

## In the hunt

Six vying for three available posts on the Board of Freeholders, Page B1.

## No big deal

Our movie critic viewed 'Showgirls' and asks what's the fuss, Page B4.



## Crime and popcorn

Sony's multiplex may become the borough's least favorite neighbor, Page 6.

# Mountainside Echo

"Your Best Source For Community Information"

A WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

MOUNTAINSIDE, N.J., VOL.37 NO.47—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1995

TWO SECTIONS — 50 CENTS

## Borough Highlights

### Voter registration

The deadline for registering to vote in the November General Election is Tuesday. To register, see Borough Clerk Judith Osty at Borough Hall. To register by mail, call 232-2400 and request a mail registration application.

### Lane closed

On Tuesday at 9 a.m., an eastbound lane of Route 22 will be closed to traffic when Elizabethtown Water Co. will install 20 feet of pipe east of New Providence Road.

The one-day project will provide a dedicated fire line for the sprinkler system in the new Borough Hall, which is under construction.

### Photos available

Photos of the Centennial Parade now are available for purchase at the library. For more information, call 233-0115.

### Fall programs

The Mountainside Public Library has begun new fall programs for children.

Through Oct. 24, the library will hold "Storytime Theaters for Kindergartners" sessions on Tuesdays from 2-2:45 p.m. The program will resume in November.

On Wednesday afternoons until Nov. 1, the library will hold "Storytime for 3's and 4's," a program of 45-minute storytime and craft periods, starting at 2 p.m.

Registration is required and may be done by phone. Call 233-0115. A parent or care-giver must accompany each child during the session. It is recommended that children arrive early in order to receive nametags.

For more information, call Lou Thomas at 233-5652.

### Meeting rescheduled

The Recreation Commission has rescheduled its next meeting.

It will meet in Borough Hall at 8 p.m. on Oct. 26, not Oct. 19.

### League needs pennies

A borough-wide "Penny Harvest" will be carried out through door-to-door canvassing by the boys and girls of the Youth Baseball League on the morning of Oct. 14.

The money raised will be used to finance the construction of a new fieldhouse, to replace the one at Deerfield School.

### College Night

Area high school students will have a chance to investigate opportunities in higher education when the Union County Regional High School District conducts its annual College Night on Oct. 19, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Jonathan Dayton Regional High School.

Representatives from more than 150 four-year colleges and universities, two-year colleges and other post-secondary schools will provide information and answer questions.

All Union County Regional High School students and their parents are encouraged to attend. For more information on College Night, call 376-6300, Ext. 272 or 280.

## Children's fare



Courtesy of Sony Theaters

The lobbies of Sony multiplex theaters feature comforts that often attract children. The theater Sony operates on Route 10 in East Hanover has become a popular place for children to meet and play. Its lobby has video arcade-games and concession stands accessible to those who don't have tickets. Sony representatives have told the Board of Adjustment that the theater planned for Route 22 will have similar features. For opinion on the new Sony theater, see editorial on Page 6.

## With technology, teachers change shape of lessons

By Cynthia Gordon  
Staff Writer

The borough school district has been pursuing a new angle in its staff development program, changing the ways teachers lead lessons in the classroom. The district focused on four main thrusts for its staff development program for the 1994-95 school year: Staff members attended in and out-of-district meetings regarding the use of computers and calculators in the classroom, the integration of reading and writing courses, and strategies for working with learning disabled children.

The reforms will continue during the current academic year, Deerfield School Principal Margaret Dolan told the Board of Education last week.

Training in word processing, the use of e-mail, CD-ROMS and graphics software was provided to ensure teachers would be able to use computers. Teachers then were granted access to the district's network, which includes the library, classrooms for grades three to eight, and the administration offices.

"The networked PCs are part of a four-year plan to computerize the school that was started in 1993," Dolan explained. "That year, the library and the offices were computerized. In 1994-95, the middle school was added to the network and this year, we've added grades three and four. Next year, we plan to add kindergarten through second grade."

As an example of how teachers can use computers in the classroom, Dolan said CD-ROMs, for example, can be used to illustrate lessons.

"The computer network can help in every facet of the curriculum," she added. "In a science class, instead of going to a planetarium, they can see the equivalent on a computer. Or instead of dissecting an animal, you can see the workings of a frog via a computer."

"The benefit is that all of the computers are networked so a child can start a research paper in a classroom, can save the file, then go to the library and continue to research and work on the same file," she continued. "During lunch or after school, if they want to continue working on the research paper, they can go to the computer room and pull up the same file and continue to work on it."

Also in recent years, Deerfield School teachers have been instructed in the use of calculators in class.

During the 1994-95 school year, staffers received calculator instruction, including workshops on the use of calculators during standardized tests.

"There are really two parts to teaching use of calculators to students," Dolan said. "One part is teaching the skills of using the keys correctly. The second part is teaching a student when to use a calculator. There are times when it's faster to do mental calculations. There are times when it's sufficient just to estimate an answer, and then there are times when it's also appropriate to use a calculator."

According to Dolan, students are exposed to calculators in kindergarten, and "it becomes a formal part of their instruction by second grade."

Math teacher Dave Fogle, who teaches sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, explained why calculators are used in his classroom: "In the eighth grade, we use the calculators probably 90 percent of the time because they have the Early Warning Test in March, which is calculator active."

According to Dolan, the need for the integration of reading and writing classes was documented in a survey of staff members.

Referring to the new schedules that feature reading and writing classes back-to-back, Dolan said "it's very helpful for the students because those are integrated skills, and it seems almost artificial to separate them."

Cathy Johnson, a teacher of sixth- and seventh-grade language arts classes, said she uses poetry to "have students find words that have particularly strong connotations" and then have them find synonyms to build their vocabulary.

The impetus for the fourth strand of the staff development program came both from staff and parents, according to Dolan, explaining how members of the Child Study Team led meetings to make teachers more aware of the needs of children with learning disabilities.

Emphasis was placed on children with Attention Deficit Disorder, because ADD had been identified as a trouble-spot by the Special Services Parent Advisory Council.

"I think it's important that all teachers understand strategies to use with children who have learning disabilities," said Dolan. "The teachers need to understand how the children learn differently and successful ways to teach them."

Follow-up meetings were held to discuss the individual needs of some students, she added. Such meetings focused on the requirements of students' Individualized Educational Plans. All adults who worked with a given child were present at such meetings.

## Subcommittee OKs deer plan

Freeholders will vote on proposal Oct. 12; may change phrasing

At its meeting on Sept. 26, the Watching Reservation Deer Management Subcommittee approved the county Bureau of Park Operations' proposal to reduce the size of the reservation's deer population by 80 percent during the next five years.

The plan will go to the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders on Oct. 12 for final approval. With possible changes in phrasing, the plan is expected to pass intact.

Daniel Bernier, chief of Union County's Bureau of Park Operations, submitted the proposal in August, later saying it was worded to allow for a hunt of "half of the original population" within the first year. That phrasing allows for flexibility in thinning the herd, rather than a limit of an established quota.

Upon reaching its goal, the county Division of Parks and Recreation would seek the cooperation of the Humane Society to obtain the federal Food and Drug Administration's permission to use "one-shot immunization

reception vaccines" to maintain the "deer herd at a steady level" in subsequent years.

The means with which the county would hunt the deer is based on recruiting experienced hunters. The plan does not include a specific number of hunters, and stipulates that they be both licensed and able to demonstrate marksmanship skills.

Drawing on the experiences of the 1994 and 1995 winter hunts, Bernier suggested the group of hunters be one-third law enforcement officers — "to satisfy community concerns" — and two-thirds private citizens.

The 1994 thinning effort was performed by private citizens; police officers from around Union County carried out the '95 hunt. Those officers who participated last year "should be given an automatic preference for selection again," Bernier said.

The recommended deer-population management plan also states that the Division of Parks and Recreation should be authorized by the freehol-

ders to reduce the herd to an "overwintering density of 20 deer per square mile."

To accomplish this, according to the proposal, "a reduction of the herd should occur over the course of five years, with removal of half of the original population to occur within the first years in order to minimize the number of animals which will be killed overall."

During the spring, the Watching Reservation Deer Management Subcommittee estimated there were approximately 300 deer in the reservation — or 100 deer per square mile. The new plan would reduce the total to 60 — or 20 per square mile at the end of five years.

The state Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife would supply data on deer-population changes to help the county calculate the number of animals to be killed each year.

The new plan differs from previous See DEER, Page 2

## Fitts to discuss funding plan

Union County Superintendent of Schools Leonard Fitts will meet borough residents Tuesday evening to hear comments on the prospects of a new school district funding formula.

Fitts, the state Department of Education's top administrator in the county, will face the public during a meeting with the Board of Education at 7 p.m.

The subject of the discussion will be the recently released study commissioned by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman titled the "Comprehensive Plan for Educational Improvement and Financing," which calls for revisions in the ways New Jersey's 600 school districts are funded.

The study was prompted by inequities in the scope of programs from district to district.

New Jersey's approach to closing that gap has centered on matching the dollars spent on students in "the wealthiest communities" with the totals spent in "special needs" districts, according to the study, which says using the money as a tool to create comparable programs statewide should be the goal, rather than achieving equal funding levels.

Because the state Constitution guarantees public school students a

"thorough and efficient" education, a new funding formula would preclude spending on large administrative staffs, favoring spending on curricula based on statewide standards.

The start of whatever funding scheme the state adopts would be preceded by changing the system by which school districts establish annual budgets. Because each school district cites its own needs when submitting a budget to the state for approval, "the Department of Education historically has tended" to support the districts' proposed outlays.

Then the public votes on the budgets. If passed, a budget is enacted. Budgets rejected by the voters go to the municipal government for reductions; because those reductions often are appealed by the school board to the Department of Education, the cuts are restored.

Although the state proposal does not offer specific recommendations for changing the funding system, it does suggest using state-established curricula to create a uniform need among the 600 school districts for equal sums of money.

Staffing also is an area the state would control to equalize spending. Elementary schools could be

assigned a quota of teachers and teaching aides according to enrollment. Middle schools and high schools could be staffed similarly, with more support staff and administrators.

Central office personnel also would be limited to a set number according to school district enrollment. An example in the plan calls for 20 administration staffers for 2,500 students.

Among other areas targeted for reform, the salaries of school district employees might be set at rates according to state averages.

According to the state plan, there would be room for variations in funding for different districts, and the state's goal is not to achieve "absolute social conformity through a broad redistribution of wealth."

Borough residents who plan on speaking to Fitts first will have to submit a written version of their remarks to the Board of Education. Because Fitts will be available for one hour, before the board holds its regular meeting, residents likely will be limited to five minutes speaking time.

For more information on the study's impact on the legislative process in Trenton, see related stories on pages 3 and 13.

## Meeting of the minds



Courtesy of Mountainside Public Library

Attendees of the Libraries of Union County reception, held recently in the Public Library, gather following the keynote address. The annual event provides an opportunity for library trustees, officials and directors from around the county to meet. Rutgers University Professor and President of the American Library Association Betty Turock delivered a speech titled "Equity on the Information Superhighway." From left: Public Library Board of Trustees Vice President Dona Osieja, board President Jacqueline Barry, Library Director Miriam Bein, Turock, Librarian Anne Lycan and Trustee Susan Beattie.

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Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

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

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**News items:**

News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Pictures must be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news story please call 1-908-686-7700 and ask for the news department.

**Letters to the editor:**

The Echo provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed double spaced if possible, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and day-time phone number for verification. For longer submissions, be our Guest is an occasional column for readers on the Editorial page. Letters and be our Guest columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

**To place a display ad:**

Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Echo must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the B section must be in our office by Monday at noon. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please call 1-908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

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Public Notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers. The Echo meets all New Jersey State Statutes regarding public notice advertising. Public notices must be in our office by Tuesday at noon for publication that week. If you have any questions please call 908-686-7700 and ask for the public notice advertising department.

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**GOING BUGGY** — Charlie the Cricket and friends visit Mrs. Leber's fourth-grade class at Deerfield School, where students have been studying the lifecycles of crickets and grasshoppers. At left, Michael Mankowski, Joseph Nicasro, Steven Bobko and Erin Sanders and at right, David Apigo, Marcy Stickles, Danielle Pace and Eric Feller examine the insects.



Courtesy of Deerfield School

**Deer reduction plan approved police blotter**

(Continued from Page 1) attempts regarding personnel and time schedules.

More hunters in total and more per each time slot will be needed, the plan says, in order to finish the job.

To attain its goal of reducing the herd to one-fifth of its present level, the county plans again to have more female than male deer shot. "The program should begin earlier in the winter," the proposal recommends, "when antlered males can still be distinguished from females."

Another difference from the '95 hunt would be the distribution of venison. The meat collected from the most recent hunt was given to Community FoodBank, which in turn gave the food to several charities across the county.

The meat collected in the next five proposed hunts would be shared among the hunters and the food bank.

"An agent's ability to receive a share of venison should be based on a minimum number of hours of service, such as 20 hours, rather than on the number of deer killed," Bernier's recommendation states. "Each agent should receive 40 pounds of venison, which was the average yield from each deer in the 1995 program. The bulk of the venison should again be distributed through the Community FoodBank of New Jersey."

Among other points in the proposed plan are:

- The subcommittee would meet in

May of each of the next five years to learn the results and study the effectiveness of the previous year's program; to count deer-related motor vehicle accidents; to study aerial and spotlight counts; to study new developments in technologies or methodologies of deer management; and, if necessary, to recommend changes to the plan.

The subcommittee also would plan for years beyond the five-year plan by studying new methods of deer management. If the need arises, the subcommittee would reassess the target of a 20 deer per square mile density and would recommend changes.

• The DPR would collect reports of deer-related motor vehicle accidents on an annual basis. In addition, the department would have traffic and engineering studies conducted on roadways in and around the reservation and reduce the existing speed limits in the hope of reducing the

number of deer-related accidents.

• The county would "conclude its study of the feasibility of installing reflectors along roadways" where such accidents commonly occur.

• The county should continue its surveillance, investigation, and prosecution of poachers to end illegal hunting.

• The Division of Parks and Recreation would expand the public education program on deer-related issues. Earlier this summer, the freeholders released the subcommittee's research materials to the public, placing them in the Mountainside and Summit public libraries and the Trailside Nature and Science Center, among other facilities.

• The DPR would continue its study of the impact of deer on native plants; the incursion of exotic plants; any loss of biodiversity; as well as the weather and other environmental factors.

• On Sept. 29 at 8:39 p.m., a man was arrested on Route 22 West and was charged with possession of a controlled substance.

The suspect, identified by police as James Harrison of Plainfield, was stopped by police for a motor vehicle violation. After police determined Harrison's license was suspended and vehicle was not insured, police prepared to have it impounded.

Upon inspecting the car, police said, the officer found three plastic bags of what appeared to be marijuana on the floor of the vehicle.

Harrison is scheduled to appear in Municipal Court on Oct. 19.

• Between 10:10 a.m. on Sept. 25, and 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 27, there was an attempted theft of a motor vehicle, according to police.

The car involved was a 1991 Ford Mustang that was parked on Cornell Parkway, near 1021 Route 22. According to Chief of Police William Alder, someone punched out the passenger door lock, and the steering column was damaged, but the car was not stolen. The damage was estimated at \$500.

• On Sept. 25 at 6:11 p.m. on Route 22 West, near Summit Road, police detained a hitchhiker who appeared to be under the influence of drugs.

A man identified by police as Somerville resident Peter Balcenik was arrested after he was found in possession of pills and a white powder, according to police records.

Also according to police, the suspect indicated he'd been taking Xanax, a mood changing drug available by prescription.

The suspect was placed under arrest and was committed to the Union County Jail in lieu of \$500 bail.

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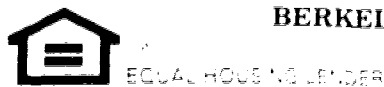
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WELCOME WAGON



# Civic calendar

The Civic Calendar, prepared by the *Springfield Leader* and the *Mountainside Echo*, is a list of local and county government meetings.

## Monday

- The Springfield Township Committee will meet in executive session at 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Municipal Building at 100 Mountain Ave.

## Tuesday

- The Springfield Township Committee will meet at 8 p.m. on the second floor of the Municipal Building at 100 Mountain Ave.
- The Mountainside Borough Council will meet in a work session at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall.

## Wednesday

- The Union County Planning Board will meet at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building at Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth.

## Oct. 16

- The Mountainside Zoning Board will meet at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall.

## Oct. 17

- The Mountainside Borough Council will meet at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall.

## Oct. 18

- The Springfield Board of Adjustment will meet at 7 p.m. on the second floor of the Municipal Building at 100 Mountain Ave.

## Oct. 18

- The Springfield Development Review Commission will meet at 7 p.m. on the second floor of the Municipal Building at 100 Mountain Ave.

- The Union County Consumer Affairs Advisory Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building at Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth.

- The Union County Community Development Block Grant and Revenue Sharing Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building at Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth.

## Oct. 23

- The Springfield Township Committee will meet in executive session at 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Municipal Building at 100 Mountain Ave.

- The Union County Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board will meet at 7 p.m. at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield.

- The Union County Mental Health Advisory Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building at Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth.

## Oct. 24

- The Springfield Township Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Municipal Building at 100 Mountain Ave.

- The Union County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the Administration Building at Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth.

- The Union County Advisory Board on the Disabled will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building at Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth.

## Oct. 25

- The Union County Solid Waste Advisory Council will meet at 8 p.m. in the Administration Building at Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth.

## Oct. 26

- The Mountainside Recreation Commission will meet at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall.

## Oct. 31

- The Watching Reservation Deer Management Subcommittee will meet at 8 p.m. at the Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside.

# Assembly candidate supports school funding reform

Kevin O'Toole, Republican candidate for General Assembly in the 21st District, commented on a state report on school-district funding recently, saying higher spending is not the remedy to shortcomings in the classroom.

"We need to develop a new school-funding formula that stresses educational, rather than financial, solutions," he said. "The focus needs to be shifted from dollars and cents and placed on educational results, quality programs, efficient organization and accountability."

O'Toole's comments were prompted by the recent release of a state Department of Education report titled the "Comprehensive Plan for Educational Improvement and Financing."

"When we talk about providing students with a 'thorough and efficient' education, we need to emphasize programmatic, rather than fiscal equity," O'Toole also said. "We need to craft an education spending law that more clearly defines what constitutes a thorough and efficient education. Up until now, the Supreme Court has interpreted a thorough and efficient education in simply dollars and cents."

The state report was commissioned by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, who has long been critical of the present system of funding. It says wide discrepancies in program availability exist between school districts, resulting in varied academic performances.

"Money alone is not the solution to our state's problems," O'Toole continued. "Our goal should be to make sure every student, regardless of where they live, receives a quality education."

O'Toole pointed out how state funding for education has more than doubled since 1984, increasing from \$2.2 billion to \$4.7 billion last year. In 1984, the per-pupil expenditure was \$4,720, compared to \$9,975 last year.

"The national average per-pupil expenditure is \$5,029, which is far below what New Jersey spends per

pupil," O'Toole said. "New Jersey may be spending the most money per pupil, but its students aren't leading the way in terms of academic performance. Clearly, we need to do better."

O'Toole, the mayor of Cedar Grove, said he is sensitive to the needs of public schools and their students, but that state government must increase its sensitivity to taxpayers who provide the financial support for the school districts.

"I have had the opportunity to teach a few classes in the Cedar Grove, Irvington, and Verona school districts, as well as Seton Hall Law School, and I will say that it was a gratifying experience," O'Toole added. "We can't expect teachers to produce miracles in the classroom if they don't have the necessary educational tools or facilities to help children learn, but we also cannot expect taxpayers to continue paying higher taxes for increased spending on education."

The report was a response to the Supreme Court's ruling in *Abbott vs. Burke*.

The report also states that once academic standards are in place, districts' state aid would be based on students' progress toward meeting the goals. Progress likely would be measured by standardized tests given to fourth-, eighth- and 11th-graders. School districts that meet the standards and operate efficiently would be rewarded with financial incentives, while inefficient districts would be sanctioned.

"The current school funding law, and our entire educational system for that matter, cannot be considered a tremendous success," O'Toole continued. "The bottom line is not how much we spend on our schools, but how well we educate our children. I believe we can, and will, achieve better academic results in the future."

O'Toole is running with incumbent Assemblyman Monroe Jay Lustbader to represent the 21st Legislative District.



Kevin O'Toole and Monroe Lustbader, Republican candidates for General Assembly in the 21st District, take time out during an afternoon of meeting voters. The candidates — Lustbader is the incumbent and Cedar Grove Mayor O'Toole succeeds retiring Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden on the ticket — recently began their campaign with many stops in Union County.

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Your organization should be getting the publicity it deserves and we would like to help. We have a publicity handbook which explains how to tell your story. We would like to publicize your club, church, sports, school news, etc. If you have an idea for a picture or story, call Managing Editor Kathryn Fitzgerald at 686-7700, Ext. 327 weekdays before 5 p.m. If you'd like a handbook, call and one will be mailed to you.

## Pageant of Champions set for Sunday

A celebration of music, marching and artistic expression will take place on Sunday at Governor Livingston Regional High School, when the Highlander Band hosts the 24th annual "Pageant of Champions" band competition.

This exciting and colorful event will begin at 1 p.m. at Frey Field on the Governor Livingston campus in Berkeley Heights.

The Governor Livingston Highlander Band, under the direction of Daniel Kopcha, will perform its 1995 show to complete the day's program.

Tickets for the 1995 "Pageant of Champions" at Governor Livingston are priced at \$5. Tickets may be purchased in advance from any member of the Highlander Band or at the gate on the day of the competition.

Tickets and additional information may also be obtained by calling Governor Livingston Regional High School at (908) 464-3100.

## Regional district offers low-cost lunches

The Union County Regional High School District offers low-cost lunches to its students and provides free lunches to children from households of gross incomes at or below federally established standards.

These applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. For more information about these programs, contact Director of Special Services John Christiano at 376-6300, Ext. 280.

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# obituaries

## Mary Brandl

Mary Brandl, 83, of Springfield died Sept. 26 in her home.  
Born in Port Jarvis, NY, Mrs. Brandl lived in Irvington before moving to Springfield 39 years ago. She was a member of the Springfield Senior Citizens Group 1.  
Surviving are a daughter, Muriel M. Brattlof; a sister, Sophie Hubbard; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## Edward J. Reilly Jr.

Edward J. Reilly Jr., 65, of Avon-by-the-Sea, formerly of Mountaintop, died Sept. 23 in the Jersey Shore Medical Center, Neptune.  
Born in Montclair, Mr. Reilly lived in Mountaintop for 27 years before moving to Avon-by-the-Sea. He was a management analyst for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for 38 years. Mr. Reilly was a graduate of Seton Hall University. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War.

Surviving are four sons, James D.; Edward J. III; the Rev. Joseph R. and Thomas M.; two brothers, Thomas M. and William A.; a sister, Mary L. Kelly; and four grandchildren.

## Ruth Lipson

Ruth Lipson, 95, of New Providence, formerly of Springfield, died Sept. 27 in Glenside Nursing Home, New Providence.

Born in Guttenberg, Mrs. Lipson lived in Springfield before moving to New Providence five years ago.  
Surviving are two daughters, Marion Dintenfuss and Constance Mruk; two sisters, Harriet Walter and Nancy Morey; five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

## George W. Franklin

George W. Franklin, 82, of Springfield died Sept. 27 in his home.  
Born in Blakley, Ga., Mr. Franklin lived in Springfield for 78 years. He was a die cast operator with the Aluminum Co. of America for 29 years before retiring in 1978. Mr. Franklin also was a self-employed landscaper for 20 years. He was a deacon, superintendent of the Sunday school, and a member of the senior choir at Antioch Baptist Church, Springfield.  
Surviving are his wife, Laura; a son, George T.; two daughters, Gwendolyn Franklin Daniel and Sharolyn Jeanne; a sister, Mrs. Anna Mae Martin, and three grandchildren.

## Dennis Murphy

Dennis Murphy of Mountaintop died Sept. 30 in his home.  
Mr. Murphy was born in Elizabeth. He worked for Armored Transport, Mountaintop.  
Surviving are his mother, Rosemary, and four brothers, Thomas, Brian, James and Robert.

## Joyce H. McCobb

Joyce H. McCobb, 90, of Summit, former Mountaintop teacher, died Sept. 22 in Berkeley Hall, Berkeley Heights.

Born in Cranford, Mrs. McCobb lived in Westfield for 38 years before moving to Summit in 1980. She taught social studies for Echo Brook and Deerfield schools, both in Mountaintop, for 15 years before retiring in 1973. Mrs. McCobb received many citations for her innovations in curriculum development, including an informational tape-exchange program with young students in foreign countries. She was a member of the Westfield League of Women Voters. Mrs. McCobb graduated in 1926 from Newark Normal School, now Kean College of New Jersey, Union, and received a master's degree in education from Montclair University in 1965.  
Surviving are two daughters, Sally Bober and Maureen McCobb, and three grandchildren.

## stork club

### Thomas Peter Ventura

An 8lb., 7 oz. son, **Thomas Peter**, measuring 20 inches, was born September 14 in Mountaintop Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. John A. Ventura Jr. of Nutley. He joins two sisters, MaryAnne Martha, 6, and Elizabeth Margaret, 2, and a brother, John Anthony III, 4. Mrs. Ventura, the former Mary Anne Burkhardt, is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Otto H. Burkhardt of Springfield. Her husband is the son of Mr. John A. Ventura Sr. and the late Mrs. Ventura of Nutley.

## Obituary policy

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

## Great Pumpkin Sail

The Great Pumpkin Sail has been set for Nov. 1, when Echo Lake will become a sea of candlelit jack-o-lanterns and story-tellers share the ghostly legends of Halloween.

development, including an informational tape-exchange program with young students in foreign countries. She was a member of the Westfield League of Women Voters. Mrs. McCobb graduated in 1926 from Newark Normal School, now Kean College of New Jersey, Union, and received a master's degree in education from Montclair University in 1965.  
Surviving are two daughters, Sally Bober and Maureen McCobb, and three grandchildren.

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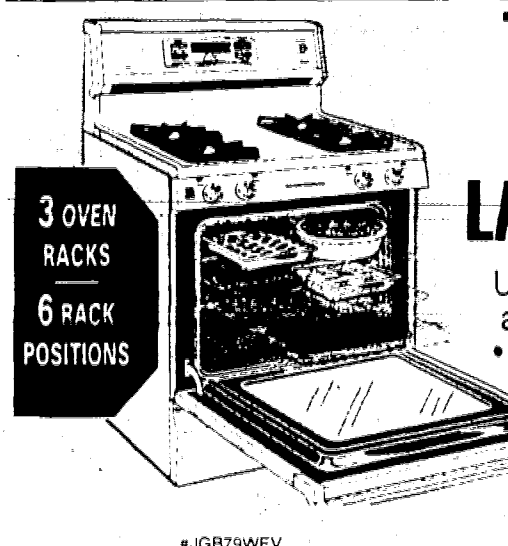
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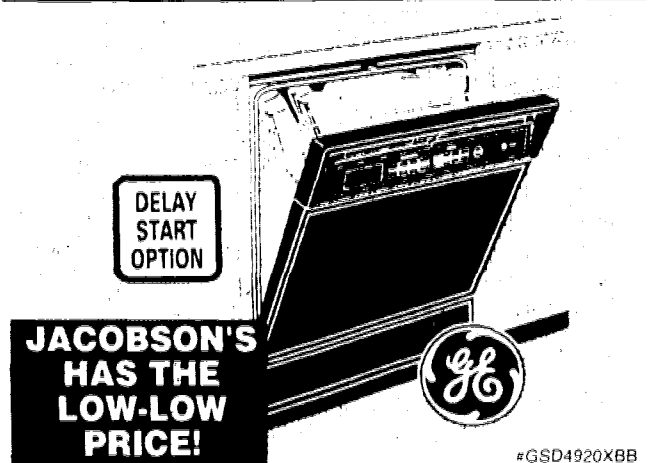
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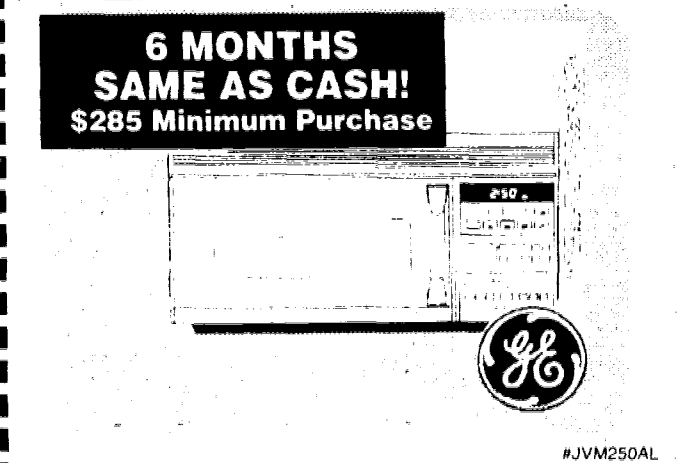


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## Success should be measured, praised

The Union County Regional High School Board of Education is far from voting on the future of the academic ranking of district students, but when that time comes, we hope it will keep the system in place.

The matter was a topic of discussion during the meeting of the board on Sept. 19, when parents offered their opinions to board members.

In setting goals for students, school districts all too often fail to maintain a competitive environment. Academic rank in high schools, in addition to serving as a gauge college admissions officers can cite, gives students targets they can reach.

What is ironic about this particular debate is the background of those students who want the system abolished: They are Governor Livingston students and are among the best students in the regional district. Their complaint is the failure of the ranking system to distinguish the varying degrees of excellence reached by those in the top percentiles of academic achievement.

We're grateful that is the extent of their worries.

Unlike Scholastic Achievement Test scores, academic rankings give an impression of how students perform throughout their four years in high school. While neither SAT results nor class rank give a complete picture of a student's abilities or accomplishments, the ranking, when kept in the context of the quality of education at the high school, does offer a look at how the student might succeed in college.

To abolish this system would be similar to telling students that striving for excellence is of no importance.

Would the system of letter grades be next for disposal? Would the Board of Education establish pass/fail grades for each course?

Probably not, but when boards of education fail to recognize the degrees of success reached by students, those boards also tend to remove those markers that measure success.

## Coming attractions

Another issue regarding the arrival of Sony Theaters in Mountainside concerns the multiplex's impact on the social fabric of the borough.

During the September meeting of the Board of Adjustment, residents, police lieutenants, Sony representatives and board members engaged in a free-for-all debate of the potential for criminal activity in the area.

The main issue discussed during that meeting was the likelihood of the outbreak of violence on the premises. There was much talk of a shooting at the Sony in Eaton-town in August, and borough residents voiced their concern about the possibility of a similar incident on Route 22.

That shooting followed a screening of a movie titled "The Show," a documentary about rap music. Residents, police and board members sought assurances from Sony representatives that the local police would be notified prior to screenings of similar films, and if so, that the police would be able to have movies pulled if violence erupts.

A Sony vice president promised full cooperation, saying no film that threatened the stability of the community would be screened in Mountainside if the threat of violence existed.

That was nice of him, but since there is no way to predict which films will result in shoot-outs, we ask everyone to be prepared for the common crime the borough already knows all too well — not to worry about rare, sensational, gang-type violence.

We've been charting the progress of Sony in Mountainside for several years, and as the application for the 10-plex neared a vote by the Board of Adjustment, we watched the happenings at the nearest Sony multiplex, located about 25 minutes away on Route 10 in East Hanover.

What we've seen there is a disturbing trend that does not belong in Mountainside: That Sony theater is a popular attraction for children — not only teen-agers who can drive, but also pre-teens and young children.

That theater has in its lobby four video arcade-games; several concession stands, accessible even to those who do not have tickets; and payphones installed low enough for toddlers to use. Basically, it's a hangout where kids can amuse themselves, eat junk food and call mom for a ride home at the end of the day. Plus, because the East Hanover Sony has so many children present, inevitably some of them find their way into R-rated movies.

We still welcome Sony to the Borough of Mountainside. Its presence will not mean the end of the world, but these are several issues borough residents should know in order for everyone to coexist peacefully.

Conversely, if Sony's management can be taught to respect Mountainside's identity, the theater would have the potential to become a popular neighbor, not just a tolerated one.

# OPINION PAGE



**FITTS ON FUNDING** — The Board of Education meets in the library of Deerfield School to discuss the Oct. 10 visit of Union County Superintendent of Schools Leonard Fitts. Fitts will hear residents' comments regarding funding of the borough's school district. The meeting also will involve discussion of the 'Comprehensive Plan for Educational Improvement and Financing,' a state Department of Education plan intended to equalize the per-student cost statewide. Borough residents who wish to speak to Fitts will first have to submit a written copy of their comments to the board. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

## Blimps and dirigibles have a rich history

These days, as we watch various sporting events on television, we see an occasional shot of a Goodyear blimp floating overhead, advertising tires and sending out intriguing pictures of the event that it is covering. On rare occasions, a blimp has used Linden Airport as a temporary base of activity, and last year, on a beautiful blue-sky day, one floated over the Roselle Rams football game at Arminio Field. These fascinating lighter-than-air craft have a history going back to the early days of aviation, even before the Wright Brothers invented powered aircraft. Preceded by the Montgolfiers' hot air balloons, they were featured attractions in fairs held throughout the country.

In World War I they were used as mobile "spies in the sky" and were quicker and easier to build than their big sisters, the dirigibles. They acquired their name from their Army designation of "Class B-imp," which distinguished them from the rigid-framed giants of the air. They had no framework, and were just a gas bag held in shape by the pressure of the gas within them. In Europe this gas was hydrogen, as there was no supply of helium available, and both types were very susceptible to fire caused by incendiary bullets from the enemy.

After the war, the United States Navy established the Lakehurst Naval Air Station and began experimenting with both types on a regular basis. One dirigible, the ZR3 was flown to this country from Germany in 1924, as part of reparations for having lost the war. Renamed "Los Angeles," she

### The Way It Was

By William Frolich

became a familiar sight in the skies over New Jersey.

Other dirigibles were being built for the Navy in the 1920s, including the Shenandoah, the Akron, and the Macon, and the latter two were fitted to carry fighter planes, as many as five apiece. Experiments with these aircraft included removing a section of the framework from the underside area amidship, and creating an opening from which small Navy fighter planes could be launched. An airplane, fitted with a special hooklike device on its upper wing, could be lowered from its hangar in the airship by a sort of trapeze that swung down from the opening. When ready, the pilot released the hook and dropped away from the dirigible, free to fly.

Retrieving the fighter was just a matter of practice for the pilot, until he could slowly fly up under the aircraft and reattach the hook to the trapeze, where it would automatically snap shut and the plane could be withdrawn into the dirigible. Although never used in a war, these fighters would have been used as protection from enemy airplanes, and for attacks on enemy positions.

Operating out of Lakehurst, the Akron cruised at 80 miles an hour over southern New Jersey and the

seashore area. Unfortunately, in 1933 she was caught in a storm over the Atlantic Ocean, was twisted by the winds and crashed into the water.

The first messages of distress from the airship were received by the Radiomarine Corporation of America's 900-foot steel radio tower in Tuckerton and relayed to the Navy. Rescue craft were sent out to look for survivors, but the next day the searching blimp J-3 also fell into the ocean.

About two years later, the Macon, operating over the Pacific Ocean on maneuvers with surface vessels of the Navy, also crash-landed in the ocean. These accidents, including the loss of the Shenandoah, which had broken up in a flight in 1925, convinced the Navy that there was not much future in rigid lighter-than-air craft, and no more were built. The Los Angeles, still in the hangar at Lakehurst, was decommissioned and dismantled.

Germany, however, continued building dirigibles, and by 1930 had established trans-Atlantic passenger service between Germany and the United States, with the airship Graf Zeppelin. Lakehurst Naval Air Station was used as the landing base, and the Graf Zeppelin, named for its inventor, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, made more than 75 ocean crossings and a flight around the world. At one time an effort was made to use the Empire State Building in New York City as a mooring mast, which would enable passengers to be discharged directly into the building in the heat of the city, but rough winds and nervous patrons scuttled that idea.

In 1936 the new German airship Hindenburg made 17 crossings over the Atlantic Ocean. In the spring of 1937 the Hindenburg resumed the passenger service which had been suspended during the winter and arrived over New York City in the early afternoon of May 6 of that year. Delayed by storms over New Jersey, the airship approached the mooring mast at Lakehurst about 7 o'clock. Suddenly disaster struck as flames burst from the sides of the vessel. Filled with flammable hydrogen, the burning Hindenburg fell to the ground, and as some survivors ran to safety, in less than a minute had collapsed into a twisted, melted framework from what had been the pride of Germany.

In spite of these calamities, the Navy continued with the use of blimps, and during World War II its fleet of small lighter-than-air craft did almost constant patrol duty off the Atlantic Coast of the United States. Floating in the air over the ocean they could detect enemy U-boats while they were still submerged below the surface, as they were easily visible from overhead. Residents at the New Jersey shore became quite accustomed to seeing a half-dozen blimps spaced out along the horizon.

Today all of the blimps are used for advertising and television, hovering over football games, and flashing their messages from the lightbulbs along their sides.

William Frolich is a resident of Roselle and a member of the Union County Historical Society.

## letters to the editor

### Volunteerism is a team effort

To the Editor:

Mr. Gary W. Whyte, Mr. Gary W. Whyte, "we've grown accustomed to your name," as the song goes, but in his case, it would be more accurate to sing "we've grown accustomed to your whining, complaining, and character assassinations."

In case you don't know to what I'm referring, I'm speaking about an individual who volunteered his time to raise money for a myriad of good causes involving Mountainside activities and centennial events.

Of course, given human nature, disagreements will occur; disagreements such as where to hold the centennial dinner. That is understandable.

What is inappropriate is Mr. Gary W. Whyte's use, or abuse, of his fundraising abilities and organizational skills to settle personal scores with a local restaurant owner, and his attempts to drag in other volunteers with him in the process — lest they "displease" him by not being his "friend."

It seems there is no adequate way to apologize to Mr. Whyte that is acceptable to him, and is at the same time reasonable under all normally recognized standards of common sense and civility.

Unfortunately, Mr. Gary W. Whyte's money-raising skills are eclipsed only by his ability to write emotional and disparaging letters.

These letters could have the effect of alienating and intimidating scores of volunteers into thinking that it's not worth getting involved with your community. In conversations I've had with neighbors, some already have said they would not help in the future, in order to avoid being subjected to such abuse.

You could be sucked in by the political undertow of one man's personal agenda in the process. You might even end up being referred to as a "moron" in one of his rambling diatribes.

His letters have been filled with inaccuracies. The least that should be expected of someone who writes letters to the editor is that they get their facts straight.

To all our neighbors who have and continue to work so hard on the centennial, Little League, and all the other activities too numerous to mention which give a town a sense of community and spirit, please keep up the good work. We need you and people like you.

To Mayor Bob Vigilanti and the Borough Council, especially to Bob, we appreciate all the hard work you've put in this year and every year. The downtown looks great, the traffic lights are vastly improved, and the centennial events have been terrific.

As for Mr. Gary W. Whyte, he apparently has resigned from all borough activities. That's OK. In fact, he's done us all a favor by doing so.

What is not acceptable is the discomfort level and the hurt feelings he intentionally created.

We've done fine as a community in the past. Let Mr. Gary W. Whyte pick up his marbles and super ego and go home to wherever he came from. With or without him, I'm sure we'll do just fine — maybe even better!

Mauel Arango  
Mountainside

### Borough residents are lucky

To the Editor:

I was so glad to read "A Base Hit, No Errors" in the Sept. 14 issue of the Echo.

I personally feel thankful to live in a town where topics such as the deer population and, more recently, the controversy over noise from the new baseball scoreboard is the front page news.

I too live with noise all summer long — from the constant roar of lawn services — and sometimes find it difficult to enjoy eating in my screened-in porch. Then I stop and count my blessings, taking pride in knowing almost all of my neighbors are in a financial position to even afford a lawn service. I also remember that the spring and summer are the two shortest seasons of the year and that in a few short months, on that first real cold day, I'll be missing that "noise."

So, if the noise continues to be an issue next season, and I am optimistic it won't be, I hope the residents who live near the ballfield will take comfort in the fact that they are hearing the sounds of kids playing baseball, the roars of fans cheering them on, and even those corny baseball songs — and not the sound of gunfire on the streets instead.

The generosity of the gentleman who donated the sign should not be overlooked and be overshadowed by complaints from just a few. We are fortunate to be blessed with a committed group of volunteers dedicated to Mountainside Youth Baseball.

Linda Condrillo  
Mountainside

### Whose system is it?

To the Editor:

Sen. Bill "Dollar Bill" Bradley now says the "system" failed. Haven't he and his party been part of that system?

Joseph Chieppa  
Mountainside

**"I did not join my profession to cloak myself in the First Amendment or to flaunt it. But I cannot cast aside my obligations as a reporter simply because they are being contested. The inevitable result of my compliance with this order [to turn over story notes] would be my conversion as an investigative agent for the parties in this case."**

—Myron A. Farber

## Mountainside Echo

Published Weekly Since 1958

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

(908) 686-7700

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# Weddings retain an ancient sense of mystery

Most weddings I've attended have kept, at the core, a sense of mystery. It is not provided by a member of the clergy reciting magical words, or by cliché homilies on the alchemy of "two becoming one." It is the mystery of a couple standing before friends and family and making a public declaration of commitment and love for each other. This ritual has ancient roots.

Weddings are also laced with humor, as the tense formality of the occasion collides with the simplicity of what is actually being done, and with the irrepressible personalities involved. Brides get fits of giggles. Grooms cannot remember the words the minister just asked them to repeat. Best men fumble for the rings. Bridesmaids drop their flowers. Everyone loosens up. Which doesn't explain how a groom can flatter a bride "Lady," the Kenny Rogers song to his bride, and not notice any thing in it. I had to listen to this without cracking up.

## Free Form

By Bob Rixon

I once attended a huge wedding at the Eagleton Mansion at Rutgers. I had to resist an urge to cop the silverware. Yet the ceremony, which took place outside, was informal, with the fathers of the bride and groom hilariously insulting each other. The band was the best I ever heard, or expect to hear, at a reception. Afterward, a large percentage of the party moved to the groom's house where we continued to celebrate until the wee hours.

The warmest wedding I've attended, held at a nice home, was the marriage of a couple who had lived together for 15 years. They wrote most of the ceremony themselves. The entire event felt like one long hug. They also dispensed with the sit-

down dinner. Instead, hors d'oeuvres were served for hours by waiters, a great idea, since finger foods are invariably the tastiest eats one finds at weddings.

When my friend and co-worker Ann Marie began planning her wedding over two years ago, I calculated approximately how much she was spending per day for the privilege of talking about it. This she did every day without fail. I didn't mind, for a wedding is a dream theater, playing out as much in the planning as in the event itself or the life that follows.

Working on a tight budget, Ann Marie was meticulous and dutiful. Her fiancé, Bruce, seemed to approach his impending marriage with a dry wit, even suggesting driving to the wedding in buses rather than limousines. Ann Marie slowly steered him into the simple romantic gestures that women want, like remembering to send flowers on her birthday. Like a skeptical older brother, I eventually came to the con-

clusion that they were equally crazy and belonged together.

Ann Marie also compiled long lists of songs she wanted to hear at the reception, none of which were played. I have such strong feelings on this matter that I'd hire myself to DJ my own wedding, even if it meant giving my place at the head table to a proxy.

The wedding happened as Ann Marie planned and promised. We ate. We danced. We drank. We banged spoons on glasses and mugged for the cameras. The bouquet was tossed, the garter was slipped up a bridesmaid's leg to cries of "Higher!" The reception ended too early. It always does.

The ceremony itself was short, sweet, and a little bit tear-eyed. Ann Marie was beautiful. Bruce was handsome. Behind their vows was a mystery of love and optimism that never fails to enchant and astonish.

Bob Rixon is a resident of Rahway.

# letter to the editor

## Andrew Ruotolo: a nice guy

To the Editor:

Andrew Ruotolo's presence during a freeholder meeting is something I have commented on maybe 100 times, but the fact that Andrew Ruotolo was an all-around nice guy is the story I want to tell your readers.

He came to a freeholder's meeting of which the topic was limiting the length of time the public can speak during freeholder meetings. I'm serious, the board was actually arguing this. During the comment period, Ruotolo, in his commanding, yet humble presence, spoke for nearly 40 minutes on how he could save tax dollars within his department.

Throughout his speech, three of us in the peanut gallery sat awe-struck as we listened to this man's wit and wisdom.

When Ruotolo finished, we could not stop laughing as we told the board that we too, wanted his five minutes. Mr. Ruotolo also laughed at that.

As I said, I really don't have an ending. It was just the moment when I finally had a chance to see and hear what everyone was talking about: what a nice guy Andrew Ruotolo was.

Vincent Lehotsky  
Linden

# It's time to slow down, we're moving too fast

We've heard the expression "bigger is better." Many would disagree with that statement, but I'll paraphrase that concept with the erroneous statement "speed is vital to our survival."

There is no doubt that America and perhaps the world is consumed with speed, whether it be cars, airplanes, ships, computers, or installing light bulbs. The faster we can make things go, the happier we are.

This concept is especially true in the automobile industry where a car that can go from zero to 80 mph in five seconds is the one for you. This is pounded into our head in television commercials where the voiceover person says, "You can feel safe in our Cannonball Express at any speed." Then the film cuts to a car racing down a highway, taking curves like they do at the Indy 500 and stopping on a dime with no sweat.

First, why is it necessary to speed? Where can anyone find a place in the metropolitan area where a car can speed 80 mph? The current dispute whether the 55 mph limit should be pushed up to 65 mph is an exercise in futility. The argument to increase the minimum is that most drivers disregard the 55 limit anyhow and 65 is a

## As I See It

By Norman Rauscher

safe limit. But those endorsing the increase forget to say that by permitting 65 mph, temps some drivers to go an additional 10 miles more and you arrive at a speed of 75 to 80. That, is not safe, especially if the car in front of you stops suddenly.

I think the advertising on television gives young people the wrong message that speed is cool, and the faster we can make cars go, the better world we will have.

The same concept can be applied to airplanes. Ads proclaim that Snail Airways can get you from here to there faster because the engines are tooled to go faster. There again, we are consumed in getting to our destinations faster and faster.

Computers fall into the same category. Each manufacturer boasts that its product is the best when it comes to speed. "My byte is better than yours," the manufacturers seem to say.

Telephones, faxes and copying

machines all are designed to make the newer model faster than the previous one.

Where are we going with all this speed and why must we constantly build machines with speed as the main ingredient for consumer support? Where are we going with all this speed and why are we so consumed with it? The communications highway is out of control.

Take as a tragic example of an accident one which occurred in Tenafly last week when five people died instantly after a car, traveling about 100 mph hour, slammed into a minivan? Tenafly is not exactly a rural town and going that speed is both irresponsible and a wish to self-destruct. It's unfortunate that the driver who died did not think his actions could affect others. Needless to say, the driver of the speeding car and a passenger were killed on the spot as were three passengers in the minivan.

What was proven by going nearly 100 mph in a quasi-urban area? Death had a real field day.

Agreed that business is getting more and more complex and if you can't keep up with the competition, you might find yourself on a street corner selling pencils. It seems the

faster we can get a job over and done with, the better it is supposed to be.

No wonder many of us are uptight. We live in a world where speed has evolved into a cult. We are surrounded by speed the entire day, whether it be the 6000 shipping or driving. We can't seem to slow down and it has affected us negatively. I don't think we humans were put on this planet to constantly engage in doing things the fastest way possible. The speed of a high speed train, which is marginally improved modern technology, may have a point when the claims that it is a time saver are not meant to live in this high-tech society. He blames the start of the Industrial Revolution in the early 1800s for our woes. I don't thoroughly agree with that but I do think the Industrial Revolution might have had a hand in it. The Industrial Revolution might have gotten out of hand sometime back. We don't know where this high-tech revolution is taking us but it is certainly taking us somewhere all too fast.

Norman Rauscher, a former newspaper publisher in Summit, is an active member of the Summit community.

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## Discussing new plan



Dr. Eric Munoz, council-at-large candidate, right, and Congressman Robert Franks discuss the Republican Medicare Preservation Act during a recent town meeting at Summit City Hall on Sept. 23. The new Republican Medicare plan attempts to preserve, protect and strengthen the embroiled federal health care insurance program for the elderly.

## Ward I candidate believes in viable downtown

Why is a strong, viable downtown important to all of us? According to Bill Rosen, Republican candidate for Common Council in Ward I, the answer may be obvious but certainly worth restating.

"Summit's downtown is a feature of our community that elevates and sustains our quality of life and currently provides about 20 percent of our tax base," Rosen said.

The "charm," he continued, "of our vibrant downtown lures many to choose Summit as a place to live, to shop and to work."

Rosen said he believes positive action needs to be taken to resolve problems that threaten the vitality of the Central Retail Business District.

Rosen, a 35-year resident of Summit, feels the problems are not at crisis level yet, but there are signs: people are no longer able to shop in Summit for many everyday basic needs such as bath towels or appliances.

According to Rosen, "Parking certainly has been acknowledged as a problem, even to return a book to the library or to buy stamps at the Post Office, or run into a store to buy a birthday card. Some residents shop elsewhere and use Summit only to go to the bank, or perhaps use the pharmacy."

Rosen said he believes Summit must take action.

"Summit must encourage a climate

that supports small, independent retailers," Rosen said.

Citing the fact that Summit's population is below 20,000, down approximately 4,000 from 25 years ago, Rosen said, "That translates into fewer potential customers for downtown merchants. Summit has relinquished its role as a shopping hub now that many surrounding areas have full shopping areas, many with easy, free parking," he said.

"And of course," he continued, "the newly expanded Short Hills Mall is fierce competition for all local communities."

Is there a silver lining to this? Rosen said Summit residents are basically loyal to Summit stores and, Summit's personalized service in dealing with the owner/storekeeper is far preferable to dealing with impersonal, never-to-be-seen-again employees at the mall.

Rosen proposes a three-pronged approach to revitalize and support the downtown.

- "First, we should support some form of downtown self-improvement plan: equitable in its funding and careful in its spending. Council must be the 'honest broker' here and bring all the interested parties together to make Summit shopping more attractive.

- "Second, we must increase shop-

easy, not frustrating and time consuming. One option is to gain more shopper parking by building additional commuter parking. Another is to shift some current employee parking to long-term lots to free up short-term slots. While employee parking needs may seem to be a burden, those downtown employees supplement our customer base and support our retail stores.

- "Third, we cannot wait for stores to come to us. I support a task force of interested parties, including Common Council, local business people and residents to aggressively seek and attract the kinds of stores that will

draw customers into Summit. The solution is not to fill empty stores with real estate and financial institutions that can destroy the continuity of a retail district.

"Our downtown must be attractive to Summit residents, Summit employees, neighbors from surrounding towns, and some of those people driving to the mall," Rosen said. "They too will like our personalized service, once we have spread the word."

Rosen said he is willing to meet with citizen and community groups to discuss local issues. Call 273-1628 to arrange such a meeting.

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## Appointment recognized at board meeting

Board of Education President Jesse Butler announced the resignation of board member Alan Dunning, who has served on the board for more than five years.

Dunning said the decision to resign was a difficult one to make, but increased professional responsibilities do not permit him to devote the time that is required of a board member. He said his time on the board has been a challenging and rewarding experience. On behalf of the entire board, Butler thanked Dunning for the years of dedication and hard work he has given to the Summit School District.

Butler also announced that Vivian Boucherit has been appointed by Mayor Janet Whitman as Dunning's replacement. Boucherit has a professional background in advertising, marketing and public relations. Last year, she served as Lincoln School's PTO president. Boucherit will be

sworn in as a board member at the October board meeting.

### Staff members honored

Board Communications Committee member Lou Zachary presented certificates of recognition during the Sept. 21 meeting to the following staff members who have been or will be tenured in 1995: teachers Beverly Karl, Franklin School; Rosaly Palazzo, Lincoln School; Christine DeGenio, Lincoln School; Meredith Warrington, Washington School; Amy Herber, Middle School; Kristen O'Loughlin, Middle School; Linda Solondz, Middle School/High School; Wendy Donat, High School; Andrea Ford, High School; Ann Marie LoDolce, Middle School; Gail Tucci, Lincoln School; Karen Masters, Special Services; Cynthia Hedin, Washington School. Also tenured are high school English Department Supervisor Eleanor Haugh; middle

school Librarian Linda Schroeder, and high school Nurse Jean Fay.

Zachary also congratulated five Summit High School seniors who were named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. They are Janet Larsen, Vincent Martin, Alisa Meny, John White and Mary Kate Willkens. These students, who represent one-half of 1 percent of the nation's high school seniors, now advance to the finalist level of competition for Merit Scholarships.

### Personnel

The board approved the following appointments for the 1995-96 school year: Maria Insinger as cafeteria cashier at Brayton School; Richard Brennan as high school safety officer; Jackie Campagna as PI aide at Jefferson School; Christine Buck as teacher aide at Franklin School; Nancy Fields as Brayton School Kindergarten aide; Tina Graham as Brayton School

cafeteria aide; Susan Tarashuk as Washington School kindergarten aide; Susan Podolak as Lincoln School kindergarten aide, and Kimberly Latham as Brayton School bus aide.

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Meet Maria Garcia, our new branch manager in the area, and Maria Garcia, whom many of you know from her part-time position as a teller at our Springfield office. They want you to stop in and get re-acquainted.

### Win a Cruise Party On October 14

As part of our new branch opening celebration, we're having a big party on Saturday, October 14. We'll have a cash drawing, a raffle, a musical performance, and lots of delicious food and drinks — and gifts for everyone.

A portion of the cash prize will be used to fund a trip for two to the Bahamas. For 3 nights our winner will enjoy the luxury of the Caribbean Cruise Line's Caribbean Cruise. Of course, airfare for two to and from Springfield is included. The cash prize will be used to fund a trip for two to the Bahamas. For 3 nights our winner will enjoy the luxury of the Caribbean Cruise Line's Caribbean Cruise. Of course, airfare for two to and from Springfield is included.

There's also a \$100 cash prize for four lucky people. When you come to the bank, you'll be asked to draw a name from a bowl and you could be \$100 richer. We'll be drawing names from the bowl at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Come help us celebrate and enjoy a few

### This An Aboard Party Could Be For You!

To win a night on the beautiful Nordic Express, complete this coupon and place it in the special container located in the lobby of First Community Bank at 733 Mountain Ave. in Springfield. The drawing will take place on Saturday, October 21st at 12 Noon.

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## Internet made easy — just a phone call away

Openix, a new local Internet provider, equipped with all Internet services for most of Morris, Essex and Union counties has been formed, it was announced by Ron Mueller, the company's president.

According to Mueller, the primary goal of Openix is to make it easy for people to have access to the information superhighway. Openix will provide Internet support for customers including a help desk and a World Wide Web home page.

Openix customers have virtually unlimited access, six hours per day without additional charge, to all of the Internet. Because Openix is local, users can get on the Internet with a free local phone call for customers with flat rate telephone service.

Anyone interested in giving the information superhighway a try, may call Openix at (201) 443-0400 and inquire about its free two-week trial period.

## Community Pre-School will hold garage sale

The Community Pre-School at St. John's, located at 587 Springfield Ave., will hold a garage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at 33 Tulip St.

Contributions of clothing and other small items will be welcomed if calls are made to the school at 273-7208 to make arrangements for delivery.

The Community Pre-School at St. John's is a member agency of the United Way of Summit, New Providence and Berkeley Heights. Now in its 31st year of operation, it provides

pre-school education to children whose families might not be able to provide such an experience. All families pay some tuition, but the tuition is based on family size, income and other circumstances.

While the school is housed free of charge at St. John's Lutheran Church, it is not affiliated with the church.

Something to sell? Telephone 1-800-564-8911.

## Political parties look for workers

Both political parties need to hire additional workers for the polls on General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7.

In order to be eligible for employment in Summit, interested people must be registered voters from any Union County community. Democrats can contact Wilson J. Allen III at 373-5179, and Republicans should call Julia Ciccia at 273-1685.

"All election board workers are required to attend a two-hour training session to learn the basics of election machine operation," said David L. Hughes, Summit's city clerk.

Board workers will earn \$75 for the day's work. A bonus of \$12.50 will be added for picking up or returning election materials to City Hall, making it possible to raise the salary for that day to either \$87.50 or \$100. In Summit, the political parties agreed years ago to provide this bonus to the Democrats in the primary election and the Republicans in the general election.

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. The Election Day staff will work those hours as well as the time required to open and close the polling places.

## Deer reduction plan approved

(Continued from Page 1)

FoodBank, which in turn gave the food to several charities across the county.

The meat collected in the next five proposed hunts would be shared among the hunters and the food bank.

"An agent's ability to receive a share of venison should be based on a minimum number of hours of service, such as 20 hours, rather than on the number of deer killed," Bernier's recommendation states. "Each agent should receive 40 pounds of venison, which was the average yield from each deer in the 1995 program. The bulk of the venison should again be distributed through the Community FoodBank of New Jersey."

Among other points in the proposed plan are:

- The subcommittee would meet in May of each of the next five years to learn the results and study the effectiveness of the previous year's program; to count deer-related motor vehicle accidents; to study aerial and spotlight counts; to study new developments in technologies or methodologies of deer management; and, if necessary, to recommend changes to the plan.

The subcommittee also would plan for years beyond the five-year plan by

studying new methods of deer management. If the need arises, the subcommittee would reassess the target of a 20 deer per square mile density and would recommend changes.

- The DPR would collect reports of deer-related motor vehicle accidents on an annual basis. In addition, the department would have traffic and engineering studies conducted on roadways in and around the reservation and reduce the existing speed limits in the hope of reducing the number of deer-related accidents.

- The county would "conclude its study of the feasibility of installing reflectors along roadways" where such accidents commonly occur.

- The county should continue its surveillance, investigation, and prosecution of poachers to end illegal hunting.

- The Division of Parks and Recreation would expand the public education program on deer-related issues. Earlier this summer, the freeholders released the subcommittee's research materials to the public, placing them in the Mountainside and Summit public libraries and the Trailside Nature and Science Center, among other facilities.

- The DPR would work with other New Jersey counties and/or municipalities to enter into an agreement

with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to join its "community attitude survey." This would allow the subcommittee to assess public opinion on the local deer situation, and the methods used to deal with it.

- The DPR would continue its study of the impact of deer on native plants; the incursion of exotic plants; any loss of biodiversity; as well as the weather and other environmental factors.

The DPR would expand its programs "to remove invasive exotic plants" from the park and to propagate and reintroduce native plants. In addition, mowed fields would be allowed to grow to "managed meadows."

- The Board of Chosen Freeholders would establish a Watching Reservation Management Committee that would deal with "other complementary issues through addition of subcommittees."

### Interviews slated

The Union County Rape Crisis Center is interviewing for the following groups:

- a group for teenage female survivors of rape age 13 to 17.
- a group for adult female survivors of rape.

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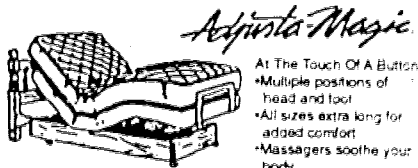
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TURN TO PAGE B2 For Details

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\* Interest is usually tax deductible; please consult your tax advisor.

\*\* The after-tax examples assume a 36% tax bracket; your after-tax advantage may differ from the examples shown.

\*\*\* Based on current prime rate of 8.75% + 1% margin.

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# Senior Lifestyles

## Seems like old times



Photo By Jay Hochberg

Members of the Jonathan Dayton Regional High School graduating class of 1945 gather in the school library Saturday for their 50th reunion. Scores of former classmates came from 15 states, and many from the Union County area, to see each other — in many cases, for the first time since graduation. After the reception at Dayton, the reunion participants attended a banquet at the Holiday Inn.

## Cable TV show offers flu advice

In October "Vintage Views," Union County's cable television program for seniors, urges all of us to fight the flu.

Program host Lou Coviello, a program coordinator with the Union County Government's Department of Human Services' Division on Aging, discusses flu shots as a winning tactic with Dr. Joseph Spagnuolo, associate medical director for The Peer Review Organization of New Jersey, and Mary Jane Brubaker, director of communications and program development for the PRO.

"Doctor Spagnuolo supports the belief of most seniors that persons getting a flu shot won't get sick during the winter months," stated Freeholder Elmer Ertl, liaison to the Advisory Council on Aging. "He

agrees with the many doctors who recommend and administer flu shots. He is convinced that flu shots can help us win the fight over the flu. The unfounded fear some people have of flu shots only succeeds in spreading the flu. We have to fight it."

Brubaker discusses her work in establishing statewide partnerships among the various organizations that are involved in conducting flu clinics and in educating senior citizens about the importance of getting an annual flu shot. In Union County, these partners include Union County's Division on Aging, health departments, medical societies, senior coordinators, home care agencies and the PRO.

"They all work together in getting the word out to seniors and their caregivers...get a flu shot and fight the

flu," Union County Manager Ann Baran said.

"Vintage Views" is made possible through the facilities and technical direction of the TKR Cable Co. of Elizabeth. "Vintage Views" is available throughout the county, broadcast from Elizabeth, TKR Cable, Channel

12, Monday - 6:30 p.m., Wednesday - 5 p.m.; Plainfield, Comcast Cable, Channel 20, Wednesday - 4:30 p.m.; Summit area, Comcast Cable, Channel 35, Tuesday - 11:30 a.m., Friday - 11:30 a.m., and other county locations on Comcast Cable, Channel 32, and Thursday - 7:05 p.m.

### Luncheon scheduled

The Mountainside Municipal Alliance has scheduled a luncheon for seniors to discuss the effects of tobacco Oct. 28 at noon in the Community Presbyterian Church. For more information, call Julie Allen at Borough Hall at 232-2400, Ext. 39.

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## Accounting firm offers tax classes

Thousands of senior citizens take the first step toward a second career by enrolling in the H&R Block Income Tax Course.

H&R Block, the world's largest income tax preparation firm, will offer the Income Tax Course starting the week of Sept. 11. The class material is presented in a user-friendly style. Morning, afternoon, evening and weekend classes are available.

The course provides excellent training for people who want to continue working after they retire or who are retired and want to go back to work. An experienced H&R Block instructor guides students through various aspects of income tax preparation. Classwork includes discussion, practice problems and hands-on preparation of individual income tax returns.

One course fee includes all textbooks and supplies. Graduates receive Certificates of Achievement and continuing education units. Qualified graduates of the course may be offered job interviews with H&R Block but are under no obligation to accept employment.

If hired, graduates of the course can profit from a practical skill they can put to use at convenient locations. Work may be scheduled during the hours and days that best fit their situation. Those interested in more information about the H&R Block Income Tax Course may call 1-800-TAX-2000 (1-800-829-2000), or your local H&R Block office, located at 1587 E. Second St., Scotch Plains.

## Tax volunteers needed for county aid program

The tax season is once again nearing, and Catholic Community Services' Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Union County is recruiting income tax volunteers 55 years of age and older for the 1996 tax season.

Volunteers will be expected to attend a four-day federal and state tax training session in January. Upon completion of the training, volunteers will be scheduled to assist with tax returns for several hours one day each week from February to April 15, 1996. The training and course materials are provided free of charge.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which provides free tax assistance to the elderly, handicapped, and low-income residents, last year completed nearly 1,200 tax returns at seven county-wide locations.

Anyone interested in volunteering or if more information is needed, call the RSVP office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (908) 709-2153.

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## Giving to the community Retiree stays active on aid squad

By Kathryn Fitzgerald  
Managing Editor

Murry Hurwitz, a resident of Springfield for 38 years, wanted to "pay back a lot of good things that've happened," particularly those due to first aid.

When he retired from a career as a chemical engineer at age 70, he found that he had the opportunity to continue serving his community.

Almost eight years ago, Hurwitz began volunteering his time with the Springfield Volunteer First Aid Squad, and today he is on call "probably every day of the week," according to Squad Captain Elizabeth Fritzen.

"I felt obligated to volunteer for the squad as a matter of conscience," Hurwitz explained, "and since I'm Jewish, one of the prime things one can do is save a life or help save a life."

A registered Emergency Medical Technician who's certified to perform defibrillation, Hurwitz rides the squad's ambulance 36 hours a week, although he remains on call all week.

In addition to being an important part of many day-crews, he is the squad's recording secretary and historian.

Both Fritzen and 1st Lt. Kevin Paul said they're thankful for Hurwitz's endless contributions to the squad.

"He's a joy to have on a crew," Paul added, "and he's an asset when you're dealing with the older community."

Fritzen concurred, insisting that Hurwitz is "really a credit to the community for what he's doing. He's been on almost eight years and he joined later in life."

Being highly active in township affairs, Hurwitz has become familiar with many people in Springfield. Knowing him and having him present often helps the senior members of the community feel more at ease during emergencies.

Hurwitz's interest in first aid stems from his involvement in the community. A scoutmaster with the local troop of Boy Scouts, he proudly referred to them as "the next first aiders in town."

Hurwitz credited his predecessor, a scoutmaster active in another first aid squad, with teaching the scouts their first aid skills and with sparking his own interest in the subject.

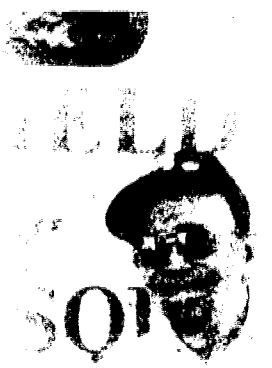
Community involvement has been a large part of Hurwitz's life. Prior to his retirement, he had "basically a full life of strong service to the town," including his time with the Boy Scouts.

Today, in addition to his service with the First Aid Squad, he also is an active member of the Third New Jersey Regiment of the Brigade of the American Revolution, an organization that re-enacts the daily life of Revolutionary-era soldiers. With his regiment, Hurwitz played an active part in Springfield's bicentennial last year.

Although the First Aid Squad includes members from every walk of life, from high school-aged cadets to people with young families to retirees, they are still in need of volunteers, especially for the day shift. Training, uniforms and pagers are provided for all volunteers.

"The point that we'd like to get across is that this is not the kind of organization where, if you're over 55 or 60, we wouldn't be interested in you," Fritzen said.

Springfield residents interested in donating their time to the First Aid Squad should contact the Springfield Police Department at 912-2239.



Murry Hurwitz  
Inspired by scoutmaster

## County announces services schedule

Union County Government's Department of Human Services, Division on Aging, has announced the October schedule for its Outreach Services Program.

As in the past, the program will provide isolated elderly persons with help in applying for services such as pharmaceutical assistance; gas and electric support; grocery supplies and food stamps; counseling on health insurance for Medicare enrollees; home energy assistance; and supplementary security income.

"Our knowledgeable staff will be available to assist anyone needing these types of services," said Freeholder Elmer Ertl, liaison to the county's

Advisory Council on Aging.

"We want to bring government services to people, particularly senior adults, and help them receive the services they need," said County Manager Ann Baran. "We hope that anyone needing help in applying for these services that support daily living for seniors will come and talk to our personnel."

Program services will be available as follows: Wednesday, Rahway Second Baptist Church, 378 East Milton Ave. and Lenox Place, Rahway, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 16, Vauxhall A.M.E., 241 Hilton Ave., Union, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Oct. 18, Hillside Community Center, 265 Hollywood Ave.,

Hillside, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Oct. 19, Elizabethport Family Center, Pioneer Homes 32C, Elizabeth, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Oct. 19, Roselle Borough Hall, 210 Chestnut St., second floor, Roselle, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., and Oct. 31, Cranford Lincoln/Gill Apartments, 40 Meeker Ave., Cranford, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Private interviews will be conducted by senior staff from the Department of Human Services' Division on Aging and Division of Social Services.

Anyone who needs more information about the Outreach Services Program may call (908) 527-4870 or 527-4872.



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## Schlosser-Steiner to wed

Mr. and Mrs. Melvyn Schlosser of Springfield announced the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie, to David Steiner, son of Mrs. Karen Steiner of Framingham, Mass., and Mr. Barry Steiner of Barrington, RI.

Miss Schlosser is a graduate of Jonathan Dayton Regional High School. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Hofstra University and her masters degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Maryland. She is employed as the coordinator of Vocational Rehabilitation Programs for American College Testing.

Mr. Steiner also received his BA degree from Hofstra University. He attends the New England School of Law in Boston and will receive his juris doctorate degree in the spring.

An October 1996 wedding is planned.



David Franzoni and Joanne Esemplare

## Esemplare-Franzoni wed

Joanne Esemplare, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pascal Esemplare of Mountainside, was married June 10 to Dr. David Franzoni, son of Mr. and Mrs. Agostino Franzoni of Springfield.

The ceremony was held in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Mountainside. Father Bartley Baker officiated at the nuptial mass. A reception followed at the Berkeley Plaza in Berkeley Heights.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Kristine Forstbauer of White Plains, NY was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Christine Esemplare, Barbara Carpency, Pamela Nadzan and Tara Rodrigues.

The best man was Dr. Alan Couture. The ushers and groomsmen were William Hackett, Walter Henry, Andrew Wasserman, Mark Winarsky, Anthony Gagliardo, Paul Travers, and Ed Quinn.

Flower girls were Justina Gasbarro and Alyssa Esemplare, nieces of the bride. The ring-bearer was Jesse Gasbarro, nephew of the bride.

The bride and groom are both graduates of Jonathan Dayton Regional High School. The bride graduated Pace University with a bachelor of arts in accounting. The groom graduated Fairfield University with a bachelor of science degree, and graduated Georgetown Medical School. He is in a residency program at Hershey Medical Center.

The couple resides in Pennsylvania.

## Announcement policy

Couples are encouraged to send their engagement and wedding announcements to the lifestyle editor. Announcements should be typed, doubled spaced or legibly handwritten and no longer than one page. All announcements should have a daytime phone number for verification or if questions arise.

Information requested for engagements are parents names, high school name and town, college name, town and degree, name of employer and town where located, job title, and the date of marriage.

Information requested for weddings are parents names, date of wedding, where the wedding took place, who officiated, who attended the bride and groom, high school name and town, college name, town and degree, name of employer and town where located, job title, and where the couple honeymooned and will reside.

When sending a picture with the announcement, a check for \$10 is required. Black and white or clear color pictures are acceptable. Pictures of the couple sitting or standing together are preferred. Pictures of one person standing and the other seated present design problems, so, if possible, side by side is better.

For more information call 686-7700.

## Group to hold rummage sale

The Evening Group of the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield will hold its annual rummage sale Oct. 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Oct. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, in the Parish House at 37 Church Mall.

Men's, women's and children's clothing will be for sale, along with jewelry, curtains, drapes, dishes and kitchenware, knick-knacks, some furniture and other miscellaneous articles.

## Firefighters' local plans fund-raiser golf outing at Baltusrol next month

The Springfield Fire Department's Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association Local 57 is sponsoring a fund-raiser golf tournament on Nov. 13 at the Baltusrol Country Club's lower course. This course has been the site of many U.S. Open men and women's tournaments as well as other professional golf tournaments.

The FMBA is aiming to raise funds in part to support the St. Barnabas Burn Center; local youth programs; and the FMBA's Tot-Finder program, which provides residents of Springfield with a Tot-Finder decal that is placed in their children's bedroom windows. This tells firefighters where an infant or juvenile may be trapped during a fire.

Also, the FMBA's Infant Smoke Detector Program provides a smoke detector free to the parents of newborns.

Springfield and area residents and businesses wishing to participate in this tournament may do so at a cost of \$250 per golfer. Availability is limited to 120 golfers on a first come, first served basis.

Additionally, area businesses may also participate by sponsoring a hole or a fee at a cost of \$150. Sponsors will have a sign with their company's name displayed at the hole or tee. Businesses can also purchase golf tickets at a cost of \$250 per golfer.

All golfers will be eligible to win a Ford Sports truck in the hole-in-one contest. This truck is being donated by the Flemington Car and Truck Country dealership/Ditschman Ford of Flemington.

In addition, all golfers will receive a tournament golf shirt, driving and putting green privileges, a buffet brunch, the use of a golf cart or caddy, invitation to the locker-bar and a post-tournament cocktail reception.

To obtain sponsorship or golf tournament information, call 376-8558, or visit the Fire Department at the back of the Municipal Building.

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Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and the National Endowment for the Arts



Stephanie Schlosser and David Steiner

## CPR courses offered

The American Red Cross Eastern Union County Chapter and Union County Industrial Safety Council will hold dates for the Standard First Aid Course and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation courses.

The course is held at the Red Cross Chapter, 203 West Jersey St., Elizabeth, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This allows for adequate morning and afternoon coffee breaks and one hour for lunch. The cost is \$65.

All class sizes are limited. Reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Cancellations must be received no later than 72 hours in advance of the scheduled date. If you must cancel and you meet the 72-hour deadline, a later date can be scheduled. Cancellations later than 72 hours or no-shows on the scheduled date will have to pay.

The dates are as follows: Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

For more information call 352-0900 or write to Elaine Lomax, Union County Chamber of Commerce, 135 Jefferson Ave., Box 300, Elizabeth, NJ 07207-0300.

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## Political coverage to begin next week

In the 1995 campaigns for municipal and state offices, there are candidates from both major parties vying for seats in the Borough Council and the General Assembly. Republican Robert Vigilanti is running unopposed for another term as mayor. Borough Councilmen Werner

Schon and David Hart are seeking re-election on the Republican ticket. Democrats Henry Knaz and Nick Maxemchuk are challenging them. For the two General Assembly seats, representing the 22nd District, incumbent Republicans Richard Bagger and Alan August

are challenged by Democrats Geri Samuel of Scotch Plains and John Salerno of Westfield. Detailed coverage of the borough's and district's campaign seasons will begin in next week's edition of the *Mountainside Echo*. Election Day is Nov. 7.

## Bagger releases survey results

Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger, R-20, announced this week the results of his recent survey of area residents on issues involving education in New Jersey.

In light of the New Jersey Supreme Court's order that the Legislature fund urban schools at the same level as the highest-spending school districts in the state, 85 percent of those responding favored an amendment to the New Jersey State Constitution which defines the education all children are entitled to receive in terms of substance and quality, not spending. Eleven percent were opposed to such an amendment.

Furthermore, addressing the New Jersey Supreme Court's related ruling that basic, unrestricted state aid to education be eliminated for many suburban communities, seventy-one percent of those questioned supported increasing categorical state aid to pay for a greater portion of mandated services, such as special education, as a constitutional way of providing state school aid to all communities in New

Jersey. Nineteen percent opposed this idea, and 10 percent were unsure.

Respondents were evenly split on Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler's proposal for a pilot program to provide vouchers for Jersey City parents to send their children to the school of their choice, including public, private and parochial schools. Fifty percent were in favor and 47 percent opposed.

However, residents surveyed were more supportive of "charter schools," which are public schools organized by parents, teachers or school administrators that are free from many of the regulations affecting existing public schools. Fifty-nine percent favored giving parents the choice of sending their children to public "charter schools," while 29 percent were opposed and 12 percent uncertain.

The State Department of Education took control of the Newark public schools this summer as a result of administrative improprieties and educational failure. By an 86 percent margin, residents agreed that the state should take over and operate failed

school districts which rely on state funds for most of their school budget. Nine percent disagreed.

The Legislature placed on this November's general election ballot a proposal amendment to the New Jersey Constitution that would require the state government to pay for any additional programs or services it mandates local school districts to provide. This amendment, which is intended to prevent future mandates and thus help control local school costs, has strong public support, with 89 percent intending to vote yes and only 9 percent opposed.

"The responses to this survey from more than 250 local residents who are concerned about education will help me immensely as the Legislature tackles important school issues during the next year," Bagger said.

This survey is the latest in a series of questionnaires used by Bagger to gain public insight on important issues. Previous surveys addressed the state budget, tax policy and automobile insurance reform.

## Assembly responds to new report

Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger, R-22, reported this week on the Legislature's initiatives to combat domestic violence in New Jersey.

Assembly Republicans introduced a seven-bill package which would close loopholes in New Jersey's domestic violence laws. According to the assemblyman, these bills are based on the results of a 1995 report completed by the Commission to Study Sex Discrimination in the Statutes.

"National statistics indicate that in 1993 alone, there were 66,248 reports of domestic violence in New Jersey, or one every seven minutes and 56 seconds," Bagger said.

The assemblyman noted that New Jersey is ahead of most states in dealing with this crisis. The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, which was enacted in 1991, is among the nation's

toughest, he said, adding that the law is in need of fine-tuning.

The new package of domestic violence bills includes:

- A-72 - Establishes the "Address Confidentiality Program" within the Department of State. The bill will assist victims of domestic violence in establishing and maintaining a confidential address.

- A-73 - Upgrades simple assault to aggravated assault when committed against a person protected from the assailant by the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act."

- A-74 - Directs the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, along with the Department of Health, the State Police and sexual assault service providers, to coordinate the establishment of standard protocol concerning services to victims of sexual assault.

- A-76 - Extends to civil actions protections under the rape shield law that prevent disclosure of a victim's past sexual history in criminal cases.

- A-77 - Assures confidentiality of victim impact statements in domestic violence cases.

- A-78 - Increases the responsibility and power of the Police Training Commission to provide local police departments with information concerning the handling of domestic violence, sexual harassment, stalking, and sexual assaults.

- A-79 - Permits adult victims of sexual abuse to bring a civil action.

Bagger, who has agreed to co-sponsor the domestic violence package, said the bills are pending in the Assembly Judiciary, Law and Public Safety Committee, which is expected to consider them this fall.

## Bagger reports on crime legislation

Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger, R-22, reported on the Assembly's efforts to fight crime.

"The 1994-95 Legislature sponsored more than 39 major pieces of anti-crime legislation," according to Bagger. "This record demonstrates our commitment to taking back our streets by getting tough on crime."

Some of the Assembly's more notable accomplishments include three-strikes-and-you're-out legislation, the Zero Tolerance for Guns Act and Megan's Law, according to Bagger.

The "three strikes" legislation, S-138/A-24/A-1619, provides that a person convicted of a violent crime on three or more occasions shall be sentenced to a mandatory term of life imprisonment. This legislation was signed into law by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman on June 22.

Three bills sponsored by the

Assembly help address the problem of guns in schools, according to Bagger. They are:

- A-33, which creates "gun-free" school zones, and is awaiting a final vote by the Assembly to concur with Senate amendments.

- A-2348, the "Zero Tolerance for Guns Act, which was signed into law on June 22.

- A-2349, which provides for the removal from school of pupils using weapons and was signed into law on June 22.

Megan's Law, a package of legislation created to strengthen New Jersey's status relating to sex offenders, was signed into law last October. This includes:

- S-11/902/A-82, which provides extended terms of imprisonment for sexually violent predators.

- S-14/A-85, which provides for

community notification when a sex offender is released from a correctional facility or moves into a municipality.

- S-15/A-2062, which makes "good behavior" credits at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center contingent upon cooperation with treatment.

- S-320/A-83, which is the "Violent Predator Incapacitation Act of 1994."

- A-81, which adds the age of a victim as an "aggravating factor" in death penalty proceedings.

"These are just a few examples of what the legislature has accomplished in the past two years in its efforts to combat crime. I was pleased to support these measures and will continue to work hard to preserve the safety and security of all New Jersey residents," said Bagger.

## Group will honor Sen. DiFrancesco

Community Access Unlimited has named state Senate President Donald DiFrancesco, R-Union, its Humanitarian of the Year.

Republican State Committee Chairman Frank McDermott will present the award during Community Access Unlimited's 15th annual Gala Dinner Dance on Nov. 1 at L'Affaire on Route 22.

Community Access Executive Director Sidney Blanchard said DiFrancesco was chosen as this year's humanitarian because of his continued dedication to improving life for teens and adults with disabilities. "Sen. DiFrancesco has sponsored legislation to change the social work licensing law and supported programs that enable adolescents to be served in community settings like our Transitional Opportunities Program," Blanchard said.

DiFrancesco has close to 20 years of legislative experience starting with his election to the General Assembly in 1976. He served in the Assembly for three years and in 1979 was elected to the state Senate in a special election. He was chosen by his colleagues to serve as Senate president in 1992.

In his tenure as a state legislator, DiFrancesco has developed expertise in complex areas of human services, child care and transportation. He is responsible for the enactment of laws that address important issues such as crime, consumer protection, education and health care. He sponsored notable laws including the Health Care Reform Act of 1992 that overhauled the financing and delivery of health care in New Jersey.

DiFrancesco has pressed to make government smaller, smarter and able

to deliver services in a more efficient manner. The Scotch Plains native is a major partner in a Warren law firm,

and is a graduate of Penn State University and Seton Hall School of Law.

He serves on the boards of Children's Specialized Hospital and New Jersey Symphony as well as the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

He and his wife, Diane, have three children: Marie, Tracy and Marc.

Community Access is a United Way agency. Community Access provides support services to teens and adults with disabilities so they can live in the community. For more information about Community Access or to order tickets for Nov. 1, call 354-3040.

## DiFrancesco will speak at UCC's Founders' Day

State Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco will be the keynote speaker during dedication ceremonies for the new Campus Center Pavilion at Union County College's Cranford campus, which will be held at 2 p.m. on Oct. 16 in The Commons, adjacent to the new building.

The event will be held on Founders' Day, which marks the anniversary of the college's official opening in 1933.

A program will feature invocation and benediction, presentations of dignitaries, ribbon cutting, unveiling of a commemorative plaque, and tours of the new facility. Refreshments will be served.

DiFrancesco of Scotch Plains assumed his current role in 1992. He began his legislative career in the General Assembly in 1976, and was elected to the Senate in a special election in 1979. He since has been re-elected five times, and served as senate minority leader from 1982-84.

As a legislator for nearly two decades, DiFrancesco has been responsible for the enactment of several state laws that have addressed issues ranging from consumer protection, to crime, to health and education. Among the notable laws that he developed are a \$250 million "School Facilities Capital Construction

Financing Law," designed to provide low-interest loans to school districts for the renovation and repair of school buildings. As senate president, he oversaw the development of the "Public School Reform Act of 1992," which provided for an interim education funding mechanism and created a special commission dedicated to the development of a long-term state education financing plan.

The college's Campus Center Pavilion, which opened on Sept. 6 at the start of the fall semester, features state-of-the-art equipment. The Fitness Center, located in a new wing on the second floor of the Campus Center, includes locker rooms, a weight room and an aerobic studio. It features Badger cable tension machines, dumbbells, free weights, a full line of strength equipment, cardiovascular treadmills, rowers and bicycles.

The addition to the Campus Center was financed by a \$950,000 grant from the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority and a \$1.3 million appropriation from the New Jersey State Legislature.

Those interested in more information about the ceremonies should call the college's Office of Institutional Advancement at (908) 709-7501.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCE  
BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Ordinance was passed and adopted on second and final reading at a Regular Meeting duly held by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, New Jersey, in the Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, New Jersey on the 15th day of September, 1995.  
ORDINANCE 946-95

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF UNION TO MODIFY THE INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 15, 1974, AND AS AMENDED

JUDITH E. OSTY  
BOROUGH CLERK  
U2922 Mountainside Echo (Fee \$5.00)  
October 5, 1995

NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCE  
BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Ordinance was passed and adopted on second and final reading at a Regular Meeting duly held by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, New Jersey, in the Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, New Jersey on the 15th day of September, 1995.  
ORDINANCE 945-95

ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND

JUDITH E. OSTY  
BOROUGH CLERK  
U2921 Mountainside Echo (Fee \$6.75)  
October 5, 1995

NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCE  
BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Ordinance was passed and adopted on second and final reading at a Regular Meeting duly held by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, New Jersey, in the Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, New Jersey on the 15th day of September, 1995.  
ORDINANCE 944-95

ORDINANCE REDUCING THE SPEED LIMIT ON DEER PATH

JUDITH E. OSTY  
BOROUGH CLERK  
U2920 Mountainside Echo (Fee \$7.25)  
October 5, 1995

**ATTENTION ALL MOUNTAINSIDE RESIDENTS**  
announcing the  
**Little League**  
**PENNY HARVEST**

Save those pennies you have around the house.  
Saturday, October 14, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.  
We will be going door-to-door.  
To help build the little league fieldhouse at Deerfield School.  
Bag 'em, can 'em, jar 'em. We will gladly take 'em.

Not going to be home on Oct. 14? No problem.  
Pennies can be dropped off in downtown  
Mountainside, in front of the Deli, on  
October 15 from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

# Professional Directory

<b>Accountants</b> Couto, De Franco & Magone, CPA's Individual Income Tax Preparation Tax planning and consulting Non-Filer Assistance Personal financial planning Small business accounting & tax preparation Free consultation by appointment 15 Village Plaza, South Orange—201-378-3300	<b>Midwives</b> The Birth Center At The Beth In-hospital free standing Comprehensive Women's Health Care administered by certified nurse-midwives Newark Beth Israel Medical Center 201 Lyons Avenue, Newark 926-2484
<b>Attorneys</b> Kenneth Parker, Esq. Simple Will - \$50.00; Real Estate - (Buyer) \$425-\$695, (Seller) \$300-\$500, Uncontested Divorce - \$250.00; Separation Agreement - (Simple) \$200.00 Bankruptcy - (Individual) \$250.00; Incorporation - \$100.00 Plus Filing Fees and Disbursements. Free Initial Consultation 908-353-2107	<b>Psychologist</b> Sharon Boyd-Jackson, Ph.D. Licensed Psychologist 2816 Morris Avenue, Union Therapy group for women of color Begins September 30, 1995 for 10 weeks Saturdays - 12 Noon-1:30p.m. Free Initial Consultation 908-688-7979
<b>Chiropractors</b> Dr. Stephen Levine, Dr. Jean V. Nichols South Orange Chiropractic Center Sports injuries, head, neck and back pain If yours is a chiropractic case, we will tell you. If not, we will tell you too. 15 Village Plaza, South Orange 201-761-0022	<b>Secretarial Service</b> Lillian M. Theroet, Professional Secretary Important Letters composed and professionally typed • Professional typing of resumes, manuals, manuscripts, contracts, etc. Small mailings • Misc. Office projects 711 Fairfield Ave., Kenilworth 908-245-4474

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Oct 8 Sun at 1:00 pm  
Oct 9 Mon at 1:00 pm

**Directions:** From Garden State Parkway to Exit 145 to 280 West Exit 4A to  
Eisenhower Parkway. Go 4 Lights to Route 10 West, make right turn (1/2 mile from  
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H.S. Football This Saturday  
 Dayton at Johnson, 1:00  
 Gov. Livingston at Roselle, 1:00

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## Dayton boys' soccer tops 3 consecutive opponents

Wins come vs. R. Park, Central, N. Plainfield

The Dayton Regional High School boys' soccer team began the week on a roll.

The Bulldogs took a three-game winning streak into Tuesday's Mountain Valley Conference-Mountain Division contest at Immaculata.

Dayton Regional posted wins over Roselle Park, Newark Central and North Plainfield to improve to 3-2-1. The Bulldogs host Hillside today

and Oratory Prep of Summit tomorrow, both 3:30 p.m. starts.

Dayton defeated Roselle Park 2-1 in Roselle Park Sept. 26, bested visiting Newark Central 4-1 last Thursday and then shut out North Plainfield 1-0 at home last Friday.

Senior center forward Witold Szkutnicki scored both goals against Roselle Park and the only goal against North Plainfield.

### Girls' tennis and girls' soccer falls

Dayton was defeated in girls' tennis by Bernards 5-0 last week and in girls' soccer by Immaculata 3-1 Monday.

The girls' tennis team began the week at 2-5 and the girls' soccer team fell to 0-6 Monday.

♦♦♦

The following are the remainder of the fall sports schedules for Dayton Regional High School:

### Football

- Oct. 7 at Johnson, 1:00
- Oct. 14 Gov. Livingston, 1:00
- Oct. 20 at Roselle Park, 7:30
- Oct. 28 Roselle, 1:00
- Nov. 4 Bound Brook, 2:00
- Nov. 10 at Manville, 7:30
- Nov. 23 at Immaculata, 10:30

### Boys' Soccer

- Oct. 5 Hillside, 3:30
- Oct. 6 Oratory, 3:30
- Oct. 10 at Roselle Catholic, 3:30
- Oct. 12 at Gov. Livingston, 3:30
- Oct. 17 Johnson, 3:30
- Oct. 19 at Newark Central, 3:30
- Oct. 24 North Plainfield, 3:30
- Oct. 26 Immaculata, 4:00
- Oct. 31 at Hillside, 3:30

### Girls' Soccer

- Oct. 6 at Johnson, 3:30
- Oct. 10 at North Plainfield, 3:30
- Oct. 13 New Providence, 3:30
- Oct. 16 at Linden, 4:00
- Oct. 18 Roselle Catholic, 3:30
- Oct. 19 at Ridge, 3:30
- Oct. 23 Manville, 3:30
- Oct. 26 at New Providence, 3:30
- Oct. 27 North Plainfield, 3:30
- Oct. 31 at Gov. Livingston, 3:30

### Boys' Cross-Country

- Oct. 5 at Johnson/Gov. Livingston, 3:30
- Oct. 10 Immaculata/Roselle, 3:30
- Oct. 13 Linden, 3:30
- Oct. 18 MVC Championships

### Girls' Cross-Country

- Oct. 5 at Johnson/Gov. Livingston, 3:30
- Oct. 10 Immaculata/Roselle, 3:30
- Oct. 18 MVC Championships

### Girls' Tennis

- Oct. 5 at Immaculata, 4:00
- Oct. 6 at Ridge, 3:30
- Oct. 10 at Newark Central, 3:30
- Oct. 12 Gov. Livingston, 3:30
- Oct. 13 at Middlesex, 3:30
- Oct. 16 Ridge, 3:30
- Oct. 18 Bound Brook, 3:45
- Oct. 19 at Johnson, 3:30
- Oct. 24 North Plainfield, 3:30
- Oct. 26 at Roselle Catholic, 3:30

### Springfield's Trivett sparks MW baseball

Clayton Trivett of Springfield, a 1992 Dayton Regional High School graduate, continues to impress as a member of the Mary Washington College baseball team.

Now a senior, Trivett hit a two-run single and also doubled and scored for the Eagles in a 4-3 loss to Bridgewater Sept. 23, the second game of a doubleheader.

Mary Washington won the first game 4-2 as Trivett went 3-for-4 on the day with two runs scored and a stolen base.

Mary Washington had a 3-1 record as its fall baseball season continued this week. replace



Photo By Blackwood Parlin

OUT IN FRONT OF THE PACK — Newark Academy girls' soccer standout Marisa Conte of Springfield, wearing the white shirt, steals the ball away from her opponents in a match against Pingry. Conte plays the defensive position of stopper for Newark Academy, which joined the Colonial Hills Conference this year. He play on defense helped Newark Academy post a 4-2 win over conference rival Bayley-Ellard of Madison.

## Dayton, GL football squads defeated in Mountain play

The Dayton Regional and Governor Livingston Regional high school football teams were defeated on the road last weekend in Mountain Valley Conference-Mountain Division action.

Dayton lost to Newark Central 30-0 Saturday afternoon at Untermann Field and GL was beaten by Immaculata 34-14 Friday night in Somerville.

It was the first win in two years for Newark Central, snapping a 16-game losing streak. Newark Central last won on Oct. 9, 1993 when it defeated Dayton 35-6 in Newark.

Abdul Cherry rushed for two touchdowns and Arnez Gardner caught two touchdown passes from quarterback Sal Moore.

♦♦♦

Dayton's next opponent will be one of the best Group 2 schools in North Jersey — Johnson Regional.

Johnson hosts Dayton at 1 p.m. in Clark this Saturday in their annual Unico Bowl game, the winner receiving the Unico Bowl trophy.

### Dayton Regional

(H) Hillside 19, Dayton 7  
 (A) Newark Central 30, Dayton 0

- Oct. 7 at Johnson, 1:00
- Oct. 14 Gov. Livingston, 1:00
- Oct. 20 at Roselle Park, 7:30
- Oct. 28 Roselle, 1:00
- Nov. 4 Bound Brook, 2:00
- Nov. 10 at Manville, 7:30
- Nov. 23 at Immaculata, 10:30

Record: 0-2

Home: 0-1

Away: 0-1

Points for: 7

Points against: 49

Shutouts: 0



Photo By Sports in the Garden State

DISCUS DAREDEVIL — William Nichols of Springfield competed in the men's discus competition at the 10th annual Senior Games of New Jersey held last month.

## Two of three Springfield youth grid teams triumph

A and B clubs post shutouts over Millburn

Two of three Springfield youth football teams were victorious last weekend against host Millburn.

Springfield's A Team defeated Millburn 27-0 behind the pinpoint passing of quarterback Rich Shanley and the efforts of Keith Allen and Brian Berger.

Shanley threw two touchdown passes. Allen ran for a touchdown and caught a touchdown pass and Berger had four receptions, one of them a touchdown.

Springfield's running game was led by the play of B.J. Jones, Jeff Stapfer and Justin Azran.

Playing well on defense for the Minutemen were linemen Matt Fisher and Michael Kessel. They registered six quarterback sacks.

Springfield's B team also shut out Millburn, winning 12-0. Steve Silverman scored both touchdowns, reaching the end zone on runs of 67 and 23 yards.

Providing solid blocking were offensive linemen Mohamed Abdelaziz, Brian Birch, Russell Haywood, Matt Caputo and Mike Ortman.

Leading the play on defense was right cornerback Mike Colandrea. He made an open field one-on-one tackle to prevent a Millburn runner from scoring a touchdown.

Also playing well on defense for the Minutemen were defensive end Justin Stefanelli, Joe Albiez, Josh Adirim, Mike Grieco, Justin Hunter, Shawn Jones, Stephen Malcolm, Mark Poveromo, Stef Saracino and Eugene Silva.

Quarterback Mike Puorro and running backs Altay Vigilante and Hunter gained big yardage.

Springfield's C Team was blanked by Millburn 6-0. Playing well on both sides of the ball for the Minutemen were Kevin Dash, Yuri Portugal, Sean Frank and Justin Woodruff.

**Remaining Schedule:** at Chatham Sunday, Hanover Park Oct. 15, at Perth Amboy Oct. 22, Westfield Oct. 29, Millburn Nov. 5, Chatham Nov. 12, at Hanover Park Nov. 19

### Mountainside residents urged to save their pennies

Mountainside residents are urged to save their pennies to help build a new fieldhouse for the town's Youth Baseball League.

The community's first Penny Harvest will be carried out through door-to-door canvassing by the league's boys and girls participants on Saturday morning, Oct. 14 and

through a drop-off on Sunday, Oct. 15 in front of The Deli in downtown Mountainside.

"Youth baseball has traditionally been a big part of life in Mountainside and the new fieldhouse will help the sport flourish even more," Mountainside Youth Baseball League president Sandy Burdge said.

The fieldhouse will replace the present one, which is old and much too small, located on the Deerfield School property.

"Everyone has pennies lying around the house," Burdge said. "If everyone in town contributes, it will go a long way toward helping us build the fieldhouse."

### Springfield Junior Baseball registration Oct. 18, 21

Springfield Junior Baseball League registration will take place Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10:30 to 1 p.m. at the Chisholm School. This is the only in-person registration for the year.

All Springfield students from kindergarten through the age of 14 are eligible to participate. Each youngster must bring with them a copy of their birth certificate.

Youngsters may register in person or mail their registration form to: Springfield Junior Baseball Leagues, Inc., P.O. Box 444, Springfield, NJ 07081.

### Mountainside Centennial Tennis featured men and women players

The following are results of the Mountainside Centennial Tennis Tournament that took place last month at Borough Hall in Mountainside:

**Men's Singles:** Rudy Geislinger defeated Stuart Thau 3-6, 7-6, 6-3.

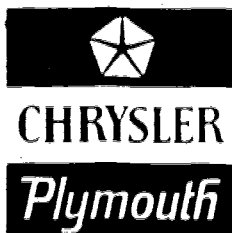
**Men's Doubles:** Joseph O'Sullivan and Alan Deombole defeated George Stummer and Bob Matejek 6-1, 3-6, 7-6.

**Women's Doubles:** Lynn Tenten and Sue Winans defeated Elsie MacAllister and Hdele Magnolia 6-1, 6-1.

**Mixed Doubles:** Sue Winans and Bob Matejek were the winners.

**Adult/Child:** Deryan Hughes and James Hughes defeated Joan Sauder and Chrissy Sauder 23-22 games (round robin).

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# Let's Talk

# LINDEN

The Guide For What's Happening In Linden

PREMIER EDITION

## Unveiling the 'new' Wood Avenue

Special Improvement District kicks off plans to attract shoppers

By Tom Canavan  
Editor in Chief

Completing renovations to the Wood Avenue business district within 18 months will have more of an impact on the future economy of the district than if the city were to carry out the process over the course of several years.

That's what Special Improvement District Director Michael Bono told a group of business leaders two weeks ago, the day the Linden City Council approved an ordinance that appropriates \$200,000 of its \$2 million capital improvement budget to the newly created SID, and one day before the city announced its plans to overhaul Wood Avenue.

Now that the Special Improvement District is officially established in Linden, work on Wood Avenue is expected to begin within the next three to four months. "In the towns we've visited that have Special Improvement Districts," Bono said, "the one thing that is absolutely apparent is that if they wait over a period of time, there is no impact. We must get it done, and get it done quickly."

One of the visions of the Special Improvement District will be to construct an arch across Wood Avenue at the entrance and exit of the business district to alert motorists to the "new" Wood Avenue. The SID committee, Bono said, hopes to attract corporations to sponsor the cost of the arches. With those arches will be a uniformity among the storefronts which Wood Avenue has never seen.

See WOOD AVENUE, Page 20



T&M Associates has been contracted to redesign Wood Avenue as part of the Special Improvement District's efforts to rebuild the business district. Above is a block of stores as they currently exist on Wood Avenue, and below is the computerized enhancement of the same block of stores under the proposal.



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Linden Business & Professional Association, the Community, Mayor John T. Gregorio and Members of the Council. With the approval of the Special Improvement District (S.I.D.) Linden is in a Renaissance period.

As the above mentioned project unfolds, we would like to welcome you to our community. Take advantage of all we have to offer. With the benefit of being centrally located in Union County, we are readily accessible to major highways, airports and railways.

One of the most important facets of a community is its Downtown Center, its Business Professionals, Services, and Industry.

It will take some time to complete this revitalization. Come visit our shops, use our services and see progress being made. Let's all make Linden a better place to live, shop and enjoy.

*Thank You*



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# NJ Transit to expand parking lot

By Tom Canavan  
Editor in Chief

An additional 270 spaces at the New Jersey Transit train station on Elizabeth Avenue in Linden are expected to draw enough commuters away from parking in the Wood Avenue shopping district, thereby paving the way, so to speak, for more shoppers parking.

New Jersey Transit is expected to begin the design phase of the parking expansion project at the train station within the next two months and be completed with the entire project by the end of 1996.

The project, according to Ken Miller of New Jersey Transit's Public Information Office, includes the addition of 270 parking spaces adjacent to the train station, bringing the total number of spaces available for commuter parking to 659 spaces. New Jersey Transit already has parking spaces for 389 vehicles in five lots around the train station.

The proposed sixth lot, the site of an old lumber yard, will be operated by New Jersey Transit.

"We're expecting to go to the design phase within the next two months," Miller said. "The design phase is scheduled for

completion in the spring of 1996."

In the summer of 1996, New Jersey Transit is expected to move to the construction phase, with the entire project expected to be completed toward the end of 1996, he said.

Construction costs are expected to be funded by New Jersey Transit, he said, while acknowledging that the company is working in conjunction with the city's Special Improvement District on funding issues.

The project only calls for parking expansion, and does not include renovations to the train station itself. New Jersey Transit operates two of the five existing parking lots around the station, while the city of Linden operates the remaining three.

Miller said the parking expansion project is needed at the train station in Linden, not only for the benefit of the Special Improvement District, but for the convenience of its own commuters. "Almost each of the 389 existing spaces is filled each day," he said.

Mayor John Gregorio was not as hopeful about the success of the project as the New Jersey Transit spokesman.

Gregorio said he does not think the 270 additional spaces at the train station will be enough to satisfy commuters and prevent them from parking in spaces in other areas that could be utilized by Wood Avenue business district shoppers.

"I'm sorry to see that's what it will be used for," Gregorio said. "We could have had a building there for more ratables, which the city needs. The city can't get ratables from a parking lot."



Photo By Joe Long

NJ Transit is scheduled to add 270 parking spaces in the area adjacent to the train station on Elizabeth Avenue to draw commuters away from taking spaces that could be used for Wood Avenue shoppers parking.

But Gregorio conceded that he and the city will "make the most of it."

The mayor said there will be new signage as part of the project, and added that the city is asking New Jersey Transit to reserve some spaces in the lot for shoppers parking.

"But I understand it will not be long-term parking," he said.

Instead of the parking lot, Gregorio said he would have preferred to have apartment houses on the site because the city is "short of rental space."

The mayor said the property was once approved for town houses or condominiums, but then the market on those kinds of units bottomed out.

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# Location is prime reason businesses relocate to city

By Tom Canavan  
Editor in Chief

## Location.

It's why many merchants choose a site to open a business and hope for success.

It's why many merchants pour a good number of dollars into a venture and take a risk.

It's why many merchants are coming to Linden.

Linden is working on a number of redevelopment projects that target areas like Wood Avenue, the Linden Airport, St. Georges Avenue and Route 1&9.

And it has a great deal to do with location.

Linden is served by five major roadways, including Routes 1&9, the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway, Route 278 and Route 27.

The city is a major stop on the New Jersey Transit/Amtrak commuter rail line with service to New York City, Newark and Trenton, and is also served by New Jersey Transit for bus service.

Linden borders the nation's largest foreign trade zone in Port Elizabeth/Port Newark, and the city hosts its own airport, which is undergoing major redevelopment and is expected to bring more ratables to the city's coffers. Parts of the city are approximately five minutes from Newark International Airport.

Linden boasts retail and professional business owners, but it also boasts corporations like Merck & Co., Exxon and GAF, among

its industrial colleagues. And there are a network of business organizations to help merchants survive and succeed in the city.

In addition to the Linden Business and Professional Association and the Linden Industrial Association, the city also features the Linden Economic Development Corporation, an organization operated out of City Hall whose charge is to lure new business to the city and help those who relocate to Linden find it worth their while for choosing the city.

Charles Mancuso has been the force behind the Economic Development Corporation for the last five years and said his office, working in conjunction with Mayor John Gregorio, has been successful in its attempts to attract business to Linden.

Whether it's retail, commercial or large industry, the Economic Development Corporation has methods in place to help prospective business owners make up their minds to choose Linden.

• In the retail area, Mancuso said his office tries to determine the kinds of stores that are needed in the city, whether they be a bakery, hardware store, or men's clothing store. One of the ways to find people who might be interested in relocating to Linden is to visit shopping malls, look for the business' main office and inquire.

The next step would be to set up appointments which would include background about Linden and its demographics. This not only applies to Wood Avenue, but to the St.

*'We've probably been the most successful city in Union County because of the availability of land and buildings with the right square footage category.'*

— Charles Mancuso  
Executive Director, LEDC

Georges Avenue district as well.

• In the small commercial business area, the Office of Economic Development maintains a complete inventory of all vacant buildings and land that may be available to small business owners who want to come to Linden.

"We have a nice network," Mancuso said. "The first thing someone does is call the Economic Development Corporation. We set up meetings and give them five or six selections of sites that may be available for their needs. Sometimes we go out with them to the site, or they go themselves, but we then put them in touch with owners of the property and introduce them to city officials they may be dealing with, such as the construction code official, Board of Health and Building Department. An inventory is the key to dealing with those businesses that want to come into Linden.

• In the large industry area, Mancuso said his connections with developers across the state have given him an opportunity to introduce large developers to the mayor. "We've

been very successful in this area," he said.

The next venture the Economic Development Corporation will target will be to build the Route 1&9 corridor from Elizabeth to Rahway.

The Economic Development Corporation is in the process of working with the Union County Alliance's Transportation Committee, which is working in conjunction with the state Department of Transportation, to redevelop Route 1&9 in both directions.

Mancuso said he is expected to set up meetings with Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage, Linden Mayor John Gregorio and Rahway Mayor James Kennedy to try to determine the best way to rebuild Route 1&9 and make it a viable corridor.

"We've probably been the most successful city in Union County because of the availability of land and buildings with the right square footage category," Mancuso said.

Mancuso can be reached at the Linden Economic Development Corporation at (908) 474-8495.

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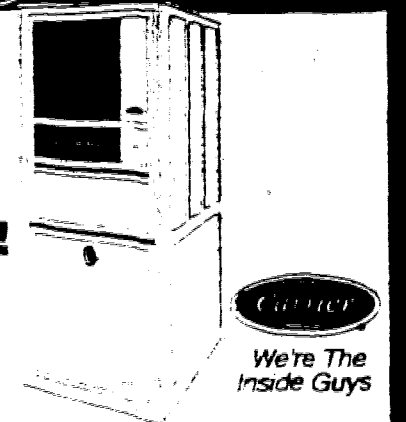
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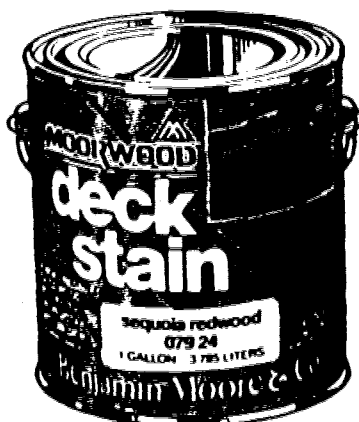
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# 'Linden just seems like the right place to be'

## Sporting goods store to open on Wood Avenue

By Tom Canavan  
Editor in Chief

It just felt like the right time for John Messina to come back to Linden.

After spending most of his youth on Wood Avenue, where his father worked at Linden Radio at the corner of Elizabeth and Wood avenues, Messina will open his own store on Wood Avenue and hopes he can be a part of the revival Linden is about to undergo.

Messina's big day will come Monday, when he will open J.B. Sports Outlet at 122 N. Wood Ave., with most of his family beside him to help run the business.

It's been a tough road for Messina during the last few weeks, he admitted. Most of his time has been spent redoing the interior of the store, which once housed an accountant's agency, and, prior to that, the BeBop Shop.

"We're trying to bring the store into the 20th century," said Messina, a resident of Clark. "I didn't realize how much had to be done."

While he is doing interior work, Messina has been spending most of the remaining time getting all orders completed so his

goods are all delivered in time for Monday's grand opening.

"I chose Linden because my father worked at Linden Radio," Messina said. "Being a graduate of Roselle Catholic, I went up Wood Avenue every day to go to his store."

And now he's coming back.

J.B. Sports Outlet promises to have everything for the individual and the team. Merchandise expected to be sold includes custom uniforms and all hard goods such as footballs, baseballs, basketballs and soccer equipment. The store also will carry trophies and plaques.

J.B. Sports Outlet will be a family-owned operation. Assisting Messina will be his wife, Christel; parents, Margaret and Basile; a lifelong friend and godfather to his children, Joseph DiMaggio; twin daughters, Angela and Nicole, and his son, John Basile, after whom the store is named.

J.B. Sports Outlet is Messina's first venture into the business world. Why sporting goods?

"I have been either assistant or head baseball coach in the American Legion for many years," Messina said. "The longest has been my involvement with the Roselle American Legion, and next year, they combine with Linden. This year, we played most of the time in Memorial Field."

Why Linden, and why Wood Avenue? "Linden is such a youth-oriented town



Photo By Joe Long

John Messina, right, owner of the soon-to-be-open J.B. Sports Outlet on Wood Avenue, unloads jackets from packing boxes with his father, Basile Messina Sr.

and it felt like the right place to be," Messina said. "I felt like Linden is turning around and I could jump on the bandwagon."

Messina has many friends in Linden, whether they are business owners, city officials, or residents.

"We have lifelong friends who have other businesses on Wood Avenue. They've been on the street for at least 30 years. My family has been close friends with the Gregorios and, again, everything kind of fit for Linden to be the right place to go," he said.

Store hours at J.B. Sports Outlet will be Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The store will be closed Sunday.

"Coaching in town, dealing with athletes, having friends coaching the football program, being involved in the Recreation Department with American Legion and having friends who are business owners here. Linden keeps kind of falling back as the right kind of place to be," Messina said.

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## Bagelmania gets to heart of the stomach

By Melodie Warner  
Staff Writer

Bagelmania, located at 105 North Wood Ave., opened on June 16, and although the store is replacing another bagel shop, co-owner Bill Nolte, said, "It's totally different from what it was."

Bagelmania has an extensive menu which features daily lunch specials, a full line of Boar's Head cold cuts, subs, handmade cream cheeses, and various homemade salads.

Nolte personally makes all of the different flavors of cream cheese, and his specialties include scallion, vegetable, walnut raisin, lox, and many more.

"I started making bagels when I was 13 years old," he said. "For 20 years now, I've been making bagels. I have another store in Colonia named Colonia Hot Bagels, "and before that I worked in Matawan."

Nolte said the most popular bagel is plain, but Bagelmania has 17 varieties from which to choose: plain, salt, sesame, poppy, onion, garlic, everything, marble, egg, blueberry, double cinnamon raisin, regular cinnamon raisin, whole wheat, pumpernickel, sticks, minis and biolies. Additionally, the store sells five types of muffins baked fresh every day.

Bagelmania carries hazelnut and vanilla gourmet coffees, and beginning next week, there will be a featured gourmet flavor of the day. Other beverages include Snapple, sodas, orange juice and milk.

There are tables for people who want to dine in, and take-out menus are available for people on the go. The shop sells newspapers for customers who may be commuting, and advanced orders can be placed by phone or fax for those in a hurry.

Every day, Bagelmania's daily lunch specials are faxed to local businesses and City Hall to let customers know what the specials are for the day.

On Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, if you buy six bagels, you get two bagels free, or four bagels free if you buy 12 bagels.

Coupons also are given out in the store for more discounts. "That's our little thank you to Linden," he said.

For offices, schools, or anyone else who needs a caterer, Bagelmania has catering services for morning breakfasts, deli platters, and hot buffets.

Nolte enjoys having a business in Linden.

"It's nice. It's a different atmosphere than I'm accustomed to. We've always been in strip malls, and places like that. This is like a little community here.

"I know all the shopkeepers, and all the local merchants come in. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, some of the executive staff of Linden, the mayor, and so on come in for breakfast. The merchants have their meeting here every Wednesday. It's just nice."



At Bagelmania, everyone's ready to please the customer. From left are Bill Nolte, Abduhl Ali, Heather Beyer and Larry Pius.

Nolte invites everyone to "come on down, see our new improved service, and give us a shot. Come in and see that the store has been renovated and updated. We've added a whole list of new items. We asked people what they like to see in the shop, and we're catering to our public's demand. They asked for the cold cuts, so we got Boar's Head, which I believe is one of the better cold cuts.

I know how to make probably 25 to 30 varieties of bagels learned over the years. Whatever they ask for, if I get enough requests for it, we'll do it. Nothing is out of the ordinary."

The store's hours are 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday; 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays; and 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays.

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LET'S TALK LINDEN

# Alliance Group brings custom-printed sportswear to Wood Avenue

By Melodie Warner  
Staff Writer

For the past year and a half, the Alliance Group, located at 206 North Wood Ave., has catered to groups and organizations that need custom printed sportswear.

According to J. Scott Dashiell, a partner in Alliance Group Inc., the store provides print work for numerous textiles such as T-shirts, jackets, hats, sweatshirts, uniforms, scarves, bandannas and towels. He added, "As long as it's cloth," the store can print on it.

Alliance Group specializes in orders for family reunions, schools, teams, clubs, groups and organizations.

Some of their clients include Linden Little League, Delaire Nursing and Convalescent Center, Avco Financial and Flexline.

Most orders are made in bulk, but individual and small orders can be accommodated. Additionally, there are special deals available for senior citizens, municipal groups, little leagues, and other community groups.

Another division of Alliance Group Inc., is Spirit and Spin, which designs promotional items such as bumper stickers, book marks, notebooks, key chains and buttons. The store can place orders for these specialty products in addition to many more promotional items.

Dashiell explained that the company began when he and two other businessmen came together to form a corporation. "They were associated in Middlesex County and I

*'We liked Linden because of the size of the city...It seems to be a town that is on the move.'*

— J. Scott Dashiell

was located in Roselle. We decided to form a corporation, which is Alliance Group Inc." My partners "have 10 to 15 years in the business of printing and I have eight years in the business. So, we decided to get together and try to make a go of it."

Although the company owns other stores and businesses in Middlesex County, Dashiell said he likes the downtown area of Linden, which is why Alliance Group Inc. chose the area for a store.

"We liked Linden because of the size of the city. We felt like there were enough businesses here where we could probably get some support from people who may need specialty printing. And, they have been good to us.

"I like the fact that we're on a main street, and the merchants in the area have been very friendly and very helpful. It seems to be a town that is on the move. The Special Improvement Districts program has been approved for improving the downtown area. I'm excited about that because I feel it will bring more people into the downtown area," he said.

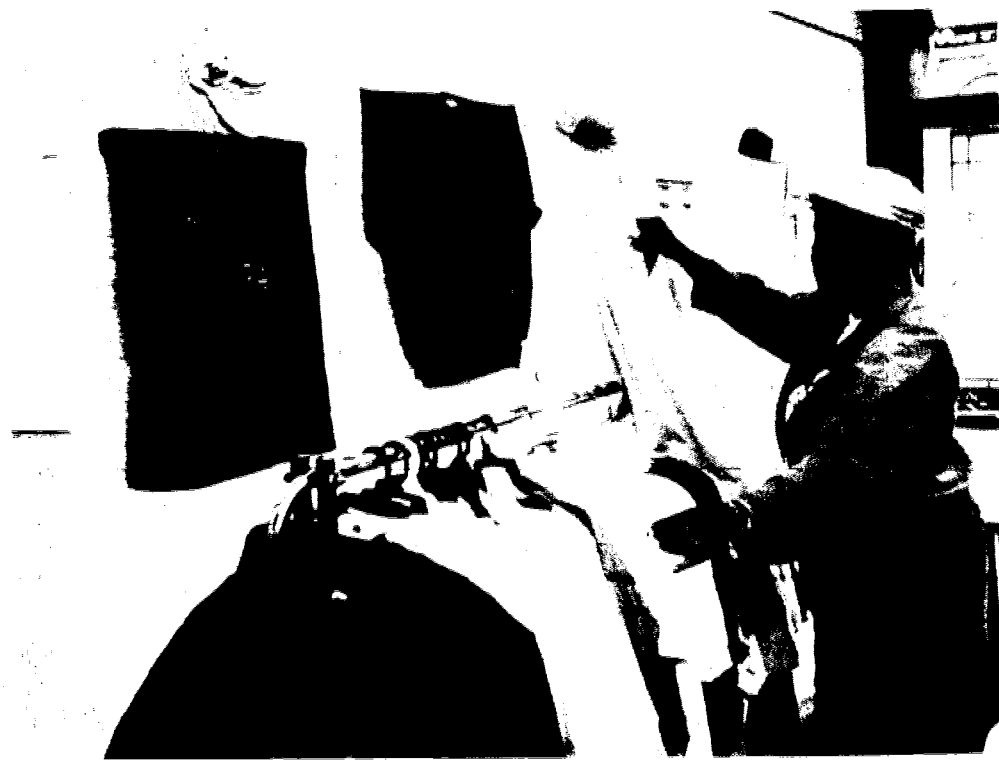


Photo By Joe Long

Carolyn Brantley looks over some of the items available at the Alliance Group, a custom screen printing T-shirt shop on Wood Avenue in Linden.

The Alliance Group prides itself on the importance of customer service. "If people are comfortable with you, they will stay. The more friendly you are, the more likely they will recommend you to other people," he added.

The store is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. "If you're looking for a company that can provide quality service, on-time performance at a reasonable price, just come down to us," he said.

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# Senior housing complex set for January opening

By Tom Canavan  
Editor in Chief

Linden is expected to complete work on its third senior citizen housing complex by November, which will mean 60 more seniors will have housing in the city.

Located on the corner of Cranford and Dill avenues, the Morningstar Senior Citizen Project will bring a total of three senior housing complexes to the city with a total of approximately 350 units for the elderly population.

"That will be a great day, and I am proud of that," Mayor John Gregorio said, referring to Jan. 1, 1996, when he expects the new complex to be opened — and filled. "That's ahead of schedule," he added.

The project has been in the plans for the city for the last two years, Gregorio said, and will be unique from the other two complexes in that this complex will be funded by county and state money, or public concerns, while being sponsored by Morningstar United Holy Church on Chandler Avenue, a private concern. The other two complexes, he said, are funded by Section 8 money.

"I'm delighted to see Bishop Evans interested in a project like this," Gregorio said, referring to Bishop Irvin Evans of Morningstar United Holy Church.

Is there a strong need for more senior housing in the city?

According to Gregorio, there is. "There has always been a long waiting list of people waiting to get into the other two complexes," he said.

The new apartments are one bedroom and are available for \$400 per month. To qualify, seniors must be 62 years of age or older and have an income of not more than \$20,000 per year.

Linden residents will get preference for the apartments in the new complex, but they will be open to residents of other communities as well.

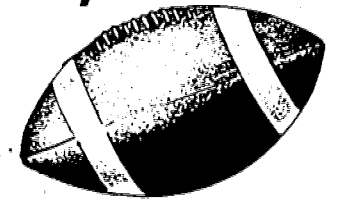
"We campaigned for these senior housing complexes and the first two really turned out to be wonderful places to live for Linden residents," Gregorio said. "Many people thought they would be hang-outs, and that there would be traffic jams, but there was nothing like that. It's just a beautiful place to live."

Charles Mancuso, executive director of the Linden Economic Development Corporation, said he has been working on housing for senior citizens since he assumed his position in 1990.

Applications are available through the Linden Economic Development Office, located at the mayor's complex on the third floor of City Hall. Seniors interested in obtaining an application should call 474-8405 or 486-8489.

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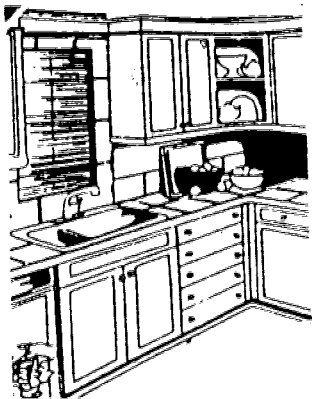
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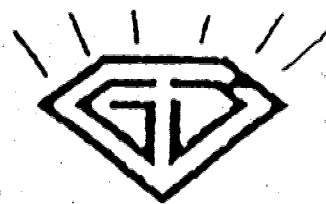
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# Industrial Association celebrates 60 years

By Douglas Miller  
Managing Editor

The Linden Industrial Association celebrated its 60th anniversary in style Sept. 27 at L'Affaire in Mountainside.

Politicians and industry members attended the celebration to toast the accomplishments of an organization that has spent the latter half of the century keeping Eastern Union County secure in its role as an industrial hub.

In addition to the toasts and celebration, there was a round table discussion geared toward determining how the area can recapture its economic heyday, and how to avoid making the mistakes committed by other areas.

"Today, a number of critical economic issues face the LIA and the city of Linden," said Industrial Association President Anthony Soriano. "Since 1981, Union County at large has lost 40,000 jobs in the private goods-producing sector. Although there has been a modest offsetting gain of 15,000 jobs in the mostly lower paying service sector since 1981, the net loss to Union County exceeded 25,000 jobs."

Soriano, who works for Elf Lubricants, urged the assembled officials to work together toward keeping the area as one that was responsive to business needs. "We need to develop an upkeep of our vital transportation infrastructure — the Turnpike, the rail system — and we need to continue to

improve the regulatory climate to balance business and industry growth."

The keynote address was delivered by George Taber, editor of Business Newspapers and a former editor at Time magazine. Taber, who in addition to his publishing duties has a show on New Jersey 101.5 radio, gave a history lesson on economic trends — "make sure you see the tide, not just the waves" — and urged the audience to use those lessons to guide their future decisions.

"We Americans have a terrible habit of talking ourselves down. It is almost a national story. We beat ourselves up a lot. We like to say that the Japanese can build better televisions, and the Germans can build better cars, and the British can make better drugs than us. But by beating ourselves up like that, we ignore what might be happening."

Taber said change is needed — change in methods, change in policies, and change in attitude toward business in the region and in the country. He acknowledged a Swiss study published recently which reported that, despite a national attitude, the United States still has the most efficient economy in the world.

During the roundtable discussion that followed, several Union County officials weighed in on the changes on the national and state levels, and how they can be expected to affect this area in the coming years.

Assemblyman Joseph Suliga, D-Union, filled in for Linden Mayor John T. Gregorio, who was forced to miss the event because of an illness, and his sometimes booming voice filled the room with his praise for Linden's industrial history. While other communities in New Jersey may look down on Linden for its blue collar economic base, Suliga argued, the city was and would continue to be proud of its industry.

"The city of Linden's unofficial motto, both to our residents and to our industry, is, 'How can we help you?' The mayor recently directed me to settle a tax issue with our single biggest taxpayer, Exxon, which we did. We are unwilling to hurt industry in our town. Will we have to pay a little more in taxes this year because of it? Probably. But in the long run, will jobs be created? Will we be able to go to an event like today, when Exxon Chemical celebrates its 75th anniversary? Will we be able to see Tosco Corp., and Exxon put up another facility? I'm glad we have worked out an agreement so they can stay in the community," Suliga said.

"What will Linden look like in the year 2020? I don't know, but I would hope that we would still be manufacturing. Because we are not ashamed of manufacturing. We are not ashamed to say that we produce oil. In fact, I'm proud of it. Because everyone in this world needs the products we produce. Everyone utilizes the 30,000 chemicals we produce in Linden throughout the world.

Whether it is a homemaker in the home using some kind of cleanser to clean the sink, or the most important corporation using some type of product from Exxon or General Motors, we're proud of that. We don't want that to change."

Henry Ross, acting president of Kean College, addressed the issue by stating his belief that such changes have and will continue to have a "major impact" on the area.

"New Jersey has been affected perhaps more than most states by changes in the past 15 or 20 years. And within New Jersey, Union County has been affected more so than any other county. In fact, the net outflow of manufacturing jobs has been about 40,000 jobs over about a 12-year period. And that has had a dramatic impact. The problem with the service jobs that have replaced them has been that the gap has not been made up. And the problem is that there is a much lower economic structure involved with service jobs. The pay is only about 50 percent of manufacturing jobs.

"Union County is ideally situated to participate in the global economy," he continued. "We have the tremendous port of New York and New Jersey, that is really in New Jersey, and most of that is really in Union County. We have tremendous transportation opportunities as far as a railroad, and a road infrastructure, and we should make a real effort to begin to capitalize on global participation in the local economy."



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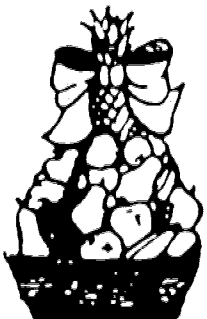
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LET'S TALK LINDEN

# Recreation center to open with activities for all kids

By Douglas Miller  
Managing Editor

It took a long time, longer than most residents in the area expected, but last weekend the Recreation Department was able to move into its new facility at 1025 John St. The 14,000-square foot building, located at the old Union Beverage site, had to overcome several obstacles, not the least of which was the contractor walking out half-way through the job, but now, finally, the building is ready to open.

The project, which cost about \$1 million to complete, is accompanied by the \$425,000 facelift the Recreation Department is giving to St. Mark's Park, which will include new basketball, softball and picnic facilities. The park was closed for the summer in order for renovations to be completed in an affordable manner, but that project, with the exception of the lighting, will be done in-house.

The building was first started in 1991, when the city acquired the land that was abandoned by Union Beverage, but the idea for the structure, either on John Street or elsewhere, goes back well over a decade.

"The mayor and I were out here one day for something else, and he said, 'Why don't we look at this place for a site?'" said Recreation Department Director Al Volpe. "So we did. And it was a long frustrating

project, and I had the mayor calling me every day asking how we were doing. I have to say, the people who live around here were terrific. They were so patient with all the construction going on every day."

The building is built in two sections, a front section with a kitchen, activity rooms and locker rooms, and a back section that has a full basketball court. Behind the building is Baltimore Avenue, and the far side of the street is temporary parking which the city is leasing from Amtrak for \$300 per year. There is also a mid-sized back yard for outdoor pre-kindergarten activities.

The building, which was designed by the architectural firm of Gilligan and Bubnowski, will be open to the entire community, although they expect that the bulk of the users will come from the neighboring 4th, 5th and 8th wards.

"We look at this area as being a vital part of the whole St. Georges Avenue Redevelopment Project," said 8th Ward Councilman Albert Youngblood, who serves on the city's Recreation Committee. "This building very much is part of the project. This is city money. We bonded all this, compared to some of the others, which is Urban Development Action Grant funding."

"This is city money, in that we don't have to give any of this back," Volpe added.

See RECREATION, Page 19

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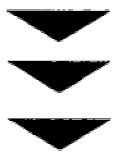
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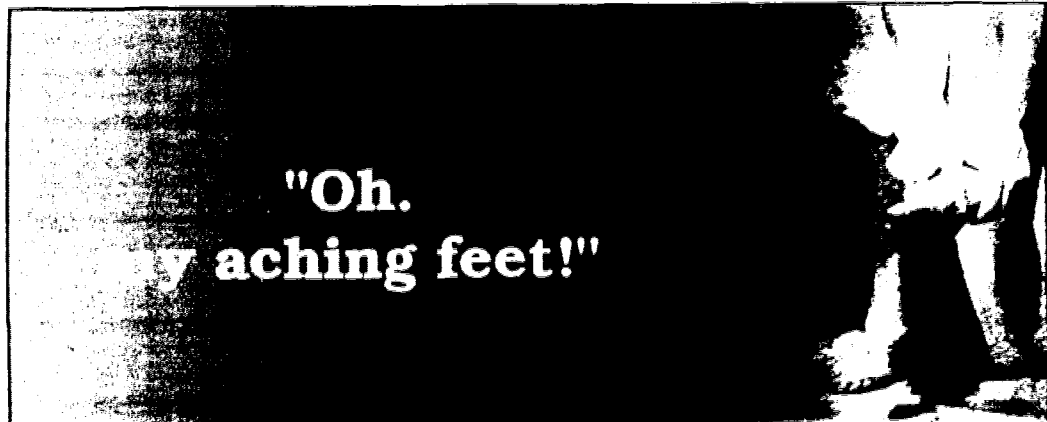
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## Business, Professional group seeks members for growth

By Tom Canavan  
Editor in Chief

A redesigned Wood Avenue. Additional parking for residents to enjoy one-stop downtown shopping.

Facade improvements to local businesses at no expense to business owners.

These are some of the goals of the Linden Special Improvement District, goals that are expected to be achieved within the next 18 months, but there's one goal that a local business organization hopes is as easily attainable.

That goal is to see a soaring list of new membership which would make the Linden Business and Professional Association the catalyst that ensures success among business owners on Wood Avenue and throughout the city.

With more than 200 businesses in Linden, the association is looking for 100 percent membership.

And why not?

According to Mitch Rappel, owner of Sir Speedy/New Vision, a printing and graphics company on Wood Avenue, increased membership in the Business and Professional Association can make the city's merchants a stronger force to help make Linden a better place to live.

"The association is more than simply to organize sidewalk sales. In the past, that

seems to be all the association has done. What we want to do is be a liaison between the community, the merchants, professionals and industry to make Linden a better community," Rappel said. "We want to establish networking among merchants."

With the approval two weeks ago of the Special Improvement District in the city, Linden is entering a renaissance and will become a new city within 18 months, he said. The Business and Professional Association wants to be there for support — not only for fellow merchants, but for the citizens of the city as well.

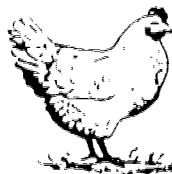
"There are many Linden residents who would like to be able to shop downtown again. One of the things the association would like to do is get people shopping downtown. It not only makes their shopping trip easier, but it allows the merchants to benefit from the situation," he said.

Rappel, an officer in the Business and Professional Association, said that will be done in two phases, the first of which began with the approval of the SID program, in which the city appropriated \$2 million of its capital improvement budget for the renovation of the business district. "Phase One is to get the downtown more presentable for customers," he said. Phase Two, he said, is to attract new merchants and businesses, as

See GROWING, Page 18

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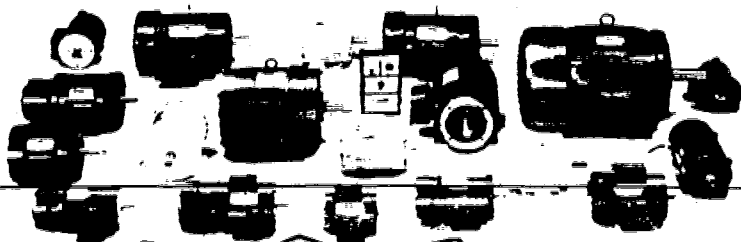
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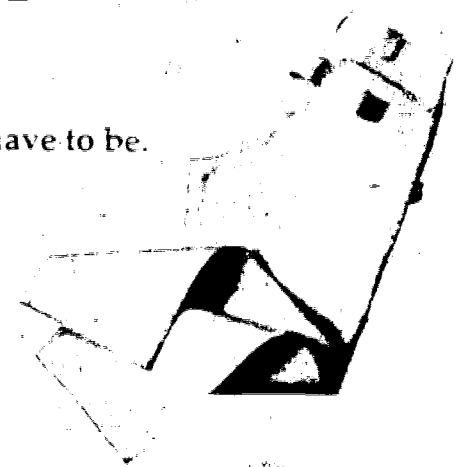
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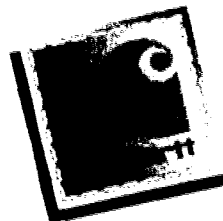
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**LET'S TALK LINDEN**

**Growing membership needed to ensure successful SID**

(Continued from Page 17)  
 well as professionals to the city.  
 "The people of Linden want to be able to utilize the downtown shopping area for one-stop shopping instead of having to go to the malls or various locations. With increased parking, that will facilitate them and make the downtown readily accessible," he said.  
 But it has to start with the merchants, Rappel stressed.  
 The Linden Business and Professional Association is open to all business owners in the city, not just those on Wood Avenue. Meetings are held every Wednesday at 8 a.m. at various locations.  
 "We don't want to confine membership to Wood Avenue," Rappel said. "We're also looking for members from St. Georges Avenue and Route 1. To any business, professional or industry member, we urge them to get involved with the association."  
 The association held a special meeting two weeks ago to solicit new members. "We want to meet new merchants and professionals, and we need to get industry involved," Rappel said.  
 For a \$50 fee, members of the association will receive a quarterly newsletter updating members about progress in the city's business district; decals for participating businesses to allow business owners to network among themselves; participation in a

health care fair, which is being planned; and a welcome to new businesses in the quarterly flier. These fliers will be distributed to local businesses to be given to the public.  
 Currently, there are 48 members in the association with a total of more than 200 businesses in the city. The Business and Professional Association wants to reach 100 percent membership among the business community. "In numbers, we can accomplish anything," Rappel said.  
 "The mayor's office is on our side. We need to work together with the mayor's office and the City Council to revitalize Linden," Rappel said.  
 Rappel added that merchants should be positive to the news about the implementation of the Special Improvement District and be willing to support its inception. He said he foresees that the only concern merchants could have with the Special Improvement District is that their rents will be increased. That is not expected to happen, he said, because the tax has already been assessed and will not be increased.  
 "I can't see anyone opposing the facade renovations. It will beautify the city, draw people into the city, and just promote Linden," he said.  
 Merchants and professionals interested in attending the Wednesday morning sessions should contact Rappel at (908) 925-7733.

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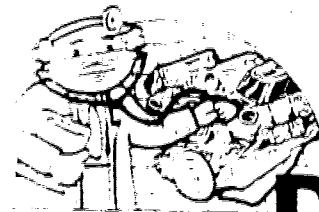
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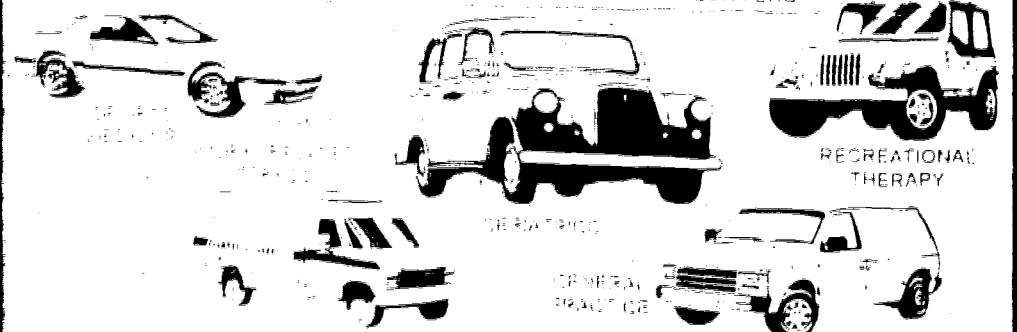
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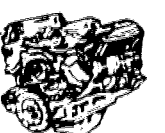


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# Recreation center to open

(Continued from Page 14)

The main activity room in the facility is named for the late Eusher Radney Jr., a resident who, according to Volpe, was an inspiration for the project. "Back when we first started the project in 1979, he was one of the first people from the community to come to us asking, 'Do you think it will ever come about? Do you think it will ever come about?'"

"When this project was being discussed," Youngblood said, "the original location for the building the community wanted was on St. Mark's Park. We couldn't put it there because of Green Acres funding. They did not want us to take up that much open space."

Instead, the building as it stands is located in a far more centralized location, just one block off St. Georges Avenue.

Every room in the facility will be multi-purpose, including the gymnasium, which has a rubber-like floor to allow for a variety of uses. The three activities rooms can be

used for an assortment of purposes. An example is the first room, which is set up for boxing and martial arts. It has a four-rope ring, which is bolted into the floor but is removable, as well as a heavy bag and a speed bag. The middle room has weight-lifting equipment, which will require an extra \$5 per year to use. The extra money will come with expert instructions on how to use the equipment, which will help prevent newcomers from hurting themselves.

The kitchen and cafeteria will not be used to displace the nutrition program offered at the Gregorio Recreation Center, and will not offer any type of similar program.

"Morningstar Church is right down the road, and they offer hot meals for the elderly, so there is no need," Volpe said. "Some of my budget every year goes to a grant to help them out. So what we are looking for here is to help the children and the adults. People like Al Youngblood and myself give people our age something to do. But one thing we do not want to do is to duplicate services."

## Library starts Tiny Tots program

Tiny Tots programs for preschoolers began this month at the Linden Free Public Library. A parent must accompany each child. Pre-registration is required.

At the East branch of the library, 1425 Dill Ave., Tiny Tots will be held Tuesdays, Oct. 10 to Nov. 14 with the exception of Nov. 7, at 1:30 p.m. for children ages 2 1/2 to 5 years old.

For more information or to register for Tuesday afternoon programs, call Children's Librarian Aihua Ning at 298-3829.

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## Wood Avenue rehab is focus to lure shoppers to city

(Continued from Page 1)

Because Wood Avenue contains various kinds of architecture, and the city does not want to eliminate their uniqueness, the SID committee is proposing to connect the stores with a "roof," which will extend over the stores from the beginning of one block to the next. A connector is a facade that will be built on the roofs of buildings that are lower than the others on the block for the purpose of conforming the height of the buildings.

In addition to the roofs, the facades of each store will be renovated, at no expense to business owners because the funding is coming from the Special Improvement District budget.

Signage will be consistent among all stores once the plan is in effect.

While these improvements are occurring, Bono said the SID Committee will try to work in conjunction with Union County to repave Wood Avenue.

One of the considerations of the Special Improvement District Committee was to widen the sidewalks along Wood Avenue for pedestrian traffic. That would narrow the amount of vehicular space on the street itself, and the idea was immediately discarded by committee members.

### No increased taxes

Taxpayers will not be shouldered with an additional tax burden because of the SID program. Funding for the project is coming from the city's capital improvement budget and an additional tax on businesses in the

downtown area, one of the features of Special Improvement Districts statewide.

Special Improvement Districts are projects taken up by many communities that realize they may be losing their ratable base to larger shopping areas outside the city, such as malls. Specific areas are designated to be within the Special Improvement boundary, and within those boundaries, landlords are given a special tax assessment to help pay for the costs of improvements to the businesses in the district.

### Three gateways

T&M Associates, a planning and engineering firm, was contracted to design the concepts and plans for the Wood Avenue improvements. Project manager Bob Stetz said the area marked for improvements includes 16 blocks and 144 businesses.

T&M designed three types of "gateways" to the city: an arch, a brick intersection, and a tree engraved into a brick wall.

The proposed arch would be constructed at the beginning of the shopping area and read "Welcome to the City of Linden." The brick intersection concept would have a section of Wood Avenue made of red brick to catch the eye, and the third proposal suggests having a tree engraved into the brick-face of Woolworth's wall facing Blanche Street with the words "Linden's Tree."

The city recently acquired property behind the shopping center which will be used for parking, Bono said. Parking will be improved with the construction of a new



T&M Associates, the planning firm contracted to redesign the facades of Wood Avenue businesses, envisions a new look for Linden Travel, BZ Fashions and BZ Queens.

42-space parking lot on Knapp Street, and a meter maid will be hired to help reduce the use of parking spaces by employees which will free more spaces for consumers.

Identification, according to SID Committee member George Bora of BZ Fashions, is one of the city's biggest problems. To correct that problem, Tabor said the committee is considering posting signs throughout the city pointing out the direction of the Wood Avenue business district. In addition, signs along Wood Avenue are being considered to display more effectively where public parking is located.

"We would like to see the merchants in

this town starting to get involved now," Bono said. "They have to realize that the more they get involved, the more all of us can accomplish."

One of the concerns raised by merchants was the Linden Airport Redevelopment Project and its potentially adverse impact on the Wood Avenue Special Improvement District project. Bono told the group of merchants that the Wood Avenue project is expected to be completed before the airport redevelopment project, and, therefore, there should be no negative impact.

Staff Writer Melodie Warner contributed to this article.



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# Recreation Department offers Halloween fun for students

## Students encouraged to enter posters

The Linden Recreation Department will sponsor its annual Halloween Poster Contest in two categories for children in grades kindergarten to eight.

Although the same rules apply in both categories, one contest is designed for children in grades kindergarten to five, and the second contest is designed for children in grades six to eight.

The rules are as follows:

- The entry must have a name, address, school, teacher and grade printed on a small card securely attached to the back of the poster.
- Posters must be 9 inches by 12 inches. Posters exceeding this size will not be accepted.
- The poster can be made from construction paper, cardboard, or any other related material.
- Any material can be used to decorate the poster: glitter, tinsel, fringe or fabric. Entrants may bring materials from home. The poster is to be done in school if entrants have art this semester. Otherwise, posters may be done at home. No factory-made Halloween decorations are to be placed on the posters.
- The theme must be Halloween.
- Use paint, chalk or crayons. There are no limitations.
- The deadline for the contest is Oct. 13. All entries must be submitted to your art teacher or to the John T. Gregorio Center, 330 Helen St., by that date.
- Posters will be judged on Oct. 18.
- Prizes are as follows: Trophies will be awarded to first, second and third place winners. Certificates and ribbons will be awarded to fourth and fifth place winners.

For more information, contact the Linden Recreation Department at 474-8627.

## Art contest for high school students

The Linden Recreation Department will sponsor its annual Halloween Art Contest for students in grades nine to 12.

First place winners in the contest will receive a prize of \$50, while second place winners will receive a prize of \$25, and third place winners will be awarded \$15.

The rules are as follows:

- Students must submit an entry whose actual size is 12 inches by 8 inches.
- The entry must have a name, address, school, teacher and grade printed on a small card securely attached to the back.
- Pictures can be made from construction paper, cardboard or any other related materials.
- Any material can be used to decorate: glitter, tinsel, fringe or fabric. The poster is to be done in school if you have art this semester. If you do not have

art, the poster may be done at home. No factory-made Halloween decorations are to be placed on the poster.

- The theme must be Halloween.
- You can use paint or chalk. There are no limitations.

All entries must be received by either your art teacher or the John T. Gregorio Center, 330 Helen St., no later than Oct. 13.

Judging will be done on Oct. 18.

## Art contest for Special Education students

Special Education students in the Linden School District are eligible to enter the Linden Halloween Art Contest.

The rules are as follows:

- Anyone from Special Education classes is eligible.
- The entry must have a name, age, school, teacher and grade printed on a small card securely attached to the back. This is very important so awards can be distributed. Students must indicate they are in the Special Education Class category.
- The posters can be made from construction paper, cardboard or any other related materials. Decorate your poster with any material. Students must not use factory-manufactured Halloween decorations.
- The poster can be any shape, but it must not be larger than 9 inches by 12 inches.
- The judging will be done from ages 5 to 8 and 9 to 12.
- The poster must be worked on in school with your teacher.
- The deadline for the contest is Oct. 13. All entries should be handed to your teacher by that date. The posters will be judged on Oct. 18.
- The theme must be Halloween.
- Trophies will be awarded to first, second and third place winners. Certificates and ribbons will be awarded to fourth and fifth place winners.

## Pumpkin painting offered to students

A Pumpkin Painting Contest for Linden elementary school-aged children from grades pre-kindergarten to five will be held Oct. 21 in two sessions.

The first session will be held from noon to 1 p.m., and the second session will be held from 1 to 2 p.m.

Judging will start at 2:15 p.m. and winners will be announced at 2:45 p.m.

There is a \$5 pre-registration fee for participants.

First place winners will receive a trophy, while second and third places winners will receive certificates and ribbons.

Pre-registration will be on a first come, first served basis.

The Halloween Committee and the Recreation Department will supply pumpkins, paints and brushes. The deadline for registration is Oct. 13.

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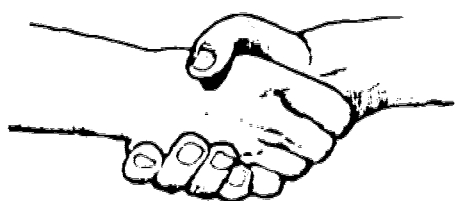
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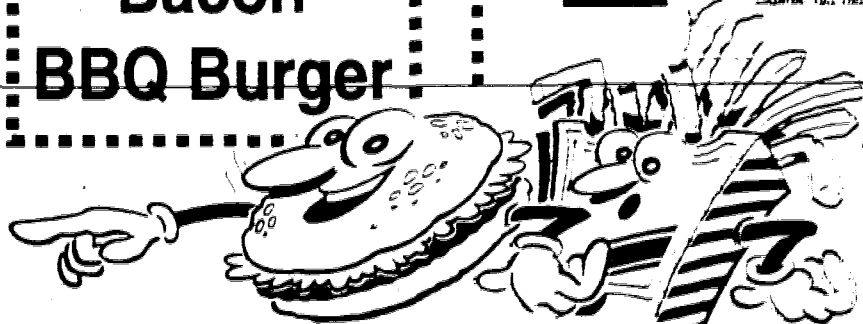
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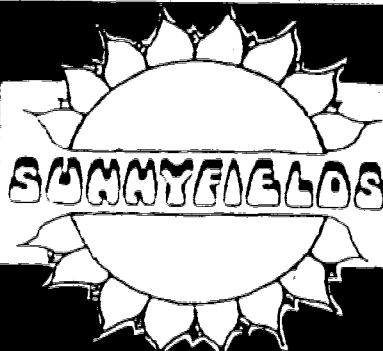
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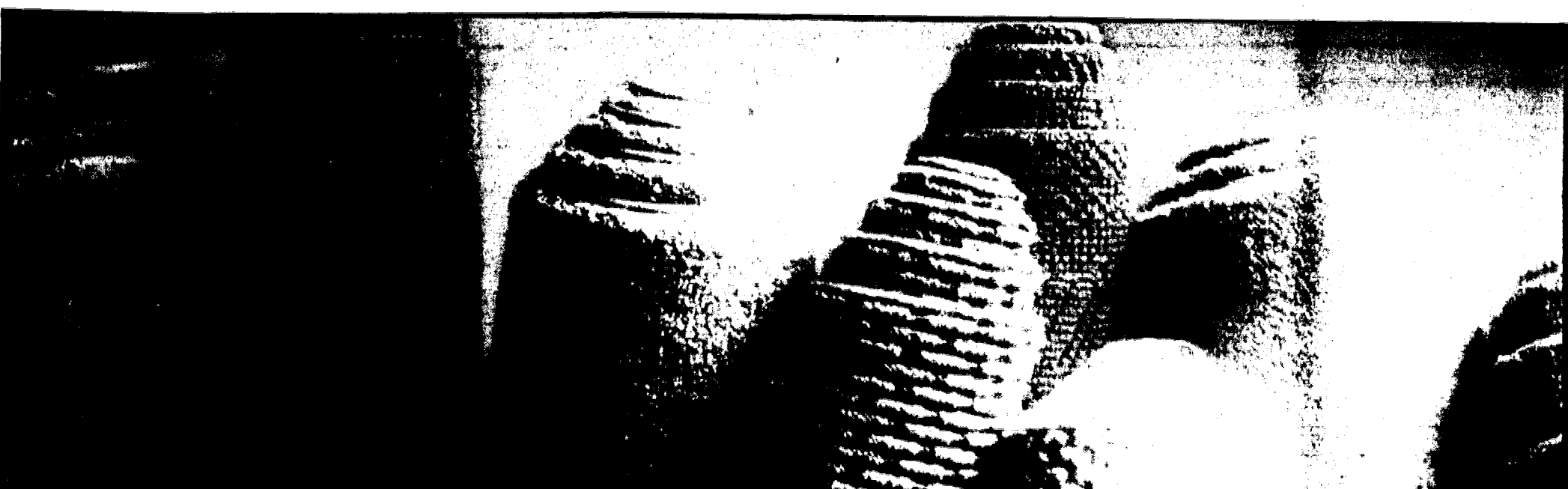


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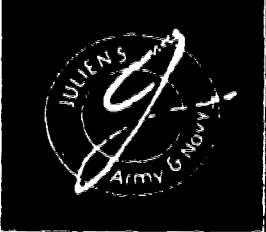
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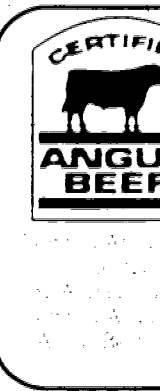
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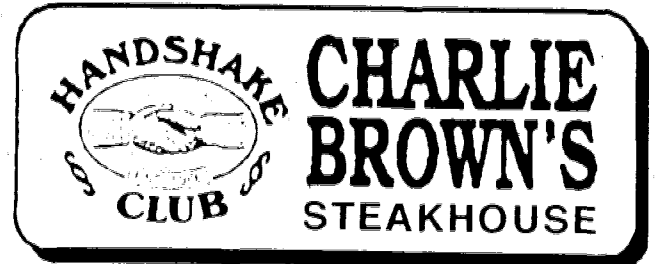


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| <p>• <b>DENVILLE</b><br/>         107 W. Main St<br/>         At intersection of<br/>         Rt. 28 &amp; Main St<br/>         201-526-3068</p> | <p>• <b>GREEN BROOK</b><br/>         171 Rt. 22 East<br/>         Near intersection of<br/>         Washington Ave<br/>         908-296-6445</p> | <p>• <b>MONTCLAIR</b><br/>         50 Upper Montclair Plaza<br/>         Behind Bellevue<br/>         Movie Theatre<br/>         201-783-9560</p> | <p>• <b>HILLSBOROUGH</b><br/>         381 Rt. 206 South<br/>         At intersection of<br/>         Hamilton Rd<br/>         908-874-6511</p> |
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