students will bring home printed images as large as 16x20.

"Beyond the Single Image," Dec. 3-4 or Dec. 10-11, will be from 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Digital photography opens up creative possibilities in the art of photo compositing — combining multiple images — as never before.

Students will learn scale, juxtaposition, unity versus fragmentation, and realism versus surrealism, and will master the most useful features in Photoshop as well as the more advanced techniques.

Participants should have a basic knowledge of Photoshop and digital photography.

Explore color in the sculptural medium with the "Patina" workshop, on Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Taught by sculptor Alfredo Cardenas, students will learn the various techniques to make a patina and how to apply it.

Participants will also learn the process of antiquing and working with

faux finishes. Take your sculptures to the next level with this workshop. Get down and dirty as you enter the amazing world of clay construction. Create a beautiful piece of art in a weekend at the "Ceramic Tiles" workshop Dec. 3-4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students will explore the decorative themes of arts and crafts period tiles, review design concepts, and create two negative tile press molds which they will then use to create a motif suitable for mounting.

Free-form tiles will also be created and glazed and finishing concepts will be discussed.

For more information on the workshops and other classes and programs at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, call 908-273-9121 or log onto www.njvca.org.

The Visual Arts Center serves the entire northern area. There is ample free parking on site and the center is a short walk from the NJ Transit Summit train station.

Trustees gather in informal setting

It was a Friday night in Summit and the home of Jennifer and Lowell Millar was bustling with activity. Members of the Overlook Hospital Foundation board of trustees and their spouses had gathered at the Millars' for cocktails, a buffet dinner and an evening of socializing.

"It's not often that our board members gather together outside of the parameters of our regularly scheduled meetings or hospital-sponsored events," said David Hartman, chairman of the foundation's board of trustees, "so it was nice for them to interact on a more personal social level."

"The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for new and existing board members and their spouses to get to know each other better," added Ann Machin Oliva, executive director of the Overlook Hospital Foundation.

The Overlook Hospital Foundation board of trustees is united by a common goal to help keep Overlook on the forefront of care by raising funds

that are used to enhance facilities, purchase state-of-the-art equipment and support special programs. These highly qualified individuals have a range of expertise in health care, business, fundraising and financial services.

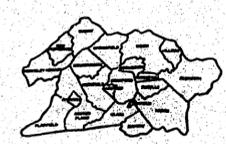
Trustees represent a cross-section of communities served by Overlook and hail from Union, Morris, Essex, Somerset and Hunterdon counties. Thus, they also have a personal and professional interest in ensuring that funds raised by the foundation help further Overlook's mission of providing world-class care close to home.

Trustees are elected to serve three-year terms, during which time they attend monthly board meetings, hospital and foundation-sponsored events, and the board's annual dinner.

"Our trustees are our ambassadors to our communities," Oliva said. "We keep them informed about the latest developments at Overlook, and hope that they will, in turn, pass on valuable information to their family, friends, colleagues and neighbors."



Jennifer and Lowell Millar hosted the Overlook Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees' social at their Summit home. Jennifer Millar is a member of the foundation board.



Union County

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

WORRAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

In re: 2005 results

Local boy holds the line: A wire service story on Sunday focused on the election results of Gov. Eliot Jon Corzine in Summit where he lived until moving to Hoboken two years ago. Turns out that both he and his Republican opponent Douglas Forrester garnered 3,328 votes. As a comparison, Frank Macioce, the citywide Republican candidate, bested his Democratic opponent, Peter Suzuki, by more than 400 votes.

Hard work counts: Republican Steven Graa in Springfield and Robert Pulak and Michael Plick in Cranford, as well as Democrat Larry DiNardo in Roselle Park, bucked the odds. All of these candidates went into their local races as underdogs, all rang door bells intensely and all of them won. Running on taxes being too high, Graa snagged 53 percent of the vote in Democratic Springfield. The local Cranford GOP racked up 1,700-vote pluralities.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

For Pulak it was quite a week. Along with the win, his wife was featured in the December issue of Good Housekeeping for her winning recipe of pine nut cookies.

No excuses accepted: The estimate is that the turnout of registered voters was about 50 percent. This doesn't even include the so-called eligible voters who don't even bother to register. The excuse that the negative ads somehow justify sitting home is hogwash. Maybe we should have Freeholder Angel Bruni and some of the other politicians tell their supporters in Iraq that they should sit home and not vote.

Numbers count: For the money watchers, based on the campaign reports Corzine spent \$34 per vote in the General election. Forrester spent \$20 per vote. This doesn't include the \$12.5 million Corzine spent in the primary or the \$5.4 million Corzine spent with no opposition.

Friendly towns: Corzine garnered a 7,800-vote win from Elizabeth and a 4,000-vote margin in Hillside. He got a 77-vote cushion in Winfield. Forrester's best towns were Berkeley Heights which gave him a 900-vote win and a 360-vote win in neighboring New Providence.

Selective voters: While Graa was pulling off the 53 percent win in Springfield, the rest of the Democratic rest of the way. In Roselle Park, the county Democrats won by over 100 votes, while Republican Councilman Ricky Badillo won by more than 300 votes. Corzine carried Roselle Park by about 250 votes.

In Garwood, Democrat Bill Schadevold won re-election by 30 votes while the county Republicans won the town by 130 votes. When the issues of taxes came up, Schadevold shot back that as both a homeowner and local businessman he gets hit twice on that most sensitive of subjects.

Wait 'til next year: Maybe Union County Republican Chairman Phil Morin has a connection to Brooklyn. He says next year "will be ideal for us to run a strong successful campaign." Morin's optimism is based on both state Sen. Tom Kean Jr. and Congressman Mike Ferguson being on the ballot. Democrats point to a 12-year winning streak at the county level including years when both the Republican stars were on the ticket.

What it means: The Monmouth University Polling Institute found that neither statewide Republican or Democrats would address the need for property tax reform. Supposedly the voters acknowledge that property tax reform will have some pain. We will see that tolerance for pain when the reforms start coming in January.

The PMK Group serves as one of the county's retained general engineering consultants. Harbor Consultants, also of Cranford, also has a professional services contract with the county for the service. Both firms receive \$30,000 for their services. PMK also has a professional ser-

As an attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

Cooking the way it used to be

By Lauren DeFillippo Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This is part of a continuing series on historic sites in Union County.

Clothing, furniture, art and literature all offer ways of looking into the past.

However, it's the culinary arts that take the cake, literally, when it comes to time travel.

Each weekend, visitors to Westfield's Miller-Cory House Museum, can see first hand how dinner went from farm to table in Colonial-era America.

There are no food processors, blenders, dishwashers, or even temperature controlled ovens, just elbow grease and fire.

Each weekend during the museum's season, volunteers spend hours in the property's stand alone kitchen — a structure that was originally part of the Frazee house property in Scotch Plains — cooking period specialties in an open hearth.

According to costumed volunteer Joan Barna, the temperature an oven reaches has a lot of variables, including the type and quality of wood used.

On Nov. 6, Barna and volunteer Arlene Soong prepared a feast with ties to Union County's Leni Lenape heritage. The meal, which featured entrees, soups, and desserts included cider roasted wild boar, or pork; askutasquash soupy winter root and onion soup; Algonquin stuffed Pumpkin; pumpkin bread; and pemican — a forerunner of today's protein sticks, it's made with animal fat, cranberries and nuts.

Frank Gold, also a volunteer at the museum, says that no recipe is actually used inside the hearth because so many of the items inside the house are so precious. Both Barna and Soong said they even try the traditional recipes at home.

"It actually tastes better here," Barna said, referring to the smoky taste the modern kitchens just cannot recreate.

The rooms include two bedrooms — one for the parents and one for the



Tom Chirchella leads his two boys, Ryan, 5, and Patrick, 7, to the Miller-Cory House Museum on Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

Collections of the recipes, compiled by volunteers over the museum's 33-year history are also available for purchase at the museum's shop.

However, both women noted that a lot of preparation goes on before they even arrive on site to start cooking.

While the cooking techniques remain the same, some of the ingredients are somewhat easier to come by.

Today, most things can be purchased at the store, whereas when the Millers and the Corys occupied the home, most of their foodstuffs came from their own farm, or items that they traded and bartered for with neighbors.

But, the kitchen is just part of the site's charm.

Listed on both the state and national registers of historic places, the Miller-Cory House is named after the two families who first occupied it; the Millers, from 1740 to 1780, and the Corys from 1780 to 1920. The house itself was a residence until 1972, when the home was established as a museum.

The home, which was built in 1740 was initially just two rooms, that Samuel Miller built for his wife Sabra on approximately 100 acres of land. As the Miller family expanded from two members to 10, additional rooms were added.

The rooms include two bedrooms — one for the parents and one for the

children — and a second-floor loft which now serves as the administrative hub for the museum.

"We tried to find out what was in the original house," Gold said.

Much of the furniture in the house, while not original to the structure itself, does come from the Colonial Period, between 1740 and 1820.

To help make the interior of the home as authentic as possible, volunteers have tried to represent all of the belongings listed on Joseph Cory's will, volunteer Eileen O'Shea said.

"Even though they were farmers, they were a middle-class family," she said.

An archaeological dig in 1999 offered "solid proof" of that assertion when delicate dinner plates and shoe buckles were found in the backyard.

Other items, also recovered during the dig, are on display in the home. All of the rooms of the home feature period accessories including books, candles, and toys.

The grounds also feature herb, vegetable, and dye gardens.

The Miller-Cory Museum is open Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. from mid-September to mid-June. Private tours

can be arranged by appointment. For more information, or to schedule a tour, call 908-232-1776.

Lauren DeFillippo can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 119, or union-county@yahoo.com.

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Parks union settles

By Lauren DeFillippo Staff Writer

The Board of Chosen Freeholders, unanimously approved a new labor agreement with the parks maintenance union at its meeting last month.

Union County Labor Management Relations Director Joseph Sallemme said the agreement affects a little more than 100 employees who work at county golf courses, in facilities, and as craftsmen. The agreement, which is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005, is good through Dec. 31, 2007.

When the employees, who are part of United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Local 494 last entered labor talks with the county, they spent over a year at the bargaining table, stretching talks from 1999 to the spring of 2000. This time around, negotiations began in April, he said.

According to Sallemme, employees at the higher end of the union's pay scale will receive a 3.75 percent salary raise in 2005, and 4 percent in both 2006 and 2007. Those employees whose salaries fall within the salary grades will be getting an annual pay increase of 3.25 percent each year, he said. Sallemme also said the agreement calls for the employees' prescription drug co-pay plan to remain the same.

A 30-day limit for filling prescriptions for name-brand pharmaceuticals is also part of the new agreement. Sallemme said this will limit the use of name-brand drugs used by the employees, thus saving the county some money.

"Premiums have gone up 65 percent since 2000," Sallemme said, noting that it's important to try and cut into those increases. And, Sallemme said, all employees still contribute to their health care plan.

The biggest change, Sallemme said, is in the union's health care providers. The union will now utilize the Horizon Direct Access Network, which Sallemme said, is 15 percent smaller than the previous network.

Sallemme noted that in some instances, the benefits of the new network were better than the old one. "If not better, then equivalent," he said.

The new health care plan will cover 30 percent of the expenses up to \$1,600 for individual, members and \$3,200 for those with family coverage. At that point, the plan covers 100 percent of the costs.

Employees will make the initial payment for health care services, and submit a form to the county. The forms are then reviewed by a third-party administrator before the county issues a 1510 copy and reimburses the employee.

Representatives of the labor union could not be reached for comment by presstime Tuesday.

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Askutasquash (Butternut) Soup

Ingredients

- 1 medium onion, coarsely chopped
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cups of 1/2 inch butternut squash, seeded, roasted, and drained from oil
- 2 cups chicken stock, or more to taste
- 1 cup sweet apple cider
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon heavy cream, optional

To roast the squash, slice squash lengthwise and seed it. Place squash skin-side up on a baking sheet. Roast at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 45 minutes to one hour, or until flesh is tender and soft.

- In a saute pan over medium-low heat, sweat the onion in the butter until translucent.
- Combine the squash, sauteed onion, and 1/2 cup of stock in the bowl of a food processor or blender. Puree, adding more stock as needed. The puree should be very thick.
- Pour squash puree into a large saucepan and stir in remaining stock, cider, and seasonings. Add cream and heat through before serving.

For more information, or to schedule a tour, call 908-232-1776.

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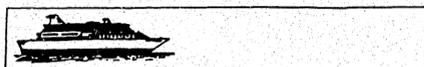
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Ceramics and clay work, both hand-building and working on the wheel, are popular workshops at the arts center.



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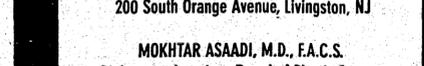
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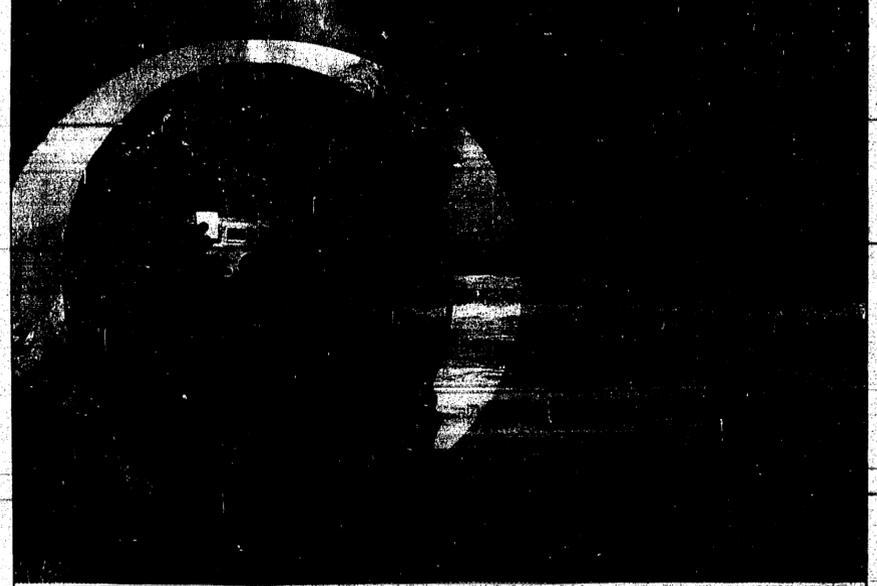
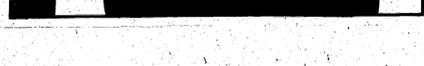
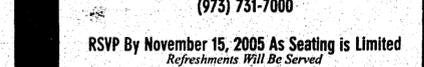
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As an attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

COUNTY NEWS

Historian to lecture on 'perils of power'
Noted historian professor Carol Berkin will present the lecture, "The Perils of Power, the Dangers of Weakness: Creating a New Constitution" on Monday at 7 p.m. in the Roy Smith Theater on the Cranford campus of Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave. Berkin's visit is sponsored by the College's Department of Economics, Government, and History, and the History Club. The lecture is free and open to the public.

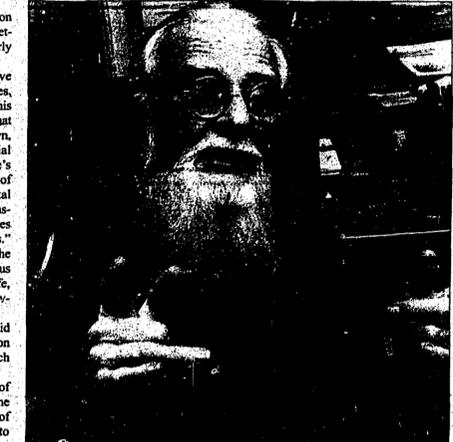
This schedule may be subject to change on holidays. Call the Skating Center to find out if changes will be made.
General sessions cost \$5 for adults, \$4 for children 17 and younger, and \$4.25 for senior citizens. Skate rental is an additional \$3. Discount cards are available for Union County residents who plan to skate on a regular basis.
There will be open hockey on Wednesdays 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. for a fee of \$7 for participants ages 18 and older with proper identification and a shielded or caged helmet.

The Warinanco Ice Skating Center is operated by the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities. The ice skating center is located off Thompson Avenue in Warinanco Park, Roselle. Entrances to Warinanco Park are located on St. Georges Avenue, Thompson Avenue, and Third Avenue.
For more information about the ice skating center, call 908-298-7850 for a recorded message or visit www.uccnj.org.

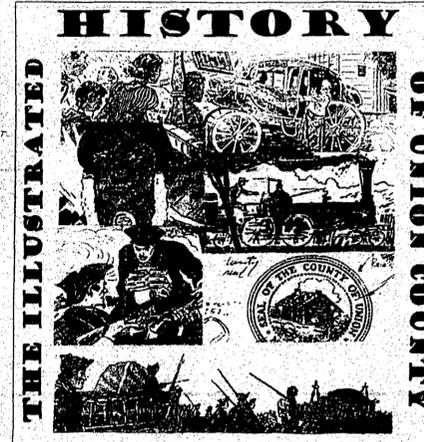
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Cartoonist's book details history of Union County

By Lauren DeFilippo
Staff Writer
It was 55 years ago when cartoonist Frank Thorne first began fitting the long history of Union County into cartoon creations.
His creations made their first appearance in the Elizabeth Daily Journal in 1950. They subsequently showed up in their serialized form in 173 editions of the now defunct publication.



Cartoonist Frank Thorne, above left, has recently released a book of his cartoons of Union County history, which chronicle the history of the county, as exemplified by one of his works, above right.



Cartoonist Frank Thorne, above left, has recently released a book of his cartoons of Union County history, which chronicle the history of the county, as exemplified by one of his works, above right.

Union songwriter releases new record

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer
Music is the basis of Steve Willoughby's life.
The versatile Unionite, who has written and published more than 75 songs, and who has appeared in numerous clubs, charitable events, commercial and private parties for several decades throughout the metropolitan area, has recently written and performed a single on a CD album that refers to the emotions of his adolescence.



Steve Willoughby

Painter inspires with her art

By Eric Brant
Correspondent
Artist Marion Howard has an auspicious birthday. Born in Savannah, Ga., her birthday falls on the same day as the great Pablo Picasso's. Some would say she was destined from birth to become a world-famous artist.

Artist highlights those lost items along the state's landscape

By Jeff Cummins
Associate Editor
You might say that Valeri Larko is a landscape painter.
Very gritty landscapes, though. Larko opens for part of the landscape where industry runs headlong into the nature, the industrial park. In fact, she's done a whole series of paintings of salvage yards.



Artist Valeri Larko, left, with one of her creations, 'Discarded Appliances,' one of her paintings, is at right. Larko specializes in painting subjects she finds in salvage yards, and her work will be on display at the Arts Guild of Rahway.

Nugent Association hosts annual dance

The Joseph Nugent Sr. Association of Union County will hold its 72nd annual dance on Saturday at the Kenilworth Veterans Center 33 S. 21st, Kenilworth, from 8 p.m. to midnight.
Founded by Joseph Nugent Sr. in 1933, the Nugent Association is the oldest independent Irish-American organization in the state.

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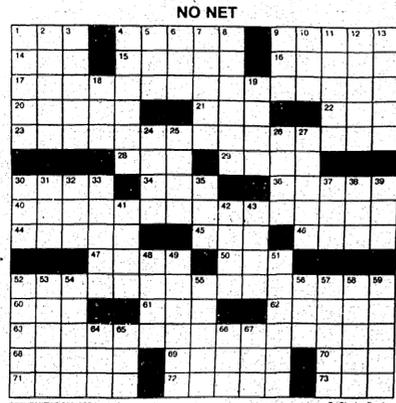
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What's Going On?

BAZAAR

FRIDAY
December 2nd, 2005
EVENT: Holiday Auction
PLACE: Holy Spirit School, Morris Avenue and Suburban Road, Union Road
TIME: 6pm - 11pm
PRICE: \$10.00
DETAILS: Please call Holy Spirit School 908-687-8415 to purchase tickets

AUCTION

SATURDAY
November 19th, 2005
EVENT: Holiday Auction
PLACE: St. Demetrius Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Railway Avenue, Union, NJ (off of Morris Avenue)
TIME: 1pm-5pm
PRICE: Admission: \$5.00 - includes 25 free raffle tickets, Coffee, Tea & Pastries, Crystal, Small Appliances, Toys, Hand-Crafted Holiday Items, Food Baskets, Gift Certificates, Linens, Hand-Crochet Dollies and Many, Many more. Something For Everyone. Call (908) 964-7957 for more info and directions
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SUNDAY
December 2nd, 2005
EVENT: Holiday Auction
PLACE: Holy Spirit School, Morris Avenue and Suburban Road, Union Road
TIME: 6pm - 11pm
PRICE: \$10.00
DETAILS: Please call Holy Spirit School (908)-687-8415 to purchase tickets
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by: Holy Spirit School

OTHER

FRIDAY
November 18, 2005
EVENT: Honoring Newark Champions of the 2005 US Youth Games
PLACE: African American Educational & Cultural Center: 15 James St., Newark
TIME: 6:00PM - 10PM
PRICE: Tickets: \$25; At The Door: \$35
DETAILS: The keynote speaker will be Na'im Akbar. The theme will be "Almost Forgotten Youth-Tomorrow's Leaders". Approx. 132 youths competed & won 17 Gold Silver & Bronze medals. The Champions, Coaches & Honorable Basic Walker are being recognized. Honorable Sharpe James will be presenting November 18, 2005, as the US Youth Games Day. For info, RSVP, & Tickets: 908-590-1882 or 973-908-0586
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Jeff Cummins, Editor

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Shore music legends come to Union County

On Nov. 19 at 8 p.m., Jersey Shore legends Gary U.S. Bonds, Joe Grushecky and the Houserockers and Bill Chinnock take the stage at the Union County Arts Center for an evening of rock 'n' roll Jersey Shore style. Bonds began his professional career as America's baby boomers moved into their midtwenties. For his first hit, "New Orleans," attention was brought to the record by having promotional copies sent to radio stations in sleeves inscribed "Buy U.S. Bonds" — hence at age 19, Gary Anderson became Gary U.S. Bonds. The follow-up was the now legendary party record, "Quarter to Three." Over the next three years, Bonds co-wrote and recorded his first good-time hit: "School is Out," "School is In," "Dear Lady Twist," "Twist, Twist, Senora," "Seven Day Weekend" and others. Bond's latest release "Back in 20" has been awarded the 2005 W.C. Handy Blues Award as "Comeback Album of the Year."

Pittsburgh boy making his way over to Asbury Park. Dubbed "the real essence of American music," roots-rock guitarist, keyboardist and singer-songwriter Bill Chinnock was one of the early founders of the Asbury Park music scene. Bill's roots are in the blues as well as rock. He has toured with Albert King, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGee, Willie Dixon, James Cotton, John Lee Hooker and many others, fashioning his unique style of blues and roots music.

Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased by calling 732-499-8226 or online by visiting the Web site at www.UCCA.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Ticket Central Box Office located at the corner of 1601 Irving St. and Central Ave., Railway. The Arts Center provides barrier-free access and seating for our patrons upon request. The theater is located within walking distance of the Railway NJ Transit train station and can be reached by taking exit 135 from the Garden State Parkway or exit 12 from the Turnpike. Parking is available downtown at the newly completed Railway Parking Garage. A free shuttle is available to and from the theater.

The Union County Arts Center is dedicated to providing world-class entertainment that is exciting, educational, affordable and responsive to the diverse interests of the communities it serves. UCAC would like to thank the following for their continued support: the city of Rahway, Merck and Co., the County of Union Board of Chosen Freeholders, RSI Bank, and Northfield Bank.



IT'S A 'WONDERFUL' PLAY - Real life mother and daughter actors Barbara Guidi and Emma Guidi with Rick Delaney as the George Bailey family in 'It's a Wonderful Life - The Radio Play', set for Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. at The Theater Project, Union County College's Professional Theater Company, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call 908-659-5189.

'The Wiz' is set for Union County show

The Rainbow Experience, a multi-cultural community theater group, will present the musical, "The Wiz," a retelling of "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum, with music and lyrics by Charlie Smalls and a book by William F. Brown.

Featuring the hit songs "Ease on Down the Road" and "Everybody Rejoice," the winner of several 1975 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, is sure delight the whole family.

The show will be performed at the Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the United Church of Christ on 220 W. 7th St. in Plainfield. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors over 65, or children under 12. Call 908-233-2494 or 908-755-8655 to make reservations.

The musical features "Nora" Boylan of Summit as Dorothy, Gillian Belz-Morhamm of North Plainfield as the Scarecrow, Michael Swain and Jada Nims, both of Plainfield, as the Tinman and Lion, respectively.

Featured cast members include Adam Alsamadi of Bridgewater as the Wiz, and Tammy Westbrook of Plainfield as Glinda.

The production is directed by Terry-Lynn Lecompte, a recent faculty member of the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan, and an independent artist, educator, director and actor/singer.

Lecompte's work was recently seen at Brundage Park Playhouse.

Now in its seventh season, The Rainbow Experience is dedicated to its mission to foster a multi-racial, inter-faith church and community partnership through the production of theater.

The Rainbow Experience was founded by the joint-ministries-of-the-United Church of Christ, Congregational of Plainfield and the First Congregational Church-UCC in Westfield. Previous productions include "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Godspell," "Honk!" "Once on this Island," "Oliver!" and "Songs in the Spirit," an original cabaret.

The Rainbow Experience is grateful to receive funding from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partnering agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs along with generous support from the Westfield Foundation; the NJ Association of the UCC and contributions from the congregations of the First Congregational Church of Westfield, the United Church of Christ-Congregational of Plainfield.

Shore music



Bill Chinnock will join Gary U.S. Bonds and Joe Grushecky at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway, on Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30. Call 732-499-8226 for tickets.

HOROSCOPES

Nov. 21 to 27
ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Enhance your knowledge of a new philosophy with additional sources or information. Give a teacher proper credit for having an influence on your life.
TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: Keep a close watch on your finances. Money tends to slip through your fingers and investments are subject to fluctuations beyond your control.
GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: Enjoy a period of special popularity in relationships. With the sun highlighting your seventh house of partnerships, look forward to great interactions.
CANCER, June 22 to July 22: A willingness to work hard and go the extra mile to complete an assignment is necessary for success. Get focused and put your nose to the grindstone.
LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Set the stage for socializing with a happy-go-lucky, lighthearted approach. Welcome creative ideas from friends and be prepared to take them to the next level.
VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: It is time to find resolution and forgive a family member for a prior misguided deed. Reach out with compassion and understanding. Begin the healing process.
LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Mental pursuits are emphasized this week. Surround yourself with people who share your interests and who can provide the intellectual stimulation that you need.
SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Study your budget. List your assets and income and compare them to your debts and fiscal liabilities. Strive to balance or match the columns equally.
SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: A change in your personal projection is timely. Make revisions in your appearance that reflects your confidence level or your thoughts about yourself.
CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: Find the right time to tie up loose ends and to clear your mental slate. When one door closes, it leaves ample room for the opening of the next door.
AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: You always know the right things to say. When a friend comes to you with a gnawing problem, plan to respond with comforting words or practical solutions.
PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20:

REUNIONS

The following schools are planning reunions:
• 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.
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 1975, will have 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 a message by e-mail to hlsclassof1975@comcast.net.
• Hillside High School Class of 1960 is planning its next reunion for 2007.
Forward your contact information to Linda Arotzky Lieb at Hillside-high1960@aol.com.
• West Orange High School Class of 1980 will have its 25th reunion on Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at The Appian Way restaurant in Orange.
For more information, contact Joe Dorey at joeyd01@comcast.net.
• Rahway High School Class of 1980 is organizing its 25th reunion. Call 732-288-2857 or send an e-mail to Ron Knox at rahway25reunion@aol.com for more information.
• Hillside High School Class of 85 will hold its 20th year class reunion on Nov. 25 at The Sheraton - Newark Airport, 128 Frontage Road, Newark. The evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information contact Lisa Helms at liahedmund@aol.com, Kimberly Leach Mollet at kmollet85@aol.com, or visit hlsclassof85.net/events.

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Community Dining Guide

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Northside Trattoria
The Northside Trattoria is nestled on the edge of downtown Westfield, on the segment of Prospect Street that runs tangentially toward the fire station. The outside facade is reminiscent of the Old Country, decorated with the foliage and trellises that make it pop out among the board stores of Westfield. I remembered visiting it once as a child, since it's a kind of institution in Westfield. But I hadn't been there in well over a decade, so I decided to check it out again.
Walking into the restaurant itself, the most noticeable aspect of the interior is the open kitchen right before you - a sure sign of the confidence that the owner, Tim Boyle, places in his chefs and the quality of food preparation. The kitchen and small reception room leads to the open dining room, which is adorned eclectically with relics of Italy. Capisols of ancient columns, paintings, and an eclectic trio of murals on one wall complement the darkened woodwork of the walls. Two back sections separated by partitions provide room for small parties and those seeking more privacy.
Boyle and his brother took over the restaurant three years ago from the previous owner, who opened it in 1985. The interior was completely redone since the time I had visited last. The brother also wanted to make the restaurant more accessible in general, and in the words of Boyle, "to make it more like a true trattoria," as he saw when he lived abroad for a period of two years. But they also wanted to make it more affordable, and provide a wider array of menu choices. So my guest and I were looking forward to a new experience, light in our hometown.
The Trattoria does not have a liquor license, since they are at such a premium in Westfield. My girlfriend and I brought our own bottle of wine - a good chardonnay, by our own leftover drinking habits. We were ready.
Our waiter turned out to be an acquaintance of mine, a guy who had moved to Westfield a few years ago. He was very attentive and businesslike and prompt with our requests. We were there very late, right before closing, so we were the last people to be seated. In the partitioned party room there was a gathering of a half dozen or so people, but they were fairly quiet. The lowly-fit room seemed romantic, at least to a man; men generally have less of a sense of these things than the fairer sex. The girl seemed to be pleased, though.
We each ordered an appetizer. She was feeling adventurous, ordering the special for that night. It was a puff pastry with ham, cheddar, and caramelized onions, complemented by a smattering of Dijon mustard and served over baby greens. She was ecstatic over the whole thing. Normally a concoction like that would turn me off, but at her position, I ate it, and then another. It was a striking taste. I could have eaten her entire plate. What I ordered was even more personally palatable, though - as a seafood fanatic, I ordered the baked clams in a white wine sauce. They did not disappoint. Best of all, Ma Dalia was too wrapped up in her passion to eat any of my clams, so I had them all to my greedy self.
For a main course, she went with the specials again, opting to try a breaded chicken breast that had provolone, spinach, and prosciutto, and was served over linguini marinara. I instead wanted to try one of the staples of the restaurant - something that would show off the chef's at that best. Garret the waiter recommended that I try the chicken balsamic, which was described as sautéed chicken in a reduced balsamic vinegar mixed with sun dried tomatoes, mushrooms and zucchini. I went with his recommendation, and I was not disappointed. It was the kind of tangy vinegar taste that I crave. The chicken was juicy and complemented the sauce and the added sun dried tomatoes, which are one of my weaknesses. We couldn't even finish half our portions, even though they were delectable - the wine and appetizers had mostly filled us.
But there's always room for dessert, as Ma Belle believes. So we got the Reese's peanut butter cake, which was equal parts chocolate and peanut butter thickness and raspberry sauce sweetness. It finished the somewhat eclectic meal perfectly - a fine end to a dining experience that was mostly enjoyable.
"We wanted to do new things with the place, of course," said Boyle. "We've done and jazz dinners recently."
"Our Trattoria is expanding in its philosophy."

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To Be Part Of This Dining Guide And To Put Your Restaurant In The Spotlight Call Connie Sloan 908-686-7700 Ext. 158

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

ART SHOWS

"CONSUMED: PAINTINGS BY VALERI LARKO," will be on exhibit from Sunday through Dec. 16 at the Arts Guild of Rahway, located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway. For more information, call 732-381-7511, or log on to www.rahwayartsguild.org.

THE WORK OF MARION HOWARD will be on display at the Children's Specialized Hospital, 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside, through Nov. 30. For more information, call 888-244-5373, or log on to www.childrenspecialized.org.

DIVERSITY ARTS GALLERY will host its 15th exhibition in Clark, titled "Just Pastels." The 60-piece pastel exhibition will be open to the public through Jan. 8, every Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. and by appointment. Community groups are invited to call for group meetings. Among the exhibitors will be Nancy Ori of Berkeley Heights, Sigal Lenz and Jeanette Smith of Fairwood, Adrian Guiliani of Scotch Plains and Dolores Brink of Roselle Park. Diversity Arts Gallery is located at Union County Baptist Church, 4 Valley Road, Clark. For more information, call 732-574-1479 or visit the Web site at www.diversityart.com.

THE ARTS GUILD OF RAHWAY, located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway, presents "A Separate Reality: An Eclectic Exhibition of Realistic Visual Artworks," from Jan. 11 to Feb. 10, with an opening reception on Jan. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Featured artists include Thomas Andersen, Aileen Bassos, Allen Maertz, Jennifer Mazza, Douglass Newton, Leah Oates, Roger Sayre, Charlotte Schulz, Rebecca Sittler, Brian St. Cyr and Randall J. Stoltz. The exhibition will be curated by Samantha Mae Dorfman. For more information, call 732-381-7511, or log on to www.rahwayartsguild.org.

LANDSCAPES will be the focus of "Landscapes: Recent Landscape Imagery," at the Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St., Rahway, from Feb. 19 to March 17 with an opening reception on Feb. 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Featured artists include Patricia Breniano, Peter Giacolo, Laura Lou Levy and Roger Tucker. For more information, call 732-381-7511, or log on to www.rahwayartsguild.org.

LOCAL ARTISTS are invited to join the artists' showcase to be sponsored by the Friends of the Municipal Public Library in February. Painters, photographers, printmakers, sculptors and others in the fine arts are encouraged to participate. Exhibit your works for one low entry fee and keep the proceeds. Suggested price range is \$25 to \$150. For more information, call 908-233-0115 for more information.

THE VISUAL ARTS CENTER of New Jersey will present the third exhibition in our Emerging Artists Series, "The Art of the Book," on Dec. 16 and continuing through Feb. 3. This special exhibition will showcase the work of five Master of Fine Arts candidates who will be graduating in 2006. The artists all attend New Jersey colleges and universities offering Master of Fine Arts programs. The artists chosen are Stephen Shingler from Montclair State University, Neil Gallander and Jeffrey Thompson from Mason Gross School of Fine Arts, Rutgers; Lydia Viscardi from William Patterson University; and Todd Doney from New Jersey City University. For more information, call 908-273-9121, or log on to www.artcenternj.org for more information on classes, exhibitions and special events.

BOOKS

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

THE "LORD OF THE RINGS" READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan 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 book brings together 90 of the most fascinating subjects surveyed by the World of Wonder series. The book is now available for purchase at the Kean University book store and on the Web site of *The Star-Ledger* at <http://www.nj.com/worldofwonder>.

WEEKLY STORY TIMES are presented every Monday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Springfield Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT WOMEN plans for the December meeting will be announced and available at Customer Service. The December book is "Broad Alone" by Judith Ryan-Hendricks. New members are welcome. For more information, call 973-376-6581.

CONCERTS

SOUTHERN ROCK COMES TO NORTH JERSEY when the Charlie Daniels Band and the Marshall Tucker Band come to The Ritz Theatre, 1148 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth, on Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$45 and \$65, and may be purchased through ticketmaster.com or by contacting the box office at The Ritz Theatre at 908-381-7575.

MEET THE ORCHESTRA concert series continues at the Suburban Community Music Center, 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill. For the 18th year, the Suburban Community Music Center, in cooperation with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, will host the Meet the Orchestra series for children ages 3 to 8. For more information, call 908-790-0700.

CROSSROADS IN GARWOOD will feature the following: Every Monday, Open Mic Night. Every Tuesday, Jazz Jam. Every Wednesday, Karaoke night. The Crossroads is located at 78 North Ave., Garwood. For information, call Lee at 908-232-5668, or visit the Web site, www.xroads.com.

COFFEE WITH A CONSCIENCE concert series of Westfield has resumed. All shows start at 8 p.m. and

located at 1003 Morris Ave., Union. For more information about upcoming Liberty Hall events or for reservations call 908-527-0400 or visit on the Internet at www.libertyhallnj.org.

DAVID SANGUINO AND LARRY CORVELL will perform at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway, on Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and \$25, \$15 and \$20 for subscribers. For more information, call 732-499-8226, or log on to www.uccac.org.

A HOLIDAY DOO-WOO CELEBRATION will be held at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway, on Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. Performers will include Fred Parria & The Satins, Terry Johnson's Flamingoes, Jimmy Clanton, Frankie Ford, Emil Stuchio & The Classics, The Passions, and John Kue & The Excelsiors. Tickets are \$35. For more information, call 732-499-8226, or log on to www.uccac.org.

ORCHESTRA OF ST. PETER BY THE SEA will perform at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway, on Dec. 10 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25. For more information, call 732-499-8226, or log on to www.uccac.org.

"ANNIVERSARIES AROUND," is the 90th anniversary concert of the Musical Club of Westfield, to be held at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield, at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets cost \$10 each and may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 908-789-9353. Proceeds will

benefit the club's Scholarship Fund, which helps to advance the studies of promising young musicians. A reception and refreshments will follow the concert.

THE SANCTUARY CONCERTS, 240 Southern Blvd., Chatham, at the Presbyterian Church, presents Klezmer/Bluegrass group The Klezmer Mountain Boys with Jewish folktales storyteller Ellen Muskant on Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. For information call 973-376-4946 or visit www.sanctuaryconcerts.org. Admission is \$15 and includes home-baked desserts and coffee.

THE WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER presents the following performances: King's Road Swing Band, Friday, 8 p.m., \$15. Dave Goldstein Stand-up, Saturday, 8 p.m., \$15, \$12 for WAC members. For program details, log on to www.watchungarts.org, or call 908-753-0100.

JERSEY SHORE REUNION 2005 at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway, will feature Gary U.S. Bonds, "Joe Grushecky" and the Houserockers & Bill Chinnock on Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30, \$25 for subscribers. For more information, call 732-499-8226, or log on to www.uccac.org.

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 TMRCinc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

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

HICKORY TREE CHORUS, an award-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, hickorytreechorus.org, or call 973-966-8815.

THE INTERNET Lounge, 256 South Ave., Fairwood, hosts an Open Mic Karaoke Night on Sundays at 7 p.m. Join the group for a cup of gourmet coffee and a wide variety of organic foods and participate in an original poetry reading, a stand-up comedy routine or

learn. Lunch and Learn takes place on a Tuesday from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Space is limited, so call 908-527-0400 for your reservation.

Liberty Hall Museum, 1003 Morris Ave., Union, chronicles more than 200 years of New Jersey and U.S. history. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays, from noon to 4 p.m., April through December. For more information about upcoming Liberty Hall events or for reservations, call 908-527-0400.

LEARN THE ART OF GIFT WRAPPING from Bev Miller and Henry Spotts of All Wrapped Up, who will demonstrate how to create holiday gift baskets on Dec. 6 from 12:15 to 1 p.m., as part of Liberty Hall Museum's Lunch and Learn series. The admission is free and the time is 12:15 to 1 p.m. Guests are invited to bring their own lunch. Space is limited, so call for a reservation. Liberty Hall Museum is

the doors always open at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 and will benefit the AIDS quilt. For information, call 908-412-9105, press 2. Other concerts will take place at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 E. Broad St., corner of North Ave., Westfield. Other concerts will include: Freabo & Photog in Westfield on Saturday.

Kevin Danzig in the Walchung Art Center on Dec. 3.

Bethany and Rufus in Westfield on Dec. 10.

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Hehly School, Raritan Road, Clark. The fee for each lesson is \$4. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492.

THE SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS group has begun a new season with sessions on Friday at 8 p.m. at the Connection, Morris Avenue at Maple Street, in Summit. Beginners are welcome, no partners are needed. All sessions begin at 7:30 p.m., newcomers may arrive at 7:00 p.m. for extra help. Admission is \$2 for the evening. Call 973-467-8278 for information and a flyer listing the season schedule.

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY IN ELIZABETH. Pick your choice of social dancing, \$9 per person, or Latin dancing, \$10 per person, at the Bayway Polish Club, 625 Pulaski St. For information, call 908-355-3131.

GRANTS

THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS invites local nonprofit organizations, individual artists and scholars to apply for funding from the 2004 Union County HEART — History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands — Grant program. To request HEART Grant information, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth 07202; call 908-558-2550. Relay users dial 711; or send inquiries via e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

HOBBIES

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call 908-889-5265 or 908-889-4751.

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING, for 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. For information, call 908-241-5758.

SCRIPTS

PREMIERE STAGES, the new Actors' Equity Association theater program at Kean University, is currently accepting play submissions for the Premiere Stages Play Festival from professional playwrights born or currently residing in New Jersey, as well as in the surrounding areas of New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. There is no fee required to submit a play to the Premiere Stages Play Festival. To request entry guidelines, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Laura Kelly, producing assistant, Premiere Stages at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union, N.J. 07083.

SINGLES

TRICOUNTY 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 908-241-5758.

VINE ART — Clockwise from top left, are "Look up in the Vineyard," "Looking up Venice," "Red Band in the Vineyard," and "Red Door in the Vineyard," the works of Tara O'Leary, highlighted in "Vineyards," an exhibit at the Wine Library, 588 Morris Ave., Springfield, Friday through Sunday. For information call 973-820-589C.

George Stralkus, Drude Sparre Roesler, Glen Crane and Elsa Gall Hahn rehearse music of Orazio Vecchi for the Musical Club of Westfield's Scholarship concert, to be held at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm, at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets cost \$10 each and may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 908-789-9353.

Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

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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 TMRCinc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

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

HICKORY TREE CHORUS, an award-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, hickorytreechorus.org, or call 973-966-8815.

THE INTERNET Lounge, 256 South Ave., Fairwood, hosts an Open Mic Karaoke Night on Sundays at 7 p.m. Join the group for a cup of gourmet coffee and a wide variety of organic foods and participate in an original poetry reading, a stand-up comedy routine or

learn. Lunch and Learn takes place on a Tuesday from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Space is limited, so call 908-527-0400 for your reservation.

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LEARN THE ART OF GIFT WRAPPING from Bev Miller and Henry Spotts of All Wrapped Up, who will demonstrate how to create holiday gift baskets on Dec. 6 from 12:15 to 1 p.m., as part of Liberty Hall Museum's Lunch and Learn series. The admission is free and the time is 12:15 to 1 p.m. Guests are invited to bring their own lunch. Space is limited, so call for a reservation. Liberty Hall Museum is

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Kevin Danzig in the Walchung Art Center on Dec. 3.

Bethany and Rufus in Westfield on Dec. 10.

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Hehly School, Raritan Road, Clark. The fee for each lesson is \$4. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492.

THE SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS group has begun a new season with sessions on Friday at 8 p.m. at the Connection, Morris Avenue at Maple Street, in Summit. Beginners are welcome, no partners are needed. All sessions begin at 7:30 p.m., newcomers may arrive at 7:00 p.m. for extra help. Admission is \$2 for the evening. Call 973-467-8278 for information and a flyer listing the season schedule.

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY IN ELIZABETH. Pick your choice of social dancing, \$9 per person, or Latin dancing, \$10 per person, at the Bayway Polish Club, 625 Pulaski St. For information, call 908-355-3131.

GRANTS

THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS invites local nonprofit organizations, individual artists and scholars to apply for funding from the 2004 Union County HEART — History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands — Grant program. To request HEART Grant information, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth 07202; call 908-558-2550. Relay users dial 711; or send inquiries via e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

HOBBIES

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call 908-889-5265 or 908-889-4751.

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING, for 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. For information, call 908-241-5758.

SCRIPTS

PREMIERE STAGES, the new Actors' Equity Association theater program at Kean University, is currently accepting play submissions for the Premiere Stages Play Festival from professional playwrights born or currently residing in New Jersey, as well as in the surrounding areas of New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. There is no fee required to submit a play to the Premiere Stages Play Festival. To request entry guidelines, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Laura Kelly, producing assistant, Premiere Stages at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union, N.J. 07083.

SINGLES

TRICOUNTY 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 908-241-5758.

VINE ART — Clockwise from top left, are "Look up in the Vineyard," "Looking up Venice," "Red Band in the Vineyard," and "Red Door in the Vineyard," the works of Tara O'Leary, highlighted in "Vineyards," an exhibit at the Wine Library, 588 Morris Ave., Springfield, Friday through Sunday. For information call 973-820-589C.

George Stralkus, Drude Sparre Roesler, Glen Crane and Elsa Gall Hahn rehearse music of Orazio Vecchi for the Musical Club of Westfield's Scholarship concert, to be held at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm, at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets cost \$10 each and may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 908-789-9353.

Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

located at 1003 Morris Ave., Union. For more information about upcoming Liberty Hall events or for reservations call 908-527-0400 or visit on the Internet at www.libertyhallnj.org.

DAVID SANGUINO AND LARRY CORVELL will perform at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway, on Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and \$25, \$15 and \$20 for subscribers. For more information, call 732-499-8226, or log on to www.uccac.org.

A HOLIDAY DOO-WOO CELEBRATION will be held at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway, on Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. Performers will include Fred Parria & The Satins, Terry Johnson's Flamingoes, Jimmy Clanton, Frankie Ford, Emil Stuchio & The Classics, The Passions, and John Kue & The Excelsiors. Tickets are \$35. For more information, call 732-499-8226, or log on to www.uccac.org.

ORCHESTRA OF ST. PETER BY THE SEA will perform at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway, on Dec. 10 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25. For more information, call 732-499-8226, or log on to www.uccac.org.

"ANNIVERSARIES AROUND," is the 90th anniversary concert of the Musical Club of Westfield, to be held at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm Street, Westfield, at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets cost \$10 each and may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 908-789-9353. Proceeds will

benefit the club's Scholarship Fund, which helps to advance the studies of promising young musicians. A reception and refreshments will follow the concert.

THE SANCTUARY CONCERTS, 240 Southern Blvd., Chatham, at the Presbyterian Church, presents Klezmer/Bluegrass group The Klezmer Mountain Boys with Jewish folktales storyteller Ellen Muskant on Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. For information call 973-376-4946 or visit www.sanctuaryconcerts.org. Admission is \$15 and includes home-baked desserts and coffee.

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Metallic art



'Crushed,' above left, and 'Salvage,' above right, are two of the works of Valeri Larko which are part of her exhibit at The Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St., Rahway, to be presented from Sunday through Dec. 16, with a reception on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Call 732-381-7511 for details.

Musical club has scheduled a benefit

Eccentric impressionist Eric Satie. Renaissance madrigal Orazio Vecchi. Hollywood music legend Harold Arlen. Broadway pioneer Marc Blitzstein. Female composer Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel. French romanticist Ernest Chausson. These technically diverse composers are all being celebrated because they have a significant birth or death anniversary in 2005. Music of these and other composers will be featured in "Anniversaries Abound," presented by the Musical Club of Westfield. The concert will be held at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield, at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER

Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea. Children's Series. This Weekend! Jersey Shore Reunion 2005. Mr. Snowman. Charlotte's Web. Dinosaur! Railway Holiday Celebration Weekend. The Muppet Christmas Carol.

Open House November 19

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REAL ESTATE

When the temperatures begin to cool, the market heats up

Weichert, Realtors branch office managers know that fall is the real start of the new year for many people and that the season offers advantages for both homebuyers and sellers. "People are focused on school and work," said John Geaney, branch manager of Weichert's Upper Montclair Office. "Other people start new jobs in new locations and find it necessary to relocate. Also, there are buyers who did not find the home they wanted in the spring and they are looking in the fall."

Many buyers want to be in a new home before the holidays start. In addition to getting settled before the holidays, buyers are aware of tax advantages by purchasing before the year ends. "Buyers report mortgage interest and property taxes on their tax returns for the new home if they purchase it before the close of the year," said Geaney. "There is a strong desire to purchase and close before Dec. 31."

Interest rates are key. "Buyers know what the interest rates are now," said Carol Gilligan, branch manager of Weichert's Maplewood Office. "If they choose to wait, the rates change. It's to their advantage to purchase now if they have found the home they really want."

Schools are back in session. "Some parents find it easier to get their home organized and free of clutter once the children are back in school," said Gilligan. "With the children in school, a routine is back in place and can actually help parents plan time to shop for a new home."

Fall is a colorful season. Cooler temperatures bring beautiful colors that dress up landscaping with fall foliage and add charm and an inviting appeal.

"There are so many beautiful items in nature that dress up your home and add a warm welcome," said Gilligan. "Decorative pumpkins near an entrance, walkways made of pumpkins, and small pumpkins spaced along the path. Inside, a smaller arrangement of flowers and a pumpkin make a nice centerpiece and dress up a kitchen or dining room."

There is a new opportunity for visibility in the fall.

"People who were not routinely driving by your home may now be on their way to new activities," said Geaney. "These people see your home is on the market and may be interested themselves or know someone who is looking for a home in the area. Word-of-mouth advertising is valuable."

Take advantage of all that the fall season makes available. Weichert, Realtors encourages those who are thinking of buying or selling a home to call the nearest Weichert office and invite a sales professional in to learn

about all of the real estate services that the company offers.

Weichert has more than 16,500 sales associates in more than 350 company-owned and franchised sales offices in key markets throughout the United States. A family of full-service real estate and financial services companies, Weichert helps customers buy and sell both residential and commercial real estate, and streamlines the delivery of mortgages and home and title insurance. For more information, call Weichert's customer service center at 1-800-USA SOLD or visit Weichert's Web site, www.weichert.com. Each Weichert franchised office is independently owned and operated.

In first three quarters commercial, industrial market has yet to heat up

Cushman & Wakefield of New Jersey Inc.'s Research Services team has released its third-quarter 2005 office and industrial market statistics for the state's Northern and Central regions. Below is an overview of Cushman & Wakefield's findings.

- Office vacancy rates have remained stable in 2005. The overall vacancy of 19.2 percent is up just slightly from 19.1 percent at year-end 2004. This still remains high compared to the low of 10.5 percent recorded in 2000.
- Sublet space throughout the region continues to decline, currently at 7.38 million square feet and representing 22 percent of total available product. At the end of 2004, 8.64 million square feet of sublease space represented 26.1 percent of total availability.
- Overall average rental rates have experienced an increase, jump-

ing 32 cents from \$24.84 per square foot at year-end 2004 to \$25.16 per square foot today.

- Office leasing activity in 2005 has rebounded from totals posted during 2004. Some 8.78 million square feet of leases were executed through the third quarter of 2005, on pace to reach 11.7 million square feet by year-end. Last year, a total of 9.4 million square feet in leasing took place.
- Leasing highlights in Central New Jersey involved the NJ Turnpike Authority, which will merge its two divisions and headquarters location from East Brunswick/Woodbridge into 100,000 square feet at 581 Main Street in Woodbridge. QualCare Alliance Networks Inc. decided to relocate within Piscataway and leased 99,541 square feet at 30 Knightsbridge Road for its new headquarters.
- The largest transactions in Northern New Jersey occurred in Morris

County. Atlantic Health System leased 210,973 square feet at 475 South Street in Morristown. American Home Assurance Company leased 117,118 square feet, and Cingular Wireless PCS leased 72,385 square feet at 5 Woodholow Road in Parsippany.

- Investment sales activity has continued on a strong pace in 2005, with 12.1 million square feet in year-to-date transactions. In Northern New Jersey, highlights included the sale of the 138,740-square-foot 2100 North Central Road in Fort Lee. In Central New Jersey, George Comfort & Sons Inc. assumed ownership of the 11-building, 427,000-square-foot Quakerbridge Plaza in Hamilton.
- Several new development projects broke ground during the third quarter. Currently, 791,931 square feet of space is under construction, as compared to just 180,000 square feet at year-end 2004.
- The industrial market cooled slightly during the summer months. Yet, although leasing slowed from totals recorded during the first half of 2005, more than 5 million square feet of third-quarter industrial transactions were executed in Northern and Central New Jersey.
- Vacancy rates have decreased markedly during the year in both regions, registering at 6.3 percent in the northern counties and 6.2 percent in the central counties, down from 15.9 percent and 8.7 percent, respectively, at year-end 2004.
- While Middlesex County again led the entire region in leasing activity, tenants were generally more active in Northern New Jersey, where 55 percent of the total square footage was leased. In the Meadowlands, HD Smith pre-leased 211,000 square feet at Phase 1 of Saw Mill Park in Kearny. In Middlesex County, Howard Berger signed on for 200,000 square feet.
- Some 2.2 million square feet of

available product was added in Central New Jersey. Two speculative projects, the 251,000-square-foot Perth Amboy Business Center, Bldg A, and the 231,000-square-foot 300 Herrod Blvd in South Brunswick were delivered fully occupied.

- Construction is progressing on 15 facilities totaling 2.4 million square feet, primarily within Middlesex County. This includes three warehouse/distribution facilities greater than 300,000 square feet.
- While the majority of new construction remains concentrated in Central New Jersey to satisfy demand for modern space, developers are capitalizing on redeveloping older industrial facilities/sites into alternative uses within Northern New Jersey, where available land is less plentiful.
- Investors continued to find value in warehouse product during the third quarter, as 3.1 million square feet of industrial product changed ownership. In Cranbury, Rockefeller Group Development Holdings sold the recently completed, 427,500-square-

foot 71 Station Road to Gateway Holdings. In Secaucus, ING Clarion Partners purchased the 403,869-square-foot 275 Hartz Way from Invepro.

Cushman & Wakefield is the world's largest privately held real estate services firm. Founded in 1917, the firm has 189 offices in 57 countries around the globe, and more than 11,000 professionals. Cushman & Wakefield delivers integrated solutions and managing on behalf of landlords, tenants, and investors through every stage of the real estate process. These solutions include helping clients to buy, sell, finance, lease, and manage assets. The firm also provides valuation advice, strategic planning and research, portfolio analysis, and site selection and space location assistance, among many other advisory services.

To find out more about Cushman & Wakefield, call 800-376-3133, or visit the firm's Web site at www.cushmanwakefield.com.

REAL ESTATE

Ex-pro finds homes for today's stars

When Devils hockey stars Dan McGillis and Colin White moved to New Jersey this summer and urgently needed to find homes, they wanted a real estate broker who understood the unique pressures facing athletes who travel, move frequently and have to make important decisions via long distance.

They turned to Colin Dibley, a former Davis Cup tennis champ and world record holder who is now a sales associate with Jordan Baris Inc., an independent real estate brokerage serving northern New Jersey since 1952.

"I used to travel frequently when I was playing on the tour and that helps me understand some of the qualities other athletes look for in a home," said Dibley. "Easy access to airports, highways and team facilities are important because today's athletes spend so much time on the road or traveling to practice. Time at home is cherished."

McGillis bought a house in Chatham, and White moved to Montclair. Both of these towns are close to the Devils' practice rink in West Orange, provide quick access to Newark Airport and offer excellent public schools.

"Jordan Baris Realtors has been selling homes in northern New Jersey for more than 50 years and has represented many celebrities and athletes, so we know which towns and neighborhoods they are drawn to," said Ken Baris, the president of Jordan Baris Inc. "And we understand their demands, wonderful neighborhoods that provide a combination of privacy, good schools

and access to transportation."

Dibley, a native Australian, has been a licensed sales associate with Jordan Baris since the mid-1980s, when he started investing some of his tennis earnings in single- and multi-family homes. He said representing McGillis and White was unusual because the athletes had a relatively short period of time to find homes and move after signing contracts with the Devils.

"Having such a limited time to find them homes, I actually e-mailed both families photographs of select properties in order to accelerate the process," said Dibley. "I also arranged inspections and made sure all of the paperwork was ready in time for the closing."

Dibley, who is based in Jordan Baris' West Orange office, was a member of Australia's champion Davis Cup team in 1973 and a Wimbledon singles quarter-finalist in 1971 and 1972. In 1974, Dibley set the world record for the fastest serve at 148 miles per hour, a record that stood for 24 years.

Dibley continued to play professionally into the 1990s and was the



The second bedroom is quite large, and includes one complete wall of closets. A central bath is available for everyone to share. Linen and coat storage is accessible from the hall.

Many extras in this split-foyer plan

Sideways flank the entry adorned with a round-top fan window. Access is provided to either level of the home. The upper level houses the main living quarters.

A tray ceiling and vast open areas create a dramatic visual effect. The great room and dining area run through overlooking the rear sun deck.

The U-shaped kitchen is adjacent and filled with amenities. A deep walk in pantry helps keep counter top clutter to a minimum.

The master suite is vaulted and highlighted by double windows with an arch top window, flooding the room with natural light. Two separate closets are indicated for maximum use of the space. A private luxury bath includes double vanity, separate shower and tub.

Family bedrooms are isolated on the other side, with two different versions available.

One version includes an enormous bedroom, not much smaller than the master bedroom, with the same vault and

window treatment. A giant walk-in closet is also indicated for this bedroom. The second bedroom is really quite large as well, and includes one complete wall of closets. A central bath is available for everyone to share. Linen and coat storage is accessible from the hall.

The second version reduces the sizes of the bedrooms, and includes a deep laundry room.

Downstairs you will find an oversized double garage, laundry facilities and space for future development.

Stone, horizontal siding, multiple roof lines and beautiful window treatments including arch tops and shutters create a home of memorable design.

Plan number Z-624-SF includes 1,698 square feet of heated living space on the upper level, 112 square feet of heated space on the lower level.

To receive an information packet on the plans, call W.D. Farmer Residence Designer Inc. at 800-225-7526. You can write to request the information at P.O. Box 450025, Atlanta GA 31145. Visit the Web site: www.wdfplans.com.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Weichert Union is No. 1 in the town

Robert Spillane, branch manager of Weichert, Realtors' Union office, has announced that Weichert, Realtors was the No. 1 real estate company in Union from January until August 2005, with more sales and listings than any other broker in the area, according to statistics from the Garden State Multiple Listing Service.

If you are interested in joining this fine sales team or would like to speak to a sales associate about a real estate transaction, call Weichert's Union Office at 908-687-4800. The office is located at 1307 Stuyvesant Ave.

Two at Weichert win September awards

Robert Spillane, branch manager of Weichert, Realtors' Union office, recently announced that two sales associates were recognized for their office achievements in September.

Kathleen Gwaldis received awards for top listings, top revenue units and top dollar volume for the month. Gwaldis is a member of Weichert's 2004 Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs, as well as Weichert's 2004 President's Club, an honor that places her in the top 1 percent of the company's 16,500 sales associates. In addition, she holds membership in the

New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence at the gold level for 2004.

Sharonada Lane was named top sales associate for the month.

These and the other fine sales associates can be reached for real estate transactions in Weichert's Union Office at 908-687-4800. The office is located at 1307 Stuyvesant Ave.

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O'Neill is honored for regional achievement.

Marilena O'Neill, a sales associate in Weichert, Realtors' Summit office, was honored for her regional achievement in September. Erica Levey, branch

manager, made the announcement.

O'Neill earned the award for top results in the region. O'Neill is a member of Weichert's 2004 Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs, as well as Weichert's 2004 Ambassador's Club, an honor that places her in the top 2 percent of the company's 16,500 sales associates. She also holds membership in the New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence at the silver level for 2004.

Marilena O'Neill and the other fine associates of Weichert's Summit office can be reached for real estate transactions at 908-277-1200. The office is located at 474 Morris Ave.

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AUTOMOTIVE

New Jetta is a better version of an old pal

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

Meeting a friend's new mate can be so awkward, particularly when the old one was so well-liked.

That's a little how it was for me when I was introduced to Volkswagen's new Jetta.

I liked the old Jetta. I liked its purebred European good looks and German logic. Even the cheapest model seemed trend-setting in its style, functionality and performance.

But as sweet as that package was, Volkswagen dumped it for something bigger, braver and faster.

The company has attracted a young buyer demographic with this simple sedan, amassing about 2.2 million owners.

But apparently that age group isn't interested in moving up to the slightly larger Passat, so the approach for the redesigned Jetta was to follow its millions of Jetta owners into careers and mortgages and offer them a more grown-up version of their car.

It's tough love for these kids, but somebody has to say it. And it might as well be Volkswagen's advertising: Life's hard, suck it up, get some sensible shoes and enjoy partying at home because you've got to get up early for work. And be a rebel with a car, the new Jetta.

On introduction to the new Jetta at the media launch in San Diego, my reaction was cool and cautious. My trusted friend's replacement looked sully, like the Phaeton had a baby. Or worse, it was too much like something from Toyota or Honda.

And after 200 miles of driving, I was still in a snit.

I grumbled that the doors didn't seem to open as wide. The rearview mirror looked cheap. There was too much wind noise around the mirrors. The interior design, so-called, was plug-and-play plain.

I was being perhaps a bit unfair, so I scheduled a week to test drive it at home so I could finish nailing the coffin shut.

And for the first few days at home with my good friend's new partner, I was a rude host. But then something happened. I pulled the shifter into

Sport mode and caught a little action from the six-speed Tiptronic automatic.

Sport mode puts the transmission into a true performance calibration. Not quite as aggressive as in the Audi A4, but upshifts are held to build power. Downshifts come easily with the flick of the accelerator.

The Tiptronic keeps the transmission sensitized for point-and-shoot maneuverability, which is easily appreciated on the daily commute. At freeway speeds, the transmission stays in fifth. The 0-60 mph is a modest 9.1 seconds, but the car's still fun to play with.

So beauty isn't skin deep.

The new engine is an aluminum, 2.5-liter five-cylinder, with double overhead cams and 20 valves. It is rated a dutiful 150-horsepower, but the 170-foot-pounds of torque pulls hard up hills and away from stoplights.

Fuel economy of 22 mpg around town and 30 on the highway is good, using 87 octane. It's not a bad way to spend a fuel budget.

I was starting to feel the love, but this car will have much to prove even to recent Jetta owners. It is being directed into a tough, highly critical segment of well-done, midsize sedans.

The new Jetta is about an inch wider, 7 inches longer for a larger back seat area and it rides on a 3-inch-longer wheelbase for a more mature ride.

Using the new Golf platform, the Jetta is 60 percent stiffer for torsional rigidity that gives the best foundation to hang the suspension and pack the engine.

The size is still in the compact segment, but it's pushing the limit for performance agility. It is far more polished than the comparably priced Pontiac G6 and more of a competitor to the Volvo S40 and Acura TSX.

Perhaps the biggest difference between Jetta and the competitors is the long list of safety features and conveniences.

Pricing has been simplified into two models and two major option packages.

The base model — Value Edition Jetta — starts at \$17,900, and every model includes air bag curtains and

side air bags, four-wheel disc brakes with ABS with brake assist, eight-way adjustable front seats, tilt-telescopic steering wheel, power windows and heated mirrors, air conditioning and full-size spare.

The Jetta 2.5 starts at \$21,005 and adds such extras as automatic air conditioning, automatic headlights, heated seats, leatherette seating, rain-sensing wipers, six-disc in-dash CD audio system, and a rear seat armrest and ski pass-through.

Package No. 1 adds a power tilt-slide sunroof, upgraded sound system and 16-inch alloy wheels.

Package No. 2 adds leather-trimmed upholstery, rear sunshade, satellite radio, wood trim and 12-way power driver and passenger seats.

The new model does have subtle Jetta-ness to compete among the entry luxury brands. The drivability and interior roominess are convincing, when given a chance.

The chassis is tight and the suspension breathes in harshness and exhales smoothly. But, while you can run this car hard, its added mass and height make it not as sneaky through the corners as the Volvo or Acura. The large disc brakes pull the car to a sudden stop without a lunge and squat.

The inside works well, too. The plain instrument panel is actually quite functional and simple to operate. A neat valance treatment to the base of the windshield cleans up the view out the front.

Sightlines are unobstructed and the seats are full and comfortable. The roomier back seat area is also easier to get in and out of than the old model. A fold-down rear seatback and fold-flat front seat greatly expand cargo capacity.

Quality of parts and assembly is good, but I did experience two problems.

The electric driver's seat would motor forward when the door was opened. VW is aware of this glitch on some cars and offered a fix, but it didn't help. And the chrome bezel plate around the gearshift wouldn't stay snapped in place. Simple bugs, easily exterminated.

The new Jetta isn't perfect, but it

left a good impression.

Still distrustful, I invited the input of a female friend who leases a 2000 Jetta five-speed, which was her first new car. And she's been a VW fan since owning a Karmann Ghia in high school.

I stood back as she opened doors, peered into the trunk and got settled behind the wheel. Then we went for a drive.

How about that sloping front end, I asked?

No problem, said she, "except the side glass is smaller."

That's because the doors and belt-line are slightly taller, which puts more steel around occupants for better impact protection. "Oh, I like that," she said.

She had no issue with the exterior styling, the interior is fancier than her Jetta. Her final answer: "I like it. I just hope I'm all grown up by the time my lease is up."

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<p>2006 PONTIAC GRAND AM GT 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/lks, a/c, cd, tilt, cruise, alloy, moon r, ltr int, alarm, r entertainment sys. 14,817 mi. Stk#663B. VIN#5N2Y12628.</p> <p>\$12,817</p>	<p>2001 DODGE DURANGO INT 4X4 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/seats, a/c, cd, tilt, cruise, alum whis. 41,635 mi. Stk#50358B. VIN#1F6D1943.</p> <p>\$12,917</p>	<p>2003 HONDA CRUITER 4DR 4 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/mirrs, a/c, cass, alloy, tilt, cruise. 18,133 mi. Stk#6007A. VIN#3L011089.</p> <p>\$16,817</p>	<p>2003 CHEVROLET IMPALA LS 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/lks, a/c, cd, tilt, cruise, dual a/b. 15,928 mi. Stk#6693. VIN#65339597.</p> <p>\$13,917</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET TAHOE LS 4X4 8 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/seats, a/c, cd; leath. alum whis, lugg rk, 3rd row bench seat, trailering pkg, auto ride susp, side a/b. MSRP \$44,755. Stk#50826. VIN#5J223375. Price includes \$6000 factory rebate & \$1000 Bonus Cash. Buy For \$33,910</p> <p>\$32,417</p>	<p>2002 CADILLAC DEVILLE 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/seats/mirrs, a/c, cd, leath. alum whis, lugg rk, moon r, ltr int, alarm, r entertainment sys. 41,870 mi. Stk#50884. VIN#5G246170.</p> <p>\$37,617</p>
<p>2000 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LS 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/bkrs/winds/lks, a/c, cd, tilt, side impact a/b. MSRP \$22,740. Stk#60233. VIN#66051185. Price includes \$1000 factory rebate.</p> <p>\$20,117</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4X4 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/lks, a/c, cd, tilt, cruise, alum whis. 46,177 mi. Stk#51082A. VIN#2Z512238.</p> <p>\$14,917</p>	<p>2003 HONDA CRUITER 4DR 4 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/mirrs, a/c, cass, alloy, tilt, cruise. 18,133 mi. Stk#6007A. VIN#3L011089.</p> <p>\$16,817</p>	<p>2003 CHEVROLET IMPALA LS 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/lks, a/c, cd, tilt, cruise, dual a/b. 15,928 mi. Stk#6693. VIN#65339597.</p> <p>\$13,917</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET TAHOE LS 4X4 8 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/seats, a/c, cd; leath. alum whis, lugg rk, 3rd row bench seat, trailering pkg, auto ride susp, side a/b. MSRP \$44,755. Stk#50826. VIN#5J223375. Price includes \$6000 factory rebate & \$1000 Bonus Cash. Buy For \$33,910</p> <p>\$32,417</p>	<p>2002 CADILLAC DEVILLE 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/seats/mirrs, a/c, cd, leath. alum whis, lugg rk, moon r, ltr int, alarm, r entertainment sys. 41,870 mi. Stk#50884. VIN#5G246170.</p> <p>\$37,617</p>

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Volume Eight, Number Twelve
December 2005

Transportation companies provide a vital link for area businesses

Kem Lall started out less than 15 years ago with one truck working out of a Jersey City warehouse, transporting supplies for local companies. His company now has 35 trucks and drivers, contracts with 25 other independent drivers, and provides transportation, and storage and distribution facilities for a wide range of local companies.

KLX Logistics, located near Liberty State Park in Jersey City, is an example of the many companies benefiting from large corporations outsourcing functions such as shipping, storage and distribution. Companies such as KLX, many of which have been built from the ground up and are still family owned, provide the needed 'middleman' logistical services to get raw materials to the producers and the finished products to the end customer.

"We started building slowly, adding a vehicle or two each year. Now we want to expand our transportation services to other industries, increase our warehouse size and get into more storage and distribution," Lall said. Not satisfied to stay at any one level, Lall said, "I would like to get involved more in warehousing and distribution of more types of products." The company is currently acquiring additional warehouse space.

KLX provides a range of services from courier for packages to shipping truckloads of goods. It caters largely to the printing and graphics industry, delivering raw paper rolls to printers, delivering the printed product to the binder and then transporting the finished product to the customers, said Marcos Nunez, director of sales.

"We work with all sizes of companies from small to Fortune 100, specializing in same-day and next-day service. We are their in-house trucking company," he said. "We will also store products in our warehouse and ship it as needed. If a company has 12 skids of paper being delivered, we can transport it in tractor trailers, store it in our warehouse and then transfer it to vans to be delivered at different times to New York City or elsewhere. It also works the other way around, we collect the finished product in vans, bring it to our warehouse and transfer to large trucks for long

distance transport."

KLX is a minority-owned company certified by the New York-New Jersey Minority Supplier Diversity Council.

For a totally different type of shipping need, Dependable Auto Shippers, located in Linden, in Mesquite, Texas, and in Gardena, Calif., specializes in moving cars for people who cannot drive the vehicle to a new location themselves. The company contracts with large companies that provide the service as a benefit for employees who are moved from one office to another, or contracts with individuals.

"Dependable Auto Shippers understands how critical the vehicle transfer is to the employee during a move," said Denise Burleigh, corporate account specialist.

"The difference between Dependable and other auto shipping firms is that Dependable owns its own trucks and employs the drivers. Many firms provide the

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Trucks are being loaded and unloaded at a KLX warehouse.

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This is a publication of
The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Gateway Not Growth

Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive...

By John L. Picard

When I was a boy I would rush home to hear those fateful words of introduction to my favorite TV show. Yes, it was Superman! The one thing I could never understand was why Lois or Jimmy never caught on to the fact that Clark Kent and Superman were the same person.

Many businesses are a lot like Lois. They see one view of a customer and think that this single, static identity is the only truth. Fact is, across different places and times, one individual can have multiple identities. Our identity, (sense of self, values, community), influences our purchases and our buying relationships. A better description of customer identity would be more like a gallery of pictures, depending upon location, timing, context and personal history.

Are you exploiting the power of your customer's identity? These complex, deeply enduring aspects of the customer go beyond traditional demographics or psychographics in explaining purchase decisions and relationship commitment. Using today's technology, you can quickly change your message and your marketing channels to reflect the customer's sense of who they are... or aspire to be.

A tool to understand your customer relationship Every relationship has a number of critical moments and experiences that are influenced by both the customer's and business's identity. These moments are built on the stories and influences that form each identity. These influences can mean the difference between success and failure in your relationship sales and marketing. Consider:

Community - The groups or individuals surrounding and influencing the customer. Though they may be beyond your field of vision, they are critical to the intensity and need to act (Bosses, family, peers, clubs, profession, lifestyle and traditions could be lines and bonds that form their community).

Values - How does your offer relate to the customer's personal values? Incorporate the values and purpose of the buyer into your marketing message. Is your buyer a guy

who wants his BMW to make a statement of success or a parent who is looking for safety, above all, for the family.

Relationship style - We all learn and relate to others in unique ways. Are you choosing your language and marketing tools to reflect customer identities at these critical moments? Choose channels and wording to sound like you and them. Consider long copy and case studies for story tellers and headlines and bottom line messages for busy performance-driven individuals.

Emotionality - A customer may wear his heart on his sleeve with one identity and may seem more like a stone in another. Trust, satisfaction, intensity of feelings, comfort and level of commitment are critically associated with capturing the right emotional tone.

Origins and history - The homes we grow up in, our roots, family and traditions and even our faith, all impact our identities and relationship expectations. Make sure you incorporate the intangibles in your wording, style, color and offers.

Connectedness - How does the prospect or customer see their relationship with you? Is it personal, business, partnership or situational? Consider the level and depth of the relationship. (Consider whether they are frequent buyers, first time buyers or even former customers who are being given an incentive to come back).

Use identity to support strategy - Align your sales and marketing to focus on the point(s) where these variables come together to address the customer's changing identity and need. I can't promise you will always avoid delivering kryptonite, but I do think that reaching into the sphere of identity components that define your customer's identity will help you leap tall buildings in a single bound.

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 jp@picardmarketing.com or visit www.picardmarketing.com.



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Union County hotels woo business clients

Business is picking up for hotels and bed and breakfast establishments in the Union County area that cater to business clients, but competition is also increasing, according to those interviewed by *Inside Business*.

The situation means that the business customers benefit from increased services and amenities. From the lone bed and breakfast establishment to the world wide chains, hotels are trying to be a home-away-from-home, at the same time they provide many of the needs of a business office.

For Pillars of Plainfield, one of the few bed and breakfast accommodations in the area, about 30 percent of the customers who stay at the inn are business travelers. They are attracted to the Pillars, which has six rooms and a studio apartment, because it is not the typical hotel, according to Chuck Hale, who owns the inn with his brother, Thomas.

"For our customers, the beauty of traveling has worn off and they want to stay some place that resembles their home as much as possible. I have had innumerable people tell me our B&B is just like their grandmother's house, but nicer," Hale said.

The bed and breakfast has regular clients who stay for the week and return to their homes on the weekend. The staff at Pillars will put away the guest's belongings for the weekend, when the room is rented to tourists, and then return the belongings for the regular guest's arrival on Monday. The inn's small size does not keep it from providing the latest in high speed Internet connections and other business amenities, Hale said.

For the business traveler who prefers the standards of an international hotel chain, the Holiday Inn - Springfield offers all the amenities a customer expects in any Holiday Inn world wide, said Karen Baglieri, director of sales.

The 190-room hotel has a growing business clientele drawn to the location because of the consistency of standards throughout all Holiday Inns, she said.

"We have free wireless Internet connections, a breakfast buffet and happy hour in the restaurant," Baglieri said. "We are located on Route 22 which is a prime location for business customers."

The area now has two Hilton brand hotels: the DoubleTree Hotel Newark Airport, which until recently was the Wyndham Hotel, in Elizabeth, and the Hampton Inn @ Aviation Plaza in Linden.

The DoubleTree caters primarily to business clients and provides amenities so business people can travel lightly, said Jacquell Edwards, assistant director of sales. Business, which dropped off some after 9/11, is beginning to grow again. High speed Internet access is available in all rooms and wireless connections in the conference rooms.

At the three-year-old Hampton Inn, 60 percent of the customers are people traveling for business. The hotel is located in Linden, close to Newark International Airport and provides shuttle service to nearby large corporations, Helena Chin Sang, director of sales, said.

Each year the hotel upgrades some amenity and does things such as frequently changing the breakfast menu to accommodate those who stay for long periods of time.

For the Kenilworth Inn, 70 percent of the customers are business people, who choose the location just off the Garden State Parkway for its convenience, said Joseph Golden, director of sales. Business, which was down after 9/11, has particularly picked up in the last year.

"Working people expect a high level of service, and they do not want more hassles, so we try to make them as comfortable as possible, with a homey atmosphere, but with the high speed Internet and other services they need," Golden said. "We have complimentary breakfasts, and things like irons, ironing boards and hair dryers in the rooms so people do not have to pack them."

Another hotel with convenient Garden State Parkway location is the Crown Plaza Hotel in Clark, which provides rooms for business meetings and hosts many training sessions for business organizations, said Angela Alfonso, general manager.

"The hotel business has become very competitive so we have instituted many things to encourage repeat customers, such as layered bedding, rewards for frequent customers and complimentary breakfasts.

"We try to attract those people who want good service and amenities, by providing meeting facilities and high speed Internet, and having a large selection of television channels and agreements for guests at nearby health clubs for the after work hours," she said.

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14 convenient locations in Union and Morris counties

Transportation companies provide a vital link

(Continued from page 1)

service but contract out the actual shipping," she said.

"We handle large group moves for corporations or individual relocations," Burleigh said. "We have been in business for 50 years and have a good track record. We have on-line, real-time tracking of vehicles, so a corporation can look at all of its vehicle moves at once, or an individual owner can track his car going across the country. It makes people feel better if they know where their vehicle is. We also guarantee on-time delivery and if something goes wrong, we will provide a rental car."

Dependable provides the insurance coverage for the move and has a dedicated customer service specialist for each customer and will provide extensive consultation with customers, Burleigh said.

"We are not a shipping broker, but rather own and operate a fleet of high tech enclosed and open auto transport carriers," she added. The company provides same-day pickup and door-to-door service.

In a different type of specialized service, NorthStar Services in Pennsauken, the cars being transported are large containers, usually delivered to the area by ship on major shipping lines coming into the New York and New Jersey harbors.

"We work with the major shipping lines and with individual corporations to provide intermodal trucking," said Marty Marano Jr., president. "It takes a special expertise to handle containers, but we transport just about anything and everything the consumer uses, because everything comes into the ports."

In addition to working in the seaports along the east coast, NorthStar works out of Columbus, Ohio, and Harrisburg, Pa., handling the containers that are also transported on rail lines.

"We have been in the business for 20 years. People know us and know who they're dealing with. We make promises for on-time delivery and keep the promise," Marano said.

Many large corporations are finding it less expensive and more efficient to outsource much of the transportation needs of the company. A family-owned company that provides those services is J.F. Evans Inc. in Union. Founded by James F. Evans, the company is now operated by his sons, Richard and John.

"Many corporations realize it is better to outsource these services to a company they know and trust," said Richard Evans, president. "Companies we deal with on a personal basis."

In business since 1961, J.F. Evans specializes in transporting delicate communications industry equipment, including the parts for cellular telephone towers and equipment for telephone and data communications offices.

"These things require special handling," Evans said. "We have the right equipment for these specialized moves to make sure everything is secured and safely transported. We also can move the equipment safely into the building. Our customers know they can get their equipment tomorrow if they need it."

Because of the nature of the equipment being transported, shipping requirements change frequently for J.F. Evans since the equipment itself is constantly changing, Evans said. The company is now trying to expand into other types of shipping.

For shipping any type of raw material or end product, the transporter used by many area manufacturers is Material Management International based in Middlesex.

"We handle all types of goods for all sizes of companies," said Brian Hoffman, sales manager.

Much of what the company handles is raw materials and end products for the pharmaceutical companies that make their homes in and around Union County. But Material Management also handles heavy equipment that industrial manufacturers need, the raw materials they use to produce products, and the end result that is shipped to retailers. Founded by John McKenna 20 years ago, the company is still headed by McKenna and employs several family members.

"Companies have found that outsourcing to a third party logistical freight company, such as us, saves them money," Hoffman said. "We have the expertise and the equipment to do the job right. This is all we do, so it is the best and most expeditious way for a company to provide for its transportation needs."

Hampton Inn @ Aviation Plaza

Hotel offers quality, comfort and service

The Hampton Inn @ Aviation Plaza opened its doors in January 2003 and is a mainstay in the town of Linden. The hotel is owned and operated by Hersha Hospitality Management L.P., New Cumberland, Pa. A first-class Hilton brand hotel, it offers quality hotel accommodations and service to the neighborhood, area businesses and companies. The four-story hotel is located within walking distance of shopping, a variety of restaurants and lounges, such as Applebee's, Boulder Creek Steakhouse, the newly opened Chevy's Fresh Mex and Southern Smokehouse.

Chris De Marco, general manager, explained that the hotel is located in a prime location in close proximity to New York City, Newark Liberty International Airport, the Linden train station served by New Jersey Transit, the Jersey Gardens Outlet Mall and other facilities.

"Guests enjoy staying at the hotel because it provides quality accommodations and service at reasonable rates, particularly when compared to New York City prices," DeMarco said. "At the same time, the hotel is a short drive from New York City for shopping, nightlife and entertainment."

Guests stay in any of 149 guestrooms, including 17 Jacuzzi suites and 6 King Studio suites with refrigerators and microwaves. The hotel lobby features a marble floor and cozy oversized leather chairs and sofa and a fireplace. The walls and ceiling are lined with wood molding that is designed to give the hotel a more residential feel. Upon arriving at the hotel, guests are met with the aroma of freshly baked cookies, which are complimentary for all guests.

Guests can use the on-site fitness center and outdoor pool. A free hot breakfast

buffet is provided each morning in the breakfast room, which also offers a 24-hour coffee bar. Additional amenities include complimentary shuttle service to and from Newark Liberty International Airport and area businesses, free local telephone calls, USA Today newspapers, free in-room high speed Internet access, two dual-line speaker telephones with voice mail and data ports, in room coffeemakers, hairdryers, irons and ironing boards, on-demand movies and video games, a guest laundry and same-day valet service, free parking, and a 24-hour sweet shop filled with goodies.

The hotel has two meeting rooms. The first floor meeting room accommodates up to 40 people for corporate meetings and 60 people for small functions, such as baby showers, luncheons, birthday and christening parties. The second floor has an executive boardroom with seating for 12. The hotel does not have banquet facilities, but it welcomes outside caterers.

This year the Hampton Inn hotels received the prestigious J.D. Power and Associates Award for Hotel Guest Satisfaction.

According to Phil Cordell, senior vice president of brand marketing at the hotel, "Hampton brand is committed to continually improving the guest experience."

This year Hampton unveiled a new easy-to-set alarm clock/radio and "Cloud Nine" bedding, which includes a raised headboard, a raised bed, crisp white covers, plush down-like comforters, lumbar pillows, multiple pillows with a variety of firmnesses, fitted sheets, bed skirts, and quilted mattress pads.

For additional information please visit Hampton Inn website at www.Hersha.com or contact Helena Chin-Sang, Director of Sales at 908-862-3222.

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President's Message

Much has been made of the decline in America's industrial might. Jobs and whole industries have gone overseas, and now it seems that everything you buy is imported. First it was Japan that started our industrial decline, and now China looks poised to finish the job. Soon we will be no more than a nation of hamburger flippers.



While the press and many politicians have made much of this decline, a closer look at the numbers indicates something really quite different.

As a share of the overall labor force, manufacturing employment in the United States has dropped substantially. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 10 percent of American workers are now employed in the manufacturing sector. This is a steep drop from nearly 25 percent of the workforce in 1970. When you consider that only about half of the people who work in a manufacturing operation actually do any manufacturing (the remainder being clerical, maintenance and management), the decline appears even greater.

A look at manufacturing's declining share of the overall economy shows a similar trend. In 1970, manufacturing accounted for about 26 percent of the country's economic output. It now accounts for only 13 percent. Wow, bad news.

A closer look at the numbers paints quite a different picture, however. Though the percentage of people employed in manufacturing has dropped, the actual number of manufacturing jobs has remained fairly steady, at least until the last couple of years. This is because the overall labor force has grown by tremendous amounts, mostly in the managerial, professional and technical areas. In the past few years, there has been some softening in the total number of manufacturing jobs, but not the kind of sharp decline that some people predicted more than a decade ago.

As a part of the overall economy, a similar picture can be seen. Manufacturing in the United States is not in decline. Since 1997, it has grown at an average annual rate of almost 4 percent, faster than the economy as a whole. This rate of growth has led to a near doubling of output from manufacturing during that period. So contrary to popular opinion, our manufacturing sector is not in decline. It is in fact growing, and becoming more efficient, but it is not declining.

The United States continues to be the world's premier manufacturing power. Japan is a distant second, and China, the supposed powerhouses of the future, only make half of what the US does, and mainly low value, labor intensive products.

According to many financial and economic analysts, the more worrisome problem for American industry is not the loss of jobs to other countries, but the loss of jobs to other parts of the country. Part of the problem is our education system. How many of our kids go on to college? How many of our kids go on to vocational training? How many of our kids go on to get a degree? The degree they obtain will only get them a job, but the job they get will not pay as well as the job they could have if they had a better education. How much do you pay your plumber? And how hard is it to find one?

As our manufacturing sector grows, it will be harder and harder to replace workers. As manufacturing grows, it will need more workers. The more workers we have, the more jobs we will create. The more jobs we create, the more money we will have. The more money we have, the more we can invest in education and training. The more we invest in education and training, the more we will create jobs. It's a cycle, and it's a good one.

Jon Corzine

Where the Chamber stands...

Gov-Elect Jon Corzine must consider business as he plans for New Jersey's future

Every governor who has come into office in New Jersey in recent decades has made a show of being friendly to the business interests in the state. As New Jersey's reputation for punishing business interests grew in surrounding states, each governor promised to make things better.

The problem is most have done little to fulfill that promise. Gov. Thomas H. Kean did make some regulatory changes that helped business but even Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, who said she wanted to make New Jersey a business-friendly state, failed miserably. She has been topped only by the Democrats who have succeeded her.

Gov. James E. McGreevey did a particularly stellar job of blaming business for things that were going wrong in the state, particularly in fiscal matters. He marshalled support in the Legislature for drastic increases in taxes on business to try to close the growing gaps in the state budget. And Acting Gov. Richard Codey has not turned any of that around. Then the legislative candidates picked up the ball and declared increased business taxes the solution to every problem. Recent legislative races have been replete with inaccurate accusations of businesses run amok.

Now, all businesses in New Jersey, large and small, are looking to Jon S. Corzine, our newly elected governor, to set a new tone and actually make New Jersey a business friendly state. Helping the businesses that are here to thrive, fostering the creation of new businesses, and welcoming the relocation of businesses and industries from other states is the best thing the new governor could do for the state economy. And promoting the state economy, in turn, helps boost the regional and national economies. With a little help, the economy can continue to recover from the doldrums experienced after 9/11 and once again flourish.

But that is going to take action on the part of state leaders and some changes in regulations and laws. Our governor and legislators can no longer look to business to fix every fiscal problem. Businesses are made up of people, so raising business taxes hurts people as well as the seemingly anonymous business entity. Helping businesses to grow, through favorable legislation, creates new jobs, to the obvious benefit of everyone.

The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce has commented on several issues of interest to business in recent months that may or may not be tackled by the lame duck Legislature and governor. If they are not, the issues will be left over for the new elected officials to deal with.

The Chamber would like to see Health Savings Accounts enabled in New Jersey as is allowed by the new Medicare law. Health care costs will continue to be one of the biggest worries for employers of all sizes and will be one of the major increases in costs that employees are asked to share with their employers. In some cases, health care costs could put small businesses into bankruptcy. Or more smaller businesses could be forced to discontinue providing health care insurance and lose good employees to larger corporations. And it is the small companies that provide most of the jobs in the state.

Health Savings Accounts would allow employers to buy high deductible plans for employees and then the employees or employer could set up health savings accounts to pay for other medical expenses. It is a workable plan that could lower the costs for many people and should be passed quickly by the new Legislature if it is not enacted in the lame duck session.

The issue of New Jersey's high property taxes continues to plague everyone. Whatever elected officials do about it, through a constitutional convention or other means, it should not be used as yet another excuse to raise business taxes. What is needed, but sorely lacking in Trenton, is some real control over spending and then a more equitable property tax policy that takes into consideration that fact that raising business taxes hurts everyone.

Many other issues also are still pending, such as prohibiting arbitration for workplace disputes over discrimination, which the Chamber opposes. These types of issues may or may not be dealt with in the near future. But the real issue is larger than the individual bills that are pending and that will be reintroduced in the new Legislature. The issue is that elected officials need to realize that for the state to flourish, people must have jobs, and that means businesses have to flourish. To do that, businesses need officials who truly take their interests into account so that New Jersey could really be a business friendly state.

Capital Page

Assembling the Transportation Trust Fund

The future of New Jersey's Transportation Trust Fund

As a member of the Transportation Committee in the New Jersey General Assembly, I believe that we must take responsibility for the state's transportation infrastructure. It is a sound investment in our economy and our quality of life. We must also maintain fiscal responsibility. For these reasons, I am increasingly concerned about the current state of the Transportation Trust Fund and its ability to finance capital projects in the near future. The Transportation Trust Fund is projected to be completely exhausted by the fiscal year 2006.

The collapse of this program will be devastating to us. State highway, road and bridge projects will be postponed, withdrawn from consideration or paid for at the expense of other programs. Local governments will be forced to abandon projects or pay for them by some other means, resulting in increased property taxes for residents. Neglecting our roadways until funding is exhausted will result in deteriorated roads and bridges, poor service from mass transit, more traffic and longer commuting times. These conditions, coupled with the absence of funding for maintenance and bicycle safety programs and highway safety measures, such as guard rails and median barriers, will create dangerous conditions on our roads and bridges.

In order to reverse this problem, I am sponsoring legislation, along with Assemblyman John Wisniewski and Assemblyman Peter Biondi, designed to reverse this. This legislation will address the problems that have hindered the Transportation Trust Fund in the past and place the appropriate measures to keep it operating smoothly in the future. In doing so, we will insure a safe and effective program for future generations.

The Transportation Trust Fund was created by the legislature as a funding mechanism for transportation capital construction projects in New Jersey. The current administration has recommended a FY 2006 program of \$1.205 billion. In order to sustain this level of funding, three constitutionally dedicated sources of revenue were established. First, the Transportation Trust Fund received a portion of the Motor Fuels Tax, currently 9 cents of the 10.5 cent per gallon total taxes collected. Currently, the NJ Motor Fuels Tax is one of the lowest in the nation. It also receives revenues from the Petroleum Gross Receipts Tax and an appropriation from the sales tax.

In addition to constitutionally dedicated funding, the Legislature dedicated revenues from to be paid annually from the diesel fuel tax and increases in truck registration fees, from motor vehicle registration surcharges, and from the state toll road authorities. Unfortunately, the

Transportation Trust Fund has not received any of these statutorily dedicated revenues for the past five years because budgetary constraints have forced current and prior administrations to use these funds for general state purposes. By redirecting this funding to the general fund, the Transportation Trust Fund has lost nearly \$600 million.

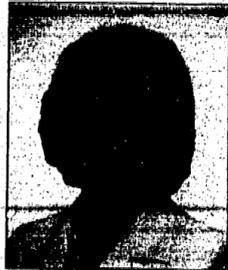
To compensate for losses of funding, the Transportation Trust Fund Authority has issued bonds to help meet operational costs, which will result in a \$7.3 billion dollar debt by the end of June 2006. This rapidly increasing dependence on debt is resulting in a severely stunted program. Much like a home owner trapped by a high interest home mortgage payment, all of the \$805 million in constitutionally dedicated funding will be directed to debt service. These lofty payments will not recede until 2021. Even modest transportation projects will not be possible to complete.

For this reason, I have sponsored Assembly Bill 3414, which takes initial steps to restore the fiscal integrity of the Transportation Trust Fund and return it to its purpose of providing a steady, reliable source of funding for transportation capital projects.

This legislation puts a funding cap on the Transportation Trust Fund's annual projects at \$1.4 billion, exclusive of federal funds. It also limits the Transportation Trust Funds' annual bonding to 50 percent of the maximum amount for proposed projects. This is an essential move to correct the funding crisis. After June 2005, all funding will be spent paying towards acquired debt. By limiting the permissible debt to 50 percent, we guarantee a steady revenue stream for much needed new projects.

To help keep spending down, this legislation would also deter the Commissioner of Transportation from reporting a proposed project amount that exceeds spending caps by preventing the issuance of any bonds during the following fiscal year. Similarly, it would also deter the Legislature from approving project budgets exceeding spending caps. This legislation further reduces spending by reducing and eliminating salaries and overhead by the Department of Transportation and the New Jersey Transit Corporation as well as expenses for maintenance over a six year period.

I am confident this legislation will begin restoring the Transportation Trust Fund to a reliable, stable source of funding for our transportation capital projects.



Member Viewpoint

Video choice can be a reality in New Jersey

By Mark Bocchieri

Verizon has been a big part of the New Jersey economy since the beginning of the communications industry, and - if anything - its stake in the future of the state is only getting bigger.

Verizon has about 15,000 people working in New Jersey today, including the headquarters for Verizon Wireless in Bedminster and Verizon-New Jersey in Newark.

Verizon invests more than \$700 million a year - about \$2 million a day - in the state economy in the modern communications networks that underpin 21st century commerce. It's safe to say that most New Jerseyans are connected to a Verizon network at some point, pretty much every single day.

All of this makes Verizon an important corporate citizen in communities all over the state. Verizon is committed to New Jersey because it is where Verizon employees live and work.

Technology has changed the world. Speed, mobility and control have become part of our customers' DNA, and Verizon is transforming itself to meet those demands. Since the year 2000, Verizon has invested some \$75 billion in capital - more than any other telecom or cable company in America. Verizon has used many billions of that to build the best wireless network in the country, deploy DSL in its wireline network and introduce the next-generation products and services that the digital customer demands.

Now, the broadband customer's demand for convergence is driving change in Verizon's networks again.

Verizon is the first communications company to make a major commitment to taking fiber all the way to homes and businesses, with a new network technology called "FiOS." FiOS delivers super-fast Internet access, true broadband capacity for video, all kinds of interactive capabilities, and almost unlimited capacity for future growth. Nationwide, Verizon plans to deploy FiOS to about 3 million homes by the end of this year - more than all other carriers combined. In fact, Verizon is planning to build this new technology in some 70 communities, across 10 counties by the end of the year.

For Verizon, FiOS will make it more competitive in terms of delivering the speed, control and mobility the broadband customer wants. For New Jersey, these networks will put powerful new tools for economic empowerment in people's hands. By investing in these new networks New Jersey is as well-positioned as any state in the country to implement a progressive economic agenda that would transform our business environment and position Verizon for leadership in the global economy.

In addition to crystal clear voice and blazing fast Internet access, Verizon's new FiOS network is capable of providing video. Verizon has worked with programmers and software developers to put together a really terrific package of video services that is as good as or better than anything in the market today.

A survey commissioned earlier this year by Verizon indicated that customers would welcome a new entrant in the video marketplace to provide some new competition to the cable companies. And with the revenues that would come from a video product, Verizon would be in a better position to speed up deployment and get FiOS to more people, faster.

However, before Verizon can offer television services in a local community, Verizon needs to get a franchise - a rule that dates back to the earliest days of cable TV. Verizon already has the network to provide voice and data. Now it is required to go through an additional process in each New Jersey town just to provide video over the same network, which makes no sense.

While Verizon is making progress in getting the franchises it needs, the process could go faster - and the benefits of video competition could come quicker - with a state or even a national solution to this franchise issue.

In September, Texas became the first state to pass legislation that granted statewide franchises. A short time after the bill was signed into law, Verizon announced a more aggressive deployment of FiOS in that state.

New Jersey now has the chance to seize the lead by putting statewide franchise reform on the fast track when the state legislature reconvenes this fall, giving them a true choice for competition for video services.

For more information on video choice, go to www.tvchoicenj.com

INSIDE BUSINESS

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photo left to right: Ken Nickel, Senior VP, Community Lending; Kermit Dyke, First Senior VP, Commercial Lending

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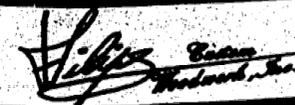
What's Coming Up!

Date	Event	Times	Location
December 1	Workforce Education Committee	8:45 AM	Chamber Office
December 6	Linden Chamber Holiday Gathering (reservations required - a small fee applies)	5:30 PM	Prima Restaurant, 112 South Wood Avenue, Linden
December 9	Local & County Affairs Committee	8:30 AM	Scotch Plains Municipal Building 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains
December 13	"The 2005 PGA Golf Tournament" - Behind the Scenes Security & Safety Implementation - presented by Lieutenant George M. Georgeles, Supervisor - Central Region New Jersey State Police, Office of Emergency Management	8:00 AM	Crowne Plaza Hotel, 36 Valley Road (exit 135), Clark
December 14	Kenilworth Chamber Meeting	8:30 AM	Call for location
December 21	Clark Chamber Meeting	8:30 AM	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Clark - Hosted by Columbia Bank
December 22	Springfield Chamber Meeting	8:30 AM	Call for location
SAVE THE DATE:			
Jan. 31, 2006	94th Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner	6:00 PM	Doubletree Hotel (formerly the Wyndham Hotel)
*Watch the mail for your invitation!			

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- ### Member Moments...
- MEMBER MOMENTS...**
- A seminar on stress entitled "Holiday Stress and Anxiety" will be held from 7 PM to 8 PM Nov. 28 at the Westfield YMCA, 220 Clark Street. The seminar, being conducted by Jonathan Sibley, psychotherapist associated with the Behavioral Health and Psychiatry Department of **Trinitas Hospital** in Elizabeth, is free and open to the public. Sibley notes that stress, anxiety and depression often go hand in hand. As the holidays approach, Sibley says symptoms of depression may become more noticeable among people of all ages.
- The Wyndham Hotel**, Elizabeth, near Newark Liberty International Airport is now the DoubleTree Hotel Newark Airport. The hotel has 385 guestrooms, eight junior suites, three full suites, a new business center, Shula's Steak 2 Restaurant and provides complimentary 24 hour airport shuttle service. The hotel is part of the Hilton organization and provides a rewards program for frequent guests.
- McCarter & English**, Newark, announced Steven Beckelman, from the firm's securities litigation department, and Joseph Scholz, in the complex commercial litigation department, have been named partners in the firm.
- United Way of Greater Union County** has set an aggressive fundraising goal of \$3,725,000 for its local 2005-2006 campaign, a 5 percent increase over its 2004-2005 campaign.
- Within its \$3,725,000 campaign goal, United Way has set several neighborhood campaign goals. Local Community Council volunteers will be reaching out to local residents and mailing appeal letters to reach the following targets: Cranford Community Council - \$33,100; Eastern Union County - \$129,500; Plainfield, North Plainfield, Fanwood & Scotch Plains - \$83,500, and South Plainfield - \$26,400.
- United Way of Greater Union County's local fundraising campaign supports more than 100 local programs at 70 certified non-profit agencies in our area. Programs supported by United Way address critical community needs and improve the lives of local children and youth, seniors, people with disabilities and families in crisis.
- For more information or to support United Way of Greater Union County's local fundraising efforts, call 908-353-7171 or visit www.uwguc.org.

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