



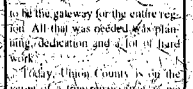
Union County

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County serves as a gateway to the region

Five years ago, Union County stood at a critical crossroads in its future. The builders of a modern economy and an aging transportation infrastructure threatened to cripple the county as a viable economic base for the tri-state region.

But the members of the Union County Alliance, the legislator and legislative leaders know better. Union County's geographic location at its waterways, highways and airways, give the county potential



to be the gateway for the entire region. All that was needed was planning, education and a lot of hard work.

Today, Union County is on the verge of a new millennium. With the blueprint in place for the county's rebirth, we're nearing the building stage. I'm proud to support projects designed to ease congestion, enhance mobility, and make Union County a key player in the 21st century's global economy. And that's a region of which I'm proud.

Union County is the heart of essential services, the state's economic engine. We're building a network of roads, bridges and highways, and the fast-growing airports and water ports. Our county is poised to become a successful economic development in the years ahead. But there's no sense in profiting economic development in the past if you can't get there.

That's why the strategic investments developed by the Alliance to mitigate congestion and enhance mobility are so important. When fully realized, they will serve our public transit as a key infrastructure strategy to improve traffic, reduce congestion, respond to clean air concerns and — perhaps most significantly — serve as a catalyst for jobs and economic development.

That's why the Legislature passed legislation allowing the formation of a Transportation Development District. This district along Routes 1&9 will ensure that the Port Authority, the Metrolink and companies like Truax, RTUs and URTA will pay their fair share of future infrastructure needs. There is also the Metro-Link-Union project that I supported from the beginning. Let me think, which will bring significant economic growth to the region along with regional transportation improvements.

Knowing that moving people from their cars to mass transit is critical to the Alliance's strategy, I'm happy to note that Transportation Commissioner John Hays is pleased with the progress of Union County's \$380,000 study on the feasibility of the regional rail link connecting the county's west.

See GATEWAY, Page B2

Towns still cleaning after Labor Day storms

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer

Union County is still digging out from under Labor Day's thunderstorms and tornadoes and probably will be for some time.

The thunderstorms hit 14 towns in Union County — Berkeley Heights, Summit Plains, Plainfield, Roselle, Roselle Park, Linden, Westfield, Clark, Rahway, Fairwood, Westfield, Cranford, Elizabeth and Union — and spawned two tornadoes, one in Rahway and one in Plainfield.

"I've been working for the county close to 25 years and we've never had a storm of this magnitude," said Frank Dany of the Union County Department of Public Works.

Dany said it is "much too early" to estimate the damage from the storm.

Cleaning the mess, though, is costing the county \$2,000 per day, he said. Dany has 70 of the DPW's 100 employees working on the cleanup, but it will still take months to completely clean.

About 100 county roads were closed after the storm, although some of these closures were only a block or two long.

"The county's main problem was cleaning trees that had been knocked over."

"We have literally hundreds of trees down or missing," said Dany.

"Cleaning these trees is actually a major undertaking," said Dany.

That's because a fallen branch or uprooted tree leaves a hole in the ground that needs to be refilled, uprooted trees also rip up streets and sidewalks.

The storm also knocked out electrical and other services in Union County's towns.

A total of 78,700 PSE&G customers lost power during the Labor Day storms. These were spread throughout the state but, according to PSE&G spokesperson Bill DeWitt, were concentrated in Union and Middlesex counties.

"As of Saturday, there were still 2,000 customers without power throughout the state, according to PSE&G spokesperson Paul Rosenberg.

The county DPW did provide some aid to municipal DPWs when the power went out. According to Dany, the DPWs in Westfield, Fairwood and Scotch Plains all lost power to their facilities during the power outage. Dany said their vehicles couldn't refuel if they refueled instead at county facilities.

A number of things slowed down PSE&G repair work, besides the sheer volume of damage, according to Man Rieger, business performance leader for PSE&G.

"When the storm hit, we knew it was going to be massive in its destruction," he said.

PSE&G had "lookouts" evaluating damage hours after the storm. These were followed by about 400 crews, who made repairs throughout the state.

A total of 150 of these were either from Connecticut, an electrical utility serving South Jersey and neighboring states, or from contractors such as S&M Electric and Atlantic City Electric.

"According to Rieger, these outside crews were unfamiliar with PSE&G's procedures, there was a learning curve involved."

The types of electrical lines damaged also slowed restoration of power to homes.

"There were 486 sites throughout the state with primary damage," said Rieger. Primary damage means damage to PSE&G's primary lines — high-voltage lines that supply power from power stations to transformers. It is the transformers that step down the voltage and send it to customers.

These higher voltage lines required greater care to repair, according to Rieger. They were PSE&G's first priority.

"Our main concern is to get our primary infrastructure up and then we work on houses."

Cable television and telephone services were also knocked out during the storm. But the loss here was not as severe.

About 20,000 of Comcast's television's 200,000 New Jersey customers lost cable service after the storm, according to spokesperson Robert Smith. Most of these were caused either by downed "service drops" — the lines stretching between utility poles and buildings — or by power outages.

The number was "down to a few hundred customers" scattered throughout the north by power outages, on Sept. 11, said Smith. Most of these remaining customers were to have service restored this week.

Bell Atlantic did not have the number of its customers without telephones available.

"For what we can get at, we're at normal," said Bell Atlantic spokesperson John Honan. Obviously, there may be a wide place we can get at or we've got to get the all-clear on the electric side."

Both Comcast and Bell Atlantic have their repair crews available through Sept. 17, the day of the storm.

Bell Atlantic had about 600 technicians on duty after the storm, normally it has only 250 to 350 crews.

The most common problem for Bell Atlantic was the most common problem for Comcast — downed service drops or "drop wires," as Bell Atlantic calls these wires.

This was also the most common problem for Comcast.

The fiber optic distribution system was not damaged, said Smith. But there were about 1,500 service drops down.

Smith did not know how many crews Comcast had making repairs.

"I can't say a hundred," he said. "Fixing the service drops, that's a major effort."

By Donald DiFrancesco

Point of View

to be the gateway for the entire region. All that was needed was planning, education and a lot of hard work.

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See GATEWAY, Page B2

Safety and security



Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, left, and Rev. James Reischer of the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth will present an interfaith seminar on the safety and security of sacred places on Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the church's Parish Hall, 42 Broad St., Elizabeth. All religious leaders are invited to attend. Anyone wishing to attend can contact the church at (908) 353-1618.

Freeholders approve bonding to purchase school computers

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer

What some computers in your school. The county government may pay for them if you do.

During its Sept. 10 meeting, the Union County Board of Freeholders approved the issuance of \$3 million in county bonds. The bonds will pay for, after Oct. 2009, a county program that will help pay for computers, teacher training and Internet access in Union County schools.

"I'm very excited that the Board supported passage of the Access 2000 Bond issue," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan, the sponsor of the bonds. "It was one of our initiatives. We've had a lot of requests from superintendents and it goes a long way toward solving a computer problem."

According to Access 2000 Director Susan Pepper, nearly all the money — \$2,224,800 — will be given directly

to 23 school districts in Union County in the form of matching grants. These are the first of the program.

These grants aren't completely new. The school districts will have to match the grants with an amount of local money before they get the grants.

Each district will get \$30 per student with this phase one money. This is an annual that the program's steering committee, made up of school superintendents, hammered out.

"Working with the superintendents that seemed to be the most equitable way to distribute the funds," said Pepper.

These following districts will receive the following grants:

- Berkeley Heights, with 2,281 full-time students, will get \$64,530.
- Clark, with 2,071 students, will get \$62,130.
- Cranford, with 1,355 students, will get \$40,650.

- Elizabeth, with 17,695 students, will get \$527,850.
- Fairwood, with 365 students, will get \$10,950.
- Hillsdale, with 2,354 students, will get \$70,620.
- Kennilworth, with 973 students, will get \$27,390.
- Linden, with 4,023 students, will get \$121,670.
- Mountainside, with 562 students, will get \$16,860.
- New Providence, with 17,911 students, will get \$527,330.
- Plainfield, with 7,822 students, will get \$234,660.
- Rahway, with 3,240 students, will get \$94,200.
- Roselle, with 2,491 students, will get \$74,730.
- Roselle Park, with 1,800 students, will get \$54,000.
- The Scotch Plains-Fairwood district, with 1,134 students, will get \$34,020.

See BOND BONDS, Page B2

Homeless count presents problem for Union County

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer

The economy is still going strong, shops on Wall Street notwithstanding.

But homelessness is still a problem in Union County.

There is no accurate count of the number of homeless people in Union County. But, whatever the number, it's more than homeless shelters can handle.

"We don't know," said Tom Verdon of the county's Department of Human Services of the number of homeless persons in the county.

According to Verdon, there are 110 emergency shelter beds and 123 transitional housing beds in Union County. The need for these beds, according to a report issued several years ago, outstrips the number of beds in the county.

According to Denise Mayo Moore,

director of Housing and Training at Interfaith Council, in Fairford, there are a number of things that complicate such a count.

The people who are counted are usually the ones who come into shelters.

The Interfaith Council served 213 people last year. The Elizabeth Center lives to House the Homeless serves more than 3,000 with its transitional housing and walk-in center. The Coalition does not actually house the homeless.

But there are other people at different levels of being homeless. These people don't live on the street, instead they live in abandoned buildings or are "doubled and tripled," with two or three families living in a single-family home.

There are a number of reasons why people become homeless, Lazines,

notes to be homeless.

According to Moore, people's welfare sometimes don't understand the changes made by the state are resistant to change.

The result is that people lose their welfare and are unable to keep up with rent payments.

Welfare reform is also affecting the shelters.

"I wanted to scream when, nine months ago, Governor Christine Whitman and government officials were saying homelessness was decreasing because the shelters weren't full," said Driscoll-Kelly.

The reason the shelters aren't full she said, stems from the fact that many organizations charge homeless people for shelter. Interfaith Council is the only exception in Union County.

If people can't get money, they can't pay for shelter, which means

there are fewer people in shelters.

The homeless list serves 5 county shelters.

According to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, there are 8.5 million American homeless, a 50 percent increase from 1994. Many are living with "worst case" mental health issues. These are people who aren't homeless, but are very close to being kicked out of their homes because they can't pay the rent.

These are low-income households who earn less than 50 percent of the median income in the areas they live in and either pay more than half of their incomes for rent, live in substandard housing, or both.

These households comprise 12.5 million children, almost 15 million senior citizens.

See GROUPS, Page B2

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15th ANNUAL 22 CAR DEALERSHIP CHALLENGE 2001

Groups targeting housing for homeless

(Continued from Page B1) citizens and up to 1.4 million disabled adults. All of them qualify for housing aid but can't get it because HUD doesn't have enough money to help them.

An improved economy hasn't helped these people, in fact, their numbers have grown by 400,000 from 1991 to 1995, the last year when figures were available. There were also 205,000 more poor working families needing housing assistance in 1995 than 1991.

The problem is spreading into the suburbs as well. The number of suburban households with critical housing needs increased by 120,000 from 1991 to 1995.

Despite this, low rent housing has decreased.

According to HUD, the number of government-subsidized low rent housing units available has dropped by 900,000 between 1993 and 1995.

Our report shows that a growing

number of men and women who serve the fast food we eat, who clean the offices where we work, who watch our children in daycare centers and who perform many other low-wage jobs aren't paid enough to house their families in safe and decent conditions," said Andrew Cuomo, HUD secretary.

"Without housing assistance, they live on the edge of homelessness, struggling desperately each month just to put food on the table and to keep a roof over their families' heads."

More said Interfaith Council is seeing more homeless people. Veggies is something similar.

"I guess there's more need for transitional and permanent housing, and Veggies is something similar."

Transitional housing is set for a halfway house — a step between being homeless and getting a permanent home. During that time, people get counseling to resolve whatever

problems made them homeless. "You want to move people, from emergency to transitional to permanent situations," said Veroni.

But the numbers of the homeless aren't as significant as Moore's. They are decreasing, but the face of the homeless person is changing, she said. The average age of the homeless person is nine.

There are more homeless children, partly because there aren't as many extended-families to take care of them.

Drugs are a factor, too. Interfaith Council has had several children whose mothers couldn't take care of them because of their addiction.

There is a network of shelters throughout Union County for the homeless. Most, however, operate in one or two specific groups.

These include Interfaith Council, which serves families, the Salvation Army, the Coalition for the Homeless,

in Cranford, and Bridgewater House, which specializes in serving mentally ill homeless people.

Even the battered women's shelter that is run by the YWCA of Eastern Union County will take in families and women. But that is done only if the shelter has been notified they are referred to the shelter by another organization.

An emergency shelter is one thing. The step after that is another. At least five groups — the YWCA, the Coalition and Interfaith Council — provide that next step.

At the YWCA, this is mostly counseling. Interfaith, on the other hand, provides transitional and permanent housing for homeless people.

This housing is not given away and is not available for rent, said Moore, but is used to help homeless people get back into permanent housing.

Interfaith also has counseling and a job bank, which includes job counseling and resume writing.

\$3-M bonds approved for purchase of computers

(Continued from Page B1)

• Springfield, with 1,630 students, will get \$400,000.

• Summit, with 2,830 students, will get \$850,000.

• Union, with 7,450 students, will get \$220,000.

• Westfield, with 5,210 students, will get \$1,810,000.

• Winfield Park, with 120 students, will get \$10,000, the minimum grant amount.

Three other special school districts — the Educational Service Commission, Morris Union Junior Commission, and the Union County Vocational-Technical School — will also get the minimum grant of \$10,000. These districts draw their students from across Union County. The money will be used to pay for

books, Morris Union Junior Commission, and the Union County Vocational-Technical School — will also get the minimum grant of \$10,000. These districts draw their students from across Union County. The money will be used to pay for

computer networking and wiring classrooms, training teachers to use computers, and Internet services.

The money is to be used in programs consistent with five-year technology plans filed by each district.

"Basically, this money is accelerating their plans," said Peppi.

Gateway to region can begin in Union

(Continued from Page B1) from towns to NJEA, the Toys 'R Us Mall and the New Jersey Gardens Mall. Pending completion of the study, the Department of Transportation hopes to begin the negotiating process with the county's private partner, Raytheon, under the Public-Private Partnership Law. This is a great news for county residents and improves the Alliance's vision of a cross-county rail line, one step closer to reality.

While moving people efficiently from one end of the county to the other is one priority of the Alliance, another priority is establishing our port as a vital gateway to international trade and the world economy. The easy movement of goods through our harbor is the linchpin of Union County's strategic plan for success in the next century. That's why I sponsored and supported the \$300 million dredging and break pier 1906 to increase the pier's 200,000 tons and \$30 billion in economic activity.

The pier project will also benefit from a new Portway project designed to relieve truck traffic. This public-private partnership would separate trucks and car traffic, and would make use of existing, underutilized roads through brownfield areas.

Collectively, the dredging projects

the Portway, the emergency high rail line, the Orion project, and other initiatives such as the Intermodal Rail, Bright Plan and the Gateway Station Rail project will transform Union County into the Gateway corridor that the Alliance envisioned several years ago.

Union County is indeed undergoing a renaissance that will propel us into the next century. I'm proud to have worked closely with the Alliance for the past several years, and I look forward to getting the job done in the near future to build a Gateway to the region right here in Union County.

Senate President Donald DiFrancesco represents the 22nd Legislative District, which includes parts of Union County.

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Back to School

Computer courses are taught in Spanish

Learning the computer can be challenging for even native American speakers of English, but for persons whose primary language is Spanish the task might seem overwhelming. At Rahway Intermediate School, Spanish computer courses traditionally have been conducted in English. To alleviate this dilemma, Union County College will offer seven sections of two-credit computer courses this fall, all conducted in Spanish. Students can take these courses individually, or apply them toward a Computer Software Specialist certificate, equipping them with a special credential that could enhance their employability in the U.S.

The college will conduct all of its computer courses in Spanish at the Elizabeth Campus.

Classes 40 for Windows will provide instructions in how to build a simple spreadsheet. Students will learn to enter labels, values and formulas. They will format numbers and copy formulas, and then progress to such advanced features as complex formulas, inserting and deleting, absolute references, filling, windows and printing tricks. Part 1 will be held from 8:30-8:40 p.m. on Oct. 23 through Nov. 4, while Part 2 will be held at the same time from Nov. 13 through Dec. 4.

Microsoft Word 6.0 for Windows 3.1, Part 2 will deal with more advanced aspects of an introductory course in Word. Students will practice document creation and editing, page and character formatting, tables,

merging, and spell and grammar check. The college will conduct Part 2 from 9 to 11:40 a.m. on Saturdays, Dec. 5 through 19.

To qualify for a Computer Software Specialist certificate, the college requires students to take "Keyboarding I: Introduction to Windows 95," "Microsoft Word 6.0 for Windows 3.1," and "Excel 5.0 for Windows 3.1, Part 1." The college will conduct two sections of these courses in Spanish, all held on Saturdays, with a time choice of either 9 to 11:30 a.m. or 1 to 3:40 p.m.

"Introduction to Computers" is a foundation computer technology course. Students will learn the basics of the computer environment and gain exposure to a variety of software

packages. The course will be held from Sept. 26 through Oct. 10.

"Introduction to Windows 95" will teach students important basic concepts and provide them with information on how Microsoft Windows 95 is used in practice. The course will be held from Oct. 17 through 31.

"Microsoft Word 6.0 for Windows 3.1, Part 1" is an introductory version of the Part 2 course described above. The course will be held from Nov. 7 through 21.

"Excel 5.0 for Windows 3.1, Part 1" will teach students how to design spreadsheets for numerical reporting, budgeting and forecasting. The course will be held from Dec. 5 through 19.

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Creative Problem Solving & Decision Making - Every day you encounter problems that can keep you from getting your work done effectively and efficiently. Your problems may be with a particular task or they may involve other people: customers, vendors, co-workers, or even your boss.

Date: Thursdays 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19
Time: 8:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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Date: Thursday 10/15
Time: 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Business on the Internet - Practical business uses for the Internet and Web page development. How to find selling opportunities and make money on the Internet without a home page.

Date: Thursday 10/15
Time: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Home Page Development - It's so easy to create your own home page and have a presence on the Internet. If you have the right tools, this course provides all the basics for creating Web pages. It's hands-on, so you can actually begin putting your home page together in class.

Date: Thursday 10/29
Time: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Internet Marketing & Business Operations - This seminar is a demonstration-packed session that explores the art of selling your products on the Internet. We will look at how successful companies conduct their business on-line.

Date: Thursday 10/29
Time: 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

Introduction to Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) - We provide the fundamentals of this must-have business technology. The seminar covers everything the small-businessperson needs to know to get started with EDI. It even includes an exercise that will let you experience how to select the components you'll need for EDI.

Date: Thursday 11/19
Time: 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

EDI Implementation: Technical Issues - We'll cover how to make your EDI system do more to make your business operate better, faster and at less cost. Plus, we'll get into the details of mapping, planning an EDI system, setting up a trading partner, financial EDI, security, begin discussing integration and even talk a little about Trading Partner Agreements.

Date: Thursday 11/19
Time: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Laying the Groundwork for Electronic Commerce - Learn about hardware & software requirements of Electronic Commerce and the fundamentals of capturing data once and using it many times throughout your various business processes.

Date: Thursday 12/10
Time: 9 a.m. to 12 Noon

Electronic Commerce Survival Skills - Steps to turn paper-based files into electronic files or incompatible computer files into lean, mean, streamlined information you may access, share and use right from your desk top.

Date: Thursday 12/10
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Museum Guide

The Museum Guide is compiled by Worrall Community Newspapers. It is a list of museums and historic sites in Union County and the surrounding area. To add to the list, send the relevant information to Worrall Community Newspapers at 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, NJ 07083.

- **Lillooee Farmhouse, Museum & Farmstead**, 41 Horseshoe Road, Berkeley Heights. Open 2-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month from April through December. By appointment. Call (908) 484-6069.
- **Dr. William Rorback Plantation**, 2000 Westfield Rd., 400 Mt. Airy Hill Road, Clark. Open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month from April through December. Call (908) 381-3081.
- **Crane-Phelps House Museum**, 142 Union Ave. N.J. 07081. Open 2-4 p.m. Sundays from September through June. By appointment. Call (908) 276-0008.
- **Belcher-Olden Mansion**, 104 W. Jersey St., Elizabeth. By appointment only. Call (908) 351-2501.
- **Boxwood Hall**, 107 1/2 W. Jersey St., Elizabeth. Open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Friday. Call (201) 648-4549.
- **Woodruff House/Jason Stone Museum**, 115 Central St., Hillside. Open 2-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month. By appointment. Call (908) 352-9272.
- **Deacon Andrew Holford House**, 1500 Springfield Plaza, 1585 Route 202, Mountaintop. By appointment only. Call (908) 352-6008.
- **Trailside Nature and Science Center**, 425 New River Road, Mountaintop. Call (908) 359-2720.
- **The Saltbox Museum**, 1390 Springfield Ave., New Providence. Open 2 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. By appointment. Call (908) 245-1776.
- **Drake House Museum**, 602 W. Main St., Parsippany. Open 2-4 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. Call (908) 788-8831.
- **Merchant and Drapers Tavern**, 1500 Springfield Ave., Newark. By appointment only. Call (908) 388-0241.
- **African Park House**, 1001 Westfield Ave., Westfield. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. Call (908) 233-2165.
- **Rattle Park Museum**, 4 Westfield Ave., Westfield. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. Call (908) 233-2165.
- **Osborn Carriage House**, 1840 Highland Ave., Scotch Plains. Open 2-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. Call (908) 333-2165.
- **The Cannonball House**, 128 Morris Ave., Springfield. By appointment only. Call (908) 379-2634.
- **Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Public Library**, 400 Mountain Ave., Springfield. Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. Call (908) 476-2920.
- **Benjamin Carter House**, 90 Baker Parkway, Summit. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, and 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. By appointment. Call (908) 276-0008.
- **Reynolds Road**, 400 Mountain Ave., Summit. Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Call (908) 276-0008.
- **Caldwell Parsonage**, 309 Caldwell Ave., Union. Open 2-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month. By appointment. Call (908) 687-8279.
- **Miller-Cry House Museum**, 114 Mountain Ave., Westfield. Open 2-4 p.m. on Sundays from September through June and 2-4 p.m. on Saturdays in January and February. By appointment. Call (908) 232-1776.
- **Dispersed Village of Belleville-Glenville Park**. By appointment only. Call (908) 272-9117.

Stepping Out

(Continued from Page 6)

TRIPS

NY CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS in a trip to Philadelphia will sponsor a trip to Philadelphia Museum of Art to see "Delaware: The Late Work, Pt. 2" Sept. 24-26. This is a part from "Delaware: The Art in New Providence" at 7-45 p.m. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

VARIETY

ITALIAN FEST will be held tomorrow at 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at noon in Union City.

Union City is located on Stuyvesant Avenue between Morris Avenue and Westfield Road in Union City.

BEST FRIEND Dog and Animal Adoption will hold a flea market/bazaar fundraiser to benefit the homeless on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Cranford.

The church is located on Springfield Avenue in Cranford. For information, call (908) 448-7270 or (908) 654-6661.

HAYRIDES are scheduled on Saturday, and on Sept. 25, Oct. 9, 16, 23, and Nov. 7 at Tradate Nature and Science Center in Mountaintop.

Rides are \$3 for county residents.

\$2 for out-of-county. Trailer is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountaintop. For information, call (908) 189-3670.

NJ BRFD All Breed Horse Show will take place on Saturday at Horse Park of N.J. in Allentown, NJ.

Literature reflects the world at large

This will be a difficult column, so I ask the reader to hang on, and make the necessary leaps with me. It is suggested to me by a re-reading of John Steinbeck's epic book, "Cannery Row," written about life among the struggling and impoverished in Monterey, California in 1945. Steinbeck writes that "Men are hunted by lives in a world ruled by tigers with alacrity."

It is where the sea reflects the sky and mountains, or heaven and earth, "men hunger for love," he says, "respectful, thoughtful. As we get older, or the desire for one or the other, or both, intensifies. Friends or lovers seldom do not satisfy or stir the commitment that is based on the fact that because they are tigers, plunging ahead toward their own gratification, they are oblivious."

In John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath," the tragedy of interdependence among the American West, a sense of kindness and the edge of the sea of despair. These travelers looking for a better life to satisfy their hunger are replaced these days by tourists in recreation vehicles and an indisputable sense of the good life in their contrived life.

Oddly, seven words different movies this summer have reached out to amuse and inform us about our present plight. "The Truman Show" presents television as the great force of our culture. In "The Spanish Prisoner" David Mamet suggests as that things are not what they seem. Steven Spielberg's "Out of Africa" shows us the civility under the wilderness and the unruly below that Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" and "The Thin Red Line" the little moments of heroism and betrayal in greatly revered and in unknown.

On The Arts

By Jon Plaut

events during war. And "The Opposite of Sex" and "Everyone Loves Mary" quite marvelously make us laugh but loud about sexual foibles and ludicrous stirrings.

Steinbeck says in a brief prologue, "Cannery Row" fits the subject's good and evil, found in the same character. And that is a common approach for many writers, but few others deal with the essential loneliness of each of us, whether for the moment we are angel or devil. In these films, however, whether it be the young corporate leader, the swap shop idealist, the loudest gangster, the American army captain, the Russian common soldier, the cynic-learned septon, or the quartet of sinners now pursuing their idealization of the beautiful American woman, these characters seek to gratify their longing in the face of the unmitigated danger presented by the tiger of life.

While "The Paths of Glory" may lead only to the grave, it is worth contemplating what will happen when "The dumb terror" will rise and judge the world" to satisfy his hunger in the face of an imperfect and unkindly fate. In an increasingly ungodlike world, our exercise of free will is apparently both bogus and bare — in the fundamentalist Islamic world, in Russia or even in the White House, the days of our life are few. We might be wondering what our and trephidation what will happen next.

Jon Plaut is a resident of Summit.

Rahway students win national piano recital

Three piano students from Union County Conservatory, Rahway, were first place winners in the 1998-99 competition sponsored by the Piano Teachers' Society of America. They are pupils of Elaine Dolnichek, Malaska. All three performed recently in the winner's recital at Carnegie Hall, N.Y.C.

Thomas Patrick, age 17, of Roselle, who in the fall of 1996, Heritage Category, which featured Scandinavian composers like Sibelius performed "May Night" by Selma Palander, Jonathan Tang, age 15, of Island was 2nd winner in the Popular Piano Styles Competition for his performance of "Yankee Doodle" Danzig from the Broadway musical "Gypsy" by M. B. Gorecki. M. Cohen Patrick Santiago, age 17, also of Rahway, won in the Mixed & All category a new competition this year which combined the two last titles. Patrick was judged for his excellence in his solo work as well as his piano performance. He performed the piece "Candide" by Isaac Albeniz in the Carnegie Hall Recital, and this artwork as a testament to his performance. Two years ago, he was preparing to enter the Piano Teachers Society Performance Competition when he injured his right arm playing basketball. He had to give up the piano for a while to work on his right arm. He was back in the studio in the third week and played it at Carnegie Hall.

The teacher of the three students, Christine Dolnichek, who is a pianist and a vocal artist, received a 1998 Honorary Doctorate from Rutgers. She has been the recipient of numerous awards from the Piano Teachers Society of America and the recipient of national recognition in the Piano Teachers Society of America. A graduate of Rutgers University, she also holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Westminster Choir College and has been instrumental in the field of Piano and Paper. She is a past recipient of a New Jersey State Citation in the Arts Fellowship in Musical Arts - Mixed Media, for her dedication to teaching piano and art. She is currently working on a large scale mural on the Rahway Centennial Center. Funding for this project has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Commission on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Jacquie McCarthy, Editor
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 Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109, Union, New Jersey 07083.

Barber shop chorus reaches out to kids

The Rahway Valley Chapter of Westfield, N.J., Youth Outreach Program is available to all children in local schools, according to the Youth Outreach Coordinator, J. Joseph Weiss of the Westfield. To find out more information about the program, call (908) 488-5248.

The Youth Outreach program is designed to encourage and support positive role models in the community. The program is a joint effort of the Atlantic District of the Boy Scouts of the United States of America and the Westfield, N.J., Chapter of the Boy Scouts of the United States of America.

It is the responsibility of the group to help young people who are at an integral part of the self-education process. The program provides a safe and fun environment for the youth to learn and grow. The program is a joint effort of the Atlantic District of the Boy Scouts of the United States of America and the Westfield, N.J., Chapter of the Boy Scouts of the United States of America.

Membership must have been received by the Westfield, N.J., National Office of the Boy Scouts of the United States of America.

Harmony Exposition has been designated by MESA as a national youth group people singing despite decreasing music budgets in the public schools. This program provides young men with some new positive ideas about life and the future. It is healthy and enjoyable. It is a great way to spend time with friends and have fun. It is a great way to spend time with friends and have fun. It is a great way to spend time with friends and have fun.

Orchestra announces record-breaking sales

NJ Symphony Orchestra is proud to announce record-breaking subscription sales for its upcoming 1998-99 season. As of Aug. 3, NISO had sold over 17,000 subscriptions to its concert series, resulting in a 25% increase in sales. These figures represent the highest sales in the orchestra's history. Last season's final record mark of 17,000 subscribers resulting in \$20 million in sales. The NISO will continue selling subscriptions well into the 1998-99 season and anticipate breaking the \$7 million mark for the first time in its 76-year history.

The continued artistic success of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra under Music Director Zdenek Malac, coupled with the success of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, has led to a lot of people in the Orchestra, said Lawrence Tamburo, executive director of the NISO. "This is a tribute to the musicians of the NISO and Music Director Zdenek Malac who returned in the most competitive music market in the US." He added: "Over \$1.5 million of the NISO's sales have been sold in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark where the NISO will perform at least 28 classical and five pops subscription performances. The NISO recently added a new four concert subscription series to help meet the growing audience demand for HIPAC. The NISO is also announcing a successful return to the newly renovated Lincoln War Memorial in Princeton.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's 1998-99 season under the direction of Maestro Malac, will feature appearances by some of the leading names in classical music, including violinists Itzhak Perlman and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, pianists Emanuel Ax, Andrii Watts and Vladimir Feltsman, as well as appearances by the Westminister Choir. Featured works include Beethoven's Symphony No. 1 and 7, Mahler's Symphony No. 9, Dvorak's Symphony No. 8, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, Prokofiev's "Scythian Suite" and "The Flight Suite." The season will also feature an exciting mid-winter festival focusing on Richard Wagner's "Ring Cycle."

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HEALTHY LIVING

Hospital presents achievement award at gala

Overlook Hospital will honor Dr. Richard W. Brenner of New Jersey with the Overlook Hospital Lifetime Achievement Award for Medical Service in recognition of his 21 years of dedicated service. The hospital presents the award to Dr. Brenner at its "Great Performances" Gala on Saturday at NJ Performing Arts Center. After graduating from Princeton University in 1974 and from Columbia University in 1976, Dr. Brenner trained in general, vascular and heart and thoracic surgery at the Roosevelt Hospital in New York City, and in general pediatrics and pediatric cardiovascular surgery at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. During 10 years of that time, he served as a captain in the United States Air Force and as chief of surgery at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dr. Brenner arrived in Summit in 1997 to join the Summit Medical Group and simultaneously to be the chief of the Overlook Hospital Medical Staff as an attending surgeon, specializing in general pediatrics, thoracic and vascular surgery.

Aside from maintaining his practices in Summit and Morrisville, Dr. Brenner is currently a clinical professor of surgery at his alma mater, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. For 25 years, third- and fourth-year Columbia surgical residents have been providing high quality care every day and every night at Overlook under Dr. Brenner's supervision. He is the director of Surgical Education, director of the Surgical Inservice Care Unit, and chairman of the Vascular and Thoracic Surgical Sections at Overlook, as well as director of the Noninvasive Vascular Laboratory of the Summit Medical Group. In addition, he is the senior

member of the Summit Medical Group Pediatric Surgery Division, which is by far the most experienced and most highly regarded pediatric surgery group in New Jersey.

"After 21 years as a physician, Dr. Brenner says he would not only still be "on duty" but that the continuity of strongly recruitment medicine as a career to young people because of its rewarding in a personal and meaningful way.

Dr. Brenner and his wife, Judith, have two children, Joshua and John, and two grandchildren, Alexander and Kevin.

For more information about Overlook Hospital's "Great Performances" Gala on Sept. 19 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, contact the Overlook Hospital Foundation at (908) 523-2840.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Overlook Hospital's new Maternity Center. The 18-month, \$5 million construction project will expand the hospital's labor and delivery unit to 10 beds and will also create two new, single private 20 private rooms, one the Mother-Baby suite. In addition to the 1800 sq. ft. Overlook has an affiliated Diagnostic Center, a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Looking for the new Maternity Center is expected to be a \$6 million unit from Frank and Miriam Walsh of "Walsh of Township



Dr. Richard W. Brenner will receive the Overlook Hospital Lifetime Achievement Award for Medical Service during the hospital's "Great Performances" Gala on Saturday at the NJ Performing Arts Center.

center the Vascular Center, the state-of-the-art interventional center program, a neuroscience center, a cardiovascular laboratory, a comprehensive rehabilitation medicine program, Chest Pain Center, and a new heart and lung transplant center in the Union Valley. Dr. Brenner, chief of the greatest number of APRs in the state and the Vascular Center, Wound Care Center and a Medicare-certified home care and hospice program.

Safety training provided to Union children, seniors

Union Hospital, in a partnership with the Union Township Fire Department, Hantswick Union and the Union Township Municipal Alliance, has formed a program to promote safe and healthy kids and seniors. This new program will provide the preparation and safety training for children and seniors in the surrounding community assisted by local firefighters.

Union Hospital, Hantswick Union and the Union Township Municipal Alliance will provide training for firefighters, consisting of alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention, recognition of problems such as drug and alcohol abuse, violence and sign-off of the DARE program. Union Hospital is providing use of the Child for Kids and Family, located at 978A Stuyvesant Ave. in Union for these workshops.

The fire department has embarked upon supervised visits to 2 summer playgrounds currently being utilized by the Township of Hantswick Fire Department. During these visits, firefighters interact with the children and discuss fire safety and barbecue safety, as well as speak on the avoidance of drugs and alcohol. The firefighters will also visit senior centers to discuss fire safety issues, alcohol abuse and related topics.

"Need a Friend? See a Firefighter" provides families with important safety information that could save their lives," said Paul Pennington, coordinator of Hantswick Union, a substance abuse coalition which provides prevention services to the community. "We are placing ourselves in the most vulnerable, children, children and seniors."

Firefighters will also participate in a two-day training sponsored event, as well as the Festival of the Green, Hantswick Union, annual event. Daily training program and the Non-Misconduct Night 1988 information about this program, call Greg Mullen at (908) 851-8924.

Union Hospital, located at 1000 Challenging Hill Road, is an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System.

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Discover Historic Chester

There's 'something for everyone' in Historic Chester

By Bill Van Sant
Staff Writer

Charming antique shops, a cornucopia of farm-grown produce, store upon store of collectibles and curios, and atop the hill in the middle of town, a homestyle family restaurant serving the best turkey dinners around.

Sounds like a Norman Rockwell painting of middle America? Well it is, but instead of traveling to the nation's heartland or into the distant past, all this and more can be found less than an hour away in Chester.

Tucked away in the rolling hills of western New Jersey, Chester is a town reinventing itself. Not that long ago, business was on the decline, but through the efforts of local merchants, Chester is once again the place to be for day trippers throughout the region. Chief among the town's attractions is the vast array of unique specialty shops, drawing bargain hunters and discriminating buyers from around the New York metropolitan area who would rather spend their time — and their dollars — in a quaint country setting than in a crowded, impersonal mall.

From a vantage point in the center of town, Louise Blaine has seen a lot of changes in the community since she bought Larison's Turkey Farm Restaurant 25 years ago. In part, she attributes the slump in commerce from which Chester is recovering to the departure of the Lions Club, long a staple in the community.

"I think they left about four years ago, but before that they had been here for many, many years," said Blaine in the honeyed ambience of the dining room. When the Lions Club would hold events, such as the Chester Flea Market, "people would come from all over, even from other states, and it brought a lot of business into town."

However, the town has survived the loss of the Lions and is once again on the rise.

"There definitely has been a boom," she said. "If you look on all the side streets, there's a store going in. Chester never had that before. I think people are getting to know Chester and more people are coming into town all the time so more businesses are springing up all over."

Larison's was opened in 1945 by Willis and Ruth Larison as a

continued



Bunny time at Atstode Farms



Chester town's interior view




Shopping at Larison's Gift Shop



Stacks of papers at Atstode Farms




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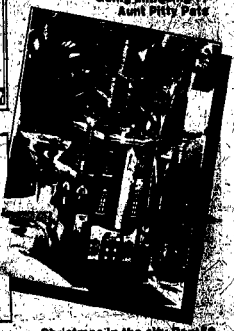
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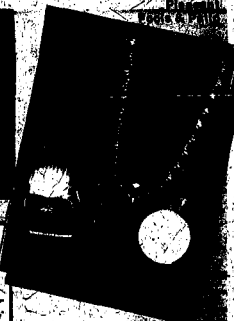
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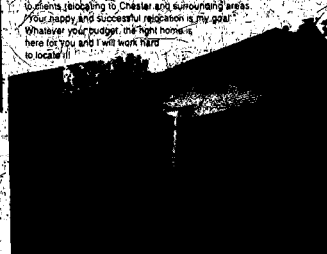
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Chester's finest

"We'll have the gallery upstairs set up with all the artists' bears and it should be really exciting," enthuses Fishner. "It's the first time for people to see these pieces, first-time limited editions. Just some wonderful bears with six very established bear artists."

While Main Street Mercantile caters to a clientele seeking one-of-a-kind toys, Stan Kalemba hopes to satisfy customers' taste in finer things, namely jewelry. Kalemba, the owner of Clao Bella, specializes in hand-crafted jewelry using Italian gold; many pieces are originals. "We do a lot of custom work," he says. "Anything we can make, we can make in 14-karat, 18-karat, platinum, whatever metal people like. All they really have to do is bring a sketch, if they can sketch it, we can probably make it." Kalemba has been in Chester for 26 1/2 years after having been in Morristown for 10 years. In that short time, he's observed a trend in the people flocking to the community.

"Families come up, church groups come up. The apple orchards are ripe, so there's apple-picking," said Kalemba. And there are orchards aplenty to be found in these rolling hills. Right down Main Street is Alstede's Farm, owned and operated by Kurt Alstede. While farming is a great attraction to the area, it also makes great strides in maintaining the almost-rural atmosphere of Chester.

"One of the key things is that people in this state overwhelmingly support farmland preservation every time there's a bond referendum by a two-thirds to a three-quarters majority," said Alstede. "An important component of preserving agriculture is preserving the business end of agriculture more than the land."

"One of the beautiful things about coming out and purchasing at a local farm is that not only are you getting a far superior product, not only are you getting the benefit of

being in an area that's beautiful, you're also supporting a business that supports open space. So as long as there's business, so long as we're in business and can make a living and can support the employees that work for us, we're going to maintain open space. We have no reason to sell the farms if we're able to make a living."

In business for 16 years, Alstede Farms is a family-run operation maintaining more than 11,000 acres.

"My family farmed in Germany and I just went back to the roots, but in America instead," Alstede added.

"The big picture is the benefit of going directly to the farm," he continued, "is it goes right to the people who are truly preserving open space."

And this is just the beginning. Visitors to Chester can roam the charming streets and by-ways for hours, with new treasures for every taste to be found at every turn.

Through its selection of antique pieces, The Jewelry Box offers a unique look into the past. However, for those whose tastes run in a more original or contemporary vein, the staff will design or create one-of-a-kind items.

For children — or the merely young at heart — A World of Toys offers a unique atmosphere with an eclectic array of toys for all ages, including craft kits, building sets, dolls, plush stuffed animals, games and puzzles.

While perusing the antique shops, visitors can find 2,000 square feet of antiques, collectibles, furniture and glassware at The Beauty of Civilization. The shop also features vintage clothing, and estate and costume jewelry.

One of Chester's more unique stores is the Stained Glass Boutique, a shop featuring fine kaleidoscopes and filled with a variety of American crafts, blown glass, stained glass, jewelry, chimes, ceramics and more. For those looking to remodel an old home, the boutique specializes in antique windows.

Voted the best diner-restaurant in Northwest New Jersey, the Chester Hills Diner Restaurant offers breakfast, lunch, dinner and late-night snacks.

While day-trippers have proven to be the lifeblood of Chester, the community has also realized growth in the number of people choosing to move to the scenic locale. RE/MAX Retown showcases many area homes, and agent Anna Curtin brings more than 15 years of experience in the Chester area. And for those in a townhouse mood, the Chesterown development highlights easy living in a country setting.

Whether talking about day-trippers or new residents, Chester offers just about everything, just at a more relaxed pace and with a better view.

"The charm of Chester is that it's only a half-hour, an hour away from all the metropolitan areas and there's something for everybody," commented Alstede. "People are attracted to (Chester) because they associate the atmosphere with quality of life."

"It's literally gorgeous, the trees are all orange this time of year," said Kalemba. "This is the country (people) will come to when they want to take a ride to get out of the city."

1998 DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

Apple Festival - October 17 & 18

Halloween Kid's Parade - October 30 (rain or shine)

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 23

Late Nights in Chester

(many stores open Thursdays & Fridays until 9:00)

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 23

Holiday Weekend Celebrations

DECEMBER 4-6 Open House Weekend

FEBRUARY 1999

Cabin Fever - February 20 & 21

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Fall Farm Festival

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FROM NORTHEASTERN N.J.

Rt. 80 W. Exit 27A, Rt. 206 S. (approx. 7 mi.) to Chester, Left onto Rt. 24 (Main Street).

FROM NORTHWESTERN N.J. and PENNSYLVANIA

Rt. 80 E. to Exit 27, Rt. 206 S. (approx. 7 mi.) to Chester, Left onto Rt. 24 (Main Street) or Rt. 78 E. to Rt. 287 Exit 30, Rt. 287 N. (approx. 1 mi.) to Rt. 206, Rt. 206 N. (approx. 9 mi.) to Chester.

Right onto Rt. 24 (Main Street).

FROM CENTRAL/SOUTHERN N.J.

G.S.P. to Exit 127, Rt. 287 N. to Rt. 206, Rt. 206 N. (approx. 9 mi.) to Chester.

Right onto Rt. 24 (Main Street).

Historic Chester

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Real estate information...
Clark
Anthony Abbate sold property at 266 Westfield Ave. for \$110,000 on May 14.

Real estate information...
Kensington
Angela R. Richies sold property at 320 Colgate Drive for \$125,000 on May 18.

Real estate information...
Roselle Park
Frederick and Ann M. Beveridge sold property at 247 Sheridan Ave. for \$140,000 on May 4.

Real estate information...
Springfield
Elizabeth Davis sold property at 92 Kipling Ave. for \$175,000 on May 11.

Real estate information...
Union
Howard and Thekla Kronberg sold property at 1187 Carlton Terrace for \$178,000 on April 27.

Real estate information...
Union
William and Sandra Lee sold property at 2779 Carol Road for \$179,000 on May 11.

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Union
Howard and Thekla Kronberg sold property at 1187 Carlton Terrace for \$178,000 on April 27.

Real estate information...
Union
William and Sandra Lee sold property at 2779 Carol Road for \$179,000 on May 11.

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