

# Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield, Mountainside and Summit

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 69, NO. 48

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1998

TWO SECTION

## THIS WEEK

### NEWS

#### Dissolved

The Board of Freeholders voted last week to officially dissolve the Union County Environmental Health Commission and is prepared to create more county bureaucracy with the Office of Environmental Health. See Page B1.

#### \$50-M program

The Union County Economic Development Corporation announced a \$50 million bond program to help Union County businesses. See Page B1.

#### Taxes due

Quarterly taxes are due Aug. 1 in the municipality's Tax Collector's office.

#### THE ARTS

##### All's well

If this play is any indication, wait for more performances from the Shakespeare Festival! See Page B5.



##### Rising star

This 18-year-old recent high school graduate is a soft-voiced actress, songwriter and singer who has been in show business already for the past 12 years. See Page B3.

#### NEW MEDIA

##### News updates

Get local updates throughout the week. Call our Infousource hot line at (908) 686-9898, Selection 7510.

##### Web site

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

#### WEATHER

**Friday:** A couple of showers, 80°.



**Saturday:** Expect showers, 82°.



**Sunday:** Partly cloudy, 80°.



For the most up-to-date reports, call (908) 686-9898, Ext. 1780.

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## Pedersen dismissed for biased rem

By Walter Elliott  
Staff Writer

The Springfield Township Committee voted to dismiss Police Capt. Vernon Pedersen as of 8:18 p.m. Tuesday night.

Pedersen, who would have begun

his 30th year on the force in October, was terminated by the Township Committee by a vote of 3-1. A separate vote, passed with one abstention, denied Pedersen access to legal representation from the township government in future litigation.

"Vernon Pedersen has had the option for some time to resign and he did not," said Mayor Sy Mullman. "We reviewed the independent hearing officer's recommendations and came to this decision. There are many positive things in Springfield for speak of, and we are on from here."

"We have had enough," said Com-

missioner Roy Hirschfeld, who brought both measures to vote. "As elected officials, we have to do the right thing for the good of the community and to uphold the law. By taking this action, I hope a healing process begins."

Pedersen's dismissal ends a chapter which began March 10, when he called police headquarters from Atlantic City to make some personnel schedule changes. His call was received by Lt. Ivan Pedersen, who was behind the desk. Pedersen, after mistakenly assuming Shawop was hanging up, made some anti-Semitic remarks about Shawop.

Shawop then sent an officer across Springfield to get a recorder. The two men then made a copy of Pedersen's remarks from the headquar-

ters' master tape.

Springfield Chief of Police William

Hirschfeld conducted an investigation and filed disciplinary charges against both officers. His disciplinary recommendations were for immediate suspension without pay and termination for Pedersen and a 90-day unpaid suspension and demotion to patrolman for Shawop.

A jury of controversy ensued when the tape and charges became public in April. The Springfield Clergy Council called for Pedersen's fir-

ing. The Township Committee requested due process and impartiality from the public in both hearings.

Attorney Robert Czech was hired as an independent administrator to preside over both hearings. Shawop's public hearing was never held as the township agreed to drop charges

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owop's file.

Pedersen's hearing was held before closed doors on May 7 and 11 and Czech took his findings to the Township Committee on June 24. Czech found Pedersen guilty of violating four sections of two articles in the department's rules and regulations.

These "passages" concerned showing prejudice and use of profanity while on duty.

Czech further recommended that Pedersen be suspended 90 days and be demoted one rank. During a recent

closed session, a majority of the

Township Committee decided to dis-

miss Pedersen instead.

"We had talked long and hard about

a penalty," said Deputy Mayor and

line dissembler Greg Clarke. "It is my

contention that termination will not

end the matter. I think dismissal will

lead to action in the courts, forcing the

township to spend more money on

legal costs

anonymously."

It is anticipated that Pedersen will file an appeal in Superior Court in Elizabeth. Shawop has recently filed a discrimination suit against the township Officer Walter Brooks, who was subjected to Pedersen's comments in 1995; also has a related suit in state appellate court.

Shawop and Brooks were among the 60 people and three television news crews in the audience.

"If the committee voted the way they did for the good of the town and by what was in their hearts," said Shawop, "then I am satisfied. What vindication came for me was not here tonight but when the charges against me were dismissed just month. I'm sure that the matter will be heard [and] I go back to work as I usually do."

## Condominium hearing delayed for notices

By Walter Elliott  
Staff Writer

For want of official notices, the special Springfield Planning Board public hearing on Bryant Park Commons never took place last Thursday.

The Planning Board announced the postponement just prior to the hearing's scheduled 8 p.m. start. The preliminary and final site plan application for Bryant Park Commons on the former Carter-Bell factory site has been reset for the board's regular meeting on Sept. 2. Applicants Bryant Park Commons LLC and K&K Developers, meanwhile, are to provide notification of construction plans to seven homeowners on the Summit side of the site.

There was a question of whether all of the neighboring property owners were notified, said Bruce Pitman, attorney for the applicant. "We don't want to inadvertently leave out a property owner. We want to do this application right."

It turned out that the applicant had not notified people within 200 feet of the access road to Carter-Bell," said Summit Councilwoman Cynthia Martin. "Our Director of Community Services, Michael Towley, brought the matter to the attention of the Troy Hills condominiums on the Springfield side. The Carter-Bell lot in Springfield is bordered by part of the Park & Ride lot, a New Jersey Department of Transportation storage yard Route 34 and the Rahway Valley Rail Road right of way."

The seven homes awaiting official notification add to Summit's side of the Carter-Bell lot. The properties include a home and an eight-unit condominium. Bryant Park Commons' Public Utilities substation sits atop the Park & Ride.

The Springfield Planning Board, according to secretary Lynda Gagliano, is to hear the matter on Sept. 2 at 8 p.m. The meeting is to be held at the Springfield Municipal Building's Committee Chamber, 100 Mountain Ave.

## Military reunion assembles memories, local residents

By Mark Goldwert  
Staff Writer

Before William Sedlak served on the Springfield Police Department, the former Springfield resident served his country as a member of the Navy. From 1964 to 1965, when the Cold War was at its height, Sedlak was stationed at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Sedlak, recently travelled back to Cuba to attend a reunion of military personnel who served at Guantanamo Bay or GTMO as the base is commonly called.

Sedlak, who now lives in Barrackville, made the trip to the American base on the Communist controlled Caribbean island with his daughter, Susan, a Springfield resident. Their trip began at the Naval base at Norfolk, Va.

The reunion at Guantanamo Bay lasted one week, from June 9-16, and brought the former sailors and Marines back to their days of fencing, runs and mess hall meals.

A former jet mechanic at the rank of AD-2, Sedlak recalled the tension one could feel in the humid Cuban air back in 1964. "Once, in an effort to push us out, Castro cut the water line going into the base. He figured we'd try to starve us out. But the Navy got a fleet of tankers down to convert the water."

The base has changed in many ways, recalled Sedlak. "The size of it hasn't, but building wise, they've made a lot of improvements. Now

everything is closed off in glass and air-conditioned."

Things were different at meal time too, according to Sedlak, but some things did stay the same. "We dined in the Marine chow hall — it's amazing how they feed these people. And they no longer have the long tables and little benches. Now they have smaller round tables with captain's chairs. The Navy was always famous for egos to order and it's still like that today."

Those in attendance at Guantanamo Bay also commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale. An area in the southern portion of the base, Cuito Cuanavale was the last stronghold for the Spanish during the Spanish-American War and provided the only source of fresh water to Guantanamo Bay.

The battle was fought for control of the fresh water, supposedly around June 10, 1898, to a celebration coincided with the reunion. Sedlak and his daughter attended a wreath laying ceremony at the battle site on June 14.

What did they do for fun? "They had scuba diving and we went up to five miles out that everyone survived at Guantanamo Bay participated in," said Sedlak. "This was on the 14th of June. The run was along the north fence line that separates Guantanamo Bay from Cuba. We saw Cuban washed ashore from their towns."

## Vandals target local fish pond

By Mark Goldwert  
Staff Writer

Since the day five years ago when Springfield resident Mike Del-Viscovo installed a pond in front of his house, this sanctuary for nearly 40 assorted fish has become the talk of the neighborhood, a constant source of joy to his family, and Del-Viscovo's passion.

But last week, he passed the pond on the way into his house. Del-Viscovo could not find his cherished Japanese Koi biting at the surface in search of food. Instead, a thick white foam floated in the water, and when Del-Viscovo knelt beside the pond and brushed aside the froth, he discovered every one of his 40 fish floating lifeless.

"I was extremely upset," said Del-Viscovo. "Those fish were such a thrill for my daughter."

Distressed and puzzled, he took a sample of the frothy water to be tested in a laboratory. "I don't use any chemicals," Del-Viscovo explained. "Those fish were strong. They survived through the winters." The results of the tests brought more sadness into his home.

The lab results said that bleach was put in the water and it killed them instantly. Rachel Del-Viscovo recounted that according to the Del-Viscovos, it is all they know about what took place last Monday. They filed a report with the police—but were told nothing could be done. "It was definitely intentional," said Rachel Del-Viscovo. "We have no clues about who might have done this. Nobody saw anything."

Rachel held off the fish pond had grown to be an important part of her family's life. "Gradually, we built up the pond. We'd add different fish on different occasions, including the birth of our daughter. We would go outside and feed them every morning."

The Del-Viscovo's daughter, Michaela, is 15 months old. "I glad she's not at the age where I have to explain," said Rachel. "We have to hope and pray that it

Rachel and Michaela Del-Viscovo watch over their new fish pond outside their home in Springfield. The pond was vandalized last week in an act which caused the death of 40 Japanese koi, and the Del-Viscovos must now restock the water. Police have no suspects in the case.

doesn't happen again."

Despite the violence they have witnessed against things so harmless and beautiful, Mike and Rachel have started over. After thoroughly cleaning the pond of all poisonous substances, they added new fish, including two koi. This Japanese fish, which can live up to 100 years,

is prized for its silvery scales and depending on its size, can cost upward of \$1,500.

"It's not money," said Rachel, of the spending involved in both building the pond and bringing life back to it. "We felt violated and surprised that something like this would happen."

According to Mardini and Clark, two of several people who have worked on Springfield's sewer problem, the problem is not capacity, but sudden volume peaks.

"I don't have the figure before me, but I think Springfield's average output is 2.2 mgd," said Mardini. "We're required to have a capacity above our normal flow. The problem comes after some rainstorms."

"What happens is that we get a spike in the reading for a few minutes to a few hours," said Clark. "There are several problems that cause the overflows, including manhole leaks, illegal pump pump connections and tree roots clogging the sewer system."

The latter cause, connections between a sanitary and storm sewer, is perhaps the most serious. State mandates that the two runoff systems

never meet. When a developer applies to Springfield for a site plan or zoning check-off, the board staff members return with a pre-plan drawing and permission to connect from the utility, which is the R.V.A.

"I care in what the project was well under way," said Kevin Page, engineer for the Bryant Park Commons project. "The state Department of Environmental Health has a calculator able to determine sewage flow. There's a 225-gallon per day allowance for a family apartment which, when multiplied by our 138 units, comes out to over 31,000 gallons per day."

## Construction under way for sewer system

By Walter Elliott  
Staff Writer

Springfield and associated officials said the townships sanitary sewer system has the capability to handle new and pending hookups.

Housing projects Columbia Court and the Edge at Springfield are under construction. They would add at least 90 wastewater connections to Springfield's sewers.

Another 14 would come from NJ Connect's project, which is being ground shortly. Add the 13 dwelling units for the proposed Bryant Park Commons and the potential total rises to 240.

They will join Springfield's system of mains whose date from the 1920s. Although the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority allows for a 3.5-million-gallons-per-day outflow to its Rahway treatment plant, Springfield's system has been periodically overwhelmed.

The resulting overflow has backed up some homes' septic tanks and emptied into Van Winkle Creek and onto Messel Field.

The overflow, according to Deputy Mayor Gregory Clark and Assistant Engineer Sam Mardini, has cost Springfield nearly \$300,000 over the last decade to diagnose and correct. Two twelve overflow instances were recorded by the RVSA last year, prompting the Board of Commissioners to summon township officials and a team of engineers to make progress in the problem. The team can incur fines for failure to respond.

See CLARK, Page 3

## Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

### How to reach us:

The Echo Leader is published weekly Thursday by Worrell Community Newspapers, an independent family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stewart Avenue, Union, NJ 07083. We accept ads from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Send your classified ads or at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

### Voice mail:

Our main phone number 908-688-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system. Please leave a message for our customers. During regular business hours a receptionist will answer your call. During the evening or when the office is closed your call will be answered by an automated receptionist.

### To subscribe:

The Echo Leader is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$24.00; two-year subscriptions for \$49.00. Single issues are \$2.00. Subscriptions are available by phone by calling 908-688-7700 and asking for the circulation department. Allow at least two weeks for processing your order. You may use Mastercard or VISA.

### Missing newspaper:

If your Echo Leader did not get delivered please call 908-688-7700 and ask for circulation.

### Bad issues:

To purchase back issues of the Echo Leader, call 908-688-7700 and ask for circulation. Additional charges apply.

### News items:

News releases of general interest must be faxed to us by Friday at 11 a.m. to be considered for publication. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope so we can accompany your news item with a return address. For funeral information or to report a breaking news story, call 908-688-7700 and ask for Editorial.

### Story reprints:

For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper you must call Tom Carter at 908-688-7700. 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, signed and should be accompanied by an address and day time phone number for confirmation. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

### e-mail:

The Echo Leader accepts e-mail places. Our e-mail address is WCN22@localsource.com. E-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication. Material sent via e-mail, 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 section of the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication in the next issue. Advertising in the Section must be in our office by Monday at 10 a.m. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Call 908-688-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

### To place a classified ad:

The Echo Leader has a large well-read classified advertising section. Advertising must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 a.m. for publication that week. For more information, call 908-688-7700 and ask for the public relations advertising department.

### To place a public notice:

Public notices are nonclassified and required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers. Public notices must be in our office by Tuesday at noon for publication that week. For more information, call 908-688-7700 and ask for the public relations advertising department.

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## Township conducts exterior inspection

This notice is to inform property owners that an exterior inspection of all township structures will be conducted in the upcoming months with regards to compliance with Springfield Township Ordinance No. 93-27, sec. 216, through 213.4. In 1983, the Township Committee adopted this ordinance to establish a uniform building numbering system for the purpose of aiding responding emergency services with the location of the emergency.

Section 213.4 reads as follows: The owner of every dwelling, store, office, building, warehouse, factory or other structure or building which now fronts or may hereafter front upon any public street within the Township of Springfield shall cause the street number assigned to the property upon which the said dwelling, store, office, building, warehouse, factory or other structure or building is erected to be placed in digital numbers. Roman numerals, script, or any other numbers or script, at least three inches in height within two feet to the right or left of the main entrance or of structures facing the street.

All other structures or buildings to be placed in digital numbers. Roman numerals or script at least six inches in height within two feet to the right or left of the main entrance, or on the roof.

Enforcement of this ordinance will be extremely valuable to your emergency services in better serving you in case of an emergency. Any structure not in compliance will be cited and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the violation. Any questions should be directed to Fire Headquarters. We appreciate your cooperation with our endeavor of keeping Springfield a safe place to live.

## Correction

The article "Board approves storage facilities" in the July 16 edition of the Echo Leader should have stated that Mike Carter Construction and Safeguard Self Storage changed their original request to the Mountainside Board of Adjustment, modifying the height of the proposed self storage facility to fall within the 35-foot height limit.

## 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 3409, Union, NJ 07083.

### Today

\* The Trailside Nature and Science Center, located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside, will hold a Thursday planetarium show at 7 p.m. featuring a tour of the solar system and new and exciting facts about the planets. The show is for ages six and up and the cost of admission is \$3-\$5.55 for seniors. For more information call (908) 789-3670.

### Saturday

\* Volunteers are needed to assist with trail maintenance projects in the Watchung Reservation. Meet at the Trailside Nature and Science Center at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside and bring a lunch, mug for beverage, shovel, rake, and gloves, if available. Participants must be age 14 and up, and all must call (908) 789-3670 to pre-register.

### Sunday

\* Interfaith Singles, a friendly and supportive group for single adults over the age of 45, will conduct discussions on successful single living. From 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Westfield. A continental breakfast will be served and the donation is \$2. The group will continue the meetings every Sunday throughout the month of August. For more information, call (908) 233-2278.

\* The Trailside Nature and Science Center will hold two Sunday planetarium shows. The first, called Sunlight Celestial Status, will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature the summer triangle, Hercules, Scorpions, and other prominent summer constellations as well as any current special sky events. The second show, called Native American Skylore, will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will feature a look at the stars through the eyes of the Native Americans and a comparison of Native American stories with Greek mythological explanations of constellations. Both shows are for ages six and up and have an admission cost of \$3-\$5.55 for seniors.

## STORK CLUB

\* Gregory Wilfred was born to Bill and Ellen Murphy of Springfield July 3 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. He weighed nine pounds, and measured 21 inches. He joins sisters Katie and Caroline, and brother Jonathan.

\* Matthew Richard was born to Randi and John Kravoski of May 15 at St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston. He joins a brother, John Michael Kravoski, Randi-Sue Kravoski, the former Randi Zirkel, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Zirkel, formerly of Mountainside.

\* Jason Eric was born to Fran and Gary Hartenstein of Allentown, July 8. Fran is the former Fran Hartenstein, formerly of Maplewood. The maternal grandparents are

Paul and Carole Trinker of Maplewood. The paternal grandparents are Joan and Stu Hartenstein of Hazelton.

The maternal grandmother is Pearl Lerner of Springfield; formerly of Maplewood, who became a great grandmother twice within 10 minutes.

\* Jason Eric was born on his maternal grandfather's birthday as was his cousin, Joseph Michael Plaggiotto, Joseph Michael's grandfather Dr. Barry Lerner, formerly of Maplewood, who delivered him.

\* Jennifer Katherine and Thomas Paul were born to Maria and Todd Luetters of Springfield on June 23, in St. Barnabas Medical Center. They join brothers Eric, 3, and Craig, 23, months.

### Monday

\* The Summit area chapter of the American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at ARC, 695 Springfield Ave. in Summit from 2:30 to 8 p.m. All blood drives are conducted by NJ Blood Services. Donors will need to bring ID with picture or signature and know their Social Security number.

### Coming Events

#### Oct. 4

\* Sandmetter School, 666 South Springfield Ave., Springfield, will hold an Outdoor Flea Market sponsored by the PTA. The rain date will be Oct. 11, and vendors and crafters with new and used merchandise are invited. For more information, call Fran at (973) 376-6386.

#### Oct. 24

\* The Second annual Tea Market at the Springfield Emmanuel United Methodist Church will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee is \$20 for a space and the rain date is Oct. 31. Flea market vendors and people looking to sell off their unwanted garage sale items are asked to call Tom at (908) 587-0779, Esther at (908) 276-4968, or the church at (973) 376-1695 for an application.

#### Oct. 24 and 25

\* The second annual craft show at St. James the Apostle in Springfield will be held Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fee is \$60 for one table and two chairs for both days and \$90 for two tables and four chairs for both days. The entire school will be utilized due to the overwhelming response last year. Tables will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Any questions or for an application, call Anne at (973) 376-5612 or Janet at (973) 912-0392.

#### Nov. 21

\* The second annual Winter Craft Fair at the Springfield Emmanuel United Methodist Church will be held indoors from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendors are wanted, and spaces are \$25, which includes a table and chair. Call Tom at (908) 587-0779, Esther at (908) 276-4968, or the church at (973) 376-1695 to reserve early.

## Volunteer firefighters needed

The Springfield Volunteer Fire Company #4 serves as an essential component in rendering fire protection to the township.

Currently, active volunteer firefighters respond to alarms and support the Career Department in all facets of the services they provide.

Volunteer firefighters not only attend formal training sessions, but also maintain their skills by conducting company drills. Training is provided in firefighting, vehicle extraction, CPR and first aid. All training uniforms and gear are provided at no cost to the volunteer.

Company meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month and drills are on the second and fourth Tuesdays.

The Volunteer Fire Department proudly supports many community events and organizations, and often assists the township in the purchase of fire fighting equipment. Members

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William Sedlak shows his daughter, Susan, the North East Gate, separating GITMO from Communist Cuba during a reunion last month. This is the only area between Communist Cuba and the base that is not mined.

## Cuban base holds reunion

(Continued from Page 1)

"We also visited the south-east gate which is the only area separating the Communists from the Americans where there aren't any mines. That's where the Cubans who work at the base cross over."

Sedlak said he was reminded of the nights back at Guantánamo Bay when the entire base would be put on fire.

## Music center offers family music for babies

Parents of infants need no longer wait for their babies to attain the ripe age of 18 months before giving them — and themselves — the gift of music education.

Starting in September, the Nutonian Community Music Center in New Providence will offer "Family Music for Babies" — birth to 17 months — a weekly half-hour class for infants and caregivers. The Music Center has been conducting classes for children as young as 18 months for several years now, and have been observing the positive effects on their later musical learning and overall development. It has been abundantly clear from observing the behavior of accompanying infant siblings in the

## Trailside Science Center offers amusements

By Mark Goldwert  
Staff Writer

Located in Mountainside on the Watchung Reservation, the Trailside Nature and Science Center is a place people of any age can enjoy. "This place is devoted to nature, for people to learn about nature," said Patricia Bertsch. "It's amazing — you look at how busy this part of New Jersey is, and then you go up the mountain to us."

The Trailside Center features a visitors center where one can find exhibits dedicated to reptiles, live snakes that are found in the wild. In New Jersey, a bird attraction area, and a 350 volume non-circulating library. Some people just come up to the visitors center to get a trail map and then take off to go hiking," said Bertsch.

Also on the grounds is a museum,

complete with fossils and a discovery room with hands-on exhibits and live animals.

A planetarium that feature regular shows on Thursdays and Sundays.

biking trails, and programs for people of all ages.

New in the museum is a riverbank where visitors can observe leopard frogs and crayfish living in a simulated environment, and showing at the planetarium in the fall future will be "Laser Queen," a show in which the music of Queen is set to laser lights.

"Native American Skyline" and "Summer Skies."

The Trailside Nature and Science

Center offers a heavy of children's

programs for pre-first graders to fifth

grade and up. "The kids crack sitting

in a classroom," said Bertsch. "Every-

one is hands on experience."

Kids in the "Earth Angels," a pro-

gram for children entering third and

fourth grade, learned to make t-

shirts using natural dyes made from

strawberries, cherries, tea leaves, lime

peels, and blueberries. "Seasational

Nature," Julia Cardillo, showed the

kids how to dye in the shade of a tree a

few feet from a garden designed specifically not to attract butterflies.

Some of the younger kids in

another summer program, the "Fabul-

ous Happens," spent the afternoon

making bird masks.

We offer camps from 6-12 and 14-17



Photo by Barbara Krakkola

Thomas Rainage and Elena Ramirez, 5, ham it up during a summer program at the Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside.

Photo by Barbara Krakkola

## COMMUNITY FORUM

### Construction plan deserves thought

A construction proposal affecting property belonging to Springfield, Summit and the County of Union is currently being considered, and more residents of this region should stay apprised of the plan and its positive and negative ramifications for the area.

Bryant Park Commons LLC intends to build a 138-unit condominium complex on the old Carter-Bell factory site in the township of Springfield. This land is currently zoned for industrial use and borders both the city of Summit and Bryant Park, which is owned by Union County. The corporation is seeking several zoning variances in order to build houses, and the Springfield Planning Board has held several meetings to discuss the plan and consider feedback from all those affected.

The concerns from Summit and the county focus on the increased traffic volume, which will occur once the housing complex is completed, especially traffic emptying Park Drive onto Morris Ave. and the site plan's proposal to expand Park Drive to a 20-foot width and add four parking spaces to the roadway's Bryant Park side. A conservative idea of how much traffic congestion in the area will be affected can be readily gauged by considering the 285 parking spaces included in the condominium site plan, and residents in this area or anyone who travels through it on a regular basis, especially during rush hour, should make sure sufficient roadway accommodations are made to alleviate congestion. The last thing this area needs is another clogged nest of stalled cars and snarled drivers.

Other areas of concern for Summit and the county include environmental issues, which could manifest themselves in the form of additional taxes for residents. Environmental cleanup costs are estimated to add \$1 million to the site's construction.

The township of Springfield must address these issues for its residents as well as several others. A total of 28 of the proposed dwellings would be used to fulfill the township's low- and moderate-income housing obligation according to the 18-units per acre density ratio set by the state Council on Affordable Housing, and Springfield is to provide more than 100 affordable-housing units under its Mount Laurel housing obligation. As reasonably priced housing is a right of any resident and an expectation of the state, this aspect of the plan would certainly benefit both regional residents and the township.

However, previous township housing master plans have excluded the Carter-Bell location due to the potentially high cost of environmental cleanup and the site's distance from shopping areas. As neither of these situations have changed, the prior rejection of the site as a residential area should be carefully considered alongside the current proposal. Accommodating the need for housing is important, but area residents don't want to get slapped with extra hefty taxes for environmental cleanup.

In addition, residents of low- or moderate-income housing units are less likely to have multiple vehicles per family and therefore might need better access to shopping centers. Affordable housing benefits no one if families reject the units because their location is too inconvenient.

If constructed, Bryant Park Commons will undoubtedly have a large impact on both Summit and Springfield as well as any nearby county land, and the pros and cons of the plan should be carefully weighed by residents. The housing proposal is probably a good one, but those who will be most affected should pay attention to the Planning Board and make sure their decisions are in agreement with the concerns of residents. We'll be keeping our eyes and ears open.

### Our policy on letters and columns

The Echo Leader welcomes submissions from readers. Letters given to the editor or opinions pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

This opportunity also is open to all officers and employees of the borough and the County of Union.

The Echo Leader reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification.

For publication, all letters and essays must be received before 9 a.m. Monday at 1291 Stayvesant Ave., Union, NJ 07083.

The Echo Leader also accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is WENP2@juno.com.

Letters and guest columns must be received by 9 a.m. on Mondays to be considered for publication in Thursday's edition.

Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

**"In my country, the journalist is forbidden from seeking out, writing and speaking the truth."**

**Omar Bethouchet**  
Algerian newspaper editor  
1996

### Echo Leader

Published Weekly Since 1920,  
incorporating the Springfield Leader  
and Mountainside Echo

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Julie Cardillo, Seasonal Naturalist at the Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside, shows Repée Thompson the art of dyeing during a summer program.

Photo By Barbara Kekhjian

### Rain is natural, so accept it with a smile

Except for death, probably the biggest concern for most people is how the weekend weather is going to shape up.

When a person decides to go into weather forecasting for radio or television, the first thing they are taught is Weather Forecasting 101 is to learn to hedge. I'm sure the young inexperienced get to be considered "weather forecasters" and never get to say it will rain on a particular day. And never say, "it will rain over the weekend, even if the National Weather Bureau says it will." Your talent to hedge will come in very handy here.

You say, hedging? "There is a chance for showers late Saturday night. To make amends for suggesting such a catastrophe, the young forecaster can say the sun is expected to be shining all day Sunday with temperatures ranging from the high 80s to the low 90s to be expected." In this way, you can escape weather pessimism.

A rainy weekend is an anathema for many. Plans for the shore, outdoor barbecue, the trip to see the Yanks or Mets, are all washed off, and there's nothing on television or anything to read. Rain on a weekend can lead to fully arguments, screaming kids, screaming adults and out-and-out frustration. As in the musical "Cam-

erot," rain should be prohibited between sunup and sundown. Especially during weekends that feeling is magnified with the onslaught of spring and summer when the outdoors beckon for all to come out and play.

Now that we are in the throes of summer with lots more heat and humidity on the way, we seem to forget that hot days without rain can be hazardous to our health. We can get quite upset if the lack of rain causes communities such as Sunnyside to call for a Ban Ban watering car washing and swimming pool refilling when water supplies begin to dwindle and not a cloud is in sight. We seem to hold the belief that we will be saved in the nick of time. Around here, you say, hedging? "There is a chance for showers late Saturday night. To make amends for suggesting such a catastrophe, the young forecaster can say the sun is expected to be shining all day Sunday with temperatures ranging from the high 80s to the low 90s to be expected." In this

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way, you can escape weather pessimism.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Committees shouldn't rule the day

To the Editor:

This year marks the 65th anniversary of one of the world's worst genocides, the Great Famine of 1932-33 that ravaged the Soviet-occupied Ukraine. The famine was not a natural disaster, but a man-made atrocity that killed seven million men, women and children. It was a heinous use of food as a weapon, as this was used by Stalin and his henchmen to destroy a nation. The regime urged the exportation of foodstuffs in the possession of the rural population to destroy the nationally conscious segments of Ukrainian society, secure collectivization and support industrialization. It was basically a political famine, played at the top by the Kremlin.

Sixty-five years after the Great Famine, there are many who do not know about this tragic episode, which is analogous in Ukrainian history to the Holocaust in Jewish history and was, in fact, a precursor to other modern-day genocides such as the murder of 10,000 Polish army officers by the Soviet forces in the Katyn forest, Pol Pot's tyranny and mass murder, Nazi crimes against humanity, today's Rwanda.

In order to ensure that all genocides are not forgotten and that their lessons are understood by the present-day generation with the hope that we will not allow such horrors to happen again, New Jersey's Department of Education mandates that all New Jersey school districts include Holocaust education about all holocausts in World history, to be included in the district curriculum plan. Last year, there was some resistance to this state mandate in the South Orange-Meadow Brook school district.

I, therefore, am proud of the fact that our Roselle Park School District was one of the first in New Jersey to incorporate a comprehensive Holocaust curriculum in 1994 and continues to the present. It is up to parents to contact their particular school district's curriculum offices and ensure that relevant education about holocausts are indeed being taught.

Alexander J. Balaban  
Roselle Park

plants during our Nature sessions. One of the biggest highlights was on Thursday when a big storm came our way with lightning and thunder. I was a bit nervous at first, but when I saw how calm and collected all the leaders and counselors were, I knew that we were in good hands. After the storm cleared, we all went on a big puddle-jumping hike. My socks were so dirty, I had to throw them out when I got home, but my cheeks still hurt from smiling and laughing so hard!

The best part of camp was all of the friends I made. There were Michael B., Michael G., Michael P., Kevin, Noah, Patrick, Elliott, Joshua and Jacob in my cabin. My fellow den had Gerald, Ryan, Alex, Daniel, Chris, Kevin, Adam, Zach, Danny, Evan and Kevin. We shared a lot of laughs, sore muscles, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

The counselors were fantastic, too. They always made sure we knew all of the rules before we did anything and they always kept us acting like the Scouts we are. On Friday, we performed all of the songs and skits we learned during the week for the parents. We laughed real hard! Then we had one final hut and said farewell to our fellow Scouts. It was a sad moment, but the girls of the week will remain with me forever.

I can never thank the staff enough for the wonderful time I had and the friends I have made. This may have been the first time I went to Day Camp, but it certainly won't be the last. As a parent volunteer and new Cubmaster, I learned some wonderful lessons about boys and the fun they can have. I had 20 boys touch my soul at its deepest part—witnessed a staff that was as sharp as a razor. They performed like a well-oiled precision machine in times of peril and got down and dirty right alongside of 14 boys to ensure that they all had a great time.

I can only say that if your son is in Scouting, the Watchung Area Council Cub Scout Day Camp is a must for him to attend. And as far as parents are concerned, if you don't volunteer for this, you are missing a very special time in your son's life. Who knows, you might even feel like a kid again. I took a week vacation from work in hopes of spending some quality time with my son, I certainly succeeded in my hopes and I also ended up spending an absolutely fantastic week with special boys whom I will never forget.

Was it worth it? I can only say that it was the best vacation I have ever had and I am sure that next year will be even more fun!

Bill Brodin  
Roselle Park

#### Buildings need security

To the Editor:

As a result of your editorial regarding the vacant Sack building, I suggest that any commercial type building — size to be determined — that remains vacant for more than 30 days be required to maintain some kind of security system.

Joseph Chiappa

Mt. Pleasant

Concerned about an issue facing the governing body or Board of Education in your town? Is your street in disrepair? Our readers can use our Infosource 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. Callers can remain anonymous.

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We're asking

# How do you cope with the summer heat?



Lois Kaish



Richard Reid



Robert Max



Barbara Joy Goldstein

I've been staying in my air-conditioned car, or my house, or the mall — or I've been hanging out at the Springfield pool!"

"I've been sitting in my office in the heat conditioning. All the moving around back and forth is very tiring."

"Well, I go into a fitness center and sweat. So I'm cool before I start and after I'm done."

"I've been staying inside with the air conditioning or teaching the kids how to swim in the pool."

## Investigation reveals fraud and forgery operation

**Springfield**

The Springfield Police Department arrested a Brooklyn mail box holder on seven fraud and forgery-related charges Friday afternoon. Representatives of American Express called the detective bureau two days before, expressing concern about an order asking that \$8,000 in travelers checks be sent to a Springfield box by a cargo liner with a Union City address.

A subsequent investigation showed that the box was opened with a forged name and a counterfeit state driver's license. The actual box holder confirmed the true name and the police placed the box under surveillance.

Det. Judi Levenson saw a man empty the box, which held mail addressed to different names. The man, identified as Suraj Okeowo, 37, was found with 16 box addresses in New Jersey and also identification information on about 100 people.

Okeowo was charged with theft by deception, wrongful impersonation, forgery, mail fraud, tampering with public records, receiving stolen property and being an unlicensed driver. He is being held on \$600 bail. Both the U.S. Postal and Seafarers' service joined the investigation.

A Newark man was released on his own recognizance after being booked on theft by deception and credit card fraud charges July 22.

The man, identified as Alejandro Martinez, 20, has been accused of stealing about \$19,000 from a Springfield electronics store he worked at. The store's loss prevention officer said Martinez used identification numbers from 10 credit cards to receive refunds on non-existing merchandise. The incidents were cited between May 4 and June 12.

A Roselle driver was cited for improper lane changing and careless driving after rear-ending a Plainfield man's car while on Route 22 East July 22. The Mercury driver said a white truck cut him off in the left lane, causing him to collide with the Cadillac in the right lane near Edgem Road at about 8:30 a.m. A witness said no white truck was present, however.

Route 22 East was the site of another crash at about 7:38 a.m. that day. The driver of a Subaru wagon said the blacked-out white approaching Dundar Road, causing his car to run head-on into the concrete divider.

An office supply cashier was found to have allowed a patron to leave with merchandise by 7 p.m. July 22. The customer paid for a \$300 computer hard drive and two \$50 software packages for \$55, which the cashier kept.

A Springfield apartment dweller held a gathering July 23 and left his purse on the kitchen. One of her guests removed a cell phone and \$200 cash by 11:30 a.m. An Elizabeth man left his car open on Brown Street at about 6:30 a.m. the day, allowing someone to steal a \$175 tool box and a \$200 am/fm/cassette player.

A pair of parked and unoccupied vehicles were subjected to collisions July 21. A Dodge 300Z was struck by a Ford Taurus in a Route 22 West lot when the Ford driver lost control while putting his stalled car at about 7:05 p.m., a witness saw. A Chevrolet truck bearing a Summit license hit a parked Lexus 300 on a Morris Avenue lot and leave at about 9:45 p.m.

The driver of a Ford Explorer said she was making a left turn from Bear Hill Circle, one Mountain Avenue July 21 when the vehicle became uncontrollable and "locked down," a Knight of Columbus sign across the road at about 4:30 p.m.

A Union man who was driving a Route 22 West resources van told by

**POLICE BLOTTER**

another patrol that his bar was being broken into July 19. When he arrived on the scene, he saw two men leaving the lot in a black Lexus \$30K and his own car's passenger door handles damaged.

**Mountainside**

On July 23, a mid check on Route 22 fuel led to the arrest of a 19-year-old Mountclair man. At approximately 10 a.m. Ahmad Abdulla was stopped for a motor vehicle violation by Officer Thomas Norton and was found to be a suspended driver.

Mountainside police stopped another vehicle at the Route 22 road check July 23 at approximately 1 p.m. A Dover man, Boukhan Abdellah, 35, was stopped and found to have a suspended license. Cpl. Thomas Murphy placed Abdellah under arrest.

The road check produced another arrest in July 23, when a Jersey City man was stopped for an overdue inspection sticker. At approximately 10 a.m. Cpl. Thomas Murphy placed Dimitri Floyd, 23, under arrest when a check on the subject's driver's license revealed multiple outstanding warrants.

A 17-year-old Mountainside youth was placed under arrest after police observed the subject racing his vehicle on Route 22 East. The youth was arrested at approximately 10 a.m. on July 23 by Officer Donald Ambreg, who issued summaries for speeding, reckless driving and not wearing a seatbelt. An additional juvenile person summons was issued for speeding on a highway.

Mountainside police stopped a Plainfield man for improperly displaying his front license plate at approximately 8:30 a.m. July 23. Officer Andrew Huber placed the subject, David Tunnel, 19, under arrest when a check revealed he to be a suspended driver.

On July 23, Mountainside police stopped a Basking Ridge man after observing him make an unsafe lane change at approximately 8:30 p.m. Officer 22, Norton, arrested Edgar Moye, 22, when a check of the subject's registration revealed he was suspended along with his driver's license. The incident occurred on Route 22 West.

At approximately 8:30 on July 22, Officer Donald Ambreg stopped a Plainfield man for a motor vehicle violation while driving on Route 22 West. Ambreg arrested Charles Peter, 52, after a check revealed the subject's drivers license to be suspended.

On July 22, police stopped an Elizabeth man for having poor lights on his car as he drove on Route 22. Cpl. Thomas Murphy arrested Nestor Gómez, 19, when a check revealed the subject to be unlicensed and uninsured. The incident took place at approximately 8:30 p.m.

At approximately 8:30 on July 22, Officer Donald Ambreg stopped a Plainfield man for a motor vehicle violation while driving on Route 22 West. Ambreg arrested Charles Peter, 52, after a check revealed the subject's drivers license to be suspended.

On July 22, police stopped an Elizabeth man for having poor lights on his car as he drove on Route 22. Cpl. Thomas Murphy arrested Nestor Gómez, 19, when a check revealed the subject to be unlicensed and uninsured. The incident took place at approximately 8:30 p.m.

At approximately 10 a.m. on the 23rd, Mountainside Police stopped a Newark woman driving on Route 22 East with a broken windshield. Officer Andrew Huber arrested Cynthia Taylor, 30, after further investigation.

revealed her to be a suspended driver.

On July 21, Mountainside police observed a Newarkman soliciting on Route 22 East. Officer Andrew Huber arrested the man, Duwayne Russ, 33, after a computer check revealed an outstanding warrant for his arrest.

On July 19, a Plainfield man was

suspected for a motor vehicle/violation while driving on Route 22 West. A check of his driver's license revealed the subject, Shawn Small, 23, to be a suspended driver. Officer Thomas Norton arrested Small at approximately 10:30 a.m. and a search revealed a stolen cellular telephone in the subject's possession as well.

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1000 Broad Street

MADISON

1000 Broad Street

MILLBURN

1000 Broad Street

MOUNTAIN

1000 Broad Street

NEWARK

1000 Broad Street

## OBITUARIES

### W. O. Van Blarcom

William O. Van Blarcom, 77, of Mountaintop, a chief administrative officer died July 21 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Hawthorne, Mr. Van Blarcom lived in Mountaintop for 20 years. He worked for the state Division of Consumer Affairs, Newark, for 35 years and retired in 1991. Mr. Van Blarcom was a 1949 graduate of Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tenn., where he received a bachelor of arts degree in history and political science. Mr. Van Blarcom served in the Marine Corps during World War II. He was a member and treasurer of the Mountaintop Rotary Club for more than 20 years. Mr. Van Blarcom was an assistant treasurer of the Mountaintop Lions Club and a member of the American Legion, both Westfield, and a member of the Jersey Historical Society.

He was a Republican, summertime resident of Mountaintop for many years and former member of the Mountaintop Borough Council. Mr. Van Blarcom was a member of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists and the Genealogical Society of Westfield, Inc., 1997. Rev. Christine Whitman appointed him to the New Jersey Dept. of Utilization Review Council.

Surviving are his wife, Betty J.; a daughter, Carol V. Schaper; and three grandchildren.

### Ann T. Sherry

Anne L. Sherry, 83, formerly of Somerville, formerly of Mountaintop, died July 17 in the Louisville clinic of her son, Brian.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Sherry, who shers, lived in Gladbrook, Mass., Rutherford and Mountaintop before moving to Louisville in 1991. She received a degree in elementary education from Valley State College, Grand Forks, N.D., and she had been a member of the Mountaintop Senior Citizens Club.

Also surviving are another son, Robert, and two grandchildren.

### Nellie Luchio

Nellie Luchio, 92, of Mountaintop, formerly of Elizabeth and Linden, died July 23 in Elizabeth General Medical Center, Elizabeth.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Mrs. Luchio lived in Elizabeth and Linden before moving to Mountaintop. She became a widow in Elizabeth and moved to Mountaintop with her son, Michael Luchio, a restaurateur.

Surviving are a daughter, Natalie Luchio, a brother, Bernard Sherry, two sisters, Sally McGrath and Annie Zanardi, and a grandchild.

### Herman Horowitz

Herman Horowitz, 83, of Springfield, died July 22 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Newark, Mr. Horowitz lived in Paterson, West New York, before moving to Bayonne before buying a home in Springfield 40 years ago. He was a salesman with Miller Supply Co. in Edison for 10 years and retired six years ago. Father, Mr. Horowitz had worked in the same capacity for Bayonne Steel Products Co., Newark, for 35 years. He also worked for the Hudson County Board of Education for many years. Mr. Horowitz received a bachelor of arts degree in education from New York University. He served in the Army during World War II and was a former member of the Board of Directors of Temple Sha'ar Shalom, Springfield.

Surviving are his wife, Frieda, a daughter, Abess Nash; two sons, Joseph and Eugene, and two grandchildren.

### Barbara D. Jones

Barbara D. Jones, 66, of Parsippany, formerly of Summit, died July 1.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Jones, who

lived in Morristown Memorial Hospital, Morris Plains, Mrs. Jones moved to Parsippany in 1992. She was employed by Ciba-Geigy, Summit, for 35 years and retired in 1994.

Surviving are her husband, Joseph Sambataro; a daughter, Dawn Jones; and a grandchild.

### Eliza Grant

Eliza Grant, 69, of Vauxhall, formerly of Summit, died July 25 in the Hospital Center at Orange.

Born in Chester, S.C., Mrs. Grant lived in Summit before moving to Vauxhall. She was employed by Corby's Laundry, Summit.

Surviving are a daughter, Christine, two sons, Glenn A. and Gregory E., four grandchildren, and her companion, Elijah Cannon.

### Elisa M. Yannaccone

Elisa M. Yannaccone, 87, a lifelong resident of Summit, died July 25 in the Glenridge Nursing Home, New Providence.

Mrs. Yannaccone was a secretary for American Molded Co., Irvington, for 20 years before retiring. She was a 1931 graduate of Montclair State College. Miss Yannaccone was a member of the Rosary Society and the 60-Plus Club, both of St. Teresa of Avila Church, Summit.

Surviving are a brother, Edward Yannaccone, and two sisters, Mary Venetta and Josephine DeMuro.

### Margaret Alberts

Margaret Alberts, 62, of Roselle Park, formerly of Mountaintop, died July 24 at the home of her son, William Dalton in Kentwood.

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Alberts lived in Mountaintop before moving to Roselle Park 15 years ago. She was employed by Union College at the Plainfield campus for 10 years as a security guard and retired this year.



Masama Mboreny Nursery School in Moshi, Tanzania.

## Church provides construction funds

Faith Lutheran Church and Faith

Nursery School, a ministry of the church, have provided funding for the construction of a nursery school in Tanzania. The nursery school, located adjacent to the Masama Mboreny Lutheran Church, at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro,

The church and nursery school are in Moshi, a remote village in Tanzania with no electricity and

when food preparation is done outdoors, over open fires. Martha

Mboreny Lutheran Church is a mission partner of Faith Lutheran Church in a relationship that has

existed for nearly a decade.

As a mission partner, Faith pro-

vides funds each year to support the

Masama Mboreny parish. The

pastor, Reverend Lemmer Msase,

and his wife Apista, visited Faith

Lutheran Church and the church's

invitation in the spring of 1996.

During that visit, Apista, a teacher at Faith Nursery School, and it was at this time that Faith Lutheran learned the conditions of nursery education in Moshi. Price

to construction of the new nursery

school, building a small number of

children were receiving instruction in classes outdoors, with no instructional materials available.

Classes at the new Masama Mboreny Nursery School will begin this fall for three-, four- and five-year-old children with Faith Lutheran Church and Faith Nursery School providing ongoing programming support.

Both Faith Lutheran Church and Faith Nursery School are located in New Providence. For more information, call 973-645-1777.

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## Local ports field big demands

By Michelle Runge  
Staff Writer

The *Regina Maersk*, one of the world's largest ships, made a majestic appearance at the Port Newark-Elizabeth dock last Friday after coming through New York harbor, steaming past the Statue of Liberty and under the 151-foot-high arc of the Bayonne Bridge.

However, the fact that the super-ship barely made it under the Bayonne Bridge, even though it was not even half-full, does not bode well for the future of maritime shipping in the Port Newark-Bergen area.

The message sent by the *Regina* owners — Danish shipping company A/S Møller's "Odense," Denmark, Steel Shipyard — was unmistakable. Give us deeper channels in your ports of call or, we will take our business elsewhere — to someone who can accommodate us.

"We are looking to do business with whatever port can provide us with the depth that we need, whether that be here in Hall's Inlet [N.J.], Seattle, Norfolk, Va., Charleston, S.C., Long Beach [Calif.] or Tacoma, Wash.," said Ted Ruhly, Chairman of Maersk American subsidiary.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the state agency that manages harbor trade, is engaged in an intense competition to become the hub for the East Coast.

"People said the owner of the *Regina* is not as concerned about the employment of workers here as he is about keeping his ships in a transportation

hub that enables them to branch out. Part of the problem is size. The *Regina Maersk*, at equal length to three and a half football fields, the hull alone is as long as the Chrysler Building is tall.

The ship is capable of carrying 4,500 tractor-trailer-sized cargo containers, but last Friday only 20 percent were on deck because the *Regina* could not have navigated into the Port Newark channel fully loaded.

When loaded to capacity, the ship weighs 564,763 tons and sits 81 feet below the surface, too deep to enter the Port Newark-Bergen port. The ship has to come to port fully loaded in order to navigate the channels, then thread its way to Maersk and Seal Land Service — another shipping line — to leave Port Newark.

When Gov. Christie Whitman took the *Regina*, billed as the largest container ship ever to arrive in a North American port, she spoke about upgrading New Jersey's transportation infrastructure to support the state's thriving business economy.

Whitman stressed that the efforts of her administration, in coordination with the Port Authority and the State of New York, to dredge the port of Elizabeth and Newark have helped to preserve the jobs of New Jerseyans who work in the port economy.

"Our plan tackles one of the chief challenges we face today — making port accessible to the industry that employs tens of thousands of New Jersey workers," she said after her tour. The *Regina Maersk* and other ships like her will come calling to our

ports who are depending on the ships to come into port so they can make their living such as the gas stations that service the trucks or the mechanics that work on the ships.

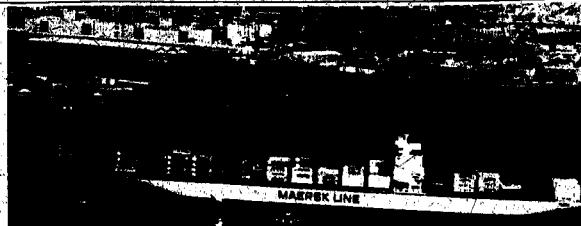
"It affects truckers, importers and people from other cities besides Elizabeth who come here to work at the port. I believe that Port Newark-Elizabeth is trying to submit bids to become the hub for Sea Land Service line and Maersk," said Ocasio.

The two companies are two of the three major terminal operators at Port Newark-Bergen and the centerpiece of a bi-state economy that supports \$19 million in economic activity.

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*Photo Courtesy Of Maersk Line*

The *Regina Maersk* — at 1,043 feet long, the largest cargo ship to visit the United States — steams past Lady Liberty into New York Harbor on her way to Port Newark to unload 492 truck-size containers of toys, Christmas decorations, furniture and clothing.

ports and we must be equipped to welcome them."

The Governor said that the State's Container Portway Project, a high-priority endeavor which will strengthen access to port facilities, is currently underway. Under that plan, voters would decide in November whether to phase-in over three years a four-cent-per-gallon hike in the gas-tax to increase revenues in the Transportation Trust Fund to help fund transportation infrastructure improvements.

Whitman's transportation plan, called New Jersey First, includes

dredging the Port of New York and New Jersey to accommodate jumbo ships and upgrading truck corridors within the northern seaport.

Whitman said that the number of containers handled through the port is expected to triple by the year 2020 and double again by 2040, creating 170,000 new maritime-related jobs in New Jersey.

"We are committed to ensuring that our port will be capable of handling these ships and speeding their cargo to inland customers," Whitman said. "And we are committed to keeping these jobs in New Jersey."

Whitman said she's committed to keeping Maersk and Seal Land shipping lines in the Port of New York and New Jersey.

"We understand that improving access is vital to the long-term success of all the facilities at the port," said Whitman.

"Container dredging will keep New Jersey's front door wide open to international trade — meeting present and future demand."

*This article is the first in a series.*

### PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD  
COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.  
ORDINANCE NO. 93-12 AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, N.J., CHAPTER 319, PARKING OF VEHICLES, STREET AND CHAPTER 318, FEES, TAXES AND CHARGES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE WAIVER AND APPROVAL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD IN THE COUNTY OF UNION AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1998.

Kathleen D. Wiesenthal, P.D.  
U732 ECL July 30, 1998 (59 pp.)

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