

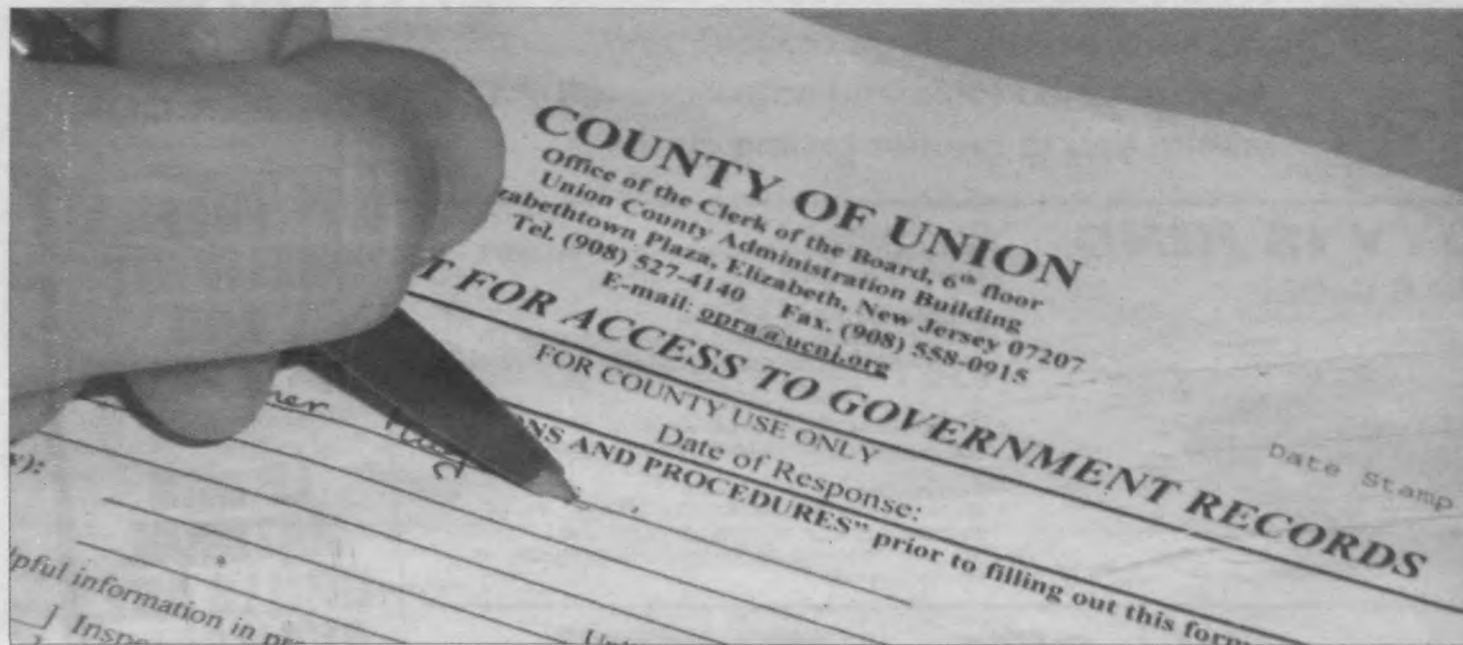
# UNION COUNTY LOCALSOURCE

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With proposed changes to the Open Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act making their way through the state senate, many residents, activists, politicians and municipalities find themselves on very different sides of the issue.

## Let the Open Public Record reflect ...

### Local opinions vary on possible changes to OPRA and OPMA

By Cheryl Hehl  
Staff Writer

Citizens could have easier access to public records if amendments to two laws pass muster with legislators. But, if county and local elected officials have anything to say about it, the changes will never happen.

Ten years ago if anyone wanted copies of public records it was not an easy process. In fact, the majority of the time it was next to impossible.

In 2002, everything changed when the Open Public Records Act was revised so citizens, including the media, could obtain information previously kept under lock and key by municipal, county, state and school officials.

But while OPRA was initially hailed as a great step in the direction of the public's right to know laws, during the last decade, advances in technology made this process increasingly difficult. Despite evidence that an update was needed, it took one legislator's own experience with this issue to initiate change.

When Democrat State Senator Barbara Buono, Middlesex, found the state Department of Education would not provide information about how New Jersey lost out on a \$400 million federal grant, she was frustrated and confused.

"In the end I had to go to some very extensive lengths to get the information. It was a painful process of subpoenaing the fired education commissioner before the committee," she said.

In early March at a legislative hearing to clarify and strengthen the open public meetings and laws, Buono told legislators about her own personal experiences, stressing the need to change this legislation.

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### Residents routinely 'suit up' in defense of Open Public Records

By Cheryl Hehl  
Staff Writer

There are always two sides to every story, and when it comes to the public's right to know, a line has definitely been drawn in the sand between two opposing forces.

Action in recent weeks by a state senate committee could make it considerably easier for citizens and the media to obtain public records and documents. However, until something is finalized, the war between those who protect these public records and those who want copies continues to produce lawsuits that cost taxpayer dollars.

Ten years ago when the Open Public Records Act was revised it was supposed to make it easier for citizens and the media to obtain public records and documents. Some citizens, though, maintain county and local officials continue to skirt the OPRA law, forcing them to file lawsuits in order to obtain the documents they are entitled to receive.

Union resident Anthony Nardiello contends that after filing repeated OPRA requests with township clerk Eileen Birch that resulted in denials, he became frustrated and even angry. But he maintains this is nothing new.

"In the past, requests for information have been blocked by Ms. Birch under flimsy excuses on her part," he said.

But, while Nardiello maintains he had every right to the public documents he requested, Birch explained last week that she is obligated as township clerk and keeper of public records to obey the law.

"I told Mr. Nardiello the records he requested involved medical  
See **PUBLIC**, Page 3

## UC residents press Christie on Springfield flooding

By Paul Greulich  
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — The township welcomed the distinction of hosting Governor Chris Christie's 75th town hall meeting last week.

The Fire Headquarters was packed with hundreds of area residents and officials as Christie, a Republican, summarized his achievements and challenges since taking office in 2009, shared personal anecdotes, and fielded questions.

Christie's remarks focused on his efforts to solve New Jersey's financial problems. He discussed his accomplishments in reigning in government spending without raising taxes, a strategy he considers common sense.

"Math is math," Christie said. "Numbers either add up or they don't. I'm not doing anything magic here."

The enthusiastic crowd peppered the roly-poly Republican with questions that encompassed local, state and national issues with residents. Topics included the potential nullification of unconstitutional federal laws to strategies for dealing with drug crime in New Jersey.

Christie said he favors imposing treatment rather than imprisonment for non-violent drug possession crimes.

"The war on drugs was well-intentioned when it was started, but it doesn't work," Christie said.

Residents also asked about the governor's plan to fix roads and bridges around the state. One bridge in particular excited the attention of the many Springfield residents at the meeting — an aged structure on Morris Avenue on the Rahway River that contributes to flooding problems. Residents have expressed particular concern about the stated timeline of the project, which is estimated to take about five years.

Resident Karen Bonacorda asked the governor if the replacement of this bridge could be "fast-tracked".

Christie answered that he anticipated the issue of flooding being raised and made sure to bring a representative from the Depart-

See **GOV.'S**, Page 3



# 'Public has a strong interest' in OPRA requests

(Continued from Page 1)

issues and therefore could not be released," Birch added. "Number 26 in the Governor's executive order backs up that if there is a medical or psychological problem in the records involving a particular person, those documents cannot be released."

Nardiello was seeking copies of any records related to an emergency call that took place at a neighbor's home Jan. 27, 2008, but after he discovered that Birch would not release the documents he hired attorney Victor Rotolo to take over.

Rotolo subsequently sent Birch a copy of a civil action against Nardiello's neighbors and a subpoena requiring the township clerk to turn over the records and documents requested. At that point Birch said she had no other choice but to hand over the information originally requested.

"Subpoena's are not unusual," she said, adding that this is the only circumstances she would be able to release the information.

Nardiello said Friday that he did receive the records but said he should not have to go to the lengths he did to get information that is public record. Birch disagreed.

"Some records just cannot be released, she said, adding "it's the law."

For the most part, though, Birch said the ebb and flow of OPRA requests from citizens as well as the media go smoothly. And, she said, if it is a large amount of records, she can, by law, ask for an extension so she can gather the information.

"Certain things are immediate access, but depending on what we are doing, how busy our office is at that moment, we can't always get a copy of, for example, minutes of a meeting," Birch explained, adding that she then will ask a person to return in several hours or up to two or three days.

Another problem Birch often finds is that

those requesting records do not know what they want.

"Sometimes they will write down what they think they want, but then it turns out it's not what they wanted after all," the township clerk said, adding that it is important that requests are clear about what records or documents are being requested.

"Either way, I just want to do my job right, as any employee should," Birch said.

Things are not so easily accomplished at the county level, where countless lawsuits resulted from one activist's attempts to obtain records that were denied.

Tina Renna, President of the Union County Watchdog Association, has been embroiled in a legal tug of war with county officials for years because she was denied what she says were "absolutely public records."

In early March Renna filed her latest lawsuit against the county because they turned down a request for investigatory records involving county employee Patrick Scanlon Jr., the son of Freeholder Deborah Scanlon.

In March, Renna said she made an OPRA request because of a complaint against Scanlon Jr., concerning allegations that he allegedly sold county property for personal gain.

"We believe the county's investigation of Scanlon Jr. has been closed without formal charges being filed," Renna said about the incident, noting this was a very good reason for her requesting those records.

"The public has a strong interest in learning the details of the county's investigation to determine whether nepotism played any role in the investigation of Scanlon Jr.," the activist said.

According to public records obtained by *LocalSource*, Scanlon Jr. was hired by the county as a laborer in August, 2011, at a

salary of \$33,521 annually. Scanlon Jr. later was convicted of Theft by Unlawful Taking on Jan. 25 and sentenced to six months in jail and five years probation by Union County Superior Court Judge Joseph P. Donohue. County records show he left the county payroll sometime in January, 2012.

Donohue is the brother-in-law of Union County Undersheriff, Assemblyman and Union Township Democratic Municipal Chairman Joseph Cryan.

Donohue began his judicial career in the Essex County Sheriff's office under then sheriff John Cryan, Joseph Cryan's father, and undersheriff Patrick Scanlon, Scanlon Jr.'s grandfather.

However, while it is unknown what county property Scanlon Jr. took, this was not a first offense. According to records obtained by *LocalSource*, Scanlon Jr. first was arrested in Essex county in 2008 on narcotics charges, which was later downgraded and moved to municipal court.

A few months later he again was arrested in Union County on narcotics charges, but again the charges were downgraded to municipal court.

Two months later in October, 2008, Scanlon Jr. was arrested on charges of Theft by Unlawful Taking and pled guilty, but the case was dismissed at sentencing.

After that the freeholder's son had a succession of narcotics charges in Union and Middlesex county.

On April 12, Renna filed another lawsuit against the county in an effort to get the investigatory records she requested initially through OPRA. She maintains the county deliberately thwarts the OPRA law to avoid providing information that could make them look bad.

But Renna and Nardiello are not the only ones finding it difficult to view what is con-

sidered public record.

The Union School district also had to contend with a lawsuit from a resident who felt the school board did not comply with an OPRA request. In the end the Superior Court of New Jersey found in favor of the resident and against the school board, who had to comply with the request for a tape of a particular meeting.

According to Walter Luers, an attorney from Clinton in Hunterdon County, who specializes in lawsuits involving OPRA violations, Roxanne Ciampi submitted an OPRA request July 27, 2011, to Board Secretary Patricia Detri for a copy of an audio recording of the July 19, 2011, public board meeting.

However, Detri said she could not comply with the request because the board did not have the equipment to transfer the tape to a compact disk.

Luers said Friday that Detri eventually gave Ciampi six CD's but none contained the meeting date the resident requested. Detri later said the tape broke five minutes into the meeting in question and there was nothing further to provide. The issue continued to remain unresolved and the resident resorted to filing a lawsuit.

According to the transcript of Superior Court Judge Lisa Chrystal's opinion letter dated April 3, regardless whether a malfunction was to blame, the court notes that any limitations on the right of access accorded under OPRA are "construed in favor of the public's right to know."

Chrystal ruled that Ciampi was "entitled to the tape of July 19, 2011, meeting as requested according to OPRA and which was admittedly not provided within seven days of an Oct. 25, 2011, second request. The judge also ruled that a copy of the audio tape was to be given to Ciampi.

## Gov.'s Springfield meeting briefly addresses flooding

(Continued from Page 1)

ment of Environmental Protection, John Moyle, who works with the DEP's Office of Engineering and Construction.

Bonacorda said it was good to discuss the bridge project and flood control with Moyle, even though she found little new information or specifics.

"We're very happy to have their attention," she said. "We're planning to continue correspondence with Mr. Moyle and Gov. Christie."

Christie assured residents that restrictions were eased after Hurricane Irene to enable a timely cleanup, but Bonacorda said Moyle clarified that a permit is still required to bring a truck across wetlands to drag out the trees, which can present difficulties and delays.

Springfield Mayor Ziad Shehady did not return calls for comment.

A variety of officials from municipalities

around Union County were present.

"I'm always impressed with the governor," said Linden Mayor Richard Gerbounka.

Gerbounka, an Independent, said he was especially proud of Christie's plainspoken demeanor and his message that "what you see is what you get."

"I think that's all you can ask of a man, and I think it's refreshing to see a politician take that stance," Gerbounka said. "I think it's a stance that more politicians on both the state and national level could benefit from."

Christie said these town hall meetings are important because they help prevent him from becoming isolated from the public.

"It's been a great thing for me to be in touch with the people who gave me the chance to do this job," Christie said.

Paul Greulich can be reached at 908-686-7700 ext. 121, or at [thelocal-source@gmail.com](mailto:thelocal-source@gmail.com).



Photo By Paul Greulich

In Springfield, Gov. Chris Christie spoke of his record in addition to answering questions from the public.

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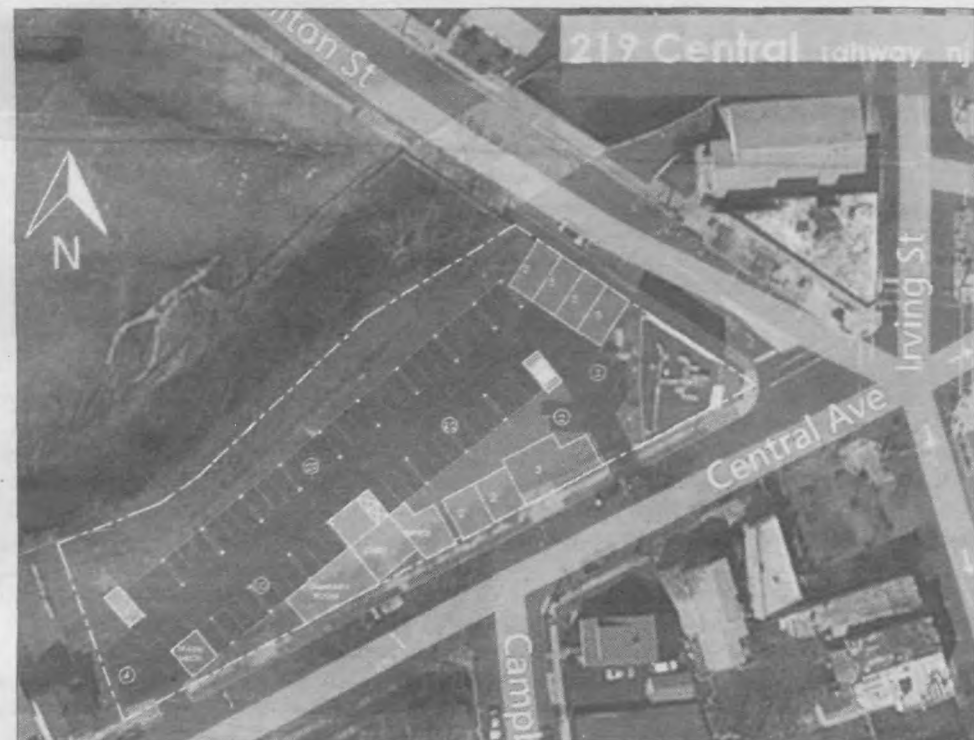


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An aerial view of a proposed redevelopment tract in Rahway that officials hope will be the home of newly constructed affordable housing units for artists. The area outlined in white with numbered boxes shows the plot of land under consideration.

## City looks to build artist housing off Central Ave.

By Paul Greulich  
Staff Writer

RAHWAY — Local officials are examining a proposed housing project intended to provide living and working space for artists in the city's arts district.

An organization known as the Actors Fund has a plan to bring 60 units of affordable housing to a vacant site on Central Avenue. The Actors Fund Housing Development Corporation, or AFHDC, a subsidiary of The Actors Fund, is partnering with Crawford Street Partners, a Newark-based developer.

The project is being managed and overseen by the Rahway Redevelopment Agency. A concept plan was presented to the Agency last month.

According to Actors Fund CEO Scott Weiner, development costs are estimated at \$15 million.

The proposal would be a total of 62,000 square feet, in addition to 15,000 square feet of parking. The project also includes 2,000 square feet of community space that can be used for rehearsals, meetings and social gatherings. A Payment In Lieu Of Taxes, or PILOT, program is also part of the deal. The site is assessed at \$496,400.

The one acre site is occupied only by a two-story office building that is sitting vacant. The proposal calls for that building to be made available to the city of Rahway for an arts education facility. It abuts the Rahway River and is located within the 100 year flood zone. Weiner said the design will account for any potential flooding issues,

though it is too early to say what specific measures may be taken.

Weiner stressed the project is still in its early stages, and the precise number and design of the units may vary, but there is one thing of which he is sure.

"We are committed to building affordable housing for artists on that site," Weiner said.

Redevelopment Agency Executive Director and City Business Administrator Peter Pelissier said the fund was directed to include parking facilities on-site because of problematic parking in the area, a direction that was addressed at the last meeting.

"When they came last month they showed parking would be underneath the building, similar to some of the other development projects that have taken place in the community," Pelissier said.

Council President Samson Steinman said he supports the plan.

"I think it's a great idea," Steinman said. "It compliments everything we're creating in the arts district. It'll be a great addition to the downtown arts district."

Redevelopment Chair William Rack declined to comment as he was not present at the meeting where the project was discussed.

Rack explained there are still several more steps in the process before the project can be fully approved.

"Once we've approved a concept it has to go to the Planning Board," Rack said.

Pelissier said the fund made a very good

See RAHWAY, Page 7

# Laid off county employees 'confused' by pay schedule

By Cheryl Hehl  
Staff Writer

County workers among the 280 expected to be laid off in May are crying foul because they believe their last two week's pay is being withheld.

According to the county this is not the case at all but just a complicated payroll system involving 26-week pay periods versus a 27-week pay period dating back to 2009.

Late last week a number of employees asked *LocalSource* to get to the bottom of what they believe is a ploy to avoid paying employees for the 80 hours they worked for the county before being laid off.

"This is some kind of a runaround. Not only am I getting laid off and have to figure out how to support my family, but they are taking away my last check," said a county worker named Joe, who asked that his last name not appear in print.

"We were just sacrificial lambs, that's all we are," said one union worker who requested anonymity.

Tuesday, Union County Communications Director Sebastian D'Elia said he was aware of the confusion over employees last checks but preferred finance director Bibi Taylor explain how the miscommunication came about.

"We were paying these employees on Thursdays in 2009, but some years there are 27 Thursdays," the finance director explained, pointing out that because of this glitch administration had to decide how this would be handled.

"Part of the problem in 2009 was that if we decided to go with 27 pay periods instead of 26 then employees would have received their last check of the year Dec. 17, and the first check in the new year was Jan. 15, 2010. That meant there would be a gap of almost a month in between paychecks," Taylor said, noting, for instance, that when paychecks were divided by 27, the amount was significantly less than what employees were use to receiving.

"We did not want this shift to cause any financial hardship for employees,"

*'This is some kind of a runaround. Not only am I getting layed off and have to figure out how to support my family, but they are taking away my last check.'*

*— County employee scheduled to be laid off*

the finance director added.

The county decided to move up the January 2010 payday to Jan.1, but at the 2010 rate of pay.

"Because employees were paid for days not yet worked, it created the current pattern of prepayment," Taylor explained.

Taylor said the county consulted with all the union representatives at the time and with their agreement, instituted the current rolling pay day structure whereby the pay day moves forward one day each year.

This resulted in the county prepaying its employees, so those being laid off will received their last paycheck April 24, which pays their salary through the May 1 separation date.

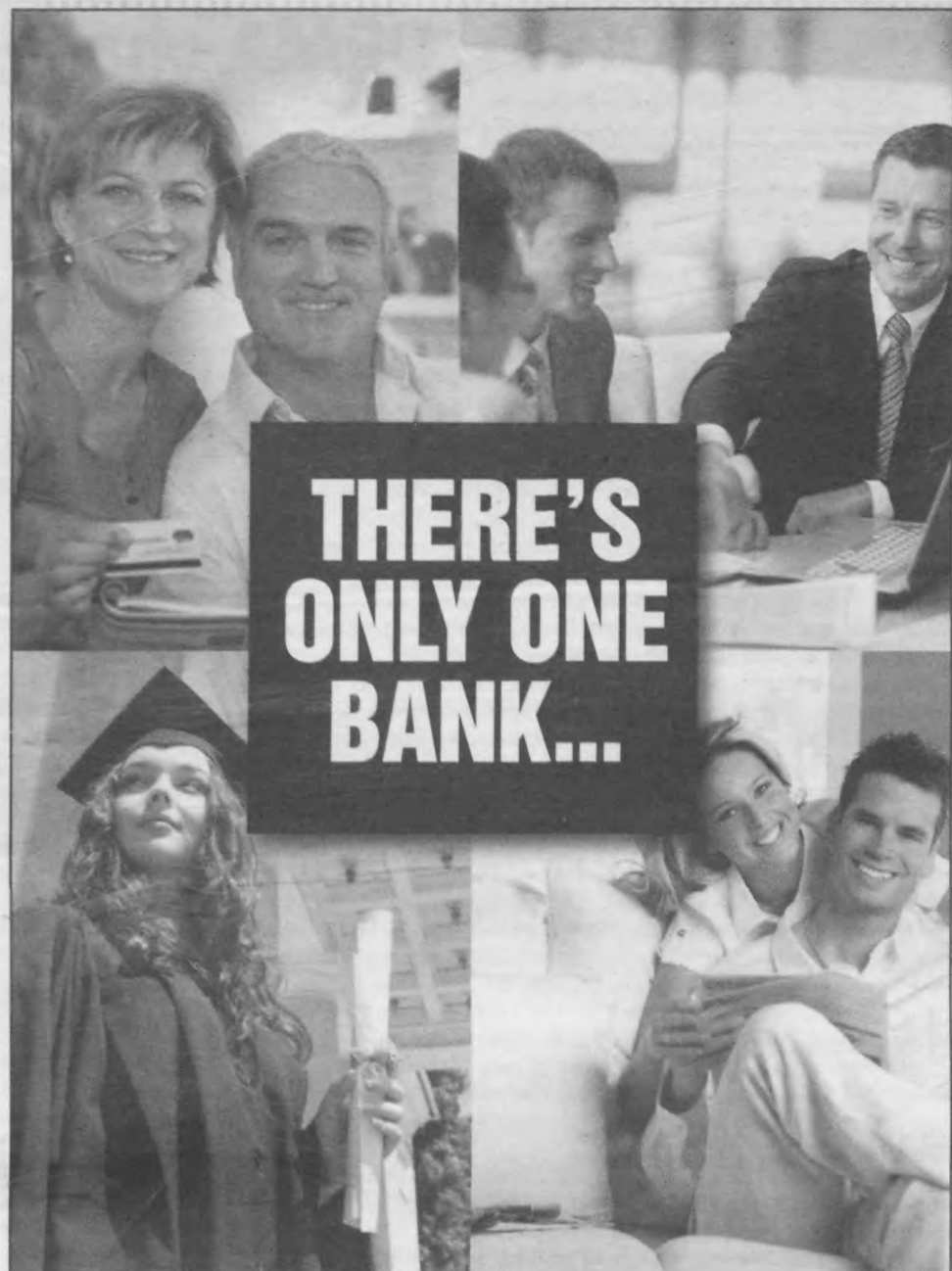
"This is just a pay adjustment," the communications director said.

Despite this, one employee said he was told something entirely different by a county payroll employee.

"There should have been a meeting for the employees affected, or a written explanation that clearly is understood by those affected.

"This is an emotional time for all the employees being laid off and this situation has not made it any easier," he said.

Tuesday the county was in the process of distributing a memo to all the employees explaining in detail about their last check.



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# Possible OPRA, OPMA changes stir debate

(Continued from Page 1)

"We were able to obtain much information but we really don't know what we didn't see," she said during the hearing, adding her concern was that the average citizen would not have the access she did in order to eventually obtain information.

"It shouldn't be that difficult to obtain public records from public entities," said Buono who is co-sponsoring the OPRA bill with State Senator Loretta Weinberg, Bergen, the prime sponsor of both bills, which cleared the state senate Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee in March.

Weinberg agreed completely with Buono. She felt it was time to update both the OPRA law and the Open Public Meetings Act, or Sunshine law, passed 40 years ago. Some of the changes in the amended laws address the role of technology in government, including email and text communications as well as audio and visual recordings at meetings. Specifically, bills 1451 and 1452, after undergoing significant revisions, would amend the Sunshine law, including requiring independent authorities, such as sewerage commissions like Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority, and quasi-public agencies, to hold open meetings and provide agendas that include brief descriptions of items, and narrowing the reasons for going into closed session meetings.

The amendments to the OPRA bill would further clarify exactly what records citizens can access, as well require records be made available on local government websites. Governing body members also would no longer be allowed to text one another during meetings. Currently there are no laws prohibiting this practice that came about as technology advanced.

In Union County, those on both sides of the issue voiced strong opinions about the changes these bills would invoke. In recent weeks many local municipalities, including the county, passed resolutions voicing strong objections to any changes to the current OPRA and OPMA laws, while local activists and citizens stood firmly behind the need for more transparency in government.

The Union County Freeholder Board unanimously passed a resolution opposing both measures, noting that they support the public's right to attend meetings and witness all phases of their deliberation process, but the changes as drafted would be yet another cost-driving force. Union County Communications Director Sebastian D'Elia elaborated on the freeholder's concerns.

"While we agree that government records should be readily accessible and transparent, there should be an appropriate balance between the need for openness and transparency in government and the public's reasonable expectation of privacy," he explained, adding, as an example, the proposed legislation would require video or audio recordings of public meetings be available in unedited form. This he said, presented a problem.

"Current law requires certain discussions not be made public until they can be legally released. That includes advice given to the township by an attorney in closed session, safety and security issues and negotiation strategies," D'Elia said, adding that disclosing this information could adversely affect the public in the long run. "These are terrible requirements that seriously undermine the public interest and could undermine public safety."

D'Elia also had serious concerns about the financial drain the changes would place on municipal and county government if approved by legislators.

"This comes at time when we are being forced to lay off government employees and reduce departmental budgets so that we can meet the strict cap requirements with decreased revenues and increasing mandated expenses," he said. "These burdens include unfunded mandates, numerous costly impractical requirements and impediments to a democratic process."

Tina Renna, community activist and president of the Union County Watchdog Association, though, strongly disagreed, suggesting this is par for the course.

"The freeholders have been outspoken in their opposition to open government measures," Renna said, adding she was not surprised the county came out against the proposed changes to OPRA and OPMA.

The activist readily admitted she ran up against a brick wall when it came to requesting public records from the county because she believes they would prefer keeping this information out of public view.

Forced to file many lawsuits over the years to obtain public records, Renna believes the county deliberately keeps information from the public.

"They consistently lose these lawsuits but it doesn't stop them from instigating them and wasting taxdollars. Its not surprising that they would oppose these revisions, but for them to do so claiming the cost would be too prohibitive is the height of hypocrisy," she added, pointing out "useless county government propaganda and secrecy is costing us millions."

Renna, who is often outspoken on her website regarding the freeholder board and county officials, uses OPRA on a regular basis to request records from the county. Many of these records are posted on the UCWA website revealing county activities or expenditures that previously were unknown. She believes this is deceptive and hides what really is going on at the county level.

"The county spends upwards of a million dollars on their brand of public information; fluff press releases recycled ad nauseum through photo op's in local newspapers and on their newly updated \$136,000 website as well as The Directions newspaper which is mailed to everyone in Union County right before the primary and general elections," Renna said.

The activist said information regarding what the county actually spends has to be "obtained by citizens tediously requesting government records through OPRA."

"Attending freeholder meetings doesn't reveal much about government spending because OPMA's spirit isn't upheld by the county prosecutor who is charged with enforcing the law," Renna said, suggesting the proposed updates to the OPMA bill "would give citizens more power to enforce the law through the courts," she added, suggesting "this must be terrifying to union county government and their behind the scenes powerbrokers."

She also pointed out the proposed bill addressed a critical part of the problem — advancements in technology.

"Consider that the OPMA is 30 years old," Renna said, pointing out that fax machines were not even around in 1975 when the law came about, and now there is email and text messaging that allows governing bodies to communicate instantly and conveniently out of the public's view. Although Renna managed to level considerable ammunition at the county, D'Elia made a comment that could be seen as a shot at the activist who regularly stands at the podium during the public portion of freeholder meetings.

"New Jersey Senate Bill 1451 would also impose a new requirement that a governing body may discuss but not take any action on an issue brought up by a citizen at a public meeting if it was not published as an agenda item," he said, suggesting "this is impractical and inhibits the operation of local government."

Renna, however, did not miss an opportunity to bring up how she views freeholder meetings, especially when it came to what she viewed as a lack of transparency.

"Watch a freeholder meeting and you will see them unanimously vote yes on everything on the meeting agenda with no public discussion," she added.

Continued on Page 10

# Insurance agent from Westfield charged for 'failing to remit'

Attorney General Jeffrey S. Chiesa announced that a Union County insurance agent was indicted last week for allegedly accepting insurance premium money and failing to remit it to the insurance company.

Virginia Larsen, 66, of Westfield, was charged with theft by failure to make required disposition of property received and two counts of misapplication of entrusted property and property of government or financial institution, all in the second degree.

The state grand jury indictment alleges that between July 29 and Aug. 31, 2009, Larsen, an insurance agent and an officer of Larsen Global Marine, a financial institution, obtained \$148,739.70 in insurance premiums that she was obligated to remit to RLI, an insurance company, but failed to make the required payment to RLI, the prosecutor's office said. The indictment alleges that Larsen was entrusted with the premium money as a fiduciary for RLI, but kept the funds for her own use, knowing that it was unlawful and involved substantial risk of loss to RLI.

Deputy Attorney General Steven Bennet and Detectives Megan Flanagan and Nicole Eiker were assigned to the investigation. Bennet presented the case to the state grand jury. Acting Insurance Fraud Prosecutor Ronald Chillemi thanked RLI for referring the matter to the Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor.

The indictment is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Under state law, crimes of the second degree carry a maximum punishment of 10 years in state prison and a criminal fine of \$150,000.

Acting Insurance Fraud Prosecutor Ronald Chillemi noted that some important cases have started with anonymous tips.

"People who are concerned about insurance cheating and have information about a fraud can report it anonymously by calling the toll-free hotline at 877-55-FRAUD, or visiting [www.NJInsurance-fraud.org](http://www.NJInsurance-fraud.org)," he said in a release. State regulations permit a reward to be paid to an eligible person who provides information that leads to an arrest, prosecution and conviction for insurance fraud.

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## Union County LocalSource

1291 Stuyvesant Avenue

Union, NJ 07083

Phone: 908-686-7700 Fax: 908-686-4169

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# Rahway hopes to build artists' housing

(Continued from Page 4)

presentation to the Redevelopment Agency. He said he likes the proposal but harbors concerns about how exactly the fund will restrict residency to persons working in the arts field.

Weiner said that with the municipality's cooperation, the fund can do outreach to target and give preference to artists.

"We will be working hand in hand with the city officials with that process," Weiner said.

Applicants must first qualify based on their income and secondly by the work they do. If no artist is available to fill a particular unit, the space may go to someone who

is not an artist, he said.

"This is done all over the country," Weiner said. "This is not a novel idea."

Weiner said the federal tax code was amended several years ago to expressly allow for certain buildings to be developed exclusively for artists.

Pelissier said he is unsure of the proper procedure moving forward with the acquisition of the property, stating attorneys will have to hash out the details. The property is owned by Elizabeth Gas company, a publicly-traded company.

"There's some procedures that have to be put in place as to how that property can be transferred to this equity fund," Pelissier

said. "It could be a little dicey and possibly the Redevelopment Agency might have to be a partner in the acquisition of it. It might be procedurally easier for the gas company to have the redevelopment agency acquire it."

Another Redevelopment Agency meeting was held on May 2. The agency considered a resolution designated the Actors Fund Housing Development Corporation as developer of the parcel.

"Based upon the reception we received at our early presentations, we think there's a lot of support for it," Weiner said.

Paul Greulich can be reached at 908-686-7700 ext. 121.

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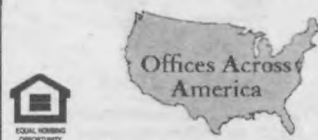
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# Embrace open government, cut the waste

A bill has been making its way through the state senate that would make changes to the current Open Public Records Act. We support these changes to include advancements in technology. But we have other concerns about how towns, cities and counties comply with the law in the first place. Simply put: they often don't comply.

The spirit of the law is one that every resident, politician, activist, and taxpayer should be very accepting of: providing the public with an open and honest government. To say the law was designed to keep politicians honest would be an understatement, but it would still be accurate.

Simply embracing this spirit would cause less of a burden on county and municipal coffers, if all parties would work to address OPRA requests without the help of the court system.

In the past few months alone, Union and Union County have both been sued by residents attempting to request what have been legally deemed, in a court of law, open public records. And any attempt to deny these records can be deemed, in a court of public opinion, obstruction of a government for the people and by the people.

Tina Renna, head of the Union County Watchdog Association, is routinely letting her dogs out on the county. Some-

## EDITORIAL

times, her requests may be extravagant. But nevertheless, they have time and time again been determined to be perfectly legal requests. And often times they are very important to the public good.

And time and time again the County of Union has denied her requests, resulting in expensive lawsuits. More than a dozen have been filed by Renna and the Watchdogs alone, and she has only lost one case. She's now suing for records pertaining to a freeholder's son's incarceration while working for the county.

If the freeholders have nothing to hide, then why do they continue to hide public records from the public?

We have asked this question before, and we will continue to ask. But what of the county's response?

In an article published by LocalSource earlier this year, Communications Director Sebastian D'Elia said Renna was costing taxpayers money by continuing to sue. Our response then is the same now.

This is one script that cannot be flipped. The cost of litigation for taxpayers is a direct result of the county not following the law. We recommend all government entities in Union County embrace an open government.

## The times, they have changed ... for the better

By Cheryl Hehl  
Staff Writer

Things sure have changed since I became a reporter in 1989. In fact, if the kids just graduating with a degree in journalism stepped back in time, I'm not sure they would be able to cope without the technology that is so much a part of their lives. How did we ever managed to cope? You might be surprised.

Back in the "old days" reporters had no cell phones, Internet or fancy computers. It was rudimentary at best when it came to the tools of our trade. Our "computer," if you could call it that, was little more than a black screen with grey letters and nothing else.

But what did I know or care. I was in my dream job as a reporter and everything was new and exciting. I actually thought I entered the high tech newspaper world when they sat me in front of that "computer," which by the way had no spell check, no mail access or anything else for that matter.

Since cell phones had not yet become a part of our lives, we relied on the good old newsroom phone, connected to the base by a cord, to make and receive calls. And if we were out on a story and had to call the newsroom, a public phone booth was the only way to make that happen. Not exactly a string and can, or smoke signals, but close, compared to today's technology.

As a rookie reporter I not only had to prove I could handle a "beat," but also come up with six to eight articles and features a week. In between I had my hands full trying to learn how to use that blasted computer, which they told me was "the latest in technology."

To say my first few months as a reporter was something to remember is an understatement. Back then you came to work at

## REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY CHERYL HEHL

8:30 a.m. five days a week and attended meetings three or four nights a week, which often ended in the wee hours of the morning. There was no coming in late to the newsroom. I was up at the crack of dawn to check in at the newsroom and then peruse the halls of the Cranford municipal building, sweet talking my way into getting all those reports, records and documents needed to put together all those articles I had to write.

Just for the record, every reporter worth their salt needs back up reports and records in order to substantiate the articles they write. Getting those documents, though, often required extraordinary feats on my part. Some that make me wonder what the heck I was thinking at the time.

Since there was no Open Public Records Act, or OPRA, as it is known to most people, it was every man, woman and reporter for themselves and being innovative was the name of the game.

It didn't take long to figure out that unless I had great sources who kept me supplied with the documents I needed, or I found a way to get those documents on my own, I was up a creek without a paddle.

I was able to develop great sources, but there were times when they refused to provide certain records or documents due to confidentiality. That's when I put all those years of watching Lois Lane's tactics on Superman to good use. Now that Lois was some reporter and a gal after my own heart. She would do anything to get a story, including getting into some pretty sticky situations. I figured if she could do it, there

was absolutely no reason I couldn't employ some of her tactics.

One of my old standby routines for obtaining great leads for stories or those much needed reports was to figure out when the municipal building custodian took the garbage to the dumpster. Then, after it was dark, I dressed all in black and armed with my trusty flashlight, climbed into the dumpster to rifle through all those papers and reports that hit the waste baskets in the building.

Let me tell you, there was some pretty interesting and revealing findings on those covert dumpster missions. Getting out of that dumpster, though, was another story.

Now that was long before shredding documents was even a twinkle in anyone's eye. Back then everyone trusted that when they threw something away, it was protected. Of course, they never expected anyone would be climbing into the dumpster to challenge that opinion.

One of my other tactics was to remain after meetings at town hall, waiting for governing body members to sort through their paperwork and then throw away what they felt was not needed in a nearby trash container as they walked out the door.

The majority of the time, though, I had to beg sources to give me copies of reports that contained information I needed to flesh out a story. Over the years I became quite an expert at using a variety of tactics, until that magical day when I heard there was a new law in the works that would make all that work obsolete.

The law was called OPRA and once I attended a few press association seminars to educate myself, it dawned on me that my life as a reporter was finally going legit.

Gone would be the days of climbing into dumpster. OPRA would make it possible

Continued on next page

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David Worrall, Publisher  
hankwebb@thelocalsource.com  
Raymond Worrall, Editor  
rsw@thelocalsource.com  
Patrick Bober, Regional Editor  
editorial@thelocalsource.com  
JR Parachini, Sports Editor  
jr@thelocalsource.com  
John D'Achino, Circulation Director  
jad@thelocalsource.com

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# With the advent of OPRA, Lois can be a superhero, too

(Continued from previous page)  
for me to simply fill out a form to request public documents and without any begging or cajoling, seven days later those documents would magically be in my hands. It was, and is, a reporters dream.

I could hardly contain myself waiting for the law to take effect. Visions of the untold number of articles I could investigate danced merrily in my head each night before I fell blissfully asleep. There would no more sleepless nights trying to figure out how to get the records I needed or wringing of the hands as I waiting for a governing body member to take pity on me and just hand over the required report. I would be at no one's mercy. The law was finally going to be on my side.

OPRA was the reason my investigative instinct was able to flourish and develop. Without it, I would have been unable to obtain the records needed to break the stories that taxpayers deserve to hear.

Flash forward a decade and the excitement over OPRA has not faded, but the glow is definitely gone.

First of all, waiting seven business days is torture sometimes. Sure you get the records requested, but unless the request was very specific and the information clearly stated, the OPRA request can be denied. That leaves me back to square one trying to figure out how to interpret what I need so I can get in my hands on it as fast as possible. Especially because this is a competitive business and time is a reporter's enemy.

After using OPRA multiple times over the years I have become very adept at getting what I asked for, but what about the average citizen? Would they be able to figure out what it took someone doing it weekly or even monthly in order to get what they requested? Probably not. And OPRA, while usually clear to those handling these requests, is not clear to all municipal, county and state officials.

In 2010 I discovered while doing a multi-county prosecutor office investigation, that the majority of employees had no clue how to direct a person looking for the department handling OPRA requests. I even had one employee in Middlesex County actually laugh and tell me that I had called the wrong place looking for Oprah Winfrey.

Transparency in government has come a long, long way since 1989. No doubt about it. New reporters have it far easier than journalists had it several decades ago. But, that is not to say the law could not use an update.

For one thing, anyone who thinks we do not see governing body members or school board members texting one another during public meetings is fooling themselves. I can only imagine what goes down in those texts, let alone the decisions that are being discussed. That is just plain wrong when the discussion should be taking place in a public forum. But, if the proposed amend-

ments to the OPRA law goes through, this will end.

Look, although I was slow to climb aboard the technology train, I discovered that there are many advantages. For one, it cuts through red tape and saves endless researching time. Frankly, without the Internet I never could do the investigative stories I did over the last two years. But, there is a downside to technology and it definitely hurts the public right to know.

While I understand local and county government objections to the proposed OPRA changes, including concerns it will take untold man hours to research the information these changes would require, I don't buy it.

Everyone has to adapt to change and municipal and county workers are not exempt. Besides, from my vantage point, workers in these venues do not appear overworked or even under pressure. Check it out. Pay a visit to your local municipal building. Employees walk at a leisurely pace, have time to converse with one another while seemingly not burdened by a hectic work environment. Quite a difference from what the huddled masses go through everyday, I'm sure.

Which is not to say public employees don't work hard. I'm sure they think they do. But, let's be honest here, there is a big difference in how employees in the private sector are required to perform their jobs and that of public employees. We may have to pay the tab for these positions, but we are not blind to how the game is played.

So, I'm certain taxpayers will not be crying over how overworked certain employees might be because of any changes to the OPRA and OPMA law. These employees certainly make a lot more money than many of us folks out here. Trust me, this is easily substantiated by salary range comparisons between employees in the public and private sector.

The one thing that has bugged me during the last ten years is the fact those dispensing public records seem to think they are guarding the crown jewels. I never understood why anyone stood in the way of the public's right to know in the first place. What is the big secret and why are we being kept from it?

I can understand certain records being kept from the general public, but come on. Eventually reporters and activists will get what they want if they are entitled by law anyway, even if they have to bring a lawsuit in order to reach that end. That only costs county, state and municipalities untold taxpayer dollars, which, to me, is ridiculous.

The question everyone should be asking themselves is, if records are so difficult to obtain, what are our elected officials trying to hide? That, my friends, remains the million dollar question.

One I continue to work on every single day.



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**TEEN ARTIST** — Samantha Ring discusses her painting with Sarah Panetta at the 2012 Union County Teen Arts Festival. Students from all over the county participated in the annual Union County Teen Arts Festival, including three Clark high school students who were selected to have their artwork tour throughout the county.

## Possible OPRA changes stir debate among Union County residents, officials

(Continued from Page 6)

There is considerable support from other venues as well. Among them, The New Jersey Press Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, the League of Women Voters and the Sierra Club.

"Times have changed," Thomas Cafferty, general council to the NJPA, said, adding that "We believe these are terrific changes. And Weinberg fully intends to push changes to OPRA and OPMA, regardless of the backlash from county government or local municipalities."

"I think these two bills reach the right balance between the public's right to know and the ability to get the public's business done," Weinberg said in a recent press release about the bills, noting "in a democracy, the people deserve to know how their money is being spent. A just and fair government cannot exist in a vacuum."

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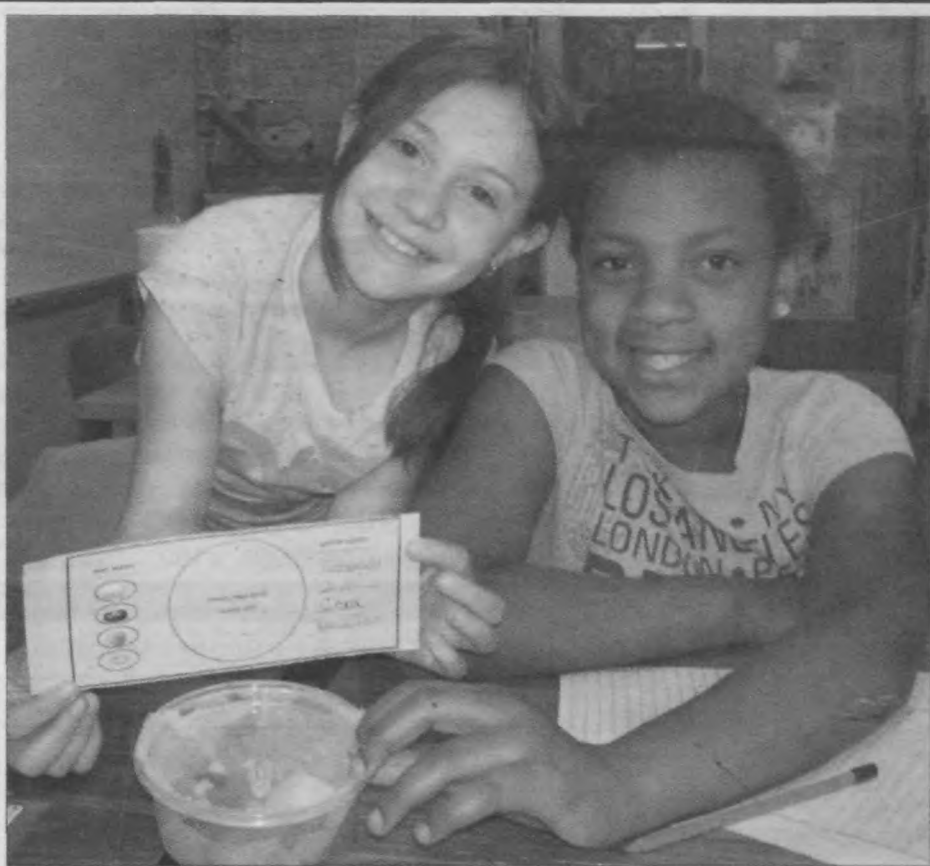
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## SPRINGFIELD NEWS

### Library will deliver to the home bound

Springfield Free Public Library is offering delivery services to the home bound. The library is in the process of collecting applications from potential delivery recipients as well as volunteer drivers. Eligible individuals include Springfield residents with a valid library card, who are temporarily or permanently disabled and unable to travel to the library. The application must be filled out and certified by a physician, visiting nurse or other health care professional. The individual will be matched with a delivery volunteer after the library receives one's application.

The library is seeking volunteers who find comfort in helping people and can afford to donate their time. They must be willing to use their own car for deliveries. Volunteers will need to spend some time getting to know delivery recipients and find out about their likes and dislikes so these can be communicated to the library staff for better selection. Volunteers need to sign a waiver and show proof of valid car insurance.

### Film fest concludes May 17

The Spring International Film Festival at Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will conclude on May 17. The library will screen "The Piano in a Factory," released in 2010, and filmed in Man-

darin Chinese with English subtitles. It runs for 100 minutes and is not rated.

Funding for the film 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 Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and by the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library.

Admission is free, and refreshments will be served. Assistive listening devices are available upon request. More information can be obtained by calling 973-376-4930, or visiting [www.sfplnj.org](http://www.sfplnj.org).

Applications can be picked up at the reference desk. The library can be called for mailed applications. They also are available at [www.sfplnj.org](http://www.sfplnj.org) under "Programs." The library is located at 66 Mountain Ave., and the telephone number is 973-376-4930, Ext. 228.

### Temple to hold annual funding event

Temple Sha'arey Shalom of Springfield, 78 South Springfield Ave., will present its 30th annual "Sustaining Fund Event," a Yom Yerushalayim Concert, to honor Rabbi Joshua Goldstein upon his retirement on June 30. This event will feature a performance by The New Jersey Cantors Concert Ensemble and will be held on May 20 from 4 to 6 p.m, followed by a gala reception.



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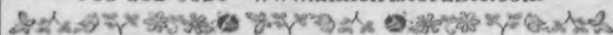
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## UNION NEWS

### Fish, chicken and chips dinner, Friday

A fish or chicken, and chips dinner will be hosted Friday at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, 888 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. The dinner runs from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and is catered by Argyle Restaurant.

For a fee, dinner includes fish or chicken and chips, cole slaw, coffee, tea, juice and dessert. Sponsored by the Board of Deacons, tickets are available at the door. Eat In or Take out orders also available. For more information call 908-688-3164.

### Flea market, May 5

Grace Lutheran Church, 2222 Vauxhall Road, Union, will hold its annual spring flea market on May 5, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., outside on the church grounds. The rain date is May 12.

Call the church office at 908-686-3965 or e-mail the church office at [gracelu4u@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelu4u@yahoo.com) for information. In addition to individual spaces, the congregation will have its own sale tables inside its fellowship hall, along with a bake sale. Refreshments will also be available.

### 'Olympic' celebration in film begins May 15 at library

In celebration of the upcoming Olympic Summer Games of 2012, Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Ave., will present a series of films honoring the event with three selections beginning May 15 and continuing through June 5. The films will be screened on Tuesdays. Admission to the programs is free of charge.

The titles of the films are "Chariots of Fire, 1981, starring Ben Cross, May 15 at 2 p.m.; "Charlie Chan at the Olympics," 1937, starring Warner Oland, May 29 at 2 p.m. "Olympia Part 1: Festival of the Nations," 1938, a documentary about the 1936 Summer Olympics, directed by Leni Riefen-

stahl, June 5 at 2 p.m.

For further information, contact the reference department at 908-851-5450, Ext. 5452.

### Education Foundation holds reception, May 9

The Township of Union Education Foundation has invited all members of the community to attend its annual spring reception on May 9 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the grounds of Liberty Hall, 1003 Morris Ave. The Education Foundation will announce grant recipients for the 2012 to 2013 school year as well as honor teachers, who received grants for the 2011 to 2012 school year. The reception will provide a full dinner, with drinks, appetizers, buffet dinner and desserts for a ticket donation.

The Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, whose purpose is to provide funds for creative and innovative educational programs for the children in the district. The donation is tax deductible. This year, children will be demonstrating what they have learned along with their teachers. Musical entertainment will be provided by The Union High School Swing Choir, and the students in Richard Grennor's World Drumming classes. In addition, there were be a raffle drawing at 8 p.m. Checks for the reception should be made payable to Township of Union Education Foundation and mailed to Susan Lipstein, 2569 Jackson Ave., Union, N.J. 07083. For further information, call 908-851-9869.

### Enrollment accepted at Grace Lutheran School

Grace Lutheran School, located at Grace Lutheran Church, 2222 Vauxhall Road, Union, is accepting enrollment of children for the 2012 to 2013 school year, as it plans for its 23rd year of school ministry.



**YOUNG ARTISTS** — Two Roselle Park students represented Union County at the State Youth Art Month exhibit sponsored by the Art Educators of NJ. Six pieces of art from each county are selected for this prestigious exhibit in Trenton. The girls were honored at the State House for their fine artwork. The girls were Amanda Serna, pictured, a 5th-grader from Sherman School, and Claire Hafteck, a 6th-grader from Roselle Park Middle School.



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**To be listed call 908-686-7700**

## LINDEN NEWS

### Pilates class offered at Rec center

The Department of Public Property and Community Services will hold Pilates and Cardio Exercise classes for adults 18 years of age and older.

Pilates is mind-body exercise that trains several muscle groups at once, using smooth and continuous movements. It teaches body awareness and good posture, while improving flexibility and agility. Cardio is a whole body workout using kick boxing and high and low aerobics.

Classes will be held for 10 weeks on Tuesday evenings, starting June 19 and will continue through Aug. 28 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Half the class will be spent on Pilates and the other half, cardio. A mat and a towel are requested.

Classes will take place at the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St., Linden. Registration deadline is June 18. There is a charge.

Register in person at John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St, Linden. Or online at [www.linden-nj.org](http://www.linden-nj.org) and click on Community Pass. For more information, call 908-474-8627, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Boat safety course, May 12

The Linden Department of Public Property and Community Services will sponsor a one day boat safety certification course, approved by the United States Coast Guard, on May 12 at the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St., Linden, beginning at 8 a.m.

The course takes eight hours to complete and is open to all New Jersey residents. This includes break and exam time, so lunch can be brought by participants.

There is a registration fee, and registration must be made by April at one of Linden's recreation centers, John T.

Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St., or the Community Center Building, 605 So. Wood Ave., or Linden Multi-Purpose Center, 1025 John St. or online at [www.linden-nj.org](http://www.linden-nj.org) by clicking onto CommunityPass. Course participants must be at least 14 years of age.

Each registered individual will receive a study book and will be required to take an examination at the end of the course.

Upon attaining a passing grade, a Boating Safety Certificate for the State of New Jersey and the NASBLA will be issued to all participants, 16 years of age and older. Participants under 16 years of age will have their certificates mailed to them on their 16th birthday.

The course instructor has been teaching boat safety courses for more than 20 years and has a Master United States Coast Guard Merchant Marine license for near coastal waters. He and the course have been approved by the New Jersey State Police and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

For further information on the Boat Safety Certification Course, call Linden Recreation at 908-474-8600 or go to [www.linden-nj.org](http://www.linden-nj.org) and click on Recreation.

### Senior craft services

The Linden Department of Public Property and Community Services has announced that there will be free Senior Citizen Craft classes at the following facilities:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon, at the John T. Gregorio Center, 330 Helen St., Linden, and the fourth Tuesday of each month at the 8th Ward Recreation Center, Bedle Place, Linden, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. For more information, call the center at 908-474-8627 or visit the website at [www.linden-nj.org](http://www.linden-nj.org).

The department is offering Linden adult residents daily

use of fully equipped exercise rooms located at the John T. Gregorio Center, 330 Helen St. The rooms are equipped with stationary bikes, treadmills, step climbers, rower, a four-station universal and locker area with showers.

There is a registration fee for the year, and applicants must bring proof of residence. It is free of charge to senior citizens, 50 years of age or older. It is suggested that they consult with their physicians and to wear proper exercise attire, especially sneakers. Hours are Monday to Friday, 7 a.m to 4:15 p.m., and Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. More information can be obtained by calling the center at 908-474-8627.

### Alzheimer's program, May 31 at library

The Alzheimer's Association Greater New Jersey Chapter will offer a program: "The Caregiver — Are Your Needs Being Met?" on May 31 at 6 p.m. at Linden Public Library, 31 Henry St.

This program will examine the symptoms of caregiver stress and offer strategies toward becoming a healthier caregiver and setting realistic expectations for themselves and for the person for whom they take care.

To register for the program, sign up at the circulation desk or call Dennis Purves at 908-298-3830, Ext. 11.

### 'Knitting for a Cause' wants you

The Department of Public Property and Community Services has formed a "Knitting for a Cause" group and has invited all ages, young adult through senior citizens, to join.

Meetings are held Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St. Projects are distributed to charitable causes.

For more information, call 908-474-8627 or visit the website at [www.linden-nj.org](http://www.linden-nj.org).

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# Union police quickly charge man for TD Bank robbery

Union patrol units responded to a hold up alarm at TD Bank at 2265 Morris Ave. at 2:18 p.m. on Monday. Officers on the scene discovered that the bank had been held up by a male who presented a note indicating he was armed. The male was given money and fled the scene.

Several hours later Detective David Pinto received a phone call from a citizen who asked him about the bank robbery. Pinto was off-duty, and discovered that the bank had been robbed. Pinto came into headquarters and met with the citizen who provided additional details.

Suspect information matched with the bank robber, who lives on Selfmaster Pkwy. Street Crimes Officers were sent to the area of the suspect's home, according to police. The citizen called the suspect and convinced him to surrender. He came out of his home and surrendered, police said.

Miguel Cirne, a 26-year-old male from the 600 block of Selfmaster Pkwy, was arrested, police said. The clothing he wore during the robbery was recovered, but the money is still missing. Cirne has told various versions of what happened and detectives are still investigating his claims as well as looking for the driver of the car that drove him to and from the bank, police said. Cirne was charged with armed robbery of TD Bank. Detectives also coordinated this arrest with the FBI.

## Linden

• April 24: Linden Police detectives arrested Lawrence W. McLendon, 53, of North Brunswick on charges of robbery and terroristic threats in relation to a Jan. 31 bank robbery at Northfield Bank, 501 N. Wood Ave. On Jan. 31, at 11:40 a.m., a man walked into the Northfield Bank and displayed a note to a teller demanding cash and indicating he had a gun. The teller handed him a few thousand dollars, and he walked out of the bank. He was later observed on video surveillance footage from the Dunkin' Donuts, 531 N. Wood Ave., entering a white compact vehicle in the parking lot and leaving the area. Detectives analyzed the footage from the coffee shop and a nearby bank and determined the getaway vehicle appeared to be a late 1990 Ford Escort.

In early April, detectives received information naming McLendon as a possible suspect in the robbery. An investigation into his background discovered that in late January and early February, McLendon was driving a 1998 white Mercury Tracer, the Lincoln-Mercury version of a Ford Escort. Detectives also learned from Department of Corrections records that McLendon was released from prison on Jan. 4 after serving a sentence on a robbery conviction. When McLendon was identified by an eyewitness to the robbery, a warrant was issued for his arrest. On April 24, a team of detectives went to a motel on Route One in North Brunswick, where McLendon was believed to be staying, and after a brief surveillance operation, he was stopped and identified before

being placed under arrest without incident. McLendon was booked and processed at Linden headquarters before being transported to the Union County Jail in lieu of \$120,000 bail. His court date is set for May 2. The investigation is continuing by Det. Kevin Mikolajczyk. Anyone with information can contact him at 908-474-8530.

## Union

• April 20: Union police arrested Sean Oliveira, Justin Oliveira and Michael Marques at 736 Midland Blvd. for possession of CDS with the intent to distribute as well as within 1,000 feet of school property.

• April 20: Two police officers arrested Darius Gasskins, Josha Feliciano and two male juveniles for criminal mischief at Stuyvesant Avenue and Vauxhall Road.

• April 20: An arrest was made by Union police at 981 Caldwell Ave. of Carlos Oliveira for aggravated assault on a police officer, resisting and disorderly conduct.

• April 21: Police responded to a report of a motor vehicle burglary at 1221 Magie Ave. Entry was gained through an unlocked door. It is unknown what is missing at this time.

• April 22: The Union Police Department was notified of a motor vehicle theft in the Springfield, Vauxhall areas. The victim saw the suspect in his vehicle and pulled him out. The suspect then got into a blue 2001 Jeep Cherokee, NJ/ZFL-86D and fled east on Vauxhall Road toward Route 78. This vehicle was an entered vehicle out of Hoboken. The suspect was a black male, wearing a dark sweatshirt with the letters NFI; another black male also was in the suspect car that had fled.

• April 22: Union police were notified of a carjack theft in Kenilworth. The carjacked vehicle was taken out of Kenilworth. It was a black 2012 BMW, 4 door, license number NJ/X60-BRJ. The vehicle was last observed heading north on the Garden State Parkway. The suspect vehicle running with the BMW was a dark colored Jeep; possibly one from the above incident in Union.

• April 23: A Union police officer made an arrest on Chestnut Street of Richard Impaglia for warrants and theft of services — electric from a laundry room more than three months ago.

• April 24: Police responded to a report of suspicious acts at 1552 Spruce St. A light skinned black male or Hispanic male driver with two black male passengers exited the vehicle and walked toward the victim's Audi A-6. They were fled when the caller opened the garage door. No further information was available.

• April 25: Union police investigated a motor vehicle burglary at 2401 Route 22. Entry was gained by smashing the rear window and taking a wallet.

• April 26: A report was made to the police department of an assault on Dona Road. The police discovered that the victim was punched in the face by a person known to him in the street. The suspect

fled. The victim was advised of complaint procedures.

• April 26: Union police investigated a motor vehicle accident at 2706 Route 22 and made a DWI arrest of Karen Lumford.

## Cranford

• April 17: Winfred K. Abimah, 53, of Hillside was arrested by Patrolman Brian Wagner at 11:33 p.m. on Raritan Road at Centennial Avenue for contempt of court. Officer Wagner stopped a 2001 Toyota, Rav 4 for a motor vehicle violation in the area of Raritan Road and Centennial Avenue. While conducting an on scene investigation, the police officer learned that the driver, Winfred K. Abimah, was a wanted fugitive out of Essex County. Abimah was placed under arrest and transported to the Essex County Jail with Superior Court proceedings pending.

• April 23: Patrolman Daniel Norton arrested Andrew C. Williams, 21, of Madison at 12:35 p.m. on South Avenue at S. Union Avenue, for contempt of court. Officer Norton responded to an accident in the area of South Avenue and S. Union Avenue. After conducting an on scene investigation, it was determined that the driver, Andrew C. Williams, had outstanding warrants out of Cranford and Bayonne in the amount of \$966. Williams was placed under arrest and subsequently released after posting bail. Williams has Municipal Court proceedings pending.

## Clark

• April 19: In the vicinity of Raritan Road, Det. Walter Merfet of the Clark Police Department arrested Guille Centeno, 41, married, a restaurant manager, of 91 Peterson Court, Perth Amboy, for driving with a suspended license. She also was detained on an outstanding warrant from Linden in the amount of \$750 for contempt of court. She was subsequently released pending a court date.

• April 19: At the Westfield Police Department, Police Officer Marty Venezia arrested Darnell Daniels-Murphy, 22, single, an usher, of 16 Alexander St., Newark, on an outstanding warrant in the amount of \$500 for contempt of court. He was subsequently transported to the Union County Jail.

• April 21: In the vicinity of 186 Westfield Ave., Police Officer Brian Renda arrested Jack Poffenberger, 46, single, self-employed, of 241 Myrtle Avenue, Garwood, for receiving stolen property and possession of drug paraphernalia. He also was detained on outstanding warrants totaling \$1,000 from Fanwood and Newark for contempt of court. He was subsequently transported to the Union County Jail.

• April 22: Patrolman Keith Meehan was the investigating officer during a theft. He took a report of a theft of items from a motor vehicle, which was parked at a residence at 18 Canterbury Drive.

## IN MEMORIAM

ALMEIDA — Luis Pereira, of Union; April 23.  
 BARNES — Mary E., formerly of Roselle Park; April 20.  
 BOISSONNEAULT — Mary M., of Linden; April 25.  
 BOWERS — Dawn B., formerly of Union; April 22.  
 BYRNE — Mary A., of Hillside; April 22.  
 DeLUCA — Charles N. Jr., of Roselle Park; April 23.  
 DeMARCO — Patrick W. Sr., of Roselle Park; April 22.  
 DiNARDO — Erminio, of Roselle Park; April 25.  
 FERRENCE — Joseph Edward, formerly of Rahway; April 22.  
 FIERRO — Emanuela Maria, of Union; April 22.  
 GREENWALD — Harry C., of Union; April 18.  
 HANCE — Christine H. Heick, of Cranford; April 25.  
 KIRMALES — Edward J., of Rahway; April 23.  
 KLEISSLER — Bernice, of Union; April 21.  
 LEGAN — Genne, of Clark; April 26.  
 LOEFFLER — Theodore "Ted" James, formerly of Union; April 21.  
 MALCZYNSKI — Edna A., of Union; April 25.  
 O'NEILL — Ruth Mangan, formerly of Roselle; April 22.  
 PIATNOCHKA — Janet, of Linden; April 25.  
 ROSSI — Philomena, of Kenilworth; April 23.  
 RAJOPPI — Ida E., of Springfield; April 22.  
 RODRIGUES — Maria "Quinhas," formerly of Linden; April 22.  
 SCHREIBER — Steffie Torrick, of Linden; April 23.  
 SOLOMON — Stanley T., formerly of Linden; April 23.  
 STEIDE — Carrol D., of Roselle; April 20.  
 TOMAE — Anthony Jr., formerly of Union; April 22.  
 WHALEN — Mary Elizabeth "Betty," formerly of Union; April 15.

*Obituaries are special notices submitted by Funeral Directors or families to be published on these pages and online. To place a paid obituary fax 908-686-4169 or send an email to [obits@thelocalsource.com](mailto:obits@thelocalsource.com). Obituaries must be received by noon Monday. Family and friends' submissions must include sender's name, address, phone and the name of the funeral home. Call 908-686-7850 for assistance.*



# Bark! Dog walk set to raise funds for Autism

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders encourages families and their furry friends to enjoy a day outdoors in support of autism awareness by participating in the North/Central NJ Bark Now walk for Autism Speaks on June 2 at Oak Ridge Park in Clark.

"Statistics show that the number of children being diagnosed with Autism has grown to surpass the number of children affected by diabetes, AIDS, cancer, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy or Down syndrome combined," said Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "The Freeholder Board is proud to support the Bark Now walk, and we encourage County residents to get involved."

Bark Now is a unique fundraising event that offers a safe and fun day for families impacted by autism. Sponsored by the national organization Autism Speaks, the day includes a two to three-mile dog walk, light refreshments for both humans and their companions and Autism Speaks Family Services for families and participants affected by autism.

Those who desire to participate can get involved in the event in a number of ways. Family and friends can raise funds by forming teams to walk in the event or by sponsoring an individual walker. Volunteers are also needed to staff the event by checking in participants, providing encouragement at water stops and cleaning up after the event.

To register a team or individual, or to get involved in any aspect of the event visit [bar-know.autismspeaks.org/north/centralnj](http://bar-know.autismspeaks.org/north/centralnj). The top five fundraisers will be awarded two tickets to the performance of their choice at Union County Performing Arts Center, an organization that has worked to develop a Sensory Friendly Theater series, making plays accessible to children and teenagers on the autism spectrum.

Autism is a general term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders caused by a combination of genetic and environmental influences. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by social and behavioral challenges, as well as repetitive behaviors.

An estimated 1 in 88 children in the U.S. is on the autism spectrum with New Jersey amassing the second highest prevalence rate in the nation at 1 in 49 children (1 in 29 boys and 1 in 172 girls).

For additional information contact Natalie Pineiro, Union County Office of Public Information at 908-527-4035 or via email at [npineiro@ucnj.org](mailto:npineiro@ucnj.org).

Township of Union, New Jersey  
Action Plan  
Fiscal Year 2012

## SUMMARY OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan of the Consolidated Plan for the Township of Union has been prepared in response to a consolidated process developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for four of its formula grant programs: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). The new Consolidated Plan regulations replace all HUD planning and application requirements with a single submission that will satisfy the minimum statutory requirements for participation in the four programs.

The Township participates in the CDBG program and is a member of the Union County HOME Program Consortium. It is required to prepare and submit an action plan for HUD approval in order to receive Community Development Grant funds.

The Action Plan is intended to serve the following functions: 1) A planning document for the Township, which builds upon a citizen participation process; 2) An application for federal funds under HUD's formula grant programs; 3) A strategy to be followed in carrying out HUD programs; and, 4) An action plan that provides a basis for assessing performance.

In the Action Plan, Union Township has: 1) described its housing needs and market conditions; 2) prepared a housing and homeless needs assessment; 3) set out a non-community development plan that establishes priorities for meeting those needs; 4) established a one-year action plan that outlines the intended use of resources; and, 5) identified resources anticipated to be available.

Federal regulations require that this summary be published in one or more local, general circulation newspapers. This summary describes the purpose and priorities of the plan, type and location of activities and the location of the complete document. Citizens have 30 days to review the document and submit comments. Citizen comments on the plan should be submitted to the Office of Community Development, Municipal Building, 1976 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083. All citizen comments will be considered in preparing the final Action Plan. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefore, will be attached to the final Action Plan.

Copies of the draft Action Plan will be available for review on May 3, 2012 at the Office of Community Development in the Municipal Building.

### SUMMARY OF PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

As part of the Plan development process, public hearings were held on December 15, 2011; January 19, 2012; February 16, 2012; March 15, 2012 and April 19, 2012. The purpose of the public meetings were to obtain the views of citizens, public officials and agencies and other interested parties regarding the housing and community development needs of the jurisdiction. A final public meeting on the Action Plan has been scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on May 17, 2012 in the Municipal Building.

The development of the Action Plan involved consultation with those agencies in delivering housing and housing services within the Township. Meetings and discussions were held between the staff of the Township Community Development Block Grant Program Office, the Township Division of Planning, the Township Board of Health and the Union County Division of Housing and Community Development. The Township Section 8 providers were also consulted regarding its Section 8 Rental Assistance Program.

In addition there were meetings conducted with appropriate housing and social service agencies regarding the housing needs of children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, homeless persons.

### ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan lists, by level of government and by private sources, all resources and programs expected to be available to the Township for use in carrying out its housing activities. Each entry includes a short description of the program or resources.

This section constitutes the 2012 Annual Plan of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. It sets forth a description of activities for the use of funds that are expected to become available during the coming Federal fiscal year, determines goals for individuals and households to be served, and describes the implementation plan and geographic location of the activities to be undertaken. The estimated formula allocation for the Community Development Block Grant program is \$457,986 with approximately \$100,000 in anticipated program income available during the program year. The activities to be undertaken include housing rehabilitation, public facilities, infrastructure improvements and services.

#### Housing and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CDBG 2012

#### CDBG ACTION PLAN PROGRAM FY 2012 REQUESTS FOR FUNDING PROGRAM YEAR: AUGUST 1, 2012 - JULY 31, 2013

PROJECT	RECOMMENDATION
<b>A. HOUSING</b>	
UNION TOWNSHIP Rehabilitation Loan/Grant Project (Includes Staff Delivery).....	\$200,000.00
<b>B. FACILITIES/ INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	
2012 CDBG ROAD RECONSTRUCTION Oswald Place/ Tebe Place( between Burkely Place to Tebe Place).....	\$96,690.90
YM-YWHA OF UNION COUNTY Freezer for Nutrition Program.....	\$1,000.00
<b>C. SERVICES (15 Percent budget maximum) \$68,697.90</b>	
CENTER FOR HOPE, INC. Hospice Care.....	\$3,500.00
UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION Companion Aide.....	\$8,350.00
UNION TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION Infant Toddler Day Care.....	\$45,390.00
THE JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY OF CENTRAL NJ. Homemaker Service.....	\$3,500.00
THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER AT VAUXHALL. Adolescent/Adult Health Services.....	\$3,500.00
YMCA OF EASTERN NJ. WISE Adult Day Care Services.....	\$4,457.90
<b>D. PLANNING &amp; ADMINISTRATION (20 percent)</b>	
ADMINISTRATION.....	\$91,597.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$457,986.00</b>

## CLARK NEWS

**Sports broadcasting camp available**

Middle school and high school students have an opportunity to learn about the world of sports broadcasting when Clark Recreation conducts its second annual Sports Broadcasting Camp from June 25 to 29 at the Clark Recreation Center on Westfield Ave. in Clark.

The Clark Recreation Sports Broadcasting Camp is open to all students, male or female, ages 11 years old and older. Over the course of the camp week, students will gain insight into areas such as play-by-play, sports talk show hosting, TV anchoring techniques, game preparation, writing and interviewing skills and professional presentation. Special guest lecturers that include several big-name area broadcasters, on-camera activities, and hands-on instruction, are all a part of the daily schedule. Practice assignments lead up to the

two main projects, hosting a five-minute sportscast and calling play-by-play of a Somerset Patriots minor league baseball game. Campers also will receive a DVD at the end of the week featuring all of their on-camera work.

Registration space is limited to the first 20 students. For more information on the Clark Recreation Sports Broadcasting Camp, contact Ralph Bernardo at 732-388-3600 Ext. 3009 or at [RBernardo@ourclark.com](mailto:RBernardo@ourclark.com).

**Free blood test offered May 5**

The Clark Health Department will offer its annual free SMA blood test with lipid panel to Clark residents on May 5 at the Clark Recreation cafeteria, 430 Westfield Ave., between 8 and 9:30 a.m. Parking is available near the tennis courts.

Pre-registration is required in order to ensure enough staff and supplies. Walk-ins

cannot be accepted at the door.

To pre-register, call Nancy Raymond, health officer, at 732-428-8405. Pre-registration will close on April 27.

**Electronics recycling every Saturday**

A computer and electronics recycling collection will be held every Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The drop off location is 151 Westfield Ave., Unit D, Clark.

The Principia Green Team will be host to free computer recycling. Residents of Clark and surrounding communities are welcome to bring their unwanted computers, monitors, keyboards, printers, DVDs, AC adapters, stereo equipment, and computer components.

Proceeds from the recycling will help fund the Green Science and Green Citizen scholarships for college-bound high school students.

For additional information about the computer recycling collection, one can visit at [www.principianp.com](http://www.principianp.com) or call 908-400-1363.

**Stories and more**

Theme-based stories, movement, songs and a craft for active listeners is offered each Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at Clark Public Library for children ages 3 to 5 years old.

Registration is required. Call 732-388-5999 or register at [www.clarklibrary.org](http://www.clarklibrary.org).

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## CRANFORD NEWS

**Church rummage sale, May 4**

The Women of Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford will hold a rummage sale on May 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on May 5 from 9 a.m. to noon in Sherlock Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church. The church is located at 119 Forest Ave., corner of North and Forest Avenues, in Cranford.

"We will be selling gently used clothing for men, women, and children and glassware, linens, jewelry, and knick knacks all at low prices," said Maryalice Hearle, rummage sale coordinator. Proceeds from the sale will be used to help pay for the damage to the church from Hurricane Irene and the ECW operating fund.

"Our goal is to provide some assistance to people in the Cranford area during these challenging times," Hearle said.

The Episcopal Church Women include women of all ages, ethnic origins and socioeconomic backgrounds, who hold a variety of views.

Centered in congregations, the ECW empowers women to do Christ's ministry in the world.

The Trinity Cranford ECW gathers for prayer, fellowship and service on the a variety of projects including scholarships for college students, fundraising for building projects, supplying, assuring that special events have appropriate reception and hospitality.

Trinity Episcopal Church is a family church that has been serving the needs of Cranford area families for generations

since 1872. For more information about Trinity, call 908-276-4047 or visit [www.trinitycranford.org](http://www.trinitycranford.org).

**Learn how to sell on eBay**

Mike Skara, technology educator and president of Computer Training Service, based in Livingston, will present a program on how to sell on eBay on May 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

**Parent/Teen driver orientation class**

The Cranford Police Department has announced that there is a Share the Keys New Jersey Parent/Teen Driving Orientation in Cranford.

Kean University, Union, in partnership with the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, and New Jersey State Police, has developed Share the Keys, a research based, data - driven orientation has been designed to reduce teen driver crash risks by increasing parental involvement.

Graduated Driver License laws are recognized as the single most effective tool for reducing teen driver crashes, injuries and deaths. While New Jersey's GDL is considered one of the most progressive and stringent in the United States, it must be clearly understood and supported by parents to save lives.

To that end, ensuring that parents and

teens fully understand the risks and responsibilities associated with driving is essential to teen driver safety. Police Chief Eric Mason has noted that "Keeping young drivers safe is a priority for the Cranford Police Department. Parents that take an active role in the development of new drivers go a long way in making that effort successful."

The program is being offered on May 17 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

The orientation program is offered at no cost. Parents/guardians and their teens in the pre-GDL and GDL stage of licensure are encouraged to attend together. Pre-registration is requested so that necessary materials are available at the time of the program.

To register, contact Lt. Edward Davenport, [er-davenport@cranfordnj.org](mailto:er-davenport@cranfordnj.org) or 908-709-7334. Information is available at [www.cranford.com/police](http://www.cranford.com/police).

**Used bike collection**

Pedals for Progress, in its continuing effort to recycle bicycles properly, will stage a used bicycle collection on May 12 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Orange Avenue Pool, 1025 Orange Ave., Cranford, sponsored by the Cranford Rotary Club. Adult and children's bicycles in repairable condition are wanted. Flat tires are okay, but children's tricycles, bicycle parts and disassembled bicycles will not be accepted.

For more information about Pedals for

Progress, visit [www.p4p.org](http://www.p4p.org). For more information about the May 12 collection, call John Malar at 908-272-1790 or email [wjmalar@yahoo.com](mailto:wjmalar@yahoo.com).

**Recently published local author at library**

Cranford Public Library will sponsor an appearance by Jen Furer, author of the recently published "Out of Status," tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

**BBC's Muzzy comes to Cranford library**

Cranford Public Library recently added a complete set of the award-winning BBC MUZZY language courses for children to its collection.

The acquisition of the courses was made possible by a contribution from the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. The courses cover eight languages, Spanish, French, German, Italian, English-ESL/ELL, Mandarin Chinese, Russian and Portuguese (Brazil).

Each language is divided into two sets, Level one and Level two, and each set contains three story DVDs, two vocabulary DVDs, a "Welcome to MUZZY" DVD, and a musical CD. The MUZZY courses are designed in accordance with National Foreign Language Teaching Standards.

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## RAHWAY NEWS

### Giving career day a whole new meaning

Recently, 29 students from Rahway High School were taken on a journey that linked education and career. In the spirit of establishing a 10-year plan, students in the World Class Students Program were given a tour of Kean University and Elizabethtown Gas.

The World Class Students Program is a joint venture, sponsored by the Rahway High School Guidance Department and Elizabethtown Gas Co.

This program utilizes the Learn More Now, Do More Now, Earn More Later Student Achievement System, [www.Learn-DoEarn.org](http://www.Learn-DoEarn.org), a national initiative managed by the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Kean University's trip included a presentation by the dean of students, a tour of the college grounds and lunch in the campus cafeteria. There was interaction with university student ambassadors.

This visit was followed by an exploration of Elizabethtown Gas Company's corporate operations. Timothy Williams, manager of Community Outreach for Elizabethtown Gas Mid-Atlantic Region, introduced the students to various personnel. Students were given a lesson from an engineer, listened in on customer service calls, learned how to find gas leaks, and discussed meter reading with employees from that department.

Malik Jeter, a junior at Rahway, said the trip "made me look at my future. Before this, I was not sure about whether to go to college or to imagine that I would work for a company like Elizabethtown Gas, but now I know I can do something significant with my future."

Another junior, Kelsey Williams, found that the visit to Kean "helped inform me more about the qualifications for getting into Kean and other colleges, which helps me to prioritize myself more to get into the college of my choice."

According to Zech, a Rahway High

School guidance counselor and club sponsor, "It is our intention to continue to instill in our students' minds the understanding that the link between education and career is vital to success. Future trips will be designed to establish and concretize our students' 10-year plan."

### WPA art on display

Social Impact Studios will team with the Rahway NJ Arts District to present "Posters for the People: Art of the WPA" this spring.

The traveling exhibit, unveiled at the National Constitution Center in 2009, explores the social landscape of America during the Great Depression through posters created by the Works Progress Administration. Featuring hundreds of posters, including originals and reproductions, Posters for the People communicates the values, vision, and vitality of American democracy through art.

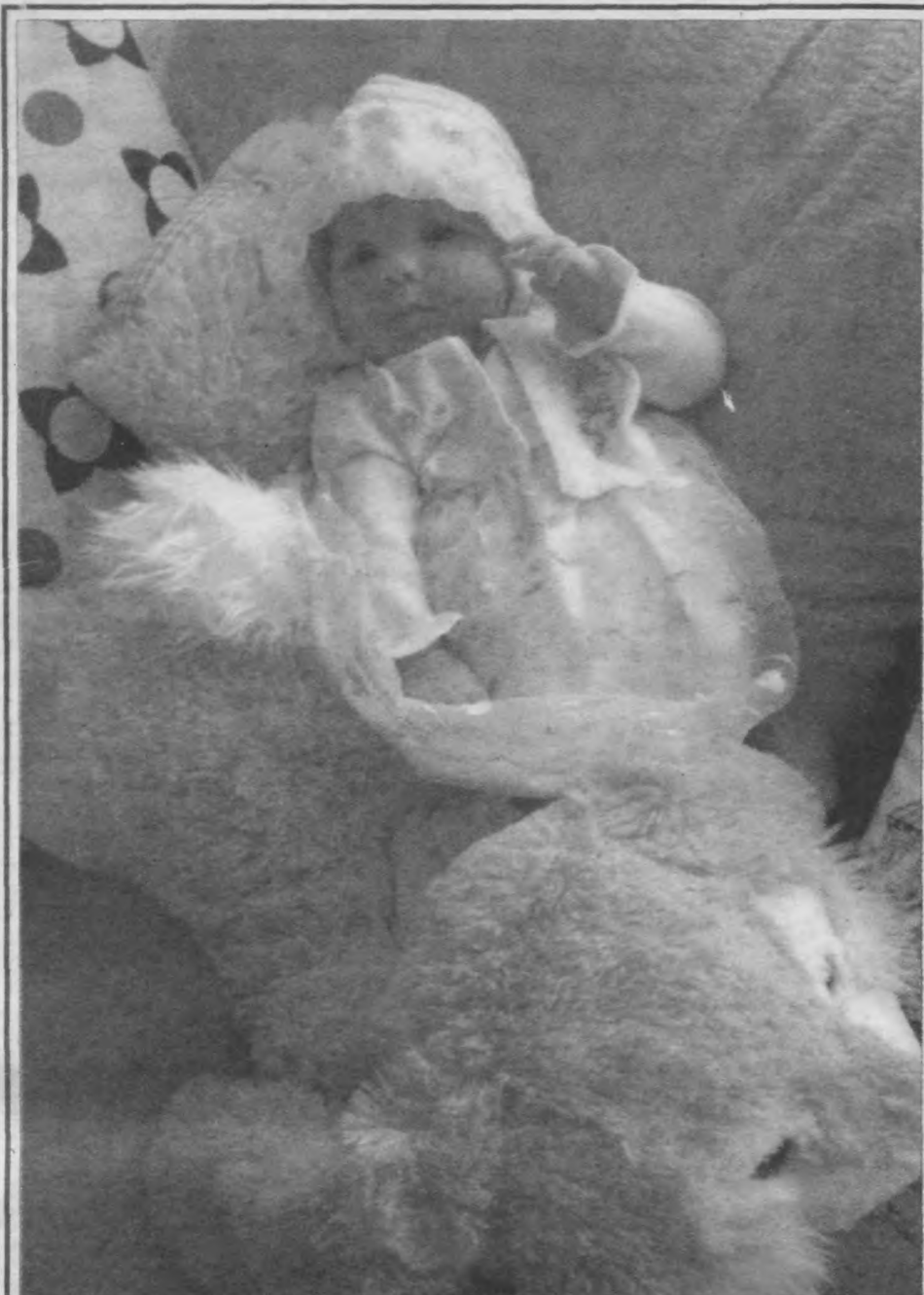
There will be opening reception and book signing, May 3; closing reception and community screenprinting workshop, June 7, and LightSoundSpace Gallery, 1591 Irving St., Rahway, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The public is invited to an opening celebration of the Rahway exhibit on May 3. One can see the poster-originals and reproductions and hear the stories of how this collection of rare American art is being rediscovered and brought back to the public through a new comprehensive online collection.

### Two students honored with scholarships

Two Rahway High School students, Angel Diaz and Luis Fernandez, were recently honored by the Foreign Language Teachers of New Jersey. Fernandez won a scholarship for \$1,000 after writing an essay and interviewing with a FLTNJ executive board member.

Both young men created a video that was the First Runner Up in the student podcast contest.



HAPPY BIRTH DAY! — Marina and Andrew Reilly are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Sophie Ida Reilly, on March 8, at 3:14 p.m. Sophie weighed 9 lbs. 2 ounces at birth. She was born at St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston. The happy family resides in Union.

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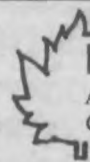
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# Healthy Living



## Breast cancer doesn't always follow the rules

As a full time gynecologist and mother of two children under the age of 4, I face the same struggles that so many working mothers do — juggling life, work, family and hoping to do it all well. From my unique perspective as a “Dr. Mom,” I want to share my experiences and dispense pertinent medical information on a whole host of topics.

Recently I have felt as if breast disease is all around me, and as I get older it's making me nervous. Too often I hear about a friend, relative, patient, or even a celebrity diagnosed with breast cancer. It also disturbs me that many of the people I'm hearing about don't fit into the “typical” category for breast cancer diagnosis; they are too young, have no family history, and are healthy and fit.

For example, a former Ms. Venezuela recently passed away of breast cancer at the age of 28, and E news reporter Giuliana Rancic was just diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer at 36.

There are definitely risk factors that increase the risk of developing breast cancer, including a strong family history, being a carrier of the BRCA gene, early menarche, late menopause, dense breast tissue, obesity, hormone-replacement therapy, sedentary lifestyle, alcohol consumption and age. However, it also seems to be an equal-opportunity disease, as one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, many of whom will have no major risk factors.

The good news is that in the early 2000's the incidence, or rate of new cancer, actually dropped, likely due to a decrease in usage of post-menopausal hormones.

The incidence of breast cancer has remained stable since 2003; that may be due in part to improved mammography. So while the breast cancer numbers have not increased, more people are affected who

don't have the typical risk factors.

The current American Cancer Society recommendation for screening is clinical and self breast exams starting in the 20s, yearly mammography after age 40, and MRIs for patients at increased risk of developing breast cancer.

Most mammography centers are now offering digital mammography, which has significantly improved the detection of small or early cancers. In medicine when a new screening test is developed it is a balancing act between sensitivity and specificity. This means that when a test becomes more sensitive, and better at picking up the disease, it's generally at the expense of specificity, meaning there are more instances of false positives.

In real life, this means that younger women and women with dense breast tissue may be recalled more often for additional mammogram views or breast sonograms. Dense breasts are more muscular and less fatty, sometimes causing areas on the mammogram to look abnormal. This can be nerve-wracking if you are the patient that gets that call, but is always better to be safe.

Three risk factors that can lower your risk of breast cancer are: diet, exercise, and body weight. Studies have shown that more than two drinks a day can significantly increase the risk of breast cancer; drink alcohol in moderation. Regular exercise has been shown to decrease risk significantly; so try to incorporate working out three to five times a week into your lifestyle. Maintaining a healthy weight has shown to significantly reduce risk of cancer; fatty tissue produces more estrogen, which has been shown to increase the risk of breast cancer.

Abstaining from hormone replacement therapy can also help decrease risk. It goes without saying that self-breast exams,

annual clinical breast exams, and annual mammography are great assets for early diagnosis.

Most of my patients are diligent about going for their annual mammograms. There are some who aren't compliant, and I hear a lot of different reasons why they don't want to go. Some believe that the radiation exposure may actually cause breast cancer, but this is false. Others claim that it is too painful; yes it is uncomfortable, but quick.

Patients with a strong family history of breast cancer should speak to a doctor about whether they would be candidates for taking certain medications to help prevent breast cancer.

I tell my patients they have access to their bodies all the time, as opposed to seeing a doctor once a year; they'd should start doing self breast exams.

I have a 33-year-old patient who was recently diagnosed with stage II breast cancer. She is my age and I delivered her first child one week before I had my first. She has no family history of breast cancer, and

only 9 percent body fat. She felt something that wasn't quite right and came in for an appointment.

I felt what she felt and sent her for appropriate testing and follow up, but I wasn't concerned. However, when she said that it wasn't there before, that was enough reason to order an ultrasound. Unfortunately I was wrong.

Sometimes the cancers don't follow the rules. It's so important not to be lulled into complacency. By being vigilant and proactive we can do our best to detect and intervene as early as possible in every case.

**Dr. Patel-Shusterman attended medical school and completed her residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. After completing her residency she moved to Cranford, where she now resides with her family. She can be reached at [www.drshetalipatel.com](http://www.drshetalipatel.com) or 908-232-6001. Her office is at 128 S. Euclid Ave., Westfield.**



*Dr. Patel is extremely thorough, sensitive, and takes the time I need to address all my questions. I drive all the way from Old Tappan just to see her!*  
— Tina M. Old Tappan, NJ

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## ARTS & LEISURE

# Pain meds, power tools and a leap of faith are all part of garden-tour preparation

The four garden chores I dislike the most are pruning, hedging, edging and mulching. For the next 22 days until the garden tour, I will be spending hours on all three. Other gardeners might add weeding to that list, but I find it relaxing to pull weeds. We have lots of weeds, so under any other circumstances I would be very relaxed by tour day.

Our mature holly trees are a major challenge. I have always loved all the symbolism associated with holly. Sacred to ancient Druids, Romans, and Christians, it has all kinds of mystical meanings — good luck, fertility, evil-spirit deterrence and symbol of Christ's suffering. This does not make the trees easier to prune and shape.

Considering the elbow grease I will expend on the hollies during the next few weeks, it seems that our three large trees should bring better and more consistent luck. To be fair, if the hollies could speak they would probably describe the multitude of evils forestalled since we moved into this house 13 years ago.

What the hollies do bring is birds, lots of them. Each tree is a veritable bird condo, with several species in residence at any one time. Cardinals nest in them; sparrows use them as hiding places during storms and blue jays perch on the top branches and pontificate raucously to the world. We have both male and female trees, and their bee-assisted hanky-panky results in lots of berried branches for holiday decorations.

Hollies tend to root wherever their branches touch down, so I try to keep mine limbed up, and "try" is the operative word. A few drooping branches have evaded my efforts, so now I will have to crawl through an accumulation of dried, but still prickly, leaves to get to those wayward limbs.

Since I will already be in considerable pain, I will also eliminate the thorny, wild blackberry canes that have already begun to wend their way up through the holly branches. I tolerate a few each year for the sake of the tasty berries, but this year there are far too many. If I can stand up straight after trimming and discarding the branches and canes beneath the hollies, I will shape them, with special emphasis on branches that droop over pathways and shade planting areas. There are plenty of those. Garden visitors tend to get testy when they are smacked in the face by rebellious holly branches. Once the holly is respectable and all prickly-related injuries have been treated, I will bring in the heavy artillery — the electric hedge clipper — to take care of the privet, which bounds the front of the property on three sides.

The big problem with our privet, aside

### THE GARDENER'S APPRENTICE

BY ELISABETH GINSBURG

from its tendency to grow at an excessive rate, is access. On the south side of the property, the hedge abuts the neighbors' driveway. Clipping the driveway side means doing it from the driveway, preferably at a time when it is empty. Unfortunately, whenever I am ready to do the job, the neighbors are ready to settle in at home, with all three of their vehicles parked near the hedge.

I don't want flying privet clippings to scratch their cars, so I bide my time. However, the day is coming when I will simply have to ask them to park in the street for an hour or so. That piece of hedging is the hardest to clip because it is the tallest. It will be a great relief to get it done.

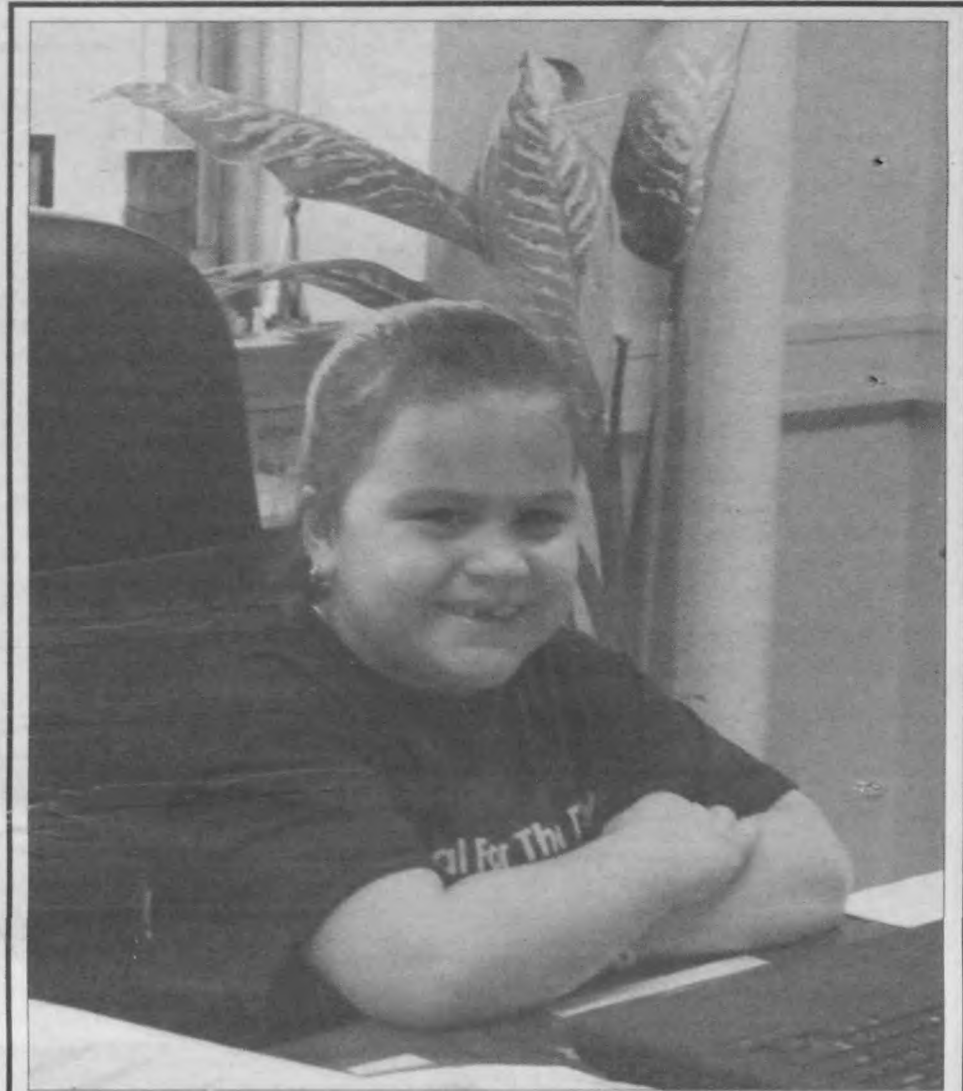
You may wonder why I just don't hire someone to do the pruning and trimming; a question that I ask myself often, especially when I am on my knees under the holly trees. The answer is simple-economics. My garden budget is finite and tour preparation is expensive.

Gardens get hungry before garden tours and they eat mulch at an astonishing rate. Slaking that hunger costs lots of money. Inevitably there will be gaps in the established plantings that will require filling with specimens purchased at the last minute from various vendors.

If I spend money on professional pruners and trimmers now, my garden, starved for lack of mulch, will retaliate by sprouting enormous weeds with 6-foot roots. If I ask my husband to do the trimming, he may well respond by pulling up his roots and moving out. Taking all this into consideration, I have decided that the most cost-effective way to get the garden ready is to do these hateful jobs myself. In the evenings I take Tyleñol with a hot tea chaser, and read self-help books to elevate my attitude about the whole thing.

I imagine the day, just three weeks away now, when it will all look wonderful. The days in between will require a leap of faith, but as long as I have pain meds, power tools and a knee brace, I should be able to make it comfortably.

**Elisabeth Ginsburg, a resident of Essex County, is a frequent contributor to Worrall Community Newspapers. The writer archives past columns at <http://www.gardener-apprentice.com>.**



PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY — Mariah Amorim, a kindergarten student at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway, was recently elected to be Principal for the Day for the month of April. She proudly wore her shirt which read, 'Today the Principal — Tomorrow the President.'

## Students can enroll in college for teens at UCC

This summer, teens in Union County will have the chance to explore careers in business, criminal justice, healthcare, or graphic/web design, thanks to the support of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The College for Teens program is free and students will participate in educational team-based exercises and will hear from prominent guest speakers. Students will get the opportunity to experience life on a college campus, as the courses are being offered on Union County College's Cranford campus.

In addition to career classes, students will have daily math and leadership workshops to develop their skills and confidence. A part of each day will also be dedicated to a recreational activity such as art, outdoor sports, dance, or jewelry making. Students will have access to state-of-the-art computer labs, science labs and the College's library.

To be eligible to participate, students must be in grades 9-12 by September 2012 in a Union County school and they must have a grade point average of a "C" or better. A recommendation letter from a teacher or guidance counselor is strongly suggested. This program will be offered for three weeks, from July 16, 2012, to August 02, 2012, and will be held Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided daily. The program will be held at the College's Cranford campus at 1033 Springfield Avenue. Space is limited so apply early to be considered. All applications must be received by Friday, June 1, 2012. For more information on the program and how to apply, or for an application, please call 908-709-7600 or visit <http://www.ucc.edu/go/youth-programs>.

# ARTS & LEISURE



**SHOWCASE** — More than 25 art teachers in Union County participated in the Union County Youth Art Month exhibit sponsored by the Art Educators of NJ and held in the Elizabethtown Gas Company Lobby/Liberty Hall Center. The exhibit showcased over 100 pieces of student artwork and was on display for over a month. Participating towns included Berkeley Heights, Clark, Elizabeth, Garwood, Mountainside, Plainfield, Roselle Park, Union and Westfield. For more information on the event visit [www.aenj.org](http://www.aenj.org).

## Puzzling questions in Union County lore can be easily answered in the 'Pages of History'

### Will the real Abraham Clark stand up!

There is a reason that later day history books identify Abraham Clark as a signer of "The Declaration of Independence", or "poor man's lawyer." It's because there were two Abraham Clarks.

The Abraham Clark identified in that manner was named Abraham Clark Jr. at birth. Clark was named after his uncle. Upon his uncle's death, Clark dropped junior from his name necessitating the need to identify him to avoid confusing Clark with his uncle.

### Who is Lieutenant Schaeffer?

He identified himself as Lieutenant Schaeffer of the Republican Army every time he called Daniel McLaughlin, Editor of the Elizabeth Daily Journal. The purpose of his calls was to boast about the lumber yard fires he started and warn of the revolution he planned.

Lieutenant Schaeffer turned out to be Robert Zarinsky who was arrested for setting lumber yards a fire in Hillside and

### FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

BY B. E. BERNZOT

Linden. He was also charged with desecrating tombstones in Linden cemeteries. Zarinsky later became infamous as a serial killer and died in prison.

### Friendly nicknames

For some reason all famous athletes must have a nickname. See if you can figure these out: Frank "Blackie" O'Rourke played with the Detroit Tigers and Cincinnati Reds. In 1951 he ended up as a scout for the New York Yankees. Fred "Red" Cochrane, a former Welterweight Champion of the World, won his title by defeating "Fritzie" Zivie, July 29 1940.

We can't over look Phillip "Little Scooter" Rizzuto who played for the New York Yankees from 1941 to 1956. Rizzuto played in 52 World Series games and ended up as a sportscaster for the New York Yankees.

Then we have the two "Mickey's" — Michael "Mickey" Walker, a boxer who was Middleweight Champion in 1922 and Mickey Charles Mantle, nickname "Mick" was named "Most valuable Player" three times and hit the most home runs four times.

### How did Traubles become Trembly?

A Huguenot named Jean Traubles was an early settler on land that ran to the Staten Island Sound.

He changed his name to John Trembly. Jean translates to John but Traubles does not translate to Trembly. No one knows how he came up with the name Trembly.

The land on the sound was known as "Ferry Point" but soon was referred to as "Trembly Point". Over the years the "B" was dropped and it is now known as Trembley Point.

**B.E. Bernzot is the founding President of the Linden Historical Society Inc. and Chairman of the Elizabethtown Consortium. She can be reached at 908-523-0003.**

## Yoga offered at Trailside Center

The popular gentle yoga classes continue at Trailside Nature and Science Center on Tuesday evenings as part of the center's adult programs. Sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Department of Parks and Community Renewal, the yoga series for adults 18 years and older will continue each Tuesday evening through June 5. Each gentle yoga session runs from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. and the fee for Union County residents is \$15 per class and \$20 for out-of-county participants. Pre-registration is preferred as space is limited; however, walk-ins are welcome as space permits. Yoga techniques can awaken poise and centered awareness in the midst of everyday life. Participants also learn how to use nature's healing powers to relieve stress and its symptoms.

For additional information about the yoga series or other upcoming adult programs and special events at Trailside, call 908-789-3670 or visit [www.ucnj.org/trailside](http://www.ucnj.org/trailside). Trailside Nature & Science Center is located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside.



## HOROSCOPE

### ARIES, March 21 to April 20.

Aries, although you may have your mind set on one outcome, it might be good to expect the unexpected this week. Keep your eyes and ears open.

### TAURUS, April 21 to May 21.

Think of this week as the opportunity to rest and recharge, Taurus. Schedule a family movie night or lounge in the yard instead of packing your schedule.

### GEMINI, May 22 to June 21.

Gemini, you have been thinking about getting into something creative, and your plans just may come to fruition soon. You just have to finalize some of the details.

### CANCER, June 22 to July 22.

Cancer, keeping secrets doesn't often turn out well because sooner or later those secrets are revealed. Honesty usually is the best way to go in most situations.

### LEO, July 23 to Aug. 23.

Beating the doldrums could involve some creative thinking, Leo. If you're fresh out of ideas, you can ask someone you are close to for some suggestions.

### VIRGO, Aug. 24/Sept. 22

Virgo, you are on the road to recovery from an issue that's been bothersome. This recovery is long overdue, but you will be stronger for having gone through these trials.

### LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23.

Libra, it's good to go with the flow, but speak up for yourself from time to time, especially when something is important to you. Your opinions count, too.

### SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 22.

Sometimes there is no shortcut to success, Scorpio. You just have to trudge through and hope that all the effort will be worth it in the long run.

### SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 23 to Dec. 21.

Sagittarius, someone is worried about you and this week you will recognize their concerns. Maybe the worry is because you have been out of touch for so long.

### CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 20.

Capricorn, when a new career path is presented to you, it may be difficult to decide whether you should make a move. Go with your gut and trust your instincts.

### AQUARIUS Jan. 21 to Feb. 18.

Those close to you are finding your more accommodating nature very appealing, Aquarius. This new attitude is bound to paint you in a new light.

### PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20.

Pisces, you have a huge support system in the way of family and friends. Expect them to rally behind you when needed.

## Mobile shredder to appear in Union

The next mobile paper-shredding program provided by Union County for personal documents will be available on May 16, at the Department of Public Works facility in Union.

"Union County's mobile document-shredding service helps residents fight identity theft and eliminate clutter in their homes," said Freeholder Christopher Hudak, liaison to the Solid Waste Advisory Council. "It is a cost-effective way to assist our recycling efforts and it ties in with Union County's other Go Green Initiatives."

The May 16 shredding event

will take place at the DPW facility in Union, located on Swanstrom Place, off Vauxhall Road. NEX-CUT Shredding of Teaneck will be shredding documents at the site from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. The shredding event will end before 1 p.m. if the shredding truck reaches capacity.

All Union County residents are eligible to use the paper-shredding service. In an effort to accommodate everyone, there is a limit of four, 10-pound bags or boxes per person. Documents should not be bound. Please remove plastic binders and paperclips. Paper that is

wet/damp will not be accepted. Residents should continue to recycle non-confidential papers and magazines with their municipal recycling program.

Documents are put into 96-gallon containers provided by the shredding company. The items are then dumped onto a conveyor belt and shredded on site. Participants are welcome to view the shredding process via a closed-circuit television. The shredded documents are then recycled, shipped to paper mills and used as pulp. The next shredding event will take place Saturday, June 9, at Union County Vo-Tech in Scotch Plains.

## What's Going On?

### FLEA MARKET

#### SUNDAY MAY 13, 2012

**EVENT:** Annual Mother's Day Flea Market & Collectible Show  
**PLACE:** Frank V. Marina, 209 Passaic Ave., Kearny, NJ 07032  
**TIME:** 9AM - 5PM Outdoors  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**DETAILS:** For information call 201-998-1144 or events@jcpromotions.info  
There will be exhibitors selling an array of quality merchandise such as sports collectibles, fashions accessories, jewelry, pocketbook, socks, one of a kind items, garage/tag sale items and so much more! Come to enjoy the delicious food being served. There is no admission so come to browse.  
**ORGANIZATION HOST:** Bloomfield Presbyterian Church

#### SUNDAY MAY 6, 2012

**EVENT:** Flea Market & Collectible Show  
**PLACE:** Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Ave., Belleville, NJ 07109  
**TIME:** 9-5PM Outdoors (indoor if rain)  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**DETAILS:** For information call 201-998-1144 or events@jcpromotions.info  
There will be 75+ exhibitors selling an array of new merchandise including sports collectibles, jewelry, gift items, handbags, antiques & collectibles, garage/tag sale items and more! All at bargain prices.  
**ORGANIZATION HOST:** BHS Athletic Advisory Council

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### OTHER

#### SUNDAY MAY 6, 2012

**EVENT:** 26th Annual Spring Concert  
**PLACE:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 414 E. Broad Street, (across from Town Hall), Westfield NJ  
**TIME:** 7pm  
**DETAILS:** The St. Paul's Parish Choir, together with members of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra will perform Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms (written in Hebrew and featuring two harps) AND Samuel Barber's hauntingly beautiful *Agnus Dei/Adagio for Strings in B flat minor*.  
Also featured is guest concert organist Andrew E. Henderson, of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, in a rare performance of Enrico Bossi's *Concert Piece for Organ and Orchestra*.  
Area parking is free. A gala reception follows the concert; the public is invited to attend.  
For more information, call CMBanks at (908) 232-8506, X17, or email cbanks@stpaulswestfield.org  
**ORGANIZATION:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church Choir

### OTHER

#### SATURDAY & SUNDAY MAY 5, 6, 2012

**EVENT:** Relay For Life Fundraiser "Vendor Weekend Fundraising Event"  
**PLACE:** Kenilworth Recreation Center, 575 Boulevard Kenilworth, NJ  
**TIME:** 12:00PM to 5:00PM  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**DETAILS:** Come out and support the Relay For Life of Kenilworth. Items for sale made by students: Back packs, Jewelry, Shirts, Food & Drinks: Pretzels, Water, Cupcakes & more. Scheduled Vendors: Avon, Dove Chocolate, Pampered Chef, PartyLite, Pretty Petals.  
(Not confirmed CocoaFete & Thirty-One)  
For more information call 908-451-7224  
**ORGANIZATION:** Relay For Life of Kenilworth

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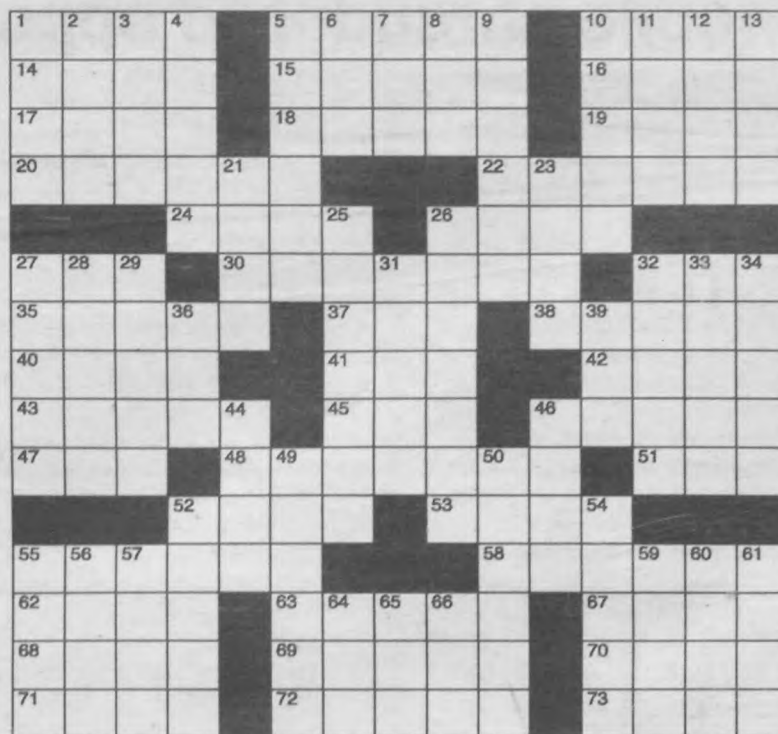
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Exploiter
5. Gaultheria shallon
10. Having a slanted direction
14. Capital of Elam
15. Japanese mushroom
16. Lake in Estonia
17. Walk heavily
18. Moroccan capital
19. Arabian gulf
20. The act of pillage
22. Bad-tempered
24. Capital of Yemen
26. A unit of illumination
27. Tell on
30. Half woman and half fish
32. An arbitrageur
35. Having winglike extensions or parts
37. Auto
38. Big eyed scad genus
40. Ringlet
41. Brew
42. Roam at random
43. Select by vote
45. Coney
46. Actress Zellweger
47. Father
48. United States of
51. The last part of anything
52. Watering places
53. Adventure story
55. Animal disease
58. Unintelligible talking
62. Stout beating stick
63. Italian opera set
67. Hungarian Violinist Leopold
68. Cheremis language
69. 55120 MN
70. County in Northern Ireland
71. So. American nation
72. Pores in a leaf
73. Swiss river



### CLUES DOWN

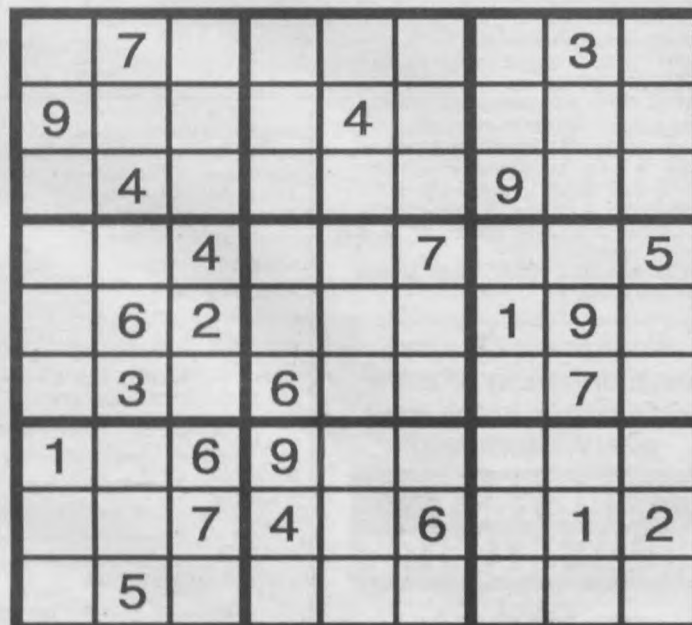
1. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
2. 1973 Toni Morrison novel
3. Employee stock ownership plan
4. Finger millets
5. At peace
6. Nursing group
7. Tennis return in a high arc
8. Alias
9. Chinese fruit with jellylike pulp
10. Swell or distend
11. Unstressed-stressed
12. Whale ship captain
13. No baloney electronics mfg.
21. Enty designation
23. Fishing sticks
25. Shopping passageways
26. A slight or partial paralysis
27. Sped
28. Bastard wing
29. \_\_\_ and feathered
31. Of cheekbone
32. Unaccompanied
33. Black bird
34. To bear offspring
36. Educational cable channel
39. Before
44. Adhesive, ticker or duct
46. Sanskrit for color, melody
49. The common people
50. Dressing room by the sea
52. City on the Cijin River
54. Manila hemp
55. Canadian law enforcers
56. Winglike structures
57. Jefferson's V.P.
59. Daughter of Ion
60. Jet or King
61. Sea eagle
64. Nine knotted cord whip
65. Consciousness of your own identity
66. 60's veterans battleground

ANSWERS  
APPEAR  
IN OUR  
CLASSIFIED  
SECTION

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ANSWERS APPEAR IN  
OUR CLASSIFIEDS SECTION



Level: Intermediate

## Cooking on the Block

with Chef Ellie Espo



### Colorful dish

This colorful dish is great served with roasted potatoes and a sauteed vegetable.

### SATURDAY NIGHT FLOUNDER

#### Ingredients

- 4 flounder filets of the equal size
  - 1 pt. cherry tomatoes, halved
  - 2 shallots, chopped
  - 2 garlic cloves, chopped
  - 1/4 cup parsley, chopped
  - 1 tsp. fresh oregano, chopped
  - 1 cup panko — Japanese bread-crumbs
  - Salt and pepper
  - 1 lemon, zested
  - 1/4 cup white wine
  - 7 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
  - 1/4 cup vegetable or fish stock
- Method**  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Saute shallots in 1 tsp. olive

- oil, then scatter over the bottom of a casserole dish.
  - Lay the flounder filets on top of the shallots.
  - In a separate bowl, mix together the panko crumbs, herbs, lemon zest, 3 tsp. olive oil, and the garlic.
  - Sprinkle the panko mixture over the flounder, and scatter the tomato halves over the top.
  - Season with salt and pepper, then drizzle with remaining olive oil, the white wine and the juice of the lemon.
  - Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, depending on the thickness of the filets.
- 4 servings

Ellie Espo, a self-taught chef, has been practicing her craft for 30 years, currently at Tom the Greengrocer, in Scotch Plains. Her online cooking show, "Cooking On The Block, with Chef Ellie Espo," is found at [www.chefellieespo.com](http://www.chefellieespo.com), where you can also print out her recipes. A cookbook is in the works. She may be contacted at [chefellieespo@gmail.com](mailto:chefellieespo@gmail.com), or you may view her recent videos by visiting [www.youtube.com/user/chefellieespo](http://www.youtube.com/user/chefellieespo).

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## SPORTS



Photo by JR Parachini

Union head baseball coach Frank Napolitano, middle, talks to his Farmers after their first round UCT home win over Roselle Catholic last Saturday. Union, the eighth seed, was scheduled to play at top-seeded and two-time defending champion Cranford yesterday in the quarterfinals. Union last reached the semifinals in 2003, while Cranford last failed to reach the semis in 2005.

## Union baseball tops Roselle Catholic to advance to this week's UCT quarterfinals

### RH Meola tosses one-hitter, strikes out 7

By JR Parachini  
Sports Editor

UNION - After the first two innings, Union junior right hander Michael Meola already had a pitch count past 50.

Then he retired the side in order for the first time in the top of the third.

Union followed by tying the game in the bottom of the inning.

Meanwhile, Meola was settling down. He would follow up a seven-pitch third inning with a seven-pitch fourth, a nine-pitch fifth and a six-pitch sixth, holding visiting Roselle Catholic scoreless in all of those frames.

Union then went ahead for good with two runs in the fifth on consecutive RBI-singles by designated hitter Jon Zimmerman and No. 3 batter Doug Carter (infield hit).

The eighth-seeded Farmers added four insurance runs in the sixth en route to ousting ninth-seeded Roselle Catholic 8-2 Saturday in a first round Union County Tournament baseball game at Gordon LeMatty Field.

Meola tossed a one-hitter, allowing only an infield single to the second batter he faced, while striking out seven, walking one and hitting two batters.

He yielded just one earned run in an exceptional 96-pitch performance that included him picking off one baserunner.

"Michael pitched well enough to win some other games for us," sixth-year Union head coach Frank Napolitano said. "When he beat Scotch Plains he became our Saturday (county tournament) pitcher.

"His fastball and his two-seamer worked well today. When he keeps his pitches under control he's at his best."

The 59th annual UCT was to continue yesterday with four quarterfinal round games at the higher seeds. Union was to play at top-seeded and two-time defending champion Cranford.

Cranford has reached the semifinals every year since 2006. Union last reached the semifinals in 2003, which was for the eighth consecutive season.

All top eight seeds advanced, including all seven Watchung Division teams and Mountain Division leader Dayton.

#### UCT QUARTERFINALS - Wednesday, May 2

##### TOP SIDE OF THE BRACKET:

8-Union at 1-Cranford

5-Elizabeth at 4-Scotch Plains

##### BOTTOM SIDE OF THE BRACKET:

7-Dayton at 2-Governor Livingston

6-Linden at 3-Westfield

See FARMERS, Page 28

#### 59TH ANNUAL BASEBALL UNION COUNTY TOURNAMENT

##### QUARTERFINALS

Wednesday, May 2

Rain date: Thursday, May 3

##### SEMIFINALS

Saturday, May 5 - no times announced yet  
Scheduled to be played for the first time at Kean University's Jim Hynes Class of 1963 Field in Union

##### FINAL

Saturday, May 12 - no time announced yet  
Scheduled to be played at Kean University for the second straight season

**NOTES:** The top four seeds made it to the semifinals for five consecutive seasons - 2006-2010.

Last year, three of the top four seeds - 1-Cranford, 2-Governor Livingston and 3-Westfield - made it. The other team that got that far

was fifth-seeded Scotch Plains.

The top three seeds this year are also 1-Cranford, 2-GL and 3-Westfield.

Cranford, Westfield and Scotch Plains have reached the semifinals every year since 2008.

Union is seeking to reach the semifinals for the first time since 2003.

Union last won the UCT and last reached the title game in 1993.

Union reached the semifinals for eight straight seasons - 1996-2003.

Cranford is seeking to win the UCT for the third year in a row for the second time. Cranford won its first three championships in a row

in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Cranford then won the UCT again in 2003 and 2007 before capturing back-to-back titles in 2010 and 2011.

GLis still seeking to win its first title.

Westfield has won the most titles, with a 12-8 record in the final.



Photo by JR Parachini

Union senior catcher Nazir Barnett, middle, leads the Farmers in a drill after they beat Roselle Catholic 8-2 in last Saturday's UCT first round action at Union's Gordon LeMatty Field.

## SPORTS



Photo by JR Parachini

Cranford junior left hander Julie Siragusa was on the mound last Saturday morning when the Cougars faced defending champion Governor Livingston for the first time in Union County Conference-Watchung Division play. Siragusa slugged a home run on the game's first pitch.

## GL softball defeats Cranford for first place in Watchung Teams will play again May 8

By JR Parachini  
Sports Editor

BERKELEY HEIGHTS - Round one went to Governor Livingston.

It went to the Highlanders pretty decisively at that.

Leadoff batter Paige Murphy hit a ball past the center fielder for a home run on the first pitch a GL batter saw, the Highlanders then scored the go-ahead run on a double steal in the second and then they added three more runs in the third and two in the sixth for a 7-2 home win over Cranford last Saturday morning in Union County Conference-Watchung Division softball play.

The teams will play another Watchung Division game May 8 at Cranford, while they could meet for a third time in the Union County Tournament.

Defending Watchung Division champion GL improved to 14-1 overall and 8-0 in the Watchung Division, while Cranford slipped to 8-4 overall and 6-1 in the Watchung.

In addition to 11th-year GL head coach Rick Iacono earning his 200th win - his record since taking over in 2002 improved to 200-54 (.787) - the defending champion Highlanders clinched the top seed for the 37th annual

See **COUGARS**, Page 29

## Farmers sought to reach UCT semifinals for the first time since 2003 campaign

(Continued from Page 27)

In Union County Conference-Watchung Division play, Union lost at Cranford 16-5 in the season-opener for both on April 3 and was defeated at home by the Cougars 9-2 this past Tuesday.

However, Union did defeat Cranford at home in division play the past two seasons. Cranford improved to 11-2 Saturday with its first round home victory over 16th-seeded Oratory Prep by a score of 7-2. Including records of 25-5 in 2010 and 20-5 in 2011, Cranford is 56-12 the past three seasons. In that span against Union, Cranford is 4-2.

"We want to play Cranford, we're not scared of them," said Meola, who improved to 2-0, with his other win coming at Scotch Plains when Union won 16-4 in Watchung Division play April 20.

Union won its second straight to improve to 5-8, gaining its first non-division victory. Union's other wins came against Watchung Division foes Westfield, Linden, Scotch Plains and Elizabeth.

Roselle Catholic lost its third straight to slip to 6-6.

The key for Meola against Roselle Catholic was throwing right at the Lion batters.

"In the first inning I was coming off the side to much," Meola said. "I had to settle down and throw straight toward the plate.

"Once I did that my stuff was a little harder and I was throwing a lot less."

Roselle Catholic junior lefty batter Ryan Sheekey reached safely on an infield hit to the left side in the top of the first and then scored Roselle Catholic's first run on an RBI-ground out off the bat of cleanup batter and Union resident Matt Marques, who was behind the plate for the Lions.

RC managed a second run as the result of a Union infield error.

After throwing 24 pitches in that inning, Meola threw 27 more in the second, but did not allow a run.

Union failed to score after loading the bases with no outs in the first and after getting runners on first and second with nobody out in the second.

The Farmers then tied the game in the third, took the lead in the fifth and added on in the sixth.

Union produced five hits in the sixth off Roselle Catholic starter James Colgan (4-1) and Sheekey in relief. Leadoff batter Denzell Boyd drove in a run on a fielder's choice and then Jon Zimmerman drove in another run with an RBI-single. Chris Dillon then drove in a run on an infield single before senior Devin Zimmerman went the other way to knock in a run with his second single, this one smashed to left field.

Colgan was charged with giving up six runs for his first defeat in six starts, including a no-

decision. He struck out seven, walked one, hit two batters and picked off two runners.

RC committed four errors when he was pitching and five total. Two of the errors were made by Colgan in attempts to pick off baserunners.

Napolitano said that Zimmerman (1-2) will be on the mound when Union faces Cranford Wednesday. Zimmerman beat Cranford 2-1 at Union in 2010 and also lost to Cranford in the game at Cranford this season.

Zimmerman went the distance in beating Elizabeth 3-1 at home last Friday in Watchung Division play.

"As a sophomore Devin beat Cranford," Napolitano said. "However, in both games we've played them this year they did not strike out even once.

Boyd, a junior, had two of Union's 14 hits, using his speed to leg out infield singles in the first and fifth. He was 2-for-4 with two stolen bases, two runs and one RBI.

"Our defense brings us back to where we want to be," Boyd said.

Union committed just two errors vs. RC.

"If we play well on defense and get good efforts from our pitchers we know we have a good chance to win," Boyd said.

"We know that Cranford is a good team, but we know that if we give a good effort we have a good chance to beat them."

All nine Union batters reached safely, with eight of them banging out at least one hit.

Jon Zimmerman was 3-for-4, with two singles, a double, three runs and two RBI. He reached base all four times up, including when he was hit a by a pitch in the first.

Union was to play Westfield in Watchung Division play Sunday night at TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater - home of the Minor League Somerset Patriots.

"We worked it out with Westfield to play a game there this year," Napolitano said.

Westfield was the home team and won 12-4.

When the teams played at Union in Watchung Division play on April 5, Union came back to win 11-6 after trailing 4-0.

### FIRST ROUND UCT SCORES Saturday, April 28

Cranford 7, Oratory Prep 2  
Governor Livingston 11, Rahway 0  
Westfield 7, Summit 4  
Scotch Plains 9, Roselle Park 8  
Elizabeth 7, New Providence 3  
Linden 6, Johnson 1  
Dayton 5, Union Catholic 1  
Union 8, Roselle Catholic 2

## SPORTS

# Cougars will seek to beat GL when teams meet again in Watchung Division action

(Continued from Page 28)

Union County Tournament, which was seeded Sunday.

Iacono reached and passed 300 wrestling wins during his 38th season as a head coach in that sport this past winter.

"I thought we were very competitive right from the get-go," Iacono said.

Cranford, because of its 12-4 division win at Westfield on April 19, should receive the second seed. Westfield, which defeated defending champion Cranford in last year's semifinals to reach the final for the first time since last winning the UCT in 1998, is the favorite to get the third seed. The Blue Devils were 10-5 overall going into Saturday.

Cranford pitcher Julie Siragusa led off the game by blasting a shot past GL center fielder Murphy for her ninth career home run - all this year - on the first pitch delivered by Highlander junior right hander Jordan Robbins.

"They (Cranford) come out and the first pitch is a home run, you don't expect that kind of an answer," Iacono said.

However, Cranford could manage only one more run off Robbins the rest of the way, which was an RBI-double by senior Stephanie Bagniewski that drove in junior courtesy runner Sara LoBue in the top of the fourth to pull the Cougars to within 5-2.

Robbins, who was the winning pitcher in last year's UCT final when GL - also as the top seed - defeated seventh-seeded Westfield 8-1 in the title game at Kean University, tossed a seven-hitter that included six strikeouts and no walks. She retired the side in order in the third and seventh.

"When our kids don't focus on winning and forget about winning and focus on task, we're pretty good," Iacono said.

Siragusa, who earned a save when Cranford defeated GL 4-3 in the 2010 UCT final at Kean, allowed 11 hits in six innings. She struck out seven, walked one and hit a batter.

"I pitched alright," Siragusa said. "It definitely wasn't one of my better days, but I usually have my defense. Usually my defense is really strong, but it had an off day."

Cranford played without sophomore shortstop Ali Verrilli, who was away on an academic commitment. Filling in for her and giving it her all was sophomore Maggie McKay.

Cranford sixth-year head coach Bob Bruno could tell, pretty much, right away that Siragusa was not having one of her best games on the mound.

"I thought she was flat and I thought it was a very average performance from her," Bruno said. "I don't think her pitches were sharp today at all and she didn't appear to have too much pop on the ball."

"Sometimes that happens. When you're a power pitcher and you don't have that, it kills you."

After both teams hit home runs on the first pitch they saw - Siragusa for Cranford and Murphy for GL - the Highlanders took the lead for good in the bottom of the second. With runners on first and third and two outs, sophomore Carol Goldbeck broke for second and sophomore courtesy runner Colleen Frank for home, with both advancing to give GL a 2-1 advantage.

The Highlanders added three more runs in the third to take a four-run lead.

Up with the bases loaded and one out was senior Jenna Kulbach, who was hit in the helmet for an RBI.

Then 6-2 senior Kelly Goense - on a 2-2 count - delivered a perfectly-placed two-run blood single to short right to make it 5-1. On a pitch that the infield was coming in on, Goense hit the ball to a spot in the field where the second baseman probably would have been had she not charged forward.

"With two strikes on her she was protecting the outside half (of the plate) and she kind of lunges," Iacono said. "People don't realize that she's very inexperienced. She doesn't play on a club team or play summer softball. She's trying to work to pay for her education. She's a great kid."

Two seniors drove in GL's final runs in the sixth. Emily Beisser produced an RBI on a ground out to second and then cleanup batter Steph Cataldo delivered an RBI-single.

Murphy was 3-for-4, with a home run, two infield singles, two runs and an RBI. She reached base all four times up, including on an infield error in the third.

"She was a little bit upset with herself coming into today," Iacono said. "She didn't like the way she batted the other day against Elizabeth. She struggled a little bit."

Siragusa was 2-for-3, with a solo home run and a triple to right field in the fifth on a play that she was thrown out at home on a 9-6-2 relay started by Goense. Going for another home run, Siragusa did not attempt to slide at home plate and was tagged out by GL senior catcher Kulbeck, who took a pretty good throw from sophomore shortstop Grace Sanzalone.

"I think we have to hit, we didn't hit well today at all," Siragusa said. "Against Westfield and Elizabeth we were hitting like crazy."

"Hopefully, next time we play them we'll be more relaxed and not as nervous. I guess we were nervous today."

Cranford senior catcher Melissa Moreno was 2-for-3, with two singles and she also picked off a runner at first base. Senior first baseman Izzy Acton belted a two-run triple with two outs in the second, but was left stranded at third.

GL did not commit an error, which is huge when going up against a team that it's trying to win the division against.



Photo by JR Parachir

GL leadoff batter Paige Murphy hit a home run on the first pitch she saw in the bottom of the first against Cranford last Saturday, leading the home team Highlanders to a 7-2 UCC-Watchung Division softball victory.

## Virgos, Inventors triumph

The following are Union Suffragettes Softball League results from Week No. 2, with the following games played April 21 at Biertuempfel Park in Union Township:

### SENIOR DIVISION

**Virgos 11, Comets 10:** Iyanna Harrison led the Virgos with her game-winning RBI in the sixth. Eight Virgos had RBI, including Joanna Stern, Baylee Solorzano and Harrison, all with two. Amanda Freeman had three infield singles. Lauren Buchanan, Corrine Clemente, Stern and Harrison all scored twice.

**Capricorns 17, Leos 0:** The Capricorns' offensive explosion was led by Alana Smith's two-run homer and three RBI. Jessica Dragone and Caryn Filippone drove in three runs and Allana Bucus hit a solo home run.

**Libras 15, Geminis 7:** For the Libras, Erica Robles struck out all nine batters she faced in her three innings of mound work, while at the plate she went 3-for-3, with a home run. Nicole Fuscaldo played well at shortstop, while first-year player Brianna Rivera produced two hits. Jennifer Puschal belted a triple, scored a run and drove in three runs to lead the Geminis.

**Aquarians 8, Pisces 5:** For the Aquarians, Brittani Fiorenza singled home Jennifer Maltese, who walked, advanced and then stole third. Emily Poncek and Allison Pierce both drove in runs. The Pisces were led by Katie Ruopp and Kelsey Krupa, who both hit doubles.

### JUNIOR DIVISION

**Inventors 21, Educators 19:** The Inventors were led by Kayla Mantila, who went 3-for-3 with a double, a grand slam and seven RBI. Erin McTernan went 3-for-3, hitting a three-run home run and pitching three solid innings. Anna Holland went 3-for-3, hitting a double and a triple and driving in two runs.

**Scholars 14, Professionals 3:** The Scholars were led by Sidney Lempick, who hit a triple and a home run. Tamia Howell and Jenna Arita drove in three runs. The Scholars turned a rare triple play in the fourth inning.

**Artists 15, Explorers 4:** The Artists were led by Brianna Gomes, who drove in six runs on a single and two home runs. Rhianna Jones also homered and singled and drove in three runs. Collete Guido struck out five in three innings of mound work and Alexandra Anton gave up one hit in her one inning.

**Competitors 23, Entertainers 8:** The Competitors were led by Christina Moran, who homered and doubled and drove in five runs. Emily Hayes hit two home runs and drove in four runs. Sara Castro drove in two runs with her first hit. Amy Ferrigno pitched three solid innings for the win.

## SPORTS

### GL softball is UCT top seed; will attempt to win 5th title

By JR Parachini  
Sports Editor

The Governor Livingston softball team, as expected Sunday night, was selected as the top seed for the 37th annual Union County Tournament.

The Highlanders earned that honor for the second straight season after fashioning a 14-1 record that includes a perfect 10-0 mark against Union County teams and a leading 8-0 record in the Watchung Division of the Union County Conference.

The defending Watchung Division and UCT champions seek to not only repeat as league champs, but capture back-to-back county titles for the first time.

This will be GL's fourth attempt to win the UCT for the second consecutive year. The Highlanders won the title in 1997, 1999 and 2001 under Jerry Britt and in 2011 under present head coach Rick Iacono, who took over in 2002.

"I'm a wrestling coach, so seeding means nothing to me," said Iacono, who in 11 seasons has a 200-54 (.787) record at the helm of the Highlanders. Iacono also reached and passed 300 wins as a wrestling coach this past season, his 39th as a head coach in that sport.

His 200th win came Saturday morning at home with GL defeating Cranford 7-2 in a battle of undefeated Watchung Division squads.

As a result, Cranford — the 2010 UCT champion — is the No. 2 seed.

"We have to continue to play good defense and continue to score runs," Iacono said. "If it's us and Cranford in the end or, whomever, we'll still have to continue to play good, sound softball."

GL defeated seventh-seeded Westfield 8-1 in last year's UCT final at Kean University. Cranford edged GL 4-3 in the 2010 championship game at Kean.

GL and Cranford will play their Watchung Division game at Cranford on May 8 at 4 p.m.

"We'll take the second seed," Cranford junior left handed pitcher and lefty leadoff batter Julie Siragusa said.

Siragusa earned a save in the 2010 final, halting GL in relief of winning pitcher Kelly Hardman. In Saturday's division game Siragusa slugged a home run on the game's first pitch and later belted a triple.

A three-year varsity starter, Siragusa has nine career home runs — all this year.

"If we play them two more times (division guaranteed and UCT possibly), hopefully we'll be on top of them the next two," Siragusa said.

The Cougars have captured the UCT championship three times under Bruno, including in 2007, 2008 and 2010. Cranford won the crown for the first time in 2002 under Terry Biunno and then again in 2006 under Shannon Wagner.

Westfield, which last year defeated third-seeded Cranford 4-2 in a semifinal at Linden to reach the championship game for the first time since it last won the UCT in 1998, earned the third seed this time. The Blue Devils begin the week at 10-5, including a 9-6 home division loss to GL on April 5 and a 12-4 home division setback to Cranford on April 19.

Johnson, the defending Mountain Division champion and last year's No. 2 seed, is the fourth seed. The Crusaders were 7-5 going into Saturday's scheduled game at Roselle Catholic.

Rounding out the top eight seeds are fifth-seeded Rahway, sixth-seeded New Providence, seventh-seeded Elizabeth and eighth-seeded Dayton.

• You can read the full version of this UCT softball seeding story on line at [www.localsource.com](http://www.localsource.com) - Union County Navigator.



Photo courtesy of Johnson High School

Johnson standout senior student-athletes, from left, Alison Meagher, Cyndi Wilson, Nicole Imbriaco and Amanda Wnorowski, will continue playing sports on the college level. Meagher and Wilson will play softball and Imbriaco and Wnorowski field hockey.

### Johnson stars Imbriaco, Meagher, Wilson, Wnorowski to continue on college level

Members of various Arthur L. Johnson Athletic teams participated in a signing day ceremony Friday at Johnson to honor their four years of service to Crusader Athletics and commemorate their signing of national letters of intent to play NCAA Collegiate Athletics.

Johnson senior student-athletes Nicole Imbriaco, Allison Meagher, Cyndi Wilson, and Amanda Wnorowski signed their letters of intent to continue their athletic and academic careers at the collegiate level, where they will continue playing field hockey and softball.

Nicole Imbriaco and Amanda Wnorowski will be playing field hockey in college at Rutgers and East Stroudsburg, respectively. Alison Meagher and Cyndi Wilson will be playing softball at Rider and St. Joseph's, respectively.

Gus Kalikas, Supervisor of Athletics, Health,

and Physical Education at Johnson, had this to say about the event. "Nicole, Allison, Cyndi and Amanda have been an integral part of the success of our field hockey and softball teams, allowing us to win championships in both sports. More importantly, they have been model student-athletes that did things the right way, both on the fields, in the classroom and throughout our community. Although it will be sad to see them leave, the Crusaders' loss is their college's gain. We look forward to following their successful collegiate careers over the next four years."

We would like to wish the best of luck to Nicole, Amanda, Alison and Cyndi as they culminate a wonderful career for the Crusaders and continue their academic and athletic successes as collegiate student-athletes.

### Summit lax teams top UCT seeds

By JR Parachini  
Sports Editor

Both Summit lacrosse teams earned the top seeds for their respective Union County Tournaments.

The Summit boys' began the week 11-0 and were 79-2 the past four years going into Monday's scheduled home game against neighborhood rival Chatham.

The seven boys' seeds are 1-Summit, 2-Westfield, 3-New Providence, 4-Oratory Prep, 5-Scotch Plains, 6-Governor Livingston and 7-Johnson. The quarterfinals have to be played by Monday, with the semifinals scheduled for May 10 at Johnson at 5 p.m. and 7:30.

The championship game is scheduled to be played at Johnson on May 12 at 7:30 p.m.

The Summit girls' began the week 8-4 and were to host Westfield Tuesday. The nine girls' seeds are 1-Summit, 2-Oak Knoll, 3-Kent Place, 4-Westfield, 5-Scotch Plains, 6-Governor Livingston, 7-New Providence, 8-Union Catholic and 9-Cranford.

The first round has to be played by tomorrow, with the quarterfinals to take place Saturday. The semifinals are scheduled to be played at Johnson May 8 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The final is set for May 12 at Johnson at 5 p.m., right before the boys' final.

## SPORTS

# Linden runner Velli is a standout athlete

Early this year, Linden runner Gerald Velli, won third place in the Men's 50-54 Division of the 2012 USA Track & Field-New Jersey Long Distance Running Mini 2 Grand Prix Series.

This was Velli's first Mini 2 Grand Prix series — an event in which a runner must complete a series of seven qualifying 8K, 5M and 10K races over the course of a year. Velli has been running for 30 years. He has always enjoyed being active and has spent time golfing, bowling and playing softball.

"When I started, I couldn't run around the block," Velli said. "I went out every day and did a little more. Soon I was running 5K races."

Now Velli balances a sedentary job with daily physical activity, including lunchtime training runs and working out at the Rahway YMCA.

Last year he joined the Essex Running Club and actively competes as a member of its men's team.

Velli says running helps him to feel good and

boosts his self-confidence. He runs "for consistency, not to win."

Velli received his second award of 2012 on April 3 when the Essex Running Club acknowledged him with the 2011 Doug Williams Memorial Award for Consistency and Effort.

A Newark native, Velli graduated from Seton Hall University in 1982. He moved to Linden in 1999, married Linden resident Charlene Rieger and adopted a large, friendly dog.

Velli is also a volunteer with the Friends of the Linden Animal Shelter.

He is grateful for the encouragement of his family and friends, which include many runners and photographers, who gather in camaraderie and support at race time. Velli enjoys running local 10K races and half-marathons. He is currently training for his first international run, which will be the Niagara Falls Half-Marathon.

# UNION COUNTY SPORTS

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Deadline for submissions on Monday at noon

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## UNION COUNTY

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given that the following bond resolution entitled: "SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF COUNTY OF UNION GENERAL OBLIGATION LEASE REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2012 (JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER FACILITY PROJECT) AND ADDITIONAL BONDS OF THE UNION COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY" was adopted by the Union County Improvement Authority on April 26, 2012; that copies of such resolution have been filed with and are available for public inspection in the office of the Authority and in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in the County of Union, New Jersey; and that any action or proceeding of any kind or nature in any court questioning the validity or the proper authorization of the bonds or the validity of any covenants, agreements or contracts provided for by such resolution must be commenced within twenty (20) days after the first publication of this Notice, thereafter all residents and taxpayers and owners of property in the County of Union, New Jersey and all other persons shall be forever barred and foreclosed from instituting or commencing any action or proceeding, questioning the validity or proper authorization of such bonds, or the validity of such covenants, agreements or contracts shall be deemed to valid and binding obligations in accordance with their terms and tenor.

THIS NOTICE is published pursuant to the County Improvement Authorities Law (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-62) constituting Chapter 183 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1960 of the State of New Jersey, as amended and supplemented.

The date of the first publication of this notice is May 3, 2012.

Published by order of  
 The Union County Improvement  
 Authority  
 CHARLOTTE DEFILIPPO  
 Executive Director  
 U293421 WCN May 3, 2012 (\$29.40)

## UNION COUNTY

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given that the following bond resolution entitled: "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF LEASE REV-

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**ENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2012A (TAX-EXEMPT) (CITY OF PLAINFIELD-PARK MADISON REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT) AND ADDITIONAL BONDS OF THE UNION COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY** was adopted by the Union County Improvement Authority on April 26, 2012; that copies of such resolution have been filed with and are available for public inspection in the office of the Authority and in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in the County of Union, New Jersey; and that any action or proceeding of any kind or nature in any court questioning the validity or the proper authorization of the bonds or the validity of any covenants, agreements or contracts provided for by such resolution must be commenced within twenty (20) days after the first publication of this Notice, thereafter all residents and taxpayers and owners of property in the County of Union, New Jersey and all other persons shall be forever barred and foreclosed from instituting or commencing any action or proceeding in any court or from pleading any defense to any action or proceeding, questioning the validity or proper authorization of such bonds, or the validity of such covenants, agreements or contracts shall be deemed to valid and binding obligations in accordance with their terms and tenor.

THIS NOTICE is published pursuant to the County Improvement Authorities Law (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-62) constituting Chapter 183 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1960 of the State of New Jersey, as amended and supplemented.

The date of the first publication of this notice is May 3, 2012.

Published by order of  
 The Union County Improvement  
 Authority  
 CHARLOTTE DEFILIPPO  
 Executive Director  
 U293429 WCN May 3, 2012 (\$28.91)

## UNION COUNTY

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given that the following bond resolution entitled: "RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION LEASE REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2012 (J COUNTY COLLEGE FACILITY PROJECT) AND ADDITIONAL BONDS OF THE UNION COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY" was adopted by the Union County Improve-

## PUBLIC NOTICE

ment Authority on April 26, 2012; that copies of such resolution have been filed with and are available for public inspection in the office of the Authority and in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in the County of Union, New Jersey; and that any action or proceeding of any kind or nature in any court questioning the validity or the proper authorization of the bonds or the validity of any covenants, agreements or contracts provided for by such resolution must be commenced within twenty (20) days after the first publication of this Notice, thereafter all residents and taxpayers and owners of property in the County of Union, New Jersey and all other persons shall be forever barred and foreclosed from instituting or commencing any action or proceeding in any court or from pleading any defense to any action or proceeding, questioning the validity or proper authorization of such bonds, or the validity of such covenants, agreements or contracts shall be deemed to valid and binding obligations in accordance with their terms and tenor.

THIS NOTICE is published pursuant to the County Improvement Authorities Law (N.J.S.A. 40:37A-62) constituting Chapter 183 of the Pamphlet Laws of 1960 of the State of New Jersey, as amended and supplemented.

The date of the first publication of this notice is May 3, 2012.

Published by order of  
 The Union County Improvement  
 Authority  
 CHARLOTTE DEFILIPPO  
 Executive Director  
 U293428 WCN May 3, 2012 (\$28.91)

## UNION COUNTY

Take notice that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:10-16, application has been made to the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, Trenton, New Jersey, to receive title papers authorizing and issue New Jersey certification of ownership for, Make: Volkswagen, Year: 1975 VIN/Hull Identification Number: 1552010365. Objections, if any, should be made in writing, immediately in writing to the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, Special Title Unit, P.O. Box 017, Trenton, New Jersey, 08666-0017 within 10 days. April 26, May 3, 2012. U293131 WCN (\$19.60)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## UNION COUNTY

NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD-  
Date Adopted 4/26/2012

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an extraordinary unspecifiable service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(1). This contract and the resolution authorizing it is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

RESOLUTION NO: 2012-393 (Reso-  
lution No. 2011-1028)AWARDED TO: Youth Services  
Commission Spending Plan

Prevention Links	\$45,000.00
Institute of Music	\$27,500.00
Care Plus, Inc	\$17,500.00
Venture & Venture	\$68,736.00
Trinitas Regional Medical Center	\$60,000.00

Prevention Links	\$35,000.00
Family & Children's Services	\$80,000.00
Communities in Cooperation, Inc	\$35,000.00

PERIOD: January 1, 2012-December 31, 2012

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
 U293433 WCN May 3, 2012 (\$17.64)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## UNION COUNTY

NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD-  
Date Adopted 4/26/2012

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an Professional service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i). This contract and the resolution authorizing it is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

RESOLUTION NO: 2012- 402  
AWARDED TO: Genesis ElderCare  
Rehabilitation Services Inc., Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

SERVICES: for the privatization of Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapy services for the residents/patients at Runnells Specialized Hospital.

PERIOD: June 1, 2012-May 31, 2013  
 COSTS: in an amount not to exceed \$1,947,272.00 representing a total Anticipated cost savings of \$376,037.00 and additional \$1,504,192.00 in new Revenues

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders  
 U293440 WCN May 3, 2012 (\$16.17)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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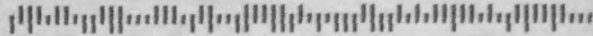
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## Repeated bomb threats at UCC drain important resources

By Paul Greulich  
Staff Writer

A series of bomb scares at Union County College in Cranford have disrupted education, and diverted law enforcement resources from the Cranford Police Department, the County Sheriff's Office and the county bombsquad.

The string of six incidents occurred between April 2 and April 27. Of these, five occurred at the Cranford campus on Springfield Avenue. The sixth involved the Plainfield Campus. All the threats were phoned in. Authorities stated the investigation is ongoing but no arrests have been made.

College President Margaret McMennamin said the college will remain vigilant and continue to work with law enforcement officials to investigate the threats.

"As evidenced by the recent spate of similar hoaxes at the Universities of Pittsburgh, Delaware, and Maine, this aberrant behavior has become an unfortunate sign of the times," McMennamin said.

Vice President Stephen D. Nacco said students and staff have worked hard to continue their academic pursuits despite these disturbances.

"It has disrupted things, but the faculty deserves credit for communicating with the students and making sure the students get through their finals," Nacco said.

The students and teachers were aided by the use of email communication as well as a website that helps students stay on task with their courses.

As the events unfolded, McMennamin communicated via "blast emails" to all students and employees as well as on student and employee portal homepages.

Nacco said it is important for colleges and universities to have contingencies ready in case of emergencies. Union County College enrolls almost 40,000 credit, non-credit, and continuing education students.

Some of the recent incidents effected the school more than others. On April 24 the school received a very non-specific

threat. Nacco said the college assessed the nature of this threat, consulted with law enforcement and chose not to evacuate.

Nacco said the threat involved nothing pertaining to a bomb, a time, or a location.

"There was nothing specific — nothing you could really investigate," Nacco said.

Law enforcement instead conducted a "sweep" of the college's Cranford, Elizabeth and Plainfield campuses using K-9 units while classes and programs continued as scheduled. Nacco said this is similar to the way the University of Pittsburgh recently "tweaked its tactics" and will no longer automatically evacuate when a non-specific call is received.

Union County Police Chief Dan Vaniska said four of the six threats were met with a "full response" by the bomb squad as well as Union County HAZMAT.

"Our bomb squad has responded to most of them," Vaniska said.

Vaniska said the volume of equipment and manpower that must be mobilized to meet these potential dangers are much

greater than a simple false burglar alarm or 9-1-1 call.

Vaniska said each full-scare response costs his department \$1,500 to \$2,000, separate from costs incurred by the Union County Sheriff's Department and the Cranford Police. There is also a potentially much greater cost.

"It ties up critical public safety resources should a true alert come in," Vaniska said. "I take these things kind of seriously when people could potentially get hurt."

Nacco said this string of incidents is very unusual for the college.

"People who have been here in Union County College for 30 years tell me they have never seen anything like this," Nacco said.

Anyone with information about these incidents is urged to contact Cranford Police at 908-272-2222.

Paul Greulich can be reached at 908-686-7700 ext. 121, or at [thelocal-source@gmail.com](mailto:thelocal-source@gmail.com).



**SERVICE PROJECT** — Faculty and students from Kent Place in Summit spent their spring break in Costa Rica. Over 30 Kent Place Upper School students chose to spend their Spring Break this March entrenched in meaningful service projects both domestically and internationally. The Kent Place World Language Department offered a return service trip to Chilamate, Costa Rica to build upon the relationships formed, Spanish language-skills developed and the service work completed on their initial trip in June 2011. Kent Place partnered with the World Leadership School to work for five days on the initial phase of a very ambitious community center project, which involved the building of a multiuse room. Other destination offered this year were New Orleans and Guatemala. Kent Place faculty and staff served as chaperones.