

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield, Mountainside and Summit

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 69 NO. 45

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1998

TWO SEC

TS

THIS WEEK

NEWS

Reserve

Employment is up while unemployment is down. While the number of manufacturing companies in the county has gone down, the number of service companies in Union County has increased. Seems like business has a resurgence in Union County.

See Page B1.

Joining forces

The Union County Utilities Authority could get a good chunk of change in the future if the money is part of a contract renegotiation with Public Service Electric and Gas Co., which was announced on June 25. The contract has a 20-year term and runs out in April of 2013.

See Page B1.

THE ARTS

Making a move

A 37-year-old theater director makes his move from the New York scene to a local theater house.

See Page B3.



Return to the past

The Mahoney Brothers will perform Wednesday at Echo Lake Park as Buddy Holly, Terry Lee Lewis and Ricky Nelson.

See Page B6.

NEW MEDIA

News updates

Get local updates throughout the week. Call our InfoSource hot line at (908) 686-5898.

Selection 7510

Website

Visit our site on the World Wide Web, which can be accessed at <http://www.localsource.com>.

WEATHER

Friday: Partly sunny, 80°



Saturday: Periods of clouds and sun, 82°



Sunday: Partly cloudy, 84°



For the most up to date reports, call (908) 686-5898, Ext. 1700.

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Norwell Community Newspapers

Disciplinary action against Shapow dropped

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

About 55 people arrived for the disciplinary hearing for Springfield Police Capt. Ivan Shapow at the Municipal Building Thursday morning — a hearing which was never held.

While supporters, media members and the curious waited in the Planning Room for 180 minutes, attorneys for Springfield and Shapow arrived about 10 minutes late.

"I thank the audience for their patience," said Robert Czech, who was presiding over the hearing's presiding administrator. "Both sides have come up with a settlement. There will be no hearing and the matter leading up to the scheduled hearing is considered concluded."

Czech, when the municipal record

was stopped, disclosed the settlement's main points. Township Chief of Police William Chisholm will write and include a letter of consolation in Shapow's record.

In exchange, the Springfield labor attorney will drop all charges against Shapow. There will be no suspension or demotion.

"I want to thank everyone who has sent letters, calls and other messages of support," said Shapow. "My wife and I are grateful for how many people came out here at the fall. It's been hard going to work during this period."

The supporter Shapow was a critic of the Shapow hearing, said Shapow's attorney, Walter Brooks, in a New Jersey

Chapter. "Having the public here during negotiations made the difference between an amicable settlement or hanging him out to dry."

Springfield Township was pursuing a 90-day suspension of pay and a demotion for patrolman against Shapow. The 21-year veteran of the force was charged with sending a patrolman out of town to purchase a tape recorder, making an unauthorized copy of the conversation, making the copy available to a third party and not disclosing the above actions to Chisholm.

The charges stem from a conversation between Shapow and Capt. Robert Pedersen on March 10. Pedersen had supposedly called Shapow to police headquarters from

Atlantic City regarding some personnel schedule changes. All incoming phone and radio calls are recorded as standard operating procedure.

Pedersen had allegedly made anti-Semitic remarks about Shapow; however, thought he had hung up. The remarks and Shapow's supposed copying of the tape led to both officers' disciplinary hearings.

Controversy ensued when the purported audio tape was sent to local newspapers on April 8. Members of the Springfield Clergy Council and the Human Rights Commission referred to Pedersen's alleged remarks to Capt. Walter Brooks in 1992, called for the captain's resignation. The Township Committee, citing due process, called for caution in judging the matter.

The Clergy Council and Human Rights Commission held a rally against bigotry last May. Rabbin Joshua Goldstein and Perry Rank, who are co-chair and commission members, were at Thursday's hearing. Also present were representatives of Black Cops Against Police Brutality.

Czech, in explaining the negotiations to the audience, said he presumed over Pedersen's hearing. Pedersen has been placed on an indefinite unpaid suspension by Chisholm until his case is disposed of.

"That hearing was finished May 11," said Czech. "I reported my findings and recommendations to the Township Committee. They may announce the results as early as Tuesday night."

Controversy stirs over Maxin Pond

By Mark Goldwater
Staff Writer

Mountainside residents living up and around New Providence Road are angry that Maxin Pond in the Watchung Reservation is regularly drained by the Mountainside Department of Public Works.

The DPW keeps the pond's water level low with the use of a drainage pipe that was installed at some time in the past. Public Works Director Bob Wyckoff could not be reached.

The pond is home to numerous species of animals, and in the winter, reduced water levels have lemmings hibernating in the mud exposed to the elements.

Maxin Pond has provided area residents with a place to fish, hike, and enjoy nature. It provides the people who live near it with New Providence Road with a scenic view of property just behind their homes which they too use for recreation. "Part of the reason we moved here was because the pond was so beautiful," said Carol Pugnawski. "Now it's a disaster."

The draining of the pond has left ripples around it drying and the water stagnant and green. "I've never seen it this low and I've lived here for eight years," said Donna Sappala.

The draining of Maxin Pond appears detrimental to the animals, fish, birds and turtles are sickened by the drainage pipe or left to wallow in the green water. "They killed me," said Sappala of the pond. "There would be people at the pond on Saturday

days and Sundays if they hadn't. The wildlife was doing so well, then they started draining the pond and it smelled like dead fish the next day."

Wyckoff explained that Maxin Pond was drained out of necessity. The pond was originally put in as a retention basin. It collects water, then, if the pond is not drained, the water overflows, causing erosion and property damage downstream.

Residents disagree with the claim that Maxin Pond is man-made, citing the fact that it has been there as long as anyone can remember and that it is fed by streams in the reservation.

Anyways, the run-off is stronger when the pond is drained intentionally," said Pugnawski.

The town of Mountainside controls the water level despite the fact that Maxin Pond is in county property in the Watchung Reservation.

"We'd like to know how exactly they determine what level the pond should be kept at," said Daniel Bernier of the Union County Bureau of Park Operations.

Mountainside has historically controlled the pond for recreational purposes and an agreement between the county and the town gives Mountainside the ability to control the level of the pond. "We've got to find out right situation now is different from when the agreement was reached," said Bernier. "It appears that two different groups of people are in conflict with each other over this issue and we're trying to see what can be done."

Maxin Pond in Mountainside is regularly drained of water, destroying a habitat for wildlife and angering area residents.



Board denies building application

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

The Springfield Planning Board's public hearing on the J.D. Mark CVS Pharmacy application came to a sudden end on July 1. The proceeding went from taking questions from the public to the board's unanimous "rejection" within 10 minutes.

"In my 40 years of public office, I have welcomed business into Springfield," said board member Philip Kubros. "I have no complaint against CVS in Springfield. I do consider the additional traffic volume at this site, despite the findings by the applicant's traffic engineer, to have a major impact on the area."

Kubros then joined his nine colleagues in denying the application. Member Lawrence Weller and Alternate Ron Kravitz were absent from the meeting.

The board made an excellent decision, said Five Corner Association leader Tom Gorga. "They agreed that there would be more traffic generated on Mountain Avenue and the greater volume would impact the area's quality of life."

Gorga said, however, that he expects the applicant to file an appeal and hopefully Superior Court Judge John T. Pasquale, Passaic, becomes involved with the proceedings, noting that the Planning Board schedule the hearing in March.

The board's decision held over

from Friday, July 3, in the hearing from the new Mountain Avenue traffic intersection, which the county is installing, found slightly longer, light, walls for motorists.

Gorga was the first of the public to address the hearing, asking about pedestrian traffic at 10:30 p.m. When he was finished, Planning Board Chairman Richard Colandrea invited the 10:45 p.m. time and asked the applicant to conclude continuing the hearing at 10:30 or at a special meeting beforehand.

"With all due respect, my client wants a resolution tonight and will not sign a waiver," said D'Ela. He has time considerations with the land owner and if the hearings go beyond 45 days, the site plan is automatically approved.

A check with other applications confirms the automatic approval clause. It is included to prevent hearings from dragging into another year.

"I want to remind you that your applicant had a hearing canceled on June 1 when the papers didn't come in on time," said Colandrea. "It is not fair to the public who waited patiently to have their hearing."

Colandrea announced that the hearing will go well beyond the 10:45 p.m. cutoff and apologized to the audience to make brief comments and to limit their questions.

Five more of the 10 applicants have signed and Mayor S.J. Mallon requested a motion to deny the application.

Pedestrians brave Route 22

By Mark Goldwater
Staff Writer

Route 22 is a bustling ribbon of commerce and industry that runs through five Union County towns. The artery is glutted with stores and restaurants, making motor vehicle traffic difficult and pedestrian travel a dangerous affair.

Despite the dangers, a motor vehicle code which prohibits people from crossing roadways with non-motorized people, can be seen scurrying across Route 22 without the protection of crosswalks. Traffic lights are not regular fixtures along the 31.37 miles of the roadway, 21 that run through Hillside, Union, Springfield, Mountainside, and Scotch Plains.

However, pedestrians cross anyway, weaving their way through congested rush-hour traffic or darting to safety when a suitable gap occurs in the almost constant flow of traffic.

"When I want to come here to shop I have to ride my bike across 22 and Justin 1-2 from Springfield," it's not easy and I almost get killed once. They really should make a bridge or something so people can get across."

Karen Drake, who shops frequently at the stores on Route 22 in Springfield, said she has to ride her bike across 22 and Justin 1-2 from Springfield. "It's not easy and I almost get killed once. They really should make a bridge or something so people can get across."

The study will be paid for by a \$45,000 federal grant which Union County recently received. To the grant money will be added \$12,000 in county funds to hire a firm specifically in traffic engineering. The firm will conduct a year-long study on the effectiveness of building pedestrian crossings on and above Route 22.

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Because of a production error, last week's edition of the Echo Leader contained 10 pages designated for our company's Sunday newspaper, and Page 3, which contained police and fire blotters.

The timely information that did not appear last week in the Echo Leader is printed in this week's edition. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Welcome
to the
ECHO LEADER

How to reach us:

The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worrell Community Newspapers, an independent family-owned newspaper company. Our address is 100 Union Avenue, Union, NJ 07083. We are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of our telephone numbers listed below.

Voice mail:

Our toll-free phone number 800-866-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system. If you can't serve our customers during regular business hours, a request will answer your call. During the evening or when the office is closed, you call will be answered by an automated receptionist.

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The Echo Leader is mailed to the names & addresses for delivery every Thursday. One year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$24.00. Two-year subscriptions are \$43.00. College and military subscriptions are available. You may subscribe by phone by calling 908/646-7700 and asking for the circulation department. Allow at least two weeks for processing your order. You may use MasterCard or VISA.

Missing newspapers:

If your Echo Leader did not get delivered, please call 908-646-7700 and ask for circulation. Additional charges may apply.

News items:

News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Pictures must be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to request a breaking news item, call 908-646-7700 and ask for Editorial.

Story reprints:

For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper you must call Tom Canavan at 908-646-7700. All material is copyrighted.

Letters to the editor:

The Echo Leader provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and day-time phone number. We will hold the first letter and column inches in our office by 4 p.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

Comments by letter writers receive opinion pieces by letter. Our address is WCN22@localsource.com. An e-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

To place a display ad:

Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the B section must be in our office by Monday at noon. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Call 908-646-7700 and ask for Tom. Ask for the display advertising department.

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Spot greets the children



Spot the Dog recently visited Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside to promote reading and language development. Enjoying his visit are Yajaira Rosales, 1, Marvin Brooks, 6, and Gavondus Poppy Haigood, 5.

Area resident shares her expertise

Judie Green of Springfield is sharing her communication and leadership knowledge with professionals at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston by conducting two separate site workshops there.

The chairperson of Union County College's English/Arts/Moderne Language Department, Green also presents communication workshops to social service professionals. Her current project involves conducting leadership and management seminars for radiation oncology professionals. The workshops were the brainchild of a former student of Green, who now works at St. Barnabas. The sup-

erintendent wanted to share his former professor's communication and leadership talents with the medical center's professional staff.

During April and May, Green conducted four series of four workshops to train counselors, social workers and psychologists at St. Barnabas in the art of public speaking. Green divided these workshops into several areas of focus: identifying objectives, assessing verbal skills, overcoming speech anxiety, planning a presentation, analyzing the audience, developing the presentation and conducting a post-evaluation.

Green will present her workshops to members of the Radiation Oncology Department at St. Barnabas. Her subject will be "Leadership and Management Skills."

The first session will focus on the "Ten Commandments of Leadership," which Green will identify 10 success strategies for career advancement. Topics will include self-concept, appearance, conflict resolution, motivational theory, high and low stress, behavior, workplace stress, mentors and dealing with difficult work relationships. Later lessons will focus on the power of strong communication tools, time management

and self-esteem as critical components of performance and personal power.

Green's research of the area of leadership and management stems from work she did for her doctoral dissertation at Seton Hall University during the 1980s.

There, she addressed issues related to women and minorities, comparing their levels of achievement in graduate school and academia with a similar career rise among the general population.

Following her program completion, Green was invited by several organizations, including Educational Testing Service, Johnson & Johnson, Bellcore and AT&T, to provide consulting services in related areas. She also conducted a program on leadership and management for women at Douglas College in New Brunswick.

Green joined the UCC faculty in 1975 and rose through the ranks to her current level of senior professor. In addition to her doctorate from Seton Hall, she also holds a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico and a master's degree from Seton Hall.

Correction:

The article "Class of '98: Bid farewell" in the July 2 edition of the Echo Leader should have quoted Andrew Zawerczuk as stating: "During deregulation we were told we did not know what we were talking about, we were too young to understand; this issue didn't concern us. On the contrary, we understood better than most adults and we would experience the ramifications of the decision firsthand." She did not mention "adults" in her original article.

It is the policy of this newspaper to correct all significant errors that are brought to the editor's attention. If you believe that you have made such an error, please write Alison Beth Benek at 1291 Staybright Ave., Union, NJ 07083.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To give your community events the publicity they deserve, mail your schedule to P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083.

Sundays

The Trailside Nature and Science Center will hold a Sunday Planetarium show at 2 p.m. Features will include how to find the summer triangle, Hercules, Scorpions and other prominent summer constellations. Evening planets will also be located, and any current special sky events will be added to the show. Admission is \$3 per person and \$2.55 for seniors. The program is not for children under the age of six. For more information, call (908) 789-3670.

Coming Events

July 22

The Trailside Nature and Science Center will hold a Wednesday matinee called Fantasy Illusion and Magic at 10 a.m. Tom Fischer will present a fast-paced show of comedy, magic, and audience participation. Admission will be \$4 per person and anyone under the age of four will be admitted free.

Ongoing

The Springfield Public Library has open, air-conditioned summer hours. The library will be closed on Saturday and Sunday until Sept. 6, but will open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m., and Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.

If you're looking for challenge, adventure and creativity this summer, the Springfield Summer School is the place to be. The summer session will run through July 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The program includes courses in woodcarving, art, ceramics, gymnastics, computer technology, creative writing and publishing, cooking, science, basketball, soccer, tennis, study skills, boy-scouting, reading, mathematics, music and fitness. Many classes fill early, so register for your summer adventure soon. The registration fee is \$60 per one-hour course for the four weeks. Make this an inexpensive way to learn and have fun each morning in July. For enrollment information or further questions, call Nicholas Farby at Garden City School at (973) 376-1025, ext. 3420.

The Springfield Community Pool will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in June and July. In case of duplicate entries, the earliest postmark will win the floral prize.

Pool membership registration is being accepted for all previous members and new members. Registration is taken from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center. All Church of Christ members did not receive a form for pool membership if day camp, they may call (973) 912-2227 or pick one up at the office.

The Springfield Community Pool will hold three sessions of swim lessons during the summer. Classes will be taught Monday-Thursday with a Friday rain date. Refunds or rain checks will not be given for those classes cancelled due to inclement weather. This year will include an infant/toddler aquatic program for children ages six months-five years, as well as a developmental aquatic program for children ages six and up. Classes will have a minimum of five children and a maximum of ten. Session One will run through July 16, Session Two from July 20-July 30 and Session Three from Aug. 3-Aug. 13. The cost for each class is \$15 per child, plus a maximum of \$10 for each additional child per session in the same family.

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We're asking

Do you worry about natural disasters?

By Mark Goldwert
Staff Writer

At the moment, blazes are ravaging northeastern Florida, causing damage of over \$100 million, destroying homes, and requiring 5,000 firefighters to try and contain the blazes.

Summer abhors the threat of hurricane season to the east coast, and in a classic case of life imitating art, University of Hawaiian movies announced on Friday that they had found a previously undetected asteroid orbiting between earth and the sun.

Though the asteroid's path will not endanger the earth, scientists warned that there are still more out in space that have not been found.

With the potential for hurricanes this summer and the fires wreaking havoc with Florida, in mind, we



Stacey McGarr



Max Plasner



Susan and Bill Mathias

asked Springfield residents if events in other parts of the country make them worry about the possibility of natural disasters taking place near New Jersey.

"We're not likely to have any earthquakes, and asteroids seem to be a remote possibility," said Herbert Slotte. "Natural disasters just aren't on my mind." The human race,

has survived so far and I think it will continue to do so."

"I don't worry about disasters, but I sympathize with the people they affect," said Stacey McGarr. "I'm not affected personally, so I don't worry about it too much."

"What I'm worried about is the people that these tragedies do

affect," said Max Plasner. "I am concerned about the possibility of flooding happening here."

"No. Not at all," said Bill Mathias. "It doesn't ever cross my mind. I make the assumption that whatever might happen, I'll hear about in time to leave."

"Yeah, but I do worry about tornadoes," said Susan Mathias.

Negotiations continue in condominium plan

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

A special meeting is being set between the Springfield Planning Board and Bryan Park Condominium LLC on an application of interest to Springfield and Sunbeam.

Bryan Park Companies LLC has requested a special public planning board hearing on the Springfield Municipal Building on July 23, at 8 p.m. They were originally scheduled to present their site plan application at July 1. But made a last-minute change.

"For those who are here for Bryan Park Companies, it will not be held tonight," said Springfield Planning Board Chairman Richard Codd on election day July 1. "We have accepted the applicant's request to postpone the hearing until July 23."

The time scheduled for hearing the Bryan Park proposal went instead to the 10 Mackay 38 Pharmacy site plan application.

A call to part owner, Leonard A. Wolf at the postponement of the

Stop for school buses

Some motorists may be unaware of the law regarding school buses. The following are guidelines provided by the Division of Motor Vehicles:

If you are approaching a school bus and it shows a red light, signaling a stop, you must:

Show at least 25 feet as the bus required by law. If you are on a two-lane road or a multi-lane highway where lanes are only separated by lines or on a privately maintained road:

Show down to 10 feet from the rear of a dual highway, if you are on the other side of a safety island or grass median.

School buses are equipped with yellow or amber, and red flashing lights. The yellow or amber lights glow before the bus stops and the red lights glow when it does stop. Don't depend on these lights; if you are driving behind a school bus, they may be malfunctioning.

When a bus stops, complied stop 25 feet from the bus, either in front or in back of the bus. Watch for children, then proceed slowly and with caution. If the signals are working proceed only after they have been turned off.

If a school bus has stopped directly in front of a child to pick up or drop off children, you must pass from either direction at a speed of 15 mph or less than 10 miles per hour.

Editorial deadlines

General news — Monday, 5 p.m.

Letters to the editor — Monday

Sports — Monday noon

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Tea in her honor



Carolyn Hancock, honored during a high tea June 18 by the Mountainside Women's Club, stands before a mantle at the Echo Lake County Club. Hancock is the newly elected president of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Eagle Scouts awarded

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Battle Hill Post 7053 at Springfield honored two Eagle Scouts on June 18.

Charles Robert Bailey and Daniel Michael Sculley both from Shore Hills were presented a cords, a centurion cap and a patch from the State Department of the VFW at the Shoreline Union Church gym. Joe Barnes and Sal Gibaldi, past commandant, made the presentations at the honors reception attended by approximately 80 guests and family members.

At the State Convention in Wildwood, three members of Post 7683 were honored. Staff Warden was recognized as an outstanding winter master and received a citation. Bill Van Riper, past District 5 Commander, received a citation for his outstanding contributions to the State Department. Gibaldi also received a citation as Inspector for District 5, which includes all of Monmouth County.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

Use an alternate plan

Springfield and Mountaintop residents were recently asked to give their views on a proposed plan by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to decrease tolls during off-peak hours for commercial charge account customers. The plan would allow truckers and shipping companies to save 10 percent to 15 percent off roadway tolls each month, provided travel is done during non-peak hour times.

The goal of the plan is to reduce rush hour congestion on the turnpike and to make local roads such as Routes 22 and 78, which are currently heavily travelled by trucks, a little safer for local residents by providing truckers with an incentive to use the turnpike.

An effort to reduce tolls on a roadway as congested and generally unpleasant as the New Jersey Turnpike must be applauded, rewarded and supported. However, the current proposal to reduce tolls by 10 percent to 15 percent only for those trucking companies that hold credit accounts with the turnpike does not go nearly far enough to sufficiently address the problem of area congestion.

The turnpike has several separate lanes for trucks; the road was designed to withstand that sort of heavy traffic and therefore should be the primary highway for the gargantuan vehicles. Years ago, truckers abandoned the limited-access turnpike in mass when tolls were increased, and since that time, trucks have taken local roads that were not designed for use by such heavy, speeding vehicles.

Countryside lives have been lost because of trucks on local roads and local highway infrastructures have been severely damaged. Those who suffer most from the situation are residents who lose loved ones to speeding trucks in their own back yards and who must repair local roadways damaged by trucks through their own tax dollars. They may also be forced to pay high priced tolls just to make it to their 9-5 jobs while truckers travelling during the day pay significantly less.

If the true goal of the Turnpike Authority is to reduce rush hour congestion on the turnpike and to alleviate shipping traffic on local roads, the program should be expanded to accommodate those ideals. Currently, 500 trucking companies comprising only 25 percent of all companies that send trucks onto the turnpike, hold charge accounts with the Turnpike Authority. While that number is likely to increase once truckers catch on to the toll reduction, there is no guarantee that the habit of travelling toll-free local roads will be broken significantly enough to affect the majority of area residents or to make paying peak priced tolls seem worthwhile or fair.

Tolls should be decreased during off-peak hours not only for trucks, but for all traffic, giving all drivers an incentive to travel when the road is less clogged. Furthermore, if government agencies are truly committed to reducing traffic and traffic accidents during peak hours despite the need of most area residents to travel during those times to earn a living, an example should be set by staggering the work hours of government employees to accommodate the needs of the public they ostensibly serve. Considering the number of people employed by the state of New Jersey, this alone would be a huge step in reducing traffic congestion during rush hour, and having the option of conducting business with government agencies such as the DMV after normal work hours might make the pain of paying peak priced tolls just to clock in on time a bit easier to swallow for residents.

In addition, such an accommodation would demonstrate that this government is willing to actually do something about a pervasive problem rather than simply make rules which it cannot follow itself. If truckers, shipping companies, and area residents must plan their days around rush hour to suit the congestion limitations of the turnpike and other roads, government agencies should make an effort to do the same.

The townships of Springfield and Mountaintop are bounded and pierced by traffic and truck-infested highways, causing hazards and inconveniences for area residents. Whatever the Turnpike Authority decides to do about tolls and the extent to which they implement the program will directly affect the lives of area residents. A scant few shipping companies should not be the primary beneficiaries to a change in turnpike policy; the focus must be placed on the masses of area residents who are forced to sit in hours of traffic or endure life-threatening encounters with trucks during a simple trip to the grocery store.

"A free press is one of the enduring strengths of America."

**Tom Brokaw
news anchor
1984**

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Dr. Michael Shapiro, center, of Mountaintop, received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement at convocation ceremonies at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine. The award, which was given to the top student in the Class of 1989, was presented by Dr. Frederick J. Humphrey II, right, dean of the medical school, and Dr. Michael Gallagher, left, vice-dean of the medical school.

Caring enough to criticize

Two items in last week's Echo

Leader jumped out at me so vividly

that I was moved to write this column.

The first was the lead headline,

describing how fire department mat-

ters were brought to the minds of the

Springfield Township Committee;

immediately thought of dirt words I

had used from the pulpit of Antioch

Baptist Church in a previous service of

service to the state of church history

years down South a few years ago. At

that service, I used a metaphor to express that "Springfield" itself was

in dire "because of the blight" of a

police captain of our community.

For those words, I was classified

as heretic,淫秽, and had not even attended the service! Clearly, the

metaphor struck a sore spot.

The other item in last week's paper

was in the form of a letter to the editor.

There also, another member may have

set the record straight, by writing

of the "out Springfield" exemption

by stabilized taxes and property values,

then renovation of the

Christian building, the fifth 4th

val, the improved quality of

the Springfield Post, and a new First

Respondent in our Free-Baptist

The letter ended with a plea to ignore those who insult and hurt and instead, to celebrate Springfield.

While I do not necessarily agree with these substantial achievements, and in fact applaud them, my heart could not help sink a bit with the aware-



By Rabbi Joshua Goldstein

suggestion that we ignore the negative. I have always felt that the disgruntled deserve to be heard and to stand at the equation of what makes for a healthy community.

More than two years ago, I was asked to head a Human Rights Commission appointed by the Township Committee. Our goal was to offer recommendations to help end discrimination in the aftermath of the police captain's expressions of anti-Semitism and African American Jews. This panel, and by extension, all people serving on the Human Rights Commission were in clergy collective. Springfield is blessed with some wonderful ministers and rabbis who recognize that accountability requires politics and popularity. Our community is not, however, so fortunate.

The commission was formed with the intent that accountability requires political popularity. Our community is not, however, so fortunate.

Recently, we produced a document with 58 signatures. Unfortunately, those guidelines were received with indifference and with a sense that the Commission's members were not

adversaries, nor partners, in helping to heal Springfield's divisions. To this day, despite a mantra that "we've already implemented" the Human Rights Commission's guidelines, we have never been asked to formally appear in the Township Committee instead, as we've been told,

"you don't understand enough to make any judgments."

Our response: We are still here, intelligent citizens, and we will not be intimidated.

You're not showing support for our body? Our response: We do support you. They deserve better than to have their reputations damaged by a few hateful individuals.

You're placing into the hands of our political opponents. Our response: Political affiliation is irrelevant as to what is relevant in doing the right thing.

You have to obey the law of law enforcement. Our response: We're here, our presence, all are done with the utmost respect for the law. But we do expect that the law will reflect morality. Virtue should not be punished.

The appointment of Officer Wallace Brooks, whose case is still pending, has nothing to do with biasing the whole of Captain Pedersen. Our response: With Lt. Shapiro's reveal in a panel of inquiry, his case has been confirmed. The truth is, we need people of competency like Officer Brooks and Lt. Shapiro.

We can't afford for Martin Luther

King disown us, because we have to prove our commitment, because we have been slighted, and because that observance is really a political statement. Our response: The annual Martin Luther King Day Observance is intended to bring some healing to our community, not through pleasing speeches but through open communication about the need for tolerance. It is important enough to clear your calendar so that you can be there.

Here's the bottom line: The issue of intolerance will not go away with the resolution of Lt. Shapiro's case. Officer Brooks' good name still needs to be vindicated. Our police captain still needs to resign, so we can regain full trust in the police department.

And this community still needs leadership that will stop labeling citizens as enemies and adversaries, and begin recognizing that we should all be on the same team in the fight against intolerance.

For now, Springfield can be proud of those who worked for justice for Lt. Shapiro. Among them, my colleagues Jeff Markay and Perry Rankin.

The appointment of Officer Wallace Brooks, whose case is still pending, has nothing to do with biasing the whole of Captain Pedersen. Our response: With Lt. Shapiro's reveal in a panel of inquiry, his case has been confirmed. The truth is, we need people of competency like Officer Brooks and Lt. Shapiro.

Rabbi Joshua Goldstein leads the Temple Sh'ariey Shalom in Springfield.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Politics gone bad

To the Editor:

About two weeks ago I attended a town meeting at which Assemblyman Joe Weingarten was invited. The purpose of the meeting I was led to understand was to gain a feel and take a stand on pending or proposed legislation affecting the citizens of Springfield. I was disappointed to learn that Mr. Weingarten had a different agenda. He told the assembly that he did not think the will of the electorate of Springfield was important enough for him to take the action that the people of Springfield desired.

By way of background, I remind the readers of this newspaper that in November 1987 the citizens of Springfield voted to ask the legislature to change our municipal charter so that, among other things, we would no longer have to go to expensive and trouble of having municipal elections every year. The vote of the citizens had been preceded by a detailed petition repudiated by the township committee representative by then Mayor Lucy Lark, and to whom testimony was given by former members of Springfield's legislative delegation over the last 10 years. This record behavior was extensive and extensive and spelled out in great detail why it was in the best interest of the township to jettison the folly of annual municipal elections. As a result of the Township Committee's, and its head in favor of such a change for several years. Unfortunately, they are without the power of initiative without such a change without enabling legislation. The legislature is expected to act in order that we, the citizens of Springfield, be allowed to put into effect what we voted in favor of.

We, in Springfield, are in the following position:

1. A bi-partisan committee after 10 hearings has reported out a recommendation that our form of government change so as to have elections every two years instead of every year.

2. The Township Committee, acting upon a recommendation, has voted the issue to a public vote and the voting citizens agreed that a change should be implemented.

3. Acting upon the will of the people, the Township Committee petitioned our elected legislative delegation to prepare a bill which, in the true spirit and sense of democracy, would have changed our charter.

At least one of our elected legislative officials, Assemblyman Joe Weingarten, has failed, refused, and neglected to act upon the mandate of the citizens of Springfield. Indeed, he declared that there were priorities of his that were more important than the only area in which he could be of aid to our constituents.

The remaining two elected legislative officials, Sen. Louis Bassano and Assemblyman Kevin O'Toole, have shown fail to take any action whatever.

It must now ask what is the motivation of these elected legislative officials in failing to follow our mandate. Are they so arrogant that they are subjugating their opinion for ours as to what is best for Springfield? Are they so imbued with politics so that a minority of the township committee and I am

one of the voting public dictates to them integrity? Since when has our democratic government changed to effect such results? What has happened to the rule? What happened to representative democracy? Why is one elected legislative delegation not at all interested in our concerns?

Please only believe it is politics as usual. You see Mr. Weingarten is a Republican. The two members of the Township Committee are minority, who are against this change. Republicans. Mr. Weingarten under the impression that his duty is to his party and the belt with what the people want.

I urge our elected legislative representatives to react to the direction given them by their electorate. Do what we have demanded. Do the right thing. Let us change our November elections from yearly battles to biannual elections.

Philip Fennoch

Former Republican mayor of Springfield

Look forward to more participation

To the Editor:

Business Week has projected that this year as little as one out of three eligible voters will bother to go to the polls new law, in order to counteract these apathetic numbers, it is reported that special targeting of the religious right by Republicans, and Hispanics and Black voters by the Democrats will be undertaken.

We have an opportunity as elected officials to motivate citizens to participate because of the issues we face as Americans, and not simply on the basis of political fund raising, or get-out-the-vote tactics.

Starting with the transit transportation improvement is a big element of the economic development of Union County. Transit costs are especially significant in our ongoing efforts to develop job opportunities for low-income workers. The Union County Council of Economic Advisors, which I put in last week, confirmed our view of light rail transit to mitigate central Union County. This project can become a reality to improve economic conditions.

On a host of issues, such as open space, juvenile justice, and the rise again in alcohol and drug use among juveniles, it is demonstrated that there is much work to be done at all levels of government to seek improvements. In a period of relatively good economic conditions, it is said there is less motivation for voter participation. I believe that as long as we in government have something to say and offer, we can look to greater voter participation. Prediction of one third turnout should be a hard warning for all to get involved, no matter what so-called target group census have been designated.

Donald Givens

Union County Freeholder

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Concerned about an issue facing the governing body or Board of Education in your town? Is your street ordisgrace? Our readers can use our Infowire hot line to speak out about any issue whether it is a question, comment, suggestion or opinion. That way, by telling us, you can tell everyone in town.

Call anytime, day or night. Please speak clearly into the phone when leaving your message. Calls can remain anonymous.

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Springfield detectives apprehend identity thief

POLICE BLOTTER

• Springfield detectives found their identity thief in a Newark jail on July 1. The suspect, identified as Michael A. Jones, had surrendered himself on his lawyer's advice at the Essex County jail on June 26.

Township detectives charged Jones for trying to pass himself off as a Middlesex County man while attempting to get a loan from the Morris Avenue Summit Bank on April 17, 1997. He faces one count each of theft of less than \$500 by deception, forgery and wrongful impersonation.

Jones may have visitors from the FBI, Mansfield Township and other police departments while in detention.

He is wanted for a string of identity crimes as distant as California.

• A customer of the Amoco station at South Springfield and Hillside avenues thought he had cleared the store's front door on July 1. His car didn't, however, and the Amoco's glass door was broken at about 12:54 p.m. The patrolman on the scene noted that the door had swung out into the station's car travel apron.

• A Hillside youth who was convicted of an auto theft in Springfield, was sent to a juvenile reformatory on June 30. Supreme Court Judge David Isenstein sentenced Marquise Darling, 16, to two years "at the New Jersey Training School for Boys in Jamesburg. Darling was found guilty of robbery, receiving stolen property and eluding police on June 18.

Darling and two other men attempted to steal a BMW from a Route 22 East dealership on March 28. When an employee saw them breaking into a car, Darling jumped into a BMW and sped off but was later apprehended.

POLICE BLOTTER

The owner of a 24-inch mountain bicycle reported the vehicle as stolen from the side of a Morris Avenue garage sometime between June 28 and June 30.

• A Diamond Road resident reported a former acquaintance's theft of \$76 and the destruction of clothing and a photo album at about 3:24 p.m. on June 29.

• A South Plainfield man was picked up at the corner of South Springfield and Hilltop Court and charged with five criminal counts on June 27. The man, identified as Nicholas A. Rippio, 27, faced two counts of criminal trespass, two counts of criminal damage and one count of disorderly conduct at about 7:30 a.m.

• A Springfield woman, identified as Andrea Milto, 32, was arrested by township police and extradited to Union on an outstanding warrant on June 27.

• A Springfield driver reported that her Ford Escort was robbed of about \$60 of electronic equipment, including a cell phone, while parked at the Echo Plaza Shopping Center on June 24. A Hillside man reported that someone smashed a window of his car while parked at the Holiday Inn between 8 a.m. and 4:46 p.m. that day. A laptop computer, files and miscellaneous cash were among the items taken.

• A Springfield man, identified as Harold Francisco Rodriguez-Ramirez, 21, was arrested for shoplifting about \$100 worth of clothing from a Route 22 West store at about 5:23 p.m. on June 21. Rodriguez-

Ramirez said he is a Costa Rica national, however, and had a one-way flight home for the next day. Springfield police altered those plans by having him processed through central intake overnight on \$750 bail.

• A Linden man said he lost control of his Chevy while driving on pond-bound Maple Avenue near the Morris Avenue intersection on June 23. The car veered into a utility pole at about 3:07 a.m.

• The driver of a Mack excavator truck thought he had cleared the center lane of northbound Maple Avenue as he approached Morris Avenue on June 22. His trailer had not, however, and it struck the right side of a Quaker Seville at about 3:05 p.m.

• On June 25, Mountainside police stopped a Mountainside man for a motor vehicle violation at approximately 8:00 p.m. on New Providence Rd.

Officer Andrew Sullivan found the suspect, Rafael Peña, 24, to be in possession of two bags of marijuana totaling under 50 grams. Peña was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

• On June 25, officer Michael Jackson stopped Cheyney Ruiz, 22, of Plainfield, for speeding. Officer Jackson took Ruiz into custody when he found the suspect to be inattentive, a suspended driver, and to have warrants out for his arrest in Scotch Plains, Westfield and South Plainfield, and Mountainside.

On June 24, at approximately 3:45 p.m., Detective Sgt. Richard O'Gara arrested a Union woman for credit card fraud. Lisa Wright, 44, was taken and

arrested after stealing two credit cards from a Mountainside residence and using them to charge several hundred dollars worth of merchandise.

• On June 24, Mountainside police stopped a Roselle Park man for speeding on Route 22 East.

At approximately 10:52 a.m., Officer Rich Latapia found the suspect, Dilip Kakkad, 45, to be a suspended driver due to non-payment of surcharges.

• On June 23, Mountainside police came to the assistance of a Newark man stranded on Route 22 East.

Sergeant Scott Warwick found the subject, John Davis, 35, to be a suspended driver.

• On June 22, at approximately 10 p.m., Sgt. Allan Ariasano stopped a North Plainfield woman for a tail light violation while driving on Route 22 East.

Ariasano arrested Wynnell Auditor, 43, when he found her driver's license to be suspended.

• On July 2, Mountainside police arrested a West Nyack, N.Y. man after he was involved in a motor vehicle accident on Route 22 West and was found to have a suspended license.

Officer Michael Jackson placed Sun Park, 37, under arrest at approximately 3:21 a.m.

• At approximately 2:00 a.m. on June 3, Mountainside police officer Donald Ambrey stopped a North Plainfield woman for a motor vehicle violation on Route 22 West.

Officer Ambrey found the suspect, Gato Longo, 19, to be a suspended driver.

• On July 4, Mountainside police stopped an East Orange man for a motor vehicle violation while driving on Route 22 East.

Lisa Wright, 44, was taken and

Area resident named

Robert E. Del Guidice of Springfield has been named president of operations at Saint James Hospital in Newark. Announcement of his appointment recently was made by Cee Cine-Neves, administrator. Del Guidice brings to Saint James over 20 years of experience in health care management. Since 1984, he was a member of the administration at The General Hospital in Passaic. During his tenure there, he served in various capacities as he oversaw the development of all clinical and support ancillary departments, managed a \$1.7 million construction project, and was promoted to assistant vice president of operations.

Prior to joining Saint James, Del Guidice was director of support services for the General Hospital in Passaic and was responsible for public safety and security at Mountainaire Hospital.

Del Guidice has been a member of the part-time faculty of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Samuel J. Silverman College of Business Administration, since 1992. He was a clinical professor at the School of Allied Health Professions of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey from 1980 to 1992. He is a certified healthcare executive, American College of Healthcare Executives, a diplomate in laboratory management, American Society of Clinical Pathologists, and is a registered medical technologist, American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

Cine-Neves said, "Robert Del Guidice brings to Saint James Hospital valuable experience in health care facilities, and will be a great asset to Saint James Hospital as it continues its mission of service to the community by modernizing its facility and acquiring state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment."



Del Guidice

can Society of Clinical Pathologists, and is a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

Cine-Neves said, "Robert Del Guidice brings to Saint James Hospital valuable experience in health care facilities, and will be a great asset to Saint James Hospital as it continues its mission of service to the community by modernizing its facility and acquiring state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment."

Cancer Society Unit seeks volunteers

The Union County unit of the American Cancer Society is seeking volunteers for its Road to Recovery Program. Contact Carolyn Fabrizio, service director, at (908) 354-7373 for additional information on joining the lifesaving crew of volunteer drivers.

Motor vehicle accidents plague roadways

FIRE BLOTTER

A system was checked by the department during the second call for the incident.

• The variety of calls continued on June 25 with an animal rescue at a Cottage Lane residence at about 2:56 p.m. and a car fire on Route 22 West at about 7:57 p.m.

• A fire unit assisted Springfield police in handling a two-car accident with injuries at Morris and Morrison avenues on June 24. According to the police record, the driver of a Cadillac DeVille was traveling in the outside eastbound lane when a car in the oncoming lane attempted a right turn into a one-car home parking lot at about 12:30 p.m. The two cars collided, sending the Cadillac into a front yard and the second car spinning into a stop sign and mailbox on the intersection's northeast corner.

Both drivers were taken to Overlook Hospital by the Millburn First Aid Squad. Their cars were towed by police. Firefighters helped move the cars and applied absorbent on the

resulting fluid spill.

• Medical aid units were the order of the day on June 23. The first call was from a Mountain Avenue residence about 3:04 p.m. It was followed with a call to a business at Plaza Plaza at about 3:23 p.m.

A water condition prompted Milltown Road residents to call the department at about 12:39 p.m. on June 22. A carbon monoxide detector was activated at a Mates Avenue residence at about 11:17 p.m. on June 21.

• A smoke alarm went off at a Mountain Avenue residence at about 6:52 p.m. on June 19. A firefighter at the scene found a burning cigarette butt in the trash can on Main Street, but absorbed by the department at about 9:18 p.m. on June 18. It was followed by a broken water pipe call at Mohawk Drive home at about 2:45 p.m. on June 18 and a call about a odor in a Country Club Lane house at about 10:45 p.m.

• On July 2, at approximately 3 p.m., the Mountain Volunteer Fire Department responded to a car accident on Route 22.

The Fire Department responded to a car accident on Route 22.

• On July 2, at approximately 3 p.m., the Mountain Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call from the Children's Specialized Hospital, which was struck by lightning. The lightning disabled the hospital's alarm system.

• On June 20 at 6 a.m., the Mountain Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call from the Children's Specialized Hospital, which was struck by lightning. The lightning disabled the hospital's alarm system.

• Firefighters found that a pipe on the home's hot water heater had become loose, causing the alarm to sound.

One of the cars involved caught fire and firefighters were forced to shut down the roadway in order to rescue the driver and extinguish the fire.

• On July 3, Mountainside firefighters responded to a small brush fire in the Watchung Reservation. The brush fire — reported at about 9 a.m. — was caused by fireworks.

• On July 4, at about 7:50 a.m., firefighters responded to a fire that got out of control in a propane grill at a residence. The grill was propped to the rear exterior of the house, causing little damage and damage.

• On June 18 at 6 a.m., the Mountain Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call from the Children's Specialized Hospital, which was struck by lightning. The lightning disabled the hospital's alarm system.

• On June 24 at 11 a.m., the fire department responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at a Mountainside residence.

• Firefighters found that a pipe on the home's hot water heater had become loose, causing the alarm to sound.

events are included in the curriculum.

This age group will also have a place to do homework and an opportunity to take weekly progressive swim lessons at the Summit YMCA.

Two choices of payment plans include school vacation, holiday and early dismissal options.

Other YMCA programs that will be developed at the Springfield branch include a fitness department in fall 1998. The Fitness department will include a fitness center with the latest cardio, circuit weight training and free weight equipment. Also, a variety of fitness classes will be offered.

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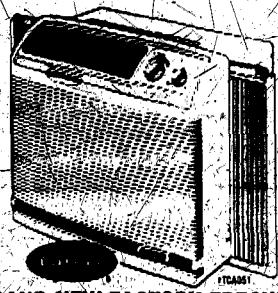
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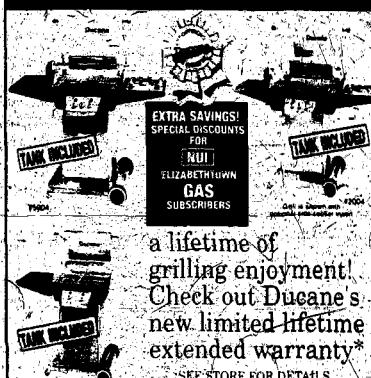
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