

The Chronicle

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INSIDE



Making a pitch

TRENTON — Somerset Patriots Manager Sparky Lyle, seen at right, stopped off in the Statehouse last week to make a pitch for lawmakers' support of legislation that would nullify a Supreme Court ruling and help protect New Jersey minor league baseball teams from lawsuits filed by fans seeking damages after being struck by foul balls beyond the confines of the box seats and cheap seats. **Page A7**



Celebrating Mother Earth

Gaia's Gate in Millstone will be the site of a Yule celebration Sunday. According to Robin O'Connor, who helps run the store, there is a trend toward exploring ancient religions, such as those practiced by the Celts. "I've been in the closet as a witch for a long time," the former Catholic said. **Page B1.**

Examining the 'Carol'

EDISON — What was Charles Dickens thinking when he came up with the classic we know today as "A Christmas Carol?" The Edison Valley Playhouse brings a possible scenario to its stage this holiday season with a unique adaptation of this familiar story. Showtime is 8 p.m. today.

Dickens has an inspiration for a story that his guests will expect for his annual Christmas Eve party. But this year, rather than doing all the work and reading it himself, he enlists the help of his family and friends to perform his tale of a miser, the family of his clerk, and three ghosts who change the miser's outlook on Christmas and mankind.

This adaptation features local performers: John Roesch of South Plainfield as Frederick Dickens, Rocco Severini of South Plainfield as Mark Lemon, Scarlett Pepitone of Edison as Helen Hogarth, Tommy Leitner of Piscataway as Charley Dickens and Ryan Porter of Piscataway as the Child.

Admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students. For reservations, visit www.evplayhouse.com or call (908) 755-4654. The Edison Valley Playhouse is at 2196 Oak Tree Road, near Woodland Avenue on the South Plainfield border.

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Vo-Tech, college create healthcare academy

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

NORTH BRANCH — The workforce of tomorrow will be getting a boost, starting next year, with the formation of the Somerset County Academy for Health and Medical Sciences.

The result of a new partnership, signed last week between Somerset County Vocational and Technical Schools and Raritan Valley Community College, the program will allow high school students to earn an associate's degree along with their high school diploma, and will focus

on the healthcare field in order to help students gain access and job skills necessary for employees of the local pharmaceutical and healthcare companies.

The program, set to begin in September of next year, will offer a rigorous program to both Somerset County and Hunterdon County residents.

"We're not going to water anything down, this is going to be challenging," RVCC President G. Jeremiah Ryan said at the official signing of the agreement last Thursday. While

the program is going to be run in the Vo-Tech school, it will be more like the specialized magnet schools being run elsewhere around the state.

Ryan, Raritan Valley Vice President of Academic Affairs Constance Mierendorf and Vo-Tech Superintendent Michael Maddaluna have been working on plans for the school for the past two years. According to Ryan, the idea came out of the research that the college has done involving the pharmaceutical members of the local business community, and dovetails with the col-

lege's efforts has been making to integrate its program with the needs of the local business community.

According to Maddaluna, the students will be offered college-level academic classes taught by faculty from both the school and the college. Students must apply to be admitted to the school, and each of the local districts will pay a portion of the cost of the school.

Although there are other magnet

Continued on page A2



PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Rows of evergreens stand at the ready at Holly Bough Farm in Whitehouse Station, where each year hundreds, like Wayne Pellicane of Branchburg, pictured above, come to select and cut their Christmas tree.

Every day is Christmas for evergreen farmer

By JIM WHITE
Staff Writer

WHITEHOUSE STATION — A search for the perfect Christmas tree crossed county lines into the snowy hills of Whitehouse Station, up a steep and winding grade to the evergreen-covered summit of Holly Bough Farm.

There, at the top, others, too, were in the hunt for that exceptional tree, including Leo and Claire Appolloni, who braved Saturday's icy roads all the way from South Plainfield.

"We've never had an artificial tree," said Leo Appolloni, adding the fragrance and appearance of a real tree cannot be matched.

"The artificial trees — they're plastic," he said in disgust.

Within Holly Bough's Christmas tree forest — where there are hundreds of real ones to choose from, including blue spruce, Black Hills spruce, and Douglas and Canaan firs — the Appollonis would find a tree to their liking, but it, however, was a bit short of perfect.

Farm owner Art Kaufman, who has been in the Christmas tree business for 12 years, said it's a matter of personal taste when it comes to finding the ideal tree.

His favorites are the Canaan fir and blue spruce. "When you get (a blue spruce) that has that real shiny blue — I call them pedigrees. I think those are the most beautiful," he said.

Kaufman, a former journalist in St. Louis and now director of public affairs for Merck in Whitehouse Station, decided to open the 3-and-a-half acre tree farm after purchasing the 7-acre property.

"Since moving out to the country, I decided it was

Continued on page A2

Four are indicted in Bound Brook robbery

SOMERVILLE — The Somerset County Grand Jury returned indictments against four co-defendants on charges of conspiracy to commit robbery, second degree and armed robbery, first degree last week.

Those co-defendants are James Arline, 18, Raymond Cheley, 19, Brian Toby, 22, and Sarah Vasquez, 19. All co-defendants reside in Plainfield. Additional charges were handed to Cheley were possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose — a 30-inch metal pipe, third degree — and unlawful possession of a weapon, fourth degree.

After their arrest on Nov. 7, Judge Frank W. Gasiorowski of the NJ Superior Court set bail in this case in the amount of \$100,000 cash against all four co-defendants.

They were lodged in the Somerset County Jail in default of bail. The co-defendants continue to reside in the county jail. All are to have no contact with the victim of the alleged robbery as a special condition of bail should they post bail and be released.

On Dec. 5, Judge Edward M. Coleman of the N.J. Superior Court lowered co-defendant Vasquez's bail to \$75,000 cash or bond. The special

condition of no contact with the victim was not altered, despite the reduction in Vasquez's bail.

The investigation stems from an allegation of robbery made by a Bound Brook resident who was pedaling his bicycle on Talmage Ave. near the corner of Lamonte Ave. on Nov. 7.

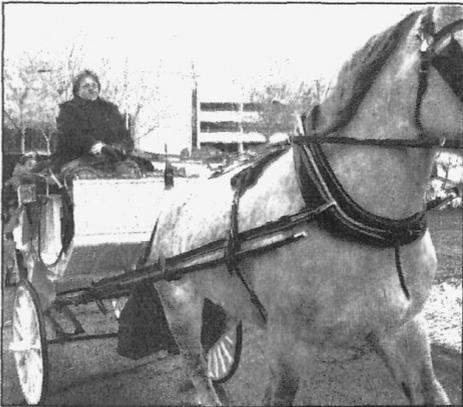
It is alleged that the four co-defendants, traveling in a car driven by Vasquez, drove up to the victim and Toby knocked the victim off his bicycle. Afterward, Toby, Arline and Cheley allegedly assaulted the victim and, in the course of the assault, stole his blue tote style bag containing personal belongings.

The defendants fled in the vehicle driven by Vasquez.

It is alleged that Cheley struck the victim with a metal pipe in the course of the robbery.

Shortly after the victim was beaten and robbed, he flagged down a Bound Brook Police Officer who obtained a description of the parties and their vehicle.

They were apprehended a short time later after the Bound Brook Police stopped them in the car at the intersection of Union and Mountain avenues in Bound Brook.



Angela Weinhold of Hunterdon Coach and Wagon leads her horse-drawn carriage up Church Street in New Brunswick. The rides were offered by the city last week and were available in Somerville yesterday, courtesy of the Downtown Management Corporation.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Horse power comes to Main Street

Two local communities offered the chance for a carriage ride over the past week.

In New Brunswick, horse-drawn carriage rides were offered while in Somerville, the Downtown Management Corporation was expected to provide free carriage rides as a part of its holiday celebration. People could tour the downtowns in both communities in a carriage from Hunterdon Coach and Wagon to see the lights and decorations and get into the holiday spirit.

The vis-à-vis rides, or face-to-face, will accommodate 4 to 6 riders per

trip, said Somerville downtown manager Cynthia Hollod.

Hunterdon Coach and Wagon, located in Delaware Township, provides coaches, carriages, and wagons for a number of events throughout the Central Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania area. According to Angela Weinhold, the business appears regularly both year-round and during the holidays. According to Weinhold, the group has not given rides in Somerville before. This year, they were able to fit the borough into their schedule.

See story, **Page B1.**

ADULT EVENING SCHOOLS

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION



Register at the school where the course is offered
January 3, 4, 5, 2006 5 PM to 8 PM

Dr. Karen McCloud-Hjازه-Superintendent
Loretta M. Keimel-Director of Adult Education

AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY			
Floral Arrangement & Design (9 wks-\$80)	PI	Holiday Wreath (One night workshop-\$25*)	PI
AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY			
Auto Body & Collision Repair (9 wks-\$80)	PI	Auto Engine Perf. & Diagnostics I (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Auto Mechanics Basic (9 wks-\$80)	ALL	Automotive Brakes (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Automotive Steering & Suspension (9 wks-\$80)	PI		
BASIC SKILLS			
Adult Basic Skills/Mathematics (9 wks-\$80)	EB	Adult Basic Skills/Reading & Writing (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Chinese (9 wks-\$80)	EB	English as a Second Language (9 wks-\$80)	EB
BEAUTY TECHNOLOGY			
Adult Cosmetology Tutoring (\$35/hr*)	EB	Manicuring (300 hrs-\$600**)	EB
BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTER APPLICATIONS			
Accounting Basic and Advanced (9 wks-\$80)	PI	Accounting II Advanced (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Internet Basics & Beyond (3 wks-\$30*)	EB	Microsoft Access (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PI
Microsoft Access Advanced (9 wks-\$80)	PI	Microsoft Excel (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PA
Microsoft Excel Advanced (9 wks-\$80)	EB	Microsoft Office (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PI
Microsoft PowerPoint (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PI	Microsoft Word for Windows (9 wks-\$80)	ALL
MOS Word 2003 Core Prep (9 wks-\$80)	PA/PI	MOS Excel 2003 Core Prep (9 wks-\$80)	PI
Intro to Personal Tax Preparation (4 wks-\$50*)	EB	P.C. Fundamentals (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PA
Peachtree (9 wks-\$80)	EB	QuickBooks (9 wks-\$80)	PA
QuickBooks Intermediate (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PI	Quicken (One night workshop-\$10*)	PI
Typing/Keyboarding Basic & Adv. (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PI		
COMMERCIAL ART/GRAPHIC DESIGN			
Adobe Acrobat & Go Live	Spring	Adobe InDesign CS Basic (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Adobe Photoshop Basic (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PI	Adobe Photoshop Advanced (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Adobe Photo. for Digital Cameras Basic (9 wks-\$80)	EB	Design Project 201	Spring
Final Cut Pro Fundamentals	Spring	Final Cut Pro Advanced	Spring
QuarkXPress Basic (9 wks-\$80)	EB	QuarkXPress Advanced (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Photography Basic (9 wks-\$80)	EB	Website Design (9 wks-\$80)	PA
Website Design Basics (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PI	Website Design Advanced (9 wks-\$80)	EB
COMPUTER ASSISTED DRAFTING			
Auto CAD - Level III (35 hrs-\$150*)	EB	Computer Assisted Drafting I (9 wks-\$80)	All
Computer Assisted Drafting II (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PI	Intro to Architectural Drafting/CAD (9 wks-\$80)	EB
COMPUTER REPAIR			
Computer Repair Technology	Spring	Introduction to Computers (42 hrs-\$175*)	PI
Intro to Computer Systems Hardware (42 hrs-\$175*)	PI	Intro to Computer Systems OS (42 hrs-\$175*)	PI
CONSTRUCTION TRADES			
Building Trades Blueprint Reading (9wks - \$80)	EB	Construction Trades - Algebra 1 (9 wks - \$80)	EB
Construction Trades - Algebra II (9 wks - \$80)	PI	Home Woodworking (9 wks - \$80)	ALL
CULINARY ARTS-BAKING/COOKING			
Baking Fundamentals (9 wks-\$80)	EB	Baking - Just Desserts (9 wks-\$80)	PI
Biscotti Bake (One night workshop-\$10*)	EB	Cake Decorating (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PI
Cookie Bake Extravaganza (1 night workshop-\$10*)	EB/PI	Cooking-Caribbean Culinary (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Cooking-Mexican Culinary (9 wks-\$80)	EB	Cooking-Healthy and Delicious (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Cooking - Italian Culinary I (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PA		
ELECTRICAL TRADES & ELECTRONICS			
Electrical Trades Blue Print Reading (12 wks-\$110)	PI	Industrial Electronic Controls PLC (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Small Appliance Repair (12 wks-\$110)	EB		
HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION			
Adult CFR/AED (4 fi hrs-\$40*)	EB	Boating Skills and Seamanship (8 wks-\$20*)	PA
Dietetic Assistant (18 wks-\$275*)	EB	Fitness/Wellness Program (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Medical Billing and Coding (12 wks-\$220)	PI	Nutrition - Everyday Nutrition	Spring
OSHA 30 Hour General Industry (10 wks-\$90)	EB/PI	Standard First Aid (5 1/2 hrs-\$50*)	EB
Yoga (9 wks-\$45*)	EB		
HEATING, VENTILATION & AIR CONDITIONING			
HVAC - Cooling and Controls	Spring	Refrigerant Handling Certification (5 wks-\$150*)	EB
INTERIOR DESIGN & APPAREL SERVICES			
Cross Stitch Embroidery (9 wks-\$80)	EB	Decorative Sewing for the Home (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Dressmaking (9 wks-\$80)	EB	Introduction to Interior Design (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Pattern Making (9 wks-\$80)	EB	Quilting & Patchwork (9 wks-\$80)	EB
MACHINE TRADES			
Hydraulics/Pneumatics II (10 wks-\$90*)	EB		
MASONRY TRADES			
Block Masonry Basics (9 wks-\$80)	EB		
MOTORCYCLE & SMALL ENGINE REPAIR			
Motorcycle Maintenance & Repair (9 wks-\$80)	PI	Motorcycle Rider Safety	Call 1-800-8WE-RIDE PI
Small Engine Repair (9 wks-\$80)	PI		
PLUMBING			
Licensed Master Plumber Cont. Ed (6 hrs-\$150*)	PI	Plumbing Code (9 wks-\$80)	PI
SECURITY SERVICES			
Intro to a Career in Security Services (9 wks-\$80)	EB		
SMALL BUSINESS LECTURE SERIES			
Small Business Lectures Series (5 wks-\$50*)	EB		
STATIONARY ENGINEERING			
Stationary Engineering I Low Pressure (12 wks-\$110)	EB/PI		
TUTORING			
Tutoring (\$35 hr.*)	Call Evening School Principal, 732-254-8700 (7pm -9pm)		
VOCATIONAL ARTS/DANCE			
Creative Origami (9 wks-\$80)	EB	Drawing & Sketching II (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Guitar Instruction (9 wks-\$90)	EB	Oil Painting Advanced (9 wks-\$80)	EB
Basic Watercolor - Drawing & Sketching	Spring		
WELDING			
Introduction to Basic & Adv. Welding (9 wks-\$80)	PI		
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS			
Bldg Property Maintenance Mech(5 months-\$1400)	PI	Dry Cleaning (10 wks-\$450)	PI
Electrical Technology (5 months-\$1400)	PI	Health Technology Prep (90 hrs-\$200)	PI
Health Unit Coordinator (5 months-\$600)	PI	Pharmacy Technician (15 wks-\$200)	PI
Plumbing Technology (5 months-\$1400)	PI	Manicuring (300hrs-\$600)	EB

View the Schedule and Course Descriptions at www.mcvts.net

FEES	OTHER FEES
9 wk Course - \$80	*Special Fees/As Noted
10 wk Course - \$90	**Additional Fees
12 wk Course - \$110	Materials Fees - See Catalog
FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE	Out-of-County - Course Fee Plus \$30

SCHOOL LOCATIONS
 EB - East Brunswick Campus, 112 Rues Lane, East Brunswick
 PA - Perth Amboy Campus, 457 High Street, Perth Amboy
 PI - Piscataway Campus, 21 Suttons Lane, Piscataway
 ALL - All three locations

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS
 Call 732-257-3300 ext.1924 for Program Information



Michael Maddaluna, left, superintendent of the Somerset County Vocational and Technical Schools, G. Jeremiah Ryan, center, president of Raritan Valley Community College, and Constance Mierendorf, vice president of Academic Affairs at the college, at a signing ceremony for a partnership between the Vo-Tech and the college that will lead to the formation of the Somerset County Academy for Health and Medical Sciences.

Vo-Tech, college create healthcare academy

Continued from page A1

schools in the state, such as the Union County Magnet High School, which focuses on architecture and engineering, and the Monmouth County career academies, which address communication, health and medicine, engineering, and environmental science, this will be the first program that accepts students from two counties.

Students currently in the eighth grade may apply starting in February for the first year, which will begin next September. Students must take an entrance exam, composed of reading, math, and an essay, to be considered for admission, and will be accepted from each of the school districts in the two counties. Interested students and their families can attend an information session held at 7 p.m. on Jan. 11 at the college, where they can obtain the entrance requirements and find out more about the curriculum.

Every day is Christmas for evergreen farmer

Continued from page A1

time for a lifestyle change," he said.

Kaufman said he puts in about 250 hours of work a year on the farm, not counting time consumed by sales. Maintaining the roughly 4,000 trees that cover the hill involves a lot of shearing and shaping, as well as maintaining the grounds in the warmer months.

"Every year I say this is the last year, because it's so much work. Getting the trees ready is a lot of work," he said. "But for me this is wonderful. Dealing with the people — this is the fun."

Later in the day, Wayne Pellicane of Branchburg found his tree, cut it down himself, and dragged the 6-footer out of the forest so that it could be netted and strapped to his car.

"You realize how out of shape you are," he said with a laugh.

But for all his efforts, he, too, settled for less than the perfect tree.

Deeper in the forest, Jeff and Jackie Cole of Whitehouse Station were also in the game for that special tree and had narrowed it down to a few blue spruces.

"You can't beat the fun of this; tromping through 10 inches of snow," Jeff Cole said.

"We're looking for something that can handle heavy Christmas ornaments," his wife said.

The couple then proceeded to converge on another blue spruce.

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Blue Mountain	\$31 ⁰⁰	\$39 ⁰⁰

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Middlesex County News

A great day for a parade



Ben Auletta, left, municipal chairman of The Bound Brook Democratic Party, **Jean Mangino**, center, vice chair, and **Peter Ruggieri**, right, club member, take part in last week's annual Holiday Parade in Bound Brook.

Lucky lottery ticket sold in Piscataway

PISCATAWAY — A Pick 6 Lotto ticket that was sold by a township business has won the top prize of \$4 million for the drawing held Dec. 8. Michellene Davis, executive director of Pick 6 Lotto, said only one of the 916,392 tickets sold matched all six numbers drawn. The winning numbers were: 04, 08, 23, 26, 37 and 43. The winning ticket was purchased at The Gift Horse, Stelton Road. "We are thrilled that the winning jackpot ticket was sold at The Gift Horse," Davis said. "For

selling this ticket, they will receive a bonus check for \$2,000."

Last chance to give to benefit toy drive

MIDDLESEX — A toy drive is being held at the Beechwood Heights Fire Company #2 firehouse, 118 Union Ave., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today. The Toy Drive will benefit the children at St. Clare's Home for Children. The AIDS Resource Foundation for Children, founded in 1985, is a community-based, non-profit organization committed to providing cost-effective,

family-centered services to children coping with the impact of HIV/AIDS.

The fire company set a target to receive several thousand toys for the kids, but the actual total is only at around 900.

Anyone can help by donating unwrapped, new toys in their original packaging. The toys should be appropriate for children ages 0 to 16.

As a convenience, donors can drop off toys during weekday afternoons at nearby L&M Dancewear, corner of Rt. 28 and Judson Drive.

Volunteer firefighters and auxil-

ary will collect the toys at the firehouse and deliver them to the kids at St. Clare's.

In 2004, the company collected several thousand toys for the children at St. Clare's. For more information, call Vic Capolunghi at (732) 356-0063.

Join Santa for meal at Piscataway firehouse

PISCATAWAY — Your child can have "Breakfast with Santa Claus" from 8:30 a.m.-noon today at the Possumtown Fire Company, 85 Stratton St. South.

Cost is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for ages 4-12 and free for ages 3-under.

Medicare seminar for caregivers group

EDISON — Jewish Family & Vocational Service of Middlesex County sponsors a group for caregivers of elderly people.

This group meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21 in the JFVS office at 515 Plainfield Ave. Included is a seminar on Medicare Part D with Charles Clarkson, coordinator of NJ HAVE.

Registration is required; call Marnie Kean (732) 777-1940, Ext. 121.

Get tickets now for Holiday Show

EDISON — The Recreation Department sponsors its 25th annual Holiday Show for township boys and girls age 2 years old through Grade 5.

This show is at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 at Edison High School on the Boulevard of the Eagles. Super Lou Johnson brings his juggling variety show while Santa Claus and his helpers will drop in from the

North Pole.

Admission is only with a ticket, which can be obtained in exchange for a wrapped new toy valued at no less than \$5. Bring wrapped toys to the Stelton Community Center, 328 Plainfield Ave., or the Minnie B.

Veal Community Center, 1070 Grove Ave. Tickets will not be available the day of the show.

Each child attending must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call (732) 248-7309.

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Saturday, December 17, 2005

Opinion

When Christmas was — Christmas

Just in time for Christmas, newspapers, TV and radio have been filled with stories about the so-called "assault on Christmas."

A big department-store chain drops the word "Christmas" from its advertising in favor of the less-specific and more-inclusive word "holiday."

Municipalities want to put up a "holiday tree" instead of a "Christmas tree."

It's become a cause celebre for both conservatives, who decry what they perceive as a secularization of a holy time and the latest example of how left-wing "political correctness" threatens the Republic, and liberals who cite the controversy as evidence that right-wingers refuse to accept the fact that not all of us are white and Christian.

We find ourselves thinking about reactions we've encountered through the years to our newspaper's long-time practice during the Christmas season of publishing on the editorial page both the New Testament accounts of Christ's nativity and the famous "Yes, Virginia" essay written more than 100 years ago by Francis P. Church of the *New York Sun*.

We've heard occasional complaints in response to both, from those who say Santa has nothing to do with the true meaning of Christmas and from those who say reprinting the familiar scriptural account of the birth of Jesus excludes those of other faiths.

We've always reasoned that Christmas is indeed a commemoration of the birthday of Jesus, and that it's appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate that tradition. But we've also figured that Santa Claus — a kind, generous man who loves all children, whatever their religious or political leanings — is nothing more or less than a reflection of what may be the greatest virtues

espoused by the founder of Christianity: Tolerance and charity.

Of course we hope those who want to replace "Christmas" with "holiday" will realize that the idea is silly and unnecessary. After all, Charles Dickens did not write a book titled "A Holiday Carol."

On the other hand, if some folks feel more comfortable with the phrase "Happy Holidays" or "holiday tree," well . . . God bless them, everyone, for these words and semantics have nothing to do with the essence of the season and more to do with our human frailties and foibles.

A thought: Isn't it ironic that so much of the wrath of the "save Christmas" forces is focused on retailers and their advertising brochures? In effect, these folks are advocating for the commercialization of Christmas.

Another thought: Christmas itself doesn't need saving from anyone or by anyone. It existed before we all arrived here and will be here after we are all gone.

So Merry Christmas! And Happy Holidays! Happy Hanukkah! Happy Kwanzaa! Happy Ramadan! Best wishes for winter solstice, too! Christmas transcends its roots in a specific religion — and those on both sides of the Christmas/holiday dispute should take a deep breath, sit down with a glass of eggnog or a hot toddie, and reflect on the season's true meaning as a beacon of tolerance, compassion, charity, hope and peace.

Nicholas DiGiovanni is editor of *The Delaware Valley News* located in Hunterdon County, a publication of NJN Publishing, which also publishes *The Chronicle*.



Nicholas DiGiovanni

Question of the week: Should Merry Christmas be replaced with Happy Holidays?



JOHN PELLETIER
Middlesex Borough
"Absolutely not. I think political correctness is starting to be very annoying. People are not expressing themselves because they feel they might be offensive."

Quotable



"You realize how out of shape you are."
Wayne Pellicane

Letters to the Editor

State leader stands beside Cullen victims

To The Editor:
The Executive Commission on Ethical Standards recently cited Richard Pompelio, former head of the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, for an ethics violation.

He is criticized for having mingled a state and a private agency when he filed briefs with the court to force serial murder Charles Cullen to appear at sentencing and face his victims' families.

Richard Pompelio has worked to insure that the rights of crime victims are protected and he deserves to be applauded for his efforts. Because of his advocacy it appears that I, along with the other families of Charles Cullen's victims, will be able to look him in the eye at sentencing and express the horror that his cowardly acts have visited upon us.

Cullen may believe that he orchestrated one final bit of control over us by forcing the state to allow him to donate a

kidney on his terms, but the fact remains that had the families not asserted their rights, with the help of Mr. Pompelio, Cullen would have spent his sentencing day cowering in his cell.

It must also be noted that it was a wise move on Mr. Pompelio's part to file our brief under the board and the New Jersey Crime Victims Center as it appears that the board has abandoned us now that Mr. Pompelio is no longer the head of that agency.

Fortunately, in his new position, he continues to represent us and has vowed to stand with us at the sentencing hearing. At a time when New Jersey politics are considered a national joke, it would have sent a strong signal had the commission rejected politics and recognized the strong ethical standards practiced by Mr. Pompelio.

JOHN SHANAGHER
Bridgewater

Senior housing OK hurting residents

To The Editor:
I am appalled at what is going on in Bridgewater.

A number of residents fought the Woodmont senior citizens housing development (Phase I), to be located on routes 202-206. We have fought this since 2003. We fought it for the type of building that is to be built. It is high density housing.

This has numerous repercussions for the residents and anyone traveling routes 202-206.

The residents' pleas were not heard and it was voted in and approved by people who do not live in that location or have to deal with the problems created by it. It was eventually approved by judges who ignored the intent of Bridgewater's Master Plan and instead based their decision on their misinterpretation of the senior citizen housing definition.

During the time of litigation the Township Council repealed the ordinance with this overlay in the Master Plan that allowed this mistake to be made in the first place. Doing this was a relief to the residents.

By removing the overlay, this type of development would not be able to occur again to any other neighborhood. Much to the residents' dismay, the council and

Planning Board have settled with the developers of Woodmont — who have a lawsuit pending against them — to proceed with building Phase II by adding an overlay. Remember an overlay is what got us in this mess to start with. This overlay is supposed to be for that specific project and for that particular property only.

However, the ordinance that has passed has clauses within it that says this ordinance can nullify other ordinances that are inconsistent with it.

Does this mean that the township will allow zoning to be changed project by project, lot by lot? Why is the township allowing control of its code to transfer to developers?

Homebuyers buy property for a reason. Usually it is because of what the area offers. Now the zoning on a singular project can be changed. What you have next to you today may be changed to whatever at any given time — depending on who is in office and what they stand for. When Bridgewater residents attend either the planning or zoning board meetings, their thoughts, ideas, suggestions should be respectfully received and considered! We live here.

SHARON FORMUS
Bridgewater

The following is contact information for state representatives serving Somerset County, as well as members of Congress serving Central Jersey.

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE HOLDERS
— U.S. Sen. Jon S. Corzine (D)
One Gateway Center, 11th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102, (973) 645-3030
(202) 224-4744 (Washington, D.C.)
— U.S. Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D)
One Gateway Center, 23rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102, (973) 639-8700
Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 324, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-3224
— Rep. Michael Ferguson (R-7th)
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214 Cannon House Office Building,

Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-5361
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The Chronicle

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The following information will help you get your ideas and community news into *The Chronicle*:

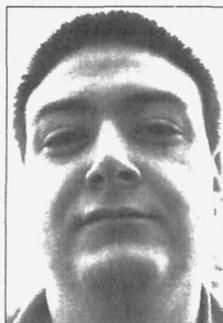
Call editor Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6698 with story suggestions, questions or comments. Information can be e-mailed to middlesex@njnpublishing.com.

The sports editor is Dave Allena. He can be reached at (908) 575-6690.

Our address: *The Chronicle*, PO Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876. Our fax number is (908) 575-6683.

Correction policy

The Chronicle will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to editor Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6698.



RYAN SHAW
Somerville

"I don't agree with it, no. Christmas is a holiday for Christian people. People are trying to be politically correct, but I don't think there is a need for it."



LORRAINE STRANG
Somerville

"I say yes. When it says holiday, it could be Hanukkah, it could be a lot of things. It's less antagonizing to people who don't believe in Christmas."

Somerset County Briefs

Platform transfer work subject of meeting

SOMERVILLE — Transportation professionals, the public and municipal and county officials are invited to attend the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition's final meeting of the year at 8:15 a.m. Monday where NJ Transit Corporation representatives will provide an update on the same platform transfer project.

When completed, the project will provide additional same-platform transfer opportunities for Raritan Valley customers heading to Penn Station New York during the morning rush hour. It will serve as a short-term solution to improve transferring between the Raritan Valley line and trains heading into Penn Station New York.

The long-term solution will

be the completion of the tunnel project and the use of new dual-mode locomotives that will provide a one-seat ride for Raritan Valley line passengers traveling into Penn Station New York during the morning rush hour.

The meeting will be in the third floor freeholders' meeting room, located in the Somerset County Administration Building at 20 Grove St.

Free parking is available in the Bernie Field parking deck located adjacent to the Somerset County Administration Building. Public transit access is a short walk from NJ Transit's Somerville train station and various NJ Transit bus routes.

For directions or more information, contact the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition at (908) 231-7000, ext. 7239, by fax at

(908) 707-1749 or by e-mail at rvrc@co.somerset.nj.us.

New Jersey Reads gives \$12K to group

New Jersey Reads, a statewide non-profit group created to eradicate illiteracy, has given a \$12,000 Check Into Literacy Grant to Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County to implement a new Tutor Recruitment Program.

The volunteer group currently has a waiting list of more than 120 students and a severe shortage of tutors. The grant will enable the organization to hire a part-time tutor recruiter to implement a new Tutor Recruitment Program. The outreach will include local corporations, civic groups, and community organizations as well as creation of new brochures, flyers, and

information packets. The goal is to create tutor-student matches and reduce the waiting list.

"The need in Somerset County is huge," said Beth Ybarra, director of development and marketing for literacy volunteers. "We have more than 120 students waiting to be matched with tutors. This grant will enable us to have a very pro-active, targeted campaign to recruit tutors who are so desperately needed. It won't ease the demand, but the grant will help us help those students who have been waiting a very long time. We are very excited."

Since it was established three years ago, New Jersey Reads has received requests for \$1.3 million in grant monies from literacy organizations throughout the state. It has awarded \$225,000 through

its Check Into Literacy grant program. According to Penni Wild, executive director of New Jersey Reads, 40 percent of the state's six million adults have literacy problems. Of that number, 1.4 million or 23 percent are functionally illiterate, 27 percent cannot use a bus schedule or write a letter and 50 percent cannot locate information on a map or total a bank deposit slip.

"Clearly, the literacy challenge is enormous, but thanks to organizations like Literacy Volunteers of Somerset County, we are making progress in our endeavor to help every child and adult in New Jersey to read, write, speak and understand English well enough to achieve his or her personal goals," Wild said.

Literacy volunteers is an accredited affiliate of ProLiteracy America, a non-

profit organization that promotes literacy through a network of community volunteer programs. The organization provides free, individual and small group literacy tutoring in Basic Literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages to adults in Somerset County. The group recruits and trains volunteer tutors who are matched with adult students.

New Jersey Reads, in partnership with Verizon, has awarded more than \$75,000 in grants statewide to non-profits and schools for programs similar to the LVSC initiative. Verizon customers can "check the box" on their monthly phone bill and donate \$1 a month to the initiative.

New Jersey Reads is the first non-profit organization to expand literacy programs across New Jersey.

Manville VFW post to host Feb. 4 event

Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 is still a few months short of its first anniversary, but plans are being made to mark the occasion with a community-wide event in Manville that will include packing at least 1,000 boxes for shipment to U.S. troops overseas.

The Veterans of Foreign War Post 2290 will co-host the event Feb. 4 at their 600 Washington Ave. facility.

James A. Wisor, Jr., president and Renny Dilks, commander, have promised the post will do everything to make the event a success. Mayor Angelo Corradino is also spreading the word throughout town, hoping to line up merchants and residents who will pitch in to ensure a successful event.

Details will be announced next month.

Christmas carpet

If you're in the market for carpet - wall-to-wall, stair runners, remnants - make sure you stop by B&B Carpets on Main Street in Bound Brook this weekend.

Owner Ike Hishmeh will once again donate all his profits from sales tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday to Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

In October, Hishmeh, who came to the United States from Jerusalem in 1967, ran a similar promotion, donating the weekend's profits to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

But he wasn't finished giving. Next on his list was OPSHBX.

He ran a weekend promotion in November, and presented a check for \$1,000 to help send supplies and phone cards to U.S. soldiers and Marines overseas.

Here's hoping he's as successful this weekend.

B&B Carpets is open tomorrow, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The storefront is at the intersection of Main Street and Mountain Boulevard.

Call (732) 469-4800 for further information.

Letter from Iraq

Thank you so much for the pack-

Rod Hirsch
Executive
Editor



age with all the stuff. I really needed it and also gave some out because we share packages for those who don't get many. The Boy Scouts send us some too. The support you all show truly helps us deal with being so far away from home and to deal with the day-to-day fight to try and build and help these people find the beauty of freedom and liberty.

I'm so proud of these 18-19-20 year-olds here, they truly give their all. My company's job is force transportation convoy escort and base security. I'm a combat lifesaver (a medic) and ride in a Humvee and man a machine gun when needed.

I am the first responder to treat and pre-transport the wounded. We have been here 11 months and 6 days but who's counting. I'm leaving here soon and am going home for a few months, then I am going to sign up to either come back here or Afghanistan - not that I like what I do but there is so much work left to do to make sure they understand that we will not let 9/11 die out and we will take their fight to their homes and assure that anyone who does something like that to us that there is no rock to hide under as Saddam found out.

Sgt. Perry Ralph
2/172 AR Company B
Operation Iraqi Freedom II

Toys for Tots

Somerset Patriots manager Sparky Lyle will help the U.S. Marines collect toys at Commerce Bank Park in Bridgewater Saturday as part of the annual Toys for Tots program.

Fans are asked to bring unwrapped toys to the Somerset Patriots Gift Shop located at the ballpark between 10 a.m. and 4

p.m. All toys will be donated to the Marine Corps Toys For Tots Program and the United Way.

Lyle will meet fans, sign autographs, and take pictures from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Patriots fans can also have their pictures taken with the 2005 Atlantic League Championship trophy that will be on display for the day.

Younger fans will have the opportunity to take photos and get autographs from Sparkee the Mascot.

"This has become a great holiday tradition for our fans and our staff. The Toy Drive is something we look forward to as a way to help less fortunate children in our community and bring some cheer during the holiday season," said Patrick McVerry, president and general manager of the Patriots.

Those who bring an unwrapped toy will receive 25 percent off all purchases from the store. The Patriots will have special Holiday Gift Packages available that include tickets and merchandise.

Call (908) 252-0700 for further information.

Somerville Tribute

Somerville Mayor Brian Gallagher is asking borough residents for help in tracking down active servicemen and women, especially those on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan the Mideast.

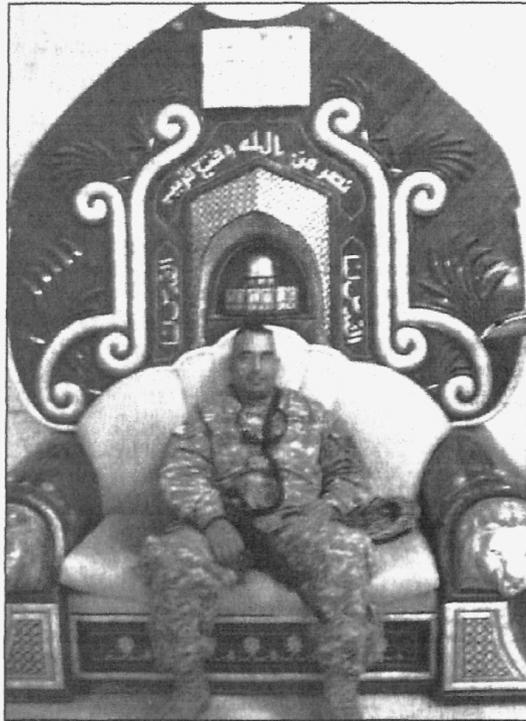
The borough plans to recognize and honor all active soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen at its Jan. 1 reorganization meeting, according to Gallagher.

The mayor is urging parents, friends, husbands and wives to get in touch with Chick Sternadori, borough administrator, at (908) 704-6983.

We'd ask that you also contact The Chronicle, so that we can add those names to our shipping list to ensure they receive packages from their neighbors in Central New Jersey.

"I Love Lulu"

The Branchburg Recreation



COURTESY SGT. SAIS SINGH

Soon after arriving in Iraq last month, Sgt. Sais Singh, a 1993 graduate of Somerville High School, had an opportunity to visit one of Saddam Hussein's palaces, where he posed for this picture seated in an opulent chair.

Department will stage an original production entitled "I Love Lulu" on Jan. 13-14, with both performances benefiting Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

In April, 42 students from Branchburg schools presented "Darn Yanks," and rather than sell tickets and charge admission, asked those who came to see the show to bring a bag of groceries and make a donation to help OPSHBX maintain its supply line. "Darn Yanks" was a huge success on the stage - both shows were sold out - and the sell-out crowds brought hundreds of bags of donated items to the show. Students also wrote letters to the soldiers, and received several replies from the troops.

We'll have more details in a few weeks.

Free shipping materials

Thanks to Marcia Coccozza, a program specialist with the

Girls Scouts Rolling Hills Council located on Route 28 in North Branch for this piece of helpful information.

The United States Postal Service is offering free packing materials to spouses and families of military members who are deployed overseas.

Call 1-800-610-8734 or 1-800-527-1950; the USPS will send free boxes, packing materials, tape and mailing labels to your front door. Make sure you ask for CARE KIT 4. You will receive five 7-by-7-by-6-inch boxes; five 12-by-12-by-8-inch boxes; one roll of tape; 15 U.S. Customs forms; 10 address labels, and five water proof bags.

T-shirts for sale

Looking for one more holiday gift? Maybe a stocking stuffer? Quality t-shirts with the handsome Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 poster and logo are available

Financial contributions needed

Operation Shoebox: New Jersey 2005, in partnership with American Recreational Military Services is seeking cash donations in support of their ongoing effort to supply American forces overseas with a steady supply of personal items, toiletries and snacks.

ARMS is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Service code. All contributions are tax-deductible.

All contributions are dedicated to the purchase of supplies and costs of shipping. ARMS/Operation Shoebox: New Jersey 2005 is an all-volunteer operation. Depending on weight, it costs between \$8 and \$15 to ship each box overseas.

Checks should be made out to ARMS, with the instructions "Operation Shoebox NJ 2005" written on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

Operation Shoebox
New Jersey 2005
c/o The Chronicle
44 Veterans Memorial
Drive East, Somerville
NJ 08876

for a donation of \$10.

Several stores on Main Street in Somerville and Main Street in Metuchen are selling the shirts, which feature the distinctive red, white and blue Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 logo, and a full-color reproduction of the Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 poster.

The shirts cost \$10 and are also available at The Chronicle office, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East. All proceeds from sale of the shirts directly benefit OPSHBX. Sizes available are medium, large and extra-large.

Rod Hirsch is executive editor of The Chronicle. He can be reached at (908) 575-6684 or email rhirsch@njnpublishing.com

Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 Drop-off sites:

Somerset County

- The Chronicle office, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville
- Commerce Bank Ballpark, 1 Patriots Way, Bridgewater
- The 250th Signal Battalion, 42nd Infantry Armory on Hamilton Street in Franklin
- The Somerville U.S. Postal Service office at 39 Division St., Somerville
- Somerset County Sheriff's Office, County Administration Building, Grove Street, Somerville
- Mannion's Pub & Restaurant, 150 West Main St., Somerville
- Alfonso's Italian Restaurant, 99-101 West Main St., Somerville
- Lloyd's Furniture, 130 West Main St., Somerville
- Beneath It All, 72 West Main St., Somerville
- Wachovia Bank, 1 West Main St., Somerville
- Dr. William Moskowitz, 205 West Main St., third floor, Somerville
- Somerville Center Antiques, 33

- West Main St., Somerville
- Neshanic Station Country Café, 419 Olive St., Neshanic Station
- Dorell & Sons Locksmith, 20 W. Somerset St., Raritan
- Shop-Rite Supermarket, 611 West Union Ave., Bound Brook
- Girl Scouts of Rolling Hills Council, 1171 Route 28, North Branch
- Nan Romano Fine Apparel/Distinctive Gifts, 432 Main St., Bedminster
- Somerset County Park Commission main office, North Branch Park, Milltown Road, Bridgewater
- Somerset County Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge
- Leonard J. Buck Garden, 11 Layton Road, Far Hills
- Warrenbrook Golf Course, Warrenville Road, Warren
- Spooky Brook Golf Course, Colonial Park, Amwell Road, Franklin

- Raritan Valley Community College Theater and Student Activities office, Route 28, North Branch
- Learning Express Toys, 315 Route 206, Hillsborough
- Test Sports Club, 1982 Washington Valley Road, Martinsville
- US Bicycle Hall of Fame, Main Street, Bridgewater
- Powerhouse Gym, Route 22, Bridgewater
- Bedminster Post Office, 251 Somerville Road, Bedminster
- Bound Brook Carpet, 200 E. Main St., Bound Brook
- Attic Treasures Antiques, Sansone Plaza, Route 22 East, Green Brook
- Country Manor Furniture, 272 Route 22 West, Green Brook
- Eclipse Fitness Sports & Wellness, 17 King George Road, Green Brook
- Dr. Steven C. Balestracci, 154 Adamsville Road North, Bridgewater
- Soprano's, 154 Adamsville Road North, Bridgewater

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OPERATION SHOEBOX NEW JERSEY 2005
Support Our Troops

Salute the sacrifice of our troops deployed around the world by donating care packages. Items through OPERATION SHOEBOX: NEW JERSEY 2005.

The Reporter, along with our community & corporate partners, are collecting small, personal items that will be packaged and shipped to the brave men and women serving overseas.

Look for our drop-off boxes at a store or business near you! Pick up The Reporter each week for updates and information. For details on becoming a drop off location, contact The Reporter's Executive Editor, Rod Hirsch at (908) 575-6684. Send your message of support today!

We're collecting the following items to be sent to our troops overseas:

- Suntan lotion
- Bug spray
- Lip balm
- Feminine products
- Ear swabs
- Laundry detergent
- Bug wipes/bug strips
- Wipes (travel size)
- Razors
- Toilet paper
- Eye drops
- Spices/Tea bags
- Coffee
- Small drink mixes
- Socks
- Clothesline/pins
- Snack food
- Cereal/protein bars
- Fleece blankets
- Microwaveable foods
- Hard candy/gum
- Writing materials
- Batteries (any size)
- Calling cards

*Donated items must be in their original packaging.

Visit us on the web: www.NJ.com/shoebxnj

The Reporter |

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Roland DeSorbo

DUNELLEN — Roland L. DeSorbo, 86, died Dec. 12, 2005.

Born in Schenectady, N.Y., he was a son of the late Mary and Samuel DeSorbo.

Mr. DeSorbo was an owner of the Rifino & DeSorbo Music Studio, where he was the director as well as a teacher. He was an accomplished accordion player and master piano tuner.

As an Army veteran of World War II he was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Preceding him in death were a brother, Louis; and a sister, Corinne Gatti.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Anita; a son, William and wife Jeanne of Whitehouse Station; a daughter, Carla Wishinsky and husband Marc of Middlesex; a sister, Marion Gatti and husband Bruno of Schenectady; and three grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Thursday at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church, North Plainfield, following services at the Sheenan Funeral Home. Burial was in Holy Redeemer Cemetery, South Plainfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to St. Luke's Organ Fund, Attn: Father John Giordano, 300 Clinton Ave., North Plainfield, NJ 07063.

Kurt Hochheimer

BOUND BROOK — Kurt Hochheimer, 83, died Dec. 7, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born April 23, 1922 in Germany, he was a son of the late Arthur A. and Irna Hochheimer.

Mr. Hochheimer lived in Bound Brook for most of his life. He graduated from the Rutgers School of Pharmacy and was a retired pharmacist with the Middlesex Pharmacy. Surviving are several cousins.

Services were held Dec. 9 at Congregation Knesseth Israel, of which Mr. Hochheimer was a member. Burial was in Washington Cemetery, Deans. Arrangements were by the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home.

Mary Bonina

MIDDLESEX — Mary Paratore Bonina, 87, died Dec. 12, 2005 at the Raritan Health and Extended Care Center.

She was born in Italy and lived in the Bronx before moving to Middlesex in 1990.

A seamstress for a number of companies, Mrs. Bonina sewed her own clothing and also special outfits for her three grandchildren. She was a member of the Middlesex Senior Citizens Club.

Her husband, Santo, died in 1994.

Also surviving are a son, Joseph A. and wife Rose of Middlesex; and two sisters, Santina Privitera of the Bronx and Amelia Caragliano of Italy.

A funeral Mass was held Thursday at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

Arrangements were by the Middlesex Funeral Home.



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Our offices will be closed on Mon., Dec. 26 and Mon., Jan. 2.

Beatrice Ferrarie

PISCATAWAY — Beatrice A. Van Fleet Ferrarie, 85, died Dec. 9, 2005 at her home in New Market.

Born July 12, 1920 in Elizabeth, she was a daughter of the late James M. and Margaret A. Dietz Van Fleet.

Mrs. Ferrarie lived in Plainfield before moving to New Market in 1950. She was a homemaker.

Preceding her in death was a brother, Robert J. Van Fleet.

Surviving are her husband, Lewis, whom Mrs. Ferrarie married April 25, 1942; two daughters, Nancy M. of Portales, N.M., and Lois A. of North Plainfield; two sisters, Margaret Viohl of Harmony and June M. Hoffman of North Plainfield; three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Private arrangements were by the Mundy Funeral Home in Dunellen.

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Home Improvement

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Patriots' Lyle feels court ruling is off base

By ROD HIRSCH
Staff Writer

TRENTON — Somerset Patriots Manager Sparky Lyle stopped off in the Statehouse last week to make a pitch for lawmakers' support of legislation that would nullify a Supreme Court ruling and help protect New Jersey minor league baseball teams from lawsuits filed by fans seeking damages after being struck by foul balls beyond the confines of the box seats and cheap seats.

The New Jersey Supreme Court in September issued a ruling that would permit fans to

sue a club if they are struck by a ball in areas of a ballpark not including the traditional seating areas along the base paths, down the foul lines and beyond the outfield.

The ruling stems from a 1999 incident at the Newark Bears' Eagles Stadium when a fan at a portable beer stand was struck by a foul ball during an Atlantic League of Professional Baseball game.

The proposed legislation, drafted by Assemblyman Patrick Diegman, D-Middlesex, and approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee, would require ballparks to post signs

and make repeated public address announcements during the game that the possibility of being struck by a ball — or a bat — is one of the "inherent dangers" of watching a baseball game.

The bill now heads to the full Assembly for its consideration.

"Foul balls are a part of the game," said Lyle, a relief pitcher specialist and Cy Young Award winner with the New York Yankees in 1977.

"The bottom line for me is that if people get hit by a ball, they're not paying attention," added the 16-year major league veteran.

The ruling did get the attention of ballpark team owners because of the liability issue. Lawsuits could force insurance premiums to rise. That would certainly impact ticket prices, which are characteristically much lower at the minor league level, which has helped buoy the appeal of minor league baseball in New Jersey.

Insurance companies might also require ballclubs to install safety netting around the perimeter of the ballpark to separate the field seating areas from the concourse level, which houses refreshment and concession stands, rest rooms and

other amenities.

"What are we talking about, maybe two, three balls go back there in a week at our place," Lyle said, referring to Commerce Bank Park in Bridgewater, which is owned by Somerset County.

The netting, too, could impact the bottom line and also detract from the aesthetics of the ballpark, according to Patrick

McVerry, president and general manager of the Patriots, one of seven minor league teams that call New Jersey home.

The Patriots and Bears are two of eight teams in the independent ALPB. Together with the Camden Riversharks and the Atlantic City Surf, the New Jersey teams make up 50 percent of the league, which has its offices in Camden.

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Middlesex County Briefs

South Plainfield plans caroling in the park
SOUTH PLAINFIELD — A special invitation to all South Plainfield residents has been extended for "An Afternoon of Caroling in the Park" at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Elks holding hoop shoot contest today
MIDDLESEX — Elks Lodge 2301 sponsors its local edition of the Elks Hoop Shoot contest at 9 a.m. today in the new gym of Von E. Mauger Middle School.

Boys and girls who will be ages 8-13 as of April 1 are eligible. The local round is open to boys and girls who live in Middlesex, Dunellen and Green Brook. Winners advance to the district round on Saturday, Jan. 7 at Alexander Batcho Intermediate School in Manville. Entry forms are available at Middlesex public schools, the Middlesex Recreation Department and the Dunellen Recreation Department. You can also pick up an entry form from the Elks lodge at 545 Bound Brook Road. For more information, call

Chairman Bruce Perone at (732) 356-4486 after 6 p.m.
Holiday Services held at township church
PISCATAWAY — The Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders and the North Stelton AME Church, located at 123 Craig Ave. on the corner of Ethel Rd., announces the following services for the 2005 Holiday Season. At 5 p.m. today there will be a Christmas Celebration Concert. At 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 25 come celebrate a Christmas Morning Worship Service. At 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve), observe and attend a Watch Night Service. Call the church office at (732) 287-5184 for more details.

Santa's coming to the borough Elks Lodge
SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Bring your cameras and your appetites to the South Plainfield Elks Lodge 2298 from 8 a.m. to noon tomorrow for the annual, traditional All You Can Eat Breakfast with Santa! The Elks Lodge is located at 1254 New Market Ave. and the cost will be adults \$6; children ages five to twelve, \$4; and children under

five are free. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, home fries, eggs, coffee, tea, milk and juice.

Enjoy a train ride with Santa on Sunday
BOUND BROOK — There will be a train ride with Santa and Mrs. Santa Claus arriving at the Bound Brook train station at 1 p.m. tomorrow. The train departs at 1:28 p.m. and ends in Westfield for two hours of convenient shopping time in the beautiful downtown and restaurant district. The train leaves Westfield at 3:59 p.m. for the return trip. Roundtrip tickets are \$7 for everyone over one year old and include cookies, candy canes and a small craft gift. Advance tickets only are available at Holy Family Academy,

120 East Second Street, the Spice of Life Café, 117 East Main Street and Scrapbooking Moments in Time, 217 East Main Street, all located in Bound Brook. Contact Holy Family Academy at (732) 356-1151 for more details.

Dinner and dance extravaganza held
MIDDLESEX COUNTY — The Middlesex East Widows or Widowers will hold their annual dinner dance extravaganza from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Music will be performed by the popular Joe Caroselli Trio and an open bar will be available. Admission is \$30 and everyone is welcome. For more information, call (732) 969-1123.

Senior Citizens Calendar

Bound Brook
The Bound Brook Seniors meet at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in Asbury Hall of the Bound Brook United Methodist Church, 150 W. Union Ave. All seniors are welcome to join including non-residents. Meetings include informative programs, refreshments, information about upcoming trips and bingo.

Upcoming Trips and Events:
 Atlantic City trips are held the third Tuesday of each month. Call Ed Kimmel at (732) 469-1263 for details.

For detailed information, call President Frank Gilly at (732) 356-6310. Non-members are welcome on trips if space allows.

The Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's Bound Brook club sponsors Atlantic City trips to the Taj Mahal casino the fourth Tuesday of each month. The bus departs from the church parking lot at 10:15 a.m.

The Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's meets at 1 p.m. the second Monday of every month in the cafeteria of Holy Family Academy, 201 Vosseller Ave., Bound Brook. For further information, call President Sal Barbatì at (908) 725-5444.

Dunellen

The Dunellen Senior Citizen Club is open to all Dunellen residents 60 years and older. Meetings are held at 10 a.m. each Friday at the new seniors building on Orange Street in Columbia Park. Bingo is played each Friday after the meeting. Bus transportation is provided. New members are welcome. Coffee and tea are provided; bring your own sandwiches.

For information, call (732) 968-1285; President of Dunellen Senior Citizen Club, Ida Cihanowicz.

Edison

Edison Chapter of AARP #3346 reminds members that

new applications are being accepted.

South Bound Brook

The South Bound Brook Senior Citizens Community Club meets at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month, at Our Lady of Mercy Church Hall, 122 High St. The club is open to all seniors, 55 years and older residing in South Bound Brook. For information, call Catherine (732) 356-4080.

Upcoming Trips and Events:
 Dec. 18 — Members' Christmas Party, McAteers.

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Italian Station
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 Sautéed Italian Sausage with Cherry Peppers, Vidalia Onions & Broccoli Rabe in Roasted Garlic & Olive Oil. Served with Parmesan Garlic Breadsticks.

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Appetizer
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New Years Salad
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Intermezzo
Entrée
 Surf & Turf
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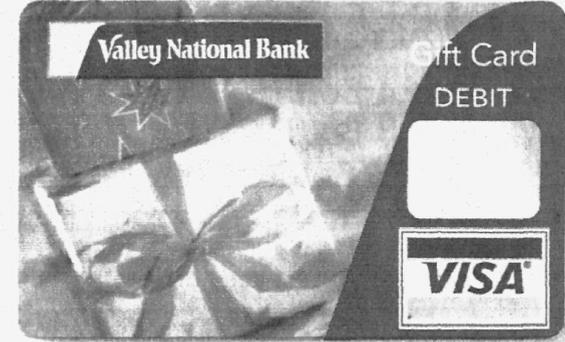
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Weekend Calendar

Saturday, Dec. 17

BERNARDS - "Cool Critters" for ages 9-8. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 10 a.m. \$7.50. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

BERNARDS - "Introduction to Cross Country Skiing" for ages 10-up. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 10 a.m. Dec. 17, Jan. 7. \$9. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

BERNARDS - The Green Team: community service project for ages 12-15. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 1 p.m. Dec. 17, Jan. 7. Free. Registration required: (908) 766-2489.

BERNARDS - Tracking Hike in the late-autumn woods. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 2 p.m. \$7. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

Sunday, Dec. 18

BRIDGEWATER - Open House for people interested in Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, 775 Talamini Road, 3-5 p.m. (908) 725-6994, Ext. 201 or www.ssbjcc.org.

BRIDGEWATER - Family Chanukah party for all. Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, 775 Talamini Road, 4 p.m. Adults \$7; ages 12-under \$5. Registration: (908) 725-6994, Ext. 213.

SOMERVILLE - Holiday Music with Robert Moulard. Old Dutch Parsonage, 71 Somerset St., 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$10. Reservations required: (908) 725-1015.

BERNARDS - Geese! Geese! day trip for "Snow Goosing" in South Jersey. Trip leaves Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 8 a.m. Adults \$40; students, seniors \$30. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

BERNARDS - Winter Stroll to the "Boondocks and Back" for ages 7-9. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 1 p.m. \$10. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

Monday, Dec. 19

SOMERVILLE - First Aid Basics course of American Red Cross, 14 W. Cliff St., 6:30 p.m. Dec. 19. \$40. Registration: (908) 725-2217.

Tuesday, Dec. 20

BERNARDS - "Lake Lullaby" for ages 4-6. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 4 p.m. \$8. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

BERNARDS - "Garden Gifts to Make and Take" for all. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 6 p.m. \$20. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

Wednesday, Dec. 21

BERNARDS - Blood Drive at Somerset Hills YMCA, 140 Mount Airy Road, 2-7:30 p.m. Donor requirements: (800) 933-BLOOD.

BERNARDS - "Reindeer Games" for ages 6-10. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 4 p.m. \$12. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

BERNARDS - "Winter Welcome Walk" for all ages. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 4 p.m. \$9. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

Thursday, Dec. 22

BERNARDS - Thursday Thriller: movie on "Rainforests" for ages 7-10. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 5:30 p.m. \$8. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

In the Future

BEDMINSTER - Forgotten Flick: "The Swimmer" (U.S., 1968). Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road, 7 p.m. Jan. 3. (908) 234-2325, Ext. 111.

BEDMINSTER - Forgotten Flick: "Major Dundee" (U.S., 1965). Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road, 7 p.m. Jan. 10. (908) 234-2325, Ext. 111.

BRIDGEWATER - Starlight Social for people in their 20's. Houlihan's, 1288 Route 22 East, 6 p.m. Dec. 29. Reservations required: (732) 764-9073.

BRIDGEWATER - Book Group discussing "The World is Flat" by Thomas Friedman. Somerset County Library, 1 Vogt Drive, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 10. (908) 526-4016, Ext. 105.

SOMERVILLE - Blood Drive of American Red Cross, 14 W. Cliff St., 1-6 p.m. Dec. 27. Registration required: (908) 725-2217.

SOMERVILLE - Babysitter Training course for ages 11-15. American Red Cross, 14 W. Cliff St., 10 a.m. Dec. 28-29. Registration/fees: (908) 725-2217.

BERNARDS - Holiday Fun: "Winter Marshmullers" for ages 3-4. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 10 a.m. Dec. 27, 29. \$24. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

Take a carriage trip down main

Horse-drawn carriages coming to Somerville

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — "Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!" Though it wasn't over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house, the Downtown Management Corporation was expected to offer free carriage rides to the public as a part of its holiday celebration.

People could tour downtown in a carriage, providing an opportunity to see the lights and decorations and get into the holiday spirit, on Friday. The rides, which will be provided by Hunterdon Coach and Wagon of Delaware Township, will take visitors up and down Main Street.

The vis-à-vis rides, or face-to-face, will accommodate 4 to 6 riders per trip, said downtown manager Cynthia Hollod. This is the first time carriage rides are offered in Somerville as a part of the holiday season, and the DMC hopes to draw people to Somerville with the distinctive offer.

Holiday shopper Jack Ciattarelli, who works in Somerville, said that he hadn't heard of the carriages. Main Street has been busy lately, he said, and "Somerville is doing a great job getting people here for the holidays."

When asked while he was shopping at the Big Little Railroad Shop if he would come back to take a ride, he said yes. "I'll have to come down with the kids."

For Big Little Railroad Shop owner Jan Kusma, the draw-an-offer coupon boxes that the DMC has placed in local businesses has helped lead people to her store.

"A lot of people have gotten our coupon from other stores and come in," she said. "They've been helpful."

While she couldn't judge an increase in foot traffic as a result of the DMC's efforts, as she has only been in her current location since August, she said that her shop has been getting people in who have walked by and seen her window display.

"I have lots of people who stop and watch the trains, and then come in," she said. "I have noticed that a lot of people are talking about what's going on in Somerville."

The stores, many of which are open late on Thursdays and Fridays during the holiday season, will hopefully reap the rewards of people coming for carriage rides.

Already, some local businesses have seen more people on the streets as a result of the holiday efforts.

"I've gotten some new customers," said Patti Manos, co-owner of Torpedos Touch of Glass. "The restaurants, especially Origins, have helped us. People wander and window shop after dinner, and then call us the next day and say, 'I saw this in your window last night.'"

Manos said that she wasn't plan-



Angela Weinhold, driver of a horse-drawn carriage provided by Hunterdon Coach and Wagon, prepares to take passengers on a ride through the streets of New Brunswick. The carriages were expected to visit Somerville yesterday, courtesy of the Downtown Management Corporation.

ning on staying open late on Friday, but the carriage rides have her thinking about it.

"We may even stay open late, until 8," she said. "It might be well worth it for us."

Even if she closes at her normal time, she said she would stop and check it out, and maybe go for a ride herself.

At least one business owner said the DMC's efforts this holiday season have been successful.

"Anything the town and the merchants can do to bring people in is a positive," said Tino Cintorrino, of Tino's Hair Salon and Body Spa, adding that the free parking offered by the borough is a plus. "I think all those are great ideas."



Robin O'Connor displays Tarot cards at Gaia's Gate in Millstone. The store will be the site of a Yule celebration on Sunday led by owner Patricia Miller.

Yule celebration to mark winter solstice

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

MILLSTONE — Nearly every culture and civilization has a celebration that falls near the winter solstice. While they don't all include jingling bells, many of the familiar Christmas symbols have their roots in older traditions.

Patricia Miller, of Gaia's Gate, will be hosting a Yule celebration at 3 p.m. tomorrow at the store.

"Basically, we're going to be blessing and burning a Yule log, and everyone will get to put their intentions on the log," she said. "The idea is to set your focus for the New Year. You place your intentions into the log, you focus that into the log and we'll have something, a decoration of some sort, for everyone to put on the log to symbolize that, and we'll offer up the log to the fire."

Miller, who has practiced pagan religions for almost 13 years, said that this observance will reflect mostly Scandinavian and Celtic traditions, but that a solstice celebration is common around the world.

"Almost every civilization has some sort of winter solstice observance, because that was the time when the sun would return and life would be coming back to the earth," she said. "In a lot of ancient belief systems, the wise people of the tribe would hold an all-night vigil to encourage the sun back."

While she won't be staying up until sunrise, this will be the first time Miller, who hosts other circles, classes, and workshops, will have a public Yule celebration.

Last year, she hosted a private Yule celebration for friends and family.

Robin O'Connor, who helps out at Gaia's Gate, will be at a different Yule rite. O'Connor, who is a former Catholic, will join with the other members of her coven to celebrate and offer thanksgiving.

"I've been in the closet as a witch for a long time," she said, until she moved to New Jersey. Far from the black-clothed, sullen image of modern pagans, she said she found more like-minded witches, and joined the Coven of the Wooden Spoon.

Her husband has joined as well. Though O'Connor has been reading Tarot cards since she was 15 and has been a practicing pagan almost 20 years, her husband has only recently become interested in the practice. After 20 years of marriage, she said, he finally started coming to circles and was initiated just this year.

O'Connor said that the speakers and classes at Gaia's Gate are helpful and informative as well. In addition to the circles and seminars, the Gate also offers holiday celebrations and rituals.

Yule is one of eight holidays in the pagan religion, Miller said. There is Imbolc, which falls in February; a Spring Equinox celebration; Beltane, a planting and fertility celebration that falls on May 1; a midsummer celebration on the summer solstice; Lunasadh, which falls on August 1; the autumn equinox in September; and Samhain, which falls on Halloween.

Gaia's Gate is located at 33 North River St.

Boredom inspires actor to become playwright

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

NORTH BRANCH — Dennis Russo was a little bored of the parts that were out there, so he wrote one for himself.

"I guess, as an actor, I got tired of what was out there and I wanted to write myself a good part," the theater instructor said. "That's kind of the ongoing thing with actors, is searching for good parts."

The resulting play, "Tuesdays in Jersey with Andy," was named a winner at the New Jersey Playwrights Festival, sponsored by William Patterson University. Russo, a full-time theater instructor at Raritan Valley Community College, described it as a "dark, absurdist comedy" that came out of a rather dark time in his life. The reception the play has gotten, however, has been positive from the beginning.

While studying at the Actors' Studio in New York, he and a friend, Marc Solomon, presented the first five pages of what was to become "Tuesdays in Jersey with Andy." There was such a great response to that start, Russo and Solomon were encouraged to develop it further.

"I was waiting for the phone to ring on some other things, and it was just

what we needed to hear," he said. "It's something I had been itching to do."

An earlier and much different version of the play was presented at the Westbeth Theater in New York last year, which allowed Russo to figure out what did and didn't work about it. With the help of actress Louise Lasser, the play was revised and reworked into its current version.

That evolution was also an evolution for Russo: from actor into writer.

"Now, it's opened up a can of worms," he said, adding that he's gotten more into writing as a solitary activity, as opposed to the communal nature of acting. "Now, I'd say I'm fifty-fifty."

That shift has been good for his work at the college as well. "This is one job where it's encouraged to go on, to achieve outside success, because it makes you more valuable here," he said.

The college is where Russo discovered theater. As a student at North Hunterdon High School, he was involved in sports; once at Raritan Valley, he became involved in the theater program, which led him to Montclair State and finally to the New School in New York, where he

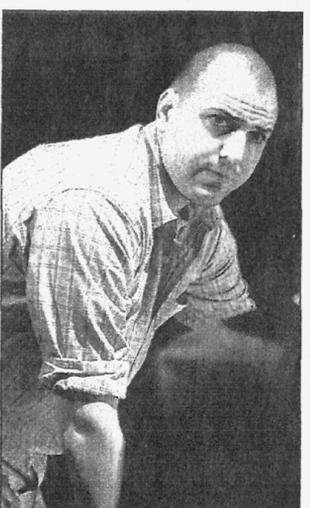
earned his masters in fine arts. Now, he lives in Somerville and is back at the college, teaching alongside some of his former professors.

"The students are great, my colleagues are great," he said. "I enjoy teaching much more. There's less of an unknown; I pretty much know what I'm going to be doing day to day. As a student, there's always a curveball being thrown at you."

Hopefully, there won't be any curveballs in the production being staged at William Patterson, because Russo will be involved as a consultant, and will also be present at auditions. At the original reading, he disliked one of the actor's portrayals "I told them, just don't let it be him again," he said, noting that sometimes it can be difficult as a writer to watch actors and a director interpret the play.

For "Tuesdays in Jersey with Andy," he hopes that the William Patterson production, which will run from Feb. 10 to 18, won't be the last. Russo said that he's looking to do a reading in January in Madison, which will hopefully lead to a longer run for the play at a different theater.

"We'd love to have a run, at a New Jersey theater or in New York," he



Dennis Russo, a full-time theater instructor at Raritan Valley Community College, won a New Jersey Playwrights Festival award for "Tuesdays in Jersey with Andy."

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Industrial Property For Sale 340 BRANCHBURG For Sale or Lease 3000, 6000 sq. ft. warehouse with small office 20 ft. ceiling. CALL KNAUER REALTYCORP 908-526-7600 Ext 225

Real Estate Rentals BOUND BROOK - 1BR, Ext. Cond. Off St. Parking, no pets. \$550/mo + utility. 908-704-8723

CLINTON AREA - Garage House 1 1/2 stories, 12/15, \$1200/mo plus sec. Credit check. No pets. 908-713-9003.

FLEMINGTON ARMS 1 & 2Brs. 908-237-4564, or 908-806-3630 ext 505. Email: info@3rdstreet.com

FLEMINGTON BORO - 1 bed, 1 bath, no pets, heat and hot water included, \$500/month + 1.5 months security. Call 908-996-4958.

FLEMINGTON - Recently renovated, 2 bdrm, 2 1/2 ba, \$850/mo + utility. Call 215-794-3021

GARWOOD - 1BR apt. in semi-furnished complex. Heat & hot water incl. No pets. Workout & laundry room onsite. \$1055/mo. 908-789-9198

Apartment 405 GLEN GARDNER - Clean 1 BR, on 1 acre. No pets. \$850/mo + utility. free dish TV. 908-340-4004.

High Bridge - Ren. 1st Floor Apt. in 3 Family Home. Off Str Pkg. FREE Laundry. Close to Town. Train & Park. \$650. Mo. call Ken 908-413-4371.

LAMBERTVILLE - 2 1/2 br, 2BR, heat incl., \$1050, avail. Jan. 1. 1 1/2 ba, efficiency, heat incl., \$700, avail. immed. 215-794-3021

POHATCONG TWP Spacious 2BR, 2 1/2Brs., LR, BA, Large EIK, office, storage, off street parking. Avail Jan 1. \$980/mo incl. heat & hot water. 908-432-0487

STERLING - 1 BR apt, washer/dryer on premises, \$550/mo including ht. and water. 908-647-2144

Commercial Property For Rent 410 CLINTON TWP. Retail commercial, new const., 1,000 - 16,000 sq. ft., del. Feb. '06. Contact excl. leasing agent. Silbert Realty & Mgt. Co. 908-604-6900

Competitive Pricing Must See! FLEMINGTON: PLAZA I Commerce St. Various Sizes 1st ClassSpace 600-2200 s.f. 908-782-7043

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Houses For Rent 430 Bound Brook - 3 bdrm, LR, Kit., Din., 1 1/2 ba., \$1700. 730-560-1620

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Houses For Rent 400

BRANCHBURG Rt. 22. Fully furnished 4BR, centrally air conditioned... 908-530-9847

Franklin Twp 9

100 sq. ft. of room in 1000 sq. ft. home... 908-530-9847

Industrial Property For Lease 450

16,500 sq. ft. large open, clean space... 908-530-9847

Commercial/Industrial For Rent 415

FLORHAMINGTON 2 1/2 acre... 908-530-9847

Merchandise

Chinese Oriental Rug 10x14... 908-530-9847

Real Estate

FREE GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS! Free equipment... 908-530-9847

Furniture 500

GRANDFATHER CLOCK... 908-530-9847

Home Under \$100 575

Brand new... 908-530-9847

General Merchandise 500

CABINETS - White, custom made... 908-530-9847

Home Workers 55

Processing Company... 908-530-9847

Business Opportunities 650

SEARN INSTANT CASHES... 908-530-9847

Financial Services 655

SCASH NOW'S AS SEEN ON TV... 908-530-9847

Pets 640

HIMALAYAN KITTENS... 908-530-9847

LAB PUPPIES AWC

Yellow Labs... 908-530-9847

MOVIE EXTRAS, ACTORS, MODELS 1

Make \$100-\$300/day... 908-530-9847

Financial Services 655

***\$500-\$500,000+FREE... 908-530-9847

Medical Instruments 585

ALTO SAKOPHONE... 908-530-9847

Horses 630

BOARDING - Indoor/Outdoor... 908-530-9847

Financial Services 655

NEED CASH HAVE A LAW... 908-530-9847

Child Enrichment Schools 734

EXCELLENT CHILD CARE... 908-530-9847

Professional Services

NEED HELP BUYING A HOME... 908-530-9847

Transportation

Bmw 330i... 908-530-9847

Trucks & Trailers 405

Ford F350... 908-530-9847

Vans & Light 410

Ford Windstar... 908-530-9847

Trucks & Trailers 405

Ford F350... 908-530-9847

Vans & Light 410

Ford Windstar... 908-530-9847

Home Services

Handyman... 908-530-9847

Home Improvements

Handyman... 908-530-9847

Home Services

Handyman... 908-530-9847

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Home Services: Clean Ups & Hauling, Home Repairs, Handy Dan, etc.

Count on US: For 24/7 customer service. Classified.

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\$1995 Run it til you sell it! The Reporter mfg. Sell your car, furniture, or no longer needed items.

Campus Notes

Erin Bunger of Piscataway was named a University Scholar at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa.

Bunger is a senior majoring in psychology and was feted at a university dinner on Nov. 4.

The daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bernhard Bunger graduated from Piscataway High School in 2002.

Jay Teitelbaum, a sophomore at American University, Washington D.C. and a resident of Middlesex, was selected to take part in the university's

Early Identification Program. He is majoring in Finance within AU's Kogod School of Business.

Garrett Lacaillade, a sophomore at American University, Washington, D.C. and a resident of Middlesex, was selected to take part in the university's Early Identification Program.

Eighty eight students at John P. Stevens High School in Edison have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board.

The students were selected in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college level Advanced Placement

Program Exams. Students took AP Exams in May 2005 after completing college level courses at their high schools.

Ricky Shah qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of four or higher on a five point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades of four or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Sixteen students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning a grade of at least three point five on all AP Exams taken, and grades of three or higher on five or more of these exams. The students are: Udit Banerjee, Daniel R. Cordero, Kevin H. Dong, Nitin Goyal, Jennifer Huang,

Stephanie B. Kitchell, Yifan Lin, Jia Liu, Rahool N. Patel, Rounak B. Rawal, Arjun D. Shah, Ricky B. Shah, Raluca T. Tavaluc, Du Xu, Allison L. Yang and Aparna V. Yenamandra.

Thirty students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honors Award by earning an average grade of at least three point two five on all AP Exams taken, and grades of three or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are: Kahil Agarwal, Jennifer Chang, Ruchit B. Desai, Kathleen E. Doherty, Anushree K. Doshi, Howard K. Eichenblatt, Vivek Kanumuri, Saffiyah G. Madraswala, Neena Makam, Pooja G. Mody, Andrew S.

Nacht, Neil A. Nadkarni, Amit M. Patel, Ankit P. Patel, Philip Petrov, Cheryl L. Quan, Adam A. Radwan, Rachel Regn, Anurag Saraf, Krina K. Shah, Rutva K. Shukla, Moses M. Tam, Ruslan Tovbulatov, Marissa A. Ur, Lindsay A. Wagenblast, Chun-Ying Wang, Rachel E. Winograd, Benjamin R. Yospe, Sarah E. Yurch and Andrew D. Zakim.

Forty two students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP examinations with grades of three or higher.

The AP Scholars are: Natalie Adler, Ankur Bakshi, Priya D. Bolikal, Emily Brennan, Jason Callender, Lauren H. Chiarulli, Collin R. Creanage, Iris M.

Delgado, Matthew Dezaio, Jeremy M. Engel, Amanda N. Goodman, Xiaodi Huang, Rami M. Ibrahim, Kaitlyn R. Lavin, Sharon H. Lee, Alexander D. Lehrer, Patrick H. Liang, Michael P. Molina, Michael D. Offin, Ankit J. Patel, Dipa Patel, Paras Patel, Karishma T. Patwa, Ritesh K. Ramchandani, Shawn M. Rubin, Krishna Sangani, Ashish V. Shah, Kathleen M. Sheehan, Prapti Y. Shingala, Stephen T. Shum, Monica Sood, Alessandra Soracchi, Jamie L. Urbanowicz, Meredith L. Wallner, Alexander W. Wang, Anran Wei, Victor J. Wu, Yuelan Wu, Xue Xie, Scott Yang, Andrew Zhang and Mitchell G. Zuckerman.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN POLICE OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX FOR THE YEARS 2006, 2007, & 2008.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX THAT: The salary and rate of compensation of each officer of the Police Department of the Borough of Middlesex shall be and the same is hereby fixed respectively for the years 2006, 2007, & 2008 as follows:

Table with columns: Rank, 2006, 2007, 2008. Rows include Rank, Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, Patrolman A, Patrolman B, Patrolman C, Patrolman D, Patrolman E, Probationary Officer, Academy, Corporal, Detective Stipend.

Employees hired after July 1, 2003 shall enjoy the following:

Table with columns: Rank, 2006, 2007, 2008. Rows include Patrolman A, Patrolman B, Patrolman C, Patrolman D, Patrolman E, Probationary Officer, Academy, Step Increases.

SECTION 2 Rates of Compensation established above shall serve as a guide in employment and subsequent changes in rates of employees hired after passage of this ordinance.

SECTION 3 The Mayor and Council shall have the sole discretion in determining who shall be placed on Minimum, Maximum and on interim steps of the salary range and their determination shall be final and conclusive on all employees.

SECTION 4 All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5 This Ordinance shall take effect upon its final passage, approval and publication according to law.

INTRODUCED: December 13, 2005

The ordinance published herewith was introduced at a public meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, held on December 13, 2005 and will be further considered for the final passage after a public hearing at a Public Meeting of said Borough Council to be held at the Municipal Building, in said Borough on December 27, 2005 at 7:30 P.M.

Kathleen Anello, Borough Clerk, B272-1T-12/17/05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN HOURLY PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX FOR THE YEARS 2006, 2007, & 2008.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX THAT: The salary and rate of compensation of each hourly employee of the Board of Public Works of the Borough of Middlesex shall be and the same is hereby fixed respectively for the years 2006, 2007, & 2008 as follows:

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour 2006, Salary/Hour 2007, Salary/Hour 2008. Rows include Laborer (6-18 months, 19-30 months, 31-42 months, 43-54 months, 55-66 months, 67 months plus), Top Rate.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Lead Person, Garbage Truck Driver.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Garbage Truck Driver, Garbage Collection.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Lead Person, Public Works Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Lead Person, Public Works Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Solid Waste Truck Driver.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Solid Waste Truck Driver, Solid Waste Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Lead Person, Public Works Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Lead Person, Public Works Employee #1, Chief Mechanic, Mechanic - Assistant.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Public Works Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Public Works Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Utility Person.

SECTION 2 Rates of Compensation established above shall serve as a guide in employment and subsequent changes in rates of employees hired after passage of this ordinance.

SECTION 3 The Mayor and Council shall have the sole discretion in determining who shall be placed on Minimum, Maximum and on interim steps of the salary range and their determination shall be final and conclusive on all employees.

SECTION 4 All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5 This Ordinance shall take effect upon its final passage, approval and publication according to law.

INTRODUCED: December 13, 2005

The ordinance published herewith was introduced at a public meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, held on December 13, 2005 and will be further considered for the final passage after a public hearing at a Public Meeting of said Borough Council to be held at the Municipal Building, in said Borough on December 27, 2005 at 7:30 P.M.

Kathleen Anello, Borough Clerk, B273-1T-12/17/05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARY RANGE OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX

Table with columns: TITLE, Salary Range, To. Rows include Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk, Deputy Borough Clerk, Tax Collector, Police Chief, DPW Superintendent, DPW Assistant Superintendent, Director - Office on Aging, Corporate Counsel, Assistant Corporate Counsel, Treasurer, Recreation Director, Assistant Recreation Director, Recreation Secretary (Part Time), Construction Officer (Part Time), Tax Assessor (Part Time), Deputy Tax Assessor (Part Time), Chief Finance Officer (Part Time), Electrical Sub-Code Officer (Part Time), Board of Health Secretary (Part Time), Shade Tree Secretary (Part Time), Juvenile Conference Committee Secretary (Part Time), Uniform Fire Code Officer/Fire Prevention Officer (Part Time), Municipal Magistrate (Part Time), Assistant Municipal Magistrate (Part Time), Plumbing Sub-Code Officer (Part Time), Fire Sub-Code Officer (Part Time), Shade Tree Secretary (Part Time), Swim Pool Secretary (Part Time), Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds (Part Time), Swim Pool Manager (In Season), Swim Coach (In Season).

Kathleen Anello, Borough Clerk, B272-1T-12/17/05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN HOURLY PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX FOR THE YEARS 2006, 2007, & 2008.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX THAT: The salary and rate of compensation of each hourly employee of the Board of Public Works of the Borough of Middlesex shall be and the same is hereby fixed respectively for the years 2006, 2007, & 2008 as follows:

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour 2006, Salary/Hour 2007, Salary/Hour 2008. Rows include Laborer (6-18 months, 19-30 months, 31-42 months, 43-54 months, 55-66 months, 67 months plus), Top Rate.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Lead Person, Garbage Truck Driver.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Garbage Truck Driver, Garbage Collection.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Lead Person, Public Works Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Lead Person, Public Works Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Solid Waste Truck Driver.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Solid Waste Truck Driver, Solid Waste Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Lead Person, Public Works Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Lead Person, Public Works Employee #1, Chief Mechanic, Mechanic - Assistant.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Public Works Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Non-Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Public Works Employee #1.

Table with columns: Title, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2006, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2007, Salary/Hour Longevity Rate 2008. Rows include Utility Person.

that said Ordinance will be taken up for further consideration for final passage at a meeting of said Borough Council to be held in the Borough Hall, 230 Hamilton Street, Bound Brook, N. J. on the 27th day of December 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at which time and place all persons interested therein may be given an opportunity to be heard concerning same.

A copy of this notice has been posted on the Bulletin Board upon which public notices are customarily posted in the Borough Hall of the Borough, and a copy is available up to and including the time of such meeting to the members of the general public of the Borough who shall request such copies, at the office of the Clerk in said Borough Hall in Bound Brook, New Jersey.

Donna Marie Godesiek, RMC, Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK

BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK ORDINANCE NO. 05-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 8-14 OF CHAPTER VIII, ENTITLED "LICENSING-GENERAL" OF THE "REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK (1967)".

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bound Brook in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF SECTION 8-14 Section 8-14 of the "Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Bound Brook (1967)" is amended to read as follows:

"8-14 Certified Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates.

8-14.1 Fee for Birth Certificate. The fee for the issuance of a certified copy of a birth certificate shall be \$10.00 per copy.

8-14.2 Fee for Marriage Certificate. The fee for the issuance of a certified copy of a marriage certificate shall be \$10.00 per copy.

8-14.3 Fee for Death Certificate. The fee for the issuance of a certified copy of a death certificate shall be \$10.00 per copy."

SECTION 2. CONSTRUCTION Where consistent with the context in which used in this ordinance, words importing the singular shall include the plural, words importing the plural shall include the singular, and words importing one gender shall include all genders.

SECTION 3. INCONSISTENCY Should any provision of this ordinance be inconsistent with the provisions of any prior ordinance, the inconsistent provisions of said prior ordinance are hereby repealed, but only to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY In the event that any provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration of invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application of this ordinance which may be given effect, and to realize the intent the provisions and applications of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5. PURPOSE OF CAPTIONS Captions contained in this ordinance have been inserted only for the purpose of facilitating reference to the various sections, and are not intended and shall not be utilized to construe the intent and meaning of the text of any section.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon final adoption, approval and publication in accordance with law.

INTRODUCED: December 13, 2005

First Publication: December 17, 2005

APPROVED: Frank J. Ryan, Mayor

ATTEST: Donna Marie Godesiek, RMC, Borough Clerk

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish the fee for a certified copy of a birth, marriage or death certificate at \$10.00 per copy.

B267-1T-12/17/05

BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK

BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK ORDINANCE NO. 05-24

AN ORDINANCE DISCONTINUING, DISSOLVING AND ABOLISHING THE BOUND BROOK FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council adopted Resolution No. 05-210 through which it has applied to the Somerset County Library Commission for the admission of the Borough of Bound Brook into the Somerset County Library system upon the terms and conditions set forth in the document approved by the Mayor and Council by Resolution No. 05-075, and upon such further terms and conditions as may from time to time be mutually agreed upon by the parties; and

WHEREAS, upon the effective date of acceptance into the Somerset County Library system the municipal free public library will cease to operate and its continued existence will be redundant; and

WHEREAS, the continued existence of the Bound Brook free public library would require the continued necessary levy of taxes as mandated by N.J.S.A. 40:54-8.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bound Brook in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. DISSOLUTION OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY The municipal free public library in and for the Borough of Bound Brook, heretofore established and governed by the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:54-1 et seq., is hereby discontinued, dissolved and abolished as of the effective date of adoption of the Borough of Bound Brook into the Somerset County Library system.

SECTION 2. INCONSISTENCY Should any provision of this ordinance be inconsistent with the provisions of any prior ordinance, the inconsistent provisions of said prior ordinance are hereby repealed, but only to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION 3. PURPOSE OF CAPTIONS Captions contained in this ordinance have been inserted only for the purpose of facilitating reference to the various sections, and are not intended and shall not be utilized to construe the intent and meaning of the text of any section.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE This ordinance shall be effective upon final adoption, approval and publication in accordance with law.

INTRODUCED: December 13, 2005

First Publication: December 17, 2005

APPROVED: Frank J. Ryan, Mayor

ATTEST: Donna Marie Godesiek, RMC, Borough Clerk

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish the fee for a certified copy of a birth, marriage or death certificate at \$10.00 per copy.

B267-1T-12/17/05

BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK

BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK ORDINANCE NO. 05-25

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bound Brook in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD A Library Advisory Board is hereby established to act as liaison between the Borough of Bound Brook and the Somerset County Library Commission and to perform such other functions as may from time to time be appropriate for the continuation of a public library within the Borough of Bound Brook. The Library Advisory Board shall consist of the Mayor or his designated alternate, the Borough's Superintendent or his designated alternate, and five (5) resident members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council. Each member appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council shall serve for a term of three (3) years and until his successor is appointed and qualified; except that, of those five (5) members first appointed, two (2) members shall serve for a term of two (2) years, and one (1) member shall serve an initial term of one (1) year. The Library Advisory Board shall adopt bylaws governing the conduct of its business and shall hold an organizational meeting annually in January of each year.

SECTION 2. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY The Library Advisory Board is hereby authorized and empowered to perform such functions as may be necessary to conclude the affairs of the Bound Brook Municipal Public Library Board of Trustees.

SECTION 3. INCONSISTENCY Should any provision of this ordinance be inconsistent with the provisions of any prior ordinance, the inconsistent provisions of said prior ordinance, are hereby repealed, but only to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION 4. PURPOSE OF CAPTIONS Captions contained in this ordinance have been inserted only for the purpose of facilitating reference to the various sections, and are not intended and shall not be utilized to construe the intent and meaning of the text of any section.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE This ordinance shall be effective upon final adoption, approval and publication in accordance with law.

INTRODUCED: December 13, 2005

First Publication: December 17, 2005

APPROVED: Frank J. Ryan, Mayor

ATTEST: Donna Marie Godesiek, RMC, Borough Clerk

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a Library Advisory Board to act as liaison between the Borough of Bound Brook and the Somerset County Library Commission and to perform such other functions as may be necessary to conclude the affairs of the Bound Brook Municipal Public Library Board of Trustees.

B269-1T-12/17/05

BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX

NOTICE OF PENDING BOND ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 1676-05 The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herewith, has been finally adopted by the Borough of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on December 13, 2005 and the 30 day period of limitation which starts a suit, unless or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance can be commenced as provided in the Local Bond Law, has begun to run from the date of the final publication of this ordinance. Copies of the full ordinance are available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for members of the general public who request the same. The summary of the terms of such ordinance follows:

Article: Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of a Rack Body Truck with Lift Gate for the Department of Public Works in and by the Borough of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey Approving \$47,250 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$45,000 Bonds or Notes of the Borough to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof.

Purpose: The acquisition of a rack body truck with lift gate for the Department of Public Works, including all related costs and expenditures, incidental matters.

Appropriation: \$47,250

Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$45,000

Grants Anticipated: NA

Section of Code: 25-255

Life: 5 years

Kathleen Anello, Clerk B271-1T-12/17/05

Large advertisement for Somersetsavings.com featuring 'SPECIAL HOME EQUITY LOAN RATES' with rates of 5.74%, 5.99%, and 6.24% APR. Includes text: 'You have a dream. Maybe you're dreaming about fixing up your house, buying a new car, or paying off college bills. Or maybe you just want to replace that high rate mortgage. We have a dream rate. Now is the time to lock in one of our great rates and get the money you need. It's easy to apply. No points, no application fees and the interest you pay is tax deductible.'