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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1999 - SECTION B

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The heat of the Sunshine Law

Some of the heat being generated this summer has nothing to do with the weather. Ron Ginsberg, owner of supermarkets in Union County, is engaging in a firefight with Crawford officials. Speaking at last week's public portion at the end of a long meeting, Ginsberg hit a nerve concerning his inquiring over the availability of executive session minutes of past meetings of the Township Committee.

I don't believe Ginsberg is asking idle questions. Ginsberg periodically surfaces in battles when the subject of new supermarkets, a.k.a. competition, arises. His relationship with the Republican majority after the recent controversial South Avenue battle for a new supermarket, is none too cozy. In the case of the Township Attorney Albert Stender, it is actually a little nasty.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

Ginsberg described his total rebuff after inquiring of municipal officials as to which past executive session minutes no longer needed to be private and could be released. When Ginsberg asked the township attorney about his recourse to the prosecutor or Attorney General, Stender curtly told him he didn't provide legal advice to citizens. Technically correct, but also an inappropriate response to Ginsberg's query.

This little night tug of war centered on the Open Public Meeting Act, also known as the Sunshine Law. It governs information aspects of township government. The state statute says the "Public has a right to know." It adds, "Lack of information can lessen public confidence in governmental decisions and impair the public's function of holding officials accountable."

Recently under pressure from editorial writers, greater access to records has become a hot topic in Trenton.

Ginsberg's salvo was over a relatively obscure section of the law which requires executive session minutes to be made "temporarily available" when the need for privacy under the act no longer exists.

While his request was vague in terms of a subject matter date, Ginsberg sure put a chill of silence in the usually chatty township officials, who deferred to Stender. But after all is said and done, the township officials have to vote to release the minutes.

But a confession is in order. After the Stender and Ginsberg dance, I started thinking about my own experience in executive sessions representing public agencies. Mostly, executive meetings are boring and hardly the subject of great moment. The general reason for executive sessions is to consider subjects like pending litigation, contracts or real estate issues. I can't remember an occasion when I drafted a resolution so that minutes were made available. You usually just forget.

Candidly, I am more interested in the recent very public decision of the Appellate Division where Crawford's win on a large tax appeal by Elberton Development Co. was overturned and "remanded for a further review of the record which properly allocates the burden of proof of the excess land issue to the taxing authority." No one talked about this result either, which could affect a lot of pocket books.

But Ginsberg has a point on executive minutes. Like him or not, the appearance of concealment should not happen. He has the right to know when the minutes will be available. And he doesn't need Stender's legal opinion to assert that right.

A resident of Crawford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Plan for county parks unveiled

By Mark Hrywna

County officials have prioritized the needs of all 26 county parks and put them into a 10-year, \$46-million open space and recreation master plan, a draft of which was presented to freeholders last week.

The recreation master plan, the second phase of the county's overall master plan, was compiled over a 14-month period at a cost of \$89,000.

The plan prioritizes the needs, on an annual basis, of each park with costs split almost evenly between repairing existing facilities and construction of new facilities.

"This is not in any way intended to become a document we put on the shelf, but one we follow annually," said Jeff Botterger of T&M Associates, the engineering firm hired to work with the county on its master plan. A public hearing on the recreation master plan will take place in the future.

"We're looking for a great deal of input," Botterger said. Officials hope to complete the master plan within one month, or no later than August. While there is no need for formal action by

the freeholders, said Charles Sigmund, director of the Division of Parks and Recreation, it will help have a resolution supporting the plan by August, when funds are sought from the state.

The open space and recreation element of the county's master plan was "prepared to help guide the county well into the 21st century with an ambitious yet practical program of new recreation development and improvements to existing park resources, plus modest parkland acquisition."

"For the first time in the five years I've been here, we have a plan," Freeholder Vice Chairman Dan Sullivan. The freeholder board must now "focus on how to implement, how to fund, how to change over the years. It's up to us as policy makers to implement this."

"We think we're in the home stretch. The goal has been to prepare a very practical, pragmatic guide," Roeker said. The plan is not binding. County Manager Michael Lapolla said, until there is a commitment of dollars. Year one of the plan is

whenever the county chooses to implement the plan.

"We knew there would be fierce competition to be in year one. An effort was made to spread around the work," Sigmund said. "We tried to level the load and move around sections of golf and park systems to present some equity," Sigmund said, and the plan is "front-loaded," as it should be.

Consultants visited county parks and assessed the physical condition of roads, buildings, etc. and took an inventory of all the parks.

User surveys were distributed throughout the parks last summer and individual municipal recreation directors were interviewed. An open forum last summer at the Trailside Center in Mountainside featured a dozen user groups. Many of the responses from all areas were "overwhelmingly complimentary of county parks."

The master plan has six general recommendations:

- Rehabilitate existing recreation facilities.
- Build new recreation facilities to meet public needs.

Open space master plan

	Repairs	New	Total
Year 1	\$4,080,500	\$3,331,000	\$7,391,500
Year 2	\$4,852,000	\$2,904,000	\$7,556,000
Year 3	\$2,743,000	\$4,720,000	\$7,463,000
Year 4	\$2,272,000	\$6,520,000	\$8,792,000
Year 5	\$2,720,500	\$1,426,000	\$4,146,500
Year 6	\$2,269,500	\$951,500	\$3,221,000
Year 7	\$1,371,000	\$1,215,000	\$2,586,000
Year 8	\$1,489,000	\$1,305,000	\$2,794,000
Year 9	\$159,500	\$1,145,000	\$1,304,500
Year 10	\$645,000	\$222,500	\$867,500
Total	\$22,382,000	\$23,740,000	\$46,122,000

The Union County Open Space and Recreation Master Plan recommends repairs to existing facilities and construction of new facilities. Year 1 will be whenever the Board of Chosen Freeholders decides to implement the plan.

- Identify and acquire additional parkland.
 - Reorganize the parks and recreation agency.
 - Increase park-staffing and maintenance facilities.
 - Prepare and update individual park master plans.
- How will the county come up with the \$46 million? The plan made three recommendations in terms of funding sources:
- Green Acres program grants and loans.
 - Open space trust fund.
- See PLAN, Page B2

Plan suggests acquiring land

By Mark Hrywna

With less than 200 acres of developable land remaining in Union County, the open space and recreation master plan presented to freeholders last week recommended acquiring nearly 100 additional acres for the park system.

The county has month-old portions of the recommended sites: a 10-acre parcel adjacent to Kean University which will provide soccer, Little League fields and playgrounds. County Manager Michael Lapolla said his recommendation to freeholders will be to possibly acquire the utility- or government-owned parcels.

The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan - SCORP - sets minimum balanced use goals for public open-space and recreation land at each level of government. The balanced land use method is used by the state Green Acres program to estimate the need for the minimum amount of land which should be dedicated to public recreation and open space use at various levels of government.

The state recommends 7 percent of the developed and the developable area at the county level be dedicated to open space and recreation. With 5,576 acres within its park system, Union County boasts a rate of 8.4 percent of public open space in Union County. See COUNTY, Page B2

UNION COUNTY MASTER PLAN OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT

RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION AND/OR PROTECTION SITES			
Site Name/Location	Approx. Acreage	Key Assets	Park Type/Uses
Donato Property, Union Avenue, Watchung, Scotch Plains Townships	10.0	Includes both banks of Green Brook, could link Watchung Reservation to Scotch Plains Playground, includes woodland, pond, flood plain	RA, CA
Duke Holt Property, Glenside Avenue, Summit	5.34	Surrounded by Watchung Reservation, topography not conducive to development, construction would be detrimental to natural environment.	CA
Sackwell Property, near Providence Road, Watchung Borough	2.62	Including one bank of Green Brook, could link Watchung Reservation and Scotch Plains Playground, only effective if acquired with Donato property.	RA, CA
NJDOT Parcels, Glenside Avenue and Road, Berkeley Heights	14.53	Excess undeveloped properties from NJDOT's Route 78 construction, undeveloped, adjacent to the Watchung Reservation.	CA
Summit Road Parcels, Summit Rd. Mountainside	4.7+/-	Undeveloped forested hill slope attached to the Watchung Reservation, improve Reservation access.	CA
New Jersey American Parcel, Glenside Avenue, Summit	39.00	Forested land use for pumping stations. A conservation easement may be established for aquifer protection.	CA
Union Township, Kean University	10.00	Adjacent to Kean University. This property is under contract for acquisition by the county. Will provide recreation fields including soccer, Little League fields, playgrounds. (Acquisition closed)	RA
Sayre House, Old Coach Road, Springfield	6.05	Property is surrounded on three sides by Hidden Valley Park and on fourth side by Route 78; includes a springfed bass pond and 18th century farmhouse; horse barn; NJCF holds conservation easement on property; would make a great historical living farm.	RA, CA
Maguire Property, Old Coach Road, Springfield	0.98	Property is surrounded by Sayre House property within Hidden Valley Park; borders the springfed bass pond; would add to historical living farm.	RA, CA
Capobianco Property, Summit Avenue, Berkeley Heights	0.35	Open grassed parcel bordering Passaic River Park; would straighten irregular border and provide wider buffering between residential neighborhood and the Passaic River.	CA
TOTAL	93.57		

(RA = Recreation Area, CA = Conservation Area)
Source: Union County Open Space and Recreation Master Plan

Freeholders likely will tackle trust fund next year

By Mark Hrywna

With little more than one month before the deadline to place it on November's ballot, an open space trust fund for Union County likely will not be put before voters until 2000 at the earliest. Although a majority of the Board of Chosen Freeholders is in favor of a trust fund, the timing is not right.

Freeholder Chairman Nicholas Santora said the county has been working on its open space and recreation master plan; an important first step. He said it was best not to move forward on a referendum until the freeholders have a plan to present to the public.

The trust fund will be "seriously considered in the future."

An open space trust fund is an additional tax on property owners dedicated to open space initiatives. Money from a trust fund can be used for open space preservation, land-use preservation, park maintenance, historical preservation and debt service relating to "parks and recreation," excluding maintenance.

Most trust funds in New Jersey are between \$0.01 and \$0.03 per \$100 of assessed value with some as high as \$0.04. Steve Jandoli, principal programmer for the state's Green Acres program, made presentations before the freeholders and their Parks and Recreation Advisory Board earlier this

year. He estimated additional revenues of \$3.2 million based on an additional \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value which would mean anywhere from another \$13 to \$48 per year for property owners in the county, depending on the town.

A survey of county parks users as part of the open space and recreation master plan revealed that 74 percent of 190 respondents supported a trust fund while 15 percent did not. Eleven percent did not answer.

Thirty-two percent of those surveyed said they were willing to spend up to \$10 per year on a trust fund while 30 percent said they would be willing to spend up to \$20 per year. Freeholder Linda Stender expressed her approval of an open space trust fund for Union County, however, not before there is a plan on how to spend the money and the benefits of taking such actions. "We'll move the process along as next year 'I'll be ready.' It will happen. If we have anything to do with it, we will start earlier," Freeholder Alexander Mirabella said. He said the amount of time left to get a trust fund on the ballot this year would not allow the board to "have due diligence to prepare information for the public." The deadline for a governing body to place a referendum on November's ballot is Aug. 20. Although there are few counties without an open space trust fund, one in Union County will come in due

time, he said. "We've been trying to do look for open space" for several years, said Mirabella, who believes the county is "ahead of the curve" when it comes to that subject.

Citizens should be afforded the right to vote on a trust fund, Freeholder Donald Gonçalves said. He also expects more substantial dialogue on the topic next year.

With county-initiated such as Project Pocket Parks the past two years, the freeholders "don't necessarily have to feel guilty about what we've done" in the open space arena, Gon-

calves said. Pocket Parks grants are awarded to municipalities to improve their parks and recreation facilities.

An open space initiative could aid flooding problems with the acquisition of land for flood retention and detention basins, said Jimmy Lynch, president of the Railway River Association.

A trust fund, he said, also could be leveraged to get money from the federal government to aid flooding. "It's something the board should take a look at."

The county's open space and recreation master plan recommends the creation of a trust fund as a means to help raise \$46 million recommended in repairs and new park facilities. The master plan also suggests the acquisition of more than 93 acres of land to add to the county's 5,574-acre park system.

Sixteen of New Jersey's 21 counties and almost 100 municipalities have an open space trust fund. No towns in Union County have a trust fund although Scotch Plains will have one on the ballot in November.

Survey says citizens pleased with parks

By Mark Hrywna

Part of the 14-month process of drafting the open space and recreation master plan was compiling input from the public as well as municipal recreation directors. Questionnaires were distributed last summer at all county parks.

One hundred and ninety park users responded to the questionnaire. Respondents were between the ages of 13 and 65-plus with the largest age category between 31 and 40.

While respondents were more likely to use county parks on weekends, weekday use was still significant, especially at county facilities with golf and playgrounds, according to the master plan. Many were "overwhelmingly complimentary" of the county parks.

The questionnaire listed five priorities asking users to rank in terms of importance. Upgrading and maintenance of existing facilities was most important followed by

parkland acquisition for environmental protection. The development of facilities within existing parks was next in importance and acquisition of land for recreation facilities followed. Last in priority was providing supervised activities through the recreation division.

More than 53 percent of respondents were in favor allocating funding for cultural and historic preservation projects within county parks such as historic buildings while 26 percent were not. Twenty-one percent did not answer.

Areas cited for preservation were the Oak Ridge Golf Club in Clark, the Deserted Village of Helix in the Watchung Reservation and the Echo Lake water wheel. Almost 20 percent of users said they were safety, security and maintenance problems at county parks, the plan stated. Maintenance issues included cleanliness and availability of restrooms, or the conditions and accessibility of the park's waterways. Safety issues were generally security concerns at dusk or after dark within the parks, golf courses and public restrooms.

Plan makes recommendations

(Continued from page B1) Increase in the annual operating budget.

The operating budget for the Division of Parks and Recreation the past two years has been approximately \$8 million.

The 1999 Union County capital budget appropriated approximately \$2.4 million in total park improvements and nearly \$1 million in equip-

ment for the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Specifically demand came about for more skating according to Burger. For the past several years there has been support for more in-line skating facilities, he said.

The plan takes into account conversions or additional facilities in locations where appropriate. For instance, half the clay tennis courts at Warman-

accommodate in-line skating.

Another possibility is mountain biking trails within the Landall's Quarry in Springfield near Route 78.

Lights are a key, Stigmund said, but the question becomes a geographical issue if houses are nearby. Lighted fields are popular, he said, and sometimes the cost of lighting usage can be passed on through fees. Currently, lights at county parks go dark at 10:45 p.m. and parks close at 11 p.m.

County rate better than most

(Continued from Page B1) Municipalities in Union County, however, have 1.5 percent of public open space within the county, approximately half of the 3 percent recommended at the municipal level.

To reach the recommended 3 percent municipal goal, another 993 acres would need to be acquired. Most municipalities, Jeff Bottinger said, are in a deficit in this area.

Bottinger of T&M Associates, the engineering firm working with the

county on its open space and recreation master plan, said Union County's SCORP rate ranks near the top with other counties statewide.

Although the county surpasses the state's recommended rate of open space, 35 percent of the park system is the 2,000-acre Waichung Reservation.

"A vast majority remains in private status. We're never going to develop up there," Lepolla said.

If the county expands its playing fields, Frosholer Linda Siender said,

it may have to look at land already developed.

Less than 10 acres of federal and state land in Union County is dedicated to public recreation and open space use, according to the master plan.

The master plan stated that county parks are critical for meeting the minimum balanced land use goal for local recreation since Union County municipalities fall short of the recommended level.

DOT commissioner promises study

By Philip Sean Curran Staff Writer

Updating a state highway that runs through Union County is a priority of the Whitman administration, said the commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

The department plans to look at state highways 50 years and older. James Weinstein said. But, he said, there is no quick fix for Route 22 and other state highways.

"We're at a point in the history of our transportation infrastructure on the highway side, we're going back and looking at our old-state highways," Weinstein said. "And as things have developed, that updating will be a difficult thing to do because you don't have a clean slate anymore. The reality is, you take Route 22 for instance, you've got a flourishing, vibrant business community along there that's challenged by the congestion of the roadways, but also that's part of what made it successful."

While his speech was short on specifics, Weinstein said his department had heard the cries of Union County

all the way in Trenton. Lawmakers from Union County made sure money was put in the governor's budget to commission a traffic study of Route 22. Although Gov. Christine Whitman line-itemmed the provision out of her budget, the department said it would move ahead with the study as part of its program, to the delight of state Assemblyman Joel Weingarten, R-21.

The Republican was pleased to learn that a study would take place. He did not know when the study would start, but said the DOT would get back to him.

"We've just got to be sure that we restructure that road," Weingarten said. Asked how, he replied that ways included looking at signage and signalization.

Weinstein spoke June 30 on a wide range of topics; virtually all deal in some way with Union County. He was the featured speaker at the monthly meeting of the Employer Legislative Committee of Union County. The audience included members of the

business, political and academic communities.

"This commissioner has brought a dramatic focus of the transportation department to the issues that are critical to Union County," said Henry Ross, president of the Union County Alliance.

"He has focused on Union County in a way that no other prior transportation commissioner has. And what we have enjoyed is an incredibly good relationship between the leadership of Union County and this transportation commissioner. We are all benefiting from it and we're going to continue to benefit from it."

Weinstein spoke jointly of the light rail project and Port Elizabeth, calling them key to the prosperity of New Jersey. "Some of the signature projects that are shaping not just tomorrow but in the next century in this state are in this county," the commissioner said.

He touched on other issues: a \$500-million bond referendum needs voter approval later this year; Half the money is slated to repair bridges in the state's 21 counties. Union County could receive as much as \$20 million.

"We think this will go a long way to repair the most challenged bridges," he said. Those bridges needing repair would be less kept by the state.

The other \$250 million will go toward transportation projects; among them is the soon-to-be built train station in Union Township.

He added that, starting Dec. 1, the Garden State Parkway would have EZ-Pass. There would be a phase-in period, as the system would start at the north end of the parkway, at Hillside, and move south every two weeks.

EZ-Pass is a system that lets drivers pay tolls without fumbling for money; drivers hold up a device that automatically deducts money from an account whenever they go through a toll booth.

'My County' award winner



John Boyle of New Providence, second from right, along with his parents John, left, and Pat, right, were welcomed by Gov. Christine Whitman as the Union County winner of the 'My County' poster contest. The posters are to depict what county government does for them, specific to their county. The County Officers Association of New Jersey sponsors the poster contest to all fourth-graders in New Jersey.

COUNTY NEWS

Literacy Volunteers to begin summer workshops

Literacy Volunteers of America-Union County Affiliate announces its new 1999 summer workshop programs for the training of tutors.

The first English as a Second Language workshop will be at the Elizabeth Library's Main Branch. Registration will be Tuesday at 6 p.m. Classes start Tuesday and are July 20, 27, Aug. 3, 10 and 17 from 6 to 9 p.m.

There will be another English as a Second Language workshop at the Union Library with registration Monday at 10 a.m. Classes start Monday and continue July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There also will be a basic literacy workshop at the Rahway Public Library. Registration will be July 27 at 9 a.m. Classes begin July 27 and continue Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 from 9 a.m. to noon.

There is a materials fee of \$15 to cover supplies. For more information or to register for any of the above workshops call (908) 490-0333.

Gardeners accepting applications for program

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County is accepting applications for its 1999-2000 Master Gardener program.

The program gives people with an interest in horticulture an opportunity to become more educated in a variety of horticultural topics and share their expertise with county residents through volunteer programs sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. The program is open to all Union County residents without regard to race, sex, color, national origin, disability or handicap, or age.

Master Gardeners complete a course that involves attending weekly horticulture and entomology lectures taught by Extension faculty and staff from Rutgers University. They also are trained to answer telephone inquiries, diagnose plant problems and identify insect pests.

The students, as a team, complete a landscaping project for a Union County park; an integrated pest management assignment for their home; and a garden hotline training workbook.

The lectures will be Fridays from 10 a.m. until noon at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County Auditorium, 300 North Avenue East, Westfield. Classes will begin Sept. 24 and run through May 2000. Applications for the Master Gardener Program can be obtained by calling Rutgers Cooperative Extension at (908) 634-9834.

Forty applicants will be accepted into the program. Applicants must be returned by Aug. 15. Upon acceptance to the program, a \$135 tuition fee is due. Tuition covers the cost of a textbook, notebook and other class materials.

Students in the Master Gardener Program are committed to at least one year of volunteer service to Rutgers Cooperative Extension within a three-year period.

Master-Gardeners provide county residents with information on gardening and maintaining their property through a Speakers' Bureau, a Garden Hotline service at (908) 634-9832 and garden tours. The volunteers also provide horticultural therapy programs for disabled adults and youth.

Contact Us Care in need of volunteers

Contact Us Care Inc., the 24-hour telephone helpline for crisis interven-

tion service, urgently needs volunteers to staff its phone lines. The Union County-based nonprofit agency will hold its next volunteer training class beginning Sept. 22 at the First Baptist Church in Westfield. The weekly class will be from 7 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 8.

These volunteers offer the gift of listening to callers who want to find answers, relieve their pain and stress and get help. Contact callers are lonely, depressed or in crisis. They are dealing with traumas such as: unemployment, suicide, alcoholism; or a loved one's death. They need to know someone cares.

Just like our callers, Contact Us Care volunteers come from all walks of life. After attending the 50 hour training course, Contact volunteers are able to actively listen and deal with a broad range of human needs. Volunteers must approach their work in an open and non-judgmental way.

For more information or to register for the training, call Contact Us Care at (908) 889-4140.

Support group sponsors roundtable discussion

Members of the Union County chapter of FEMALE - Formerly Employed Mothers At the Leading Edge - meet July 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford, to sponsor a roundtable discussion, "The Ten Worst Things My In-Laws Or Parents Ever Said Or Did." All current and prospective members are invited to attend.

The Union County Chapter offers a variety of activities including: evening discussion groups, presentations with outside speakers, men's night out, book discussion and weekly daytime play gatherings.

Blood drives scheduled to battle shortage

The following blood drives, sponsored by the Greater Union County and Plainfield Area Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Blood Center of New Jersey, will be during the month of July:

- Friday, July 2, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Jersey 5, Elizabeth, 1 to 6:30 p.m.
 - Friday, St. Michael's, 40 Alden St., Clark, 3 to 8:30 p.m.; Union Hospital, 1000 Galesburg Hill Road, Union, 3 to 7 p.m.
 - Sunday, Blessed Sacrament Church, Monroe and North avenues, Elizabeth, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Monday, Temple Beth Or, 111 Valley Road, Clark, 3:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Multi-lung Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue, Plainfield, 4 to 8 p.m.
 - July 15, Masonic Lafayette Lodge, 1550 Irving St., Rahway, 5 to 9 p.m.; Gran Conclusions, 440 Madison Hill Road, Clark, 3 to 7 p.m.
 - July 22, Clark Volunteer Rescue Squad, 875 Raritan Road, Clark, 3 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 - July 23, Christ of King Church, 411 Rutgers Ave., Hillside, 8 a.m. to noon.
- Donors must be 18 years old. Seventeen-year-olds may donate with parental permission. There is no upper age limit for donors provided they have donated within the past two years or have a doctor's note. Donors should know their Social Security number and bring a signed form of identification.
- For more information or to sign up to donate, call (800) BLOOD-NJ, or (800) 256-6365.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Repeat performance



From left, Jennifer Noble, 8, and her brother Christopher Noble, 10, of Linden are performing in Paper Mill Playhouse's production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Jennifer and Christopher are in the Pharaoh Choir. Both young actors performed in this musical last season with Mystic Vision Players of Linden.

Theater brings snow to summer in Summit

By Ben Smith
Staff Writer

For those who wish to keep cool in these hot, hazy, humid days of summer, it is suggested that the public take a look at snow-covered trees and streets on the stage of the Summit Playhouse at 10 New England Ave. This is where "about 25 members of the Kaleidoscope Theater for Youth" will be performing "Narnia," a musical based on the novel, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis. Aid—they will cool one's sweating brow on July 21, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30 and 31.

"It's really a big deal all the way around," declared Kathy Petersen, producer, during a recent chat. "It's really going to snow on stage, and this theater is air conditioned. Can you ask for anything more?"

"Our director, Ron Wells, has an incredible vision for the production, that includes snow, white layers on our white trees to give an illusion of a winter wonderland. In Narnia it is always winter, but not Christmas." Petersen lauded the entire staff and cast for being able to bring a "marvelous production together for everyone's entertainment." She said, "We have 25 people in the production; with Lori Balzano, our co-producer; Paul Tukey, our musical director; an accompanist, Judy Brewer, on the keyboard, and I also have a student director, Scott Goldman."

The cast features Vince Balzano, Emily Pistell, Elizabeth Platt and Nate Starun as the four children who take a journey through an old wardrobe and find themselves in Narnia, an enchanted land of never-ending winter. There they fight good and evil along with Aslan—the great lion—to defeat the evil White Witch and break



In one of the many rehearsals of 'Narnia,' a musical based on C.S. Lewis' book, 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' which will be presented by the Summit Playhouse Association Kaleidoscope Theater for Youth, four featured players take time out. They are, top row, from left, Vince Balzano as Edmund and Nate Starun as Peter; bottom row, Emily Pistell as Lucy and Elizabeth Platt as Susan.

her wintry spell. "During the adventure," explained Petersen, "the children learn many valuable lessons in courage, heroism, unselfishness and wisdom."

Petersen admitted that "This has been quite an undertaking. And when it is finally ready, it's going to look wonderful. The director also has children acting as windows and doors, and they move with the music. It really is incredible! This is my first exper-

ience with theater, but Lori is a member of the Summit Playhouse and serves on the board. It's a lot of work, but I love working with children's theater. The kids are so talented, it is amazing. Absolutely amazing."

"Ron," she said, "has been directing for quite a while. He has directed many productions at Summit High School including 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and 'Hello, Dolly!' He's a fifth grade teacher at Franklin Elementary

School and also has been helpful in that school's productions. He recently directed the musical 'Annie' for the school."

Petersen explained that "We have had over 80 children trying out for the production. There was a lot of stiff competition, but we chose 25 very talented boys and girls." Among the young cast members featured are Jackie Andregg, Emily Balzano, Vince Balzano, Della Davies, Joey Flannery, Katie Flannery, George Foster, Rebecca Haurvusk, Ira Perlman, Dave Maulbeck, Joanna Maulbeck, Caitlin Mehner, Maggie O'Rourke, Rebecca Pearl, Grace Pisio, Emily Pistell, Elizabeth Platt, Max Rissman, Julia Stiecker, Stephanie Stiecker, Lauren Simon, Nate Starun, Devon Tabbot and Megan Van Syckle. Even Petersen's son, Andy, has a role in "Narnia." He plays Rwyth the Wolf.

"Each year the Summit Playhouse sponsors a children's production," said Petersen. "It is always a musical, and they decide what they feel it should be—appropriate for the age group of 8 to 19. And they all seem to pop out as a winner. Tickets can be purchased at Christopher's Books & Gifts at 338 Springfield Ave., Summit, or by calling (908) 273-2192."

Although Petersen will not be producing next year, she said, "Lori is definitely going to be producer to next year's summer production. She's currently looking at scripts. The Summit Playhouse does a wide variety of shows, and it's a wonderful theater." With a promising long hot and torrid summer in store, what could be cooler, she indicated, than an always snow-covered stage production in an air conditioned theater? That's a winner in itself!

'The Little Playwright' is a twisted bundle of fun

No pain, no gain, say all who struggle and sacrifice for success—and when success arrives, kicking and screaming, the pain is forgotten, say our wise old mothers. But what do you do when the payoff never comes? Get thee to a psychotherapist, say the talk show hosts. If you can relate to the pursuit of happiness for its own sake as a never-ending race to an imaginary finish line, then spend a cathartic evening with Union County College Theater Project, which will present "The Little Playwright" by Rose Curnoo at UCC's Cranford campus through July 17.

Struggling playwright Both is questioning her life's work when unexpected renovations on her home require her to take temporary shelter with patronizing relatives. Intelligent, spoiled, desperately bored niece Vicki needs something to keep her mind occupied—and, inspired by Annie Both's noble artistic quest, proceeds to write a play. You can guess the rest. Vicki's successful dramatic turn puts the finishing touch on Both's identity crisis, depicted hysterically through caricatures of a perpetually mourning Italian family and talking corpses, vacuous neighbors, pretentious producers and sipping sycophants.

A cast of talented and versatile players make this fine-tuned production a success, featuring UCC Theater Project veterans Barbara Guidi as Beth and Gary Wood as friend Brian, and Dasimah Talley and Andre DeSandias as overly encouraging parents Marlene and Mark. Sara Dhom, Sandra Toll and Deborah Pires effectively round out the cast. Last,

Theater View.

By Jacquie McCarthy
Associate Editor

but certainly not least, fresh-faced newcomer Dana Greghy keeps things moving as saucy Vicki.

Creative and efficient staging has become a trademark of the Theater Project. Director Mark Spina delights in breaking all the rules of traditional theater, choosing productions which defy convention. Good sound design by Michael Magnifico also marks this production, along with efficacious set construction. "The puppets rock, and you'll love the realism at the dinner table."

As a woman writer, it's refreshing to indulge in the absurdity of the experience. Maybe I won't need psychotherapy after all.

"Happy." "The Little Playwright" will enjoy a longer run than previous Theater Projects, made possible in part by the UCC Foundation, and by a HEART Grant—History, Education, Art-Reachng-Thousands—from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and by the generosity of Mrs. Marion N. Curka in memory of her husband, Joseph Curka.

UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students and seniors. For information, call (908) 659-5185.

Hospital sponsors exhibits

"Art at Overlook" is a program created to exhibit and sell on work at Overlook Hospital for the enrichment of all visitors.

Exhibits will be featured in the

Auxiliary Gallery, Overlook Hospital is located at 99 Beauvoir Ave., Summit. Proceeds from all sales will benefit ongoing cancer care at the hospital. For information, call Nancy Kuhn at (908) 522-2004.

Symphony's 'Celestial Sounds' draws determined audience

By Jacquie McCarthy
Associate Editor

An impressive display of umbrellas and tarps stood against the gathering gloom on June 30, as The Union County Summer Arts Festival kicked off its 1999 Concert Series at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside.

The first night of the series, sponsored by Chase Manhattan Bank and AT&T, featured the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra's presentation of "Celestial Sounds: Music for the Millennium," conducted by David Commanady. The presentation, however, had to wait for a break in the inclement weather, which did not deter the audience from patiently waiting for the sound of a full orchestra to roll across the lush, green park. The delay stretched to a half-hour, and the audience, while appreciative of the break in the recent humidity, seemed ready to begin "The Rain Chant" from Woodstock by the time NISO deemed it safe to begin the evening's performance, with "The National Anthem."

Conductor Commanady thanked the crowd for staying, and warned that the first selection "starts very quietly, and if you hear something at the beginning it does not mean thunder."

NISO's program began with the opening from "Also Sprach Zarathustra" by R. Strauss, associated with the Stanley Kubrick film, "2001: A Space Odyssey." Next came another Strauss classic—Joseph Strauss, that is, Johann's brother, called "Music of the Spheres Waltz," a piece Commanady said he "fell in love with while I was a student in Vienna." The waltz was a light, airy piece, conjuring images of dancing on clouds. Following was "Machinerie" by Massenet, from the opera "Thais." The music was sweet in its fragility.

aggressive movements. In contrast, his conduction of "Jupiter" was playful, as jubilant violins and horns sounded excitedly, and settled into a different kind of march—one of celebration. Violins ring like bells into a waltz of sorts, and mischievous flutes twittered throughout.

Commanady commented that the music established in Holst's "The Planets" became "an inheritance" for future compositions about space—"Holst passed on this concept of what space sounded like." With that, NISO played Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9," which has a subtle Dixieland influence with bells and woodwinds providing an otherworldly sound, another march of sorts Commanady noted the "marital" aspect of the suite, along with the "delicate and small" impression it establishes.

"Star Trek Through the Ages" spoke to all generations with a compilation of the four incarnations of the television series theme—the peppy, 60s sitcom-style original; the daring, joy de vivre "Next Generation"; the larger-than-life, bittersweet "Deep

Space Nine," and the awe-inspiring "Voyager."

An evening of "Celestial Sounds" would not be complete without the New Jersey premiere of the suite from "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace" by John Williams, and the orchestra was happy to oblige. The music, as modern movie-goers will attest, begins with extraordinary pomp and exhilaration. The suite consists of four movements, and Commanady drew special attention to the second, "Anakin's Theme," referencing music associated with Darth Vader in earlier protocols George Lucas epics.

Listeners can detect the foreshadowing bass line under the lilting violins. "And now, one last musical reference to the stars," Commanady quipped, as the orchestra launched into "Stars and Stripes Forever" and the audience clapped in time.

Such a theme as "Celestial Sounds" certainly deserved a starry sky to set the mood. Also, only a few stars peeked out from beneath the cloud cover, although the rain did hold off for the duration of the concert. Santana would have approved.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Community music center receives grant funding

The Suburban Community Music Center has received a significant grant to finance the purchase of computer and office equipment for its headquarters in Murray Hill. The funds, awarded by the Hyde and Watson Foundation, will be used to update SCMC's office management system with new computers, networking capabilities and a data management system specifically designed for schools of the arts.

"This grant could not have come at a better time," said Marlene Lippman, executive director of SCMC. "In the past year we have seen extraordinary growth — student enrollment for Spring '99 was up 36 percent from Spring '98. And enrollment for summer '99 is up a staggering 137 percent, with 332 students in our 'Music in June' classes and private lessons in June, July and August. The updated system will enable us to process registrations more efficiently, produce timely billing statements, create up-to-the-minute financial reports and streamline payroll operations."

Commenting on the impact of the imminent improvements, she said, "Everyone at the center — our office staff, the teachers, the students and their families — will benefit because we'll have better information and more time to use for expanding our music education programs and community projects." Then, she added, "Now, if we could find the funds for a new copying machine, we'd be all set for fall registrations."

Entering its 15th year of operations, Suburban Community Music Center is a private, non-profit school of music that conducts classes for students of all ages. A faculty music therapist teaches a class for students with special needs. The center also offers private lessons in most orchestral instruments, as well as in piano, recorder, guitar, saxophone and voice. Scholarships are available for students who need financial assistance. The SCMC is a member of the National Guild of Community School of the Arts. For information about the center's upcoming schedule of classes, call SCMC at (908) 790-0700.

A variety of classes is offered at arts center

Summer classes and workshops are under way at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts. There are over a hundred classes and workshops offered at the center each semester. Starting with beginners through advanced students, NJCVA individualizes and includes students/artists of all ages, and recently has expanded its parent/child workshops events.

A brief sampler of the variety of workshops includes: "Face Value" — People Photographing People," taught by Helen Sumner, a faculty member who won first prize in the International Juried Show '98 at NJCVA juried by Lisa Denison, chief curator of the Guggenheim Museum.

"Little Marvels — Beaded Baskets and Other Small Objects," taught by Tina Casey, author of "Creating Extraordinary Beads from Ordinary Materials." This is an intensive one-day hands-on workshop learning methods and applying the knowledge to small objects.

"Ingo-In-A-Box: The Art of Box Constructions," a three-dimensional format which often incorporates a variety of material. Chuck Milroy, an NJSCA-fellowship recipient who has exhibited worldwide will be teaching this two-day workshop.

"Symbols of the Spirit," an intriguingly ancient subject, often a



NJ Center for Visual Arts students can choose from a wide variety of summer art classes.

community-shared experience, will be taught by Fran Willner and Lois Shapiro, two artists with extensive exhibiting and teaching experience who often exhibit and teach together. Six-week classes include instruction in drawing, Chinese brush painting, oil painting, ceramic sculpture,

printmaking, photography, mixed media, paper and book arts, jewelry and special teen and children's classes. There is also an emphasis on "partners in art," special parent/child experiences which give parents and children a special time to share a creative experience.

For those members and students who need time to create beyond their scheduled class time, open studios in life drawing, portrait, pottery/sculpture, jewelry and photography are offered. For more information and details, call NJCVA at (908) 273-9121.

Artists to display new works at local children's hospital

Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside will present the work of photographers James J. Stachecki and Punita Gandhi, along with oil paintings by Sharon Miller during July.

Stachecki, an amateur nature photographer who holds a doctoral degree in physiology and works in a reproductive research lab at St. Barnabas Medical Center, has set a major career objective for himself — to help conserve endangered animals, specifically cats, by utilizing his training as a reproductive physiologist and photographer. He hopes to increase public awareness of endangered animals through his photography.

Over the past several years, Stachecki has exhibited his photos and received numerous contest awards. His work has been published in magazines including Nature Photography. Most recently, Stachecki was named winner in the "plant life" category in World Wildlife Fund's annual photo contest.

Stachecki teaches photography to both beginner and advanced photo enthusiasts. Through her photography exhibition at CSH, "Journey to the Source of the Ganges River in the Himalayas," Gandhi shares her journeys through the most revered symbols of Indian civilization and culture.

Gandhi was born in Bombay and was encouraged by her family to pursue her interest in the arts and humanities. After graduating from the University of Bombay with degrees in business and law, she came to New York to study photography at the Fashion Institute of Technology where she graduated magna cum laude. Her photographs and articles have been published in newspapers and periodicals in India.

A student of Indian scriptures and philosophy, Gandhi has attended spiritual study camps and made three trips through the Himalayan Mountains. Photographs from these journeys are featured in her exhibition.

Miller's CSH exhibition, comprised of portraits and landscapes in oil, will feature work in both small and large format.

Since a recent return to full-time painting after a career as a freelance commercial artist, obtaining her New Jersey Teachers Certification and raising two young children, Miller has shown her work throughout New Jersey and, at present, studies with artist Dorothy Yung.

Children's Specialized Hospital's art exhibitions are open to the public, free of charge, from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., daily. Visitors are requested to enter the hospital through the Ambulance Entry. All of the artists' works are offered for sale. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the hospital.

Children's Specialized Hospital is located at 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside.

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1 Apropos	16			17			18					
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12 Cleaver	27						28			29	30	31
13 A Supreme Being			32		33		34					
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43 <i>Crans</i> or <i>China</i>												
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46 Rocky debris												
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53 Euphemism for job												
56 Guy Fawkes month												
57 Precipitation, in Dundee												
58 Writer Anita												
59 <i>Befe</i> —												
61 Editor's direction												
62 Look —												
63 Part of an escalator												
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65 Ireland's moss												
66 Namesakes of Alfonso's queen												
67 Imp or ass add on												

DOWN

1 Biblical forced landing site

2 Comics character

3 Thy, to Beau Geste

4 Companion of Hope and Charity

5 Kate's companion

6 Spill

7 Walkop

8 Mentor

9 Somelea

10 Take to one's heels

11 Short-lived crazes

12 Falls

14 Keep on and on

22 Uncaring

24 City in Alabama

25 An eternal thing

26 Burl or St.

29 Howard of films

30 — haec, hoc

31 Golden Treasury offering

33 Wild sheep of North America

35 Stretch of river

38 Biblical beast

37 Tourist's need, for short

39 Carney or Linkletter

39 Kind of hammer

42 An English grad, sometimes

47 List

48 Borgnine

49 Growing out

50 Cause to be infatuated

51 Water wheel

52 Medgar —, NAACP leader, 1953

53 Piece of jewelry

54 The best

55 See 47 Down

56 Cap or cap add on

61 Road sign

COPY NEWS SERVICE

See ANSWERS on Page D10

Take a seat at Union County Arts Center

There is a theater seat waiting for you at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. It has been utilized by generations of audiences who visited the old Rahway Theatre since 1928 — and it needs fixing, with the help of a \$250 gift!

The theater is undergoing a transformation to a beautiful and glittering performing arts center that the people of Union County and central New Jersey can be proud of and enjoy.

The theater has a new marquee, a refurbished lobby, modern restroom facilities, new sidewalks, upgraded lighting and sound systems, and a renovated auditorium.

Opportunities to play a significant role in the continued renovation of the theater are available. With your tax-deductible gift, an inscription of up to 30 characters will be displayed on the back of your seat. Your inscription can honor a friend or loved one, or express your lasting concern for the future of the arts.

With your help, every seat in the theater can be "the best seat in the house!" For information on how to get involved, call the arts center at (908) 499-8226, or send your donation and inscription request to UCAC, P. O. Box 775-D, Rahway, NJ 07065.

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

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY
July 11th, 1999
EVENT: Flea Market and Collectible Show
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue, Belleville (off Jerelemon Street)
TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm
PRICE: Featuring over 100 quality dealers selling a variety of merchandise including new & used items, baseball cards, memorabilia, toys, fashion clothing, jewelry, coins and Beanie Babies galore! For more information call 908-973-9586
ORGANIZATION: Journalism

EVERY SATURDAY

EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: Factory Marketplace, 390 Nye Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 8am-4pm
PRICE: Lighting and Ceiling Fan Close-out, Doublets wanted. Call for directions, 908-973-9078
ORGANIZATION: Evangelist Center Baptist Church

Jacquie McCarthy, Editor

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RUMMAGE SALE

THURSDAY MORNINGS
TUESDAY EVENINGS
July 6, 13, 20, 1999
July Mornings (except 20th), Evenings
EVENT: Rummage Sale, 65th Annual TURNOVER SALE
PLACE: Morrow Memorial Church, 800 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood
TIME: Thursday, 9:30am-12:30pm, Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm-9:00pm.
PRICE: Free Admission. Bargains in clothing, housewares, collectibles, books, luggage, jewelry, more! For more information call 973-763-7676
ORGANIZATION: United Methodist Women. All proceeds benefit charitable projects.

OTHER

SATURDAY
July 17th, 1999
EVENT: Summer Sale
PLACE: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 19 Prospect Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 9:00am-12:00pm
PRICE: Clothes, Shoes, Handbags, 25% each
ORGANIZATION: Redeemer Lutheran Church

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is prepared and costs just \$20.00 for both. Your ad will be in our May/June edition 483 Valley Street by 4:00 PM on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisements may also be placed at 170 Saddle Brook Road, Orange, 205 Liberty St. Elizabeth 1701 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. For more information call 763-9111

HOROSCOPE

For July 12

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is a great time to stop and take stock of your personal or family affairs. Review your goals along with your loved ones and make the necessary adjustments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Meet challenges in communication with an open mind. There are several educational or travel opportunities available to you. Make plans to go along and have some fun.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Use this period to analyze and review your financial picture. A family member inspires your honesty. Be careful not to make any promises you can't keep.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Handle important business correspondence in a professional manner. Practice caution when signing your name to an official document. Your signature is binding.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your energy output is somewhat subdued this week. Lay low and put your feet up. A new financial plan calls for more practical spending. Cut down on extravagance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Celebrate a cycle of friendship. Spend quality time with those you care about the most. With a positive outlook, you can conquer the world. Let go of fear or doubt.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Smile as your luck improves. Whatever you need to feel happy and complete is well within reach. You will be appreciated in a very public way. Step up and take a bow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Travel with associates from a club, group or organization is probable. It pays to be friendly to most everyone you'll meet. Take a chance with unusual investments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Watch over joint funds and don't let your partner overspend. A career assignment is very demanding. Call on and use all the knowledge and experience you have.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your attention turns to a relationship issue. It's not too late to make amends with a loved one. Swallow your pride and admit a possible mistake. Home is a heavenly spot.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can have what you want if you are patient, centered and willing to work hard for it. Buckle down and apply yourself. Avoid a misunderstanding with a partner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A speculative deal appears too good to be true. Play it safe and follow your instincts. Enjoy a special moment with a co-worker. Organize your work area for better efficiency.

If your birthday is this week, expect to make changes in your domestic situation during the coming year. You may also need to go back and retake a class or review a specific lesson. Don't spread yourself too thin in activities involving a child or a creative project. Treat your mentors or elders with love and respect, and you are rewarded beyond your wildest dreams.

Aspiring actors could win the NJTG 'lottery'

The New Jersey Theatre Group, the association of professional Equity theaters of New Jersey, conducts combined lottery auditions for actors and actresses twice a year, by appointment only. The next round of auditions are scheduled for late August 1999, and pictures and resumes are now being collected for the next round of auditions. If you wish to be entered in the lottery, send a picture and resume, a stamped self-addressed business envelope and advise if you would like to sing if chosen.

The combined lottery auditions, attended by approximately 25 theaters, are held in New Jersey bi-annually, in late August for two days, and in February for one day for both Equity and non-Equity actors. Notices which detail how to apply for an audition also are always placed in Backstage and other newspapers, as well as on the Actor's Equity Association

Call Board: Playbill on Line and in the New Jersey Star-Ledger six weeks before the event.

NJ Theatre Group announces Actor Search, the new program that will help you keep your resume in front of casting directors year-round. For a registration fee of only \$10 annually, your picture and resume are kept on file and available to casting personnel at all member theaters. Call for further information, or send your picture and resume along with a check for \$10 to Actor Search, c/o New Jersey Theatre Group, 17 Cook Ave., Madison 07940.

Visit the Web site at <http://www.theatregroup.org> for up-to-date information and special offers from member theaters.

If you have any questions or need any other information, contact NJTG at 17 Cook Ave., Madison 07940 or e-mail njtg@nj.com.

International miniatures on display in Millburn

The Renee Fossamer Art Gallery at Paper Mill Playhouse hosts the 11th Annual International Miniature Art Exhibition — one of the most important exhibits of its kind in the United States — through July 25.

One of the highlights of the gallery season, this show gathers some of the finest examples of miniature art being created today. The exhibit features more than 700 miniatures representing the work of artists from across the country and the world. Paintings will also be available for sale throughout the exhibition.

Miniatures are fine art on a small scale, tracing their roots all the way back to the time of the cave man. In the 17th century, British miniature portraits — described as the "littlest" before — were cherished, personal keepsakes of loved ones prior to the advent of photography. With their trademark characteristic being an extreme attention to detail, today's miniature artists follow the one-sixth rule, which means the subject is depicted at a maximum of one-sixth its actual size. A true miniature is a painting that holds up well under a magnifying glass.

The contemporary miniature revival began in America in 1931 when Alyn Williams, founder of the Royal Miniature Society, organized the Washington Society. Since 1971, other groups have been formed, most recently the Florida-based Miniature Artists of America.

The Renee Fossamer Art Gallery at Paper Mill is open from one-hour before performances through the intermission, and on Friday from noon-3 p.m. Paper Mill performances are Wednesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7:30 p.m., with matinees on Thursday and Sunday at 2 p.m. and Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Parking and admission is free, and visitors do not need a ticket to a Paper Mill performance to gain entry to the gallery. Paper Mill Playhouse is completely accessible to individuals with disabilities.

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Museum Guide

The Museum Guide is compiled by Worral Community Newspapers. It is a list of museums and historic sites in Union County and the surrounding area...

- Little-Lard Farmhouse, Museum & Farmstead, 31 Horseshoe Road, Berkeley Heights. Open 2-4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month from April through December... Dr. William Robinson Plantation Museum, 593 Madison Hill Road, Clark. Open 1-4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month from April through December... Crane-Phillips House Museum, 124 Union Ave. N., Cranford. Open 2-4 p.m. Sundays from September through June...

Student chosen for honor choir

Justin Bello, an eighth grader from McManus School in Linden was chosen to participate in the 1999 New Jersey All State Junior High Honor Choir. Bello is a member of his school band and chorus...

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Thursday noon. Entertainment - Friday noon. Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m. General - Monday 5 p.m.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY COUNTY NO. 1-417-88. STATE OF NEW JERSEY, YOU, James R. Buda and Florence Schmidt, their heirs, devisees and personal representatives and their or any of their successors in right, one and several...

PUBLIC NOTICE

Licor: Danny's Auto Body, 632 W. 1st Street, Roselle, NJ. SALE DATE: July 30, 1999 at 2:00 PM. 1421 CHASE DRIVE, F.R. BELLI, NJ 08820. 3001-9825-1099. Licor: AMV Truck Service, 19 Newark, NJ. 5002-1981 Mitsubishi Triton 2.0...

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION. PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE S. 39-10A-A UNITED AMERICAN LIEN & RECOVERY TRUST. WILL BE HELD AT THE HIGHEST BIDDER SUBJECT TO ALL LAWS, TAXES, BUYER PREMIUM OR CERTIFIED FUNDS (ANY PERSONS) WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE SALE DATE.

COUNTRY FOLK ART CRAFT SHOW. JULY 16-17-18. EDISON - NEW JERSEY Convention & Exposition Center. Friday 9 am to 9 pm. Sat 10 am to 5 pm & Sun 10 am to 4 pm. Admission \$7 - FREE PARKING. Children Under 10 - \$2.00. NO STROLLERS PLEASE! YOUR ONE PAID ADMISSION RE-ADMITS YOU ALL 3 DAYS!

THE LITTLE PLAYWRIGHT. An original comedy by Rose Caruso directed by Mark Spina. July 1 - 17. Thurs., Fri., Sat. at 8:00 pm. One Matinee Only Sunday July 11 at 3:00 pm. General Admission \$10. Students/Seniors \$5. For Ticket Reservations Call 908-659-5185. THE THEATER PROJECT • Union County College. 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, New Jersey • 908-659-5185

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HEALTHY LIVING



It's never too early or too late to be concerned about osteoporosis

Once thought of as an inevitable part of aging, osteoporosis is now considered a condition that is preventable and treatable. Osteoporosis is a disease characterized by a severe decrease in bone mass and severe structural deterioration of bone tissue. This condition leads to increased bone fragility and high levels of susceptibility to bone fractures.

Currently there are 10 million people in the United States with osteoporosis and an additional 18 million people with low bone density who are at a high risk for developing the disease. Over 80 percent of these cases are women.

Osteoporosis is a silent disease, one that takes many years to develop. For many individuals, the first sign of the disease comes in the form of a fractured bone. The most common are hip, spine and wrist fractures. Any sudden strain, bump or fall may cause a fracture when the bones become too weak. As spinal bones begin to collapse, height is lost and stooped or a

hunched-over posture may appear. As time goes on, osteoporosis often becomes more painful and crippling.

Women of all ages should be concerned about the disease. Those who are premenopausal should be especially concerned, because they can take active steps to prevent a dramatic decrease in bone density and the onset of the disease later on in life. Those who have children should teach them about the important role calcium plays in their diet. Additionally, make sure your children are getting as much calcium as they can throughout childhood and especially during their adolescent years. Maximizing their peak bone mass at the time of bone maturity could be the best protection for them later on in life.

Calcium plays a big role in the prevention of osteoporosis. However, calcium is one of the major nutrients most likely to be lacking in the American diet. How much calcium should you be consuming? The Institute of Medicine and National Academy of Sciences released new

calcium recommendations in 1997, which updated and expanded the Recommended Dietary Allowance first published in 1941.

- 1 to 2 years old — 500 mg per day
- 4 to 8 years old — 800 mg per day
- 9 to 18 years old — 1300 mg per day
- 19 to 50 years old — 1000 mg per day
- 51 years old and above — 1200 mg per day
- Pregnant/lactating women
- Less than 18 years old — 1300 mg per day
- 19 to 50 years old — 1000 mg per day

Calcium is found in water and in many foods in varying amounts. Dairy products and dark green vegetables are some of the best natural sources of calcium. Low or non-fat dairy foods such as milk, yogurt, cheddar and ice cream; leafy vegetables such as broccoli, chard, turnip or collard greens; salmon and sardines; but only with bones; tofu and foods fortified with calcium such

as orange juice, are great sources of calcium. Calcium supplements are also available for those who do not get enough calcium in their daily diets.

Vitamin D helps the body to absorb calcium. The vitamin is naturally absorbed through the skin through exposure to the sun. While most people do produce enough vitamin D naturally, many older individuals and those who are housebound may not be getting enough. Milk and most vitamins contain Vitamin D. If you are not getting enough Vitamin D naturally, you may need to take supplements of 400 to 800 IU daily.

Bone is living tissue that can be greatly strengthened with exercise. Weight-bearing exercises such as walking, jogging, racket sports, stair-climbing and low-impact aerobics help to increase bone strength. In growing children, exercise can actually build more bone if it is continued throughout adolescence.

Everyone knows that smoking is bad for the heart and the lungs. But, it

is also a major cause of osteoporosis, even in younger women. Smoking poisons the cells that make bone and also decreases the amount of estrogen in the body. If you are smoking, quit.

The intake of large amounts of alcohol is toxic to bone and may interfere with calcium absorption. It is recommended that alcohol be limited to no more than 1 to 2 alcoholic drinks daily.

Some medications that are used over a long period of time can lead to a decrease in bone density. Glucocorticoids, anti-seizure medications, excessive use of aluminum-containing antacids, certain cancer treatments and excessive thyroid hormones are a few examples. Make sure to ask your physician about the possibility of bone loss if you ever need long-term medications of any kind.

You can detect osteoporosis by asking your physician for a bone density scan. The best technology available for this is called Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry scan, because it

can measure two important areas of the skeleton, the hip and the spine. This test is painless, noninvasive and very safe.

Osteoporosis should be treated with a comprehensive program involving nutrition, exercise, a healthy lifestyle and possibly medication, if osteoporosis is present. Additionally, your treatment plan should include safety tips or assisting devices, in order to prevent falls that may result in fractures.

It is critical to maintain and enhance quality of life for those with osteoporosis. Today people are living longer, and they want to be able to live independently. With the latest advances and technologies available today, the crippling effects of osteoporosis can be treated and even prevented. It is never too early or too late to start.

The Back Institute in Union offers multidisciplinary care

An estimated 80-90 percent of adults experience acute or chronic back at some point in their lives, which leads to nearly \$70 billion a year in medical expenses and lost wages. Many back problems arise from specific activities, while others may appear without explanation. Previous treatment for back pain sufferers often entailed many missed days of work due to the time-consuming process of referrals. Precious time is lost when a patient is sent from one physician's office to another, sometimes having unnecessary and often duplicated testing done. Every day

that a patient waits in pain hampers their own overall recovery and increases the cost of care.

The Back Institute in Union offers a multidisciplinary approach that purports patients from waiting for appointments or receiving treatment that may not be effective. At The Back Institute, patients are immediately directed to the appropriate level of care which includes early identification and timely and accurate diagnosis. The Back Institute's treatment team includes neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons, neurologists, anesthesiologists, radiologists, psycholo-

gist and physical therapists. The team of physicians and case managers review each case on a regular basis to ensure effective and appropriate care.

"The physicians of The Back Institute have been managing patients with complex spine problems and chronic pain syndromes for many years," said Dr. Marvin Friedlander, a neurosurgeon at Union Hospital and one of the co-ordinator's of The Back Institute. "Their expertise has enabled them to develop a system whereby patients will be evaluated and managed expeditiously, appropriately and without unnecessary time delays or duplication of services."

The Back Institute treats a variety of conditions including: acute neck and back sprains, lumbar and cervical disc herniations, tumors of the spine and spinal cord, and chronic pain syndromes. For more information about The Back Institute or to schedule an

appointment, call (800) 491-2773.

The Back Institute is located at 2333 Morris Ave., Suite A-14 in Union, Union Hospital, located at 1000 Galloping Hill Road in Union, is an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System.

Jacquie McCarthy, Editor
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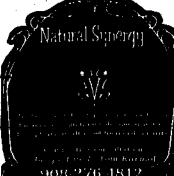


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Henderson's career accomplishments have earned her a place in the New Jersey Association of Realtors...

Anderson is a licensed broker and member of the Westfield and North Central Jersey Association of Realtors...

Zelda Greenwald, another member of Weichert's President's Club, was the office's top listing award...

Greenwald, a resident of Summit, is a member of the North Central Jersey Association of Realtors...

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IRVINGTON, MODERN 1 bedroom apartment. Heat hot water provided.

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ORANGE: LARGE 1 bedroom apartment. Close to building, close to train and bus.

UNION, 2 BEDROOM, large living room. \$760 month plus utilities.

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UNION/ELIZABETH UNUSUAL AVAILABILITY. 1 bedroom available at this charming, quiet, well maintained building.

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SEVERAL ACRES of Cemeteries for sale at Hollywood Memorial Cemetery.

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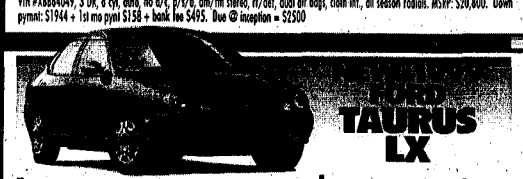
FORD WINDSTAR WAGON
\$158 per mo. \$15,800
lease for 36 mos. 0 DOWN AVAILABLE buy for

VIN #XB64049, 3 DR, 6 cyl, auto, no a/c, p/s/b/, am/fm stereo, rr/del, dual air bags, cloth int., all season radials, MSRP: \$20,800. Down pymnt: \$1944 + 1st mo pymt \$158 + bank fee \$495. Due @ inception = \$2500



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\$219.95 per mo. \$21,995
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VIN #XZB76935, 4 DR, 6 cyl, a/c, p/s/b/winds/locks/mirrors, am/fm/cass, rr/del, dual air bags, alloy wheels, cloth int., MSRP \$29,290. Down pymnt \$2590 + 1st mo pymnt \$219.95. Due @ inception \$2342.



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VIN #XGZ76552, 4 DR, 6 cyl, auto, p/s/b/, a/c, am/fm/cass, rr/del, dual air bags, cloth int., alloy wheels, MSRP \$18,840. Down pymnt \$2500 + 1st mo pymnt \$139.95 + \$415 bank fee. Due @ inception \$ 2387.

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<p>'92 DODGE SPIRIT ES VIN #F1100065, auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b/winds/locks, a/c, cassette, tilt, cruise, alloy, 67,000 mi.</p> <p>\$3995</p>	<p>'91 NISSAN PATHFINDER SE VIN #NRO07999, 4 DR, 4 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/locks/mirrors/cassette, tilt, cruise, rr/del, sun roof, roof rack, driver air bag, alloy wheels, 110,315 mi.</p> <p>\$7995</p>	<p>'97 FORD THUNDERBIRD VIN #F1101937, 2 cyl, auto, 5 spd, am/fm/cass, dual air bags, tilt seats, all season, 48,722 mi. GREAT CONDITION MUST SEE!</p> <p>\$12,995</p>	
<p>'95 HYUNDAI ELANTR VIN #S9P04952, auto, 4cyl, am/fm, cloth int, 30,111 mi.</p> <p>\$4995</p>	<p>'97 PLYMOUTH NEON VIN #FV503222, 4 DR, auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b/winds/locks, a/c, cassette, tilt, alloy, VERY NICE! MUST SEE! 17,244 mi.</p> <p>\$8595</p>	<p>'96 FORD WINDSTAR GL VIN #F11014312, 7 passenger, 6 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/locks/mirrors, cassette, tilt, cruise, rr/del, roof rack, dual air bags, alloy wheels, 39,395 mi.</p> <p>\$13,995</p>	
<p>'93 DODGE CARAVAN VIN #P1195530, 7 passenger, 6 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/locks/mirrors, cassette, tilt, cruise, rr/del, roof rack, alloy wheels, running boards, 74,199 mi.</p> <p>\$5995</p>	<p>'92 FORD EXPLORER XLT VIN #NUT92590, 4 DR, 4 cyl, auto, p/s/b/winds/locks/mirrors, cassette, tilt, cruise, rr/del, roof rack, fog rack, driver air bag, alloy wheels, 88,564 mi.</p> <p>\$8595</p>	<p>'96 CHEVY 80 HI TOP CONVERSION VIN #F1101811, auto, 8 cyl, a/c, p/s/b/winds/locks, tilt, cruise, alloy wheels, cassette stereo, 46,800 mi.</p> <p>\$17,995</p>	
<p>'93 JEEP CHEROKEE 4x4 VIN #S9P04952, auto, 4cyl, am/fm, cloth int, 30,111 mi.</p> <p>\$6995</p>	<p>'95 FORD CONTOUR VIN #F1124466, auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b/winds/locks, tilt, cruise, alloy, a/c, cassette, 49,840 mi.</p> <p>\$8995</p>	<p>'97 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL VIN #WY655538, 4 DR, 6 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/locks, am/fm/cass, air bags + MORE! 44,428 mi.</p> <p>\$18,695</p>	
<p>'90 ACURA LEGEND VIN #L0004917, 4 DR, auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/locks/mirrors, am/fm/cass, tilt, cruise, rr/del, sun roof, leather int, all season radials, alarm/sec system, 78,775 mi.</p> <p>\$7995</p>	<p>'95 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA VIN #68063000, 4 DR, 4 cyl, 5 spd manual, a/c, p/s/b, cassette, rr/del, sun roof, cloth int., driver air bag, cloth int., all season, 81,862 mi. MOVE OVER CAR WON'T BE HERE LONG!!</p> <p>\$8995</p>	<p>'96 LINCOLN TOWN & COUNTRY VIN #F1101410, 4 DR, 6 cyl, a/c, p/s/b/winds/locks/mirrors, am/fm/cass, tilt, cruise, sun roof, dual air bags, leather int., 42,488 mi. CAR RIDES LIKE A DREAM!</p> <p>\$18,995</p>	
<p>'92 NISSAN MAXIMA VIN #N1104574, auto, 6 cyl, p/s/b/winds/locks, a/c, cassette, tilt, cruise, alloy, leather int, 79,150 mi.</p> <p>\$7995</p>	<p>'95 FORD WINDSTAR VIN #F8082818, 6 cyl, a/c/winds/locks/mirrors, cloth int, cassette, 42,655 mi. dual air bags, leather int, all season, 41,642 mi. MOVE OVER CAR WON'T BE HERE LONG!!</p> <p>\$10,995</p>	<p>MANY MORE TO CHOOSE FROM!</p>	
<p>'91 GMC KIMMY SLE VIN #N2327047, auto, 6 cyl, p/s/b/winds/locks, a/c, cassette, tilt, cruise, 87,000 mi.</p> <p>\$7995</p>	<p>'98 FORD MUSTANG COUPE VIN #F1127228, 2 DR, 6 cyl, 5 spd, a/c, p/s/b/winds/locks, am/fm/cass, tilt, cruise, dual air bags, 12,000 mi.</p> <p>\$12,995</p>		

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AUTOMOTIVE

Acura gets serious with touring luxury

Acura has gotten serious about its entry-lux sedan and gave it some needed TLC for 1999. It is longer, wider, quicker, far better equipped and costs about \$5,600 less than last year's model. It also graduated with honors — from the compact class to midsize.

In the past, the TL's styling and equipment level came in two grades: the five-cylinder 2.5TL and the 3.2TL. The 2.5TL was supposed to be more sporty, and for a younger buyer, than the more luxury-focused 3.2TL with a V-6 engine.

For '99, there is only one TL — "Touring Luxury" — that carries on in the tire tracks of this model that debuted in 1992 with the name of Vigor.

Not only is the TL larger than the Accord, but it also finally has the feel of a luxury sedan.

There also is enough performance in its driving experience to keep Acura shoppers from straying.

Because the TL isn't one of those European imports, it has to work harder to gain attention, which it should be able to accomplish with its one-price blue-light special of \$28,400. The only factory option you can add is a navigation system, which adds \$2,000.

You might be able to find some ways to spend money on extras, such as a compact disc changer or phone, but there are more than 100 standard features, including:

- Four-speed automatic Sequential SportShift transmission.
- Power moonroof.
- Automatic climate control.
- Power-adjustable front seats.
- 5-speaker Bose audio system with in-dash single CD player, cassette and radio designed to get the most out of the TL's acoustics.
- Leather-trimmed seats.
- A 225 hp 3.2 liter V-6 engine that outranks the horsepower ratings of its competitors.

You will hear a lot about this car in the coming months. Acura is planning its most aggressive and innovative ad launch and will:

- Stage 15 airport displays and 25 mall exhibits.

• Continue its sponsorship of NFL football.

• Launch a direct-mail campaign to 1 million Acura owners and 225,000 Honda owners.

• Conduct factory sponsored introductory to carefully selected prospective buyers, who fit the demographic profile — predominantly male, 35 to 45 years old, executive or professional, most married with young families.

• While the new design is still conservative — with a front end that is too Honda-like — it is much more liberal in its luxury.

Th TL has substance now, it feels filled out and grown up.

You get the first taste of it when you start the car. You can barely hear the engine at idle thanks to the magic of vacuum-controlled hydraulic engine mounts and a lot more sound-proofing between the engine and cabin.

The engineers also built a much stiffer and stronger chassis to better tune a smooth and forgiving suspension. Rubber bushings in the subframe help filter road noise and the graininess of tires on asphalt from interrupting the cabin ambience.

Romping through some back roads, I slammed across a set of railroad tracks and braced for the job but the suspension swallowed it up before it hit the cabin. It was so good I wanted to go back and try it again.

The suspension encourages spirited driving, but the front end will push through turns if you are too heavy on the throttle, which for some is likely as they get into working the SportShift transmission. However, because the car is wide and low, there is little body roll.

It is a fun yet formal sedan to cut loose with. The new V-6 powers up quickly and sounds especially athletic

at about 4,500 rpm. Acura says this 3,446-pound sedan will do 0 to 60 mph in 7.65 seconds.

The power is managed with precision by the SportShift transmission, which kicks down eagerly with a nudge of the accelerator. Grade Logic computerization holds a lower gear on descents and through hard cornering.

Nothing succeeds like power and quiet in a luxury car, unless it would be interior refinement.

The TL is less precious inside than the ES 300 yet more conservative than the very upscale appearance of the new 328i.

For the driver, there is good visibility all around, and the center instrument panel console is nicely angled for access to the radio, which is below the AC/heater controls but still in plain-view and reach.

As most manufacturers rush to add or offer side air bags, Acura is waiting to see how the public really feels about another pair of bags in their cars.

Besides, the company says, the TL was designed to offer superior side-impact protection, which includes door panel stiffeners, reinforced side sills, strengthened front pillars, side impact beams and absorption pads, a rear door catcher that helps cut down on intrusion in side hits.

Despite the long list of standard features, there is no memory preset feature for the driver's seat position — very useful in two-driver families — floor mats are an optional "dealer-installed" item; and while Lexus and BMW offer very handy one-touch up and down to the windows and open/close to the moonroof, the TL doesn't.

You've got to save a little something for next year I suppose, but for now the TL is a much fuller acronym for touring luxury.

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1998 FORD WINDSTAR GL WAGON BUY FOR: \$14,995 V6, PS, B,W, & Locks, Tilt, Cruise, Cass., AC. 53,000 miles W#BC18682	1996 FORD WINDSTAR GL BUY FOR: \$14,495 Van, Auto W/D, V6, PS, B, W&Locks, Tilt Cruise, Int/W, Rear W & Def. AC. 29,000 miles V#TB841708	1997 MERCURY SABLE LS BUY FOR: \$13,995 4 Dr. V6, Full Power, 11,000 miles Like New!!! Vin VA644981.
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1994 MITSUBISHI GALANT BUY FOR: \$7,495 4 Dr., Auto, In Line 4, PWS,B,W & Locks, Tilt, Cruise, AC. 73,000 miles V# RE023719	1994 FORD TAURUS GL WAGON BUY FOR: \$5,995 Auto, V6, PWS,B,W & Locks, Tilt, Cruise, AC. Loaded! 84,000 miles V# RA180148	1989 OLDS EIGHTY-EIGHT BUY FOR: \$4,495 4 Dr., V6, PWS, B, W & Locks, Tilt, Cruise, AC. 52,000 miles. V#KW374983

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Consumers have choice with changes

With the recent implementation of tier rating and the Automobile Insurance Cost Reduction Act of 1998, a number of dramatic changes have occurred to New Jersey's auto insurance system that all drivers should know and understand. In addition to allowing consumers more choice in selecting coverage limits, significant measures have been implemented to reduce fraud and abuse.

"The greatest challenge in implementing these new laws is to help consumers understand the positive aspects of these changes and how to take advantage of them," said Rachel Enoch, editor of the Insurance-Council of New Jersey.

To help New Jersey residents understand these changes, the ICNJ has developed a series of brochures to inform and educate consumers about the AICRA reforms. The series contains information about the changes in New Jersey's auto insurance system under the new law, information about tier rating, question and answer brochures, as well as information on how to shop for auto insurance. Consumers can obtain the materials by calling 1-800-NEW-CHOICE or by visiting a special web site, www.njautoreform99.com.

"Consumers purchasing new automobile insurance policies or whose policies are renewing are benefiting from the implementation of the various reforms and the mandatory rate reduction. That is why we believe it is important that consumers understand the many new policy options and cost reduction measures available to them as soon as possible," Enoch said.

The Insurance Council of New Jersey is the successor organization to the New Jersey Insurance News Service and is a nonprofit, insurance research, information and advocacy organization sponsored by 30 New Jersey licensed property/casualty insurance companies.

Collectively, NJINS member companies underwrite 83 percent of auto insurance policies, more than 66 percent of homeowners' insurance policies, 45 percent of the commercial insurance and more than 45 percent of workers compensation policies in New Jersey.

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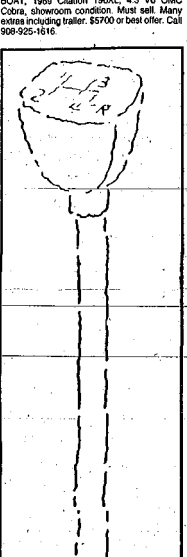
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