

## The right to carry is a must

If a few state legislators have their way, New Jersey would become the 32nd state to adopt right-to-carry legislation, allowing law-abiding citizens to carry firearms. I wish them the best of luck, and urge them to ignore the impending storm of hysteria and misinformation about to commence, courtesy of the *Star-Ledger* and area broadcast media.

On the morning of May 22, Assemblyman Kevin O'Toole, of Union and Essex counties, was among about a dozen other Republican assemblymen and senators who gathered at the State House to announce the introduction of such legislation.

The Citizens Protection Act is intended to allow a New Jersey resident the freedom to carry a concealed firearm for self-protection. Pretty radical idea, huh?

## Common Sense

By Jay Hochberg  
Regional Editor

Imagine a country where normal people are allowed to defend themselves against criminals and, in the process, actually deter and prevent crime. Imagine there could be less of a need for those occasionally tough-on-crime politicians, like our president, to pretend they want more cops on the beat to protect us from the animals they won't keep in prison.

How will a carjacker in Newark deal with the anxiety caused by the fear of knowing his next target may stop him cold? How is a rapist on the loose in Bergen County supposed to get anything done if women start carrying guns? Think of the culture shock to be experienced by burglars and robbers when they have to worry about facing armed homeowners and merchants.

Your heart is breaking, isn't it? The Association of New Jersey Rifle and Pistol Clubs dispatched several women to join the legislators that day. One woman told of her ex-husband who, she said, beat and raped her before threatening to kill her. "I lived through hell," she said, "and the laws weren't enough to protect me. New Jersey gives us the right to protect ourselves. Now they should give us the means."

Unfortunately, this bill will not be signed into law. I'm confident it will make it out of committee and will be passed by the General Assembly. The hard part is passage in the Senate, where even the most conservative members will balk during this election year.

Regardless of its success in the Legislature, this bill will not be supported by our governor, who is in no hurry to inspire bad press and jeopardize her apparent popularity.

And speaking of looking to the Legislature for leadership, I hope the talk of amending the state constitution to make Supreme Court justices accountable to voters becomes bills that will be signed into laws.

By rejecting Governor Whitman's education spending plan, the court finally made it obvious that it is more interested in the redistribution of private wealth than it is in anything education-related.

Not content to legislate by decree, the court now wants to muscle in on the Legislature's power to tax. Such an encroachment should motivate the Assembly and Senate to protect their turf and exercise their constitutional duties to keep the branches' powers separate.

To be on the safe side, the constitution also should be amended with the deletion of that "thorough and efficient" clause.

## Freeholders appoint Lapolla to replace Baran

By Sean Dally  
Staff Writer

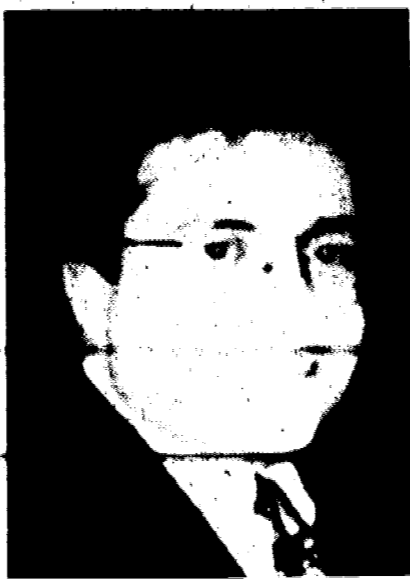
The county government will be getting a new county manager next month.

Michael Lapolla, acting first assistant prosecutor for the Union County Prosecutor's Office, was appointed last Thursday by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The vote was 8-0 for Lapolla with affirmative votes from both the Democratic majority and Republican minority on the board. Republican Freeholder Henry Kurz abstained on the vote; he could not be reached for comment.

Lapolla, who will be paid an annual salary of \$119,500, will move into the county manager's office on June 16. He will be replacing Ann Baran, who announced her resignation on May 6.

"All those who know and have worked with Michael share my enthusiasm for his impressive qualities," said Democratic Freeholder Chairwoman Linda Stender. "We were very fortunate to have someone with his unique background willing to step



Michael Lapolla

into the county manager's post at this critical time of transition.

"Like his predecessor, Ann Baran, he brings to this position superb administrative skills, in-depth experience in the operations of Union County government, extensive knowledge of our problems and — perhaps most of

all — bipartisan respect and confidence."

Lapolla said he already has a close working relationship with Baran and predicted a "seamless and painless transition."

"I appreciate the fact that the freeholders have given me this wonderful opportunity and I look forward to working with them," said Lapolla.

Stender had said that a formal search for a replacement was to take place after Baran had handed in her resignation, something that did not happen.

Stender explained that the county saved time and money not convening a search committee for Baran's replacement and that the freeholders' legal counsel had said the regular search process could be waived.

She added that, with the nomination of a new, permanent county prosecutor, namely Thomas V. Manahan of Westfield, Lapolla had received a number "very attractive offers to leave county government."

"We could not risk losing a man whose experience included six years

as a member of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, including its chairmanship, and six years as first assistant Union County prosecutor. Michael also gained invaluable knowledge at the state and federal levels as assistant counsel to Governor Florio and state director of the offices of Senator Bill Bradley."

When asked about this, Lapolla said he had started hunting for a job before Manahan's nomination.

"I enjoy county government in particular and I think county manager is a great position and I look forward to giving it my best shot," he said.

Lapolla said a top priority for the county is to build a new Juvenile Detention Center. Funds for a new center were defeated by the Democratic minority on the freeholder board last year because of money concerns with the UCUA incinerator — specifically, the fact that the county may have to pay the UCUA's debt service if it defaults on its bonds.

Who would be named to succeed Baran had been circulating in political circles around the county since the

Democrats became the majority party on the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Lapolla, a Democrat, was once the youngest county freeholder in the state. He was elected to the Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1983 and served two three-year terms. He was made chairman in 1988.

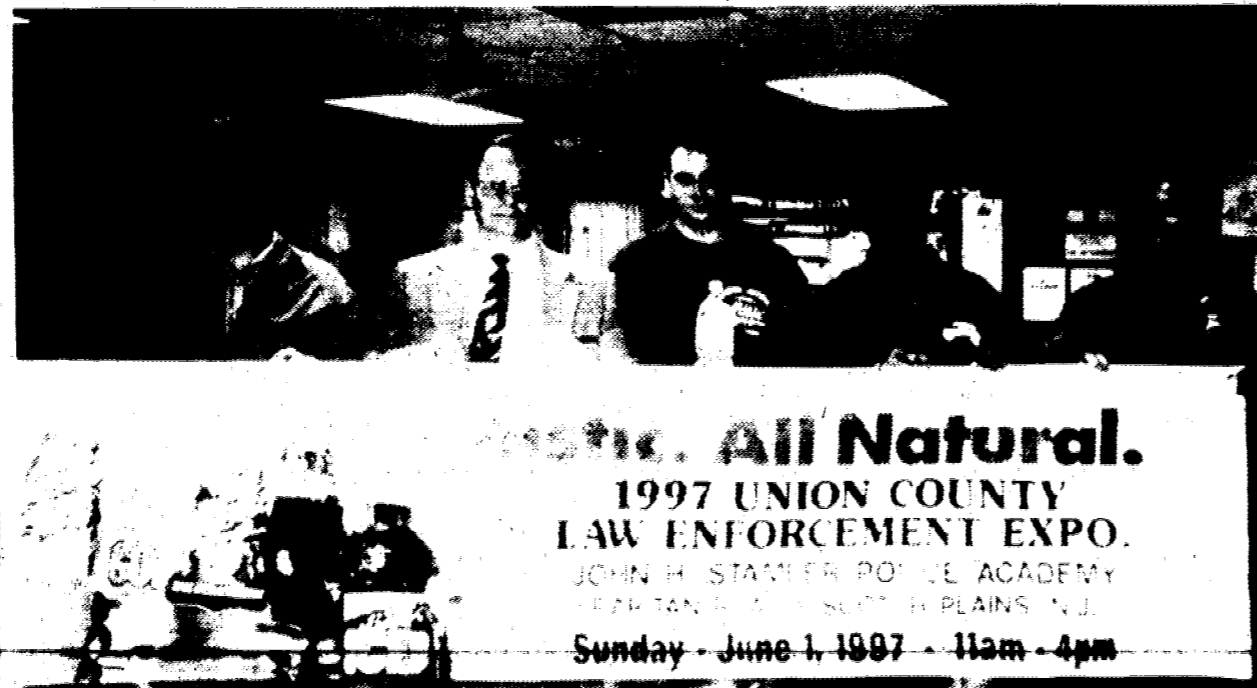
Lapolla, 40, is a resident of Elizabeth. He is married and has a 5-month-old son.

He is a graduate of Rutgers University and a Phi Beta Kappa member. He received a law degree from Washington College of the American University in Washington, D.C., and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1981.

Lapolla served briefly as assistant counsel to Gov. Jim Florio in 1990 and then served as director of the New Jersey Office of Senator Bill Bradley. He was named first assistant prosecutor of Union County.

He has also been an adjunct professor at the Graduate School of Public Administration at Kean College and is an instructor at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Union County.

## Officer of the Year



Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, second from left, presents the Officer of the Year Award to Donald White, second from right. The award is given to a sheriff's officer on the basis of his "dedication to duty, compassion, personal drive and unselfish assistance to friends and co-workers," Froehlich said. A 13-year veteran of the department, White lives in South Plainfield. When asked to comment on the award, White said his 80-year-old mother "will be real proud of me." Flanking the two are Sheriff's Officer Robert Woelpper and Detective Frank Bartone; both will receive meritorious service awards later this year.

## Family discount cards set for county's pools

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced that family discount cards for the Union County pools in Rahway and Wheeler Park in Linden are available for purchase.

"The cards, which will be honored at either pool, offer each immediate family member the opportunity to obtain a 30-visit card at a substantial discount over the regular daily admission price," said Freeholder Chairman Linda Stender. "For a Union County family of four, two adults and two children, there could be a savings of 50 percent."

Family discount cards will only be on sale until June 20. After that time, individual discount cards will be sold at the pool in 10 and 30 visit quantities," continued County Manager Ann M. Baran. "Although there is a savings to be realized when purchasing an individual discount card, it is definitely in the best interest of families to be part of the advance sales."

All people who purchase discount cards should note that admission to the pools is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Possession of a discount card

does not guarantee admittance and is not considered to be a reservation or club membership. For safety reasons, when the pools have reached capacity, there will be no further admissions, regardless of whether or not a person has a discount card.

The county's pools, which are outdoor facilities with handicapped features, will be opening June 21. John Russell Wheeler Pool is located on Stimpson Avenue in Linden, off Route 1 South; Walter E. Ulrich Memorial Pool is in Rahway River Park, off Valley Road, Clark, and St. Georges Avenue, Rahway. Sessions at the pools vary as to day and times, so the public is urged to contact the pool they wish to attend, or the Division of Parks and Recreation, for an information sheet. A schedule of swim lessons and classes can also be obtained by calling the Parks office.

To obtain a family discount card, patrons must complete and return an application form in person to the Union County Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, prior to June 21.

## Forum to address economic development in county

Union County business owners and executives are scheduled to join with county, state and federal officials for a "hands-on" meeting Monday to exchange ideas on the important relationship between a New Jersey/New York Metropolitan Area environmental plan and Union County's economic development initiatives.

The Interactive Public Forum, to be held from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the Tosco Refining Company, 1400 Park Ave., Linden, will address the efforts of the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Plan, which is a key focus of the county's evolving long-range plans for sustainable economic development.

Co-sponsored by Union County, the Union County Alliance/Gateway Center, the Union County Chamber of Commerce, The Linden Industrial Association and Tosco Refining Company, the forum will feature dialogue with experts in addition to updating participants on the activities of organizations such as the departments of Commerce, Environmental Protection and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

"It is essential that environmental policies and economic growth in Union County support — and not hinder — one another," said Freeholder Donald Goncalves, chairman of the county's Economic Development Committee. The forum, he explained, is part of the Board of Chosen Freeholders' efforts to secure the county's position in the emerging world economy through sustainable economic development: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the requirements of future generations.

Established in 1987 by the Environmental Protection Agency, HEP is a major initiative to clean the Port of New York and New Jersey while sus-

taining businesses in the area. Because much of the port is located in Union County, the program has had far-reaching environmental and economic impacts on the region and will continue to be a major factor.

The forum is the latest in a series of citizen education programs begun in 1995 to address Union County's diverse economy and environment. Three such award-winning programs, established by former Freeholder Linda-Lee Kelly, were recognized by the National Association of Counties. Kelly now serves on the Union County Alliance's Environmental Reform Committee, which holds increased education and involvement of more public sectors as a primary goal.

Noting that there will be speakers from the public and private sectors — many recognized nationally as experts in their fields, Goncalves said public participation is crucial.

"This forum will be an opportunity to share information, exchange ideas and showcase environmental conservation and economic development in our diverse county," he said, explaining that the county has been encouraging the Spanish and Portuguese communities to attend because of their growing business interest in the area.

Freeholder Henry Kurz, liaison to the Environmental Health Advisory Board, said the forum will address issues that "impact all facets of our lives."

"Economic and environmental matters are of crucial importance," Kurz said. "The roadmap we will make for the HEP and sustainable economic development will directly impact our economic opportunities and quality of life today, with far-reaching implications for future generations."

Among HEP's initiatives are to

reduce pollution at its source, preserving the sensitive creek, stream, river and watershed ecosystems in Union County, as well as monitor sewage treatment plants that discharge material into the Arthur Kill waterway.

The Union County Alliance has been a driving force in sponsoring meetings and conferences to address economic growth and environmental issues. As part of its Long-Range Strategic Plan, the Alliance has worked with the Board of Chosen Freeholders to establish environmental priorities for Union County. This working relationship helps to strengthen partnerships with community, environmental and economic development groups.

"The problems of balancing economic growth and environmental preservation are challenging," said David

Pierce, chairman of the Alliance's Environmental Reform Committee. "This forum will enable us to address these issues under the broad umbrella of sustainable economic development."

The committee, comprised of representatives from local businesses, economic development organizations and county staff, has been working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding HEP and economic development. Seeking to strengthen the vital link between environmental protection and economic development while stressing the importance of retaining manufacturing jobs in Union County, the committee in 1993 has made recommendations, including:

- Urging that environmental regulations should not be more stringent

than those established by the federal government, except under unusual circumstances.

- Requesting that public entities such as the Port Authority of New Jersey and sewage authorities join with Union County's environmental reform efforts.

While praising regulations that have resulted in reducing air and water pollution, Goncalves noted that pending HEP efforts could have far-reaching impacts on businesses of all sizes.

"We are living in an age when it is crucial for people to learn how environmental efforts will affect them," he said. "This forum is important for people who are interested in attending this forum, or would like more information on this county initiative, should call the Union County Alliance at (908) 527-2944.

## Expo features police activities

By Maddy Vitale  
Staff Writer

On June 1, residents from around the county can come out and see first hand what the men and women in blue do on a daily basis at the second annual Police Expo, held at the John H. Stamler Police Academy, located at 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Law enforcement agencies throughout Union County, as well as state and federal agencies, will be on hand to provide information on the various roles of the officers to families.

The program is free of charge. Special law enforcement officers' exhibits will include K-9 units, bomb squad robots, an explosives detonation demonstration, State Police medical evacuation helicopter, police horses, bicycle and motorcycle patrols, Law Enforcement Explorer Youth Posts, crime prevention units, patrol and community policing, specialty vehicle and more.

Other activities will include displays and demonstrations by the Union County Chapter of MADD, ASSIST, Union County Firefighters' Association Smoke House, Above and Beyond Tae Kwon Do School, Union County

Drug Alliance, the Union County Comprehensive Traffic Safety Unit, communications equipment, police bicycle and police vehicle competitions. Food, refreshments, commemorative T-shirts, souvenirs, rides and amusements will also be available.

Union D.A.R.E. Officer Nick Ardito said the event last year was a big success but this year is expected to be an even bigger success with more participants. "The reason we chose the police academy this year was because a lot of children ask questions about it," Ardito said.

An added plus will be 30-minute tours made available to parents and the children of the police academy.

"Children are always asking us what police officers do and what it is like to be an officer," Ardito said. "Here is a chance to see what we do every day and other support services we contact," Ardito continued. "This is a way to say thank you to all of the children in the D.A.R.E. program. It is an event in which they can come out, enjoy themselves and see what policing is all about."

In case of rain, the event will be held June 8. For more information, contact the Union Police D.A.R.E. Unit at (908) 851-5252.

COUNTY NEWS

Horseback riding lessons

The opportunity to learn to ride a horse exists this summer at the county's Equestrian Camp.

son. Proof of residency and a birth certificate will be required. For further information, contact the Watching Stables at (908) 789-3665.

Conti will run again

Union County Surrogate Ann Conti has announced that she will seek reelection to her fourth term.

promise she made in her last campaign. "For years, these forms were done manually. This new procedure saves a tremendous amount of time, and it will enable us to avoid the need for greatly expanded office staff in the future."

Elder law advice

Benjamin D. Eckman, a local elder law attorney, has produced a brochure called "Understanding Advance Directives: A Guide to Living Wills and Health Care Proxies" in anticipation of National Elder Law Week, which ends Saturday.

information necessary for persons whose lives will extend or have already extended beyond the time when all children are usually out of the house and when regular employment ceases.

COAH reform

Gov. Christine Whitman has signed into law a bill sponsored by Assemblymen Richard Bagger and Alan Augustine, both R-Union, that changes the definition of vacant land when used in calculations for affordable housing.

mine a municipality's fair share of affordable housing. Previously, the law stipulated that when calculating a municipality's fair-share affordable housing obligation, COAH could not designate as vacant land any property owned by a county, municipality or nonprofit group that has been earmarked for conservation, parks, or open space preservation.

Jersey home by purchasing a "battle-ship license plate," but also by participating in the voluntary tax check-off on the 1996 state income tax forms.

Questions about the project and information about making donations outside of the check off can be mailed to Ellen Amato, director of the Battleship Foundation, at 1715 Highway 35, Suite 103, Middletown, NJ 07748, or call (908) 671-6488.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The Golden Lights of Evangel Church, Scotch Plains, a musical group made up of senior citizens, rehearse musical program with Gail Tomquist directing.

Singing group lights up their golden years

By Bea Smith  
Staff Writer

A religious musical group, The Golden Lights, made up of senior citizens, has been enlightening audiences in Union County and beyond for the past year with an inspirational program called "The Time of Our Lives."

The wonderful happy seniors, who belong to the Evangel Church in Scotch Plains, love to perform, sing solos and duets, and play various instruments.

"There are about 25 seniors in this group," explained Ginnie McKenney of Linden, who organized The Golden Lights. McKenney, a former Roselle Park mayor and freeholder, and Gail Tomquist, director of the group, came by Friday morning to discuss the wonders of senior citizen accomplishments in the world of music.

"These are all members of the church," explained Tomquist, "and they are having the time of their lives with this production. There will be about 30 seniors when we start our new program at the Westwood in Garwood singing for the Exxon Annuity Group, who are retirees. It is wonderful to see how dedicated the members of our group are. They come to all rehearsals and performances."

McKenney mentioned that "Gail came up with the concept of this group, and she is the organizer. We did our first presentation in our church on May 5 of last year. Gail came up with the name, The Golden Lights. She also does The Shining Lights, a children's choir in our church. She suggested that maybe we might be able to take our production, 'The Time of Our Lives' to nursing homes, and it has since spread to assisted living centers, senior community centers, churches, Baptist, Lutheran and Presbyterian."

Tomquist beamed. "Our seniors are so enthusiastic about the whole thing. The ages range from 50 and up. Why, we even have a member, Meta Nickles, who is 91-years-old." She grinned. "I'm the youngest — and not yet a senior citizen. And of course, we have more women than men."

McKenney helps "with the narration. And members of the church recently invited seniors to come to sing with us as we travel from one church to another, not only in Union County, but as far as a Baptist church in Somerset."

Tomquist said that "we do a musical which concentrates on 'in spite of the aging process.' The singers are so grateful for what God has done in our past, our present, and

even in our future. It's a religious musical, but it's more than that. It's truly inspiring."

McKenney said, "It all began when we heard the whole musical program sung in a church in Maine. Actually," she explained, "we saw a video tape, was inspired, and have been using that musical for a year."

"Now that we have created our own musical, 'Young at Heart,' we are combining old love songs with Christian songs of love," said Tomquist. "And we keep adding new ideas, new solos, duets, and we're working on getting something new in musical instruments in addition to our singers, piano player and our two narrators — our Ginnie and Luther Carson."

McKenney said that "one of the things Gail has done that has worked out nicely is to inject a little humor in our presentation. In the present 'Time of Our Lives,' we have some of the people narrating funny stories about their children and grandchildren. It is interspersed with our narration. The present program takes three quarters of an hour."

After the Garwood program, the Golden Lights will begin rehearsals again in September.

"We bring our sound system with us wherever we go," said Tomquist. "And we rehearse once every other week. Wherever God leads us, we'll go with it. There is an important message to get out."

"One of the things that are important with our new production," added McKenney, "is that we have a chance to get our foot in the door — to appeal to a larger group of people. And it's all free. We've had some contributions, but we don't request any. Our audiences range from eight people to 90-plus people."

McKenney, who has been attending the Evangel Church since 1986, said that "I'm a person who just involves myself." She smiled. "I'm in charge of the senior fellowship group. And it's just wonderful." She resided in Roselle Park from 1965 to 1988, served as mayor of Roselle Park for one term, was elected to the council twice, and served as freeholder before moving to Linden.

"The Golden Lights, the other church members, those in our growing audiences," said Tomquist, "are becoming more and more inspired. And you know something? They're having the time of their lives."

Arts center seeks volunteers

The Union County Arts Center, a 1300 seat multi-purpose performing arts center located in Rahway, New Jersey is seeking individuals to volunteer for ushering, concessions, fundraising, marketing, mailings and office support.

Built in 1927, the building originally served as a vaudeville theatre, silent movie house and finally a mainstream movie theatre. Currently, more than forty quality performing arts events, spanning music, adult and

children's theatre, classic and contemporary films and dance are presented annually.

Located in the southbound part of Union County, the center is housed in what is formally known as the "Old Rahway Theatre." Since 1984, the facility has undergone major renovation restoring the theatre to its original

charm and beauty. Individuals interested in serving as board and committee members should forward a letter of interest to the Union County Arts Center at 1601 Irving St., Rahway, N.J. 07065, or call 499-0441 and speak to Sharon Surber. New Jersey TT Relay users call (800) 852-7899.

Singers recall 'The Time of Our Lives'

The Golden Lights, a seniors musical group from Evangel Church of Scotch Plains, is available to present their concert "The Time of Our Lives Opus" for your group's enjoyment.

Community centers, convalescent care facilities, etc. who would like to schedule a presentation of this musical may call Kathleen Dearey at (908) 322-9300 to make arrangements.

Summit youth wins for poem

A poem written by Sara Polsky, a sixth grader at Summit Middle School, was selected as one of the top ten poems in the fourth, fifth and sixth grade division of the New Jersey's Young Poets Contest, sponsored by Creative Communications, Inc., an education publishing company located in Utah.

Sara's poem, "The Octave," will receive special recognition in a poetry anthology, "A Celebration of New Jersey's Young Poets," that will feature the poetry of the state's best student poets. Sara will also receive a \$50 savings bond from Creative Communication, which is publishing the anthology.

*The Octave*  
Gnawing knots of nervousness  
pull my stomach tight,  
I feel as if I've shrunk  
two inches with fright.  
I'm called up to play,  
but I almost hold back.  
I know that self-confidence  
is something I lack.  
I feel myself pulled into the song:  
It's fun!  
My fingers gallop over the keys,  
until I find I'm done.  
—Sara Polsky

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Rising Star Awards recognize County high schools, students

By Bea Smith  
Staff Writer

Union High School came away with two awards at the Paper Mill Playhouse's second Annual Rising Star Awards ceremony on Tuesday evening. The event recognizes excellence in high school musical theater, and the awards honor students, teachers, performers and designers for "their work in producing musical theater in New Jersey's high schools. A total of 80 schools from across the state were entered in the competition. Following an extensive judging process, 49 schools, among them Union High School and Linden High School, were honored with nominations in one or more of 20 categories," according to Dennis Dougherty, public relations representative of the Paper Mill Playhouse.

Nicole Martone of Union won as Outstanding Lead Actress for her performance as Mabel Norman in Union High School's "Mack and Mabel." For outstanding Graphic Design, the winner was Union's "Mack and Mabel."

A total of 15 schools won awards at the ceremonies. Secretary of State Lonna Hooks and Paper Mill's Eddie Bracken joined members of the judges' panel, Paper Mill staff and others in presenting awards. "Eighty New Jersey high schools were entered in the 1997 Rising Star Awards program," said Dougherty, "and 49 different school productions received nominations in one or more categories. Fifty-one judges traveled across the state — from Sparta to Absecon, Mullica Hill to Ramsey. Judges included professionals from the New Jersey theater and educational communities."

Three Rising Star scholarships were presented by Paper Mill's Director of Development John McEwen and Hooks. The scholarship recipients were chosen from nominations made by teachers or administrators. They were all graduating seniors who plan to attend a New Jersey college or university majoring in theater, music, dance, arts administration, or theater, music, dance education, maintain a B average or better in academic studies,

participate in a musical entered in the Rising Star competition and who have participated in theatrical activities throughout high school.

In addition to Martone, there were 11 more Union High School's "Mack and Mabel" nominations. They included Director, Yvonne Rago; Meridoc Burkhardt as Mack Bennett; child actress Marissa Rago as The Kid; Louis Quagliato and Ronald Rago, Musical Direction, Union High School's Orchestra; Scenic Design, Hair and Makeup, Graphic Design and Lobby Display and Lea Anello for Technical Achievement by a Student.

Linden High School was nominated for its lighting design for "Anything Goes," Robert Rivera as Moon-face Martin, supporting actor; and Tara Kusky for Technical Achievement by a Student.

"The winners," said Dougherty, "were invited to participate in Paper Mill's Summer Musical Theater Conservatory and to take part in the theater's annual summer concert event, 'Life on Earth.'"

Resident uses county settings in his first published novel

Union County will be a major setting in a forthcoming novel by local resident Billy Callahan. Commonwealth Publications Inc., a new Canadian-based publisher out of Edmonton, Alberta, will run 10,000 paperback copies of "For Lindsey" later this summer. Just two years out of college, it will be the young author's first time in bookstores.

Callahan grew up in Westfield and wrote "For Lindsey" while attending Seton Hall University in South Orange, from which he graduated in 1995. The story is set in and around the local area, and references were used with actual names. Local landmarks used includes: Echo Lake Park, the Summit Diner, Route 22, Kenilworth Boulevard, The Jolly Trolley, Ferraro's Pizzeria, Bowercraft Amusement Park, Mindowaskin Park, Westfield Memorial Pool, Namah-

gan Park, Friendly's, and Westfield's police station.

"For Lindsey," a coming-of-age genre fiction, deals with young adults making the change from high school to college. The book uses a back and forth his/her style in the first person, narrated by an 18-year-old Westfield girl, April Hutchinson, and by Lacie Jenkins, a Cranford boy of same age. The fictional tale follows these two through extraordinary events in the most traumatic year of their lives. When they finally do meet, the ironies of their dramas help love the other out of the year's emotional wounds. Yet it only serves to prepare them for even greater final dilemmas and decisions. Although the story has serious implications about growing up, outlandish pranks and waggish amusement also play to many parts in the novel. "For Lindsey" explores the questions of

facing changes, and whether the future can be as good as the past.

It's not only where the book takes place that's significant, but when. Set in 1982, "For Lindsey" comes along as an essential fragment to a mid-90s atmosphere that has seen a resurgence in the late 70s/early 80s music, culture, and dress. In setting the background, Callahan sometimes incorporates certain timely references of the year, like Pat Benatar, feathered hair, and iron-on T-shirts.

Commonwealth will hold a book signing with the 26-year-old "For Lindsey" author this summer at two or three bookstores in Union County, New Jersey. Callahan's second novel, "The Wildflower," is due for release in the summer of '98. CP will publish the books across the U.S. and Canada, along with a showing at an annual book convention in Germany.

**Successful docking**

Hella Bailin, right, of Union, won an Honorable Mention Award for her watercolor, "Boat Dock," shown hanging in Westfield Art Association's 73rd Annual Members' Watercolor, Graphics and Photography Exhibition, held in April. Exhibit Chairperson Linda Kolar stands left.

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Consequential

ACROSS

- 1 Favorable sign
2 Throw off
3 Mischiefmakers
... 82 Sweep's harvest

Crossword grid with numbers 1-111 indicating starting positions for across and down words.

© DAVY ASSOCIATES

- 18 Obtained illegally
21 Beat it!
27 Gum quantity
... 105 Solution

(See Answers on Page B12)

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY MAY 31, 1997
EVENT: 4th Annual Orchard Park Church Community Tag Sale
PLACE: Orchard Park Church, 1264 Victor Avenue (off Vauxhall Rd, Union, NJ)

FRIDAY JUNE 6, 1997

EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 10am to 3PM. Great buys! Clothes, housewares, books, records, etc.

SUNDAY JUNE 8, 1997

EVENT: Flea Market Indoors & Outdoors
PLACE: Bellville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue (off Jerusalem Street), Bellville
TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm. Over 100 quality dealers! Call 201-997-9535 for information.

RUMMAGE SALE

FRIDAY, SATURDAY MAY 30, 31, 1997
EVENT: Annual Rummage Sale
PLACE: Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Avenue, Summit, NJ
TIME: 9am-4pm
PRICE: Free Admission. Furniture, clothing, sports gear, toys and miscellaneous.

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is prepaid and costs just \$27.00 for 2 weeks for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both. Your notice must be in our Maplewood office 465 Valley Street by 4:00 PM on Monday for publication...

DINNER-BANQUET

SATURDAY MAY 31, 1997
EVENT: Dinner Dance, Roselle Park Youth Baseball League
PLACE: Knights of Columbus, South Avenue, Garwood, NJ (across from Path Mark)

OTHER

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY MAY 30, 31 & JUNE 1st, 1997
EVENT: Grecian Holiday Festival
PLACE: Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Community Center, 510 Linden Place, Orange.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY MAY 30 & 31, 1997

EVENT: Job Grand Lodge & Bethune Grand Chapter Convention
PLACE: Somerset Marriott, 110 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, N.J.
TIME: Opening Friday 7pm; Saturday, 9am Meeting; 7pm Banquet
PRICE: Hosted by Grandmaster Illustrous Charlie Knight & Grand Matron Sister Louise Williams. Queen of the South meeting, Friday 9am.

SATURDAY JUNE 7, 1997

EVENT: June's Jumbo Junque Sale
PLACE: The First Presbyterian Church of Roselle, Corner of 5th and Chestnut Street, Roselle
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.
PRICE: All are welcome
ORGANIZATION: The First Presbyterian Church

HOROSCOPE

For the week of June 1 to 7

Aries

March 21-April 20

Refuse to get caught up in the schemes of a friend or family member. Delays can work in your favor...

Taurus

April 21-May 21

Your enthusiasm and good will spread to others, and they will appreciate it. Keep your mind on business when necessary but don't pass up a chance for romance...

Gemini

May 22-June 21

Don't let an unexpected change of plans get to you. Go with the flow and you'll have an even better time. Take time to discuss a long-term financial

matter with a knowledgeable friend or family member. Your domestic situation settles down, and home improvement plans are featured.

Cancer

June 22-July 22

Your work will offer opportunities for advancement and expression. People in high places are watching you and appreciate your efforts but may not say so...

Leo

July 23-Aug. 23

You feel at loose ends and don't quite know what to do. Now would be the time to take stock of your personal and work situations. See your faults and strengths as others do...

Virgo

Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Romance and self-improvement are highlighted. Stay close to home and

enjoy a familiar routine. Workplace stress will start to abate, and your life will get more balanced. Recent moves may have you feeling shaky...

Libra

Sept. 23-Oct. 23

A difficult choice may have to be made. Do your homework, study the options and go with your instincts. Long distance communication is promising...

Scorpio

Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Questions concerning real estate and property are on your agenda. Make sure you understand the terms before making commitments...

Sagittarius

Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Now is the time to avoid the spotlight and work behind the scenes for the best advantage. You'll discover

key facts that were hidden, and they'll steer you in the right direction.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Someone you consider an ally might not have your best interests at heart. Be alert and keep your dealings out in the open for best results...

Aquarius

Jan. 21-Feb. 18

New opportunities present them-

selves, but be patient. Don't rush into anything without checking the fine print...

Pisces

Feb. 19-March 20

While everything else is running at top speed, take your time and see if a slower approach works better. Don't rush to make decisions...

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LOST PICTURE SHOW 2395 Springfield Avenue • UNION
GENERAL CINEMA BLUE STAR 1701-65 Route 22 West • WATCHUNG
RIALTO THEATRE 250 East Broad Street • WESTFIELD
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS (L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: JOHN F. QUINN, (DECEASED), his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives and his, their or any of their successors in right, title or interest.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon KATHLEEN M. MARCUS, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 721 Route 202-204, P.O. Box 1018, Summit, New Jersey 07998, phone number (908) 722-0777, an answer to the Complaint and Amendment(s) to Complaint, if any, filed in a civil action, in which The Dime Savings Bank of New York, F.S.B., as Successor to Starpoints Savings Bank is plaintiff and Aaron Campbell, et al., are the defendant(s), pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, and bearing Docket Number F-13584-92 within thirty-five (35) days after May 29, 1997 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint and Amendment(s) to Complaint, if any. You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex, CN-971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing on two mortgages, the first mortgage being dated June 26, 1987, made by Aaron Campbell, as mortgagor, to Starpoints Savings Bank, said mortgage recorded on July 8, 1987, in the Union County Register's Office in Mortgage Book 3772 at Page 753, which mortgage was MODIFIED by Modification of Mortgage recorded on July 22, 1988 in Mortgage Book 3889 at Page 954 and further modified by Modification of Mortgage recorded June 29, 1989 in Mortgage Book 3988 at Page 66; and the second mortgage being dated June 26, 1987, made by Aaron Campbell, as mortgagor, to Starpoints Savings Bank, said mortgage recorded on July 8, 1987, in the Union County Register's Office in Book 3772 at Page 755, which mortgage was modified by Modification of Mortgage recorded on July 22, 1988 in Mortgage Book 3889 at Page 952 and further modified by Modification of Mortgage recorded June 29, 1989 in Mortgage Book 3988 at Page 68; and (2) to determine the ownership of and concerns premises commonly known as 954 West 6th Street, Plainfield, New Jersey, and 1223-25 Lenox Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling 1-800-364-1101. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling (908) 353-4715. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County of venue by calling (908) 354-4340.

YOU, John F. Quinn, or to the Estate of John F. Quinn, or any of their successors in right, title or interest, are made party defendant(s) to this foreclosure action because you hold a judgment which was entered on October 22, 1987 in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Passaic County, Judgment No. 235-87, in favor of Frank Campbell in the amount of \$10,199.53, plus interest and costs of suit, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

Donald F. Phelan,  
Clerk of the Superior Court  
U4759 WCN May 29, 1997 (\$45.90)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

he, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest are made party defendant(s) to this action, for any lien, claim or interest they may have in, to or against the mortgaged property.

You, Mrs. Carlos Santos, are named a party defendant hereto by reason of the fact that if Carlos Santos is married his wife designated as Mrs. Carlos Santos may have an interest in the property being foreclosed in this action.

You, Debt Consultants, Inc. Assignee, are named a party defendant hereto by reason of the fact that you obtained a Judgment in the Superior Court of New Jersey against Carlos Santos, Judgment Number: DJ101122-92, Date Docketed: September 2, 1992, Type of Action: Contract, Venue: Cumberland in the amount of Debt \$203.40, Costs: \$25.77, Other: \$27.85, Interest: \$13.67, Docketing: \$5.00. Said Judgment was recovered in Cumberland County Special Civil Part on April 15, 1991, Case Number: DC-000984-91.

You may contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County in which this action is pending by calling (908) 353-4715. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County in which this action is pending by calling (908) 354-4340.

DONALD F. PHELAN, CLERK  
Superior Court of New Jersey  
DATED: May 29, 1997  
U4716 WCN May 29, 1997 (\$49.00)

**NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS (L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: MARTIN L. BOYD**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon FEIN, SUCHI, RAHIT & SHEPARD, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 7 Century Drive, Suite 201, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054, telephone number (201) 538-4700, an answer to the Complaint and Amendment(s) to Complaint, if any, filed in a civil action, in which CITICORP MORTGAGE, INC. is Plaintiff and WILLIE B. BOYD, et al., are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, UNION County, and bearing Docket No. F-4558-97 within thirty-five (35) days after May 29, 1997 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, Judgment by Default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice Complex, CN-971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated June 1, 1989 made by WILLIE B. BOYD and HELEN M. BOYD and MARTIN L. BOYD as mortgagor to CITICORP MORTGAGE, INC. recorded on 7/17/89, in Book 3992 of Mortgages for UNION County, Page 0415, of seq., CITICORP MORTGAGE, INC. is the holder of the Mortgage and the assignee of the debt and concerns premises commonly known as 1302 STILLMAN ROAD, PLAINFIELD, NJ, 07060.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County of venue by calling (908) 354-4340 or the legal services office of the county of your residence if you reside in New Jersey. If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may call or communicate with the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of Venue at (908) 353-4715, or at the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of your residence if you reside in New Jersey. If there is none, contact the Lawyer Referral Service of an adjacent county.

YOU, MARTIN L. BOYD are made party defendant(s) to this foreclosure action because you are one of the mortgagors and may be liable for any deficiency and or any lien, claim, or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises by you, WILLIE B. BOYD and HELEN M. BOYD, as set forth above.

YOU, MRS. MARTIN L. BOYD, are made a party Defendant to this suit to extinguish any and all rights or interest he/she may have in this property arising from dowry, curtesy or equitable distribution.

Dated: May 21, 1997

DONALD F. PHELAN  
Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey  
U4738 WCN May 29, 1997 (\$37.80)

**NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY**

Docket No. F-5896-96  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: CARLOS SANTOS, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives and his, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest and MRS. CARLOS SANTOS, his wife; and DEBT CONSULTANTS INC.

ASSIGNEE

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon Katz, Etnin, Levine, Kurzweil & Weber, P.A., whose address is 905 North Kings Highway, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034-1569, an answer to the Complaint, Amendment to Complaint and Amendment to Complaint II filed in a civil action in which Source One Mortgage Services Corporation is Plaintiff and Carlos Santos, et al. are Defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, bearing Docket No. F-5896-96, within thirty-five days after May 29, 1997 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, Judgment by Default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint and Amendment to Complaint (if any). You shall file your Answer and Proof of Service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice Complex, CN-971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of foreclosing the mortgage dated November 25, 1991, made by Carlos Santos and Edmund Burrows, both married, to Realty Mortgage Co., Inc. and ultimately assigned to Plaintiff, recorded in the Union County Register's Office on December 10, 1991, Book 4382, at Page 290, to recover possession of and concerning real estate located at 1420-22 West Third Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060.

You, Carlos Santos, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives and his, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest, are named a party defendant herein by reason of the fact that supplemental information obtained by the Plaintiff reveals that Carlos Santos passed away and as a precaution and in case there may be heirs who are unknown to Plaintiff, the heirs at law of Carlos Santos, his heirs, devisees and personal representatives and

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

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See Page B-2 of Today's Paper for the Infosource Selection Menu

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# YOUR Home INSIDE & OUT

## Study group reports findings

The only force that drives consumers to spend more money on furniture purchases is entertaining in the home, according to a study conducted by American Research Group.

After two years of conducting consumer interviews and surveys, ARG has discovered that entertaining, not income, is the force that motivates consumers to spend more on their furniture.

"Our research proves that the more frequently consumers entertain at home the more they will spend on furniture," said Britt Beemer, founder and chairman of ARG.

"Contrary to popular belief — especially in the furniture industry — shoppers with high levels of disposable income and expensive homes do not represent the best prospects for upper-end furniture purchases," he said.

Evidence shows that people who entertain in their homes 10 times a year or more expect to spend \$1,568 for their next sofa. Those who entertain six to nine times a year say they will spend \$916 on a sofa. When entertaining three to five times a year, the amount spent on a sofa drops to \$683 and to \$534 when people entertain three times a year or less.

The study also found that those who entertain frequently:

- Are more likely to have specially ordered furniture and would do so again.
- Are willing to wait longer for delivery of special orders.
- Are eight times more likely to have used an interior decorator than those who rarely entertain within the home.

"Entertaining in the home is the most reliable indicator — and the only common denominator — of those who will spend more on furniture," Beemer said.

High income is not a reliable indicator as to which Americans will spend more on home furnishings. More than 95 percent of the people surveyed who entertain at home often will spend more on furniture, as compared to 65 percent of high-income Americans who will spend more on home furnishings.

"The richest folks in town are lousy furniture prospects if they don't entertain at home," Beemer said.

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## Polar-Air lives up to its name with efficient air conditioner

Lennox' new Elite 14 air conditioner features quality, high efficiency, and quiet operation in a compact design, according to Joseph DiGangi, president, Polar-Air Inc., Union.

Providing energy-saving efficiencies up to 15.60 SEER, the Elite 14 operates at sound levels "almost as quiet as a refrigerator," DiGangi said. "An insulated sound compartment traps compressor noise and allows operating levels as low as 72 decibels.

Less refrigerant is required to operate the Elite 14 air conditioner, thanks to the corrosion-resistant 5/16 inch copper tubing. An aluminum fin-coil provides excellent heat transfer and low air resistance for high-efficiency operation. DiGangi also pointed out that the air conditioner's scroll compressor provides high efficiency and reliability.

Durability is enhanced by a heavy-gauge, corrosion-resistant cabinet. Polyethylene support feet keep the unit off of the mounting surface to protect it from

damaging moisture. And DiGangi explained, high and low safety pressure switches protect the Elite 14 against damage during abnormal operating conditions. "These safety features will give the homeowner that extra peace of mind," DiGangi said.

DiGangi added that the Elite 14 air conditioner is available in a wide range of models to provide the best matches for homeowners and is backed by a 10-year compressor and five-year limited parts warranties.

"And while you can count on the Elite 14 air conditioner to give you quieter high efficiency cooling, DiGangi indicated, "you can also count on Polar-Air Inc. for promptness, courtesy and expert professional service, since they are part of Lennox' unique Quality Dealer Standards Program."

Call DiGangi at (908) 686-3601 about the Elite 14 air conditioner today. With a history of more than 100 years of quality and innovation, Lennox give one one less thing to worry about.

## Rahway store has found some real country charm

By Jacquie McCarthy  
Associate Editor

Looking to add a little country charm to your home this season? Stop in to see Debbie Dobrajnszak at Woodwork & Tile, conveniently located on St. George Avenue in Rahway. As described by Debbie herself, this store has "a little bit of everything" you need to add a country tone to your home.

Woodwork & Tile provides hand-made pine and oak items, such as tables, curio and china cabinets, and buffets, as well as entertainment units and benches. Dobrajnszak will customize furniture according to size, and does custom painting and decorating of the wood to specifications. To accentuate your new furniture, hand-

woven rugs and cloth items are available, including chair pads.

Spring is a booming season for the store, according to the owner. This season, the store is introducing a new line of country pine furniture.

Delivery service is available. Woodwork & Tile is located at 978 St. Georges Ave., Rahway. The store is open Monday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday by appointment. For information, call (908) 815-1123.

Your business can grow with more customers. Reach the potential customers in your newspaper with an ad by calling 1-800-564-8911.

## Take the plunge, install a pool

By Jacquie McCarthy  
Associate Editor

Now that it's finally getting warm outside, most of us want to think about warming up rather than cooling down. This is the perfect time, however, to consider options for dealing with the other weather extreme, according to Charlie West of C&M Pools in Roselle Park.

In the pool business since 1971, and operating locally since 1981,

C&M Pools offers installation of both above and inground pools, as well as a complete service and retail supply departments. Each year at this time, West kicks off pre-season pool sales, which includes new installations as well as supplies and service to get your existing pool up and running in time for the hot weather.

According to West, C&M Pools specializes in chemical supplies for above ground pools.

"Our biggest specialty item is

Baquacil," said West, explaining that C&M Pools is an authorized dealer for this non-chlorine sanitizer.

Unlike some companies, C&M does not sub-contract above ground installations and keeps most pool products in-stock, allowing greater flexibility in scheduling. Although now is the best time to consider getting a pool, C&M will make every effort to accommodate you if you decide to beat the heat later in the season.

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# YOUR Home INSIDE & OUT

## Do-it-yourself projects have become a popular form of home improvement

When it comes to home improvement, two-thirds of consumers plan to do the work themselves, while personal taste continues to be the top reason to undertake a home improvement project. These are just two of the many trends driving the boom in this \$135.4 billion industry, including the ongoing popularity of the home superstore. The findings were revealed by a recent American Express Retail Index survey.

Thirty-one percent of consumers report they are planning some form of home improvement this year, with the average budget set at \$2,660, according to the American Express Retail Index, which monitors consumer spending trends in retail and is based on a random national poll of more than 1,000 consumers including single family home owners and apartment dwellers. This year's home improvement projects range from interior decorating, 31 percent, to renovation and remodeling, 33 percent. Of those planning a home improvement project in the spring, 70 percent will start the project before Memorial Day. Half expect it will take at least two months to complete the job.

"Consumers continue to drive high volumes for the home improvement industry, particularly the home superstore," said Emelie Smith, vice president, Retail Marketing Group, American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc. "Among the leading trends fueling steady growth for retailers are the growing number of do-it-yourselfers."

According to a research and consulting firm, the home of the 90s is taking on more multi-functional uses with consumers making their home a focal point as they design and decorate for optimum usage and personal satisfaction.

Supporting this trend, the American Express Retail Index found that close to half — 42 percent — of those surveyed say a change in personal taste is their primary motivation for making home improvements. This was far ahead of most other reasons including maintenance at 32 percent, and increasing their home's resale value at 10 percent.

In addition, the American Express Retail Index found that refinishing and redecorating are among the top forms of home improvements Americans say they plan to make. More than one-third surveyed — 34 percent — say they plan to re-furnish at least one room this year. Cited by 46 percent, the living room, followed by the master bedroom at 22 percent, were mentioned by 16 percent, were third and fourth most popular rooms to receive a facelift. The kitchen and bathroom were being re-furnished by 12 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

When it comes time for shopping for home decorating supplies, the American Express Retail Index found that

one in five home improvement planners will purchase special tools or equipment for their home project. Cited 55 percent of respondents, vs. 38 percent in 1996, home superstores were the top choice for those shopping for home items and supplies. Hardware stores, citing 18 percent of those surveyed was second; followed by lumberyards, 16 percent; department stores, 12 percent and home furnishings/decorating stores, 11 percent. The top reasons for choosing a home retailer were: fair prices, 69 percent; selection, 50 percent; quality, 49 percent and helpful/knowledgeable salespeople, 23 percent.

Cost appears to be a primary driver of do-it-yourself trend. The American Express Retail Index revealed that two-thirds of consumers — 66 percent — say they plan to undertake home improvements projects themselves. However, when asked if cost were no object, 52 percent of home improvers said they would hire an outside contractor to do the job, while only 35 percent said they would still prefer to do the work themselves. The number of women who said their spouse would performing the work this year, 44 percent, dropped to only 12 percent when asked the same question.

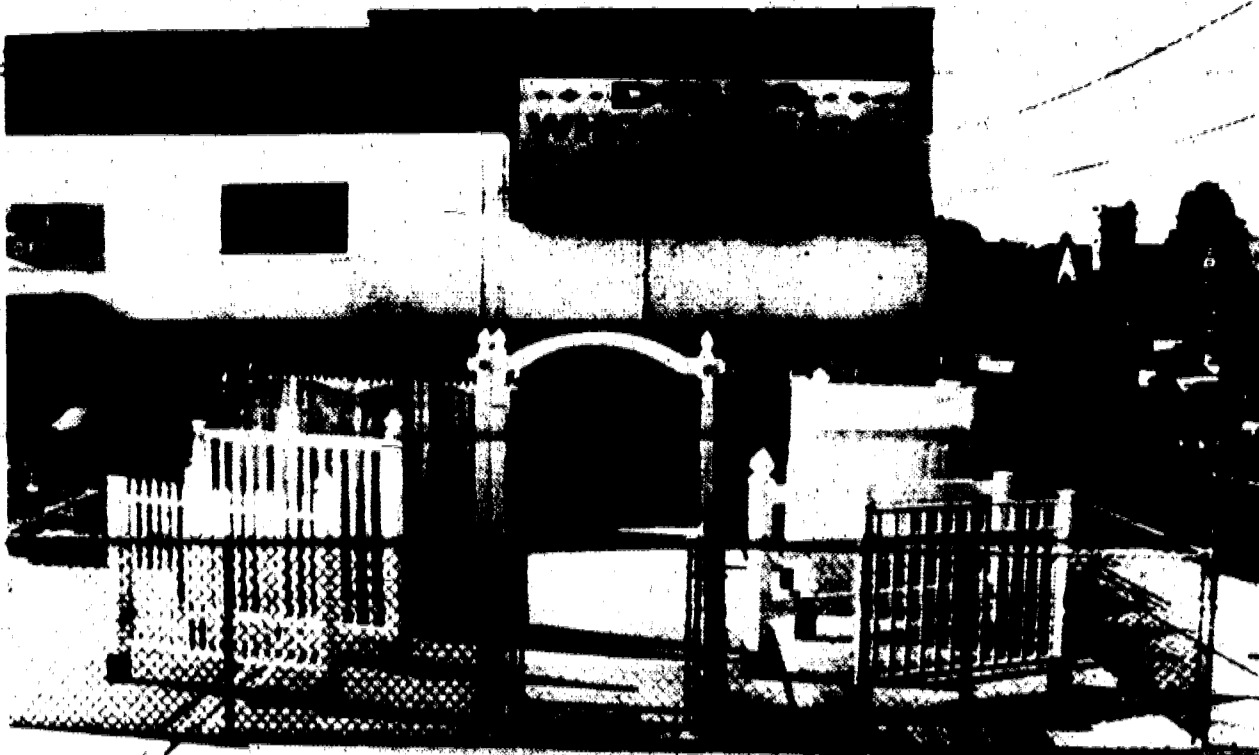
While men are the most likely do-it-yourselfers at 78 percent, more than half of women surveyed, 54 percent, say they are planning to do the work themselves. Nineteen percent say they are getting help from friends, neighbors and relatives, while 26 percent plan to hire a professional contractor.

In 1996, sales in the home improvement industry totaled \$135.4 billion, according to the Home Improvement Research Institute, which keeps statistics on the industry.

The American Express Retail Index also found that consumers are setting higher budgets this year compared to 1996. Close to half — 45 percent — of those planning home improvements in 1997 say they will spend \$1,000 or more. This is up 7 percent compared which those saying they would spend the same amount last year.

Overall budgets are based on planned projects, with 19 percent saying they will spend up to \$500, and 16 percent budgeting \$5,000 or more, up to 5 percent from 1996. In addition, 1997 saw a six percent shift away from cash to credit cards, which was cited by 18 percent of respondents as the way they would pay for home improvement expenses. It appears that part of the attraction to credit cards comes from the growing number of consumers enrolled in credit card reward programs, as nearly one in five credit card users, or 19 percent, say having a credit card linked to a reward program influences their usage of that card. Sixty-six percent of those using a credit or charge card to pay for their home improvement purchases say they will have their expenses paid off within six months, up 17 percent from 1996.

## Fences are springing up



Spring is a popular time for new fencing, according to Carlos Milanes, president of Delta Fence in Elizabeth. Located at 541 Spring St., the company provides installation services and a wide variety of fencing. For information, call (908) 355-9066.

## Do-in-yourself, professional woodworkers can find what they need at Interstate

With a comprehensive stock of unfinished woods and accessories, Elizabeth's Interstate Hardwood is one of the area's leading suppliers to both professional woodworkers and homeowners.

Founded in 1953, the family-owned business has been an Elizabeth tradition passed down to owner Neil Slattery from his father.

Interstate specializes in hardwood and has drawn brisk business from clients interested in using that wood to construct home-cabinets, bookcases and wall units. Slattery said.

"That's still the core of our business — the hardwoods — but we also do a lot of business in cedar and pine," he said.

A smaller — but rapidly growing — market is that of

Spanish cedar customers interested in creating humidors to store cigars. To accommodate this clientele, Interstate sells humidifiers, hygrometers and even cigars.

"Elizabeth obviously has large Cuban and Mediterranean populations and those customers supply a lot of the demand for cigar-related products," Slattery said.

Customers looking for exotic woods can choose from a selection that includes bocote and cocobola, as well as a full line of veneers.

Interstate Hardwood, located at 820 Flora St., is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday and is closed on Sunday. They can be reached at (908) 353-5663.

## It's time to 'flip the switch' to cool down

By Jacquie McCarthy Associate Editor

The impression given by the name Reel-Strong Fuel Company has been more than supported by more than 70 years of service to Cranford and the surrounding area.

Owners Clint and Peter Crane have taken a seasonal business and kept it thriving through the ups and downs of unpredictable weather conditions. Now that spring is here and warmer weather is just around the corner, Reel-Strong Fuel is gearing up to "flip the switch" on the heat for their summer standby — air conditioning.

Since Reel-Strong has been providing quality heating service and products since 1925, it is not widely known that they also have a line of products and services for summer temperature needs as well. According to Peter Crane, the focus turns from heating to cooling in May, when Reel-Strong "puts on its AC hat" to install new central air conditioning units and tune-up existing ones.

Crane said that now is the perfect time to call for installation or service on central air conditioning.

"It's great — there's no backlog. When the hot weather hits, that's when the backlogs develop."

If your schedule doesn't permit thinking about summer concerns right now, Crane said that there is no need to rush. There is no set time frame on air conditioning tune-ups — they can be done at the customer's convenience.

"It doesn't have to be done before you flip the switch," he said.

Reel-Strong has been installing and servicing air conditioners for 25 years. They offer several makes and models for residential customers. In addition to air conditioners, oil heat customers can take advantage of the summer season to have their oil burners cleaned and serviced.

"Service is what we sell," said Crane.

Reel-Strong Fuel Company is located at 549 Lexington Ave., Cranford. For information, call (908) 276-0900.

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## Shades 'N Things in Union offers tips to decorate the home and update decor

By Jacquie McCarthy Associate Editor

Accessorizing is in, and Shades 'N Things in Union might have just the thing to update your home decor. With a large showroom filled with

unique decorative items, store associates can help customers accessorize their homes.

According to Barbara Kozlow of Shades 'N Things, the showroom contains everything from prints, mirrors,

and candleholders to flower arrangements, and silk trees and plants — and, of course, shades.

"We hand-pick everything," Kozlow said. "We try to select different, unusual items that you don't see

everywhere else.

To help customize each customer's look, the store provides complete in-store decorative services and custom window treatments. Many accessories in styles ranging from country to con-

temporary to traditional are available in the showroom.

Shades 'N Things has been located at 2064 Morris Ave. in Union since 1977. For information, call the store at (908) 686-9661.

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# HEALTH/FITNESS & MEDICINE

## Information on senior care is at your fingertips

Saint Barnabas Senior Health was awarded a grant from the Grotta Foundation for Senior Care to establish the Grotta Resource Center on Aging. The resource center provides visitors with information on health and lifestyle issues of special interest to older adults and their families.

All are welcome to stop by and browse through the Center's collection of books, magazines, journals, audiovisuals and computer equipment. Topics available for access information on include Exercise, Diet, Caregiving, Travel, Safety, Medical Issues, Stress Management, Women's Issues, Men's Health, Osteoporosis, Heart Disease, Strokes, Hearing, Vision and much more. Books can be borrowed for up to two weeks should visitors choose to take home a periodical.

The Center also offers a computer which is connected to the OVID system which can access volumes of information in the Saint Barnabas Medical Center library. Brochures, news clippings and a resource file containing information on housing and other topics also can be found in the Center. A variety of video tapes and a VCR are available to any visitor interested in information that can be found in the extensive video collection.

The resource center is presently located in the Senior Health Office at 101 Old Short Hills Road, Suite 102 A, West Orange. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (201) 325-6503.

Senior Health, a free membership program for people age 50 and older, is an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. The program currently has over 46,000 members and enjoy a variety of programs, lectures, trips, discounts and services throughout the year at both the Saint Barnabas and Union Hospital locations. For more information, call (201) 325-6503 or (908) 964-0444.

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## A citizen's affair



Members of the Union Hospital Foundation 1997 Citizen of the Year Dinner honoring Joseph and Jeannette Cantalupo of Union put the finishing touches on this year's agenda. From left to right, Board Member Juleanne Trumbull of Union, Connie Fitzsimmons of Short Hills and Judy Carpini of Point Pleasant, daughter of the honorees. The Foundation presents its award annually to the person or persons whose work or efforts have improved the quality of life locally and statewide. This year's dinner will be held on June 6 at L'Affaire in Mountainside.

Additional information on the dinner can be obtained by calling (908) 687-1900, ext. 2020.

### Jacquie McCarthy, Editor

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## Watch out, baby boomers — glaucoma is on the rise

Men and women over age 50, at an increased risk of going blind from glaucoma, can almost always avoid this danger with a simple test from an eye doctor, according to Jordan Burke, M.D., F.A.C.S., ophthalmologist at Summit Eye Group.

"Everyone knows someone with glaucoma," says Dr. Burke, who notes that the disorder causes damage to the cells comprising the optic nerve, which is responsible for transmitting visual information from the eye to the brain. "As the baby boomers join the 69 million Americans already over the age of 50, the incidence of glaucoma will reach unprecedented levels."

With more than 17 million baby boomers moving into the blindness danger zone by the year 2000, the need for this simple test becomes more critically important than ever, notes the ophthalmologist.

Recent worldwide research has developed new treatments, and current studies in the U.S. and overseas are focusing on optic nerve protection and regeneration.

"Because glaucoma leads to blindness, yet has no symptoms, a simple eye exam is the only way to protect vision from this insidious disease," says John W. Corwin, executive director of the Glaucoma Foundation.

In addition to aging, other risk factors for glaucoma include nearsightedness, family history, diabetes and race. African Americans are six times more likely to have glaucoma than Caucasians.

"Anyone can get glaucoma, from babies to senior citizens," says Dr. Burke. "There are virtually no signs or symptoms. That is why regular eye check-ups are the key to preserving sight."

The Glaucoma Foundation's free worldwide services include literature, information, and medical referrals, all available by calling (800) GLAUCOMA.

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# Automotive

The restyle

of style

The introduction of the new Q45 flagship luxury performance sedan, continues Infiniti's renowned tradition of offering customers vehicles that are well appointed, providing nearly all features as standard equipment.

Two models of the new luxury sedan are available, the Q45 and a performance-oriented Q45 Touring Model (Q45t). The Q45 was designed to appeal to the premium luxury buyer, with a refined ride and elegant dish-style alloy wheels. The sportier Q45t, equipped with a sport-tuned suspension, performance cast aluminum alloy wheels and an attractive rear spoiler designed to add a hint of athleticism to the vehicle's new styling.

Both models of Q45 are equipped with a long list of standard equipment and features, surrounding the driver and passengers with comfort, convenience and security.

Leather seating surfaces, available in Beige, Stone Beige and Black, and 10-way power front seats invite driver and passengers alike into Q45's elegant interior. The driver's seat includes a two-setting exit and entry memory system that enables the seat, as well as the power-assist telescopic and height-adjustable steering column, to move to fully "relaxed" positions for eased driver entry and exit when the front door is opened. The seat and steering column return to one of two pre-programmed positions when the driver's door has been closed.

Once seated, occupants will find a custom-design eight-speaker Bose audio system with AM/FM/cassette/CD player, a two-way power operated sunroof with tilt feature, an integrated HomeLink Transmitter for remote opening of gates and garage doors, and an automatic climate control system with EFC-free air conditioning system.

Also standard are: rear seat heating and air conditioning vents, an innovative three-way opening center console (able to open toward either the driver or front-passenger side), full complement of analog gauges, and wood-tone accents throughout the interior. The Q45t Touring Model adds as



Like all Infiniti models, Q45 is protected by one of the best warranties in the industry; a 4-year/60,000-mile Basic New Vehicle Limited Warranty, a 6-year/70,000-mile Powertrain Limited Warranty (protection for major engine and driveline components), a 5-year/50,000-mile New Vehicle Emission Control Limited Warranty, and a 7-year/unlimited mileage Corrosion Limited Warranty.

standard interior equipment two-setting heated front seats and a sportier steering wheel with ergonomically-designed "grips" for added driver control.

Both Q45 models are powered by a new 4.1-liter DOHC 32-valve V8 engine that produces 266 horsepower at 5,600 rpm and 278 lbs-ft of torque at 4,000 rpm. This technically advanced engine features aluminum-alloy block and heads, molybdenum coated pistons and Nissan's Variable Timing Control System (NVTC).

Also standard on both models is a 4-wheel independent suspension systems with front MacPherson struts and a rear multi-link design. A 34.0 mm stabilizer bar is used on the front suspension in conjunction with sub-frame mounted coil springs and a strut tower bar. The Q45 uses a 24.2 mm rear stabilizer bar. Q45t is equipped with a larger 19.1 mm stabilizer bar. Vehicle-speed sensitive steering is standard on both models, to provide the driver with more power assistance at lower speeds and more feedback from the road as speed increases.

A standard electronically controlled 4-speed automatic overdrive transmission with DUET-II shift management produces smooth, controlled

shifts that are responsive to driver input via the throttle. Both Q45 models also feature standard traction control system (TCS) and viscous limited-slip rear differential (VLSD).

Stopping power for the flagship Q45 models is provided by 4-wheel disc brakes with large ventilated front and rear brake rotors and a standard 3-channel/4 sensor anti-lock braking system (ABS).

The elegant styling of Q45 features a strong horizontal character line which runs from the slanted aerodynamic front of the car to the distinctively styled inverse curve of the C-pillar. The Q45t takes the look a step further, adding a unique grill with blacked out center brightwork at the front and a body-color rear decklid spoiler with integrated center high mounted stop lamp at the rear of the car. Unique "t" badging further distinguishes the sporty Touring Model from its Q45 stablemate.

The standard dish-type alloy wheels of the Q45 are replaced by performance cast spoke-style alloy wheels on Q45t models, in keeping with the sporting nature of this model.

The new Q45 is available in eight exterior color: Black Obsidian, Bordeaux Pearl, Cabernet Pearl, Cypress

Pearl, Espresso, Ivory Quartz, Pewter and Silver Crystal.

The Q45t is equipped with all available equipment standard, in addition to the suspension tuning. Available options on the Q45 include two-setting heated front seats and a dealer-installed trunk-mounted 6-disc CD autochanger.

Standard on every Q45 is a unique commitment to customer satisfaction. The Total Ownership Experience. As part of this commitment, Infiniti offers one of the most comprehensive programs of support, including free 48-month, 24-hour roadside assistance, a free Infiniti loan car with scheduled service/warranty appointments, and a satellite parts network.

Like all Infiniti models, Q45 is protected by one of the best warranties in the industry; a 4-year/60,000-mile Basic New Vehicle Limited Warranty, a 6-year/70,000-mile Powertrain Limited Warranty (protection for major engine and driveline components), a 5-year/50,000-mile New Vehicle Emission Control Limited Warranty, and a 7-year/unlimited mileage Corrosion Limited Warranty.

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

## Geo Prizm tops elite auto list

The Geo Prizm and Oldsmobile Aurora lead an elite group of vehicles that maintained their top positions in the American Automobile Association's annual ranking of new vehicles.

The Geo Prizm appears as a top selection for the fourth consecutive year while the Oldsmobile Aurora has been selected in each of its three years on the market. Other repeat top-scorers are the Saab 9000, Chevrolet Cavalier, Mercedes-Benz S320 and Lexus GS 300.

The rankings are based on comprehensive reviews appearing in Autograph—AAA's annual new-car book. Previous editions of the guide were titled AAA AutoTest.

"The 1996 list of top passenger cars shows that the best have gotten better," said Rick Town, assistant vice president of automotive services for the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park. "They offer new features, continued quality and outstanding value to the consumer."

Rated best in their price class by AAA were the Chevrolet Cavalier, under \$12,500; Geo Prizm KSi, \$12,500-\$15,000; Chrysler Concorde LX, \$15,000-\$20,000; Toyota Camry XLE, \$20,000-\$25,000; Volvo 850, \$25,000-\$30,000; Oldsmobile Aurora, \$30,000-\$35,000; Saab 9000 CSE, \$35,000-\$40,000; Mercedes E320, \$40,000-\$45,000; Lexus GS \$35,000; Saab 9000 CSE, \$35,000-\$40,000; Mercedes E320, \$40,000-\$45,000; Lexus GS 300, \$45,000-\$50,000; and Mercedes S320, more than \$50,000.

The top cars all scored well on safety equipment. All have driver and front passenger air bags and standard or optional anti-lock brakes. The Volvo 850 and Mercedes-Benz E320 offer the added protection of innovative side air bags.

AAA Autograph can be purchased at the AAA Store which is located in the New Jersey Automobile Club offices in Florham Park, Randolph, Springfield and Verona.

The cost is \$12.95 plus tax (\$11.00 plus tax for AAA members).

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