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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2000 - SECTION B

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Greetings & otherwise

At holiday time you should stop and notice people for both the special good and the not so good they have accomplished. The list of greetings and otherwise this year includes:

Greetings and good luck to Mayor Karen McCoy of Hillside who in addition to running her town, found time to get married this past weekend to Bruce Oliver. We shouldn't forget that our part-time elected officials have real lives and families beyond the effort they give to municipal activities.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

Greetings to County Clerk Joanne Rajoppo of Union and her staggering 50,595-vote plurality in the past election. No recount needed here.

Greetings to NJIT who is using a \$2-million federal grant to ease congestion in the central New Jersey corridor including Union County.

Greetings to Mansol Garcia of Linden. This working mommy balances family and professional needs as well as a desire to continue improving her education. Every time I think of the working mommies and the burden they shoulder every day, it reminds me why we should demand better and affordable day care.

Greetings to John Dreyer, Cranford's number one farmer and gentleman.

Greetings to Winnie Noblette, a retired nurse who spends her evenings comforting and assisting residents in Cranford's senior buildings.

Greeting to Bill Iacono of Mountaintide, an accomplished contractor who always has time to give free advice and recommendations to self-improvement buffs.

Greetings to Joseph Politano, Grace Diano, Alison Calvanico, Emily Ann Goncalves, Lauren, Diane McNeil, Luke Diano and Briana, Nicholas and Anthony Capece and Brooke and Kelly Capasso. These are the little people who grace my life and home with their youthful enthusiasm. They remind me that we all have an obligation to leave the world a better place than we found it. Let's start by eliminating the national debt.

Greetings to Kathleen Hopkins of Elizabethtown. This reporter is serious about kicking the smoking habit, bravo.

Greetings to Bill Malcolm Jr. of Roselle Park who fights the battle for affordable education every day. Woodrow Wilson said, "You judge a man by the enemies he makes." Bill can sleep well each night based on that test.

Greetings to the Union County Republicans. Despite their tough election luck recently, their group of young leaders including Martin Marks in Scotch Plains, Sal Bonaccorso in Clark, Phil Morin in Cranford and Michael Tnpodi in Kenilworth, should keep the Democrats on their toes.

Greetings to the runner-ups for this year's Oakie Award. The "Oakie" is given each year to the individual who is best able to play on both sides of the political fence. The more blatant the play the more in keeping with the tradition of the award. One runner-up is the Rev. Joseph Parrish in Elizabethtown. Despite the obvious benefit of the trash train in eliminating truck traffic from in front of his church, Parrish didn't want to offend his fellow environmentalists. As such, he took the position that more study was needed on the proposal.

The other runner-up is building sub-code official Michael Koda of Clark who bounces back and forth between the two local parties with ping-pong precision.

But as in boxing, you only beat the champ with a knockout. In the case of last year's winner, Frank Dann, Union County Director of Operational Services, they haven't even laid a glove on him. While See UNGREETINGS, Page B2

Helmet law will apply within county parks

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Following in the footsteps of several local governing bodies, the Board of Chosen Freeholders is expected to approve an ordinance Wednesday that would require riders of foot- or motor-propelled scooters on county property to wear safety helmets.

Freeholder Mary Ruotolo, who introduced the measure, cited a similar ordinance adopted in Elizabethtown, making it mandatory to wear safety helmets. The Elizabethtown ordinance was sparked by the death of 6-year-old Andy Pino, who darted into the street on his scooter and was struck by a car in September. He later died from his injuries.

While participating in a fund-raiser several months ago in memory of her late husband, former Prosecutor Andrew Ruotolo, Ruotolo said she passed the site where Pino was struck on Westfield Avenue and flowers still adorned the area. She credited Elizabethtown Mayor J. Christian Bollwage and the City Council for adopting a similar ordinance within the city.

The Roselle Park Borough Council

passed its own helmet requirement last month and the West Orange Township Council approved a similar measure last week. Following the death of Pino, several state legislators introduced bills making helmets mandatory for children riding scooters.

Like the Elizabethtown ordinance, the county's ordinance would issue a warning to first-time offenders. A second infraction would come with a \$100 fine. Parents or legal guardians of minors would be responsible for violations after the first warning.

The law is primarily aimed at the county's 26 parks. Municipalities cannot institute regulations on county properties, Ruotolo said, and kids cannot protect themselves.

"If these rules are put in place it can make parents aware that certain injuries can be prevented," Ruotolo said.

The freeholders introduced the ordinance Nov. 30. Final passage of the regulation is expected following a public hearing on the subject at Wednesday's meeting in the sixth-floor meeting room of the Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabethtown.

Hello little girl



Photo by Milton Mitts

Sixteen-month-old Rose Tobe isn't quite sure what to tell Santa just yet. She and many others visited Santa and his friends during the county's annual tree lighting activities at the Watchung Stables earlier this month.

Up close and personal



Members of the Union County DARE Officers Association teamed up with the New Jersey Devil hockey team last month to lift the spirits of students at Central Five School in Union. With some of the students who got to see the Stanley Cup up close are, standing from left, Berkeley Heights Officer Mark Stallone; Summit Detective Jim Fredeen; Union Police Officers Nick Adio and Mike Rego; Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan; Fanwood Corp. Frank Marrero, association president; Union Police Officer David Hoff; Plainfield Sgt. James Schulkes, Mountaintide Sgt. Scot Worswick, and Union Police Officer Tony Manderichio.

Freeholders to create open space committee

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Several freeholders will be named this week to a standing committee of the freeholder board to begin addressing the county's Open Space, Recreation and Historical Preservation Trust Fund. The committee will be a regular committee of the board, similar to the Fiscal Affairs Committee or the Policy Committee, which have four freeholders with one serving as chairman. The standing committee would exist for the life of trust fund, which runs through 2020.

There are four standing committees of the freeholder board for 2000: Policy/Administrative Code, Fiscal Affairs, Economic Development and Inter-Governmental Cooperation & Legislative Affairs.

County Manager Michael Lapolla said a standing committee is necessary to implement the trust fund.

"There are a number of things that have to be done as quickly as possible and ongoing to be prepared for the new year so the board has final approval on what is done with trust fund monies," Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan said. The committee will facilitate the policy that the board will adopt for the open space trust fund.

The standing committee would make final recommendations to the freeholder board once it receives recommendations from an advisory board, which is expected to be formed soon after the new year. The freeholders also will need to enact an ordinance early next year to authorize the collection of funds, according to Sullivan. The committee must set percentages to be used for open space, parks and historic preservation.

The freeholders have the final decision on which projects get approval and where money is spent, the chairman said. "There's a lot to be done. The committee needs to be getting together as soon as possible."

Sullivan expects freeholders to be named to the open space committee by tonight's regular meeting.

Oak Ridge golf course to be shut down for winter

Serious golfers are known to take to the links whenever they can. Rain, heat and even snow does not deter the most dedicated "duffer." However, the change in seasons does bring schedule adjustments to the three golf courses operated by Union County.

"We seasonally alter our course hours according to the change in daylight hours, but this year we have decided to close Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark for the winter season," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan.

"Over the past several years, Union County has been working to improve the Ash Brook and Gallop Hill golf courses," Sullivan said. "During that time, closures occurred at those

courses while Oak Ridge remained open to provide golfing opportunities to the public. We decided that this year, it was Oak Ridge's turn to rest." The course will be closed from Monday until approximately March 1.

Eighteen regulation holes will continue to be available throughout the winter at the Ash Brook Golf Course in Scotch Plains, and the 27 holes at the Gallop Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth and Union also will be operational, weather permitting. Determination of playability will be made by the supervising greenskeeper of the course in question. Winter hours of operation at both courses through March will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Golfers are reminded that even if they are not playing a round of golf during this time period, all the courses are open for identification card purchases and renewals.

"Beginning Jan. 1, golfers should renew their identification cards at one of our courses," said Sullivan. "Early renewal will help avoid delays in the spring when everyone wants to take to the links."

All ID cards purchased in 2000 will be deactivated by the golf course computerized photo ID system on Dec. 31. It is important for golfers to keep these cards and bring them to the course when renewing for 2001.

When purchasing a new card or renewing this year's card, golfers must show proof of Union County residency through two forms of identification: a New Jersey driver's license and either a current annual lease, tax, utility or credit card bill, or a bank statement. Non-residents who own property in Union County may also purchase ID cards upon providing a current tax bill showing the address, lot and block number of the property. All identification card renewals or purchases must be done in person.

For more information about Union County's golf courses' winter schedule or identification card purchase, call the Department of Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4900.

Volunteers join Contact

Eight men and women from towns throughout Union and Middlesex counties were welcomed as new telephone hotline volunteers for Contact We Care, when the 24-hour crisis hotline conducted its annual commissioning service recently in Westfield. The new volunteers had attended Contact's 50-hour volunteer training class during the past year.

"It is such a pleasure as Contact's executive director to formally welcome these dedicated and compassionate men and women to the ranks of Contact volunteers," said Executive Director Michael Nicholson of Hillside. "I can't emphasize enough how much their contribution of time and energy means to our agency and the thousands of callers we serve each year."

"Contact volunteers not only give so much of themselves, but also grow and benefit in unexpected ways," said Mary Ann Foster, vice president of the Board of Directors and a tele-

phone volunteer herself. "For each and every one of us who participate as Contact We Care volunteers, our own lives are touched in a most positive way."

The new telephone volunteers are Westfield residents Lesley Hill, Gene Kronck and Marta Villafane, Fanwood resident Kathleen McDonough, Scotch Plains resident William Schau and Michael Lemiska of Piscataway.

Telephone volunteers for Contact We Care offer the gift of listening to callers in need. The Contact training prepares volunteers to deal with a broad range of human needs and teaches them how to actively listen and assist callers in working through their problems.

The next volunteer training class will be Feb. 22 through May 10 from 7 to 10 p.m. at The First Baptist Church in Westfield.

For more information call (908) 490-1480.



William Schau of Union accepts a certificate recognizing his position as a newly commissioned volunteer with Contact We Care, Union County's 24-hour telephone crisis hotline.

Million Mom chapter elects officers, welcomes founder

Donna Dees-Thomases, founder of the Million Mom March, was the guest speaker at the first organizational meeting of the recently formed Union County Chapter of the Million Mom March. In her talk, Dees-Thomases pointed to election victories across the nation as proof that a majority of Americans want tougher gun laws.

The Million Mom March made headlines this past Mother's Day when more than 750,000 mothers and others from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C., along with thousands more in 73 other cities, to demand common sense gun legislation to protect America's children. Since the march, the Moms have turned their concern about gun violence into a national grassroots organization with more than 230 chapters in 46 states.

At the Union County M3M meeting, members elected Julia DeSantis of Westfield as president and Denise Drummond of Springfield as vice president. Other officers include Maggie Savoca of Scotch Plains as recording secretary, Joan Feller of Fanwood as corresponding secretary and Julie Murphy, also of Fanwood as treasurer.

In the months to come, the Union County chapter will develop committees to work on providing support for gun victims and their families, promote advocacy on behalf of common sense gun legislation, and provide public education programs.

For more information about the Million Mom March, visit the national organization's web site at www.millionmomsmarch.com. For information on joining the Union County chapter and future programs, send an e-mail to M3MUnionNJ@aol.com.

Organ donor awareness



Roselle Mayor Joseph Croteau met with Samantha Tinkham of Berkeley Heights last month to tape a 30-second public service announcement for The Sharing Network in support of organ donor awareness. Tinkham received her kidney transplant in September and the mayor also is a kidney recipient.

Winter session offered at Union County College

For the third consecutive year, in recognition of the fact that college students are often interested in accelerating the pace at which they can complete their college degree, Union County College is offering a wide array of popular courses during what has been the traditional winter holiday break. These intensive three-week courses will provide students who successfully complete them the same number of credits they would earn over a traditional 15-week semester.

Beginning Dec. 26 and ending Jan. 11, 2001, the college is offering 28 of its most popular courses. During the session, in observance of the holiday, no classes are scheduled for New Year's Day.

Winter Session courses include Nutrition, Biology of Man and Environment, Introduction to Contemporary Business, Organization and Management, Principles of Marketing, Principles of Economics I, English Composition I and II, Public Speaking, American Literature II, Physical Geology, Music Appreciation, Introduction to Western Civilization I, Introduction to Mathematical Ideas, Algebra, General Psychology, Beginning Spanish I, and Principles of Sociology. All sections will be offered on the college's Cranford campus.

Students from UCC, as well as other colleges, will no doubt recognize that many of these are required for completion of their degree programs. Area residents from local colleges as well as students at home for the holidays can get a head start on a future semester's work by enrolling in and completing them in the space of only 12 class days.

According to Wallace Smith, UCC's acting vice president of academic affairs, both traditional students who enter college directly after high school graduation and adult students who have delayed their education recognize the value in securing credits at convenient times and locations.

For information on the Winter Session call Union County College at (908) 709-7518 or visit the admissions office on any UCC campus.

Books raise funds for annual We Care awards

The Union County School Councilors Association is selling the Enter-tainment 2000 Books to fund the We Care awards granted to high school students within Union County.

Each book contains hundreds of discounts for little dining, fast food, sports activities, special attractions, hotels, airlines and movies. Books are available covering the northern, central, and southern sections of New Jersey, as well as New York City. The books range in price from \$20 to \$30. To obtain a book call Carmine Venes at (908) 233-1086 or (732) 306-1077.

High school seniors can enjoy free college course

Wallace Smith, acting vice president for academic affairs of Union County College, announced that 100 Union County resident high school seniors would each receive one free college course at Union County College. Smith explained that this program was made possible by a special extension grant from the state Department of Education under the School to Careers provision of the Federal Perkins Act. Smith said 100 high school seniors from Union County who have at least a "B" average and good attendance records would receive a special one-time "scholarship" to take one course at Union County College.

"The student will receive all tuition, fees, books, and materials completely free, and upon completion, the credit will be part of the student's permanent college transcript," Smith said. "None of the programs where advanced standing credits are not transferable to other institutions until after graduation from Union County College."

Smith further explained that these college credits also will be used toward the student's high school graduation requirements as mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education, N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.3.

"In some instances, we will be adding the high school seniors to the population of a course given on one of Union County College's four campuses. In other cases, we will have enough interest to send a faculty member to teach the course at a high school site," Smith said. "In either

situation, the students will be experiencing a regular college course, doing college level work, and commencing a seamless transition to college life."

For more information about this program and other School to Tech programs, call Ivan Rubin, School to Careers director at (908) 965-2909 or e-mail to IRUBIN@ucc.edu.

Skate with Santa

The Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced that a very special guest will be making an appearance in Union County this weekend.

Skate with Santa will occur Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. at the Warnanco Skating Center, located off either St. Georges or Thompson avenues, on the Roselle-Elizabeth border.

Regular admission fees will apply. Skates are available for rent.

For more information call (908) 298-7850.

UCUA annual meeting

The Union County Utilities Authority will conduct the annual public meeting regarding the Union County Resource Recovery Facility, on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the UCUA, 1499 Routes 1&9 North, Railway, to be conducted by Ogden Martin Systems of Union Inc. as the solid waste facility permittee.

The open meeting is to provide local officials and the general public with an annual forum to allow public input and the exchange of ideas relating to the facility.

Following the special meeting, the UCUA's regular meeting, previously scheduled for 6:30 p.m. will be at 7:30 p.m.

Megan's Law explained

The Union County Prosecutor's Office will be conducting a seminar at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains for organizations caring for or working with children. The seminar will be offered Friday from 2 to 4 p.m.

The seminar will explain all aspects of Megan's Law including who is eligible to receive a sex offender notification and what you may do with the information if you receive it. Organizations who should attend include anyone who owns or operates an

establishment where children gather under your care such as Scout Troops, athletic associations, religious education programs of church youth groups.

Registration as a community organization is not limited to nonprofit organizations. If your firm a dance or gymnastics school and accept responsibility for the children while they are attending classes, you may also qualify as a community organization.

To register or for more information, call the Released Offender Unit of the Union County Prosecutor's Office at (908) 527-4511.

Wrapping for literacy

Literacy Volunteers of America-Union County Affiliate is wrapping for literacy again this year, at the Barnes & Noble in Clark, during the holiday season. The organization which offers free tutoring to adults in Basic Reading and ESL is wrapping books during the holidays to promote the need for literacy in Union County.

Volunteer wrappers are urgently needed to fill the schedule. All donations from wrappings go toward LVA-UC.

Call the Literacy Volunteers of Union County office at (908) 518-0000 to sign up to Wrap for Literacy.

Celebrity bartenders to raise funds in Union

The 2001 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee recently held a planning session for the annual Celebrity Bartenders Fund-raiser which will be Jan. 21 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Union Township Knights of

Columbus Hall on Jeanette Avenue.

All proceeds from the event will be used to put on the fifth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in the Township of Union. This parade is the fastest growing in the state, attracting more than 10,000 people for the last several years.

The Celebrity Bartenders Fund-raiser will feature various celebrities from the sports world and daytime television. Last year's event drew close to 1,000 donors. Organizers of this year's event will look to top that figure.

Clerk to work on revising state land recording laws

Union County Clerk Joanne Rapoport has been invited to work with the New Jersey Law Revision Commission to assist with revision of New Jersey Land recording statutes in light of recent national legislation permitting electronic signatures.

"The E-Sign Bill the president recently signed gives legal status to electronic documents, including property documents, as well as signatures, and was passed in an effort to spur economic growth," Rapoport said. "It will dramatically change the way business is conducted for homeowners, banks, mortgage companies, attorneys, and others."

In an effort to conform to the national legislation, the legislature is currently considering enabling legislation for the state. Rapoport said it is critical that consumers be informed of their rights and protections under the new legislation to avoid fraudulent use and theft of identity.

Ungreetings are in order

(Continued from Page B1) appointed by the Republicans, he got the Democrats to put him in charge of the county engineer.

On election night, you can forget tracking polls as long as we have Dann Spotted at the county Democratic victory party in November he was reported to have said, "Well, we did it this year." And I am certain the county Democrats appreciate his support, no matter how fleeting it may be.

Also, a few ungreetings are in order. A firm ungreeting for Richard Tokarski, executive director of the Railway Valley Sewerage Authority,

holder of the top political job in the county. He commutes to Rahway each day in an RVSA van from his Ocean County home to an agency which is picking up its costs to taxpayers by as much as 42 percent.

Also an ungreeting to travel agents who sell airfare to college students for spring break. Waking up from a nightmare where Troy Donahue is chasing your daughter on a beach is rough.

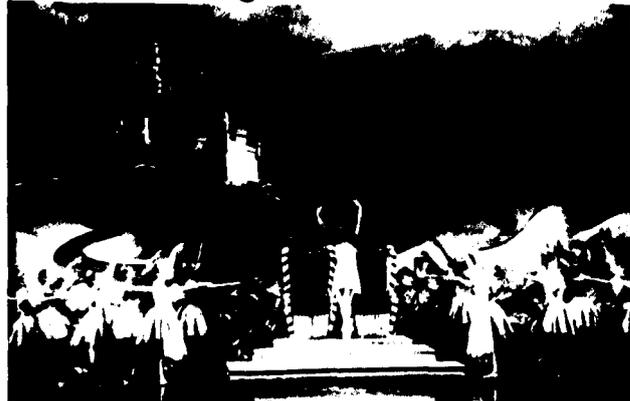
But to all others, pleasant dreams and a happy holiday.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Cupece is an attorney.

<h1>C.H. MARTIN</h1> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> <h2>SANTA SALE</h2>		<h3>PICTURE WITH SANTA</h3> <p>\$5.00 PLUS TAX</p>	<p>100 LIGHT</p> <h3>LIGHT SET</h3> <p>CLEAR or MULTI</p> <p>\$2.88</p>
<p>MENS</p> <h3>QUILTED FLANNEL SHIRTS</h3> <p>\$8.88</p>	<p>140 LIGHT</p> <h3>CHASER SET</h3> <p>CLEAR or MULTI COLOR</p> <p>\$6.88</p>	<h3>ICICLE LIGHT SET</h3> <p>\$2.99</p>	<p>GREEN SCOTCH PINE</p> <h3>ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES</h3> <p>With Stand</p> <p>6 ft. \$13.88 4 ft. \$8.88</p>
<p>OIL FILLED</p> <h3>RADIATOR HEATER</h3> <p>\$34.88</p>	<p>MEN'S</p> <h3>DRESS SHIRTS</h3> <p>SOLIDS OR STRIPES</p> <p>2 FOR \$10.00</p>	<p>THERMAL HOODED ZIPPER FRONT</p> <h3>SWEATSHIRTS</h3> <p>\$12.88</p>	<h3>LUGGAGE</h3> <p>28" \$15.88 29" \$17.88 30" \$19.88 32" \$21.88</p>
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<h1>C.H. MARTIN</h1> <p>44 BROAD STREET • ELIZABETH OPEN 7 DAYS 8 AM to 9 PM</p>			

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Visions of 'Sugar Plums'



The New Jersey Ballet Company will mark its 30th year collaborating with the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn when 'The Nutcracker' returns this weekend for a 15-performance run. For information, see the 'Dance' listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B6.

NJPAC spreads spirit of Kwanzaa

The fourth annual Spirit of Kwanzaa Festival, produced by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, began Wednesday when the NJPAC Jubilation Choir opened the festive four-day celebration with "A Joyous Gospel Holiday Concert" and the lobby of Prudential Hall was transformed into a colorful marketplace filled with ethnic crafts.

Nationally-renowned gospel artists Donnie McClurkin and Cissy Houston are the featured performers with NJPAC's critically acclaimed 120-voice Jubilation Choir directed by Stephanie Mimateo. The concert, "A Joyous Gospel Holiday," will be presented again this evening at 7 p.m. in Prudential Hall. Tickets are \$25 for adults, and \$12 for children.

The festival's formal opening reception and ceremony will be Friday, commencing with a Tribute to Community Elders Reception at 5 p.m. in the Arts Center's Chase Room. The Honorable Carole Anderson Graves, Essex County Registrar of Deeds, and Raymond A. Brown Esq., noted civil rights and criminal defense attorney, will be honored as outstanding community elders. Honoring elders is an integral element of the annual celebration. In the tribute to the honorees, poet Halim Sulaiman will read his specially commissioned dedication poem.

Following the reception, the opening ceremony will begin with the Libation Ceremony, a Kwanzaa candle-lighting ritual, conducted by African folklore educator and performer C. Katunge Mimy, in the Victoria Theater at 7 p.m. Musicians Folslo Alamide and Anwar Kedar will accompany Mimy. Students from Patrick Healy Middle School in East Orange will participate in the Kwanzaa Ceremony celebrating the Nguzo Saba, the seven principals of individual strength and community that serve as guidelines for daily living.

The seven principles are Umoja, unity; Kujichagulia, self-determination; Ujima, collective work; Ujamaa, cooperative economics; Nia, purpose; Kuumba, creativity; and Imani, faith.

Concluding the opening ceremony will be a performance of traditional African dances and music by the Dinizulu African Dancers, Drummers and Singers, the oldest performing African dance company in the United States. The opening reception and ceremony are being presented in association with the Beta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Tickets for the Opening Ceremony in Victoria Theater are \$18 for adults, and \$9 for children. Tickets to the Kwanzaa Tribute to the Elders Reception in the Chase Room are \$30.

The Dinizulu African Dancers, Drummers and Singers will also perform Saturday at 2 and 5 p.m. in the Victoria

Theater. Tickets are \$18 for adults, and \$9 for children. The Kwanzaa Marketplace will live up to the Prudential Hall Lobby and Second Tier East Shadow Box, through Friday from 5 to 10 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. Vendors will include Top Shelf Kids' wear, scarves and handcrafted jewelry; Shades of Color, scarves and handbags; Picture This, Sania Claus/Kwanzaa photographs; A Sister's Art Gallery, custom framed artwork; Ren Zob Jewelry; Creative Kraft Enterprises, fine ceramic objects for the home; City News, Kwanzaa media sponsor; Adrienne Luckett Designs, handcrafted jewelry; Ethnic Eubles, cookie-making kits and handcrafted candles; Caribbean Cake Confections, mouth-watering fruitcakes; Fantasia's Elegant Apparel, Sukaires L.T.D. and Ashanti Fields, all with ethnic clothing; Rhythm of Life 4U-The Soul of the Home, home furnishings, and Kujichagulia, books.

The festival focus shifts from performance to family activities Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. with the fun-filled Kwanzaa Arts and Crafts Village at the NJPAC Site Office across the street from NJPAC at the corner of Park Avenue and Center Street. Special attractions in the village feature face painting, craft trafficking and games.

Also on Saturday, in the main building, former elder honorees from NJPAC's Kwanzaa Festivals, will share their experiences of Newark from 1 to 2:30 p.m., followed by a Children's Storyroom from 3 to 4 p.m. with Denise Howell-Briser. Both storytelling events will be in the Personnel Room. All ages are invited to join Candace Hundley-Kamate and Yah'ya Kamate at 3:30 p.m. in the Chase Room to learn traditional African dance and rhythms. All village events are free and open to the public. The Arts and Crafts Village is sponsored by the North Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Tickets for Spirit of Kwanzaa events may be purchased by telephone at (888) 466-5766, at the NJPAC box office at 1 Center St. in downtown Newark, or on the NJPAC web site at www.njpac.org.

NJPAC's fourth annual Kwanzaa Festival has been organized by NJPAC's Arts Education Department and is made possible by the generous support of Amelior and MCI Foundations, Allen and Joan Bildner and the Bildner Family Foundation, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Charitable Trust, Lucretia Technologies Foundation, Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, Albert W. and Katherine E. Merck, NJPAC Arts Education Endowment Fund, NJPAC Women's Board Association, The Prudential Foundation, The Smart Family Foundation/Freedman and Stone, Turrel Fund, Verizon, and Victoria Foundation.

Cook is simply perfection

Webster's defines "legend" as "a story handed down as a myth."
Well, when the legendary Barbara Cook appeared in concert at the Paper Mill Playhouse Dec. 5, there was nothing mythical about the very real talent pouring off the stage, and the only stories handed-down came in the form of the anecdotes shared by the great lady herself.

Cook's Broadway pedigree goes back to the '50s when she created such roles as Eurgonic in Bertis ten's "Candide" and Marian Parson in "The Music Man," for which she won the Tony Award. While other Broadway cabaret came to the soprano would amass perhaps her most ardent and devoted admirers.

And if the show she gave at the Paper Mill is any indication of her work at such cabaret venues as the Algonquin, that admiration is more than deserved — every bit of it due to her.

Joining Cook onstage were pianist musical director Wally Harper, with whom Cook regularly collaborates, and bassist Jon Burr. The simplicity of the accompaniment only served to underscore the perfection of Cook's voice and performance.

Cook started her concert last week appropriately enough with an arrangement of "Sing a Song With Me" and "Let Me Sing and I'm Happy," after which she asked that the house lights be brightened on the audience. "That way, I don't just sing to this dark space," she said, and proceeded to make her attentive audience feel as welcome as if the proceedings were taking place in her own living room.

Cook's phenomenal voice shows no signs of age, unlike many other sopranos whose instruments fail them as they advance in years. Having listened to the original cast album of "She Loves Me" on the way to theater, this reviewer perceived no appreciable difference between the 1963 recording and the star herself, live and in person, almost 40 years hence.

Strike that — there was a difference. The versatile Cook now sings with a mind and a heart that has lived those 40 years, experience she invests into every nuance and grace note as she performs, creating a concert event with an emotional resonance not often found.

Cook covered the gamut in her repertoire — from old standards to some jazzy refrains, from songs she made famous to songs associated with other singers. And in between it all, she shared stories — touching, amusing, fascinating, and most of them peppered with names known to those in attendance. She spoke of visiting the Blue Angel on the East Side, and of doing on the great Mabel Mercer and soaking up the singer's wisdom. "It's Mabel who had more influence on my work than anybody," Cook shared. It was from Mercer that Cook said she learned the mileage to be had singing "on the consonant," which is strictly verboten in classical circles.

"Reminded me not to frown, you so attractive!" she quoted, only quipping, "I sound like Eartha Kitt!"
But for as entertaining as the stories were, it was Cook's singing that the crowd had come for, and they were not to be let down. From the hot and jazzy "I'm Beginin'" to See the

The Concert Scene

By Bill Vogel
Reviewed by Bill Vogel

Lined to the poignant "Emil Ewing" by Amanda McBroom, from its shades of love revealed in "Wonderful Guy" and "This, Nearly Was Mine" from "South Pacific" to the reveling, rousing feel of "Accentuate the Positive," Cook bounced from style to style with the ease of a virtuoso, a third her age.

While many of her numbers showcased her lower register — new territory to the ears of those who know her from her Broadway roles — she still demonstrated a lilting ease at the top of her range, often holding a note so softly and sweetly it seemed to exist only in our minds.

Furthermore, her lyrical interpretation was impeccable, wringing every bit of juice out of each phrase, word, and syllable. Whether painting a picture of a *B. H. Home* star father, a lost love, or perfect happiness, Cook used her lyrics to weave a tapestry with the music, resulting in a thoroughly satisfying musical performance.

After a break, Cook returned to the stage to pay tribute to Stephen Sondheim, arguably the greatest Broadway composer of this generation. Starting off this set with "Everybody Says Don't" from "Anyone Can Whistle," she drew her material from a list made by Sondheim himself — of songs he wishes he'd written. However, in true tip-of-the-hat fashion, Cook threw in some Sondheim tunes for good measure.

The second act's selections were mostly older songs — many of which were written by Harold Arlen, Johnny Mercer and Yip Harburg — such as "I Wonder What Became of Me," "We Gotta All Be Free," "When the One You Love," "Hard-Hearted Hannah," "Waitin' on the Robert E. Lee," "San Francisco," and "I Had Myself a True Love," which she took from a gritty jazz riff to the lightest pianissimo

unimaginable without so much as the blink of an eye.

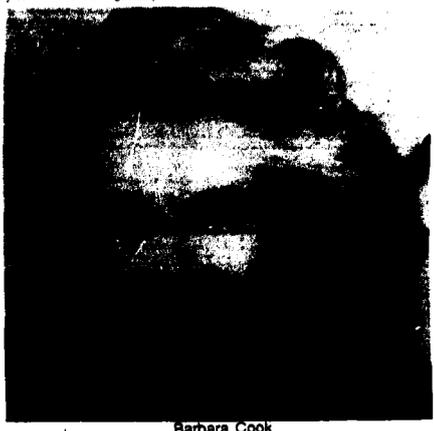
Cook's medley of Sondheim songs featured "Happiness" from "Passion," "You Could Drive a Person Crazy" from "Company," "Not a Day Goes By" from "Merrily We Roll Along" and "I'm Gonna Sing My Mind" from "Follies." A song she performed in the famed live concert version of the show.

However, the unqualified highlight of the entire night was pure Cook, albeit with help from Sheldon Harnick and Jerry Book. Touching on some of her own Broadway numbers, she talked about "Candide" and Bernstein's acrobatic aria, "Gutter and Be Gay" — "which I do not plan to do this evening," she said, generating the laughs — and a song which was cut by Harnick and Book from "She Loves Me" prior to its Broadway opening. That song, however, was replaced by another number, one which became Cook's signature tune, and it was a moment of theater like no other when the grande dame galvanized the audience with a performance of the beloved "Ice Cream." After graciously receiving a thunderous ovation for the number, she joked, "I have to admit, I gave that B natural a little more thought than I used to."

Having heard her sing it, though, you'd never know it. In fact, you'd never know it was 2000 and not 1963 when Cook first sang the number.

With the possible exception of "Ice Cream" nowhere in the entire evening was Cook's incredible talent more thrilling than when she returned to the stage and quieted the standing ovation with her encore — Sondheim's "Anyone Can Whistle," which she performed without a microphone. Cauterous though the Paper Mill theater may seem, Cook filled that room with the sweetest sound one could imagine, not so much expanding her voice to reach the corners, but opening her heart to pull those corners in close. One literally felt as if this were a "dear friend," singing from her soul, just for you alone.

"Legend? Not the word I'd choose. "Perfection" somehow seems to fit so much better.



Barbara Cook

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New Jersey Theater Group updates its 2000-01 events

The New Jersey Theater Group, the alliance of the state's professional theater arts' announcing its publication of their free, statewide 2000-01 theater calendar listing theater events from Teaneck to Cape May.

The fall season across the state is bursting with excitement as the stars of Broadway come to New Jersey. The state's 21 professional theaters and 10 affiliate theaters across the state are offering something for everyone.

The New Jersey Theater Group continues to offer its popular discount ticket program, the Theater Sampler Series. These three different plays at three different theaters for the low price of \$60 and save as much as 70 percent on regular ticket prices.

Theatergoers connected to the web, can now subscribe to the New Jersey Theater E-news, a weekly publication listing special offers and discounts at theater theaters only available to online subscribers. The E-news, sponsored by Verizon, also contains listings of "What's Playing" across the state.

Highlights of the upcoming season include Robert Cuccolo of "Jekyll and Hyde" taking the "Victory" at Paper Mill Playhouse, and the incomparable Lily Tomlin in "The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe" at McCarter Theater.

New Jersey stages will also feature world premieres of the new Athol Fugard play at McCarter Theater and the new musical, "The Spitfire Grill" at George Street Playhouse. New Jersey is solidifying its reputation as the first class region for developing and premiering new works. This year's season, 2000 except for a few world premieres, one American premiere, two East Coast premieres, and four New Jersey premieres scheduled throughout the state.

To receive a free schedule of events, for more information on the Theater

E-news, call (973) 903-0189 or e-mail njtgr@aol.com

The New Jersey Theater Group is proud to welcome New Jersey Repertory Company in Long Branch and the "What Not" Theater Company in Maplewood as its newest member theaters. They join American Stage Company in Teaneck, Cape May Stage in Cape May, Century Stage Company in Hackensack, Crossroads Theater Company in New Brunswick, The East Lynne Company in Cape May, Forum Theater Company in Montclair, Foundation Theater in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey State Playhouse in New Brunswick, The Gershwyn Stage Theater in Salvo, Judd Stage Company in Montclair, McCarter Theater in Princeton, New Jersey Shakespeare Festival in Madison, Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, Passage Theater Company in Trenton, Playwrights Theater of New Jersey in Madison, Pushcart Players in Verona, Theaterfest in Montclair, 12 Miles West Theater Company in Montclair, and Two River Theater Company in Red Bank as part of a growing group of extraordinary theater companies.

As we enter the 21st century, New Jersey's theaters have moved into a position of national leadership in the development of new works." Says Laura Aden, executive director of the New Jersey Theater Group. "We can boast of having two Tony Award winning regional theaters right here in our home state. We are proud of the art created on New Jersey stages, and will continue to do our best to promote the exceptional work that our theaters are creating."

Leadership for the New Jersey Theater Group, a not-for-profit organization, is provided in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as contributions from foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals. American Airlines is the official airline of the New Jersey Theater Group.

Choral Art Society invites singers to raise voices

The Choral Art Society of New Jersey are announcing its annual Messiah Community Sing which will take place Friday at 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. James S. Little, musical director of the society, will conduct the beloved Handel oratorio.

Audience members are invited to bring scores and join in the singing of both choral and solo sections or simply come to listen in the atmosphere of a beautifully decorated sanctuary. The Community Sing has become a Westfield tradition and is an ideal way to

kick off the holiday season. Admission to the Messiah Community Sing is \$10.00 the day where scores may be borrowed for the evening.

Little is no stranger to the Messiah Community event having previously both accompanied and directed the performance. In addition to his duties as the director of the Choral Art Society, he has been the organist and choraleaster of Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit since 1993, having previously held similar positions at Mountside's Community Presbyterian Church at Calvary Church.

Little directs an adult choir, two youth choirs and the Calvary Concert Series. He also directs MadJazz, a local a cappella singing group.

The Messiah Sing will also feature the talents of Sándor Szabo at the organ. Szabo currently is organist-choir director at the Presbyterian Church in New Providence.

Other Choral Art Society performers for the 2000-01 season will be a performance of Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" and Mozart's "Requiem" Jan. 20 at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street. The program, which is a contrast of musical style, will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra and include the talents of soprano Andi Campbell, alto Sharon Morrison,

tenor Gary Pace, and baritone Dale Livingston.

The Society's Spring Concert will be the Verdi "Requiem" May 12 at 8 p.m. also at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

The Choral Art Society of New Jersey Inc. is a non-profit, community chorus of about 80 singers dedicated to the study and performance of great choral works. The chorus has earned the accolades of the public and critics since its beginnings. Evelyn Bleeke directed the group from 1963 until her retirement in 1995. Thomas Booth of Maplewood and Kathleen Healy, Westwood also served stints as directors of the Choral Art Society. James S. Little was appointed as the society's director in the spring of 1999. For tickets or further information, call (908) 654-3260.

Bill Van Sant, Editor

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

Linden Art Association continues winter classes

The Linden Art Association, a non-profit organization for all ages, recently began its 46th year of weekly evening classes. Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Sunny-side Recreation Center, on Melrose Terrace at Orchard Terrace.

Classes are held in a five week segments, as follows:

- Jan. 3 and 10, already in progress
 - Jan. 17, 24 and 31, and Feb. 7 and 14
 - Feb. 21 and 28, and March 7, 14 and 21
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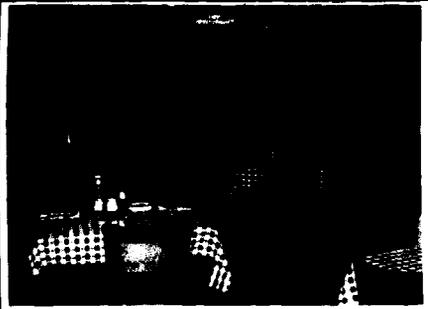
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If you have an appetite and a craving for the biggest, juiciest steaks around, Alexis Steak House and Tavern on Route 22 in Mountainside is just the place you're looking for.

Home of the 24-ounce Delmonico and New York sirloin steaks, Alexis offers high-quality meals at very reasonable prices. The friendly service and atmosphere are also very pleasing from the attentive servers to the bright, cheery dining rooms.

Upon entering the dining room, my dining companion and I felt instantly at ease. Several well-spaced tables adorned with red-checkered tablecloths offer plenty of elbow room within the large dining room, which is located several feet away from the bustling bar area. A second dining room, generally reserved for smokers, is slightly more intimate, yet offers the same bright, roomy atmosphere.

All diners at Alexis begin with a complimentary bowl of pickles, cherry peppers and fresh cut health salad, which is light and cool and resembles cole slaw.

Diners are then invited to try one of the restaurant's tasty appetizers such as goveo mozzarella sticks, golden chicken fingers and tangy buffalo wings. My companion and I sampled the onion flower, which consisted of a large onion, fanned out to resemble a flower, then battered-dipped and fried to a sweet, crispy perfection. It was served with a dipping sauce that was so tasty, I would have gladly poured it over everything I ate. I also feasted on a bowl of hearty French onion soup. The crust of sweet fresh onions came covered in bubbling mozzarella and Swiss cheddar.

For the main course, I selected Alexis' famous 24-ounce Delmonico steak, which was accompanied by a hot baked potato. The unbelievably large, juicy piece of meat was seasoned with a special blend of mild spices and then grilled to perfection. Too far into beef nirvana to think about my cholesterol level, I attempted to eat as much of the steak as possible — no easy task. But given the generous portions served at Alexis, I still had enough food to take home.

My dining companion decided to try Alexis' thick, meaty ribs, smothered in a tasty barbecue sauce.

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Holiday Dining

Malamut to exhibit works by Sturm

The next exhibit at the Les Malamut Gallery in the Union Public Library will be "Recent Works," a series of paintings by William C. Sturm of Budd Lake. The show will open Saturday, with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. at the gallery in the Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Ave. It will continue through Jan. 17. Sturm will also present a workshop on drawing and painting for "Kids from 2 to 92" Jan. 6 at 2 p.m. Sturm was introduced to the art world at an early age by his father, William A. Sturm, who was a cartoonist/ animator for the "Amicus" series and television commercials. To earn a living, Sturm delayed his painting career for 14 years and became an educator and coach. He taught chemistry and coached football at Dover High School for 28 years. When he retired four years ago, he was able to devote his passion totally to his art and now paints 10 hours daily. In addition, he and his wife, Kitty, are co-directors of the Atrium Forum Art Gallery in Morristown.

While teaching, Sturm studied with the high school art teacher, Dan Krzewicki, and famed portrait painter John Howard Sanden, at the Art Students' League

"Bourgeois is the most demanding discipline," says Sturm. His discipline led him to capture the spirit and details of diverse subjects from the "Spirit of American Aviation" depicting the Tussey Art Show to the Lincoln Center series and hundreds of paintings depicting contemporary people, activities, landscapes, aircraft, boats, animals, businesses and buildings. One of his mentors was Keith Ferriss, who recently exhibited and lectured at the Les Malamut Gallery. Sturm also lectures and presents special programs for children. He has published a series of grade-level cards, an artist's book which will be available.

He is a member of Morris County Art Association, The U.S. Coast Guard Art program, The U.S. Naval Institute, Navy League of New York, Salamagandhi Club and the National Arts Club in New York.

The exhibit is open during regular library hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number of the library is (908) 851-5430.

Arts council welcomes new members

In swearing-in ceremonies held at its regular business meeting recently, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts officially welcomed new members Marjorie H. Li of Highland Park and Frank Mazzeo of Braddock.

Marjorie H. Li is a distinguished librarian for the Rutgers University Libraries, known for her work in technical and automated systems, and a well-known leader in the state and regional business American community. Li holds a bachelor of arts degree in English literature and sociology from National Taiwan University and a master's degree from the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago, specializing in systems analysis, indexing and documentation theories and techniques. She has lectured, published and taught extensively on those subjects, and has been the recipient of numerous professional honors and accolades from years of public service. Li served on the State Council on the Arts Folk Arts Advisory Committee in the 1990s, which worked on planning and community infrastructure development. Li is chairperson of the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and serves on the board of the Nan Shi Chen Dance company.

Frank Mazzeo is a master saxophonist and clarinetist and music educator whose career as leader and side man includes an extensive roster of famous contemporary performers and ensembles in jazz, pop, classical, band and show music. His work as band master in secondary schools is marked by more than 160 honors and awards including a Who's Who in America's Teaching Award. He has been published on the subject and has adjudicated numerous prestigious competitions. Mazzeo holds a bachelor's degree in music education from

West Chester University and a master's degree in music and performance from Temple University. He maintains a studio in Cherry Hill from which he currently teaches approximately 40 woodwind students.

In other action, the council approved modification of the Artists in Education Program to provide for multi-year residencies and planning and implementation grants for artists and schools, and holding certification of residency artists following three

consecutive peer panel reviews. The AIE Residency Program supports 20 to 100-day residencies and planning and implementation projects by professional artists in schools and school districts across the state.

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts in a division of Cultural Affairs in the New Jersey Department of State. It receives funding through direct appropriations from the State of New Jersey and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Movie's themes speak to all ages

Children's entertainment seems such a rip-off these days. Television either aims for the very young child with programming too sappy for their older brothers or sisters, or is dominated by violent cartoons or sitcoms with overacting and bad values, it seems.

The theater often is too expensive or inaccessible, and movies usually cater to lowest common denominator. Or at least that is many what parents say to me.

What breaks through all that doom and gloom is a children's movie like "Toy Story 2." Made in 1999, I saw it this Thanksgiving with my two grandsons on video. They were enchanted and I was delighted, because it is that rare movie made to entertain and stimulate both children and adults, albeit on different levels of perception. It is also that rare movie sequel that is better than the original.

To summarize the story will not do the intricacies and nuances justice. Basically, in a cartoon presentation "Toy Story 2" is the life and adventure of a cowboy doll named Woody, who is separated from and strives to return to his child owner with the help of a bizarre group of eager but failing toy friends. The movie by the Pixar animation group is funny, sad, sentimental, satirical, scary, insightful and in the end quite wise in showing the surfaces and the depths of relationship of toys and children and not incidentally of all of those who love and use each other.

"Toy Story 2" is boosted by the work of a gang of dedicated actors supplying the dialogue in what can only be called ensemble acting with their voices. Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Kelsey Grammar, and Wallace Shawn are particularly fine. There is a musical interlude near the film's conclusion as the plot twists

On the Arts

By Jon Plaut

and turns that reaches to both the child's fancy and adult's intellect and embodies the genius of "Toy Story 2." In the song "When She Loved Me" written by Randy Newman, the toys lament the fact that the children to whom the toys are attached pay so little or so inconsistent and ultimately temporary attention, as is true of the constancy of their affection and love, many adults would say. The film new or forces its parallel perception of abandon and wisdom about love and

fidelity to its multiple audience. But it doesn't shy away from this dual shading either. Feelings of love and disappointment will be felt by both child and adult viewers.

A very sagacious and engaging movie for both the young and the not so young, "Toy Story 2" is truly a gem. There is a movie industry axiom that the commercially successful family movie should be made and marketed for the older child as if he or she were a teenager. Bright and young adults like this movie as do their parents, but the primary target audience is always the child. The rest of us are along for the wonderful ride, and the creative artists of "Toy Story 2" never forget us.

Jon Plaut is a resident of Summit.



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Council announces grant availability

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts announces the availability of Guidelines and Applications for FY 2001-2002 Grants in the following categories: Special Projects Grants to support single events, Projects Serving Artists Grants to support artists in advancing their careers and craft, and Community Arts Collaboration Grants to support consortiums of three or more different community organizations in meeting a community challenge through the arts.

In order to be eligible for council grants, applicants must be either a non-profit organization incorporated in New Jersey, a unit of government, or a college/university; have tax-exempt status by the IRS; be in existence at least two years; and demonstrate that its activities serve a multi-county region of the state. Intent to Apply Forms, contained in the Guidelines booklet, are due by Dec. 22, 2000, while applicants must complete and submit applications by Feb. 23, 2001.

The NJSCA will send Guidelines and Application forms to all current NJSCA grantees and to organizations that applied for funding in the FY 2000-2001 grants cycle. To request forms, all other interested applicants should contact the NJSCA at (609) 292-6130, voice, or (609) 633-1186, TTY; by e-mail at njscan@njartsCouncil.org; or by mail at NJSCA, P.O. Box 306, Trenton, 08625-0306. Forms also will be available on the NJSCA's web site at www.njartsCouncil.org.

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts is a division of the New Jersey Department of State. It receives funding through direct appropriations from the State of New Jersey and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 1966, its volunteer members and professional staff have worked to improve the quality of life for New Jersey, its people and communities by helping the arts to flourish.

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NJ Society's guide makes state history an easy exploration

The New Jersey Historical Society has published a comprehensive guide to nearly 200 historical organizations, museums, historic sites and institutions across the state that will assist residents and visitors in discovering the Garden State's rich heritage.

Each listing contains visitor information such as address, admission fees, hours of operation, information about collections, programs and

publications, and e-mail and web site addresses.

The publication, "Centers for History," is available from The New Jersey Historical Society at 52 Park Place in Newark for \$3.99. Alternately, the publication can be sent to interested parties by contacting the Historic of Society and sending payment of \$3.99 to cover shipping. The Historical Society also accepts

MasterCard and Visa for publication orders. For more information, call (973) 596-8500.

"We are proud to bring this guide to the residents of New Jersey," to enhance awareness of the many sites and organizations dedicated to preserving and interpreting our state's history," said Sally Yerokovich, president and CEO of The New Jersey Historical Society. "As part of our mission

as the state's historical society, our goal is to produce publications that are useful and informative to New Jerseyans and that encourage ongoing exploration of what makes our state unique."

The New Jersey Historical Society, in conjunction with the New Jersey Historical Commission and the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, surveyed organizations across

the state to create the guide. The project was sponsored in part by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The New Jersey Historical Society, founded in 1845, examines New Jersey history through exhibitions, publications and programming. The Society is located at 52 Park Place in Newark, within a block of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. The Historical Society is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is free of charge. Family programs take place Saturdays and workshops and lectures are offered through the "Lunch Times are Past Times" series every Wednesday. The Society can be reached via public transportation, including the Loop, from Newark Penn Station and Broad Street for \$1. For more information, contact the Society at (973) 596-8500 or NJ Relay Service - TTY/TDD at (800) 852-7899.

Winter squash can offer nutrition, versatility and a tasty change of pace

Editor's Note: In the Cook's Notebook section of the Dec. 7 edition of this paper, recipes and cooking tips for winter squash were highlighted. This is the second of the two-part feature.

Spaghetti Squash With Mushrooms and Peppers

- 1 spaghetti squash (about 4 pounds)
- 2 cup water
- 2 small onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1/2 cup pepper, any color, chopped
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- 2 ounces sundried tomatoes, rehydrated in hot water and cut into strips
- 2 tablespoons dried basil
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Yields 4 servings.

Prece slices of spaghetti squash with fork several times. Place squash in baking pan, uncovered, and microwave on high for 10 minutes. Allow squash to cool and cut in half lengthwise. Remove seeds.

Place squash, cut side up, in baking dish and pour water in bottom of dish. Cover with plastic wrap, microwave for 12 to 14 minutes or until tender.

Using fork, remove spaghetti squash strands from inside squash. Put in large bowl.

Sauté onion and garlic in olive oil for 3 minutes. Add mushrooms and pepper and cook for an additional 3 minutes. Add fresh and sundried tomatoes to pan, stirring well. Cook for 3 minutes.

Add mixture to bowl of spaghetti squash. Add spices and 2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese, mixing well. Spoon mixture into strips shells, top with remaining 2 tablespoons of Parmesan cheese and bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes.

Nutritional analysis per serving: 154 calories, 5 g protein, 62 g fat (35 percent of total calories), 22 g carbohydrate, 5 g fiber, 4 mg cholesterol, 531 mg sodium.

The October/November issue of Kitchen Gardener offers up this next recipe.

Pumpkin Soup With Friczled Leeks

- Soup:**
- 1/2 medium pumpkin, peeled and chopped
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 bay leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 8 cups vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon ground allspice
- Leeks:**
- 1 leek, white part only
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- Yields 9 cups.

For soup: Put pumpkin in large pot and cover with water. Bring to a boil and cook until fork tender, about 15 minutes.

Drain, let cool and mash. There should be about 4 cups of mashed pumpkin.

In large pot, melt butter and add sautéed bay leaves, pepper and sugar. Cook, stirring until onions are lightly golden about 10 minutes.

Add broth, pumpkin and peanut butter. Stir to mix. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and cook for 1 1/2 hours. The soup will thicken significantly.

Stir in cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice. Discard the bay leaves.

For leeks: Halvete white part of leek and wash in cold water. Pat dry with paper towel. In small skillet, heat oil. When oil is very hot, add halved leeks and cook for about 45 seconds. The leeks will sizzle and frizzle immediately. Remove when golden and pat on paper towel.

Nutritional analysis per 1 cup serving: 124 calories, 4 g protein, 5 g fat (52 percent of total calories), 19 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 7 mg cholesterol, 710 mg sodium.

Note: Serve this soup in a pumpkin bowl — one for each guest. Start with a small pumpkin and cut the top off at a diagonal. Remove the seeds and bake the small pumpkins for 20 to 30 minutes in a 350-degree oven. Ladle soup into the hot pumpkin and serve on a dinner plate.

Braised Pumpkin With Tomatoes and Fresh Herbs

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, pureed in a press
- 2 cups pumpkin, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 cup tomato juice
- 1 cup seeded, coarsely chopped tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon chopped tarragon
- 3 tablespoons chives
- Salt and pepper
- Yields 4 servings.

Heat oil gently over low heat in skillet or pan that has a lid. Add garlic and cubed pumpkin to pan.

Lightly cook pumpkin over medium-low heat until it begins to change color. Add tomato juice, cover tightly, and cook over low heat to 30 minutes.

Add chopped tomato and cook, to bake, halve small squash length-

wise and scoop out the seeds and strings. Squash can also be seeded after baking. Cut large squash into serving size pieces. Place the squash, cut side down, in a foil-lined baking pan — as sugary juices may burn onto the pan. Pour about 1/4-inch of water into the pan, cover with foil, and bake in a 350-degree oven until the squash is tender when pierced with a knife or toothpick. Halway through baking, the squash halves or pieces may be turned, cut side up, brushed with a little melted butter or oil, and sprinkled with brown sugar and spices. Cooking times: for squash halves or whole small pumpkins, 40 to 45 minutes; for cut up squash, 15 to 25 minutes; for cut up pumpkin, 40 minutes.

Nutritional analysis per serving (for 1/2 cup): 18 g protein, 1.8 g fat (59 percent of total calories), 9.3 g carbohydrate, 1.6 g fiber, 226 mg sodium.

Here are some cooking tips from WholeHealthFood.com web site:

Preparation: Rinse off any dirt before using. The hard shell of some types of winter squash can prove challenging to cut. Use a heavy-duty knife or a cleaver, especially for larger squash. First, make a shallow cut in the skin to use as a guide to prevent the knife blade from slipping. Then place the blade in the cut and tap the base of the knife near the handle with your first — or, if necessary, with a mallet or rolling pin — until the squash is cut through. Scoop out the seeds and fibers and cut the squash into smaller chunks, if desired. Small, very hard-shelled squash, such as Golden Nugget, may be impossible to split before cooking; bake or steam them whole. To bake a pumpkin whole, cut a lid off the top, then use a tablespoon to scrape out the seeds and strings.

If peeled chunks of squash are required, cut the squash into pieces, then peel them with a sturdy, sharp paring knife. Very hard-shelled squash is much easier to peel after cooking.

Baking: This method brings out the sweetness in winter squash, caramelizing some of its sugars — and best preserves its beta-carotene content. Bake halved squash and serve plain, or bake then fill with a stuffing and return to the oven until the stuffing is heated through, about 20 minutes, depending on the stuffing. You can also bake squash halves, then scoop out and mash the flesh with your favorite seasoning; spoon the mashed squash back into the shells — sprinkle with grated cheese, breadcrumbs, chopped nuts, or sesame seeds, if desired — and return to the oven until heated through.

Steaming: Place seeded squash halves, cut side down, in a vegetable steamer and cook over boiling water until tender. Or, cook peeled chunks or slices of squash in the steamer. Cooking time: 15 to 20 minutes. Winter squashes vary greatly in

size — from small acorn squashes to Hubbards, weighing 15 pounds or more, and pumpkins that can reach 200 pounds. The three most popular winter squashes are acorn, butternut, and Hubbard; the others listed below are less common varieties that are becoming more widely available.

Acorn: This ridged, acorn-shaped squash with dark green skin may be the best known of the winter squashes, although it doesn't provide quite as much beta-carotene as other orange-fleshed squash.

Banana: This large cylindrical squash — one type weighs as much as 40 pounds — has thick skin, which ranges in color from pale yellow to ivory, and a finely textured orange flesh.

Buttercup: So named because of its turbanlike cap at the blossom end opposite the stem end, buttercup has a squat shape. Its dark-green skin is punctuated with lighter green stripes. The orange flesh is sweet but somewhat dry.

Butternut: The orange flesh of this tan, smooth-skinned squash provides a substantial amount of beta-carotene.

Catalpa: Generally, this large squash is bright orange, but it can be found with green, yellow or cream-colored skin. Sweet and moist when cooked, it's most often sold in portions.

Delicata: Also called Bohemian squash, the 1- to 2-pound oblong delicata has cream-colored skin with stripes that vary in color from green to orange. Its flesh is yellow and sweet.

Golden nugget: This orange-skinned, mildly sweet-tasting squash resembles a miniature pumpkin. With only enough flesh for one serving, it tastes best when baked whole or in halves, like acorn squash.

Hubbard: Hubbards are an old, extensive group of squashes that are usually plump in the middle and more tapered at the neck. Their bumpy skin

varies in color from dark green to light blue to orange. Over the years, the popularity of Hubbards has diminished because of their size — the smallest weigh 5 pounds; the largest, about 15 pounds. In the supermarket, they may be sold pre-cut.

Spaghetti: Also called vegetable spaghetti, this oval-shaped yellow squash is a relative newcomer and novel one. When cooked, its flesh forms spaghetti-like strands.

Sweet dumpling: Like the Golden Nugget, this small squash serves only one person, and can be cooked whole. The skin is light colored, usually with dark green stripes.

Turban: An orange base and bright stripes in several colors distinguish this turban-shaped squash, which is capped with a knob similar to that on buttercup squash. It is valued more for its use as a table decoration than for its taste.

Pumpkin: About 99 percent of the pumpkins marketed domestically are used as jack-o'-lanterns at Halloween. But these deep orange pumpkins — most of which belong to a variety called Connecticut Field — are too stringy to eat, and often too large. They can easily grow to 20 pounds, and the very largest can exceed 200 pounds. For pie filling and other cooking needs, sugar pumpkins — a smaller, sweeter variety with close-grained flesh — are much better. There are also several miniature varieties that can be eaten fresh.

Admission is free of charge. Family programs take place Saturdays and workshops and lectures are offered through the "Lunch Times are Past Times" series every Wednesday. The Society can be reached via public transportation, including the Loop, from Newark Penn Station and Broad Street for \$1. For more information, contact the Society at (973) 596-8500 or NJ Relay Service - TTY/TDD at (800) 852-7899.

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Bill Van Sant, Editor

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Healthy Living

Facility hopes to be '2nd home'

The face of downtown Irvington has a newly revitalized look, as the innovative medical "home away from home" for adults and seniors, 2nd Home Adult Medical Day Care Center, opens its doors to the community.

At a grand opening holiday season ceremony and press conference Wednesday, officials, dignitaries, and the owner showcased the spacious new \$15 million facility at 1211 Springfield Ave. in a festive celebration distinguished by the rollout of red carpet and the presence of a uniformed doorman.

Honored guests and participants included Irvington Township Mayor Sara B. Bost and members of municipal government, New Jersey Senator Ronald L. Rice, Essex County officials, and 2nd Home President Dr. David Myers, who all officially welcomed and introduced the beautiful medical facility to its new home in the heart of the Essex County community.

The new center provides a benefit and a service to the community and will be a good neighbor, says Mayor Bost.

"The township is pleased that Dr. Myers has the foresight to recognize the need for such a facility here. It enhances the services that we provide to our precious population. We welcome 2nd Home and applaud the many people involved for their dedication in providing services to those in need," says the mayor. "The township's mission is to revitalize the community, which includes bringing new businesses and services. 2nd Home does just that."

"We publicly thank the officials who have helped to make 2nd Home happen," says Dr. Myers, extending special appreciation to New Jersey Sen. Ronald Rice, Mayor Bost, and Arlene Tyler, director of the Irvington Department of Health. "Senator Rice served as liaison and introduced 2nd Home to Irvington and the district. Mayor Bost worked closely with us on the construction of the building, and Arlene Tyler has been most supportive of our efforts to provide health care services to local seniors."

The Irvington center, first of its kind in the township, is fourth in a series of quality medical day care facilities owned and operated by Second Home LLC, a Paterson-based group of medical doctors, slated to open throughout New Jersey in the near future. It follows fast on the heels of the Paterson, Union City, and Elizabeth facilities that opened in 1998 and 1999 — in which sessions are filled to capacity.

Offering morning and afternoon programs supported by the Medicaid waiver program and providing members with a full range of easily accessed services, the innovative centers are unique in offering a visionary new breed of cost-effective programs designed to foster and maintain adult and senior citizen independence in urban communities.

"We are gratified by the warm welcome and the overwhelming response from the communities we serve, primarily from people unaware of their eligibility for the program," says Dr. Myers, managing certificate holder for Second Home LLC and orthopedic physician in Paterson. With offices in Irvington and New Brunswick, Dr. Myers maintains an active presence in medical and civic programs for residents of urban neighborhoods.

"The urban elder community is a large and growing population that until now has been poorly served with

programs of this caliber," he adds. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to give back to the community in the form of quality service primarily for seniors."

Raising the bar on services for urban adults and senior citizens, 2nd Home offers a full range of social, recreational, health, medical, and educational activities, including two meals daily and transportation — at no cost to members, adds Dr. Myers, noting that Medicaid pays \$57 per day for the services 2nd Home provides.

He cites mind boggling statistics on medical day care. "Currently there are 800,000 Medicaid seniors in New Jersey suited for entry into such programs. Yet, there are only 3,000 slots available to service their needs," he adds, pointing to the tremendous need particularly in inner cities.

"Our members are the very same people who might otherwise be alone in their homes or apartments as shut-ins — easily susceptible to poor eating habits and physical and mental deterioration," adds Dr. Myers, pointing to recent studies showing that the health and well-being of seniors in

adult day care centers improve from socialization with others. "This is also an excellent respite for caregivers and adults who are taking care of their parents."

2nd Home's goal is to be the "next best place to home" for members, who enjoy service that includes low-sodium, low-fat catered meals each day. An in-house doctor and nurses tend to medical needs, a dentist and podiatrist come in regularly, while a social worker handles concerns such as food stamps, electricity cut-off, and appliance repair. A fleet of minivans transports members to and from home, doctors' offices, haircuts and food stamp appointments. To become a member, seniors must have a medical problem, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, or osteoporosis, and receive clearance from their doctors to join.

2nd Home in Irvington is located at 1211 Springfield Ave. For more information about eligibility and sessions, contact Shavonda Sumter, vice president of public affairs, at the Paterson membership office, 100 Hamilton Plaza, at 523-0792.

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True Health Chiropractic Hosts Giant Open House for Charity

Springfield, New Jersey - January 6, 2001 is the Grand Opening of True Health Chiropractic in Springfield. Dr. Bob White will be sharing with the community important information about the health and wellness of adults and children.

Everybody benefits from regular chiropractic care. The parents and children that come to see us, focus their efforts on preventive health care. These people understand that it is much easier to maintain health and prevent sickness than it is to wait for a health issue to occur and then try to treat the problem with medication.

At True Health Chiropractic we have developed a way to help all people, especially children, reach a higher level of health and enjoy a higher quality of life.

As an example, according to a major study printed in the 1989 Chiropractic Research Journal, "...children under Chiropractic care experience less ear, nose and throat infections, suffer with less asthma and allergies, and take less medication." This goes for adults too.

To celebrate our Grand Opening, all proceeds of the Open House will benefit the Make A Wish Foundation benefiting terminally ill children.

The Open House is free of charge, with free x-rays and free adjustments in exchange for a donation to the Make A Wish Foundation. There will be free food, drinks, giveaways and health workshops. The open house is a chance for people to learn about Chiropractic and how it will positively impact their lives.

For more information call True Health Chiropractic located at 442 Morris Avenue in Springfield at (973) 376-8383.

Bill Van Sant, Editor

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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill VanNest, Worrald Community Newspapers, P.O. Box 1109, Union, 07083.

Stepping Out

VARIETY
THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mike Night every Tuesday at 9 p.m.
 Also appearing will be Not In That...
 The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St. in Rahway. For information, call (973) 981-6456.

ART SHOWS

SUMMIT FRAME AND ART will exhibit the work of Geoffrey Mawby through the holiday season.
 Gallery hours are Mondays to Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Swain Galleries is located at 703 W. Main St. in Summit. For information, call (908) 276-1707.

OUR VIEW: A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE on Union County, a traveling exhibit sponsored by Community Access, features the work of 100 adults with developmental disabilities.
 The exhibit will tour the county Monday to Dec. 23. Community Access Institute, 88 W. Grand St. in Elizabeth.

For information on the reception, call (908) 354-3040, ext. 304.
ARTIST RON HEDRICK will have his work on exhibit at Evelyn Quinn's Gallery in Westfield.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. The gallery is located at 546 South Ave. in Westfield. For information, call (908) 232-9412.

DOCUMENTS, the work of Miriam Beerman will be on exhibit in the Tomasulo Gallery in the Kenneth McKay Library on the Cranford Campus of Union County College through today.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays to Thursdays, 6 to 9 p.m. UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave. in Cranford. For information, call (908) 709-7155.

FROM BODY TO SPIRIT, the works of Pat Feeney Murrell, will be on exhibit at the Arts Guild of Rahway through Friday.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and by appointment. The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

PUBLIC PATHWAYS: "The Olmstead Legacy," a photographic journal by Nancy J. Orr, will be on exhibit at the Kent Place Gallery in Summit through Friday.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment. The Kent Place Gallery is in Kent Place School, located at 42 Norwood Ave. in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-0900, ext. 332.

ART FOR GIFT-GIVING, an exhibit of 17 artists' work by the Westfield Art Association, will be on display at the Westfield Art Gallery through Dec. 23.

Gallery hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Westfield Art Gallery is located at 150 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 789-9696.

SMALL WORKS by members of the Westfield Art Association will be on exhibit through Dec. 30 at the Town Book Store of Westfield.

Hours are Mondays and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call the store at (908) 233-3535.

CHRISTMAS MINIATURES will be on exhibit at the Swain Galleries in Plainfield through Dec. 31.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. Swain Galleries is located at 703 W. Main St. in Summit. For information, call (908) 276-1707.

PHOTOGRAPHER ANNE ROSS will have her work exhibited throughout the Winter House at the Rieves-Read Arboretum in Summit through December.

The Rieves-Read Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave. in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-8787.

NEW OUTLOOKS: The NJCVA Faculty Exhibition will be on display at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through Jan. 3.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, noon to 4 p.m., Thursdays evenings, 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St. in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, works from the Merck 2000 Union County Juried Art Show, will be on exhibit at the Freeholders' Gallery on the sixth floor of the Union County Administration Building in Elizabeth through Jan. 12.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, as well as Thursday evenings. Admission is free. The Union County Administration Building is located at Elizabethwood Plaza at Rahway Avenue in Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 558-2550.

RECENT WORKS by artist William C. Sturm will be on exhibit at the Les Mamout Art Gallery in Union Public Library Saturday through Jan. 17. An opening reception will take place Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Union. For information, call (908) 851-5450.

NEW JERSEY PHOTOGRAPHY FORUM sixth annual juried show will be on exhibit at Children's Specialized Hospital during the months of December and January.

Exhibit hours are 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily. CSH is located at 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside.

3 WOMEN: ELEMENTS OF THE ABSTRACT will be on exhibit at the Arts Guild of Rahway Jan. 10 through Feb. 2. An opening reception will take place Jan. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m., and 5 to 7 p.m., and by appointment. The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

THE BOUND BROOK CYCLE by artist David Ambrose will be on exhibit at the Tomasulo Gallery in the Kenneth McKay Library on the Cranford Campus of Union County College Jan. 19 through Feb. 22. An opening reception will take place Jan. 19 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Tuesday to Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. UCC's Cranford campus is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call (908) 709-7155.

AUDITIONS

WESTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAYERS will conduct auditions for "The Hairdresser" by Ruth and Augustus Gutz at the WCP Theater, 1000 North Ave., West, Westfield. Being sought are 6 women, 20 to 65; one man, 50 to 65; and two men, 25 to 35. The show runs March 10 to 24.

NEW JERSEY INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA is accepting applications and will conduct auditions for instrumentals for the 2000-01 season. For information, call (908) 909-0084 or (609) 708-0074.

WESTFIELD GLEE CLUB will welcome new students and adult members to its 76th season. The Glee Club rehearses Mondays from 8 to 10 p.m. in the choir room of the Westfield Presbyterian Church, Broad Street and Mountain Avenue in Westfield. For information, call (908) 239-9174.

WESTFIELD GLEE CLUB will welcome new students and adult members to its 76th season. The Glee Club rehearses Mondays from 8 to 10 p.m. in the choir room of the Westfield Presbyterian Church, Broad Street and Mountain Avenue in Westfield. For information, call (908) 239-9174.

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD Reading Group will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Friday at 7:30 p.m. The group led by Kevin Muller, will meet the third Friday of each month to read a Shakespeare play out loud. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP, at Barnes and Noble in Clark will meet Dec. 27 at 7:30 p.m. The group meets the last Wednesday of each month to read. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN, a book-discussion group at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, will meet Jan. 3 at 7:30 p.m. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

JANE AUSTEN MYSTERY SERIES Reading Group will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. The group will meet the second Thursday of each month through January to discuss books by Stephanie Barron, skipping the month of December. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

JEWISH BOOK LOVERS will meet at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. The group meets monthly. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

NEW JERSEY WORKSHOP FOR THE ARTS is currently accepting registration for the fall session of its Music Studio. Lessons include instrumental, voice and music theory, with beginner through advanced classes. The workshop begins in early September and lasts 15 weeks. Additional courses include art classes for children and toddlers, the Westfield Fencing Club and the Drawing Workshop. Classes take place at 150-152 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 789-9696.

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE will offer professional classes in the performing arts. Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Acting classes will concentrate on improvisation, character development and scene study. Also offered are four levels of tap and one level of musical theater, which focuses on song selection and interpretation, ensemble work, voice, and musical theater movement and dance. Private lessons in voice and/or acting are available.

The Westfield High School is located at 728 Westfield Ave., Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-3200.

LINDEN ART ASSOCIATION will offer classes in visual arts in five-week segments on Wednesday evenings. The sessions are as follows:
 • Jan. 3 and 10 — already in progress

• Jan. 17, 24, and 31, and Feb. 17 and 24
 • Feb. 21, 28, and March 7, 14, and 21
 • March 28 and April 11, 18, and 25
 • May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
 Classes meet at the Sunnyside Recreation Center, Melrose Terrace at Clark Terrace. For information, call (908) 381-1408.

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN at Westfield offers music classes to children between the ages of 10 months and 8 years old. For information on class offerings or to reserve a space at either open house, call (908) 232-4891.

BOOKS

BARNES AND NOBLE in Clark will present musical performances throughout the fall and winter. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the cafe section.
 Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, including a concert schedule, call (732) 574-1818.

MUSIC IN THE CAFE in Barnes and Noble in Springfield will feature free musical performances in the coming weeks. All concerts will take place in the coffee lounge area of the store from 8 to 10 p.m.
 Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

THE CHORAL ART SOCIETY of New Jersey will sponsor its annual "Moon of Winter" as the 2000 holiday concert Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Church, 587 Springfield Ave. in Summit. For ticket information, call (908) 272-8807.

DANCE

THE NUTCRACKER, performed by the New Jersey Ballet, will be presented by the Paper Mill Playhouse in Milburn Friday to Dec. 27. Tickets are \$18 to \$38. Performances are as follows:
 Friday, 8 p.m.
 Saturday, 3 and 7 p.m.
 Sunday, 1 and 6 p.m.
 Wednesday, 6 p.m.
 Dec. 21, 6 p.m.
 Dec. 22, 3 and 7 p.m.
 Dec. 23, 3 and 7 p.m.
 Dec. 24, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 25, 1 and 6 p.m.
 Dec. 27, 1 p.m.
 The Paper Mill Playhouse is located on Brookside Drive in Milburn. For information, call 376-4343.

SUMMIT FOLK DANCERS will meet Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at The Connection in Summit. Fee is \$2. For information, call (973) 467-8278.

DISCUSSION

THE EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS' CIRCLE will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. The Writers Circle meets the second Monday of every month and new members are always welcome. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

FILM

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor a series of free film classics at the Main Branch in the coming weeks.

All films begin at 10 a.m.
 The Main Branch of the Elizabeth Public Library is located at 115 Broad St. For information, call (908) 354-6000.

JAZZ

JAZZ GUITARIST STANLEY JORDAN will appear at Crossroads in Garwood this evening for a one-night-only concert. Crossroads is located at 78 North Ave. in Garwood. For information, call (908) 231-3446.

KIDS

KEAN UNIVERSITY Children's Theater Series will present "Antea Behind Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 10 a.m. in Wilkes Theater. Tickets are \$6. Kean University is located at 1000 Morris Ave. in Union. For information, call (908) 527-2333.

UNION RECREATION Department will sponsor weekly ceramics classes for children between the ages of 7 and 12 at the Recreation building, 1129 Commerce Ave. in Union from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. For information, call 964-4828.

POETRY

POETRY OUT LOUD, a creative forum for poets, will meet at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, including meeting date and time, call (973) 376-8544.

OPEN MIKE POETRY NIGHT will take place at Barnes and Noble in Clark Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. Open Mike Poetry Night is sponsored the second Sunday of every month in the Music Department. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

RADIO

TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet Monday at 8 p.m. at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. The group meets the first and third Mondays of every month. For information, call (908) 241-5758.

SINGLES

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St. in Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call (908) 889-5269 or (908) 889-4751.

THEATER

THE ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will present "The Torch-Bearers" by George Kelly through Sunday. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$6 for students and senior citizens, all seats are \$5 at Friday performances. The Elizabeth Playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 355-0077.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE will continue the 2000-01 season with "Art" by Yasmina Reza, directed by and starring Judd Hirsch. The show runs Jan. 3 through Feb. 4 at the theater on Brookside Drive in Milburn.

Evening performances are Wednesdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m., and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m.
 Tickets are \$37 to \$60. For information, call (973) 376-4343, or buy tickets with Visa, MasterCard or Discover at the Main Branch in the coming weeks.

Paper Mill, NJ Ballet mark 30-year history with holiday classic

A holiday tradition at Paper Mill Playhouse for 30 years, New Jersey Ballet's acclaimed production of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" will grace the stage of the Milburn theater for 15 performances only, Dec. 15 to 27.

The premiere "Nutcracker" in New Jersey, this production by the state's leading dance company features a cast of 100 with lavish new sets by Paper Mill's award-winning resident scenic designer, Michael Anania.

"As part of our gala anniversary New Jersey Ballet will honor Paper Mill's Executive Producer, Angelo Del Ross, with whom we have had a long-standing, warm and successful partnership," said Carolyn Clark, New Jersey Ballet's artistic director. The company will pay tribute to Del Ross before the performance and at a celebration following the performance Dec. 16.

Clark also announced that Carolyn Brown of Montclair, the company's first Clara in 1971, has returned to coach the four Claras in this year's production. Brown went on to become a soloist with the world-renowned American Ballet Theater Company and was recently featured in the corps de ballet in Broadway's "The Phantom of the Opera."

This acclaimed production tells the classic story of young Clara and her Christmas adventure in a magical world of mice, clowns, snow flakes and sugar plum fairies, soldier and angels, and a handsome prince. Tchaikovsky's memorable score is brought to life, live by the renowned Paper Mill Orchestra, under the direction of Gary S. Fagin.

In his review for the *Star-Ledger*, Robert Johnson proclaimed last year's "Nutcracker" as the real thing — a thoroughly classical production. New Jersey Ballet creates a sense of childlike wonder with a "Nutcracker" that combines excellent dancing and real, theatrical razzle-dazzle. Lea Smith of *Worrald Newspapers* raved, "Unquestionably, this production will stand out in the history of 'Nutcrackers.'"

Daphne Kraft of *Herald News* called "The Nutcracker," a non-stop treasure. "Naomi Siegel, in her review for *The Item of Milburn* and *Short Hills* hailed "Nutcracker," "a magical world that never fails to excite!"

The performance schedule for the 2000 production of "The Nutcracker" is as follows:
 • Friday at 8 p.m.
 • Saturday at 3 and 7 p.m.
 • Sunday at 1 and 6 p.m.

• Wednesday at 6 p.m.
 • Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.
 • Dec. 22 at 3 and 7 p.m.
 • Dec. 23 at 3 and 7 p.m.
 • Dec. 24 at 1 p.m.
 • Dec. 26 at 1 and 6 p.m.
 • Dec. 27 at 1 p.m.

There is no performance Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

Tickets range in price from \$18 to \$38. A limited number of box seats are available for \$38. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. Group rates are available for groups of 20 or more at (973) 376-3636, ext. 2438. For information and reservations, call (973) 376-4343 or buy directly online at www.papermill.org.

About New Jersey Ballet
 Founded in 1958, the New Jersey Ballet's performances of contemporary and classical ballets have made the company an integral part of New Jersey's cultural life. Under the direction of Carolyn Clark, the company has brought artistic excellence to audiences in New Jersey, around the country and abroad. New Jersey Ballet's extensive performance schedule is made possible in part by support from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and by generous corporate, foundation and individual donations.



The magic of "The Nutcracker," as performed by the New Jersey Ballet, will enthral audiences beginning Friday. This is the 30th year New Jersey Ballet will bring its acclaimed production to the Paper Mill Playhouse.

Leisure Lifestyles The Potting Bench

Poinsettia's popularity is matched by its variety and beauty

By Jeff Rugg
Copley News Service

If you are the typical "once per year" floral shopper, your purchase will be a poinsettia. Eighty percent of poinsettias purchased are bought by women. Most are college educated and have moderate incomes. The more money they make, the more poinsettias they will buy.

The poinsettia's popularity is growing with senior citizens at the expense of the younger age groups. Slightly less than half are purchased for gifts. Florists do a lot of research on their products and their customers.

A survey of growers shows they produce about 80 percent red ones, but a survey of purchases found the red ones go home at about 50 percent rate. There are many red cultivars of poinsettia, but the consumer sees little difference in them. Since the small six inch potted plant is seen as a lost leader by many retailers, they will not spend much money on them. For this reason, many growers are not growing poinsettias any more.

Thirty four years ago, Frank Erbe, worth of the Paul Ecke Ranch in San Diego County began working with poinsettias that had curled red flower bracts. It took until last year to develop and produce enough of the Walter Rose to be able to start selling them. The flower cluster is a large ball shape.

The plants are more compact than traditional poinsettias.

The Goldstar Pink has nice pastel pink bracts, but the leaves also give some color. They are dark green with a bright gold yellow center. It looks a

lot like some of the variegated holly plants. It will even look good after the flowers are gone.

The variety Peterstar Change is working poinsettias to a true orange flower bract. When that happens, you will have a nice Halloween plant for indoor decorating.

The variety called Future has red and green variegated bracts. They look even more "Christmassy" than the normal poinsettia.

If you want high quality, new varieties of different sizes of plants, you will have to shop at a florist, green house or nursery, not at the grocery store or hardware store.

Poinsettias provide a bright focal point indoors when the landscape is drab outdoors. The colorful part of a poinsettia is a specialized leaf called the bract. The real flowers are found in yellow and red clusters at the end of the branch.

When choosing a plant, here is what to look for:

- Good quality plants have dark green leaves all the way to the bottom, no dead spots on the leaves and true flowers that are just starting to bloom. If the yellow powder-like pollen is dispersed and dried up on the true flowers are dried up, skip that plant. If any of the bracts have dried and there are dead edges, skip that plant. If the lower leaves are turning yellow, or fall off green with just a slight tug, go to the next plant. If you turn over a leaf and it is covered with small white insects, do not buy it.
- Another problem with many new poinsettia cultivars and how they were raised in the greenhouse is that

they are brittle and lose branches easily. Look for plants with vertical stems and few horizontal ones, especially if it is going to be taken home in a paper sleeve. Some growers install a plastic ring on the pot that supports the branches about five inches above the pot rim.

• Plan for the right day to buy your plant. Do not expose the plant to an freezing temperature while taking the plant from the store or leave it in the car while doing more shopping. Once home, don't expose the plant to drafts of any kind — especially plants on the floor — or direct sunlight. Keep the soil evenly damp all the time. Check the plant daily at first until you determine how much water it will need. Big plants use a lot of water. They prefer temperatures from 65 to 75 and the cooler temperature makes the flowers last longer. Putting it near a heat generating appliance, such as TV or photocopier, will shorten its flowering lifetime.

• If it dries out, it will begin losing leaves. If it is over-watered or left to sit in water, the roots will die and then the whole plant will die.

Not poisonous

Poinsettias are members of the spurge family. They contain a milky sap that can cause a rash, but the flowers and bracts are not poisonous as many people believe. They are native to Mexico and Central America, where they grow as shrubs to more than 6 feet tall. The Aztecs cultivated them hundreds of years ago. In the 1800s, the United States' first ambassador to Mexico was Joel Poinsett. He was also a botanist, and he brought the

plants that now bear his name to his greenhouse in South Carolina. Until recently, poinsettias were tricky. They would lose their bracts at the slightest change in temperature of watering. Taking them home on a cold day could do them in. The new ones have much longer lasting bracts, sometimes even lasting until spring.

Poinsettias are beautiful plants that come in many shades of red and pink. Some newer varieties are mottled or even come in yellow. There is also a wide selection of sizes available, from a 4 inch plant that can be worn as a corsage to 6 foot trees.

Although poinsettias are easy to grow, they can have problems. Any crop that is grown in large quantities can have insect or disease outbreaks. The worst insects to control in your home are white fly and spider mites. Both are pests on poinsettias, and you should look for them before you buy the plant.

Do not use insecticidal soaps on poinsettias, as it is more likely to kill the plant than the pests. Spider mites can be washed off with water from the shower. White flies can be controlled with a pyrethrum based insecticide or malathion.

Several other plants make great indoor decorations in the winter. Try cyclamen, azaleas, hydrangea, mimulus, rose, orchids, African violets, anthurium and any others that your florist recommends.

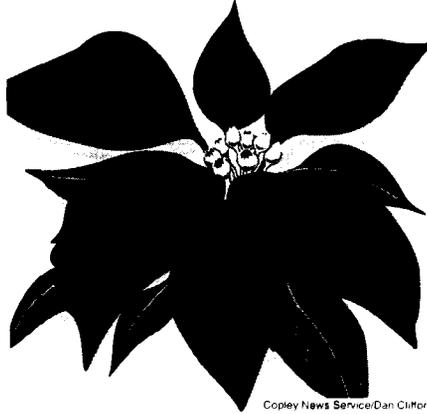
There should be no reason you do not enjoy fresh flowers all winter long.

E-mail questions to Jeff Rugg at agreenerviv@altavista.com.

GARDENTIP

Poinsettia pointers

- Good quality plants have dark green leaves all the way to the bottom.
- If any of the bracts (colored leaves) have dried and dead edges, skip that plant. Ditto if the lower leaves are turning yellow or fall off with just a slight tug.
- Skip plants that have small white insects on them.
- Don't expose poinsettias to near freezing temperatures. Don't expose them to drafts or direct sunlight. Keep the soil evenly damp all the time. Poinsettias prefer temperatures from 65 to 75 and the cooler temperature makes the flowers last longer.
- Do not use insecticidal soaps on poinsettias. Spider mites can be washed off with water from the shower. White flies can be controlled with a pyrethrum-based insecticide or malathion.



Copley News Service/Dan Clifters

Choosing the perfect Christmas tree can be easy with expert's advice

By Jeff Rugg
Copley News Service

The snows that many parts of the country had in November should help people get into the Christmas spirit. Christmas tree growers have been preparing for this Christmas for more than a decade. A six to eight foot evergreen tree takes from six to 12 years to grow. This year's tree has survived a decade's worth of record cold, heat, droughts and floods.

More than 1 million acres of Christmas tree farms will supply 90 percent of the 30 to 40 million trees harvested this year. More than 100 million trees will be planted next spring to replace them.

Each acre of Christmas tree provides the daily oxygen requirements of 18 people. They also provide wildlife habitats and protection from soil erosion.

The tradition of using Christmas trees is several hundred years old. In the United States, each region originally used the evergreens that were native to that area. Now the trees are shipped all over and people in the warm southern states can choose from trees grown in West Virginia, Michigan and Oregon.

Even though all Christmas trees have been pruned to have the same basic shape, they vary greatly in appearance. Balsam fir trees are dark green, very fragrant and hold their

needles on stiff horizontal branches. Fraser fir tree needles are shiny dark green on top, silver below and very aromatic. Douglas firs are dark green, fragrant, hold their needles well and have strong branches.

White pines are silver green, moderately fragrant and hold their long soft needles on pliable branches. Scotch pines are the most commonly sold cut tree in most of the country. They have short stiff needles that become sharp as pines when they dry and fall off. They are often dyed green to mask a yellow green color and are less fragrant the longer they have been cut.

Spruce trees do not hold up well as cut trees and lose their needles fairly quickly. They range in color from bright green to silvery blue. They have strong branches and are moderately fragrant.

Selecting a good tree requires several steps. First, select what you think is the prettiest tree — I can't help you with that part. Next, determine its freshness. Some tree sellers can tell you the actual date the trees were cut. Some Scotch pines are cut in the northern states, beginning in October, dyed green then kept in a cool spot before shipping south.

The key to selecting a fresh tree is in the needles. They should be fragrant and appear waxy. Rub a few between your fingers and they should smell like pines. Slide your hand along the branch and the needles should stay on the

tree. Move the tree to a clean spot on the pavement and give it a shake. A few old brown needles that had been stuck in the tree may fall out, but few green ones should. Needles are knocked out with all of the handling a tree gets and constant tapping of the tree on the pavement will loosen more needles.

Hold the needles and see if they are flexible. If the temperature is below freezing when you are looking at the trees, the needles may break instead of bending. They will be much less fragrant as well.

A fresh cut on the end of the tree will be sticky with sap. It may have dirt stuck to it and trees cut months earlier will bleed sap on newly cut-off ends.

If you are going to drive more than a few miles, the tree should be protected from the wind by wrapping it. A blanket, bag or hauling inside the vehicle will lengthen the use full life.

The open pores at the bottom of the trunk will be clogged with resin and dirt. Have the tree seller cut off the bottom inch of trunk, or when the tree is home, cut off the bottom inch or two of the trunk so water can be taken in. Make the cut on a diagonal plane, not flat, across the bottom, so that the cut will not be blocked when it is on the bottom of the tree stand. Do not make the cut too steep or

else it will not stay under water. Water keeps the tree fresh, which prevents needle drop and increases resistance to fire. Check the water level several times the first few days, because a fresh tree can use several gallons of water the first few days.

After the holidays, the tree can be recycled in several ways. Some towns have collections of the trees so that they can be chipped and used as mulch. You can cut off the branches and use them as a mulch to cover areas of the garden. Some forest preserve districts sink them into lakes so that they can provide shelter for small fish. They can be left in a corner of the yard to provide shelter to birds on cold winter days. Hang a bird feeder in the tree and they will find it quickly.

Do not burn the tree in the fireplace, because the sap can help catch the chimney on fire.

Remember, the sooner you choose a pre-cut tree, the sooner you can get it into water and the longer it will last. Even if you just store it outside in a bucket, it will be better off than sitting on the lot.

E-mail questions to Jeff Rugg at agreenerviv@altavista.com.

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JAYSON COMPANY

2401 Vauxhall Road
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 FAX: 908-964-8398

DATA ENTRY: Central to assist with customer service. Pleasant telephone manner necessary, full time, pleasant working conditions with benefits, immediate opening. Fax resume to 908-964-8398

DEDICATED REGIONAL & OTR Swift Transportation now available up to \$5,000 tuition reimbursement for experienced drivers now hiring for vans, flatbeds, 970 & Auto Haul Divisions. 800-284-6785

DENTAL ASSISTANT/ Dental Receptionist. Dental Specialty Group wants personable, caring, team oriented person for upbeat South Orange office. Part/ Full time. Please call 973-378-2070

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DRIVER COVENANT transportation. Coast to Coast runs. Teams start up to \$4,1000 sign-on bonus for experienced company drivers. For experienced drivers, 1-800-441-4384. For owner operators, 1-877-548-6815. Graduate students, 1-800-336-6428

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Reliable person with valid, clean driver's license needed for Full time delivering staff in the Union, Essex & Morris Counties. Heavy wage + commission. Good benefits. Apply in person, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm or Call Jim V for an appointment.

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DRIVERS GUARANTEED home for Christmas. \$400 orientation pay. 12/27/00 and 1/3/01. Solo up to 45 per mile. Teams up to 41 per mile. Contractors \$81 per mile. Lease options available (no money down). Fuel incentives and more. Call Burlington Motor Carriers 1-800-583-9504

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EARN \$5 helping doctors up to \$20-\$40 an hour. Billing assistance needed immediately! We train computer with modern required. Call 7 days, 888-871-5497 extension 821. \$309 software cost.

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FOOD SERVICE WORKER/ COOK. The Central Park League is a non-profit agency that provides a variety of services to the developmentally disabled. We are currently in need of Food Service Workers/Cooks for our private school. The qualified candidate must have a high School diploma as well as experience with meal preparation. If interested, please send resume to: Rose Zass, CPL, 373 Clermont Terrace, Union, NJ 07083. Fax: 908-354-7583

GREAT OPPORTUNITY. Earn excellent income at home assembling products 7 days a week. Call 1-800-657-0275, Ext #9202

GRILL COOK Full time. Good salary, plus benefits. Must be experienced. Please call 269-699-7504

GROWING BUSINESS Needs Help! Work from home. Mail Order/ E-Commerce. Earn \$1,500+ month part time, \$2,500 - \$4,500+ month full time. Free information. (414)290-9517. www.creative.com

ADVERTISE!

COMPOSITION DEPT. PART TIME

We are a group of weekly newspapers with an office in Maplewood looking for a person to assemble (paste up) newspaper pages. Approximately 21 hours on Tuesday and Wednesday. Experience helpful, but not required. Entry level position. Call for an appointment.

(973) 763-0700 or send your resume to Production Director Worrall Community Newspapers P.O. Box 158 Maplewood, N. J. 07040

ADVERTISING SALES

Worrall Community Newspapers is looking for experienced and aggressive salespeople for outside and inside sales. Earning potential commensurate with experience. Call for appointment (908) 686-7700

TELEMARKETING PERMANENT - PART-TIME

Need extra for those bills or just want extra dollars. Join our telemarketing team at Worrall Community Newspapers and work from our office in union. 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday Earn \$7.00 per hour plus bonuses (Work any three or up to 4 nights per week) Call George - 908-686-7700 Ext. 346 Worrall Community Newspapers

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A free press is the strength behind democracy.

At Worrall Community Newspapers, reporters learn what it takes to become good reporters. Why? Because reporting for one or more of our weekly newspapers means becoming involved in the community we serve. From news stories to features, from court coverage to police blotters, from community events to the Board of Education, reporters are the eyes and ears of all of our readers. Worrall Newspapers, which publishes 18 newspapers serving 26 towns, has openings for reporters in its Essex and Union County regions. If you think you have what it takes to be a reporter, send resume and clips to Tom Canavan, P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J., 07083, or fax to (908) 686-1169.

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REAL ESTATE

Real estate transactions are recorded in the office of the county clerk. **Worrald Newspapers publishes an abbreviated version of all transactions recorded in the 12 Union County municipalities the newspapers cover, using the recording date. The information is provided by TRW Property Data, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla. information service, and is published approximately six weeks after it is filed in the county clerk's office.**

Clark
 Sheila E. Slater sold property at 7 Poplar Terrace to Michael and Pamela Gemaro for \$110,000 on June 2.

Dennis J. and Spencer L. Maloney sold property at 336 West Lane to Betty R. Mania for \$223,000 on June 5.

Joseph and Dorothea Skimmons sold property at 52 Wendell Place to Anthony and Diane Becciro for \$235,000 on June 6.

George F. Moller sold property at 1161 Maurice Ave., to Richard G. Moller for \$267,000 on June 9.

Kevin and Maria O'Connor sold property at 359 Carolina St., to David and Kimberley Kastner for \$320,000 on June 9.

Cranford
 Harry and Judith Yerkowicz sold property at 113 Severn Court to David P. and Ann M. Hessler for \$300,000 on June 1.

Michael H. Hornack sold property at 108 Besler Ave., to George Marmaro and S. Johnson for \$189,900 on June 6.

Joseph and Arlene Hoch sold property at 11 Henley Ave., to Robert and Elisa Glazer for \$289,500 on June 7.

Kevin and Hope K. Holt sold property at 119 Retford Ave., to Brian and Carol English for \$300,000 on June 8.

Erna L. Durando sold property at 36 Columbia Ave., to John and Janice Iosso for \$235,000 on June 8.

Elizabeth
 Joseph S. and Concetta Barraco sold property at 2 Summit Road to Ibel D. and Nelly Fonseca for \$200,000 on June 2.

Antonio J. and Maria F. Cruz sold property at 154 Fulton St., to Vittoriano and Norma Perrone for \$170,000 on June 2.

Edward and Johanna Wagner sold property at 441 Linden Ave., to Norby Jaramillo for \$150,000 on June 7.

Rosaria A. Lavocchia sold property at 213 Center St., to Alejandro and Andrea Alvarez for \$152,000 on June 8.

Nelson Pereira sold property at 626 Park Ave., to Silvano and Romero J. Meneses for \$190,000 on June 8.

Hillside
 Thomas and Monika Shanks sold property at 540 McMichael Place to Tracy Ballard and T. McKay for \$133,000 on June 9.

Julio M. and Manuela C. Lopes sold property at 1313 State St., to Lucimar D. Oliveira for \$120,000 on June 14.

Antonio and Carminda V. Simoes sold property at 239 Crann St., to Jonathan Sousa for \$150,000 on June 15.

Augusto S. and Maria I. David sold property at 14 Hurden St., to Donovan and Ann M. Dixon for \$153,000 on June 15.

Francisco and Francina Santos sold property at 818 Purce St., to Jose E. and Maria Alves for \$131,000 on June 19.

Charleen Cian for \$165,000 on June 23
 Rose Givens sold property at 636 Trenton Ave., to Washington and Maria Marini for \$205,000 on June 28

Linden
 Miguel and Migdalia Davila sold property at 511 Miner Terrace to Dorothy Sarraf for \$150,000 on June 2.

Nellie Stepienyski sold property at 1308 Eddy Ave., to Rhonda V. Simmons for \$136,900 on June 2.
 Bron Domanski sold property at 934 Allen St., to Silverio F. and Maria E. Dasiva for \$273,000 on June 2.
 Maria Goncalves sold property at 201 S. Stiles St., to Keldersen Alphonse and E. Mendez for \$129,000 on June 6.

Mark A. and Patricia Lynn Kahana sold property at 131 Princeton Road to Jeanne M. Golden for \$148,000 on June 8.

Mountainside
 David and Tara M. Fernandez sold property at 1338 Hidden Circle to Anthony Basile for \$345,000 on June 9.

Lorenzo and Vivian R. Lentini sold property at 1071 Charles St., to Maria J. Lasala for \$282,000 on June 13.
 Ralph L. and Elizabeth Broshart sold property at 65 Nomahegan Drive to Lawrence H. Prybylski III for \$435,000 on June 15.

Cynthia B. Beckmore sold property at 17 Mountainview Drive to James F. and Elaine Stabe for \$1,195,000 on June 15.

Rahway
 Mildred Wudzki sold property at 2091 Montgomery St., to Merck and Co. Inc. for \$190,000 on June 7.

Stephen G. and Bonita G. Brown sold property at 1189 New Brunswick Ave., to Judith Melendez for \$86,000 on June 7.

Merriell M. Cannon sold property at 575 W. Hazelwood Ave., to Ronald and Josephin Mierzejewski for \$102,500 on June 8.

Leonard A. Romeo sold property at 64 W. Albert St., to Michael Indyk for \$123,900 on June 9.

Anna Tistan sold property at 651 Cora Place to Robert J. and Irene A. Mitchell for \$90,000 on June 9.

Roselle
 Thomas R. and Gilda F. Stanton sold property at 441 Brookside Drive to William Reyes and C. Sliwicky for \$127,000 on June 8.

Felix A. and Miriam M. Fuentes sold property at 405 Harrison Ave., to Marguerite M. Pierr for \$104,000 on June 8.

Richard E. Perez sold property at 727 E. 3rd Ave., to Roxanne and Meighan L. Smith for \$65,000 on June 12.
 Federal Natl. Mig. Assoc. sold property at 1041 Thompson Ave., to Hector A. and Alba R. Placeres for \$81,500 on June 13.

Roselle Park
 Margaret Larkin sold property at 149 E. Clay Ave., to Anne M. Larkin for \$160,000 on June 6.

Roger J. and Sylvia R. Stryker sold property at 529 Spruce St., to Miroslaw Krol for \$169,250 on June 7.

Commercial Credit Corp. sold property at 242 Sheridan Ave., to Ramon A. and Daisy Grullon for \$152,000 on June 9.

Juan and Detsy Fundaro sold property at 418 Amsterdam Ave., to Nelson Sarno for \$207,000 on July 10.

Eugene and Victoria McCue sold property at 208 Locust St., to Susanna Gaffney for \$129,900 on June 14.

Springfield
 Fannie Kligman sold property at 534 Ashwood Road to Harry Yorko for \$235,000 on June 2.

Allonise and Beverly Marcantone sold property at 17 Woodside Road to Magnet Family Lmt. Pnr for \$290,000 on June 8.

Vita N. Antuso sold property at 926 Bunta Place to Thomas P. and Eileen M. Moss for \$200,100 on June 9.

Arthur D. and Barbara P. Weinberg sold property at 4 Clearview Road to Claire M. Davis for \$401,000 on June 14.

Ruth Dannefischer sold property at 24 Seaverna Ave., to Jonathan C. and Lauren Decranis for \$245,000 on June 15.

Summit
 Stephen and Lisa S. Dettournais sold property at 27 Edgemont Ave., to Donald and Lillian Canning for \$640,000 on June 5.

Hon C. and Siu C. Kwok sold property at 61 Wallace Road to Paul G. and Kim E. Deehan for \$389,000 on June 6.

Alfred E. and Barbara D. Rancke sold property at 10 West Lane to John R. and Nicole S. Blomfield for \$859,900 on June 6.

Tamara A. Young sold property at 24 Debarry Place to Russell D. and Ellen B. McManus for \$649,500 on June 7.

William R. and Virginia B. Nadel sold property at 9 Colt Road to Jose and Karen Fourquet for \$860,000 on June 8.

Donald G. and Lillian Canning sold property at 66 Tulip St., to Michael P. Canzano for \$378,000 on June 14.

Francis R. and Patricia M. Amato sold property at 128 Beekman Road to Bao and Xu H. Fu for \$450,000 on June 14.

W. Bradford and Patricia B. Greer sold property at 147 Colonial Road to Michael M. and Anne L. Taggart for \$500,000 on June 14.

Donald E. and Laura L. Hammond sold property at 34 Laurel Ave., to Sean P. and Julie L. Greely for \$627,400 on June 14.

James V. and Kimberly A. Orlando sold property at 2 Londonderry Way to Michael and Susan Viracola for \$1,250,000 on June 16.

Union
 Louis V. and Louise DiStefano sold property at 1535 Bradford Terrace to Beatrice Oglesby for \$135,000 on June 1.

Eugene P. Fischer and L. Fischer sold property at 847 Monmouth Road to Richard W. and Ana M. Quinteros for \$194,500 on June 2.

Jose and Marisol Vasquez sold property at 1289 Amherst Ave., to Dorteen Thompson for \$188,000 on June 2.

Richard E. and Rose M. Marczak sold property at 540 Schuyler Way to Joseph Margaritono for \$215,000 on June 2.

Jean R. Mandato sold property at 1249 Liberty Ave., to Francis P. and Michel Contreras for \$150,900 on June 5.

Tereza M. Nunes sold property at 317 Sherwood Road to Rui and Custodia Dias for \$228,000 on June 5.

Anna M. Bradbury sold property at 1163 Commerce Ave., to Maida Feliciano for \$217,000 on June 5.

Erwin Spinler sold property at 782 Nixon Road to Teresa Nunes for \$175,000 on June 6.

William and Winifred Kelly sold property at 341 New Jersey Ave., to Augustine and Umana Ojogwu for \$182,000 on June 7.

Euro Grp. LLC sold property at 2076 Stecher Ave., to Irvin Trella for \$230,000 on June 7.

Margaret Dominguez sold property at 2065 Vauxhall Road to Cesar C. Deoliveira for \$147,999 on June 8.

Theresa Horwath sold property at 2512 Allen Ave., to Jeffrey G. and Michele I. Harrell for \$152,500 on June 8.

Esther Gordano sold property at 274 Lindenwood Ave., to Thomas K. and Shanthi Mathinen for \$240,000 on June 8.

2065 Vauxhall Road to Cesar C. Deoliveira for \$147,999 on June 8.
 Theresa Horwath sold property at 2512 Allen Ave., to Jeffrey G. and Michele I. Harrell for \$152,500 on June 8.

Esther Gordano sold property at 274 Lindenwood Ave., to Thomas K. and Shanthi Mathinen for \$240,000 on June 8.

Awilda Crespo sold property at 1224 Gray Ave., to Andrew P. and Catherine Selby Jr. for \$167,000 on June 9.

Mazen A. and Sanaa B. Oudeh sold property at 911 Garden St., to Julio M. and Manuela C. Lopes for \$204,000 on June 13.

Joseph L. and Renise Riccardi sold property at 1244 Winshire Drive to Peter and Mary Muturi for \$194,000 on June 13.

Rosemarie Bini and John Raspa sold property at 316 Ferry St., to Jose and Grace Demeleros for \$195,000 on June 13.

Phyllis C. Smaldone sold property at 5 Timberline Court to Donald Smaldone for \$69,905 on June 14.

Margaret Bowers sold property at 7 E. Logan Road to Domingos and Maria Vieira for \$95,000 on June 14.

Arthur L. and Doris L. Goetsch sold property at 477 Winthrop Road to Rayway P. and Morreyah Sarran for \$174,000 on June 14.

Vernice Conrad sold property at 2631 Leslie St., to Cesar A. and Gloria L. Salazar for \$150,000 on June 15.

Levi N. and Virginia Trout sold property at 2168 Tyler St., to Jerry and Charlene Davis for \$182,500 on June 15.

Jaroslaw and Bogumila Gogorzalek sold property at 889 Madison Ave., to Sheryl O. Borg for \$189,000 on June 15.

William E. Caocosa sold property at 2129 Briarwood Lane to Hernani and Maria Soares for \$236,000 on June 15.

Joseph and Phyllis Zappula sold property at 2808 Debra Way to Jose F. and Brenda L. Pereira for \$216,000 on June 15.

Edward and Barbara Ferguson sold property at 936 Potter Ave., to Valdir and Marcia R. Rizardi for \$215,000 on June 16.

Fidel and Alegria Lim sold property at 116 Apple Tree Lane to Naysa Ven V. and Vinodhan Gandhi for \$305,000 on June 16.

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AUTOMOTIVE

Souped-up engine, aerodynamic design help Ford gain record

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

Ford gave 1.1-liter a Ford Focus wagon to play with. In return, he gave Ford a land speed record.

Butle's 2001 Focus set the speed record for a Production Class vehicle when it averaged 141.8 mph at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah recently.

Butle, the head of IBA Racing in Mission, Oregon, said, "It's best known for creating out-of-V-8-powered American cars and trucks."

Butle approached Butle — he has a reputation for making parts for high-powered Mustangs — last year and asked him to craft a snug legal and high-performance exhaust system for the Focus.

Butle finished that project and a snug legal turbo, which he sells separately, has shipped. Ford basically brought it into the small car market, Butle says.

Ford returned to Butle in July and asked him to develop a Focus for this year's Bonneville time trials. The car was built in less than a week.

The O.Production Class is for import cars with engines with less than a 2.0-liter displacement. Engine

restrictions are limited to what manufacturers could afford to do on factory cars. Vehicles are aerodynamic and structures can be made to the body. The wagon was preferred because of its "slipper" shape, or lower coefficient of drag — 0.40 — as the Focus sedan is 0.41. Its 8-cylinder, 1.8-liter, 190-hp engine.

Butle's team started with a stock 1.8-liter overhead-cam Ford Focus engine, then engineered a unique combustion valve train, pistons, rods and crankshaft.

The four-cylinder aluminum head was detuned for 8,500 rpm and durability at 7,000 rpm on the stock Focus. Airflow was improved with an intake system. Focus manifold, a 1.8-liter racing header and a free-flow exhaust system.

IBA got the car back from the last step Aug. 8 after the linkage rack body-side moldings and trimers had been removed — the only concessions allowed to stay within the body.

Butle's team removed the seats, added a roll cage, lowered the suspension, built the fuel, fire bottle and ignition systems and switched to a five-speed transmission from the four-speed automatic.

The team put in the racing seat, gauges, tachometer and then tried it up and loaded it on the trailer. No other break in time was possible. They left for Bonneville at 1 a.m. Aug. 10 and drove through the night.

On the final run of the fourth day of racing, Butle's team cracked the second-oldest record at Bonneville, set in 1973 by a rotary-powered Mazda. Several other cars participated in the class this year, but none was from a manufacturer.

On Aug. 16, the IBA Focus reached a top speed of 143.8 mph with an average of 141.8 over the 1/4-mile course.

"Not being an experienced Bonneville guy and wanting to become a Bonneville guy, you have to understand how big this is," Butle says. "Nobody goes to Bonneville and sees a record has first time out."

Web Sites

- About.com: cars.about.com
- Antipedia: www.antipedia.com
- Autobweb: www.autobweb.com/au/
- Car Talk: www.cartalk.com

- Department of Commerce Office of Automotive Affairs: www.products.gov/autos
- Edmunds: www.edmunds.com
- Kelly Blue Book: www.kbb.com
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: www.nhtsa.dot.gov
- Symposium: www.kc.symposium.com
- Web.com: www.web.com
- www.westonmotor.com

Bubble Wrap

Car enthusiasts who live in glass houses might like the Car's ability, a clear vinyl bubble for steering or slowing a car, for a motorcycle.

Manufactured by PBK Automotive, bubbles are available for garage or outside storage. Just drive the vehicle onto the heavy-gauge plastic base and zip the bubble shut.

A 12-volt fan inflates the bag and exchanges the air inside three or four times an hour to remove moisture. The fan has a 5-year warranty, and the company claims it costs only about \$150 — a month to install.

Car capsule prices range from \$229 to \$449 for indoor bubbles and start at about \$1,000 for outdoor use. Information is available at (800) 45-2822 or www.carcapsule.com

Paint Protector

The material is of 3M Scotch-Bond, a flexible plastic that will not crack, yellow, shrink or peel over time, the manufacturer claims, and removal of the film will not damage paint.

The clear plastic is applied similar to window tint, but each kit was on the vehicle.

Kits start at \$50, but depending on size and complexity, they average \$109 to \$200 for most cars and light trucks. Most handy do-it-yourselfers can handle the job, but some kits require expert application. Each kit has a 4-year warranty and comes with a \$1,000 paint protection guarantee.

For information, call (800) 447-9978 or visit www.xpel.com

Corvette Documentation

Corvette aficionados can buy copies of handbooks on cars produced at the Bowling Green Assembly Plant from 1981 to 2000.

These documents have never before been available and contain details on original factory options for each VIN built at the plant. The cost is \$15 for nonmember members and \$39/\$49 for nonmembers.

Reproduction window stickers for the same years also are available.

Prices range from \$25 to \$42 depending on the Corvette model year and member status.

Both documents can also be laminated for \$5.

Orders can be placed through the museum's Archive and Library, (800) 853-3111, or the web site at www.corvettemuseum.com. Membership starts at \$50 for an individual, \$100 for a family and \$1,500 for a lifetime.

Bird Watch

Just as Ford prepares the launch of its Norton Motos Thunderbolt, comes a new book on the history of the Thunderbolt, by Krause Publications.

"1 Bird, 45 Years of Thunder" 452 pages, \$21.95 covers the evolution of the Thunderbolt from the 1955 sell-off model to the 1999 concept car.

Included in the book is a year-by-year coverage of every model with paint and trim codes, VIN numbers and technical specifications. Also featured is a 16-page color section and more than 500 black and white photos of each model year.

The softback book can be ordered from the publisher at (800) 258-0929 or www.krause.com. Click on books

Tribute buyers are returning Mazda to 'role of full-time manufacturer'

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

The Tribute sport utility from Mazda is still arriving in dealerships and, with it, a new awareness campaign for an automaker once recognized for its rotary engines and RX-7 sports car image.

But Mazda is the Miata company to many younger buyers, and it has become a stealth brand, admits Steve Odell, the new vice president of marketing. He plans to change that through a lively ad campaign.

Odell has inherited a successful MPV mix — it has been selling at about 3,600 a month for the last three months — and the Tribute, which already are bringing people to the showroom and returning Mazda to the role of a full-time manufacturer.

Besides the Miata roadster, Mazda also sells the Protege compact sedan, midsize 626 sedan, the Militea sedan, and a B-Series compact pickup, a restyled Ford Ranger.

Also in the works is the rebirth of the RX-7 sports car. There is talk, too, of a restyled hotrod station wagon.

The ad campaign will tout the honors Mazda's vehicles have garnered, such as the MPV's "Best Buy" rating from Consumers Digest and the Protege's "Best Small Car" honors from Consumer Reports.

"Mazda has a tremendous heritage among Japanese imports. It's almost got a sparkle in its eye," Odell says.

Mazdas are prominent in the ads, but the RX-7 appears in one, which is a wink toward the RX-7's. "The ads are supposed to show the unbridled fun that we had as children — and some of its still have," Odell says.

A source close to the project says "the RX-7 is not just a styling practice." The concept car that was on view at last year's San Diego International Auto Show has changed somewhat but plans are moving ahead to introduce it with the next generation rotary engine.

Overall sales at Mazda are up 4 percent so far this year over 1999, due mostly to the MPV. Odell expects the Tribute to help boost sales by 10 percent for the year.

Mazda's biggest sales year in the United States was 1986 when 379,883 vehicles were sold, but sales fell with the economy in the late '80s. Sales have been rebounding, though, and reached 243,708 last year.

Odell predicts the company will reach 280,000 or more in 2001. "There is huge opportunity out there," Odell says, "and opportunity for us to be a 300,000-plus manufacturer."

Tribute is a corporate project with Ford that gave both auto-makers a compact sport utility. Ford's version, the Escape, went on sale in August. Tribute-Escape is a global truck that will be sold elsewhere under the Maverick nameplate.

From its factory in Kansas City, Mazda will get about 20,000 Tributes in 2001. Ford will get about 200,000 Escapes.

The sales estimates are conservative, and Mazda says it will have access to more as needed. Next year, the estimates are for 35,000 maybe up to 60,000.

Tribute is a front-wheel-drive truck with an optional automatic 4-wheel drive system.

There are DX, LX and ES trim levels and two engines, a standard 140-hp 2.0-liter 4-cylinder or optional 200-hp, V-6.

Prices start around \$17,000 for a DX with 5-speed manual transmission and go up to \$25,000 for an ES V6 with 4WD.

Tribute and Escape are cousins but separated by marketing at birth. The interiors are different and only the glass, roof and tailgate are shared without modification.

The Escape makes a better truck than a car. Tribute is more certified with padded bumpers, a stiffer suspension and a sportier shift response to the 4-speed automatic transmission. In four-wheel drive mode, both are capable off-roaders.

Mazda headed the engineering of the vehicles, and one noticeable difference between the trucks is the fit and finish of interior materials. The Tribute drives like a well-made Japanese import and benefits from quality interior components that fit well.

Not much has been said about other vehicles to be built from the Tribute/Escape platform, but a hot-rod retro wagon concept might become more than an artist's rendering. "What do you think of the Chevy Nomad?" asks a Mazda source. The current Mazda project is a full-size wagon with two or four doors.

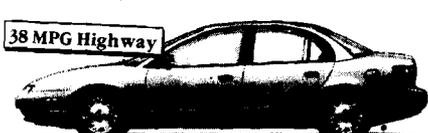
Mark Maynard is automotive editor at the San Diego Union-Tribune. Contact him at mark.maynard@uniontrib.com.

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Advice is offered on car winterizing

Don't wait for the first whisps of cold air to start blowing before you dress your car for winter. The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club suggests the following steps to make sure your vehicle is outfitted from headlight to tail light for rain and snow.

Battery. Cold weather can kill an ailing battery, the cause of many winter breakdowns. Avoid problems by asking your technician to test your car's charging system output and the battery's condition and charge.

Fluids. Remember to change the oil and check the antifreeze, brake, differential and transmission fluids. Oil antifreeze in your car's cooling system may contribute to cooling system failure.

Lights. Enlist a friend to help check your car's high and low beams, and its license plate, fog, parking, side marker, hazard, turn signal, reverse, and brake lights.

Supplies. Keep a windshield ice scraper, spray lock defroster, also keep an extra defroster at home, and an extra pair of gloves in the car, and consider packing a folding shovel and some rock salt, sand or kitty litter. If you'll be driving in the mountains, carry chains, blankets, food, weather gear, flares, and a tarp, just in case you break down.

Tires. If your tire treads are shallow, it's time to purchase a new set of tires. Consider the climate and the type of driving you do when choosing tires. Studded tires are permitted in New Jersey between Nov. 15 and April 1, but they should be used only in packed snow conditions. During the winter, check tires regularly for correct inflation, they lose pressure as the temperature drops.

Wipers. If your wipers leave streaks across your windshield or back window, the blades or tensioner arms may need replacing. Fill the washer fluid reservoir with a non-freezing cleaner, and always clear ice that binds your wiper blades before turning on the wipers.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, through offices in Florham Park, Randolph, Springfield and Verona, provides automotive, travel, insurance, financial and educational services to residents of Essex, Morris and Union counties.

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996.0, 997.0, 998.0, 999.0, 1000.0</p>	<p>SAVE \$430</p> <p>ASTRO</p> <p>Std Equip Incl 4300 V6, auto OD trans, pwr steering, A/C, big mtr, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 2.0, 2.8, 3.0, 3.5, 4.3, 5.0, 5.7, 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7</p>
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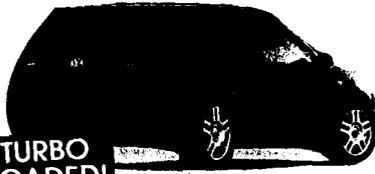
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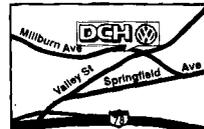


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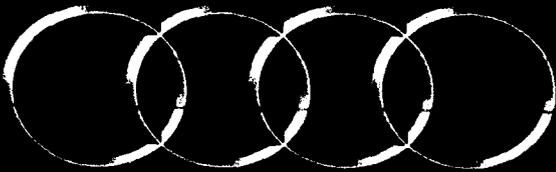
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