

**NJPA**

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

**Better Newspaper Contest  
2010  
Editorial Contest**

Awards Banquet

# **Editorial Awards**

## **Weekly Newspapers**

**W1: Responsible Journalism –  
Public Service**

**Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award**



INSIDE



SPORTS

Fishing report: The misunderstood sea robin, BB

CAPE MAY

City celebrated July 4 with parade. Photos B1

ARTS

'I Heart Haverick,' review, B3

JULY 2010 TIDE TABLE

HEIGHT	LOW
in.	ft.
7/8 8:27 8:58 11:08	
7/9 8:24 8:50 10:21 12:36	
7/10 8:11 8:30 2:02 1:46	
7/11 8:02 8:18 2:56 2:41	
7/12 8:53 9:08 3:38 3:36	
7/13 9:44 9:58 4:26 4:26	
7/14 8:58 9:14 5:14 5:14	
7/15 8:02 8:18 6:02 6:02	
7/16 7:07 7:23 6:50 6:50	
7/17 6:12 6:28 7:38 7:38	
7/18 5:17 5:33 8:26 8:26	
7/19 4:22 4:38 9:14 9:14	
7/20 3:27 3:43 10:02 10:02	
7/21 2:32 2:48 10:50 10:50	
7/22 1:37 1:53 11:38 11:38	
7/23 1:37 1:53 12:26 12:26	
7/24 1:37 1:53 1:14 1:14	
7/25 1:37 1:53 2:02 2:02	
7/26 1:37 1:53 2:50 2:50	
7/27 1:37 1:53 3:38 3:38	
7/28 1:37 1:53 4:26 4:26	
7/29 1:37 1:53 5:14 5:14	
7/30 1:37 1:53 6:02 6:02	
7/31 1:37 1:53 6:50 6:50	

## Downed wires: Whose line is it anyway?

### Five months after storms, Cape May littered with wires



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave  
Wires storm that left the east coast left wires down all over the city - many of them were left in a hazardous manner - others wound up and taped to poles to keep them out of the streets and off the sidewalks, but still leaving the risk of wires unnecessarily left on poles by cable contractors (orange cable, top left) and you have a city-wide eyecore that was not being addressed until pointed out to utility companies by the Star and Wave.

**By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH**  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Riding around Cape May one could easily find loose wires coming off utility poles around the city. Sometimes they were loosely wound or coiled. Sometimes they were a tangled mess. Sometimes they were wound up and fastened to the pole with tape, perhaps by a neighbor who wanted to keep them off the sidewalk and out of the grass. At other times they were very neatly coiled and bound, and then fixed to the pole, but for no apparent reason.

During an editorial survey, the Star and Wave was able to locate 27 examples of downed or excess wires around the city, but to the surprise of editors there was no way of telling

*'We felt that when second home owners started coming down...the problem would be taken care of.'*  
-City Manager Bruce MacLeod

whether there was danger or simply an unsightly mess. The wires left over from the winter storms.

The first step was to record, as much as possible, the location of the downed or excess wires and provide them to the city along with photographs. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said that in the past there were still wires down around the city, but the city's general sense was the problem would take care of itself for the most part.

"We felt that when second home owners started coming down they would reach out to

the various companies and the problem would be taken care of," MacLeod said. "Obviously these lines are far more dangerous than any of the downed wires were carrying power or a phone signal."

MacLeod said he would help the city reach out to the three companies and get the matters resolved. He said he didn't know if any of the downed wires were carrying power or a phone signal.

"If they were attached to a pole and detached from a cable, various telephone services would be affected," MacLeod said he asked Public Works to assess a line by the former Vance's Tavern, saying he thought it belonged to the phone cable power company.

MacLeod said the list provided by the Star and Wave

Elementary School.

"The wires we thought the problem would correct itself. Based on the information you collected we will reach out to the three companies to see if we can get this remediated," MacLeod said.

The wire near Vance's Tavern was moved out of the street but is still touching the ground.

MacLeod said while the wires were mostly a let-down on private property, almost all of the wires identified by the Star and Wave were attached to utility poles, which are between the curb line and the sidewalk.

MacLeod said there were two other events that would likely lead to the resolution of some problems. One is that

Please see Wires, page A2

# W1: Responsible Journalism - Public Service, Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award

Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# Cape May Star & Wave

## Downed Wires: Whose Line Is It Anyway?

# Christopher South

## County offers hot weather safety tips

CAPE MAY COUNTY heat stroke and even more serious conditions," said Cape May County Emergency Management Director Joseph P. Kelly.

After a closed session meeting Tuesday, Mayor Edward J. Mahoney Jr. said a special meeting would be announced for July 9 at 1 p.m. for the purpose of adopting a bond ordinance of \$3.15 million to fund the construction of the Convention Hall facility.

The county hearing on this ordinance on July 20 at 7 p.m. as part of the regular business meeting, Mahoney said.

City council went into closed session after its regular work session meeting Tuesday afternoon. At the meeting city council heard public opinion for and against the Convention Hall project as designed, and for which the voters approved \$10.5

## City calls special meeting to introduce \$3.15 bond ordinance, Friday at 1 p.m.

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave



Image Courtesy of Edward Rogers Architects

CAPE MAY - Cape May City Council has scheduled a special meeting, Friday, to introduce a bond ordinance for the additional \$3.15 needed for Convention Hall.

After a closed session meeting Tuesday, Mayor Edward J. Mahoney Jr. said a special meeting would be announced for July 9 at 1 p.m. for the purpose of adopting a bond ordinance of \$3.15 million to fund the construction of the Convention Hall facility.

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unknown" and it paid off appreciably. Referring to the Convention Hall project he said, "The location is right, the time is right, I see no reason not to get glory about the future but hold for the future and the future will come to us."

Others were not as poetic about the existing plan. Jeanne Powick suggested the redesign would compromise the integrity of the seawall and would endanger the city. She said it is a real emergency about building a new Convention Hall. She said a smaller one could be built in her time. She said the three new members of council they campaigned on the issue of scaling down the Convention Hall project, and she warned of petition and referendum if they did not heed the public's desires.

Barbara Skinner said she agreed with Powick, and warned city council not to violate the Doctrine of Public

Please see Bond, page A2

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## Community News

Borough on the Hook for Two Attorneys  
Emergency Siren System Inoperable  
Tax Dollars Dripping Away at Memorial Pool

Justin Zaremba

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### FAIR LAWN COMMUNITY NEWS



See what's happening on the police page. PAGE 23

Basketball teams hoping for bids. PAGE 26

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010

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#### SCHOOLS

### District dealing with cyberbullying

BY RICH HARDEKIAN  
Editor

**FAIR LAWN** – While bullying has been a problem in schools throughout the years, today's students have to face more hi-tech tormentors.

The school district is taking steps to educate children and parents about the concept of cyberbullying. According to material provided by Memorial Middle School, "cyberbullying is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones."

Officials from the school district admit cyberbullying is a problem in Fair Lawn as it is in many other communities, especially with the popularity of social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace. In past incidences of cyberbullying at other schools throughout the country, children have killed each other or committed suicide.

According to Memorial Middle School Vice Principal Dominick Targanino, an example of cyberbullying could be a message on Facebook telling a student to watch his or her back.

"A student might not feel safe and that leads to absences," said Targanino.

SEE CYBER, PAGE 21

#### THE HEAT IS ON



NICK MESSINA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fair Lawn firefighters quickly doused a fire on a back porch of a Jerome Place home around 1:15 p.m. on Jan. 20. The fire was believed to be caused by a stove. The damage was contained to the roof portion of the porch.

#### INVESTIGATIVE

### Borough on the hook for two attorneys

BY JUSTIN ZAREMBA  
Staff Writer

Despite the rising costs of resources and the troubling economic environment, the borough continues to squander municipal funds. Following a month-long investigation of borough records via Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests, Community News has discovered several

instances in which the municipal government has misspent tax dollars. This is the first in a series of articles.

**FAIR LAWN** – Fair Lawn taxpayers have been paying for two borough attorneys since 2006, according to borough records.

Community News has determined via a series of OPRA requests that the Borough of Fair Lawn has had two separate law firms providing borough

attorney services simultaneously since 2006 including Goodman & Lustgarten from 2006 to present. Kates, Nussman, Rapone, Ellis & Furlhi, LLP in 2006 and Winne, Banta, Hetherington, Basaralian and Kalin, P.C. from 2007 to present.

**BACKGROUND:** Richard Lustgarten of Goodman & Lustgarten, the Fair Lawn borough attorney

from 1983 to 2005, fell out of popular favor in 2005, which coincided with criticism of his involvement in a non-profit corporation charged with creating the Fair Lawn Community Center, the defeat of Democratic Mayor David Ganz and Councilman Allan Cain in their reelection bids and the rise of Republicans Ed Trawinski and

SEE ATTORNEY, PAGE 19

### NEUROPATHY

- Numbness & Cramping
- Prickling/Tingling Feelings
- Burning Pain
- Restless Legs

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## Edgewater View

EPA Sets Meetings  
EPA Unveils Plan  
Adviser to Speak  
Residents Quanta  
Daycare Staying Put

Maxim Almenas



# EDGEWATER VIEW

THE WEEKLY EXCLUSIVELY FOR EDGEWATER      www.edgewaterview.com      JULY 30, 2010



Borough Administrator Greg Franz inspects the newly completed borough hall building, which the town could begin moving to by mid-September.

### BOROUGH HALL

## Move into new facility may be just weeks away

BY MAXIM ALMENAS  
Staff Writer

**EDGEWATER** – The developer iPark Inc. which has been building 55 River Road the new borough hall and Edgewater Police Department for the past year, is close to completion and plans to turn the keys over to the town in mid-September. They can start their fit out with telephone, telecommunications and furniture, said Joe Cotter, president of iPark. “We are on our original schedule.” On the second and third floors, where the borough departments will be housed, the site has been painted, sheet rocked, and fitted with lighting fixtures. The elevators, which have also been installed, lead to the new state-of-the-art police department on the first floor.

### SUPERFUND SITE

## EPA sets meetings on cleanup plans for Quanta area

BY MAXIM ALMENAS  
Staff Writer

**EDGEWATER** – After canceling July meetings with the general public to discuss remediation plans for the Quanta Resource Superfund site, the Environmental Protection Agency will make a formal presentation to address its feasibility study on Aug. 3 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The EPA will also hold question and answer sessions on Aug. 4, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

All the meetings will be held at the American Legion Hall at 1165 River Road.

The EPA held a conference call last week with borough officials and stakeholders to discuss the proposal it plans to present to the public.

“Based on the limited discussion we had on the conference call, it’s a process that solidifies the contaminant in place,” said Borough Administrator Greg Franz. “They made reference to how the contamination migrated to different areas, and the mayor was always critical of that, saying to the EPA, ‘Hey look, you’ve known about this migration problem, but you never addressed it.

And now it continues to migrate, and you continue to study, study, study.”

The EPA is recommending the solidification of non-aqueous phase liquid coal tar and arsenic to address the land portions of the site under 115 River Road and other neighboring properties. But the removal of the solid contaminants would be addressed in the future.

“They have a process that apparently hardens the material so that it keeps it in place and prevents it from migrating,” Franz explained, adding that the EPA did not address plans to remove the solidified material.

But the EPA concluded that the characteristics of the site make groundwater restoration technically impractical.

EPA’s preferred alternative for groundwater includes the construction of a contaminant barrier to treat groundwater before it reaches the Hudson River, along with active measures to address sources contaminating the groundwater.

According to the EPA website, when the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

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**CONSERVATION Overlooked**

The Overpeck Preserve wildlife sanctuary in Leonia is in need of some attention. See “Topgattent” Page 3

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## Private vs. in-house? Towns count the savings with private haulers



STAFF PHOTO/JOANNE WINTER

As towns are wrangling with budgets and higher operating costs, some towns feel there are significant savings in privatizing aspects of municipal services. North Arlington and Lyndhurst both use Carl Carting (pictured) as their garbage hauler and say costs such as worker's comp, claims, vehicle maintenance and salary increases are all things circumvented by going private.

**BY MICHAEL LAMENDOLA**  
Managing Editor

In towns that use the differing methods are quick to debate the merits of both. From a logistical standpoint with private there are no sick days, pensions, raises, town officials are not vaccinated by taxpayers. MUNICIPAL SERVICES, however, differ in their approach and their costs. There's also no equipment.

Town of five South Bergen area towns opt to look outside the town workforce to get rid of their garbage while the others have a dedicated in-house fleet of trucks and manpower to haul away the curbside trash. Officials

### Where's the difference?

**Private**  
Lyndhurst  
Garbage contract: \$501,000  
Towns fees: \$721,000  
Total price: \$1,222,000

**North Arlington**  
Garbage contract: \$451,000  
Towns fees: \$750,000  
Total price: \$1,201,000

**In-house services**  
Carlstadt  
Salaries and benefits: \$201,000  
Towns fees: \$200,788  
Total price: \$401,788

## Not much beef to cut in NA budget

Taxpayers could easily see 14-percent increase in town taxes

**BY BRIAN ANDERSON**  
Staff Writer

In April, the North Arlington mayor and council introduced a budget that would increase municipal taxes by 14 percent, or approximately \$400 in the average homeowner in the borough every year or just one time.

Because the borough's three most heavily taxed sectors—white and blue collar workers—are all under contract and are scheduled to receive raises this year, the total appropriation for salaries is up from last year. This year, the borough will deleverage approximately \$7.16 million in salaries to its employees. In 2009, the borough spent approximately \$6.74 million on salaries.

### SPECIAL REPORT

No layoffs are expected, said Councilman Joe Bianchi, who is the chair of the finance committee. "There's nobody left to lay off," said Bianchi, referring to the small size of most municipal departments. For example, the Department of Public Works has nine employees, the administration has three, one of whom is part-time; and the police department has 32 officers and three clerical positions.

## Rutherfordians; expect an 8.1-percent increase in your town tax bill

### What to expect in your tax bill

Based on average home \$449,000	2009 tax	2010 tax	Dollar increase	Percentage increase
School	\$3,088	\$3,338	\$250	(8.1%)
Borough	\$5,444	\$5,636	\$191	(3.5%)
County	\$975	\$993	\$18	(18.4%)

Total increase \$487  
\*The school rate is fixed. The county rate and the borough rates are both estimated.

**BY DANIEL O'KEEFE**  
Staff Writer

Even though the 2010 budget bill is complete, some next quarter Rutherford taxpayers can expect to get hit with an increased bill that will increase by 8.1 percent for 2010.

mind it would have an additional one million dollars in expenses in the 2010 budget due to two factors: \$600,000 in debt service that needs to be paid on bonds the borough thought could be refinanced and about \$300,000 in increased police salaries. Chief financial officer Ed Corbett said that the council's decision on the PRA negotiation allowed for a five-percent total increase that amounted to an 8.1 percent increase in just their municipal tax bill, from \$3,088 last year to \$3,338 this year.

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### Down in numbers

One town cuts crossing crew by one-third

**A3**

### Major deal

Herrmann called up by Indians **C1**

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## South Bergenite

Private vs. In-House?  
Rutherford Offers More Free Rides Than Other Local Towns Do  
Towns Need Their Own Health Departments?

Michael Lamendola  
Daniel O'Keefe  
Brian Anderson

**NJPA**  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

# WALLEY 'RENEWAL' Board set to deliberate

BY MICHAEL SEDON Staff Writer

A representative of the Concerned Residents of Ridgewood (CR), a grass-roots organization that objects to Valley's expansion plan as currently proposed, said the group believes if the hospital amends its proposal, it will gain greater support from the community.

"It would significantly scale back the extent of any future on-site construction and reduce the final footprint to a scale more in keeping with the character of this village," said Paul Gould, spokesperson for CR, at a Planning Board meeting Monday night. "The character of Ridgewood is in your hands."

At the meeting, Gould and Valley's attorney, Charles Collins, gave their recommendations on a proposal to amend the village's Master Plan to clear the way for Phase One of the hospital's "Renewal." The public hearings on the proposal are expected to come to a close at a meeting on Monday, June 7.

CR has requested some changes in the proposed Master Plan amendment that it believes are positive. Gould said, such increased building setbacks, increased buffers, more conservative siting, placing the majority of parking underground and attempts at limiting future development and opening intensity of use.

"The Concerned Residents of Ridgewood appreciate that this process has been a marathon, and we also appreciate the many hours you personally have devoted to this issue," Gould said. "But some recommendations the group would still like to see changed include:

- Reducing the maximum allowable lot coverage from 30-35 percent to 20 percent.
- A maximum of 650,000 square feet for hospital buildings, when the amendment would allow 1.7 million square feet of buildings, up, and.
- A maximum building height of 56 feet with 24-foot tall rooftop mechanical equipment set back at a 1-to-1 ratio, rather than the proposed 70-foot tall buildings with rooftop mechanicals that are set back from the edge of the building.

shrink to 15. The list of the residents who have signed up to speak will be given to the Board by 10:30 a.m. on June 7 in the Benjamin Franklin Middle School (BF) auditorium. Planning Board Chairman David Nigro said that after that date, the board will not accept any more public comments on the proposal.

The board's next step will be to decide and ultimately vote on whether or not to accept the Master Plan amendment drafted by Valley Planner Blais Branchaud. Depending on the length of the final public question and comment period, deliberations could take place as soon as Monday or Tuesday.

Before the summations by Valley and CR representatives, 10 residents spoke about the proposal, with nine against the expansion and one in favor of it.

GRAYTON from A1

Kelly, who sat on the Graydon Pval Committee, was of the opinion that the RPV would only solve it slow for concrete pools and not deal with big Blueprints.

"When village employees are being laid off because of budgetary deficits, how could the council even think of issuing an RPV for a multi-million dollar replacement of Graydon," Kelly said.

Blais expressed concern that the RPV would be thrust upon the next council, which will convene next month with two new members. Thomas Riche and Bernard Caplan-Walsh, who would have to be brought up to speed on a plethora of background information, said Morais. However, Morais said the RPV and Riche were backed by the FGC during their election bid because the group believed they were more understanding of their case.

The RPV is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation, was one of two groups represented on the committee to review the RPV. The RPV

presented a study to the council in July 2009 suggesting that converting Graydon into a "traditional swimming pool" would meet membership and generate more revenue.

"I should at least at this time be talked," said Maria Hingt, who serves as chair with Kelly on the FGC. "Any money available in the pool should go to the water quality and to get the pool back up to the point where it needs to be."

"When I first wrote the RPV, I never mentioned a concrete basin, and did not mention a concrete bottom in the new one," Hintauber said.

However, Preserve Graydon Coalition (PGC) co-chair Stanton

collected a study to the council in July 2009 suggesting that converting Graydon into a "traditional swimming pool" would meet membership and generate more revenue.

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# W1: Responsible Journalism – Public Service, Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Ridgewood News

# Board Set to Deliberate Decision Time Nears Bigger Venue Needed for Vote Amendment Approved Concerned Residents

# Michael Sedon

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## Union County Local Source

State May Push Preliminary Report Mayor RVSA Plans RVSA Members Paying

Cheryl Hehl

NJPA  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

### Race heats up as Dems prepare for election

**By Cheryl Hehl**  
Staff Writer

LINDEN — With just a few weeks to go before the June 8 primary, the hotly contested race in Linden has reached a boiling point.

Whether Democrats for Change candidates will be any match against the mainstream regular Democrat organizations will be up to voters. That is, if they can wade through the political accusations that have been flying from one side to the other in recent weeks.

Even Linden City Council President Robert Bunk, running as a candidate for mayor, was left reeling by news that fellow Democrat Councilman Gene Davis had allegedly offered a bribe to Democrat for Change candidate Rhasona Cosby-Hurling. Davis and Cosby-Hurling are running

against one another in the contested primary race for the 5th Ward council seat, which apparently led to the councilman offering his challenger a "deal."

It what appeared to be an attempt to convince Cosby-Hurling into stepping down prior to the primary, Davis allegedly told his challenger that if she dropped out of the race against him, he would see that she was appointed to a council seat in two years. And he sealed the deal with a promise.

"I am willing...and I am a man of my word...to stand behind you and give you the seat. That is my right hand to God on my grandchildren," Davis said in a recording that Cosby-Hurling secretly recorded on her cell phone.

Davis made the offer at a Democrat political rally as Bunk was kicking off his cam-

aign for mayor. Cosby-Hurling has been after the 5th Ward seat since 2006, moving over to the Democrats for Change party this year.

According to Cosby-Hurling, Davis said he needed to keep his seat for two more years if he was to move into the mayor's seat when Bunk resigned so he could collect a second public pension. This is assuming, of course, that Bunk wins the contested primary race against Democrats for Change candidate Derek Armetead.

Bunk retaliated with outrage, maintaining that Davis "had no business making any claims on his behalf."

"While I have served on City Council with Mr. Davis for many years, he does not have the authority or permission to speak for me or on my behalf under any circum-

stances," Bunk said in a statement. He also noted that Davis' discussion with Cosby-Hurling was "completely based on inaccurate information and without my knowledge or authorization."

Davis initially said the offer was not a bribe, but later apologized publicly for the incident, claiming he had too much to drink at the event. Bunk retired as a police officer in 1992 and collects a taxpayer financed pension of approximately \$32,574 per year from the Police and Firefighter Retirement fund. If elected mayor he could collect a second pension of close to \$40,000 annually from the Public Employee Retirement System, according to public records.

*Cheryl Hehl can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 124, or [chehl@localsource.com](mailto:chehl@localsource.com).*

### State may push for more control

**Trying to make 'cents' of the costs associated with sewerage authority**

**By Cheryl Hehl**  
Staff Writer

The following is the first in a series examining the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority.

Several towns in Union County continue to flush millions in taxpayers dollars down the drain and into Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority's pocket. However, while the state has had little control over this, that could be changing.

Sen. Loretta Weinberg, a Bergen County Democrat, introduced a bill recently that would compel all state authorities, including RVSA, not only to comply with the state Open Public Meetings Act, but also post complete minutes, agendas and schedules on the Internet. The state would also have more control over these authorities, which they do not currently have.

Presently, authorities such as

RVSA are not overseen by the state and can do what they want regarding changing member towns for its services.

For the last 80 years, RVSA has been the only available option for many municipalities that require wastewater sewerage service. But not every town in Union County uses its services. Other towns, such as Roselle, Linden, Summit and Hillside use other sewerage treatment facilities.

Presently, there are 11 member municipalities utilizing the RVSA water treatment plant located in Rahway. Those directly affected in the Union County LocalSource area include, Clark, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside, Rahway, Roselle Park, Springfield and Westfield. The cost to each town for using RVSA sewerage services varies, depending on several fac-

RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENTS		
MUNICIPALITY	2009	2010
Township of Clark	\$4.2 million	\$3.4 million
Township of Cranford	\$1.5 million	\$1.5 million
Borough of Garwood	\$785,889	\$692,296
Borough of Kenilworth	\$1.5 million	\$1.3 million
Borough of Mountainside	\$1 million	\$920,714
City of Rahway	\$3.2 million	\$2.7 million
Borough of Roselle Park	\$385,457	\$550,256
Township of Springfield	\$2.2 million	\$1.9 million
Township of Westfield	\$3.5 million	\$3.3 million

The fees each participating municipality pays for the services of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority varies, according to information available on the RVSA website.

Each municipality is represented by a commissioner appointed by the town.

There is a problem with this arrangement since in the past, representatives have not always adequately represented their town's interest by regularly attending meetings.

Former Springfield mayor, now deputy mayor, Bart Fraenkel had plenty to say about this last year. He admitted publicly that the RVSA representative they had to replace "never met or issued a report to the community on the activities of the RVSA."

### Ever wonder where the water goes?

**By Cheryl Hehl**  
Staff Writer

Did you ever wonder what happens after you flush your toilet or pour something down the drain? Regardless of how used water gets down the drain, it has to be cleaned before being returned to the environment. Whether you flush the toilet, take a shower, wash dishes or do the laundry, it all heads down the drain, into a main sewer system to a water treatment plant, like the Rahway Valley Sewerage Treatment Plant in Rahway.

Once this used wastewater enters the treatment plant, it goes through a screening process which is a preliminary step to remove any trash, sand or gravel. Then the wastewater is pumped through tanks for the main treatment to remove heavy and floatable solids from the flow.

Next, the organic solids are pumped into gravity tanks for thickening and the floatable solids collected and deposited in a landfill.

After that there are a series of secondary treat-

ments to create a final sand filtering where suspended material and bacteria are trapped. Remaining wastewater flows by gravity where it is disinfected by ultraviolet light, destroying any remaining bacteria, viruses or other pathogens so it cannot reproduce.

The use of ultraviolet light is considered a better, healthier option for the environment instead of chemicals. The disinfected water is then released into the Arthur Kill.

The sludge removed from the first two treatment then goes through other processes to concentrate them. Following these treatments, the sludge is then pumped into tanks where a bacterial process stabilizes it and reduces the mass.

After several more processes to reduce the sludge mass, it is put in trailers and transported to sites where it is reused for agricultural applications or landfill material.

The question most towns using RVSA are asking is — why does this process cost so much?

Since being elected, Gov. Chris Christie has begun to examine the commission, and others like it, with the hopes of bringing it under state control. Whether this effort works depends on the bill's progress through the state legislature. In the past, other bills that are similar to Weinberg's initiative were stonewalled.

Lawmakers are also calling for increased state control of these authorities with bipartisan political connections that run deep. But, because politicians from both parties have benefited financially from their association with these agencies, efforts in the past to elicit change hit a dead end.

One example of this involving RVSA, is that Democrat N.J. Sen. Raymond Lesniak's legal firm, Weiner Lesniak LLP, is on RVSA's payroll. In January, RVSA paid several outstanding bills to Lesniak's firm for \$20,883.49 and \$24,286.11.

This apparently is not unusual. Selecting just three months — June, July and September, RVSA records indicate Lesniak's firm was paid \$33,468, \$31,972 and \$43,922 respectively for those months.

In RVSA's case, Weinberg's bill would give Christie the power to

See BILL, Page 15

**W2: Responsible Journalism –  
Editorial Comment**

# COMMUNITY FORUM

## EDITORIALS

### More of the same

Eduardo Webster recently was appointed as the new town councilman. He will be part of a five-member council leading approximately 45,000 people. But who is he?

He has not been seen at Township Council meetings. He has not been seen at Board of Education meetings. Do you wonder how he was chosen by the Township Council? This is what happened.

After the May 10 municipal election, Rob Parisi, who had served on Township Council for 12 years, became mayor. This left an open seat on the council.

At the July 20 Township Council meeting, Sal Anderson, township council president, said the council had solicited resumes to fill the vacant seat, and they received four resumes. Anderson said the person who took Parisi's seat on the council would serve until a special election could be held, during the general election in November of this year. He or she and any other qualified candidate — would then have the option to run for the remaining year and a half of Parisi's term, which ends May 2012.

Councilwoman Patty Spungo then made a motion to appoint Eduardo Webster to fill the vacancy on the council. Councilman Victor Carluo seconded the nomination. Then the council members voted, and Carluo, Spungo and Councilwoman Susan McCarty voted for Webster. Anderson abstained, stating he believed the person selected to fill a vacancy should not be permitted to run for that office when the appointment concludes.

That was it. Webster became our new councilman. There was no mention made by council members about why they chose Webster, what his qualifications are, or who the other candidates were. In fact, two of the four resumes were submitted by Joe Krakovich and Jerry Guarino, both of whom ran for councilman in the May election and lost. And both have been quite visible in West Orange for some time.

The entire selection process should have been more open to the public. Anderson said that after the council received the resumes, they spoke about them among themselves, but never in groups of more than two individuals. While this conforms to the letter of the Sunshine Law, it certainly does not uphold the spirit of that law, which prohibits a private gathering of elected officials if a quorum is present, except for an inner-party caucus. The purpose of this law is to have the public's business conducted before the public, not in a back room. In this important decision, the West Orange council violated the spirit of the law.

After Webster was voted in as the new member of council, Parisi swore him in. Then Webster made his acceptance speech, which began by thanking the many people in council chambers that night, including his family and friends, who had clearly come to see Webster be appointed. These people include his wife, four sons — one of whom had flown in from California — two granddaughters, his pastor from Jersey City, state Senator Sandra Cunningham, Essex County Administrator Joyce Harley, and many others. In fact, approximately 25 people were in attendance to see the appointment. It is amazing that all these people knew how the vote would turn out before it happened.

Oh, and Webster thanked Parisi for "putting in a good word" for him.

It is also interesting to note that Webster's son, Eduardo Webster Jr., is a partner at Trenk, DiPasquale, Webster, Della Cella and Schone, Richard Trenk is the director of the Municipal Academy for the township of West Orange.

It is not that we take exception to Eduardo Webster being the son of a councilman. We can't, actually. We don't know enough about him. But we do take exception to the way this was done. It was business as usual. So much for transparency in local politics.

Back-room deal-making remains supreme.

### Conserve water

Although the beginning of the school year and the unofficial end of summer is just a month away, the fact that we are only halfway through the actual season of summer is not lost on anyone journeying outside these days. The sun has baked our parched lawns and driven people inside away from the torturous heat of 90-degree days which have become commonplace. When combined with the infrequent rainfall of the past few weeks, it should come as no surprise that the state Department of Environmental Protection has issued a drought watch throughout the northeast region of the state, including Essex County.

Some suggested water conservation tips include:

- Do not over-water lawns and landscapes. Two times per week, for 30 minutes in the morning or late evening typically is sufficient. Use a hose with a hand-held nozzle to water flowers and shrubs.
- To save water at home, fix leaky faucets and pipes.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth and shaving.
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only when full.
- Use a broom rather than a hose to clean the sidewalk.
- Install high-efficiency, water-saving toilets, faucets and showerheads.

Remember not to waste water now, so it will be there when you need it later.



BEATING THE HEAT IN CHILE — Currently participating in a three-week exchange program in Santiago, Chile, where it is now winter, are Solomon Schechter Day School students. From left, Ari Smolyar and Josh Pearlman of Livingston, Tal Eyal of Wayne, Elana Landsman-Bray and Rachel Mendelstow of West Orange; Danielle Rockman of Scotch Plains, Matt Hrobberg of West Orange; Ryan Rinderman of Springfield; and Zach Fruch of West Caldwell. Kneeling in front is Ben Kravitz of West Caldwell.

### Whatever origin, tomatoes are worth the wait

In fashion, everything old eventually becomes new again. This is why some women have been wearing platform shoes on and off for centuries. Fashions and fads come and go in the world of horticulture, too, and with the rise of electronic communications, the fashion cycle has speeded up. Right now, vegetable gardening is hot and heirloom varieties are hotter than hot. I have to grow hot plants to remain a cool horticulturist, so last year I grew heirloom Brandywine tomatoes. All three of them were delicious.

The low yield was not entirely due to the choice of variety. Last year was a terrible year for tomatoes in general. Many plants fell victim to blossom-end rot, an infectious disease that kills off tomatoes. The plants that didn't die of disease had lower, less tasty yields, due to the absence of an and abundance of rain at critical times in the growth cycle. Many people found that their long-awaited garden fruits were water-soaking. Most are there anyway, because even a water-soaked tomato is better than water tomatoes, which taste as if they were extracted by some fiend's tomato masher rather than grown in either earth or water. My three garden-grown Brandywines were not watery and tasted great, but I decided to try another variety this year.

It was serendipitous when a plant company offered me three "Black Krim" tomato plants. A check of the tomato literature indicated that "Black Krim" is a well-known variety that was first introduced in the 18th century. Like all heirlooms, "Black Krim" comes with a story. Most sources identify them as being "native" to the southern Ukraine, now an independent country, but for much of the 20th century, a part of the Soviet Union. Some sources also describe the plants as heirlooms from the Isle of Krin in the Black Sea. Although, unless first introduced there during the Crimean War and carried the seeds to other parts of Russia after the war ended. The former Soviet Union is apparently a black tomato nation, with many varieties cultivated in different geographic areas. A glance through heirloom tomato catalogs yields varieties with names such as "Black From Tula," "Black Sea Mar" and "Purple Romaine."

The only problem with the story is that tomatoes are New World fruits, native to South America. They got to Europe in the 16th century and were never widely appreciated there than in the United States, where they were long thought to be poisonous. I suspect that the Russian relatives find their way back to the New World? The seeds may have arrived at one of the century's standing, perhaps in the pockets of early Russian immigrants who brought a taste of home with them on their trans-Atlantic journey. However, they may also have arrived after the end of Columbus' rate in 1492, when the floodgates of immigration opened. The export of those floodgates coincided neatly with the rise of the heirloom vegetable movement, providing fertile ground for the "Black Krim" to take root in the United States. "Black Krim" is a large tomato that is red with purple-black "shoulders." When sliced, the seeds inside are the same dark color. Its intense tomato taste has been characterized as slightly salty, making it especially useful for salads and eating raw.

I dream of great summer tomato sandwiches made with nothing more complicated than homemade wheat bread, fresh tomato slices and mayonnaise. When I read the descriptions of "Black Krim," I

could almost taste these sandwiches.

I hope I will get the chance, right now. "Black Krim" has had three blossoms, but none of them were pollinated. The plant is a healthy 2 feet tall, so growth is not the problem. Today, in desperation, I moved it to one of the sunnier spots on the whole property — my elevated back porch — so the hopes that the bees will find it and do their essential work. I am betting they will, since about 150 of my daughter's flowering plants surround the tomato pot.

However, I am taking no chances. I am going to the garden center and swallowing my pride so I will eventually be able to swallow some tomatoes. I will buy some regular, non-heirloom tomato plants before they are gone. I'll put down right on "Black Krim" and, with luck, all my tomatoes will yield famously, before their fiendly hacker's plants in the fall.

My neighbor is already picking tiny, perfect cherry tomatoes from her plants. I peer jealously out my kitchen window, but I know that eventually it will be doing the same thing. After all, the ancestors of my "Black Krim" survived the Crimean War. Surely they can make it in the suburbs.

Elizabeth Gruber, a resident of Glen Ridge, is a frequent contributor to "Worrald Community Newspapers." The writer archives past columns at <http://www.glenridgepress.com>.

### The Gardener's Apprentice

By Elizabeth Gruber

regarded variety among amateur growers. Reviewers praised in the vine and the size of the fruit. I put up the little plants and looked forward to picking the ripe tomatoes in numbers that would rival last year's single-digit harvest to share.

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### Novel explores what it means to be 'human'

Human beings like to exclude each other. We post signs that declare, "No Girls Allowed," "Jews Forbidden," "No Irish Need Apply" or "Whites Only." Even those who refuse to divide people into separate groups retain our first prejudice. They view animals as inferior to human beings. Most people see the lives of other species as less important than ours.

Animal rights groups disagree. Even their members, however, might object to the idea of a human-animal hybrid.

Laurence Gonzales' "Lucy" forces us to ask an important question: What does it really mean to be human?

Jenny Lewis is a primatologist. She has left her home in Chicago to study bonobos in Africa. Her nearest neighbor is Donald Stone, a British scientist who has always refused to share his research. Ramon says he has a daughter, but Jenny has never met her.

One night, Jenny wakes to the sound of gunfire. She knows the

to homo sapiens. They are highly intelligent and social creatures. Lucy is a beautiful girl with amazing strength, speed and instincts. She has loved her whole life in the jungle. For 15 years, she read Shakespeare with her father and climbed trees with her mother. Lucy does not know who is different from other girls.

Back home in Chicago, Jenny decides to adopt the orphan and keep her secret. Lucy must learn how to wear clothes and deal with other people. She can no longer eat tomatoes or climb trees during thunderstorms.

Despite a lack of social skills, Lucy does well in high school. She plays sports, makes friends, and even attends the senior prom. Home-schooled by her father, Lucy tests out of most high school subjects. She joins the senior class and applies to colleges.

All goes well until a sudden, high fever lands Lucy in the hospital. Tests reveal her nonhuman DNA. Overnight, the "Monkey Girl" becomes a media sensation.

Send e-mail to [editorial@thelocalsource.com](mailto:editorial@thelocalsource.com)

# W2: Responsible Journalism – Editorial Comment

## Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# West Orange Chronicle

## More of the Same Democracy Works

# Debbie L. Hochberg

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# W2: Responsible Journalism – Editorial Comment

Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

## Union County Local Source

Out of Tune with Reality  
Not Convincing

Toniann Antonelli

### OPINION

#### EDITORIAL

## Out of tune with reality

Rahway officials hit a sour note when they decided to purchase a \$90,000 Fazoli piano for the Union County Performing Arts Center. But bad clichés aside, when the City Council gets it wrong, they really get it wrong.

Although Mayor James Kennedy's ongoing commitment to turn the city into an arts "hub" is admirable, authorizing such an unnecessary expense to achieve that goal is irresponsible, especially given the current economic climate. How can officials justify buying a musical instrument when New Jersey is currently in what amounts to a fiscal state of emergency, and the city's budget is set to rise in the coming year? Rahway itself is a victim of the economic crisis, having suffered a 20 percent reduction in state aid.

When you're dealing with a \$44 million budget, a \$90,000 expenditure may not seem like a big deal. And the fact that the piano retails for \$140,000 and was purchased at a "discount" — and with a \$5,000 contribution from Covanta energy — does little to detract from the fact that the purchase was irresponsible. Speaking of irresponsible, we found it disturbing that when contacting local officials for comments on the recently-approved budget, few City Council members were willing to speak about the spending plan, and other didn't even seem to realize that they had voted on the budget.

Officials wasted no time in patting themselves on the back for cancelling the annual July 4 fireworks show, claiming that to host the \$40,000 display would be insensitive to the municipal employees who were laid off during the summer. So how, exactly, can they now inform the employees that they were replaced by an expensive Italian piano? True, the piano will be used and enjoyed for years to come and serves as a symbol of the city's commitment to the arts, but that commitment isn't going to do much to help residents pay their taxes, or help laid-off city workers pay their bills. What kind of message does this send to Rahway residents — that officials care about the arts, but not about saving taxpayer dollars?

This is exactly the kind of wasteful spending that needs to stop if municipalities have any intention of painting a more positive financial picture for their future. Rahway officials need to get their fiscal priorities in order.



**PEANUT BUTTER VS. JELLY** — As one of the many activities held to celebrate Catholic School Week, the members of the Student Council at the Academy of Sts. Mary and Elizabeth in Linden conducted their own version of the Super Bowl. Each student in the school was asked to vote for their favorite food team by bringing in a jar of peanut butter or jelly. Each of the four days that the jars were collected represented one of the four quarters of a football game. The jars were collected and were counted by the student council members and recorded on the official scoreboard. From left: Student Council President Dawn Gergich, Debbie Charles, Vice President Amanda Coccia and Secretary Jade Weatherington.

## Health and aid by the rankings

By 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, the walkers at Rahway Park were briskly battling the cool air to get around the mile oval track. It was a growing bunch for a February morning with snow still on the grass.

Senior Bill Iacone of Mountaintop starts most weekday mornings walking through Echo Lake Park in his town. The link is these walkers were all doing their part to help the Union County's rank in a new national survey comparing "health outcomes and health factors."

The analysis released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin reveal we all need to get around the oval a few more times. In terms of "health outcomes," Union County ranks statewide in the middle at 11th out of 21. In terms of "health factors" we come in 12th. In social and economic factors we languish at 13th. Our lowest score is in terms of our "physical environment" where we drop to 16th.

The good news is we are made of tough stock, ranking 19th in terms of lower mortality and premature death. This is surprising in terms of the large senior population in the county.

### Left Out

By Frank Capece

Some of the statistical tests include adult smoking, obesity and binge drinking, to determine the least healthy place.

The numbers help give a better focus on the health status in our county. Adult smoking is at only 17 percent, which is a full percent less than the state average. Adult obesity however, is 3 percent higher than the state average. Our red flag for our government leaders is the finding that our "air pollution particulate matter" is substantially higher than the state average.

For the record, the healthiest county by this report is Hunterdon while the worst is Cumberland.

**Happy times in Clark**  
You may want to avoid the upcoming meetings of the Clark Township Council in person or watching on cable TV. There will be no holding back the joy and excessive boosterism of this bunch. This time though the numbers and rankings are actually in their favor.

The recent decision by Gov. Chris Christie to withhold certain portions of state aid for education according to the Office of Legislative Aid is hitting some towns pretty hard. Union, for example, is slated to lose \$0.4 million. Clark schools on the other hand will experience no hit, according to the analysis.

Clark also got a big boost from the annual "Best Place to Live" analysis just completed by New Jersey Monthly. This year the group at Parkway Exit 135 held up to number 24 in the state and third in Union County in the ranking. They must already be printing up the new banner to place on the township building.

In terms of Union County the top rated places were Mountaintop at number one in Union County and eighth in the state. Berkeley Heights is number two in the county and 19th in the state, and Cranford is fourth in the county and 34th in the state.

New Jersey Monthly says that they study a range of numbers including school test scores and taxes to arrive at their conclusions.

An attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

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# COMMUNITY FORUM

## EDITORIALS

### Rethink reassessment

It is not in dispute that property values throughout most of Orange have declined since the financial meltdown at the beginning of the recession in the fall of 2008. But for some residents of Orange, especially supporters of Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr., that is exactly the reason they say the city must reassess its properties only four years after its first revaluation in four decades. When the Orange City Council met Aug. 4, all seven members approved a measure to begin the process for an "emergency" reassessment. Had a legal issue not been clarified, the matter might have been settled that evening. Another vote, however, must be conducted to approve the use of \$250,000 in surplus funds to pay for the process. That vote is scheduled for the council's Sept. 7 meeting. We believe they should consider some issues before they blindly approve because "everyone will save money."

The argument is understandable, when residences were revalued in 2006, property owners, especially those in the Seven Oaks neighborhood of the South Ward, experienced a large increase in taxes. While their property values increased as the years went by, their property assessments remained low. Because that allowed them to have very low tax bills, the new assessments affected them greatly. But those previously low assessments also made their properties attractive for sales. The same could not have been said for the rest of the city.

That also is the area from which Hawkins received most of his support during his election campaign in 2008. When he took office, reassessment was among the top items on his wish list.

Now that he has gained majority support on the council, Hawkins has been able to forward this proposal with little expected opposition.

We ask the council members to consider these issues before they spend a quarter of a million dollars on a process which actually could affect the city in a negative manner.

• **Total taxes:** As with revaluation, reassessments are meant to be revenue-neutral. In 2006, when the city's total assessed property values increased, the tax rate decreased by a reciprocal percentage. Now, if the total assessed values decrease, the tax rate would increase to maintain the same amount of taxes to be collected. If individual property taxes decline, it could be by a negligible amount and likely not by the "hundreds or thousands of dollars" Hawkins mentioned in a statement in July.

• **Surplus:** While it is probable the city had a cash surplus on June 30, the close of the 2010 fiscal year, the amount may only be an estimate at this time. There may be a better idea regarding the size of the surplus when the 2011 budget is presented by Hawkins to the council.

• **"Emergency":** We use this term in quotes because it is not a true emergency. Hawkins has made this subject an "emergency" since he is attempting to force the council to limit quick decisions on that reassessment are finished by Jan. 1, 2011. That, he said, would give residential property owners decreased tax bills for the last two quarters of the 2011 fiscal year. A roof collapse on a municipal building constitutes an emergency; property values do not.

• **Commercial entities:** A complaint regarding the 2006 revaluation was that commercial properties were assessed at a lesser value than they should have. At the time, many residents complained it meant residential owners would be forced to handle a greater share of the city's taxes than commercial owners. So Hawkins and his supporters want to shift the burden toward businesses—the businesses they agree must stay in Orange if the city is to have any chance of building its commercial base.

A brief aside to this: rather than attempting to rush this plan through with minimal review, Hawkins and the members of his administration should look at ways to increase revenues, rather than further increasing services, to close a projected \$3 million deficit. It is a deficit which, contrary to his claims, is not mostly the fault of Mayor Gov. Chris Christie. The city's proposed budget must take precedence over this reassessment plan.

In his statement, Hawkins said the city would pay \$50,000 per year for five years—about \$10 per homeowner per year. We question if the expense will be worth the yield. Council members also should ask themselves that question.



**MAKING TIME FOR THE FANS —** Orange High School graduate Cory Boyd makes himself available to his fans following a game as a member of the Toronto Argonauts. Boyd is a fan favorite of the Canadian Football League club.

Photo by Mike J. Subbarao

### Our community has so much to offer residents

We don't have to go far to enjoy ourselves while helping a good cause. Mi and Mrs. Leiler Taylor of Woodland Avenue, East Orange, will be hosting a lawn reception sponsored by the Historical Society of East Orange. A presentation of the "Donald M. Payne Scholarship" will be made. The affair will take place Aug. 29 at 3 p.m. Prominent citizens will also be honored — Thomas Giblin, Nia Gill, Baruti Kafele, Sheila Oliver and Laura Truitt.

**Living Your Best Life**  
By Shirley Hendricks  
Dorey Robinson Jazz Ensemble will be performing. Call director Carolyn Reed at 973-266-5667. You can look forward to a delightful evening of adult entertainment here on home town territory. Here's a Trick to Treat yourself for a good cause; while the children are having fun, so are we!

who will be heading to Symphony Hall on Saturday evening. If you enjoy smooth harmony rendered by top emcees, come out and enjoy the all time favorite The Whispers. To let Mike of that Magic and Melissa Morgan. So much talent, so close by.

The word is that there was standing room only at Roy Morton's bring-your-own-food-and-drink yard party. The weather was perfect for the annual gathering on Parson Street in Orange.

Did you oversize at the summer barbecue? Whittle your self back in shape before the holidays. The YWCA, 395 Main St., Orange, offers yoga, aerobics, aerobics and a complete program designed to help

### Some 'Holy Grails' are easier to find than others

Every gardener needs a Holy Grail. For years, mine was a hardy geranium called *Geranium renoldii*. It had softly lobed, fish-like leaves and gorgeous five-petaled flowers that were white with purple veins.

**The Gardener's Apprentice**  
By Elizabeth Gentry

mentioned hosta expert, Tony Averet, plantman and proprietor of Plant Delights Nursery in North Carolina, lists "Fragrant Bouquet" as one of the best hostas for fragrance, sun tolerance and ability to withstand hot, sticky summer weather. I have high expectations for it.

I looked at the tag and the name was very appropriate — "Fragrant Bouquet."

I am *Geranium renoldii* for the first time in the pages of an English garden magazine. It was low at first sight. After that, I had to have it. I scoured source information, only to find that the few American sources had mislabeled the species and sold slips by mail order.

It took some time for me to find another Holy Grail. My next one was "Ming Treasure," a rare variegated variety of *Hosta plantaginea*.

I did some research on "Fragrant Bouquet" and found that it would be replaced by hostas that were bred with the result of a complicated series of crosses, some of which involved plantings it does not have *plantaginea*'s pure white flowers, but it has all the species' other good qualities, plus variegated foliage.

As a hybrid it is different from "Ming Treasure," because the latter has 10 working fingers, computers and genetic material in a standard plantings. The breeder noticed that one of his *plantaginea* plants had variegated leaves. He propagated that plant, named the offspring "Ming Treasure" and it was eventually offered to the world — or at least the small portion of the world able to find it.

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### Guidelines for submitting letters to the Editor

The *Orange Transcript* and the *East Orange Record* welcome submissions from their readers. Letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

Letters and essays may also be mailed to 1291 Soyevant Ave., Union, N.J. 07083. All letters and guest columns must be received by 5 p.m. Monday to be considered for publication in Thursday's edition.

# W2: Responsible Journalism – Editorial Comment

## Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# Orange Transcript

## Rethink Reassessment

# Hawkins' Call to Public Unethical

# John Zucal

**East Orange Record**  
Published Weekly Since 1899

**Orange Transcript**  
Published Monthly Since 1898

Editor: John Zucal  
Publisher: David Wornal

1291 Soyevant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083  
908-686-7700

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**NJPA**  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

# Editorials

## Un-friend me

The Freeholders have been trying to decide how to deal with residents who want to raise money for departments and agencies within county government. Like the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library, we're told, these folks seek to be "Friends" to parks, social services, the health department...

The Freeholders worry that such unscrupulous "Friends" could just pocket donations. So they've spent months — and thousands of dollars in legal fees — developing rules and regulations that would govern a board of trustees to charter such groups and oversee their activities. Now they may simply smother the idea.

Thank goodness. The Freeholders ought to tightly control the board of trustees. If they didn't like a group in its goals, the bylaws would allow the trustees to revoke its charter — and confiscate whatever money it had collected, to be used as the Freeholders see fit to benefit the intended county entity.

That makes us nervous. But the Freeholders could also seek to subsume the existing Friends of the Library — which run a nice quiet and successful annual spring book sale — under the same umbrella. That makes us really nervous.

The Freeholder board has struggled with the county Library Commission over its budget, how it spends the dedicated library tax and how it staffs the libraries. Some consider this meddling with the Library Commission a nasty effort by the Freeholders to control its work. If the Friends of the Library were to be subject to the proposed "Friends" board, it could empower the Freeholders that we think ought to be in the hands of others.

In fact, we worry more about that than we do about folks trying to fleece us by pretending to be our Friends.

## Slow Down

We think the state Department of Transportation for showing the public its concept plans for what it says would be an "improved" Route 202-13 Flemington traffic circle. The state says this latest plan will make the road safer than confusing motorists who think the road is plenty safe as is.

First, let's finish the nearby Main Street Circle (or "roundabout," as the DOT calls it) construction. Then, let's assess its performance. Is it safer? Does traffic flow more smoothly? What could have been done during construction to lessen the impact on motorists and businesses?

Then, before we spend \$5 million of money to do a new roundabout, we'd like to know: What other ideas did state engineers consider? We'd like to see them, even if they're dead on a nap. We're especially interested in ideas that rely on more active, less expensive solutions. Like it might be to re-configure the existing circle, to make it right-of-way more efficient? Perhaps business driveways could be modified?

DOT has already proven that throwing lots of dollars at road construction doesn't necessarily result in better roads. We'd offer the agency the administration we received from our seventh grade math teacher: "I'm not so much interested in your answer as how you get there. Show me your work."

Until then, we'd like the idea moved into the slow lane.

## Water Hogs

A week of temperatures in the 80s without a rain cloud in sight and suddenly everyone started talking about water restrictions. Then the screens rolled in and washed away all thoughts of conservation with them.

What is a shame? Now Jersey's average rainfall is 45 inches annually, making us a "water rich" state. Few here have heard of a house where potable water wasn't a close as a turn of the spigot. We tend to take one of our most precious natural resources for granted, but shouldn't because of our state's dense population. And no one wants their flora, or a neighboring state, to run dry.

To conserve, there's so much that's easy to do, from reconfiguring the water only when we need to rinse after brushing our teeth, showering or washing a dish, to turning the dish and clothes washers only when full instead of washing plants with a water sprayer, use a hand-held or water hoses, and don't for water and drought-resistant plants when landscaping. Multiple containers water and rain barrels below a downspout are a great way to get free water.

Our largest water "appliances" indoors is... the toilet. About 30% of the water that is used in household dwellings is a day-to-day (we're not so sure if this is accurate in homes with showers and laundries). The state Department of Environmental Protection recommends replacing pre-1992 toilets with new, high-efficiency models. If we each did this, the federal EPA thinks we could save 2 billion gallons a year in the USA.

Officials also warn that leaks may represent 10% of a family's water usage. To make sure that your toilet hasn't sprung one, drop dye in the tank. Fifteen minutes later check the bowl. If you see dye, a simple flapper replacement will fix the problem.

The second greatest water hog is the clothes washer. New ones can use up to 50% of water and energy. To do so, wash water-reversing detergents and avoid fabric softeners and additives. The water you save stays in our rivers, creeks and reservoirs, where we can put it to good recreational use. Further, our wildlife use it to survive. So whether a shower, and toilet, and salamander.

## A COUNTRYMAN REMINISCES

### Tune in to nature's pulse

Some folks did would surprise me and be a friend from me down for the weekend. I found that the beach with my friends when someone water sport... I had a huge glass jar. My wife and I had a huge glass jar. My wife and I had a huge glass jar.

After several nights, I'd get up early and catch the waves for me. I had a huge glass jar. My wife and I had a huge glass jar. My wife and I had a huge glass jar.



122 Years Ago  
**LOW BRANCHES** — The crowning glory of Flemington is its numerous shade trees. But the growing heat that the branches are allowed to grow in. In hot weather they hang down over the sidewalks, blocking your umbrella and knocking you out hot.

**MOWED DOWN** — Mr. Swann at Hill, on East Flemington, was rightfully injured last Wednesday by coming in contact with the mowing machine driven by his daughter. She was mowing her lawn in the yard hidden in the grass when the mowing machine ran over her.

**TRAIN GANG** — The Lehigh Valley Railroad detectives on Flemington last night arrested a young man about 25 years old and another man about 30 years old and a third man about 35 years old. They were all charged with carrying a package of dynamite.

**PLANS POOR** — Concerning the proposed new plan for the town of Flemington, it is a very poor plan. It is a very poor plan. It is a very poor plan.

**DRAWN BY GREENER** — The Copper Hill Country Club has voted to draw a new section a number of people who otherwise would have been sent to Henderson. Two such people are given to land boys to make the club popular.

**THEY WON'T GO** — Six house trains remain parked on Alder Road in East Amwell Township. Some folks did would surprise me and be a friend from me down for the weekend.

**REMEMBERING MY SUMMERS AT THE JERSEY SHORE**  
As a kid, I went shovels from June through Labor Day, shoveling in both oil to attract the my's. At summer at the Jersey Shore... On weekdays when my dad came down, we'd play softball at the athletic field over the tennis courts.

**REMEMBERING MY SUMMERS AT THE JERSEY SHORE**  
On weekdays when my dad came down, we'd play softball at the athletic field over the tennis courts. I had a huge glass jar. My wife and I had a huge glass jar.

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## Web design isn't really haphazard

As designated day walker at my house I get pulled around for some weekly daily in protest of the "right spot." I search for under walks at last level but one moving a couple of weeks ago I was shocked to see a number of who covering the ground.

The fast-food walk with women's beauty, lacking the symmetry and design of the web services' web, but they were plentiful. Sometimes only a few inches separated one web from another. It looked like someone had chopped a bunch of gray handkerchiefs throughout the forest floor.

Finally, after a while, I looked at it as if the spiders had crawled all different ways with silk thread in use. I also almost always found a spider in the web. I was near the stable of the web which might have been common control for the webmaster.

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# W2: Responsible Journalism – Editorial Comment

## Second Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# Hunterdon County Democrat

## Un-Friend Me

## Protection First

# Warren Cooper



# Opinion

It can be a little scary if there are no caring neighbors."  
**Joyce Fitz Maurice**  
(UNRECORDED)

## Another tower?

Here we go again. Another cell phone company has determined that we don't have enough coverage in a section of town. So, in their altruistic efforts to improve our lives, they want to erect a 100-plus-foot tower and place on it a couple of antennas. You don't want dropped calls now, do you?

We've seen this years ago when a company presented a site plan for a pole on the Maplewood Country Club near the border with Millburn. That tower was approved by the city of Maplewood.

Then there were the plans for the tower in the Oakley Tract. The Board of Education, which owns most of the property, voted not to grant the company access to the small strip of private land upon which the tower would be built. Like the country club tower, the Oakley Tract proposal generated great public opposition, which was resolved when Community Congregational Church and the company reached an agreement to conceal the tower in the church steeple.

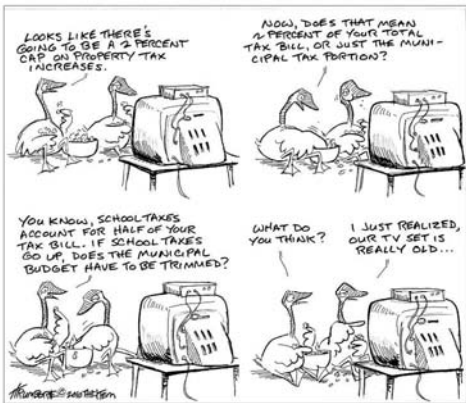
See, the objection most people have is that they don't want to have an unsightly tower dominating their view, even if the company promises to festoon it with plastic branches to make it look like an overgrown spruce. Once it's hidden inside a church steeple, such as the one at Community Congregational Church or the one inside the steeple of the First Baptist Church, even those people who question the safety of the cell tower tend to grow quiet.

This new tower may be different, and there's no church tower nearby to hide it in.

T-Mobile wants to place its tower between a Morris-Tanenbaum apartment building and Glenwood School. It will be in operation while children play in the field next to it.

While the law says that cell tower emissions have been determined to be safe and cannot form the basis of community opposition, similar assurances about offshore drilling for oil have made us all skeptical of guarantees from governments and big companies.

This is pushing a T-Mobile. This is the wrong place for a cell phone tower. If you think someone might check again, it must be a very wrong number.



### Letters to the Editor

#### Letter changed her attitude toward recycling and recycling

**REBUKE THE NEWS**  
"Rebuke and news," the letter by Clinton of Earth David S. Harrison in the July 1 edition of the Item, awakened me to my own responsibility in environmental crisis.

That my trash is incinerated just 10 actual miles from my breathing zone (and no more emphatically into an action plan) not only makes breathing more stuff, but also donates useables to organizations more able to utilize them rather than just discard them for garbage pickup. Besides the usual newspaper recycling, I

have my paper bag at the ready for the restaurant junk mail and other miscellaneous paper-wrappers.

Mr. Harrison's letter hangs on my bulletin board as a wake up call to respond more knowledgeably to the letters I am called and refuse the containers during the day.

**En. Betty Levin**  
117 Sagamore Road  
Downs Millburn

**Firefighters kept market cool**  
The Millburn Fire Department for helping to keep the patrons and workers at the Millburn Farmers Market cool

on the hottest July 6 on record. The meter fans were left under for the children and adults alike.

Special thanks to Hamilton Chief Robert Eckhardt and Firefighters Shane Quirk and Steven Pappalardo who set up the fans and refilled the containers during the day.

**Neilsen C. Kyle**  
Market Manager  
Downs Millburn

**Neighbors pitched in to find home for two kittens**  
On Tuesday, June 20, the garage men on Underhill Road

ring my doorbell to inform me: two baby kittens were left under my garbage cans. They were very helpful in telling me to get a box with towels and give them milk and water. They were extremely caring and I believe they would have taken the kittens if I had not answered the door.

After the kittens were spotted, I called a few neighbors who had cats to see if anyone knew of a program out. My neighbor, Gail, was so concerned she left her job for the day and went to Petco to buy special milk and bottles. Gail stayed home and helped me with afternoon trying to feed and care for the kittens. My other neighbor, Jane, jumped right in and got on the computer getting me all kinds of information. She

**EDITOR: THE ITEM**  
On Tuesday, June 20, the garage men on Underhill Road

**SEE LETTERS, PAGE A5**

#### Letter policy

Letters may be edited and may be published, reproduced or distributed in print, electronic, or other forms. The views and opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Item or its affiliates. Submitters must be 18 or older, live in the county, and be a resident of the county. Letters that cannot be verified, are libelous, defamatory, obscene, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate will not be published. All letters will remain the property of The Item. Send them to the editor at [theitem@njpress.com](mailto:theitem@njpress.com), by fax to 973-925-4458 or by mail to Editor, The Item, 900 William Avenue, Suite 205, Millburn, NJ 07041.

### Community Events

- THURSDAY, JULY 20**  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal Lot 1 of Essex and Main Streets.  
8 p.m. Township Committee meeting, Town Hall.
- FRIDAY, JULY 25**  
7 p.m. Concert in Taylor Park, Rock Hill group The Knotz.
- MONDAY, JULY 26**  
7 p.m. Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting, Millburn High School Auditorium.
- TUESDAY, JULY 27**  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal Lot 1 of Essex and Main Streets.
- THURSDAY, JULY 27**  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal Lot 1 of Essex and Main Streets.  
7 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center.  
8 p.m. Township Committee meeting, Town Hall.
- THURSDAY, AUG. 2**  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal Lot 1 of Essex and Main Streets.
- WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14**  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal Lot 1 of Essex and Main Streets.

#### THURSDAY, AUG. 8

7:30 p.m. Historic Preservation Commission meeting, Town Hall.

#### TUESDAY, AUG. 10

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal Lot 1 of Essex and Main Streets.

#### TUESDAY, AUG. 15

7 p.m. Concert in Taylor Park, Rock Hill group The Chorus.

#### MONDAY, AUG. 16

7 p.m. Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting, Town Hall.

#### THURSDAY, AUG. 17

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Millburn Farmers Market, Municipal Lot 1 of Essex and Main Streets.

#### THURSDAY, AUG. 22

7 a.m. Board of Education meeting, Education Center.

#### THURSDAY, AUG. 29

8 p.m. Township Committee meeting, Town Hall.

### ENVIRONMENT

## Veggies endangered as farmland's lost

By Michele S. Byers

Executive Director  
New Jersey Conservation Foundation

The last few weeks have brought the best taste of high quality, locally grown fruits and vegetables to many New Jerseyans. The Garden State produces some of the best tomatoes and corn in the world? We should all take note, however, of a new inventory of our disappearing farmland.

Since 1982, the National Resources Inventory (NRI) has become the most comprehensive natural resource database in the nation. It is conducted each year by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Service in cooperation with Iowa State University. The inventory documents natural resources conditions and trends for America's lands. The 2007 inventory includes a quarter-century of data, and the trend lines

are stark. "National Findings -- For the last 25 years, America lost over 41 million acres of rural land to development. That's an area about the size of Illinois and New Jersey combined." The inventory defines "rural land" as active agricultural land, plus forested agricultural land, and land used for other purposes. Of the land lost to development, 56 percent (23,165,000 acres) were active agricultural lands.

Active agricultural lands include those used for crops, pasture and range. Over 4,000,000 acres of active farmland were developed in just the last five years of the study. That's an area roughly the size of Massachusetts. Much of this lost farmland is some of the nation's best. "Best" is defined as prime farmland -- land used to produce food and other agricultural crops. Every state in the nation lost

farmland. The biggest loss in total acres were Texas (1.5 million acres), Ohio (1.06 million acres), North Carolina (766,000 acres), California (616,000 acres) and Georgia (506,000 acres).

So what about New Jersey? When you factor in the size of our state, farmland losses are alarming. New Jersey ranks fourth among the 50 states in the loss of prime farmland. The Garden State has lost a whopping 10 percent of her farmland, behind Arizona (which has 56 percent, and 100 percent) and New Mexico (13 percent).

Overall, the NRI data shows a loss of 695,000 acres of rural lands in New Jersey. That's more than the land area of Atlantic and Sussex Counties combined. These trends must be stopped if we are to preserve our food security and quality, and our agricultural economy and rural heritage.

To help stop this trend, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has farmland preservation matching grants. Fortunately, New Jerseyans understand the value of our prime farmland. In 2001, we voted to spend \$400 million to replenish the Garden State Preservation Trust. The Christie administration has been aggressive in continuing these critical preservation programs. Of prime farmland, only viable means we have of stopping the loss of our vital farmland, behind Arizona (which has 56 percent, and 100 percent) and New Mexico (13 percent).

# W2: Responsible Journalism – Editorial Comment

## First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

## Another Tower?

## Show Us the Money

# Harry Trumbore

**The Item**  
of Millburn and Short Hills

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**NJPA**  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

# W2: Responsible Journalism – Editorial Comment

First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

## Wayne Today

Everyone Should Sacrifice, Including Teachers

Three Figure Increases Are Unacceptable

## Christa Limone

# Opinion

PAGE 10  
THURSDAY April 1, 2010

## Everyone should sacrifice, including teachers

Years and years of out-of-control spending has made New Jersey the state with the nation's highest property taxes, and now the time has come for change. Gov. Chris Christie is delivering it.

A massive component of that change is an \$820 million cut in state aid to public schools. For most districts, the cut in state aid amounts to a five percent budget reduction.

Unfair, some say. Tough medicine, we say. Along with cutting state aid, Christie is urging teachers to reopen contracts, accept pay freezes and pay 1.5 percent of their salary to healthcare.

Unfair, says the New Jersey Education Association. Tough medicine, we say.

The teachers union should step up and make sacrifices. Instead, the NJEA says the cut in school aid and Christie's call for teacher concessions is "wrongheaded."

The NJEA is wrongheaded. Its solution is a rein-statement of the surtax on New Jersey residents who make more than \$400,000 per year.

Christie points out that the surtax expired while Jon Corzine was still in office, and that he has no intention of reviving it. We agree with that decision.

Raising taxes on the rich is a short-term fix and a long-term losing proposition if it prompts wealthy residents to move out of New Jersey.

Of course, the NJEA doesn't see it that way. In a statement, union president Barbara Keshishian said, "The choice could not be more stark: tax cuts for millionaires or full school funding for New Jersey kids."

In other words: Don't ask us for anything because it's not our problem.

We're amazed that the NJEA is so tone deaf. Property owners in this state don't have sympathy for the teachers union – any unions, really. It's one of the reasons why Christie was elected (and why the NJEA backed the spendthrift Corzine in the election).

And we don't care for the NJEA's pulling of guilt strings, saying it has the students' best interests in mind. We can see right through that political ruse.

Here's where the NJEA is right. The reduction in state aid is likely a de facto tax increase, as districts will propose to raise taxes to make up for at least some of the cut in state aid.

That's where it's up to residents to pressure boards of education to make Christie's five percent cut go to the bottom line, or pretty close to it. A three-figure tax increase is unacceptable in this economy and should be voted down.

Districts are likely going to have to change the way they do business to make cuts and maintain high standards in education. If that means eliminating administrative jobs and fringe programs, they should do it, even when parents complain bitterly.

We also realize that boards of education need tools from the state to effectively negotiate with the teachers union. Reinstating the ability of school boards to make a "last, best offer" would be a good start.

Long-term, small districts need to explore consolidation with other small districts. That's a discussion for another day.

In the meantime, everyone should sacrifice. Including the teachers.



New Jersey's Tough Diet

## One size just may not fit all

Trying to keep up with current devices, I seem to be a step behind.

First, the phone. Most people operate either totally wireless or at least cordless. I still have one land line (corded) and I actually have a wall-mounted phone in my kitchen. Of course I do have other telephones but none are considered state-of-the-art.

My first cell phone was hard to misplace. It was larger than the one I now carry. The "new" one is so small that I have trouble finding it in my pocketbook, seeing its lighted face to make a call or actually being able to text using those tiny numbers. Today, the up-to-the-minute cell is minuscule, smaller than my original, hefty one but bigger than my present, small one. My son's iPhone has



Nancy Rubenstein

BELIEVE ME

more apps than I can imagine ever using or needing. Obviously, there is nothing one cannot access on cells today. You can ask any/every question that crosses your mind, acquire entertainment and link up to your other tech equipment.

Needless to say my phone is mostly for emergencies. I can't handle my own limited apps.

Replacing the wall phone is almost impossible. While some models currently offered can be mounted, they aren't flat against the wall – they're slightly angled,

making it even easier to drop unless you remove and replace them from their cradle carefully.

We've all on occasion picked up our cell to change the TV channel and picked up the remote to make a phone call. Fortunately that's an error easily corrected.

I've dropped every remote control and phone that I possess at least a few times but I do manage to get the battery back in place unassisted by any person "of a certain age" – meaning, of course, anyone younger than I am.

Rained to believe that thinking for yourself is a good thing. I wonder how much we're limiting younger minds who need not think beyond tapping effortlessly into instant information. Those

wonderful opposable thumbs we've been blessed with – once vital for hitchhiking, an outmoded practice that is now considered potentially victim-inducing – those thumbs now have become primary tools for texting and channel-surfing.

Bluetooth and hands-free communication gear free fingers from reaching out at all. They permit users to make phone calls, select or identify music playing on a CD or even turn off lights perhaps left on at home – all with an easy touch-out.

Communication apparatus has changed in size and efficiency and it's way quicker. Me? I'm a size bigger, a tad less efficient and certainly a bit slower.

I'll settle for recognizing all of that.

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**W3: Responsible Journalism –  
Enterprise**

# BELLEVILLE ★ TIMES

SINCE 1909 | 50 CENTS www.bellevilletimes.com BELLEVILLE'S BEST-SELLING WEEKLY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010

## TRAFFIC

### Water main break

Damage closes Route 21 exit for two days

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### Calliope

Contraction hits road for amusement, charity

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Is Board of Education following Sunshine Law?

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## SPORTS

Boys basketball preview

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DALE MINCEV/BELLEVILLE TIMES

### CHECKING THE BEARD BEFORE THE LIST

Aidan Chetan, 4, inspects the famous white beard for authenticity during the Sandy Lane Nursery Parent Focus Group's Breakfast with Santa on Saturday at the Disabled American Veterans Hall in Belleville. Activities included decorating cupcakes and coloring.

## File-digitization project went over budget

Firm's storage of original documents continues to add costs to township

BY MARIA KARIDIS  
of Belleville Times

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs may reprimand Belleville for exceeding its budget to digitize its Construction Code files, according to Township Manager Victor Canning. He has to report what went wrong in Town Hall to cause the budget overage, he told the Times.

In 2009, the township hired Oakland-based Filebank for \$71,000 because the Construction Code office was overflowing with boxes full of paperwork, which employees sift through for hours

to locate a document, Canning said. A Feb. 24, 2009, resolution by the Township Council states the Educational Services Commission of Morris County, a cooperative pricing unit, "suffered voluntary participation" to secure pricing between Belleville and Filebank. The township did not sign a contract directly with Filebank, Belleville Councilman Michael Nicosia told the Times.

In the end, Belleville spent at least \$105,445 on the project, according to township financial documents obtained through the Open Public Records Act. Canning and Nicosia said that figure

was actually closer to \$125,000 because additional invoices were processed after the Times reviewed documents.

Whenever a publicly funded project starts exceeding its initial cost, project work must cease and a change order must be issued, said DCA Public Information Officer Lisa Ryan. That change order must then be approved by the mayor and council by means of a resolution. Once the resolution is passed, the project can continue.

The Times found no change order or resolution authorizing a change order for Filebank.

Belleville's purchasing department continued issuing payments for the project after it exceeded budget, Canning said.

Canning is required to approve any checks the purchasing department seeks to issue. He did that for the checks to Filebank, but without keeping a running total on them, he said.

"If you saw the amount of bills that land on my desk every week... I can't sit here and do all the numbers on everything and keep a running total on all the accounts, because then that's all

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# W3: Responsible Journalism – Enterprise

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## Belleville Times

### Digitization Project

## Maria Karidis

## Clinton Twp. plans school cuts

**By Curtis Leeds**  
CLINTON TWP. — The school board plans to cut school staff including administrators, teachers, teaching assistants, secretaries and custodians — as part of a new budget that Superintendent Kevin Carroll called “one worst-case scenario” because of a decrease of about \$1.3 million in state aid.

## Bomb threats shut Voorhees two days

**By Warren Cooper**  
LEBANON TWP. — School officials are offering a reward for the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for bomb threats on Monday and Tuesday that closed Voorhees High School and sent students and staff home both days.

After sweeps with bomb-sniffing dogs, Lebanon Township Police and Hunterdon County Prosecutor's decisions are satisfied that there were no bombs on campus.

Principal Dave Steffan met with detectives from the prosecutor's Office yesterday morning to discuss the situation and to thank the township profession who came questioning students and helping to close suspect facilities, according to North Hunterdon-Northern district supervisor Martin Stragala. People with tips can contact Sheriff's Office on Monday, a cardboard note.

CLINTON TWP. — Township officials are offering a reward for the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for bomb threats on Monday and Tuesday that closed Voorhees High School and sent students and staff home both days.

CLINTON TWP. — Township officials are offering a reward for the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for bomb threats on Monday and Tuesday that closed Voorhees High School and sent students and staff home both days.

**Sharing may sound good... but**  
**By Curtis Leeds**  
CLINTON TWP. — Township officials are offering a reward for the arrest and conviction of whoever is responsible for bomb threats on Monday and Tuesday that closed Voorhees High School and sent students and staff home both days.

Township Mayor Kevin Cincsi, who has an MBA and works with mergers and consultations in his corporate day job, says sharing services makes sense sometimes.

Perhaps the most obvious shared service is Municipal Court, in which Union Township has gradually increased participation. Union began with sharing court space in the Clinton Township Public Safety Building, then expanded to include sharing the court building. In the current deal, Clinton Township provides all of Union's court services, for which Union Township pays \$100,000 a year.

“Not all joint projects work out. For years, as many as 10 towns in northern Hunterdon shared a municipal court, but it was eventually abandoned after disputes over sharing costs and income.”

Neighboring Lebanon has paid Clinton Township for the use of its construction official. And Cincsi said the township has been long-term money by purchasing many of its supplies — from everything to mail — by belonging to a co-op.

Some shared services are loss-forward. The township Department of Public Works works both fields for the township's R-1 school district. In exchange, the school provides space used by the township's Recreation Department.

Township Administrator Martin Ben said he's working on deals sharing between the township and the township Service Authority (CTSA). He'd like to see the authority merge from the township.

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Carroll called “one worst-case scenario” because of a decrease of about \$1.3 million in state aid. After the board accepted the plan and passed to public comment Monday, the board decided to cut not on such, and added that Superintendent Kevin Carroll said he was expected to decide yesterday. Lehigh Valley said he's told that the granting of waters this year is “not guaranteed.”

The water would be needed because the tax levy, the amount to be raised from local property taxes to support the spending plan would exceed the 4% cap set by the state. The board's original plan kept taxes within the cap, and spending was down 4.7%. If the water is approved, the proposed tax levy will be \$2.213 million, an increase of \$98,129 from the current school year, or 4.56%.

with the date and the word “bomb” written on it was found behind a towel dispenser in a public bathroom near the cafeteria at about 11 a.m., prompting officials to call police, evacuate the building and send students and staff home. After investigations were cancelled.

Students, including seniors

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A FADED BLACK EYE on actor Alex Shaffer of Hunterdon Township on location Monday on Long Island. (Photo by Zachary Hill)

## Central wrestler has big role in major film

**By Renee Kiriluk-Hill**  
CLINTON TWP. — More than 200 students from Church of the Holy Spirit, ages 3 to 98, will help out on Good Friday, April 2. Although many organizations were at first hesitant to receive help due to the day's mourning tone, the Rev. Philip Carrigan was shown over by explaining that his congregation stays connected to Jesus Christ's sacrifice through good works.

The idea for such an event began 20 years ago, during difficult financial times that prevented the Episcopal-Anglican church from donating money to community foundations during the Lenten season. Carrigan challenged his parishioners to volunteer as a congregation. Since then, to the day's solemn spirit of sacrifice, volunteers reach out to various state and county organizations.

Good Friday, coming just before Easter, is when Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus. Church of the Holy Spirit now works with a half-dozen organizations on Good Friday. Volunteers are split into teams headed by experienced leaders, and even a pastor John Rivers. The morning of Good Friday they come at the church and, after a service, are sent out to their tasks along with an emblem from the event such as a purple ribbon.

See GOOD FRIDAY on page 4



KINETIC KIDS — Students at Millard Public School grabbed hula hoops and jump ropes on Friday in the Jump for Heart fundraiser to benefit the American Heart Association. In motion above are (from left) Karla Jenkins, 8; Sara Allen, 10; and Jessica Seymanik, 8. At left, 8-year-old Meghan Huff skips rope. (Photos by George Pascello)

## HCBS Lay-offs, sport fees proposed

**By Renee Kiriluk-Hill**  
RAREFAN TWP. — Dozens of people would lose jobs, families would pay up to \$200 yearly for their children to play sports and 207 students would get a seat on a bus, under a \$58,222,757 operating budget proposed by Hunterdon Central High School that holds spending steady.

When on Tuesday, April 20 will double a \$58,925,000 tax levy supporting the budget. It is 4% or 1.17% higher than this year's levy, and would increase taxes for the regional high school for property owners in Flemington and Raritan and Radcliff townships.

Compared to this year, state aid is expected to decrease by 48.4% next year. That \$3,713,120 represents 5.7% of the 2010-11 budget. Facing rising health benefit costs, school officials said their first step was to work wage freezes for the 2010-11 school year from all employees.

Superintendent Lisa Brady said that all senior administrators agreed to do for the second year and last year. Supervisors and vice principals in the administration sat at a table with her but aren't union members also agreed to a wage freeze next year, she said.

As of Tuesday, the 281 certified staff members — such as counselors and teachers in the Hunterdon Central Education Association union hadn't agreed to do the same. If they do so, school officials said they could replace \$80,000 in the budget. That could mean more than 15 of the 28.5 teaching or staff positions proposed for elimination. The budget proposal also calls for using nine teaching and staff positions.

Under the budget plan, 11 teaching (5705.540) and non-teaching (21) administrative (2320.000) positions would be eliminated, along with 4.5 seasonal and 1.5 part-time positions. The department (2320.000) and seven student workers (44,500.000) employees. Further employees would mean a smaller anticipated increase, \$1,267,305, in employee benefits costs, as a total of \$11,149,000. The annual amount represent 18.6% of the total budget, the second-largest category after salaries to be spent on regular instruction programs, salaries, are distributed throughout the rest of the budget.

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## TEKESBURY TWP. School might have sole merit-based contract

**By Lillian Shupe**  
TEKESBURY TWP. — The township schools superintendent now has what is believed to be the only merit-based contract in the state. And the district wants to make merit pay a part of the raise structure for teachers.

On March 15, the township Board of Education and state Department of Education reached a negotiated settlement for the Bill Perlick to become the district's superintendent and middle school principal. He has been serving as the state superintendent since July 1, 2008, but the state superintendent for Hunterdon County schools.

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# W3: Responsible Journalism – Enterprise

Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# Hunterdon County Democrat

## School Budgets, a Learning Curve

# Warren Cooper Curtis Leeds Renee Kiriluk-Hill

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HOME FRONT

# Iraq War veteran seeks clues to mystery illness

BY MICHAEL SEDON  
Staff Writer

A Ridgewood resident and Iraq War veteran says an Army bladder scan has caused him months of pain, first by denying him medical coverage because of lost information proving he served in the war and then misdiagnosing his illness.

Infantry Sgt. Mark Steppe said he returned home from serving the country for 13 months in Iraq only to find out that he had to fight a new battle for health benefits he served in a combat theater.

Steppe said the Army somehow lost his Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) number, which is used to identify veterans who served in a war zone for at least 90 days. "To get any kind of compensation you have to have a CIB or something showing that you were in," Steppe said.

He said he received an Army commendation medal, captured 15 insurgents and put his own life in danger while assisting in the MEDDEVAC (medical evacuation) and rendering first aid to injured soldiers, among other commendations, and has multiple photos of himself in Iraq. But the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) still showed him no record of his service.

"Basically they said someone didn't do their job that day," Steppe's wife, Amy Demetra, said. "They were wrong."

Steppe said he was diagnosed with a bladder and they wanted to go home. And someone denied him and didn't do their job. "I should be denied because they messed up in the paper work."

But Paul Sullivan, executive director of Veterans for Common Sense, said a CIB is not the way to identify a combat veteran. A DD214 form, which Steppe has, contains information that could indicate a soldier's combat experience, Sullivan explained.

"The fact that someone is abundantly clear in several places if someone ever went to a war zone," Sullivan said. "If you could see this service member's DD214, it shows on there that he or she has overseas duty, got a medal for his service, and he's in the actual date service lines on their DD214. You have a shiny desk. And most VA (Hospitals) know they're supposed to provide five years of free healthcare to Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans starting from the date of their last discharge from active duty."

The VA provides "free healthcare for veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998 for any illness possibly related to their service," and veterans have five years from the date of their discharge to apply for it, according to the agency's website.

VA spokesperson Sue Hopkins said records are commonly updated after a veteran returns to the United States from serving overseas.

"It's a good idea to ensure that we can receive the benefits that they have earned and to process claims as quickly as possible," Hopkins said. "But it is not unusual for there to be delays because the system does not have full documentation. Does not have proof of certain activities or presents in certain areas."

Steppe's DD214 clearly lists his

service in Iraq from Jan. 6, 2009 to Jan. 10, 2006 in a remarks section and the decorations, medals and citations section of the document. Steppe is a member of the Iraq Campaign Medal and the Overseas Service Medal.

Of the 1,545,042 United States soldiers deployed to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, 786,400 are currently serving in the military, and the VA is treating 508,152 veterans, according to a document prepared by Veterans for Common Sense and obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

"Out of those, half million, 253,000, or 46 percent, have symptoms, signs and identified conditions," Sullivan said.

Steppe said he began visiting the East Chicago VA Hospital in November 2008, where he complained about back pain for more than a year. After multiple X-rays taken at the VA, Steppe said, doctors told him he had "mild arthritis" in his back because his shoulder blades, and they gave him medicine for his shoes to better support his back.

Steppe did not believe the "mild arthritis" diagnosis. The situation worsened to the point where it would take him about 10 to 15 more days just to get out of bed, he said. "I was walking, and I couldn't no longer attend college classes or work part time," he said.

Steppe described his ailment as a constant, dull pain in his back that becomes sharp when he moves certain ways.

After visiting a chiropractor, Steppe was told that he should get a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) test because the chiropractor noticed something was "really, really wrong." After he applied for Medicaid, Steppe had the MRI in October 2009 at the Valley Hospital, which revealed "multiple lesions" on his spine, Demetra said.

"Since then our life has been completely turned upside down," Demetra said. "He's had so many tests, bone biopsies, and he's been hospitalized so many times."

Bone and bone marrow samples were sent to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology when local pathologists could not identify the bone lesions, and the institute issued a diagnosis of chronic recurrent multifocal osteomyelitis (CRMO), Demetra said.

"(CRMO) is an auto-inflammatory (not autoimmune) disorder that mostly affects children," according to bonebiopsy.org. "It comprises periodic bone pain, fever and the appearance of multiple bone lesions that can occur in any skeletal site. The origin of this disease is unclear, but genetics appears to play a role. The clinical and radiological features on the disease are variable and the diagnosis can be difficult."

"From getting an MRI within a month's time my bones started to deteriorate so badly, they started to collapse, and my arms and legs were going numb on me," Steppe said. "I had to go to the hospital and get emergency surgery so I wouldn't be paralyzed from the neck down."

Upon further investigation, Steppe and his wife discovered some research that explored a possible link between strange illnesses and depleted uranium (DU). "DU is the material left over after uranium is enriched, and the most



See R1BMS3, A14

radioactive isotopes, U-235, are removed and used for fuel rods during fusion at nuclear power plants or to make warheads. The remaining material, U-238, which is the majority of material left in the form of a heavy metal, is more dense than lead that, the Army says, "worked well as armor-piercing projectiles."

Steppe said he came in direct contact with DU for much of his time in Iraq as he was a gunner on a Bradley Fighting Vehicle. "The arms works great," Steppe said. "It melts through steel like butter."

Hopkins said the Department of Defense and the VA work closely to "assess environmental hazards that may have affected veterans." No specific diseases or cancers have been associated with exposure to DU, but the VA, which

Iraq War veteran Infantry Sgt. Mark Steppe, his wife Amy Demetra and their sons Taylor, right, and Jack stand in front of their Staten Avenue home. Steppe is suffering from a rare disease that a Veterans Affairs hospital first misdiagnosed and still cannot explain.

MICHAEL SEDON/THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

# W3: Responsible Journalism – Enterprise

## Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Ridgewood News

## Iraq War Veterans Seek Clues to Mystery Illness

# Michael Sedon

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Hackensack PD: looking for leadership

Direction of department remains uncertain

BY MARK J. BONAMO  
Managing Editor

Eggs over easy may go over well with customers at the Annex Diner in Hackensack. But during a recent conversation over coffee, Capt. Tomas Padilla, the acting officer in charge of the Hackensack Police Department, was reminded that when it comes to leading the turmoil-racked department, nothing is going over easy.

Padilla was approached by a man whose son is one of 22 current and retired Hackensack police officers who have filed lawsuits since June 2009 in federal and state court against suspended Chief Charles "Ken" Zisa and other superior officers.

"[My son] speaks very well about you. He said the force is finally becoming harmonized," he said.

"Let's hope it lasts. We don't want any more walking along the river," the concerned father added with a laugh.

The father was making a humorous reference to a serious situation: the alleged retaliation experienced by city police officers who failed to support Chief Zisa's candidacies or those that he favored by means of demotion and reassignment to punitive beats.

Whether paternal or otherwise, the Hackensack Police Department is looking for leadership. It stands now on the brink

of a crisis that was caused by alleged actions of the force's top command structure, and which resulted in the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office assuming oversight of the department almost eight months ago.

In recent interviews, a range of voices from both inside and outside of Hackensack have expressed concerns over the future direction of the police force. Their perspectives differ, but their goal is ostensibly the same: to return the department to the straight and narrow, and to avoid a return to the political mire that has recently engulfed it.

**Acting officer in charge, consultant look to future**

Padilla, 46, who has served 23 years on the city police force, became acting officer in charge upon Chief Zisa's initial arrest and suspension in April. When asked about the future direction of the approximately 107-member police department, Padilla clearly expressed his desire for a leadership role in dealing with current problems, including issues regarding the force's politicization.

"I think I can fix it," Padilla said, noting that he left his position on the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders when he was appointed acting officer in charge. "When I came on this job, I wanted to be chief. I'm not just a freeholder. I'm a police officer."

However, it is Padilla's political past that led to considerable criticism when he was named to temporarily head the department. Included among Padilla's political allies are Chief Zisa and former Bergen County Democratic Organization Chairman Joseph Ferrigno, whose October 2009 federal fraud conviction was vacated in July after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Padilla is also listed as a defendant in some of the lawsuits filed since last year by Hackensack police officers, including one that asserts that members of the force's leadership machine exerted political pressure on the officers.

Padilla declined comment on the lawsuits. However, he defended his record, stating that he had always kept his two careers separate.

"My duty as a police officer never took a back seat to politics," Padilla said. "The political aspect of it just came from being involved in the community... I didn't want to be a freeholder... Joe [Ferrigno] said 'Why not you?' It was because I think I had shown my ability to be a good member of the party and of the community."

"I'm not here to critique the recent past, but police work evolves," he said. "A quarter of our department is named in those lawsuits. It permeates beyond

me. But as long as I'm in this position... I take it very seriously, and I'm very humbled by it."

"This took a long time to develop. It's going to take a long time to fix," Padilla added. "I don't believe I'll be here for that long. It depends."

The reconstruction of the Hackensack Police Department will also depend in part on the input of the Rodgers Group LLC, a private public safety consulting group hired by Hackensack's city government in August to work closely with the police department and the Prosecutor's Office to review and revise the city's police ordinance, the department's rules and regulations, and its standard operating procedures.

The Rodgers Group is also helping the police department attain accreditation from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. Under this program, the force must meet 112 standards to achieve accredited status. This effort will also aid the department's remodeling.

According to Frank Rodgers, who heads the consulting group, a critical element in the effective remodeling of a police department is accountability.

"There is a reasonable expectation on the part of the public that the police department that they employ is operating as professionally as possible," said Rodgers, who retired as the deputy superintendent of the New Jersey State Police in 2007.

"Regardless of whoever fills each police rank, these roles have to be specifically defined," added Rodgers, noting such clarity helps to reduce litigation. "Ethics are the foundation of the whole thing. The accreditation process brings transparency to bear not just once, but on a regular basis."

**Veteran NJ police leaders present alternatives**

Veteran officers from both the Hackensack Police Department and other New Jersey municipal police forces have strongly questioned the leadership of the city's force in light of recent events.

William Wilks, the former Verona police chief, was also head of the Essex County police academy for six years during the 1990s. Now a private investigator, Wilks has been working closely with Caldwell-based attorney Patrick Toscano Jr., who has been representing several of the Hackensack police officers.

According to Wilks, 47, the breakdown in leadership in the Hackensack police force is something he never saw during his more than 27 years in law enforcement.

"When you have a mass exodus of mid-level and upper-level managers and supervisors, you have to ask yourself 'Why exactly did they leave?'" said Wilks, referring to the manpower issues created by approximately 16 retirements in the last 16 months, according to numbers provided by city officials. "It's absolutely important to those who remain, especially to the person who is in overall charge, to make a determination as to why did these people leave?"

Going forward, Wilks, who served as Verona's top cop for 12 years, spoke to what is needed to retain Hackensack police officers despite its continuing problems.

"It's all about being fair and objective. That's the key," said Wilks, referring to the state Attorney General guidelines that he believes were consistently violated by members of the Hackensack Police Department, a con-

SEE LEADERSHIP, PAGE 5

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# Nutley Sun

## Board Sees Value in Re-Hiring Retirees Part-Time

# Meghan Grant

## Board sees value in re-hiring retirees for part-time work

BY MEGHAN GRANT  
of History Sun

With employees of the Public Safety, Public Works, and Parks & Recreation departments on notice of possible layoffs and police contracts still in negotiations, the township has been hiring back recent retirees in multiple departments, including creating a position in Public Safety, the commissioners confirm.

The Board of Commissioners justifies the measures as a cost-saver.

A few months ago, Revenue & Finance Commissioner Tom Evans' presentation forecasts an even more difficult budget year in 2011, due in part to the state-imposed 2 percent cap on municipalities, which, as Evans estimated, promised little property tax relief to residents. The commissioners have discussed how the fiscal crisis has impacted their departments.

The gloomy financial forecast, however, hasn't prevented the township from hiring, and as a former Nutley municipal employee and current personnel member pointed out, an outstanding policy contract still remains.

"You can't be in negotiations for contracts while you rehire retirees," Joann Marinaccio, a retired police dispatcher, told the Sun. "Don't say you have no money when you're hiring your friends back."

She added she'd like to see individuals who are in need a job being hired by Nutley, instead of those who have retired with pensions.

The Sun attempted to confirm the number of 2010 Nutley hirings and retirements, but the township has yet to honor an Open Public Record Act request filed Sept. 9.

As the Nutley departments hire, a large unknown expense remains outstanding for Public Safety concerning this year's salaries. The Nutley police have been without a contract since the previous contracts expired in 2009, meaning any awarded increases would apply retroactively and would also apply this budget year. The police union and township officials have re-entered arbitration after the board failed to vote on a contract in July.

The contract would have translated to a combined 5.5 percent increase for 2009 and 2010. The outcome of the next arbitration process is not guaranteed to be either higher or lower than the first.

"It's done on an individual basis," Mayor Joann Cocchiola said about hiring retirees. "Sometimes this situation works."

She added the retired employees are familiar with the aspects of the job and hiring them part-time can be cost-effective. "I see value in it," she said.

Her Public Affairs Department will hire a recently retired employee back at a part-time rate on a temporary basis, the mayor said.

The person will work approximately 10 hours weekly during the transition of job duties to a current township employee, she added.

Nutley police dispatcher Darlene Walsh criticized a tabled ordinance at the last commission meeting that would have established the position of a fire sub-code official, paid at a rate of \$21 per hour. Evans, whose department would employ the official, said the position would be part-time like the other township electrical and plumbing inspectors, and would not receive medical benefits or a pension. Currently, the employee is with the township on a provisional contract and was not advertised with the civil service, he added.

"Why create another salary if we have guys across the street who can do it?" Walsh asked, referring to the Nutley Fire Department. Evans agreed that it is possible the duties could be performed by a current firefighter.

"It's a question of workload," Evans said. "A significant amount has to be done, and the fire department has their hands full dealing with fire prevention. It's consistent with what other towns are doing."

The employee held recent-

ly retired from the Public Safety Department as a fire inspector and sub-code official. The code department has also hired a retiree from the Public Works Department and

Parks & Recreation retiree, according to Marinaccio. While payroll documents confirm the two are employed at an hourly rate, Evans could not be reached

to confirm if the worker had been hired by the code department. Public Works has hired one

SEE RETIREES, PAGE 25

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# the MONTCLAIR TIMES

Thursday, October 7, 2010 Vol. 134, No. 41 NEWSSTAND \$250 www.montclairtimes.com



## Schools fall short

BY GEORGE WIRT  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Montclair School District officials are pleading to take immediate corrective action after more than half of the district's schools failed to meet federally mandated student achievement levels in the most recent round of standardized testing.

District officials acknowledged that Montclair High School, Mt. Helvon Middle School, along with Headrick Road (now Bullock School), Edgemoor and Hillside elementary schools, did not achieve state-mandated benchmarks set under the federal government's "No Child Left Behind" legislation in language arts or mathematics.

Officials said the schools fell short in two student categories that included special education students and economically disadvantaged students.

For Montclair High School, and Glenfield, Mt. Helvon and Ransaunder middle schools, it was the second consecutive year the schools missed the Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP, target set by the state.

According to district officials, test results showed that students at Northeast and Wabbling elementary schools, and Glenfield and Ransaunder middle schools, did not achieve AYP.

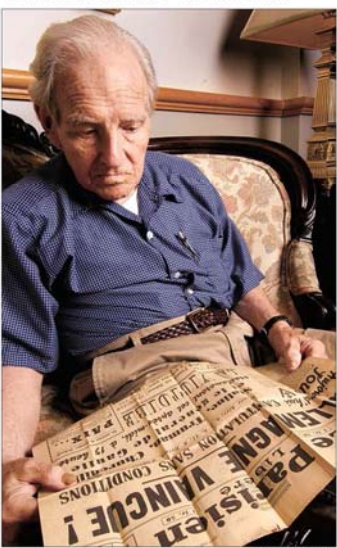
While the district has 11 public schools, students at Nuhama, a K through 2nd grade elementary school, are not subject to standardized tests that are included in the NCLB analysis.

Schools Superintendent Frank Alvarez said the district has been able to pinpoint the specific areas in which the district's students fell short, and which students were having problems. He said the district will move quickly to provide additional support or instruction to help those youngsters "master the necessary content."

The Board of Education is expected to detail those measures at one of its public meetings in November, when it presents its annual district-wide academic achievement report. The state Department of Education is expected to release the full details of the results of the statewide testing it conducted last spring in early November.

"We have identified who the kids are who are struggling,"

## VETERANS' VOICES



Montclair resident David Sivewright was in Paris on May 8, 1945, the day this edition of Le Parisien was published. Sivewright shared his memories of service with The Montclair Times, along with several others who served in the Armed Forces. Read their stories in a four-part series beginning today on page C1.

## Budget fails

Council again votes down the 2010 municipal budget

BY TERENCE T. McDONALD  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Even a last-minute addition of \$200,000 — payment in lieu of taxes for an apartment complex at 11 Pine Street — that brought the proposed municipal tax hike into the single digits wasn't enough to sway council members Roger Terry, Cary Altick, and Bruce Baskerville. All three voted against the budget, as they did during last week's special council meeting.

It was the second time in two weeks that the council voted down the budget, which now comes with a 9.6 percent tax hike.

Opponents of the spending plan said at the council's Oct. 5 meeting that municipal officials have not fully investigated a host of ideas that could lower taxes, while those in favor of adopting the budget slammed the opposition for their "reckless" action.

## NEW ATTORNEY



Karasick in as township attorney  
A2

## SPORTS



Mounties lose to East Orange  
B1

## READ ON, LEARN MORE

Robber: 'This is not a game. I will shoot' as  
C9

Rosanne Cash will be signing, not singing  
C9

No more Aetna for Mountainside  
A9

## Terry out as deputy mayor

Council unanimously approves Kathryn Weller-Demming as replacement

BY TERENCE T. McDONALD  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

The Township Council this week voted unanimously to name Councilwoman at Large Kathryn Weller-Demming as Montclair's new deputy mayor, with members citing a desire to rotate the ceremonial position.

Councilman at Large Roger Terry has held the title, which is bestowed by council members and not voters, since the current council took office in July 2008.

Mayor Jerry Fried noted that past councils have had different traditions regarding the deputy mayor position. The council split the title among two council members, while the previous council let former Deputy Mayor or Albertine Jenkins remain in the position for all four years.

"It's important for us to split



KATHRYN WELLER-DEMMING AND ROGER TERRY  
PHOTO BY PHIL CANTON

this," Fried said at the council's Oct. 5 meeting.

Terry did not object to the change, saying only that he wanted the position originally because he received "over 1,000 votes" in the 2008 municipal election, making him the top

vote-getter that year. He also objected to 4th Ward Councilwoman Rosanne Baskerville's contention — which she made this week in an interview with The Times — that Terry refused to be re-elected.

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Veterans' Voices

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**W4: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
News Writing**



# Glen Rock Gazette™

MARCH 19, 2010

NOR'EASTER

## Downed trees, power lines slow recovery



BY JANE M. DALTON  
Correspondent

The fierce nor'easter that roared through the region over the weekend wreaked havoc in Glen Rock, uprooting trees, downing power lines and flooding borough and county roads.

Early on Sunday morning, 70 percent of borough homes were without power. Enormous trees lay strewn across many of the borough's main thoroughfares and side streets, making roads impassable. Live wires snapped by those trees created dangerous conditions for nearby pedestrians, motorists and emergency response teams.

"It's a mess," said Mayor John van Keuren on Monday morning. "I don't have an exact number on the trees that went down, but based on estimates from the police and the Department of Public Works, there are 40 to 50 down. Many of them seemed healthy, but a combination of wet soil and strong winds caught them."

According to the National Weather Service, winds gusted to more than 60 miles per hour at the peak of the storm late Saturday night. Over the course of the weekend, approximately four inches of rain were dumped on the area, which was already saturated with water from snow that melted during the previous week's stretch of warm, sunny weather.

On Sunday evening, Governor Chris Christie declared a state of emergency, and Bergen County Executive Dennis McNerney did

CINDY PROBERT/THE GLEN ROCK GAZETTE

SEE STORM PAGE 2

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### COMING UP

#### Budget preview

The public is invited to attend a school budget hearing preview on March 22 as part of the regular Board of Education meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Dario Valcarcel, Jr. Media Center at Glen Rock High School. Due to the

budget preparation schedule mandated by the state, the actual school budget public hearing will take place at 7 p.m. on March 23. Because that date falls in the middle of the district's spring recess, this preview is being offered to accommodate residents.

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# W4: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – News Writing

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# Glen Rock Gazette

## Downed Trees, Power Lines Slow Recovery

# Cindy Probert Jane M. Dalton

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Montclair firefighters help a motorist who was stuck in the snow on Bloomfield Avenue near Orange Road. A Dec. 26 blizzard covered Montclair in over 20 inches of snow.

## Nearly two feet deep

### Blizzard slams Montclair with wind-blasted snow

BY TANYA DROBNES  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

All of those goose feathers pecked in Mike Yellin's gloves couldn't have kept his fingertips from freezing.

Yellin, who lives on Backingham Road, spent a good part of the day Tuesday digging a 75-foot path to his garage.

**Inside**  
Water runs out for as Wednesday's collection.

It took a lot of effort to get back there," said Yellin, clad in multiple layers of T-shirts, hooded sweatshirts and a bulky parka so he could shove away the remnants of Sunday's blizzard.

"It definitely was massive," he

"They were in over their heads. They were stuck all over the place."

— Rob Bianco, Superintendent of Public Works and Parks

said of the blizzard that dumped more than 20 inches of snow on Montclair, prompting early morning digging after the blizzard departed Monday and throughout Tuesday.

Crews all day Monday plowed major roadways, creating emergency vehicles to access portions of Montclair, but the snow's weight and depth caused some trucks to break down, a municipal official said.

Out of a fleet of about two dozen pickups and 14-foot plow trucks — many made in the early

he said.

"A lot of people got stuck," Bianco said, referring to about 60 vehicles that were caught in snowbanks. "They were in over their heads. They were stuck all over the place."

The severity and length of the blizzard, as well as force winds, also made snow-clearing efforts difficult.

Harsh 50-miles-per-hour winds pushed light powdery snow back into areas that had just been plowed, noted Bianco.

Ice-free driving temperatures created hard layers of snow and ice during and after the storm, officially designated a blizzard, which differs from a standard winter storm due to its high winds and low visibility.

Out of a fleet of about two dozen pickups and 14-foot plow trucks — many made in the early

## Duckett guilty of murder

### Jury also convicts Duckett on two weapons charges

BY DAN PROCHILLO,  
TANYA DROBNES and  
TERRENCE T. McDONALD  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Leonel Paul just got through the worse few weeks of his life. "I couldn't sleep at night," said Paul, who watched last Thursday, Dec. 23, as a jury in state Superior Court found Kenneth Duckett guilty of first-degree murder in the 2008 slaying of Paul's daughter, Monica Paul, in the YMCA Family Center on Gladridge Avenue.

Leonel Paul woke from his nightmares with tears, and every day since Dec. 1, endured sitting through the murder trial of Duckett, who Paul said even glanced back at him in the Newark courtroom, with a slight smile.

But Leonel Paul believes the judicial system gave Duckett what he deserved.

"The system didn't let me down," Leonel Paul, 52, told The Times.

The 39-year-old convict showed no emotion as the verdict was read.

Duckett, who was also convicted of two weapons offenses, shot and killed Paul, his ex-girlfriend, inside the Y on June 28, 2008, in the presence of their 11-year-old daughter, Essence. Their 4-year-old son, Noah, was in the next room taking a swimming class.

In convicting Duckett of murder, the 12 member jury decided that he either knowingly or purposely tried to kill Paul, or do enough damage that she died as a result of her injuries.

Thomas Ashley, Duckett's attorney, said in his opening statement and in comments to The Times that Duckett was guilty of manslaughter, not premeditated murder. Duckett, who took the stand on Dec. 16 to testify on his behalf, argued that he doesn't remember shooting Paul, saying, "I blacked out."

After four days of deliberations, the jury rejected this defense.

The timing of the verdict may be grounds for appeal, Ashley said The Times.

The verdict came in at 5:52 p.m. on the day before Christmas Eve, which Ashley said "impacted" the jury's decision.

Less than an hour before, the jury told Judge Joseph Casati



STAFF PHOTO BY GEORGE WART

Kenneth Duckett in handcuffs in state Superior Court in Newark last week, moments after being convicted of first-degree murder.

that they were at an impasse, unable to agree on a verdict. Casati instructed them to continue deliberating and attempt to reach a consensus.

"Obviously there was a period where the jury was deliberating

and could not reach a verdict," Ashley said, adding that he was "disappointed" by the jury's decision.

Faces County Assistant Prosecutor Gina Iosini said she is happy for the Paul family and hopes

the verdict will help them move on.

"I am sure it's nice for the Pauls," Iosini said.

After the conviction came in,

QUICKLY NEWS

## YEAR IN REVIEW

The Montclair Times looks back on some of this year's memorable quotes.



A3

## FIRST NIGHT



Check out who's performing at First Night 2011

D5

## READ ON, LEARN MORE



Montclairites make New Year's resolutions

C1

MHS swim teams off to good starts

B1

Volunteers needed for county LGBTQ advisory board

A6

Council increases water rates

A2

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## Duckett Guilty of Murder

# Dan Prochilo Tanya Drobness Terrence T. McDonald



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Villager nominated for Emmy. A3

Sizzling numbers  
Record turnout again for the Ridgewood Run. C1

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## A life cut short, a life well lived

### Anne Zusy dies at 58

BY HELE DAILY AND  
JOYCE VENEZIA SUSS  
Staff Writers

Councilwoman Anne Zusy, 58, died on Thursday evening, July 1, of complications from lung cancer. She had battled breast cancer about 16 years ago. "Nobody loved Ridgewood more than Anne," said her husband, Al Ortiz. "She loved helping its people and making it a better place to live and raise children. She was very proud of her work for the community, and extremely proud of her children, Alexia and Katie. Arrangements were being held by Ivory Funeral Home, located at 232 Franklin Ave. in Ridgewood. Details were not set.



Anne Zusy

until her death. In between, she and her family resided in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. A journalist by profession, Zusy worked for many years at The New York Times and later served as managing editor of The Village Gazette. Before being elected to the council, Zusy was an active volunteer in Ridgewood, and was instrumental in raising funds and convincing the village to establish the Community Center at the newly renovated Village Conservatory's Open Days Program. She was named Volunteer of the Year by the council in 2006. "We are terribly saddened by the loss of our friend and colleague," said Mayor David Brinley. "Anne has been an invaluable asset to this community with her passion and wisdom, and our great sympathy, thoughts and prayers are extended to her and her family. Among her many volunteer activities, Zusy headed the Ridgewood Youth Council, Youth Advisory Committee and Community Center Advisory Board, and served as president of the Federation of Gardeners in Midtown. Her own garden was featured three times on the Garden at the newly renovated Village Conservatory's Open Days Program. She was named Volunteer of the Year by the council in 2006. "We are terribly saddened by the loss of our friend and colleague," said Mayor David Brinley. "Anne has been an invaluable asset to this community with her passion and wisdom, and our great sympathy, thoughts and prayers are extended to her and her family. Among her many volunteer activities, Zusy headed the Ridgewood Youth Council, Youth Advisory Committee and Community Center Advisory Board, and served as president of the Federation of Gardeners in Midtown. Her own garden was featured three times on the Garden at the newly renovated Village Conservatory's Open Days Program. She was named Volunteer of the Year by the council in 2006.

### SMALL WORLD



Erk Brendl and his son, Ethan, who hail from Kentucky, walked through Ridgewood on their way from Washington, D.C. to Manhattan to provide them with directions, water and sometimes a shower. The father and son have been speaking with local people along their route on behalf of the Diabetes Exercise and Sports Association. "The worst part of the trip is the heat, and the best part is the people we meet along the way," Erk Brendl said. To follow their walk, visit [walk4dip.org](http://walk4dip.org).

### MUNICIPAL BUDGET

## Village workers get pink slips

BY MICHAEL SEDON  
Staff Writer

Despite 27 municipal layoffs approved by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission, the village manager said he expects there will be "no major changes" to services in Ridgewood. "However, procedures of the village will change, and that may impact the timing of services or the availability," Village Manager Ken Gabbett said in an e-mail Tuesday. Gabbett said other changes include hours of operation on a complete list of the positions cut from any department. He did say that the information "is being prepared, and more details will follow."

## Status of RFP unclear

BY JASON BRAFF  
Staff Writer



As Graydon Pool officials and supporters vote the sandy-bottomed pool for its improved water clarity before it opens this weekend, the status of a request for proposals (RFP) regarding the 80-year-old pool remains unclear. At last week's Village Council meeting, Jane Mancuso, vice president of the Ridgewood Pool Project (RPP), asked why the council had not issued the RFP to solicit ideas and concepts from professionals about possible upgrades and renovation. Mancuso said the RFP had been prepared and ready to go since March, but had been introduced by the council. "What will the future bring? None of us knows for sure, but instead of waiting for the next problem to occur, why not be proactive and learn what options are out there?" Mancuso asked the council. "My request is that you continue to move forward with the RFP process. It costs no money."

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# The Ridgewood News

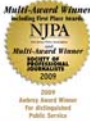
## A Life Cut Short, a Life Well Lived

## Staff

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SEPTEMBER 23, 2010



CARLSTADT RUTHERFORD LYNDHURST THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER NORTH ARLINGTON EAST RUTHERFORD

## Free-for-all?



A police officer attempts to control the droves of pedestrians going to and from the New Meadowlands Stadium. Parking is posing a problem on game days. Game goers are parking where they can and walking illegally across highways.

## New stadium causes new parking woes, safety issues

**BY KELLY NICHOLAIDES**  
Staff Writer

Game ticket holders cannot pay cash at the entrance. As a result, fans must take a bus to five hours before kick-off. But waiting parking permits face challenges. If you build it, they will come. But those who never bought parking permits face challenges. Parking at the \$1.6-billion New Meadowlands, where Giants and Jets fans are all leaving at once, parking permits are sold out, can be tricky and time-consuming, depending on where you park and take a shuttle bus. Both the Giants and Jets require pre-paid parking permits to get onto stadium property.



Frustrated football fans, tired of waiting for shuttle buses, climb fences and cross the highway in order to walk to off-site parking lots, often risking their lives. Police ticket approximately 5-10 people every week.

## Report: Water sale was bad deal

**BY BRIAN ANDERSON**  
Staff Writer

In 2004, the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) sold the borough of North Arlington for less than it was worth and the borough has seen a 365 percent increase since 2005 on annual minimum water rates, according to a letter sent from PVWC in

2009 to the council. Peter A. Scamlatari of the law firm Eastwood, Scamlatari & Steinberg came before the mayor and council at the Sept. 18 meeting and summarized his legal report for the council. He said his investigation, he found that the borough was "over-egged" to sell the system and said the borough did not receive fair value for the system.

## Area crime on the decline

**BY MICHAEL LAMENDOLA**  
Managing Editor

has gone down as well, 4.6 percent in 2009.

**Public Safety**

With some local police departments having fewer officers on the street coupled with the area still under the grasp of a deep economic recession, crime happened to decline, in some cases significantly, in all five South Bergen coverage areas in 2009 compared to 2008. In total, there were 273 fewer crimes reported last year by local police departments compared to 2008.

The statistics are part of the recently released annual FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program, the most complete statistics provided to the Bureau from nearly 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide, including city, county, state and federal entities. Overall, the trend locally mirrors that of the national crime statistics, with a 3.3 percent decline last year in the economy, he agreed, active year it has gone down nationwide. For the seventh year in a row, national property crime

### 2009 South Bergenite area Uniform Crime Report

	Carlstadt	East Rutherford	Lyndhurst	North Arlington	Rutherford
<b>POLICE PERSONNEL</b>					
2009	31	33	47	31	39
2008	28	41	53	30	40
<b>TOTAL CRIMES</b>					
2009	189	294	354	234	394
2008	162	240	303	192	305
<b>MURDER</b>					
2009	0	0	0	0	0
2008	0	0	0	0	0
<b>FORCIBLE RAPE</b>					
2009	2	0	0	0	0
2008	1	0	0	1	0
<b>ROBBERY</b>					
2009	3	0	0	4	2
2008	1	0	6	4	1
<b>AGGRAVATED ASSAULT</b>					
2009	5	5	3	9	9
2008	6	7	5	7	4
<b>BURGLARY</b>					
2009	15	23	43	22	29
2008	20	14	29	35	36
<b>LARCENY</b>					
2009	142	223	265	182	327
2008	117	168	254	125	240
<b>NY TRAFFIC</b>					
2009	22	43	34	17	27
2008	17	31	19	20	19
<b>JAZZON</b>					
2009	1	0	2	5	0
2008	0	2	1	2	0

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**Day care costs soaring**  
Parents deal with costs equal to community college

**A3**

**Lost boys**  
Griffins need to find their way

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# South Bergenite

Free-for-All?

# Kelly Nicholaides



MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

# Leonard is no longer police chief...or is he?

BY JEFF FRANKEL  
of Bloomfield Life

Following a paperwork foul up, Mark Leonard, who up until June 17 was Bloomfield's chief of police, has been demoted back to captain, yet has concurrently been appointed officer in charge of the department.

There are five captains, there needs to be someone in charge," said Carr. "He is not the chief. He sets policy, goes to crime scenes, he keeps the badge, the car, the office but he is not the chief until such time as the courts determine who is the chief."

The change at the top was triggered by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission, which recently notified the township saying Leonard's February 2009 appoint-

ment was not valid. The commission said Leonard's test scores were not certified until April 5, roughly two months after his appointment, while the township failed to provide reasons for Leonard's selection over Capt. Christopher Goul (who scored higher on the prerequisite civil service exam), according to documents obtained by Bloomfield Life.

Peter J. Lyden, III, communications manager for the New Jersey Civil Service Commission in Trenton, said the township needed to provide a reason for its selection of Leonard over Goul, who scored 84 points higher than Leonard. A call to the police desk Friday morning asking for the chief was transferred to a voicemail in Leonard's office. Leonard could

not be reached for comment. During a June 17 council conference (rescheduled from June 14 due to lack of quorum) the panel met in closed session to discuss the matter. Afterwards, Mayor Raymond McCarthy said a council majority had voted 4-3 to table the discussion, allowing Township Attorney Brian Aloia an opportunity to investigate legal opinions. The individual vote tallies were not released.

Carr said the township tried to correct the discrepancies with the Civil Service Commission without success. Carr said that if the council had passed a resolution at last Thursday's meeting naming a person in charge, then the problem "would have been fixed."

The Essex County Prosecutor's Office will not step in to control the police department barring a crime, said Kathleen Carter, prosecutor's office spokesperson. "We will only be involved if there were allegations of criminal activity," said Carter. "Our understanding of the situation is this is an administration matter that can be handled locally."

Meanwhile, Councilwoman Patricia Spychala maintains Leonard remains chief. Spychala says the fact that the prosecutor's office declined to get involved despite a request from McCarthy shows Leonard is still in charge.

"He (the mayor) must have a room in there with his name on it," she said. McCarthy said he did contact the prosecutor's office, and it "mistakenly" said the decision not to investigate was political.

"It's not what we're trying to do," said McCarthy, adding he also placed a call to the New Jersey Attorney General. "We're trying to get a legal means to this solution."

It has been a rough tenure for Leonard from the get-go. The process of replacing the retiring Michael Sisco was marred by controversy when officers affiliated with Police Benevolent Association (PBA) #32 alleged Goul was unfairly passed over for the job despite scoring highest on the prerequisite state civil service exam. But this contradicted the council's right to pick from the three highest scores, a/k/a the "rule of three."

Select council members have also been accused of meeting privately with Leonard prior to his appointment. Opponents claim the meeting violated the Open Public Meetings Act, commonly known as the "Sunshine Law," whereas the aforementioned council members maintain the meeting was not improper.



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## To Your HEALTH



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Some things to remember when sitting are: keep both feet flat on the floor. If your feet don't reach, adjust the chair or use a footrest. Don't slouch or lean forward. Sitting erect puts undue stress on the spine; you should try to recline to 110 degrees. Get up often and stretch. Maintaining good posture will reduce your chances of developing neck and back problems among other ailments.

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# Bloomfield Life

## Leonard Is No Longer Chief... or Is He?

# Jeff Frankel



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## Chief Zisa out

### Former chief faces fraud charges; BC prosecutor oversees HPD

BY MARK J. BONAMO  
Managing Editor

After months of turmoil within the Hackensack Police Department, the head of the city's thin blue line has been removed.

In a stunning turn of events, Police Chief Charles "Ken" Zisa turned himself in to Bergen County authorities in Paramus April 29 according to a police source after he was charged with insurance fraud stemming from a 2008 automobile accident.

The following day, Bergen County Prosecutor John Molinelli announced that a monitor picked by his office would oversee the 107-member department, the county's largest.

At the same time, City Manager Stephen Lo Iacono installed Capt. Tomas Padilla, who is also a member of the Bergen County Freeholder Board, as acting officer in charge. Some residents, considering Padilla's strong political ties to both Zisa and to county Democrats, are already criticizing the move.

As the charges against Zisa go forward, Hackensack residents still have more questions than answers. With the sudden end of the law enforcement and political career of arguably the most prominent member of the city's political



DARUS AMOS/STAFF PHOTO

During a press conference on April 30, Bergen County Prosecutor John Molinelli announces that his office will oversee the Hackensack Police Department following the arrest of Chief Charles "Ken" Zisa. Hackensack Mayor Martin Tommes, City Manager Stephen Lo Iacono, Councilman Jorge Meneses and Police Capt. Tomas Padilla join Molinelli at the podium.

SEE POLICE PAGE 2

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#### Bubble blowing

Parker Students attempt to break a world record.

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# W4: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – News Writing

## First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# Hackensack Chronicle

## Chief Zisa Out

## Mark J. Bonamo

**W5: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
Coverage of Government  
Art Weissman Memorial Award**

# EDGEWATER VIEW

THE WEEKLY EXCLUSIVELY FOR EDGEWATER

www.edgewaterview.com

OCTOBER 8, 2010



PHOTO BY KEVIN RILEY

## Leonia Oktoberfest helps those in need

Leonia Oktoberfest was held to benefit a medical relief mission to Haiti and as a political event. Happy Leonia residents enjoy food and company. SEE PAGE 3

## MUNICIPAL FINANCES

### Edgewater banks excess money for a rainy day

Surplus can be applied for future projects

BY MAXIM ALMENAS  
Staff Writer

**EDGEWATER** — When officials were formulating the current budget, they decided to look at older projects completed under cost, which left a reserve surplus that could be applied to future projects.

After concluding there was in excess of \$1.3 million, the borough created an ordinance to appropriate the capital reserves.

The ordinance is a new appropriation taking the old capital reserve funds, which were canceled out of the old ordinances and reapplied to the new appropriation ordinance, so that the borough could purchase big ticket items like a truck for the Department of Public Works, a new rescue truck for the fire department and other equipment.

Of the trucks that would be replaced, one of the fire trucks is approximately 20 years old, while the DPW truck is about 15 years old.

A pump at the sewer station,

SEE BANKS, PAGE 5

W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Coverage of Government, Art Weissman Memorial Award

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# Edgewater View

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CARLSTADT RUTHERFORD LYNDBURST THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER NORTH ARLINGTON EAST RUTHERFORD

**BUDGETS**

**NA only town to apply for state aid**

BY BRIAN ANDERSON  
Staff Writer

Officials in the borough of North Arlington hope aid provided from the state to municipalities in a dire financial state could help alleviate some tax woes and help the state provide the borough with money to lessen the tax burden on residents. If not, the borough may be forced to lay off members of the police department, reduce services like garbage collection and shut down borough offices.

The borough has applied for \$633,410 under the state's Transitional Aid program, which if granted in full, would reduce municipal tax bills by approximately \$180,000 on the average home assessed at \$180,000. It would also prevent layoffs and cuts in service.

The transitional aid program is aimed at municipalities that have severe structural financial problems. Officials point to the closing of a major source of revenue, the barge, increased garbage pick-up costs and the lawsuit brought by the borough and Cherokee as reasons the borough is in the current hard financial state.

"If we get the state aid, it will substantially reduce the impact on everybody's tax bill," said Council President Richard Hughes.

One of the stipulations of applying for aid is municipalities are required to show reductions in costs and spending and service modifications. Hughes said layoffs have not come yet, but a copy of the application, obtained by the South Bergenite, shows it would consider laying off an employee of the DPW, an employee of the municipal court and the members of the police department if aid is not received. The layoffs would save the borough \$750,000, according to the application.

Right now, the DPW has 10 employees, the court has three and the police department employs 51 people, which includes officers and support staff.

Other cost cutting reductions include reducing overall spending and leaving projects unfinished, cutting trash pick-up to one day and ending business trash pick-up, cutting down municipal offices at various times and ending unnecessary medical transports for senior citizens. Cutting these services would save the borough \$620,000, according to the application.

According to the transitional

SEE STATE AID, PAGE 1A

**East meets West at Felician**

BY KELLY NICHOLAIDES  
Staff Writer

**RUTHERFORD**

In their traditional grey monk suits with shaved heads and wearing robes, they've walked Park Avenue, listened to the concert in Lincoln Park and played football in Lyndhurst—a part of their introduction to the Western world. The monks are a group of three Korean monks and four nuns from Dongguk University in South Korea, and are staying at Felician College in Rutherford while studying English as a Second Language and a course in Buddhism in the Western world.

They live under a rule of 250 precepts. And on a typical day, they're up at 4 a.m. for meditation, have breakfast at 6 a.m., and have another meditation class three times a day and do agricultural work outside the monastery. While staying monthly and spiritually active, they also stay physically active and technologically savvy.

"I like football and soccer," says Sang Cheol Lee, a.k.a. "Great Wisdom." The main point of the Western view of Buddhism is compassion," Blue River says, adding that he was surprised by Westerners' vast knowledge of and interest in Buddhism.

Both men also believe that Americans lead in materialism and the science of medicine, for example. And the Western society has just begun to adopt spirituality into the mix. "I possess spirituality. Americans sort of mix the spiritual and material and material," Blue River says.

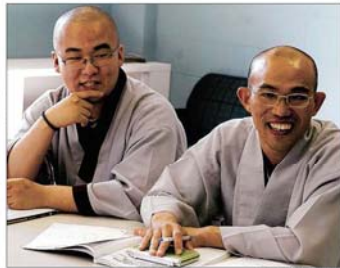
He defines Buddhism as being "free from suffering." "Buddhism began with a prince born in India 2,500 years ago. His mother died during childbirth, so he always thought about birth, age, disease and death. So he became a monk. He practiced for six years, not eating, adding that the reason monks wear many or have children is because marriage and child rearing are considered material needs.

The prince found three truths, he said.

"Everything is impermanent; nothing stays the same. Be selfish. Be free of suffering by erasing three poisons: greed, anger and ignorance. The way to no suffering is to remove poisons. The goal is to be free of suffering. The idea is to achieve nirvana," says Blue River.

Blue, however, says between southeast regions of Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Vietnam and northeast regions, including China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia.

SEE MONKS, PAGE 4S



STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER WINSTON

Sung Cheol Lee (left) and "Blue River" discuss Buddhism, American culture and visiting western institutions. The two also discussed three key truths in Buddhism as well as different conceptions of Buddhism, according to south and north Asian regions. The two are part of a group learning English as a Second Language at Felician.



A Dongguk University student also visiting Felician is pictured enjoying milder summer temperatures and summer concert series in Lincoln Park.

**LYNDBURST**  
**Town bonds \$18M for water revamp**

BY MICHAEL LAENDELICK  
Managing Editor

Lynhurst taxpayers sick and tired of the word "bonds" had better brace themselves.

The township has Tuesday introduced over \$18 million in bond indentures that will finance an encumbered debt obligations of the township's water and sewer utilities.

Township officials, however, said the money will be used to not only save money in the future, but being the township's aging infrastructure into the 21st century while the bond repayments will be self-liquidating through current utility rates that are currently paid, run at a surplus.

The funds, \$18.5 million total, are composed of three separate bond offerings, part of a plan the township has been formulating for well over a year now to tackle its water and sewer infrastructure. It has been given approval by the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (NJEIFT), which will back half the bonds at a zero percent interest rate while leaving the township to pay the other half interest on the other half, approximately three percent. The 20-year loans require no down payment because the NJEIFT's involvement and its scope on a clean water project.

The first and largest bond, one for \$12.4 million, will help exact the township's long running plan of switching out 10 miles of outdated, clogged and leaky water pipe and malfunctioning valves, some of which haven't been tested to in 100 years.

"When you want to extend the life of water service, you need to properly flush it, but the problem in Lynhurst is the valves are so old, you really can't get a proper flush. And, if you see some of the older pipes, we see talking about, you'll see a six-inch water pipe and two and a half inches of available water space because the material is the sediment is like cement and builds up in there," said Mayor Richard Gilli's office.

Dilapidated steel and cast iron valves will be replaced all over town, with a concentration on the area known as "The Hook," the southern part of town. They

SEE WATER, PAGE 4S

**W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Coverage of Government Art Weissman Memorial Award Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500**

**South Bergenite**

**NA Only Town to Apply for State Aid  
What's All the Racket?  
Hard Lessons the Racket?  
From First Summer Jobs**

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**Dinner psyche**  
Local helps families get back to the dinner table  
**B1**

**Down and out**  
Rebels ousted from tournament  
**C1**

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**Brian Anderson**



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# The Ocean Star

Friday, April 2, 2010

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## Beach eyes Squam man for safety director

By Chris Sheldon  
**POINT PLEASANT BEACH** — In anticipation of the retirement of Point Pleasant Beach Police Chief Daniel DiPola Wednesday, the council here, close to advertise for the position of public safety director and chief of police last week, reaching off a sometimes heated debate over the merits and drawbacks of picking a civilian to head up the borough's police department. One applicant has already emerged for the public safety director's position in the form of Manasquan Councilman Edward Dismore, a retired New Jersey State Police captain and executive officer of the agency's Office of Professional Standards. Councilman Dismore is a retired New Jersey State Police captain and executive officer of the agency's Office of Professional Standards. Councilman Dismore retired from the force four years ago, after serving for 28 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Seton Hall University and a master's degree in administrative science from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Councilman Dismore said he became aware of

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See DIRECTOR, PAGE 9



## Setting The Pace

WILMINGTON, Conn. (AP) — Over 500 runners, walkers and joggers turned out Saturday morning for the annual St. Peter School Fisherman's 5K Family Run/Walk. St. Peter supporters Lauren Sindel [front], of Black, and Ellen Coash, of Point Pleasant, helped pace the runners. For full coverage of the event, see page 10.

## Point set to lay off 8 employees

By Erica Florentine  
**POINT PLEASANT** — Last Friday evening, hundreds of students, teachers, faculty and residents packed into the auditorium at Ocean Road Elementary School, here, for the Point Pleasant Borough Board of Education's budget hearing, and



Local and state emergency crews — including members of the Point Pleasant Dive Team — searched the Manasquan River Saturday morning in search of Aaron McLaughlin, 21, of Long Beach Township, who went missing after a canoe he was traveling in capsized. McLaughlin's lifeless body was found later that afternoon.



As a cost-cutting measure, the Point Pleasant School District has proposed cutting one administrator from the borough's Ocean Road Elementary School, as well as eight teaching and staff positions throughout the district.

See CUTS, PAGE 7

## Canoer, 21, drowns off Point Canal

By Erica Florentine  
**POINT PLEASANT** — The weekend drowning of a 21-year-old Long Beach Township man off Treasure Island, here, has been ruled an accident, the New Jersey State Police Marine Services Bureau confirmed this week.

Aaron McLaughlin drowned between Treasure Island and the Point Pleasant Canal Saturday morning, after a canoe he was traveling in capsized.

See DROWNING, PAGE 6

## Tourists Get An Early Start On Beach Season

After a harsh winter, John [left] and Rose Marie Mayer, of Cranford, were just a few of the eager tourists and area residents who headed to Point Pleasant Beach Thursday to soak up some long-awaited rays, in anticipation of the first 70-degree weekend of the year.



JEREMY DELONG/AP Photo

W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Coverage of Government Art Weissman Memorial Award Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Ocean Star

Beach Eyes Squam Man for Safety Director  
Beach One Step Closer to Hiring Police Director  
Council Bows to Public: No Beach Police Director  
Chris Sheldon

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JANUARY 14, 2010

CARLSTADT RUTHERFORD LYNDHURST THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER NORTH ARLINGTON EAST RUTHERFORD

## Contributors fill borough openings

BY COREY KLEN  
Staff Writer

Thanks to localites in the inside law, pay to play could be alive and well in south Bergen. Elected officials say recently hired professionals were not picked based on contributions to local election campaigns, but the record speaks for itself.

While elected officials are not allowed to directly appoint those who give money to their campaigns, they can still select people they like to work for the borough as long as it goes on a "fair and open" process.

ELECTIONS could still occur professional work with the borough as long as the job is advertised on the open market. In the end, there is nothing to stop local leaders from selecting those who lined their pockets. In many instances locally, this is certainly the case.

**North Arlington**  
In North Arlington, Republican recently took over the majority of the borough council and effectively cleared house, firing a new public defender, municipal prosecutor, judge, computer programmer, board counsel, planning, south director and borough attorney.

Councilman Chris Johnson confirmed that some professionals recently hired by the borough council tend to be local Republicans.

Records from the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (NLEEC) indicate that the newly inaugurated Republican councilman filed mandatory campaign finance reports with the state. Johnson said they planned on filing the records on Monday, Jan. 11.

According to Johnson, borough attorney Randy Ponce contributed \$1,110, public defender Chris Evans contributed \$1,000, municipal prosecutor Danny Venti contributed \$1,050, judge Kenneth DeLuca contributed \$330, borough auditor Leck, Vin & Higgins contributed \$900 and borough consulting engineer Richard Nanno Group contributed \$2,000.

Johnson noted that these proceeds, all of which took positions with the borough last week, were qualified and, in most cases, are being compensated less than the market.

"I feel they were the most qualified," he said. "These guys are way cheaper than the big guys."

Recently hired professionals, who replaced professionals previously

SEE CONTRIBUTORS PAGE A8

## Special election scheduled for Mar. 9



"Both parties acknowledge there were procedural errors in the election and allegations of non-residents voting."

Attorney John M. Carbone  
Bergen County Board of Elections

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM

Todd Hennessy (left) and John Parnofiello (right) await the outcome of settlement negotiations in Superior Court in Hackensack last Thursday. The settlement stipulated that Parnofiello, who was sworn into office a week before after receiving only one vote more than Hennessy, would step down and allow a special election.

## Both parties admit ballot 'errors'

BY DANIEL O'KEEFE  
Staff Writer

A special election in Rutherford between Democrat John Parnofiello and Republican Todd Hennessy has been scheduled for March 9 after Parnofiello agreed in court to step down from the council seat, which he won by a single vote in November. The two acknowledged there were "procedural errors" and "allegations of non-residents voting."

The race, which dates had been several days after the election while the county counted the mail-in and provisional ballots. When Parnofiello emerged as the victor by a single vote, Hennessy filed a lawsuit. Though a manual recount of the ballots yielded the same result, Hennessy alleged that an independent investigation undertaken by him and his counsel showed that at least seven votes had been mailed in by people who no longer resided in town.

"This whole thing was about election fraud," said Hennessy. "If they don't live here and they

"The people in Rutherford should be voting for their elected officials, not someone in Freshkill or out of the county, or across the river—they shouldn't be casting a vote on who's going to be in charge of the quality of life in Rutherford."

Most recently in a brief filed on behalf of Hennessy on Monday, Jan. 4, it was alleged that former Council President Maara Keyes unlawfully completed and signed an application for a mail-in ballot for her brother, Brian, dated back several days after the election while the county counted the mail-in and provisional ballots. When Parnofiello emerged as the victor by a single vote, Hennessy filed a lawsuit. Though a manual recount of the ballots yielded the same result, Hennessy alleged that an independent investigation undertaken by him and his counsel showed that at least seven votes had been mailed in by people who no longer resided in town.

Though Hennessy said he was willing to settle the case with the condition that unlawful votes had been cast, he would like to be keeping a close eye on the special election. "If they don't live here and they

vote from out of town again, they will be prosecuted," he said. The settlement came after lawyers for the two candidates met for about three hours on Jan. 7. Hennessy's reasons that long on Jan. 7.

Attorney John M. Carbone, who was then representing the Bergen County Board of Elections, said the terms of the settlement into the record. He said both parties agreed that a special election should be held and that Parnofiello will be the next few days step down from the council seat he assumed on Jan. 1. No replacement will be named to fill the vacancy in the meantime.

Both parties acknowledged there were procedural errors in the election and allegations of non-residents voting," said Carbone. "I'm not yet known what the cost of the special election will be to the town, but I'm confident of the day's proceedings. While checking to make sure Parnofiello and Hennessy agreed with the terms read by Carbone, she asked, "Have you

and Mr. Hennessy shakes hands on this? Why don't you do it in front of me?"

"This is a good resolution," she said. "Now the people of Rutherford will speak and you will know the results clearly."

Parnofiello declined to comment immediately after the trial, deferring instead to his attorney, Victor Herlihy. Parnofiello said he was unclear exactly when and how he would officially give up his seat on the council. Despite both parties agreeing that a special election should be held and that Parnofiello will be the next few days step down from the council seat he assumed on Jan. 1. No replacement will be named to fill the vacancy in the meantime.

Both parties acknowledged there were procedural errors in the election and allegations of non-residents voting," said Carbone. "I'm not yet known what the cost of the special election will be to the town, but I'm confident of the day's proceedings. While checking to make sure Parnofiello and Hennessy agreed with the terms read by Carbone, she asked, "Have you

## Town could bypass referendum for middle school

BY MICHAEL LAMENDOLA  
Managing Editor

The town says it has a plan to possibly get a middle school built without voter approval and without taxpayer funding. The entire plan remains uncertain as to what degree a proposed township financing plan would subsidize costs since those would be shouldered by residents.

When the plan is approved, Lyndhurst officials were left not only without the dream of orphaned landfills, but also a \$37 million middle school that was to be built on Masters Field off Ridge Road. The school relied on TriCap to foot the bill with tax revenue from housing. Now three years later, the township is ready to try again to get one built, but not through the current path of a bond referendum where voters decide.

"Our schools, some are hitting the century mark," said Mayor Richard DiLaccio. "They're old, they're overcrowded and they're not conducive to learning. The kids have nowhere to turn for their resources other than the taxpayers through the school board and referendum to get what they need, but people have a tendency to not want to spend money on the schools."

Three years ago, the township had brokered a deal that would allow TriCap to construct 230 additional condominiums on top of a proposed hotel at their landfill site and 25 percent of the tax revenue would be dedicated to paying down a \$37 million school. TriCap went bankrupt, but not before paying for the complete design and educational specifications of a 125,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility that would overlook the New York City skyline. Both school and town officials say that path threw ahead of the game because those types of specifications would cost millions to develop.

A key component of the economic redevelopment aspect of the neighborhood preservation and stabilization program relied out by township officials late last year dubbed "Project Renaissance" will look to solve a portion of the reorganization of the school and some of the financing of a new middle school. Project Renaissance had been laid out to incorporate 10 properties across the corner of Ridge Road and Valley Brook Avenue and near the corner of Stuyvesant and New York Avenue and under

SEE SCHOOL PAGE A8

# W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Coverage of Government Art Weissman Memorial Award

## Second Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# South Bergenite

## Special Election Scheduled for March 9

## Voter Fraud to Be Investigated

## by County

# It's Official: Parnofiello Wins

## Second Election

# Daniel O'Keefe

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Lyndhurst wants water line overhaul  
A3

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# Township turning into a 'part-time lover?'

BY JEFF FRANKEL  
of Bloomfield Life

As towns across North Jersey attempt to tighten their belts, Bloomfield is turning to the use of part-time professionals as one cost-savings measure.

The municipality will save an estimated \$46,000 this year by using part-time professionals, sometimes referred to as "consultants." They work for a flat fee and do not require benefits, according to an in-house study of the township's finance department.

For instance, the township gets more for its money by hiring part-time professionals once full-time employees vacate their positions. In one example, \$360,000 to operate a two-person finance department is now slightly over \$110,000 to run a four-person equivalent. The result is \$46,000 in savings for 2010.

Whenever a full-time employee leaves his or her job, the township now looks to hire part-time consultants in their place, said Township Administrator Fred Carr.

"As you would do in any other place, you would hire a part-time professional," said Carr.

Municipalities statewide rely on part-time employees now more than ever, according to Ben Dawkin, director of the Research Institute for New Jersey Politics at Rider University.

"As the state's coffers dry up because of the recession, towns are forced to either cut back on services, find efficiencies, or raise property taxes by even higher amounts," Dawkin wrote in an e-mail to Bloomfield Life. "Hiring full-time workers with part-time employees, who presumably don't receive benefits, is a tactic that has been widely used in the private sector and is now being considered by the public sector as well."

Before leaving his position, Wayne Hartman, the township's chief financial officer, made over \$202,529.82 a year, including benefits. Factor in former comptroller Robert Rema's then-salary (including benefits) of \$154,170.38, and both positions cost taxpayers a combined \$356,700.20, according to the township study.

Several years ago, Rema took over Hartman's CFO position for almost a \$25,000 pay increase. However the township did not rehire for Rema's comptroller position. Instead, three part-time professionals were brought in for an additional \$132,240 to assist in the finance department. Kenneth DeRobertis, who oversees financial management, receives the highest part-time salary at \$72,000, followed by accountant Robert Bachstadt (\$46,200) and

treasurer Russell Jarger (\$14,040). Though \$46,000 in savings is a mere drop in the bucket compared to the township's 2009 \$61.9 million budget, Bloomfield is seeing savings, according to Councilwoman Pat Barker.

"We're obviously saving money," said Barker. "It's not a boatload of money, but we are obviously saving money. We're bringing a level of expertise to the table that we couldn't afford if they were full-time employees."

The hiring of part-time professionals does have its critics. Given the salaries they receive, township department heads shouldn't need "consultants," said Councilman Robert Baane, contending that their jobs carry a debt service on borrowed money that must be paid.

Full-time township employees get "all the perks," including benefits and a pension, said Councilwoman Pat Spychala. When a full-time employee leaves — e.g. within the code enforcement department — that position is divided amongst two part-timers who work for less, she said.

Such is the case with the former comptroller's position Rema once held, she said. After Rema was promoted to CFO, she said, the comptroller job was not filled, since part-timers were "hired instead."

"We have more work and less money that it's costing us," Spychala said. "In essence, you're getting more work for less money."

In November, a council majority voted to outsource the position of information technology director held by former Republican councilman Tim Kane. He previously said he did not believe outsourcing his position would save the township money, since the township had already reduced its staff and was relying more on computers.

Mayor Ray McCarthy then vetoed the outsourcing. The power of the mayor's veto is currently subject to litigation to determine if McCarthy has veto power over both resolutions and ordinances under the township's special charter.

Generally speaking, McCarthy said he opposes use of part-time positions, saying: "I don't think they're working out."

McCarthy adds it is time for the finance department to work independently.

"I don't think we need him (DeRobertis) as a part-time person in the finance department anymore," said McCarthy. "In this economy, why do we need to (to pay) close to \$80,000 for a part-time employee?"

Barker said outsourcing Kane's

position does save money, in which the taxpayer ultimately sees savings. The fact, Barker said, is that the township cannot afford so many full-time employees.

"That would be an outrageous burden on the taxpayers," Barker said.

Is this indeed a new, bona-fide trend at town hall?

"Nothing is off the table," says Barker, though she cautions it is too early to comment.

E-mail: frankel@northjersey.com

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**2010 Cost Analysis**

**Historical Full-Time**

Wayne Hartman, former CFO*	\$202,529.82
Robert Rema, former Comptroller*	\$154,170.38
Combined Total:	\$356,700.20

**Current Part-time Professional**

Robert Rema, CFO*	\$72,000.00
Kenneth DeRobertis,	

Financial Management \$72,000  
Robert Bachstadt, Accountant \$46,200  
Russell Jarger, Treasurer \$14,040  
Combined Total: \$132,240.00

2010 Estimated Savings: \$46,014.22

Note: \* denotes full-time employee with benefits

Source: Township Finance Department

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## Bloomfield Life

Township Turning into a 'Part-Time Lover?' Council Members Accusing Mayor of 'Stealing' Benefits Councilwomen Flip-Flop on Health Benefits Stance

Jeff Frankel



**GARFIELD**

# Protestors hold rally to try to save police jobs

BY ERIN PATRICIA GRIFFITHS  
Staff writer

Hundreds gathered as police officers, their families and city residents took to the streets last Monday night to protest the impending layoffs of seven Garfield police officers.

The Police Benevolent Association (PBA) Local 46 organized a rally outside of City Hall, holding signs that read of saving the jobs of the officers to be laid off while chanting "Keep Garfield safe - save our cops."

City officials and the police union have engaged in months of negotiations to no avail, and the protest organized by union leaders was meant to highlight the pending layoffs scheduled for July 20.

"We want the residents of Garfield to know what is about to take place if they don't let the council know their thoughts," said PBA Local 46 President Detective Everett Garito Jr. in a press release.

Garito said at the council meeting held July 12 that his union is willing to consider giving back 1.5 percent of their salaries for the last six months of the year as well as all employees switching to the less expensive health insurance plan.

"We are making all reasonable efforts, our contract does not expire until January 2012 but we thought we should do all that we can to keep the level of protection for our residents," said Garito.

Within the Garfield Police Department, there are 62 sworn officers with 61 union members, excluding Chief Kevin Amos, who is a department head and not permitted to be a member of the union.

The annual salaries for the department as of July 8 total \$6,687,259.82. The department has already had one retirement, Detective Edward Mucha, effective July 1. A second retirement is impending as Capt. Jack Van Wyke will be leaving the department next month.

Rally attendees who moved their protest inside to council chambers on July 12 for the regular council meeting argued that laying off seven from the city's police force will reduce safety and increase crime in Garfield.

"My fear is that the decisions made in the next coming days will be ones we may all live to regret," said Garito.

Councilwoman Tana Raymond said there is no reason for residents to be concerned and that the police department will remain proactive, not reactive, even if the layoffs go through.

"I wanted to ensure the citizens that our town will be safe and the police will be continue to proactive," said Raymond.

City officials were faced with a \$766,000 loss in state aid as they embarked on this year's budget process, as well as a \$1,000,000 increase in pension costs for city employees, a \$900,000 increase in health benefit costs and escalating utility costs.

City Manager Tom Duch was directed by the city council to cut at least \$1 million from the 2010 budget when the governing body showed disapproval for the proposed more than \$3 million increase.

A layoff plan submitted May 4 to the State of New Jersey Civil Service Commission outlined the layoffs of 20 employees in the city, including part-time and full-time workers, and 12 demotions within the police department.

Two of three unions in the city agreed to concessions and givebacks to save jobs in May. The white- and blue-collar unions agreed to various concessions including wage freezes, 1.5 percent contributions toward health benefits and a change in insurance.

The white-collar union agreement with the city prevented four clerks/typists in the court department, accounting department and fire prevention/building department from being laid off.

Four part-time employees were still laid off despite the concessions. An employee in the building department, in the courts and a city nurse were laid off effective June 1. A part-time veterinarian in the health department was laid off as of May 15.

The blue-collar union's concessions and givebacks saved five full-time department of public works employees, including one mechanic, three truck drivers and one laborer, from losing their jobs.

Department heads have conceded to a 4 percent cut in their salaries to aid in the budgetary crisis, including Amos and city experts such as the chief financial officer and city engineer.

"We are in a bind," said city council took a \$2,500 cut in their annual salaries, a 33 percent reduction,



Members of the PBA along with their supporters held a rally in front of Garfield City Hall on July 12 in protest of a plan to layoff police officers.

"My fear is that the decisions made in the next coming days will be ones we may all live to regret."

**Everett Garito Jr.**  
PBA LOCAL 46 PRESIDENT

and Councilman Joseph Delaney said July 12 he is willing to give up his entire salary for the next two years if it will save police officers' jobs.

The PBA has expressed that the council can save the police officers jobs by increasing the amount of surplus used in the 2010 budget or increasing the budget to come in at the state mandated 4 percent cap.

"Yes, there are funds in the surplus," said Mayor Frank Calandrello and Duch in a statement released July 12. "But it will be fiscally irresponsible to expend every last dollar. This is the reason that the State of New Jersey finds itself in its current position."

With the Assembly and Senate having passed Gov. Chris

Christie's mandated 2 percent hard cap for next year's budget, city officials may be facing an even greater challenge in the 2011 budget, according to Garfield Chief Financial Officer Roy Rigtano.

Rigtano said July 19 that the city needs a savings of \$156,000 from the police department budget for this year, and the savings can come through hard givebacks, health benefit changes or reimbursement but in the city in the form of a giveback of a percentage of each employee's salary.

"The talk of having all of this surplus is true," said Rigtano. "It was disclosed in the annual financial statement."

Rigtano said there is approximately \$2.9 million in the surplus, however, \$2 million has already been used in the 2010 budget, leaving \$900,000 in the surplus going into the 2011 budget.

"It is fiscally irresponsible for anyone to leave anything less than that," said Rigtano.

Rigtano said that as Duch has said in the past several months, "before we get out of the gate, we have already used \$2.7 million in the surplus, because \$700,000 generated from funded ordinances this year is not going to

be available for next year's budget."

"Knowing that we don't have that next year, we are back to that \$2 million again," said Rigtano, adding that would mean a complete wash with no surplus going into 2012 if any more of the surplus were to be used.

Rigtano said that knowing that the white collar, blue collar and the department heads have all given up a percentage of their salary or wages, contributed towards health benefits or taken an actual hard cut in their salary to save money in the budget, the hope is that PBA will do the same.

"We are all hopeful that we are going to revert any layoffs," said Rigtano.

Despite the rally and response at the July 12 meeting of the mayor and council, city officials remain firm that the layoffs will go through unless a negotiation is reached. A final proposal has been presented to the PBA and a vote will take place this week.

"We will not pass any further burden onto the taxpayers," Calandrello said. "Police must do their share."

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# W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Coverage of Government Art Weissman Memorial Award

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# Community News

Protestors Hold Rally to Save Police Jobs  
20 Employees Including 7 Police Officers Face Layoffs  
Layoffs Averted for Seven Police Officers

Erin Patricia Griffiths



**W6: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
Interpretive Writing**

# W6: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Interpretive Writing

Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Bloomfield Life

‘Watershed’ Moment for Oakes Pond? Contamination at Site Could Date Back to 1830s Oakes Pond Abatement Rejected

Jeff Frankel



### ‘Watershed’ moment for Oakes Pond?

**BY JEFF FRANKEL** of Bloomfield Life

A dilapidated industrial site in the Oakes Pond redevelopment area will be demolished to make way for a “luxury” housing complex, approved by the township’s planning board.

Still in the early planning stages, the proposed 10-acre site will be transformed into a two-building residential complex comprised of

nearby 250 one- and two-bedroom units, said Tony DiGiovanni, director of development for Short Hills-based Garden Commercial Properties.

The firm is trying to hammer out an agreement to purchase an adjoining parcel to construct a third building, to hold an additional 140 units.

The public’s first public glimpse of the structures came during the Feb. 22 council meeting after the

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# Hunterdon County Democrat

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Sheriff's indictment gets state review Page A-6

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THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2010

www.nj.com/hunterdon



**THE LAST DAY OF SUMMER REC** in High Bridge ended in a cooling spray on the grounds of the elementary school, compliments of the borough fire company. If forecasts are correct, you won't need a fire hose to cool down this weekend. Saturday's temperatures are expected to be in the low 80s and Sunday could bring rain showers and temperatures in the high 70s. For another picture of the festivities see A-6. (Photo by George Piacetolostaff photographer)

## Freeholders and 4-H fair group in truce

**By Warren Cooper**  
A confrontation between the county government and the Hunterdon 4-H and Agricultural Fair organizers, which might have led to the cancellation of events at the South County Park in East Amwell Township, has been averted — at least for the time being. Freeholders William Menzies and John Stabile and several department heads met Monday with the fair board President Roger Egan and directors Robert Hoffman and Dan Torres to iron out the problems. County Administrator Cynthia Yord told the Freeholders on July 29 that the fair group had failed to follow guidelines that govern its use of the park three times in six weeks. Without first notifying the county, Yord said, they arranged for a circus to perform, scheduled the county Farmers and Business Expo, and for last night and created two permanent signs that say "Hunterdon" without notifying that it's a county park. "The county put up its own signage at South County Park when the fairground was created," Yord said. "Parks Director John Torres said he found out about the circus after a staffer reported seeing a sign announcing its arrival — two days before its arrival — and scrambled to arrange inspections."



**HOPING FOR WORK**, these men stand outside Steve's Food Store on Tuesday morning before a strike. The neighbors find it disturbing. (Photo by Rick Epstein)

## Neighbors, store owners may meet

**Attorney: Flemington cannot forbid men to hang out in lot**  
**By Rick Epstein**  
If the town of Flemington has the authority to intervene, that's what Borough Attorney Barry Goodman told...

## Milford bridge rehab contracts are awarded

**MILFORD** — The Delaware River and Bay Toll Bridge Commission awarded key contracts Monday for the rehabilitation of the two bridge connecting Milford with Upper Merion Township. The awarding of key engineering and construction contracts lays groundwork for the start of the rehabilitation project later this year. A complete shutdown of the bridge to schedule and pedestrian traffic, however, will not occur until early 2011. The bridge closure was scheduled to commence in early 2010, but the commission delayed the project following reports from residents. **See MILFORD next page**

## Johanna Foods wastewater is source of stench

**By Gabby Sanabria**  
**BARFATAN TWP.** — Many people here on the township and in Flemington have noticed a foul smell lingering in the hot summer air. The smell is coming from the Johanna Foods plant. It is not coming from the Utilities Authority's sewage treatment plant, said its administrator, Bruce Miller. And the Township Clerk's Office has "banned" with calls from residents wondering about the odor. Johanna Foods said Tuesday that "the record heat wave of the past month or so has affected the balance and operation of our wastewater treatment facility." The pre-treatment plant processes the by-products of juice and yogurt manufacturing operations before the waste is sent to the sewer authority for further treatment. "The substance in the treatment system has caused odors that pose no health or food safety risk," Robert Fuchino, president of Johanna Foods, said in a written statement. The problem will take several weeks to resolve because the treatment system is "dependent on biochemical and aerobic bioprocesses," said Karen Pringle, senior vice president of marketing. Pringle said that the company "is taking all appropriate actions to bring the system back into balance and eliminate the odor problem while working in full cooperation with local state regulatory authorities including the NJ DEP and the local Health Department." According to county Health Director John Beckley, his department began getting calls about the odor on July 21. There were 13 complaints on Monday, he said, and four on Tuesday. County inspectors confirmed that the plant, on Johnson Farm Road off Route 202-31, was the source of what Beckley called an "intermittent" odor nuisance. Beckley added that a Department of Environmental Protection water resource specialist was to inspect the Johanna wastewater pre-treatment facility to make sure it was being operated according to the terms of its permit. The pre-treatment plant was installed in 2002 after a similar stench permeated the township air. The same water contents of a juice tank at the Johanna plant was accidentally exposed by-products of juice and yogurt manufacturing operations before the waste is sent to the sewer authority for further treatment.

## Some are opposed to sidewalks

**LEBANON**  
**By Gabby Sanabria**  
**LEBANON** — Several Central Jersey residents complained at council's July 21 meeting, opposing the sidewalk project proposed for their child care center. Councilman Michael Rizzo said the worried residents, that the borough with local state regulatory authorities including the NJ DEP and the local Health Department. According to county Health Director John Beckley, his department began getting calls about the odor on July 21. There were 13 complaints on Monday, he said, and four on Tuesday. County inspectors confirmed that the plant, on Johnson Farm Road off Route 202-31, was the source of what Beckley called an "intermittent" odor nuisance. Beckley added that a Department of Environmental Protection water resource specialist was to inspect the Johanna wastewater pre-treatment facility to make sure it was being operated according to the terms of its permit. The pre-treatment plant was installed in 2002 after a similar stench permeated the township air. The same water contents of a juice tank at the Johanna plant was accidentally exposed by-products of juice and yogurt manufacturing operations before the waste is sent to the sewer authority for further treatment.

## Sept. 11 monuments planned for Franklin

**By Curtis Leeds**  
**FRANKLIN TWP.** — "It will not mean the exact same thing to all people," said Township Committee member Robert McGarry, "it's most important ingredient will be what comes from within each of us." He is one of the founding members of Remember Together, a non-profit group that hopes to build a memorial to those who died — and those who responded to the tragedy — in the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and that led to the crash of United Airlines Flight 93 just outside Shanksville, Pa. The group hopes to build the memorial at Landonville Meadow, a 374-acre parcel on Sibley Road near Route 213. Proposals of the memorial hope to include artifacts from each of the three crash locations. McGarry said he already has a commitment for two of the three, and is working on getting something from the Pentagon with the help of Congressman Rod Blumof. "I like the idea... incorporating all of the sites" of the Sept. 11 attacks. **See MONUMENT next page**

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# Immigrants Spark Community Tension

# Rick Epstein Gabby Sanabria

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## Ridgefield Park Patriot

Final Bell Might Toll for St. Francis School  
 School's Closing Outrages Parents  
 Displaced Students Seeking New School

Robin DeCicco

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### Ridgefield Park **PATRIOT**

◀ Patti O'Donnell is a resident of Ridgefield Park. (Photo by Gerard A. Pugliese)



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WAITING FOR WORD

### Final bell might toll for St. Francis School



DARRUS AMOS/STAFF PHOTO

St. Francis School offers its students a countless number of activities, programs, events and guest speakers, including Dr. Richard Biera (left), who spoke with students last Friday. Tough financial times and declining enrollment are making the decision to keep the school open a tough one for administrators.

BY ROBIN DECICCO  
 Staff Writer

Many Catholic schools throughout North Jersey have recently announced they will close their doors for good in June, a result of declining enrollment and tuition costs labeled too high for some parents who have been hit hard by the economic downfall.

St. Francis of Assisi School in Ridgefield Park is in a similar predicament. Enrollment in the past two years has decreased, and parents of several students are either unemployed or are struggling due to the economy. St. Francis Pastor Eugene Field said,

“On May 7, school administrators, along with the Archdiocese of Newark, will decide if the school will remain open. More than 140 students are currently enrolled in the school, and 180 are needed in order to keep the doors open.”

“Catholic schools closing is not unique to New Jersey; it’s happening nationwide. Demographics seem to be changing and fewer Catholic families are moving to specific areas, which contribute to fewer students enrolling in school,” Jim Goodness, communications director for Archdiocese of Newark said.

Regarding the economic factor, Goodness said, “it becomes difficult for families to make sacrifices to send their kids to Catholic schools.”

Tuition for the 2010-2011 school year at St. Francis is \$4,000 for one child, \$6,200 for two and \$7,600 for three or more children.

St. Francis Principal Sister Patricia Medhof said, “Finances always present an issue.” She believes the number of unemployed parents is the reason the school is having trouble securing students for next year.

Teachers are willing to sacrifice their salaries in order to help parents pay for a Catholic school education for their children. Medhof said, referring to their plans if the school remains open for the 2010-2011 year.

Her plans for the next year include extending the school day to 3 p.m. and introducing more extra-curricular clubs, such as the TV Production, Drama, Environmental, Gardens, Puzzle and Dance Around the World Clubs.

Similar to Medhof, Field said his ultimate goal is to keep the school open.

“Rumors have been circling that the school is closing, but we’re not closing unless the Archdiocese says so. Our plan is to keep the school open as long as student’s tuition is able to cover the expense of the school and teacher salaries and benefits,” Field said.

The cost of operating Catholic schools derives from tuition money and if the number of students enrolled in a school becomes less and less, there is not enough money in the budget to cover the cost of teacher salaries, regardless of how much fundraising is done.

“It’s been a tough year fundraising-wise. From where I sit, the economy is still a factor. People

SEE ST. FRANCIS, PAGE 4

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**Showing off**  
 Women’s Club EMJ members show off the latest fashions. Page 3

**Clutch play**  
 A Ridgefield Park student saves a woman from choking. Page 8

**Grant grand**  
 Grant School is nominated for the prestigious Blue Ribbon recognition. Page 8

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## Citizen sues Beach Council

By Chris Sheldon  
**POINT PLEASANT BEACH** — Robert Dixon, a lieutenant in the borough police department, here, has filed suit as a private citizen against the Point Pleasant Beach Council for what he claims is its unlawful recent decision to reduce the borough's police dispatcher position to two part-time jobs.

Last Monday, Feb. 8, Mr. Dixon filed suit in Ocean County Superior Court, in Toms River, alleging that the members of the council violated the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) when a majority of the council voted to reduce the full-time dispatcher position, formerly held by Point Pleasant Beach Police Officer Daniel Scialuto, and make it two part-time positions.

The report that was up for discussion during the executive session was announced by Mr. Elsworth as three dealing with litigation, one with personnel, and one contract matter.

See **LAW SUIT, PAGE 18**



**Robert Dixon, a Point Beach Police lieutenant and resident, claims governing body violated open public meeting law**



MEAGHAN GOOL, The Ocean Star

## Lake of Lillies project halted

By Chris Sheldon  
**POINT PLEASANT BEACH** — After recently announcing that the dredging of Lake Louise was stopped by the Administration on Nov. 15, 2009, Lake of the Lillies is bonded by Elizabeth, South Baldwin, St. Louis and half of Newark and Washington avenues, one block from Ocean Beach.

Mayor Vincent Barrella said last week's Point Pleasant Beach Council meeting that he recently received a call from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) saying the dredging, which was slated to begin this month, cannot take place at this time, because the borough missed a critical deadline to begin dewatering the lake last fall.

See **LAKE, PAGE 7**

## Unions walk out of talks

By Erica Florentine  
**POINT PLEASANT** — Tempers flared at a negotiation session between borough officials, here, and four of Point Pleasant's six employee unions last Friday morning, as union leaders walked out of the conference room at borough hall not once, but twice.

At the start of the session, which began at 10 a.m., attorney Fred Potter, representing the unions, said he did not wish to negotiate over employee health care and the borough's furlough plan with members of the public, and press present.

Mr. Potter said he and his union representatives would not discuss any matters with borough officials in that session.

"We do not wish to negotiate in the papers," Mr. Potter stated.

Mr. Potter was present to represent the borough's clerical workers, blue-collar laborers, crossing guards and police communication centers, comments referred to as dispatchers. One member from each union attended Friday morning's negotiation session with Mr. Potter.

All the union representatives at last week's negotiations declined to comment liberating in the settlement of the lake."

See **UNIONS, PAGE 23**



Photo Courtesy of ROBERT A. CHANES

**Digging Out After The Storm**

After two snowstorms last week dumped well over 2 feet of snow in the region — and the shore got another dusting of snow Tuesday morning — public works crews all over the area were still busy cleaning up this week. Most plowed snow was dumped at local beaches, such as near the Washington Avenue lifeguard stand in Lavallette. Luckily, most boroughs reported no serious erosion to their beaches as a result of the storm.

## Council cheered, jeered for TV show resolution

By Erica Florentine  
**POINT PLEASANT** — The MTV show "Jersey Shore" may have recited its millions of viewers in its freshman season, but the governing body, here, is not one bit entertained.

In a 3-1 vote on Tuesday evening, members of the Point Pleasant Council approved a resolution "condemning" the show and its stereotypes of Italian-Americans. The resolution urges "all interested citizens" to contact certain individuals at MTV to "express their displeasure at MTV's efforts to reap an economic benefit from this institutionally biased television program."

MTV's show was filmed in Seaside Heights last summer, placing a group of 20-somethings in a beach house for one month.

See **SHOW, PAGE 24**

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# The Ocean Star

Unions Walk Out of Talks  
Boro PBA Talk Closed to Public  
Point Chief Ordered to Fire  
Six Police Officers  
Cops Confront Council  
Are Open Negotiations Working?

Erica Florentine



Advertisement section with various small notices and contact information.

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# Pascack Valley Community Life

## Community Mourns Death of Sgt. Hrbek

Megan Burrow

# PASCACK VALLEY Community Life

EMERSON • HILLSDALE • MONTVALE • PARK RIDGE • RIVER VALE • TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON • WESTWOOD • WOODCLIFF LAKE

### WESTWOOD

## Community mourns death of Sgt. Hrbek

BY MEGAN BURROW  
Of Community Life

The 25-year-old Westwood resident was a 2002 graduate of Westwood Regional Jr./Sr. High School and a nine-year member of the Westwood Fire Department. Hrbek comes from a family of firefighters, following his stepfather and captain of the department Jaymes Hodges, first joining as a cadet at age 16. His step- where he was serving with the Marine Corps.

Residents, family and friends mourned the death of Sgt. Christopher Hrbek this past week. Hrbek was killed last Thursday, Jan. 14, when he stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED) in the Hamal Province of Afghanistan. His step- where he was serving with the Marine Corps.

SEE HRBEK, PAGE 15



STAFF PHOTO BY ROY CARATZOULO

### WOODCLIFF LAKE

## Investigation of pool membership underway

BY MEGAN BURROW  
Of Community Life

At the request of the borough, the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office has begun an investigation into alleged inaccuracies in Councilwoman Joanne Howley's municipal pool and recreation membership application. The application, entered into the borough's computer system on May 29 of last year, is for a family membership costing \$350 and including Howley, her husband Bill, her daughter Alyson Baratta, Baratta's two children, and three

of Howley's other grandchildren. According to borough regulations, a family pool membership consists of no more than two adults and children under the age of 23, all living at the same address. Among the inaccuracies found on the application were the age of Baratta and the residency of Howley's grandchildren. Baratta, who was born in 1963, is listed as being born in 1993, making her 16 years of age, and Howley's grandchildren are all listed as residents of the same Woodcliff Lake

SEE HOWLEY, PAGE 26

## Lenape Indian clay work

The Pascack Historical Society held a pottery workshop for children on Sunday, Jan. 17. The art of "Siskiwahus," Lenape Indian clay work, was taught and children were able to design, make and take home their own pottery creations. The Lenape, who lived in the Pascack Valley hundreds of years ago, became excellent potters using clay found along the banks of local streams and rivers. Above, children show off their creations. For more from the workshop, see pages 40-41.

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### BREAKING NEWS

#### Tuesday night council meetings

Emerson and Westwood held Mayor and Council meetings on Tuesday night. Read the late-breaking news now and visit [www.pvcommunitylife.com](http://www.pvcommunitylife.com) for updates throughout the week.

Pages 5-6



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**W7: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
Feature Writing**

# The Messenger-Press

## History books

### Documents from 1877 store shed light on Robbinsville's beginnings

By Joanne Degnan  
Staff Writer

ALLENTOWN — Laura Steward saves everything, and for that Rutgers University celebrates her.

The 94-year-old Allentown resident retrieved dozens of 19th-century ledgers, diaries and public record registers from her husband's family's general store in Robbinsville before he was killed in the 1970s. Then she stored the books in numerous places at her South Main Street home for nearly 80 years because she couldn't bear to throw them away.

"I had them out back in the barn for years," Mrs. Steward tells a reader. "Then, I had them upstairs under a bed for the longest time, and then I brought them downstairs," she says, gesturing to her living room table, where 27 covered leather and cloth books, some held together with string, were waiting for an archivist from Rutgers University Libraries.

"I never threw anything away," Mrs. Steward says with a mischievous smile. "You never know when you might need it."

Ron Becker, the head of Special Collections at Rutgers University Libraries, says he's delighted about getting the volumes, which provide valuable information for local genealogists and social history researchers studying what life was like for ordinary people in the past 130 years.

"I'm always excited about things like this," Mr. Becker says. "There are no important books, it's really the only way we can see how ordinary people lived." In this case, the books are family histories, as well as records of the whole history of Robbinsville. "You've got handbills and handbills of names of people in those books, what they're buying, and how they're interacting with the world about them."

**"These are important because it's really the only way we can see how ordinary people lived."**  
 Ron Becker, Rutgers Libraries



2009 photo by Joanne Degnan

Laura Steward, 94, of Allentown, on Oct. 13 donated 27 ledgers from an ancestor's general store in Robbinsville to the Rutgers University Libraries. The records, which date from 1877 to 1903, provide a treasure trove of information for genealogists and social historians researching local families who lived in the Robbinsville area in the 19th century.

## UF spurns Allentown sewer hookup proposal

By Joanne Degnan  
Staff Writer

UPPER FRESHFIELD — The Upper Freshfield Township Committee has voted to reject Allentown's offer to connect a proposed hand-dug sewer line to the Mark Harbort sewer main in the borough's sewer lines, saying the borough's previous offers made it too difficult for township taxpayers.

"I stand by what I said before that we're not going to be held hostage to another community," Township Committee member Lucius H. Moore said.

The vote on Oct. 27 was 2-1 against accepting Allentown's offer, with Dr. Robert Fossella the only member of the Township Committee in favor of continuing talks with Allentown Mayor Stuart Fawcett about the issue.

Mayor Stanley Moskowiak said he had recently received a letter from Allentown's mayor stating the borough was willing to waive the \$24,000 sewer hook-up fee, along with "improvised" sewer pipe charges for the next 10 years. If the township agreed to negotiate the sewer line, Allentown would pay for the installation of Allentown and other cost estimates pay more than Upper Freshfield residents do to participate in municipal utility programs, a new policy this year that has spent borough residents. While Upper Freshfield residents must pay an additional \$100 "connection fee" on top of the regular sewer registration fee, Allentown and other towns don't pay that fee.

Upper Freshfield officials have justified the higher fee by necessitating by providing that sewerage taxpayers, through their property taxes, are paying to maintain the sewer collection and also are the only ones paying the debt service on the bonds that built the sewer line.

According to an analysis prepared by township CEO Thomas Kelly, the said fee was in the Allentown sewer hookup offer was a bad deal for Upper Freshfield because the municipality installation fee would bring in more revenue over time than the cost of installing and maintaining a sewer system.

Mr. Kelly's analysis found that Upper Freshfield would lose \$10,000 a year in additional revenues from Allentown residents if the township agreed to register for it. This figure was based on 34 Allentown town participants in all youth recreation, summer camp and adult softball programs that may be added incrementally for \$25 to \$50, depending on the activity.

Over a 10-year period, those revenues foregone would generate \$103,000 in revenue compared to the projected \$24,000 cost of installing and maintaining a sewer system over the same 10 years, according to Mr. Kelly's analysis.

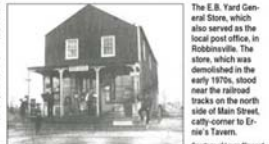
Mayor Fawcett, in a phone interview Tuesday, said he hoped the Township Committee would increase the sewer hookup offer because its analysis apparently had not taken into account that Allentown also was waiving annual sewer usage charges, which he estimated Fawcett would be about \$3,500 annually.

"It's not a deal because it's not," Mayor Fawcett said. "It is still something that could be worked out."

Mayor Fawcett said the offer was still on the table in his opinion for a sewer system would mean the loss of one of the fields at Mark Harbort and that would impact children in both communities. He also would impact children in both communities. He also

**"I stand by what I said before that we're not going to be held hostage to another community."**  
 Lucius H. Moore, UF Committee

**The E.B. Yard General Store, which also served as the local post office, in Robbinsville. The store, which was demolished in the early 1970s, stood near the railroad tracks on the north side of Main Street, city-corner to Ernest's Tavern.**  
 Courtesy of Laura Steward



Courtesy of Laura Steward

See DOCUMENTS, Page 6A



2010 photo by Joanne Degnan

From left, Laura Steward, of Allentown; her daughter Barbara S. Dohm, of New Egypt; and local historian John Fabiano pick up the 19th-century ledgers from the E.B. Yard General Store in Robbinsville, which were donated Oct. 13 to the Rutgers University Libraries.

**See HOOKUP, Page 2A**

## Group again seeking towns' support for trail project

By Joanne Degnan  
Staff Writer

ALLENTOWN Borough, The 101-acre tract in adjacent to Heritage Park in Allentown and the 117-acre parcel where the regional school board built the Stone Bridge Middle School that opened in September in Upper Freshfield.

Walter Hellreich, of the N.J. State Office of Education, said the Upper Freshfield Township Committee on Oct. 27 rejected a request for \$25,000 to help cover the project. Allentown and Upper Freshfield each could receive up to \$25,000 to begin the envisioned 3.5-mile trail, which could connect the Bruce trail to Heritage Park in the first phase, and to the Stone Bridge Middle School in its second phase.

"In order to apply for the grant, which has a Dec. 15 deadline, the new municipalities must approve resolutions that commit them to providing \$2,250 in local matching funds of the full grant amount to be received," Mr. Hellreich said. Two \$25,000 grants and \$6,250 in local funds from each municipality would produce \$62,500 to start the first part of the trail project, Mr. Hellreich said.

"The ultimate goal is a passage to the school, but a requirement of the Green Acres money that was used to preserve Phase 1 of Bruce is

there be positive recreation established on the site," Mr. Hellreich pointed out.

The first sections of the trail would meet the positive recreation requirements, and future sections could link the trail to the middle school if the Upper Freshfield Regional Board of Education agrees to the plan and future grants are available. Allentown and Upper Freshfield, or the preserved property owners, are both responsible for establishing the trail and making sure that would be needed to meet the positive recreation requirements, he said.

"Have you approached Allentown about it?" Township Committee member Lucius H. Moore asked Mr. Hellreich. "How did that go?"

"They haven't gotten back to me," Mr. Hellreich replied.

Township Committee member Steve Alexander did not take his own response and noted that the Bruce Road preservation was Allentown's "baby."

"I have a little bit of better news to say, though that you have to see it on an answer from a municipality, you don't have to show up at the township committee phase to see it at all."



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**See TRAIL, Page 6A**

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## History Books

## Joanne Degnan



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## East Brunswick Sentinel

Peak Performance

Sam Slaughter

September 23, 2010 SAVE LOCALLY WITH ONLINE COUPONS • VISIT WWW.GJRWWS.COM SENTINEL 3



**Fall Home & Garden**  
This special section offers ideas for sprucing up this season.  
**Page 17**



**What's happening**  
Check out just Go to find out what plays, events and concerts are taking place.  
**Page 54**

**Waging battle**  
Spotswood officials press state for change on prevailing wage requirements.  
**Page 33**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**  
"I know we are one little town, I'm one single person. All I want to do is educate the public, let them see what the Legislature has done to us."  
— Curtis Stollon, Spotswood council president  
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### Peak performance

Local man follows career on Wall St. with climbs to some of the world's highest summits

BY SAM SLAGHTER  
Staff Writer

At the summit of each mountain he's climbed, Kristian Jhamb leaves a foil- and plastic-wrapped package of photos of his parents, as well as a letter of dedication.

"After everything they've done for me, this is one way to show how grateful I am," the East Brunswick resident said.

Since August 2008, when he made his first climb, Jhamb has left these memorials on three different continents. He has reached the summits of Mount Rainier in Washington State; Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa; Mount Cotopaxi in Ecuador; and last June, Mount McKinley, North America's tallest peak and the largest vertical rise in the world.

In addition to the photos and note, Jhamb also brings along remembrances of his grandfather, a 93-year-old veteran, and his great-grandfather. On each climb, Jhamb wears his grandfather's World War II dog tags and his great-grandfather's fur cap from Lithuania. He wears them for luck, he said.

Jhamb, 35, was born in New Brunswick and was raised in East Brunswick. He attended Dartmouth College and, following a stretch of international business assignments, worked on Wall Street as an analyst.

"Around the time that the economic crisis hit, I was about done," he said.

It was the final piece that pushed him toward pursuing other goals.

"A person defined by a bank account or their life experiences?" he asked.

Having decided he wanted something else for himself, he chose to follow in the path of his brother-in-law, another mountain climber.

"I would visit him and he always had these coffee-table books with amazing pictures," he said. The images of august peaks spurred him to pursue climbing.

"I had been an athlete growing up, and I wanted to see if climbing really was as hard as people say it is. I was skeptical when people said it would take five minutes to take one step.

"I've learned something with every climb. On Rainier, I gained a new respect for the sport," he said.

the mountain — two Swis in color-coordinated suits — were huddled, scared and preparing to descend without reaching the summit.

"I didn't see them at first, but my teammate did. He turned to them, gave them a thumbs-up, and kept going. And we did it, we made it to the summit," Jhamb said.

In Ecuador, this determination was coupled with the experience of learning when to give up.

"We were on Chimborazo, and a nearby volcano had erupted," he recalled. "The ash made the air quality terrible, and the guides didn't think it would be possible to climb. We had to turn back. The warm air from that volcano melted ice and snow on the upper slopes, creating treacherous rockfall conditions that we couldn't navigate safely.

"I was bitterly disappointed for two days, but after, I realized that I was better off because I was still alive," he said.

There is a large amount of danger inherent in any climb. One misstep and a climber could plunge into a crevasse, where they may die

(Continued on page 22)



Above: Kristian Jhamb on Mount McKinley, which he and his team climbed in two weeks, not having to deal with some of the adverse weather conditions they found in Ecuador. Below: Kristian Jhamb (l) stands at the summit of Cotopaxi in Ecuador.



It isn't as easy as it looks at all. You need to be an excellent athlete to climb.

Following Rainier, Jhamb had the opportunity to climb Kilimanjaro with his sister. He took advantage of the chance, citing the fact that soon his sister would be moving on to a career of her own.

"It was a great experience for us to share," he said.

Jhamb then chose to hike the

# She'll cross that bridge when she comes to it

Resident, 92, strolls length of three landmark spans

BY JANE M. DALTON  
Correspondent

When 92-year-old Glen Rock resident Eleanore Kellaher says she'll cross that bridge when she comes to it, she's not kidding. She'll do it — on foot, in sneakers and a light sweater, occasionally leaning on a cane or the arm of a loved one.

And she's not talking about any old bridge. She's got some of our nation's longest and most famous suspension bridges in mind. In fact, over the past three years, to mark her 80th, 81st and 82nd

birthdays, respectively, Eleanore has walked across San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, the Brooklyn Bridge and the George Washington Bridge.

Recently, her granddaughter, Laura Gengler, submitted her name to the *Guinness Book of World Records* in hopes of getting her recognized as the oldest woman to walk across the three suspension bridges.

Eleanore, a spritely nonagenarian with bright blue eyes and a ready smile, has lived in Glen Rock with her daughters, Susan Kellaher and Mary Gengler, and

Mary's family for the past 15 years. Born in April 1918 and raised in Jackson Heights, Queens, she delighted in walking through New York City's neighborhoods with her father, a carpenter and builder who taught her to appreciate the beauty and strength of the lines, angles and curves of the city's architectural gems.

"My father was a builder and he built the house that I grew up in, and later raised my family in," Eleanore explained. "He loved architecture and bridges. From him I got the sense that bridges are wonderful."

It wasn't until she was in California with her family to celebrate her 90th birthday and the arrival of a new great-grandchild, however, that Eleanore got the idea to forgo admiring bridges from land and behind car windows and start admiring them up close. Eleanore's son, Ken Kellaher, wasn't surprised when his mother took on a new challenge to mark her 90th birthday.

"She's amazing," he chuckled, explaining that walking across the Golden Gate Bridge was, in part, her answer to the ending of one phase of her life: driving a car.

"Mary's husband wanted me to drive down the crooked street in San Francisco," Eleanore explained, referring to Lombard Street, a narrow, steep roadway with eight extremely tight curves that is considered to be one of the most crooked streets in the nation.

"It was going to be the grand finale of her driving career," added Mary, "which she didn't even start until she was nearly 66."

"Every time I thought I could do it I said, 'No, I can't. I'm too nervous,'" Eleanore recalled. "But then my grandson, Ed, offered to walk across the Golden Gate Bridge with me and I thought, 'It looks like I don't need to drive a car after all,'" she said with a sly grin.

Opened in 1937, the Golden Gate Bridge stretches over the body of water for which it is named — the Golden Gate Strait — and connects San Francisco to Marin County. It marks the entrance to San Francisco Bay from the Pacific Ocean. Painted orange vermilion (also known as international orange), it is one of the most recognizable bridges in the world.

Eleanore walked with Ed while her daughters drove over the bridge and waited for them in Marin County. "It was fascinating to see the structure of the bridge," Eleanore explained, "but the most surprising things were the bounce and the low railings." She had never thought about the height of a suspension bridge's railings, she said (the Golden Gate's are only 4 feet high) and was shocked to see numerous emergency phones and suicide warnings posted on the bridge.

With regard to the movement of



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA GENGLER

Glen Rock's Eleanore Kellaher, pictured here with her son, Ken, so enjoyed the challenge of walking across the George Washington Bridge from Fort Lee to Washington Heights that she insisted on walking back for the return trip. "It was so beautiful," she said of the view of the Palisades Cliffs from the bridge's north walkway.

the bridge, she said, "I wasn't nervous, only excited. A bridge has to move a little so it won't break."

The following year, Eleanore decided to trek across a span closer to home: the Brooklyn Bridge.

"The Brooklyn Bridge is my favorite so far," she said, but not just because it's in her native city. "It's beautiful and so many people use it as part of their everyday lives."

Completed in 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge spans the East River and connects the New York City boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn. An architectural and cultural icon that has become synonymous with New York, the bridge offers remarkable views of New York Harbor and the Manhattan skyline.

"The Brooklyn Bridge is the most pedestrian-friendly," said Ken, a civil engineer who recently retired from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. "The

pedestrian walkway is in the center of the bridge and above the traffic level. It's more like a pedestrian plaza. The day we walked it, we passed literally thousands of people."

"We were a big group that day, too," added Eleanore. "Ken and Mary and my grandchildren walked with me. It was a wonderful experience."

Eleanore saved her most recent bridge crossing for a bridge that took shape more than 80 years ago when she was a teenager: the George Washington Bridge. Spanning the Hudson River from Fort Lee to Washington Heights in Manhattan, the bridge opened in 1931.

"Walking across the GWB was a totally different experience from the Brooklyn Bridge," said Gengler who, with her mother and Ken, started the journey at the Fort

SEE BRIDGE, PAGE 3

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# Glen Rock Gazette

She'll Cross That Bridge  
When She Comes to It

Jane M. Dalton



NORTH JERSEY

# Jersey's biker bars are beating the bad rap

BY STEVE JANOSKI  
Staff Writer

You're coming home from work on a Thursday evening when you get the hunkering for a cold beer. What's the nearest watering hole on the highway?

It's there, the little roadside diner sitting on the side of Route 46 or 23, with brilliant neon "Bad Weather" signs cutting into the night and telling you that this is the place to hang out — but you keep asking...

Why? Because of the tattooed, rough-looking guys leaning against the two doors glomming Harley Davidson that sit in an arrow-straight line across the front of the building?

But is there really a reason to worry? Is every biker bar in North Jersey a mixture of "Roadhouse" and "Stone Cold" with a little bit of "Sons of Anarchy" thrown in?

Not really. The owners of six popular North Jersey biker or biker-friendly bars will say that they'd rather deal with bikers than with any other people, and that the portrayal of biker bars as out-of-control, violent roadhouses is much more fiction than it is fact.

**Big John's Pub and Grill**  
Pian by Big John's Pub on Old Route 23 in New Brunswick on a Sunday and just a few more bikes than you know what to do with.

It's become a Sunday tradition, for biker bars to make a run from the Mountain Rest in West Milford and end up at Big John's.

"That's why I didn't change the name when I bought it — it's become so well known that the bikers would still call it Big John's anyway," she said.

On a nice day, the bar will attract riders from all over New Jersey, as well as some from Pennsylvania and New York.

Bennett has owned the bar for the past seven years, in history, she said, dates back to the 1940s when it began as a gas station. It then became an ice cream shop, and someone "slowly turned into a bar," she said.

A name from "The Sopranos" was filmed here some years back, and a new cook has been hired to give customers even more reasons to come in.

A pool table hides in the back, while an open spot just the right size for a band is left by the door. The stereotype of the "wild biker bar" she said just isn't true.

"Everybody thinks that this is a rough place because bikers come here," she said. "But we've had so many people that will come in by themselves, or with their friends, and have a drink."

"They say the men are the most respectful, they feel safe, and the women say that this is the only place they come to by themselves," she said.

Some precautions are still taken, as they are in most bars, against the problems that can be caused by drinking.

A bouncer is on hand on the weekends to help with crowd control, and no "vibes" in biker's vest, which is approved by club notices that identify the group of club biker riders who are allowed in the bar to avoid possible confrontations. Because the colors identify what club a person belongs to, they can quickly lead to trouble if rival gangs show up at the same spot.

"We don't allow colors in because it's not a gang atmosphere here. It's just a people that like to

ride' atmosphere," she said. Bennett said that outlaw clubs have tried to come into the bar, but she said that the "No Colors" policy goes for everyone.

"They've tried us, but we just tell them very nicely that we don't serve guns, patches or colors, and we explain that this goes for everyone, not just your gang," she said.

"We don't even let the Vietnam Vets in here if they're wearing their colors. We want to keep the peace in here," she said.

Bennett said that riders are allowed to leave their colors on their bikes, turn them inside out, or put them in the back room; many outlaw club members, however, are not allowed to take their colors off, and so will go somewhere else.

Most of the riders, when it comes in, she said, are Harley riders although there's no prejudice against Japanese (and are and are) and are not allowed to wear biker gear who come in on Sunday, July 25.

Bob Kohle, the owner of the Mountain Rest Inn in West Milford, takes a sign on the dance floor while a band plays to the crowd on Sunday, July 25.

If someone does have words, Bennett said, it's usually either her or one of her (mostly female) bartenders that ends it.

"We just stand right in front of them and say, 'Hi! Look who you're talking to,'" she said. "The girls do better with that, and nobody takes any crap here — they can't get away with anything."

Bennett, who lives in West Milford, has a motorcycle license, but prefers to be the passenger.

"I'm more comfortable on the back. There's too much thinking driving. I just want to go," she said with a laugh.

**Mountain Rest**  
When they go out to the Mountain Rest Inn on Woolly Road in West Milford, a sign greets you immediately that's decorated with a bike and the slogan: "Warm beer, bad food, good entertainment, ugly owner."

And that "ugly owner," West Milford resident Bob Kohle, has probably seen it all, and if he hasn't, it's in his 30 years of owning the Mountain Rest. It probably doesn't exist.

Even at 74 years old, Kohle knows exactly what it takes to run a place like his, and said that his priority is always to "run a tight ship."

Kohle said that although people might think that the bar is "rough" because of the bikes outside, the "right ship" approach makes the bar safe enough that he hasn't had the cops in his door as often as...

"You can't put up with that and I'm not interested," he said. The bar is open from Thursday to Sunday, with Sunday being the "big day."

"There's a band, usually a country band, every Sunday, we cook outside, and people like the place," he said.

If you don't have a Harley, that's no problem. Kohle said that some customers come in cars, some on Harleys, some on Japanese bikes, and in the end, it really doesn't matter what you ride in.

"There's no prejudice here. The only prejudice I get is if you want to cause problems, stay the hell out of here," he said.

Kohle will let colors into the bar, but he isn't kind of it, and



Bob Kohle, the owner of the Mountain Rest Inn in West Milford, takes a sign on the dance floor while a band plays to the crowd on Sunday, July 25.



The sign that greets customers pulling up to the Mountain Rest Inn in West Milford, which has been owned by Bob Kohle for the past three decades.



Tim McAlister, owner of Jiggs McAlister's Music Saloon on Route 23 in Butler, behind the bar.

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# Suburban Trends

## Biker Bars Are Beating the Bad Rap

### Steve Janoski

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# The Glen Ridge Paper

GLEN RIDGE, N.J., VOL. 78 NO. 42 THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2010 GlenRidgeNavigator.com TWO SECTIONS - 75 CENTS

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## Community Update

### Senior parking permits for GRHS

On Tuesday, the borough of Glen Ridge will be accepting requests for senior parking permits along Lincoln Street. In order to secure a permit, each student is required to come to the Municipal Building during the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with their driver's license.

A fee will be charged for the permit. Checks are to be made payable to the Borough of Glen Ridge. There is a limit of one permit per student.

There are only six spaces available and permits will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call Trust Copat at 973-748-8400, ext. 228.

### Freeman courts open

Freeman Tennis Courts on Woodland Avenue in Montclair have been open for play since April 5.

Freeman Tennis Courts are operated by the municipal recreation department of the borough of Glen Ridge.

A permit to play is required and can be purchased at Freeman Tennis Courts. The courts are open seven days per week, weather permitting, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For information, call the Glen Ridge recreation office at 973-748-2924 or Freeman Tennis Courts at 973-508-3362.

### Know a character?

The Glen Ridge Paper is looking for interesting people who live and work in the borough. Do you know someone who has achieved a notable accomplishment, who has an unusual job or hobby? Tell The Glen Ridge Paper about them. E-mail tips, information or photos of interesting people you know to The Glen Ridge Paper at glenridgepaper@glenridge.com. To contact the managing editor, Patrick Roche, call 973-763-9750, ext. 111.

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At left, Vince Sharp, the education coordinator at the Turtle Back Zoo, shows children and their parents a corn snake. Sharp visited the Glen Ridge Library and taught a few dozen children about a



Sharp demonstrated how this tree frog is able to stick to a surface, like the wall. Other animals included a roach, some turtles and a screech owl.

## The animals are out of their cages

The Turtle Back Zoo visited the Glen Ridge Public Library as part of summer lineup

By Michael D'Onofrio  
 Staff Writer  
 The zoo was in town on Monday and the animals invaded one of the most quiet and well-thrived of places: The Glen Ridge Public Library.

More than two dozen toddlers and young kids eagerly sat in the Children's Room of the library with their parents on Monday evening for one of the many summer programs hosted by the library this summer.

For Family Science Night, the Glen Ridge Library invited Vince Sharp from the Turtle Back Zoo to bring in animals to show the kids that evening.

Sharp is an educational coordinator at the Turtle Back Zoo, and has done events like this in the past at the Glen Ridge Library. "I'm really happy the library asked me to

come around and allow me to show everyone these animals," Sharp said to the kids and parents crowded around him. "Everything I'm going to show you is important in its own way and has a purpose."

The event was both educational and entertaining. Sharp not only took the animals out of their cages and walked around with them to give everyone a closer look, but also explained how they fit into the animal kingdom. Although the kids could not pet or touch the animals, Sharp made the event interactive for the kids by asking them questions and providing them with fun facts about the animals and their environments. It was like they were in a private science lesson.

Sharp is a conservation education specialist in the library to get young people connected with the natural environment in which they live."



Henry Haas, painter and head custodian at Glen Ridge High School, shows his photo-realistic painting of the early days of The Beatles. He painted other John Lennon was shot. He has also painted four murals around the high school, including the one above the front entrance.

## GR, Montclair agree on terms for services in Glenmont Square

By Michael D'Onofrio  
 Staff Writer  
 This August, the Glen Ridge mayor and council are looking forward to signing a shared-service agreement with Montclair that will clarify jurisdictional responsibility and enforcement for Glenmont Square.

Glen Ridge and Montclair municipalities have a long history of cooperation and compromise. Of the current 17 shared services which Glen Ridge is engaged in with neighboring cities, Montclair accounts for six of them.

Problems and complaints have been reported by residents living directly behind the breadbarber in Glenmont Square since the entire square became a convenience store and eatery location more than three years ago.

Residents have voiced their complaints at council meetings, which include late night deliveries, noise, smell and property maintenance.

All residents who share a property line with the establishments in Glenmont Square live in Glen Ridge. Unfortunately, Glenmont Square is shared by both Montclair and Glen Ridge. The 7-Eleven and Famous Bread are in Montclair, while the PNC bank, TDable and new ice cream store are in Glen Ridge. Its complicated matters further, breadbarber is in both Montclair and Glen Ridge.

In addition, Glen Ridge and Montclair have different ordinances governing businesses, which are enforced by the other. One ordinance in particular, which Robal said is the "core of the problem," is that Montclair does not issue business hours, whereas in Glen Ridge businesses must close by 11 p.m.

"Some of the businesses had trucks coming at 4 o'clock in the morning," said councilman Stewart in the high school, parents must have taken notice because in 2003 he was approached to do more for the high school, but his time is out of time.

Send your stories, pictures and inquiries to Michael D'Onofrio at mdo@glenridge.com.

From the trucks. Their lives were turned upside-down. In an attempt to try and get this tangled thread, we approached Montclair."

Responding to residents' complaints, Glen Ridge borough administrator Michael Robal has been working with Montclair administrators in order to find a solution to the problem since the end of last year. The administrators, from both municipalities, thought of different approaches, which included an inter-local agreement between Glen Ridge and Montclair to allow police to enforce the other's ordinance and issue tickets accordingly.

Unfortunately, a Montclair judge pointed out a crucial problem that would arise when someone was issued by either police department: Which court would a defendant appeal to, and which municipality would collect the fines?

Robal said that reviewing ordinances, said Robal, that attorneys recommended a shared-service agreement between the towns which focused on certain code violations to be enforced by both municipalities.

The four main issues, detailed in shared service agreement are: noise ordinances, parking, hours for delivery and property maintenance.

"The problem is that Glenmont Square is divided," said Robal, "and the boundary line is also irregular. This shared service agreement clearly where the boundary lines between Glen Ridge and Montclair are, because we no longer have to define where the property lines are located."

In addition, due to the continual complaints from residents near and around breadbarber concerning the smell, the owner of the business has said he will be upgrading the ventilation system in the next few weeks, which might to mitigate the problem.

"This shared service agreement is an attempt to give their people their quality of life back," said Patrick, "and specifically it will accomplish that."

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# The Glen Ridge Paper

## Custodian, Artist, Father: Local Resident Paints His Heart Out

## A Glen Ridge Artist Knows What's Important in Life

# Michael D'Onofrio



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## Clifton Journal

Job Not for the Thin-Skinned

Albina Sportelli



Class of 2010 special — Page 21-36

# PAGE THREE



Hawks on the lookout — Page 44

### Lottery scam takes couples' savings

By Albina Sportelli  
Editor

CLIFTON — An elderly Patnam Place couple lost their life savings and possibly their home in a foreign lottery scam.

The husband and wife, both 82, telephoned police and reported the scam after months and months of back-and-forth with individuals claiming to represent a Spanish lottery.

Detective Capt. Robert Rowan said the couple received "an official-looking letter" in November 2008 informing them they had won Spain's Lottery Sweepstakes with instructions to call the enclosed phone number to claim their winnings of \$2.5 million, Rowan said.

The husband called the enclosed overseas telephone number, Rowan said, and was instructed to transfer \$50,000 to cover taxes for their winnings to a bank in England. Rowan said the husband sent the \$50,000 transfer through City Bank and waited. The couple received more calls informing them the amount transferred was not enough to cover all taxes and the caller instructed them to send more, which Rowan said they did for about two years.

"They cleared out their bank accounts and took out a loan on the value of their house," Rowan said, adding they lost about \$300,000 in total.

"Do not act on these letters,"

SEE COUPLE, PAGE 4

### Job not for the thin-skinned



STAFF PHOTO/DENITRUS BALEVSKI

"Our guys wear suits and ties because they convey an image of authority and command respect," said Capt. Robert Rowan, front center, of his police detectives, pictured in front of City Hall.

### Intuition, curiosity and humor a must for detectives

By Albina Sportelli  
Editor

CLIFTON — It turns out cops really do like coffee and doughnuts. While that may offend some, it won't offend the "thick-skinned" police detectives who use humor to lighten the mood on a job that is naturally dark and serious.

As they spend their days and nights trying to solve murders, robberies and other crimes, the well-dressed men of the Clifton Police Department's Detective Bureau, offset the "bad" with a little banter and lots of friendly ribbing.

"This is not the place for anyone with thin skin," said detective Douglas Miller, or "argone who's

thin," added another in the background.

Joking around and "picking" on each other is just a coping mechanism for the crime investigators who meet people on "the worst day of their lives," said detective Robert Anderson. "All the people we meet on the job are victims of some crime," the detective said.

The others are the suspects, another added.

The department's 10 detectives and their captain recently gathered to talk about their job, some of the cases they'll not soon forget and just what it takes to be a good detective.

SEE DETECTIVES, PAGE 9

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**W8: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
Opinion Column**

## OPINION

# Only a five-hour referendum? Please explain

Make no mistake: we're all for the rejuvenation of Foley Field. But upon learning of the timeline for the March 9 referendum, we believe the board of education owes the community an explanation.

As noted in last week's *Bloomfield Life* article, polling locations are scheduled to be open from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. only. Now, we don't know about you, but we could be wrong, but we've never heard of an election or public vote that is only five hours long. So, umm, pardon our ignorance, but why is this referendum only five hours long? Does it cost much more money to have the polls open throughout the day? Is voting machine use or poll worker compensation charged by the hour or is it a flat rate? Is there some other reason? Please, please explain!

Barring said explanation, we would have to take issue with the concept of a five-hour vote, for the

simple fact that it may limit the ability of many to participate. A lot of people have immediate family obligations in the afternoon and early evening – e.g. getting home from work, picking up the kids from school-related activities, running errands – that may preclude them from voting. Sufficient participation from registered voters is less likely under a shorter duration, which runs counter to the long-held credo that as many citizens as possible should always make use of their right to vote. And in the case of rebuilding Foley Field – clearly an issue that has galvanized many in town, not to mention the fact that \$2.9 million in taxpayer dollars is at stake – limiting the ability of all residents to participate in this vote does not seem fair.

If the five-hour window is to avoid a significant cost to the district and/or the township of staging a

referendum, here's a suggestion: why not simply hold the referendum in conjunction with the annual school board election and budget vote, which is only a month later anyway. The field has waited this long to be rebuilt; another month isn't going to make that much of a difference.

If there's another reason for the 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. vote that we're missing, we would recommend that the board of education clarify it with the public as soon as possible. Otherwise, the legitimacy of this vote could be viewed as tainted in the eyes of many – maybe not from a legal standpoint, but certainly from a sense of fairness. And considering the future of the community's top gathering place hangs the balance, it would be unfortunate if that future was rooted in a process that is open to question.

# Democracy's death sentence: the latest Supreme Court decision

On Jan. 21, the Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision ruled that corporations and unions could make unlimited contributions to political campaigns, overruling the decades-long practice of limiting donations. It came as a surprise to some who felt that corporate money was already too influential in electoral politics; they wondered why the court chose to do this. In a polarized Congress and an increasingly polarized general population, the consensus was mostly agree with the decision to open the corporate purse strings. Most Democrats believe the same restrictions on corporate power should apply as before the ruling. In fact, many in the public and in Congress favor public financing because they feel the entire system is out of control.

### THE BLOOMFIELD PUBLIC SQUARE: DIALOGUE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

By Irish Constock

rate lawyers subverted our Bill of Rights when they argued before the court that the artificial creation, the corporation, should have the same legal status and protections as did human beings. The Supreme Court agreed primarily for patent, territorial and investor protection, but the decision was never intended to offer corporate rights in the electoral process.

As time went by, business was more and more part of the fabric of this country as it became more than survival in harsh winter. Its focus was mainly to grow wealthy, especially from the labor of others. In the 20th century, President Coolidge said, "The business of America is business."

In 1864, one corporate lawyer who represented railroads spoke of the dangers of money and corruption, saying that moneyed power will "try to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed." That lawyer was Abraham Lincoln!

whose words were almost prophetic and could have been spoken during the S&L or F&I crises, or even been appropriate for the latest bankers' crash in '08.

With the court's latest ruling, the bipartisan McCain/Fitzgerald campaign finance reform bill, having survived multiple Republican challenges, passed in '02. Now, apparently, it is a matter of history. Those limits on campaign spending and broadcast ads 60 days before a general election no longer apply.

Sen. Schumer (D-NY) said of the ruling, "It's poisonous to our democracy." The Republicans always claimed the Warren Court was an activist court in its decisions. (Earl Warren, Republican, was appointed by a Republican president, Dwight Eisenhower.) But at least those decisions never shut out democracy; they helped working people and minorities. The minimal regulations on corporations and unions before this latest decision barely kept them from flooding the airwaves and print media from an abundance of special interests' views. We can now have a rearguard of the Wild West on the campaign frontier. Congressman Rush Holt (D-NJ) said, "...this view of free speech gives corporations a giant megaphone that could easily reduce the average voter's voice to a squeak."

The drafters of the Bill of Rights wanted very much to protect the rights of human beings. It fully implemented the Constitution's premise that power belongs in the hands of the people who

ultimately had the authority for governmental policies. The government has done a 180-degree turnaround. Ours is no longer a government of the people, by the people and for the people. It is now of the Monstrosity, the Duponts and the Excooms – to paraphrase Ralph Nader. The writer of the current health care "reform" bill is a vice president of a well known HMO. Is it any wonder that we can't get a health care bill that truly addresses the needs of the majority of Americans?

Such pseudo-legislators are not going to write into law anything that does not benefit the corporations. Whatever happened to the work of our elected legislators? They spend much of their time all year raising money for their next election. Agribusiness lobbyists don't help family farmers and the chemical industry lobbyists won't put curbs into place that would help the environment! Respected scientists with credentials are shut out of congressional hearings, and reformers are ridiculed as impractical idealists.

If you would like to learn more about how to stop the recent and devastating Supreme Court decision, check the following Web sites: Public Citizens, Wall-Street-Watch.org, FairElectionNow.org and CommonCause.org. Action is essential now!

— The writer, Irish Constock, serves as president of the local Women's International League for Peace and Freedom chapter.

### Our letters policy

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### Deadlines

The deadline for press releases and photos submitted to *Bloomfield Life* for upcoming community events is the Friday before the publication date. Please include the name and phone number of the person to contact for each press release and photo submission. Copy can be mailed or delivered in advance to 90 Centre St., Nutley, New Jersey 07110, or e-mailed to bloomfieldlife@northjersey.com.

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# W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Opinion Column

Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# Bloomfield Life

Only a Five-Hour Referendum? Please explain  
Officers Who Engage in Fisticuffs Aren't Fit to Serve

# Jonathan Sachs



# W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Opinion Column

Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

## The SandPaper

### Americans Must Connect the Dots for a Comprehensive Energy Policy

### ‘Throw the Bums Out’: Careful What You Wish For

# John M. Imperiale

NJPA  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

## SandBox

### Commentary

#### Americans Must Connect the Dots For a Comprehensive Energy Policy

By JOHN M. IMPERIALE  
We have a responsibility, you and I, to know what is going on in the world and to, each of us, in our own way have a positive influence on the future. Some of us will be major movers and shakers, political leaders, business moguls, influential writers, creative geniuses, inventors, scientists, teachers, or one of so many positions in life that are set up to shape the future. Others of us will be neighbors, talking to neighbors, sharing our thoughts, influencing others. And we are voters.

So all of us can take the time to understand what is happening and make our voices heard. We have a responsibility to be outraged when outrage is called for, to be demanding when society's needs are not being met, and to be encouraging to those who seek to improve the world.

We simply must care. And that caring can be expressed in active participation in the issues of the day or by simply expressing your feelings to anyone and everyone who will listen.

But before you can care, before you need to understand the “big picture,” you are all, included, sometimes guilty of seeing one aspect of an issue and then drawing conclusions. But issues are not that cut and dried. Let's take the issue of energy and the goal of the United States to become independent of foreign oil.

For others, the answer is nuclear energy. Some still think clean coal is possible and desirable. Wind power and solar power are pushed by others as the most environmentally friendly, renewable sources of energy. Battery-operated cars have been gaining market share for years, albeit in a minuscule way. Still, they may be the future of transportation.

Then there is a seemingly endless wealth of new ideas, from burning garbage to better light bulbs to capturing the gases of farm animals.

And, of course, we should not ignore the very real objective of simply using less energy. Conserve, baby, conserve!

Just in the last few weeks there have been many stories that in one way or another relate to the energy crisis in America today. If we look at the “big picture,” if we connect the dots in a way that shows the inter-relationships of so much of what is happening, we can come to only one conclusion: We need a comprehensive energy policy in this country and we need it now.

Let us start with dot one: the British Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Anyone who thinks the answer to energy independence is more offshore drilling just needs to know this one fact: The spill has turned out to be more than five times worse than what was first predicted. And the first prediction was pretty bad. At least 5,000 barrels of oil a day have come seeping into the gulf, destroying wildlife and quality of life for people of the Louisiana coast. One example: Oyster fishermen may have their livelihood disrupted for years to come. And yet, before this, President Obama had reversed a more than 20-year ban on off-

shore drilling and opened up a vast expanse of the southern Atlantic coast, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and even parts of Alaska to offshore drilling. He did this in the hope of winning bipartisan support for his program. Some sacrifices are not worth making!

Of course, the president has also expanded America's nuclear power capabilities by offering loan guarantees for new construction of nuclear plants. So, we will drill and we will build nuclear plants. The disposal of nuclear waste has not been solved, though. That was not part of the story.

Another “dot” in the story of our disjointed energy policy is the fact that the stimulus package contains grants for solar power development. And, of course, Cape Cod just got approval for the nation's first offshore wind farm. “Cape Wind” would encompass 25 miles of Nantucket Sound and could be “the first of many projects up and down the Atlantic coast,” according to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

Of course, wind power has its opponents, from those who think the wind turbines, many miles out to sea, will be an eyesore to those who worry that they will interfere with fishing routes or that birds will fly into them.

And let's not forget that what the Middle East is to oil, America is to coal. Approximately half of the electricity used in America today comes from coal. And America's coal deposits contain more energy than all the world's oil reserves, according to the American Coal Foundation.

Coal sounds pretty good, then, especially if clean coal is really possible. But then again, let's not forget the West Virginia Upper Big Branch mining explosion that took the lives of 29 miners last month.

And just to add another “dot” to our en-

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### Savvy

#### Talk Is Cheap, Easy, Quick With Today's Technology

By LARRY SANDOVE  
We live in the 21st century – things are going to be different.”

“The more things change, the more they are the same.”

The first quote is from a TV commercial on the Discovery Channel. Just a few clicks of the remote away, CNN brings us lestering wars, failing economies, lying politicians, spineless leaders, clueless legislators, greedy bankers, heedless businessmen, child-abusing priests, crooks, con artists, bullies and blowhards – that is, as the Talking Heads said, “same as it ever was.”

The second quote is from the French, who wish it were true and they were still important in the world. But taking a photo from the top of the Eiffel Tower with your iPhone and sending it instantly to a friend on the beach in Key West is not the same. Blowing the Library of Congress from

your living room in Detroit is not the same. Reading gulf oil innocence in someone's DNA, turning pond scum into fuel, wearing eyeglasses that automatically change into sunglasses, storing 6,000 songs on a chip the size of your fingernail – those are not the same.

Still, we're uneasy. It isn't the changes that rattle us so much; it's the rate of change. Things happen in a blink, a nano-something-or-other. We don't see The Next Big Thing because we're too busy dealing with the pell-mell present. Progress has become a quickstep parade.

Just as we were getting comfortable finding our way through the Internet, we were presented with the iPhone. We had time to digest that, along came the iPad, we

chased by the iPad. No sooner did we take to e-mail than we faced texting, then twittering. Sometimes I think I fell asleep like Rip Van Winkle and woke up 20 years later in Wonderland.

Many of us cheer, discarding the old for the next big thing, eager for a better world. We turned out to vote for the man who promised change. Others resist, leery of trading the known for the untested, perhaps losing our heritage. “What was good enough for Grandpa ...”

But either way, we don't like to be surprised. “I didn't see it coming” is not a boast.

The clues were all there, especially in communications. One day all the public telephone booths disappeared, the next all the street-corner mailboxes. When the last time you saw a typewriter or a fountain pen out-

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The SandPaper/Photo: iStockphoto.com, Mike E. 2/21/10

# W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Opinion Column

Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Bloomfield Life

South Junior High's Condition Is Unacceptable

We Hope Referendum Succeeds, Five Hours Notwithstanding

Jonathan Sachs

NJPA  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

### OPINION

## South Junior High's condition is unacceptable

It's been a generation since Bloomfield's South Junior High School served its intended purpose as a center of learning.

In the years after the facility was closed and subsequently sold by the Bloomfield Public Schools, the property has suffered heavily from neglect, decay and vandalism. The rather graphic state of the facility was illustrated to us nearly a year ago in a photo essay e-mailed by a Bloomfield resident.

For anyone with a conscience, the photos would probably be difficult to stomach. For someone who may have been a student or served as a teacher or administrator at the school, seeing these visuals should produce very strong emotions – sadness, anger, shock and disbelief or some combination. And the reason for this is quite obvious. The inside of the building, quite frankly, looks like a war zone. The photos bear witness to wrecked classrooms strewn with debris; an auditorium, restrooms and gymnasiums completely laid to waste and

awash in graffiti, their fixtures either missing or destroyed. Pools of water collect in the cafeteria, boilers have been reduced to rusting hulks, classroom desks and chairs have been replaced by bags of garbage. Indeed, the scene is very sad, not to mention frightening.

It's unlikely this scenario could have been conjured when the building was decommissioned. What's worse, the building's horrific state belies its rich history; opened in 1939 with a heavy visual and performing arts focus, the art deco structure reportedly inspired similar designs in school construction for some time after.

There was hope for the site on two occasions in recent years. Rhode Island-based developer Urban Smart Growth purchased the property in 2004 with the idea of converting the school into high-end condominiums. And a year ago, the Bloomfield Schools announced very tentative plans to lease the school from Urban Smart Growth and use it for additional

classroom space, owing to state-mandated preschool possibly being instituted in the near future. Of course, that was only a few months before the state budget effectively fell in on itself.

At this point, whether the building is converted into housing or reborn as a school is immaterial to us. We would simply like to see the property active once again, or if necessary taken down – both of which would be a much more respectful fate compared to what has actually occurred.

Of course, easier said than done. The building would have never fallen into such disarray if the involved parties had the wherewithal to maintain or renovate it. That being said, the school's condition is completely unacceptable. Public officials should tour the facility to gain a sense of just how unacceptable it is, and hopefully gain the impetus to do something about it. And soon.

## A review of 'Ugly Betty' and 'The House of Elliot'

Fashion bores me. Comfort and cost matter more to me than what's in or out of style. I won't buy clothes I think are ugly. Neither will I wear anything I think is inappropriate. Beyond that, I have little interest in the subject.

It's funny that two of my current favorite television shows are about women who work in the fashion industry. "Ugly Betty" is a comedy set in modern New York City. "The House of Elliot" is a dramatic series about London during the 1920s.

Betty Suarez works as an editorial assistant at Mode magazine. She lives in Queens with her widowed father, her older sister and her teenage nephew. Betty is the first member of her Mexican-American family to graduate from college. She wants to be a serious writer.

### BROWSING AT THE BLOOMFIELD LIBRARY

Linda M. Eiler  
Principal Librarian

Working for a fashion magazine is not her dream, but she needs the paycheck. It's the best job she can find.

Although she is smart, creative and hard working, Betty feels out of place among the chic Mode staff. She is a big girl who wears visible braces on her teeth and clunky glasses. Her strange taste in clothes makes things worse for her.

The backstabbing gang at Mode takes great delight in mocking Betty. She makes an easy target for everyone from the evil creative director to the

dumb blonde receptionist. No one expects Betty to do a good job. She surprises them all.

"Ugly Betty" is a comedy with heart. It's like "That Girl in the White Coat" meets "The Mary Tyler Moore" meets "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" set to a salsa beat.

America Ferrara plays Betty. Her co-stars include Eric Mabius, Judith Light, Ana Ortiz and Vanessa Williams. PBS aired "The House of Elliot" between 1991 and 1994. It was another hit for Ellen Alderson and Jean Marsh, who had also created "Upstairs, Downstairs" for the BBC.

In 1920, their tyrannical father's death leaves sisters Beatrice and Evangeline Elliot free for the first time in their lives. They are also nearly broke. When a male cousin sells their home and withholds most of the money, "for their own good," they must find

work. Both women had always designed and made their own clothes. They become dress-makers for London society ladies. Despite many obstacles, the Elliott sisters manage to create and run their own successful business.

Bea and Evie are compelling characters, but this series caught my interest because of its portrayal of the lives of women during the 1920s.

The career flapper came to symbolize the twenties, but life was not easy for most women of that time. The First World War left many of them without the support of husbands, fathers or brothers. Lacking the job training normally given to men, they had few options.

A pretty girl might find work as a model or an actress. A woman from a "good" family

could become a governess or a paid companion. Seamstresses were out their eyes finishing dresses for clients who might reject their work. New designers had to compete with their better-known male rivals.

Many bankers refused to lend money to people they viewed as physically and mentally inferior. A woman who ran a successful business did so because of luck, brains and very hard work.

"The House of Elliot" stars Stella Gonet, Louise Lombard, Aden Gillet and Cathy Murphy. Like "Ugly Betty," it won several Prime Time Emmy Awards. Any show that can get me to watch dress designers or models must be something special. Check out "Ugly Betty" and "The House of Elliot" on DVD. Stay in style at the Bloomfield Public Library!

### FROM OUR READERS

#### Where were you?

To the Editor:  
Dear Sen. Lautenberg, Sen. Menendez and Rep. Pascrell,  
Where were you during the wretched and dealing in Congress

and the Senate as Mary Landrieu brokered for \$300 million for Louisiana to pay for much of her state's Medicaid bill in the coming Obama healthcare bill?  
Where will this payment come from? May we safely guess that

payment will be made courtesy of the rest of U.S. – New Jersey taxpayers who were unfortunate to have incompetent representatives like you. Where were your screams of indignation on our behalf?

Where were you when Ben Nelson held up the rest of the country for his State of Nebraska's Medicaid bill to be paid in full for perpetuity? Where were you when he brokered over \$600 billion in exemptions for his state's non-profit insurers in their annual excise tax? Who will pay for these special deals? Again, I think we can safely guess that the taxpayers of New Jersey will be

saddled with their portion of payment, along with the rest of the states that got no special deals. Where were you when the State of Michigan's Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance company also got a special dispensation from the annual excise tax?

Where were you when the unions got a special exemption from the coming health care tax on Cadillac health coverage plans?

I can tell you where you were not! You were not looking out for your constituents in New Jersey. Where are our special deals? They are wrapped up in the crippling health care cuts (\$550 billion) for our senior citizens with Medicare and Medicare Advantage. They are reflected in increased taxes to be piled onto a state already drowning in over-taxation and misrepresentation!

You have sacrificed your constituents for an "historic" moment in health insurance coverage rather than work responsibly for passage of an "historic" health care bill. You turned a deaf ear to your constituents, but that does not mean that we will not be heard in November 2010. I call on you all to resign immediately and turn your responsibilities

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 5

## BLOOMFIELD LIFE

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THE OCEAN CITY SENTINEL HAS BEEN WATCHING OVER THESE SECRETS SINCE 1890

THIS IS YOUR FORUM. SHARE YOUR VIEWS WITH THE COMMUNITY

THE EDITOR'S DESK

By David Nahan

Transparency will take work

New Mayor Jay Gilliam has said one of the most important aspects of his leadership will be transparency. Gilliam has pledged to keep the public and city council fully informed. He can accomplish that. He must accomplish that. He must also remember that transparency works in different ways. Transparency is a buzz word in politics that gets shouted aside when things are uncomfortable. It is hard to be transparent when there is trouble and discussion in the ranks. That is when public officials do their best to one-up each other, when leaks and get everyone on the same page publicly. Heaven forbid the public gets wind that there is actual disagreement in an administration.

One form of transparency will be easy for the mayor: providing information. It won't be hard for Gilliam to do a better job at keeping the public and city council informed. He will have to do away with the antagonistic relationship that has gotten between council and Mayor Sal Pardo. Council has gotten better over the last couple years but I find them to be all generally good people that are starving for knowledge and facts," Gilliam told the Ocean City Sentinel for a profile earlier this month.

There always should be some tension, that's part of democracy. The different branches of government aren't meant to march in lockstep. Democracy can be messy and contentious, but it survives by adding voices to the fray rather than subtracting. Gilliam promised to give council members all the information they need to make good decisions. That should extend to giving council members access to all department heads to do their own discovery and find what they need.

The new mayor said he plans to keep department heads in the loop on all council meetings and all council meetings. That may make sense for council members, or so, but that should not be the policy outside of meetings. Council does not need the filter of a city administrator sitting between them and the department heads in charge of doing their respective quarters of the community. The residents of this community have seen how funded information can be distorted toward a specific end when limited by one source.

I believe the public will be a lot more comfortable knowing their elected representatives can ferret out information on their own.

With true transparency, this should not pose a problem. As a parallel, this is something that bothers me about the Ocean City School District. The supervisor is the former president of the Ocean City Board of Education.

In the district, everything is stamped down in tight to teachers and lower-level administrators that they are afraid to make a peep in public for fear of calling the attention of Superintendent Bill Taylor or the board of education.

That clear change since the Taylor took over. And it is a policy that he has been in. We need to get regular calls at the newspaper to do stories on what about interesting classes or student projects. It is hard to make a peep in public for fear of calling the attention of Superintendent Bill Taylor or the board of education.

A top-down chain of command requires approval from administrators for just about everything. I mention this because I am a free speech advocate and I like Dr. Taylor.

I have talked with her at length numerous times over the past few years. She is personable and engaging and possesses the intellectual capacity to run a school district.



MORNING RUSH HOUR AT THE BEACH

Act of good faith

To the Editor: On the weekend of Father's Day, my family spent the afternoon surfing at 58th Street beach. In our flock of the most recent surfers and the European Union, have been looking for the financial condition of Greece, Spain and Germany.

The question is who is going to pay the taxes the president is looking for? Can't be his voters — they are not being that ready for the crisis. The only thing preventing bankruptcy from being price is that our president continues to print money. Just like the most recent nations and the European Union, have been looking for the financial condition of Greece, Spain and Germany.

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YOUR VIEWS

To the Editor: On the weekend of Father's Day, my family spent the afternoon surfing at 58th Street beach. In our flock of the most recent surfers and the European Union, have been looking for the financial condition of Greece, Spain and Germany.

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POINTS SOUTH

By Christopher South

Driving in a popcorn popper

Last year I managed to go the entire summer with the window air-conditioner sitting on the floor of my bedroom. I have to admit that the other night I broke down and got it in the window and turned it on so I could sleep.

I was hoping to get through the summer of 2010 without using the air-conditioner. I had bought a new one, but I also knew that I would have to use it. I don't like to use it, but I have to use it. I don't like to use it, but I have to use it.

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W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration — Opinion Column

Second Place, Weekly Over 6,500

Ocean City Sentinel

Editor's Desk: Transparency Will Take Work

The Editor's Desk: Politically Correct, Uninformed No Way to Make Decisions

David Nahan



OCEAN CITY SENTINEL. Established 1880. David Nahan, Editor and Publisher. Kristin Riley, City Manager. Eric Androsian, News. Charlie Wood, Sports. Mary Huffard, Business Manager. MaryJane Weisbach, Classified. Mary Lunsford, Circulation. Locally owned, published in America's Greatest Family Resort for over 129 years. Box 238, 112 E. 8th St., Ocean City, New Jersey 08226



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Friday, January 7, 2010  
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 nipa logo

# Opinion

## A Difficult Year Ahead

On Friday afternoon, the fifth members in Livingston's history took the oath of office as mayor. Arlene Johnson follows in the footsteps of Doris Beck, Shari Weiner, Ellie Cohen and Green Green, each of whom had enviable records as the titular head of our community. Mayor Johnson's tenure, however, will be one of the most difficult of our township's history and that fact put a pull on the tenor of Friday's organization meeting.

Although there was some kibitzing during the meeting on Friday, there was a somber overcast in the traditionally festive event. Even Steve Samuels, whose previous New Year's addresses could easily have been televised as stand-up comedy routines, was more subdued than usual.

Each of the five members of the Township Council needs that the 2010 budget, which they start work this month, will be one of the most difficult that they ever face. Each pledged to try and keep the municipal portion of our tax bills to the current rate of 17 or 18 cents - depending on whose speech you were listening to - of each tax dollar.

To this end, newly installed chief of staff Mayor Johnson called this the year of "putting first things first." That will be the Council's toughest task: making a priority list and determining how to allocate the township's dwindling resources to the items on that list. Up until now, our talented township manager, her creative staff, and a supportive Town Council have been able to keep our municipal taxes among the lowest of our neighboring communities. They have explored - and are continuing to do so - shared services, and have reorganized staff to give us the most "bang for our buck."

But now, for the first time in memory, there has been here that Livingston will need to cut services or programs in an effort to keep taxes down. State fundings is disappearing and vacant space in our commercial areas at high cost. Our town's income in debt and making cuts will not be easy or popular but may need to be done. Many of our neighboring communities have had to forgo school or fire staff, drastically reduce or eliminate programs, and cut services. So far, Livingston has escaped this fate; however, this year, we may well have to accept some both tightening.

This is never easy. It's always simple to be the one screaming that taxes are too high but when it comes to reducing the services we've come to expect from our municipality, the fater will really bite. It is human nature to be willing to accept cuts when they affect others and quite a negative matter when they have an impact on us directly.

Rather than dwelling on the negative, we need to support our Township Council and make positive suggestions for creative ways to save money. There are more than 28,000 residents in Livingston who could be affected by these impending reductions, whereas they may be we hope that some positive input from more of us can help the five members of the Council make the most of the resources we have.

We emphasize the word "positive" because there is a cadre of folks who do nothing more than make negative comments and seek to find wrong-doing rather than looking at ways to make things better. While New Jersey has had the unfortunate honor of becoming synonymous with corruption, we do not believe that this problem extends to our local government. There are checks and balances in our system to insure that our government is being run properly. There are auditors who spend a great deal of time poring over the records to make sure that everything is being done according to the rules and that every penny is accounted for.

We commend retiring mayor Buddy August for his remarks on Friday afternoon. Instead of taking the time to look back over his year as mayor and put himself on the back for a job well done (which it was), he opted to rebuke some of the erroneous statements made by the author of many letters to the editor on these pages. He noted that the letters are "mean spirited, vicious and generally wrong with the facts and the law." He urged the residents of Livingston who are concerned about the issues raised in any letter to the editor to "feel free to reach out to any of the Council members" for an explanation. August concluded by asking those writing letters to the newspaper to research the facts and not write "just to try and embarrass anyone."

We could not agree more. We open these pages to the entire community and do not censor any letters, hoping to elicit opinions from all of our readers but have concerns that some take advantage of the space. In this economy, the newspapers are smaller than ever and we hope that we shall not have to initiate any limitations. We shall endeavor to continue offering this space but hope that it will be used in a constructive manner to present opinions without resorting to name-calling or mean-spirited accusations.

### To the Editor - Skate Park Update

Dear Editor,

We would like to bring the public up to date regarding the awarding of the contract for the building of the new skate park. The original design of the skate park included a concrete bowl for the skaters. That bid was actually put out for the skate park, as we bid and the skate park with bowl as another bid. This was done because we weren't sure if we had raised enough money to build it at the same time. The winning low bid of \$2,500,000 from American Recreation just to build the skate plaza without the skate bowl. The low bid on the bowl was \$1,810,000 and came from a different bid. The low bid was approximately \$92,000, the low bid for the building of the skate plaza without the bowl was accepted.

We plan to immediately start the building of the skate plaza and we are finishing effort for the bowl, so that we can finish the skate park as it was originally designed.

In addition, when the City made the proposal to the Town Council for the skate park, it was an all encompassing proposal to make this property into a multi-generational Livingston Municipal Park. This would include playgrounds for younger residents and benches and exercise/electrocardiogram and a space court for our senior residents. The planning and construction that will take place since the skate park construction is finished and we can't finalize when to put all of these other recreational projects.

We welcome anyone from the community who would like to join us on this journey.

Helli and Robert Ehrlich  
 Melissa Drive  
 Alan Kater  
 President HRTY

17 Maple Drive  
 Livingston Skate Park Committee

### To the Editor - Cycle For Survival

Dear Editor,

Happy to share with you that the cycle for survival was held on January 2nd in our community center.

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### To the Editor - Highlight on Goodness

Dear Editor,

With the season of good cheer upon us, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy Holiday and Prosperous New Year.

As a community, Livingston is exceptional in its generosity in supporting worthy causes. The Halls From Home Thanksgiving Holiday Drive was a tremendous success with Thanksgiving cards and over 100 bags of candy and 25 boxes of medical supplies, and gifts shipped off to troops in Afghanistan. A letter from Chaplain Major Alan Chouet eloquently expressed the thanks and appreciation from troops serving to protect our freedom and liberty. He writes, "You contribute and may not be aware."

It is my hope that the information in all letters to the editor is passed by the respecting editor and may not be accurate.

Respectfully,  
 Jennifer A. Aleskian

57 Cornell Drive  
 Bonnie Ratner  
 Nancy Dinar  
 LYCS Program Supervisor

### To the Editor - Stamps on Call

Dear Nancy and Chris,

We just received a bag of used stamps from the children of a teacher at Harrison School who coordinates the children's stamp drive. It contained 161 other teachers can't do it.

Hospitalized veterans use the stamps for postage, telephone cards, postage stamps, donations or foreign. Cut or tear the paper 1 inch beyond on borders. Drop off the stamps at my home, 133 East Cedar Street, or at the 378 P.O. 205 headquarters, 50 West 36, Pleasant Avenue, on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Steve Warren  
 Livingston 378 P.O. 205  
 133 East Cedar Street

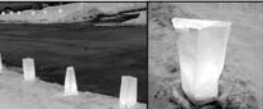
### To the Editor - West Essex Tribune Livingstone community newspaper

Dear Editor,

The West Essex Tribune Livingstone community newspaper gives you all the news of Livingston, with independently researched, timely, and unbiased news. Each Thursday, Call 973-997-1771 to receive your paper every week in the mail. You can also check out our new social networking site online at www.livingstontribune.com. Join the site (it's free), and join the fun!

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### To the Editor - Letters Contain Readers' Opinions

Dear Editor,

The West Essex Tribune has a policy of opening its Opinion page to allow the community to express its opinions on a wide variety of topics. We do not edit the letters. While most of them will find no time to write letters to the Editor, some of the letters contain statements that may be inaccurate or erroneous.

The Tribune encourages its readers to evaluate each letter for accuracy. The website www.livingstontribune.com provides videos, pictures, and

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### To the Editor - Public Notice

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### To the Editor - West Essex Tribune Livingstone community newspaper

Dear Editor,

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# W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Opinion Column

First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The West Essex Tribune

# Opinion

# Nancy Dinar



# W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Opinion Column

First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

## East Brunswick Sentinel

Coda: Tenure Must Be on the Table in Reform Talks  
 Coda: Here's Your Boy Scout Knife, and Here Are the Handcuffs

Greg Bean

### Tenure must be on the table in reform talks

One of the first columns I wrote after coming to work at Greater Media Newspapers was at the request of my youngest son, who was distraught that his favorite teacher had been denied tenure in East Brunswick and was losing his job.

My son was angry at the unfairness of the situation because this teacher had not only gone above and beyond the call of duty to help my child and many others learn the coursework for a difficult class — often on his own, unpaid time — he was the most popular young teacher at the school and students looked forward to learning in his classes.

My son simply could not understand why such an outstanding young teacher — a teacher who was doing everything right — would be fired for no apparent reason.



**CODA**  
GREG BEAN

I tried to explain to him that what had happened to this teacher was one of the dirty secrets of public education in this state and many others.

Untenured, or so-called “probationary” teachers, are paid less than tenured teachers, so for budgetary reasons school districts tend to hire a lot of them to fill their ranks and lead their classes. In New Jersey, however, non-tenured teachers can work only for three years before their probationary periods are up.

To begin a fourth year, administrators and school boards must grant them tenure. But because districts severely limit the number of tenured teachers in their employ because they cost more, that means an annual bloodbath of teachers who are about to complete their third year.

Many of those denied tenure are undoubtedly superb teachers who should not be given protected career employment although you may wonder why so many of them last the full three years if their skills and classroom techniques are flawed. But many of them are wonderful teachers — like my son’s — who have been used and abused in a callous way to save money, then set aside to take their wonderful talents elsewhere (where they will hopefully be appreciated more).

Tenure laws were first enacted to protect teachers from political whims, institutional vendetta and arbitrary termination of employment. Those laws have protected many good teachers over the years, but almost everyone with knowledge or expert capacity (with the exception of most unions like the New Jersey Education Association) agrees that those same laws protect bad teachers as well, by making it difficult, if not impossible, to get rid of those who are not doing the job.

In practice, tenure laws often protect ineffective teachers at the high end of the pay scale and abuse probationary teachers at the low end. In times of budgetary crisis and staff cutbacks — like we have seen across the state and region in the last few years — those same tenure laws mean that some of the best teachers are the first to lose their jobs.

A recent story about that unfortunate reality by The Wall Street Journal and many other news organizations focused on former Newark public school teacher Saucedo Leon. Leon was nearing the end of his three-year probationary

period, but had managed to rack up more accolades in that short span than many teachers do in a lifetime. He earned the rating of “distinguished,” which only about 15 percent of teachers in the system achieve, and he also earned the devotion of students and the respect of peers.

But when the district was forced to lay off 300 teachers last June, Leon was among those given their walking papers because the law said the last hired must be the first fired. Gone were many tenured teachers with much poorer ratings (some even rated less than proficient). This outrageous event took place in a school system already so ineffective that nearly half of its 40,000 students won’t graduate, in spite of the fact that the system spends \$22,000 per student, more per-pupil expenditure than anywhere else in New Jersey.

Although Leon became the poster boy for this travesty (he’s now teaching in a charter school), his case was by no means unique. It has happened hundreds of times in New Jersey and thousands of times across the nation. And there is no way I can be convinced that students don’t suffer because of these gross inequities.

It’s a shameful system, and one that repeatedly came under attack during last week’s incredible Education Nation symposium sponsored by NIEC. Who can forget the young teacher who stood up to the microphone and said, “I don’t understand tenure. I don’t see a need for it. I have a union rep in my school, and when I felt under attack she has been there to protect me, but I don’t need tenure for that. I’m going to go in and do a good job, and they’ll see that I’m doing a good job, and they’ll hire me again. I don’t need a piece of paper to tell me that I have to be hired each year.”

That was such a bombshell you could almost see the tenured teachers and union representatives in the live and home audiences reaching frantically for their nitroglycerine tablets.

It’s a shameful system that many, including New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, want to reform, as evidenced by his announcement of a six-point package Sept. 28 that included changes to current collective bargaining and tenure laws, as well as tying evaluations of teachers to the test scores of students.

Predictably, the NIEA slammed him in a press release the same day for “defending public schools and ‘denigrating’ the people who work for them — without offering a simple alternative, save the vague demand that more educators be brought into the process.”

As Ronald Reagan said to Jimmy Carter, “There you go again.”

The union has lost so much credibility in this state that many voters figure that if the NIEA is against it, it must be an absolutely grand idea. And from where I sit, reforming New Jersey’s tenure laws is one of the best ideas for improving education I’ve heard this year.

Gregory Bean is the former executive editor of Greater Media Newspapers. You can reach him at [gbean@gmnews.com](mailto:gbean@gmnews.com).

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**W9: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
Column Writing**

## Budget squeezes in, but work is just beginning

The annual vote on the school tax levy is always interesting. Emotions run high between those that want no tax increase and those that feel voting down the tax proposal will hurt school programs and services.

This year topped them all in recent memory. With the publicity of Gov. Christie and the teachers union's war of words, and the drastic state aid cuts that spell less coming into districts, people were aware more than usual of the issues at hand, and citizens for the most part let their votes do the talking.

No where was this split more evident than here in Nutley. When it was all said and done – the

provisional ballots counted that is – it came down to four votes in favor of the budget. It was that close to having a further review by the Nutley Board of Commissioners, a relief for many and a disappointment for many, if the polls are truly representative of the general public.

The budget work is continuing, and under new leadership. The Sun congratulates Board of Education winners Charles Kucinski, James Kuchta and Robert Reid. Kucinski and Kuchta offer experience as a former member and incumbent, respectively. Newcomer Reid, a Montclair State University professor and 1987 Nutley High School graduate, offers a fresh

approach.

Citizens sent a strong message it wasn't happy with the current board makeup, with Board President Philip Casale and Vice President Angelo Frannicola voted out. Most displeasing over the past few years has been all the construction issues. Building and renovation projects always bring problems, but Nutley's has dragged out way too long, with too much time and money devoted to legal and ethical challenges.

Hopefully, the new board will put these issues to rest.

## Even in this economy, numbers can still be our friends

Maybe it is because I've been assigned to be the Basic Skills, Mathematics teacher in my little Hudson County school, but I find I'm paying much more attention to numbers than ever before. Our weak economy plays a part in it, too.

Like most people, I am acutely conscious of how much money I spend. For example, instead of procrastinating until the opportunity passed me by, I took advantage of a mortgage sale a local bank was offering. I consolidated a mortgage and a

home equity line of credit that I was paying too much for. I managed to drop my monthly payments by hundreds of dollars.

Whoohoo – that should counteract the expense of everything in the world that costs way more than it should.

When I filled out the application, I was asked how much I owed creditors. I got a raised eyebrow when the banker saw me put \$100. He asked if that meant the amount per month I owed. He was even more impressed when I said that was

what my current Kohl's bill is, and I didn't owe anything on any other credit cards.

Locally, the most amazing number of last week was eight – the amount of votes lacking to pass the school budget, until Essex County found more votes upon counting provisional ballots, and the budget ultimately passed.

I hope people who contend that going to the polls doesn't matter in an election will learn the obvious lesson that every vote counts. The ramifications of the Board of Education's proposed budget having to go to the Board of Commissioners for further trimming would have had a profound effect on Nutley's students.

The Board of Education already eliminated a lot in the budget, due to Gov. Christie wielding an axe to cut financial assistance for schools, so our kids will still be facing a myriad of unwelcome changes. How far will it go? Will kids have to bring in their own sports equipment for gym? Their own "blue books" in which to take exams?

We thought we had it rough when behind the Wheel classes were cut and parents had to pay for their children's driving lessons.

One cut back I can definitely live with is Mayor Cocchiola's idea of garbage collection once a week. I've thought for a long time

that that would be a simple way to reduce our township's expenses. We recycle so many items, my family has cut way down on the garbage we produce.

In a house of four adults, there are many times when I only put out one can a week. I sometimes intentionally skip one of the pick up days because the can is only half full.

A once-a-week pick up might be a hardship for businesses, but I bet most of us could manage it. I'm glad I've learned numbers can be my friends.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Save libraries

**TO THE EDITOR:**  
New Jersey libraries are facing a large challenge as Gov. Christie's budget calls for a 74 percent reduction in state tax dollars for statewide library services.

A 74 percent reduction in funding will eliminate the core services and infrastructure that support a majority of New Jersey

libraries, including the Internet, loaning and delivery of collections between libraries, support for summer reading programs for children, databases and electronic resources, and as much as a 50 percent reduction in state aid, which many libraries use to purchase books, computers and audiovisual collections.

My family lives in the Nutley and Montclair. We depend on

library services in both towns. My grandchildren and I visit the Nutley and Montclair public libraries often to take out books, DVDs, magazines, and attend programs. Students in towns throughout the state use the homework assistance program offered by their local library.

Furthermore, my family uses library databases at home, and students use the library database after the library is closed by using their library cards.

These services are invaluable to my husband and me, our son and daughter-in-law, and our three young grandchildren. Our grandchildren enjoy visiting the library, borrowing books and returning them to be conservators of the environment.

My family understands that a bill has been introduced to end

the formula for dedicated public library funding (A2555). This bill would eliminate the required appropriation for the funding of free municipal libraries. We implore you to keep New Jersey's libraries strong and preserve this funding.

While my family recognizes the terrible budget problems that Gov. Christie, the New Jersey Legislature and state citizens face, the answer is not in eliminating services for libraries, which truly serve residents of all ages and stages of life at an average annual cost of \$1.10 per person.

Libraries are part of the solution in helping our residents during the economic downturn. It is important to Save New Jersey Libraries.

Please check out www.save-

mynjlibrary.org for more information.

Sally Goodson  
Nutley

### Thank you

**TO THE EDITOR:**

On behalf of the Women's Auxiliary of the Nutley Family Service Bureau, I would like to thank Nutley Union and its members who participated in its Day of Community Service. Several members of the organization came to the NFSB Thrift Shop on Saturday, April 17.

The Union men and women moved display racks, washed windows, and washed and waxed

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# W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Column Writing

Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Nutley Sun

## Numbers Can Still Be Our Friends

## Nutley Calling

## Victoria Chalk

# W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Column Writing

## Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# New Jersey Jewish News

## It's a Jewish Jersey Thing The Year in Verse, 2010

# Andrew Silow-Carroll

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Malaise

It was déjà vu in Israel when a Jerusalem municipal committee announced plans for the construction of more than 1,000 Jewish homes in eastern Jerusalem's Har Homa neighborhood. Although the details came out this week, official approvals were made several months ago, and officials say it will likely take years before the start of construction.

The announcement came as Vice President Joe Biden prepared to address Jewish federation leaders at their General Assembly in New Orleans and declare that the U.S.-Israel bond cannot be broken. The State Department issued a new formalistic statement saying that it is "deeply disappointed" by the committee's announcement and called the plan "counterproductive to our efforts to resume direct negotiations between the parties."

Otherwise, the announcement landed rather quietly. Perhaps being in the shadow of New York, Heli, even our sports teams like to pretend they play across the river. Second-cousin status extends to the state's Jews, who have always struggled for an identity distinct from New York's huge and influential Ashkenazi.

Even anti-Semites get this: "New Yorker" — not New Jerseyan — has long been a code word for "Jew" in parts of the heartland.

What are we, not chopped liver? That's why I took perverse satisfaction from a story out of Georgia, where a Republican raised in New Jersey became the first Jewish candidate to win a statewide race in the Peach State. An Atlanta Journal-Constitution blogger said Sam Olens' successful race for attorney general "broke through one of the oldest barriers in Georgia politics."

Maad lo, Mr. Olens! But here's the part that really caught my eye: During the primaries, "[i]nference to his New Jersey upbringing became a code word for [Olens] said."

Thank you, code-talking, anti-Semitic Georgians! At last, somebody recognizes a New Jersey stereotype besides big hair, crackling gum, Marlboros, and Jersey Shore. I can almost hear the tourism slogan: "New Jersey and Jew: Perfect Together."

I've been a little sensitive about this issue since 2001, when I first moved to New Jersey (from New York, of course). A big part of my job is to reflect and instill a sense of pride in a distinct New Jersey Jewish identity. And there is a lot to be said for the state's thriving Jewish communities, besides "conveniently located between New York and Philadelphia."

But then I'll hear something that will undermine my Jersey pride. I remember when I first told my 10-year-old son that I was leaving the Manhattan-based *Forward* newspaper to come work for *New Jersey Jewish News*.

"Does this mean you won't be famous anymore?" he asked.

Ouch. Of course I wasn't famous to begin with, although I suppose no fame is harder to lose than the fame you never had in the first place. A few years later my wife and I saw the cross-dressing Australian comedian Dame Edna on Broadway. We had the good luck to be invited up on stage. Dame Edna asked what I did for a living, and when I said, "I work for a Jewish newspaper, in New Jersey," the audience laughed — I mean belly laughs. Apparently "New Jersey" and "Jewish" are the three funniest words you can say on a Broadway stage.

Kyle is Jewish, and his mother, Sheila Brodofski, is the crassest Jewish caricature this side of *Der Stummer*. I always thought her one-upping accent was meant to be Brooklynish, but she explains that "when I got pregnant with you, Kyle, your father and I were living with my parents in Newark."

What follows is a typically appalling and at times brilliant satire: Rather than suc-

cumb to an invasion of New Jerseyans and their alien ways, the citizens of South Park fight back and daughter the interlopers with some last minute help from Al Qaida.

You'll have to believe me when I say that the episode was a pungent commentary on Islamophobia. *The Real Housewives of New Jersey*, *Cold War* horror movies, and what Richard Hofstadter called the "paranoid style in American politics."

I think more than a few of us were relieved that *Jersey Shore* has no recognizable Jewish characters, and that its tattooed stars are from some alternative New Jersey. The South Park episode shatters that complacency. To the rest of the country, New Jersey means beer-soaked beach houses, bathrobe-wearing mafia dons — and Jews.

And I'm okay with that. The *NJ/JN* staff and I remain committed to celebrating all things Jewish and Jersey. We'll keep pointing out that Moshe's Jewish liberties, Lorenzo da Ponte, would eventually move to Elira-zabeth and open a grocery store (true story). And that Rabbi Joachim Prinz was the last speaker at the podium before Martin Luther King delivered his "I have a dream" speech. And that Philip Roth, whose work is soaked in memories of Newark Jews, is the only living American writer to have his work published in its entirety by the Library of America. Take that, New York!

Besides, the whole New York Jewish thing is so 20th century, as the late intellectual Tony Judt explained in an essay published in *The New York Times* on Sunday. "New York too is past its peak," wrote Judt. "Who now cares what Einstein or Gombergary says to the world or each other? — The intellectual gangs of New York have folded their knuckles and gone home to the suburbs — or else they fight it out in academic departments to the utter indifference of the rest of humanity."

To which the only proper response is, "You have a problem with the suburbs?"



Andrew Silow-Carroll

# W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Column Writing

Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# Cape May Star & Wave

Surprise! You've Got Picture Mail.

Poor Pilgrims, No Cool Whip

Christopher South



### EDITORIAL

### Off again, on again city engineers

Hiring a firm fired two years ago raises questions

We were baffled by action taken by Cape May City Council on Monday. Council voted 3-2 to rehire an engineering firm they fired roughly two years ago.

City engineers, like city solicitors, are not given long contracts—generally just a year. Normally they don't have to go through an application process every year. The governing body just reappoints the firm, providing it is happy with its services.

In December 2008, Cape May took action to sever its relationship with the Remington, Versack & Walthers engineering firm. According to a statement made by Mayor Ed Maloney, he and the council acted prior to the May 2010 election were as concerned about the practices of the RV&W engineer they consulted the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office. That is not to say there was any criminal wrong-doing found, but it certainly suggests there were concerns.

Additionally, the mayor cited several incidents of what he considered poor performance, specifically, not following up on city projects to make sure all the items in the construction contract were completed. The mayor did not say what kind of problems this created, and to be fair, they could be minor. However, he did mention the problem of a \$500,000 claim for change orders filed by one of the contractors used while RV&W was the city engineer. Typically, projects, especially large projects, are subject to change orders, because there are unforeseen costs. That is not rare; there are contingency costs built into a large project. But \$500,000 in change orders seems excessive, to put it mildly, and the city engineer is supposed to oversee projects like this, including the funding.

It seems there were enough red flags attached to the RV&W application to be rebuffed by the city that council would have taken a hands-off approach with that firm. Lower Township also dropped RV&W as its municipal engineer around the same time Cape May was terminating its relationship with the firm.

The name Remington and Versack even appears in the book "The Soprano State," a story of corruption in New Jersey, where it says, "Assemblyman Louis Greenwald was fired last year by Remington and Versack led to an ethics complaint filed by Mark Otto, a Republican who challenged Greenwald in a 2003 assembly race." ("The Soprano State," Ingle and McClure, 2006, p. 49). Otto's complaint was over an alleged pay-to-play agreement involving political boss George Norcross.

Yet on Monday, the three newest council members showed no concern over rehiring the firm, citing nothing but good experiences with them. Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman said he worked with the firm as a sitting member of council and was satisfied with the performance. Councilmember Deanna Poca said she worked with the firm as a member of the Lower Township Zoning Board and had no problem. Councilman Bill Murray, the only member of council who did not have a working relationship with the firm, took exception to an apparent inference that RV&W expressed a desire to drop a lawsuit involving itself and the city only after the election of Wichterman, Poca and Murray. Without saying it directly, the mayor suggested a correlation between RV&W's desire to drop the lawsuit and RV&W being rehired as the municipal engineer.

If that is the case, it is not necessarily an indictment of RV&W or the new council members. It could be that RV&W's wishful thinking that the three new council members would see the firm in a more favorable light would pay off. It apparently has.

Still, we can't understand how a firm worthy of firing in 2008 is worthy of rehiring in 2010.



SAD SIGNAL OF THE TIMES

### LETTERS

Thanks for the kudoes on lodging

To the Editor:

The Hotel/Motel and Lodging Association wishes to thank letter writer Fred Meyer for his just and political actions of the association in its drive to fairly list all short-term rental accommodations. The 17 percent of our visitors who now pay the 14 percent tax are staying in hotels, motels and bed and breakfast accommodations and subsidize the 82 percent who enjoy, but who contribute little to, the infrastructure cost of Cape May (parking, police and fire services).

The 7 percent room tax placed on top of the then 6 percent, two percent, sales tax in 2003 applied to only a small segment of the tourism business. The efforts have been devastating in Cape May and elsewhere along the shore. The government, with the support of several lobbyists, chose winners and losers in this case.

The aptafairness group ([www.aptafairness.com](http://www.aptafairness.com)) is attempting to level the playing field, make New Jersey resorts competitive with competing states and accommodations taxes, and money to the community's general funds and tourism promotion, and to help the state of New Jersey to balance its budget.

Jay Schatz, president Cape May Hotel/Motel Lodging Association, Rehoboth Beach Association

### 2011 a milestone year for harbor

To the Editor:

A year of milestones awaits us in 2011. I hope you are ready to help us celebrate.

Did you know that our lovely Cape May Harbor is a man-made feat created from the marsh and stuck 190 years ago? Its history and evolution is a fascinating story we are excited to share with you this year as we plan a year of programs, exhibits and activities to celebrate its origin as well as mark other significant milestones.

One such milestone is the birth of the Nature Center. It is here that local citizens banded together to save Cape May Harbor from a pending large development, which would have destroyed the natural beauty of our shoreline. What resulted was a new interpretation of the position of the people and birth of a special conservation area.

Along the way, many of us will see significant changes. Fifteen years ago the Center opened its doors into the New Jersey Audubon Society as an environmental education center offering nationally recognized top-quality environmental education programming. The family that now resides in the center throughout the state and the organization is revered as a leader in New Jersey's environmental conservation, education and research efforts.

Ten years ago Center staff joined the movement to educate people on the importance of making a difference in our backyards. The philosophy that "every little bit counts" including sharing my yard with wildlife by creating backyard habitats became a strong commitment in our selection of programs and offerings. We began the annual water glass sale, which will mark its 10th anniversary year in 2011.

Along the way we see lots of...

### POINTS SOUTH

By Christopher South

### Surprise! You've got picture mail

I'm not anti-technology, but I'm not a technophile, either. I use technology because I have to. On occasion, I like it.

I took a trip the weekend before last, traveling 214 miles, according to my GPS, was a little worried about getting the GPS with me. I became more concerned when I couldn't find instructions to tell me how to operate the thing. As it turns out, the GPS is a rather elementary device. I just knew that, because I was driving for an extended period of time to tell me how to use it.



Kids today are exposed to more technology than we were. I know the feeling. My grandson plays the Wii video game system. He can't even say Wii but he plays the game. He still needs some one to restart it if he loses or messes on to the next round.

I took my GPS out to the car, plugged it in, and was surprised to see it show me right where I was. My kids would laugh at that. I know, but I was amazed that without any calibration or settings adjustments, or even me pushing in my address, it knew where I am?

Certainly, my brother has the technology to follow my every move here. I could see on the internet. I could imagine what my file would look like if I ever being tracked.

My T went to work. Went to work. Went home. Day 2. Went to work. Went to work. Started to go to the gym. Went home.

And so on.

As it turned out I only needed the GPS for the last 30 miles or so, but I was thankful to have it. On the way home, however, I was able to go home one way and it wanted to take me another.

That's a big thing with me and technology. I don't ask it for much and if I decide on completing my life.

When I decided to get a cell phone I wanted something uncomplicated. My kids would say it's because I'm old, but the fact is, I just want things to be simple. But I keep getting items, such as with phone calls, which are low quality. The exception is my work phone, which can be used for business purposes. I've even seen Crystal Ball images. My phone doesn't take clear photos, but they are clear enough to monitor the image if I am a leader in New Jersey's environmental conservation, education and research efforts.

Ten years ago Center staff joined the movement to educate people on the importance of making a difference in our backyards. The philosophy that "every little bit counts" including sharing my yard with wildlife by creating backyard habitats became a strong commitment in our selection of programs and offerings. We began the annual water glass sale, which will mark its 10th anniversary year in 2011.

Along the way we see lots of...

assume it got to him because his phone number is one digit off from mine, but I don't know why it's off as yet the picture.

"At least it was 'G-rated,'" my wife said.

"At any rate, I'm into my lady friend's girlfriend's boyfriend at the gym and he told me he and Kim spotted me on the sidelines of the football game. They took my picture, so I said, 'Here, let me take your picture and send it to you and Kim.' As it turns out, he didn't send it. He said he'd send it to my lady friend's phone number."

"I just look in the phone under 'Kim,'" he said.

I know the feeling. So rather than waste a picture of Jim on the treadmill, I decided to send it to my lady friend's cell. And that's a short story here I got a message from my daughter saying, "Who is who?" I thought, and then I checked my address and found I sent a photo of a total stranger to a treadmill to my daughter. As it turns out, my lady friend's phone doesn't even accept photo-mail.

I think they should make word-processor photos that don't have features like camera and Internet. And they should be coffee-proof to prevent against people like me who splash coffee around drawing areas where I am?

I think they should make word-processor photos that don't have features like camera and Internet. And they should be coffee-proof to prevent against people like me who splash coffee around drawing areas where I am?

I do like being able to use a computer, which I am alternately thrilled with and vexed by. To be able to write something and make changes, insert or delete words or paragraphs before corrected and to paper, I still marvel at that. I read a co-worker in the staff 1990s, who complained that we didn't have a typewriter in the office, while we did have a computer. I tried to tell her, "It's like a typewriter, but you don't put it in paper until you are finished typing."

For the time we worked together, I never saw him use the computer.

Maybe he had the right idea however. Maybe it's better to have less technology and fewer problems. For my part, sometimes I wish my computer had a neck so I could choke it. And while it doesn't have a neck, I wish it had a neck so I could choke it.

"My computer's name is unpronounceable. But I keep getting items, such as with phone calls, which are low quality. The exception is my work phone, which can be used for business purposes. I've even seen Crystal Ball images. My phone doesn't take clear photos, but they are clear enough to monitor the image if I am a leader in New Jersey's environmental conservation, education and research efforts.

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Along the way we see lots of...

### ANOTHER WALK

By Johnny Wawa

### Change in weather, disposition

I noticed little changes in my appearance, which went beyond drawing attention to myself from my remaining strands of hair I have left on my head turning gray. I noticed little changes in my mood when I received myself too quickly. I noticed little changes in my disposition in my face, which I have to admit I like because I memorize the roads I have traveled over the course of my life. The changes were the subtle ones a person sees when they look in the mirror and notice for just a moment a hint of disappointment in their eyes. It then quickly leaves and in its stead people, the change is quickly dismissed as an optical illusion. Yes, for people like me who go through seasons representing...



Please see Another Walk, page A9

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Please see Letters, page A9

### What's your opinion?

We value letters to the editor and guest columns. Submissions must contain full address and a daytime phone number so they can be verified. Letters or columns found or mailed to the newspaper.

# COMMUNITY FORUM

## EDITORIALS

### One per person

When we elect people to our various levels of government, we expect they will serve in their position without conflict. In many cases, sadly, this is not the case.

A recent report by North Jersey Media Group noted that approximately one-third of our state legislators have connections to at least one other public position. Most are paid positions, in many cases with salaries above the \$50,000 paid for what the state considers a part-time position.

Within our Essex County circulation area, Teresa Ruiz, who serves as the chief of staff to the Essex County executive, is a state senator. Assemblyman Ralph Caputo also serves as an Essex County freeholder. The Assembly speaker, Sheila Oliverio, is an Essex County administrator. Another Essex County freeholder, D. Bilal Beasley, is a member of the Irvington Township Council.

But the multiple public positions do not end in Trenton; they occur at home. As of March, five legislators in Irvington and East Orange had additional public positions; three in Orange and one in South Orange also received other public pay. In the northern municipalities, three legislators in Bloomfield, two in Belleville and one in Nutley have other public positions.

Regarding these dual roles, our question is this: Are the taxpayers getting their money's worth? Or are these officials thinking their workload in one position is enough them to assume a second position and a second paycheck? Our answer is this: Taxpayers should not subsidize the expansion of a politician's power base or salary.

When the Legislature decided to end the practice of its members having multiple paid public positions in 2007, it provided current members from the late Gov. Chris Christie, in what he said was an effort to further ethics in government, has proposed the practice of multiple government positions, including legislative offices, be ended. Since Christie's proposal would cover all levels of government, we believe this is an excellent idea.

We understand that voters have the right to decide whom they wish to represent them in government. We also believe they should want their legislators to work a full day for a full day's pay. Given the additional positions of some members, such as Ruiz, Caputo, Oliverio and Beasley, it also creates a power base given the closeness to the executive branch. This may hinder the ability of residents who wish to seek legislative office because they are "out of the loop."

The fight from the Legislature likely will be great: the government is asking members to make a choice, a choice the legislators would prefer not to make. It is necessary, though, and should receive serious consideration.

### Right way, wrong way

Two actions by the state Legislature and governor last week will have an impact on property taxes for years to come. They provide clear examples of the right way and the wrong way to confront our state's current fiscal troubles.

First, the right way. As part of the "budget fix" to enable municipalities and school districts meet the 2 percent cap on tax increases, the governor has proposed a cap of 2 percent on annual wage increases for public employees. This cap would be mandatory for all arbitrators who are called upon to resolve an impasse in public-employee contract negotiations. This makes sense. If tax increases are capped at 2 percent, the corresponding payroll must be capped at the same rate, or lower. But last week a bill was introduced in the Assembly in which no limit on pay raises was set; arbitrators of public contracts would be told only to consider the limitations of the 2 percent cap on taxes and the prevailing economic situation when reaching their rulings. But then action by the governor and those who support a firm cap on wages, including Essex County Executive Jim DeVissio, Jr., forced a withdrawal of that bill.

Think about it: Only if wages are controlled, can schools and municipalities achieve the 2 percent cap on pay for salary arbitration.

Now, the wrong way to confront our fiscal troubles. A bill passed last week by both houses and sent to the governor places a limit on the amount of sick days a public employee can accumulate and then receive when they retire. The bill creates a limit of \$15,000 for new hires, but freezes the accumulated sick days' payments of current employees to the amount they have accrued on the day the bill is enacted. Granted, this provides some savings, but why should anybody be allowed to accumulate sick days? Those days are set aside for when an employee is sick and unable to work so they won't fall behind on their bills or family support. It's an emergency supplement, not a nest egg. Sick days should be used only during the year they are given, just like in most of the private sector.

That \$15,000 represents what to often is wrong with many of the "solutions" provided by legislators to address our fiscal problems: They don't solve the problem. That's why our state finds itself in fiscal straits.



### Up to no good and loving every moment

Once upon a time, the second most thrilling night of the year was the night before Halloween.

It was recognized by parents and notoriously acknowledged in schools. It had it's own style and mystique and was as culturally relevant as it was regularly unique. It was called, "Mischief Night," and we lived for it.

Like Halloween, planning for Mischief Night began many weeks in advance. Youngsters around town for granks began concertedly with costume suggestions back in early October, but with one major difference, we didn't discuss Mischief Night with our parents.

This was our holiday and we united as one against the adults who would not let us rock legislative supervision or control, left us our own devices and, more importantly, consciences.

My first New Jersey town was Mark Twain small. At three blocks wide and two blocks deep, it had ten tracks that ran along the edge of town with a little steel train yard perpetually checked with rail problems and a corn field just to the other side. We used to have a vacant railroad car as our command center and strategized every day after school with the real and faux of a Marine tank force. There was at least one of us tagging between



By V.C. Chickering

the second and fifth grades, a leader, various conspirator and lower ranking officers. I was only in third grade so I followed orders.

If each of us could gather between one and two hours of sleep from under our bathroom sinks and if the good things, same went for toilet paper, but we'd need to acquire every at least three rolls each, so better start now. The corn checking wasn't my idea, but I liked the concept. First we crossed the tracks, slipped under the fence and made an arsenal of corn. Then we sat for hours discussing our various plans as we checked the hand-circled multi-colored kernels off the end of the stalks, the base of our pants back and forth till they were red and tingly — sleeping just before the bags were available.

When asked by adults about our plan the Mischief Night was dismissed as if we hadn't given it a thought. But it's all we thought about for the final few weeks.

Kids all over town had to be very well-behaved in fear of being

guilted on Mischief Night. When someone was grounded, the black news spread like wildfire and heads hung low in conversation.

On the big night my parents missed me if I had everything I needed as I headed toward the front door dressed in my darkest garments, carrying a bulky pillowcase filled with "nails." Mom stopped me on an extra bar of soap as she reminded me that my surface was "a gun, sharp. That's all you — an 8-year-old with no chop-iron — into the black night to get a snappy haul of, spoon-scooped elementary school hoodlums, giddy with excitement, over-the-moon with anticipation.

Our targets were folks whom we knew wouldn't get too mad, plus a few notorious courtrooms whom we hoped would, we sogged our windows and tape doorknobs and ran. Then we threw handfuls of our kernels against windows lit by flickering television. The sound carried a 10-foot racket, and we giggled as we dove behind bushes to the second floor doors opening on stairwells and program and energy thrills.

The first piece of resistance was the post-opening of the window, the pop-opening of trees. The act itself took the patience and dedication of an artist combined with the depth perception and accuracy of an athlete. The bigger kids holed

### HEART-FELT

**WARD** — Ruth Perlmutter, founder and president of Jersey Animal Coalition, a no-kill animal shelter in South Orange, was recently presented with the H.E.A.R.T. or Helping Animals Reach Tomorrow. Awarded at The Onyx and Greenway Community Foundation's sixth annual gala, Actor Ken Howard, a trustee of the foundation, congratulated Perlmutter.

### Encountering the ghosts of amaryllis past

The Gardener's Apprentice

By Elizabeth Ginsburg

growth in the winter, but it does not stop completely. Therefore, reduced watering is probably all my hybrid amaryllis need to stay healthy and even rebloom.

Of course, I will probably end up facing dormancy anyway because I have never done it any other way. To prepare for this, I went down to check the available price on the Syzygium darkness of my own effort. As I normal around, I missed another bouquet that arrived last fall, the three bulbs that I had placed under the porch lamp in my own garden, just after Labor Day. They have languished there ever since, and at some point, entered into eternal dormancy. When I found them in the compost, I cleaned them out and placed them in a bucket of water. I found them in the compost, cleaned them out and placed them in a bucket of water. I found them in the compost, cleaned them out and placed them in a bucket of water.

With or without forced dormancy, my ghosts of amaryllis past aren't known in time for the December holidays, so I will be ordering

some new ones. My usual vendor has bulk packs of established bulbs for a discounted price. I generally get with those, supplying my own pots and soil. With amaryllis, an established bulb, generally the larger the bulb, the more flowers you will get. For years I thought my preferred vendor had the largest amaryllis bulbs in the industry, but now I see that I was wrong.

Like the natural debt and the size of first food truck, amaryllis have gotten bigger. Earlier this week, I was walking the aisles at one of the high-end garden centers and saw a box of gigantic amaryllis bulbs. The price was \$200 per bulb. The price was \$200 per bulb.

When my new amaryllis arrive, I will put them up, put them on my dining room window-sill area and wait for them to sprout. The week before Christmas, I will dispatch them to friends and neighbors to provide some post-holiday brightness to the back porch. Let's hope the time to receive last year's ghosts from the basement. This time, I will mark the date on the calendar to prevent forgetfulness.

Blackening an amaryllis sprout and grow is like watching an engo-

ing miracle. Once the bulbs get started, the growth is so fast that sometimes you can almost see it. Blackening a ghost of amaryllis just says is even more of a miracle, at least to me. Because it means the plant got through the end of winter, survived a summer outside, made it through dormancy and re-emerged flower darkness, while still alive and unscathed by the elements.

For some reason, I have never successfully reproduced amaryllis in a forced dormancy of them. This is probably a good thing because it allows me to experiment with new colors and shapes. If I ever buy a \$200 bulb, my intention is to experiment by paying that much to transform one flower stalk instead of the usual two or three and the price was more than double what I will be paying for my somewhat smaller bouquet from now through the holiday and beyond. I will be paying that much to transform one flower stalk instead of the usual two or three and the price was more than double what I will be paying for my somewhat smaller bouquet from now through the holiday and beyond.

**Elizabeth Ginsburg, a resident of Glen Ridge, is a frequent contributor to Warrall Community Newspapers. The writer archives past columns at <http://www.gardenerapprentice.com>.**

# W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration — Column Writing

## Second Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# News-Record of Maplewood & South Orange

# Up to No Good and Loving Every Moment In the Company of Very Fine Block-Heads

## V.C. Chickering

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of Maplewood and South Orange  
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Thursday, August 5, 2010
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NJ Press Association

Opinion

The Best Outcome We Can Get

COAH, the Council on Affordable Housing, is the state agency responsible for establishing and monitoring municipal affordable housing obligations in New Jersey. COAH was created by the Fair Housing Act of 1985 as the state legislature's response to a series of New Jersey Supreme Court cases known as the Mt. Laurel decisions. The Supreme Court established a constitutional obligation for each of the 566 municipalities in the state to establish a "realistic opportunity for the provision of fair share low and moderate income housing obligations, generally through land use and zoning powers."

Katolically, COAH is at its most useful. Practically, it has been a nightmare. Over the years, the rules have "shuffled like the sands of time in an hourglass." What was permitted in one round of COAH decisions was no longer allowed in the next round. Towns such as Livingston tried to come up with reasonable plans, based on the available land, to meet one set of regulations, only to be told that those rules no longer applied. Many thousands of taxpayer dollars have been spent defending communities' zoning laws which have been largely ignored by COAH over the years. Until Livingston was sued in 1995 under the Mt. Laurel decisions, there were virtually no multi-family buildings in our community. These decisions, however, leave communities virtually no leeway in dealing with developers.

Builders were permitted to sell off their obligations so that the purpose of COAH is totally negated. The Regency townhouses in Livingston are the perfect example. The developers of the Regency, the first ones to use Livingston under Mt. Laurel, were granted a far higher density of development than any other place in Livingston and 437 luxury condominiums were built. Not one of them was occupied by low or moderate income families. Instead, the developers "sold" their obligations, by paying the city of Linden to build the requisite number of low/moderate housing units there.

Only a few years later COAH once again promulgated new rules and obligations to cover affordable housing development in the state. These rules were convoluted, complicated, and changed at a moment's notice. In 2008, then-mayor Gary Schneiderman said that Livingston was "controlling our own destiny by working with the builders in order to get a plan favorable to the community rather than having a court-imposed outcome." The philosophy was to develop an affordable housing program to meet the state-mandated obligations in a way that matches our community. The result of that philosophy was announced on Monday evening with a new agreement with TMB Partners for 62 units on the 4.275 acre tract at the intersection of South Orange Avenue and White Oak Ridge Road, the former site of Doves Drive-In.

Although Governor Christie has indicated that he wants to dismantle COAH, attorneys believe that any cases currently in litigation would have to be continued. Since the suit with TMB was already in the works, attorneys advised the Council that a settlement of some kind would be the best course.

Just about one year ago, the Council and TMB agreed to a complex of 70 units, of which 56 were to be market value and 14 were to be affordable. This was 100 fewer units than what the builder was requesting through the courts. Now, through negotiations, that number has been further reduced to 62 total units, with 50 for fair market and 12 for low and moderate income. Even the special master appointed by COAH had recommended 64 to 76 units for the site, 16 to 19 of which would be for low and moderate income families. The negotiated settlement is a definite improvement over what the township would have gotten from the court.

While 62 units in two buildings on only 4.275 acres still seems like a huge over-use of a small site, it does seem to be the best outcome we can get. The site has environmental constraints with a brook running through it, and adjacent residences which will be dwarfed by the height of the proposed buildings. These issues, along with storm water management, traffic, and other concerns will have to be addressed by the developer before the Technical Review Advisory Committee and the Planning Board.

We agree with the affected families in Short Hills that this development may change the character of their neighborhood; however, it is far better than what had been originally proposed and is still more desirable than what the special master has recommended. Spending additional money to fight the plan seems foolhardy and we commend the Council for its dedication to reducing the development as much as possible.

Nancy's Notebook

By Nancy B. Dinar

About a week ago, I found myself in the hospital being very busy. My surgery to remove some scar tissue from my knee replacement. Although not a hairy topic, it was not particularly fun. What was hairy, however, was my surgeon's post-operative instructions following the surgery. The piece of paper presented to me before the surgery was named "Post-op." The title got the name. "It should be obvious," the surgeon put hand-Advoc over the sutures. "I just don't know if you would like to comply with the written instructions."

The first day after the surgery, or "Post-op" as the medics refer to it, didn't have much energy or a "sponge bath." I don't have a sponge so perhaps I should have referred to it as a "washcloth bath," but that lacks a certain panache. Trying to keep my leg elevated, as I was instructed to do, I balanced precariously on my "good leg" and tried to keep the sopping washcloth from slipping all over the bathroom floor. Sopping wet cloth didn't want to be much of a problem, but the half-moon on the floor didn't want to be removed. With each swipe of the cloth, the floor gave me and mine tangled. I finally gave up, mumbled it into a tray bath, and found it into the



Later, Gator!

parge with a sigh. My second attempt wasn't much better. The wrap first stuck to the hairy cloth robe, and then again condescended into a mucky ball when I attempted to get it a smack from my robe. Third attempt: I was getting the long end of I managed to get one sheet of wrap off the roll before the center thing came off the rack and pulled the wrap into itself. I managed to subvert things, however, the physics were just that moment and when I let go of the wrap to assess the physics, the static electricity or some evil force crinkled my carefully laid out sheet of wrap.

After waiting what seemed like a great deal of telephone - although the lines of dial didn't want to be that much of a deal - I managed to get one sheet of telephone wrap around my knee. The ends doubled back on my knee, but it didn't seem to be too loose, but it was covering the offending portion of the limb. I belted back to the bathroom, trying laboriously to keep the wrap from sliding down my leg and exposing the warts. By the time I stepped the shower, I was exhausted, but at least I was looking forward to a nice hot and relaxing shower.

As the water started down my leg, I looked down to see the cellphone strap as wide down as my neck. "I screamed. The strap was going to be those 30/30's" straps get me now, after all I've been through. I ignored the shower door and made my way outside. Once again, I was previously balanced on one leg, work that conditions have improved, less, leaning, relying but shivering. I hurriedly belted up, removed the strap and the shower door. I was the Apple and the Bronze Star for meritorious conduct in bravery as an actor.

New York's 134 Boulevard Avenue was named co-chairman of a woman's group formed to support the campaign of Florence P. Dwyer. Dwyer was running for election in an eight term in Congress, and six weddings arranged in the Tribune this work in 1970. Mr. and Mrs. Edward DeVincenzo, 111 Park Ave. announced the birth of their seventh child, Michael Anthony, on July 29. Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. White of 291 Hoboken Ave. had a son, Nathaniel Robert, on July 26. Mr. and Mrs. Hyman F. Calkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Calkins of Fairview Drive, was married to Robert W. Calkins of Fairview Drive. Mr. and Mrs. John C. Moseley of 28 Haverwood Avenue, became the bride of Alan Jones of Cambridge, Florida. Karen Lee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Lee of 24 Woodside Drive, was wed to Richard W. Doolittle of 24 Woodside Drive.

Mary O'Brien, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph of 81 Bryant Drive, married George Nardelli of 111 Park Ave. and Mrs. Carmine Nardelli, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Williams of West Orange. Richard W. Calkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rothermel of 24 Woodside Drive, became the husband of Susan Jennifer Davis of Short Hills. "Please to local movie theater, was They Call Me Bob, starring Sydney Poitier.

Abby, duck tape... Is there anything I can do?

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Scott Leisure Fitness of East Hanover
My name is Scott, and I am the Community Sales Manager for Leisure Fitness of East Hanover. I will be happy to represent the fitness center that is currently being developed in the north of the North/Central. This facility offers a wide variety of services and amenities. I am currently in the process of securing the location, and I am looking for the greater bang for the dollar. I am not just your sales manager and property manager, I am your business partner. I will be working with you and your staff to ensure that your investment is protected and your return is maximized. I will be working with you and your staff to ensure that your investment is protected and your return is maximized. I will be working with you and your staff to ensure that your investment is protected and your return is maximized.

W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Column Writing

First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

The West Essex Tribune

Nancy's Notebook

Nancy Dinar

Advertisement for Leisure Fitness of East Hanover, featuring contact information for Scott, Community Sales Manager.







PAPER TRAILS  
ELIZABETH OGUSS

## Snow days

In my parents' upstate New York village, the buffer zone between road and sidewalk is a good five feet wide, and the sidewalks are plowed by narrow little municipal plows.

Of course they know how to manage snow up in the North Country. Here in sunny Essex County, it's more of a challenge. As I write this, on the second day of March, snow is in the forecast.

And yet I am not complaining. With you, I am complaining. My street has a buffer zone of 15 inches. I'm not complaining. I've managed it. I do not know where we are supposed to put the snow. I should tell it to hurry, and then the county plows ramble by and push snow off curbside, not snow to my driveway.

It's not a fair fight. Why can't they attach an outdrigger to the plow that could clear driveway-width of what the main apparatus leaves behind?

I walk to work where that road and can tell you which homeowners shovel promptly and which ones don't, where the icy patches tend to form, and where you're most likely to be splined with slush by thoughtless drivers.

As I was saying, I'm not really complaining. I love snow.

No amount of boiler and backache could diminish how much I love it.

I love Frost's "ray wind and downy fall." I love Emerson's "idiotic architecture of the snow." I love this, from Dylan Thomas:

"Our snow was not only shaken from white waltzers down the sky. It came chattering out of the ground and swan and drifted out the arms and hands and bodies of the trees, snow grew overnight on the roofs of the houses like a pure and grandfather moon steadily head the walls and set on the postman, opening the gate, the dumb, warm thunder-sound of white, silent Christmas cards."

But I don't only love literary snow. I love real snow, and I love snow days.

One of the blogs I read regularly had an uncharacteristically ill-tempered post a while ago, a rant about snow closings. The otherwise agreeable college professor from Connecticut was angry, and pointed to her blog titled in, among other things, on and on about all the both-bathing through the flurries to the grocery store to stock up on eggs, milk, and bread.

Go white, they wanted to know. Does snow mean that the French toast when it snows?

Ha! Right. What if some people aren't sure what's in the fridge so on the way home they're getting staples on a presumptive basis, or they just happen to need milk, eggs, and bread, which are used in a number of ways aside from French toast in most kitchens?

I submit that not everyone at the A&P is afraid they might be homebound for a day or two. Some of them are looking forward to it.

What you see before a snowfall is not panic, but preparation for incursions. Snow is permission to be in the comforts of home.

You can't do this in the same way hurricanes days are not pleasant affairs.

On a snow day, you get beauty and time rolled into one.

Perks remain in that beauty is fleeting: A spring morning in fresh and sweet sunlight, but it's time to go to work. The beauty is at its loveliest at day's end, but the kids are cranking and it's time to take them home. The cake is a work of snow gone.

It seems that when I have time, I think about snow. I'm sick in bed or stuck on a run-down.

A snow day is a nature-imposed holiday without the prohibition of work that would preclude baking bread or carrying in wood for the fireplace. It's a day to go, to create, to relax.

Snow days at home with my children stand out as among the most peaceful days of my life.

Yes, I loved it. But I also needed.

# SHE WAS AN ICON



A large but surprisingly lightweight gill metal bracket sits alongside other prototypical designs by Elsa Peretti, a roommate of supermodel Naomi Sims before either became stars in their respective fields. Peretti went on to become a designer for Tiffany & Co., and Sims broke ground as the first black supermodel, gracing the cover of many magazines in the 1960s. She later started a business that created wigs for African-American women. A standing-room-only crowd filled the new Nye & Co. Gallery at 425 Bloomfield Ave. on Saturday, Feb. 27, for an auction of property from Sims' estate. Sims had bipolar disorder, and \$10,000, a portion of the auction's proceeds, is being donated to the Depression and Bipolar Association, said John Nye, gallery owner. When the business officially opens at the new location, it will include a retail gallery as well as an auction space. At left, Cory Rogers of Montclair sets his quadrate for the auction on Saturday afternoon.

STAFF PHOTOS BY ADAM AHN



## March is 67th annual Red Cross Month Mayor Jerry Fried to issue proclamation at next week's council meeting



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RED CROSS

Volunteers stand at attention at a dedication ceremony of the Montclair Chapter of the American Red Cross in May 1942. In recent years, the chapter merged with chapters in Glen Ridge and Nutley, and is now the Montclair-Glen Ridge-Nutley Chapter, headquartered at 63 Park St.

At the March 8 meeting of the Township Council, Mayor Jerry Fried will issue a proclamation that recognizes and thanks supporters and volunteers of the Montclair-Glen Ridge-Nutley Chapter of the Red Cross.

Since 1942, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first Red Cross Month proclamation, March has been Red Cross Month.

"The Red Cross works tirelessly to be there with help and hope where people need it most, and we are grateful for the public support that enables us to continue our work, here at home and abroad," stated Michelle Ippolito, executive director of the chapter.

"Our community and our town depend on the Red Cross in times of need, and the Red Cross depends on the support of people in America to achieve its mission," she added.

"During Red Cross Month, we want to recognize the valuable supporters whose generosity

makes the work of the American Red Cross possible," stated John Kocinos, director of emergency operations and safety services.

In addition, Red Cross Month is a great time for nearby residents to get involved with the Red Cross, such as donating blood, signing up for a CPR, first aid or another Red Cross course, giving a financial gift that can really save the day when the need arises, or getting involved as a volunteer," Kocinos added.

The American Red Cross provides shelter, food, comfort and hope to survivors of nearly 70,000 disasters each year, helps prepare communities for emergencies, is the largest single provider of the nation's blood, teaches life-saving skills to more than 5 million people a year, supports military members and their families, and provides international humanitarian aid.

The American Red Cross is a network of 34,000 employees and more than 600,000 volunteers in more than 2,000 loca-

# W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Column Writing

First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# The Montclair Times

Paper Trails: Snow Days

Paper Trails: From Here

# Elizabeth Oguss

**W10: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
Sports Writing Portfolio**

# W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Sports Writing Portfolio

Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Bogota Bulletin

### Lynch Joins Elite with 1,000 points

### Bucs on the Hunt for Glory

### Senior Trio Propels Bogota Back to the Top

## Darius Amos

## SPORTS

MARCH 5, 2010 7  
BPP/LF/BB



BOGOTA/2010 HUSTAF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bogota's Marissa Varon eyes the basket in the team's win over Leonia last week. On Monday, Varon and her teammates defeated Midland Park in the first round of the North 1, Group 1 playoffs.

### NORTH 1, GROUP 1 GIRLS

## Bogota on target against Panthers Lynch, Butts shoot Bucs past MP

BY DARIUS AMOS  
Staff Writer

After suffering first round losses in the past two state sectional tournaments, Bogota answered its critics and took a giant step forward when it beat Midland Park 50-35 Monday afternoon. For the fourth-straight year, advancing to the second round of the North 1, Group 1 bracket put them in prime position to make a legitimate run for the title.

The Bucs were scheduled to host Waldwick, the No. 12 seed, on Wednesday night. That game took place after press deadline, but full highlights from that game will be featured next week.

Bogota's 15-point win over Midland Park didn't come without a sweat. In fact, the 13th-ranked Panthers put an enormous amount of pressure on the home team, even after they fell behind early in the game. Trailing 14-6 in the second quarter, Midland Park took the Lady Bucs by storm, out-hustling and outbounding them on both ends of the floor. A 12-4 run pulled the Panthers even at 18-18 with the Bucs, who could have been in the hole, had Midland Park been more efficient on

### Full playoff coverage

Coverage from this week's first round playoff games will be published in next week's issue. The games include:

- Bogota boys vs. Becton;
- Ridgefield Park boys vs. Garfield; and
- Ridgefield Park girls vs. West Essex.

its lay-up and free throw attempts.

"The girls were a little nervous," Bogota head coach Sean Gaffney said, adding that the Bucs were thrown off their game offensively in the first half. Both teams went into halftime deadlocked at 20-20, but Gaffney said his team merely required a mental adjustment.

"We had their defense back, but we were just missing wide open looks. I told them [at halftime] that they're a much better team. I don't mean that in a negative way; Midland Park plays hard all its time. But for the amount of looks we had in the first half, we could've been up by 20," Gaffney said.

"You just have to relax... It's one game of girls playing another group of girls. Just play your game and settle down, because if you

### MILESTONE

## Lynch joins elite with 1,000 points

BY DARIUS AMOS  
Staff Writer

Megan Lynch never made a big fuss over scoring 1,000 career points, but reaching the standard by which high school basketball players are now measured was always on her mind. For Bogota's star forward, she can now rest easy.

Lynch reached the historic milestone during the Bucs' road loss to Daught-Englewood last Monday. "It was a great accomplishment because it was something that I always wanted to do, and I finally did it. I was just happy that I got it over with," Lynch said following Bogota's win over Leonia, the night after she reached 1,000.

Bogota's star forward actually hit the mark earlier in her playing career than most. Just a junior, Lynch still has her entire senior season to add to her point total.

"I never really thought I would do it in my junior year, but by the end of last season [reaching 1,000] became attainable," she said.

Credit that to Lynch's work ethic and her head coach's early confidence. Bare does a freshman make an impact on a varsity team, but Bogota head coach Sean Gaffney knew Lynch was a different type of player.

"There's no one more driven than her. She's the workhorse, plays all year and wants to get better. And she will get better," Gaffney said.

That's what opposing teams are scared of the most, the fact that Lynch will improve upon the 25 points per game that she is already averaging this year. Against the BCSL Olympic's strongest teams, Lynch has played some of her best games. In two games against New Milford, Lynch has a combined 51 12 points of the third quarter and four 3-pointers.

"You have to remember that it's Breille's first time starting this year, so she's a little nervous. This is a big game for her," Gaffney said. "In the first half, she wasn't even hitting the rim. I told her to settle down and keep shooting the three, and boy did she."

Butts added her fifth 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, when Lynch and Carolina Calabia applied constant offensive pressure on Midland Park. By that point, the Bucs had settled on offense and defense, exploiting the mismatches they had against the Panthers that were exposed when they opened the game with an 11-4 lead.

Lynch, who passed the 1,000-career point mark last week, led all scorers with 19 points, while Butts had 17.

against Creskill and another 17 against Park Ridge.

Despite Lynch's high point totals in those games, the team has gone 0-6 against New Milford, Creskill and Park Ridge. Does that irk Lynch? You betcha, Gaffney said.

"She wants to win, first and foremost. Even if you see her in gym class, she just wants to win. She'll trade points for wins in a second," Gaffney said.

Lynch embraces the team-first attitude, and she understands her role as the leader of the young Bucs' squad.

"I try to be a good role model. If I'm not doing well, I try not to be down because the whole team is going to be down. So I try to always play positive and encourage everyone," she said.

Gaffney already sees the impact that she has on the underclassmen.

"We have 10 girls, five are freshmen. They look up to her, cheer her on and learn from her. When they see how good she is, they want to put in the same amount of work that she puts in," Gaffney said.

But Lynch had another edge that pushed her to succeed. A supportive family, all of whom were on hand when she passed the 1,000-point mark, has been with Lynch along the way. Her father introduced the sport to her, serving as her first recreation coach.

Then there is her older brother, James, a 1,000-point scorer and quarterback of the undefeated, state championship football team in 2006. But is there any sibling rivalry?

"Kind of," Lynch joked. "But I was never in school the same year as him. He scored his 1,000th, and I always wanted to be the same as him or maybe even better."

She paused, then smiled.

"I'll take better."

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# W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Sports Writing Portfolio

Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

## Wayne Today

### Dowling to Zaffino Lateral Will Live on in Hills' History

### Giant Size Showdown

### Battle for Top Spot Reunites Boys Club Standouts

## Christopher Lawlor

NJPA  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

# Sports

PAGE 50  
THURSDAY December 9, 2010

## HOLY LATERAL

### Resilient Wayne Hills pulls off a Miracle at the Meadowlands

BY RICH STAMBOLIAN & NICK GANTAFIS

**EAST RUTHERFORD**—The look on Chris Olsen's face summed up what the entire Wayne Hills' side-line was feeling.

The Wayne Hills' veteran football coach stared in disbelief just seconds after Old Tappan took a 21-17 lead with just under 23 seconds to play in the North I, Group III State title game at New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford.



Wayne Hills Patriots FOOTBALL

**Wayne Hills 24 Old Tappan 21**  
North I Group III Final  
New Meadowlands Stadium

After leading the Golden Knights the entire game, including a 14-0 halftime lead, the Wayne Hills' defense allowed Old Tappan to score the go-ahead touchdown in what appeared to seal the Bergen County based school's first sectional title in 25 years.

"I immediately got sick to my stomach," said Olsen, shortly after Old Tappan junior quarterback

Devin Fuller found teammate Drew Martinec on a 15-yard scoring strike to take its only lead of the game in the waning seconds. "I've grown real close to this group of kids here and all I kept thinking was how can they be denied a second year in-a-row. It was just hard for me to believe that we were about to blow this game."

With only one chance left in the Patriots' tank to pull off a miracle finish and Old Tappan set to deliver what seemed to be the formal ensuing kickoff, fate stepped in and delivered the Patriots into State school-boy football history.

With all-purpose senior tailback Brian Dowling hanging deep in Wayne Hills' territory hoping for a chance Old Tappan would kick the ball somewhere in his

SEE STATE, PAGE 51



PHOTO BY LESLIE BARBARO

**BRINGING IT HOME**—Wayne Hills' Roberto Alvarez, left, and Peter Dalbes, center, celebrate with teammates after the Patriots edged Old Tappan in last Saturday night's North I, Group III State championship game at the New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford.

## Dowling to Zaffino lateral will live on in Hills' history

BY CHRISTOPHER LAWLOR  
Correspondent

**EAST RUTHERFORD**—The scoreboard had nearly tied dry. Old Tappan was on its way to a stunning victory against Wayne Hills.

The Wayne Hills' faithful were looking for the exits, unable to bear a rare loss. The Golden Knights had been waiting a generation for a sectional football championship. The dream had been on ice since 1985 and all that separated them with destiny was far 25 seconds to melt off the clock at the New Meadowlands Stadium last Saturday night. Old Tappan rallied for a 21-17 lead late in the game and the Patriots appeared cooked. Devin Fuller, the multi-talented junior quarterback, fueled Old Tappan's comeback.

"I was sick to my stomach," Wayne Hills head coach Chris Olsen admitted. Then it happened.

It came out of the cold, harsh night when anything short of a miracle would rescue the Patriots. The swerving kickoff landed in the trunty hands of senior all-anything Brian Dowling and somewhere amid a tangled mass of arms and legs, he lateraled to teammate Troy Zaffino, who raced the final 87 yards unscathed for the championship-clinching touchdown.

Yes, Wayne Hills captured its seventh Group III, Section 1 crown this decade, with five seconds to spare. When Zaffino's assault on the red zone concluded, the scoreboard blinked: Wayne Hills 24, Old Tappan 21. "It's the most amazing feeling of my life; I can't explain it," Zaffino said.

More than three decades ago, a few hundred feet away at the previous site of Giants Stadium, it was dubbed the "Miracle at the Meadowlands," a day that lives in

SEE ZAFFINO, PAGE 52



PHOTO BY LESLIE BARBARO

**WING AND A PRAYER**—Wayne Hills' head football coach Chris Olsen wraps his arms around game-hero Troy Zaffino moments after the Patriots defeated Old Tappan in the Section I, Group III State title game at the New Meadowlands Stadium last Saturday night.

SEE DOWLING, PAGE 52

## Dowling has his place in Hills' history

BY NICK GANTAFIS  
Sports Editor

**WAYNE**—Chris Olsen has seen his share of prolific athletes in his three plus decades coaching high school football. If you give him enough time to respond, the Wayne Hills' head coach will rattle off names that have served major roles during his successful coaching career.

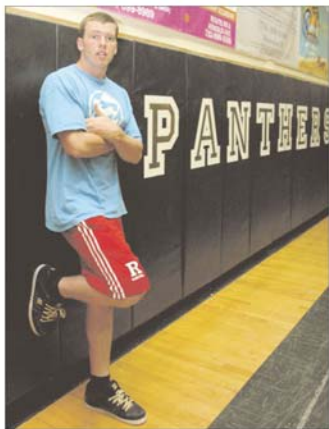
With prior coaching stints at Paterson-Eastside, Bergenfield and the defunct St. Cecilia's in Englewood, numerous athletes have crossed his path. Upon his arrival at Wayne Hills in 1987, Olsen quickly went to work and built the Patriots into title contenders. In the 24 years he's been in Wayne, Olsen has designed an offense that revolves around the running back position. It's the staple of the Patriots' offense and it's the main factor behind Wayne Hills' seven overall State titles this decade.

The tailback position has become synonymous with Wayne Hills football. Starting with All-State recipient James Milton in 1996, the Patriots' front man has lined up in the offensive backfield. Following Milton was high-profile names like A.J. Spicer, Brian and Tarean Williams, Chazz Lynn, Ray Van Preenen and Dan DeCiccio. It's a memory lane of tailbacks that has made Wayne Hills a perennial State-wide public school power.

But while it's difficult for Olsen to tab one tailback as the best he's ever coached, he is quick to admit that in terms of versatility, no one comes close to Brian Dowling.

"I've had a lot of great running backs play for me over the years," admitted Olsen. "There's so many that I can't begin to mention them all. But if you're asking me if Brian is the best tailback I've ever coached, I can tell you that in terms of versatility, the answer is yes. It wouldn't be fair for me to exclude anyone and disrespect any of my past running backs because they were all very good. But Brian is the complete package. He can return kicks, punts, catch balls out of the backfield and even throw it. He's the best all-around athlete playing the game."

Since assuming his role in the Patriots offense during his sophomore season in 2008, Dowling has



Senior Ryan Malleck has been a three-sport standout during his time at Point Pleasant Borough High School, but he will devote himself to the gridiron in 2011, as a member of the University of Maryland football team.

## Terrapins snap up Boro's Ryan Malleck

By Greg Domorski  
**POINT PLEASANT** — Despite attempts by Rutgers to change his mind and snag Point Boro's 6-foot-5, 235-pound tight end Ryan Malleck, it was not late for the Scarlet Knights — the Terrapins of Maryland had already captured his heart.

Malleck, who received eight Division I offers, opted this past weekend to join the University of Maryland Terrapins

interceptions. He is rated a three-star prospect by top recruiting services Scout and Rivals — out of a possible five stars — and received offers from the University of Connecticut, Army, Navy, North Carolina State, University of Central Florida and Virginia, as well as Rutgers and Maryland.

Malleck, Rutgers and the University of Connecticut rounded out his top-three picks, but Malleck was keen on Maryland almost from the beginning.

Malleck had just one concern about becoming a Terrapin — he wanted to make sure there would be coaching stability in the program before he joined the team.

Maryland head coach Ralph Friedgen's team posted a 2-10 record last season, and some have speculated that he has been sitting in the hot seat for some time.

No matter what happens, Malleck said the week he is comfortable with his decision, and said Maryland was the right choice for him.

Malleck's commitment to Maryland is not set in stone according to NCAA recruiting rules, high school seniors cannot sign a binding National Letter of Intent to play sports at a Division I school until signing day in February.

"I was going to commit a

## Merchants best Braves

By Greg Domorski  
**POINT PLEASANT** — Even the drizzling rain spinning fitfully across the barnum Point Pleasant High School baseball field could not stop an electrical crowd from packing the stands Sunday night.

**Merchants 4**  
**Braves 2**  
**Championship Jersey Shore**

Baseball League Rich Gabriel, who struggled in his previous game against the Wall Angels, showed up to pitch for the Merchants. He was lights-out at the game, striking out early in the game with four straight strikeouts against Jeff Baker, Steve Skowicki, Sean Puchat and Matt Cook over the first two innings.

Gabriel kept his momentum going the entire night, and ended the game with 12 strikeouts on his credit.

When the Merchants stepped up to the plate in the first, Doug Ford, the headoff batter, batted down the third baseline to start the game.

Batter's power to be a large part of the Merchants' strategy throughout the evening, as the ball moved in unpredictable patterns on the rain-soaked high school field, confusing the opposing infielders.

Ryle Perry followed Ford with another bunt, also along the third baseline. Unlike Ford, Perry did not make it safely to first, but his sacrifice allowed Ford to scramble to second, putting him in scoring position.

Ford scored when Lance Keegan slugged a double to center. Elliot Habbert then

See **CHAMPS**, page 37



Point Merchant catcher Elliot Habbert and pitcher Rich Gabriel conferred on the mound in the sixth inning of the Merchants' championship-clinching win over the Colts Neck Braves Sunday night.

## The other side of the basket: Inside the world of an agent

By Greg Domorski  
**POINT PLEASANT** — Growing up, here, and in neighboring Point Pleasant Beach, current Point resident Michael Hart always had a passion for athletics.

He followed basketball year-round and knew one day he would be involved heavily with the sport. Following his dream and love for the game, he became a successful NBA and NBA (Federation Internationale de Basketball Amateur)-certified player agent.

When he graduated from Point Pleasant Beach High School in 1991, Hart enrolled at the University of

Maryland, and graduated with a dual degree in finance and sports management.

Afterward, Hart spent four to five years making contacts by traveling to NBA events around the country, where he met players and league officials.

"I am constantly networking and expanding my base of contacts," said Hart. "I started working informally with a couple different people, but six to 12 months later, I figured out I had my own vision."

In 1999, at the beginning of his first year at Seton Hall Law School, he took the first

See **HART**, page 35

# W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Sports Writing Portfolio

Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Ocean Star

## Merchants Best Braves

## Panthers Pounce on Lions for First Win

## Beach Gives Henry Hudson a Nightmare Before Christmas



In a close contest, the Lavettite yacht club's Blue Devils won the Sandeloff class during the club's Sunday Regatta this week, with the help of his crew — Betty Davis, his aunt, and Eddie Davis, his younger brother.



# W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Sports Writing Portfolio

First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Ridgefield Park Patriot

### Schools, Not Siblings, Renew Rivalry

### Lady Scarlets Continue to Keep Their Focus

### Loss Doesn't Diminish Successful Season

## Darius Amos

NJPA  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

## SPORTS

10 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2010  
PPPL/FL/BB



DARIUS AMOS/STAFF PHOTOS

Ridgefield Park's Katie Lane and Cliffside Park's Mariane Landeiro struggle for position while going after the ball.

### GIRLS SOCCER

## Schools, not siblings, renew rivalry

BY DARIUS AMOS  
Staff Writer

A girl's best friend might be her sister, but what happens when the natural course of events pits one sibling against the other? For the Guider girls, the answer is strictly business.

For the first time, the Guider sisters squared off as opposing high school head coaches - Jill's Cliffside Park girls' soccer team hosted AnnBeth's Ridgefield Park squad last Saturday in a clash of longtime league foes. And although a big deal in the unmarked and unofficial history of sibling rivalries, the coaching sisters saw the game as run of the mill.

"We might be sisters," Jill said, "but we're also coaches. We don't see it as such a big deal."  
"We take every game one game at a time, regardless of the opponent or opposing coach," added Jill, who's in her fourth season as the leader of the Lady Raiders. "When we step on the field, we're going to try our best all the time to pull off a win."

AnnBeth is in her first season as Ridgefield Park head coach but previously served as an assistant, so seeing Jill on the opposite sideline isn't something new. Before the teams matched up, AnnBeth echoed her sister's sentiments. "It's a little different this time



Cliffside Park head coach Jill Guider (in white) guided her team to a 1-0 win over Ridgefield Park head coach and sister AnnBeth Guider's team.

around," AnnBeth said, "but we don't prepare any differently just because it's my sister. We take every game just as seriously, and we've watched Cliffside as a whole so we're prepared to play."

Both coaches played off any suggestion that either had last Saturday's game circled on the calendar for reasons other than its bearing in the Big North standings. Speaking to reporters separately, they made the same assertion.

SEE SOCCER, PAGE 12



JOE CAMPORALE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kathryn Haines (in red) and the Ridgefield Park volleyball team opened the 2010 season with seven straight victories.

### BIG NORTH WEEKLY

#### BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY

### Scarlets run past Dumont

Ridgefield Park 28, Dumont 29 — Brendan Conway and Filip Ilie finished second and third, respectively, as the Scarlets defeated the Huskies at a meet at Garret Mountain.

#### GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY

### Strowbridge leads RP sweep

Ridgefield Park 18, Dumont 43 — Monica Strowbridge, Gabi Guadalupe and Carolina Zardoya finished 1-2-3 to lead the Lady Scarlet hurriers to a win at Garret Mountain.

#### FOOTBALL

### Reynoso tallies lone score on gridiron

Matlow 27, Ridgefield Park 7 — Eric Reynoso scored on a 5-yard run for the Scarlets' lone score of the game.

#### BOYS SOCCER

### Rams, Raiders too much for Scarlets

Ramsley 3, Ridgefield Park 0 — Nick LaTour stopped 10 shots for the Scarlets.  
Cliffside Park 6, Ridgefield Park 1 — Jason Pello tallied the Scarlets'

lone goal, and Nick LaTour had 13 saves.

#### GIRLS SOCCER

### Lane, Rovito come up big

Ramsley 3, Ridgefield Park 0 — Scarlets' keeper Kellie Lane kept her team in the game, as she made 22 saves.

Ridgefield Park 3, North Bergen 1 — Julie Rovito scored two goals and Giselle Abri had a goal and an assist to lead the Scarlets to the win. Kellie Lane stopped 16 shots in goal.

#### VOLLEYBALL

### Lady Scarlets continue run

Ridgefield Park 2, Teaneck 0 — The Scarlets defeated the Highwaywomen 11 and 18 and were paced by Isael Garcia's three kills and Lorena Meneses' 10 assists. Chantel Lopez had six digs for Ridgefield Park.

Ridgefield Park 2, Ramsey 1 — Isael Garcia had nine kills, and Lorena Meneses had 16 assists to lead the way for the Scarlets. Amie Cartas added 12 digs for the victors.

Ridgefield Park 2, Dwight Morrow 0 — Katie Richter had three kills to lead the Scarlets. Teammate Lorena Meneses had six assists.

Ridgefield Park 2, Cliffside Park 0 — Kathryn Haines had 10 kills for the Lady Scarlets. Lorena Meneses recorded 18 assists, and Amie Cartas had 13 digs to lead Ridgefield Park.

### BERNARDS BOYS BASKETBALL



Bernards High School's Matt Locker goes up for a shot during a game earlier this season. Locker and the Mountaineers won two of three games last week to improve to 5-3.

## Mountaineers winning despite inexperience

**BY DAVE ALLEN, SPORTS EDITOR**

**BERNARDSVILLE** — Continuing its growth as a team, the Bernards High School boys basketball squad also found some success during the first three weeks of the season.

After opening the campaign with a pair of losses, one of which came without their only returning starter, the Mountaineers turned things around by winning five of its next six decisions, including a 50-37 victory over host North Warren Friday night, to bring a 5-3 record into the week.

All these growing pains have been, well, painful, but they have been overcome by more good than their past. Head Coach Jeff Caswell, his staff remains a work in progress, at least in regards to coming together as a team.

"I'm happy with 5-3," he said. "It like to be better, but it's a respectable record. It's a good first third of the season. You always want to be better, but we're headed in the right direction. We haven't put together four quarters yet, I know it's coming, and I hope it comes soon. We've been talking about how we're going to focus on focus. We're trying to take those half sets of the equation, but they've been popping up when they're least expected."

PLEASE SEE MOUNTAINS, PAGE 19

### RIDGE BOYS BASKETBALL

## Red Devils thriving with Frisoli, Cefalo, role players jelling

**BY BILL WENEMER, CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

**BERNARDS TWP.** — He is known for his animated presence on the bench, a coach not shy about letting his players know when he expects more.

But after Ridge High School's boys basketball game last Sunday night, Head Coach Mark Taylor struck a relaxed pose in his office, calmly singing the verses of his team. He even smiled a few times.

Taylor had just watched Middlesex's Vernon, 62-41, in its dominant showing, one of the season. The Red Devils were in control at both ends in lifting their mark to 6-2 and dropping the visitors to 0-2.

Taylor's pride is easy to understand, in light of who is not on the court for his Red Devils. Senior Andrew Madliger, among the best marksmen in school history, broke his wrist a month ago and has not set up this season. Isaiah Pitt, Ridge's leading scorer from last year, transferred to another school. Ridge also misses team handoff point guard Ryan Whelan, who graduated last spring and is now playing soccer at Villanova.

But as Taylor sees it, unforeseen challenges create opportunity. He has asked his seasoned players to lead and has given inexperienced players more chances to contribute. On half-court and quarter alone. With Madliger out, Frisoli has emerged as Ridge's most potent offensive threat, shooting 30 percent around the arc and driving the lane with equal authority.

"Christian is now a consistent threat," Taylor remarked. "He has made 10 or 11 three-pointers in his last few games. Senior Connor Sloan punished Vernon at both ends. He rang up 13 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and made several steals. Whenever a ball sprung loose, Sloan was first to the wood.

"Connor is a warrior, the kind of guy you want in your forecourt," Taylor said. "Other seniors really struggle to match up with him. He's not a guard, not a forward, not a center. He does it all for us."

Senior guard Nick Cefalo posted another steady game, racking up 12 points, feeding open teammates for easy looks, and chip in on the glass. Senior center County's Florio of the Year in Christian Frisoli scored 11 of his team high 13 points in the sec-



Ridge High School's Christian Frisoli (34), seen here last month, and his Red Devil teammates have played well during the early part of the season as they ran their record to 6-2 with a 62-44 rout of Vernon Saturday.

Photo by Jeff Madden

# W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Sports Writing Portfolio

## First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# The Bernardsville News

# Red Devils Thriving 1,000-point Player Excels Off Basketball Court Seniors Enjoy Memorable Years

# Bill Summers



NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

## Girls hoops team wins twice for 3-4 mark

**BERNARDS TWP.** — In a meeting between Six-Board Conference Delaware Division girls looking to overcome slow starts to their seasons Jan. 7, the Ridge High School girls basketball squad set off to a fast start and then put the decisive win with a solid finish to improve to 3-4 for the season.

Entertaining Hillsborough 33-41, the Red Devils made it back-to-back victories with a 24-14 triumph as they built a 13-4 advantage after eight minutes, but 23-14 at halftime and 10-27 after three quarters, and then led the game with a 17-5 showing in the fourth quarter when they converted 11 of 14 free throws.

Missal had a balanced effort for the winners with 12 points, while Nicole Galante dropped in 10. Alexa Irwin finished with nine, including three on free throws, and Sam Fama added eight. Hillsborough's Rachel Jackson connected for half of her team's point in 17-point performance.

**Ridge 42, Phillipsburg 39** — Kneaded in to either one quarter and 16-18 at halftime, the Red Devils took the lead with a 14-4 third quarter and held off Phillipsburg 42-39.

PLEASE SEE RIDGE, PAGE 20



Ridge High School's Jake Host (23) battles for possession of the puck against St. Joseph's Friday night. Host accounted for the match's only goal as the Red Devils handed St. Joe's just its second loss of the season.

## Boys swim team rolls to remain unbeaten

**BERNARDSVILLE** — Getting stranger and deeper with Mitch Colby returning to the lineup, the Bernards High School boys swimming team continued its winning season as they improved to 5-6 with a 127-41 rout of West Morris Mendham Jan. 7.

John Lawson and Justin Meyers set the pace as both contributed to four first place finishes. Lawson delivered a record-breaking effort in the 100-yard backstroke, which he won in 56.66 seconds to surpass his own school mark, and also claimed two honors in the 100 butterfly 58.26.

Meyers, meanwhile, captured the top spots in the 100 freestyle in 50.94 and the 200 freestyle in 1:25.09. Alexander Agnew also recorded a solo double, winning the 200 individual medley in 1:18.76 and the 100 breaststroke. Robert Crane took the 50 free in 22.75, and Colby won the 300 free in 5:01.18.

Lawson, Agnew, Brandon McCrossen and Crane combined to claim the top spot in the 200 medley relay in 1:51.56. McCrossen, Agnew, Matt Smith and Cefalo finished in the 200 free relay in 1:27.13. The foursome of Meyers, Charlie Cole, Colby and Lawson won the 800 free in 10:27.31.

Cole produced second-place finishes in the 200 EM 300 free, while Crane tied with Lawson for first and Dan Banks (Bernards) each added one runner-up effort for the Mountaineers, who took first and second or first and third in every event in the first meet between the schools.

**Bernards 66, Franklin 24** — Despite limiting their top performers to a couple of races, the Mountaineers will head their way with Franklin in a Six-Board Conference Barnum Division meet Jan. 5 in Sloat. Banks and Lawson contributed to three first place finishes against the host.

Sloan captured the top spot in the 30 free in 24.61. Banks won the 100 breast and Lafayette claimed first in the 100 breast in 1:13.03.

PLEASE SEE BERNARDS, PAGE 19



**W11: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
Robert P. Kelly Award**

# RAMSEY SUBURBAN NEWS

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2010

## 'We are forever in his debt'



PHOTO BY MARION BROWN

Salute to a hometown hero

Page 3

## Apartment fire spares tenants

BY JODI WEINBERGER  
Of Suburban News

**RAMSEY** - A fire at the Regency Park Apartments on Island Road on Thursday completely destroyed the place Peter D'Esopo has called home since 1983.

The Ramsey Fire Department responded to Apartment No. 4 in response to a call at 1:57 p.m. April 15. Firefighters took 20 minutes to put out the fire then tore down the walls of the apartment looking for rogue flames in the wood and sheetrock. Residents in nine apartments were displaced.

Firefighters from Mahwah, Allendale, Wyckoff and Waldwick also responded.

In the aftermath, shards of glass covered the sidewalk from blown-out windows in the rear of the apartment and charred furniture was piled up outside an opening that had been the front door to the bottom floor apartment. The bedroom of an apartment above D'Esopo's sustained damage, as did an adjacent apartment, from firefighters while battling the blaze.

Ramsey Fire Capt. Louis Warnet was among the first to arrive and said heavy fire was coming out of one window and the firefighters attacked it from the outside before proceeding inside.

"It was a well-involved apartment fire," Warnet said. "The apartment is a total loss."

SEE FIRE, PAGE 2

### DIABETES

- Burning Pain/Neuropathy
- Prickling/Tingling Feelings
- Numbness & Cramping
- Restless Legs
- Sharp, Electric Pain
- Pain When You Walk
- Difficultly Sleeping & Walking from Leg/Foot Discomfort

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Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# Ramsey Suburban News

'We Are Forever in His Debt'  
Kyleigh's Law: How to Handle a Sticky Subject

Jodi Weinberger





**Walking for hope**  
More than 400 volunteers help CancerCare of New Jersey. **B1**



**MOUNT CARMEL IS 50**  
Parish plans major birthday celebration. **A3**

**2 out of 3 ain't bad**  
RHS falls to Paramus in girls soccer but wins in volleyball, boys soccer. **C1**

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# THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

theridgewoodnews.com

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2010

50 CENTS



**IN BRIEF**

**Village lifts water restrictions**

Village Manager Ken Gabbert announced yesterday that the "Stage III water shortage in Ridgewood, Glen Rock, Midland Park and Wyckoff will end on Oct. 1, 2010."

The release said that all water users can now resume unrestricted outdoor water use.

**Final tax bills mailed**

The Ridgewood Tax Collector has completed mailing the 2010 preliminary 2011 tax bills to village residents. Payments are due Nov. 1 as well as Feb. 1 and May 1 in 2011. Taxpayers who did not receive their tax bill should contact the Tax Collector's Office at 201-670-5500, ext. 511. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

**Access Ridgewood starts today**

Ridgewood CAN! (Community Access Network) will present "Access Ridgewood" this week end. On Saturday, Oct. 2, a Community Fair will be held in the Ridgewood Public Library's auditorium and continued from noon to 3 p.m. and on Sunday, Oct. 3, an Interfaith Service will begin at 4 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 100 Dayton St. For more details, see the story on page 3.

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Vol. 91, No. 40

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## Tragic end for a true talent



**Village, music community mourn loss of RHS grad**

**BY KELLY EBBELS**  
Staff Writer

The tragic details of the death of 18-year-old Tyler Clementi, a graduate of Ridgewood High School (RHS) and a student at Rutgers University, unraveled this week on an international stage. At home, the story is all too raw.

Clementi jumped off the George Washington Bridge (GWB) to his death on Wednesday, Sept. 22, just days after Rutgers students Dharun Ravi and Justin Wei allegedly taped him in a sexual act with another man. His family confirmed the suicide on Wednesday afternoon.

"Tyler was a fine young man, and a distinguished musician. The family is heartbroken beyond words," the family's attorney said in a statement.

Prosecutors in Middlesex County have charged Ravi and Wei, both 18, with two counts each of invasion of privacy for allegedly using a webcam to view and transmit a live image of Clementi on Sept. 19. Ravi, Clementi's roommate, was also charged with two additional counts of invasion of privacy for attempting a similar live feed on Sept. 21, according to

published reports. Collecting or viewing sexual images without consent is a fourth-degree crime. Transmitting them is a third-degree crime, with a maximum prison term of five years.

A body had been recovered from the Hudson River north of the GWB on Wednesday afternoon, authorities had not identified it as Clementi's.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family," said Ridgewood Schools Superintendent Daniel Fishbein.

The family had released a message last Friday that Clementi was missing, that afternoon RHS Principal Jack Lorente sent a message to parents offering counseling assistance through the weekend.

Throughout this week, critics and intervention counselors as well as administrators, were made available to students. Clementi's family said.

"We're dealing with the needs of our students and our faculty," Fishbein said.

**'Deceased'**

Clementi was an accomplished violinist. Members of the music community he had traveled in said they were overcome by his news.

"I was in shock; I couldn't

believe it. A lot of kids around town loved Tyler play."

Clement had studied privately for the past five years with Kyeong Jueng of Fort Lee. Jueng had begun to hear rumors of Clementi's disappearance last Friday, and he struggled with whom to do with the news.

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"I was in shock; I couldn't

See TRAGEDY, page A7

## Moving election date now an option

**BY MICHAEL SEDON**  
Staff Writer

Cost versus sanity are the opposing themes in the debate over whether or not to move local, non-partisan elections to the November ballot.

Under the Uniform Nonpartisan Elections Law, non-partisan municipal elections are held in May. A recent amendment, however, will allow governing bodies to change the election from May to November.

In Ridgewood's case, this amended law could save taxpayers about \$33,000, the cost to run a non-partisan election in May, according to Village Manager Ken Gabbert, who added that the council would discuss the matter further in November or December.

"The law takes effect Jan. 1, 2011 and cannot be used in 2010, according to the Department of Community Affairs.

The League of Municipalities (LOM) supported the measure because it offered municipalities a choice, rather than mandating the change.

"We think that, for certain municipalities, it could save a lot of money and also greatly improve participation," said Matthew Wang, LOM staff attorney. "It's just another citizen's option (on the November ballot), or whatever it might be. The state already pay for the November election, and municipalities that switch could simply add their candidates to that ballot. We're confident that the politics could begin to influence non-partisan towns, he added.

"Because these races are non-

**Non-partisan election costs**  
Backpack: \$32,000  
Lod: \$37,000  
Ridgewood: \$35,000  
Ravens: \$33,500  
Teterboro: \$4,900

## Residents question meeting

**BY KELLY EBBELS AND JOYCE WEINER SEDS**  
Staff Writers

Ridgewood residents spoke out at a Board of Education (BOE) meeting Monday night in opposition to a recent meeting held among members of the Federated Home and School Association (FHSA) and representatives of the Valley Hospital.

At the Federated meeting, held on Sept. 22 at the Education Center, several representatives of Valley and its contractors, as well as members of the Federated HSA, BOE, Superintendent Daniel Fishbein, Mayor Keith Killian and Councilman Paul Anzalone, met to discuss the proposed "Renewal" project and residents' concerns.

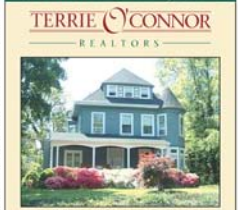
"At the BOE meeting, Monday night, some residents contended that holding the meeting was premature and might let HSA representatives have a skewed understanding of the expansion project.

"I thought holding this meeting was completely out of place and inappropriate at this juncture," said Maria Sherman, a parent of three Ridgewood students, including two at Benjamin Franklin Middle School (BFMS). "It is so far down the road of possibility that there was no reason to hold this meeting — except for PR purposes."

Lisa Barry, a member of the Concerned Residents of Ridgewood who lives near the hospital and has two children attending BFMS, said the Federated meeting resembled her of the British Petroleum conference that tries to reassure the public.

"They don't always confirm that there are things that scien-

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# The Ridgewood News

Tragic End for a True Talent

Popular Bar Night Draws Large Crowd

# Kelly Ebbels



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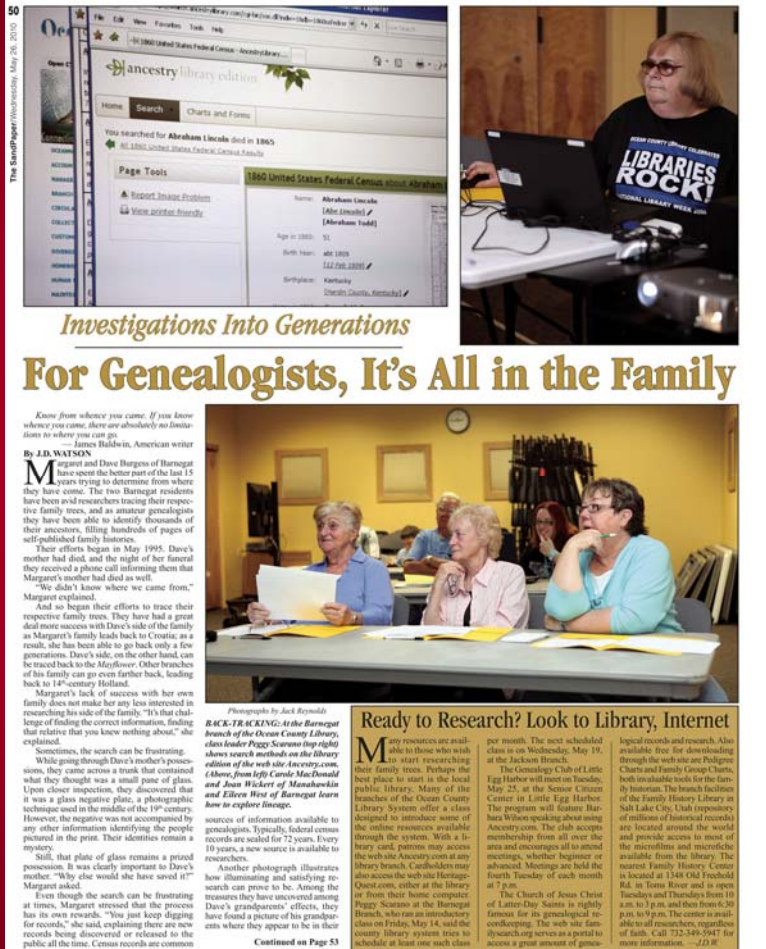
## The SandPaper

For Genealogists,  
It's All in the Family

The Nerds Observe  
Silver Anniversary  
at Joe Pop's Friday

J.D. Watson

NJPA  
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**Investigations Into Generations**  
**For Genealogists, It's All in the Family**

*Know from whence you came. If you know whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go.*  
— James Baldwin, American writer

**By J.D. WATSON**

Margaret and Dave Burgess of Barnegat have spent the better part of the last 15 years trying to determine from where they have come. The two Barnegat residents have been avid researchers tracing their respective family trees, and as amateur genealogists they have been able to identify thousands of their ancestors, filling hundreds of pages of self-published family histories.

Their efforts began in May 1995. Dave's mother had died, and the night of her funeral they received a phone call informing them that Margaret's mother had died as well.

"We didn't know where we came from," Margaret explained.

And so began their efforts to trace their respective family trees. They have had a great deal more success with Dave's side of the family as Margaret's family leads back to Croatia; as a result, she has been able to go back only a few generations. Dave's side, on the other hand, can be traced back to the Mayflower. Other branches of his family can go even farther back, leading back to 14<sup>th</sup>-century Holland.

Margaret's lack of success with her own family does not make her any less interested in researching his side of the family. "It's that challenge of finding the correct information, finding that relative that you know nothing about," she explained.

Sometimes, the search can be frustrating. While going through Dave's mother's possessions, they came across a trunk that contained what they thought was a small pane of glass. Upon closer inspection, they discovered that it was a glass negative plate, a photographic technique used in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, the negative was not accompanied by any other information identifying the people pictured in the print. Their identities remain a mystery.

Still, that plate of glass remains a prized possession. It was clearly important to Dave's mother. "Why else would she have saved it?" Margaret asked.

Even though the search can be frustrating at times, Margaret stressed that the process has its own rewards. "You just keep digging for records," she said, explaining there are new records being discovered or released to the public all the time. Census records are common

*Back to the Future: At the Barnegat branch of the Ocean County Library, class leader Peggy Scarnano (top right) shows search methods on the library edition of the web site Ancestry.com. (Above, from left) Carole MacDonald and Joan Wickett of Manahawick and Editors Best of Barnegat learn how to explore lineage.*

**Ready to Research? Look to Library, Internet**

Many resources are available to those who wish to start researching their family trees. Perhaps the best place to start is the local public library. Many of the branches of the Ocean County Library System offer a class designed to introduce some of the online resources available through the system. With a library card, patrons may access the web site Ancestry.com at any library branch. Cardholders may also access the website HeritageQuest.com, either at the library or from their home computer.

Peggy Scarnano at the Barnegat Branch, who ran an introductory class on Friday, May 14, said the county library system tries to schedule at least one such class

per month. The next scheduled class is on Wednesday, May 19, at the Jackson Branch.

The Genealogy Club of Little Egg Harbor will meet on Tuesday, May 25, at the Senior Citizen Center in Little Egg Harbor. The program will feature Barbara Whelan speaking about using Ancestry.com. The club accepts membership from all over the area and encourages all to attend meetings, whether beginner or advanced. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is highly famous for its genealogical record-keeping. The web site FamilySearch.org serves as a portal to access a great amount of genealogical records and research. Also available free for downloading through the web site are Pedigree Charts and Family Group Charts, both invaluable tools for the family historian. The branch facilities of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah (repository of millions of historical records) are located around the world and provide access to most of the microfilm and microfiche available from the library. The nearest Family History Center is located at 1368 Old Freshfield Rd. in Toms River and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The center is available to all researchers regardless of faith. Call 732-349-5947 for more information. — J.D.W.

*Continued on Page 53*

# W11: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Robert P. Kelly Award

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## Belleville Times

### Road to Recovery

### Digitization Project

## Maria Karidis

**COURT**  
**No more pets**  
 Woman pleads in bird case

Page 3



**LIBRARY**  
**State cuts**  
 Branch prepared for less aid

Page 3

**SHOOTING**  
**Detective kills man in Branch Brook Park**

Page 3



**SPORTS**  
**Summer bodes well for BHS baseball**

Page 14

# Officer's road to recovery

BY MARIA KARIDIS  
 of Belleville Times

"You never know if it's going to happen to you. You go to work everyday thinking you're going to go home, but you might not," said Fairfield police officer and Belleville native Gerald Veneziano. "But if anything does happen, you have to have that will to survive... you can't give up."

The 27-year-old officer took bullets to his face, neck, chest, left arm and left leg on the evening of Jan. 30 while reporting to work. Freye L. Roberts of Nutley has pleaded not guilty to the crime.

"I remember everything up until the helicopter coming to take me to University Hospital, and then I think they knocked me out for the ride," Veneziano said.

Just days before the shooting, Veneziano moved out of his parents' Belleville residence, having purchased a home in Clifton, he said. The only child of Gerald Sr. and Mary, Veneziano is a product of Belleville's School No. 5 and Belleville Middle School. He graduated from Seton Hall Preparatory High School in 2001, and then Caldwell College, in 2005, with a management degree.

Upon his college graduation, Veneziano began work as a police dispatcher for the Fairfield Police Department. He held that post for two years, before becoming an officer in 2007.

All of the pieces of Veneziano's adult life seemed to be falling into place.

**Recovery**  
 Veneziano awoke from his helicopter ride a few days later.

The first day waking up, it took a little time to figure it all out. I knew where I was, and my mother and father were there; they explained everything to me," he said.

Veneziano found out he had been shot six to nine times – an exact amount unknown due to the doctors' difficulty differentiating between several entrance and exit wounds, he said. From those bullets, Veneziano suffered a shattered jaw, two collapsed lungs, a broken femur, a severed femoral artery, and miscellaneous gunshot wounds to his chest and left arm. "I lost a lot of blood," he said.

He also temporarily lost the ability to eat, drink or speak. His jaw had been wired shut during his coma, and it remained wired shut for 10 weeks.

Veneziano shed 35 pounds during that period, and could only communicate through writing.

He spent only 10 days in University Hospital, but underwent multiple surgeries in that time, including: a leg fasciotomy – a limb-saving procedure whereby tissues are sliced to release and relieve severe swelling; a femur bone removal/metal rod implant by means of two screws in the hip; and a reconstructive jaw surgery.

"Surgeries were done in those first couple of days without me even knowing, because I couldn't decide for myself. My parents had to make decisions," said Veneziano.

Then he was transferred to Keeler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange. That became his home for about five weeks, until he was released as an outpatient in late March.

Veneziano returned to University Hospital briefly for a follow-up jaw surgery this spring, and one final jaw surgery may be in his future. "I still have a bullet in my jaw," he said.

"The doctors didn't want to disturb anything. They called it a 'dirty bullet.' If they move it, I can get an infection somewhere else in my jaw," he said. "But it's stable; it's not moving, and it doesn't hurt."

At Keeler, Veneziano said he was admitted to the spinal-cord rehabilitation floor. Other patients knew who he was and asked about his progress.

"There were a lot of people who couldn't walk, and while I was there, I tried to encourage them," Veneziano said. "But motivation wise, they did the same for me. When I was down, they'd help me out."

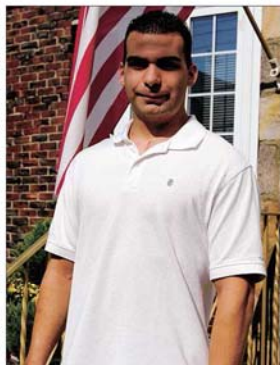
Other New Jersey police officers, who had sustained serious on-the-job injuries, also came around. "Every one of them told me not to give up, to give it time, and that eventually everything will get better," he said.

Veneziano also awaits his return to the police department. "I enjoy my job a lot, and I still want to do the best I can. I want to stay in Fairfield because they've done so much for me, and if I stay on patrol duty for the rest of my life, that's OK with me," he said.

"If I do get promoted someday, though, that's OK too," he joked.

Nerves in his left leg need to regenerate before he can return to patrol, maybe in six months to a year. "I can't wait. I'm sure I'll be a little nervous to begin with, but I'm also sure I'll jump right back into things."

Veneziano said he hopes to return to light-work duties before then.



DEBORAH ANN TRIPOLLO/BELLEVILLE TIMES  
 Gerald Veneziano outside of his parents' Belleville home on Tuesday.

**Work status**  
 Veneziano is still undergoing rehab at Keeler three times a week for leg-muscle strengthening and stretching.

He continues inspiring other patients, and said, "I want to talk to other cops eventually, too."

"This absolutely changed my life. I want to help other people so maybe they won't have to go through the same stuff, or I can help them go through it."

Veneziano also awaits his

SEE OFFICER, PAGE 6

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## The SandPaper

In the Driver's Seat: Helping the Hungry at a Higher Speed Little Egg Harbor Murder-Suicide Traumatizes Locals

# Michael Molinaro

### 32 CURRENTS

## Little Egg Harbor Murder-Suicide Traumatizes Locals

Shooting Investigation Ongoing

Local residents remain traumatized and a coordinated investigation is ongoing in the aftermath of a shooting that left three people dead in the Tall Timbers development in Little Egg Harbor Township on Monday.

After witnesses reported shots fired shortly after 10 a.m., an unheard number of responders came from many municipalities and the county in the form of police, SWAT teams, and volunteer EMS squads and fire companies.

A 5 p.m. news conference at the Little Egg Harbor town hall announced that Craig Mueller, 45, had used an AR-15 assault rifle to kill his brother, 35, and a neighbor, Cara Ellis, 21, from the second-story window of a Westchester Avenue townhouse he and his brother had shared. He then turned the gun on himself, taking his own life.

Ellis was a wife and mother. Her death remains the most tragic part of the incident, said Tall Timbers resident Stefan Kelsall. "Though I didn't know her that well, Kara and her husband, Matt, were very nice people. Our dogs had played together several times. I find it quite upsetting that a young woman who is just trying to help out a person that I don't think she even knew can die for that. I feel terrible for her husband and family – and could not imagine (it) if that was my wife."

Throughout the day, numerous rallies among locals and on the internet in regard to the shooting, including one claim that police were chasing an old man with a military rifle into the woods near Central Avenue. This led to a massive lockdown of the area by authorities who sent in SWAT teams from as far as Jackson Township to scour the area leading up to the Mueller home.

"It most definitely affected their procedure and how they had to treat the scene, causing them to do a complete investigation of the entire area," said Little Egg Harbor Mayor

Ray Gormley. "They had to do everything they could for everyone's safety, based on the information that was given."

The mayor remained at the town hall throughout the investigation on Monday, consoling residents from the immediate area surrounding the Mueller townhouse, many of whom were escorted from their homes one at a time in bulletproof vests. The mayor helped make arrangements to get children home safe from schools that had been locked down.

Gormley said the area of the incident remains closed off and that new evidence found in the home on Tuesday would require additional contract negotiations to keep as many officers on the street as possible.

Marguerite Mooney, a resident of Central Avenue, was frightened to see SWAT team members trek through her back yard shortly after she heard there was a shooter in the area. "I wasn't expecting the cops to show up at my home with machine guns. They just said to stay inside, not to leave your house. I had two cops on my front lawn."

Bill Bonvie lives with his sister, Linda, on the opposite side of Westchester Avenue, which loops around the Tall Timbers development. He was relieved he wasn't near enough to witness the shooting or see the two bodies that lay outside the Mueller home. "It's not the kind of thing you want to see happening next door to you or across the street. It's very traumatic. It's bad enough to have it happen on your street."

He was also thankful it was a rainy day. "I passed that place at least three times a day. My sister could've been walking the dog there yesterday morning during that time. Because of the weather, the dog didn't want to go very far and she came home. She heard the shots, I didn't. I thought I heard gunshots, and all hell broke loose. It was bizarre."

Bonvie then described an interval of time that was "eerily quiet" before



Bill Bonvie

**UNDER THE GUN:** Bill Bonvie watches from the front window of his Westchester Avenue home in the Tall Timbers development as a "small army" of SWAT team members heads up the road to the scene of the deadly shooting.

"a small army" of SWAT units descended upon the Mueller home and moved down his street. He took photographs through the window of his home of at least 10 officers passing by together. After heading outside with his camera to investigate, he was ordered back into his home by the SWAT team. He was left in suspense as no one came to his door to explain what was happening.

Later, as he attempted to leave and go to a store, Bonvie was stopped by police who asked him for his identification. They said him he could leave but he would not be allowed back in. He said police encouraged him to leave, remarking, "You're one less person we'd have to worry about."

"The environment of crisis here was very palpable, and we didn't even know where this was taking place," said Bonvie. "We didn't know who was involved and whether this had taken place inside of a condo or a house. All we knew is apparently there was a mass shooting."

Bonvie would not find out the details until the news conference after 5 p.m. He watched through his window as TV news vans continued to arrive throughout the night.

"This was totally out of the sphere of anything we've had here," Bonvie said, describing his neighborhood as one with only commonplace concerns. "By and large it's a nice place

to live, and I hope it goes back to being that way."

The shooter's motive remains a mystery to the mayor and others.

In the end, Gormley remained positive. "It's so heartwarming to

see communities come together in a crisis situation. Speaking with my chief earlier here, we would do the same for any other town."

—Michael Molinaro  
michaelmolinaro@thesandpaper.net



Jack Reynolds

**You Sank My Battleship**

*Tide Cometh Before the Fall*

**SEKING FEELING:** One boat rides low and another is overturned due to flooding bay water at the dock off Old Bay Avenue in Manahawick Tuesday morning, showing some of the aftereffects of Tropical Storm Nicole. E.E.

### Board Approves Radio Station Lease Extension

The Beach Haven Land Use Board has approved Press Communications' lease extension for another year with Verizon.

Craig Huber, Press Communications attorney, said the lease affects its current 110-foot radio tower located on Amber Street near Bay Avenue. Press is seeking board approval for a taller, 250-foot structure to be located near the water tower by borough hall.

The applicants contend the new tower would improve the radio station's transmitting power and also alleviate interference problems that volunteers encounter on emergency

calls. Press owns several FM stations, including 99.7 The Breeze and 106.5 Country Thunder.

Borough Engineer Frank Little said a stipulation was added last year requiring board approval for the lease extension.

"At that time, there had been an agreement with the radio station and Verizon that when the lease expired, the tower was going to have to come down," he said. "But they still needed that tower since the new one had not been built yet, so they needed an extension."

Huber called it "a routine mat-

ter." "We did the same thing last year, and there haven't been any problems between us and the board and Verizon," the attorney said. "The lease extension buys us more time as we make plans for the new tower."

The board will continue hearings for the new tower at its next meeting, on Monday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m. in borough hall.

"We will have three more expert witnesses giving testimony at that meeting," said Huber. "Hopefully on that night, a decision will be made."

**W12: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
Arts & Entertainment Writing**



PEOPLE & PLACES

Village youngster joins 'Billy Elliot'

BY GLORIA GEANNETTE  
Managing Editor

I like Trevisan is just like his schoolmate in the second grade at Willard School in Ridgewood — except that school several days a week, he takes to Broadway where he's appearing as "small boy" in the hit musical "Billy Elliot."

"I love it," said the very mature, 12-year-old Luke, who especially the fun he has being around his fellow actors. He learned to play Monopoly, and chess, and keeps in touch with cut members when they move on to other shows or go out of town. And on stage, he even gets to dance with the star and has a singing part.

"They've become like a second family," said Luke's mother, Colleen Sullivan, a magazine editor in New York City, who was initially reluctant to have Luke pursue an acting career at such an early age. Having booked models herself for photo shoots at magazines, she was well aware of the potential downsides of having a professional child. She knew how much work is involved in taking children to auditions and jobs and how that kind of life can be disruptive for families. But the stars seemed to align themselves just right for families like a happy and successful agent on Broadway.

The youngster's path into "Great White Way" started at his nursery school, when his teacher suggested to Sullivan that Luke had a big personality and could benefit from acting lessons.

"I wasn't quite sure what she meant by a 'big personality' or whether that was a good thing," Sullivan said with a laugh. She followed the advice, though, and signed him up for classes with a local acting teacher, held in a church basement in town. Probably, there were other children with "big personalities" who liked being in the spotlight, but Luke stood out for being able to follow directions very well. An agent spotted him at the acting school's social, and shortly after, he was booked for a job by Nickelodeon. Other commercials followed, and then last summer he auditioned for a part in "Billy Elliot."

"When he was offered the role, we had a family meeting to be sure we could all accept it," Sullivan recalled. Husband Marc, brother Jack, 10, and sister Adien, 12, all agreed that Luke should take the part.

"At first I was a little jealous," said Adien with a laugh, but she thoroughly enjoys having a brother or brotherly.

"The good thing about being a child in our house," Colleen said, "is that I know whenever we would give up our Sunday dinner tradition, but we've moved it into Manhattan, where we all go out to dinner before Luke's evening show."

Luke's brother and sister have taken over some of his household chores with the understanding that Luke will help them out when they are busy with their own activities.

"It really takes a village to make this work," Colleen said. She knew they would need help driving into New York City, so she started info-ing around to see if anyone knew a responsible person who would like to work part time.

Someone suggested a retired police officer, so I went to the Ridgewood Police Department to ask if anyone was interested. I gave them said, 'How about an officer's mother?' His name, Laine, drove him into New York for eight years when he was a professional dancer and now she drives Luke several times a week and it seems difficult. We all love her."

Another consideration was schoolwork. Luckily, Luke doesn't have to miss any classes, but he has even impressed on his already excellent performance.

"Academically, since starting Billy Elliot, Luke has strengthened in all areas," Fred said. "He's motivated, he does his best regardless if he is in school, home or work, and always does it with a smile."

Luke has also managed to include his Ridgewood friends in the fun of Broadway. Several groups have made road trips to see their "star" and they've been given VIP backstage tours. Later this year, they'll be able to see him in an Angeline Jolie up thriller, "Salt."

"Not a bad start for someone who just celebrated his eighth birthday."



CHRIS PETER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Luke Trevisan of Ridgewood is a natural actor who loves his job on Broadway in the hit musical "Billy Elliot."

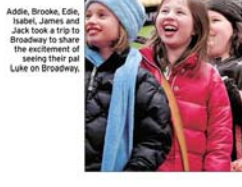


PHOTOS COURTESY OF HANCOY DORIS FREDMAN

The kids had fun standing on the stage of the Imperial Theatre.



Luke's friends took out their cameras to snap pictures of the wigs and other props.



Addie, Brooke, Edie, Isabella, James and Jack took a trip to Broadway to share the excitement of seeing their pal Luke on Broadway.

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The Ridgewood News

Village Youngster Joins Billy Elliot

Gloria Geannette

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# W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Arts & Entertainment Writing

Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

## Hunterdon County Democrat

Local and Loving It

Shirley J. Sasor

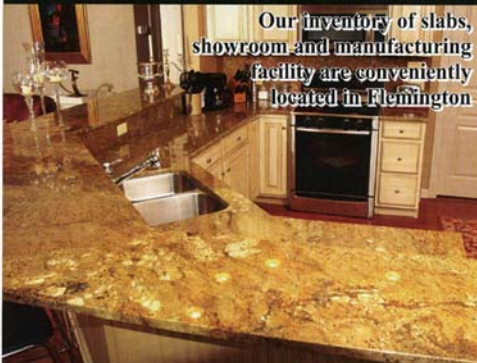
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PHOTOGRAPHY AND LIFE:

## Local and Loving It

BY SHIRLEY J. SASOR

Linda Erickson is not afraid to try new things. She's designed wedding gowns, sold real estate, created room displays for Macy's, and even went back to college a third time — after earning a degree in art and an advanced degree in choreography — to get a bachelor's degree in nursing so she could work as a psychiatric nurse.

On the artistic side, she's worked for the New York City Ballet and choreographed for a dance company in Frenchtown. She's booked musical groups into Manhattan clubs and coffee houses. She's made a few videos and is pitching a pilot to Animal Planet.

"If I am interested in something, I go for it!" she says, summing up her approach to life.

Locally, however, Erickson is best known for her photography, especially in Frenchtown, where she has lived since 2000 with her three best friends:

In 2002, she put together a photography exhibit called "Women of Frenchtown" for the opening of a new art gallery in town. It included 20 local women, ages 15 to 82. "There was just something about them," she says. "Frenchtown has a strong community of women and I wanted to highlight them. A lot of things that happen in our town are driven by women. We are a strong group, a diverse group. We support each other. It's like we live in a dorm environment here — the University of Frenchtown. I love it!"

In 2005, she exhibited another 300 of her photographs on walls throughout the hallways of Frenchtown's National Hotel. These were pictures of patrons of the restaurant and hotel, locals and out-of-towners. "I went almost every night for about a month and took pictures of the people there, posing them in different ways. Everybody got into it," she says. "On the nights I didn't go, I'd get a phone call from someone there, 'Aren't you coming tonight?' They were waiting, expecting me, and were disappointed if I wasn't there."

Erickson loves Frenchtown — really loves Frenchtown — for just that reason. She thrives on the cooperative and enthusiastic spirit of its residents, personally and professionally. "The



Artist Linda Erickson with her dogs Bonnie and Isabelle.

# W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Arts & Entertainment Writing

Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Bogota Bulletin

Lifting and Inspiring Through Artwork

Karthik Aggarwal

NEIGHBORS

### Lifting and inspiring through artwork

BY KARTHIK AGGARWAL  
Staff Writer

For artist and Bogota resident Rudy Gutierrez, art is about more than just paint on a canvas. Gutierrez's works tackle social issues, such as former President George W. Bush's response to Hurricane Katrina and the plight of Native Americans. Though he is perhaps best known for creating the artwork on the cover of Santana's 2002 album "Shaman." Through his art, Gutierrez strives to both inspire and connect people.

"My work is about uplifting and inspiring people. It's lifting people who don't have a voice, have one," he said. "It's about seeing something familiar in my art. It's about connecting spirits."

Strong imagery and distinct color characterize Gutierrez's works, which reflect and draw from his varied musical interests, including Latin, African and Indian styles along with jazz, rock and R&B. His works have been included in magazines, such as Rolling Stone, on murals, and in children's books which he has illustrated.

Calling his art "gambos," Gutierrez describes his style as a "mixture of spirit and reality" and is ultimately about "universal meanings beyond order."

At the age of 13, Gutierrez realized his passion for art while listening to Santana's 1970 album "Abraxas." Both Santana's music and Mati Klarwein's artwork for the album impacted him profoundly. Through Santana's music, which merged musical styles from across racial boundaries, Gutierrez saw the power of art.

"Santana's music merged different things. It combined all this stuff," he said. "At the time that I grew up in Teaneck, it was a racially divided town. Santana's music incorporated things like rock with jazz and African and Latin sounds."

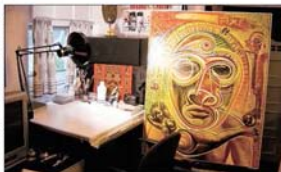
After graduating from New York's Pratt Institute in 1979, Gutierrez joined an illustration studio, where he worked with companies like Caesar's Palace and Citibank on developing advertising images.

"I had no input in that job. I became just a pair of hands," he said. "It had nothing to do with who I was."

After a suicide in the building where his office was located, Gutierrez questioned the nature of his work even more intently and contemplated the trajectory of his career.



Rudy Gutierrez in front of a print of the artwork he created for Santana's 2002 CD "Shaman." He is holding a guitar with a print of the CD art emblazoned on it.



The desk where Gutierrez works on his art. The painting is called "The Dream Fixer."

"I was sitting right by where the body was found, working on a campaign for Wonder Bread. The event highlighted everything for me," he said. "My portfolio didn't say who I was, and I was embarrassed by it. It made me wonder, 'Who am I?'"

Having completed five years at the illustration studio, Gutierrez left the job, deciding instead to discover and develop his own artistic

style. Working freelance, he designed everything from textbooks to children's books. Drawing on his Puerto Rican heritage as well as personal inspirations, such as music from Latin, Indian and African cultures, Gutierrez's sense of himself as an artist began to evolve. Over time, he matured into the artist he is today.

After more than 20 years living in New York, Gutierrez currently



Gutierrez's personal photographs, mementos and books. The painting is called "Reach Out of Slavery."

lives with his wife, DK Dyon, who is a musician, in a quiet home on a serene street in the borough. He has a daughter, Sanddflower, a musician in her 20s. With ample space around him, Gutierrez creates art at home, keeping personal photographs, music and other inspirations around him.

"I like it here – the quietness, the feel. I like the location – its proximity to parks," he said. "And

I love the library. I'm always there."

Gutierrez brought his art to the public, creating a display at the Bogota Public Library in March.

"The library had just taken down a display, and I decided with the library to put up a display of my work," he said. Despite an illustrious career and

SEE ART, PAGE 5

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# W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Arts & Entertainment Writing

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## Teaneck Suburbanite

Young Lioness Pounces on to the Broadway Scene

Jaime Cannici

**STAR ON STAGE**

### Young lioness pounces on to the Broadway scene

By **JAIME CANNICI**  
Editor

"I'm gonna be a mighty king..." Shereen Pimentel, then 9, went to see "The Lion King" on Broadway in August 2008 and sat in the audience watching the show with wide eyes, awestruck and then something clicked. Those words, sung by Simba, ran through her mind and she, too, wanted to be a "mighty lioness."

From that moment, her whole world changed and she was determined to be Young Nala, Simba's best friend, and sing on that stage.

That night she went home and jumped on the computer to find out how to audition for the show. Checking back frequently, she finally found what she was looking for - Disney.com posted auditions for December 2008 at the Apollo Theatre. Shereen, along with her mom Shereen Pimentel, left their Teaneck home early on audition day and made it to the theater at 6 a.m. (auditions started at 9 a.m.) She was auditioner number 20 out of 200 children on line.

She was called to come back a couple of weeks later, which was the beginning of a long journey. The audition process took six months with multiple call backs.

After seeing her daughter determined to get the part with minimum experience, Pimentel decided to sign her up for vocal lessons to strengthen her singing and enrolled her into Kidz Theatre in Manhattan to gain experience on stage.

"The extra experience definitely helped her. She gained confidence as an actor, singer and dancer and went back to the final audition at a different level and was able to express more," said Pimentel.

During one of the final auditions, the casting director pulled Pimentel aside to talk about her daughter's braces and if she would be able to take them off to perform. Even though her braces will need to be back on in the future since they were taken off prematurely, her dentist removed them.

Shereen knew all of her hard work had paid off when she finally heard the words she had been waiting for: "You got the part as Young Nala on Broadway."

Shereen, now 11, had her Broadway debut on Sept. 29, 2009.

Filled with excitement from fulfilling her goal, on debut night she proudly said her first line: "Hi Simba."

"It was fun. When I got on stage for the first time it was different

from just dancing. I was not nervous, just happy to be there," said Shereen.

Shereen explained what the audience looks like from her perspective on stage. "It's dark. It always feels like there's no one there."

The part of Young Nala also involves having the role as a baby elephant during the "Circle of Life" scene. She sings five songs including "Just Can't Wait to Be King."

Preparing for her role involved learning how to roar. She explained that the cast of lions had rehearsals with the director to learn how to act like a lion, how to pounce and to always keep their knees bent.

The first time Pimentel saw her daughter on stage she cried. "I saw 'The Lion King' in a different light. Seeing her on stage was very overwhelming. She comes home after rehearsal and practices so I know her lines and was nervous for her when she was on stage."

"I came back about a month into her performance and saw how she had grown into the part. She was more mature as an actor on stage and it was so wonderful to see her grow," said Pimentel.

"What is also unbelievable is to see as a parent is watching her come out from backstage and children are waiting for her to sign autographs," she added.

Shereen was a young girl who loved to dance and began lessons at age 3 at a dance theater in Harlem, attended the Alley School for Dance at age 4 and took lessons in Teaneck at Dance Art Creative Center on Cedar Lane. She is a sixth grader at Thomas Jefferson Middle School who loves math and plays the flute. As ordinary as she may seem in the classroom, her day is just beginning when the final bell rings.

"Principal Green and Miss Butler have been excellent and were accepting to my daughter's schedule, which sometimes includes half days. Shereen keeps up with school and gets her homework in on time 99 percent of the time."

She performs in four shows a week, but has to be present at all eight performances just in case she is needed. Her daily schedule, along with her mom's (which includes a fulltime job), goes like this: 3 p.m. School is out; 4-4:30 p.m. stays at school to do homework; 4:30 p.m. mom picks her up; 4:30 - 5 p.m. leave Teaneck; drive to the Minskoff Theatre on 45th Street; performs; takes a bus; mom picks her up after show; and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHEREEN PIMENTEL

Teaneck resident Shereen Pimentel, 11, stars on Broadway as Young Nala in "The Lion King." She had her picture taken with Bernadette Peters when she performed on stage for Broadway Barks, a fundraiser for shelter animals.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LION KING

The "The Lion King" ensemble dances and sings during the scene from "Circle of Life."

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■ Performance and holiday schedule varies - running time is approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes.

■ For more information, visit [www.DisneyOnBroadway.com](http://www.DisneyOnBroadway.com)



Shereen Pimentel loves to dance and decided to try out for "The Lion King" on Broadway in 2008.

Shereen encourages other children to stay on track, "Don't let people tell you what you should or should not do. People should not be afraid to try new things, they just might like it. Acting is not a bad thing. Keep on working at it and you will get better."

"The Lion King" contract is for six months and ends in March. She is keeping her fingers crossed that she will be asked to come

SEE **YOUNG NALA** PAGE 4

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ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA



PHOTOS BY ADAM BRUNO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

George Rivera of Cedar Grove, left, works the booth where Thomas Ingenito, 5, of Jackson Township tries to whack the Frog Fly past, with an assist from his grandfather Carmen from West Caldwell Saturday night at the St. Catherine of Siena annual carnival. Pat McGarrity of Cedar Grove won big at the 50/50 raffle.

**Woman wins \$11,826 in carnival raffle**  
Pompton Avenue event featured food, games and rides

BY NOEL PANGLINAN  
Staff Writer

After spending the night before working as a volunteer at the annual carnival at the St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Pat McGarrity was resting at home when she received a phone call.

The caller told her she had won more than \$11,000 in a raffle prize. "Wow! The blessings of the Lord are many. I am truly blessed," said McGarrity of Cedar Grove, adding that she was pleasantly surprised upon hearing the good news.

The \$11,826 was the winner's share of the Super 50/50 Raffle held on the last night of the annual carnival, which opened on June 5. McGarrity told the Verona-Cedar Grove Times that she bought two books of raffle tickets, each book of 15 tickets costing \$30. McGarrity said she is not sure yet what to do with her winnings. "I have four children and seven grandchildren. That I have to consider."

McGarrity is an active volunteer at the St. Catherine of Siena Parish. She serves as the liaison to Cedar Ridge-Cedar Grove Senior Citizens Housing.

Meanwhile, the four-day carnival, held at the parish grounds at the corner of Pompton and Bradford Avenues, was drenched Sunday by its organizers.

"Kids had great fun, and as in our goal, we kicked the summer off with a great community-building event," said Jerry Cohen, carnival co-chair.

The carnival featured rides such as a Ferris Wheel, Paraship's Party, Kiddy Cars and Roller Coaster. There were booths offering games of chance, food, and arts and crafts such as face painting, spin art, fishing, jewelry making and other activities.

"Carnival 2010 was one of St. Catherine's most successful carnivals in recent years," said Patricia Braun, one of the event's organizers.

Braun said the Parish will soon publish photos of the carnival on its Web site, [www.sccedar-grove.org](http://www.sccedar-grove.org).

E-mail: [panglinan@northjersey.com](mailto:panglinan@northjersey.com)

VERONA  
**Slay suspect free on bail; hearing set**

BY NOEL PANGLINAN  
Staff Writer

The suspect in the hearing death of a 1996 Verona High School alumnus is scheduled for a closed-door meeting with a criminal court judge on June 23.

Eduardo Ramirez, 36, of Canton, Conn., will appear in Connecticut Superior Court in connection with the killing of Michael Halpert, 31.

Halpert, who was serving in the U.S. Navy, had an altercation with Ramirez last summer outside a bar

in Connecticut, before the suspect accepted it or tried it, and then according to police and prosecutor Halpert died days later.

Ramirez was released from police custody on Feb. 6 after posting \$300,000 in bail.

Debra Woodward, a New London, Conn. Superior Court Criminal Division secretary, said Ramirez will appear before Judge

Susan Handy in the judge's chamber. The hearing is not open to the public.

Ramirez's attorney, Kevin Barr, and prosecutor Paul Norbeck and Handy will discuss the case behind closed doors, Woodward said.

"At the present, Ramirez's attorney, the prosecutor and the judge will discuss the case and might figure out an agreement. Either Ramirez's lawyer or the prosecutor may make an offer. All parties would have to agree," Woodward said.

"If they come up with an agreement, he (Ramirez) can either knock him to the ground, accept it or reject it, and plea again," Woodward said.

Ramirez has pled not guilty to first-degree manslaughter, second-degree assault as well as violating a protective order, the connection with the incident that occurred outside David's Café, located in

SEE SUSPECT PAGE 14

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**Verona to Japan: filmmaker's tale of destruction in WWII**

BY MOLLIE GRAY and ANTHONY G. ATTRINO  
Staff Writer

David Rothauer is using film to make sure people don't forget the atomic bombings that led to the end of World War II.

He's gaining worldwide recognition in the process.

"I've felt like I've lived under a nuclear cloud all of these years and it's my story as much as it is anyone else's," said Rothauer, who graduated from Verona High School in 1972.

His documentary, "Hibakusha: Our Life to Live," about the lasting effects of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The bombing, which occurred three days apart in August 1945, resulted in a combined death toll of more than 185,000, according to historic estimates.

White books and other materials.

and director. The film tells the stories of Japanese, Korean and American hibakusha (survivors) of the atomic bombings.

Rothauer's stories are intertwined with the relationship between Eiji Nakasaki, the youngest survivor of Hiroshima, and his friend, Yoko, an eight-year-old girl he took to play guitar.

Rothauer sees the relationship between Nakasaki and Yoko to illustrate the link between the older and younger generations.

The younger generation knows next to nothing about the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki," he said. "This type of film I was hoping would generate an interest in them because it was part of their story as well as the older generations."

White books and other materials.

SEE TALE PAGE 14



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID ROTHAUER

Filmmaker David Rothauer poses with Phil Donahue, the narrator of "Hibakusha: Our Life to Live," a documentary about the atomic bombings of Japan.

**W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Arts & Entertainment Weekly Writing**

First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

**Verona-Cedar Grove Times**

**Verona to Japan: Filmmaker's Tale of Destruction in WWII**

**Mollie Gray  
Anthony G. Attrino**

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**Wood is good**  
American Legion teams prefer wood over metal bats.  
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**Cedar Grove arrest**  
Teen charged with stealing grandfather's van.  
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**\$15,000 raised**  
Verona jazz brunch to help children.  
Page A5

# W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Arts & Entertainment Writing

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## The Montclair Times

The 2010 Jazz Series

George Wirt



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**VERONA**  
**Taking each day ... twelve steps at a time**

BY MICHAEL O'LEARY

Keith sat all over the Coast as a young man, visiting far-off destinations that most people only ever see on the Travel Channel. Yet, he admits that any recollections of those exotic locales and their famous sites are completely drowned out by his memories of the bars he visited.

"As soon as our ship pulled up alongside the piers, I was in the bar," he said.

Keith was a member of the U.S. Navy when he traveled around the Pacific. He was also a full-fledged alcoholic.

Keith, who's been sober since 1994, was one of four participants to share his personal story of dealing with and recovering from alcoholism at a Verona Mountain Alliance Committee event last month, called "Living With Alcoholism."

For years, Keith worked jobs delivering packages and painting homes that enabled him to drink regularly during the day. While his wife, Cathy, worked as a waitress and son, he scrounged for aluminum cans, newspapers and bottles to scrape up some extra cash for alcohol.

"I really cared about what Keith wanted to do," he said.

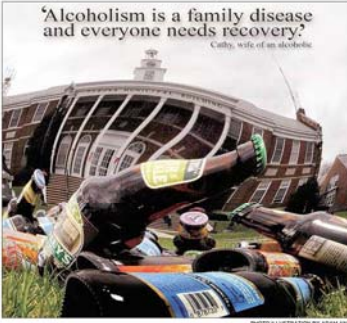
A move back to New Jersey temporarily slowed his drinking, but that didn't last for long.

"For the next four years, I was a daily drinker," Keith said.

He would drink a couple of beers at lunch, stay for a party on his way home, go to the bar for some shots and beers later, and then stop for another six-pack of beer on the way home from the bar, he said.

Keith said the day his wife, Cathy, walked into their bedroom to find him holding a shotgun beneath his chin, he knew things had to change.

Although he was initially hesitant to go to Alcoholics Anonymous, he said the first of Alcoholics Anonymous — the dozen guiding principles of the program — hit too close to home to deny. "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives have become unmanageable."



"Alcoholism is a family disease and everyone needs recovery," Cathy, wife of an alcoholic.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM ANAN

"My life was totally unmanageable. The way I was drinking, I was powerless. Once I started to drink, I couldn't stop. I had no control over the amount I took."

Keith said he recovered from alcoholism by just doing what he was supposed to do. He attended meetings regularly and applied the Twelve Steps of AA to his life.

He said he is now active in his home life and has an improved relationship with his son. He remains active in AA today.

"My life has totally changed, and only when finding and applying the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous," Keith said.

Although Keith was the only speaker to have been personally afflicted with alcoholism, three others spoke of their struggles to deal with an alcoholic loved one and how they learned to move forward with their lives.

The remaining speakers at the Oct. 4 event shared their experiences in Al-Anon and Alateen, support groups associated with AA meant for the family members of alcoholics.

Keith's wife Cathy said she worried constantly about her husband dying from alcoholism and yet never tried to confront him in a new or more effective way.

"I've heard the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over again and expecting different results," she said. "That's what I did for a very long time. I figured if I said the same thing a little differently he would hear me this time."

She could barely stay enough into her appearance before work every morning because she stayed up late worrying about Keith, who worked at night, she said.

At one point, the human resources department told her she wasn't drinking appropriately for her job, so Cathy said Keith was the one who decided the whole family needed to seek help, with Keith going to AA and Cathy and their son to Al-Anon.

"Alcoholism is a family disease and everyone needs recovery," she said.

Al-Anon and Alateen also adhere to the Twelve Steps.

Keith's attorney, Brian Neary, said he was applying the tenets of PTI this week.

"We're not happy her circumstances will convince the judge that, in fact, she is the perfect candidate for PTI," he said.

"I got a lot of peace and a bit of comfort out of going," Cathy said. Angel and Charlotte, two of her children, were also present.

**CEDAR GROVE**  
**Judge denies Watral's bid to avoid trial**

BY MICHAEL O'LEARY



Jill Watral

A former special education teacher accused of participating in a ring that smuggled controlled substances into the Essex County Jail is moving closer to a criminal court trial. A judge last week denied Jill Watral's application to bring a trial by entering pre-trial intervention.

Watral's application to enter pre-trial intervention was denied Friday morning, according to Essex County Prosecutor's Office spokeswoman Kathy Carter.

Pre-trial intervention, or PTI, is an individualized program that could face five to 10 years in prison if convicted, according to Carter.

Five of the defendants were approved for PTI, she said.

Police have alleged that Watral's boyfriend, Joseph Mastriani, who has pleaded not guilty, was a correction officer for nine years when he was arrested. Mastriani would make it up to \$1,000 dollars a week from the operation, according to investigators.

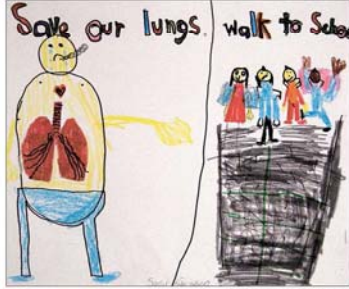
The prosecutor's office is in the process of bringing his case to grand jury, Carter said.

Auditors have said inmates would allegedly place orders with two bartenders, who would then relay the orders to Mastriani.

Another Essex County corrections officer and a Union County production officer were among those charged with involvement in the ring.

Watral is accused of conspiracy.

**All we need is the air we breathe**



Sarah Cole from Lanning Avenue School makes a statement against vehicle idling in her colorful drawing, which won a poster-contest award. Students from four local schools participated in the contest. More posters on page A7.

**ELECTIONS**  
**Democrats sweep local races**

BY MICHAEL O'LEARY



COURTESY OF ANDREW PASCARELLI

On an Election Day in which Republicans made big gains in races across the country, incumbent Democrats easily battled back their nearest challengers in the three contests that Verona and Cedar Grove residents voted on Tuesday.

Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr. won an unprecedented third term Tuesday night, garnering support from nearly three-quarters of voters.

DiVincenzo, 58, a Democrat from Nulley, faced two challengers in his bid for re-election to the four-year post but handily defeated his Republican and independent rivals.

Verona resident Marilyn English received about 3 percent of the vote Monday in an independent, English, a fixture at Verona and Cedar Grove council meetings, has been a staunch opponent of DiVincenzo's deer culling program.

English, 62, had never before run for elected office but currently serves on the Verona Rent Control Board. She owns her own company and previously worked

Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo Jr. emerges from a voting booth Tuesday morning.

DiVincenzo, 58, an assistant vice president at J.P. Morgan.

The incumbent's Republican challenger, Herbert Glenn of Newark, managed to secure slightly more than 20 percent of the vote. Glenn owns her own processing programmer in the

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**100 wins for Verona's Racloppie**  
Hillbillies dominate Newark Academy.  
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**Career day**  
VHS students plan for future.  
Page A3

**Cyberbullying**  
Local schools address concerns.  
Page D3

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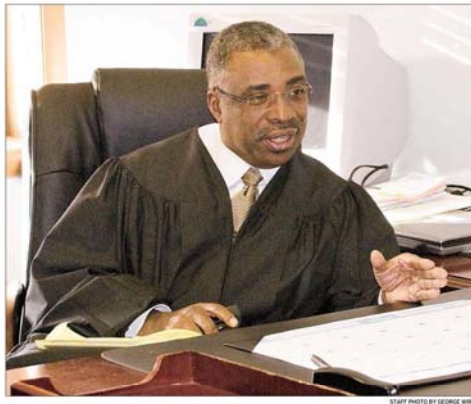
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**Verona-Cedar Grove Times**

**Taking Each Day... Twelve Steps at a Time**

**Michael O'Leary**





Longtime Municipal Court Judge Ernest R. Booker discusses Montclair, his long tenure as the township's judge and his efforts to set young defendants straight, in an interview with The Times in his second-floor office at 647 Bloomfield Ave.

# Court is adjourned

## After hanging up the robe, Ernest Booker reflects on his 15-year tenure

BY DAN PROCHILLO OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Ernest Booker was in the meat section of the Lacksawanna Plaza Pathway with his wife, Dina, one night in 2003 when a stranger walked up and asked him for money. "You want me to jail?" the man, who was in his mid-20s, said in an aggressive tone. "Sometimes," Booker replied. "You want me to jail?" the man told him. The judge, who had studied law for a decade and had earned a black belt from a school in Bloomfield, was not alarmed. But he advised his wife to move away, in case things got ugly. "Well, I'm usually fair," Booker said, using the same adjective he would later use to describe the reputation he built as Montclair's longtime municipal judge. "You probably deserved it."

### Ernest Booker in brief



**Heavy caseload:** Ernest Booker presided over hundreds of thousands of cases as Montclair's Municipal Court judge from 1994 to 2009. Right before he retired, he was hearing 400 cases a week during three court sessions.

**Attorney for the stars:** Formerly an entertainment lawyer, Booker represented major hip-hop artists in contract negotiations.

**Best accomplishments of defendants:** "You don't have prison physique" and "Don't wear jail clothes when I could send you to jail."

**A big Montclair fan:** Booker, of West Orange, called the cases in Montclair "intellectually interesting" since the township is diverse, the people are well-educated and some of them have the resources to hire the best attorneys in New Jersey.

**Career change:** Booker has left the bench in Montclair to become executive director of the Newark Parking Authority.

courtroom after being hired to represent more affluent middle-class. "The cases here are intellectually interesting," he said of the Montclair court. But the ex-judge, who said he's handled hundreds of thousands of cases, is ready to wind down. "This is the most efficient court in the county," Booker said, according to monthly statistics on the caseload of every Essex County town's courts. "We average 400 cases per week" in a span of three court sessions, Booker said. The caseload has "doubled" since he first was assigned to the municipal court, and the stats are now on par with those of courts with two or three magistrates. New legislation, and particularly new traffic laws, passed since Booker was first assigned here, are part of the reason for the increase. For instance, driving while intoxicated cases have, since Booker's arrival, increased the blood-alcohol threshold for a motorist to be considered drunk to .08.

ship's municipal court until he stepped down at the end of last year to become executive director of the Newark Parking Authority, a position he held on an acting basis since January 2009. According to Booker, the authority, which has slightly more than 20 employees, is on the cusp of "significant" development through the course of 2010. He said he could not go into further details.

At Montclair Township Council searches for a permanent replacement for Booker, council members have appointed Nicholas Irsalini, Cedar Grove's municipal court judge and Booker's occasional backup, to temporarily fill the vacancy. During an interview with The Times in his old office, Booker reminisced on his past as Montclair's judge and as an entertainment lawyer for a New York City firm representing music superstars such as LL Cool J, Mary J. Blige and Sean Combs.

As a judge, Booker imposed sometimes unconventional sentences to get young offenders to stick up their acts. When teen drivers with provisional licenses would appear before him, he would sometimes demand that their parents accompany them to court. On at least 40 or 50 occasions, Booker ordered defendants to write letters to other officials of the newspaper to apologize to fellow residents for their crimes. "Every letter I received, the

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## Court Is Adjourned

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## Waldwick Suburban News

Name to Be Added  
to Roll Call of Deceased Vets

Marsha Stoltz

### WALDWICK SUBURBAN NEWS

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010

## Name to be added to roll call of deceased vets

BY MARSHA STOLTZ  
For Suburban News

**WALDWICK** – The borough finally has a Civil War hero to call its own. Borough officials announced last week that Pvt. Benjamin Everson has been confirmed as a resident of present-day Waldwick when he enlisted to fight in the Civil War, and that his farm was where Crescent Elementary School sits, at 165 Crescent Ave.

Everson died of typhoid fever in Virginia in February 1863 after five months with the 22nd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment, according to family records.

Connecting soldiers who died in the Civil War with specific towns is difficult, according to James Wroclage of Waldwick American Legion Post 57. Much of northwest Bergen County was part of Franklin Township at the time, he said, and records were scarce. Wroclage said a recent cemetery-to-cemetery search by area historians for Civil War dead in Bergen County has yielded only 27 names, only four of which can be tied to a specific town.

Everson is the first Civil War dead to be specifically connected to Waldwick, said Post Commander Anthony DiGiacomo.

"The importance is that these soldiers are not forgotten," said DiGiacomo. "This soldier has been lost for 147 years, and now will be added to the list of war dead we read at Memorial Day ceremonies."

#### Web site clues

At a press conference on March 2, School Superintendent Dr. Ralph Penna said he had searched the Internet last summer in hopes of finding area Civil War soldiers who could provide a local focus for student studies when he came across a posting about Everson on the genealogical Web site, Find a Grave.

The posting by Everson's great-great-granddaughter Viola Burkhard, listed him as having been buried in Wyckoff's Union (formerly Van Blarcom) Cemetery, and his wife, Sophia Courter Everson, being buried in the Courter family plot in Ridgewood's nearby Vallean Cemetery.

Penna contacted Waldwick Library Director Patty Boyd to see if they could further pinpoint Everson's home location.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIOLA BURKHARD

Pvt. Benjamin Everson of Waldwick was in the Union Army only five months before dying of typhoid fever during the "Mud March" of Virginia in 1863. However, he is the first Civil War dead to be identified as living within the present-day confines of Waldwick.

"Dr. Penna called asking me if we could find the geographical location of the Everson house," said Boyd. "I recalled an 1861 Bergen County map listing area farms at the Ridgewood Library, and did my research there."

Boyd's recollection was correct. An 1861 map of northwest Bergen County clearly shows an "Everson" along what is now West Crescent Avenue south of the Brookside Avenue intersection. But could it be the same man?

"We found an 1850 census listing Everson, age 16, as a laborer in Wayne Township," said Boyd. "We also found an 1860 census listing him as a farmer, age 26, in Franklin Township married to Sophia."

Additionally, a Boy Scout survey of Union Cemetery yielded the names of Everson's parents, but not Everson himself. They presented their evidence to the American Legion.

"The grave is our criteria," said DiGiacomo. "We failed in that mission. We could not find it."

Therefore the search was turned over to Wroclage and fellow Waldwick veteran Joseph Perrone, who searched land records at the county courthouse in Hackensack, locating the handwritten deed by which Peter Ackerman sold his farm to Everson.

"We laid the 1861 map over a present day map with the farm superimposed and they matched," said DiGiacomo. "At that point the American Legion said yes, this is a Waldwick resident and a Civil War hero."

Penna said the discovery was "amazing, wonderful."

"This will give local meaning for our students when they study this era," said Penna.

Mayor Russell "Buddy" Lichka, present for the announcement, said a number of honorariums for Everson are under consideration, including a memorial plaque at Crescent School, and possibly having a road named after him in the future.

#### Family ties

Burkhard, now a resident of Vero Beach, Fla., said she was excited to hear the news of her ancestor.

SEE HERO, PAGE 4

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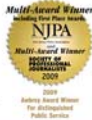
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## State could pull out of Meadowlands



**GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE** with the New Meadowlands Stadium last week to reveal the recommendations in a sports, gaming and entertainment report devised by a committee of his choosing. The report's recommendations, if acted upon by the Christie administration, would greatly change the landscape of the Sports Complex.



The most viable recommendation for the racetrack is leasing to the state-darbed horsemen of the state.

**BY MICHAEL LAMENDOLA**  
Managing Editor

The Meadowlands Sports Complex would be far a huge overhaul if recommendations by a committee of his choosing, the report's recommendations, if acted upon by the Christie administration, would greatly change the landscape of the Sports Complex.

using reserves and divesting itself as an operator of several venues. The report was compiled by the New Jersey Gaming/Sports and Entertainment Advisory Commission, headed by former NJSEA Chairman Joe Hansen. "This report is a blueprint that will guide our efforts in managing our gaming, sports and entertainment resources more responsibly and referring issues critical to New Jersey's economic future," said Christie. "I look forward to reviewing all of the commission's recommendations so that we can put these industries on a solid foundation and path to long-term economic growth."

**Kenada** Kenada, which still has debt from an original completion date of 2007 and needs approximately \$275 million in financing, according to the report, should receive tax exempt public financing to make it a viable, complete project that would begin generating tax revenue and job growth for the state. However, if completion fails, the report says that a state takeover through foreclosure would be imminent. The report also states that Kenada is too big to fail.

**Miami Dolphins** owner Stephen Ross and his Bahama Companies real estate firm have been in talks to take over the project from Colony Capital, who has a funding glitch when the economy took a dive and lenders froze financing.

**Reliant** and Colony have stated that the project cannot be completed without public sector involvement of some kind and have, therefore, been in discussion with members of the Commission and with state agencies, such as the NJ Economic Development Authority, in an effort to come up with a tax-exempt financing plan adequate for completion and opening of the facility.

## Residents plea for dead turkey

**BY DANIEL O'KEEFE**  
Staff Writer

Two Rutherford 18-year-olds were scheduled to be arraigned in municipal court on Tuesday, July 27, after they were charged with violating a borough ordinance in connection with the killing of a turkey in the Lincoln Woods area of town on Wednesday, July 21. About 200 letters were sent to the court officer by residents asking that the judge and prosecutor seek the maximum penalty allowed by law.



Two men allegedly killed the Tom turkey on the left, last week with a bow and arrow. Over 200 residents have written to the borough asking that the men get the maximum penalty allowed by law.

The two men, 18-year-old James Garner and 18-year-old Gemic Howanessian, were contacted by police and willingly came to police headquarters where they were charged with violation after residents near West Pompey Avenue saw them leave in a vehicle after shooting and killing one of the wild turkeys that live nearby. Police also charged Howanessian, the one alleged to have fired the shot, with disorderly conduct. They were both released on \$5,000 bail.

Police received a call at about 6:30 p.m. on the night of July 21 from a resident who reported seeing the two of them shoot a turkey with a bow and arrow. The resident reported down the license plate number of the vehicle the two left in.

The wild turkeys were widely admired by locals who had even gone so far as to put up hand-made signs warning motorists to drive while driving on nearby streets. It

SEE TURKEY PAGE 14

## Businesses unhappy with Downtown Partnership's role

**BY DANIEL O'KEEFE**  
Staff Writer

Despite what's being called a relatively smooth transition to privatized garbage collection, the change to Rutherford's trash service has highlighted complaints about the Rutherford Downtown Partnership.

According to DPW Superintendent Chris Siddle, about 60 businesses have gone with Rouseff Suburban, about 35 to 40 have gone with Future Sanitation and about 35 have gone with Cippone. Siddle said he doesn't know how many businesses went with Lyndhurst-based Iron Sanitation.

the contractor recommended by DPW.

business owners' reactions have been mixed. "I've had a lot of calls from the arena," said RDPF president Michael Fenski. "It's going to take deteriorate our roads." He also said trash is staying out on the street for longer than before. "When I came in at 10 p.m. I saw trash on the street." He said he hopes that as business owners talk to each other and compare prices they're paying, more and more will go with a reasonable rate.

SEE TRASH PAGE 15

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**Gadgets and gizmos**  
Local inventor hopes to have his inventions on store shelves soon **A3**

**Rebellious**  
Rebels cruise into playoffs **C1**

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# South Bergenite

Residents Plea for Dead Turkey  
Rutherford Residents Still Talking Turkey  
Turkey Trials Moved to County

Daniel O'Keefe  
Michael Lamendola  
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NUTLEY, N.J., VOL. 29 NO. 28

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TWO SECTIONS - 75 CENTS

## Community Update

### Hydrant flushing

The Nutley Public Safety Director has advised residents that hydrant flushing will resume the first week in May and continue until Sept. 30. Firefighters will be out between 10 p.m. and midnight seven days a week. Unseasoned crews will open hydrants until the water runs clear, which usually takes 15 to 20 minutes. This procedure ensures a clean supply to fire pumps, thereby cutting maintenance costs and lengthening pump life.

Occasionally, the sediment and buildup being flushed can discolored the water in households. This is not dangerous to an individual's health but could stain laundry in the washing machine. Rinsing the washing machine's water filter and the water faucets should clear home pipes after a few minutes. For more information, call 973-284-9377.

### Marching orders

The Veterans' Council and the Office of the Mayor again invite Nutley residents in the Armed Forces and their families to march in the Memorial Day Parade on May 31.

Service members and their families are asked to contact the mayor's office to confirm participation. Names will also be published for the Memorial Day Parade Commemorative Service Banner. There are currently more than 23 names on the banner, which is hanging on the fence of the Nutley Park Oval by Town Hall.

Memorial Day Parade ceremonies will begin at 11 a.m. on the Oval. This year's event features marching bands, dance troupes and Army vehicles.

Contact the mayor's office if a friend or family member serving in the Armed Forces would like to march in the parade, or be added to the banner. Call 973-284-4976 or send an email to [admin@nutleynj.org](mailto:admin@nutleynj.org). Limited portions can also contact Bill Ferraro, president of the Veterans' Council, at 201-997-5344.

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"Your Best Source For Community Information"

A Nutley Community Newspaper

## How Nutley police foiled drug ring

By Roman J. Ulschak  
Staff Writer

The Nutley Police Department, in a joint effort with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, has announced the arrest of 19 individuals in connection with Operation Oxydream.

The case began approximately 15 months ago when Nutley detectives realized the magnitude of a massive local distribution of oxycodone, which is the active ingredient in brand-name drugs such as Oxycontin and Roxycodone.

According to a DEA release, more than 11,000 doses in 2006 were attributed to the abuse of oxycodone, which is a controlled dangerous substance.

"It's far beyond what you could imagine," said Detective Lt. Steven Rogers of the Nutley Police Department last week of the oxycodone network.

He estimated there were about 2000 to 3000 Oxycontin pills coming into Nutley every week, involving tens of thousands of dollars. After meeting with Nutley Police Chief John Holland and Nutley detectives, it was decided to bring in other agencies for assistance.

"We concluded we needed the involvement of the DEA and other agencies," said Rogers.

Besides the Nutley Police Department and the DEA, law enforcement organizations involved in Operation Oxydream included the Elizabeth Police Department, the Essex County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the



Nutley Chief John Holland speaks at the DEA press conference in Newark. Nutley police, with the help of various law enforcement agencies, shut down a massive Oxycodone drug ring in New Jersey.

Newark Police Department and the United States Attorney's Office. They are all considered to be part of the DEA New Jersey Division's Tactical Diversion Squad, or TDS, according to a DEA news release.

"No stone was left unturned," said Rogers, and all available resources were utilized in the operation.

The supplier to the network was identified as Vincent Hiss, Sr. of Flemington, the resident pharmacist-in-charge and owner of Lincoln Pharmacy in Edison. It was from his pharmacy, law enforcement officials charged, that fraudulent prescriptions were written for more than 45,000 oxycodone pills

since at least Oct. 2007. Marc Calabria, 31, and Thomas Grasso, 27, both of Nutley, were also arrested and charged with conspiracy to distribute and dispense oxycodone. Grasso was also alleged to have served as a substitute of oxycodone pills for Calabria.

Also arrested from Nutley and charged with state violations in connection with the network, were Angelo "Andy" Cicilia, Wayne Cross, Carmen Love, Matthew Lopez, Sammy Salinas and Dan Ryan Taballe.

Two individuals were arrested in connection with the criminal organization, Anthony Castellano and

Marco Iannelli, were said to be in large. A bar graph produced by the DEA showed the national average for oxycodone purchases by pharmacies in 2009 to be 42,827 units. The average for New Jersey pharmacies last year was 78,817 units, while the number of oxycodone purchases made from the Lincoln Pharmacy in 2009 was a whopping 478,200 units, or more than 600 percent of the state average.

Rogers said that no Nutley businesses appeared to have been involved in the network, nor any Nutley schools. There were several reports, though, of individuals dying of overdoses in New Jersey and in Nutley that may have been

connected to the network, although no names were given.

"We knew we had a serious problem on our hands," said Rogers, who did not want Nutley to become the center for the nation's most-valuable drug deals. "I can't give the DEA enough credit for what they've done in the form of prescription drugs and can spend as much as \$50 for a single Oxycontin pill."

"That's how they got started," said Holland.

Users develop a tolerance to the drug and require greater doses and more money to pay for them, which often leads to them seeking or even selling drugs. Some users also make the transition to heroin, which is usually cheaper than oxycodone, but can be produced with little or no quality control as to purity.

"Whatever is found is thrown into the mix," said Rogers. "As it takes in one bad dose and you're dead."

Both Rogers and Holland said they were glad to see Commissioner Al Petrucci for dedicating Nutley personnel to the investigation of a deadly ban, which was significant amount of manpower for a small police force like Nutley's.

"It was not what we'd make," said Holland.

"The commissioner did not but the Nutley did. We got every resource."

Holland can be reached at 908-686-7300, ext. 125.

## Budget plan proposes \$150 tax increase on average home

By Roman J. Ulschak  
Staff Writer

The Nutley Board of Commissioners introduced their 2010 Municipal Budget by passing a resolution, 4-0, at their April 6 meeting.

The amount to be raised by the tax increase, according to a budget explanatory statement, was \$56,868,363. That was with an estimated 4 percent cap calculation.

"It was not easy to strike a budget this year," he said.

He also cited increased health care and pension costs and commended fellow commissioners for their efforts in setting the budget together.

A Nutley home with an assessed value of \$350,000 would see a local tax increase of \$150 this year. That number could be higher or lower for other Nutley residents, depending on the assessed value of their homes.

Public Works Commissioner Joseph Scarpelli was pleased that his department came in under budget for a second consecutive year. He also said his department had been reduced by four this year, with another position to be downgraded from full-time to part-time. There was also a reorganization of the engineering department.

"This will help with tax relief down the road," said Scarpelli.

A large part of the initiative had been greater plastics recycling, such as food grade tubs numbered through 7, yogurt containers, peanut butter and mayonnaise jars, bubble, margarine, and ice cream tubs, beverage containers, plastic beverage caps, laundry detergent.

The township will not be giving away the biodegradable bags to residents this spring, although a bag program is scheduled for autumn. The town has also inaugurated a new program that began on April 5 and will conclude tomorrow, where it is reducing in disposal costs for solid waste by getting recyclable items out of the trash and into recycling bins where they belong.

Scarpelli has worked to increase and improve Nutley's recycling efforts since he took office in 2006. A large part of the initiative had been greater plastics recycling, such as food grade tubs numbered through 7, yogurt containers, peanut butter and mayonnaise jars, bubble, margarine, and ice cream tubs, beverage containers, plastic beverage caps, laundry detergent.

Scarpelli said that spring cleanup efforts will also continue in towns over the next few weeks. "It's ongoing," he said. "We'll pick up trash, leaves and branches and put them into brown biodegradable bags."

Scarpelli has worked to increase and improve Nutley's recycling efforts since he took office in 2006. A large part of the initiative had been greater plastics recycling, such as food grade tubs numbered through 7, yogurt containers, peanut butter and mayonnaise jars, bubble, margarine, and ice cream tubs, beverage containers, plastic beverage caps, laundry detergent. He added that there were still challenges ahead, particularly because of the reduction in state aid, although his department had

"It was not easy to strike a budget this year."

— Commissioner Thomas Evans

been able to reduce certain numbers and move some money around.

"We put it where we felt it was needed," said Petrucci, who oversees the fire and police departments.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mauro G. Tucci also thanked his fellow commissioners along with everyone in his department for their assistance.

"We came in flat for the third year in a row," he said. "It was a very difficult budget year, but I'm pleased where we are now."

He added that the challenge would come next year when and if the budget cap was reduced from 4 percent to 2.5 percent.

Evans talked of flexible work agreements in his own department, and of not replacing any clerk who had retired. Payroll and purchasing would also be handled in the future by a single person. He also talked of managing a capital plan, where the township would be able to restructure its debt and save approximately \$113,000. The town's debt ceiling is around \$138 million.

Nutley Mayor Joseph Cucchiola was not present at the meeting last week but Evans said she had worked hard to produce a flat budget in her Public Affairs department.

The next meeting of the Nutley Board of Commissioners is scheduled for April 22. The public hearing on the municipal budget will be held on May 18.

Roman J. Ulschak can be reached at 908-686-7300, ext. 125.

## Signature athlete



New York Giants linebacker Michael Booley signs an autograph on a young fan's sweater. Members of the Giants were at Walker Middle School on April 1 as part of the NFL Play 60 challenge. The program encourages kids to get at least 60 minutes of exercise a day.

## Shredding Day added to town recycling effort

By Roman J. Ulschak  
Staff Writer

The township of Nutley and the Department of Public Works will hold a Residential Shredding Day on April 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Municipal Parking Lot No. 1.

Behind the old Lincoln-Nutley Center shop at Franklin Avenue and Williams Street.

"We will get recycling credit," said Public Works Commissioner Joseph Scarpelli of the event.

The shredder will be housed in a truck on-site. Residents can bring documents they wish to have shredded, particularly bank statements which are not one year old and do not contain un-refined information, credit card applications, pay

ments, W-2 forms and any other documents containing Social Security numbers, account numbers, passwords or PIN data, birth dates, private contact information and signatures.

Residents who shed their own documents at home are asked to place that paper in clear plastic bags at curbside on recycling day.

They may be picked up by DPW.

Scarpelli said that spring cleanup efforts will also continue in towns over the next few weeks. "It's ongoing," he said. "We'll pick up trash, leaves and branches and put them into brown biodegradable bags."

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# W13: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Special Subject Writing

## First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# Nutley Journal

## How Nutley Police Foiled Drug Ring

# Roman J. Ulschak



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## Fighting drugs on the home front

O.C. not immune; police talk about drug investigation methods

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN  
Ocean City Sentinel

Ocean City - Beachfront Ocean City's festive and family-friendly facade has a shadowing undercurrent of illegal narcotics, a battle local police have fought for years.

The Ocean City Police Department, along with the Cape May County Sheriff's Office, have combated the influx of marijuana, heroin and strong prescription drugs such as Oxycodone and Vicodin, busting

gangs, dealers and users like Elmer Ness and his Untouchables went after gangsters during Prohibition. But unlike the glamorous black and white world of crime fiction, the drug war in Ocean City is riddled with murky shades of gray.

Police Lt. Steve Ang said the reason police didn't release the names in a recent large drug bust was because the individuals were part of the ongoing drug investigation.

Ang said the police have information that some marijuana is being shipped through the mail. He said carters were also driving out to California on cross-country trips, procuring marijuana and driving back to Ocean City.

Ocean City Police Lt. Steven Ang said drugs are readily available in every community, including his.

Trips enter Ocean City as they do in other smaller south Jersey communities like Philadelphia, Camden, Newark and New York City, according to Ang.

Ang said marijuana has had a fairly common presence for years, but hasn't sales and use are on the rise.

"Heroin got to be very common on the street. It got cheaper than cocaine. With heroin you have all kinds of confusion as far as the quality and addiction of it," Ang said. "It's out there. We know that in the summertime it escalates because we have a larger clientele base. We work on getting information and developing cases."

Ang said marijuana has had a fairly common presence for years, but hasn't sales and use are on the rise.

## Critic: Criminalization of drugs doesn't work; legalize, regulate

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN  
Ocean City Sentinel

Ocean City - Dr. Steven Fencichel, a dermatologist and Ocean City resident, is an outspoken critic of the criminalization of drugs.

Fencichel said, "I'm not for drugs. Fencichel said, 'I'm for personal accountability.' Fencichel's solution to the so-called 'war on drugs' would be the legalization and governmental regulation of all narcotics.

"It is a human right, I believe, to be able to change one's consciousness in whatever manner is lawful."

"I'm not for drugs. Fencichel said, 'I'm for personal accountability.' Fencichel's solution to the so-called 'war on drugs' would be the legalization and governmental regulation of all narcotics.

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"It is a human right, I believe, to be able to change one's consciousness in whatever manner is lawful."

## Rt. 52 bridge to close for 4 days in mid-September

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN  
Ocean City Sentinel

Ocean City - As part of the Route 52 easement replacement project, the easement will be closed to all traffic for four days in the fall from mid-Monday, Sept. 13, to mid-Friday, Sept. 17.

The temporary closure will be needed for the Ocean City bridge in construction, which includes the partial demolition of the existing bridge, construction of a new bridge and permanent and temporary

"It's a four-day total closure which we know we have to deal with at the end of the season. It's to be in the new big span and get the old drawbridge late in each direction when it reopens," said interim city Business Administrator, Michael

Dutilleul. "This is leading to us entering and leaving town on the new span coming in and dominating the old drawbridge."

Dutilleul said during the closure, traffic would be rerouted to 31st Street



Hundreds of people gathered at the South Street beach were having a crabby Wednesday in Ocean City - and that was a good thing. The annual Miss Crustacean Harvest Crab Beauty Pageant and King of Klutz Crab Races were held at 1 p.m. on

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## As O.C. tries to be 'bicycle friendly,' some bikers are not

Resort has been creating safer routes, but many bike riders ignoring traffic laws

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN  
Ocean City Sentinel

Ocean City - Bicycling as a recreational activity has expanded in recent years in Ocean City, with residents and visitors taking to the salty air as they ride through the resort.

But more people on bicycles could pose potential hazards when their sense of velocity and pedestrianism are removed from the road.

Sgt. Charles Simonson of the Ocean City Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit said he wants to make Ocean City's streets safe and efficient for residents to move throughout the resort.

Simonson said he observed many bicyclists take to the road and show safe riding habits.

Simonson said the New Jersey law is very clear that if you operate a bike you have to obey the same laws as if you're operating a motor vehicle. He said he's seen many people who ride with traffic, obey signs and signals and use hand signals. In addition, bikers must have a light on the old drawbridge.

"We're seeing violations of just about every requirement. They ride through the lights, they ride through the signs, they cross the road inappropriately, they do not wear adequate safety gear like helmets with their kids. It's so pervasive, it's chock."

Simonson said "at some point" there will be enforcement that start providing negative reinforcement for bicyclists who violate the law.

Simonson said currently, the

Traffic Safety Unit is focusing on traffic safety education and engineering the city to slow traffic down with traffic-calming devices such as

"We're seeing violations of just about every requirement. They ride through the lights, they ride through the signs, they cross the road inappropriately, they do not wear adequate safety gear like helmets with their kids. It's so pervasive, it's chock."

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# W13: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Special Subject Writing

First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# Ocean City Sentinel

## Fighting Drugs on the Homefront

## Eric Avedissian

**W14: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
Environmental/Health  
& Science Writing**

## Golf balls on the Hudson: A water hazard?

BY MAXIM ALMENAS  
Staff Writer

EDgewater — Most days, Mini Evans enjoys the views of the Hudson River as she runs on the walkway.

But on Oct. 17, during the Celebrate the Hudson River Day, a community event dedicated to

cleaning up the area, she noticed several golf balls nestled between the rocks and the mud during low tide just outside the Edgewater Golf Range off River Road.

"I had a clear plastic bag, picked up 60 or more golf balls out of the river and brought them to the management," said Evans. "He got really mad and said, 'Well, we

pay a lot of money to recycle our golf balls.'"

According to Evans, the representative then said the height of the netting, which encloses the range on each side of the two-tier platforms where golfers hit the balls and forms a barrier on the riverfront approximately 200 yards away, was to blame for the golf balls' escaping.

The nets, which have several gaps in sections, are 140 feet in height. There is no barrier over the range.

Evans assumed the golf range had addressed the issue because she hadn't notice golf balls in the water afterward.

But on Oct. 31, when the tide was as low as Evans had ever seen it, she found something far more frightening than what she encountered on her first visit.

"I saw golf balls as far as the eye can see," Evans said, who returned with a camera and a newspaper to prove when the pictures were taken. "There were hundreds and hundreds and hundreds."

As Councilwoman Maureen Holte, who often walks with Evans on the walkway, looked directly at the top of the netting, she couldn't imagine anyone other than a professional golfer hitting balls over the net or through the few gaps.

But Kevin Lee, the manager at Edgewater Golf Range, said that although it may have been difficult 11 or 12 years ago, when the center opened, for the average golfer to hit balls over the far netting, advancements in golf club design in recent years has made it much easier.

"There is no netting enclosure so balls can sail over," said Lee, adding that the netting on the right side of the complex is farther inward than on the left side, making it easier for golfers to drive balls over the net.

And since most people are right handed and tend to slice the balls to the right, Lee said, that could explain why the most of the balls found in the Hudson have washed up along the right side of the center.

When asked if they had considered installing a net dome to stop golf balls from landing in the river, Lee said the center had considered it, but would have to install 8 or 12 stanchion poles through the middle of the range to support dome netting.

"And poles in the middle of the field would pose a hazard to our customers' balls hit the poles and bounce back," he explained. "We considered it in the beginning, but it wasn't feasible."

The center, which is open seven days a week, would also have to close down for an indefinite period until the netting was secured.

In the meantime, Holte, who reported the situation to the borough's code enforcer, is concerned about the effect the balls might have on marine life.

"They're very dangerous," she said. "They get washed out to sea, and you have large fish that can swallow them. These things are not biodegradable. They're going to be here for 100 years."

According to a 2009 CNN report, it could take anywhere from 100 to 1,000 years for golf balls, made of both plastic and rubber, to decompose.

The report, based on a study by the Danish Golf Union, also states that when the balls decompose in water, they release high quantities of zinc from the synthetic rubber core, which attaches itself to the ground sediment and poisons local life.

Small amounts of lead, cadmium, chromium, copper, benzene, toluene, xylene, and acetone were also found.

The Edgewater Golf Range does not use biodegradable golf balls, but Lee said his company sells the damaged balls found on the range and in the Hudson River, to a California-based company that melts them down and creates recycled golf balls.

Lee said it was in his company's best interest to recycle the balls and was disturbed by the notion that anyone would assume his company was purposely dumping golf balls in the river.

He also said he hadn't noticed golf balls in the river until this year and is addressing the issue.

"We've been checking the almanac for low tides and manually trying to collect as many balls as we can weekly," he explained. "But there's only a one-hour netting."

SEE HAZARD, PAGE 5

**You Will Find Safety and Savings at HERITAGE POINTE**



As New Jersey residents know, Mother Nature can be especially cruel once the winter months arrive. Blustering winds, bone-chilling temperatures and beautiful snow accumulations can quickly turn a regular day into a nightmare.

When aging adults live alone, their family members can become concerned about their health and safety during snowstorms and cold weather. Tasks such as shoveling snow, driving in bad weather and the availability of power outages can prove dangerous for older adults. Heritage Points of Teaneck residents and their families, however, are at ease knowing they are safe and secure at the full-service rental retirement community.

Heritage Points of Teaneck offers older adults a relaxing retirement year-round and many residents appreciate no longer having to take leaves in the fall and shovel snow in the winter. Landscaping and the clearing of snow are two of the many services included in the monthly rent. In addition, Heritage Points utilities, including heat, are covered in the monthly rent.

As homeowners know, winter typically comes with high utility costs.

Heritage Points of Teaneck is located at 400 Frank W. Burr Boulevard, near Route 4 just off of Interstates 80 and 95. Heritage Points of Teaneck is currently seeking the community for all leases signed by Dec. 15, 2010.

For more information about the Heritage Points lifestyle, to arrange a tour or learn more about this special offer, call (201) 836-9260



[www.heritagepointsofteaneck.com](http://www.heritagepointsofteaneck.com)

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Golf balls are finding their way into the river outside the Edgewater Golf Range in this photograph taken in late October.

# W14: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Environmental/Health & Science Writing

Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Edgewater View

### Golf Balls on the Hudson: A Water Hazard?

Maxim Almenas

★ Wall Township ★

Wall man seeks to share knowledge of prosthetics with another amputee

By Justin Bonaida  
It is the perfect mix between art and science.

With precise angle measurements and the exact fitting of specific parts, the prosthetic leg Wall resident George Lyons creates for himself would not fit properly.

— George Lyons  
Above-the-knee amputee

Without being able to use a sense of feel and practiced hands, however, the leg would not fit properly, either.

So, Mr. Lyons mastered both facets of fitting prosthetic legs to himself, and adds a little artistic flare, to boot, customizing his legs with colors and patterns — often to match his blue or yellow motorcycle.

It was more than 50 years ago that Mr. Lyons lost his leg in a military accident, he said.

He is now a Disabled American Veteran (DAVA), a member of chapter 29 out of Fort Monmouth. Mr. Lyons said he would encourage other DAVAs to get involved in local chapters, which can help them obtain many benefits.

Mr. Lyons lost his leg when he was 18-years-old and in the Navy.

"Back then, the legs were all made out of wood," he said, "fitting the leg 'old fashioned'."

"I had nothing but trouble," he said, of the legs.

He explained he is an above-the-knee amputee, and it is often difficult to find a prosthetic leg with the proper, comfortable fit. For years, he said, he was plagued with pain and sores from prosthetics.

Once, he recalled, he was fit for a new leg, and fell three times just walking out of the doctor's office — he said, he knows the problem was with the alignment of the leg.

At another time, he recalled, he told a "limbmaker" the leg he was fitted with was uncomfortable.

The man handed him a tube of salve, and told Mr. Lyons it would become his "lifeline friend."

"That was it, Mr. Lyons said — he decided to make his own prosthetics.

At that time, he explained, the "C-Leg" had just come out — the leg is fitted with computer or shops that communicate with the leg's system, aiding the user with strange walking.

Mr. Lyons wanted to try a C-Leg — he was always up for something new, he said, that could provide a better fit. The leg, at the time, would come with a price tag of approximately \$36,000, he said, and that was just for a C-Leg that fit from the knee down.

The leg, he explained, is comprised of mechanical parts beginning at the knee, "almost like an Erector set."

In order to be fitted with a C-Leg, Mr. Lyons headed to an experimental program in New York City. He was fitted with a digitized limb, but said he strained greatly to make it work, where "pre" the leg lay up."

There was no explanation, Mr. Lyons explained, but the leg did fall apart. The leg would not work for him, he said, but a technician gave him the parts of the failed leg, which he took home.

The stars aligned for Mr. Lyons, though, because New York University had been offering a course in prosthetics-making, he said.

He headed to the university, only to find the course had been cancelled.

"So I said, 'Where's your student bookstore?'" he recalled.

There was one set of postgraduate prosthetic books left, Mr. Lyons said, and he bought them. He learned about fitting prosthetics, and began experimenting in his home shop.

He had trouble at first, he recalled. One portion of the process of creating a leg involves draping hot plastic over a mold of his upper leg. The plastic would eventually become a piece of the finished leg, providing motion to keep the prosthetic limb attached.

"What I make [prosthetic legs] is state-of-the-art."

Mr. Lyons had constructed the leg — it was too professional.

"I do it in a matter of an hour to two, to get it right," he said. "That's basically the difference between receiving a leg from a limbmaker and making my own."

Mr. Lyons had a complete shop set up in his garage, where he keeps a variety of prosthetic leg parts and equipment to put them together with. He has also created a series of instructional videos, detailing the process of creating a leg from start to finish.

"I would love to find a young kid," he said, who has lost his or her leg above the knee.

He is hoping to teach an apprentice, of sorts, how to properly fit a prosthetic limb. Eventually, he said, he would give that person all of his equipment.

"I'm loaded with stuff," he said, of the parts and equipment he has amassed over the years.

Outside of his garage shop, Mr. Lyons stays very active. His C-Leg allows him to ride a bicycle, and he is also an avid motorcyclist.

However, he is always working to advance his skills in prosthetic-leg making and fitting.

Mr. Lyons has, over the years, outfitted his garage with custom-made equipment to make prosthetic legs with, including a solder that would cost about \$1,000 now. He created one for \$25.

"All the stuff that I use," he explained, "I almost make myself."

Much of his equipment, he said, includes common household objects — like an oven — that he has modified with features conducive to making prosthetics.

Mr. Lyons often sees parts from legs he has received to create new, custom-fitted legs, he said. What could cost \$12,000 to \$15,000 in parts, he said he creates for \$125.

"What I make is state-of-the-art," he said.

Mr. Lyons winters in Florida, where he was able to find a limbmaker who he learned more skills from several years ago.

Once, he showed a leg he had made to a professional limb maker, who said he didn't

believe Mr. Lyons had constructed the leg — it was too professional.

"To me, it's second nature," learning about making prosthetic limbs is encouraged to — Mr. Lyons said.

Anyone who is interested in mail him contacting Mr. Lyons regarding walltown100@aol.com.



When Wall's George Lyons lost his left leg at 18-years-old more than 50 years ago, he had difficulty finding a prosthetic leg that fit well — so he began making his own. Today, Mr. Lyons likes to fashion prosthetic legs in colors that match his motorcycle.



Wall Twp. Community Calendar

To submit a calendar listing or Wall Township news items, email [walltown100@aol.com](mailto:walltown100@aol.com)

Clothing Drive Set For Oct. 1

The Old Mill School will host a clothing drive on Oct. 1 from 9:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Clothing, shoes, linens, stuffed animals and toys can be dropped off on the side of the school.

Organizers ask for no over-sized toys, outdoor, high chair, car seats, VCR tapes, books or games.

All items collected will be sent overseas to various charities, like organizations, and donation tax are deductible.

Spaghetti Dinner Set For Oct. 1

The Gladuda Fire Co Ladies Auxiliary will host a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Oct. 1, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Gladuda Firehouse on Belmor Boulevard.

The cost is \$8 per adult and \$2 per child, and will include spaghetti and meatballs, bread, salad, soda, tea and coffee.

Reservations will be available. With questions, please call May at 732-890-7322. All proceeds will benefit the fire company.

Edgar Allen Poe To Come To Allaire

Monks River, N.J., will host nationally-renowned Helen McKinnis of the Edgar Allan Poe House, who will perform a dramatization from the haunting tales of Edgar Allan Poe at the Allaire Village Chapel on Oct. 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m.

The chapel is limited to 100 people, so pre-registration is a must and only ticket holders will be admitted to the performance. Tickets are \$15 per person.

To purchase tickets, call 732-919-3500 or log on to [allairevt.org](http://allairevt.org).

Breast Cancer Benefit Set For Oct. 2

Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Wall, located at 2410 Highway 35, will host a Broadway Bush For Breast Health on Saturday, Oct. 2, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

All proceeds will go to the Monmouth Medical Center Breast Health Foundation.

On the music's fine heritage, there will be door prizes, raffish giveaways, vendors donating a portion of their sales, special performances by students and staff, dancing, finger foods and drinks. The cost is \$30 per person and \$50 per couple.

Specifically, donations from the event will go toward providing mammograms and other health care services to women from all socio-economic backgrounds. For more information, call 732-528-0151.

Community Yard Sale Set For Oct. 2

The West Belmor School PTA will hold its first Community Yard Sale on Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (with a 1 a.m. set-up time). The cost for space to sell goods is \$20. There will also be a bake sale, cash for gold and refreshments.

All proceeds will go to the West Belmor School PTA and, in turn, the school. The event will take place rain or shine.

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## The Coast Star

### Wall Man Seeks to Share Knowledge of Prosthetics with Another Amputee

## Jamie Biesiada

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## Cancer survivor envisions a more inclusive 'club'

BY MARSHA STOLTZ

of suburban news

Wyckoff resident Alexis Johnson assumed everyone knew about Gilda's Club Northern New Jersey in Hackensack, until she was leaving an all-day breast cancer month symposium there two years ago.

"My hand was on the door," recalled Johnson. "But I went back, found the executive director, and told her that, for all the phenomenal programs and services offered, in my personal opinion it was devoid of an African-American presence. Considering all the statistics from the American Cancer Society saying blacks have the highest death rate and shortest survival of any racial or ethnic group in the U.S., one would expect to see more blacks utilizing the center."

As a result of that conversation, Johnson was authorized to create the Black Task Force of Gilda's Club NNJ to bring Gilda's Club to the attention of a wider audience. It was, Johnson was to learn, a daunting task.

"We held our first events and I was surprised that so many people in the immediate area had never heard of Gilda's Club," said Johnson. "Some people even thought Gilda's Club was a bar or restaurant."

Gilda's Club was named for comedian Gilda Radner, one of the original cast members of "Saturday Night Live" (1975-80). The organization was founded in New York by Radner's husband, fellow comedian Gene Wilder, after her

death from ovarian cancer in 1989 at age 43. Since then the organization has instituted a nationwide network of clubs to provide free social and emotional support services to anyone touched by cancer. The Hackensack facility alone serves 12 northern New Jersey counties.

Johnson, 63, moved to Wyckoff 10 years ago with her husband, Joe. They have four grown children.

A former employee with the federal departments of Agriculture and Justice, Johnson turned to writing (she is the author of "The Artistry of Life" and "The Artistry of Motherhood") when she discovered her breast cancer during a family vacation.

While undergoing chemotherapy Johnson said she learned about Gilda's from a flyer in a packet of information routinely distributed to cancer patients. Johnson spent 16 weeks attending classes and programs there.

"I took art classes," said Johnson. "Not because I was a great artist, but because it's very calming."



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER TRENTO

Left, Alexis Johnson of Wyckoff and Joanne English Rolleston of Englewood discussing plans to broaden awareness of the services and support available at Gilda's Club Northern New Jersey. Above, Johnson and Rolleston at the signature "red door" entrance to Gilda's at 575 Main St., Hackensack.

very self-affirming. The idea is to get you away from a hospital setting, and thinking about your illness. It may not be the right place for everyone but, at least, more people should know Gilda's Club exists so they can make an informed decision whether or not to come. Gilda's should not be the best-kept secret in town."

Johnson took her task force challenge to Joanne English Rolleston whom she had met months earlier at the "Tennis for Life" breast cancer support group in Ridgewood. Rolleston, 49, president and CEO of English Realty in Englewood, is a two-time cancer survivor who had visited Gilda's with her son, but did not form a lasting connection with the organization.

"I told her I wanted her to be my co-chair," Johnson said.

"And I told her no," added Rolleston. "I'm someone who likes to go full force when I get involved in something, and I was busy."

Rolleston, a lifelong Englewood resident, runs one of Bergen County's first black-

owned real estate firms, founded by her late father, Whittie English, more than 50 years ago. As such, Rolleston not only runs an extensive realty firm, but also sits on a number of boards, including those of the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center Foundation and the Englewood Community Foundation. She also is a commissioner and treasurer of the Bergen County Housing Authority.

At 21, Rolleston was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, and underwent chemotherapy. She was declared free of the disease 10 years later. Four years ago, she was diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer. Again she underwent chemotherapy and radiation, but Rolleston said she made other changes as well.

"I was older this time and I realized the significance that life habits can have on my health," said Rolleston. "I was a workaholic. I knew I had to change my lifestyle, to slow down. I thought I was dealing well with cancer. But I did not appreciate the

educational seminar last fall focused on prostate cancer, and this year will provide information on lung cancer. They will also host a community health fair in September. Johnson is a current member of the board of trustees of Gilda's Club NNJ.

Their current appeal, "100 Churches for Gilda's," is seeking 100 churches to donate \$100 to further their mission of raising awareness of the free programs offered at Gilda's Club. Organizations, businesses, as well as individuals are welcome to make donations to "100 Churches for Gilda's." This appeal will culminate with the first annual Gospel Fest featuring church choirs performing at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church's Logan Center in Hackensack on Saturday, May 22. Tickets are \$20 and all proceeds will benefit Gilda's Club NNJ.

"We hope to spread the message of Gilda's Club through all of these doors," said Johnson. Gilda's Club NNJ is at 575 Main St., Hackensack. For more information, call 201-457-1670.

# W14: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Environmental/Health & Science Writing

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## Wyckoff Suburban News

Cancer Survivor Envisions a More Inclusive 'Club'

Marsha Stoltz

# W14: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Environmental/Health & Science Writing

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## North/South Brunswick Sentinel

Relatives Tell of the Tragedy of Alzheimer's Disease Cases of Alzheimer's Disease to Double by 2050 Silver Alert to Find Missing

Dementia Patients Is Now Law

Jennifer Amato

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### Relatives tell of the tragedy of Alzheimer's disease

Share stories of mental decline of patients, heartache of caregivers

**BY JENNIFER AMATO**  
Staff Writer

Mildred "Mancy" Davis is described by her son as a "real lady": she taught her son to hold doors open and she never used four-letter words.

She worked for her husband Lou's business, volunteered her time for the Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital in Brooklyn, and was president of the volunteer organization of the Mildred Davis Unit, not named after her.

But once she moved from Brooklyn to a new residence in Manhattan in the 1970s, things weren't quite so familiar to her. She would begin to pretend she recognized business associates when in fact she didn't know who they were, she would get lost even though she was one block away from home, she put too much dish detergent in the dishwasher and caused a flood, and the proper, well-to-do woman cursed at a woman wearing a fur coat.

Although the disease was fairly unknown at the time, Mancy Davis was eventually diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease when she was in her 60s.

Her son, Robert Davis, recalled instances when the family noticed something was wrong but assumed it was just old age, as many people did back then. The North Brunswick Township councilman said that she would ask a question and then ask the same thing a few minutes later. During a cruise, she was confused several times about where she was. She was misplacing items around the house.

"In the beginning, you kind of lose patience when someone asks you the same thing over and over again," Robert Davis said regretfully. "But you have no idea."

Mancy Davis was tested at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York and was diagnosed with the most common form of dementia.

However, the doctor told Lou Davis, "Your wife has Alzheimer's and there is absolutely nothing we can do about it. It just gets worse," Robert Davis said.

"The doctor gave my father absolutely no help," Robert Davis said. "The most frustrating thing is, there is nothing you can do. It literally is a death sentence. The person goes from being an active person in society to pretty much a vegetative state."

Lou Davis' cousin was a top neurologist and psychologist in New York and prescribed different experimental medications for Mancy, but nothing worked. Instead, Robert Davis watched his mother get progressively worse.

She needed someone with her all the time. She would forget things. Her personality changed," he said. "I think the most difficult thing is that here you have active people who are always out there doing things and all of a sudden they're sliding into dementia."

Mancy Davis eventually became bed-ridden and had to be fed intravenously. Her husband had taken out an insurance plan years before that allowed her to have medical care, but the cost of her overall care was \$1.5 million, Robert Davis said.

Yet despite all of the medical attention,

**Estimated Percentage of Americans Aged 71+ with Dementia by Gender, ADAMS, 2002**

**See related stories, pages 10-12**

However, to cope with his situation, the elder Davis had joined the New York chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and helped raise over a million dollars for research.

Robert Davis is now involved with the Greater New Jersey chapter.

Robert and his sister, Barbara, are also participating in The National Cell Repository for Alzheimer's Disease study through the Department of Medical & Molecular Genetics at Indiana University School of Medicine. Blood samples are being used to obtain DNA and cell lines for research purposes, though it is not a diagnosis of Alzheimer's, and half-hour memory tests are given. Family history is provided as well because the study requires that two relatives have had the disease; Robert Davis said he believes his mother's sister had it as well.

"We all forget things, but when you have someone in your family, it's definitely in the back of your mind," he said, "but you can't worry about it. You'll drive yourself crazy."

The Davises advise others to get tested right away if something is suspected, to find facilities for patients so that caregivers can rest, for all family members to be involved and share the responsibility, and for those affected directly or indirectly to attend support groups.

"We did it because we felt if there was something they could find that did help somebody else, then the death of my mother wouldn't be in vain," Robert Davis said.

Robert Davis said that the caregivers suffer the brunt of the disease because they need to be with a patient 24/7. He said his father would come home every night and talk to his wife, and if she would utter just a word or two, he would think there was improvement. He refused to put her in a nursing home, although the couple's two children made the difficult decision to move her to a facility a few years before she passed away so that she could receive the constant care she needed.

"It is very hard for a person to accept that," Robert Davis said of watching a loved one decline, especially seeing his mother for over a decade not being able to recognize people. "It is affecting them physically, but mentally it affects the caregivers and family and friends."

Lou Davis, who had never given up hope for his wife's improvement, lived for nine and a half years after she passed. Her son called him "tough" and one of the strongest people he knows.

Another person Robert Davis called his "pillar of strength" is his own wife, Linda, who was also in pain from watching her mother-in-law suffer.

Linda Davis said her relationship with the Davises was better than her relationship with her own parents, and said she was always treated like a daughter instead of an in-law.

"Essentially you look at what's the quality of life and you know this was a very vibrant, active, involved woman ... and to see her decline, to see her finally in a home in the fetal position, it hurts," Linda Davis said. "As much as I loved her, I had to let her go. She was just existing."

Linda Davis said the family was also very concerned about Lou Davis, because of the energy and time he put into caring for his wife.

**Causes of Dementia in People Aged 71+, ADAMS, 2002**

**ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**

Alzheimer's patients die twice: the first time, when they lose all sense of themselves and their surroundings, is the most painful.

The second time, when they pass on, is a relief.

Teri Tumbleson, of Sayreville, said that was the best advice she was given when her mother, Santa Restivo, was diagnosed seven years ago with the mentally debilitating disease.

Tumbleson said her mother, who was 74 at the time, had been doing "silly things" her family would laugh off prior to her diagnosis, such as putting too much soap detergent in the washer, or donating a lot of money to different charities.

However, when the situation came into question, Restivo was taken to a neurologist in March 2002 and through a process of elimination, mainly by ruling out a carotid sonogram, MRI and EEG as negative, she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Restivo continued under the care of the neurologist for the next year and a half, and was given memory tests to check what state and county she lived in, what floor she was on, the season and month, and what time it was.

(Continued on page 10)

**Worth 1,000 words**

A look back at the best pictures taken by Greater Media photographers in 2009.

**Page 7**

**That's entertainment**

Check out today's Just Got Page 13

**Chopd!**

A lot of errors that didn't make Greater Media newspapers in 2009 — and these blunders that did get in.

**Page 6**

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"As much as I loved her, I had to let her go. She was just existing."

— Linda Davis, Page 3

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A Greater Media Newspaper



Lavallette Students Wear 'Hats For Haiti' Page 25

Boro Flu Vaccine Clinic A Success



Page 5

# The Ocean Star

Friday, January 29, 2010

A STAR NEWS GROUP newspaper

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## Lake Louise dredging halted, again

By Chris Sheldon  
**POINT PLEASANT BEACH** — The dredging of Point Pleasant Beach's Lake Louise has, once again, been temporarily halted, further postponing its completion, which had been scheduled for earlier this month.

During last Tuesday night's Point Pleasant Beach Council meeting, Mayor Vincent Barrella explained the reasons for the project's latest hiccup.

Mayor Barrella said the borough received an extension to finish the dredging project, which began in October, from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), good through Jan. 15.

The project was supposed to be completed by Dec. 31, according to Michael Stronatan, of Bimetal Engineering, the borough's engineering firm.

However, the project was running behind schedule, due to a delay in the fall.

Although the NJDEP issued a permit to allow the borough to dredge into 2010, Mayor Barrella said the borough's application to the Army Corps of Engineers is still pending.



The dredging of Lake Louise in Point Pleasant Beach has been stopped again, order of the Army Corps of Engineers, which said the borough's dredging of the lake will cut into the breeding season of founder that currently inhabit the body of water.

## Boro fire co. plans event full of 'heart'

By Erica Fiorentino  
**POINT PLEASANT** — In two weeks, residents here will gather to honor a well-known community volunteer, in a heartfelt gathering to offer support for his dear friend.

Point Pleasant resident and volunteer firefighter Jesse Knecht, 26, of Sunset Avenue, is currently on medical leave from his job as a dispatcher with the Atlantic County Police Department. A serious medical condition, which stems from congenital heart disease, has kept him home, awaiting word from doctors.

Mr. Knecht said, by next week, he should have whether he will qualify for the heart and lung transplant. Fire company, Elks will hold benefit in his honor.

On Feb. 13, members of the community have been invited to the "Heart & Heart for Jesse" event at the Point Pleasant Elks Lodge.

The Point Pleasant Fire Company No. 1 Ladies Auxiliary will host the event, which is a benefit



Volunteer firefighter Jesse Knecht, 26, needs a heart and lung transplant. Fire company, Elks will hold benefit in his honor.

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See LAKE, PAGE 14

See HEART, PAGE 7

## Judge rules in favor of Beach recall committee



Stewart Fischer

By Chris Sheldon  
**TOMS RIVER** — After months of testimony and sifting through 66 pages of residents' signatures, Ocean County Superior Court Judge Joseph Foster, sitting here, ruled Monday afternoon that the petition to put Point Pleasant Beach Mayor Vincent Barrella's recall up for public vote contains 965 valid signatures, and is, therefore, eligible to be placed on the 2010 general election ballot.

Judge Foster ruled only on the case that at least part of the 402 signatures are valid.

Point Pleasant Beach

Barring appeals by Mayor Barrella, question to recall him from office will appear on 2010 ballot, thanks to successful effort by Fischer-led recall committee.

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Borough Clerk Maryann Ellsworth voided from the original petition should not have been included.

On Monday afternoon, the judge reviewed 83 of those signatures, judging the total number of valid signatures back over the required minimum mark of 800.

Judge Foster said most of the signatures he reviewed came from the group of 83

signatures. Ms. Ellsworth voided during his second review of the petition, late last summer. Ms. Ellsworth testified that she reviewed those 83 names from the petition because they did not match the signature's official signatures, on record with the Statewide Motor Registration System (SMS).

Judge Foster said the signatures in question on the recall petition were "sufficiently consistent with S V R S records."

"Many people have

See RECALL PAGE 9

Mayor Vincent Barrella



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# The Ocean Star

Lake Louise Dredging Halted, Again

At Long Last, Dredging Progress in Point Beach

More Than 50 Turtles Removed from Lake of Lillies

Chris Sheldon

NJPA  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

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## Clifton Journal

### Controversial ‘Wonder-Drug’

Tony Gicas

NEWS, VIEWS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

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SINCE 1917

Friday, February 19, 2010

## Controversial ‘wonder-drug’

Marijuana ends years of seizures for one man

By Tony Gicas  
Staff Writer

CLIFTON — He has suffered countless seizures, undergone multiple brain surgeries and even more medications, but the answer to a 22-year-old Clifton native's prayers seemingly hinges on the controversial use of medicinal marijuana.

In 1998, Tim Dagiua's mother, Kathy, received an emergency phone call from his elementary school.

During what she called a surreal conversation, the school staff



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DAGUIA

Tim Dagiua, (at right with hat), suffered his first seizure while in school at the age of 9. After years of medications and brain surgeries (above), Dagiua and his doctor found medical marijuana was the only thing that stopped his seizures, but the cure was not legal in New Jersey until recently.

In 1998, Tim Dagiua's mother, Kathy, received an emergency phone call from his elementary school.

During what she called a surreal conversation, the school staff



Tim, the family learner, was an epileptic. "I was shocked and remember

thinking they've called the wrong person," she said. "He is my only child so I can't even convey what that felt like."

Kathy and her husband, Gary, a lifetime Clifton resident, are both employees of pharmaceutical companies. The couple utilized every source they collected during their years in the industry to employ the best neurologist they could find.

Over the course of the next 12 years the Dagiua family exhausted every possible option which could help alleviate the severity and frequency of Tim's seizures.

"I've been on 12 medications - all failures - which left me having countless seizures," Tim said. "When I was 17, I had brain surgery to remove part of my right temporal lobe, where the seizures were suspected to be originating, but that was simply one more failed attempt to remedy my ail-

SEE TIM, PAGE 11



#### Puffing for pain relief

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■ **How you're approved:** A physician must recommend a patient and the state Department of Health will in turn issue the patient an identification card with name, date of birth and photo of bearer.

■ **How much you can get:** Patients would be allowed up to two ounces of marijuana a month that will be sold as dried leaves and flowers with no seeds, stems,

SEE STATS, PAGE 10

## New Jersey OKs medical marijuana use

By Michael Lamendola  
Special to Clifton Journal

NEW JERSEY — Last year, Loraine Bracey lost her husband, Leo, to cancer. The Wood-Ridge resident and active member of the Kip Center in Rutherford said he was in severe pain with the disease for two years, having to take harsh pain killers such as Percocet. What hurt Bracey the most was watching his appetite disappear. He lost

weight and many times when he ate, it came right back up. She said marijuana may have helped bolster his appetite, ease his stomach and quell his pain.

"When you see someone in such pain, you would do anything. I would do anything," said Bracey. "If I had marijuana, I would certainly want him to use it." For Bracey however, marijuana access

SEE STATE, PAGE 10



LAP PHOTO/HEED SAKONO

Yamileth Bolanos, who runs Pure Life Alternative Wellness Center, holds a vial of marijuana known as Jupiter Kush, at her store in Los Angeles, Calif.



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# W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Business & Economic Writing

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## Belleville Times

### Young Job Seekers

### Maria Karidis

**ECONOMY**

## Young job seekers report scarce summer work

BY MARIA KARIDIS  
of Belleville Times

The heat is on in the summer job market, leaving many Belleville teenagers out in the cold. The application process was very competitive for this summer, with about 600 applications from March through June, said a Human Resources representative for Belleville's K-Mart department store. Of those 600 applicants, K-Mart reported hiring close to 20.

"Competition for summer jobs is stiffer this year than last year, especially for younger teens and those without prior work experience," reported the New Jersey Bureau of Labor Market Information in its "2010 Summer Jobs Outlook." "Because of the recession, many adults are willing to take seasonal jobs over the summer," the report states.

Willing or not, some unemployed New Jersey adults may have to seek summer work. Come April, more than 40,000 New Jersey workers collected the last of their unemployment insurance benefits, states an April 7 news release from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Belleville's Pathmark Supermarket, on Belmont Avenue, reported 40 percent of its spring/summer applicants being adults, versus their average 20 percent adult-applicant rate, before the recession. "Because of layoffs, people are willing to take anything nowadays," said Front-End Manager Karzemah Terry.

Not only has the percentage of adult applicants increased, but also Terry reported an overall general increase in applications. Summer job seekers reached into the "thousands" this year, she said. Of those that number, Terry said approximately 20 were hired. Honey Bee Petz owner Gayle O'Brien said her Main Street store has had "lots" of teenage job seekers this summer – approximately 75 percent more than last summer. O'Brien has not hired anyone, though. "The summer is always slower," she said, noting that her business this summer is comparable to the last.

During the school year, when business picks up, O'Brien does employ Belleville High School students through the School-to-Career Program.

A Belleville kids' birthday party spot, Kadaraj Ray, of Main Street, has had an increase in teenage job seekers, too, said owner Flor Gonzaga. Gonzaga, however, also said summer business is slow: "I hate summer," she added. Thus, she's hired only one teenager, who's away on vacation right now, and whose shift she hasn't needed to cover.

Gonzaga is hoping to hire some of the summer applicants for work this winter, when she'll need the help.

Although the Bureau of Labor Market Information reported

younger teens as having the most trouble in the summer job market, two 20-year-olds from Belleville told the Times that it's been far from easy for them and their fellow college-student friends. Both Jaclyn Corino and Al Yaneski are working as first-time day camp counselors with the Belleville Recreation Department.

"It was extremely difficult to find a job this summer," said Jaclyn Corino, who used to work summers at ShopRite. "With the economy, though, the money they paid us wasn't good there," she said of her former job.

As such, Corino decided against a return to ShopRite, applied to several jobs and researched many unpaid internships before landing a position with the recreation department. "Even internships – there was nothing out there, and what was left was nothing I was interested in," she said.

Yaneski, who normally works during the school year on his college campus, was applying for summer work in Belleville for the first time this year. "It was pretty hard," he said of the summer job application process. Yaneski applied "to at least ten jobs" including Target, Staples and chain restaurants, with the recreation department having been the only employer he heard back from.



Brianna Rary, a college junior from Belleville, reviews art work produced by her charges at the Summer Playground Program at the Rec Center. Pictured, from left, are Tenia Edgipill, 9; Liz Lora, 6; and Egypt Pringle, 6.

Perhaps it is then no surprise that Corino and Yaneski said they have a considerable amount of friends who are spending the summer unemployed.

Corino said even babysitting jobs, once frequent and popular among teens, are hard to come by

today. Because many parents are finding themselves unemployed, before, but she's not working now they no longer have a need, or as much of a need, for a babysitter. Corino said. Such was the case for a neighbor-

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## The SandPaper Steiners, Surflight Suddenly End Link in ‘Reorganization’ Surflight’s New Producer a Success on Broadway Surflight Will Stay Open on Week-to-Week Basis

28 CURRENTS

### Steiners, Surflight Suddenly End Link In ‘Reorganization’

Termed ‘Management Restructuring’

**By RICK MELLERUP**  
The Surflight Theatre has been around since 1950. It has been remarkably stable in the sense that it has had just five artistic directors in those six decades – the theater's founder, Joseph P. Hayes, Eleanor C. Miller, who took over as producer as well in 1976 after Hayes suffered a fatal heart attack, Gail Fisher, who came to board after Miller's retirement in 1990, Eddie Todd, who took the reins in 1994 and, finally, Steve Steiner.

Now the Surflight will be looking for its sixth artistic director. A major shakeup at the theater – officially “a management restructuring and reorganization” – was announced on Monday.

Steiner, who had the official title of producing artistic director, and his wife, Gail Anderson Steiner, who served as the Surflight's production manager, interim apprentice director and stage manager, are, as the press release curtly put it, “no longer working with the organization.” It was a terse statement, ending with the statement that the Surflight's board of trustees “appreciate their years of service and wish them well in their future endeavors.”

Eris Esposito has been named the interim artistic director. Esposito, who holds a BFA in musical theater from Ithaca College, is a familiar face to Surflight audiences, having performed in more than 50 productions since she arrived in 1997. She began her association with the Surflight as a singing waitress at the adjacent Show Place Ice Cream Parlor and moved up through the years to become the theater's company manager and director of education.

Another familiar Surflighter, John Aaker Bow, the recently played the “Man in the Chair” in the Surflight's production of “The Dooney Chapman’s,” has been named managing director. His responsibilities will include the management of the Show Place and the Surflight's educational programs. Bow has a degree in English literature and secondary education from Rider University and began his association with the Surflight in 2000 as a singing waitress at the Show Place. From 2002 to 2006 he wrote and directed the shows of the Surflight's Children's Theatre. His degree in secondary education proved useful when he became the Surflight To Go, the theater's traveling education troupe, for which he wrote shows and acted.

Ambrose Foote, a longtime Surflight actor (since 1989) who has also directed many children's theater shows and been in charge of the annual Meet the Surflighters Gala each year's Monday weekend, has been hired as a consultant to work with both Esposito (his wife) and Bow.

Ruth Blankensmyer, who has a BS from Drexel University, will assume responsibility for all business-related activities of the Surflight organization.

Since 2003 she had already served as business director, with responsibility for bookkeeping, marketing, group sales and the box office.

So people are moving up the ladder at the Surflight. But why did the Steiners fall, or get pushed, off?

#### Big Plans

**Huge Numbers**  
The Steiners came to the Surflight in 1998, hired by former Surflight President and Producer Scott Henderson. At the time Henderson said he was thrilled to find not just Steve but Gail, because he had long been looking for a couple to take over the Surflight's reins to replace him and his own wife, Jane.

They arrived in the Queen City with enthusiasm. Steve had been a Broadway performer (he had a 10-show run in “State Fair,” starring John Davidson, back in 1996, among other shows). Gail was a dancer who happened to be an attorney as well.

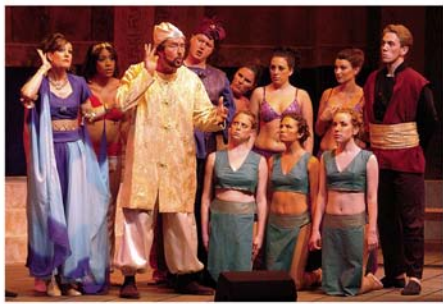
The Steiners, especially the extremely energetic Steve, wanted to jumpstart the Surflight with an infusion of Big Apple talent and a New York, bigger-is-better attitude. The Surflight at the time was pretty much a typical summer stock house, hiring mostly young, right-out-of-college (if that) performers at low pay. It produced good shows, but it didn't exactly match up to its nickname of “Broadway on the Beach.” The Steiners promised more professionalism and bigger shows. Indeed, they had a long laundry list of changes and improvements they wanted to make.

Throughout their tenure, most of those changes and improvements came to pass.

A major step toward professionalism was taken in 1999 when the Surflight signed an agreement with the Actors' Equity Association, the union that represents performers and stage managers. That meant talent could be lured from New York and, especially important, age-appropriate actors would be available.

In 2001, the Surflight made the transition to a not-for-profit (Henderson used to joke that just because the theater had been a for-profit enterprise that didn't mean it made money.) The transition meant the Surflight could apply for grants, a major step. That same year the Press of Atlantic City called the Surflight “Southern New Jersey's premier regional Equity theater company” while the *Seabury Post* called Steve one of the state's “Top 5 Hot Artists.” People were starting to take notice.

Steve was a jolt. In 2002, the Surflight became a full member of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance and the South Jersey Cultural Alliance. Steve was a member of the boards of both organizations as well as the Ocean County Tourism Council and the Ocean County Arts Plan Implementation Task Force. Alliances were indeed being made. That was the year that the Surflight holiday production



File Photo

**DRAMATIC CHANGE:** A look of confusion spreads over the cast in 2007's “Kismet,” in which Steve Steiner (third from left) had the lead. Similar confusion might be found at the theater in Beach Haven now that Steiner, who was producing artistic director, and the Surflight have parted ways. The announcement was made Monday.



File Photo

**NEW ROLE:** Eris Esposito (right) the interim artistic director at the Surflight, appearing in a 2007 show, “The Miracle Worker.” The Surflight veteran was formerly the theater's company manager and director of education.

returned in a big way with “Miracle on 34 Street,” which sold out seven of 10 performances.

In 2003, the Surflight won the prestigious Governor's Tourism Arts Award. Additionally, the theater started up its now-popular Celebrity Concert Series, a way to fill seats on a traditionally dark Monday evening (the actors' day off) and to attract world-class performers such as Australian guitar great Tommy Emmanuel, Donna McKechnie (the star of the original “Chorus Line” on Broadway), the aforementioned John Davidson and Tom Chapin.

2004 brought about Surflight To Go. In April the Surflight produced its first show in Atlantic City at the Trump Plaza, a new source of income for the Surflight. It also ran a production of a brand-new musical for the first time, “Magic in the Music,” by none other than Surflight advisory board member Stephen Schwartz of

“Wicked” and “Godspell” fame. The New York talent the Steiners had talked about was becoming a reality. That was the same month the Henderson retired, believing the Surflight was in good and capable hands.

The theater was buzzing with activity and ticket sales rose accordingly. More than 68,000 people attended performances of one kind or another at the Surflight in 2004. The Surflight continued to win accolades and honors; attendance continued to soar. New programs were being constantly added, and the shows that demanded it, such as the recent “C2” “Street,” got bigger and bigger. All seemed to be doing well.

There were occasional setbacks, such as the roof-developing leaks. But even then the public responded, dropping a buck here, a five-thriller into collection buckets the theater's ushers held out at each performance, with those small

donations paying for most of the roof replacement.

All seemed, at least from a distance, to be flowing smoothly. And then came the sudden, even shocking, events of this weekend when the Steiners' era ended. Or was it that sudden?

#### In the Black

**But Shortchanged?**  
A few members of the Joseph P. Hayes Theatre Inc. board of trustees and advisory board had mentioned to this reporter during the past few years that the board was becoming more concerned about money. The Steiners, they said, were indeed selling tickets and making money. But they were spending it as quickly as it came in, attempting to produce even more professional and spectacular shows. As the economy slowed in late 2008, in early 2009 tension developed at the Surflight, perhaps a reflection of the

Continued on Page 43

# Rick Mellerup

NJPA  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

# W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Business & Economic Writing

Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Nutley Sun

Shop Bakes 15,000 Cupcakes for Oprah

Meghan Grant

**COMMISSION**

### New trash collector will continue twice weekly pickup

BY MEGHAN GRANT of Nutley Sun

The Nutley Board of Commissioners approved a new garbage collector Tuesday night, following a closed session, Mayor Joanne Cocchiola told the Sun. Following seven bid submissions and Township Attorney Kevin Harkins' review, the board selected Future Sanitation of Passaic as the lowest responsible bidder.

The three-year contract will cost \$2.36 million, an increase of nearly \$100,000 from the last contract period, Cocchiola said. The proposed municipal budget allocated

an increase of \$75,000, which doesn't include other fees associated with the service. The contract itself was within budget, the mayor said.

"I was exploring the possibility of once a week pickup in winter, but it turns out the move would offer no cost savings for the township," Cocchiola said. Residents will continue to have their trash picked up twice a week.

The mayor said the township will meet with Future Sanitation to finalize the contract next week. The temporary agreement with Waste Industries of Elizabeth is

SEE TRASH PICKUP, PAGE 25



DALE MICEVIC/NUTLEY SUN

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

Nutley Rotary Club members greet Ana Carolina Motenegro and her 9-month-old daughter, Ana Victoria, during a reception Monday, May 3, at Nutley VFW Post 493. Ana Victoria recently received life-saving surgery for a congenital heart disease at St. Joseph Children's Hospital in Paterson. The Nutley Rotary Club and Gift of Life International provided financial aid.

**MAGAZINE**

### Local shop bakes 15,000 cupcakes for Oprah anniversary

BY MEGHAN GRANT of Nutley Sun

There's nothing small about the order that came into The Petite Café on Franklin Avenue in Nutley a few months ago: bake 15,000 of their signature stuffed cupcakes for the 10th anniversary gala of O Magazine in Times Square.

The three-day celebration will mark 10 years since the first publishing of the women's magazine by talk show superstar Oprah, and Petite Café was selected to dazzle party-goers at the finale party, to be held at the conclusion of a two-mile walk in Manhattan on Mother's Day.

"It's all about Oprah, she's had such an impact on people," said Maureen Jaret, co-owner with her husband, Keith. "This is so thrilling, opportunities like this just don't happen to anyone."

Last November, co-owner Keith created a pink ribbon cupcake to promote breast cancer awareness for the Susan G. Komen Foundation charity dinner. Petite Café's tasty and creative cupcake caught the attention of event organizers, who remembered the company when it came time to plan the O Magazine celebration.

Keith, who invented the café's near 150 varieties, even dreamed up a new flavor for the occasion: a peach cobbler "Gayle" cupcake, named for the magazine's editor and created with her favorite dessert in mind. The shop's most popular flavor, Red Velvet, will be renamed "Oprah" for the party. The cupcakes will be placed on stage in Times Square on a special tiered holder showcasing many flavors, with sparklers on top to make it appear as an anniversary cake.

But arranging the baking and transport of 15,000 desserts is no cakewalk.

"A lot of planning has gone into it," Maureen said, adding they're creating about 7,000 to 8,000 a day to meet the 15,000 order. "We're pretty much on target. We can bake about 2,000 at a time. The hardest part is getting the mix into the racks, but we have it down to such a science that the stuffing process can go quickly."

As she explained, the cupcakes were first baked in two locations in Nutley and Bloomfield before being refrigerated. From there they are stuffed and iced. The final step will see them loaded onto a rented refrigerated truck to be delivered to New York City at midnight on Saturday. Each of the classic chocolate and vanilla varieties will



DALE MICEVIC/NUTLEY SUN

Petite Café co-owner Maureen Jaret surrounded by trays of her shop's famous stuffed cupcakes. These desserts – all 15,000 of them – are being prepped for a gala celebrating the 10th anniversary of O Magazine in Times Square.

SEE CUPCAKES, PAGE 25

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Second Place, Weekly Over 6,500

## Hunterdon County Democrat

Brewing Tea for Education

Kenna Caprio

### brewing tea for education

by KENNA CAPRIO



Nick Miyogo, Ajiri Tea's man-on-the-ground in Kenya, helps make tea box labels.



Brown labels indicate loose tea, while white labels are for teabags.

Sara Holby, 23, of Upper Black Eddy, Pa., went to Kenya for the first time during her junior year at Bowdoin College in Maine. She returned after graduating in May 2008 to work for a healthcare nonprofit, funded by a grant, giving out food and medicine to HIV patients. But by January 2009, the grant money dried up. Individual donors stopped giving because of the recession and the grant couldn't be renewed. "People relying on an organization for five years had no more support. It's really frustrating that something could just collapse without funding," says Holby.

The whole situation made her think, and then take serious action. With the help of Nick Miyogo, 28, an African coworker from the healthcare organization, and her mother, Ann Funkhouser, Ajiri Tea was born.

A nonprofit, Ajiri Tea supports women and families living in western Kenya through sustainable local employment and education. Profits from tea sales pay school fees for the orphans and the wages of the women creating the labels.

"Tea is the medium; it's a huge part of Kenyan culture," says Sara Holby. Kenya is known for its strong black tea, and it's an important part of the daily life there. "Kenyan tea isn't often sold straight in the U.S.; it's usually mixed with South American tea. (It's) strong, full-flavored black tea, and very smooth, with no bitter aftertaste," says Holby.

Ajiri means "to employ" in Swahili, the national language of Kenya; the name was a natural fit.

"Instead of giving handouts, we wanted to create an employment scenario. We wanted to give profits back to the community, and back to orphans," says Holby.

In the Kisii district, 57 women work to create labels for the tea boxes. They also fashion beads and twine to tie the cellophane packaging inside the box. Each label, handcrafted from dried banana leaves and banana tree bark, depicts a different scene, but all include a figure wearing red on the front to link them. The women create and cut the designs with razors and then paste the cutouts on white or brown paper. Most scenes feature trees, a hut and a person—sometimes the person is cooking, farming or planting. The beads, textured and colorful,

are made from magazine scraps and the twine from dried, twisted banana leaves.

In February 2010, Ajiri Tea sent its first six students to school; four started form one (ninth grade) and two started primary school. The women, who are separated into five groups in the Kisii area, picked local orphans to send to school. Holby and Miyogo picked the sixth orphan, Diana. Her school fees cost \$50 for her books, uniform, and soap. She's HIV positive and lives with her grandparents. Though free primary education has been available in Kenya since 2003, families often find it difficult to pay for transportation and supplies. It costs anywhere from \$335 to \$750 to send one child to high school, depending on which school he attends. An additional \$250 per high school student is needed to buy everything from textbooks, a uniform and shoes, to a mattress and wash basin.

Miyogo escorted each child to school on their first day, along with the child's guardian, often a grandparent or other family member. Several of the students benefiting from the Ajiri Foundation have lost their parents to AIDS. "Nick was around crying, excited women all week," says Holby.

The women "want to do the best work that they can, to get paid, and because their community benefits. The thing about employing women is they put the money back into their families," says Holby.

The company's goal is to add six new students to the program each year. For now though, Ajiri Tea's focus is on marketing the black tea and getting it into as many stores as possible. They're "just getting the word out there and getting it to be a product that's known," says Holby. The tea is available up and down the East Coast, from Maine to New Jersey, and in Redlands, California. Eventually, the company may expand to sell green tea as well.

Support Ajiri Tea locally by picking up a box or two at these Hunterdon County locations: Basil Bandwagon in Flemington, Frenchtown Mercantile in Frenchtown, Healthy Habit in Millford, Teaberry's in Flemington, The Ship Inn in Millford and Candy Bouquet in Whitehouse Station. The boxes retail for \$8.50, loose tea, and \$7.50, teabags. Ajiri Tea continues to expand, so check the company's website for updates and new locations.

To donate or learn more about Ajiri Tea and the Ajiri Tea Foundation, visit <http://www.ajiritea.com/index.html>.



Ajiri Tea co-founder Sara Holby, at her home office surrounded by boxes of Kenyan tea.

**Family fun**  
Indoors was the place to be at two child-centered events. **B1**



**JAMBOREE PREP**  
Taking a look at rehearsals. **A3**

**Fantastic Four**  
RHS boys swim to 400-yard relay record at Counties for fourth straight year. **C1**

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**IN BRIEF**

**Property taxes due**  
Ridgewood taxpayers are reminded that 2010 first quarter property taxes are due Monday, Feb. 1. Pay...



Business close and business open, that is how commerce works. Those that are struggling or shutting their doors usually blame policies, fees, taxes, the economy or some other issue.

**Parlance Chamber Family Concert**  
Parlance Chamber Concert Series will host a Family Concert at West Side Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31. The concert features members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, piano duo Anderson & Rice and more. For information, visit parlancechamberconcerts.org.

**Revolutionary exhibit**  
The Schoellwiese Museum in Ridgewood has reopened its latest exhibit, titled "The Road to Revolution: Paramus Valley in the 19th Century." The museum, located at 630 E. Glen Ave., is open Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m., Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, call 303-227-1237 or visit ridgewoodhistoricalsociety.org.

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## CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

### And now for the good news

*Merchants explain how they weather the storm*

**BY MICHAEL SEDON**  
Staff Writer

But the story that often goes unreported is how businesses survive in such harsh economic climates. America has seen business in the past, and economists have rebounded. The Ridgewood News sat down with business owners in the village who are surviving and succeeding, and the common thread that wove those stories together was customer service.

Business close and business open, that is how commerce works. Those that are struggling or shutting their doors usually blame policies, fees, taxes, the economy or some other issue.

**'Quality and quantity'**  
Sherry Wu, owner of the Banbo House on South Broad Street, has served village residents homemade Sichuan cuisine for 22 years out of her shop across from the Hudson Street municipal parking lot. Economic conditions aside, Wu's business was also recently bargained, adding to the struggle to stay open. But Tuesday morning was a day of tea, she graciously pointed out her new security system and explained the importance of knowing her customers.

"I think the freshness and the quality and quantity [of the food] is more important," Wu said. "Also I have some loyal customers that have supported me."

Wu receives food traffic from commuters who use the train station as a portion of her customer base.

"They usually will call me from the train, and when they stop downtown, they stop here to pick up their food," Wu said.

Wu has noticed that some of her customers have cut back on spending, but she does much of the cooking in her restaurant, which reduces the cost of her overhead. And she added that her customers have "very nice" to her.

Patrick Gray, owner of Super Cellars on South Broad Street, has been in the wine business since 1980, operating a "successful" store on Route 20 in Pittersong before coming to Ridgewood.

"There weren't many discounts — or even wine purveyors when we started in '85," Gray said.

See **BUSINESS**, page A6

## A walk through history

### DVD explores downtown landmarks

**BY MICHAEL SEDON**  
Staff Writer

Some Ridgewood residents created a DVD that highlights noteworthy structures in the Central Business District (CBD) while preserving the historic significance behind those buildings.

Resident Bill Carbone said he was inspired by a special he saw on television featuring TV personality David Hartman called "A Walk Up Broadway" in which Hartman took a walking tour with historian Barry Lewis to see historic landmarks on Broadway in New York.

Recognizing the parallel between the television program and the walking tours given by Ridgewood Historic Preservation Commission Chairman Arthur Winkler, Carbone enlisted the help of Ridgewood historians Joe Kipp and Peggy Norris to try to produce the same kind of documentary for the village.

"I remembered Art doing that walk with people in town, and I said Gee, we could do that," Carbone recalled.

Carbone first asked his wife to shoot the video, but soon realized she did not have the proper camera. Next he asked his neighbor (a college student who was home for the summer) to work on the video, but when she returned to classes that year, she lost the footage she had shot. Finally Carbone found Glory Days, a production company in Norwood, to assist with the filming.

Following a successful, one-day, on-site shoot, only small preview of "A Walk Through Historical Ridgewood" was the product of nearly six years of work.

See **HISTORY**, page A4

## LIVE ON TELE-VILLAGE



Stala Lewis, host of NBC's L3 New York, interviews Mayor David Pfund while reporting live from downtown Ridgewood during the 5 p.m. news hour on Jan. 22. Lewis was in Ridgewood as part of a segment for the lifestyle show, and interviewed the mayor at the Country Plankline House.

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## TRAIN STATION

### New ramp is almost ready

**BY MICHAEL SEDON**  
Staff Writer

The shuttle bus service provided by New Jersey Transit (NJT) around the train station construction should be discontinued by mid-February following the completion of a concrete ramp, officials said this week.

NJT brought in a 300-ton crane to help workers install multiple segments of the ramp. The crane was necessary because the segments were 26 feet long and 6 feet wide.

The new ramp is being installed adjacent to the new inbound high-level platform near the existing bike path. NJT spokesperson Courtney Carroll said in an e-mail, the crane will be operational from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and officials expect it will be removed during the first week of February, Carroll said. Following Monday's rainstorm, Carroll said weather is not expected to be a factor in the remaining schedule.

With the completion of the ramp, residents on the west side of the village will once again have access to the train station and East Ridgewood Avenue. Construction of a ramp so residents living on the west side of the village can have access to the train station.

See **RAMP**, page A4

# W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Business & Economic Writing

First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Ridgewood News

And Now for the Good News  
Downtown Putting Up a Fight

# Michael Sedon Kipp Clark



# W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Business & Economic Writing

First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

## Northern Valley Suburbanite

Twenty-Eight Year Run  
Coming to an End

Tara Driggs

### LIFESTYLES



STAFF PHOTOS BY ROY CARATTOZZOLO II

Eric Mier enjoys a plate of sesame chicken May 15, as he and many other longtime customers get a last taste of food from Peking Duck.

## Twenty-eight year run coming to an end Owners of the popular Peking Duck House in Closter closing up shop

BY TARA DRIGGS  
Staff Writer

From hot and sour soup and vegetable omelet to shrimp imperial style and, of course, their well-known Peking duck, the Peking Duck House in Closter has served the local community with authentic

**CLOSTER** Northern Chinese and Cantonese dishes for 28 years.

The owners of this mainstay, sisters Rosa Lin and Alicia Fu, have decided to close their doors much to the regret of their loyal customers. Due to close within the next two weeks, Lin and Fu are retiring to travel and spend more time with their children and grandchildren.



A Peking Duck employee carves up some duck May 13, that will later be served for dinner.

More than just a local restaurant with authentic and traditional Chinese food, the Peking Duck House has become a gathering place for holidays, parties and other celebrations. The Chinese New Year, Mother's Day, First Communions and birthdays are just some of the special occasions this well-loved restaurant has hosted.

In addition, Lin and Fu have visited local schools and libraries to participate in a cultural exchange with the children. Through food, dance, music and history, the sisters taught kids of all ages about Chinese culture.

Although the women are looking forward to retirement, they said they will miss all of the special times and good friends they have made over the years.

"We will miss all of the people that came into the restaurant," Lin said. "They were like our friends; we knew them on a first-name basis and we saw different generations of the same families grow up throughout the years."

Opening in 1982 with the help and encouragement of their father, Lin and Fu at first only served traditional Chinese food. But they soon expanded their menu to include imperial cuisine prepared by a master chef.

"Some of the foods we offer, like the shrimp imperial style, are prepared in a way like they are for royalty," Fu said. "Trained master chefs from Beijing prepared the dishes and taught us how to make them so we could continue

SEE COVER STORY, PAGE 36

**W16: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
Education Writing**

GLEN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

# Against long odds, Bassillo 'refused to give in'

BY ERIN ROLL  
of Glen Ridge Voice

Caroline Bassillo's students at Glen Ridge High School (GRHS) found the last homework assignments she had posted for them on her Web page — an essay test on "Romeo and Juliet" and a list of vocabulary words from "To Kill a Mockingbird."

GRHS psychologist Ed Bobinski. "She was an advocate for the students and for the staff."

Bassillo passed away June 25, reportedly following a long battle with cancer. She was only 29.

and the board of education attended her funeral, held June 29 in Paramus.

"The assignments and schedules were displayed against wallpaper Bassillo had chosen: an array of glittering stars, moons and stars against a deep purple background."

"In a way, the space-themed wallpaper reflected what Bassillo, a longtime teacher of special education English, was to her students and fellow staff at GRHS — a leader and a guiding star."

"She was truly, truly going to be a leader in education," recalls

New Jersey. Shortly thereafter, she landed her first job in Glen Ridge.

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## BUSINESS Spotlight

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**Pulsed Dye Laser Treatment For Warts**

Warts have long been the subject of myth and folklore. Over the centuries there have been various remedies used to treat warts. Other such waxes take include, haking an onion, rubbing the wart with it, and then burning the wart on the ground under a full moon and making a drawing of the wart and sending it to someone whose name you know but have never met. You should take both the myths and the folk remedies "with a grain of salt," since there is no scientific evidence to support them. Before any treatment is rendered on these painful lesions a thorough physical examination of the lesions must be performed in order for an accurate diagnosis. These marked lesions on the bottom of the feet can be many things including a callus, a corn, a soft tissue mass (such as a Lipoma, Fibroma, etc.), a perianthoma (a cyst of a nail growth) and a ganglion (a soft tissue cyst of a tendon sheath). Warts are benign growths on the surface of the skin. Usually small and firm, these warts are caused by a virus called the human papilloma virus. Warts are contagious and can be spread from one person to another. It is more likely that these skin growths are spread from one part of the body to another part. You can get warts by

rubbing towels in damp places, such as showers, locker rooms and around swimming pools. Workers whose hands are continually exposed to moisture, for example, food handlers, planters, mechanics and hardware men appear to be at greater risk. Warts can spread by sharing washcloths, towels,

that feeds the wart. The treated area then separates from the dermis and gradually sloughs off. Depending on the size and type of the wart, some conditions will respond to the very first treatment. However, most will require additional treatment sessions spaced two weeks apart.



Treatment consists of placing a small hard piece against the surface of the skin and activating the laser. The laser is pulsed rather than a continuous action. As many patients describe it, each pulse feels, for a fraction of a second like a snapping of a rubber band against the skin. Some warts require more than one pulse. Anesthesia by local injection is often utilized. The laser leaves no open wound following treatment, resulting in little or no chance of an infection. Due to no open wounds and minimal pain, patients can resume their active life-style immediately. There will be discoloration of the skin at the treatment site. Over the 24 hours following laser exposure, the gray discoloration will darken to black and will be present for about 2 weeks. Plantar warts can be quite painful, unattractive, contagious and bothersome. For all these reasons, prompt and effective treatment of laser energy by the blood supply

breaks, combs and other personal items. If not properly or completely removed, warts can recur. There are many different treatment options for warts which include: 1. Cryotherapy. The wart is frozen, using liquid nitrogen. 2. Electrocauterization. The wart is burned, using an electric current. 3. Cauterization. The wart is excised not surgically. 4. Laser Vaporization. The

wart is destroyed by a laser beam that vaporizes it. 5. Pharmaceutical Topical Therapy. Topical treatments include acid treatments that burn the wart. 6. Pulsed Dye Laser. This is the newest form of Laser treatment that has proven to be very successful in treating warts. Clinical studies have proven that

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Even as her health was declining, he says, "She refused to give in."

**Library operating on summer hours**

Glen Ridge Public Library summer hours began July 1. The library will be closed on Saturdays from now to Sept. 4.

**Read Glen Ridge Voice for the coolest local sports coverage.**

# W16: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Education Writing

## Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# Glen Ridge Voice

# Against Long Odds, Bassillo 'Refused to Give In'

# Erin Roll

# W16: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Education Writing

Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

## Northern Valley Suburbanite

The ABCs of Going Back to School

Staff

NORTHERN VALLEY SUBURBANITE AUGUST 26, 2010 5 15

### The A B C S of going back to school

BY AMANDA BASKIND, MIKE CURELY, JOSEPH GEMIGNANI, JENNIFER KIM AND MARC LIGHTDALE  
Staff writers

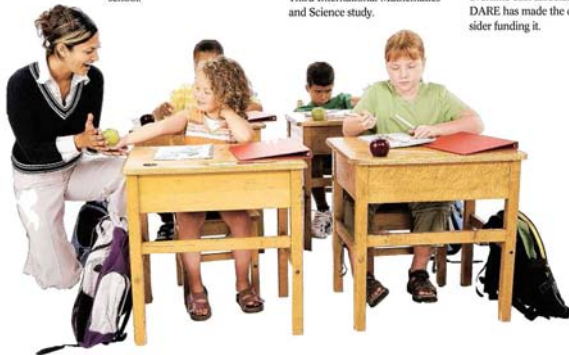
**A**ctivity fees will be more prevalent this year in the Northern Valley, as districts had to deal with cuts made to state aid. Tenally Superintendent Lynn Trager has said that because of the fees, no sports or extracurricular activities will have to be canceled because of costs, a lifeline that seems to have been extended to sports and clubs in most districts. One casualty: Cresskill's middle-school athletic program.

**B**ig changes could be coming to how superintendents get paid. Governor Christie proposed capping salaries for superintendents, but the state Legislature has yet to act on the proposal. The salary will be in accordance with a sliding scale that takes into account the student enrollment of the district overseen, with an increment of \$5,000 for each additional district served by a single superintendent, and an increment of \$2,500 if the district includes at least one high school.

**C**resskill school district will begin using Atlas Curriculum Mapping, which is a program that helps facilitate collaboration among teachers. In elementary grades, it will be used to map language arts literacy and math aligned with state core curriculum standards. In the middle and high schools it focuses on social studies, English, world languages, science and math. The district says there is a need for a philosophical change in its approach based on scores for the Third International Mathematics and Science study.

**D**own, but not yet out, should be how some DARE programs see the immediate future. The program has police officers coming into classrooms to teach students about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, as well as methods to avoid those dangers. But the program may become a casualty of the current economy in some areas, as municipalities contemplate the cost of keeping it running. In Harrington Park, Chief David Moppert said the overtime cost associated with DARE has made the council reconsider funding it.

SEE ABC, PAGE 16





# The Item

of Millburn and Short Hills

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videos.  
Page A2

**Adventures**  
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Page A6

## SONGS OF THE SEASON



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Community Congregation Church members Mary, left, and Karen Libera share a songbook while singing Christmas carols with other carolers from the community at the church's bonfire and tree lighting the evening of Dec. 5.

## Residents tied in knots over parking

By Harry Trumbore

Twilight Parking, Attorney Betty Grayson, a township resident representing Park Plus Valet Services, the current service provider and the high bidder for the contract, asked the Committee to review their selection in light of the fact that Twilight apparently has no experience handling parking for a municipality.

Mayor Thomas McDermott said police had reviewed Twilight's credentials and approved them. Clerk Joanne Monague added that an employee with Twilight also had experience with the Park Plus program. "That employee could be gone tomorrow," Grayson responded. Christopher Falcone, the Committee's attorney, told Grayson, "started with discussion over a resolution to award the valet parking proposal to a new firm."

SEE PARKING, PAGE A5

## MILLBURN HIGH SCHOOL

# Student's return sparks dialogue on race

By Andrea Hughes

The son of township resident Rev. Darryl George returned to Millburn High School last week after an expulsion his father referred to as a "two-year exile." The student was expelled following a January 2009 altercation in the high school parking lot. Charges against George and his older son, Lamar, who were arrested on various charges for alleged involvement in the parking lot fight, were cleared by a grand jury in April 2009. The younger son received new names James and George and his wife, Brenda Barnes-George, sued the district and board for acting arbitrarily and capriciously. They also allege their son was subject to racial slurs, terrorism

"We just want to make sure that the school lives up to the promise."

Rev. Darryl George

threats and physical hostility by other students at the school. The Georges retained Darren Del Sorbo of Damico, Del Sorbo

and Montross until November 2009, and Tom's River attorney Harry Levin thereafter. Hearings were held over the summer before an administrative law judge, in which the expelled student and other students and school personnel testified. Administrative Law Judge Ellen Hunt cleared expulsion charges for the George's son on Sept. 22. Levin told *The Item* of Millburn

and Short Hills Dec. 7 that Bus had ordered the student back to school without conditions. The district, however, opted to wait until Acting Commissioner of Education Rachelle Hanftlick reviewed Bus' decision. In November, the commissioner rendered a decision stating that the student's return to a decision Millburn should make.

The Millburn Board of Education voted to send him back to the high school. "I think Millburn was both morally and legally obligated to let him back to school," Levin said. He said the student never should have been expelled, adding that under New Jersey law, students cannot be expelled if they

SEE DIALOGUE, PAGE A8

## N.J. AMERICAN WATER

# No more brown water New plant on Kennedy Parkway approved

By Laura D'Onofrio

The application is Phase 2 of the company's project. In July, American Water was granted approval to build a new Clearwell water tank as the previous tank was built in 1970 and nearing the end of its life. Janacek says that Phase 2 is more significant in scope. The Engineer Alan Leflanc explained the project will entail building a new water treatment facility, carbon and liquid oxygen system, a pumping and reduced capacity, a high-voltage power substation, a de-watering building and three smaller electrical substations. The front yard fence that runs along Kennedy Parkway will be replaced with a more robust aluminum fence as well, added Leflanc. He said the overall project cost is \$73 million and NJ American Water is seeking assistance in funding through the State Revolving Fund program, which offers low-interest loans to municipal projects that improve drinking water infrastructure.

There were two variances related to a parking setback of 100 ft, and locating a bulk water station in the front yard of the property. Leflanc said the 550 water of land owned by American Water on the site isn't all available. He says the wetlands, riparian zones and tributaries are all environmental constraints that limit where new structures can be placed. The new water treatment facility would be the main hub of the site outlined by Leflanc. He said that where the water treatment and filtering processes would take place; as well as some chemical

SEE WATER, PAGE A2

## COLD BUT HAPPY MARCHERS



STAFF PHOTO BY HARRY TRUMBORE

Members of the Adventure Guides Pecos Circle wave to their friends while marching down Millburn Avenue in the annual Snowflake Parade Dec. 5. For more photos of the Downtown Millburn-sponsored event, see Page B4.

# W16: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Education Writing

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# The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

## Student's Return Sparks Dialogue on Race

# Andrea Hughes

VOL. 123 NO. 50

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# Family, friends mourn loss of teen

## 'Big Will' Ortiz remembered by many as 'gentle giant'

By Tony Gicas  
Staff Writer

CLIFTON - The City's baseball diamonds were empty Tuesday night. The basketball courts, too, had gone silent in contrast to the customary pitter-patter of youthful

feet and clanging backboards. For parents Margarita Colon and Wilfredo Ortiz, however, the silence was deafening as they grieved the tragic loss of their 14-year-old son.

Will, eagerly awaited his upcoming freshman year at Clifton High School. The 6'3" and 230 lbs. recent graduate of Woodrow Wilson Middle School was looking forward to the jump into ninth grade both in the classroom and on the ball fields. Sadly, he would transition to another place altogether. Recently selected as a member of a local baseball all star team, Will was taking part in the squad's

first practice when he began experiencing pains in his side. Quickly, the pains grew sharper, forcing Will to leave practice early and make a visit to the hospital. Doctors discovered a lung infection which, over a period of just a few days became so severe hospital staff were required to place Will in a medically-induced coma. Early last Friday morning, the big and strong 14-year-old passed away due to kidney failure. Although his mother asked for an autopsy, the results have not yet been learned.

Karen Rega, whose son Dylan is a lifelong friend of Will's, called the hulking teen "a gentle giant" and his passing "a devastating loss" for his family and friends. "Will loved everybody and everybody loved Will," Rega said. "He was just the best kid in the world; the best kid."

Dylan and Will grew up blocks apart and played on many of the same athletics teams. "He was over my house all the time," Rega recalled. "He used to bring me flowers on Mother's day. That's the kind of kid he was." As Rega spoke during a telephone interview on Tuesday night she said City residents and friends were stopping by her house to drop off donations before the wake held later that night at Martinez Funeral Home in Paterson. Though a sad night, the wake reaffirmed what Rega had said. Everybody loved him. "There were cars and people all along the street," she said. "I

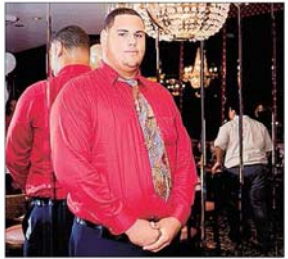
SEE ORTIZ, PAGE 10

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# Clifton Journal

Family, Friends Mourn Loss of Teen

Tony Gicas



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## Wyckoff Suburban News

Their Class Is in Session - Outside

Jodi Weinberger

# WYCKOFF SUBURBAN NEWS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2010

Eighth-grader Caitlin cutting herbs grown in the outdoor classroom at Eisenhower Middle School. The herbs were later used by students in preparing a pizza.



CHRIS PETERS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### K-8 DISTRICT

## Their class is in session – outside

BY JOE WEINBERGER  
Of Suburban News

**WYCKOFF** – In the outdoor classroom at Eisenhower Middle School, a message of hope stands out in the garden. “May peace prevail on earth.” It’s written in English, Arabic, Hebrew and Japanese on a pole, and it’s just one of the many unique features of the outdoor classrooms that have taken shape at Eisenhower and Coolidge and Sicomac elementary schools.

“Education for sustainable development is something that’s catching on,” Eisenhower teacher Lori Chen said on a recent fall day in the outdoor setting with her students. “Gardening is always something that should be done in schools.”

Chen’s critical literacy class was picking the last of that season’s crop for a pizza that the home economics class would later make.

Although the classroom was new, the students looked like seasoned gardeners, trimming basil and parsley plants.

“It’s better than getting a lecture,” eighth-grader Dylan said. “[Being outside] helps us pay attention because we’re actually doing stuff.”

It also teaches the students that “food doesn’t grow in a grocery store,” Chen said.

The classrooms were created when additional wings were built at the

school, creating an outdoor courtyard as part of a 2004 \$34.9 million referendum. Through donations from the parent-teacher organizations and grants from the Bergen County Utilities Authority, the courtyards were transformed into classrooms.

They all share some of the same features – recycled plastic tables, bird feeders and a variety of plants and flowers, including squash, basil, thyme, hot and green peppers, sage, tarragon, tulips and daffodils – but have many differences that set them apart.

Eisenhower’s classroom has a greenhouse, the Sicomac classroom has a fish pond and an amphitheater and, at

### DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY

## Four districts look to future

BY PHILIP DEVENCENTIS  
Of Suburban News

Oakland public school officials and students are in a tight spot.

There is no arguing the facts: After two defeated referenda, a 14 percent rise in enrollment at Heights School and no additions to facilities in 40 years, there is a severe shortage of instructional space.

“In 1997, our schools housed approximately 1,300 students,” said schools Superintendent Dr. Richard Heflich.

“This year, we opened up 1,686 children, 32 of whom need to be placed in schools outside the district because of the students’ special needs and a lack of classroom space to develop specialized programs.”

“What will the future bring?”

Oakland and three neighboring districts hope to answer that question by embarking on a region-wide demographic study.

Boards of education representing K-8 districts in Franklin Lakes, Oakland and Wyckoff,

### Numbers, please

Enrollments in the public school districts:

#### Franklin Lakes K-8

2005-06: 1,534

2010-11: 1,425

Change: -7.1 percent

#### Oakland K-8

2005-06: 1,694

2010-11: 1,686

Change: -0.5 percent

#### Wyckoff K-8

2005-06: 2,403

2010-11: 2,320

Change: -3.5 percent

#### Ramapo Indian Hills


2005-06: 2,276

2010-11: 2,388

Change: 4.9 percent

SEE OUTDOORS, PAGE 4

SEE STUDY, PAGE 2



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Vol. 55 No. 47

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## Clifton Journal

### Memorial for Beloved Teacher

Tony Gicas

NEWS, VIEWS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CLIFTON JOURNAL

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SINCE 1917

Friday, November 12, 2010

## Memorial for beloved teacher

CCMS students hold memorial for John Greco

By Tony Gicas  
Staff Writer

CLIFTON — Students and teachers with tear-filled faces filed out of Christopher Columbus Middle School on Monday afternoon as their final goodbyes echoed with each step down the cold, stone staircase punctuating the building's entrance.

The tragic passing of CCMS teacher John Greco last Thursday at age 33 sent a shockwave through the school district and around the City which has left family, friends and colleagues wondering why.

Son of Clifton City Manager Al Greco, John was a technology teacher at CCMS since 2001.

Last Wednesday, Greco and his wife, Karen, left for a Caribbean vacation during the annual teachers' convention.

A day later Greco was reported dead from an apparent heart attack, City officials say.

Compounding the grief, multiple sources said Greco visited a local hospital just days earlier due to heart palpitations but doctors allegedly cleared and released him after a series of tests.

On Monday, amidst near-freezing temperatures and overcast skies, hundreds of teachers ranging in age and ethnicity openly sobbed as they walked past an enlarged



STAFF PHOTOS/PIERFRANCESCO BACCARDO

Christopher Columbus Middle School students held a memorial for their beloved teacher John Greco, who died last week. On Monday, students held a moment of silence, signed a banner in memory of Greco and formed a lower case 'g' in the field in his honor.

Community remembers MSU coach, City teacher

By Adam Greenberg  
Staff Writer

CLIFTON — Littleton City resident John Greco, a teacher at Christopher Columbus Middle School and men's lacrosse coach at Montclair State University, died on Thursday, Nov. 4. He was 33 years old.

Greco, the son of Clifton's City Manager Al Greco, was vacationing when he suffered a heart attack, according to friends and co-workers.

A service was held for Greco at Allwood Funeral Home in Clifton on Wednesday and a funeral was held at St. Philip the Apostle R.C. Church in Clifton on Thursday.

Greco is survived by his wife of three years, Karen, his parents, Susan and Al Greco, his sister, Elizabeth, brother, Robert, and many other beloved family members.

"The prayers of the entire (Clifton) City family are with the Greco's during this very difficult time," said Mayor James Anzaldi.

SEE GRECO, PAGE 4



John Greco

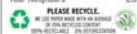
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Clifton Journal open house — Page 29

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**W17: Reporting, Writing  
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# Everyone needs a spot

Try walking away for a breath of fresh air from the debate over school redistricting.

You'll probably stumble into just as heated a debate over parking decks.

Residents have already heard a consultant present a series of proposals for parking decks on several sites downtown. The sites range from the Millburn train station lot currently used for valet parking to the lot at the corner of Lackawanna and Essex.

Residents from the nearby Glen Avenue neighborhood are voicing their opposition to any commuter parking deck in the area.

Peter Humphreys, the New Democrat candidate running for a seat on the Township Committee, conducted his own survey of commuters and presented some of his findings, without final conclusions, to the Township Committee Tuesday night.

We haven't really taken a position about commuter parking needs. But ever since we moved offices in December to the far side of town, we've taken a fresh look at the subject.

Forget about commuter parking...parking in general in Millburn stinks.

We used to have business permits and were able to park in the morning near Town Hall, then walk almost anywhere during the day.

Now all of us have to drive downtown on business, and we're learning firsthand what has troubled merchants and businesses for years.

It's a hassle digging around for change for the machines. And even though we've written about the little button on street meters that gives you a couple free minutes, it's not marked and easily missed or forgotten. And in the municipal lot, it's supposed to be a benefit that you can swipe a credit card into the parking meter just to run and get a coffee? In this day and age, we prefer to swipe our card in as few places as possible!

Depending where you are on Millburn Avenue determines whether you will even see an open space or not. Mailing a letter and want to find a convenient spot near the post office? Forget about it. Put on your walking shoes because you'll need them.

So now we know what everyone has been telling us for years.

Parking in Millburn stinks.

Shoppers, people stopping for lunch and casual visitors need friendly and accessible parking just as much as commuters.

They should be included in any future debate about parking decks.

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# Opinion



### Letters to the Editor

#### Consultant plan hopelessly flawed

##### EDITOR, THE ITEM:

Let me begin by thanking the Board of Education members for performing the thankless task of writing on the board.

My thanks are sincere, as in my complete consultation over the current Haber redistricting proposal.

The proposal, with the ostensible goal of relieving class overcrowding at one of the five elementary schools, is fundamentally flawed, as is the process by which it has been presented to the community.

The proposal on its face has numerous arithmetic and factual mistakes. The mistakes include, but are not limited to, something as fundamental as getting current and projected class sizes for many of the grades incorrect. The presence of them destroys the credibility of the report even before you get to the substance of the recommendations. It is my opinion that if any professional in the community were to submit a report of such substandard quality to his employer, that individual would quickly be looking for work elsewhere.

The process of how you go about addressing the situation is as important as the outcome because you must make people feel like the process was fair and sensible. As a writer, this process appears to have been anything but sensible. The stated goal, as I understand it, was to commission a report from an outside consultant in an attempt to get an "impartial" opinion about solving an overcrowding issue at one of the town's elementary schools. However, the "impartial" opinion ignores numerous issues that are even identified on the consultant's own website as important considerations. The website states the need to include "local consideration, targeted class sizes, needs for special programs and associated costs such as transportation changes in staffing needs."

Since there are so many numerical mistakes in the proposal and such a dearth of information about the process that it is impossible to evaluate the proposal with any analytical rigor but it would appear that few, if any, of these matters were considered.

The consultant's website also states that there be a "clear statement of goals that are shared and a guideline to the project." To my

knowledge, there was no stated goal to the community to move a significant population of students from Hawthorn to Deerfield, yet this is one of the most significant outcomes of the proposal. The goal was to move students out of Hawthorn.

The same recommendation never to that stated goal suggests taking children out of Hawthorn and moving them to Hawthorn and Deerfield is not an approach with grandchilding fifth graders. Each child should work. The word "safety" has been widely used and is being grossly exaggerated and generating much over reaction. The building is not over capacity, has not violated any safety codes and consistently receives 100 percent satisfaction from parents.

This study makes no sense whatsoever. You will impact and disrupt the maximum amount of the 2010-11 school year because you are proposing to do all of this a month before the summer break begins.

Even the consultant's own website agrees an 18-week lead time for redistricting plan. You are barely giving it 18 weeks!

I urge you to completely reject the Haber proposal and work with all constituents in the community to find a more sensible solution than needlessly disrupting dozens of children's lives.

#### Haber plan more disruptive than Brodov's

##### EDITOR, THE ITEM:

Though we learned of this so-called redistricting "plan" only on Thursday, May 6, that four days before the Board of Education meets to discuss it, we were able to quickly review its main contents and agree that we do not find it an acceptable or reasonable basis to make public policy for our school district.

Our concerns include all elements of the consultant's "plan" from conception to potential implementation. This "plan" intentionally or not, appears designed to minimize pain and confusion.

We all recognize that there is some pain and confusion at School. We all have an interest in maintaining effective use of school space and ensuring an equal level of educational excellence for all our children. However, when solutions, the integrity of the neighborhood schools concept is compromised this much disruption to our community's families, must be warranted as a thoughtful one, reached only after considering a range of alternatives and their impact, and ultimately prepared and implemented in a way that minimizes pain and confusion.

Unfortunately, we conclude that the board's consultant's "plan" falls far short of that mark. In summary, the "plan" appears to be based on any objective standards, but rather was constructed to "make the numbers work"; it is supposed to solve problems at Glenwood, even though neither the consultant nor the board can specifically identify at Glenwood in terms of over-crowding. I do not accept the fact that the two current proposals which both identify the Knollwood action as the only closed school as a plan put forth by DE. In fact, if this is the decision of the board they need to

back it up with concrete facts as to how this redistricting will solve the specific problems of students and how and why they selected these particular neighborhoods.

We are not in a desperate situation where children need to be relocated at all ages and all approved this September. We have time to come up with alternative solutions that will alleviate the facility overcrowding by September in fact the only answer, that a phasing program or an approach with grandchilding fifth graders, each child should work. The word "safety" has been widely used and is being grossly exaggerated and generating much over reaction. The building is not over capacity, has not violated any safety codes and consistently receives 100 percent satisfaction from parents.

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#### Redistrict plan overreacts to safety concerns

##### EDITOR, THE ITEM:

My son came home from school on Thursday night and asked me if he was not going to be in Glenwood next year. For those of you who think separating children is not wrong you have no idea how wrong you are.

I am not at all against redistricting if it is decided by the Board of Education as the only solution to the problems plaguing Glenwood School as put forth by DE. In fact, if this is the decision of the board they need to

back it up with concrete facts as to how this redistricting will solve the specific problems of students and how and why they selected these particular neighborhoods.

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SEE LETTERS, PAGE A5

# W17: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Graphics & Illustration

## Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

## Commuter Parking

## Harry Trumbore

The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

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# Air loom

Many of you are reading this editorial with an electrically powered light illuminating your newspaper. Others view it on their computers or cellphones. The light, the computer, the smart-phone chargers: all require electricity.

We need electricity, unimaginably vast amounts of watts.

Last week, a consortium of environmental groups endorsed a report advocating the development of wind turbines off the Jersey Shore. Joining groups such as the NJ Audubon Society, NJ Sierra Club, Environment New Jersey and the National Wildlife Federation in supporting ocean-based wind projects are key politicians such as state Senate President Stephen Sweeney, a Democrat, and state Senate Minority Leader Thomas Keen Jr., a Republican.

Our nation must quickly enhance its power generation. Some environmentalists, business people and homeowners oppose devices that convert wind power into energy. The alternatives: Burning coal? Nuclear power? Installing huge natural-gas pipes across New Jersey?

Practically no action in life is absolutely inert. Whether built on land or on the ocean, wind-powered turbines are more benign than most other mechanisms that generate electricity.

Technology developers — ideally here in the United States, and not forfeiting more of our research and manufacturing skills to China and other nations that are economically trouncing us — will create and enhance other electricity-generating systems, whether via nuclear fusion, improved solar panels or deeper-capacity batteries.

But we need energy now, and "wind farms" in the ocean are better options than leveling West Virginia through strip-mining.

The Montclair Times supports the creation of offshore wind turbines to generate the power that we require.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Times consistently advocates alternative wind-generation technologies. Google "micro-turbines" and you'll read about devices that have blades extending several feet. Montclair itself operates a micro-turbine on First Mountain.

Let's change the definition and the actual construct of "micro-turbine."

It's time for some undergrads to create low-cost spinners that can be mounted in guard-rails along highways and roadways, fastened in rows on the sides of structures, atop fences and road signs, and rigged onto telephone poles and rooftops.

Construct the spinners, or micro-turbines, in the United States. Create them from waste plastic, or plasticized waste cardboard, or some other material that generally ends up becoming packing material in cartons or fuel for our region's garbage incinerators.

True, each spinner will produce a negligible amount of electrical power, but enough of them together, fed into a transformer, will matter. In evolving this technology, developers can improve these diminutive power-generating devices to maximize the generated power. Artists and designers can customize the spinners.

# Care

Bad things seem to bunch together, as do bad people. Persistent apathy adds up to societal decline and fall. Whether it's casually tossed litter or ignoring the prolonged screams of Kitty Genovese, most people rationalize and justify their non-response.

Many of us, however, are capable of improving our perceptions and self-perceptions.

This holiday season, Montclairites can transcend the quest to purchase and splurge. Consider assisting local nonprofits with donations and deeds. Adopt a child. Adopt a pet. Befriend someone in need. Pick up litter. Aid a victim of violence.

Make a difference. Be involved. Care. Even beyond this holiday season.

# the MONTCLAIR TIMES

ESTABLISHED 1877  
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A Community Newspaper of North Jersey Media Group

## VISUAL VIEWPOINT



THIS WEEK'S CARTOON COURTESY OF STEVE CROOKS

## HAVE YOUR SAY

### Cannot allow township to take Bellevue Avenue Branch Library

The current discussion to sell the Bellevue Avenue Branch of the Montclair Library is a perfect example of the lack of vision of our town's "leadership." This classic building provides beauty and charm, warmth and fondness, and a contribution to our quality of life.

We are a college town and we have extraordinarily well-educated citizens who are graduates of every university and college in New York and New Jersey. The library is physically located between two of our preeminent grammar schools. When I had my business in Upper Montclair, I used the Branch several times a week for business research along with many other business colleagues from town.

The area around the BABB includes several thousand senior citizens who frequently use the library and who have become involved in the discussion about the library. Most of them have no physical access to the Main Library Branch on the other side of town.

It seems foolish to negate the obvious. The Branch Library will stand. When it was opened every day, it was filled with people every day. Ironically, the building has several designations which restrict its use. It is a philanthropic gift of the Carnegie Foundation to Montclair and probably cannot be used for any purpose other than a library.

We have to draw a line in the sand. When the time comes, and it is close at hand, we will have to relocate every resource at our disposal to keep them from leaving the Branch Library away.

KEVIN J. ANASTAS  
Montclair

### A memo to Essex County officials

I was walking through Anderson Park recently and decided to count the number of trash cans dotting the asphalt walkways. There are so many, I had to stop.

I then decided to count the number of recycling bins in the park. That was easy. That number is zero.

Memo to Essex County officials: if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

BILL PATRICK  
Montclair

### Teach elementary school teachers appropriate math

After New Jersey's fine high school proficiency test was instituted, I noticed a remarkable drop in the math preparation of my new students in college. Test prep is not education, despite the pressure for AYP.

What do do? Teach the mathematics to elementary school teachers that they are supposed to teach the children. They are capable and eager to learn. They are angry when they realize how much they have been deprived of the needed knowledge.

Once the children are damaged, it is very difficult to undo when they reach middle or high school. Many gain just remedial courses in college.

A national coalition of 15 mathematics organizations recommends four appropriate mathematics courses for future elementary school teachers. I know of only two states requiring four, but quite a few require three. New Jersey requires more than a reliable source I dare not reveal.

assures me there are a dozen deans of education in New Jersey adamantly opposing a certification requirement that forces elementary school teachers to be taught appropriate mathematics.

Concerned citizens can let state officials know of their concerns and e-mail me at kenschul@pegasus.montclair.edu. They can read about my seven years of helping elementary school teachers mathematically on my paper, "Social Equity Requires Teaching Elementary School Teachers More Mathematics," at <http://www.ama.org/voices/200502/kschulmail.pdf>.

At the beginning of this program, I worked with two fine Montclair teachers. Montclair offered to teachers, so we didn't contract with Montclair again. Both teachers worked hard anyway. Their students improved greatly, but then one was scheduled to fall into social studies.

We have a new administration now, so Montclair might want to help its elementary school teachers mathematically.

I expect the teachers are plenty smart and eager enough. Like the children, they have been let down by our system.

PAT KROGSTAFF  
Montclair

### Public school teachers teach more than basic skills

I am embarrassed, saddened and disheartened for what is happening to education in the State of New Jersey and in my beloved Montclair School District. Observing the recent actions of our government, it is obvious to me that the momentum has shifted from building up to tearing down, and all taxpayers, educators and parents will now have to "pay the piper" to just maintain the status quo. I have always believed that it is important to bring together educators, parents, students, and entire communities in a unified effort to fight for great public schools.

The governor needs to understand that today's teachers do much more than just teach basic skills. They nurture and inspire all children despite obstacles. Unlike the "hand-picked" students of private schools, public school teachers help "all" students. They help "all" students learn essential life skills, such as critical thinking, conflict resolution, cooperation and problem-solving.

Public school teachers help students learn and practice skills that are not always measurable by standardized tests. Teachers of today must not let the teachers of past years' Today, students have more problems and teachers are often asked to assume a more parental role for many more students. Today, public school teachers teach the lives of their students in so many irreplaceable ways.

Parents need to embrace our public school diversity, visit their child's classroom and get involved. They must learn for themselves how much teachers actually do and spread the news.

Community members must become involved as well. If community members do not have children, they should consider donating their tax dollars are being utilized. Contributions must be understood that everyone must contribute to a child's success.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter.

JOE FISCHER  
Montclair

A former teacher at Glenfield Middle School, the author is a teacher in the Bellevue School District.

### What do I tell them?

As a teacher and resident of Montclair, I have given prospective buyers my positive impression of Montclair public schools as a parent whose child went through the district.

Lately, I'm at a loss, however. How do I explain that we have just constructed a \$11 million school and are closing two others over a \$7 million budget gap? Hearing that the district has an annual budget over \$100 million, one hopes asked, "How can't I resolve this without closing schools?"

So I tell them we've learned nothing, since the past closing of two other schools, when we didn't anticipate the next baby boom?

How do I make this Board of Education seem anything but short-sighted, misguided? When I explain that Edgemoor School, the only public Montclair school in New Jersey, is on the block, buyers gasp and ask, "How can you close such a gem of a school in such a perfect setting? What if you ever have to deal with that building?"

When, indeed, and what of surrounding areas within the face of the pending baby boom where a school used to be?

In Montclair, a lot is need of redevelopment stand empty for years. When economic cycles turn upward, the still-empty, decaying shell of Edgemoor School will stand testament to poor policy run amok.

One buyer asked, "When times get better, how will Montclair left about the extreme measures it took now?" A question we should consider before we would the as — again.

The allure of Montclair will suffer and with it the value of all residential properties in the face of an unannounced school district. You can see from these snippets — speculate, we look foolish. Not progress — hysterical.

How do I convince these new Montclairians that we are thoughtful, rational? I'm not sure I believe it myself.

JAMES STEFANELLE  
Montclair

### SOS petitioners: There's no money

Reading the story about the 500 SOS petitioners meant my blood boil. Don't they

LETTERS • 101

### Letters Policy

The Montclair Times welcomes letters from residents on an local issues from nonresidents. Letters may be written and may be published, reproduced or distributed in print, electronic or other mediums. The views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the Montclair Times or its affiliates.

To be considered for publication, letters must be typed or legibly submitted and must include the writer's name, address, telephone number for confirmation, and signature.

Letters should be 300 words or less. There are no exceptions to this limit, but all letters are published. There is a minimum interval of three weeks between publication of letters from any person.

Send letters to the editor by fax to 973-233-5022, by e-mail to [postermontclairtimes.com](mailto:postermontclairtimes.com), or by mail to: Editor, Montclair Times, 114 Valley Road, Montclair, NJ 07042-2121.

# W17: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Graphics & Illustration

## Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# The Montclair Times

## Visual Viewpoint

# Steve Crooks

# The RETROSPECT

www.theretrospect.com

50¢

Volume 111, No. 25

Hometown News Since 1902

Friday, December 24, 2010

## The Most Wonderful Day of the Year!



### Where in the World are Dolly, Charlie and Spotted Elephant?

Hello World Travelers!

Just for fun... send us digital photos of you, your family or friends holding up The Retrospect newspaper while on vacation or a business trip in front of some landmark. It doesn't have to be a super recognizable landmark, as we will also reward you a few "clues" to help readers guess where it is. (We'll take the photo standing in front of a sign saying where it is.)

Where? LightHouse? MadHedge? The French Quarter? Mack & Marisco? Zoo Eye-Ed Tower? It's up to you!

Just keep it in mind and throw a paper in your suitcase or backpack before you get. Email photos and clues to graphics@theretrospect.com.

Disclaimer: The Retrospect will not be held responsible for acts of trespassing, disorderly conduct or intentional accidents, but try to get a good shot!

Dolly, Charlie and Spotted Elephant have lived on an island sanctuary for defective and unwanted toys since 1964. Each night, King Moonracer, a winged lion who acts as the island's ruler, flies around the world in search of unwanted toys and brings them back to the island.

Other inhabitants of the island are Bird Fish, a toy bird who swims instead of flies; a misfit cowboy who rides an ostrich; Trainer, a train with square wheels on its caboose; a toy boat that sinks rather than floats; a squirt gun that shoots grape jelly; an airplane that cannot fly; a bear that rides a bike, and "a scooter for Jimmy."

Where in the world are they?



See the 'Classified' section for the answer!

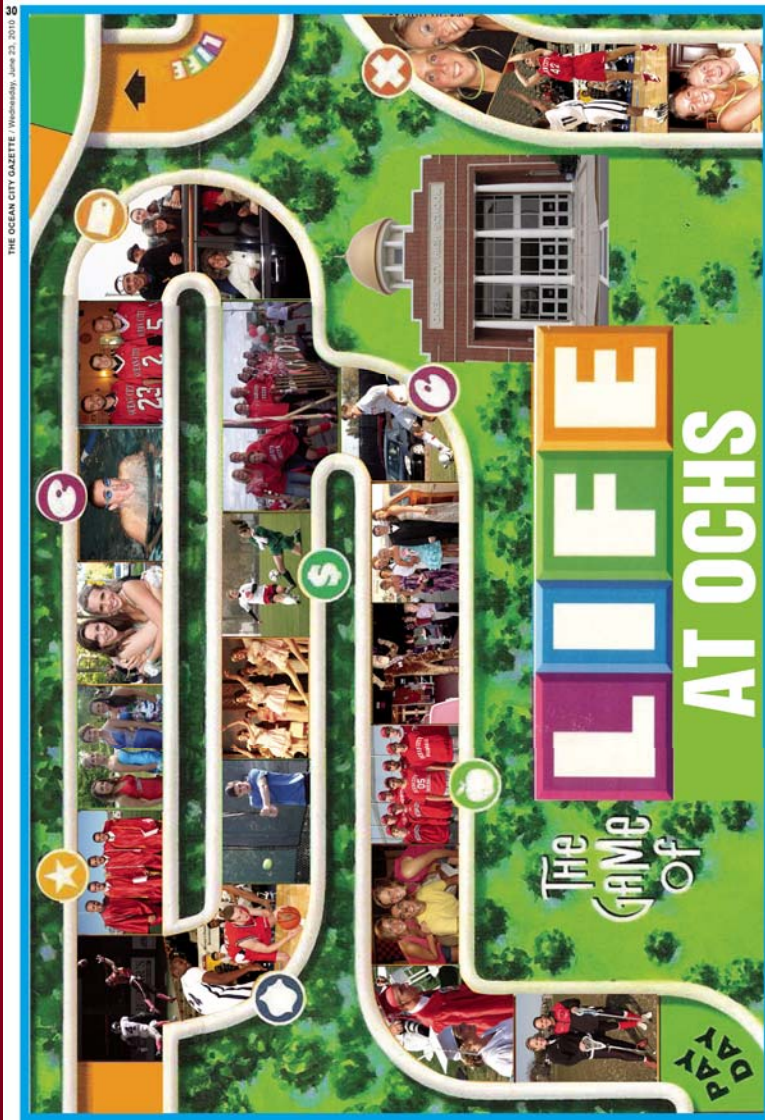
## W17: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Graphics & Illustration

Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Retrospect

## The Most Wonderful Day of the Year!

### Mark Zeigler



## W17: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Graphics & Illustration

Second Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# The Ocean City Gazette

The Game of Life at OCHS

**Robin DeWeese**  
**Claire Mazzella**  
**Joan Kostiuik**

# W17: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Graphics & Illustration

First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Glen Ridge Voice

The End of the Cash Cow...

Jon A. Russo

### CHAIR APPARENT

"Eternal Seat for Rosa Parks" by Marcella Borgnietti, 7, and Eli Fellus, 4, accompanied by Ruth Borgnietti, on display at the Glen Ridge Public Library. The unique chair sculpture activity was held Feb. 7 as part of ACE's (the Glen Ridge Association for Cultural Education's) Black History Month celebration and honored Rosa Parks and the historic Montgomery Bus Boycott.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACE

### FROM OUR READERS

#### Teachers do more with less

**TO THE EDITOR:** Every year the faculty is asked to submit nominations for the Governor's Recognition Award. We have been asked by our superintendent to recognize individuals who have shown excellence in our district. Following is the criteria we are to use to submit our choices.

Teachers must:

- Set high expectations for all students;

- Establish a positive classroom climate and rapport with all students;

- Develop feelings of self-worth and a love of learning in all students;

- Increase student achievement of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards in a student-centered learning environment;

- Use a variety of instructional strategies that enable student success;

- Use educational technology effectively in support of learning; and

- Contribute to quality professional development in the district.

Educational services professionals must:

- Interact positively with students, staff and parents while functioning as a frontline advocate for the student between

home and school;

- Foster an appropriate environment for learning and explore creative alternatives to enable all students to achieve to their fullest potential;

- Interact with students in ways that demonstrate professionalism while retaining respect, humor, compassion and concern for the whole child;

- Support student achievement of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards while addressing the educational, social and emotional needs of all students; and

- Contribute to quality professional development in the district.

The Glen Ridge staff has decided to nominate the entire school faculty. Our district is continuously meeting and surpassing those requirements. We do this on an already shoe-string budget, consistently ranking as one of the top schools in the state, with low per-pupil costs.

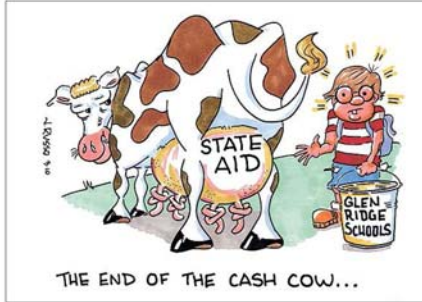
Our district is very proud of its entire staff. We have been doing more with less for many years.

The governor wants us to do even more with less. I am sorry to say, governor, that you will unfortunately be getting less with less. Who is hurting the children now?

Nancy Kelly  
Glen Ridge

### Letter to the editor policy

Letters may be edited and may be published, reproduced, or distributed in print, electronic, or other mediums. The views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the Glen Ridge Voice or its affiliates. Submissions should be typed double-spaced and should include a daytime phone number for verification. Letters that cannot be verified or are anonymous will not be published. Not all letters will necessarily be published. Please e-mail letters to the editor to glenridgevoice@northjersey.com, send them to 90 Centre St., Nutley, NJ 07110, or fax them to 973-667-9904.



### OUR VIEW

#### Time to merge the police department?

The borough has been a trailblazer over the years in terms of entering shared services agreements with neighboring municipalities in an effort to pare expenses. Its 1990 fire department merger with Montclair is considered a watershed moment as far as popularizing the custom state-wide, with this particular agreement having grown into one of the largest in New Jersey from a financial standpoint.

By March 2008, the borough had entered into 16 additional inter-local contracts, according to official minutes from a March 11, 2008 council meeting. So clearly, Glen Ridge has done yeoman's service in terms of utilizing the practice.

With one glaring omission: the Glen Ridge Police Department. In terms of scavenging the earth for additional shared service possibilities, the police department is one of the last fully-developed apple trees left in the grove. Given the fact that the municipal budget has reached a deficit that is almost unprecedented in borough history, while the GRPD accounts for a significant portion of the payroll, perhaps we've reached a point where merging Glen Ridge's police force with Bloomfield's or Montclair's at least warrants some study.

Now of course, the mere mention of this will elicit a visceral reaction from many. For a variety of reasons. The warm, personable relation-

ship the community enjoys with the GRPD, the fact that Glen Ridge's affluence makes it more noticeable and warrants strong protection, and the hurdles such a merger would entail, i.e. the police unions having a very strong say in how salaries and benefits for their members would be affected. The crux of the issue would likely pit the unions stonewalling re: the preservation of every slot on the payroll versus Glen Ridge's dancing partner trying very hard to avoid taking on additional expenses. The council would also have to decide whether the potential savings are enough to justify the effort, not to mention the anticipated backlash from residents and the officers themselves.

Let's be honest. Everyone knows this scenario wouldn't even be mentioned under normal circumstances. Glen Ridge has a good thing going in terms of enforcement, and it's a shame we even have to raise the idea of disturbing one of the town's strongest assets. But let's face reality here. The effects of the worst economic downturns since the Great Depression, now plainly and painfully apparent on the local level (a 23.5 percent drop in state aid, a half-million dollar budget deficit, two police officers losing their jobs), warrant the examination of possibilities and situations that would normally be dismissed out of hand.

*Editor's note: Glen Ridge Voice does not publish letters involving political candidates in its final issue before any election. It will only publish political letters regarding substantive corrections to previously published letters.*

*Readers who seek to endorse or criticize candidates, or to comment on political positions or items on the ballot, must submit their letters for publication prior to or in Glen Ridge Voice's April 8 edition.*

*Glen Ridge Voice urges citizens to vote in the April 20 board of education election and in all elections.*

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Last Comic Standing Comedy tour comes to the area B2

# NEIGHBORS

Bargainite Ring in the New Year on a budget B4

## SOUTH BERGENITE • SECTION B

**2010** can be described as one of uncertainty and hoping for a better future in many aspects. It was indeed the best year by the actions of several towns who had crossed their budgets to the limit. Various workers and union municipal services while still preventing incidents with large tax increases. In the schools, cuts in state aid led to mass layoffs and program cuts. In three districts, just sending your child to preschool would cost you more.

Report after report surfaced in 2010, all authorized by Governor Chris Christie, which recommended solutions for, criticized and in some cases lambasted the state of the Meadowlands Sports Complex. Several senior Colony Capital was foreclosed on and it left many homeless. The New Meadowlands Stadium will host the Super Bowl in 2014 and the stadium, well, we can see how it will be used in a few years.

### JANUARY

Lynchburg Mayor Richard DiStasio announces the town will fund \$10 million to overhaul the town's aging water infrastructure. The project would replace approximately 10 miles of the water 50-year-old lines, valves and main, under township jurisdiction.



Rutherford council candidates John Parafinelli and Todd Henry were elected to represent the town through a special election in March to decide the victor of the November election. Parafinelli was elected the victor in November 2010, but Henryman challenged Parafinelli and filed for a recount. Parafinelli would win a runoff vote in March.

Rosner North Arlington Mayor Leonard Kasper and his wife Barbara plead guilty in federal court to one charge of tax evasion in connection to taking money from political campaigns and using it for personal use.

### FEBRUARY

A fire rips through Rector's Bar in East Rutherford, a long-standing neighborhood bar/restaurant in the Carlisle Hill section of town. Several fire companies from surrounding towns responded to help extinguish the blaze. The building is rendered unsafe by construction officials and soon after demolished. East Rutherford's police and Fireman Area 100 is credited with saving a resident from an upstairs apartment.



### MAY

North Arlington Municipal Court Judge Kenneth Del Vecchio, a Democrat and member of the state judicial committee recommended that he not promote his own firm. The committee's view of the promotion of his firm was "improper and could create an appearance of impropriety."

Over 100 people attended a Rutherford Mayor and Council meeting to present \$430,000 in proposed cuts to the Rutherford Public Library. The library would go on to deal with the threat by purchasing workers, Jane Fisher, the longtime library director, would leave later in the year for a job in New York.



### AUGUST

A massive \$25 million project is underway to mitigate a portion of the 547-acre Richard H. Kean National Area in Carlisle Hill. The project will include the construction and installation of 150,000 square feet of parking and thousands of other site improvements.



The Lynchburg Board of Education votes to create an official school year policy. Students, effective Jan. 1, would no longer be required to attend school in the summer. The new school year policy would be implemented in the fall. The board also votes to hire a new superintendent and to hire a new director of operations.

In Style USA, a Carlisle Hill business warehouse, is reborn as newly \$15 million in permits and cologne. In the process, the warehouse is to be converted to a new York City parking garage. Workers are bound on day laborers had rented storage trucks with the garage. All connections to the garage are to be removed and most paid fully in federal court. One on one goes to a trial and a federal judge.

A state gaming, sports and entertainment committee, authorized to report findings to Governor Chris Christie, concludes that the vacant Sands retail and entertainment complex at the Meadowlands Sports Complex is a "failed business model." Bank lenders would foreclose on Sands and no owner would claim it is their's.

### MARCH

RJ Transit announces a plan to start bus and bus lanes, a move that will significantly affect local commuters. Transit fares increased 25 percent later in the year and bus fares 10 percent. In Rutherford, the daily train rider going to the city would pay \$1.87 a year and in Lyncburg, a daily train commuter would pay \$1.65.



### JUNE

Businesses in Rutherford begin paying to have their trash hauled away by private garbage companies, creating a reduction of truck traffic on Park Avenue. The council voted earlier in the year to reduce residential garbage collection from two days a week to one and to allow private haulers to pick up commercial trash.



### SEPTEMBER

As June ends to close another school year at St. Joseph's School in East Rutherford, but after 121 years in existence, it won't be there for the 2010-11 school year. The school's financial situation was dire and the school would need to close because of declining enrollment.



Carlisle Hill announces that it's lowering its 30-month covering speed limit to 20 and re-evaluating its speed limit. The town is also looking at ways to improve its school system as an effort that would cost as much as \$200,000 annually. The town is also looking at ways to improve its school system as an effort that would cost as much as \$200,000 annually. The town is also looking at ways to improve its school system as an effort that would cost as much as \$200,000 annually.



### APRIL

The Lynchburg Board of Commissioners vote to file a three-by-five-foot banner under the American flag at Town Hall with the words "One Nation Under God" on it with the logo of the local Knights of Columbus chapter. The move draws in from groups such as the American Oversight.



### JULY

Rutherford residents James Carter and Candice Thompson, both 18, are charged with the murder of a 10-year-old boy in the shooting of one of the boys that had been living in the borough. The boy was found dead in an area from a bow killing the boy, reported by the borough police.



Rutherford police officers Bill Sommers and Sean Farrell, who were slated to be laid off if the PBA did not agree to a contract plan to offer overtime payments, have their jobs spared as the PBA agrees to the plan. The union agrees to a contract, offering 44 hours of overtime per employee with that contract ends in December 2012.

The Lynchburg Board of Education votes to hold a special election will be held in January, which will allow voters to support a \$20-million bond plan to fund a new middle school at Ridge Road. If approved the election, the township will bond an additional \$1 million for municipal purposes.

The Rutherford 3PW and white collar unions agree to a 20-day budget that would save the borough on Friday from Aug. 20 until the end of the year. The two unions would save the borough approximately \$400,000 a year and help to balance the budget. \$200,000 in library funding while helping to balance the budget.

### OCTOBER

After three years of extensive exterior and exterior renovation at the Rutherford train station, Congressman Steve Rothman returns a \$2.5 million check to mark the station's completion. Although exterior renovation was undertaken including extensive interior work, including wood paneling and benches and replacing windows, the facility will only be open from 9-4 a.m. in full due to the possibility of vandalism.

A jailed former state senator and an attorney who worked for the failed EnCap project are both federally indicted on several charges of fraud and one charge of bribery in connection to their involvement in the EnCap project and other redevelopment project. The charges charge state attorney Eric Walker said State Senator Wayne Bryant's law firm to perform work on redevelopment projects and to exchange. Bryant voted favorably on legislation involving the projects, including EnCap.

A proposed site suitability recommendation for Mass Development, which is proposing to build 296 residential apartment units at the old Bedco site in Lyncburg. The site, although zoned and historically used for industrial purposes, is undergoing a major site remediation by Rusec and the commission says housing is suitable there.

### NOVEMBER

A proposal is made of Rutherford through a bill by a representative of Collier-based Rutherford-Norwalk, Inc., urging the town to implement its rezoned parcels. Some parcels in the borough about 100 feet of the project are proposed to be laid at the Community Garden on One Avenue as a test area. The individuals are meant to do down requirement needs and damage to the town.

A 10-year-old North Arlington woman is found dead on the banks of the Passaic River at the Bergen County Park in Lyncburg. Authorities said Kelly Quinn was found by a Bergen County Police Officer who was patrolling the area after an acquaintance of Quinn had reported her missing. Authorities could not identify the cause of her death.

Police find a black van fully covered behind a pool on Riverside Avenue. His brother Lathan gets away, but turns himself in the next day after getting a hauler of burglars at Five Stars in East Rutherford.

The North Arlington Mayor and Council introduce a new redevelopment plan for the area around Pointe Avenue with no housing inclusion. The plan also includes the construction of a new 1,000-unit apartment complex. The plan also includes the construction of a new 1,000-unit apartment complex. The plan also includes the construction of a new 1,000-unit apartment complex.

### DECEMBER

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission votes to conditionally deny applications to the High-Speed Cross-Borderway Plan in Rutherford. The voters of the 30-acre tract in Rutherford were unable to allow for 300 units of residential housing on the property. The commission will not fund infrastructure that would allow with over 900,000 square feet of non-residential mixed use. The commission will not fund infrastructure that would allow with over 900,000 square feet of non-residential mixed use.

North Arlington announces it will use the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) in an effort to study the use of the borough's water utility in the PVWC in 2014 and meet ownership back to the borough. Some council members think the town is wasting money on the lawsuit, saying the desired outcome will never happen.

# W17: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Graphics & Illustration

## First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# South Bergenite

## The Year in Review

# Michael Lamendola

**W18: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
Fresh Approach to  
Routine Reporting**

# Glen Rock Gazette™

NOVEMBER 19, 2010

## VETERANS DAY

### Honoring those who served

Schools, Legion, VFW hold events to remember and honor the sacrifices of U.S. veterans. Pages 2 and 6



### 'THE ROCK OF THE ROCK'

### Memories of Paul Herlett

Residents pay tribute to long-time borough resident and volunteer who passed away last week. Page 10

## 'The spirit behind it is remarkable'

### Borough rallies around Idy family after fire

BY RICHARD DE SANTA  
Staff Writer

For the Idy family, whose Prospect Street home and three pets were consumed by fire on Nov. 10, the past nine days have been an emotional odyssey beyond the comprehension of most. But thanks to the flow of compassion and generosity from friends and neighbors of all ages in and around the borough, they have been anything but alone in their ordeal.

In an interview with the *Glen Rock Gazette* this week, Joan Idy was as emphatic about that outpouring as she was about the misfortune her family has suffered.

"As awful as this is, we want people to know that Glen Rock is a community like no other," she said. "We are completely overwhelmed by the friendship and kindness we've experienced since this happened. I don't know that we could ever adequately thank everyone — in fact, I know we can't because so many gifts have come our way anonymously."

In addition to citing innumerable individual gestures, Idy was moved by the organized activity in the middle and high schools that began immediately and has continued.

"With daughters in both schools, I know how much work goes into fundraisers even when there's time to organize them," she said. "So what they've done and the spirit behind it is remarkable and we're very grateful."



CARMINE GALASSO/THE RECORD

Students at Glen Rock Middle School donate a dollar each to the Idy family, whose home burned down last week. The community has rallied behind the family, holding fundraisers at district schools and sending anonymous donations.

Middle and high school faculties were notified of the situation after school that Wednesday, even as the fire was still being extinguished, in many classrooms, and sports teams and other organizations and clubs have also joined forces to help.

They immediately "opened their wallets" and spontaneously began collecting funds for the family. By Friday, both student bodies had organized bake sales and "Donate a Dollar" events in the cafeterias. Since then, lobby bake sales have continued after school, there are collection envelopes in many classrooms, and sports teams and other organizations and clubs have also joined forces to help.

"Additionally, there has been a constant stream of cards and letters coming into the schools for delivery to the family, with the majority including some kind of monetary donation," said Tahinos, who added that the elementary schools have also started raising funds for the family. At the urging of the school administration, the family has now registered on the Rock, Bath and Beyond website to facilitate donations. Anyone interested in contributing should log onto the Glen Rock Middle

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 2

# W18: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Glen Rock Gazette

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Richard De Santa

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Vol. 17 No. 10

**NJPA**  
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**GIANTS STADIUM**  
**Saying his goodbyes**

Local steel worker recalls days at sports complex as stadium crumbles

BY DANIEL O'KEEFE  
 Staff Writer

Last week as Brian Moran stood and watched as a 140-foot crane began topper against a walkway near Gate B of Giants Stadium, he couldn't help but feel a little emotional about seeing the demolition of a structure that he had helped build.

"It was sad," he said. "But everything has its time. I agree."  
 Moran's feelings were tempered by the fact that right nearby stood a colonial building that he had helped create: the new Giants Stadium.

Moran, a Carlstadt native and sheet metal worker, remembers as a kid hating with his teeth where the stadium would eventually stand.

"My dad and my father used to hunt duck right there by where the stadium is," he said. Moran's father is a taxidermist and the ducks and muskrats they would catch would often get mailed and mounted for his business.

At 50 years old, Moran isn't old enough to have worked on the stadium when it was first constructed. It went up while he was still in high school. But years later he helped build the stadium as the stadium's south tower.

The work made for some dramatic experiences. At one point during the construction he had to go through a small work door in one of the hallways so that he could work in between the walls of the stadium. Moran worked there in a space that was tight and at points only 18 inches wide.

"I had to go on a stretcher," he said. "It was like being a squirrel stuck between the walls of a house." It's one of the few places there anymore could simultaneously have claustrophobia and vertigo. The space was a foot and a half wide and when Moran looked to the side and shined the light from his head-down he could see all the way down to the stadium's many stories.

He's no stranger to heights. Moran's job



50-year-old sheet-metal worker Brian Moran came out to see the old stadium off. A native of Carlstadt, Moran helped build the press boxes on the old stadium's south tower and worked on the foundations for the new stadium.

has taken him to the top of the artificial ski slope at Xanadu and the roof of Newark airport.

A lifelong Giants fan, Moran said he looks forward to the amenities the new stadium will have to offer.

"The new one, it holds more," he said. "More people can see the games. Everything's upgraded—including the beer." At the old stadium, Moran said that conditions were puzzled by why it was that even on a freezing cold day in January the beer was always lukewarm.

The reason, he said, was the vendors had heaters they kept by their feet and that kept the beer from staying cold.

It was right there, he said, that the beer was warm. Moran said he looks forward to his and other problems being solved by the stadium's new features.

While the Giants wait to start their next season in the new \$1.6 billion stadium, the old one is expected to be completely gone by July. Before that, though, Moran, his wife and children may get a chance to meet the Giants in person. He will recently wear a competition for photos that took from the stadium at a recent game. As a prize, she and her family will get a chance to meet the team during spring training in the new building.

And what about the job in all this?  
 "I like the job—so long as they don't pay the Giants," he said.

E-mail: okeefe@southbergenite.com

**Township bonding hits \$6M mark**  
**\$5 to 10M could follow**

BY MICHAEL LAMENDOLA  
 Reporting Editor

The township introduced all-bond ordinances last week amounting to nearly \$6 million to provide for its 2010 capital improvement plan and another \$5 to 10 million is still anticipated. The bond anticipation ordinance introduced last week will cover the costs of everything from roadways to sewerage to computer technology, but officials plan on soon introducing bond or the total amount in bonding for a \$10 million sewer infrastructure replacement project.

The township introduced last week in the amount of \$3,000,000 for this year's roadway improvement project, which will reconfigure a portion of Coast Avenue and make it one-way and adding curbing, sidewalks and parking while a portion of the funding will also be used to offset costs associated with the total reconstruction of Forest Avenue from Riverside Avenue to Willow Avenue, including water lines, sewage lines, drainage, curbing, sidewalks and landscaping.

A \$1.15 million bond is going to give a total rebid to a falling pump station on the Passaic River near the township's Little League fields on Riverside Avenue. The pump station, according to Mayor Richard DiLuccio, helps force storm water from as far as the center of town down into the Passaic River, but the two pumps, one primary and one backup, have been failing for years. Another issue needed to be addressed is what officials have dubbed a "ditch" which is more commonly known as a backflow preventer. The backflow preventer, according to Commissioner Brian Haggerty, washed out several years ago. The purpose of the backflow preventer, which looks like a duckbill, is to prevent river water from seeping back into the storm water system.

There is force from the pump pumping the water out, the bill opens and releases the water, but with no force, the bill closes.

"It's a maintenance issue that has to be paid by the sewer department over time to literally sit there and over-ride it," said Haggerty, attributing the falling pumps. "So again, these are all costs and expenses that would be wiped out once we replace them."

A \$770,000 bond is anticipated to cover the cost of \$150,000 in new information technology, \$500,000 for GPS mapping equipment of underground utilities and \$120,000 for new security cameras at the high school campus. The largest chunk of that bond, however, will be \$400,000 to construct

the concession stand.

\$30,000 surveillance cameras to be placed at the high school. When all cameras are refurbished and new ones are installed, nearly 80 will be scouring the high school campus.

\$25,000 computer upgrade of the bond's computer equipment for various departments. The effort will link in all departments to a central database and rely less on paper.

\$15,000 GPS system installation in DPW vehicles to help the department track the location of the work vehicles as well as gas.

\$3 million roadway improvement reconstruction of a portion of Forest Avenue as well as the reconstruction of Coast Avenue, make it one-way from Delefield to Shuysent Avenue and add parking, sidewalks and curbs.

\$700,000 water upgrade design of the \$10 million water improvement project that will replace about 10 miles worth of outdated water lines.

Other improvements \$1.3 million Pump station repair on Riverside Avenue \$900,000 A new telecommunications system for township offices \$90,000 GPS mapping of township's underground utilities

Total bond amount: \$5.96 million



STAFF PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GIANTS

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**I missed the tax credit that expires on April 30th 2010!!**

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Saying His Goodbyes

Daniel O'Keefe

# The Citizen

of Morris County

www.denvillcitizen.com

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75 Cents

Fourth of July happenings  
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Electronics, jewelry stolen  
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Duck race kicks off  
in Denville • 3

## DENVILLE TOWNSHIP MURDER

# Well-loved teacher murdered in home

### Ex-husband sought by police

By AUDREY DAVIE  
EDITOR

DENVILLE TWP — Judith Novellino, 42, died from blunt force trauma and was stabbed more than 30 times in a violent struggle in her Indian Lake home last Saturday and authorities want to speak with her ex-husband, Anthony Novellino.



JUDITH NOVELLINO

Authorities say had rented an apartment and was moving her belongings out of the family home on Cliffside Trail in Denville on Saturday afternoon when her ex-husband was not there.

When her adult daughter arrived at the house at about 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 19, however, she found what Morris County Prosecutor Robert Bianchi described as a violent afternoon scene consisting of the contents of "a very brutal and violent encounter" and a bloodstain.

"We are currently pursuing viable leads as to the perpetrator," Bianchi said. He said "significant pieces of evidence were recovered at the murder scene. We don't believe how this was a random attack," said the prosecutor. He said authorities believe the victim "was targeted."

Later, at 8:15 p.m., authorities released photos of Anthony Novellino, 40, and his vehicle, a black 1992 Mazda Miata with a tan top, and said they want to speak with him as a "person of interest" in the slaying.

They said the Novellinos had divorced less than two weeks prior to the incident and Anthony Novellino was still living in the Cliffside Trail house, while Judith Novellino was making trips to the house to move belongings to an apartment and needed to know who Novellino should not approach him, according to authority Bianchi, but should simply dial 9-1-1.

Customers who lived in Indian Lake and relying on the beach just a short distance from Novellino home on Sunday, the murder was a topic of conversation at local businesses open on Sunday, including the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

# Victim died with no will; court agrees to freeze assets

By AUDREY DAVIE  
EDITOR



ANTHONY NOVELLINO



A Morris County Sheriff's Officer enters the Novellino home with a plastic evidence bag on Sunday, June 20.

Victims University Liked  
Workers there were graduates of Morris Catholic High School and remembered Novellino as a caring and dedicated teacher.

Customers who lived in Indian Lake and relying on the beach just a short distance from Novellino home on Sunday, the murder was a topic of conversation at local businesses open on Sunday, including the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Anthony Novellino also was to have paid his wife \$10,000 to buy her out of the Cliffside Trail house within 60 days of the divorce decree and settlement agreement.

Micholwitz, who heard the divorce case, said the settlement was very specific about those assets, but that other Fidelity funds McGee had cited in her show cause order were not part of the agreement.

The judge cited Kay vs. Kay, a case in which the state Supreme Court had ruled in favor of such an action in a case in which a settlement had not yet been reached between the parties.

The judge noted the law firm that represented Anthony Novellino in the divorce had informed the court it no longer represented him.

Morris County Prosecutor Robert A. Bianchi, at podium, briefed the press on the Novellino case at the Morris Plains municipal building on Sunday, June 20. Behind him, from left, are Asst. Prosecutor Tom Zelenka, Denville Police Chief Christopher Wagner and Capt. Jeff Paul of the prosecutor's office.



# Groups fight power line decision

### Five appeal ruling by state Board of Public Utilities

Five groups have filed appeals of the state Board of Public Utilities (BPU) January decision permitting the upgrade on the Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) Susquehanna Road power line.

The citizens group Stop The Lines and the Eastern Environmental Line Center on behalf of the Sierra Club, Environment New Jersey, the Highlands Coalition and New Jersey Environmental Federation, filed appeals June 4 of the BPU decision.

The Stop the Lines appeal focuses on lack of need for the new 300-kilovolt (KV) transmission towers 150 feet high along 47 miles in New Jersey including East Hanover.

The group also fights the BPU's refusal to consider a possible decreased demand for power, health and safety effects on residents and the loss of property value and the inability of homeowners to sell and the inability of homeowners to refinance to obtain mortgages.

David Skaperud, a Stop The Lines trustee, said building 150-foot high towers within a 150-foot wide right-of-way is unreasonable.

The four environmental groups appeal contends the BPU did not do a complete or proper review of the project or perform due diligence before approving the project, nor did it analyze whether the project was needed, take into consideration the environmental impacts of its construction or weigh the impact of importing coal energy from Pennsylvania.

Jeff Trinkl, New Jersey Sierra Club director, said his group is going to court to get the courts to do the job that the BPU should have done.

PSE&G spokesperson Karen Johnson responded, "We believe the ample evidence in the case fully supports the BPU decision that this line is needed for reliability." She added PSE&G would be ready for the appeal.

PSE&G is awaiting final environmental permits to begin work on the eastern side of the \$75 million project, from Hopatcong through Rockaway Township, Morris Township and East Hanover to Roseland.

PSE&G has made monetary offers to communities that have been accepted but East Hanover Mayor Joseph Panzella has said East Hanover is not one of them.

# Gardeners invited to share bounty

DENVILLE TWP — Gardeners with excess produce can help people in their community who need through the AmpleShare.org campaign, a nationwide effort to build local food pantries which Denville Social Services has joined.

The campaign helps those vegetable growers who get their extra food to local food pantries easily so it can be distributed to those in need and the healthy fresh food.

Denville Social Services Food Pantry is accepting fresh produce for its clients. People with a vegetable or fruit garden produce in their community who need through the AmpleShare.org campaign, a nationwide effort to build local food pantries which Denville Social Services has joined.

The project was initially challenged before the BPU approval by citizens and environmental groups, several municipalities and the Morris School District.

The line crosses from Pennsylvania at the Delaware Water Gap and proceeds through Warren and Sussex counties through Morris County; the line would travel through Jefferson, Rockaway Township, Klumston, Bontion Township, Morrisville, Pennsylvania and East Hanover before ending in Roseland.

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# W18: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

## Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Citizen of Morris County

## Victim Died with No Will; Court Agrees to Freeze Assets

# Audrey Davie



NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

# W18: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

Second Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# Franklin Lakes/Oakland Suburban News

## Halloween: The Tricks of Bringing Ghost Stories to Life

### FRANKLIN LAKES & OAKLAND SUBURBAN NEWS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2010

#### HALLOWEEN

## The tricks of bringing ghost stories to life

BY MARSHA STOLTZ  
Of Suburban News

Through the viewfinder of the infrared camera, the most noticeable thing in the attic room at first was the dust – billions of particles not usually visible to the naked eye, floating in and out of focus on invisible air currents above a trunk and nearby rocker.

Then a transparent sphere the size of a tennis ball suddenly

appeared from the trunk and glided slowly across the floor toward the rocker.

"What was that?" several people call out simultaneously in the darkened room. "Rewind that part."

"Oh," another calls out. "Definitely an orb."

Then a gray mist creeps on camera from the left, slowly

SEE GHOSTBUSTING, PAGE 3



CHRIS PETER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fitness instructor Marla Quinn leading a Zumba class at the Franklin Lakes Community Center.

#### COMMUNITY CENTER

## Residents question Y's rental

BY PHILIP DEVENCENTS  
Of Suburban News

**FRANKLIN LAKES** – Recreation officials are tripling the number of classes offered at the community center next month in an effort to boost membership and revenue, but a handful of residents and frequent users of the facility doubt their intentions.

One resident has even suggested that the plan is nothing more

than a farcive play concocted by officials to slow the Wyckoff Family YMCA to gain control of the center.

"I somehow feel like this is a back-door way maybe to get the Y eventually to take over the rec center," Barbara DiLallo of Valley Road, told members of the Borough Council at a meeting last week. "I just want you to understand that there are a lot of people in this community that don't like

the idea that the Y might be coming in here."

In addressing her concern, Councilman Frank Bionova said, "The Y is not taking over. It never was and never will."

The council adopted an ordinance in July charging rental fees to outside entities that want to use

SEE CENTER, PAGE 8

## Teens' good intentions are drawn in (fake) blood

BY MARSHA STOLTZ  
Of Suburban News

Take seven boys with a long-term fascination with all things Halloween, add the scariest elements of their individual house decorations, sit in some dark nights, sprinkle enough fake blood to alarm the most jaded bystander, and you've got the Frederick Fright Fest to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, this year Oct. 30-31.

Now in its fourth year, the haunted house evolved from the collective imaginations of the former classmates at Eisenhower Middle School in Wyckoff when they started competing against one

#### Frederick Fright Fest

**What:** Fund-raiser for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

**Where:** 3:30-5:30 p.m. for 'Tiny Trick-or-Treaters'; 6:30-10 p.m. for 'The Fearless' on Saturday, Oct. 30, and Sunday, Oct. 31.

**Where:** 760 Frederick Court, Wyckoff.

another for the house decorated the spookiest for Halloween.

"First, we all loved Halloween," said Alex D'Alesio, now a senior

SEE FRIGHT FEST, PAGE 3

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Vol. 55 No. 43

# Marsha Stoltz

# Memories of mother fill with love as the years go by

**By Daniel Jackovino**  
**Staff Writer**  
 One daughter recalled the villa where her mother was raised. Another daughter spoke of her mother's harsh Scottish youth. One recalled her mother as a young woman with a strict father and a lot of opportunity.

Each spoke of her mother's flair for an outlook, their love of music, the color of their hair and eyes and their names, Vera, Loretta, Marie and Marie, Julia, Mimie, and yes, another Marie, are the names of their mothers. Seven daughters residing at Bloomfield's Kinder Towers, a senior living facility in the Brookdale section of town, sat about recently to talk about these women.

My mother was born May 17, 1887," said 90-year-old Margaret Perillo. "Her hair was a little red and her eyes were hazel. She had a villa in Italy. My uncle didn't want her to go down to the farm because it was all men."

I recall said she and her mother and a sister came to America in 1928. She said her mother worked as a cook in "The Blue Ribbon," a Newark speak-easy owned by an aunt.

"I use to take her to see Frank Sinatra and Count Basie," she said. Connie Librizi also took her mother to see Sinatra.

"She loves music and dancing, just like I did," Librizi said. "I look her over when with me. She was very vain."

"When I was young, I was kind of wealthy," Librizi said. "My mother would be surprised that I'm a poor grandmother."

Doris Smith said that her mother would be happy to know that she's getting along at 83 years of age. "I got married at 21 and my mother use to say, 'Get going.' I had three children," she said.

Isabella Moratella's mother had a rough childhood.

"She was a maid's assistant in Scotland, 50 miles from home," Moratella said. "She got off one day every two weeks. When you think that she was 14 or 15 years old in those days, it's a shame. Today, they're still kids at 22 and 23. Give me a break!"

Moratella said her mother and father came to America in September 1928, a month before the world economy collapsed into the Great Depression.

She remembers the bread lines in Newark near Lincoln Park, Moratella said. Moratella said her father had a job managing a building. "If any one knocked on our door for anything to eat, my mother or would give them something to eat," she said.

"Her hair was coal black and her eyes were blue," Moratella said. "She was a very pretty lady. She was regal, even in her old age."

Moratella said she was a lover of her mother's accent with she heard it over the telephone.

"I worked as a long distance operator and I called her up to ask her a question," she said. "I heard her voice on the phone and I asked, 'Who is this?' Her accent was such a treat, even in her old age."

Moratella said her family was traveling home from the New York area when they heard that Pearl Harbor had been attacked and Pearl Harbor was attacked on Dec. 7, 1941.

"They were enlisting right out of high school," she said. "My mother and I were upset to see my brother go off to the war at 19 years old. I'd have to be, unable to see him when they heard that Pearl Harbor had been attacked and Pearl Harbor was attacked on Dec. 7, 1941."

My mother was in her system when she lost a sister to tuberculosis. Sears said her mother remembered her home having to be sprayed.

My mother had chestnut hair and green eyes and would sing when she did the dishes, 90 Grand 13. Sears' mother didn't like the man who would be her husband, but both worked at Moore Calculators in Caldwell. But he persisted and she gave in.

"My grandfather was very strict," Sears said of her mother's father. "When my father told him he wanted to marry his daughter, my grandfather said he wanted a dowry of \$300." Sears said that her father got the money up and her grandfather put it into the bank for the couple.

Sears said her mother attended vocational school. That one time her father saw her chatting with two men at a bus stop and he made her leave school.



Sharing a light moment on Monday afternoon are Kinder Tower residents, from left, Doris Smith, Connie Librizi and Margaret Perillo.



Relaxing in a common room of Kinder Towers are residents, from left, Maryann Marion, Isabella Moratella, Gloria Seznys and Rita Lynley.

# Guitarist will play

Bloomfield Public Library will present a guitar concert by Peter Boudanos on May 16 at 2 p.m. in the Library's Little Theatre, 90 Grand 13.

Boudanos has been playing guitar, composing and performing live since 1977. He has played numerous styles of music in various bands, combining acoustic and electronic elements to create electronic-acoustic soundscapes.

For more information on this event or upcoming programs call 973-666-6206, ext. 320.

# Well water is flowing

(Continued from Page 1) Wash, said Tuesday that his car wash uses soft water and recycles 100 percent of it. He said the amount of water used to clean a car depends on the service the customer wants and that Fresh Line used an optical sensing system.

"We're going to have to raise our price," he said. "I just lowered them by 10 percent. I've never used that Fresh Line washes about 1,000 cars a week."

Nevada Diner owner Alex Nicosias said Tuesday that he drilled a well within the last three years. He said soft water is used for the floors and the sprinkler system.

He said he didn't know about the sewer utility program. Carmine Olivieri, owner of Carmine Car Wash on West Street, said he hadn't heard of the sewer utility.

"It's small time," he said. "I hand wash and I use less water than your typical car wash. He said he washes four or five vehicles a day."

Olivieri said that he thought that the town should charge apartment buildings a different rate so more people for sewer usage. He said that he had a bad experience when he was in his town's sewer system.

"If the town was worried about stress on the utilities, then businesses should be able to incentive to go green," he said. "I think customers want to do their part and would go to a green business."

"My property is private," he said. "I'd like a well if I were become a problem."

# W18: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting

## First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Independent Press of Bloomfield

## Memories of Mother Fill with Love as the Years Go By

# Daniel Jackovino

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D6



BIBLIOSAURUS

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A3



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Jackson paces the pack.

B1



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KINNELON/WEST MILFORD

Bailey's escapades inspire roadside rally

Motorists pull over to grab a 'hotdog'

BY DONNA ROLANDO Staff Writer

Mary and Willy Cromie of Kinnelton imagined the worst. More than one hour had passed since Bailey had been seen with a hotdog at a West Milford kernel and act of running along Route 23 Friday morning.

Willy Cromie said he was scared by a big dog that barked at him at the house. Cromie said Bailey, one of Cromie's two dachshunds, slipped off his leash.

When no one could catch him at the kennel, the couple began to fear for the safety of their 10-year-old dachshund, whom they consider a member of the family.

They were just about ready to give up, said Cromie. "We just knew he was dead. He had been gone for so long. Anything could have happened to him."

Yet the Cromies held onto hope as they dialed 911 to see if anyone had received a 10-year-old Bailey. This call brought quite a surprise for the couple.

"I didn't even get the sentence for the police dispatch," said Cromie. "We found the dog!"

What she couldn't know is that a bunch of Good Samaritans had reported Bailey along the highway and traffic was brought to a stop so that he could be rescued.

SEE PAGE 48



Brian Drake of the New Jersey Forest Fire Service calls in to command to report on firefighting operations.

RINGWOOD

NJ Forest Fire Service turns out over weekend

Drought makes reservoir land a tinderbox

BY DONNA ROLANDO Staff Writer

Sunday's and Monday's torrential rainfall came in the nick of time to rescue local woods that were under attack by a fire that consumed at least eight acres of Wanauque Reservoir land since it broke out on Friday.

When callers from as far as Pompton Lakes reported seeing the smoke on Friday at almost 3 p.m., the area was under Stage 1 drought restrictions.

The fire started in a "moderate to high" classification, which meant firefighters had to be limited in the region, said Kevin Drake, section chief for the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.

Firefighters from all Ringwood fire companies joined the state in fighting the blaze. The Ringwood Police and Ambulance Corps also responded.

The firefighters were also aided by two helicopters that dropped water (at least 11 times) and equipment. The roughly 20 firefighters journeying to the fire site had to deal with rugged terrain and carried only limited supplies to lessen their burden. Standard firefighting gear weighs about 65 pounds.

Backing up the firefighters on the scene were another 20 to 30 firefighters on the ground helping with logistics and other needs, including West Milford crews with the containment of a forest fire this past weekend on Wanauque Reservoir land.



Forest Fire Delta 7 from Andover air attack base collects a load of 350 gallons of water with a bannable bucket to assist ground crews with the containment of a forest fire this past weekend on Wanauque Reservoir land.

BLOOMINGDALE

Council tussles with increase of 15 tax points to borough budget

BY DEBORAH WALSH Staff Writer

Though the Borough Council did not make changes to its \$9.2 million budget, which represents a 15-point tax increase, it voted to take a shot at reducing the spending plan.

At its Aug. 17 meeting, the governing body discussed the status of the budget, which was introduced in June. The council agreed the budget committee should review the budget in an effort to make cuts to the funding document, which means roughly a \$220 tax increase to the average property owner.

At the onset of the discussion, Borough Attorney Joseph MacMahon indicated that the borough's auditor knew of one possible amendment regarding an increase in the cap levy but adjustments to the cap levy had not been made at the time.

MacMahon said he did not know if any other revisions would be made, but recommended the budget committee meet again soon and relay its recommendations to Dennis Mollema, the borough's chief financial officer.

Councilwoman Thomas Martyniuk said the budget committee met before the fourth quarter gets underway. If it does not have the budget in place, Mollema said the borough could be in jeopardy.

At the Aug. 17 meeting, Mollema said she was not comfortable with making \$300,000 in cuts and after the budget committee asked for \$300,000 cuts, the department heads scrutinized their budgets and scraped together or \$600,000 in cuts. Mollema indicated the budget would be revised again.

Mollema warned that September was approaching and the borough has come up with an estimate for third quarter taxes, but the budget should be finalized before the fourth quarter gets underway.

SEE BUDGET PAGE 49

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Bailey's Escapades Inspire Roadside Rally

Donna Rolando





**W19: Reporting, Writing  
& Illustration –  
First Amendment Award**

# W19: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – First Amendment Award

Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Belleville Times

Digori Ineligible

Richard Dickon

### COURT

## Parties debate who should have surviving birds

BY DEBORAH ANN TRIPOLDI  
of Belleville Times

Belleville resident Ewa Matczak appeared with representatives of the Humane Society, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) before Municipal Court Judge Karen Smith on Wednesday, April 21. Authorities said they removed 460 live birds and 375 dead birds from Matczak's Wilber Street home on March 11. "Matczak was charged with two summons with three counts each of depriving animals of food, drink and shelter, abuse or killing of an animal, torment or torture to

an animal, and overdue or overload of an animal. If found guilty she faces a disorderly persons charge of \$1,000 per count, and community service," Belleville Court Clerk Yara Acosta told the Times. If the case is not resolved by a May 12 status hearing, it will go to trial, Smith said. The judge said the home would remain uninhabitable until the Belleville Health Department re-inspects the property. Only cleanup crews are allowed on the property at this time, she said. Matczak told the judge a cleanup crew visited the house and sanitized it. An ASPCA representative told the court Matczak could face a

minimum fine of \$1.2 million. The society itself is seeking \$59,000 to cover the costs of caring for the birds. Bruce Sanchez of the Tinian Falls Animal Shelter, part of the Associated Humane Societies, told the Times the cost climbs everyday. "It takes three people a day and then two more people after their shift, to feed the birds, clean the cages and rebuck them, and a lot of the birds needed oxygen," he said. The judge suggested Matczak sign the birds over to the shelter so they can be adopted and stop the expenses. However, Matczak's attorney, Gina Calogero, suggested the legal birds be signed back to Matczak.

Sanchez told the Times there are too many birds to release back. "Even after a potential trial, a lot of the birds cannot go back, especially the illegal ones. Those would go to a sanctuary in a state where they were permitted." On the other hand, "if she released them now, they can be put up for adoption, and some birds may be able to be adopted with a permit. If she really cared about the animals, she would sign them over," Sanchez said. "The birds are doing better and putting on some weight, but they would be better off in homes," he added. Reporter Richard Dickon contributed to this article.



DEBORAH ANN TRIPOLDI  
BELLEVILLE TIMES

Authorities said they removed 800-plus birds from Ewa Matczak's Wilber Street home in Belleville last month.

### CAMPAIGN

## Letter: Digori ineligible

BY RICHARD DICKON  
of Belleville Times

Former mayor Jerry Digori is ineligible to run for at-large council on Tuesday because he "submitted an incomplete domicile," according to Kathy Sumter, Essex County's acting commissioner of registration and acting superintendent of elections.

The Times obtained the letter through an Open Public Records Act request from the address, SEE DIGORI PAGE 22

Belleville Township Clerk Kelly Cavanaugh, Sumter declined further comment on the matter. Digori could not be reached for comment. The letter lists Digori's address as 20 Haller Dr. in Cedar Grove. It states, "Please be advised that after a thorough investigation by my office and consulting with the Attorney General's Office regarding Gerald F. Digori who has sub-



### WARM AND CUDDLY

Ashley Rios, 8, left, and Rachel Martin, 6, of Belleville pose with their pals at the recent Teddy Bear Tea Party at the Belleville Public Library. Kids came, many dressed in special outfits for the occasion, to hear stories, enjoy sandwiches and spend quality time with their stuffed friends. DALE MANCEY/BELLEVILLE TIMES

### CORRECTION

The Times misspelled Belleville William Freda's name in a page 3 Board of Education President story last week.

### ELECTION

## Council race is set for next Tuesday, May 11

BY RICHARD DICKON  
of Belleville Times

The race for the Belleville mayor and two at-large council seats will be among the incumbent mayor and two incumbent councilmen, challenged by two newcomers. Mayor Raymond Kimble, and council members Kevin Kennedy and Michael Nicolsia, filed petitions to seek re-election. Kimble will be challenged by Susan Ciarella, while newcomer Sean Goldrick will vie for one of the two council seats.

Former mayor Jerry Digori was ruled ineligible for the council race (see story above). The election will be Tuesday. Kimble was police chief and town manager before upsetting Digori's slate of candidates and then becoming the township's first elected mayor. Before the last election in 2006, the mayor was chosen by a majority of the council at the reorganization meeting each July 1. E-mail: dickon@northjersey.com

Kennedy was elected after several failed election bids and is seeking a third term. Nicolsia was elected for the first time in 2006. Ciarella said she wants to improve the main avenue by bringing businesses to Washington Avenue, so Belleville is a place people want to move into and not of, and he feels the town does not need to continue to construct residential housing, but instead needs more businesses, so it does not overpopulate the school system. Goldrick grew up in Nutley and moved to Belleville in 2006. He said he would work diligently to bring businesses to Washington Avenue, so Belleville is a place people want to move into and not of, and he feels the town does not need to continue to construct residential housing, but instead needs more businesses, so it does not overpopulate the school system.

### Polling times and places - Polls open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Ward 1, District 1, American Legion Post, 118 Belmont Ave.

Ward 1, District 2, Fire House, 134 Franklin St.

Ward 1, Districts 3 and 4, Little League House, 92 Montgomery St.

Ward 1, District 5, Belleville Park Field House, 365 Belleville Ave.

Ward 1, District 6, Belleville Senior Center, 121 Franklin Ave.

Ward 2, Districts 1 through 4 and 6, Belleville High School gym, 100 Passaic Ave.

Ward 2, Districts 5 and 8, New Fire House, 275 Franklin Ave.

Ward 2, District 7, Belleville Recreation House, 407 Joralemon St.

Ward 3, Districts 1 and 2, Knights of Columbus, 98 Bridge St.

Ward 3, District 3, Belleville Municipal Building (town hall), 152 Washington Ave.

Ward 3, District 4, Wesley Methodist Church, 225 Washington Ave.

Ward 3, District 5, Belleville Park Field House, 365 Belleville Ave.

Ward 3, District 6, Belleville Recreation House, 407 Joralemon St.

Ward 4, District 1, Public Works Building, 429 Stephens St.

Ward 4, Districts 2 and 4, Belleville Fire House, 440 Washington Ave.

Ward 4, Districts 3, 5 and 6, Fews Smith Church, 314 Little St.

THE CITY'S FINEST

# HPD: bruised morale in turmoil's wake

BY MARK J. BONAMO  
Managing Editor

They are a highly visible element in Hackensack's civic life, recognized by their iconic particulars: uniform, badge, nameplate, gun. In protecting the citizens of Bergen County's most populous municipality from crime, Hackensack's police officers do a difficult, dangerous job. But in these times the greatest malice faced by the city police force may be one that has been generated from within its own ranks.

More than seven months have elapsed since the arrest and suspension of Chief Charles "Ken" Zisa. Indicative of just how deeply the department has been divided by the alleged actions of Chief Zisa is the fact that, of the numerous police officers questioned about morale within the department, only the acting officer in charge, Capt. Tomas Padilla, would permit his name to be used.

Officers who love what they do, and who show no fear on the streets, figuratively put away their nameplates when they were asked to speak about the unease within the department.

"The cloud is lifted to a degree, but that haze might still be there," said a relative rookie police officer in his mid-50s. "Things have definitely changed. But it is done for us. No. The fear is, if there really is a change, not just smoke and mirrors to placate you. We need to know."

As the Hackensack Police Department tries to rebuild in the face of ongoing legal battles, its

officers tell a story of a group of men and women trying to restore their force's mission and reclaim its confidence.

### Issues behind lawsuits, hearings fuel morale problems

A well-documented sign of the problems within the city police department are the 22 current and retired Hackensack police officers who have filed a spate of lawsuits since June 2009 in federal and state court against Zisa and other superior officers for numerous allegations, including civil rights violations. The lawsuits began to be filed after several police officers were suspended and administratively charged.

Zisa was arrested and suspended from his job in April, then indicted in October. He is facing insurance fraud and official misconduct criminal charges. Four police officers that were administratively charged by Zisa last year have since undergone disciplinary hearings. One officer was found guilty, and charges were dropped against another. Another officer's hearing ended last month, with judgment expected within days; another officer's hearing continues.

Several police officers filed lawsuits as a result of the June 2008 Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) election. They claim in the lawsuits that they experienced retaliation from superior officers for resisting pressure to vote for Zisa's favored candidate for state delegate, who subsequently lost the election.

According to one member of the force, the 2008 PBA election began the erosion of the police department's morale. "That was when the spark was lit for everything that's gone on since. That was the igniter. That was when people finally said 'That's enough,'" said the officer, who noted that he was able to cast his vote without being directly seen, avoiding the alleged consequences experienced by other officers who claimed in lawsuits that they were watched while they voted. "That was the first time that I actually felt pressured."



FILE PHOTO/RECORD FILE PHOTO  
Since June 2009, 22 current and retired Hackensack police officers have filed lawsuits in federal and state court against Chief Charles "Ken" Zisa.

Another police officer that had experienced serious stress 6,000 miles to the east while serving in Iraq spoke about a different type of shock and awe.

"People now have the ability to vote in Iraq because we were there," said the officer, a United States armed forces veteran. "Now I come home, and you can't vote the way you want to vote in this free country without getting penalized. It was a mind-blower, and I felt shafted. It brought down my morale tremendously."

The dip in morale stemming from the problems that resulted in lawsuits crossed generational lines. According to a recently retired city police officer in his mid-50s, the toxic mix of politics and police

work in Hackensack led him out the door sooner than he planned. "People got beat up because of a vote, and it got worse," the officer said, describing an atmosphere that he believes contributed to the unusually high number of recent retirements in the city police department (approximately 16 in the last 16 months, according to city officials). "When I retired, it was like a huge boulder was taken off my chest. I loved the job for more than 20 years, but I could not take another year on the job because the environment was so corrupt. These guys are retiring to get out of here, or get out of Dodge because they were afraid that they

SEE MORALE, PAGE 9

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# Hackensack Chronicle

# Bruised Morale in Turmoil's Wake

# Mark J. Bonamo

# W19: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – First Amendment Award

## Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# Bloomfield Life

## 'Attorney-Client Privilege' Keeps Documents Sealed

### Jeff Frankel

#### LOCAL NEWS

## 'Attorney-client privilege' keeps documents sealed

BY JEFF FRANKEL  
of Bloomfield Life

Citing attorney-client privilege, the township has denied the release of two Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests submitted by Bloomfield Life, both pertaining to several documents in the municipality's possession detailing correspondences between two attorneys.

The first request, submitted Feb. 18, 2010, requested any alleged "documents of a criminal investigation filed against" Councilwoman Patricia Spychala in the past year. The OPRA request was denied by Deputy Municipal Clerk Bonita L. Triska the same day, she wrote, "there has been no criminal investigation" against the councilwoman in the past year.

A second request, submitted Feb. 19, asking for alleged "documents or e-mails regarding any pending target letters or criminal investigation against" Spychala, was denied March 4 by Township Administrator Frederick E. Carr, citing attorney-client privilege. Following state law, Carr listed which six documents were being withheld in the denial letter. They are:

- A Feb. 12, 2009 letter from Councilwoman Patricia Spychala's attorney, Edward J. Kolog, to Township Attorney Brian Aloia;
- A Feb. 19, 2010 e-mail between Aloia and Carr;
- A Nov. 5, 2009 e-mail from an Essex County Prosecutor's Office detective to Spychala that was forwarded to Carr, Triska and a clerk typist within the township;
- A Feb. 3, 2010 e-mail between Aloia and Kolog;
- A Feb. 19, 2010 e-mail from Aloia to a senior clerk typist within the township regarding this newspaper's OPRA request, which was forwarded to Carr, Triska and a second senior clerk typist in Bloomfield.

Dina Stora, legal counsel for North Jersey Media Group and Bloomfield Life, says some of the

documents do not qualify as attorney-client privilege. Specifically, correspondences between Kolog and Aloia and the e-mails between the Prosecutor's Office and Spychala are not privileged information, she says.

"The purpose of the attorney-client privilege is to permit confidential conversations with your attorney," said Stora. "Here, the parties communicating with each other are not in the relationship of attorney and client."

Changing the issue, Carr says he has no knowledge of a criminal investigation and declined to release the letters and e-mails between the attorneys.

"There's nothing official on a criminal investigation against Councilwoman Pat Spychala," said Carr.

Assistant Prosecutor Art Margot, director of the Economic Crimes Unit, would not confirm or deny any active investigation. Reached by phone, Spychala contended she was the victim of a witch hunt, since she is running for mayor against Mayor Raymond McCarthy in the June primaries.

"I've done absolutely nothing wrong," said Spychala. "I'm being targeted by the mayor and certain disgruntled employees. They'll throw any garbage against the wall and hope it sticks."

"Whenever the mayor is challenged or can't get his way, he will do anything in his power to try to discredit or disfranchise. I have no intention of dropping out of the race," Spychala added.

McCarthy denied Spychala's claim of targeting her. The mayor said he was subpoenaed by the prosecutor's office and obliged with the request because there was "no reason to believe there is any wrongdoing on my part."

Aloia declined to comment for this story. Kolog could not be reached for comment as of press time Tuesday.

E-mail: frankel@northjersey.com

#### OUTSOURCING

FROM PAGE 2

district contracts to take their place, said Interim Superintendent Catherine Mosak.

However, BOE Business Administrator Michael Dederian and BOE attorney Nicholas Dotsel were hesitant to concur with Mosak, since the budget has yet to be voted upon and contracts have not been drafted.

Parents questioned the safety aspect of hiring outside employees

to work within the district, many asking who would be responsible in the event a child is hurt by one of them. Dederian and Dotsel said the district has final responsibility over its payroll.

The tentative \$88.8 million 2010-11 school budget is up for public vote on Tuesday, April 20. Voters can either approve or deny the \$61.9 million tax levy.

The district believes it could recoup over \$2 million if it resorts to outsourcing.

E-mail: frankel@northjersey.com

BLOOMFIELD LIFE WWW.BLOOMFIELDLIFEONLINE.COM THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010 3



#### STORE CREDIT

Brookdale Shop-Rite unveiled a special-edition Cheerios box March 8 commemorating efforts to raise \$500,000 to help fight hunger in the community. Two of the store's associates, Hassan Beqgi and Dragica Mladenovic, both of Bloomfield, were selected by their peers to represent the store on the Cheerios box. At left, Mladenovic and Beqgi receive commemorative boxes from Brookdale Shop-Rite owner Neal Greenstein as store manager Jerry Manley applauds.

DALE MINICVIL/BLOOMFIELD LIFE

## Council changes its mind again on raises

BY JEFF FRANKEL  
of Bloomfield Life

A busy, rowdy council meeting March 8 saw the township council give a raise to Bloomfield's non-unionized employees, and the announcement that a judge's ruling in favor of the mayor's veto powers will be challenged in the appellate court.

The meeting was hastily relocated from the law enforcement building to the municipal building council chambers due to an overflow crowd.

Unrepresented township

employees will receive their cost of living increase after all.

They will be pending two council votes for higher salaries on first and final readings. Councilwoman Janice Maly and Councilman Bernard Hamilton sided with a majority to allow the four percent cost of living adjustment.

The council has gone back and forth in recent weeks on the issue of raises for unrepresented employees, mostly comprised of confidential secretaries with some assistant department heads mixed in. During the council's Feb. 16 meeting, the four-percent increase

was unanimously approved after it was originally set at two percent. But at the first reading, eight of the 11 council members said they could not back an adjustment in light of voters telling them they were struggling to satisfy mortgage payments and support their families.

The non-unionized township workers had not seen a salary increase since 2008 and have sought a raise similar to their unionized counterparts. The pay increase was proposed as retroactive to

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 7

#### POLICE BLOTTER

##### BURGLARY

- A Dell laptop and two global positioning system (GPS) devices were stolen from a Bloomfield residence on Belleville Avenue March 1.

- An Arch Street resident came home March 5 to find an unknown black male in her bedroom. The suspect broke a window and jumped out, fleeing the area on foot.

- A Dell laptop and \$60 were stolen from a Broad Street business March 1.

- A cash register and its contents were stolen from a Broad Street business March 1.

- Several watches and pocketbooks were removed from a Broad Street business March 1.
- A 32-inch flat screen television and money from a cash register were stolen from a Broad Street business March 1.

- Cash was removed from a register at a Broad Street business March 1.

##### STOLEN VEHICLES

The following vehicles are listed as missing in Bloomfield during the past week: a 1993 Honda from the corner of Bloomfield Avenue and Hill Street.

##### THEFT/BURGLARY TO VEHICLES

- A GPS unit, an iPod holder, an external hard drive, a CD book filled with music and a pair of

sunglasses were removed from a vehicle on Hoover Avenue March 1.

- A stereo was stolen from a vehicle parked at Elm Street and Belleville Avenue March 3. The glove box was also ransacked.

- A victim reported her wallet as removed from her desk at a Garrabrant Avenue location March 2.

- A victim reported \$80 as missing from her purse after placing it down during an event on Garrabrant Avenue March 2.

- An Hispanic female slipped out of paying for a hair appointment at a Bloomfield Avenue salon, claiming she was going to get money from an ATM machine.

- A Farrand Street resident reported someone pouring sugar into the gas tank of her car March 1.

- The front tire to a vehicle parked on Hoover Avenue was found punctured March 2.

- A Spruce Street resident reported someone scratching the entire length of his car March 3.

- A victim reported a fire to her vehicle as punctured while parked on Berkeley Avenue March 3.

- A wooden fence in front of a

Church Street property was damaged March 5.

- The front window to a Broad Street business was smashed March 6.

- A windshield to a vehicle parked on Donald Street was smashed March 7.

- An unknown individual scratched the hood and door to a vehicle parked on Ella Street March 7.

##### ARRESTS

The following individuals were arrested in Bloomfield during the past week: Jason Bacchus of Bloomfield for harassment, theft and extortion; Lori Fella of Bloomfield for a contempt warrant; Michael A. Stella for possession of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS) and possession of CDS paraphernalia; Larissa M. Mendez of Bridgewater for driving under the influence (DUI); and Tanna Antley of East Orange for shoplifting and resisting arrest.

—All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Police news is compiled from information provided by the Bloomfield Police Department. The information is released to the press at the discretion of the department and may not represent the total extent of police activity.

# W19: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – First Amendment Award

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## Union County Local Source

Following the Financial Trail of Union's SID Tax  
 SID Expenses Are Still Unclear  
 Merchants Split on SID Tax

Cheryl Hehl

NJPA  
 NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

**THIS WEEK IN UNION COUNTY**



**ON PATROL**  
Hillsdale Police recently welcomed two dogs to the force. The dogs are part of the department's new K-9 Unit.  
Page 7



**HARD TIMES**  
Eric and Christine Williams lost their home and jobs when the economy took a turn for the worse. They are now forced to live out of their car on \$94 a day.  
Page 17



**PLATINUM**  
Alysa S. King recently completed her first novel entitled 'Platinum' about the dysfunctional lives and relationship of several hip hop artists.  
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 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2010 LOCALSOURCE.COM VOL. 93 NO. 45 50 CENTS

**In honor of local veterans**  
*By Paul Greshik*  
*Staff Writer*  
 UNION — Third and fourth grade students at Connecticut Farms School took the time to honor local veterans by singing classic patriotic songs and learning about the meaning and history behind Veteran's Day.  
 During the ceremony, students were briefed on the meaning of the Nov. 11 holiday, from its beginnings as a celebration of the end of World War I to the status it now holds as a time to thank all those who served in the armed forces.  
 The event was organized by Daniel Ryan, president of the Connecticut Farms Civic Association and an Army Veteran who served in Japan in the 1960s.  
 Ryan approached school officials to propose a Veterans' Day program similar to that which is conducted in the Denville school system, where his granddaughter is a student.  
 Prior to the event, students brought home invitations for any family member who served in the military, offering the chance for them to attend the ceremony. This invitation was answered by 15 local veterans from conflicts such as Korea and Vietnam wars and World War II, including a survivor from the U.S.S. Arizona, a battleship sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.  
 "They may just read about it in the history books and not give it much thought," Ryan said. "But veterans bring history alive. They were there."  
 School officials also took the time to remind students that their school takes its name from the battle that occurred on the same  
 See TOWNSHIP, Page 15

**Start your engines...**  

 Classic cars and motorcycles filled the parking lot of Galloping Hill Inn in Union recently during the Galloping Hill Cruisers car club's final car show of the year.  
 Photo By David VanDusen

**Following the financial trail of Union's SID tax**  
*By Cheryl Hehl*  
*Staff Writer*  
 The following article is the first in a series on the Union Center Special Improvement District.  
 UNION — Property owners in Union Center have been paying an additional tax called a special improvement tax for 17 years that is supposed to fund promotions and services specifically for that district. This year, \$158,000 was raised by this special tax, but the question is: are Union Center property owners and businesses getting the best bang for their buck?  
 The answer to that question rests in the hands of Special Improvement District Executive Director Michael Minelli. He is the local official charged each year with deciding how this money will be spent to draw shoppers from Union and surrounding towns.  
 Minelli, who has been the SID executive director for 17 years, is paid \$55,000 a year to do this job. But 15 years ago he also became the director of economic development for the township, a job that pays an additional \$68,259 annually, for a total income from the township of \$123,259.  
 Since 1993 when the township decided to form a Special Improvement District as part of a revitalization effort in the center, property owners had to pay a mandatory SID assessment, or additional tax. In 2010 the SID tax rate was \$1,025 for every \$100 of assessed property value, compared to 2009 when the rate was set at \$1,006 for each \$100 of assessed property value.  
 Minelli said Monday that the increase was the direct result of several tax appeals made by downtown property owners as well as the fact that several buildings were knocked down.  
 There are 60 property owners which house 104 businesses in the SID. For them, promotion of the SID. For them, promotion of the SID. For them, promotion of the SID.  
 See BRINGING, Page 15

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COURT

# Township settles lawsuit over death for \$255,000

BY MEGHAN GRANT  
of Nutley Sun

A civil lawsuit against two Nutley police officers has ended in a settlement between all parties before the case could be presented to a jury, according to court documents obtained by the Sun via the Open Public Records Act.

The suit alleged negligence by the officers in connection with the June 2005 suicide of a Belleville man in the Nutley Police Department's holding cell. According to police at the time, David Jennings hanged himself with his trousers.

The lawsuit, filed by James Maggs of Maggs & McDermott on

behalf of Jennings' sister, Kathleen O'Neill, named two officers on duty that night, Gerald Green and Peter Tene. Last year, Judge Dennis F. Carey ruled that the township could not be liable for punitive damages, but that the individuals may be, according to Maggs.

In November 2009, the township hired legal counsel to defend the officers.

In a release dated Sept. 16, 2010 and prepared by attorney John McDermott, signed by the plaintiff and the township, Nutley agreed to pay \$255,000 to O'Neill, the administrator of Jennings' estate. It goes on to stipulate "any items or claims arising out of the subject

matter of this lawsuit" will be satisfied from the proceeds of the settlement, and that the officers are not liable for all bills pertaining to the suit, the document stated.

The release also stipulates O'Neill cannot file more claims against the police department concerning Jennings' death.

The case was settled while scheduled for trial after a conference with Judge James S. Rothchild, a court document indicated.

Attorney Richard Grodeck, who represented Nutley in the case, could not be reached for comment before press time. In August, he told the Sun that, while

no finalized settlement had been committed in writing at the time, it would include "no admission of liability" by the officers.

Anthony Fusco of Fusco & Macaluso, representing Tene, told the Sun his firm was happy with the outcome, with no admission of liability. The attorney identified by the township last year to represent Tene, David Kreizer, left the firm after completing the case, Fusco added.

Attorney for Green, Michael Mizner, also confirmed the settlement contained no admission of liability by his client, and called it an "acceptable result."

"We're happy with the way the

case went," McDermott said on behalf of himself and Maggs. Maggs stated Jennings' family was relieved to have the township "finally held accountable," adding that the settlement contained no general admission of fault.

The township is required to provide legal counsel for the defense of its employees in accordance with state law and the collective bargaining agreement between Nutley and the local police union, according to a commissioner's regulations to hire counsel. The board voted last month to approve contracts with two attorneys not to exceed a combined \$50,000 for both firms. While the original attorney hired to defend the officer is no longer with the firm, the payment would still go to the designated firm, the Public Safety Department confirmed.

Funding for the settlement comes from the township's Joint Insurance Fund and not township monies, the Public Safety office explained. The officers' attorneys were funded by Nutley, as per their union contract.

**Basis of the suit**  
On June 19, 2005, the 46-year-old hanged himself inside his cell at the Nutley Police Department. The incident was documented via a jail cell video surveillance camera, which allows officers in the communications center to view and listen to the cellblock.

Jennings was arrested that June night after officers stopped him while he rode his bicycle on southbound Route 21. On the scene, Jennings appeared nervous and said he was heading to his sister's house in Belleville, police reported in 2005. After struggling with police and assaulting two officers, Tene claimed in his deposition, Jennings was subdued and placed under arrest. He was charged with possession of a CDS and drug paraphernalia, unlawful possession of a weapon, disorderly persons offense, aggravated assault, resisting arrest and obstruction of administrative law, police reported.

E-mail: grantm@northjersey.com

### Where's my refund?

The Internal Revenue Service is looking for 3,198 New Jersey taxpayers who can claim their share of undelivered refund checks totaling \$6.97 million.

The following are names on undelivered refunds list for Nutley:  
Cappello, Luigi and Kathryn A.  
Christopher, Jonathan  
Flores Melendez, Jorge E.  
Newick, Roy Edward  
Roth, Ernest C.  
Theobald, Calvin B. III  
Thunell, Ashley

# W19: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – First Amendment Award

## First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# Nutley Sun

## Township Settles Lawsuit Over Death

# Meghan Grant

*At this holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our success possible. It is in this spirit we say... Thank You and Best Wishes for the holidays and a Happy New Year!*



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Thursday, January 28, 2010

Vol. 134, No. 5

NEWSSTAND \$26

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## Residents: 4th Ward already 'inundated'

Developer: Stereotypes impel opponents

BY DAN PROCHLO  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Ninety people packed the first Zoning Board hearing about the Mental Health Association of Essex County's plan to build apartments on Orange Road for mentally ill people.

Robert Davison, executive director of the nonprofit, said after last Wednesday's meeting, which involved residents extensively questioning him for hours about the plan, that the queries focused largely on security concerns and the appropriateness of the site, located near to schools and Canterbury Park. The line of questioning, according to Davison, revealed the crowd's stereotypical notion that mentally ill people are dangerous.

"The majority of the questions were not concerning land use," Davison said in a post-meeting interview. Instead, they dealt mainly with the residents, how they would be pre-screened and monitored, and how the surrounding community would be kept safe.

"I thought it was offensive," according to Davison, research has shown that people with mental disorders, as long as they receive treatment, are no more violent than the general population.

Audrey Hawley, a Goralta police resident and one of the organizers of the neighborhood



Police officers escort a man they identified as 28-year-old Christopher Washoff, of Wayne, out of Lounge 501 on Bloomfield Avenue and into a police car during last Friday's disruption outside the nightclub.

## Lounge 501 gets the boot

Landlord ends lease after troubled grand opening

BY DAN PROCHLO  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Lounge 501's short-lived but storied and perhaps infamous run at 501 Bloomfield Ave. is over.

On Tuesday, the building's landlord, Dick Grabowsky, terminated what would've been the 10-year lease of Lounge 501's operator, Timothy Hicks, three days after the nightclub held its grand opening.

That event, held last Friday, drew more than 1,000 people, and police officers and firefighters closed part of Bloomfield Avenue for two hours while trying to control the multibuilding.

According to Grabowsky, Hicks was given a management agreement for the two of them struck in July 2009, prior to the lounge's opening. That agreement spelled out the types of business that would be developed on the premises, calling for a high-end restaurant on the first floor and a rhythm and blues/jazz club on the second level.

But investors who had initial-



Police and firefighters responded to a report of a large crowd forming outside the club just after 10 p.m. last Friday, as over 1,000 people tried getting into the venue for its grand opening, featuring some cast members of MTV's 'Jersey Shore' reality show.

chosen by the operator have proven to be poorly conceived and problematic. Grabowsky said in a statement to The Times. Last weekend's booking of the 'Jersey Shore' cast is just another example of that lack of foresight.

Meanwhile, Hicks failed to file properly completed paperwork a timely failure with municipal officials to transfer the establishment's liquor license from Grabowsky's name to his name, provoking an investigation by the Montclair police and the state Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC).

Prior to last Friday's hoopla, both agencies had begun "looking at issues with how the business is being run," Montclair Police Chief David Sobush said.

It seemed suspicious to investigators that Grabowsky had been being used by Hicks "as an air being tossed," Sobush said.

Grabowsky said the operator

## School District confronts cuts

BY GEORGE WIRT  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

The Montclair School District is on the brink of some serious budget cuts.

Members of Education members speaking during the board's public meeting this past Monday said Montclair residents should be prepared for new substantial reductions in spending on local public schools in the seven-member panel prepares to make a series of difficult decisions in the weeks ahead.

Board President John Cardillo said the board is committed to maintaining education costs.

"We are in the process of outlining what those hard choices will be," Cardillo said. "Our goal is to equalize across the board."

But there will be cuts, Cardillo warned. "We're looking for several million dollars in savings."

Board Vice President Shirley Gill acknowledged "We may have to make some very hard choices."

"They may not be pretty cuts,"



Gill said. "People should be prepared for that."

The board members painted a somber and grim picture of the district's upcoming budget distribution, warning that as much as \$3 million in projected spending would have to be trimmed in the 2010-2011 school year.

Schools Superintendent Frank Alvarez said the board had set a goal limiting any increase in the 2010-2011 budget to no more than one percent above the current \$113 million spending plan.

The district must fiscally cover fixed operating costs, including higher energy costs.

Alvarez has anticipated an average 2.5 percent salary increase negotiated for the 1,000-member Montclair Education Association (MEA) for this and next year.

But an address costly new state and federal education mandates. Achieving even a one percent increase will require significant reductions Alvarez said.

Alvarez warned that state school aid funding, which accounts for more than 30 million of the district's budget, is not likely to be increased this year as the state battles its own budget problems, including a multi-billion-dollar budget deficit.

The New Jersey State Constitu-

## Montclair debt a 'time bomb'?

BY TERENCE T. MCDONALD  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Improvements to Clary Anderson Arena and other municipal buildings \$145,975.

Buying and installing furniture for Montclair High School, and technology upgrades for all schools \$600,000.

Redefining property taxes after successful tax appeals \$1.8 million.

These are just three of the dozens of items that the Township Council placed on the approved credit card in 2009.

Last year, the council approved borrowing about \$8 million for capital projects — large-scale projects on items — for the municipality and the Mont-

clair School District, bringing Montclair's debt to \$181.2 million, a 150 percent increase from one decade ago.

A recent report by the municipal Capital Finance Committee that focused on Montclair's debt has some taxpayers skittish about what an author of the report called a debt-service "time bomb that's ticking away."

Last year, a Montclair homeowner with an average \$653,000 assessment paid about \$13,000 in municipal and school taxes, with \$775 going to debt service.

Some council members concede Montclair's debt is a serious problem. "I'd Ward Councilman Nick Lewis called it "troubling" — though there seems to be no consensus on how to tackle it.

Councilwoman at Large Kathryn Walker warning said she believes an outside financial advisor will help plan how to pay down the debt in a way that costs Montclair taxpayers the least.

Second Ward Councilman Gary Aleick said a "spending freeze" on capital projects is the way to go.

Meanwhile, 1st Ward Councilman Rich Morsick said he wants to find out how much it

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**W20: Reporting, Writing  
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# W20: Reporting, Writing & Illustrations – Headlines

Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Belleville Times

Property Plan Is on Ice,  
for Now, Manager Says  
Municipal Judge Puts a Bullet  
in Harassment Case  
Oh, the Price at the Pump  
Is Frightful

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### REDEVELOPMENT

## Property plan is on ice, for now, manager says

BY RICHARD DICKON  
of Belleville Times

The major development that was supposed to be on its way to the former ice factory property needs more developers to join to keep the project moving forward, according to officials.

Township Manager Victor Canning said developer George Jacobs met with township officials in recent months.

"He tried to seek help in finding more partners," Canning said. Canning said the development may go forward, but just how remains to be seen.

"It's not officially dead, but we're just not sure exactly what we'll agree to," he said. "But at

least he did acknowledge the value of the redevelopment."

Recently, officials reported that the development at the south end of Washington Avenue is in jeopardy of being downgraded further.

Jacobs met with township officials approximately a month and a half ago, Canning said previously.

The talks centered around some "minor" environmental questions still to be answered. He said the project may be reduced for a third time, and there is still no contract signed.

Jacobs has not been available for comment.

The Planning Board had approved a site plan to bring 135 townhouses, which then became rental units, and 20,000 square feet

of retail space to what has been described as a rundown area.

The site, at 630-666 Washington Ave., was the subject of an environmental study, and Gov. Jon Corzine previously vetoed the co-obligation payments that the developer is supposed to be on the hook to the township for, Canning said.

Officials have said the property has been demolished and now lies vacant, making it still an eyesore near the McDonald's restaurant and Pathmark shopping center.

The entire area was rezoned for mixed use to draw development, and the project was hailed as a great start for redeveloping that end of the township.

The site was home to the Liquid

It's not officially dead, but we're just not sure exactly what we'll agree to.

Victor Canning  
Township Manager

Carbonics dry ice factory for many years, and was later sold off for use as a warehouse before closing altogether and becoming an eyesore buried behind overgrown vegetation.

Jacobs said previously that he planned to knock down the existing structures and put up two, four-story buildings that would have rental units shared between

the two buildings, with the second building being nothing but rental units.


Parking would be at grade level, with the buildings elevated to provide the maximum amount of parking, he said.

Across the driveway on the other side he was to gut the 63,000 square foot building, using it for a sales office before later renting it out to businesses.

All of that was planned before the economic downturn and the collapse of the housing market. Now, the future of the development remains in question, officials said.

E-mail: [dickon@northjersey.com](mailto:dickon@northjersey.com)

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# W20: Reporting, Writing & Illustrations – Headlines

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## The Jersey City Reporter

Out, Damned Spot! (Fido Too!)

Let's Be Frank

When it Rains Cats and Dogs,  
it Pours

Caren Matzner

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### Living in a flood zone

Downtown residents voice frustration, shock at rain ruining homes

By Ricardo Kaulassar  
Reporter Staff Writer

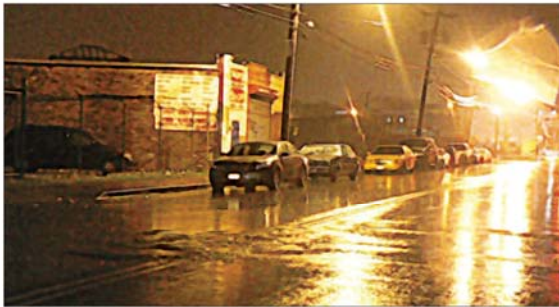
Downtown Jersey City residents hope that any future storm will not resemble what took place during the rainy weekend of March 12-14.

The rainfall, according to the National Weather Service, measured a total of more than five inches and came with wind gusts upwards of 50 mph. It also flooded basements and "garden apartments" in different parts of the city, backing up sewage in some cases.

The storms also closed off some streets that got flooded.

The complaints weren't new. Back in 2007, several Downtown residents demanded answers from city officials about flooding. The city noted that Jersey City has a "combined sewer system" that is over 100 years old, meaning that both wastewater and storm water flow through the same pipes.

In dry weather, the combined water goes to sewerage treatment facilities across the city called pumping stations. Bottles and grit are taken out, and the remaining sewerage is sent to a treatment station in Newark. In wet weather, the excess water drains out to the Hudson River, with screens filtering the waste. Yet factors such as excess rain, strong winds, and high tides prevent water from flowing out quickly enough.



see **FLOOD** page 16

**STORMY MONDAY** – Rains fell in Jersey City on Monday, a reminder of the downfall that hit the city two weekends ago.



### Out, damned Spot! (Fido too!)

Hearing this Tuesday on  
'pet-free zone' in Hamilton Park

By Ricardo Kaulassar  
Reporter Staff Writer

A pet-free zone in a downtown Jersey City park? Is that possible?

With the multitude of pet owners living near Hamilton Park in downtown Jersey City and with plans to reopen the renovated park by this summer with two dog runs, some would like to see a pet-free area as well.

This coming Tuesday, March 30, the city will hold a public meeting at City Hall, 280 Grove St., at 6 p.m. regarding the establishment of a "pet-free zone" in the park between Eighth and 10th streets.

Renovations of the 162-year old park will include not only dog runs but also a fountain, a spray park, light poles, basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds, an amphitheater, and a community garden.

A memo from the city's Department of Public Works

see **PET** page 18

CELEBRATING  
**DOCTOR'S DAY**  
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**RICHFIELD REGENCY**

# Fight erupts between bridesmaids

BY ANTHONY G. ATTRINO  
 and MOLLE GRAY

Police officers from Verona, Cedar Grove and Montclair were called to break up a fight between two bridesmaids at the Richfield Regency last Sunday, according to reports.

The bridesmaids had been attending a wedding reception when an argument broke out and the two got physical, police said. The catering hall is located at 420 Bloomfield Ave.

Verona Police Chief Doug Huber said the disagreement arose between a 17-year-old girl and an adult woman, both of whom had been in the wedding party.

"They had some sort of verbal dispute that led to them pushing each other," Huber said.

Guests made efforts to keep the bridesmaids away from each other, said Judge Roppente, owner of the business.

"They tried to break up the fight, but we didn't want to take anyone so we called the police," Roppente said, adding, "We call the police because we need to protect ourselves."

Roppente called the fight "family dispute between bridesmaids" but said he did not know what caused the problem.

A Richfield Regency staff member called police about 4 p.m. The fight was still going on when the first officers arrived,

according to Huber.

Four officers from Verona responded. Huber said additional backup was needed from Cedar Grove and Montclair police.

Roppente said he didn't know why so many officers were needed, saying the decision to call in more agencies was made by police.

"There was a big crowd there, that's why we called in other officers," Huber said. "We had to separate the people because there was a large group of people around."

He estimated that more than 100 were at the reception.

Four people were treated by the police squad, but no serious injuries were reported.

No one was arrested, Huber said.



The Richfield Regency is located at 420 Bloomfield Ave. in Verona.

**Welcome to the Times**

All households in Cedar Grove and Verona are receiving a copy of today's award-winning Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

No other news outlet covers breaking news like the Times in Verona and Cedar Grove. We're the first to alert our readers, via e-mail, when news that affects them has developed in our area. Get the latest news and sign up for breaking news e-mail alerts at [www.vcgtimes.com](http://www.vcgtimes.com).

Here's an overview:

In-depth coverage. No publication covers our towns like the Times for council meetings, board of education meetings, exploring the issues behind the meetings, features on residents, enterprise pieces, thought-provoking editorials and well-timed sports news. Award-winning Managing Editor Mollie Gray is responsible for covering the people and issues affecting Verona township, while recent Boston University graduate Michael O'Leary covers Cedar Grove. O'Leary has been instrumental in the Times' online presence, having setup and maintained social networking sites on Twitter and Facebook.

Special features and sections. These include the Police Blotter, Business, Religion, Living.

Education and Your Space (the source for younger readers). Cedar Grove resident Nancy Rubenstein continues to write the bright "Believe Me" column in our Opinion section. Cedar Grove resident Mike Grabas writes the "Common Sense" column while Times Sports Editor Kevin Meacham blogs the outcomes of local games in "The Returning Starter."

Accountability. The Times strives to be ethical, fair and accurate in its coverage. The Verona-Cedar Grove Times staff earned the coveted New Jersey Press Association's General Excellence Award in 2008 and 2009, along with dozens of state and industry awards, over the years. Award-winning photographer Adam Anik is part of this equation and is present for your town events.

If you see news happening in your area, contact award-winning Editor Anthony G. Attrino, by calling 973-233-5048 or e-mailing [attrino@northjersey.com](mailto:attrino@northjersey.com). For Sports news, contact Sports Editor Kevin Meacham at 973-233-5037 or e-mail [Meacham@northjersey.com](mailto:Meacham@northjersey.com).

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**Happy holidays from Cedar Grove**



Chris and Samantha Ianzuzzi, 3, wonder at the colorful glow of the Cedar Grove township Christmas tree Monday night. Hundreds attended the annual tree lighting, which is held each year in front of the municipal building on Pompton Avenue.

**THEATER**

## Taking control: theater students learning show business ropes

BY MOLLIE GRAY  
 Managing Editor

Sitting on a couch outside the theater, Verona High School senior Patrick O'Brien is assured and professional. He's wearing a slick, black tuxedo and is dressed to the nines.

A few feet away, students on the darkened stage rehearse a final run-through of "Songs for a New World." It's a musical revue about different ideas of the American dream.

O'Brien is the director. It's his responsibility to make sure everything is in order and ready to go for the 7:30 curtain.

Inside, the stage crew and cast appear to be in a good job. They don't seem to be looking really, really good in my suit," says O'Brien.

Stage manager Juliet Carvajal gave directions last Friday to the student actors, breaking certain performance" stances.

"Hold hands and poiseably look at each other - something," she said to the students.

"Everyone knows what they are doing, right? Everyone knows what they are singing!" she added.

VHS students have taken control of the many tasks involved in putting on a production. On top of choreographing, part-time jobs and college courses, they work weekends to make sure each aspect of the show is covered - from the black tuxedos to lighting.

English teacher and theater program director Diana Alonzo said allowing students to direct gives them the opportunity to explore their creative side.

"Songs for a New World" was sponsored by the Spotlight Players Parents Association. Money raised through the parents association's annual Talent Night helps to pay for supplies and any cash associated with the show.

O'Brien already has about four years in the school's theater program, including directing musicals, acting in his belt. But it was O'Brien's first time directing a musical.

"The scale is what's most different," O'Brien said. "The most (people) I've directed before was three and I was one of them."

Students directors audition their fellow classmates for roles, and assign them their parts.

"Originally a half-part musical, O'Brien expanded it to accommodate 16 performers.

"It's not a traditional musical. And they look a lot like a folk water," he added.

From the auditions to the final show, putting the production together took about seven to eight weeks, O'Brien said.

Rehearsals were held after school, two or three times a week, and lasted about two hours each.

"I look back at direction before me and wonder, 'How in the world did you pull this off?' We're pulling it off," O'Brien said.



Verona High School Senior Patrick O'Brien is the director of the VHS Spotlight Players Parents Association production of "Songs for a New World." The performance was held one night only, on Friday, Dec. 3.

**COMMUNITY**

## Fair draws hundreds to Verona

Times cosponsored annual event in town

BY ANTHONY G. ATTRINO  
 Editor

The size of the big, furry alpha didn't intimidate nine-year-old Sam Zamboni.

The Lansing Avenue student reached over the fence and touched the animal.

"He's soft," Sam said.

The alpha exhibit was just one of many features at Saturday's 14th annual Verona's Fair in the Square. The fair was held from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday in the Verona Civic Square Center at 600 Bloomfield Ave.

The fair is sponsored by the township of Verona and cosponsored by the Verona-Cedar Grove Times.

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 coach Goepfert  
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Regretful resignation  
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W20: Reporting, Writing & Illustrations  
 - Headlines

Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# Verona-Cedar Grove Times

Fight Erupts Between Bridesmaids

Verona High Students Working for Peanuts

Firefighters Save Pooch from Blaze

Anthony G. Attrino NJPA

# Hunterdon County Democrat

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At 98, Lindsley still enjoys helping Page D-1

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010

www.nj.com/hunterdon

## Charter school complicates school budgeting

By Renee Kirlik-Hill and Gene Robbins  
Uncertainty over a start-up charter school of Hunterdon is giving public school officials yet another headache this spring.

The Trifinium charter school for grades K-5 is projected to open in September. It wouldn't charge to attend, but primarily run on money received from the local schools where students would be transferred. Trifinium would receive

90% of the per pupil cost from the student's home district. And that's where the rub lies. Trifinium classrooms, open to all, would go to students within the three "host" districts of Flemington-Raritan, Delaware and East Amwell. But those districts don't know how many students will choose Trifinium over the public school. Without the number they can't put a dollar figure in their projected budget.

The public school budgets will now be complicated by mid-March. He put forward at public hearings at the end of the first enrollment period, said Delaware Township School Business Administrator Gary Johnson, two students were planning to "buy Delaware in favor of Trifinium." Trifinium Board President Brian Chiverton of Reading Township said on Monday that he couldn't say what the enrollment figures

are at this point — the second open period closes on March 5, which point anyone in the state may work to place their child in a new school. He did say the founders "did not get an big a response in the Delaware area during this round." "We have had a number of applications," taken out during this round. "Until the deadline, it's not really clear on Monday."

While the state hasn't set standards, Chiverton thinks that it will expect "at least 50%" of Trifinium students to be in Flemington or Raritan. East Amwell is Delaware Township. "The state wants community support," he said. The cost per pupil for Flemington-Raritan is more than \$12,000, and Delaware and East Amwell is more than \$4,000 if 120 students turn to Trifinium, the Flemington-

## City school may drop teachers

By Renee Kirlik-Hill  
LAMBERTVILLE — Anticipating a \$206,310 budget shortfall, the city school board could cut 14% of the teaching staff, or the equivalent of three full-time teaching positions.

About 23 people attended the board's meeting Tuesday to learn more and voice their opinion. The strongest opposition seemed to come from parents in particular kindergartens. Parents felt the full-day program pays dividends as children continue in school and wondered how the curriculum would change if those are reduced.

With a 60% day, the school could serve two kindergarten classes with one homeroom teacher and special subject teachers during the overlap. There would be alternating and alternate classes, slightly larger than a half day.

The board pointed out recent cost-saving measures, the sharing of state staff members, including administration, with neighboring schools, increased sleeping of under contracts, which it said saved about \$98,000 in transportation alone, reduction of energy usage, and more inclusion of special education students, lowering costly out-of-district tuition and transportation costs.

The school is having a program on a 10% state aid cut, along with "big ticket items and increasing costs, about 33% health benefits, 31%, and salaries, about 10%." This year the school received \$10 million.



HAMPTON HIGH

## Baseball uniform good to Cooperstown

By Gene Robbins  
HAMPTON — No one quite remembers whether Lester Aggar was the kind of baseball player who did make it back to the majors with a high hand one, one for lower balls or speed to take the extra base.

All his son Gary really knows is that his father looked like in his 1927 Hampton High School baseball uniform, thanks to old school yearbooks. And he has the very same, carefully boxed and stored all these years, that his father wore.

For now, that is. The Baseball Hall of Fame has accepted Gary's offer and will take the original gray wool uniform in its collection in Cooperstown, N.Y. "It's important because it represents the history of the sport."

It was presented to the original group wool uniforms in the collection in Cooperstown, N.Y. "It's important because it represents the history of the sport."



HAMPTON HIGH

## Police say man, 56, shot Cooke the cat

By Warren Cooper  
FRENCHTOWN — The man who shot the cat in his back yard has confessed, according to borough Police Chief Al Kurek. Edward Kurek, 56, of 1168 Street

is charged with animal cruelty at 12th Street. The mostly black cat was a stray kitten who he took it in and gave it a home in 2002. Cooke became a favorite in the neighborhood just north of the 11th-year road.

Police are warning people to be alert to a telephone scam targeting older people. The caller says he is the grandson of the person called, is in jail in Canada and needs money wired to him to be set free from prison. An 80-year-old Clinton Township man fell for the scam on Friday, Feb. 12 and lost \$3,979, police said. There was a similar but unsuccessful attempt to get \$1,200 from a Raritan Township woman on Jan. 26, police there said.



HAPPYER TIMES

Earlier last summer Cooke the cat spent time with his owners, Warren Cooper (left) of Enonville, Pa., and Lana Epstein of Frenchtown.

Police are warning people to be alert to a telephone scam targeting older people. The caller says he is the grandson of the person called, is in jail in Canada and needs money wired to him to be set free from prison. An 80-year-old Clinton Township man fell for the scam on Friday, Feb. 12 and lost \$3,979, police said. There was a similar but unsuccessful attempt to get \$1,200 from a Raritan Township woman on Jan. 26, police there said.

## If 'grandson' calls from jail, be wary

The individual claiming to be the grandson called again on Monday.

The individual claiming to be the grandson called again on Monday. The victim told her what had happened to him.

The original plan seems to consist about 2,500 lines of sidewalk walks from the Oldwick Community Center down to the Hartley property, which is across the street.

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## Oldwick sidewalk talk off until April

TEMKSURBY TWP. — The sidewalk issue has been a topic of debate for years. Last April, Township Commissioner

Alvin Van Doren said the Green Lutheran Church approached the township about the sidewalk issue. He said the township would not get more people to walk to school and alleviate parking problems nearby.

In 2008, the township was awarded \$15,000 in federal funds for sidewalks, but the design of the project did not have to be included with the grant application.

In October 2009, at a special meeting where the plans for the sidewalks were presented to residents, the over-whelming sentiment was the walks should not be built at all, or at least not as depicted.

The original plan seems to consist about 2,500 lines of sidewalk walks from the Oldwick Community Center down to the Hartley property, which is across the street.

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# Hunterdon County Democrat

If 'Grandson' Calls from Jail, Be Wary  
Bed, Bath and Behind Bars for Suspect  
Dog Bark Rules Have Less Bite  
Terry Wright

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## Nutley Sun

Suspect in Hot Water with Police

Clients Out to Dry

Was He Flashing More Than Bus Pass?

Owen Proctor

NJPA  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

### WEATHER

## Rain 'hammers' Nutley, causes flash flooding

BY MEGHAN GRANT  
of Nutley Sun

Bursts of torrential rainfall midday on Wednesday, July 14, caused serious flooding and related hazardous conditions in Nutley.

"We got hammered," Det. Anthony Montanari said. "Short doses of heavy rain have been causing the water to rise fast; the ground can't absorb it fast enough."

Nutley was under a flash flood warning. The National Weather Service reported the town had 1.09 inches of rain.

Authorities reported several submerged cars around the township, including Kingsland Street, Bloomfield Avenue, Parallel Street, Harrison Street, Coppola Street and River Road. Public safety personnel aided motorists stuck in their vehicles.

During the heavier bursts, "ponding" on streets prompted drivers to go slower. Flooding also carried away recycling and

trash, with containers getting wedged under parked cars and coming to a stop in roadways.

Flooding was reported in the areas of Ernest Street and around the intersection of Kingsland Street and Bloomfield Avenue. Streams in Nutley's parks overflowed their banks, closing off a portion of Passaic Avenue at Rutgers Place, and making bordering roads like Brookway appear as a real brook.

Residents reported downed trees, vehicle collisions and power outages. A tree landed on utility lines on Highland Avenue, knocking out electricity for the surrounding blocks, Montanari said. Route 21 experienced flooding, with disabled vehicles parked along the shoulder, creating a hazardous condition, he said.

School construction sites experienced a few leaks, but "it's not as serious as we've had in the past," Superintendent Joseph Zarra said.

E-mail: grantm@northjersey.com



DALE MINCE/NUTLEY SUN

A commercial truck ignores road-closed signs on Passaic Avenue at Rutgers Place, alongside Nutley's Memorial Park.

### CRIME

## Suspect in hot water with police following alleged theft, flood

BY MEGHAN GRANT  
of Nutley Sun

Nutley police say a burglar not only stole water heater equipment from an apartment complex but flooded the building as well.

The suspect pried copper and brass piping off 25 water heaters, breaking valves, disrupting service and flooding the basement,

according to Det. Anthony Montanari. "He was only down there five minutes, but it was enough to cause significant damage," he said.

The incident happened Monday, July 12, at Nutley Village, located at the corner of Harrison Street and Bloomfield Avenue. Basement drains prevented considerable accumulation, but hot water reached all corners of the

room, Montanari said. The building is new and will be need to be treated to prevent mold, he added.

Detectives, with the help of Investment Properties Group of Caldwell, identified the suspect through surveillance video, police said. Nutley police, in conjunction with Hillsborough police, contacted Nicholas Gallicchio, 46, of Hillsborough, who

turned himself into Nutley authorities last Thursday with his bail bond agent, police said.

Police charged Gallicchio with burglary, theft and criminal mischief. He posted a percentage of the \$10,000 bail set and was released pending a court hearing.

Nutley Police Chief John Holland and Public Safety Commissioner Al Petracco commended the detectives for a "thorough and expedient investigation."

E-mail: grantm@northjersey.com

### CORRECTIONS

In a page 1 story last week, the Sun incorrectly reported Nutley would be \$506,403 over the state-mandated municipal tax cap in 2011. Revenue and Finance Commissioner Tom Evans forecasted

the township would need to cut \$506,403 in 2011 to meet the new 2 percent cap, a \$200 tax increase for the average homeowner.

The proposed police contract, which the Nutley Board of Com-

missioners refused to vote on, adds up to a combined 12.5 percent raise through 2012. The wrong year appeared in last week's Sun editorial on page 4.

### Talent Show set for Thursday

The Parks and Recreation Department will present its first Town-wide Talent Show at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 22, at Memorial Park, aka the Mudhole. The rain date will be Thursday, July 29.

The evening will showcase outdoor summer entertainment. "This promises to be a well-rounded evening of musical and original entertainment for the whole family," stated Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mauro Tucci.

For more information, call the department at 973-284-4966.

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Special Supplement  
- Inside



'Pride In Parks Day'  
Saturday in Bernards Twp. - 11

Berndminister School budget  
will result in tax increase - 3



Photo by Debba Weisman

Berndminister School's "Teacher of the Year" Karen Hofman is the center of attention in her first grade classroom after receiving the award on Wednesday, March 17, joining in the group hug and, from front left, students Ray Hearn, Jalen Marinho, Raedik Williams, Gianna Koda, Caroline Fichetti, Ben Abaroni and Noah Youssel; back, from left, teacher's aide Mary Kessler, Cody Phelan, Hofman and Paul Chroma.

## BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

### Cheers, and some tears, for 'Teacher of the Year'

By ERYN BONE  
STAFF WRITER

**'I try to bring the complex world around them into the classroom.'**

**BEDMINSTER TWP.** While it was a simple ceremony, it was charged with as much love and admiration as school could pack into its coffers.

First grade teacher Karen Hofman, 38, was named the Bedminster School "Teacher of the Year" during a special assembly on Wednesday, March 17. Her popularity was evident when her name was announced, as the entire student body erupted in cheers and gave Hofman a

standing ovation as she took the stage. "One of the best parts of her job, Hofman said, "is watching these kids as the lights go on" when they learn something new.

**KAREN HOFMAN**  
Bedminster School  
Teacher of the Year

would surround them into the classroom," she said. "If you teach taking what they are interested in, they'll learn. Part of her teaching philosophy is "I try to bring the complex

PLEASE SEE CLYPS, PAGE 2

### State cuts to municipal aid spur new look at budgets

Programs likely to face increased scrutiny

By ERYN BONE and  
W. JACOB PERKY  
STAFF WRITERS

\$2,300,718 last year to \$1,796,338. Bernardsville will lose 23.5 percent of its aid, or \$302,947, from \$963,029 to \$660,172.

Somerset Hills officials will be reviewing their proposed municipal budgets in the days to come after getting reduced state aid figures from Trenton last week.

Gov. Chris Christie has proposed slashing \$275 million in aid to the more than 500 state municipalities. The cuts were announced last Thursday, March 18, as part of his proposed \$29.3 billion budget for 2011.

Facing the largest total reduction in the Somerset Hills is Bernards Township, which will be losing nearly half a million dollars. The state will be cutting aid to the township by 21.5 percent, a drop of \$481,438, from

\$2,300,718 last year to \$1,796,338. Bernardsville will lose 23.5 percent of its aid, or \$302,947, from \$963,029 to \$660,172.

Berndminister Township is set to receive \$964,848 in aid next year, a drop of \$163,348, or 16.8 percent, from this year's \$1,128,196.

Peapack-Gladstone will see a 17.2 percent reduction, a loss of \$44,085, from \$256,201 to \$212,117. Far Hills will lose 25 percent of its state aid, which is dropping from \$64,223 to \$48,169, a reduction of \$16,053.

**Bernards Township** "It's a pretty drastic cut," Bernards Township Administrator Bruce McArthur said on Monday. "Bernards last year and this year are qualified for the highest cut because they call us a high

income, low tax town," he said. "In my view, we get penalized for trying to keep taxes down."

The municipal tax levy has been reduced for five consecutive years, which may make for their budget reductions more of a challenge, according to McArthur.

"We're trying to look at programs and writing out efficiencies and be creative," she said. No programs have been dropped recently but the township has cut seven jobs, or 4 percent of its workforce, since 2005, he said.

Meanwhile, bills for pension contributions and health care costs are each up more than 15 percent, so "it's a perfect storm of problems."

PLEASE SEE CLYPS, PAGE 4

## SOMERSET HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOLS

### Teacher layoffs eyed in district

Cuts in state aid put crimp on the budget

By W. JACOB PERKY  
STAFF WRITER

**BERNARDSVILLE** Faced with a big loss of state aid and the apparent refusal of the township unions to make concessions, the Somerset Hills Regional School District is preparing to lay off about 20 teachers.

A \$20.8 million 2010-11 school budget that would spend less than the year before was unveiled at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, March 22, just five days after school officials learned they would lose more than \$1 million in state aid.

Superintendent of Schools

Peter Miller told a crowd of about 60 people that between the loss in aid, an earlier state order to spend "excess" surplus in lieu of aid, and a reduction in state's 912 million payments from Bernardsville Township, the district faces a shortfall of \$2.2 million.

Miller said the board would therefore have "to do in advance - staff, programming cuts, capital projects." School taxes would increase by 2.5 percent.

Miller declined to disclose which programs were being cut or how many teachers would be let go, saying he planned to inform the affected teachers prior to the budget hearing at 7:30

pm on Wednesday, March 24. "The district's state assistance members from trying to get some help."

They Revs of Bernardsville, noting that a budget handbook showed staff reduction savings of nearly \$1.2 million, added it was "safe to say" that 22 individuals would be eliminated from the teaching staff.

Miller initially limited, then said the number was "in the ballpark."

Ed Cooney of Far Hills was conspicuous. "The young teachers are always the ones that get cut, and they have the

PLEASE SEE TEACHER, PAGE 2

## BERNARDS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Big state aid reduction shocks school officials

By W. JACOB PERKY  
STAFF WRITER

**BERNARDS TWP.** An unexpected 22 percent reduction in state aid had school district officials scrambling this week as they prepared the proposed 2010-11 school budget.

Under figures released in conjunction with Gov. Chris Christie's proposed state budget on Wednesday, March 17, the district's aid will drop from \$4,730,201 in 2009 to \$4,047,081, for a total of \$683,120.

The Board of Education planned to hold a budget discussion at 7 p.m. on Wednesday night, March 24,

A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, at Oak Street Elementary School on West Oak Street.

"We were totally surprised by the governor's announcement," Superintendent Valerie Cooney said in an e-mail response to Under reporter Monday. "Just a few days earlier, he was telling districts to expect a 15 percent reduction in aid."

Board President William Koch said Tuesday that "everyone was in a little state of shock."

He said while he expected state officials to order a cut, "what they did really pulled the

rug out."

Koch said that even with its fiscal problems, the state could have pursued a "more equitable funding formula" before cutting aid. He said local taxes already fund 95 percent of the school.

Cooney noted that the state previously ordered districts to spend down "excess" surplus funds in the current school year in lieu of state aid.

"When you consider that just weeks ago, Gov. Christie grabbed \$100 million from our current surplus which we were planning to use as tax relief in

PLEASE SEE AID, PAGE 4



## MARCH MADNESS

Fans of the St. Elizabeth School basketball team cheer on their heroes at the school gymnasium in Bernardsville on Saturday, March 18. The Saints captured the 8th grade boys' championship in the Morris County Catholic League. For details on the big win please see page 13 in today's sports section.

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# The Bernardsville News

## Cheers and Some Tears Oh Deer, What a Tangled Mess

## Beekeeping Bug Keeps Gladstone Man Buzzing

# Charles T. Zavalick

# NJPA

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**W21: Packaging the  
News Product –  
General Typography &  
Layout of Entire Paper**

# W21: Packaging the News Product – General Typography & Layout of Entire Paper

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## Leonia Life

### General Layout

## Amanda Baskind Sam Passow

**LEONIA LIFE**  
THE WEEKLY EXCLUSIVELY FOR LEONIA MAY 21, 2010

**High School Sports**  
**Cougars catch up to Lions**  
Amy Lee runs back to return a shot in a singles match against Crestall's Andrew Lee.  
SEE SPORTS, PAGE 11

**2010 NJPA Award Winner**  
Including Best Place Award  
**NJPA**  
2010

**COMMUNITY**  
**Coming together for international cuisine**

**BY MAJIM ALKENAS**  
Staff Writer

**LEONIA** — A large group of Leonia parents from the Anne C. Scott Elementary School (ACS) threw an afternoon tea that took them through the watersheds in South America, over the mountains in Asia, into forests in Europe and back to the United States all in one night without leaving Leonia.

It was made possible by the Home & School Association and volunteer parents who prepared and cooked their favorite Asian for the first ACS Tea event May 14.

The mouthwatering international food having been featured delicacies from Japanese sushi to Indonesian, a corned beefed from South Africa.

The tea that once held home made beef corned from Venezuela were quickly emptied.

"This is a great opportunity for the community to get involved with all different backgrounds," said Mercedes Ruiz, a Venezuelan native and the mother of an ACS and middle school child. "We have everything at Leonia."

Other cuisines featured included Argentine, Chile, Colombia,

*Photo by Sam Passow*

Corinne Pita, Lucas Waterson and his brother Liam, left to right, enjoy their international meals during the first ACS Tea event at the Anne C. Scott Elementary School May 14.

**SEE DINNER, PAGE 11**

**Holy Name Hospital is now Holy Name Medical Center**  
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Finding Your Way

**GOVERNMENT**  
**Increasing fines**  
Any Leonia homeowner illegally converting rooms in their homes or apartments are going to pay more. **PAGE 2**

**COMMUNITY**  
**Celebrating nature**  
May 16 was a picture perfect day to celebrate nature, culture and everything Leonia. **PAGE 3**

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**Have a news tip?**  
Call Editor Christopher Long at 201-994-6730 or e-mail [long@northjersey.com](mailto:long@northjersey.com). For general inquiries e-mail [dl@northjersey.com](mailto:dl@northjersey.com).

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CARLISLE RUTHERFORD LYNDHURST THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER NORTH ARINGTON EAST RUTHERFORD

### RUTHERFORD Partnership introduces \$200K budget Business dues notably down

BY DANIEL DWORET Staff Writer

The Rutherford Downtown Partnership (RDP) introduced its 2011 budget last week, despite a significant number of complaints from not paying the business dues for the RDP. Some business owners contend the RDP doesn't benefit their businesses and some say it funds the tourism promotion that is primarily for the benefit of the city.

The new budget, totaling just under \$200,000 more money than in this year's year's with \$40,000 allocated for salaries, taxes and general. \$1,000 for membership dues, such as most members, events such as "Giving Thanks to the Hero" and "A Salute to Healthcare," general marketing, affiliation and health and age-employment and another \$20,000 for administrative costs.

Downtown Partnership president, Bruce Bennett says he and the RDP would consider trying to make a second attempt at raising money and other business owners' engagement for them. However, she said the budget does not allocate any funding for such a project.

"There's nothing in the budget that allows us to pay for it," said Bennett. "We are in a state of reviewing and looking at what the situation is to see if we can improve it." She anticipates the RDP will not get a review of its members in the next future to determine their satisfaction with the arrangement. "We've had more for me."

She says, the RDP includes receiving \$40,000 in business dues from the 270 businesses that make up the district. The bulk of its funding comes from the city. The RDP also receives special assessments, charged to businesses within the downtown area. In addition, the organization receives \$10,000 from the city. The RDP also receives \$10,000 from the city. The RDP also receives \$10,000 from the city.

WALKER RATES	20	10
MURPHY	24	10
LADNER	25	10
SHAW	25	10
WHEAT	25	10
STEWART	25	10

## From Russia with Love

### Veteran gets medal 65 years after his discharge

BY BRIAN ANDERSON Staff Writer

World War II veteran Walter Warnechka was in the North Arlington town meeting flipping through a book of old photos from the service. In the middle of the book, he found a small photograph of a man in a military uniform and a medal around his neck.

Warnechka served in the Persian Gulf during World War II and for the next 65 years after his discharge, he got a pleasant surprise a route from the Russian government, thanking him for his service and what he did for their country. On Nov. 25, Warnechka received a small gold medal with a red ribbon to mark his for his service in World War II. It was the first time U.S. and Allies supplies through the region into the Soviet Union.

How he got this medal all began last year, he says, when his grandson asked what was in the old book he had. Out came the book, which had a patch on the cover for "Army of the Soviet Union." Warnechka turned the book over to his son, who found the medal.

Warnechka says he was in the Soviet Union during the war and helped supply Soviet troops during one of the toughest times in the war, the Battle of Stalingrad. "I had sent a letter to the Russian Embassy with his letters of discharge and a photo, and a little less than a year ago, he received a medal and announcement from the Russian government. The medal was a shock. It was such a surprise. I was just looking for a relic," Warnechka says. "I was surprised after 65 years. I got a letter thanking me for that."

Warnechka says he was in the Soviet Union during the war and helped supply Soviet troops during one of the toughest times in the war, the Battle of Stalingrad. "I had sent a letter to the Russian Embassy with his letters of discharge and a photo, and a little less than a year ago, he received a medal and announcement from the Russian government. The medal was a shock. It was such a surprise. I was just looking for a relic," Warnechka says. "I was surprised after 65 years. I got a letter thanking me for that."



Walter Warnechka, a North Arlington resident, is seen here with his medal from the Russian government. He received the medal as a token of thanks for serving in the Persian Gulf during World War II and helping get supplies to Soviet troops. Warnechka says he served in the 5th Ordnance Service Battalion, a group of specialized Army soldiers who taught other soldiers how to use new equipment during the war.

He said the other 20 men in his company did very specific and technical jobs, he says. He described himself as an artillery man. Warnechka says he fought other U.S. troops as well as local fighters, how to handle new weapons and ammunition. "Other men in his troop were involved in radio repair work. Some men from the 8th Signal Battalion to supply Soviet troops as well, he says. Despite of all kinds of risks, snow, mosquitoes, pain, food, clothing, same through company line. After some regular work, they were down north, back to the United States.

These supplies, some of which was part of the Lend Lease program, and others which were donations. Indeed, the Soviet troops took the Communism from Stalingrad and helped bring the tide of the war.



Walter Warnechka, a North Arlington resident, is seen here with his medal from the Russian government. He received the medal as a token of thanks for serving in the Persian Gulf during World War II and helping get supplies to Soviet troops. Warnechka says he served in the 5th Ordnance Service Battalion, a group of specialized Army soldiers who taught other soldiers how to use new equipment during the war.

### BUDGETS Survey gives insight into how towns are doing

But did officials answer truthfully?

BY MICHAEL LAMONDIA Staff Writer

With all the local South Bergenite coverage since voters approved and selecting a single question and answer to be for the town's financial health, the results are in. The survey found that the majority of towns are doing well, but some are still struggling. The survey also found that many towns are still struggling to pay for their share of the state's debt. The survey also found that many towns are still struggling to pay for their share of the state's debt.

The survey also found that many towns are still struggling to pay for their share of the state's debt. The survey also found that many towns are still struggling to pay for their share of the state's debt. The survey also found that many towns are still struggling to pay for their share of the state's debt.

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## Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# South Bergenite

## November 11 Issue October 21 Issue

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### School violence

The numbers by school

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Gaels break three game skid

C1

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# NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

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## Edgewater View

General Layout

Amanda Baskind  
Sam Passow



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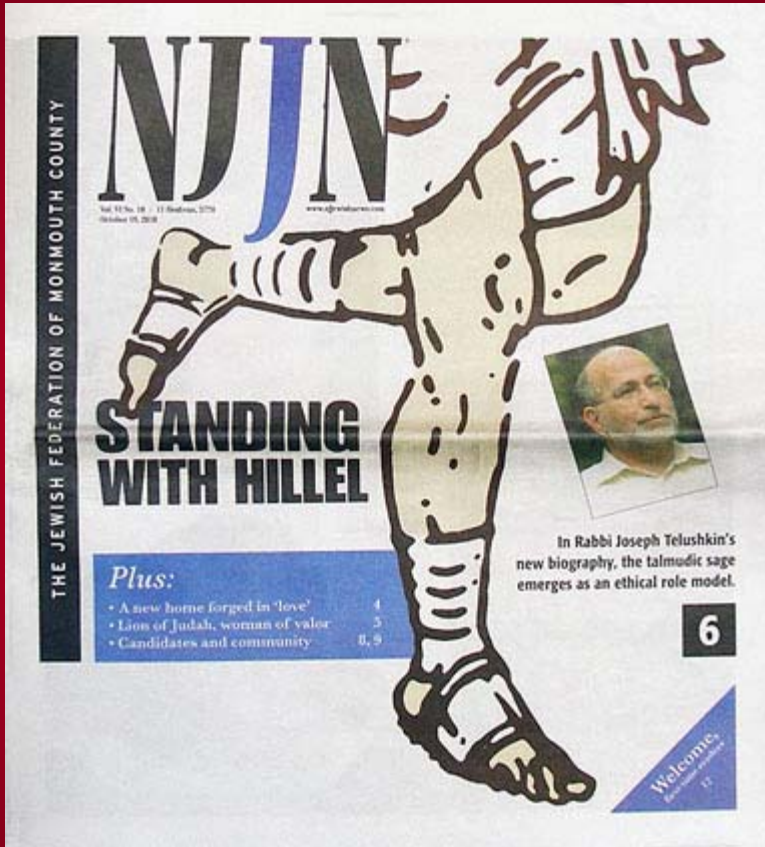
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# New Jersey Jewish News

December 7 Issue

October 19 Issue

Staff



Old kid on the block

YMCA celebrates 90 years with an outdoor party



FREE FILM

Library's festival offers preview of rock documentary

Double take

RHS girls sweep doubles, takes at County tennis tournament

SERVING THE VILLAGE SINCE 1889

# THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

theridgewoodnews.com

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2010

30 CENTS

## Community seeks guidance

### Suicide prevention addressed at forum



By KELLY BRIDGES Staff Writer

A meeting about preventing teen suicide brought to light important information, and some optimism, after weeks of a string of local tragedies.

Held at the Rosemarie Franklin Middle School auditorium Wednesday night, the meeting titled "Let My Kid Walk Home" featured several local youth suicide prevention advocates, including representatives from the Ridgewood Board of Education. Two speakers came from the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, one from an audience of parents, teachers and other concerned adults.

The guests were allowed to the stage at the end of one audience member.

She said she had been told not to go to the meeting, "because you were never here before and you were never here before."

Parents, teachers and other community members talked to speakers about a youth suicide prevention program at Rosemarie Franklin Middle School on Wednesday night.

## District responds to tragedy

Ridgewood's crisis intervention team has been put to the test in recent weeks and months, according to accounts provided to the district and its members.

"The aftermath of suicide is always hard. When you have these on a fast-paced timeline, it's very challenging," Jack Lerner, principal of Ridgewood High School, told the Board of Education (BOE), in a special presentation about nine students who died in the past year.

Lerner said the district's two-semester crisis intervention committee, established in January to provide accounts of the work they have done in the aftermath of Tyler Clementi's suicide, has been able to help other students.



Tyler Clementi

...and his death. "It's a tragedy that we don't want to be discouraged by."

## Student guidance

Ridgewood High School Principal Jack Lerner said a few key principles guide his administrative and crisis support team as they deal with the death of graduate Tyler Clementi.

- Listen and support with the family's privacy.
- Be listening when providing the situation.
- Talking to law to gather affidavits, and refraining from distributing unconfirmed or erroneous information.
- Quickly locating friends of Clementi.
- Directing students toward productive and healthy conversations, and
- Using creative language.

## RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

### Lights to shine

Sports groups donate funds for installation at fields

It's Michael's Story that was the inspiration for the lights. The Ridgewood Public Schools board members last year, but the lights weren't installed until last year, when they were put around the stadium.

"When we last met on the field, I indicated that if the lights were on in the field, it would be a great idea," said Superintendent David Furman. "But we were sending the administrators to look into the possibility of having a fundraiser to pay for the lights."

## VALLEY 'GENERAL'

### Planner crafting H-Zone ordinance

The township is in the process of crafting the H-Zone ordinance, which will be a key component of the Valley 'General' Plan. The ordinance is expected to be approved by the Valley Council.

...and the plan. The ordinance is expected to be approved by the Valley Council.

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# The Ridgewood News

## October 8 Issue December 10 Issue

# Staff

Local Business Member

**NIPA**  
New Jersey Press Association

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# NJPA

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION



Members of the Montclair Education Association (MEA) are shown in their support for the Renaissance at East Middle School, which faces an uncertain future.

# To save jobs, MEA suggests cost cuts

BY GEORGE WERT  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

The Montclair Education Association has prepared a series of cost-cutting proposals that the teachers union hopes can help save the jobs of teachers and other staff at the Montclair School District's Renaissance at East Middle School.

The MEA's Executive President Marge Adams told the board that a series of different cost-cutting proposals, ranging from adopting a "Pay to Play" policy to dropping school bus aides, could result in savings approaching \$1 million and make the cost-cutting and possible school closing unnecessary.

"It comes up to \$900,000 when you add it up, and nobody is being fired, and no school is closing," Adams said during a presentation at the board's public meeting Monday night.

The MEA proposals come in response to a series of recent presentations by the district's working group that have been studying areas of the school budget where the district can offset its operating costs or generate new sources of revenue.

# Tuition, rents, ads could fill district's coffers

BY GEORGE WERT  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

As it tries to come to terms with a dire budget situation, the Montclair Board of Education is at a crucial crossroads.

Faced with a projected \$1.1 million budget gap, the board must be heard from on whether it has an alternative or find new sources of revenue to make up for lost state aid.

"This will be a new change in the way we do things," Board of Education President Shelly Lombard told an audience of nearly 200 people packed into the auditorium of the George Truitt Center Annex this past Monday night.

"We really need to create new revenue streams if we're not to see revenue other than our taxes," Lombard said. "Can we rely on the tax base? There is a hole so how much you can do."

Board President Shelly Lombard said that the district faces a "dire" budget situation and will have to consider making decisions on school programs and staff to meet a projected \$1.1 million gap in the 2011-2012 budget.

"What we're trying to do is other programs like, at long Termance School, or long Termance School," Adams said the Times following the late night session. "We're concerned about the future of the more than 200 teacher positions. Their situation has been

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## IT'S THAT TIME



## HOLIDAY PARKING



Stefi Calabro, a Montclair Parking Authority parking enforcement officer, checks cars parked in the Day, Evening and Night zones.

## Council to holiday shoppers: 'Bah, humbug'

Free holiday parking on the chopping block

BY TERENCE J. McDONALD  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

A battle is brewing between the Township Council and local business owners over a proposal that would eliminate free parking for the holiday shopping season.

The municipality recently began parking meters throughout Montclair around Christmas, but according to the Montclair Parking Authority, the meters cost them about \$20,000 a day to run.

Mayor Tom Head, who supports the idea, says the meters that are up for the "Days that matter" is essentially eliminated by shoppers.

"The goal of parking meters is to have more turnover," said Head, adding that he's heard from merchants who complain that meter slots are empty and sitting up a lot of the time and park their cars in them all day.

The proposal of shoppers having to pay to park the 4-6 days before Christmas, however, is not popular with the Town's Home Schoolers, a group of both staff and faculty who gather on Valley Road, and business owners already suffering from the shopping season and need every penny getting customers.

"It's appalling that they would even consider it," said

## READ ON, LEARN MORE



A sign announcing the closure of the Montclair Charlie Brown's event would be shown Monday night.

**Quitpalooza!**

Mountie football reaches State semis

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# The Montclair Times

General Layout

- Lillian M. Ortiz
- Joan Finn
- Brian Smith
- Elizabeth Oguss

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## Belleville Times

March 11, 2010  
October 21, 2010

## Owen Proctor

**CRIME**  
**Suspected distributor**

County sheriff officers make arrest in Belleville

Page 2

**COMPENSATION**  
**Town attorney makes stand**

Says former recreation director won't get sick pay

Page 3



**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**  
**Residents make appearance in parade**

Page 3

**SPORTS**  
**How did BHS wrestler fare in state finals?**

Page 14

### Suspects crash, run in Belleville

BY JAMES YOO  
for the Times

Three men who police say participated in the brazen robbery of a Clifton auto body shop were captured after the sport utility vehicle they rode in crashed Wednesday, March 3, on Route 21 in Belleville.

While police pursued two of the gunmen, a passing motorist followed a third man who had fled on foot after the crash to a vacant house in Belleville. The motorist then contacted authorities. "His assistance was invaluable," Detective Capt. Robert Rowan said.

The three suspects — Howard Blackwell, 30, of New York City; Reynald Bastien, 29, of Philadelphia; and Leonardo Cruz, 22, of Passaic — were in city lockup Wednesday afternoon. Their bail had not been set.

All three refused to speak to investigators, Rowan said. Blackwell and Cruz have extensive records, he said.

Rowan gave this account of what occurred: At about noon, two of the three men walked into KMG Auto Body on Franklin Avenue armed with a handgun and a shotgun. They forced the shop's owners and customers to lie on the floor and took their wallets and cell phones, and they threatened the owners against calling police. They ran outside and got into an SUV with Pennsylvania license plates, where police believe the third man was waiting.

One of the shop's owners followed the SUV on Main Avenue and last saw it turn onto Crooks Avenue. The vehicle traveled from there onto Route 46 and then to Route 21 south, where Officers Mike Howe and Keith Gormley signaled its occupants to pull over.

Attempting to flee, the SUV's driver lost control and crashed into a guardrail near Exit 7 in Belleville. All three suspects got out and ran, dropping a knapsack with the wallets and cellphones. Weapons used in the robbery were recovered near the truck. The officers arrested Blackwell



TARIG ZEHAWI/THE RECORD

A Passaic County Sheriff's Office detective inspects the SUV after it crashes near Exit 7 in Belleville. Three men, accused in connection to a Clifton robbery, fled the scene.

at gunpoint about 400 yards from the crash scene.

Bastien ran behind a Belleville K-mart located near the highway. Officers William Stark and Thomas Utkowski arrested him at gunpoint.

While this was occurring, a passing motorist saw the chase and Blackwell's capture. He followed the third suspect, Cruz, who fled and broke into an abandoned Bella Vista Avenue home in Belleville. The motorist called Belleville police, who arrested Cruz.

Rowan said the third arrest may not have been possible with-



Bastien

Blackwell

Cruz

robbery charges later that Wednesday, and additional charges also may be filed.

The author is a staff writer at The Record. E-mail: yoo@northjersey.com.

out the help of the motorist, who did not want to be publicly identified. Rowan also praised the work of the four city police officers who arrested Cruz's alleged accomplices. Police expected to file armed-

**School lockdown**  
See related story on page 7

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## Town Journal

September 16, 2010

October 14, 2010

## Kipp Clark Rose Antinori

# Town Journal



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 ALLENDALE · HO-HO-KUS · SADDLE RIVER · UPPER SADDLE RIVER YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS

ALLENDALE | COMMUNITY GATHERS TO REMEMBER 9/11



PHOTOGRAPHER FRANK  
Allendale held its 9/11 Memorial Ceremony at Crestwood Park on Saturday night. Above, from left, Girl Scouts Erin Hart and Julia and Olivia Honan participate in the lighting of the candles. For more pictures from the events in Allendale and Saddle River, see pages 24 and 25.

### HO-HO-KUS

## North Field set to go Flooding expected to be reduced

BY KELSEY BUTLER  
OF TOWN JOURNAL

The expansion of North Field, adjacent to the Ho-Ho-Kus Public School, has been completed except for some minor landscaping, according to borough officials.

Councilman John Mongelli, who has played a role in seeing the project completed, said that the field is expected to be used by the borough's recreation commis-

sion as a practice field in the spring of 2011.

He added that all activities scheduled for the portion of the field that already existed prior to this project's completion would continue as scheduled.

According to Borough Administrator Donald Cirinelli, the project was originally suggested by the Ho-Ho-Kus Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and

SEE NORTH FIELD, PAGE 4

### UPPER SADDLE RIVER

## Police: Employee stole textbooks Father allegedly took \$75,000 in books; son sells on Internet

BY MATT JACKSON  
OF TOWN JOURNAL

A father and son from Flushing, N.Y., were arrested Sept. 7 for allegedly perpetrating a scheme in which police say the father stole more than \$75,000 worth of college textbooks from his Upper Saddle River employer and gave them to his son, who then sold them at a discount price on the Internet.

Following their arrest, Harold Sklaw, 62, a Pearson Education employee since 1978, and his

son, Jason Sklaw, 32, were charged with second-degree conspiracy to commit theft, second-degree receiving stolen property and second-degree fencing stolen property, police said.

The case investigation began in July after Pearson Education security contacted the Upper Saddle River Police about what they believed to be ongoing theft, police said. Pearson uncovered the



Harold Sklaw Jason Sklaw

SEE TEXTBOOKS, PAGE 6



**YOUR TOWN**  
Back to school produces plenty of smiles.  
PAGE 2



**SPORTS**  
Northern Highlands falls to Paramus in football.  
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Olden days  
Schoolhouse Museum  
celebrates new exhibit. B1



HALF THE SKY  
Best-selling book leads to Festival  
of Opportunities. A3

Win-vitalonal  
Host RHS sweeps titles at  
Veterans Field cross-country  
meet. C1

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# THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

theridgewoodnews.com

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2010

50 CENTS

## VILLAGE COUNCIL

### Candidates square off

BY MICHAEL SEDON  
Staff Writer

Four residents vying for the open Village Council seat stated their reasons for running and answered questions from the League of Women Voters (LWV) and residents at Candidates Night on Wednesday.

The seat was left vacant by the death of Anne Zane earlier this year. The winner of the Nov. 2 election will fill the remainder of Zane's term, which expires June 30, 2012.

Each candidate gave an opening statement at the forum, which was sponsored by the LWV and held at Village Hall.

Louis Lembo, a long-time resident with family ties to Ridgewood, retired two years ago from the Respiratory Therapy Department at The Valley Hospital, and decided to run for the vacant seat to give back to the community. Another long-time resident, Russell Forezza, said he has 22 years of experience in the banking sector and for the past 19 years has worked as a chief of staff and sometimes acting business administrator for the City of Ridgewood, the third largest city in the state.

Stephen Wellington, who admitted that he had never intended to run for public office, decided to get involved as a candidate because he said he was tired of complaining about situations in the village and wanted to contribute.

Oliver Train, a 19-year resident, said he can bring his experience as a managing partner of a technology firm and his passion for transparency in government to the residents of Ridgewood.

After the opening statements, the League asked each candidate four prepared questions. The candidates were given two minutes to answer each question. Following the questions, the candidates were given eight minutes to debate; the remaining 30 minutes were opened up to questions from the audience.

#### Valley 'Renewal'

The LWV asked how each candidate would vote on the Valley Hospital 'Renewal,' and many of the questions asked by residents centered on the topic.

A written question from a resident asked whether any of the candidates would have to recuse themselves from a vote on the Valley, and although they all answered "no," Forezza and Lembo said they have "close relatives" who currently work at the hospital.



Russell Forezza



Louis Lembo



Oliver Train



Stephen Wellington

Lembo said he could not provide a firm "yes" or "no" vote on the matter Wednesday night. "I really cannot make an intelligent decision at this point," he said. "I haven't seen a plan and there's no way that I could make the right decision at this time." Train acknowledged that the hospital is an "heart" to the village, but allowing a "third party" to suggest changes to the Master Plan "abdicated" the board's responsibility. "Property owners should turn out their projects to fit the zoning, not the zoning to fit the projects," Train said. "I'm concerned the H-Zone as adopted by the Planning Board at the result of such a process, and my opinion is the zoning does not protect the residents or the character of the neighborhood." Wellington said he "likes the way the hospital is currently constituted," and voiced concern that this process

## MASS TRANSIT

### Decision today for ARC

#### New tunnel would slash commute time

BY KELLY EBELLS  
Staff Writer

With commuters from Ridgewood and other suburban communities hanging in the balance, Governor Christie will make his final decision today on the \$87 million Access to the Region's Core (ARC) tunnel project.

The ARC tunnel would have significant implications for the village. According to a report by the independent Regional Plan Association (RPA) completed in July and released to full last week, it would reduce station-to-midtown Manhattan by about 20 minutes, or a 23 percent reduction, and estimated that it could add as much as \$18 billion in value to homes across New Jersey, with an average of \$23,000 per home and as high as \$60,000 for homes in Ridgewood within walking distance of the station.

With an average of 1,266 weekday boardings, the Ridgewood station has the most travelers of any station in Bergen County.

Ridgewood Councilman Paul Anonchik said he was a "strong proponent" of the tunnel project.



KELLY EBELLS/THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS  
Commuters hop on a train at the Ridgewood station, the busiest in Bergen County.

"It's a very necessary investment in our economic future; it's good for the environment, and it's good for our quality of life. Going forward, it would be a win-win-win," he said.

Ridgewood in particular stands to benefit from the project, Anonchik said. "Arguably, property values would go up, and it would help businesses in town," he said.

"I give Christie a lot of credit," said See PROJECT, page A7

## RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

### Board grilled on lights

BY KELLY EBELLS  
Staff Writer

The Ridgewood Board of Education (BOE) was questioned Monday night by neighbors critical of what they said was an unbalanced approach to installing lights at Ridgewood High School (RHS) fields, which began two weeks ago and should have been connected shortly.

The board's first question dealt with the economy, shrinking revenues and the award of the bid for the field lighting installation was made at a July 19 BOE meeting; the bid was originally listed as a point of discussion, but trustee Charles Reilly moved to approve the field lighting lease purchase financing to Masco Lighting and the installation to Quality Electric.

"I believe that Valley would take very good care of all that has to be done," Forezza said. "I believe the time has now come to go forward with this wonderful project."

"I believe that the BOE meeting about what they called an inadequate public consultation process to install permanent flood lights at RHS Stadium Field and Stevens Field."

See CANDIDATES, page A12

ing installation was made at a July 19 BOE meeting; the bid was originally listed as a point of discussion, but trustee Charles Reilly moved to approve the field lighting lease purchase financing to Masco Lighting and the installation to Quality Electric.

Acquiring Superintendent Daniel Pabon of emboldening the public into thinking that field lights were only a narrow possibility, resident Jim Morgan, who lives near the field, said that the BOE "played down the lights issue" and sought to "silence opposition to the lights."

There was no attempt to contact See LIGHTS, page A13

## SCHOOLS

### Violence, vandalism down in district

BY KELLY EBELLS  
Staff Writer

Violence and vandalism in Ridgewood's schools has decreased over time, but the district still deals with occasional fights among students, according to an annual report presented to the Ridgewood Board of Education (BOE) by Superintendent of High Schools (RHS) Vice Principal Paul Pizzuto Monday night.

The report is a requirement under state law, and the figures include statistics on violence, vandalism, weapons and substance abuse (see sidebar). The reporting time runs between July 1 and June 30. Over the past year there have been 12 incidents of violence in Ridgewood schools — mostly incidents of

#### Violence/vandalism statistics

The Ridgewood school district released violence/vandalism statistics at a Board of Education meeting on Monday. Violence, vandalism, weapons and substance abuse reports for the last five years are:

- 2009-10: Violence - 22, vandalism - 4, weapons - 1, substance abuse - 9.
- 2008-09: Violence - 23, vandalism - 3, weapons - 0, substance abuse - 8.
- 2007-08: Violence - 33, vandalism - 1, weapons - 2, substance abuse - 12.
- 2006-07: Violence - 33, vandalism - 15, weapons - 2, substance abuse - 16.
- 2005-06: Violence - 37, vandalism - 42, weapons - 2, substance abuse - 14.

Source: Ridgewood Public Schools

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# The Ridgewood News

October 8, 2010  
December 10, 2010

# Ed Virgin Rosemarie Antinori Patricia Bottone





Calzaretta Is There When You Need Him Page 47

Manasquan Advances In County Tourney



Page 65

# The Coast Star

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## Squan High School graduate killed in Afghanistan



On Sunday, a U.S. Army carry team transported the body of Army Sgt. Ronald A. Kubik, a Manasquan High School graduate, to a waiting vehicle during a Dignified Transfer Service at Dover Air Force Base, in Delaware. See complete story, pages 2 and 3.

### Time to play ball!

Manasquan residents Faith Franklin (front, from left), Grace O'Dwyer, 7, and Luke McHugh (back, from left), and Danny Uggitts, 6, enjoyed the festivities during the Manasquan-Brielle Little League Parade and clubhouse dedication this past Saturday.



RENNER COON/The Star

### Bonfire could return to Avon beachfront

By Melissa L. Gaffney AVON-BY-THE-SEA — The bonfire discussion is back. Avon volunteer fireman Dave Larkin attended an Avon Board of Commissioners meeting again this past Monday to ask the board when an amendment to the town ordinance banning bonfires would be considered. "The fire department is anxious to move forward with the ban," Mr. Larkin said Monday evening. "We've received a lot of positive support for it."

Mr. Larkin last came before the commissioners in February and proposed bringing back the long-dormant tradition of a beach bonfire. Prior to 1985, people had been able to hold bonfires on the beach. See BONFIRE, PAGE 42

### SLH budget vote ends in tie

By Katie Labovian SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS — The coast of the eight provisional ballots in last week's Spring Lake Heights school budget election remained undecided here that every vote truly does count. The unofficial results after the April 20 school budget election revealed there were six more votes against the proposed budget of \$7,309,478 than there were pro votes.

State law says a tie vote means budget fails. BOE will ask for a recount

But, with eight provisional ballots cast, there was a chance the budget could be passed. Provisional ballots are for those residents who went to their polling locations on Tuesday to cast a vote, but there was some question regarding the voter's eligibility. There are several reasons someone could be asked to use a provisional ballot, including a woman who was married since the last election and her maiden name appears in the voter registration books; a person who moved from one voting district in the town to another district and their name

See TIE, PAGE 18

### No police job for Squan's Donovan

By Melissa L. Gaffney CHESAPEAKE BEACH, N.C. — It looks like borough Councilman Edward Donovan will not be the Point Pleasant Beach Public Safety Director, as the council there will likely recommend hiring a new police chief rather than create a public safety director position. Over the past few weeks, Point Pleasant Beach residents and community leaders have written letters and placed signs on their lawns and lobbies the local government during public meetings for the council's approval to decision to replace the borough's recently retired police chief with a civilian public safety director. See POLICE, PAGE 15

Small text area containing various notices, classified ads, and contact information for the newspaper.

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# The Coast Star Front Pages

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# The Item

of Millburn and Short Hills

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**Shaking**  
 Merchants feel  
 bridgework. **Page A2**

**Jake's Ride**  
 Fundraiser pushes off  
 Sunday. **Page B5**

## STREET FAIR DANCING



STAFF PHOTO BY HARRY THUMBOR

Passers-by appear to break into a spontaneous mob dance Sept. 19 during the "Hairspray" street fair sponsored by the Piper Mill Playhouse. Actually, the dance was choreographed by the theater staff and the dancers appeared at several malls to promote "Hairspray" and the opening of the Paper Mill's new season. For additional photos, see Pages A6 and A7.

## CELL TOWER

### T-Mobile hearings start up

Residents question poor coverage claims

By Laura D'Onofrio  
 Of the Item

T-Mobile Northeast, LLC presented its reasoning for a 140-foot telecommunications monopole during Monday night's Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting. The monopole site is proposed for 808 Manor Township behind the Short Hills Terrace apartment complex and directly adjacent to Greenwood Elementary School.

The radio frequency engineer, Sami Allet, was sworn in as an expert and presented his case; however board attorney, Gal Fraser, said the T-Mobile applicants to come more prepared next time.

"You must anticipate that site selection is something the board will want more information on," said Fraser. She was referring to the fact that Allet didn't have information on why five sites, besides the proposed one, weren't selected to fill the area's coverage gap.

Allet presented a radio frequency coverage map made by computer software that models the area and geography around the site and using a mathematical algorithm generates average wireless coverage predictions.

He testified that the proposed monopole would fill a 1.3 square mile circular coverage gap that runs approximately from Handsum Drive to West Road to Highland Avenue.

The area was represented as a white space on the map and Allet testified that in all probability cell phone calls made from inside a building or vehicle will not go through. He added that within the search ring there were five other proposed sites that were candidates for the telecommunications device. There were raw-land properties, or properties without existing structures. Two were not-adjacent locations. Allet did not have addresses for any of the sites. He did not have reasons the proposed monopole didn't manifest on the three raw-land sites.

He said that two not-adjacent sites were rejected by the radiofrequency engineer from T-Mobile who evaluated the options. The board then requested the expert to bring the background information on these sites to the next hearing.

Chairman of the board Joseph Stoenberg asked why the monopole antenna has to be 140 feet high.

"We have to be at 140 feet for us to meet our network's coverage requirements when we have license to operate so we can maintain the quality of our network, to keep subscribers happy and connect with other carriers in the area," said Allet.

Allet testified that the height will maintain the quality of radio

## FORE!



STAFF PHOTO BY ADAM ANGELO

Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo joins several county officials for a hole or two of golf after cutting the ribbon to officially open the new African-themed miniature golf course at the recreation complex around the Richard J. Cooney Arena at South Mountain in West Orange. For the story and additional photos, see Page A3.

## COACH HOUSING

### Committee says 'no' to TMB plans

By Harry Thumbor  
 Of the Item

Residents fighting a multi-unit housing complex proposed for South Orange Avenue in Livingston received a vote of support from the Township Committee during its meeting Sept. 21.

The residents, members of the Livingston Short Hills Coalition and the Short Hills Association, have for several months petitioned the Committee not to sign off on the developer's scaled-back plans to build 50 condominiums, along with a pool, and a dozen units of affordable housing on the site currently occupied by the Tutor Time children's learning center.

Original plans submitted by the developer, TMB Partners, called for 100 units in two four-story buildings.

When pulled all of the Committee members cited problems they had with the size of the proposed construction. However, the overriding concern was that any settlement by the Committee could jeopardize continuing efforts by residents to fight the construction.

"To settle would hinder their efforts," Hainhoff said.

When pulled all of the Committee members cited problems they had with the size of the proposed construction.

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## Printmaker

Artist has unique visions.

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First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

September 23, 2010  
 October 14, 2010

## Staff

# W22: Packaging the News Product – Front Page Layout

First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

## Clifton Journal

February 19, 2010

October 22, 2010

## Albina Sportelli

NEWS, VIEWS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CLIFTON JOURNAL

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SINCE 1917

Friday, October 22, 2010

### Are some city schools too crowded?

By Tony Gicas  
Staff Writer

CLIFTON – The district is addressing concerns that some of the City's elementary schools are overcrowded.

Commissioners brought up the issue during a Board of Education meeting, citing rumors that an increase in enrollment had raised the number of students attending Schools 11, 12 and 13 to a total of 1,600.

According to district officials, the total number is actually 1,330 students, an increase of 163 students since the 2005-2006 school year.

School 11 saw its enrollment jump from 401 to 475 over that period. Additionally, the school's average class size increased from 22.1 to 24 students in the last two years, according to New Jersey Department of Education data.

District Assistant Superintendent Mark Tietjen said there is "no overcrowding" issue in the trio of elementary schools.

"If necessary there are additional rooms to open, more classrooms," Tietjen said, "and at this point everything is stabilized."

Five years ago, in order to accommodate an influx of new students at School 12, the district rented out classrooms at the St. Cyril's facility on Ackerman Avenue. Tietjen estimated 125 students currently occupy five classrooms there.

Assistant Business Administrator  
SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 12

## Caution when crossing



Van Houten and Clifton avenues is one of Clifton's "accident-prone" intersections, according to police. Fines will be issued to motorists and pedestrians who don't follow the new pedestrian safety laws. A pedestrian was struck and killed in a hit and run earlier this month at Allwood and Clifton avenues.



STAFF PHOTO/CEMITRUS BALEVSKI

## Clifton at Van Houten tops list of 'accident-prone'

By Adam Greenberg  
Staff Writer

CLIFTON – Some City intersections have proven to be high-risk for drivers and pedestrians. After two pedestrians were struck and killed on City streets earlier this month, the Clifton Police Department hopes those on the move will obey traffic laws and err on the side of caution.

Clifton Police Lt. Richard Stuart, 24 years with the Clifton

Police Department and 10 years in its traffic division, said the most "accident-prone" intersections in 2009 were Clifton and Paulison avenues with 32 accidents; Route 46 and 7th Street with 28 accidents; Clifton and Lakewood avenues with 24 accidents; and Clifton and Van Houten avenues with 23 accidents.

The intersection of Clifton Avenue and Allwood Road also ranked fairly high with 18 accidents in 2009, Stuart said. A 33-

year-old Clifton woman was struck and killed by a hit-and-run motorist as she crossed Allwood Road at Clifton Avenue earlier this month. No witnesses have come forward and no one has been charged in the accident, according to police.

"We don't like to call them dangerous," Stuart said. "If it's a dangerous intersection we address it."

Stuart said the Clifton Police Department works in tight con-

junction with the City and the State to ensure the number of accidents at high-risk intersections stay minimum.

The State controls intersections such as Route 46 and 7th Street, as well as the State Highway 161 Clifton Avenue extension spanning and connecting the intersections at Van Houten Avenue and Allwood Road.

The Clifton Police Department

SEE ROADS, PAGE 12



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**W23: Packaging the  
News Product –  
Editorial Section  
Layout & Content**

# W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content

Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Waldwick Suburban News

October 14, 2010  
December 16, 2010

Marsha Stoltz  
Rosemarie Antinori

### SUBURBAN NEWS OPINION

THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 14,  
2010

Submission deadline: Noon Thursday  
for the following Thursday's publication.  
PAGE 10

#### Deadline today for election letters in Suburban News

The deadline for letters from municipal candidates and their supporters regarding the upcoming Nov. 2 election is noon today, Oct. 14. Letters will be accepted by e-mail only, sent to the Suburban News general mailbox: [suburbannews@northjersey.com](mailto:suburbannews@northjersey.com). The e-mail subject heading should say "Letter to the editor" to make it clear the comments are intended for publication on the opinion page. Letters are limited to 300 words each.

The name, address, and daytime telephone number of each person signing a letter must be included for our records. However, only the name and town will be published.

No election letters will be published in our Oct. 28 edition, the last before the Nov. 2 election. Each person who submits a letter will be called by an editor for verbal verification. If you are not called within 24 hours of sending a letter, please call the editorial office at 201-602-5415 to make sure it has been received. Priority is given to publishing election letters in this time period. Publication of letters on other topics may be delayed as a result.

Suburban News does not publish letters on county or state races. These should be e-mailed to [TheRecord@publication.consideration.com](mailto:TheRecord@publication.consideration.com).

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Elect Behrman to Ramsey Council

TO THE EDITOR:  
As a 25 year veteran of Ramsey's volunteer emergency services, I know firsthand of the commitment to our community that every member of our fire department, rescue squad and ambulance corps make to Ramsey.

Each of these tireless volunteers spends hundreds of hours each year training on the skills they need to do their job. They respond to emergency calls 24/7/365, calls that take an little as an hour but sometimes last all day, depending on the nature of the emergency.

When their pager goes off, they drop everything to come to the aid of our residents, our businesses and visitors to Ramsey.

Being a member of these organizations is a big commitment of time and energy. Leading these organizations is a full-time job that you don't get paid to do.

Over the past ten years, Brian Sciolaro served as the chief of the Ramsey Rescue Squad and most recently as the chief of the Ramsey Ambulance Corps. He has been a member of both organizations for twenty years and has responded to thousands of emergency calls for help.

Today, Brian has decided to continue his service to Ramsey by serving on the Ramsey Borough Council if elected on Nov.

2. I am confident that his leadership skills, teamwork, mentality and genuine love of Ramsey will translate into him being an outstanding and contributing member of our governing body.

Brian has been helping our community when it needs it most, during emergencies, for two decades. His commitment to the community and his record of impact to date is clear and measurable.

At a time when many people have lost their faith in and are disappointed by politicians, I believe that Brian represents exactly the type of citizen who can step forward and do a great job for Ramsey.

Erik Endress  
Ramsey

#### Sciolaro, Giordano best for Waldwick

TO THE EDITOR:  
Waldwick is extremely fortunate to have both Don Sciolaro and Tom Giordano running for reelection to the Waldwick Council. Both Tom and Don bring their extensive private sector business experience to the Council. Their experience has proven invaluable when budgeting and negotiating on behalf of the Municipality.

As the chairperson of public safety, Don works diligently with the police and fire departments ensuring that the safety of Waldwick citizens is not com-

promised or reduced. With Don as committee chair, these departments have and continue to meet the needs of our residents.

As the chairperson of the Environmental Service Committee, Tom has been vigilant in his support of Waldwick residents and their dealings with the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority (sewer) plant.

In my dealings with Tom and Don, it is clear they wish to preserve the small town, quality of life in Waldwick. Additionally, in these tough economic times, these are the people that need to be part of the mayor and council team, helping make the hard but effective business decisions for our town.

Reelect Don Sciolaro and Tom Giordano to Waldwick Council.

Frank Palladino, Councilman  
Waldwick

#### Field lights not a burden to district

TO THE EDITOR:  
The letter from Ramsey resident Lynn Moore, "Lights on field not all positive" [Suburban News, Oct. 7], warrants extensive corrections.

Moore refers to the "substantial costs of maintaining those lights and paying for electricity." The purchase price of the lights

#### Another birthday, but who's counting?

I went to a birthday party last week that I would have preferred to skip. It was my own. At least I think it was for me. Two of my six great grandchildren were there — Carter who is 8, and Col-in who is 3 — and they seem to think every birthday party is for them while my daughters, grandchildren and their assorted mates get involved in conversations whenever the family gets together that I have no interest in joining even if I could understand what it is they're talking about.

Oh, I suppose, it really wasn't the party I wanted to skip. It's nice to be remembered. It's just that I don't particularly enjoy being reminded how old I am. There are 88 candles on the cake now. That makes me a member of an endangered species since I possess the expected life expectancy for an American male quite a few years ago.

Regular readers of this column, however, probably realize that despite my age I still retain a pretty good memory but the strange thing is I can't recall a single one of the 87 birthdays that went before. Oh, I'm sure we always had a party — at least I think we did — and I'm pretty sure that last year when my wife was still with me we went out for lunch together at one of our favorite restaurants because we always did that. But which restaurant? How can I possibly have forgotten something like that when I miss her so?

Maybe it's because birthdays are like mileage markers along life's highway and as we grow older we prefer to stop counting them because we know that the road that once seemed to stretch endlessly before us is now nearing its end.

But, while I may not remember the birthdays themselves, I do recall the years that have gone by between them.

When that "88" was only a sin-



RYAN MCVEY/STOCK/GETTY IMAGES

gle "8" the year was 1930. We still had an ice box instead of a refrigerator in our house on Bradley Avenue in Bergenfield and the house was heated with coal. The man who delivered the coal, like the milk man, still came with a horse drawn wagon and left behind a trail of horse manure in the street. The nation was in the grip of the Great Depression and in Europe Hitler was moving ever closer to war. Herbert Hoover was president and for some reason I could never understand, my dad, a product of Hell's Kitchen in New York City where Democrats ruled supreme, supported Hoover against Roosevelt in the 1932 election. Probably because back then just about everyone else in Bergen County was a Republican.

Ten years later I was 18. The year was 1940 and World War II had already begun in 1939 when Hitler invaded Poland. I was aware that President Roosevelt, who had pledged to keep the nation out of "foreign wars," was openly sympathetic to Britain while "America First" demonstrators, led by such famous names as Charles Lindbergh, were advocating strict neutrality. But for me the war seemed far away. I was a senior in Dumont High School and a sports correspondent for the then "Bergen Evening Record." My memories are mainly of carefree days of football games and school dances and dates with girls and of plans to enter college when I graduated that June.

In 1950 I was 28 and my youth was behind me. I had spent four years in service following the attack on Pearl Harbor in between them.

When that "88" was only a sin-



AFTER  
THOUGHTS  
BY  
ERIK  
ENDRESS

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

SEE FYNN, PAGE 12

### SUBURBAN NEWS

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# COMMUNITY FORUM

## EDITORIALS

### Pupils can change the social system

Roughly 160,000 students nationwide avoid school each day because of fear bullying. Alarming, isn't it? That's what we thought when reading statistics on bullying and harassment in schools across the country.

Although state legislators recently approved a tough bill that could eliminate — or maybe just alleviate — bullying in schools, a bill the governor has yet to sign, the South Orange-Maplewood district is highly active in reducing the problems of intimidation, harassment and bullying in its K-12 schools. However, the district could do more to get the students involved in the fight against bullying by providing them with an opportunity to change the social system.

District officials inform students about the negative effects of bullying throughout the school year. They hosted an anti-bullying morning assembly at South Orange Middle School on Dec. 8 featuring Assemblywoman Mira Jacey, D-Essex, a sponsor of the new anti-bullying bill. And, the information sessions on bullying don't stop with the students. The Parenting Center of South Orange-Maplewood school district hosted an anti-bullying workshop for parents on Dec. 8.

The district's current preventive measures to address bullying, such as the assemblies, a social worker at all schools and a districtwide no-tolerance policy on student harassment, create a more enjoyable and safe environment for students. The district tries to foster a better learning environment in its schools, and these are some of the steps they have implemented and enforced when trying to do so.

However, some say that district isn't doing enough for certain groups in schools, and that shouldn't need to be addressed. A concerned parent made a public comment at a recent Board of Education meeting that there needs to be more support for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender school community. The parent suggested the district provide a "resource center" for LGBT students.

We are assuming the resource, or support, center this parent suggested would be an area in a school where students could meet and communicate, organize programs and receive informed advice. Such centers are seen on many college campuses. While this could be something school officials might consider, there are some questions to be answered first. To wit: How would such a center be operated, funded and monitored in a public school district that is facing, as are others in the state, deep budget cuts?

We applaud the district in its fight against bullying, and could support some form of student center, if it's done right and at a minimal cost.

### Vacancy shows reform is needed

When Fred Lucasio of Natley left the state Assembly for the private sector last week, Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo Jr. and his allies began a heavy push to fill the 36th Legislative District post with another county resident. This is good in many ways; a representative who understands the township of Natley would likely be more responsive to its needs.

But there is a problem: the Natley resident being considered, Kevin Ryan, currently serves as an undersheriff in the Essex County Sheriff's Office. This opens another can of worms: Ryan could receive two public salaries. This is exactly what Gov. Chris Christie has proposed banning — public employees who receive two paychecks — and this potential case would reinforce our support of his plan.

In his position as undersheriff, Ryan earns more than \$110,000. If he becomes an assemblyman, Ryan would receive an additional \$49,000.

It should be noted that there is an unwritten tradition within the 36th District that says one person from each of the three counties served by the district be represented in the Legislature when a replacement must be selected, as in the current case. The 36th covers Natley as well as towns in Passaic and Bergen counties. We understand DiVincenzo wants to protect Essex County's "spot," but that goal might easily be accomplished with a non-public employee.

The argument could be made that being a full-time public employee should not preclude someone from being a part-time public official, as a state legislator's position is considered. Not true, we say. Taxpayers pay both salaries, and there is little oversight: how do we know the individual really works 60 to 65 hours each week? The potential for abuse exists, and because of that, the practice should be abolished by legislation.

Some, including DiVincenzo, have suggested that state legislators' positions be classified as full-time. In many cases, they are currently de facto full-time posts: several days in Trenton, then, at other times, answering residents' concerns, being on-call when immediate action is needed.

Fine. We would retain the current salary and believe inclusion in the state pension system as a benefit would be a fair compensation for the extra work. We believe hundreds of state legislators would be interested in seeking one of the 120 positions. And it would have public employees with a choice: their current job or a new job in Trenton.



Photo by Barbara Kalkins

THROUGH A LENS — Beatrice Coron, left, talks with curator Gary Park and artist Pilar Almon about the artwork on display in the Four Points of View exhibit at Pierro Gallery of South Orange during the opening reception and gallery talk. The exhibit will run until Dec. 19. For more information, call 973-378-7754 or visit thebard.org.

### When distractions can really be attractions

As I'm writing this article in the Sesion Hall University library, I have 10 tabs in Firefox open — Gmail, Chat, AIM, Skype, Facebook, Twitter — and my phone is on a night-time music playing — a Pandora station with upbeat electronic beats — and people moving all around me.

### Tea Time With Torpey

By Alan Torpey

Yes, in this environment, I feel more focused than I am in a quiet office, often thought of as the pinnacle of productive atmospheres. But are offices necessarily always a place where work gets done, or are they like waking up in the morning after a restless sleep? Sure, you sleep," but did you really get any sleep? What about those days when you have 8 or 9 a.m., and though you may "work," do you really have "work" done?

No. The typical office is a fairly unproductive environment, research shows. And in that reality-sapping?

When people talk about government inefficiency, they don't tend to talk about, for example, the 9 billion man hours that government employees spent in 2008 — playing solitaire. That's a big number, so let me put it in perspective.

When the Empire State Building was built in 1931, it took 7 million man hours to complete. Yes, that's right, theoretically. If just government employees built buildings instead of playing solitaire they could have built more than 1,200 Empire State Buildings — 2008 alone. And I don't mean to pick on government employees — the lack of efficiency in offices is staggering, in both the private and public sectors.

Tom Livingston's character, in the popular movie "Office Space," when outside consultants were interviewing him about his job at a generic software company, candidly replied, "I'd say in a given week, I only do about 15 minutes of real, actual work."

And part of his complaint was having seven different boxes open on his every page.

Officers are rife with these bad distractions, i.e. interruptions that you cannot control. Sure, having Facebook open is possibly distracting, but, unlike "bad distractions," it is distracting "entirely on your own terms."



Both are activities that usually occur in stages. As you drift into deeper stages of sleep, your body begins to relax and you usually wake up. However, if you are awake up, you do not begin where you left off; you have to start the entire cycle of progressing towards deep sleep from the beginning. Same with work. If you are in a deep state of concentration and are interrupted by something you can't control or ignore, say by a manager or a meeting, your focus does not return to where it was. You have to start at the beginning and work all the way back to the point you were at.

Does this mean jobless efficiency? Certainly not. But it does mean that we should at least consider re-evaluating our assumptions.

Throughout the next five to 10 years, we will likely see traditional office environments shrink in number while freelancing, "mobile offices" and independent workers grow as more businesses realize it pays off to use cheaper and better Internet-based solutions. And, hey, what if we took the same approach to regarding innovation with government, too?

Alan Torpey lives in South Orange, where he is a library trustee. He owns his own design and media company. Visit [alantorpey.blogspot.com](http://alantorpey.blogspot.com).

### Our policy on letters

The News-Record welcomes submissions from its readers. Letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion page. The News-Record reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style.

Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. Letters must be no more than 250 words long. Longer pieces must be arranged in advance with the editor. The News-Record accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is newsrecord@newsrecord.com. For more information, contact the South Orange Department of Public Works, 7111, ext. 7710, or send an e-mail to [fd@newsrecord.com](mailto:fd@newsrecord.com). Also, contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Radon Program at 1-800-648-6294 or visit [radon.nj.gov](http://radon.nj.gov).

### Radon Action Month approaches

Editor's Note: The following was written by South Orange Health officer John Fazio.

January is Radon Action Month. Have you tested your home for radon yet? Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is found in many homes and has been identified as the leading cause of lung cancer for nonsmokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Because radon is invisible and odorless, only testing will tell if your home has a problem.

To ensure your home is safe from dangerous levels of radon, you should perform a test a couple times per year. Test kits can be purchased in many hardware stores.

For more information, contact the South Orange Department of Public Works, 7111, ext. 7710, or send an e-mail to [fd@newsrecord.com](mailto:fd@newsrecord.com). Also, contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Radon Program at 1-800-648-6294 or visit [radon.nj.gov](http://radon.nj.gov).

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# W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content

Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# News-Record of Maplewood & South Orange

December 9, 2010  
October 21, 2010

# Christina Hernandez

## LIFESTYLE



Nicole Luciano and Joshua Katz

### Katz-Luciano

Linda and Jay Katz will celebrate the marriage of their son, Joshua, to Nicole Luciano. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Phil Luciano of Fort Lee and Louise Luciano of Ridgewood and Tenafly, N.J.

Katz graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering and technology. After graduation, he moved to Arizona where he founded his own business, Corona Boys Pool Services.

Luciano graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in small business management and communication. She is attending Health at 973-378-7715, ext. 7710, or send an e-mail to [fd@newsrecord.com](mailto:fd@newsrecord.com).

They couple will be September at the Intercontinental Montelucia Spa and Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz., and spent their honeymoon in Tahiti and Bora Bora.

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# OPINION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010

## Probably not a good time to ask for a raise

Now is not a good time to be doling out raises for anyone on the township payroll, unionized or not, and we question the wisdom of requesting one at a time like this.

As detailed in last week's *Bloomfield Life* article, "Non-unionized workers: 'What about us?'" township secretary Nicole Brennan recently went before the township council to endorse a four-percent raise for all non-unionized personnel, in step with their unionized counterparts.

Now excluding economic circumstances for a moment, it's true that the entire municipal workforce is more than likely underpaid. But these remain bleak times, and considering all the variables swirling about within Bloomfield Town Hall in addition to the economy — legal expenditures, union contracts, for example — we'd be shocked if the council were to say, "You want a raise? Sure! Here ya go!" in response.

More than that, if anyone is in line for a salary increase in the near future, it will be those who have it explicitly underlined in their respective collective bargaining agreements. Non-unionized personnel, quite frankly, are the low man on the totem pole.

They simply lack the same leverage or chips to extract what they would want from the administration. Is this unfair? Of course it is! The entire concept of certain workforce segments having union backing while others do not is inherently wrong and should have been outlawed decades ago; failure to do so has cost government on every level untold billions of dollars in excessive wages and benefits to undeserving recipients — many of whom undoubtedly do not reciprocate the hundreds of thousands they rake in every year through on-the-job performance.

So make no mistake, life is unfair, the disconnect in which some groups are compensated in relation to others is especially unjust, but we don't see any fundamental changes to that arrangement happening in this lifetime. So if we were the township council, while we would certainly lend an ear to the workers' concerns, our inclination would be to decline all requests for salary increases at this point in time.

And if we were among the workers in question, we'd give strong consideration to either forming or joining a union, which would certainly yield benefit

from a leverage standpoint. Because the fact of the matter is, there are many people unemployed who would be more than willing to take the non-unionized workers' positions at the same compensation level or even below what they are getting now. In other words, for anyone willing to raise a stink over their standing, the township could simply elect to replace those individuals with people who would be more than happy to have a job. It's the harsh truth. So a word of caution and carefully crafted language are a must before any dissatisfaction is vocalized.

We all wish the economy would rebound to the point where everybody gets raises, everyone has jobs, the birds are singing, the sun is shining and life is good again. (You certainly don't have to hand-deliver that message to anyone in the media industry.) Until that day comes, the township should be doing whatever it can to preserve as many resources as possible. That should include freezing all salaries and benefits unless bound by previous negotiation, and even those agreements should be reopened if they haven't been already. For those who would take issue with that strategy, as the ol' saying goes, misery loves company. Pull up a chair.

## 'Capone Does My Shirts' conjures life 'on the Rock'

Criminals fascinate us. We love television shows about murder and mayhem. We read books about serial killers and watch movies about thieves. Famous crime scenes become tourist attractions.

For years, I heard people talk about Alcatraz Island. I watched movies about the famous prison, like "The Rock" and "Escape from Alcatraz." I wanted to see the real thing.

On a recent trip to California, my husband and I rode the ferry from San Francisco to Alcatraz Island. We learned a lot from the guided audio tour.

The famous "Birdman" was a sociopath who owned no birds after his transfer to Alcatraz. Al Capone's mother set off the metal

**BROWSING AT THE BLOOMFIELD LIBRARY**  
Linda M. Esler  
Principal Librarian

This young adult novel is both funny and touching. Matthew "Moose" Flanagan is 12 years old when his family moves to Alcatraz. He is scared to live on an island with dangerous criminals like "Machine Gun" Kelly and "Smiling Bandit" Roy Gardner.

Moose's father took a job at Alcatraz so the family could save money. His mother rides the ferry into San Francisco to give piano lessons for the same reason. They need extra cash so their daughter, Natalie, can attend a special school.

Natalie is 15, but behaves like a much younger child. She throws uncontrollable tantrums and avoids direct eye contact. Although she is a mathematical

genius, her obsession with mumbos makes her coast buttons compulsively. Today, people would call Natalie's behavior autistic. In 1955, they just thought she was weird.

Although Moose loves his sister, he misses his old friends. Even when he finds a boy in his new school who loves baseball as much as he does, Moose can't play. He must return home on the ferry school to care for Natalie while their parents work.

Most of the other kids on Alcatraz Island are girls. Piper Williams, the Warden's daughter, is in his seventh grade class. Moose soon learns that she is trouble.

Piper is pretty, bossy and as devious as any criminal.

Although the rules forbid any contact between inmates and guards' families, she wants to meet Al Capone. Piper blackmails Moose into helping with her wild schemes.

When the family plan for Natalie hits a snag, only Moose has the courage to face facts. He figures out a way to get help from an unexpected source. In the process, he learns that Alcatraz has become his home.

To find out what happens next to Moose, Natalie and the rest, check out the sequel, "Al Capone Shines My Shoes."

If you have a taste for books about crime, criminals or California, you can indulge it, safely and comfortably, at the Bloomfield Public Library.

### FROM OUR READERS

#### No bailout for Foley Field

TO THE EDITOR: It is appalling to me that the board of education (BOE) is try-

ing to stick the taxpayers with a \$3 million bailout to rebuild Foley Field by holding a special election on March 9 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. It is my opinion that the BOE is using a special election with odd hours to ensure a low

turnout rate so the bond referendum passes more easily. A special election should occur when a political office has become vacant between regularly scheduled elections and not be filled. The BOE and the township

should do the right thing by including this referendum when the school budget is voted on in April. However, our tax and spend BOE and local government continues to try to shove Foley Field down our throats as the right thing to do.

The right thing to do is focus on spending taxpayers' money on educating our children to better prepare them for the many challenges that lie ahead of them, which includes getting into college. The passing of this \$3 million bailout will once again

ensure that our taxes will rise more than the increase we receive in our paychecks, and for what purpose? To encourage us to attend more sporting events? It must be nice for the BOE to lack the fiscal constraint that is needed in this very tough economic downturn — that is far from over — to further burden the taxpayers of Bloomfield, of whom many will see a drastic change in their tax bill with the recent reevaluation that was just completed.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 5

## BLOOMFIELD LIFE

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# W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content

## Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# Bloomfield Life

## February 4, 2010

## October 7, 2010

# Jonathan Sachs



# OPINION

SOUTH BERGENITE PAGE A6

## DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

### Never enough reminders

Every year during Fire Prevention Week, we are given reminders about measures we can take to improve the safety of our homes and families.

Fire departments sponsor awareness programs, conduct poster contests and otherwise work to spread the message of fire safety.

To those annual reminders, we'd like to add the following tips on home electric and gas safety issued by Public Service Electric and Gas Co.

- Purchase smoke alarms and install manufacturers' instructions for installing, testing and maintaining.
- Guard against carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning by making sure all fuel-burning appliances operate properly. These appliances include gas and oil furnaces, water heaters, gas ranges, space heaters and gas clothes dryers. Keep vents and chimneys clear of debris and use charcoal grills outdoors only.
- Invest in carbon monoxide monitors. Look for Underwriters Laboratories (UL) certification on any monitor you purchase, and carefully follow manufacturer instructions.
- Get out of your home immediately if a CO monitor goes off. Leave doors and windows open and make sure everyone is out. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency squad and your gas utility.



"I USED TO PRAY FOR HOPE AND CHANGE... NOW, I JUST HOPE SOMEBODY WILL GIVE ME SOME CHANGE."

### Marriage can be a major name-changer

There was a time when there were no options when individuals looked their wives, legally "better." Brides assumed their husband's name. No one had hypothetical names.

Unions were limited to man-woman marriages. That all changed when the With more females choosing to continue their careers after marrying, it has become advantageous for a lot of women to retain their identity—being known by their own last name—the surname shows on their birth certificate.

"Making a name for yourself" involved keeping that name once a girl established herself in her career. A lawyer developed that supported her name. It was not a name rather than trading in her name and adopting one that recognized her as an entrepreneur, or a name of her marriage state. That worked for a long time.

Hypnotized names, once considered a mark to acknowledge the equality of last name identity, became much more complicated when a newer generation arrived and became more with hypnagogic in their last names married and produced children who then shared other hypotheses. Four names looked together can be tricky.

More recently, we have same-sex unions grappling with this issue.



Belene Me  
hans Rabinowitz

### Mayor talks taxes

**TO THE EDITOR:**  
Let's talk taxes. Everywhere I go around North Bergen, the big issue is property taxes and if good reasons, those controlling the purse strings now just don't get it. Taxes are increasing at record previous rates. More than Rutherford. More than East Rutherford. More than Carlstadt, Lyndhurst or Wood-Ridge.

As mayor and lifelong resident, I'm concerned by the lack of cooperation I've received since Republicans took the majority last January. Instead of sitting down with me and trying to iron out a responsible budget, they decided to apply for transitional aid with the state of New Jersey in a program that is not aiding distressed communities that cannot make their own budget challenges. They wanted thousands of dollars in investigations and duplicate reports without providing a penny in pay for my folks. They are hell bent in ram pushing a redevelopment plan that will not work and in the end really support residential housing versus a reality: our citizens who own the NJMC or other special interests paid the strings. In effect, the Republican cannot manage the borough's finances.

I'm proud to say that during the time my party enjoyed the majority, we held the line on taxes at just two percent over the previous 24 months, the lowest of any community in Bergen County. Under my leadership we paid down our debt and our tax rate was 21st out of the 70 municipalities here in Bergen County. In fact, the average property tax bill on my street is 18 percent lower than the average Bergen County home.

I kept my promise to keep North Bergen small, safe and suburban. In just February of last year, North Arlington was named as one of the top 10 percent of all places in the state by "New Jersey Monthly" magazine. I couldn't be more proud of what we've done and there's still plenty to do.

Unfortunately, my opponent is in this race for mayor, a record, so. A record of supporting Enbridge and other fossil fuel interests and low income housing. He and those involved for a former councilman who raised taxes 121 percent in three years. Let me repeat that,

### Respect the security guards

**TO THE EDITOR:**  
Let's talk taxes. As a start to the resident of Lyndhurst, I have become a regular visitor to the park. It is within close proximity to my building and an easy reach for allowing for the fact that I am in a modest wheel-chair. I see a well-kept security guard in the park and find them very friendly and efficient in keeping our park clean and safe for all. You have many people and children utilizing our park from surrounding communities and they are all welcome. If I have one issue with the park, it is the way that some people act towards the security guards when requested to abide by park rules. I have witnessed several rude responses from folks when simply requested to abide by the rules as posted on signs at the park to the security force. As a resident I can say that the park is in good condition, that the parks department keeps the grounds well groomed, the fountain is in good condition, the landscaping, I have seen working people on the site there, and in general the park is something we can all be proud of. Under the direction of Tom Danagha, the security crew does a great job. Please, if you use the park, no holidays, no affect being their job to keep our park a safe, clean place we can all enjoy.

Brad Silver  
Lyndhurst

### On the Rutherford budget

**TO THE EDITOR:**  
Anyone reading these pages can't help but notice that the tally since has been. However, as the election nears up and intelligent debate disappears, I am obligated to state a few facts regarding the Rutherford budget for this year and next. There are those that think we should be increased (Dr. Grossman), but I am a realist, and as a business- I understand the no-win atmosphere presented by past mistakes I've made and increased spending and the current economic situation that Washington and Trenton have based on the local. There will be more to do, but I thank you and those involved for their diligence.

John Bado  
Rutherford

# W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content

## Second Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# South Bergenite

## October 7, 2010

## April 8, 2010

# Jaimie Winters

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NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

SEE LETTERS, PAGE A7

OPINION

Keeping spirits up

In recent months, students and staff at Ridgewood High School (RHS) have been faced with a series of tragedies. School administrators called in a crisis team after the most recent suicide of Tyler Clemente to help students deal with the emotional aftermath, the international publicity, and the ensuing controversies over bullying and Internet abuse.

RHS students have cried together, spoken out at public assemblies, and joined marches and vigils. In a particularly poignant moment, a group of girls in one RHS classroom poured out their hearts to a teacher about the pain and confusion they were feeling. The teacher, wisely, skipped her literature lesson and let the girls vent their emotions instead.

Faced with an undercurrent of anger and sadness, RHS administrators knew they had to do something to lift spirits. They worked with student leaders to rev up Spirit Week, with a special focus that would involve all students and faculty, not just football players and cheerleaders.

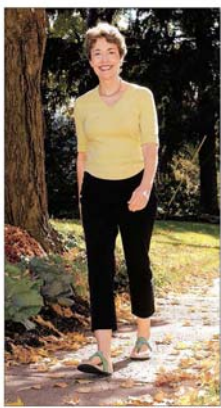
One day, students and staff wore pink for breast cancer awareness. Another day they donned "vintage" attire - which inspired

some faculty members to dig through their closets for authentic outfits. Ridgewood gear was donned on another day to celebrate the school's color and team nickname - although we're still wondering what a "Maroon" actually is! And the week ended with a school-wide pep rally, where each grade level wore a different color and participated in silly antics.

The upbeat mood was largely infectious, in no small part to the faculty and staff's participation. At a recent Home-School Association meeting, Principal Jack Lorenz spoke about the difficulties faced in the past few weeks, and emphasized that Spirit Week was an important way to have the school community rally together around something fun and positive.

No doubt there are some teens who rolled their eyes and poked fun at the concept of "school spirit." But hopefully some of the Spirit Week happiness rubbed off on even the most cynical among them. And hopefully it took attention away from the distressing mood of the previous weeks.

More importantly, we hope the positive vibes will continue not just for one week, but for the rest of the school year.



Jane Reilly, a 25-year village resident, says sidewalks help "kiss houses into neighborhoods."

Jane Reilly: Feeling connected

VILLAGE VOICES

Joyce Venezia Stuss

Occupation and volunteer possibilities: Manager, New York Financial Writers Association; Executive Director, Overlook Press Club Foundation; former mayor, Village of Ridgewood (2008-2009).

How long I have lived in Ridgewood: 23 years.

My favorite place to relax in Ridgewood: Leave the car in the driveway, walk into town for dinner and a movie.

The best-kept secret in the village: The path that runs along the Ho-Koo Brook from Spring Avenue to Grove Street.

The best thing about Ridgewood: The sidewalks. As I have often said, they knit houses into neighborhoods and neighborhoods into a community. They're a big reason why people in Ridgewood feel so connected.

One thing I would like to change in the village: Move it closer to New York City.

The best part of my job: Working with young people and helping launch careers in journalism.

I am most proud of: My family.

Something that I use every day about me: A partner and I started an award-winning weekly newspaper in the 1970s in North County, N.J., that is still publishing today.

The quality I like best about myself: Enthusiasm.

The quality I like least about myself: Impatience.

My motto: Positive energy is a force multiplier.

I admire: Resilience.

One skill every person should have: The ability to laugh at

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

**BULLYING** "Unfortunately, they're the perfect victims. They may not realize children are not laughing with them, but at them. Bullies are very good at feeling out who's more vulnerable to bullying (see story, page A5).

**SCHOOL VIOLENCE** "It's been difficult to get these numbers to zero, but we have been trying." Basil Pizzuto, assistant principal at Ridgewood High School, who released an annual report on violence and vandalism in the schools (see story, page A5).

**RHS SPIRIT WEEK** "We were looking for a bunch of athletic teenagers, we did a pretty good job of getting into it." Sophia Rosenthal, a senior at Ridgewood High School and High School beat columnist (see story, page A5).

**RIDGEWOOD CARES** "We didn't want to only open people's eyes to issues like human trafficking, maternal mortality, and poverty; we wanted to give them tools, locally and globally, to become a part of the solution." Dr. Joanne Marron of Best Hope Health Center, who released an annual report on violence and vandalism in the schools (see story, page A5).

**SATIRE IN THE WOOD** "Whether it's witches in Delaware or warring in Connecticut, we are living in the middle of an ongoing political freak show." Ridgewood native Willie Geist, discussing his new book (see story, page D3).

**Want to write a Letter to the Editor?** Letters may be edited and may be published, reprinted or distributed in print, electronic or other forms. The views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the Ridgewood News or its affiliates. Submissions must include a telephone number for verification and for solicitation. Letters that cannot be verified or are anonymous will not be published. Letters are not necessarily published.

**Please send letters to the editor via email (preferred method) to ridgewoodnews@njpa.com, by fax to (201) 612-5400 or by mail to the Editor, The Ridgewood News, 41 Oak St., Ridgewood, NJ 07070.**

**The deadline for letters is Wednesday at noon for Friday's paper.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bridging the generational gap for veterans

To the editor: I was deeply disappointed in the heading and the tone of the article, "Not your granddad's vets group" (The Ridgewood News, Oct. 15) by Kelly Ebbink.

Moreover, the article like a quote unquote contemporary in implying that our established veterans organizations are not for the younger generation. While some of the younger veterans opt not to join our organizations for various reasons, I know that when the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) are committed to helping all those who serve in our volunteer armed forces.

Also, we Vietnam veterans are a primary force in many of our VFW posts for helping this younger generation of veterans and their families in the continual expression of public gratitude that was never given to us when we came home in the 1960s and early '70s. We Vietnam vets know what it was like to be mistreated and mischaracterized in the media and in public and have vowed not to let that happen to

this younger generation of veterans in our armed forces - and we are making great progress in that regard.

There are many opportunities available for young vets through the VFW's service officers and many post members - they just need to let us know what they want and need. We are here to give them whatever we can in the best of our ability. Are the establishments like the VFW perfect? Absolutely not. We do have a long way to go.

As to those chapters of all ages who say they are "not joiners" of our established organizations like the VFW, and more specifically to the young veterans who want change in our organizations before they join, I would like to say, "Join us and help us make change from the inside!"

Stanley A. Kober Post Commander, Washington City VFW Post #16 Ridgewood (in Post)

Charter schools are needed

To the editor: The recent letter ("Charter schools not needed in the area,"

The Ridgewood News, Oct. 14) from Mr. Antonio, board member of Paramus schools, granted over the recent rejection of charter school applications by the state Education Department. His premise was that charter schools represented an unacceptable diversion of taxpayers' revenue from his school. Unacceptable, in his view, because the public schools in Ridgewood and Paramus are fine as is and should not be disturbed with challenges from charter schools.

On the contrary, charter schools are necessary to Ridgewood. Paramus, Glen Rock and Fair Lawn for a host of reasons. A vigorous charter school movement in these towns will provide parents with a real choice in their children's education. Charter schools have proven to be effective and efficient with taxpayer funds. Their presence would provide a visible and explicit pressure on the entrenched school district establishments to halt the gray train of annual tax increases for hoarded budgets. Charter schools would also encourage innovation in delivery of education. Above all, charter school movement would encourage the

best thing about Ridgewood: The sidewalks. As I have often said, they knit houses into neighborhoods and neighborhoods into a community. They're a big reason why people in Ridgewood feel so connected.

One thing I would like to change in the village: Move it closer to New York City.

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I admire: Resilience.

One skill every person should have: The ability to laugh at

See LETTERS, page A9

WHERE IN THE VILLAGE



CHRIS PETERS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Have you seen this fence in the village? If you think you know the answer, e-mail us at ridgewoodnews@njpa.com. Check back next week to see if you were correct.

Last week's answer: The weather vane is on top of a Tutor-Sale Building on the corner of Franklin and Oak streets.

Let the village hear your voice

Do you know someone who would be an interesting subject for Village Voices? Is there an amusing story in the village you would like to know more about? Send your recommendations to: quality@ridgewoodnews.com or call 201-612-5403.

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First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

October 22, 2010  
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Edward Virgin

# OPINION

THURSDAY, February 18, 2010

## EDITORIAL

### Losing more than just a local Woman's Club

It's sad to learn of the dire straits that the members of the Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River find themselves in, as decreased membership rolls are threatening the organization's existence.

A local institution for over 55 years, the group has become one of the leading community service groups in the borough, providing support to numerous civic and scholastic organizations in the area.

But now, in a borough of over 8,000 residents – and membership that stretches to include residents of other Bergen County communities – the club is down to roughly 30 members, only 10 of whom are truly active, Co-President Barbara Buehler told Town Journal. Unless more members are attracted, the possibility of shuffling the remnants of the Woman's Club to another borough will be considered.

It would be unfair to lay the blame solely at the feet of the current membership, even if it wasn't apparent that they're trying diligently to attract new blood.

To be sure, there are more women in the workforce today than there were in 1954, and more local organizations have sprouted up over the past half century, cutting into the Woman's Club's market share of residents looking to have casual involvement with their local community.

And it's difficult for the club to shake the image that it's just a collection of aging seniors, even if the group counts women in their 40s as part of its membership.

"If you saw our group," Buehler said, "you wouldn't say that we're a bunch of old ladies."

But more than the merits of its contributions to the local society, the deterioration of the Woman's Club speaks to the end of an era, a time when local residents were perhaps more inclined to come together. An organization can be replaced, but its legacy and spirit cannot.

We hope to find the Woman's Club back on its feet soon enough. Especially in hard times, such an organization serves a valued purpose, and should it fall apart, a piece of Upper Saddle River's history will be lost as well.

*Meetings for the Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River are held on the first Tuesday of the month, September through June at 7:30 p.m. at the Upper Saddle River Public Library. Residents who are interested in joining can contact Barbara Buehler at 201-425-0207.*

### The electronic brain drain

BY MARC WEINREICH  
FOR TOWN JOURNAL

"Honey, would you e-mail the kids and tell them to come down for dinner?"

Outlandish as this may sound now, I wouldn't put this scenario past today's generation of kids when they become parents.

A recent study by the Kaiser Foundation found that kids from ages 8 to 18 spend nearly eight hours per day online. In addition to surfing the Web, the study defines "online" as any one of the following: watching television, listening to music, playing video games, and texting. In a nutshell, an 8-year-old is more likely to build a Web site than a sand castle.

Today's idea of childhood is a far cry from mine. And I'm only 27! Am I that old? Or could it be that all of the wires and wireless devices supposedly connecting us often leave us feeling disconnected? Probably a little bit of both – I just found a gray hair the other day.

It's got to stop. The wired generation of today's youth has so short-circuited at some point. A screen should not consume a child for eight hours every day.

Kids are developing relationships with screens at a much earlier age. I can play devil's advocate for just about any situation, but I can't seem to argue that it's healthy for kids to be spending eight hours a day in front of a screen.

Nearly eight hours per day online equates to over 50 hours

per week, or enough time to be considered a full-time job in the "adult" world. What would happen if adults spent eight hours a day online without the responsibility of being productive? Our brains would turn to apoplexy. This is the reality for much of today's youth, and it's curious how functional they will be in 20 years if they are currently free to stare at screens for a third of every day.

Sure, kids probably spend some of this time researching information of substance. And a limited exposure to television and the Internet is, in my opinion, healthy and crucial for a child's development.

Just recently, a 7-year-old British boy set out to raise money for Haiti. What started out as a fundraiser that produced merely a few dollars became more lucrative than he or anyone expected: within three weeks, he had raised nearly \$200,000.

In this case, it's clear that the child spent some of those eight hours per day online in front of the television exposed to the devastation, to the point that he felt compelled to do something about it. So we have a happy story to demonstrate the importance of sitting our kids in front of the television with the hopes of turning them into little Mother Teresas. See, I told you I was good at playing devil's advocate.

But let's not kid ourselves. I can safely bet that the average Web-surfing, 11-year-old is

focusing on far less important events than the latest gossip out of Haiti.

It pains me to say this, but intimacy on all levels is becoming threatened by what's on a screen.

There have been countless times when I'm hanging out with friends or family, and every person in the room is glued to their laptop. Spoken dialogue in these instances is merely a series of delayed exchanges between zombies. At this very moment, this a reality for a family at some dinner table, students in some dorm room, children in some living room, and couples on some couch.

But as an adult, there is something you can do. If you remain glued to the BlackBerry at the dinner table, chances are your children will think this is acceptable and will mirror your behavior in some form or another. So if not for yourself, then for the sake of a generation already born from the womb with a BlackBerry in hand, set aside time without the distraction of a screen. Every moment away from it keeps childhood from being endangered.

And if you want to find out more about the increasingly invasive role that screens are playing in our youth, there is plenty of literature that be found through a simple Google search. Just don't spend eight hours reading about it.

*E-mail: devieiv@northjersey.com*



# W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content

## First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# Town Journal

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NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

**W24: Packaging the  
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Photos by SUZANNE GOSS, the Guest for Last Saturday's Festival of the Sea offered something for everyone, with a wide array of food and activities. Knox's Fish Market, Waterside Café & Grill Room, of Belmar, were represented at the Seafood Fest, with employees Cain (top left) serving up steamed crab to hungry patrons. Point Pleasant Beach High School student Juliana Ravallo (center, left), 17, helped Manchester resident Green Cook, 4, just one her festival face, while Spring Lake Heights resident Laura Lucchietto (right), with brother's Sand Bar Restaurant, scooped up some shrimp. Point Pleasant Beach's own Michael D'Angelo (below, left) piled up ribbons of homemade potato chips, just one of hundreds of snack options available to the crowds that thronged Bay and Arnold avenues (below, center), in Point Pleasant Beach, for the festival. Dean Guida and his daughter, Jennifer, 12, of Manasquan, "capped" off the day with some creative crustacean head gear.

# Seafood Fest leaves guests happy as clams

## Point Pleasant Beach Chamber of Commerce's 33rd Annual Festival of the Sea celebrates the end of summer at the Jersey Shore with food, fun, friends & family

By Molly Mulshine

Last Saturday's 33rd annual Festival of the Sea — or Seafest, as it is known to locals — was held to send in a reminder that those who live at the Jersey Shore do not have to travel far to find homegrown food, wine, beer and entertainment.

With plentiful oysters, clams, lobsters and land-labrador grub, it's easy to see where the Seafest Fest — sponsored annually by the Point Pleasant Beach Chamber of Commerce — gets its nickname.

"I love the seafood," said Ashley Nelsom, of Brick Township. "I had a crab cake sandwich. It was delicious and seasonal wine enthusiasts could fill a kegsale glass with unlimited samples from each of the seven wineries present.

Prior to visiting this part of the festival, many were unaware that wine grapes could be grown in New Jersey, said Olie Tsouvalis, Paigido's Winery, of Hammonton.

These are actually more than 14 wineries operating in New Jersey, Mr. Tsouvalis

Mr. Cooper and his co-workers did not anticipate the popularity of their stand's raw bar this year, and had to send in requests for more.

"We have more coming over from the restaurant. We would have had more out here if we knew," Mr. Cooper said, with a laugh.

All of that seafood can make guests thirsty, and festival attendees who felt they needed to wet their whistles did not have to look far for a drink.

For the second year in a row, the Festival of the Sea included a wine garden that featured New Jersey wineries. For BIK, holding umbrellas, and seasonal wine enthusiasts could fill a kegsale glass with unlimited samples from each of the seven wineries present.

Prior to visiting this part of the festival, many were unaware that wine grapes could be grown in New Jersey, said Olie Tsouvalis, Paigido's Winery, of Hammonton.

These are actually more than 14 wineries operating in New Jersey, Mr. Tsouvalis



“ We can't imagine not coming here. It's the epitome of a wrap-up of summertime. — Alicia Livelli Point Pleasant resident

# W24: Packaging the News Product – Feature Section Layout & Content

Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Ocean Star

## Seafood Fest Leaves Guests Happy as Clams

### Molly Mulshine Suzanne Goss

By Molly Mulshine

Last Saturday's 33rd annual Festival of the Sea — or Seafest, as it is known to locals — was held to send in a reminder that those who live at the Jersey Shore do not have to travel far to find homegrown food, wine, beer and entertainment.

With plentiful oysters, clams, lobsters and land-labrador grub, it's easy to see where the Seafest Fest — sponsored annually by the Point Pleasant Beach Chamber of Commerce — gets its nickname.

"I love the seafood," said Ashley Nelsom, of Brick Township. "I had a crab cake sandwich. It was delicious and seasonal wine enthusiasts could fill a kegsale glass with unlimited samples from each of the seven wineries present.

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man-produced beer that lacked the high-quality ingredients which you might find in a beer like the classic American pilsner," Mr. Critico said.

"It's been great," Mr. Critico said, the whole theme of the festival is "showing the attendees and interacting with them," Mr. Critico said.

Some of the special attendees at the Elko lodge were Natalia Larson and Alicia Livelli, both of Point Pleasant.

"I've been coming here for years," Mr. Larson said, of the festival. "It's a good place for all of the locals to get together after the busy season of the summer. All of the berries are out of them, and it's just a great time."

"The Seafest Fest is a Point Pleasant tradition," said Mr. Livelli. "We can't imagine not coming here. It's the epitome of a wrap-up of the summertime — you can't do without it."

**GET YOUR FUN ON**  
Where to head for area  
Halloween activities  
B4

# NEIGHBORS

**NATURE NEXT DOOR**  
Fall and winter months offer  
new sights.  
B6

**SOUTH BERGENITE - SECTION B**

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

**LHS class of 1960  
celebrates 50 years**



The Lyndhurst High School (LHS) class of 1960 held its 50th reunion on Oct. 9. The day started off with over 70 classmates attending a two-hour guided tour of LHS by Superintendent of Schools Tracy Zietlow, and LHS Principal Dr. J. Gordon. The evening's affair at San Carlo's Restaurant was spectacular. Class President Joe Sterrizzo and his committee did an outstanding job of putting everything together, making it a memorable night for over 150 who attended.

**Gardner graduates from  
Army ROTC training**

Zachary D. Gardner has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) Leaders' Training Course at Fort Knox, KY. The four-week course is a leadership internship for cadets that can lead to the ultimate goal of becoming an Army officer. College students experience and examine the Army without incurring an obligation to serve in the Army or ROTC, and are eligible to receive two-year college scholarship offers and attend the Advanced ROTC Course at their colleges. Gardner is the son of Michael and Barbara Gardner of Rutherford.

**CHOICE EVENTS  
Psychic Development**



The Lyndhurst Public Library will be hosting a program on Psychic Development on Saturday, Oct. 23, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Get tips on how to harness intuitive abilities, to find and use your own particular psychic gift. The speaker, Pamela Hughes, is an intuitive, certified hypnotherapist and a college professor. She sees that all of us are psychic, and often we must merely re-learn what we have forgotten. There's no fee to practice in our daily lives. Space is limited. Please register by calling Library Director Donna Romeo at 201-934-2466 or by email at [romedoc@co.org](mailto:romedoc@co.org).

**Meet Romeo & Juliette**



Romeo and Juliette are male and female lovebirds. They are sweet pair and are beautiful and fun to watch. Lovebirds are an ideal pet for people on the go. Very little care is needed on a daily basis. A cockatiel, a pair of parakeets, a female quinea pig, cats and kittens are also available, along with all the supplies needed for their care, at the Humane Society of Bergen County, located at 221-223 Stayward Ave. in Larchburg. For more information, call 201-896-9300.

## A 17th century figure in today's world

### Local reminiscent of gentler times

**BY KELLY NICHOLAIDES**  
Staff Writer

It's known around town as the raving pirate. But Joe, or "Francis" as he prefers to be called, says people need to get their history correct. He dresses the part of a 17th Century gentleman. The 57-year-old East Rutherford resident is a 1972 graduate and costume dresser like it's Halloween every day.

"The reason I dress this way is due to my connection to the past. It's somewhat ghostly. I got into a spiritual compulsion and I needed to do this. It just makes sense to me," he says.

Last week, Francis was in high demand as he helped Fun-Ghoul customers get out of their comfort zones for Halloween 2010. "Picture yourself very pale and with red lips so you have a little color. You can add jewelry. After all, you're not trying to look like a normal person," Francis says. "This year, it's red hair for vampires... acid or blue black. And if you go by the folklore, Romanian vampires had red hair. This isn't about 'Twilight' vampires. This is more Gothic. Maybe people are longing for the old days of gothic."

Francis is right at home with his persona in a shop full of stock and hand-made costumes, and Francis has alterations made up here, with contrasting shades for eyes and lips. He will make customer in a vampire costume trying on a wig. "Forget the wig. You don't get gray hair. You're the undead."

Francis' ongoing uniform channels a 17th Century gentleman, with an edge. With his black floppy garb accented with ivory lace bandana, he could be a muse of fashion designer Jean Paul Gaultier. His hands are decorated with elaborate rings. His attire includes a vest, which is a must for a gentleman. The vest of a seaman, Francis is handy with a needle and thread, which helps when one wants to dress from another century. His clothing comes from thrift store finds and is tailored by him. "If you wear a jacket without a vest, you're not properly dressed," Francis says.

He says all of the look with a job shirt with ruffled sleeves. The focal point is a semantically rugged black jacket, which represents the message of fire and symbolism a connection to the American Indian fringe movement, he says. The only seemingly basic clothing item he wears is a pair of black dress pants. His to-come hat is worn with some

variation and decor. He admits himself with a light, yet pleasant musky scent of amber and rose oils. "These are my work clothes," Francis says. "My job is being me... the artist in the profession. I'm more connected to the past. I don't like this time period at all. The fashions today are functional, but have no beauty. I see shorts, sweats and baseball caps."

Partially self-taught, Francis often brags his facial hair and wears long, black hair extensions or wigs during winter months. But who exactly is the man who doesn't own a cell phone, computer or vehicle. Listen to Christoph Willibald Gluck and Johann Christian Bach (not Sebastian Bach, he notes), studies world religions, metaphysics and anthropology and dances to Mozart?

Francis declines to use his real name, to add to the mystery. "He doesn't need to," says his co-worker Jerry Shuman. "Madness and Cher don't."

Shuman calls Francis "a fantastic artist." Shuman has known him since he began working at Fun-Ghoul in 1998 when he brought a neighbor's son there for a pirate costume. Francis simply fit in perfectly. "It's privileged to work with him," says Shuman, the in-house make-up artist. "I think he comes in with something slightly different every day and it's surreal, looks so authentic. It definitely looks like he stepped out of a time machine."

Francis has worked in second-hand bookstores, as a painter and sculptor. He paints images of angels, demons, skeletons and 17th Century figures. Before Fun-Ghoul, Francis has also worked in obscure performance art and theater in New York City. Slowly, his look transformed when he started working at Fun-Ghoul.

"I was always interested in costumes. I was also in theater and art and went to Art Students League in Manhattan for a few years in the seventies," he says, lighting up a slim menthol cigar outside the shop during a break.

"I started out with black and acid dyes, and some white. It just felt right," Francis says of his garb.

Of Italian and Slavic origin, Francis is spiritual, but not religious. He once he was raised Roman Catholic, tried Hinduism, Sufism and currently studies Hinduism in a vegetarian art. "You probably don't age as dramatically as a vegetarian," he says. "My only views are caffeine and nicotine."



Francis is seen walking the streets of Rutherford dressed in his 17th century garb, not just during Halloween but every day. Francis does not own a cell phone or computer and does not drive.

As for the people who sometimes mistake him for a pirate, he admits the look can seem similar due to the to-come hat and beard, but he says he's no Captain Jack Sparrow. Children simply stop and ask him questions about his attire and background, and his cultural identity. They will probably get a history lesson to boot.

Francis' contact information: [nicolaides@northjersey.com](mailto:nicolaides@northjersey.com)

# W24: Packaging the News Product – Feature Section Layout & Content

Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

## South Bergenite

Neighbors – October 21, 2010

### Staff

# W24: Packaging the News Product – Feature Section Layout & Content

Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## The Ridgewood News

Our Voices – Oct. 15

Arts and Leisure – Dec. 3

**Gloria Geannette**  
**Joyce Venezia Suss**



Pascack Valley Community Life

## COMMUNITY LIVING

Including Arts & Leisure, Dining Out and All the Library  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2010 # 41

### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Profile on Lucille Bosco Page 42

FAMILY PLANNER

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DOG TRAINING

Non-profit reaches milestone Pages 48-49



## Beauty in the details

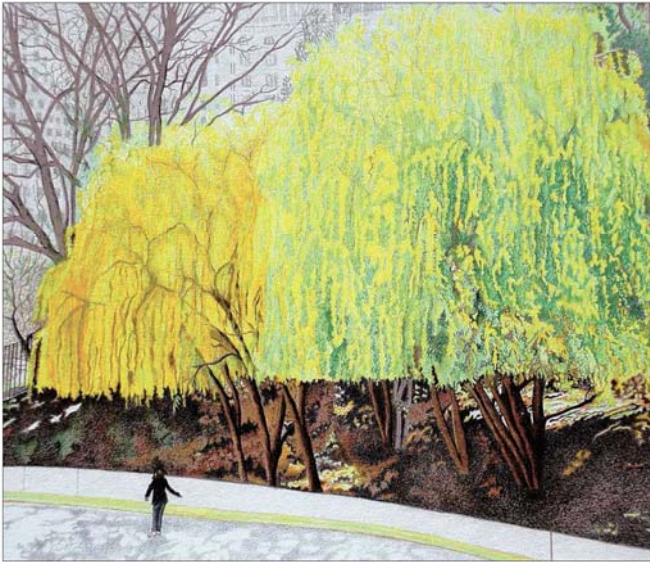


PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREA PLACER

### Local artist receives first place award

Woodcliff Lake artist Andrea Placer creates richly detailed drawings using graphite and colored pencils. This colored pencil piece, "At the Rink," depicts a lone skater circling Central Park's Wollman Rink. For Placer, the small details are the key to creating a work so evocative you feel as if you could almost step through the frame and live in its world for a while. For the full story on this award-winning artist, go to page 52.

# W24: Packaging the News Product – Feature Section Layout & Content

Second Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# Pascack Valley Community Life

Community Living  
Sections

Kevin Glynn



# Glen Rock Gazette™

JUNE 25, 2010



CHRIS PETERS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PHOTO/SHIAN REILLY

## Let's celebrate and have a ball

Last week, as has been the tradition since 1959, commencement ceremonies were held on the football field at Glen Rock High School, followed by a themed Grad Ball in the school's gymnasium. Above left: Class of 2010 member Jamie Marino is all smiles as she accepts her diploma. Above right: Andrew Burnet and Gregory Andrade enjoy V.I.P. treatment at the "after party" in the "House of Rock." Coverage begins on pages 2-3.

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# Glen Rock Gazette

## Graduation and Grad Ball

## Athletic Hall of Fame

# Cindy Probert Jane Friedman

## W24: Packaging the News Product – Feature Section Layout & Content

First Place, Weekly Under 6,500



From left, in front, Ethan Oguss, Brian Roth, John Knox, and Leon Schneider. In the background are, from left, Al Berutti, Bo Foley, and Woody Woods.

## Shipping out

BY TERRENCE T. McDONALD and ELIZABETH OGUSS  
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

2010 has seen three significant anniversaries: World War II ended 65 years ago. The Korean War began 60 years ago, and the last American troops left Vietnam 45 years ago.

The Montclair Times took the coincidence of the round numbers as a call to tell the stories of Montclair's veterans. Earlier this year we asked readers to share their stories with us. Some came to our office with photo albums, discharge papers, and other mementos. One veteran met us in the library of his retirement home.

Some who spoke to us grew up in town; others moved here years after their service. Still others are connected to Montclair by family or by membership in one of our veterans' organizations.

This week, our veterans talk about how they came to serve in the armed forces. In next week's issue, "Veterans' Voices" will tell stories of war and of peacetime service. On Oct. 28, our veterans talk about communicating between the home front and overseas. And on Nov. 11, they reflect on what their experiences have meant to them and how they view other conflicts.

We have largely let the veterans speak for themselves, and regret that we haven't enough space to tell their full stories. Regardless of politics or anyone's views on the merits of those conflicts, The Montclair Times thanks our town's veterans for their service.

### ARMY OFFICER

John Knox knew he'd be drafted, and looked forward to it. The call came in March 1943, and after basic and infantry training, Knox was sent to the Mojave Desert for further training, where he was promoted to first sergeant in the 59th Quartermaster Battalion, an all-black unit.

In the desert, Americans could not communicate with the Japanese. He thought that meant he'd be sent to the Pacific.

This past summer, Knox spoke to a group of Chinese teenagers at the American Legion Post, one of the steps on their tour of Montclair.

"The Army keeps people misinformed," he said smiling. "They want me to be a part of embarkation's children."

Knox knew he was going to Europe.

"In the Army, the best way to get along was to follow orders," he said to the students.

### LYONIAN AND OFFICER

When David Sivv graduated from Brooklyn College in May 1943, his deference in the Eastern Reserve Corps ended and he reported for anti-aircraft artillery training at Fort Detrick, Va.

"We had an interesting but vulgar name for it," he recalled in an interview at Green Hill. That summer, he recalled, "A large number of men were moved from the infantry to replace casualties. I was sent to a camp in Minnesota where there was further training in infantry."

Sivv was sent overseas in August 1944. With 8,000 other men, he boarded a Curtiss Light for the eight-day trip. He smiled as he recalled one "amusing aspect" of the trans-Atlantic voyage, saying, "I was in the habit of writing letters to my younger sister or parents. I had some news of Joseph Conrad had been one of his favorite novelists. Six

described him as a "lyrical writer about the sea."

The lyrics of Sivv's letters home was so unusual it puzzled the censor, who sent back one of his letters with the inquiry, "Is this a code?"

Upon arrival in Southampton, England, in mid-August 1944, Sivv's division, the 9th Infantry, was declared by President Truman for another tour.

Berutti chose to be discharged and then enlisted. After training as an auto mechanic, he was shipped overseas to Europe in 1945.

He vividly remembers the 21-day sea voyage to Inchon, Korea, aboard the S.S. Harvard Victory. Despite never having been on a ship before, he escaped the seasickness that felled many of the 500 soldiers aboard. After days of being sick, they were all starving.

"I passed through a hulkhouse with a crate of apples, and they jumped on me," he said, laughing. "I wasn't going to fight them."

**JUST LIKE DAD**  
Edward Foley knows his father's story, just as his father had. While there was no pressure from his parents, he was proud of his father's service in the Army Air Corps in World War II and wanted to "continue in that same tradition."

While a student at Lewis College in Baltimore, he enrolled in Army ROTC.

"During that era there were many who decided not to serve, and chose many paths," Foley said. "I was committed to serve. Infantry was not necessarily my first choice, but it was the primary need for the army at that time."

First Lieutenant Foley served during 1970-71 in the Mekong Delta region. He worked alongside Vietnamese infantry units and local militia forces in both combat operations and civil projects, such as building schools.

**NO DORING LIFE**  
The path that David Oguss was born when he was a child growing up near Idlewild Airport in New York. Everyone was named by the glaucous and danger of airplanes back then, said Oguss.

"I would be pushing up the daisies somewhere here and there."

Berutti was drafted in January 1946. He was 18. He and his father

**BETWEEN TWO WARS**  
Al Berutti's military career is one of contradiction. Officially a veteran of World War II, though he was drafted in early 1946, he served in Korea, but is not considered a Korean War veteran.

The only shooting he did was six weeks of summer Army training in Korea in 1946, where he was not allowed any ammunition.

Berutti was 17 when the atom bomb was dropped on Japan. He says today he was "truly pleased."

"I would be pushing up the daisies somewhere here and there."

Berutti was drafted in January 1946. He was 18. He and his father



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALFRED BERUTTI

Al Berutti stands on a hill in Korea. American troops there after the Second World War were not allowed to have ammunition, and Berutti still wore with his camera that rifle.



Official Navy photo from Louise Kim Oguss pins aviator wings on her son David in November 1968.

"before it was a pile of rubble," he said.

Robinson, 65, flew with the American Revolution in August 1943 to study electrical engineering, but he and college didn't get along. By the end of his first semester, he was discharged from the academy.

A young black man living in Brooklyn in the late 1960s, Woods had few other choices, he said.

"I joined because I had to — let me get it over with," he said.

Woods, 61, was classified 1Y by Selective Service because of his poor eyesight, which meant he was qualified to fight only in the case of a national emergency. By 1968, the Army needed bodies, so he was reclassified 1A and he was able to join.

"Basically, you were hoping to go to Germany," he said with a heavy laugh.

**FAMILY TRADITION**  
For Cheryl Turner, a 1974 graduate of Montclair High School, military service was a family thing. Her father and grandfather both born combat.

"You feel, coming at you, the

**NO DORING LIFE**  
The path that David Oguss was born when he was a child growing up near Idlewild Airport in New York. Everyone was named by the glaucous and danger of airplanes back then, said Oguss.

"I would be pushing up the daisies somewhere here and there."

Berutti was drafted in January 1946. He was 18. He and his father

# W24: Packaging the News Product – Feature Section Layout & Content

First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# The Montclair Times

Community Section,  
Oct. 7 and Nov. 18

Elizabeth Oguss  
Lillian M. Ortiz

**W25: Packaging the  
News Product –  
Sports Section  
Layout & Content**



VERONA SENIOR JULIA TEMPLE (17) POSES UP FOR THE BLOCK DURING THE HILLBILIES' MATCH AT MOUNT ST. DOMINIC TUESDAY.

**VERONA VOLLEYBALL**  
**Amazing comeback falls short at MSD**

**BY KEVIN MEACHAM**  
Sports Editor

It's amazing what a little talk can do.

When the Verona volleyball team fell behind to Mount St. Dominic, 17-4 in a game two Tuesday - already down one game to none - Hillbillies coach Christine Spicely inspired her players to start staying something. Anything. "It sounded like a wake-up call," Spicely said. "Once they started talking, once the block started to pick them up, it made all the difference."

A little chatter, a little energy from the bench and some impressive playmaking carried the Hillbillies all the way back to the tie game of a 19-5 run. And though their amazing comeback fell short and MSD took the teams' Essex County Tournament title, the Hillbillies' comeback was a wake-up call.

**FOOTBALL**  
**Neale, Hillbillies run wild in rout of MKA**

**BY KEVIN MEACHAM**  
Sports Editor

For the first three weeks of the season, the Verona offense appeared to rely heavily on the passing game, as the combination of quarterback Matt Rosenfeld and a talented corps of receivers gifted together nicely.

But week four's Cooper Neck made sure no one forgot about run or the Hillbillies' running attack. The senior halfback ran for 108 yards and a touchdown, and Verona ran for over 200 as a team, and the Hillbillies blasted previously unbeaten Manchester Kennebunk, 40-6, Friday night at Centennial Field.

"They blocked real well," Neale said. "We find a couple things that hadn't been working the last couple weeks. Hopefully we can just keep that up over the next couple weeks."

"Cooper ran really hard today," said Verona coach Lou Baccoppe. "He put his shoulder down a few times, hit the hole really hard and had a very good game for us."

The offense, led by Neale and Rosenfeld - who had his fourth consecutive efficient outing under



CEDAR GROVE LINEMEN MIKE NIGRO (65) AND MIKE BOOTH WRAP UP CALDWELL'S DAMEN SORLETTE DURING THE PANTHERS' 34-0 LOSS TO THE CHIEFS SATURDAY IN WEST CALDWELL.



**On the board**  
Brian Hill leads Verona girls soccer to first win of the season  
PAGE C-2

**SOCCER**  
**Panthers spoil Steppy's night**

**Cedar Grove boys avenge ECT defeat**

**BY KEVIN MEACHAM**  
Sports Editor



CEDAR GROVE SENIOR GOALKEEPER MIKE VEGA CRADLES THE BALL AFTER MAKING A SAVE ON A SHOT FROM DWIGHT TUCCI (6) DURING THE PANTHERS' 2-0 WIN AT VERONA TUESDAY.

If the Cedar Grove boys soccer team lost confidence when they were defeated by Verona in Friday's Essex County Tournament match, it didn't show four days later.

Jim Luke and Jake Penazzone each scored in his the Panthers to a 2-0 victory over Verona Tuesday night at Centennial Field. Cedar Grove avenged the Hillbillies' 3-0 win Friday and evened the season record 1-1.

"The Panthers' win also spoiled George 'Steppy' Stebbins' night, as Verona honored its former boys soccer coach of 33 years prior to the game."

The former coach and nearly 30 former players sat in the Centennial Field stands watching as the Hillbillies dominated possession for much of the game, but came away with nothing, showing on the scoreboard.

"It just wasn't in the cards tonight," said Verona coach Wayne Lawson. "We couldn't get the ball in the net."

Cedar Grove goalkeeper Mike Vega was superb, stopping all eight shots on target for his sixth, of which came in the first half.

Verona (2-1, 1-1 ECCT Independent) had control of the game for most of the first half, but could not figure out a way to get the ball past Vega.

The Panthers (3-1, 2-3-1) countered by throwing their three forwards at the Verona defense, hoping for a quick strike. They

reverted out towards the end of the first half, and Cedar Grove began to threaten the Hillbillies goal by coolly finishing the PR with a low line drive into the right corner, giving the Panthers a 1-0 lead with 7:0 left in the first half.

"That was huge," Vega said. "After that point we realized we could do this."

Verona never equalized within the next few minutes, however Chris Lutz had a shot deflected by Vega's gloves, bounce off the crossbar and back out to the five-minute mark, and a second opportunity was curtailed by a diving Vega save.

Somewhat, Cedar Grove's lead held going into the break.

In a choppy second half, Cedar Grove could afford to sit back and force the ball away from goal as they began to run out on the Hillbillies.

"We were winning balls in the air, keeping it in front of them," Vega said. "They did a great job, I didn't have to do that much in the second half."

Fifteen minutes into the period, the Panthers doubled their lead when Craig Bitten scored in a perfect corner kick, and senior forward Jake Penazzone flicked the ball from the rear post across the face of goal and in the back of the net. It was Penazzone's first goal of the season.

"That second goal was going to seal the deal for us."

**VOLLEYBALL**  
**Panthers overcome St. Vincent for big win**

**BY KEVIN MEACHAM**  
Sports Editor

The Cedar Grove volleyball team had every reason to be dejected and discouraged during the third set of their match with St. Vincent's Academy on Friday.

But I think the girls came back strongly from that.

It was an important win for the Panthers (0-4, 2-1), who took control of several points in the ECCT Independent standings. Cedar Grove is now alone in that spot, one game back of unbeaten Newark Academy.

Cedar Grove trailed St. Vincent (7-4, 6-2) pulled within two points in several different occasions, but the team from the Newark school seemed to tighten up in crucial moments. St. Vincent missed four of its final five serves, handing the Panthers four crucial points down the stretch.

After taking a 19-17 lead, Melissa Carulla served the Panthers into a winning position with four straight points, including two unreturned serves, and Erin Tucci closed things out with an ace of her own.

"We played really well tonight," said sophomore Erica O'Hara. "It's a pretty big win for us. This definitely puts us back on our feet. We needed a strong win, and now I feel like this could be a turning point after those two losses (in our last week)."

**FOOTBALL**  
**Caldwell too much for Cedar Grove**

**BY KEVIN MEACHAM**  
Sports Editor

Or I have to figure out whether they thought we were going to lose, and why."

The Panthers' offense put out just 96 total yards and was shut out for the second time in four straight games.

The Chiefs (4-0) took control in the second quarter, scoring three times in the second quarter, taking a 26-0 halftime lead. Caldwell senior quarterback Christopher Lawshe threw for 130 yards and two touchdowns, and ran for a third just before halftime.

"It's very tough to compete with guys who have been out there for four years, when you have to face them in their upcoming schedule, with 2-3 Wausauque and 4-0 Orange coming to town the next two weeks."

Either way, the Panthers are at a crossroads. Cedar Grove struggled on Saturday, falling to Caldwell 34-0 at Bennett Field in West Caldwell to drop their fourth straight game.

"We have to stop the bleeding," Caldwell coach Alex DeLuca said. "When we get back home, I have to talk about the kids who thought they thought we could win this game, and why we didn't."

**W25: Packaging the News Product – Sports Section Layout & Content**

**Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500**

**Verona-Cedar Grove Times**

**October 7, 2010**  
**October 28, 2010**

**Kevin Meacham**

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2010



## A tale of two games: Raiders take on A.C.

Ocean City leads 6-0 after 3 quarters, but Vikings explode in the fourth

By KRISTEN KELLEHER and DAVID NAHAN  
Ocean City Sentinel

OCEAN CITY - There were two different games Friday night at Carey Stadium. One featured three quarters of near scoreless football as the Raiders fought their way to a narrow 6-0 lead over the visiting Atlantic City Vikings.

Then came the second game - all in the fourth quarter. The Vikings opened up their big star when he scored 27 points on the field in the first game.

David Nahan/Ocean City Sentinel  
Ocean City linebacker Bobby DeLore (No. 53), a 6'1", 210-pound junior, stops Viking Defensive Half in the backfield as Raider sophomore Jacob Johnson comes in to finish him off in Friday night's game at Carey Stadium.

across the goal line. It was a back-and-forth game.

The Raiders couldn't get much going on their first offensive series and passed away to the Vikings. Atlantic City *"I think we held it together well. In the fourth quarter, however, we put our heads down ... and they just ran through."*

-Raiders Matt Franklin, who scored O.C.'s touchdown

When the Raiders took over on his own 43, they picked up a few yards on the ground, but when they went to the air, Viking Matt Williams intercepted on their own 48 and with a few teammates blocking ahead of him, returned

after snatching the ball and picked up a first down, but on a third and three, Bobby DeLore and Matt Tompkins sacked quarterback Jamal Anderson to force a punt.

When the Raiders took over on his own 43, they picked up a few yards on the ground, but when they went to the air, Viking Matt Williams intercepted on their own 48 and with a few teammates blocking ahead of him, returned

Please see Football, page B2

## Another week, another XC title

Raiders take SJ Shootout by winning all divisions

By DAVID NAHAN  
Ocean City Sentinel

For the second week in a row, the Ocean City boys cross country team won a team title in an invitational race and top runner Miles Schneider set another course record.

The weekend before, the Raiders won the team title at the "Cherry" Challenge, where Schneider set the course record. This past Saturday, Schneider set a course record at the South Jersey Shootout, a race that divided up runners by the places on their teams.

"It's a different format for us," said Ocean City

Please see SJ, page B2



## Lady Raider soccer works to keep up intensity all game

By DAVID NAHAN  
Ocean City Sentinel

OCEAN CITY - The Lady Raiders lost to the Abegam girls soccer team at home Monday. The Lady Raiders scored once in the first half and once in the second for the 2-0 win.

The Ocean City girls were looking a bit intimidated and coach Bill Pesta attributed that to a mix of youth, inexperience and a different approach.

"We've been trying a new system that calls for more possession. I think a little too much today," Pesta said. "We are young at some spots, searching for a game leader to fill shoes of (C.A.R.Y.) DIG (L.A. and L.A. Kerr) before her."

"We are a little Taylor Gibson at working her way back to game shape after suffering a minor season offensive

the injury at the end of camp; she's our main offensive threat."

The coach said despite the 2-0 loss, most the problem is offense, rather than defense.

"Our attack comes from our pressure and dictating our style and pace, which we have been unable to do for a complete game."

-Coach Bill Pesta

Please see Lady Raider Soccer, page B4

## Raider boys soccer plays tough against St. A's in 2-0 loss

By KRISTEN KELLEHER  
Ocean City Sentinel

OCEAN CITY - The Ocean City, St. Augustine rivalry was in full force on Sept. 14, when the still-rebuilding Raiders held off the defending Cape Atlantic American Conference champions for an hour of scoreless soccer.

Traditionally two of the strongest teams in the Cape Atlantic League, St. Augustine took the Cape Atlantic title in 2009 after Ocean City had beaten her for years. After the 2008 season, the Raiders graduated the starting lineup that made it to the Group III state championship game.

Ocean City is coming off of a 3-9-1 season in 2009 and its second year with head coach Aaron Bagnaschky. With the Raiders still working to

regain their reputation, holding off the Hornets for just over 60 minutes before losing 2-0 gives the Ocean City team some hope.

"The Raider's hearts out," said Bagnaschky. "I don't think anyone can come in here and push us around."

Not without a fight, anyway. Ocean City kept possession of the ball for the majority of the first half, executing a series of clever passes to accommodate the windy conditions at the Tennessee

Please see Boys, page B4



David Nahan/Ocean City Sentinel  
Ocean City's Andrew Knall goes after the ball as St. Augustine's Connor Huff goes horizontal to keep a way from him.

# W25: Packaging the News Product – Sports Section Layout & Content

Third Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# Ocean City Sentinel

September 23, 2010

October 7, 2010

David Nahan  
Kristen Kelleher

# W25: Packaging the News Product – Sports Section Layout & Content

Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

## Glen Rock Gazette

October 8, 2010

November 9, 2010

Cindy Probert  
Jane Friedman

GLEN ROCK GAZETTE

### SPORTS

OCTOBER 8, 2010



PHOTO/T.C. GERT

Senior Sam Davitt (11) defends against a Rutherford striker looking to score.

#### BOYS SOCCER

### Panthers show strong defense in 5-1 start

BY JIM JONES  
For the Glen Rock Gazette

Entering the week with a 5-1 record, Glen Rock High School boys soccer coach Paul Cusack feels the depth of his team will be important as the season progresses.

"We have a deep bench, and there is no drop-off when we substitute," he said. "We keep fresh legs on the field. The majority of our goals have come in the second half."

The Panthers won three straight after losing to Pasack Hills, 2-1, in the third game of the season. Heading into this week's play, the most recent outing was on Sept. 29, a 3-1 win at Eastern Christian. Seniors Maxx Warzburger and Ralph Jerome and junior Mike Dwyer tallied the goals. That game came after an eight-day layoff due to rain-outs.

"We have a strong offense, with six different players solid scoring threats," Cusack said. The Panthers have scored 25 times. Warzburger and Jerome are the leaders of the attack. Through six games, Warzburger had eight goals and five assists for 21 points and Jerome nine goals and two assists for 20 points. Junior Connor Higgins scored twice and assisted on another tally for five points, and senior Sam Davitt recorded five assists for five points. Junior

Jim Jones's e-mail address is [jjones1@morrisjersey.com](mailto:jjones1@morrisjersey.com)



PHOTO/T.C. GERT

Sophomore Hannah Petrone, who has been an offensive force for Glen Rock, looks for a teammate to pass the ball to in a game against Lodi.

#### GIRLS SOCCER

### Lady Panthers 'raining down' on opponents in 6-0 start

BY JIM JONES  
for the Glen Rock Gazette

Senior Mike Nadal and junior Ryan Zolper are the Panther goalkeepers. Cusack said depth played a big part in the 2-1 victory over Garfield. "With three minutes left, we got behind their defense and scored," he said. Jerome had both goals in that game.

State rules allow three games a week, with four permitted in one week. With all the rainouts, four games will be allowed in two weeks this season. "That's only the second time I've seen that in my 11 years," Cusack said.

At this writing, pairings for the Bergen County tournament were not available. The round of 16 is slated to begin this Sunday.

SEE LADY PANTHERS, PAGE 40

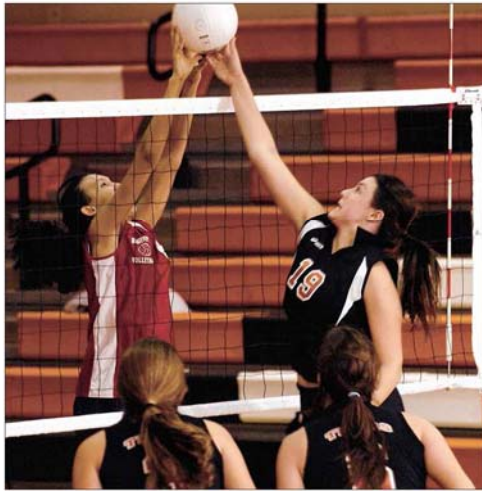


Sophomore Sophie Lederer (16) led the Glen Rock High School girls soccer team in scoring through six games, having netted 10 of the team's 34 goals.

OCTOBER 7, 2010

## Tenaflly coasts to victory

'New' team picks up from last year | Page 47



STAFF PHOTO BY JOE CAMPOREALE

Tenaflly opposite hitter Julie Sieglar, No. 19, and Bergenfield's Giomilsy Ramos fight for a point. The Tigers improved to 8-2, with a team that was hit hard by graduation last June.

### INSIDE SPORTS

#### HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

##### **Tigers soar over Blue Eagles**

Tenaflly lost only one doubles match in a 4-1 victory over Immaculate Heart Academy.

SEE 'TENAFLY,' PAGE 48

#### HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

##### **Defenders defenseless in loss**

Cresskill scored early and often to beat Hawthorne Christian and improve its record to 6-0.

SEE 'CRESSKILL,' PAGE 52

#### HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

##### **Pete's feet defeat Dumont**

Dwight Morrow quarterback Peter Williams ran for two TDs as the Raiders earned their first win.

SEE 'WILLIAMS,' PAGE 53

## W25: Packaging the News Product – Sports Section Layout & Content

Second Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# Northern Valley Suburbanite

October 7, 2010

December 9, 2010

## J.C. Baumuller

**RIDGEWOOD VS. PARAMUS**

**Rivalry week's final score: Maroons, 2-1**



On Tuesday night, senior Rachel Kilinski served up a match-high seven aces to help the Ridgewood girls volleyball team knock off Paramus, 2-1, before a packed house in RHS Gym 1.



Senior defender Matt Granski helped create Ridgewood's first goal against Paramus in Wednesday's boys soccer showdown, which spurred his side to a 2-1 victory.



On Tuesday night, senior Rachel Kilinski served up a match-high seven aces to help the Ridgewood girls volleyball team knock off Paramus, 2-1, before a packed house in RHS Gym 1.

**Early lead slips away for girls soccer team**

BY GREG TARTAGLIA  
Assistant Sports Editor

RIDGEWOOD — The Ridgewood High School girls soccer team has had a definite upside to league realignment: second chance.

The Maroons welcomed rival Paramus to Maple Park on Monday and grabbed an early 1-0 lead before the Spartans rallied for a 2-1 victory that gave them an early edge in the chase for the first over Big North Division III title.

Yet as RHS broke its poignance headline, the chart that went up was, "second time around" — indicating that the team already may be thinking about the Oct. 22nd rematch in Paramus.

"In Monday's match and the previous match (a 2-1 loss on Sept. 14), I thought we had an opportunity to win, and then it was like, 'Well, we didn't work out for us,'" Ridgewood head coach Jeff Yeargan said. "It's somewhat disappointing, but then again, it could be motivating to help us get prepared on when we really need to prepare."

The setback was the second in three games for the Maroons (1-1-1; Big North-III), who led to immediate Heart, 3-0, on Sept. 23 before beating Bergen Tech last Friday, 2-0.

Ridgewood was slated to visit defending State Group 3 co-champion Northern Highlands yesterday afternoon in its final game before the Bergen County treatment seeding meeting, which took place last night.

"Consistency is what we're after," said Yeargan. "That's the hallmark of BHA, Ramapo and Northern Highlands, and that's what we're trying to develop."

Against Paramus (0-0-4-0), the Maroons went ahead in the 10th minute on senior Kate McBrearty's second goal of the year.

The score followed after a 35-yard free kick from senior Katie Garbarini, which was headed aside by Paramus emergency keeper Stephanie Hallinan before McBrearty collected the rebound and deposited it into the lower-left corner.

Ten minutes later, Ridgewood forward Tera Porfido found herself in a similar situation, running onto a loose ball in the six-yard box. Her shot, however, curved wide left by less than a foot.

"We had other opportunities

**Girls volleyball aces first test vs. Spartans**

BY GREG TARTAGLIA  
Assistant Sports Editor

RIDGEWOOD — If hosting the state's all-time winningest girls volleyball team can draw a crowd, then beating it can make things hot.

Jarvis Rachel Kilinski delivered a match-high 15 service points — including 11 straight during the decisive third game — boosting Ridgewood High School past rival Paramus, 15-25, 25-25, 25-17, in front of a vocal crowd in RHS Gym 1 Tuesday night.

"Our fans are really supportive, and both sides of the bleachers were pretty much full," Kilinski said at Wednesday's team practice, still smiling at mention of the Maroons' win. "It got really loud in here, and we were pumped up."

Ridgewood (7-7) registered its second win over the Spartans (5-3) in three seasons and improved to 4-0 in Division III of the Big North Conference, moving one game ahead of Paramus in the league standings.

See VOLLEYBALL, page C3

**Boys leapfrog soccer rivals for first place**

BY GREG TARTAGLIA  
Assistant Sports Editor

PARAMUS — After giving up an own goal, Ridgewood High School secured "up" on Wednesday's game.

Senior forward Mattello Stora headed a far-post strike with an own goal. Ridgewood High School scored "up" on Wednesday's game.

"We've been blessed with some great goalkeepers, and Russell is a keeper that tradition for us," RHS head coach Craig Mahler said. "He's been talking 'Plo' around here for practice and talking about how he would go against them, and he made a great save."

Tanner's stone-wall act proved to be one of two major turning points in the tie-in game.

Pressure by Paramus forward Brian Crociani led to a Ridgewood defender accidentally deflecting the ball into his own net at the 12:27 mark. The Spartans kept up the attack for the next five minutes, with Crociani blasting a ball off the right post, and Crociani launching a corner kick that junior Fran Colabrese headed just over the crossbar.

Mahler exonerated by moving forward, to the offensive center midfield spot to help the team win more 50-50 balls.

"That definitely wanted to turn the tide," said the coach. "With Griffin moving back, our forwards began to pressure Paramus. And when we pressure with our forward, a lot of good things happen."

In the 26th minute, RHS defender Matt Granski took possession near midfield and played the ball to fellow senior Mike Kowalski, who threaded a pass to Abbott along the left side. Abbott succeeded in making a 30-yard pass through the defense and play a centering volley to junior Yusuf Hanna, who finished by directing the ball past the Paramus keeper.

Early in the second half, the Maroons again seemed to get started somewhat slowly, as Crociani got off an excellent shot that hit the crossbar.

Ridgewood then began to get good looks of its own, but a head-or by sophomore Billy Malta also found the iron unshut, clearing off the crossbar in the 56th minute. Malta was a constant threat throughout the afternoon, cracking an on-target shot less than four minutes later, only to watch second-half Spartans keeper Anthony Maccio (five saves) make a sprawling stop.

See BOYS SOCCER, page C3



Ridgewood forward Tera Porfido cleared the ball away from Paramus midfielder Bianca Labrie (16), while Ridgewood junior Ashley Davidson (14) lends defensive support. McBrearty netted her second goal of the season in the first half of Monday's contest before the visiting Spartans rallied for a 2-1 win.

**W25: Packaging the News Product – Sports Section Layout & Content**

First Place, Weekly Under 6,500

**The Ridgewood News**

October 1, 2010  
October 15, 2010

**Greg Tartaglia  
Brian Farrell**





St. Rose junior Colin Richmond (leading the pack in a meet earlier this season), was one of many area athletes who competed in the Meet of Champions held at Frank Field in South Plainfield on Thursday. The Meet of Champions is the first high school track meet of the season for the top runners in the state.

## A meet for elite

### Local athletes enjoy MOC experience

By Len Bardsley  
The Meet of Champions is the ultimate destination for a high school track athlete. It is the best of the best — a meet in which the top athletes from every event earned their spot by placing in the top six at their respective state meet.

The athletes who are going for gold at the Meet of Champions are the 800 meters, taking 2:26 overall with and often among the best in the nation.

A good majority of the athletes at the Meet of Champions are looking to close out their season on a positive note knowing they are long shots to earn a medal, and instead using the meet as a well-earned reward after an excellent season.

That was the case for several athletes from the coverage area of The Coast Star who competed at the meet on Thursday at South Plainfield High School. Nicole Donahue, of St. Rose, ran her personal best in the 800 meters.

She took 2:06 overall with a time of 2:19.97. Nicole Donahue was expected to break the 2:20 mark for only the second time in her career. She last broke 2:20 during the Meet of Champions last season.

"It was really exciting," said Nicole Donahue. "I did 2:19 last year, so well."

Nicole Donahue knows the car count on a fat run at the Meet of Champions, and she can let another runner set the tempo.

"I feel comfortable in those races," she said. "You don't have to push the pace. You know it is going to be fast because you have girls who are a couple seconds faster than you. I like that type of

## Squan makes mark in state tennis tourney

By Len Bardsley  
The Manasquan first doubles team of Peter Tsouk and Jim Arlino are making the most of their first, and last, chance to play together in the state singles tournament.

The two seniors won three matches over the weekend to advance to the quarterfinals.

Tsouk and Arlino were determined to play their best tennis after losing the last team match to Haddonfield in the Group II semifinal last week.

"I threw on our last high school matches," said Arlino. "We have to go out with a bang after losing the team match we did."

Tsouk and Arlino got their tournament start with a 6-2, 6-2 victory against Will Schaefer and Matt Tanton of Verona on Saturday. The two seniors would return on Sunday for two matches.

Tsouk and Arlino would defeat James Roll and Ben Weber of Gill St. Bernard's, in Gladstone, in their first match on Sunday, 7-6, 6-4.

The third round would be the best round of the tournament so far for the Warriors' doubles duo.

Tsouk and Arlino would defeat Tyler Higgins and Miles Shah of Toms River North, 6-1, 6-4.

Arlino felt the Warriors' doubles team was affected by the heavy winds on Sunday, but the guys settled down later in the day.

"It was pretty windy on Saturday and Sunday," said Arlino. "It was more windy on Sunday, which made it harder. Our first match [on Saturday] was not that bad, [but] our second match [on Sunday] was a little more challenging."

Arlino felt the Warriors' duo tried to adjust its game to wind and might have played a little more conservatively on Sunday.

"I think our opponents were hitting with more spin," said Arlino. "We were just trying to get to the net and just ball away. I think our third match was our best. We were pretty much on top of our

game the whole time."

Tsouk felt the wind died down a little bit during the third-round match on Sunday, allowing Manasquan to play its best tennis.

"The wind died down and that helped," said Tsouk. "We played better."

Tsouk felt the Warriors' first doubles team had already gone away from trying to go big with seniors with the heavy winds, which actually helped Manasquan.

"The wind was so strong we just focused on getting it back, which was good," said Tsouk. "We need to make mistakes when we go for big shots. The life wind kept us from doing that, so it helped us."

See SQUAN page 59



The Manasquan first doubles team of Peter Tsouk (front) and Jim Arlino (background) advanced to the quarterfinals of the state tournament. McClane Smoke (above) advanced to the third round in the singles tournament for the Warriors.

# W25: Packaging the News Product – Sports Section Layout & Content

First Place, Weekly Over 6,500

# The Coast Star

June 10, 2010  
October 7, 2010

Joyce Manser  
Len Bardsley  
Sam Costantino

## A year worth of high school highlights



The Coast Star staff looked over a year worth of high school sporting events and came up with a list of 18 of the top events for the 2009-2010 school year. A few of the more exciting moments included the Wall girls' soccer team finally beating moravia freethold in a penalty kick shootout in the Central Jersey Group III semifinal. Neal Stone's eighth grade team finishing on six after hitting Manasquan to a last-second win in the Central Jersey Group II semifinal against Ramsey-Lake Haven. See the rest of the highlights on page 42.

Photo Courtesy of CHRISTOPHER P. LUNA



**W26: Packaging the  
News Product –  
Special Issue**

# Ridgewood's Centennial 4th of July Celebration!



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

## Reflecting on the Fourth

Editor's Note: This is the first of four stories on the history of Fourth of July celebrations in Ridgewood. For part two, see next week's "The Ridgewood News."

By MICHAEL VIRGIN  
Staff Writer

For 130 years, the Village of Ridgewood has celebrated the Fourth of July as a "patriotic" member and the highest of all national celebrations. One million people attend the event, which is held at the center square by about 10,000 people each year.

Throughout the year, many notable Ridgewooders have participated in its activities at various times.

The original celebration occurred in response to the nation's declaration of independence and recognition of the birth of America.

In 1975, the then newly formed Ridgewood "Warren's Club" through its Civic Action, invited local school children to an assembly to give their names to celebrate Independence Day with some one-hand and talk activities.

The newly organized group found that children preferred speeches and letters to speeches and letters.

With endorsements from local newspapers and the support of the Warrenton Club, the newly formed "Independent Day Association" was formed to celebrate the Fourth of July.

See RIDGEWOOD, page A-11

A look inside	
The first assembly	25
Tickets	28
Guests invited	40
Military involvement	410
Student body	47

# W26: Packaging the News Product – Special Issue

## Third Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Ridgewood News

## Ridgewood's Centennial Fourth of July Celebration

# Ed Virgin

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## Town Journal

Allendale Fire Department  
100th Anniversary

## Staff



# Town Journal

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010 ALLENDALE • HO-HO-KUS • SADDLE RIVER • UPPER SADDLE RIVER YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS

### HO-HO-KUS | HEAVY ARTILLERY AT THE HERMITAGE

Members of Company B, 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers, staged a Civil War encampment on the grounds of The Hermitage last weekend. The unit not only set up tents and fire pits, but also held a live firing demonstration utilizing weapons from the period. Above, a soldier fires off the mortar, which resulted in six-foot flames shooting out of the barrel. For more pictures from the event, see page 27.

### OUR TOWNS

## Libraries cuts could have 'severe impact'

BY REBECCA GREENE FOR TOWNJOURNAL

Local libraries have been frantic wondering what they will do if the state cuts library funding by 7.5 percent, as is currently proposed in Governor Christie's budget.

To understand the significance of these cuts to both the libraries and the public, Town Journal recently spoke to three local library directors to ask them to explain the impact of the cuts if passed.

Carol Cannon, director of the Lee Memorial Library in Allendale, said she is concerned about losing the databases the state currently funds, among other things.

"Another loss that will have an impact on many Allendale patrons is the loss of 60 percent of the funding for the interlibrary loan delivery, a system called Jersey Call," she said.

Barbara Newmark-Kruger, director of the Upper Saddle River Library, said the delivery service not only brings in over 13,000 items for local patrons, but also includes the maintenance of dropping off other library's materials at each location.

"The end would eliminate the three research databases we now provide access to for our patrons, which can be accessed at their own home or at the library," Newmark-Kruger said. "It also eliminates those databases from the schools. These are our primary online research sites allowing patrons to search many periodicals, newspapers, business, health and consumer information, reference books and much more."

Newmark-Kruger said the cuts will mean they will receive only half of their state aid.

"Because those services are so important to our community, the library will pay for those services from their own budget," she said. "However, the cost is not unknown for those services, plus the cut in state aid, plus the assumed increased volunteer donations. This could all lead to a severe impact on the library budget."

By the way, everything is an unknown, so we do not know the effect of the cuts and what other services, materials or hours we will have to cut," Newmark-Kruger said.

The question now is why should people be concerned about the cuts? After all, government cuts are a constant theme in the news and a campaign promise by Christie, who is trying to plug a \$13.7 billion budget gap.

"People should be concerned because it's a bad economy, people rely on their libraries more than ever," Cannon said. "Also, for most people, the only access to free Internet is through the library."

Sandra Mikowski, director of the North-Forkham Memorial Library in Ho-Ho-Kus, said libraries may have to cut staff, reduce the materials and programs.

"Programs and services that the state purchases for all New Jersey libraries may be decreased or eliminated, interlibrary loans may end or library patrons might have to wait longer to get some of the services they are now getting for free," Mikowski said.

All three directors suggested a way for patrons to help, directing them to the website [www.NJSLA.org](http://www.NJSLA.org).

According to the state daily statewide statistics for libraries:

### ALLENDALE

## Council KO's Belgian block option

BY NIKKI ECKENON FOR TOWNJOURNAL

A clash over Allendale's curb replacement policies continued at last Thursday's council meeting, with borough officials rejecting resident Dave Duffy's suggestion that the town offer residents the option to have their streets curbed with Belgian block if they agreed to have the extra bill.

Under the proposed ordinance, living on streets where the extra length would require new curbs, such as Duffy's street, Kaulbach Road, this year, could decide to curb replacement policy, adding that the past use of Belgian block caused animosity among people who did not have it on their streets. The borough's current policy is to replace broken curbs with poured concrete.

"The number one thing we have to do is be consistent to our residents, of being socially responsible and doing the same practice that we've been doing for three years. That's at the top of my page," said Councilwoman Jan White, chair of the borough's

LIB BELGIAN BLOCK PAGE 6

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
The Allendale Fire Department celebrates its 100th anniversary. See the 12-page special section.

PAGE 3

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
The Allendale Fire Department celebrates its 100th anniversary. See the 12-page special section.

PAGE 3

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
The Allendale Fire Department celebrates its 100th anniversary. See the 12-page special section.

PAGE 3

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Vol. 36 No. 41



# The Ocean Star

Friday, November 5, 2010

STAR NEWS GROUP

39 cents

Bay Head • Lavallette • Mantoloking • Point Pleasant • Point Pleasant Beach

## Schroeder bests Rogers in Point Pleasant

By Eric Colon  
**POINT PLEASANT** — In what was called the "year of the incumbent," incumbent Mayor Bill Schroeder defeated challenger Vincent Barrella in the election for Point Pleasant Mayor.



Point Pleasant Beach Mayor Vincent Barrella (left) celebrated his election night victory at his home with his wife Barbara Barrella (left), daughter Melissa and son Michael. Sam Barilla is seen at college.

## LaCicero re-elected as mayor

By Chris Tomlin  
**LAWLETTES** — The Lawlettess have elected Mayor William LaCicero to a second term in the November 5 election. LaCicero defeated challenger Michael Stuppillo.

... Point Pleasant, and then back to the public domain to choose the new mayor at the next election. The public would vote in a primary election. Republican Mayor William LaCicero said he is confident he will win a second term. He would have been the first male mayor of the town since Mayor William LaCicero's first term in 1984.

## Recall fails

By Chris Tomlin  
**POINT BEACH** — In the election to recall Mayor Vincent Barrella, voters rejected the recall effort. The measure failed by a margin of 10 to 1.

## Recall fails

By Chris Tomlin  
**POINT BEACH** — In the election to recall Mayor Vincent Barrella, voters rejected the recall effort. The measure failed by a margin of 10 to 1.



Incumbent Bill Schroeder (left) and challenger Vincent Barrella (right) are seen after the election. Schroeder will be the next mayor of Point Pleasant. He celebrated with wife Lisa and daughter Christina (left), who is a Democrat, and many other supporters.



Lawlette Republican Mayor William LaCicero (left) and challenger Michael Stuppillo (right) are seen after the election.



Barrella (left) and challenger Michael Stuppillo (right) are seen after the election.

**Incumbents re-elected**

Several local governing bodies will look much the same next year, as many incumbents are re-elected in Tuesday's election. For complete coverage of the local elections, see the two pages inside this issue.

<b>LAVALLETTE</b> Robert Lamb [R] & Michael Stuppillo [R]	<b>MANTOLOKING</b> George Habel [R], Donald Nees [R] & Ann Elizabeth Nelson [R, Ind.]	<b>BAY HEAD</b> John DeFilippo [R] & James Orner [R]	

# W26: Packaging the News Product – Special Issue

Second Place, Weekly Under 6,500

# The Ocean Star

## Special Election Results

# Staff



NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

## W26: Packaging the News Product – Special Issue

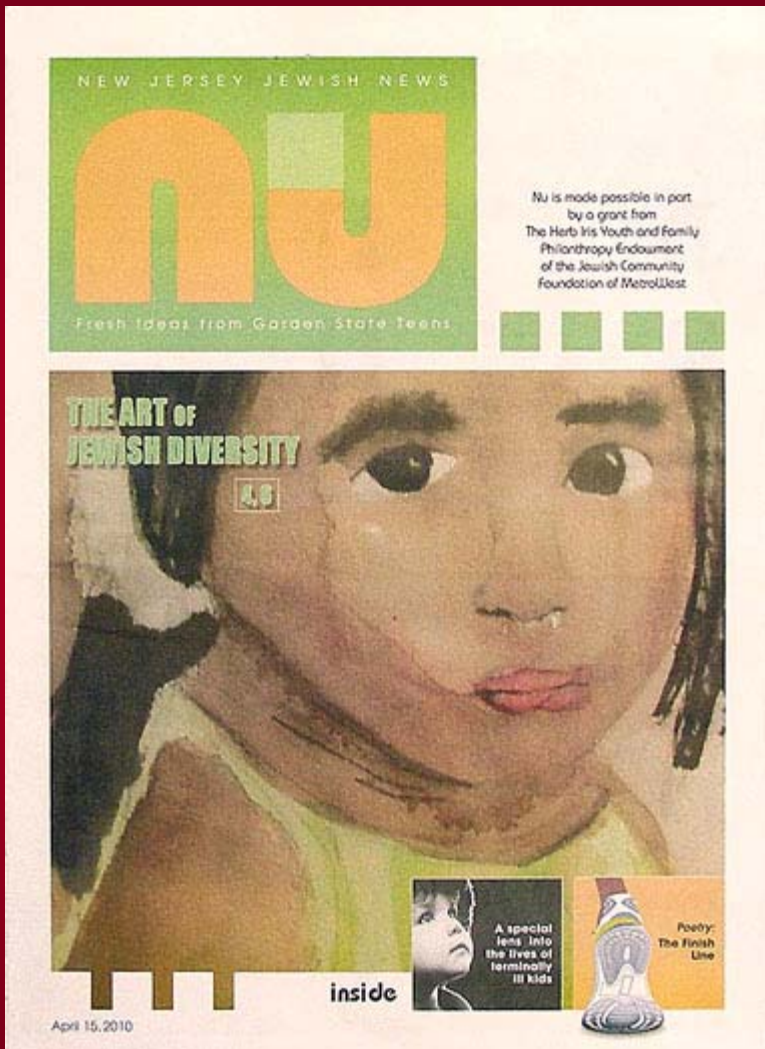
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# New Jersey Jewish News

NU: Fresh Ideas  
from Garden State Teens

**Robin Friedman**  
**Dayna Nadel**  
**Mollie Leitzes**

**NJPA**  
NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION





Blizzard  
2010

# The Ocean Star

Friday, December 31, 2010

A STAR NEWS GROUP PUBLICATION

36 cents

Bay Head • Lavallette • Mantoloking • Point Pleasant • Point Pleasant Beach



## Blizzard blasts Shore

**The Ocean Star Staff Report**  
**JERSEY SHORE** — The week's heaviest snow in a few years hit the Jersey Shore on Friday, bringing a blizzard that dumped up to 15 inches of snow in some areas, leaving many roads impassable and forcing schools to cancel classes. The storm, which arrived in the afternoon, brought with it a blizzard that began Sunday morning and continued into Monday.

Blizzard winds were reported to be gusting to 35 mph in some areas, according to the National Weather Service's Ocean County office. The storm dumped up to 15 inches of snow in some areas, according to the National Weather Service's Ocean County office.

## Local emergency crews overcome plowing woes

**The Ocean Star Staff Report**  
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An emergency vehicle made its way down a snow-covered road in Lavallette early this week. Police Chief Colin Grant said most emergency calls received this week were snow-related, mostly for reports of abandoned cars or obstructed vehicles.

## Snow shuffles local sports schedules

**JERSEY SHORE** — High school athletes struggle to find their way to practice as a winter storm forces school work and practice schedules to change.

The area high school sports scene got a boost that day. Regional ice, wind, and snow kept many fans away from the games, but the high school sports scene was not as affected as expected, including the MAJOR League Baseball and Minor League Baseball schedules.

On Sunday, many streets in those towns — particularly county and state roads — were still unable to see a plow, such as Grand Central and Virginia Avenues in Lavallette. The great Christmas blizzard, which saw a large amount of snow blanket the area quickly, forced residents to get creative when it came to snow removal. In Point Pleasant Beach, some families (shown), a homeowner resident, used a snowblower to remove snow from the hood of his family's pickup truck.

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Blizzard 2010

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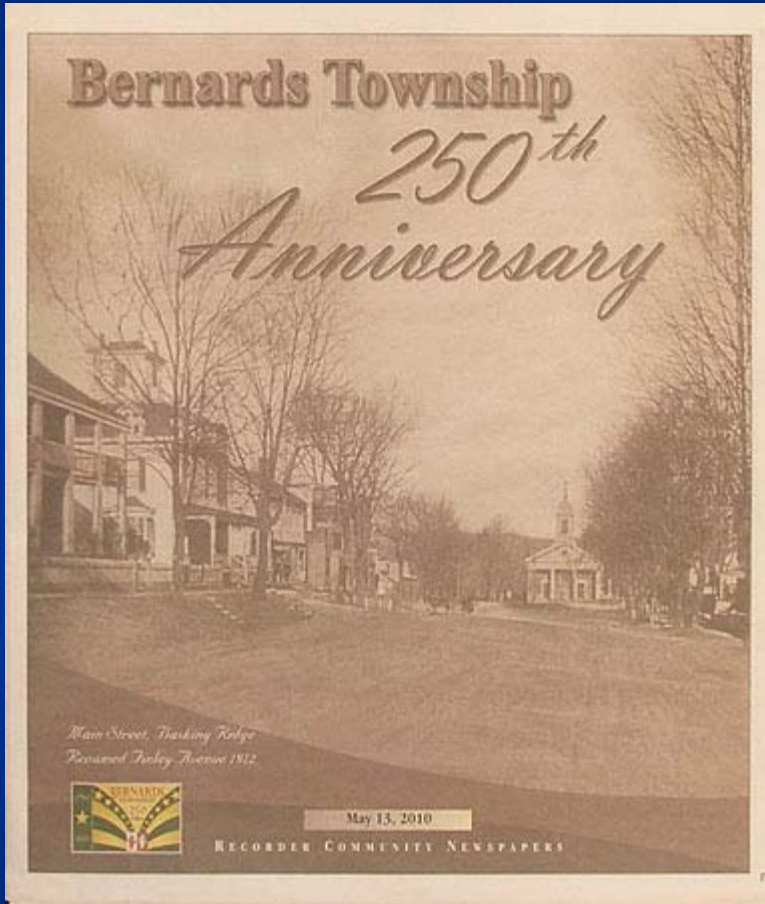
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# The Bernardsville News

Bernards Township  
250th Anniversary

**Charles T. Zavalick**  
**W. Jacob Perry**







**General  
Excellence  
Awards**



## Better Newspaper Contest 2010

# General Excellence

## Weekly Under 6,500

General  
Excellence



# Better Newspaper Contest 2010

## General Excellence

Weekly Under 6,500

# The Ridgewood News

Community Newspapers of  
North Jersey Media Group

General  
Excellence



## Better Newspaper Contest 2010

# General Excellence

## Weekly Over 6,500

General  
Excellence



# Better Newspaper Contest 2010

## General Excellence Awards

Weekly Over 6,500

# The Montclair Times

Community Newspapers of  
North Jersey Media Group

General  
Excellence