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TWO SECTIC

Springfielders seek place to play hoops

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

The saying amongst some Springfield residents is if you want to play five-on-five full-court basketball outdoors, then you'll have to play somewhere other than Springfield.

"We do not really have one functioning adult outdoor basketball court," said Mayor Steven Goldstein. "The courts where I grew up in Brooklyn, in the schoolyards, were nicer than these."

Recreation Director Michael Tennaro has said he has heard complaints from some citizens, saying they would like to have the court in their particular neighborhood fixed. However, Tennaro said he has not had anybody complain continuously about the facilities.

"There really is no place for people ages 15 and up to play fullcourt," Goldstein said. "For someone who played his whole life, believe me, there's not one normal court in this town."

Springfield really only has three major parks where residents can play full-court basketball: Smithfield Park, located on Smithfield Drive off of Evergreen Avenue; Irwin Park, on the corner of Adams Terrace and Irwin Street; and Ruby Park, located off of Caldwell Place. Of those three, Smithfield is considered the best.

"If you just made Smithfield a little bigger it'd be a nice location," said Goldstein.

"They're not wide enough. They need to be repaved. There are too many sink holes," said Springfield resident Andy Stier, a regular on the Springfield courts.

Stier agreed of all the basketball courts in Springfield he liked Smithfield the best, however that was strictly by default.

"There's nothing else that is even close to playable," Stier said.

Jonathan Dayton High School Basketball Coach Justin Petino said he does not play pickups games but that some of the kids he coaches used to play on the court located at James Caldwell School, where the township recently took the basket down.

"It was only nine-feet high though," he said. "Some of the residents around the court, I think, were complaining about the noise. So that basket was taken down."

Now a lot of the kids Petino coaches play at Smithfield.

"I guess Smithfield is the only place that has a decent court and that's small," said Petino. "There's no regulation-sized court where there are good 10-foot baskets."

Matt Paz, who scored more than 1,000 points in his Jonathan Dayton High School basketball career, said he isn't thrilled with the quality of Springfield's courts. Last season, Paz was named to the First Team All-Conference Valley Division of the Mountain Valley Conference.

He plays at least once a week during the summer at Smithfield.

"It's the best court in Springfield," said Paz. "The rims could be a little better. The court is a little small."

He said when he plays there, him and his friends can only play four-on-four fullcourt, otherwise the court gets too crowded.

Tennaro said the township is hoping to use some capital money to at least repair Irwin Park, which is in desperate need of new poles and backboards, as one of the baskets is missing a rim.

"I would like to see at least one park with lights and a nice blacktop, level basketball court with square backboards, not halfmoons," said Goldstein. "It doesn't have to be an NBA-sized court, smaller than a regulation court but large enough for 10 adults to play on."

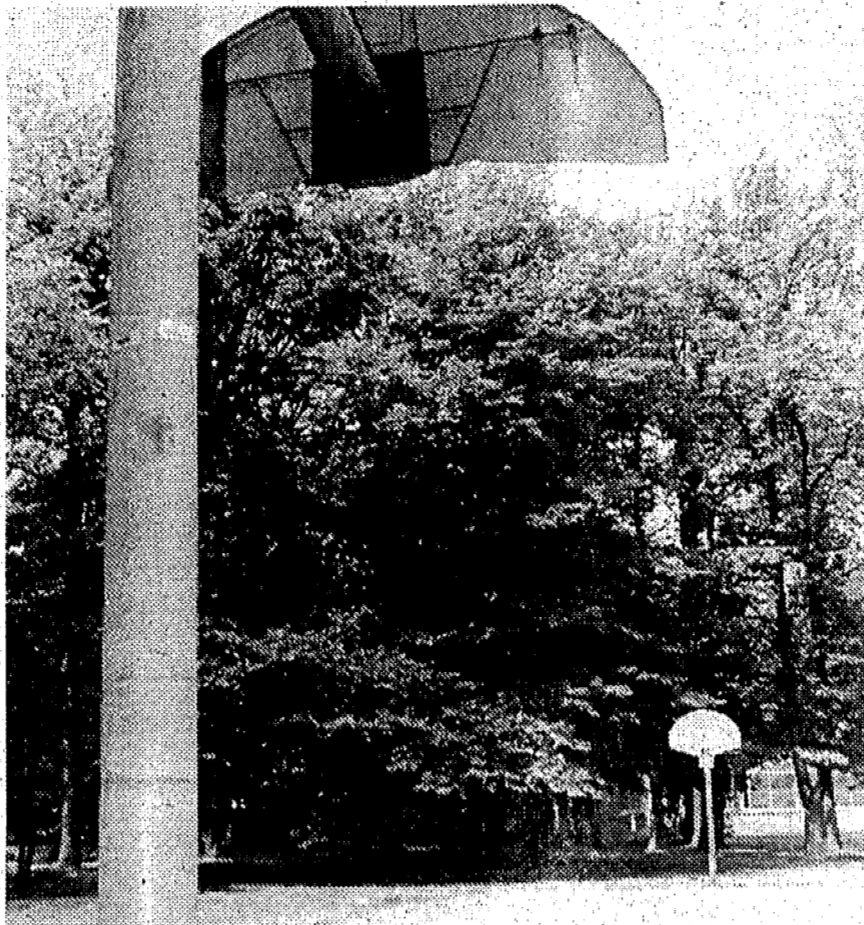


Photo By Bob Helfrich

Several Springfield residents have pointed out that there are few places in the township to play outdoor basketball due to the poor condition of the facilities, like this broken backboard rim at Irwin Park.

Committeeman Sy Mullman suggested the township put lights at Irwin Park, where there are facilities to play basketball, tennis and baseball. The lights would shut off at 10 p.m., so as not to disturb the residents in that area.

"I have contacted a company that will come out to us and do a scope, an idea of what it would cost to put lights up at Irwin, at the tennis courts, the basketball courts and possibly the baseball field in the future," said Tennaro.

Paz said he'd like to see the Smithfield court expanded, have more durable rims, lights put up, a better paint job with a three-point line and foul-line, and a better-playing surface that's not so rough.

"I'd like to see breakaway rims because all the rims get bent," said Stier. "It'll save money in the long run. Instead of purchasing three or four rims at a time, they could just purchase breakaway rims."

Goldstein suggested if a better court is built, then maybe the township can run outdoor recreational basketball programs during the summer.

"It's one of those things that if the facilities were better, maybe the kids would be out there," said Petino. "It's another outlet for them to go out and enjoy themselves. It's something to do on a Tuesday, Wednesday night in the summer instead of just sitting home."

Residents react to Ground Zero plans

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Last month, Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, an agency charged with rebuilding Ground Zero, released six ideas for the site. The ideas included memorial spaces, opportunities for retail businesses and cultural centers, as well as commercial office buildings, all of which could be ready for occupation by 2005.

In an informal survey, conducted at the Mountainside Community Pool, patrons had mixed opinions on what should be built at Ground Zero and the exact location of where it should be erected.

"I was in favor of them rebuilding right from the start," said Fred Perna, a Mountainside resident for nearly 48 years. "I don't think that we should let anyone take away what we had."

Perna said he would like to see the Twin Towers rebuilt to the exact same height they originally were.

LMDC proposed that none of the office buildings stand as high as the 110-story Twin Towers.

"I think it should be rebuilt," said Maureen McCabe, a Fanwood resident. "Definitely. They should make some kind of memorial to honor all the people who perished."

She said she would also like to see the towers rebuilt to the same height. However, McCabe said she would have a problem working there.

"I was born and raised in Manhattan and even when I worked in the city before I moved out here I didn't like tall buildings," she said. "So I would have a problem working in it."

McCabe said that the United States cannot let the terrorists win and, by not rebuilding the towers, in a way, the terrorists will have won.

"There's got to be something there to memorialize — to give credit to the firemen and the police and the other people who died," said McCabe.

McCabe suggested there should be some kind of building dedicated to those who died in the attacks.

"I think they should rebuild it but it should be with a memorial," said Bill Cramer, a Union resident. "I haven't decided on which one of those six plans I like yet."

Cramer said that whichever one is chosen a huge memorial site should be erected.

"I think they should rebuild," said Kerri Moore, a Mountainside resident for 10 years. "It could take years and years for them to do it, but I think they should build them as close as they can to the original."

Moore said she wouldn't have a problem working in the new towers. "There would probably be a lot more security."

Cramer said he does not think the towers should be rebuilt to stand as high as they originally were. He said the height should be restricted to the same height as the other buildings in that area.

Moore said she was torn between rebuilding on the exact site where the towers originally stood, or setting aside that area as a memorial. "I think, maybe, it should be preserved and the towers should be built around it."

Perna said that the Twin Towers should be built at the exact same location where they originally stood.

"I think that that ground is where it should be," he said. "I think the people who gave their lives would want it that way."

Roofs get replaced

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Two separate contractors have been awarded bids by the Springfield Board of Education to replace sections of the roofs on Jonathan Dayton High School and Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School.

"What the business office did was they took the O.K. from the board, they drafted a contract and a purchase order and they mailed it to the roofing companies," said Supervisor of Facilities and Support Services Michael Moore. "So far we've just put them on notice that we intend to award the contract to them."

On those documents, Moore told the companies they can start construction immediately so the entire project can be completed by the time school starts in September.

"Both roofing companies told me that they see no problem getting everything finished by the start of the school year," said Moore.

However, weather is a factor for getting everything completed on time. Rain could cause huge delays in the re-roofing process.

"We're working with the contractors right now to schedule the work," said Superintendent of Schools Walter Mahler. "We fully expect them to be done this summer."

There are no written commitments from the roofing companies at this point. Newark-based E.R. Barrett Inc. was awarded the Dayton roofing bid at the cost of \$37,755. About 8,600 square feet of roofing will be replaced at Dayton, over the more recently built wing where the science labs are. The roof is approximately 20 years old.

"That's been leaking horribly for years," said Mahler. "We've tried to repair it for several years," said Moore. "It's a metal deck roof. The water will follow the metal decking until it finds a hole to drip out of and then it drips. Finding where it's coming from is almost impossible."

Middlesex-based Badger Roofing Company was awarded the Gaudineer job at the cost of \$22,460. Just over 6,000 square feet of roofing will be replaced over Gym 1 in Gaudineer, the gym without the stage, where some residents vote on election days.

"We had a persistent leak at the lower edges of it," said Moore. "It's a roof, that as near as I can tell, is close to 40 years old. It's a roof that's given its time."

One more time



Photo By Bob Helfrich

Uno is a staple at any municipal pool. Taking a break from swimming to play at the Springfield Municipal Pool are, from left, Paula Krause, Sandrine Salmon, counselor Jen Hillyer and Alan Salmon.

Fee set for some records

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

The Springfield Township Committee introduced an ordinance setting a fee of \$10 per half hour for the amount of time it takes a township employee to gather information and fulfill a resident's request for public records which are of a "voluminous or high work nature."

This ordinance is in direct response of the recently instituted Open Public Records Act.

The act, also known as OPRA, was intended to expand the public's right of access to government records, create an administrative appeals process if access is denied, and define what records are and are not "government records" and determine whether they should be accessible to the public.

Fulfilling these requests results in township employees having to take time out of their normal work schedules, which could lead to them having to work overtime, which would cost the township additional money. The newly instituted fees should subsidize the overtime pay.

"It's a relatively middle of the road fee for non-administrative employees, secretarial fees," said Township Attorney Bruce Bergen.

For documents that do not fall under the category of "voluminous or high work nature," citizens can be charged fees of \$0.75 for each of the first 10 pages, \$0.50 for each of the next 10 pages and \$0.25 thereafter, if the township chooses to do so.

Provisions of the New Jersey Public Records Act allow for public access to government records. However, there are several exceptions, including autopsy reports, child abuse or sexual assault victim names or addresses, computer security information, juvenile records, medical examiner photographs, victim records, as well as other such items that fall under the privileged and protected category.

Members of the public who are requesting copies of records must complete the Request for Public Records form.

Board keeps close watch on school construction projects

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

Although it is mid-summer, the Mountainside Board of Education is keeping close tabs on the renovations being done at both Beechwood School and Deerfield School. At the July 25 meeting, therefore, both the construction chief and the project manager and the architects were present to give separate updates.

In fact, because the Deerfield School renovations had been well underway, the meeting had to be conducted at the Mountainside Library. Jim Ruban, architect from The Musial Group, was there to give their update.

"Beechwood School is really moving along," he said. "The kindergarten extension is basically done as far as the masonry goes, and we are moving on to the roof and plumbing. The toilet rooms were awaiting the

Update shows progress of Beechwood and Deerfield

delivery of a few types of materials needed, such as the steel for the boundaries and machinery, which he said are supposed to arrive shortly.

"Actually, the outside work is coming together nicely; there is no on-site work as yet; the inside work is proceeding and the electrical work has been done," said Ruban. "The roofers were there today and all of the classroom extension roofs have been framed in. We are in good shape on some things," he added.

Ruban then moved to the Deerfield project. "As far as Deerfield goes, preparations for the abatement have been done. The process is on-going for two weeks or so." He said a lot of the demolition has been done in the toilet rooms, and he said there are still

some outstanding materials to be ordered. "Some paperwork still has to be done between Musial and Randazzo," he said.

Several members of the Board of Education had questions for him. "Where are we as far as the date of completion for Beechwood?" asked Sally Rivieccio. He answered, "End of August or early September at the outside."

He continued, "The Board of Education rooms may not be ready, and you should be prepared to be displaced up to 42 days or so, in our professional opinion — that would be the worst scenario."

Next to be heard from was head of the construction company, Ciro Randazzo. He said, looking at Ruban,

"Jim might have been exaggerating a bit and scared you when he said 42 days; actually the classroom and the cafeteria will be done at the beginning of the school year. I promise you the students will not be displaced."

Board member Frank Geiger asked, "Are you saying we can get kids in there safely for the beginning of the school year?" Both Randazzo and Ruban said yes. Then Ruban added, "Let's say the library and the offices might not be complete, then the fire alarm may not be in as yet but the town decides. It will be the town fire official who decides to give us a CO or not — this is a certificate of occupancy."

Then board member Peter Goggi wanted to know, "Is there a way of

identifying where it will not be complete? Safety is the first thing to worry about, after all." Ruban said, "We will be able to sit down with the fire officials and see what is necessary to comply, before school opening time. Again, ultimately, it is the inspector who decides; it is in his hands. We can set up a meeting with him."

Superintendent of Schools Gerard Schaller had a question for Randazzo. "Does this include school grounds?" He meant the completion date, and Randazzo said, "Yes, this is not an issue; that will be all cleaned up and ready. We could even put in a temporary school detector."

Rivieccio also asked, "Once we get the kids in there, how long before you will be out of there?" Randazzo replied, "Possibly two to three weeks maximum, which would mean the end of September at the outside."

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us: The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers...

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Letters to the editor: The Echo Leader provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor.

e-mail: The Echo Leader accepts opinion pieces by e-mail. Our address is Editor@localsource.com.

To place a display ad: Display advertising placement in the general news section of the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m.

To place a classified ad: The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section.

To place a public notice: Public Notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers.

Facsimile transmission: The Echo Leader is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by fax.

Web site: Visit our Web Site on the Internet called LocalSource online at http://www.localsource.com.

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Armed robber hits Route 22

Mountainside police officers said an armed robbery at the Echo Queen Diner on Route 22 East in Mountainside looks like it was linked to other armed robberies along Route 22.

On Friday at 4:34 a.m., the suspect walked into the Echo Queen armed with a kitchen knife and robbed the cash from the register.

POLICE BLOTTER

The suspect was reported to be a male in his late 20s to early 30s, standing about six feet tall, with a medium build and brown hair.

Police said the suspect fled in a 1995 Nissan Maxima from the Route 22 eatery.

The investigation involves departments from Mountainside, Springfield and Union.

After a short break over the weekend, the suspect walked into the Lido Diner on Route 22 in Springfield on Monday at 10:02 p.m.

Headquarters had notified patrol units in the field of an erratic driver traveling eastbound in the westbound lanes of Route 22 in Springfield.

Once the driver entered Mountainside, he struck two marked police cars and resisted arrest.

A Longview Drive resident reported unauthorized purchases on their credit card, which totaled more than \$700, on July 23 at night.

On July 23 at 1:37 p.m., a woman identified as Susan Crocker, 44, of Basking Ridge was arrested on Summit Road for driving with a suspended license.

A Robin Hood Road resident reported on July 23 at 7:21 p.m. he received approximately 50 harassing phone calls the day before.

On July 22 at 7:04 p.m., a party at a house on Henshaw Avenue got a little out of hand, as the homeowner's son reported a laptop computer valued at \$3,500, 128 CDs in a case and a DVD movie valued at \$30 were stolen.

On July 22 at 11:26 a.m., a purse containing \$200 cash, a cell phone, credit cards, house keys, driver's license and jewelry was reported stolen from a Morris Avenue business.

On July 22 at 10:16 p.m., several tool boxes containing various tools were reported stolen from a basement on Morris Avenue.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its summer international film festival with "Day I Became A Woman" at noon and 7 p.m.

The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross offers a new class this summer, pet first aid, from 7 to 10 p.m.

The Sunday Planetarium Show at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross offers a new class this summer, pet first aid, from 7 to 10 p.m.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its summer international film festival with "Bread and Tulips" at noon and 7 p.m.

The Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, will conclude its summer reading program, "2002 - In the Ocean Blue," with a summer celebration party at 2 p.m.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its Lunchline Video Series with "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at noon.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its summer international film festival with "Butterfly" at noon and 7 p.m.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its summer international film festival with "Divided We Fall" at noon and 7 p.m.

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For more information, call 973-376-4930 or e-mail questions@springfieldpubliclibrary.com.

The Sisterhood of Temple Sha'arey Shalom, 78 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield, will conduct its annual rummage sale at the temple's social hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Sunday Planetarium Show at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, will present Summer Skies at 2 and 3:30 p.m.

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Yuter prepares to leave post

By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer After 15 years as rabbi there, Alan J. Yuter will be leaving the Orthodox Congregation Israel in Springfield at the end of August.

He has mixed plans; he will be a religion teacher at Hillel Yeshiva in Deal, an Orthodox religious school. He will also be teaching American Jewish History and American History at Touro College in New York City, where he has already been registered as an adjunct professor.

Reflecting on the differences between here and there, he said, "In Israel, being 'modern' is not antithetical to faith, but it is the appropriate application of religious commitment in our station and time, at least in my opinion."

He was aware that on the television news this past week, hundreds of Jewish people were doing the same thing: immigrating to Israel, each for many different reasons.

"Being Jewish is part religion and part national; I am keeping my American passport," The rabbi added. "The

American republic is so great that it accepts multi-national identities for its citizens; witness: American Indians can belong to the Apache nation and the American nation."

Like many Jewish scholars, Yuter believes that Israel is the center of Jewish life. He has been there many times on pilgrimages. "In my junior year of college, I was an exchange student to Hebrew University in Jerusalem," he recalled.

Reflecting on the differences between here and there, he said, "In Israel, being 'modern' is not antithetical to faith, but it is the appropriate application of religious commitment in our station and time, at least in my opinion."

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"Being Jewish is part religion and part national; I am keeping my American passport," The rabbi added. "The

nurtured in the home. My son-in-law, Avi Rosenfeld, is also an ordained Orthodox rabbi, but will be working in computers."

Although it will be a big change for him, he said, "In the Jewish tradition, learning, teaching and discovering are sacramental. There are different ways to be a rabbi—the word itself means 'teacher'—and I am changing venue and not career."

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Photo By Jeff Grant Alan J. Yuter

and give benedictions whenever I asked him to participate. In addition, he was always there for us personally whether somebody was sick, or in need. He will be deeply missed," she said.

'Being Jewish is part religion and part national; I am keeping my American passport. The American republic is so great that it accepts multi-national identities for its citizens.'

— Alan J. Yuter

Springfield outages have familiar forces

By Brian Pedersen Managing Editor

Recently, various pockets of Springfield have been experiencing power outages for varying lengths of time, but according to Jersey Central Power & Light, the company that services the township, the causes are mostly out of their hands.

Chief among them are squirrels, trees, and the forces of mother nature, such as high winds and summer lightning.

"We received complaints beginning mid to late April for a windstorm in excess of 70 miles-per-hour," said Dave Feyl, area manager for JCP&L, based in Morristown. "On the heels of that particular storm, customers made complaints to the Board of Public Utilities, mostly Chinney Ridge and Rolling Rock Road residents."

In late 2001 and early 2002, the company did a significant amount of electrical work to address the situation, according to Feyl. They are currently in the process of doing a complete circuit analysis that will be delivered to Township Administrator Richard Sheela sometime this month.

The circuit analysis is a visual inspection of all the township's electrical infrastructure to see if there's anything that needs repair or replacement such as spacers and crossarms on the electrical cables.

Feyl said they are also doing tree trimming work over the past week to prevent limbs and branches from interfering with electrical wires.

"There's not enough infrastructure," said Feyl. "Most of these outages have causes such as thunder and lightning, high winds. As with any electrical device, things happen."

This week, a large tree caused three poles to go down on Commerce Street, causing an outage that destroyed a wire. On Monday morning, a squirrel went on a wire on Christy Lane and Feyl said the company had to open up the line to make repairs, causing a short interruption of service.

"It's a constant process," said Feyl. "We are constantly updating the system. Trees are probably the major cause of service interruption."

As one who is familiar with the township's history with JCP&L, Township Committeeman Sy Mullman has seen an improvement in service compared to last year.

"It has been better," said Mullman. "They certainly have been trying to do a better job. In my area, they've always told us it was squirrels."

JCP&L services nine counties in Northern New Jersey, but only a small portion of Union County. In addition to serving 100 percent of Springfield, they serve all of Summit, New Providence, Berkeley-Heights and a small portion of Mountainside.

responsible for those phones or the county is responsible for them, such as the one at Meisel Field.

"It's not just towns that get letters," said Mendez. "It's property owners, fast food restaurants, convenience stores, wherever they earn less than the average revenue."

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We would like to publicize your club, church, sports, school news, etc. If you have an idea for a picture or story, please let us know.

If you'd like a handbook, call (908) 686-7700 and one will be mailed to you.

Verizon removes unprofitable public pay phones throughout Springfield

pool season is over and then reconnect it when the pool reopens next summer. "We constantly monitor our pay phones to see which ones are not profitable and need to be removed," said Mendez. "This is not a new program it's a continual effort. It's ongoing, one round after another. It's just part of doing business."

Verizon operates approximately 62,000 pay phones in New Jersey. Letters were sent out to the municipalities and businesses whose pay phones were not reaching Verizon's minimum revenue requirement.

"When we determine that a phone is not making the minimal revenue, we contact, in this case, the municipality and talk to them about alternatives," said Mendez.

One of the alternatives is to pay the monthly \$75 fee to have the phone in service. Other alternatives are to switch to a different phone company or have the phone removed.

Verizon will be instructed to disconnect the pool pay phone once the

Verizon was instructed by the township to remove all the public pay phones Springfield is responsible for, except for three: the one across from the police desk in Town Hall, the one at the Springfield Municipal Pool, and the one at the Chisholm Community Center.

"What's happening is we're seeing that cell phones are challenging our revenues for pay phones," said Verizon Spokesperson Ivette Mendez. "So what we do is remove the low paying phones and that helps us to stay in business."

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Firefighters extinguish trash can fire at home

Springfield On July 18 at 8:37 a.m., the Springfield Fire Department extinguished a trash can fire at a Center Street residence.

On July 15 at 8:03 a.m., they answered a medical service call at a Morris Avenue business. At 9:49 a.m., they responded to a medical service call at a Route 22 East business.

At 10:18 a.m., they attended to a medical service call at an Independence Way residence. At 10:56 a.m., they extinguished a mulch fire at a Caldwell Place apartment. At 4:59 p.m., they transported a pumper to Union Fire Headquarters on a request from Union County Mutual Aid. At 6:49 p.m., they attended to a motor vehicle accident on Mountain and Remer.

On July 16 at 8:12 a.m., they responded to Mountain and Caldwell for a motor vehicle accident. At 2:26 p.m., they answered a medical service call at a Mountain Avenue apartment complex. At 4:43 p.m., they stopped an illegal burning at a South Springfield Avenue residence.

On July 17 at 7:37 a.m., they investigated an activated fire alarm at a Morris Avenue business. At 10:01 a.m., they answered a medical service call at a Kew Drive residence. At 11:24 a.m., they responded to a medical service call at a Briar Hill Circle residence. At 11:57 a.m., they attended to a medical service call at a Balmston Avenue residence. At 8:23 p.m., they attended to burning wires on Baltusost Way and Crescent.

On July 18 at 1:11 a.m., they responded to a motor vehicle accident on Route 78 West mile post 48. At 9:18 a.m., they answered a medical service call at a Shunpike Road business. At 9:51 a.m., they attended to a

FIRE BLOTTER

motor vehicle accident on Route 78 East at mile post 46.8.

At 12:26 p.m., they answered a medical service call at a Stonehill Road apartment complex. At 1 p.m., they responded to a medical service call at a Troy Drive apartment complex. At 1:20 p.m., Springfield firefighters assisted a Wabeno Avenue resident down the stairs.

At 1:58 p.m., they attended to a medical service call at a Stiles Street residence. At 2:33 p.m., they investigated an activated carbon monoxide detector at a Cain Street residence.

At 9:12 a.m., they answered a medical service call at an Independence Way residence. At 12:03 p.m., they extinguished a transformer fire on a Victory Road. At 3:53 p.m., they investigated an activated fire alarm at a Victory Road business. At 5:45 p.m., they answered a medical service call at a Morris Avenue business. At 5:45 p.m., they investigated an activated fire alarm at a Victory Road business.

On Sunday at 1:50 p.m., they responded to an activated fire alarm at a Poplar Avenue residence.

On July 23 at 9:49 a.m., they

answered a medical service call at a Mountain Avenue residence. At 5:35 p.m., they investigated a burning odor at a Mountain Avenue business.

On July 21 at 11:22 p.m., they investigated an activated fire alarm at Garden Oval, Route 22 East.

On July 22 at 3:18 a.m., they responded to a Morris Avenue apartment complex for an activated fire alarm. At 7:13 a.m., they answered a medical service call at a Diamond Road business. At 8:04 a.m., they attended to a medical service call at a Mountain Avenue apartment complex. At 9:11 a.m., they responded to a motor vehicle accident on Lyons Place.

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Speech problems detected

Parents eagerly anticipate the moment when their child first begins to talk. But for some parents, it is a time of anxiety because their child struggles to get words out.

As many as 20 percent of all preschoolers nationwide have repetitions and prolongations of sounds severe enough to be of concern to their parents.

A new videotape, "Stuttering and The Preschool Child: Help for Families," helps parents detect stuttering and take action toward helping their child. The videotape is available at the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield.

Produced by the non-profit Stuttering Foundation of America, the video describes what kinds of stuttering young children may exhibit, how parents can help at home, and the role of a speech pathologist in evaluating and treating children who stutter. The foundation provides this new videotape free to all public libraries nationwide.

"Stuttering typically begins between the ages of two and five," said Barry Guitar, professor and chairman of communication sciences at the University of Vermont in Burlington. "It may begin gradually or suddenly, and many of these children outgrow their disfluencies naturally. However, if a child continues to stutter for several months, or appears to be frustrated by it, parents should seek assistance."

Guitar appears in the video with four other nationally recognized experts in stuttering: Peter Raming of the University of Colorado at Boulder, Diane Hill of Northwestern University, Patricia Zebrowski of the University of Iowa and Kristin Chmela in private practice.

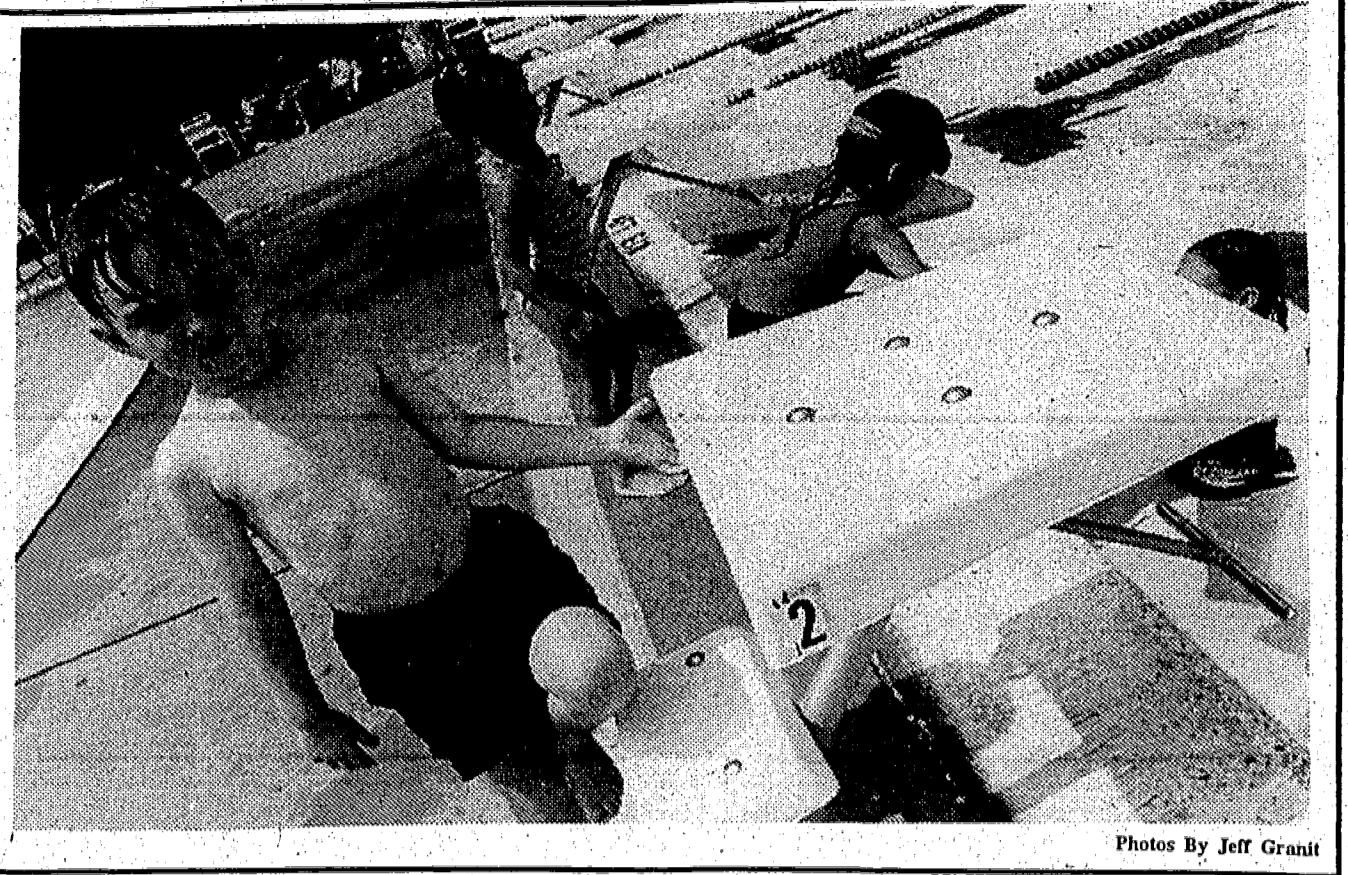
These experts address common concerns that parents have about their child, such as how to help the child at home and whether to seek the advice of a speech pathologist.

Strategies parents can use to help reduce stuttering are given throughout the tape and include reducing the number of questions they ask the child, focusing on taking turns during conversations, and making time to read or talk with the child in a relaxed manner.

Parents are relieved to discover that they are not alone and that other parents share their concerns," said speech pathologist Chmela.



READY TO GO—A regular at the Mountainside Community Pool, Benjamin Bakaletz, 4, likes to take his time going into the pool, thinking about which new swimming techniques he'd like to try out today.



Photos by Jeff Grant

COUNTY NEWS

A call for working cars

Looking to get rid of your car? Not happy with dealer trade-in values? Community Access Unlimited, a non-profit social service agency is in desperate need of cars in good working condition for adults with development disabilities and disadvantaged youth. Along with helping individuals in need, you may also qualify with the IRS for a tax deduction.

Opportunities with RSVP

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Union County is highlighting several opportunities open to people who have specific skills and some available time: computer trainers for a program designed to enable individuals with disabilities to gain basic computer skills; advocates for seniors in a new program designed to protect against Medicare/Medicaid fraud and abuse; various placements to tutor/teach children and adults basic reading and math skills. In addition, people with bilingual ability are sought to help support various community efforts.

Surrogate's office hours

Union County Surrogate James LaCorte has updated his schedule of evening office hours as follows: Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., first Monday of the month. • Railway Recreation Center, 275 Milton Ave., second Tuesday.

Iron Hills Conference differs for 2002-2003

The Iron Hills Conference has a different look, for the upcoming 2002-2003 school year. Parsippany Hills moved back to the smaller Hills Division after a two-year stint in the larger Iron Division. That means that there are now 10 schools in the Hills Division and nine in the Iron Division.

Summit Football 2002

Sept. 14 Morris Hills, 1:30 p.m. Sept. 20 at Mount Olive, 7 p.m. Sept. 28 at Mendham, 1:30 Oct. 5 Parsippany, 1:30 Oct. 12 at West Essex, 2 p.m. Oct. 19 Weequeah, 1:30 Oct. 25 at Hanover Park, 7 Nov. 2 Parsippany Hills, 2 Nov. 8 at Dover, 7

Summit Police Athletic League Golf Outing next month at Fox Hollow

The 7th annual Summit Police Athletic League Golf Outing is Sept. 23 at Fox Hollow Golf Club in Branchburg. More information about the golf outing may be obtained by calling Hank Gibson at 908-273-2121.

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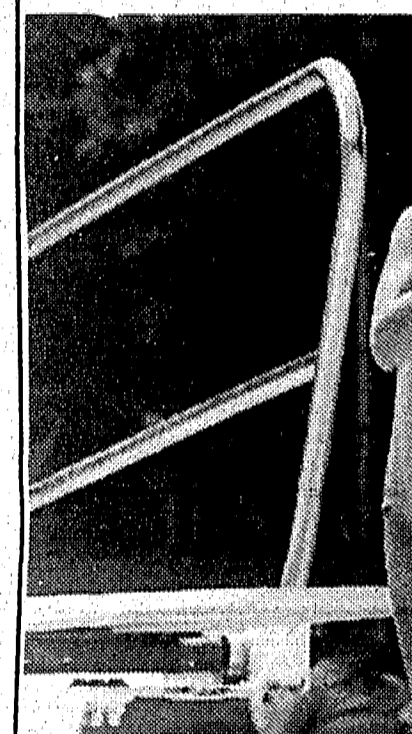
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Last one in...



Megan Phelan, 7, practices her diving skills on a sweltering summer day at the Mountainside Community Pool.

Congrats to new brownies



Brownie Troop 885 of Mountainside, the Washington Rock Girl Scouts, enjoy the Daisy to Brownie bridging ceremony at the picnic grove of the Mountainside Community Pool. Troop Leader Marianne Jennings, left, stands proudly by the girls. From top left are Shannon Compton, Elyssa Gornstein, Jean Ruggiero, Lauren Nagel and Alaina Jennings; and, in bottom row, are Stephanie Fine, Erin Dooley, Katie McLaughlin, Madison Purguy and Assistant Leader Joan McLaughlin.

Worship Calendar

BAPTIST: EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH - CHRIST OUR HOPE AND PEACE... 242 Shungike Rd., Springfield, NJ. Jewish: TEMPLE SHIA'AREY SHALOM... 78 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield, NJ. Roman Catholic: THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JAMES... 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, NJ. Episcopalian: SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH... 119 Main Street, Millburn, NJ. Presbyterian: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH... 210 Morris Ave., Summit, NJ. Methodist: UNITED METHODIST CHURCH... 210 Morris Ave., Summit, NJ.

Worship Calendar

WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 11:00 A.M.: Ladies' Evening Group - 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.; Kuffeklaich - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.; Choir - every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. The Rev. Daniel J. Russell, Jr., Pastor.

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NEWS CLIPS

'Fears and phobias'

Monsters under the bed, strangers, costumed characters and bugs, among other things, are all common fears of young children. Finding ways to help children cope with these very real fears can sometimes be a challenge for parents.

The Union County Rape Crisis Center is located at 300 North Ave. East in Westfield. The center is a program in the Department of Human Services.

Community blood drives: The Blood Center of New Jersey will sponsor the following blood drives:

• Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 425 Union Ave., Elizabeth.

Volunteers needed to be rape crisis advocates: Caring, supportive and committed individuals are wanted to volunteer to assist rape survivors during day, evening and weekend shifts at the Union County Rape Crisis Center.

'Girl Power!' conference: Recent studies show that, although the teenage years can be trying on all adolescents, females actually have more difficulty than males — one in four girls exhibit depressive symptoms.

Interested individuals should call as soon as possible for an interview. For more information, call 908-233-RAPE/7273 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Two Great Events Return To... UNION CENTER Stuyvesant Ave. In Union Center, Union UNION CENTER MERCHANT SIDEWALK SALE! Fri., August 2nd 10am-9pm Sat., August 3rd 10am-5pm CRUISER NIGHT Friday Night August 2nd 6-9PM! Special Award! THE 'MAYOR'S CUP' FOR BEST IN SHOW! ENTERTAINMENT! CONTESTS! PRIZES!

In addition to serving as a rape crisis advocate, volunteers may become involved in making educational presentations to schools or to groups in the community on sexual assault topics.

Family Court volunteers: Volunteers are needed for a vital program serving the Superior Court, Family Division — Family Court — in Union County.

Adopt a child from India: On Aug. 6th, attend a FREE Information Meeting in Iselin to learn how you can adopt a child from India.

NEVER CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS AGAIN: With Gutter Helmet, We'll Protect Your Home and All You Have Invested In It.

Received a great response: Prudential Financial. Dear Mr. Sloan, I would like to acknowledge your contribution to the continued success of my investment seminar.

Interested adults may call Yurek at 908-659-2360 or write to her at the Family Court, Union County Courthouse Annex, fifth floor, Elizabeth, 07207.

Volunteers donate more than 200,000 hours to the state's judicial system every year. Their time, talent and energy has allowed the courts to move cases and provide vital services that would be impossible without their help.

Singer 'can't go wrong' with Mercer: The late great songwriter Johnny Mercer may be up there applauding with gusto and pride Aug. 8 when that unique, delightful cabaret and recording artist Lee Lessack performs his tribute show.

Mythology comes to life: Joe Discher spreads mirth and merriment as the eternally youthful Pan in Menander's 'The Grouch', on stage at the Greek Amphitheater at the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown.

Lee Lessack: Lee Lessack will appear in the Cabaret Soiree series at The Manor Aug. 8. For information, call 973-731-2360.

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SUMMIT SUMMER FAIR & SIDEWALK SALE Saturday, August 3 Rain date: August 10

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