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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1999 - SECTION B

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'Let's go freeholders'

We're halfway through the year and the freeholders still can't seem to regularly start a meeting on time. Although the overall attendance rate has been good and punctuality seems to be at an all-time high, freeholders generally begin meetings at least a half-hour late. They were good for awhile but the last two months they've really let themselves go.

It got so bad a few weeks ago, residents who were waiting for the meeting to start began clapping. I was expecting them to start a "Let's go freeholders" chant at any moment. Of course audience members weren't there for the actual meeting, only for the resolutions from the freeholder board honoring them for some kind of achievement or accomplishment.

My Two Cents

By Mark Hrywno
Regional Editor

That's another thing. While I've never seen a governing body that seems to have as much fun at its meetings, I've also never seen one that spends so much time taking photographs. After beginning meetings late, they usually spend anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes snapping pictures and giving resolutions. Before you know it, it's an hour after the scheduled starting time before they really get to the agenda.

For those of you scoring at home, here's a look at freeholder attendance through the first half of the year:

Freeholder	Q1	Q2	Total
Mirabella	13/13	13/13	26/26
Sullivan	13/13	13/13	26/26
Scanton	13/13	12/13	25/26
Soulet	12/13	12/13	24/26
Mingo	12/13	12/13	24/26
Goncalves	13/13	10/13	23/26
Holmes	11/13	12/13	23/26
Potolo	10/12	13/14	23/26
Stender	10/12	11/14	21/26

These, of course, are not official but only from my own notes through July 8. They also do not include any special meetings that last only a few minutes. Freeholder Deborah Scanton spoiled her perfect record with last week's absence, leaving Freeholder Alexander Mirabella and Vice Chairman Dan Sullivan as the only ones left with perfect attendance. One thing I can say is the nine-member, all-Democratic board does have better attendance than any Republicans who served.

With the freeholders not meeting June 17, I found myself searching Union County for a meeting to attend. Luckily, I stumbled upon the Union County Improvement Authority Board of Commissioners in Westfield. Do I know how to have a good time or what?

The meeting was about as dry as you might expect, but there were several items of note. Only five of the nine commissioners were present. Had only four been there, that board would have lacked a quorum, the number of commissioners required to hold an official meeting and vote on business.

One of the five present was Vice Chairman Anthony Scutari, uncle of Freeholder Nicholas Scutari. Congratulations to him not only for being one of the five commissioners in attendance, but doing so on the night of his 77th wedding anniversary. Now that's serving the public.

As baseball superstition goes, you don't talk to a pitcher while he's tossing a no-hitter. It's just superstition, but the thinking is you'll "jinx" him.

It seems the same can be said for closed sessions of the freeholder board. Many times when the word "brief" is used by the freeholder chairman to describe a pending closed session, it seems the session

See JINXING, Page B2

County loses dedicated public servant

By Mark Hrywno
Regional Editor

When people needed help most, they turned to Ann P. Conti and she was glad to help. As Union County Surrogate, she dealt with wills, probate and other situations some might face after the death of a family member.

Mrs. Conti died July 10 in St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, after a year-long fight with cancer. "She was the most incredible person ever. She was my best friend," said her daughter, Kathleen.

She said her mother loved her job. "She loved helping people at a time when they needed it most. She was good at it too, a very caring person."

"On rare occasion people attain positions for which they are ideally suited. Ann Conti was such a person," Union County Assignment Judge Edward Beglin Jr. said in a statement. "Union County has lost a dedicated public servant."

"As our surrogate, she was able to combine her learning as a lawyer, with her training in social work, her political skills, her commitment to our profession, and her role as wife, mother-and-grandmother."

Beglin said Mrs. Conti established a guardian monitoring program for the Superior Court that is being duplicated statewide.

Mrs. Conti was a member of the Board of Directors of the National College of Probate Judges and was about to become president. She was the first female president of the Union County Bar Association and one of the founders of Women Lawyers of Union County.

"She was absolutely fabulous" as a boss, said Deputy Surrogate Mac Trovbridge. "She was very helpful to anyone who came across her path."

"Nothing was insolvable. You could always turn to her and find a solution."

During a visit to Elizabeth on Mon-

day, U.S. Rep. Robert Menendez, D-13, said Mrs. Conti was "an advocate for seniors and took a special interest in causes for seniors."

"Her passing is a tragic and great loss Union County will suffer," Freeholder Chairman Nicholas Scutari said. "It will be a large void to fill. She was not only popular, but very good at what she did."

A Democrat, Mrs. Conti was re-elected in 1997 to a five-year term and had served as surrogate since 1983. According to state statute, the governor must appoint a Democrat to fill the vacancy with the consent of the State Senate, Scutari said. Until then the deputy surrogate will serve as surrogate. An election in November will be for a full five-year term, he said.

The Union County surrogate is an elected constitutional officer serving a five-year term who is responsible for probating wills, appointing executors, administrators, guardians and trustees of decedents' estates.

As surrogate, Mrs. Conti also

reviewed and prepared all Union County court proceedings in probate matters; prepared court calendars and processed guardianship accounts; and handled all adoption preparation and paperwork. She conducted seminars for the public on probate law, self-proving wills and other topics.

A resident of Mountaineer for 22 years, Mrs. Conti started a senior citizen lawyer referral service and was a member of the Abused Elderly Committee.

Born in Long Branch, Conn. graduated from St. Peter's High School, New Brunswick before receiving her undergraduate and law degrees from Seton Hall University, South Orange, specializing in family and estate law.

Surviving are a husband, Ralph, a son, Ralph; and four daughters, Margaret, Colleen, Eileen and Kathleen. Funeral arrangements were at Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, Westfield, on Tuesday. Interment was at Fairview Cemetery, Westfield, yesterday after a funeral



Ann P. Conti
County-surrogate

Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, Mountaineer. Donations in Mrs. Conti's memory may be sent to the Center for Hope, Hospice, 176 Hussa St., Linden, NJ 07036, or to the American Cancer Society.

Congressman advocates investing in Medicare

By Mark Hrywno
Regional Editor

Senior citizens may have another choice in prescription drug programs if Congress approves a plan presented by President Bill Clinton that would allocate billions of dollars of the nation's surplus toward saving Medicare and Social Security.

With the first balanced budget in a generation, U.S. Rep. Robert Menendez, D-13, said the time is right for investing the surplus and building on the good work of balancing the budget. Menendez visited with senior citizens at Elizabeth's Peterstown Community Center on Monday for a roundtable discussion and outlined the proposal to save Medicare and Social Security and offer another option in Medicare's prescription drug benefits.

"Now that we have a surplus, it's time to make intelligent choices. We believe a good part of that is to invest in Social Security," Menendez said. A new "Part D" Medicare prescription drug benefit would be totally voluntary. In speaking with constituents, Menendez said one of senior citizens' greatest needs are the rising costs of prescription drugs.

Under the voluntary Part D benefit, seniors would pay \$24 per month starting in 2002 and Medicare would pay half of all prescriptions up to \$2,000. The cap would increase to \$5,000 in 2008 as would the monthly payment to \$44.

The program is voluntary so seniors who believe they have a better plan do not have to do anything. Citizens with a supplemental plan would have to choose between Part D and their plan.

"This makes prescription drugs affordable," said Menendez. Ninety percent of all seniors will fall within the \$5,000 program and for those who do not, there is some discussion on Capitol Hill about a program to address "catastrophic" needs.

There are a whole host of seniors who have no prescription benefits and the voluntary program would serve 31 million seniors, according to Menendez.

"We think this makes sense. It's an intelligent way to use our surpluses." Some in Congress want a \$1-trillion tax cut, said Menendez, but most people would not receive significant tax cuts under the proposal.

The Part D option will pay up to \$2,500 of prescription costs starting in 2008, the congressman said, but "we're never going to get a \$2,500 tax cut."

Menendez hopes to give seniors a sense of what the plan is and "ultimately generate public support for this." With the new budget starting Oct. 1, "we hope to raise voices and support investment and not a tax cut skewed toward the wealthy," said Menendez, whose district includes parts of Elizabeth and Linden.

In order to extend the life of Social



Photo by Milton Mills

Congressman Robert Menendez, D-13, speaks with Russell Harris, left, and Leo Cremins, right, during a visit Monday to the Peterstown Community Center in Elizabeth. Menendez is holding a roundtable discussion about the president's proposal to save Medicare and Social Security.

Security, 62 percent of the projected \$1-trillion surplus over the next 10 years will go to Social Security under the president's proposal. That would guarantee Social Security would last until the first half of the next century. As for Medicare, 15 percent of the surplus — or \$794 billion over the next 15 years — is slated to go to Medicare which would extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund until 2027.

Under the proposal, seniors also would have the costs of cancer screen-

ings and other preventative measures eliminated. Preventative measures ultimately benefit the quality of life for all and can save money by detecting illness early, the congressman said. Presently, co-payments might discourage some seniors from taking such steps.

U.S. Rep. Robert Franks, R-7, "shares the president's goal in making sure seniors have access to an affordable prescription drug program," said Janet Thompson, the congressman's press secretary. Franks "agrees with

the president to take action now to maintain longer term financial stability of Medicare."

Thompson said the congressman is waiting for an independent financial analysis of what the president's program will cost and comments from his senior constituents. Franks, whose district includes most of Union County, recently sent a mailing to area senior organizations to offer their comments and suggestions on the president's proposal.

Union County SAT scores

High School	Town	Combined score	Top 25%	Percent tested
Summit	Summit	1123	1310	95.4
Westfield	Westfield	1113	1280	96.4
New Providence	New Providence	1109	1245	95.9
Governor Livingston	Berkeley Heights	1101	1260	96.1
Scotch Plains-Fanwood	Scotch Plains-Fanwood	1073	1240	95.4
Jonathan Dayton	Springfield	1039	1170	110.0
Cranford	Cranford	1036	1160	94.8
Arthur L. Johnson	Clark	1017	1170	95.4
David Breahey	Kenilworth	986	1130	94.7
Roselle Park	Roselle Park	974	1110	95.1
Union	Union	966	1106	92.3
Rahway	Rahway	909	1020	92.0
Linden	Linden	856	980	89.6
Hillside	Hillside	842	960	93.3
Elizabeth	Elizabeth	818	940	87.5
Plainfield	Plainfield	818	920	90.1
Abraham Clark	Roselle	812	940	90.2

County average 977 1114 997.94
Source: New Jersey State Report Card, 1997-98

Top 25% is the average score of students who scored in the top 25 percent. The percent tested category is based on the 12th-grade enrollment, thus, Jonathan Dayton High School had 110 percent tested because the number of 11th- and 12th-graders who took the test exceeded the 12th-grade enrollment.

Water levels are okay

By Philip Sean Curran
Staff Writer

Despite a June with lower than normal rainfall, a spokesman for Elizabethtown Water Company said his company is ready for the summer when demand for water is usually at its highest.

Elizabethtown Water Co.'s sources of water are the Round Valley and Spruce Run reservoirs, which are run by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, and the Raritan and Mills, two rivers.

The Spruce Run Reservoir holds about 11 billion gallons of water while Round Valley holds about 55 billion, said Ed Buss, a spokesman for the authority.

The average combined capacity of both reservoirs is 94.5 percent, Buss said. Even with the warm weather, the capacity has not dropped off measurably, around 90 percent.

"The drop-off is a product of low rainfall. Buss noted that there had been a half an inch of rain in June. Normally, in June, there is about four inches of rain, Buss said.

Elizabethtown Water Co. serves about 94 communities — 13 of those in Union County. In all, there are about 213 million customers, a spokesman said. Besides Union, they are in Mercer, Morris, Somerset and Middlesex counties.

The company tracks how much water people use on a month-by-month basis. Erin Reilly said all 54 communities used on average 143 million gallons of water this time last

year. During two hot days in June, that figure rose considerably. On June 7 and 8, people living in the 54 communities used a total of 192 million gallons each day.

"But last week, overall, we were over 200," she said Monday. "The highest total was 223 million gallons" on July 8.

In the summer, which Elizabethtown counts from Memorial Day to Labor Day, normal usage is 150 million gallons per day, Reilly said.

"We are looking forward to the summer and are prepared to meet the peak demands," said Andrew Chapman, president of Elizabethtown Water Co. "We have made improvements to our system, which will ensure our ability to distribute water."

Ways to conserve water include: sweeping driveways with a broom, not a hose. Twenty five gallons of water can be wasted by using a hose for "that job," she said.

Another way is to water the lawn in the morning, Reilly said. Watering the lawn at night "creates moist conditions that can lead to lawn disease."

Literacy volunteers host open meeting next week

The Literacy Volunteers of America Inc., Union County affiliate, will host its quarterly open meeting at the Elizabeth Public Library, 11 S. Broad St., on July 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. for all interested potential or current tutors. For more information call the LVA office at (908) 490-0333.

Rape crisis center seeks volunteers

The Union County Rape Crisis Center, 300 North Ave. East, Westfield, is looking for potential volunteers to assist sexual assault survivors, their families and significant others. Volunteer trainees will receive approximately 40 hours of training addressing the different types of sexual assault and traumatic reactions of

survivors and family members. The legal and medical aspects of sexual assault also will be covered. Volunteer training classes will be from 6:30 to 10 p.m. on Sept. 28 and Sept. 30 as well as Oct. 5, Oct. 7, Oct. 12, Oct. 14, Oct. 19, Oct. 21, Oct. 26, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 18.

The Rape Crisis Center, a program under the Department of Human Services, Division of Planning, provides free and confidential services for survivors of sexual assault, their friends and family members in Union County. For information call (908) 233-7273.

COUNTY NEWS

FEMALE to present roundtable discussion

Members of the Union County chapter of FEMALE — Formerly Employed Mothers At the Leading Edge — meet Wednesday 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.

FEMALE is a national support group for all women who have decided to temporarily leave the work force to stay at home with their young children. What began as one Illinois mother reaching out to another in 1967 has now grown to over 6,300 members and 100 chapters in the United States and Canada.

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

For more information on FEMALE, call Karyn at (908) 272-2471 or Debbie at (908) 862-7781.

Blood drives scheduled

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.

• Today, Masonic Lafayette Lodge, 1550 Irving St., Rahway, 5 to 9 p.m.; Cran. Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Road, Clark, 3 to 7 p.m.

• Monday, Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union, 3 to 7 p.m.

• July 22, Clark Volunteer Rescue Squad, 875 Raritan Road, Clark, 8:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Clark Fire Department, Broadway and Valley roads, Clark, 6 to 9 p.m.

• July 23, Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union, 3 to 7 p.m.

• July 25, Christ of King Church, 411 Rutgers Ave., Hillside, 8 a.m. to noon; Union Elks Local 1583, 281 Chestnut St., Union, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Westfield Rescue Squad, 335 Waterston St., Westfield.

For more information or to sign up to donate, call (800) BLOOD-NI, or (800) 256-6365.

Computer terminals are available for job searches

Job seekers can look for work online, thanks to the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey Department of Labor. A computer terminal, with a high-speed connection to a statewide listing of available jobs, from public and private employers has been installed in the third floor foyer of the Union County Administration Building.

The work station is part of a statewide system of terminals developed through the Workforce New Jersey Public Information Network. It allows job seekers to look for employment, develop a resume and post it online for interested employers.

The work station also provides access to information about mass transportation, business trends in New Jersey and specialized services for job counselors.

Collection garners 203 cell phones for victims

Thanks to the generosity of those who donated wireless telephones to domestic violence victims, the program at the Union County Prosecutor's Office has exceeded all expectations. Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan, in thanking those who gave equipment without asking for any recognition during the two-month drive, said officials has begun giving out the first of 203 units to crime victims.

Only hours after the donation drive was announced April 1, the wireless telephones and chargers began pouring in and it wasn't long before nearly 300 units were piled high in boxes on the first floor of the county administration building in Elizabeth.

Manahan said Bell Atlantic Mobile agreed to reprogram the cell phones that were found to be usable at cost. Now victims of physical beatings or threats of violence receive a unit that can be dialed directly to 9-1-1.

"It became a great way to utilize old phones that would otherwise be discarded," said Manahan. "We want to lend domestic violence victims a means of seeking help in a real emergency."

The prosecutor said Elaine O'Neal, the coordinator of the office's Victim Witness Advocacy Unit, spearheaded the drive that actually began throughout the county as part of Crime Victims Rights Week.

The company, as part of its "Wireless At Work Recycling Program," has agreed to test and reprogram the old wireless telephones that are donated by a person or a corporation and return the telephones to the Prosecutor's Office for use by victims of domestic violence.

"One of the most dangerous times for a victim is immediately after they have a left a violent partner," O'Neal said. "We cannot guarantee anyone's personal safety, of course, but we do intend to place a portable phone into the hands of a victim so it may serve as a lifeline for someone in danger."

One of the first persons getting a phone is a 28-year-old Elizabeth woman whose husband is expected to

be released from the Union County Jail after he received a 30-day sentence for violating a court restraining order.

Executive Assistant Prosecutor Robert O'Leary said the phones will remain the property of the Prosecutor's Office, and they can only dial 9-1-1 in a real emergency where the victim agrees to help authorities in the case. The portable phones and chargers are only loaned to county residents, he added.

"The evolution of wireless phones from analog to digital and the appeal of newer, smaller, handsets has produced a large supply of old, unused equipment that is sitting in desks, cabinets and even toy boxes," said Charles Hand, president of Bell Atlantic Mobile's New York/New Jersey metro region. "Our objective is to reclaim these phones and put them into the hands of people who may need emergency communications."

Manahan said the telephones will be loaned to victims in cases selected by the staff of the office's Domestic Violence Unit, the Victim Witness Advocacy Unit or from referrals from police agencies or the county's battered women's program.

O'Neal said donors, including a Garwood police officer who came up with 20 phones and a free drop-off site, were provided with Bell Atlantic Mobile coupons for discounts on its equipment.

"We sent thank you letters to those who thought it worth while to pitch in and possibly even help save a life," she said. "But I want to say thanks again."

Contact We Care in need of volunteers

Contact We Care Inc., the 24-hour telephone helpline and crisis intervention 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.

Jinxing the closed sessions

(Continued from Page B1) closed session, it seems the session runs for an hour. Maybe I'm just superstitious, but you don't talk to a pitcher in the middle of a no-hitter.

There is one good thing I can say about one of the board's executive sessions last month. It gave me a chance to peruse the Teen Arts Touring Exhibit on display in the

sixth-floor lobby. The Teen Arts Festival was held in March at Union County College, sponsored by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs' Department of Economic Development.

It's worth checking, and if you missed it, it will on display at Roselle Borough Hall, 210 Chestnut St., through July 22.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Paper Mill produces another Great Performance

Continuing a quarter-century tradition of bringing the best on Broadway to public television, Thirteen/WNET's "Great Performances" has concluded negotiations with the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, to tape and premiere the company's production of "Crazy for You." Featuring music by George Gershwin, lyrics by Ira Gershwin and book by Ken Ludwig, the 1992 Tony Award-winning Best Musical is directed by James Brennan, choreographed by Angelique Ilo and based on the original Broadway production, directed by Mike Ockrent and choreographed by Susan Stroman.

"Crazy for You" will air during Great Performances' upcoming 27th season beginning this fall.

Matthew Diamond, director of the Academy Award-nominated documentary "Dancemakers," will direct the telecast. Diamond is responsible for such popular Great Performances hits as "Some Enchanted Evening: Celebrating Oscar Hammerstein II"; "Dance in America's 'The Wrecker's Ball, Three Dances by Paul Taylor,'" and "Variety and Virtuosity: American Ballet Theater Now."

"Crazy for You," starring Jim Walton, Stacey Logan, Larry Linville, Bruce Adler and Jane Connell, finished its Paper Mill run on May 30. "We are delighted to be working with Paper Mill again," said Great Performances Executive Producer Jac Venza, "particularly as this year marks the 10th anniversary of our presentation of their 'Show Boat.' That was a very happy event for all of us. It was one of our most requested programs and garnered two Emmy Award nominations."

Adds Angelo Del Rossi, Paper Mill executive producer, "It is indeed an honor for Paper Mill to have another three broadcast on Great Performances, a vital and indispensable cultural arts series. We are thrilled that it is our production of 'Crazy for You' and that a larger audience will have the chance to experience this wonderful piece of musical theater."

The official State Theater of New Jersey, Paper Mill Playhouse was founded in 1934 and raised the curtain on its first production in November 1938. For more than 60 years, it has been one of the most successful regional theaters in the United States.

Offering such Gershwin classics as "Someone to Watch Over Me," "Slap That Bass," "Embraceable You" and "I Got Rhythm," the Gershwin musical tells the lighthearted tale of Bobby Child, a stagestruck playboy who travels to a desolate Nevada mining town to rescue a bankrupt theater. Romance, of course, blossoms along the way, but more importantly so does some of the most innovative musical theater to have graced the New York stage in many years.

In addition to "Show Boat," previous Broadway musicals airing on Great Performances include "Sweeney Todd" with George Hearn and Angela Lansbury, "Cats," "The Most Happy Fella," "She Loves Me," "Purlie," "Black and Blue" and "The New Moon."

Great Performances is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, public television viewers and PBS. Major corporate support is provided by The Chase Manhattan Corporation and The Chase Manhattan Private Bank.

Union writer gets his point across

By Ben Smith Staff Writer

William La Pointe of Union certainly takes his writing seriously, but he is a young man of many talents, and at the moment he is more professionally interested in data processing and being a mutual fund specialist.

"Writing is a hobby," La Pointe pointed out during a recent visit to this office to discuss one of his many short stories published in volumes. Most recently, Pine Grove Press in Amherst, N.Y., published and included La Pointe's short story, "The Spirit Within," in "Reader's Break," Volume VIII, a full-sized book containing more than 40 stories and verse carefully selected from submissions from all over the United States and Canada, Europe and the Orient. The publishers explained that Volume VIII features "authors of ability and talent whether previously published or not."

Our aim is to be a springboard for noted writers of the 21st century. Writing as a hobby isn't the only thing La Pointe does. He is also a professional clown and mime and magician, and he plays in a three-piece band in a Union restaurant.

"You know," said the serious-looking La Pointe, "I work full-time at Data Processing in Roseland. I work in the trading department for the 401K Project. But I take my various hobbies seriously. I've had short stories accepted before. This time, I submitted 'The Spirit Within' to Pine Grove Press, and they accepted it. Actually, I wrote a lot. I do a little bit of kid's stuff, horror and science fiction stories. For this present story, I wanted to do something else—like a parable. I got an idea from Indian folklore. It was short and to the point. Usually, most of my stories are a bit longer."

La Pointe explained that "I've been writing since my days as a junior at



William La Pointe

college at Caldwell. I graduated in 1997 and majored in math and business," he smiled.

Born in Summit, La Pointe "lived in Union all of my life. I graduated from St. Michael's elementary school and Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains. It was in high school that I decided to take a creative writing course and become a creative writer. I decided to get in touch with a friend who put together all kinds of short stories and plays in classes. That peaked my interest. Some folks had some great ideas. In my second year, I

had an independent study. And I actually wrote a full-length manuscript for it. It was called 'Lang,' a project on how children develop language. You know, 'Lang' Language."

The manuscript was "about 200 pages. I went to a couple of agents to see if I could get it published. It was one of my first efforts. I've come a long way since," La Pointe grinned.

"I go back to it once in a while and try to revise it and improve it. Short stories are important to me," he said. "They start to define your craft, and

you get better and better at it."

La Pointe's first published short story "was an Easter story for a little magazine in Ohio called Duck and Dawn. I got paid for that, and that's how I got started. Another of my short stories, 'My Christmas Memories' appeared in a bi-monthly magazine. I follow Writer's Market magazine very carefully. The magazine has listings of all magazines' requirements. This is how I found out about all of them most of the time. It's hard to put a short story together. I find it challenging, but it's still a hobby to me."

Another hobby that La Pointe really takes seriously is being a clown called Bonkers, and he entertains at children's events. "When I was a kid, about 16," he recalled, "I would go out of my way to see all kinds of magic tricks. I had a couple of uncles who did card tricks. I learned them all, and when I went to Disney World with my family at the age of 16, I met some street entertainers and clowns. And they gave me some tips. And when I came back home, that's what I did. At first, I entertained once a month. But you do one show," he chuckled, "and 10 more people find out. I ended by doing it for four to five years straight. That was fun."

La Pointe plays bass — another hobby — with two other musicians — guitar and drums — at The Sports Section in Union Center. "They don't have entertainment for the summer," he said, "but hopefully we'll be doing our shows again in the fall."

The ambitious, hard-working La Pointe, who is in his early 20s, said that he likes to "keep myself busy. And I like to keep all my hobbies — they offer a lot of opportunities to be with people, to entertain people."

And perhaps to fall back on — should the opportunity avail itself to him?

Shakespeare Festival makes 'Real' Williams' dream

This past year has been a banner one for fans of the great American dramatist, Tennessee Williams. Last February, a little-known play of his, "Not about Nightingales," was one of the season's most highly anticipated events and garnered six Tony Award nominations. More recently, another "unknown" Williams play has been discovered, and in June Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson appeared on Broadway in their memoir, "Tennessee Williams Remembered." Close to home, last summer "Sweet Bird of Youth" was part of the inaugural season of the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival's new theater; in March the Chatham Community Players mounted a production of "A Streetcar Named Desire," and Pax Amico will present "Streetcar" this summer. "The Glass Menagerie" continues to be a staple of high school English curricula, and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" can often be found on an oldies movies channel in the wee hours of the morning.

With so many Williams productions on the boards, one might wonder, what moved Bonnie Moton to select one of Williams' least-known works, the rarely produced "Camino Real," as the second play in the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival's 1999 season.

Theater View

By Ruth Ross Theater Correspondent

Although *The New York Times* called the play "a strange and disturbing drama," as eloquent and rhythmic as a piece of music," and the *New York World Telegram* said it was a "brilliant and glorious adventure (that) succeeds in making tangible for all your sense the delirious pains and ecstasy of a wild dream," "Camino Real" may not be a success, for most theatergoers, used to conventional realist and easy-to-follow narrative, found Williams' open confining, hard to digest and inaccessible.

Such criticism might be off-putting for audiences of 1953, but in the ensuing 46 years, theatergoers have become more sophisticated and tolerant of the sexually charged themes that haunt Williams' plays. Although "Camino Real" might seem baffling — kind of like Tennessee Williams' piece Franz Kafka — it's also a vastly entertaining and ambitious night of theater.

First of all, Williams uses the anglicized pronunciation "CAM-IN-oh-Real," for this is not the royal high play leading from Santa Fe to Chihuahua, Mexico. Rather, it is a terminal road ending in a desolate place with a dry fountain and a view of the glittering, unreachable Tierra Incognita in the distance, a police state in a vaguely Latin country from which there is no escape. As *Magazine*, an aging prostitute, puts it, "What is this place? Nothing but the gradual wearing away of everything that is decent within us... where the price of admission is desperation." Here, in a town that is "a newspaper read backwards," frightened people huddle together for comfort, seeking the only defense against crushing loneliness: love — ultimately "a four-letter word no better than a word schoolboys write on walls."

As historical and literary characters, lost souls and sadists spill into the plaza of the walled town, the audience is utterly drawn into the world of the play. "Camino Real" revolves around these characters' yearning to escape their hell or, in some cases, linger in their purgatory. Smor Gutman is the proprietor of the Seta Mare Hotel, and throughout the evening he announces the play's 16

blocks. Guests of his hotel include the famous-lover-Jesque Casanova; his lover and Romanica-era courtesan Marguerite Gautier, aka Camille; the poet Lord Byron; and the British industrialist Lord Mulligan and his sordid wife.

Because Williams delves into the abstract, using allegory, archetype and symbol, "Camino Real" can be hard to digest. He emphasizes the formal elements of the theater — "I have given more conscious attention to form and construction than I have in any work before," he wrote — over narrative continuity. His characters — there are over 30 of them — muse on love, life, hopes, dreams and their journey down the Camino — all of which make the play difficult to comprehend at times. But what the play lacks in accessibility, this monumental production makes up for in spectacle. Using Williams' writing on his play's theatricality as their inspiration, Director Monte and company have produced a swirling cauldron of fantasy and expressionism.

The plot is simple, almost nonexistent. A tired Don Quixote dreams of Camino Real where a woman-out-casanova, a Camille living on memories, a pitiful, disillusioned Byron and others less famous live out a hopeless existence among panders, sinister street-cleaners, prostitutes and inhuman police who suppress those who dare breathe — such as subversive words — as "brother." Into this world comes Kilroy, the all-American kid, a ubiquitous soldier of fortune with "a heart as big as the head of a baby." This waif is finally coned, or almost, into despairing subjection like the rest.

The phantasmagoric aspects of the spectacle are beautifully conveyed by Harry Feiner's vividly descriptive and decadent set. Steven Rosen's atmospheric lighting and Molly Reynolds' colorful and evocative costumes — all of which provide a wonderful backdrop for the very talented cast. As the hotelier Gutman, Tom Brennan is smug to the core, the very image of a man who holds all the cards. Marie Wilson's Casanova is a man at the end of his life who, for all his myriad amorous conquests, still yearns for the tenderness and faithfulness of romance. His aging courtesan lover, Marguerite Gautier, who longs for escape from reality, is played by Pamela Gray; her vain attempt to escape Camino Real and her tortured confession are heartbreaking.

In the leading role of Kilroy, the all-American dude, who ends up selling his heart to a pawbroker, Paul Molnar projects the right amount of big-heartedness and hope so that you dare want him to escape this demoralized place. He commands the stage whenever he appears, even when he's lurking in the background, dressed in a clown suit. A subplot involves Kilroy's ceremonial solution at the town fiesta to deflower the raucous Gypsy's daughter Esmeralda, played hilariously by Opal Alladin. Her fine comic timing is evident in the very funny section scenes where Esmeralda broaches the subject of politics as pre-civil conversation!

Fine support is provided by Anne MacMillan as the coarsely funny Gypsys; Malcolm Tulip as a disillusioned Byron, who feels his love of freedom has been compromised by his excessive pride; Edmond Genest as Don Quixote, who preaches tolerance and endurance, and as the voracious homosexual Baron de Charlus; Matt Stale and Kate Schlisinger as Lord and Lady Mulligan; Veronica Watt as the libidinous-glibbe non-stop chatterer Prudence Duvernoy and Yolanda Bavan as the enigmatic old woman, La Madridia.

"Camino Real" runs through July 25 at NJ Shakespeare Festival at Drew University in Madison.

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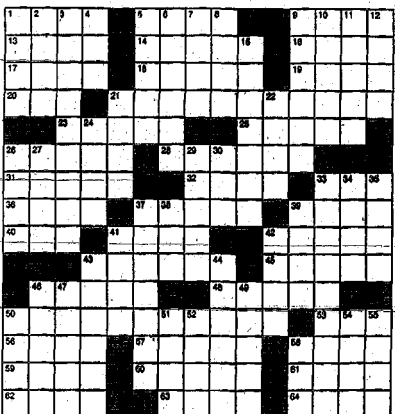
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32 Pierre's girl
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See ANSWERS on Page 88

Freeholders plan jazz, kids programs

Following the success of last year's "Jersey Jazz by the Lake," the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced that they are expanding their summer family fare with the addition of more events that are fun for the whole family. Last year, "Jersey Jazz by the Lake" drew over 20,000 people to a two-day jazz and food festival at Nomahegan Park in Cranford. This year's jazz fest will take place Sept. 18-19 at the same location, according to Freeholder Chairman Nicholas P. Scaturro. "Jersey Jazz" will again include a full supervised Kids' Kingdom featuring a children's stage with entertainment designed especially for kids, including improvisational acts, theater groups, performers and area musicians. Rides and games also will be available through the Kids' Kingdom, as well as educational and hands-on activities. Given the success of last year's Kids Kingdom, the county will sponsor "Kids' Kingdom Traveling Jubilee" on Sunday at Rahway Traveling Park, St. Georges Avenue, Rahway, on Aug. 22 at Watching Reservation in Mountainside. "It has been our goal to increase family activities at our county parks," said Freeholder Linda Steiner. "The Kids' Kingdom Traveling Jubilee is great family fun and is absolutely free."

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET EVERY SATURDAY
EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: Flower Market, 390 Nye Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 9am-4pm
PRICE: Lighting and Ceiling Fan Close-out. Dealers wanted. Call for directions, 573-379-0070.
ORGANIZATION: Evangelist: Sherron Baptist Church

OTHER SATURDAY July 17, 1999
EVENT: Summer Show
PLACE: Redeemed Lutheran Church, 134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 8:30am-12:00pm
PRICE: Clothing, Shoes, Handbags, 25% each.
ORGANIZATION: Redeemed Lutheran Church

What's Going On? is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is prepared and sent just \$50.00 for 5 weeks to Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for the other two counties. For more information call 201-987-9555. ORGANIZATION: Italian American & Nutsley Red Cross

Students participate in Paper Mill conservatory

Bill Bowers, who plays Zazu in Broadway's "The Lion King," led a Music Workshop on July 2 for the students of the Paper Mill Playhouse Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory at Keen University's Wilkins Performing Arts Center, Union. The students were dressed in red, white and blue in celebration of the Fourth of July. More than 60 of New Jersey's talented young performers are developing their musical theater performance skills in Paper Mill's Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory. Through July 23, the students have been scheduled to take part in singing, acting and dancing classes and attend guest artist workshops and master classes conducted by professional actors, directors, choreographers, designers and casting agents. After five weeks of intensive study, a concert event is held that showcases their talent. This year's concert, "Now Voices of '99," will be held on July 30 at the Paper Mill. The program is made possible through the support of Fleet Bank. Recent Conservatory graduates include Barry Cavanaugh of Bayonne, who is currently on Broadway as John Darling in the hit revival of "Peter Pan."

HOROSCOPE

For July 19 to July 25. ARIES (March 21-April 19): This is a great time to organize your financial files. Go over taxes, insurance and loan applications with partners. Don't let social or hobby spending get out of hand. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Discipline is your key word this week. Make lists or plans of ways to best confront a major task or project. Stay mentally focused and your success is guaranteed. GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Emotions run hot this week. Keep all avenues of communication open between you and a loved one. What you cannot say effectively with words, express in action. CANCER (June 22-July 22): Turn your attention to money matters for the next few weeks. Approach a creative challenge with originality. Now...

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It helps to talk about your feelings with a loved one. Keep an open mind and be willing to listen to valuable advice. Let your imagination run wild with a money-making idea. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your support system is tested. In your moments of doubt and need, friends will come through for you in some unexpected and wonderful ways. Show them your appreciation. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make your mark in the professional arena with hard work and dedication. Someone in authority recognizes your talent and commitment and takes you to the next level. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Follow the advice of a teacher or mentor.

You have only your best interest at heart. Your mind is rich with exciting ideas and suggestions. Share them in writing. If your birthday is this week, carefully consider major actions or decisions before seriously committing yourself during the coming year. There's too much room for misunderstandings and mishaps. Remain physically active or start an exercise program with the goal of getting into tip-top shape. Your home or personal life represents areas of growth and expansion. Also born this week: Jon Lovitz, Cal Stevens, Albert Brooks, Walter Payton, Ben Williams, Ronnie Cox, Robin Williams, Willem Dafoe and George McGovern.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
MANY OF CALIFORNIA AS CUSTODIAN OR TRUSTEE. YOU, CAROL APPLING, are made party defendant in the above foreclosure action because on September 8, 1997 you signed the Note and Mortgage documents which are being foreclosed on in favor of Bank of America National Association. If you have any claim of interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises, you are hereby notified to file your claim of interest with the Court within the time specified below. If you fail to do so, you will be deemed to have waived your claim of interest. YOU, JOHN DOE HUSBAND OF CAROL APPLING, SAID HUSBAND OF JOHN DOE BEING PICTICIOUS, are made party defendant in the above foreclosure action to extinguish any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises. Dated: July 4, 1999. Donald F. Phelan, Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey. U4637 WCN July 15, 1999 (558.50)

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'Summer of Sam' takes us through the past, darkly

In 1977, the city of New York was on the verge of financial collapse. Mayor Abe Beame was trying to manage a city whose budget had spiraled out of control. Tensions were flaring. New Yorkers didn't know who to vent their frustrations at. Sure, there were still plenty of potholes on the streets, but they didn't have former Mayor John Lindsay to kick around anymore. Current Mayor Rudolph Giuliani may have kicked off campaigns to eliminate rudeness, but in the 1970s, rudeness and bad manners were the main order of the day. The "free love" of the 60s had been replaced by hardcore pornography in the 70s, and go-go bars had largely been supplanted in favor of bathhouses.

This brings us, of course, to the summer of 1977, which is the focus of a new motion picture from writer-director Spike Lee, "Summer of Sam." That was the summer in which the city of New York was battling a record-breaking heatwave while also being terrorized by a serial killer who wielded a .44-caliber revolver. Along with co-screenwriters Victor Colicchio and Michael Imperioli, Lee has come up with an interesting idea. Rather than making the .44-caliber killer known as the "Son of Sam," the main focus of attention, Lee has chosen to concentrate on how the "Son of Sam" killings affected a group of fictional characters from a largely Italian neighborhood in The Bronx. In synthesizing the sights and sounds of New York from the summer of 1977, Lee has effectively captured the mood of the whole period.

In "Summer of Sam," John Leguizamo plays Vinny, a guy who works as a hairdresser by day and who likes to dance to disco by night. When he's not having an affair with his boss, Gloria, played by Bebe Neuwirth, Vinny is making out on the back seat of his car with just about every dame in the neighborhood. His wife Dionna, played by Mira Sorvino, in what is perhaps her finest performance since "Mighty Aphrodite," either doesn't know what's going on or chooses not to know. She's just trying hard to be a good Catholic and a good wife. If anything, she blames herself for her husband's philandering, secretly feeling herself to be inadequate.

Later, while enjoying a tryst in his car, Vinny is interrupted by the approach of a mystery man emerging from behind the trees. Startled by this uninvited presence, Vinny hops into the front seat and drives away, not thinking about it all that much until he discovers cop cars and the bodies of two dead lovers who were parked nearby. From that moment on, Vinny takes this as a sign that he has to change, while harboring the dread feeling that he's a marked man.

Meanwhile, Vinny's best friend Ritchie, Adrien Brody in a solid par-

Fade In

By Jonathan Franklin
Staff Writer

formance, is trying to branch out on his own by playing punk rock at CBBG's downtown in The Bowery, much to the disdain of his neighborhood pals, all with the exception of Ruby, played by Jennifer Esposito, a one-time girlfriend of Vinny's from before he was married. She likes Ritchie's spiked hair and decides to have a makeover herself, and her hair bleached blonde upon learning of "Son of Sam's" preference for brunettes.

Ritchie is now having domestic problems after having been told by his father, a hilarious Mike Starr, that he has to relocate to the garage. Ritchie's mother is played by the lovely Paul-Lucrece, who appears only briefly but manages to make the most of it. Tensions begin to mount as the temperature rises, causing ominous brownouts and eventually the big blackout itself, resulting in riotous looting on the streets. Amidst this growing chaos, "Son of Sam" murder spree continues, and theories abound among the neighborhood friends as to the identity of the killer. Eventually, they come to believe that the killer is in their midst, and may in fact be walking among them. All of these factors combine for a hard-hitting, explosive climax and savage finale.

"Summer of Sam" draws comparisons in my mind with Martin Scorsese's "Casino," 1995, in that it juxtaposes a grittier, darker past—in this case, the relatively recent past—with the more sanitized, "Disneyfied" present. Does Spike Lee prefer things the way they used to be? Possibly he does, if only because there was a certain electricity in the air, and despite the chaos and destructive behavior, or perhaps because of it, the film seems to suggest that the city and the people in it were more alive back then. While I don't necessarily share Lee's nostalgia for 1977, I do believe the film makes a compelling and powerful statement.

Upon leaving the theater, I couldn't help but think about Hubert Selby Jr.'s novel, "Last Exit to Brooklyn," 1964, which evokes an even stronger vision of hell. "Summer of Sam" is however, the chaos and destructive behavior, or perhaps because of it, the film seems to suggest that the city and the people in it were more alive back then. While I don't necessarily share Lee's nostalgia for 1977, I do believe the film makes a compelling and powerful statement.

The often frenzied cinematography is by Ellen Kuras.

Joyful noise



The Choristers of the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield, led the May 23 worship service along with the Cherub and Youth choirs of First Baptist. Choristers are in second through fifth grades, and sing under the direction of Minister of Music William Mathews. From left, front row, Leah Cocco of Cranford, Gillian Clark of Plainfield, Katie Engel of Rahway and Melissa Virzi of Westfield; second row, Allison Johnson and Lucy Peterson of Westfield, Latifah Owolabi of Staten Island, Maggie McGuire of Rahway and Donnie Turlington of Summit; back row, Lee Hinman of Mountainside, Deirdre Clark of Plainfield, Annie Peterson of Westfield, Cecilia Della Peruti of North Plainfield and Jesse Hinman, of Mountainside.

Freeholders establish HEART grant

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, recognizing the importance of cultural and arts, has established the HEART Grant program. This funding will serve as a catalyst to strengthen the county's non-profit organizations, artists and scholars, enhancing their capacity to provide innovative projects relating to history, the arts and humanities.

Projects funded under the HEART Grant program must:

- directly serve Union County residents;
- increase appreciation for Union County history, the arts or humanities, and
- demonstrate that cultural assets are a vital part of community life, economic development and cultural tourism.

Applications will be reviewed on the first Monday of each month and must be received on the 15th of the preceding month to be considered. The maximum amount that may be requested by an organization is \$5,000; individuals may request up to \$3,000.

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by Tim Hayes
The buzz surrounding the hip new restaurant Basilico is almost overwhelming. Open only since June, this beautifully modern, hipspot has already grabbed the attention of hundreds of the area's most demanding diners. So much so, that even on weeknight tables are scarce. The fact that they have managed such a large and loyal following in such a short amount of time means that they must be doing something right.

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The buzz surrounding the hip new restaurant Basilico is almost overwhelming. Open only since June, this beautifully modern, hipspot has already grabbed the attention of hundreds of the area's most demanding diners. So much so, that even on weeknight tables are scarce. The fact that they have managed such a large and loyal following in such a short amount of time means that they must be doing something right.

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973-379-7020

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www.aubergeswiss.com

West Side or in Treaca and people watching is definitely to be expected. While the menu is based on classic Italian favorites, owners Marco DeMarco and Angelo DeBucchi have succeeded in making each dish their own. For starters I would suggest the Portobello con Capriolo (\$7.95) which arrives as a plate of warm goat cheese atop a grilled portobello mushroom served with truffle greens surrounded by a sprinkling of two distinct vinaigrettes. The mushroom that I had was done to perfection and the goat cheese provided just the right balance to the mild sweetness of the mushroom.

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After enjoying such a meal, it is not unusual for many people to skip dessert, but to do here would be a tremendous mistake. Formerly of Le Cirque, the master pastry chef Dennis Bagetto ensures that the last thing that you eat is the highlight of the night. Your waiter will provide you with a dessert menu, however one is really not necessary. The souffe of the day will provide all of the inspiration that you'll need to tell your friends and neighbors about Basilico. Mine was a lemon souffe (\$10.95) that stood almost 8 inches tall and was as light as air. My expectations were high, but I was not prepared for the explosion of flavor that erupted in my mouth. The taste was fresh and tart and stayed with me for a moment before evaporating off of my tongue. It was the taste of pure lemon with just the right amount of tart. That alone is worth the visit.

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 266 Liberty Street, Bloomfield

UNION COUNTY
 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union

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ESSEX COUNTY
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 West Orange Chronicle • East Orange Record
 Orange Transcript • The Glen Ridge Paper
 Nutley Journal • Belleville Post
 Irvington Herald • Weisburg Leader
 The Independent Press of Bloomfield

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Business Directory 4 PM Thursday
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 Ad Copy 12 noon Monday
 In-column 3 PM Tuesday

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Weichert Realtors lists site of 'old mill stream'

Being your business "down by the Old Mill Stream" — the picturesque Williams-Droescher Mill (circa 1740) in Cranford, where generations of families have worked to produce everything from grain and lumber, to scissors, combs, and musical organs. Today, The Mill — boasts 4,200 square feet of office space and offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to the investor or business owner who is seeking "that perfect location."

The Mill features four private suites with separate bathrooms (two suites have separate entrances that are accessed from a ground-level entrance way), central air conditioning, a full attic suitable for possible expansion, and on-site parking. Listed in the National Registry of Historic Sites, the Williams-Droescher Mill, one of the town's and state's enduring landmarks, is the last of the 11 mills that once lined the banks of the Rahway River. It is the oldest, continuously occupied commercial building in New Jersey.

The origin of The Mill dates back to 1710, when Benjamin Williams built a dam across the Rahway River of what is now Lincoln Avenue East, above the High Street bridge, to operate his lumber mill. Lumber and boards cut at the Williams Mill went into the construction of the first Colonial home built in the area.



The 'old mill stream' and the Williams-Droescher Mill in Cranford is being listed by Weichert Realtors.

Are you profiting from the families buying homes in your community?



This valuable group of consumers spends more in the first six months in their new home than at any other time! Welcome Wagon is the largest and most successful marketing program targeting new home-owners.

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SORT AFTER HIGHEST LOCATION
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ERA VILLAGE GREEN REALTORS, 35 Bramt Avenue, Clark, N.J.
1-800-844-3611

Doris Kopli Sales Associate
After 18 years in Real Estate Doris Kopli has devoted her time and energy to assisting others in making one of the biggest decisions of their lives - either buying or selling a home.

She has earned membership in the Burgdorff's Elite President's Club 1987 and 1997, and Producers Club 1992-93 and is a member of the NJAR Million Dollar Sales Club 1985, 86, 92, 93, 98.

Along with a rare ability to listen and a compassionate and fair nature, Doris is a self-motivated person who likes to take the initiative.

In April Doris did over \$1.3 Million in listings and sales.

For your real estate needs call Doris on her direct line 908-233-6950.

ERAs
BURGDORFF ERA REALTORS
600 NORTH AVENUE WEST
WESTFIELD NJ 07090

KIAMIE
BY THE SEA
CLARK

LARGE ALL BRICK RANCH ON 106 x 128 FOOT LOT. THIS GREAT HOME FEATURES LIVING ROOM WITH FIRE PLACE, DINING ROOM, BRAND NEW KITCHEN WITH GRANITE FLOOR AND COUNTERTOP, THREE BEDROOMS, MASTER BATH AND MAIN BATH WITH JACUZZI ARE ALSO NEW AND DEN. THERE IS A LOVELY COMPLETELY FINISHED BASEMENT WITH LARGE FAMILY ROOM, FULL KITCHEN, FULL BATH, OFFICE AND LAUNDRY ROOM. (IDEAL IN LAW SUITE). THERE ARE BEAUTIFUL HARDWOOD FLOORS THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE AND GREAT CLOSET SPACE. THERE IS A LOVELY RAISED PATIO AND A TWO CAR GARAGE WITH EXTRA DRIVEWAY SPACE FOR ADDITIONAL CARS. THIS HOME WOULD BE GREAT FOR A RESIDENT. PROFESSIONAL PRICE \$380K.

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All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act... We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law...

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EAST ORANGE: 3 bedrooms in 2 family, quiet neighborhood, near school and transportation \$675...

IRVINGTON, MODERN 1 bedroom apartment! Heat/hot water provided! \$550 Available immediately...

IRVINGTON, MODERN 2 bedroom apartment! Heat/hot water provided! \$750 Available immediately...

IRVINGTON, TWO big bedrooms, 802 Chancellor Avenue. Close to transportation. Separate utilities... 1 month security...

IRVINGTON, UPPER 1 bedroom apartment! Heat/hot water included! \$773-274-662

MAPLEWOOD, 5/2 room apartment in Victorian home. \$920. 973-752-4121.

MAPLEWOOD, CHARMING 3 bedroom apartment opposite park. Kitchen, dining room, living room, enclosed porch. Parking \$1000 plus utilities...

NEWARK—WEEHOCKIN AREA STUDIO 1 AND 2 BEDROOMS Very spacious, nice quiet building and high school...

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APARTMENT TO RENT

ORANGE 455 HIGHLAND Avenue. Extra large 1 bedroom \$675 month, wood floors, tile bath, heat/hot water included...

ORANGE, LARGE 1 bedroom apartment. Quiet building. Close to train and bus. Available immediately... 1 month security...

UNION, 1 BEDROOM apartment, utilities included, quiet space, private deck, 1 1/2 month security, no pets, new kitchen and bath...

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

FURNISHED ROOMS FOR RENT UNION, MALE preferred. Private entrance. Very large bedroom. Many extras \$100 week. Call 908-687-3237.

WEST ORANGE, lovely 1 room, bathroom, storage, home, no kitchen, microwave, small refrigerator, cable tv, utilities included, call us \$595, \$450, security. Available now!

ROOM TO RENT 1 LARGE STUDIO Room in Irvington, near transportation, school hospital, shopping and church. Call 908-687-6331.

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OFFICE TO LET SPRINGFIELD, INDIVIDUALLY furnished offices, with business support services. Call Tom 973-921-3000.

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All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin...

LAND FOR SALE CLARK, CORNER lot for sale. Broadway & Lincoln 1.541/1000. Zoned commercial. Call David Pyle 201-915-6591.

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\$5 ALL CASH \$5 PAID FOR 1 TO 100 FAMILY HOMES CLOSE IN 3 DAYS WE STOP FORECLOSURES Call MR. SHARPE at 973-378-5700

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LIVINGSTON 2 BEDROOMS, 2 bath, cherry cabin kitchen, CAC, living room, formal dining room, deck and patio. Large level yard \$289,500. 973-378-1110 Joseph A Del Forno, Inc.

SOUTH ORANGE, Open house, Sunday 1pm-4pm, 3 Harding Drive. Lovely colonial features 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, hardwood floors, new kitchen, and much more!

WEST ORANGE, OPEN HOUSE, One day sale! 95 Mitchell Street, Sunday, July 18th, 1pm-5pm. (Northside) Valley Road right on to (Westside) 3 bedrooms, central air, hardwood floors, \$150K. Also, 3 Bedroom (Woodlands) Town-home and unit, upgrades \$289,900. West Realtors: 973-808-1000.

WEST ORANGE, beautiful 4 bedroom 3 1/2 bath, in-law suite possibility, in St. Cloud area. Walk to transportation/ school. Call 973-736-3182.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

WEST ORANGE, beautiful 4 bedroom 3 1/2 bath, in-law suite possibility, in St. Cloud area. Walk to transportation/ school. Call 973-736-3182.

SHORE PROPERTY WILDWOOD-CREST: Free vacation plus income. First floor, extra clean, fully furnished, sleeps 8 adults, off street parking, a free beach, just 2 blocks ocean. Asking \$82,900, best offer: 732-714-0309.

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55+ ADULT COMMUNITY. Affordable homes close to shore, Philadelphia, New York City. Call for free or free brochure and appointment. Heartland Realty, Writing, NJ 1-800-631-8500.

GOLF VIEW Estates, Pompano Beach, Florida. 55+ Manufactured Housing Community. 2 car-houses, pools, spas, and much more! Beautiful resale homes available. Call 954-325-1022 for information.

ROCKDEW NY 150 acre \$59,800. Woods, views, interior walls! Great deer bear hunting! Walk to Bavenhill! Many building sites. Town road, electricity. A rare find! 907-563-8977 www.snyland.com

SPORTSMANS SACRIFICE 340 acres hunting camp. \$105,000. Woods, views, interior, 3000 sq. ft. state land! Near Roscos and Bavenhill! (same available) Won't last! 907-563-8977 www.snyland.com

UPSTATE LIND Sarah's 7 acres \$14,800. Woods, long road front, very private, 3 hours NYC. Town road, survey, low \$! down Hurry! 907-563-8977 www.snyland.com

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Office to let... SPRINGFIELD, INDIVIDUALLY furnished offices, with business support services. Call Tom 973-921-3000.

Mangels & Co. REALTORS advertisement featuring four property listings: Union Two Family, Roselle Park Clean as a Whistle, Union Great Home - Great Location, and Roselle Park Great Starter.


ST. JAMES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER PRESENTS A FREE HOME OWNERSHIP WORKSHOP SERIES Tired of writing that rent check? Need more space for your growing family and want financial stability? Then this is a great opportunity for You!

NEW JERSEY MORTGAGE RATES Table with columns for Product, Rate, Pts, APR, and various mortgage terms like 30 Year Fixed, 15 Year Fixed, etc.

BURGdorff ERA REALTORS advertisement featuring Pat Connolly (Salesperson of the Month) and Pat Plante (Runner Up) with photos and property listings in Cranford and Kenilworth.

AGENT of the Month

Bern Degnan Leads the Way



Congratulations to our June Sales Associate of the month at our Livingston/West Orange Office, Bern Degnan. This is a rather modest business," says Bern, "and the key to success is to work steadily and to build mutual trust with clients." A multi-million dollar sales associate for many years and a former manager of an Livingston office, Bern's lifetime of real estate experience (his father was a Realtor before him) has inspired confidence in clients throughout suburban Essex County. Call him today at 973-992-6363.


Prudential **New Jersey Realty**
Degnan Boyle Division
 50 East Mt. Pleasant Ave.
 Livingston • 973-992-6363

WOODWARD Properties REALTORS®

Agent of the Month: George C. Bollman
 Call on George to put his over 25 years of experience and dedication to customers to work for you.
Congratulations, George!

RELO **908-598-0155**
 www.woodwardhomes.com
 92 Summit Avenue, Summit, New Jersey 07901

SUSANNA PALMAFFY



Looks like 1999 is going to be another very successful year for Susanna. After only a transition a week ago, just before the busy season, she is in contact with previous clients. The plethora of recommendations from her clients and customers, provide a chorus of, "If you force a Realtor to be good, go to the head of the Class." Call Susanna.

RELO THE KLEIN CO. REALTOR
 151 Maplewood Ave. • Maplewood • 763-0600

MARION D'ALESSIO

A 10 year sales professional, D'Alessio has won numerous listing & sale awards. She is a member of Weichert's Million Dollar Sales & Marketed Clubs, NJAR Million Dollar Club, 1998. A longtime West Orange resident, Marion has been a former Cub & Girl Scout Leader. D'Alessio can be reached at Weichert's West Orange office (973) 731-6064

West Orange Office • 973-731-6064
Weichert Realtors

From Maplewood to Merrick
A letter

Dear Senator Fuschillo,
 Have you ever been to Maplewood, New Jersey? My mother took me on my first train trip there to see it, because the people who are working with the Long Island Rail Road to make the station in Merrick, where you live, and others like it look new again, said it was great.
 They were right! The station is right on the edge of a beautiful park on a stream. If you go over one little wooden bridge, you get to an island where people can sit on benches and watch the ducks. Over another bridge is the library, which has a really good children's room. My favorite bridge is the one that goes to the recreation center, where they have an after-school program and a brand-new playground.
 If you go through a tunnel under the station, which is all decorated with pretty murals, you get to the downtown, where there are lots of nice shops and a post office. The station on that side has a circular drive, which my mom calls a "rats and ride." That's where the daddies or moms drop someone off to take the train, so they don't have to park at the station.
 Little buses called "jimeys" leave every half hour during rush hour and bring other people to the station and back home again. One goes on a loop around one side of town, and the other goes to the other side, and you don't have to pay any money.
 There are also big buses that go straight to New York City or Hoboken.
 I'm glad we were at the Maplewood station during rush hour, because something neat happens then. The station, which looks like the old Garden City train station, is open and you can go inside and visit a nice lady named Paige Kelley, who is called the concierge. She helps the commuters and the local shops. For example, one day a lady came back from a hard day at work. Ms. Kelley had warm Chinese food and cold groceries waiting for her. She had her dry cleaning picked up, her pictures were back from the photo shop, and even her car had been fixed. She said the money she paid Ms. Kelley was well worth it.
 Ms. Kelley helps at least 40 people a day. Sometimes they need something sent to a courier, or maybe they need pet-food, items, a pet shop, or they want to borrow a video or get tickets to a concert. She can even take their tax payments, get them garage-sale permits or dog licenses.
 If they need to know how to get insurance or a doctor or a plumber, she can also help them get that information. She knows about all the local stores and restaurants. Ms. Kelley says people have come from as far away as Tokyo and Germany to see the Maplewood Station, because of all the great ideas you can get there.
 I think some of them might work in our town, don't they? (I know you are going to a lot of meetings to help decide what our town will look like when I am older.)

Sincerely,
 Cristina Toscano, age 5

Congratulations!!!
George Kraus

George has booked over \$10 million dollars in transactions for the 1st half of 1999. He also achieved NJAR Gold in 1997 and 1998. You can count on his expertise every step of the way. Give him a call at 275-3017.


BURGDORFF ERA REALTORS
 Maplewood Office
 (973) 378-8300

SANDY AND IRWIN SCHRAGER HONORED AS TOP ASSOCIATES

Sandy and Irwin Schrager are tops at the Garden State Branch office. The couple was named Top 25 in sales at the month-end July 1999. They provide top quality sales and listing, customer service to their colleagues. Their sales production for 1999 to the Schrager's was achieved by Irwin and Sandy. Irwin is a former top salesperson at the Garden State Branch office. Sandy is a former top salesperson at the Garden State Branch office. They believe in hard work and dedication to their clients and the community.

Short Hills • 518 Millburn Ave • 467-3222
 For a list of homes outside the NY Metro Area, visit our National Web Site at <http://www.colonielite.com>.

Let Us Show You Maplewood



SHOWCASE TOUR THE KLEIN REALTORS 763-0600

RELO THE KLEIN CO. REALTOR
 151 Maplewood Ave. • Maplewood • 763-0600

For More information On How To Highlight You Agent Of The Month Call Paula Goodwillie (908) 686-7700

ADA TUMES
QUALITY SERVICE AWARD OFFICE 1998

Ada Tumes graduated from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. She has been a resident of the Garden State Branch office for over 10 years. She has been a top salesperson for many years and has received numerous awards for her outstanding performance. She is a dedicated professional who provides excellent customer service to her clients.

Century 21 Real Estate
 1515 Morris Avenue
 Union, New Jersey 07083
 (908) 686-3311 Ext. 31

Let Us Show You Maplewood



SHOWCASE TOUR THE KLEIN REALTORS 763-0600

RELO THE KLEIN CO. REALTOR
 151 Maplewood Ave. • Maplewood • 763-0600

ZULENE PEREIRA
 TOP LISTING AGENT OF THE MONTH

Zulene Pereira is a top listing agent of the month for February, April, May, and June. She has been a resident of the Garden State Branch office for over 10 years. She has been a top salesperson for many years and has received numerous awards for her outstanding performance. She is a dedicated professional who provides excellent customer service to her clients.

Century 21 10 Bloomfield Avenue
 Belleville
 Business (973) 751-7771
 North Side

Associate Of The Month
Robert Aquino, Broker/Realtor

Robert Aquino is a top salesperson for the Garden State Branch office. He has been a resident of the Garden State Branch office for over 10 years. He has been a top salesperson for many years and has received numerous awards for his outstanding performance. He is a dedicated professional who provides excellent customer service to his clients.

RE/MAX VILLAGE SQUARE REALTORS
 9 Sloan Street at the South Orange Train Station
 South Orange • (973) 763-3700

Agent of the Month
Omar Padron

Omar Padron is a top salesperson for the Garden State Branch office. He has been a resident of the Garden State Branch office for over 10 years. He has been a top salesperson for many years and has received numerous awards for his outstanding performance. He is a dedicated professional who provides excellent customer service to his clients.

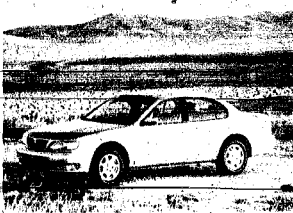
Mangels Co. REALTORS
 507 Chestnut St. • 502 Chestnut Ave.
 Union • Cranford
 (908) 686-3000 • (908) 551-1515

Agent of the Month
Omar Padron

Omar Padron is a top salesperson for the Garden State Branch office. He has been a resident of the Garden State Branch office for over 10 years. He has been a top salesperson for many years and has received numerous awards for his outstanding performance. He is a dedicated professional who provides excellent customer service to his clients.

Union Office Weichert Realtors
 908-687-4800

AUTOMOTIVE



According to the J.D. Power and Associates 1999 Service Usage and Retention Study, Infiniti ranked number one in customer service satisfaction. Infiniti of Bensville was ranked one of the top five dealerships in the country for customer service and sales. In addition, the 1999 Consumer Reports Annual Auto Issue recently gave its highest forecast rating for 'Reliability' and placed its 'Recommended' label on all four Infiniti models. From left, counter-clockwise, Infiniti Q45, Infiniti G20, Infiniti I30 and Infiniti QX4.

BMW lets you push the power to the limit

BMW M Coupe is the radical Z3 roadster variant with a hardtop that encloses the rear quarters. It is hatch-back-eque in appearance but not function.

The dramatically flared rear fenders are a touch of the last-generation Porsche 911 and work well here to wrap around the expanses of high-performance rubber.

Going for a spin in the M is like wearing black leather on a Saturday night date — you ain't on the way to a PTA meeting.

There is more implied in its appearance, as though you should always have your helmet and driving shoes in the trunk so you can stop by the auto-cross on the way home from work.

That's not necessarily a bad thing. The M is a special sports car. For its price of \$42,370, there are only two options: a power tilt glass roof panel for \$300 and an in-dash CD player for \$200.

You can't, however, get a last forecast Z3 Coupe 2.8, rated at 193 hp, and 206 foot-pounds of torque. It has a starting price of \$36,770 and can be outfitted with a four-speed automatic transmission; the M has only the five-speed manual. That MSRP almost seems to be predatory pricing for what you get, which is some of the best of BMW.

The M owner should be one who appreciates precision driving. To not push this car to the limits — to not know how to push this car to the limits — is a waste of its engineering, which is why there is the less-forful 2.8 version.

While the performance level of this car exceeds the performance level of most of its owners, it is considerable enough to always leave the driver feeling in control.

It is an enjoyable car to exercise. The traction control is indicated by an exclamation point in a bright yellow triangle in the middle of the gauge cluster.

It either was so smooth in response that it went undetected, or those fat Dunlops stick too well to the road and the M's perfectly split weight distribution had far more tolerance than I had nerve — and I took some jowl-shaking turns.

Power comes from BMW's Motorsports division, which stuffs a 3.2-liter inline-six under the hood and pumps it up to 240 hp without supercharger or turbo. In secret it has a two-stage — variable — intake-valve timing.

The engine has that tightly machined BMW tone that is symphonic enough to just switch off the radio and listen to pterosaurs do their job. The five-speed gear box is idiot-proof for mixed shifts. With the M features are 12.4-inch vents brakes at the front, 12.3 inches in back. In front of those are 17-inch alloy wheels — some of the best-looking on the road — that are snugly fitted with very low-profile Dunlop SP Sport 800E tires.

Usually, high-performance cars with high-performance suspensions can be punishing on the interstate. But I got out after a two hour one-way run without a wince.

The overall appearance of the interior is refined and of high quality. BMW interior quality has gotten a lot better in the last few years.

The M has a special nameplate on the door sills and steering wheel with sharp-looking red and blue stitching on the wheel.

The gauges are set off by a chrome

bezel and the leather is rich with aroma. The cockpit-like interior and well-bolstered seats are meant for performance driving. The side bolsters keep you secure in the turns without cramping your elbow room and there is sufficient thigh support for long-legged users.

There is even decent headroom, which has always been a gripe-in-Bomers. The optional moonroof — \$300 — has solar-inked glass and no sunshade, which gives nearly an inch more head space.

There also is good use of space to carve out little nooks to put stuff. There are slots and a coin bin in the driver's door and small center console box that's just right for sunglasses and a tickleback glove box. And there's another useful catch-all in the seat-back buckethead between the seats.

Like the Vette and Boxster, the M

Coupe can be a road burner but very even-tempered if you don't feel like playing. Still, it takes energy to live up to the image this car places on the driver, if you can deal with every hot-shoo on the highway pulling along there to see if this car's as fast as they've heard. It is, and it's too much fun to us.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

AUTO FOR SALE

AUTO SPECIAL: \$31,000 for 10 weeks prepaid. Call Classified for details. 800-584-8911.

BUICK CENTURY 1998 fully loaded, 95,000 miles. 1998 price: great! 3200 cc. 5 speed. Owner. \$7,500 or best offer. 973-373-4616.

CARS \$100, \$500 & UP. Police Impounds, Hondas, Chevys, Jeeps and Sports Utility. CALL NOW! 1-800-772-7479, Extension 7040. (SCA Network).

DODGE DYNASTY, 1991 4 door, 6 cylinder, A/C, power steering, power windows, cruise control, 97,000 miles. Clean. \$3,800.00 or best offer. Call 908-687-2261 after 5:00pm.

FORD, THUNDERBIRD 1995, new brakes, radiator, alternator, battery, tires, stereo system, power windows, seats. \$2,500.00. Asking \$2,250. 908-964-4375, 908-313-7059.

HONDA PRELUDE: 1995. Excellent condition. Green with ivory leather, 5 speed, cd changer, stereo, air lock, roof rack. 4 new tires, always well maintained, 91,000 miles, \$11,995. 908-686-5633 days.

ISUZU TROOPER, 1995, Red, 4 door. Leather interior, 21,000 miles. \$23,000. Call 973-762-7406 or 973-313-9700.

JAGUAR, XJS COUPE, 1989, V-12, Red, 47K, all options. Original owner. \$14,000. Call 973-763-3111.

JEOP CHEROKEE Laredo, 1990, 4 door, 4 wheel drive, automatic transmission, 5 cylinder, 4.0 liter, power windows/doors, air conditioning, 150,000 miles. \$6,100 or best offer. 973-763-0440.

JEOP CHEROKEE 4x4 1988, 91K miles. Complete power, A/C, tape deck. Very good condition. 24,000. Day. 908-925-7500, after 6:00pm. 908-686-4380.

MAXIMA, 1994, 4 door, Automatic, power steering, brakes, power windows, air, AM/FM cassette, 53,000 miles. Excellent condition. \$3,500. 973-378-8911.

MERCEDES BENZ 450 SL 1979. Dark blue, 63,000 miles. 2 tops, stored winters. \$11,000. Call 973-275-1564.

MERCURY SABLE Ls station wagon 1990, white. Loaded, 88,000 miles. \$2600 or best offer. 973-429-1593.

NEON HIGHLINE 1995, BLACK 4 door, auto, power steering, power brakes, A/C, cassette, Chapman ignition lock. 41K. Excellent condition. Asking \$7,500. Call 908-984-0232.

PONTIAC LEMANS, 1993 Manual transmission. 35,000 miles. one-owner. White, new tires. Great running car \$2500 or best offer. 908-925-9096.

VOLVO, 1988 Turbo, raw 4 cylinder engine, all power. Excellent Condition. Must call. Moviex. \$4,200. Call 908-276-9198.

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415 ROSELLE STREET
908-486-1500

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1998

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\$209



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'91 GMC JIMMY SLE **\$6988**

VIN #N2527007, auto, 6 cyl. p/s/h/w/d/abs, a/c, cassette, tilt, cruise, 83,000 mi.

'94 LINCOLN MARK VIII **\$12,788**

VIN #W771307, 8 cyl. auto, air, p/s, p/s, p/w/d/locks/mirrors, cassette, tilt, cruise, rr, del, moon-roof, dual airbags, leather, bucket, alloy, black wall tires. 60,863 mi.

'93 HYUNDAI ELANTRA **\$2588**

VIN #W329323, 4dr., 4 cyl. auto, air, p/s, am/fm stereo, cassette, rr, del, cloth blk, black w/ls. As is. 63,375 mi.

'92 NISSAN MAXIMA **\$7788**

VIN #HT104574, Auto, 6 cyl. p/s/h/w/d/abs, a/c, cassette, tilt, cruise, alloy, leather int., 79,850 mi.

'97 FORD F150 XLT P/U 4x4 **\$15,988**

VIN #W119554, 8 ft. bed, step bumper, bedliner, reg cab, auto, air, p/s, p/s, p/w/d/locks/mirrors, am/fm stereo, cassette, tilt, cruise, dual airbags, cloth bench seat, chrome wheels, all season radial. 47,895 mi.

'90 FORD PROBE LX **\$2888**

VIN #S100445, 6 cyl. auto, p/s, air, cassette, rr, del, cloth bucket, black w/ls. As is. 70,142 mi.

'90 ACURA LEGEND **\$7888**

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'97 PLYMOUTH NEON **\$7988**

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VIN #W747474, 4 DR., 6 cyl. auto, a/c, p/s/h/w/d/abs/mirrors, sunroof, leather int., cruise, sun roof, dual air bags, leather int., 42,489 mi. CAR RIDES LIKE A DREAM!

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VIN #W115338, 7 passenger, 6 cyl. auto, a/c, p/s/h/w/d/abs/mirrors, cassette, tilt, cruise, rr/del, roof rack, alloy wheels, running boards. 74,199 mi.

'95 FORD CONTOUR **\$8788**

VIN #J124454, auto, 4 cyl. p/s/h/w/d/abs, tilt, cruise, alloy, a/c, cassette, 49,900 mi.

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VIN #W121184, 2dr., 4 cyl. auto, air, p/s, p/s, rr, del, sunroof, cassette, alloy, cloth blk, all season tires. 37,897 mi.

'95 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA **\$8888**

VIN #P604590, 4 DR., 4 cyl., 5 spd manual, a/c, p/s/h, cassette, tilt, cruise, rr/del, sun roof, cloth int., alloy air bag, cloth int., all season, 41,667 mi. MOVE QUICK! CAR WON'T BE HERE LONG!!

'95 FORD WINDSTAR **\$10,988**


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