

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

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TWO SECT

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Borough pool makes a splash this summer

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

They make a splash, jumping off the diving board, tucking their knees up to their chests, like cannon balls, and when they land — water everywhere. Their mothers, sitting on the side reading paperback best-sellers, smirk and try not to get too wet.

With the weather as hot as it's been, one place to keep cool this summer is the Mountainside Community Pool. "Attendance has been up," said Beverly Mather, one of the assistant managers at the pool. "There's been more people because it's been so hot."

The pool is now in its 37th year of operation. The barrier-free facility features a 50-meter Olympic pool, a separate diving tank and a zero depth wading pool.

"Most of our weekends have had pretty crummy weather but we've been averaging around 400, 500, 600 people," said pool secretary Jennifer Bezruczyk. "On the weekdays we usually have more people because the swim team comes in and it's been warmer."

The diving tank has both three-meter and one-meter boards and has hosted a variety of diving meets since its opening in 1965.

A full-service snack bar as well as a picnic grove are also situated on site. Recreation Director Sue Winans

explained that one of the reasons attendance has increased this summer is because last summer it was not as hot. "It was a beautiful summer but it wasn't the kind of weather where you'd go to the pool all the time."

However, this summer the weather has been anything but cool.

"It's been a great summer," said Winans. "The weather has been excellent pool weather. It's been hot but it hasn't been that humid kind of hot."

On a typical day the chairs surrounding the main pool are filled, patrons sitting flipping through magazines, patrons watching their kids splash and play, patrons talking to other patrons.

"I like the pool because it's shaded," said Sheila Clarke, a Scotch Plains resident who has been a pool member for four years. "It's small and it provides chairs."

Sharon England, a 10-year member of the pool who lives in Roselle Park, said one of her favorite things about the pool is the cleanliness. "They always keep it up," she said. "They always maintain it."

"I like the size of the pool and how clean it's kept," said Kim Belford, a Union resident who's been a pool member for eight years. "The kids love the diving boards."

England and Belford each go to the pool about five days a week.



The baby pool section of the Mountainside Community Pool is a popular spot for many young swimmers, like Anthony Alfano, 4, who practices crawling on the floor.

"I love the way the pool is divided; a children's side and the other side," said Mountainside resident Miriam Rodrigues, a pool member for 13 years. "When my kids used to be smaller, they'd go on one side and I'd go on the other."

A full slate of activities are offered during the pool season, including swimming and diving lessons, swimming and diving teams, daily lap swims, and adult swims.

Winans said there's been a great turnout for the pool's activities and swim team meets.

"We have a lot more kids on the swim team," said Bezruczyk. "I think last year we had around 80 and now we have 130."

Swim meets are hosted at the Mountainside Pool on Wednesday mornings. Away meets take place during the evenings at other pools.

Other mornings during the week — Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday — the pool offers swim lessons.

"We have three different sessions," said Bezruczyk. "They run two weeks each."

The pool also offers private swim lessons to kids who cannot come during the regularly scheduled days and hours.

Family Float Night takes place every Thursday night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. "Everybody in their family brings a float and they go in the pool and float," said Mather.

The DJ Splash Party is for kids ages 10 to 15 years old. Admission is \$3 a person and guests are allowed. "It's usually every two weeks. It's from 8 to 10 p.m. and there's a DJ."

The splash party and float night continue throughout the remainder of the summer.



It's water, water everywhere for siblings Shane and Ciara McFarland, who both enjoy playing with their pails in the pool.

Knapp temporarily steps in at FMG

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

The Springfield Board of Education approved the hiring of Roy Knapp to serve as interim principal at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School.

"He's going to be paid on a per diem basis as we continue our search for a permanent principal," said Superintendent of Schools Walter Mahler. "We conducted a search back in late spring and early summer and we had a few good candidates but some got other jobs, some decided that they didn't want to work in New Jersey and leave New York. So we decided rather than to just keep going down our list, that we wanted to reopen the search."

Knapp, who is coming out of retirement to join the Springfield School District, will serve as the Gaudineer principal until the district is able to hire a permanent replacement for former Gaudineer Principal Dennis McCarthy, who is out on medical leave and plans to retire afterward.

"I think as an interim principal the first thing I want to do is find out what's going on with the school and help them do what needs to be done just to keep things going well," said Knapp. "Then I'll work with them to identify key issues. I have a lot of

background in different kinds of curriculum and scheduling and things like that. But I need to take a look at the school, see how it's functioning, then sort of pick the areas to focus on."

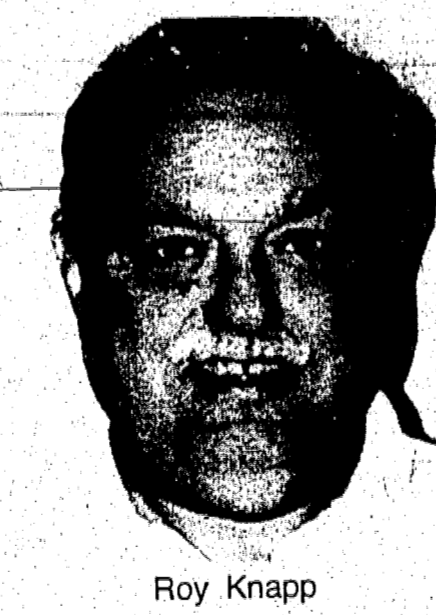
According to the state Department of Education, people hired on an interim basis can work for a full year and if the district applies for an extension then they can work for an additional year.

"By the time we get the resumes, screen them, set up the interviews, hopefully appoint someone, they give notice where they're presently working, if everything works smoothly we should have a full-time principal by January," said Mahler.

Prior to his retirement, Knapp served 13 years as a middle school principal in West Orange and Roxbury. Before that he was a middle school curriculum supervisor for eight years in Montgomery and Summit.

"I retired at a pretty early age and I've been doing some staff development," said Knapp. "From time to time principalships and night schools come up and it's interesting to serve for a while."

More recently, he has served as an interim middle school principal in Bernardsville and Readington Township.



Roy Knapp

"Once I got used to the age of the kids, I find them very rewarding."

Roy Knapp

"Most of my career was at the middle school level," said Knapp. "Once I got used to the age of the kids, I find them very rewarding. They're beginning to push for some independence, yet child-like enough to be enthusiastic. If you really understand them, they'll really perform and produce for you. It's a very interesting age."

Knapp also is an adjunct professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University and the College of Saint Rose.

Land is still pending

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Although details are undetermined as to when exactly it will take place, Springfield still intends to swap the 11-acre Green Acres Park on Morris Avenue for the nine acres surrounding Jonathan Dayton High School, owned by Union County.

"It's still pending," said Township Attorney Bruce Bergen. "We're still working on the title work. It's going ahead but it just takes a while and with the change over of county managers, things are somewhat slow over there but it is going ahead."

Last April, the township and the county entered into an agreement to conduct a survey to determine just where the boundaries of each property are exactly.

Harbor Consultants Inc. of Cranford was contracted at a cost of \$17,600 to conduct the survey. Of the total cost, Springfield paid \$5,000.

"We're still working on the legal description," said Bergen. "Everyone knows what land we're talking about but we need to get it down on paper."

The Township Committee began discussing the land swap with Union County almost 18 months ago.

"The agreement is still there. Everybody in general understands. It's just a matter of getting the proper paperwork done so it's legal," said Bergen.

In the proposed trade, Springfield is expected to receive about nine acres that surround Dayton on Mountain Avenue, including Wabeno Avenue Park, while the county would get more than 11 acres adjacent to four acres it already owns at the the Union-Springfield border on Morris Avenue, known as Green Acres Park.

Essentially, Springfield will receive the land surrounding Dayton, which includes two soccer fields and a softball field.

There is no date set exactly for when the deal will go through.



Mountainside's pool is the place to be to have fun while cooling off. Marelly McFarland lets the baby pool coconut shower-pour refreshing water over her 8-month-old son, Connor.

Successful readers celebrate with party

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

The Mountainside Public Library's Summer Independent Reading Program for children culminates with a party and award ceremony on Aug. 16 at 2 p.m.

"The kids who have participated in the reading program for the summer will receive their certificates and then they receive awards for how many books they've read or how many hours they have read," said Linda Corona, the public services librarian.

This year's theme was "2002 An Ocean of Blue," a kind of underwater theme, featuring deep sea animals, marine life, pirates, or anything else pertaining to the ocean. The library has marine life books and other aquatic stories available for the children to read.

"They can read anything they want though," said Miriam Bein, Library Director.

Kids who have been reading all summer keep track of the number of books they have completed and the amount of time they spent reading them. They keep a reading log, where they write down what books they have read. After they read a certain number of books, or complete a certain number of hours spent reading, the kids receive prizes, such as bookmarks,

stickers and bookbags.

"We have prizes for all the kids who have participated," said Bein. "Everybody gets to pick their own paperback book."

"It's to get them to read during the summer, to encourage them to read," said Corona.

Kids in pre-kindergarten all the way to seventh grade participate in the reading program. As many as 50 kids have taken part in the summer program each year.

"Everybody gets the same prizes as they go along," said Bein. "Everybody gets a certificate at the end and to pick a paperback book and the ones who read the most get to pick the upper-level prizes."

The Summer Independent Reading Program is a common program among public libraries. There's a different theme each year.

At the culmination party each year, the Mountainside Library always schedules some kind of entertainment. This year The Spinners, who make spin and sand art, are scheduled to appear.

"So the kids will get to make a couple of art projects that they can take home with them," said Bein.

Younger kids, who are not able to read yet, can also participate in the program by having their parents or siblings read to them.

Library gets new fire alarm

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Alarm and Communication Technology of West Milford was awarded a \$20,421 contract to install a new fire alarm at the Mountainside Public Library.

"We've awarded the contract and the contractor expects to start work in approximately three weeks, which would be some time at or around the beginning or middle of September," said Borough Engineer Michael Disko.

The borough obtained a grant from the Union County Community Development Program to install a fire alarm system at the library that will be able to serve people who have disabilities.

"I know we received a grant on the Community Block," said Mayor Robert Vigilanti. "I know they're putting in a whole new system because the old alarm was of the 1960- or 1965-generation and we were having some problems with it."

"It brings up to code the requirements for this type of alarm," said Disko. "There is an alarm in the building when it was built years back. But of course the codes and the ADA requirements have changed since then. What we're trying to do is to bring this up to the required code levels. Not that there is a problem now but you have to constantly modify things in order to meet the new requirements as they change things."

Installation will take place over the course of three weeks and the library is not scheduled to be closed during that time.

"It's not a very noisy or dust-type situation," said Disko. "You can keep the library open because it'll probably be only one or two men putting in this low-voltage control system."

We're asking Would you prefer to rent a movie or go to the movie theater?



Mary Francis Napier

Joe Tenenbaum

Liz Zaaljer

Karen Bonacorda

"I haven't been to the movies in five or six years. There's a number of things I don't like about movies."

"I rent a movie! It's easier because I'm usually busy and I can do it in the comfort of my own home."

"I'd rather rent a movie. It's easier to do and it's cheaper and you can do it whenever you want."

"Neither. I'd rather read a book."

AT THE LIBRARY

International film festival continues

The Springfield Free Public Library, on Mountain Ave., continues its International Film Festival with its International Film Festival with "Divided We Fall" today at noon and 7 p.m.

Set in a small Czech town, this warm, humanist comedy-drama looks beneath surface appearances to reveal that the Czech response to German occupation was far more a cut-and-dried affair. Having managed for a long time to keep the war at a distance, married Josef and Marie are put in a difficult predicament when an old neighbor and concentration camp escapee stumbles into their home seeking help.

As well as initially challenging their courage and sense of what is right, the decision to harbor the fugitive has unexpected consequences. So long as their little secret is hidden in the kitchen larder, the tension never really lets up, particularly as they are regularly visited by a pre-war friend, now an out-and-out Nazi collaborator.

Funding for the film festival has been made possible by the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library. Admission is free for all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing. For more information, call 973-376-4930.

Exhibit chronicles boardwalk's end

Barbara Wilk's "End of An Era—Ashbury Park Boardwalk," a photographic documentation of the boardwalk's decay, will be on display at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., from Aug. 23 through Oct. 4.

An artist's reception will be conducted Sept. 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. Hours of the exhibit are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Donations needed

The Friends of the Springfield Public Library would like donations of used paperback novels. Also, they would welcome magazines within a year's date and jewelry.

The Springfield Library is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call 973-376-4930.

Volunteers sought for history project

Throughout August, the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library need able-bodied volunteers to help with a cataloging and weeding project of the Donald B. Palmer collection of history and its artifacts and remembrances, including glass and china, wood and metal, textiles, and titles and furniture.

Help is needed for just a few afternoon hours on certain weekdays. The evaluator/historian needs help handling, cleaning, viewing and recording the many objects from Springfield's past and other objects in the collection.

The project will be ongoing two to three days per week for nine weeks during the summer. The hours needed are 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Volunteers can sign up for as few as three hours, one shift.

If interested in volunteering, call James Mooney at 973-921-1499 or Vince DeGaetano at 973-376-0121.

Summer reads sizzle

"2002 — In the Ocean Blue" has begun at the Mountain Side Public Library this summer with the opportunity to sign up and read all summer long. There will be bookmarks and prizes for the deep-sea readers from pre-school age through middle school.

In addition, Summer Stories and Crafts will be held Thursdays from today from 2 to 2:45 p.m. for kindergartners through fourth-graders.

Worship Calendar

BAPTIST
EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH • CHRIST OUR HOPE AND PEACE • 242 Spruce Rd., Springfield, N.J. 07081, 973-376-8688
Sunday Worship: A spoken service of Holy Eucharist with a homily will be held at 8:00 a.m., followed by a Holy Eucharist with choral music at 10:00 a.m. Church School begins at 9:30 a.m. through 8th grade and nursery care available at 10:00 a.m. Youth and adult choir and adult bell choir. Celebrating our 150th year of service to the community. We welcome all people.

Mountainside Club offers new activities

The Mountainside Newcomers Club announces the following activities in the near future:

- Tuesday — Time: TBA — Ladies Night Out! Meet in Westfield for the early show and enjoy a cup of coffee or an ice cream afterward. RSVP to Maureen O'Shaughnessy at 908-317-5765 by Monday.
- Wednesday — 6:45 p.m. — Mommy and Me Event! Beat the summer heat! Come join the club for dessert at SCOOPS, Route 22 East, Scotch Plains. RSVP to Michelle Sblendoro at 908-301-1498.
- Aug. 15 — 8 p.m. — The Newcomers meet for a book club. "The Diary of Ellen Rimbauer: My Life at Rose Red" by Ellen Rimbauer will be the topic. The moderator is Kim Choma. Call Anjalie Mehrota at 908-232-7087 for more information.
- Aug. 29 — 8 p.m. — Men's Night Out! Meet at EJ's on Route 22 East in Kenilworth for great music and great fun. RSVP to Prashant Mehrota at 908-232-7087.
- Sept. 13 — 8 p.m. — Dust off those shoes and polish that ball! It's time for Couples Bowling! Come out and see old friends, meet new ones and engage in some friendly competition! RSVP to Sheila Hiberson, 908-233-6150 by Sept. 5.

For membership information, call Maureen Angelo at 908-654-1025.

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ARE YOU TIRED OF PONDERING THE QUESTION WHAT IF? Looking for Guidance When Making an Important Decision. Well Look No Further

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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of Summit is located in the heart of town on the corner of Kent Place and Delaware Avenue, Church School and Bible Study is held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m., the emphasis of which is to always have a "good week" because of Paul's promise to us in his letter to the Romans "that ALL things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose". The sermons are uplifting, Biblically sound and guaranteed to keep you awake. The music and weekly children's message are memorable. All are welcome to hear the Good News of God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ. Our church also offers nursery care, after worship refreshments and fellowship, and many lively programs for everyone. Come worship with us and find out how you too can have a "good week". Call our office or Pastor Gina or Rich Henderson, Senior Co-Pastors for more information at 908-277-1700.

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JAMES, 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey, 07081-9733-376-3044. SUNDAY EUCHARIST: Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sun. 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12 Noon, Reconciliation: Sat. 10:00-2:00 p.m. Weekday Masses: 7:00 & 8:00 a.m.

ST. TERESA'S OF AVILA, 306 Morris Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901, 908-277-3700. Sunday Masses: Saturday, 5:30 PM; Sunday, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon, 1:15 (Spanish), 5:00 PM in the Church; Children's Mass • 9:30 AM Memorial Hall will resume September 14th; Weekday Masses: 7:00, 8:30 AM; 12:10 PM; Saturday weekday Mass, 8:30 AM; Holy Days: Same as weekday masses with a 5:30 PM antiphonal Mass and a 7:30 PM evening Mass. Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00 - 5:00 PM.

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH IN SUMMIT, 4 Walden Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901. Visit us on our expanded and renovated building, 908-273-3245. www.summitnj.org

Rev. Vaneen Bush Southern, Minister, Rev. Carol Haag, Min., Religious Educ., Mitchell Vines, Music & Choir Director. Sunday morning services at 10:00 AM. Adult education and other groups.

NOTE: All copy changes must be made in writing and received by Wortal Community Newspapers No later than 12:00 Noon, Fridays prior to the following week's publication.

Presbyterian
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 210 Morris Ave. at Church Hill, Springfield, 376-4320. Sunday School Classes for all ages 9:00 a.m., Sunday morning worship 10:15 a.m. (July and August 9:30 a.m.), with nursery facilities and care provided. Opportunities for youth, young adults, women, Christian education, choir, church activities and fellowship. Communion first Sunday of each month. Ladies' Benevolent Society • 1st

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY REHABILITATION OF THE POSUM PARK DRUGLOY ROAD CULVERT SYSTEM CONTRACT SP 02-04

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE POSUM PARK DRUGLOY ROAD CULVERT SYSTEM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY. Plans and Specifications are available at the Office of the Township Engineer, 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey on Thursday, August 22, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. prevailing time.

The work generally consists of clearing, preparing, and installing a 36" thick shotcrete lining in 1,146 L.F. of 48 corrugated metal pipe and 1,410 L.F. of 60" corrugated metal pipe. All in accordance with the form proposal, contract and specifications prepared by Keller & Kirkpatrick, Inc., Consulting Engineers - Surveyors - Landscape Architects, 900 Landfax Plaza, Parsippany, New Jersey.

Plans and Specifications have been filed in the office of the Clerk of the TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD and may be inspected by prospective bidders at the Office of Keller & Kirkpatrick, Inc., 900 Landfax Plaza, Parsippany, New Jersey or at the Township of Springfield, Municipal Clerk's Office, 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey during business hours. Bidders will be furnished with a copy of the Contract Documents, Plans, and Specifications at the office of Keller & Kirkpatrick, Inc. or the Municipal Clerk's Office on proper notice. A non-refundable charge of \$40.00 per set shall be paid to Keller & Kirkpatrick, Inc.

Bidders are notified that they must comply with the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act (Chapter 150 of the Laws of 1982, as amended) and that award will not be made to any bidder whom the Commissioner of Labor and Industry does not certify. Bids shall be submitted on the forms provided in the manner designated therein and required by the Specifications. They must be enclosed in sealed envelopes bearing the name and address of the bidder and the name of the project on the outside, addressed to the Municipal Clerk, TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, and must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond in the form provided of not less than 10% of the amount of bid. Said check or bid bond may not be less than \$500 nor shall it be more than \$20,000 and must be accompanied by a Consent of Surety company stating that the Surety Company will stand behind the bidder with a bond for 100% of the Contract amount in the event that the Contract is awarded to any proposer whose proposal on the forms provided.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Bidders are notified that sealed bids for improvements to PARKING LOT NO. 1 AT THE INTERSECTION OF CENTER AND HANNAH STREETS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY will be received by the Township Administrator at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 22, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. prevailing time. A Contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder or his proposal will be rejected with the right to reject all bids to reject unbalanced bids, and to waive any informality in any bid.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY REHABILITATION OF THE POSUM PARK DRUGLOY ROAD CULVERT SYSTEM CONTRACT SP 02-04

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE POSUM PARK DRUGLOY ROAD CULVERT SYSTEM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY. Plans and Specifications are available at the Office of the Township Engineer, 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey on Thursday, August 22, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. prevailing time.

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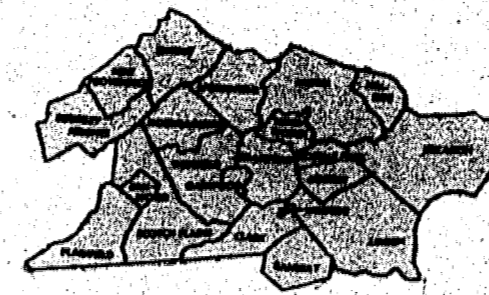
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Union County

- News
- Arts
- Entertainment
- Classified
- Real Estate
- Automotive

WORRAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2002 - SECTION B

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A line in the sand

Martin Ferrara, Clark councilman, and Deborah Poritz, Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, are very different. Six feet, 2 inches tall with a deep voice, Ferrara has been speaking out in opposition to the potential housing development of the old Esposito Farm in his local ward.

Ferrara speaks about the density of the population in Clark and the adverse impact of so much new housing if the proposed 300 units are built. He speaks about infrastructure problems and the strain on existing taxpayers.

By Frank Capece

At a shade under 5 feet, Poritz also has a good deal to say about low-income housing in the state. Her authority last week of the majority decision in the case of Toll Brothers v. West Windsor Township has put the controversial Mount Laurel edict back on the front burner.

Writing for a split court, Poritz said builders have the right to sue suburban towns to make the case that discriminatory zoning laws have restricted low-income residents to housing. The court again makes the Council on Affordable Housing the umpire for determining the good faith of local towns. The carrot-and-stick approach is that if the council approves a Municipal Housing Plan, the builders are limited in their ability to gain extra units known as the "builder's remedy." A kind of judicial hailball.

It's still the same problem that has consumed housing experts for 27 years since the court first spoke about the need to provide low- and moderate-income housing opportunity. Good news for builders, bad news for local municipal officials who have to worry about sewage, roads and education costs. The Mount Laurel housing push also has meant more traffic on Routes 22 and 78, to transport the commuters living in new housing built in the more rural areas of the state.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice Gary Stein termed the "persuasive and disturbing" the arguments of the NAACP that the past Mount Laurel efforts had not benefited the truly poor. It raises the question whether Mount Laurel housing in a perverse kind of way has drained capital from the urban areas, which desperately need revitalized housing.

The battle over the Esposito Farm even has included efforts by the county to purchase the property for open space. But housing is a profitable venture. The ability of the builders to use the hammer of the so-called "builder's remedy" predictably results in a confrontational mode with local officials.

A more obvious lesson, we should have learned, is that there is no easy answer to the rub of Mount Laurel. An editorial in this newspaper's Clark edition last week called on the Esposito interests and the county "to negotiate in good faith and work negotiations to a mutually satisfactory and pleasing compromise." Pretty naive, or maybe even a dumb plea. Negotiations on Mount Laurel are rarely satisfactory or pleasing. It's why the courts stay involved, and why local officials draw a line in the sand.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Officials await appeal of arbitrator's ruling

Corrections officers' union awarded 4 percent, no co-payments

By Mark Hrywna
 Regional Editor

A decision regarding Union County's appeal of an arbitrator's ruling in a new contract for corrections officers is expected later this month.

An arbitrator awarded annual salary increases of 4 percent for corrections officers, but more importantly, ruled that union members will not have medical or prescription co-payments as many other labor unions in the county negotiated in their recent settlements. The medical co-payments were the sticking point in negotiations, which ultimately led to arbitration with Policemen's Benevolent Association 199. The union represents about 250 corrections officers who work at the Union County Jail in Elizabeth.

Jim Roche, who was elected president of PBA 199 in June by a 91-90 vote over incumbent Vincent DeLouisa, said the union was satisfied with the arbitrator's ruling.

"We felt it was fair," Roche said. The arbitrator "gave the county what they wanted, and gave us what we wanted," he said, as the county offered 3.5 percent wage increases and the union asked for 5 percent while not requiring medical coverage co-payments for union members.

"There was nothing spectacular about the award," Roche said, simply a cost of living increase and maintaining the current medical benefits.

County Manager George Devaney declined comment on the situation until the pending decision is made later this month by the Public Employees Relations Commission.

The last contract for corrections officers covered 1998 through 2000 and was approved in May 2000 in the mediation phase of arbitration following several meetings with an arbitrator. The last pact called for increases of 2 percent in each of the first two years and 2.5 percent in the third year for employees not at the maximum on the salary guide. For those at the maximum, raises were 3.5 percent.

The decision to file for arbitration early this year was unanimous by union members, Roche said.

Virtually all contracts the county has settled with its labor unions in the past 18 months have started to include some type of monthly co-payment for doctor's office visits, prescription drugs and medical benefits. Most unions agreed to four-year contracts with monthly co-payments of \$10 to \$40 for health benefits depending on the union and the employee's annual salary.

"We're not adverse to negotiating," Roche said, but corrections officers should not be held to the same standards as secretaries in the county since they are exposed to prison inmates and diseases.

Rape center seeks new volunteers

Training sessions set to begin next month

By Mary Grote
 Correspondent

She goes by the name Lynne. She is a rape survivor of 13 years who keeps her identity a secret not because she has something to hide, but because she has something to give.

Lynne is a four-year veteran volunteer for the Union County Rape Crisis Center. She donates her time several times a month to be on call for the center's hotline.

She remembered the assistance she received from two "lovely" ladies when years later she saw an ad in the newspaper asking for rape crisis advocates.

"I thought, you know what, maybe I can do something to help," Lynne said.

Lynne is one of 26 volunteer rape crisis advocates for the center, which is currently looking for more volunteers to join the team. Jennifer Pruden, administrator of the center, is conducting interviews with prospective volunteers interested in attending the upcoming training sessions Sept. 24 and 26, Oct. 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, and 31, and Nov. 7, 12, 14, 19 and 21. The sessions run from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

The Union County center is seeking volunteers willing to attend all the training sessions. This year the center is in need of volunteers because the number of workers over time has decreased and many of the veteran workers have been compensating for the loss by putting in extra time. Pruden said. She attributes the turnover to natural relocation and the drive felt by many to return to school. Finding people interested and committed to the center is important because the operation runs around the clock with two volunteers on call at all times, Lynne said.

The center treats those affected by all types of sexual assault through counseling and crisis intervention. Education for the community is a third service provided by the center. Many of the volunteers work on the crisis track while staff counselors provide the long-term care. Volunteers respond to hotline calls and either provide information, refer the caller to immediate care, or just talk to someone in need.

Volunteers also make trips to the hospital and the police department. Victims of sexual assault have the right to receive assistance from a rape crisis advocate when they find themselves in such places. Advocates are there to explain the situation, lend support, and make sure all that is done is in the best interest of the victim.

Two rape crisis advocates along with a consultant are on call every minute of every day. The consultant is a paid staff member from the center, who is available to lend support or supply information to the advocates on call.

When on call, advocates do not have to sit by the phone waiting for calls. Instead they need to stay in a certain area and must carry a pager. Calls from the hotline go through an answering service, protecting the anonymity of the advocate. Advocates only use their first name, further safeguarding their identity.

To become an advocate, those interested must attend all the training sessions. Each class touches on a different subject and the amount of training hours in mandated by the state. Trainees learn many different procedures, hear guest speakers, practice interacting with clients and take field trips to the hospital and police department to learn the system.

"We get all kinds of calls here so consequently the training is comprehensive," Pruden said.

Pruden has been administrator for the center since 1987. She began her career at the center in 1985 when she decided to take part in the training and a staff position opened.

In all her years of schooling, in counseling and psychology, she was taught that sexual assault was a rare occurrence. "Then I started working at a home for adolescent girls, and everyone was a victim of sexual assault," Pruden said.

Her interest in the subject took flight and since then she has worked to help those suffering from such abuse.



Photo By Mary Grote
 Jennifer Pruden runs the Union County Rape Crisis Center. The center has 26 volunteer rape crisis advocates and is looking for more volunteers.

County eyes condemnation for college

By Mark Hrywna
 Regional Editor

In an attempt to move along with expansion plans for Union County College's Elizabeth campus, the county has begun the process of condemnation on property in Midtown Elizabeth.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders last month awarded a \$4,000 contract to ARD Appraisal Company of Clark for the appraisal of condemned property in Elizabeth for Union County College as well as \$7,500 to Hoboken-based Sarkisian, Florio & Kenny to represent the county in condemnation proceedings.

Plans unveiled in 1997 call for a three- to four-story building ranging in size from 75,000 to 80,000 square feet adjacent to the college's existing seven-story Lessner Building. The \$16.5 million cost of the project would be shared equally between the county and the state equipment under the state's County College Capital Projects Fund Act, which is still holding the project's funding.

County Manager George Devaney said the county is looking at the possibility of condemnation to remove the property from the Midtown Redevelopment Project and purchase it from the city. He expects the appraisal to be completed in four to six weeks.

The City of Elizabeth has been in its own appraisal with the original redevelopment firm, Seacrest, after the city attempted to remove the firm as the developer, prompting Seacrest to file suit.

"The county doesn't have the luxury of waiting for the legal process," Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage said, adding that the state's funding could be de-designated from the project. The city, which has been assembling land in the Midtown area for nearly a decade, would need to do its own appraisal or confirm the county's appraisal, the mayor said, to reach a fair market value for the property.

The location for the college's new building, at the intersection of Stirling Place and West Jersey Street, is expected to be re-configured by the Midtown Redevelopment Project. The facility is expected to provide infrastructure to support advancements in technology.

As part of the college's expansion, current facilities at the East Jersey Street campus would be enhanced with the addition of computer labs, classrooms and faculty offices to serve both existing and new programs as well as an information commons and conference center. In addition, Union County economic development entities would be invited to share offices in the new building.

The college's Lessner Building, a 102,000-square-foot facility, is "bursting at the seams," said Georgia Hartnett, executive director of marketing and college communications. UCC has moved its Licensed Practical Nursing program to the Plainfield campus after Trinitas Hospital's nursing school moved from the hospital's West Jersey Street campus to the college. "We're doing as much creative scheduling as we can," Hartnett said.

Union County College's Institute for Intensive English at the Elizabeth campus is the largest provider of English as a Second Language instruction in the state, Hartnett said, and the campus also houses the Community Learning Center. "It's a very mixed use population, which allows more creative scheduling than traditional credit courses."

Former prosecutor to lead State Police office

Steps in an effort to combat racial profiling, among other initiatives.

By Michelle Runge
 Staff Writer

On July 25 former Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan bid farewell to members of his staff, some of them in tears over his departure.

By July 29, the Scotch Plains resident was sitting at a new desk, forging new friendships as director of the Office of State Police Affairs.

State Attorney General David Samson confirmed Manahan's appointment the same week Theodore Romankow of Berkeley Heights took over the reins as Union County's top law enforcement agent.

"Tom brings to us a wealth of experience and legal talent in both criminal and civil cases," Samson said. "Tom was an aggressive and innovative prosecutor whose office worked with community and business leaders to reduce crime in the neighborhoods. He will be an asset to this office."

The outgoing prosecutor served in the office since July 2, 1997 and was the first in the state to develop a countywide policy in monitoring police traffic stops in an effort to combat racial profiling, among other initiatives.

One component of his new job will be Manahan responsible for ensuring compliance with recommendations from State Police review teams' interim reports on racial profiling, Samson added.

"The office" also is responsible for working with independent monitors appointed to oversee State Police reforms under terms of a federal consent decree entered into with the U.S. Department of Justice in 1999.

As a prosecutor in Union County, Manahan was the chief law enforcement officer, responsible for coordinating the crime fighting efforts of more than 1,800 police officers and 24 agencies. He is still the current president of the state County Prosecutors Association.

"I look forward to working with the members of the Office of State Police Affairs and the State Police to carry out an essential task, one that recognizes that the two most important objectives of promoting public safety and protecting civil rights need not be in conflict," Manahan said.



Photo By Bob Hirsch
 CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF — Christopher Perez, 12, left, and Alex Henry, 15, launch themselves into the water during a visit last month to the Walter Ulrich Memorial Pool at Rahway River Park.

Editorial deadlines
 Following are deadlines for news, church, club and social - Thursday noon
 Entertainment - Friday noon
 Sports - Friday noon
 Classifieds - Monday 9 a.m.
 Classifieds - Monday 5 p.m.

ACROSS

- 1 Applies crudely
2 Arizona State city
3 Supposed 37 Down treasure
4 Flynn, of film
5 Pulitzer winner Sinclair
6 Bk. after Exodus
7 '80s car decal slogan
8 Chili
9 Next egg acct.
10 Peace, in Paris
11 Cleaved
12 Airborne division member
13 Smell
14 Hawaiian party wear
15 1959 Dion song, with A
16 Officeholder, for short
17 Rowboat
18 Affirmative vote
19 Aussie metropolis
20 Fungi
21 de France
22 Frankenstein flunky
23 Wager
24 Night schoc. curriculum
25 Zippo
26 On-screen lists
27 Boo-boo
28 Gasket
29 La Scala show-stopper
30 Hosp. ward
31 Canseco's lumber
32 The Mighty Mississippi
33 Block or stock ender
34 Philanthropist
35 Beethoven's Fur neighbor
36 89's optic
37 Vampire slayer
38 Play with the Canucks

AGING PROCESS crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-35.

COPYLEFT NEWS SERVICE By Charles Preston

DOWN

- 1 Bank statement figure
2 Turkish mount
3 Suave
4 Lad
5 Trough meal
6 Hoses
7 Joined with glue
8 Kingston Trio hit of '59
9 favor
10 Split or loose items?
11 Popeye's sweetie

- 12 Acquired
13 Across the ocean
14 King of congestion
15 Plumbing joint
16 Retained
17 To's counterpart
18 Christmas tree, often
19 A superlative-pitched game
20 Shea Stad. athlete
21 Drinks-and-music spot
22 Land Pizarro sought
23 Banded anew
24 Singer Redding

See ANSWERS on Page B9

What's Going On?

FAIR, RUMMAGE SALE, OTHER events for Saturday August 17th, 2002. Includes Union High School Fair, Rummaige Sale, and Tricky Tray.

REUNIONS

The following reunions have been registered with Reunions Unlimited. Includes Union High School Classes of 1972 and 1973, Summit High School Class of 1982, etc.

HOROSCOPE

Aug. 12-18 VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Let go of an old drama that no longer works for you. Write yourself a new script for success and play the game with a winning attitude. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It appears that a romantic relationship is finally on solid ground.

Editorial deadlines: Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Thursday noon. Entertainment - Friday noon. Sports - Monday noon.

Advanced Financial Services Federal Credit Union advertisement. Features: NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Experience The Credit Union Difference. Open to all who live, work, worship or attend school in Union County, New Jersey.

Silver Dragon Chinese International Mongolian BBQ & Sushi Buffet advertisement. Features: NEW Silver Dragon, Chinese International MONGOLIAN BBQ & SUSHI BUFFET, 'ALL YOU CAN EAT', Grand Opening Of Our New Party Room.

County's teens to show artwork in county

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is sponsoring the 2002 Teen Arts Touring Exhibit at the Hillside Municipal Building, JFK Plaza, Liberty and Hillside avenues, from Tuesday through Sept. 12. The exhibit consists of 45 pieces of art selected from the 513 visual art works shown at the Union County Teen Arts Festival in March at the Hillside Municipal Building.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WILLIAM M.E. POWERS, JR., CHARTERED ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.O. Box 1088, Medford, New Jersey 08055. NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION.

PUBLIC NOTICE

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED TO APPEAR IN COURT ON OCTOBER 28, 1998, made by Abraham Crespo and Tonia R. Crespo, his wife, to determine the whereabouts of the defendant, and therefore, does not know whether he is living or dead, and therefore, names as defendant, the defendant, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and assigns to plaintiff, Countywide Home Loans, Inc., and concerns real estate located at 725 Kensington Avenue, Plainfield, N.J.

PUBLIC NOTICE

and interest are made a defendant because you are the maker of the bond, note and mortgage and/or an owner thereof and it is unable to determine the whereabouts of the defendant, and therefore, does not know whether he is living or dead, and therefore, names as defendant, the defendant, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and assigns to plaintiff, Countywide Home Loans, Inc., and concerns real estate located at 725 Kensington Avenue, Plainfield, N.J.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR 'WIN A FREE FRUIT TRAY OR ICE CREAM CAKE CONTEST'

Table with columns STORE NAME and WINNERS NAME. Lists names of winners for various prizes like Breadway Diner, Campus Sub Shop, etc.

Worrall Community Newspapers logo and text: Wishing You A Summertime of Fun From Your Friends At WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

IT'S OUR 2ND ANNIVERSARY COME HELP US CELEBRATE FRI., AUG. 9TH THRU SUN., AUG. 18TH

SUNRISE DINER advertisement. Features: SUNRISE DINER, FOUR STAR DINER - 'THE FAMILY PLACE'. Menu items: ROAST PRIME RIB AU JUS, BROILED SUNRISE SEAFOOD COMBO, SAUTEED VEAL & SHRIMP FRANCAISE, etc.

Sunrise Diner advertisement. Features: SUNRISE DINER SENIOR CITIZENS (AND EVERYONE) SPECIALS 11 AM - 9 PM. YOUR CHOICE \$9.95. Menu items: SERVED WITH CHOP & SOUP, SALED BAR, HOT COFFEE or HOT TEA and DESSERT.

Parlati's Renaissance Win \$5000 advertisement. Features: Parlati's Renaissance, Win \$5000, toward your Wedding Dreams!

