

A return to the roster?

Tony Gsell quietly accepted his role as a Somerset Patriots reserve and seems willing to fill the same niche next year if that's what the team's plans call for. **Page B2.**



Take a look back at 2005

James Marshie, left, and Tom Triano, right, position Lady Justice on top of the Somerset County Courthouse on May 18. The renovation of the statue, done by Paragon Restoration, was one of the many events that took place in 2005. **Page B1.**

Grant will aid schools

EDISON — Sen. Barbara Buono, D-Middlesex, announced that the Edison Township School District will receive an additional \$50,000 special purposes grant. The grant will be used to install security cameras in Edison High School and J.P. Stevens High School. "School safety is a paramount concern for both parents and faculty members," said Buono. "While Edison's School District has had an exceptional safety record, we must continue to provide our schools with the tools they need to maintain a safe learning environment." Buono was also honored by the Edison Township Board of Education for securing \$1 million in program improvement aid this year. The program improvement aid has been used to enhance the school district's curriculum and staff development programs and help the district provide the highest quality education possible. The school district has also used the aid to purchase classroom libraries, two special education vans which transport wheel-chair bound students, and the establishment of a K-5 Mathematics Curriculum Project to increase the percentage of students achieving advanced proficient math scores. "Boards of Education across the state feel a great pressure each year to present a budget that raises taxes as little as possible," said Buono.

Grant to aid Y health, wellness programs

METUCHEN — Sen. Barbara Buono, D-Middlesex, presented the YMCA with a \$250,000 grant that will help usher in a new era in health and wellness for area families. Acting Gov. Richard Codey's Chief of Staff Peter Cammarano was on hand for the presentation. The YMCA has partnered with Metuchen High School in a historic initiative to create a one-of-a-kind Wellness Center which will foster healthy habits in children as well as adults. "The rise in childhood obesity is a critical public health issue and new strategies that address the obesity crisis are desperately needed," said Buono. "We all know that individuals who become obese at a young age are more likely to stay obese throughout their lives, along with the associated health problems that

result." The YMCA in partnership with Metuchen High School will use the grant to create a wellness center which will serve as the focal point for the High School Physical Education Program.

In addition the Wellness Center will be a community resource on evenings and weekends providing additional service to middle and high school students as well as area families. The YMCA will provide equipment for the site, work closely with High School faculty, and monitor progress and participation.

A recent government report concluded that half of Americans age 55 to 64 have high blood pressure, are obese and are in worse shape than those born a decade earlier. "If we

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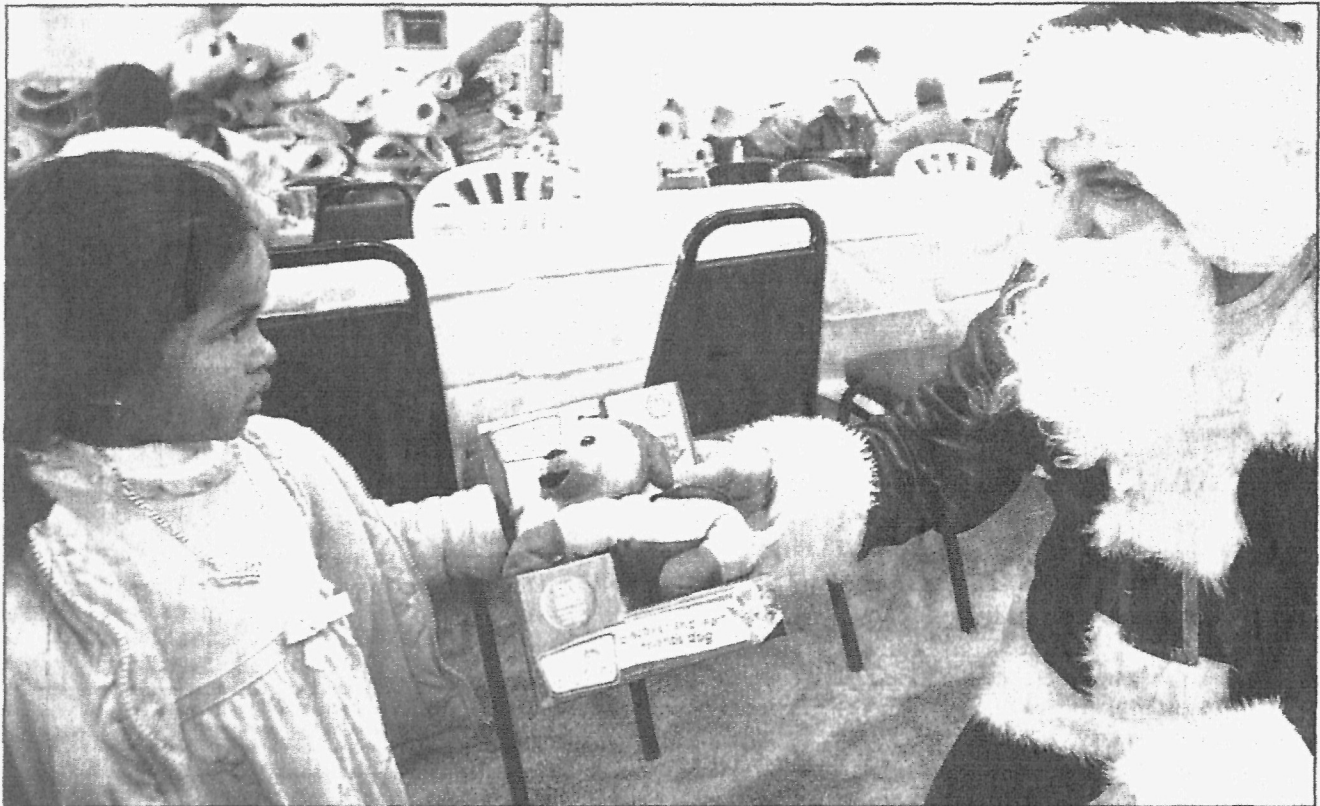


COURTESY SEN. BARBARA BUONO'S OFFICE
William Lovett, chief executive officer of the Metuchen Edison Woodbridge YMCA, with Sen. Barbara Buono, D-Middlesex, during a program at the YMCA, located in Metuchen. Buono recently helped the Y receive a \$250,000 grant for a new health and wellness program.



Leslie Santiago, 3, gets a toy from Santa during a Christmas lunch held at B&B Carpets in Bound Brook on Christmas Eve. The free dinner was held for those who are in need. A sign in Spanish hung outside the store reads: "Merry Christmas ... free food and toys ... all are welcome."

PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Christmas Eve generosity brings comfort and joy

By ROD HIRSCH
Staff Writer

BOUND BROOK — Clearly, the people walking through the door didn't come to buy carpet — chances are they'll never be back again.

They came looking for a hot meal and a toy to give their kids.

There was, however, one woman about midday who did come up to owner Ike Hishmeh inquiring about a remnant that looked good to her as she passed by the window of the Main Street store.

"Not today, I can't sell you carpet today ma'am, but please, next week you can come back," explained Hishmeh, standing alongside a folding table covered in a pink plastic tablecloth where several people had sat down with plates full of hot food.

It was one of more than a dozen 4-by-8 foot tables that had been set up in the middle of the store where just hours before, hundreds of carpet

remnant rolls had take up the floor space.

It was Christmas Eve, and in the true spirit of Christmas, Hishmeh, his son Jacob, and friend Nik Renieris — who graciously stood in for Santa — were hosting a holiday dinner for disadvantaged and homeless people from Bound Brook and surrounding towns.

Earlier that morning Santa — Renieris is co-owner of Loukas All-American Diner in Branchburg — had been slicing and dicing sweet potatoes, string beans and stuffing in the busy kitchen of the popular Route 22 diner.

He also brought bags of fresh-baked rolls crusted with sesame seeds.

The banquet was a help-yourself spread that included turkey and stuffing, Virginia ham and leg of

Continued on page A2



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Maria Biermissen, 6, and her mom, Rocio Biermissen, and Raquel Durne, 14, get some turkey and mashed potatoes during the Christmas Eve dinner held at the Main Street carpet store owned by Ike Hishmeh.



Jeanne Giordano, executive director of management conferences and communication services at Raritan Valley Community College, helps G. Jeremiah Ryan with his robe before winter commencement was held last week. It was Ryan's last official duty as president of the college.

Ryan's legacy is college's future

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

NORTH BRANCH — On his last day as president of Raritan Valley Community College, G. Jeremiah Ryan took some time out from writing a speech for commencement that evening to reflect on the future of the college, politics in the state, and what lies ahead in his life. In his bare

office, with the pictures and posters taken down and his books removed, he talked frankly with *The Reporter*.

His legacy, he said, will be tied to several things, particularly his contribution to changing perceptions of the college in the community.

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Middlesex County had productive year

Middlesex County remained fiscally sound during an extremely productive year in 2005, highlighted by the opening of five new buildings and enhanced services for residents of all ages.

In giving his 2005 State of the County address, Freeholder Director David B. Crabel said Middlesex County maintained its AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's, cut the tax levy for the seventh year in 12 years and reduced the county property tax rate for the 13th year in a row.

Crabel said the county also continues to offer the second lowest per capita cost of county government in the state and the county's unemployment rate is 28 percent lower than the national average and 14 percent lower than the state average.

At the same time, officials enhanced services across the board for residents, including expanding its Middlesex Rx discount prescription drug plan to include all residents, providing 740 computers to classrooms and automatic external defibrillators to about 300 schools in the county as part of the final year of the Tech 2000 program,

expanding shuttle service through the Department of Transportation and creating the South Central Middlesex County Flood Commission, which was formed to tackle flooding problems in the Helmetta, Spotswood and Jamesburg area.

"The achievements and accomplishments did not occur by accident," Crabel said. "They occurred as a result of the commitment of this Board of Chosen Freeholders to provide the very best in county government for our residents at the minimum possible costs. This commitment is reflected by the level of service regularly provided by county staff and by the long-term tax record of this county, which is arguably the best in the state of New Jersey."

The county dedicated the brand new, 180-bed facility as the Roosevelt Care Center. County officials also dedicated a state-of-the-art Medical Examiner's Building, which brings that office's functions under one roof. The county also moved the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension into a new facility at Davidson's Mill

Continued on page A2

ADULT EVENING SCHOOLS
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January 3, 4, 5, 2006 5 PM to 8 PMDr. 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 CPR/AED (4 1/2 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

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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

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Grant

Continued from page A1

continue along this path, this will be the first generation of Americans whose life expectancy will not exceed their parents," said Buono.

"It is my hope that this Wellness Center will serve as a model for similar partnerships across the state and combined with the Senate's efforts to improve school nutrition and cover more children under Family Care, New Jersey's children will be among the healthiest in the nation," added Buono. "I would like to thank

Lorraine Mulligan, Megan Powers, William Lovett of the YMCA, Superintendent Terry Sinatra, Board President Ron Grayzel and the entire Board of Education and the entire YMCA Board for their leadership and for recognizing that we need a cultural change in the way our society approaches wellness."

Generosity

Continued from page A1

lamb. It was an impromptu Christmas Eve dinner that Hishmeh and his good friend Renieris put together in a matter of a few days. Hishmeh only reached out to homeless shelters, churches and other organizations last week to invite people to his store.

The hosts also dug into their own pockets to purchase hundreds of toys for children who might not otherwise receive one.

Late the night before, Hishmeh and his son, along with other employees of B&B Carpets, had hefted the carpet remnants on their shoulders and tossed them on to other piles at either side of the store, carving out an area large enough to accommodate the tables.

A narrow path led to the back of the store and the concrete loading dock, where the food sat steaming in a long line of chafing dishes, kept warm by cans of sterno, their blue flames licking at the bottom of the aluminum pans.

Outside, a hand-scrawled sign in Spanish was taped to a sign post, while a spirited Renieris - wearing ankle-high Santa leggings, Santa Claus suit, cap and white sneakers - rang a brass bell beckoning passers-by to stop in and have a bite to eat.

By day's end, Hishmeh estimates more than 100 people, many of them families, had stopped to enjoy the food. Bound Brook Councilman Bill Siebel and his wife, as well as a few other Bound Brook merchants, stopped by too.

"I stayed open as long as they wanted to come and eat," Hishmeh said. "The people kept coming until 6:30 with their kids; all the toys were gone, too."

Renieris spent much of his time outside, greeting passers-by in Spanish, crouching down to speak to young children and posing for a few pictures. Occasionally, he'd slip inside and help pass out a few toys.

"He looks funny in that Santa Claus suit, doesn't he," Hishmeh said more than once. "I've known him for years, he's a good friend, good people," he added.

After several hours of bell ringing, Santa stepped inside for a break, and helped himself to a ham sandwich. He sat on the edge of the loading dock, his beard and moustache pulled below his chin revealing a faint smile. In between bites, he related how he wound up spending the balance of his Christmas Eve surrounded by carpet and a bunch of strangers.

"He called me about a week ago and said 'Hey, would you mind?' I said sure," Renieris recalled.

Middlesex

Continued from page A1

Park, which is a fitting home to an office dedicated to educating and assisting residents on agricultural issues.

A new headquarters for the Sheriff's Department was dedicated. A new tuberculosis clinic and rape crisis center were completed.

The county also furthered its commitment to preserving open space by acquiring 176.5 acres of land to be preserved as open space forever and by growing its

farmland preservation program to now include 3,630 acres of land to be preserved forever.

Phase II of Old Bridge Waterfront Park was completed in June. The county park now stretches for 2.3 miles along Raritan Bay and includes a great lawn, two gazebos, scenic outlooks, playgrounds and nature education trails.

Ground was broken on the second phase of the county's 19th park, Phillips Park in Old Bridge. A cricket ground, comfort station and playground will join two ball fields and three soccer pitches built during Phase I of the project, all of

which is on 100 acres of the 1,728-acre John A. Phillips Preserve.

The county also received a \$940,000 Public Archives and Records Infrastructure Grant from the state to upgrade and strengthen the county's document management capabilities and its electronic sharing of information.

"Taken as a whole, this is an impressive list of milestones and accomplishments, and I believe that my freeholder colleagues and their supporting staff should be commended on an extremely productive year," Crabel said.

Legacy

Continued from page A1

"Unless you're living under a rock somewhere, everybody knows about RVCC and I think everybody has a positive image of the college," he said, especially in the business community, with its workforce development programs, the conference center, the focus on the life sciences, and the many transfer agreements and partnerships formed during his tenure. He also said his stamp on the

college will be made through the people he's brought to the college community, the faculty, staff, and administration he has brought on board over the last six years. "I'm proud of these people," he said. "We had great people that served before them, and in every instance we were able to get people that are just as terrific as the people we were losing. They came here with a different set of skills and assumptions than the people we had three or four years ago, and I think these people are the reason that the college will continue

to march on and become even better."

Ryan leaves with no regrets about his time at RVCC, despite his relationship with the board of trustees, which he described as "not perfect." "I've never been accused of being a shrinking violet," he said. "I'm a pretty straightforward, strong personality, and I think that especially in trying to find the resources to fund the future of a college, that became an issue, enough so that they thought maybe it was time for me to go and to find somebody else."

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Obituaries

Barbara E. Jones

PISCATAWAY — Barbara E. Jones, 62, died Dec. 14, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Plainfield, she lived in North Plainfield and Piscataway before moving to Somerville in 1963.

Mrs. Jones worked 23 years in the recovery room at Somerset Medical Center, where she began her career as a hospital volunteer. She earlier worked for ShopRite in Somerville and Bound Brook.

She was a member of Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Somerville.

Surviving are her husband of

more than 40 years, Terry; her mother, Eleanor Rinker; a sister, Eleanor Greene; two brothers, Milton Rinker and James Rinker; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Dec. 19 at the Bruce C. Van Arsdale Funeral Home, Somerville, followed by a funeral Mass at Immaculate Conception Church. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park.

Donations may be sent to Somerville Rescue Squad, 21 Park Ave., Somerville, NJ 08876 or Somerset Medical Center Foundation, 110 Rehill Ave., Somerville, NJ 08876.

C. Howell Day

PISCATAWAY — Charles Howell Day, 99, died Dec. 19, 2005 at his home in Greenacres, Fla.

Born March 30, 1906 in New Market, he was a son of the late Charles S. and Emma Louise Nelson Day.

Mr. Day lived most of his life in New Market, where he opened the Model Railroad Shop on Jan. 2, 1933 and operated it for many years. The Model Railroad Shop has operated ever since from its location at New Market Road and Vail Avenue. He had a home in Greenacres for many years and his permanent residence in that city since 2002.

As a philanthropist Mr. Day supported the Boy Scouts, the Salvation Army and the Deborah Foundation. He was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church of New Market.

His wife, Ann Lambertsen Day, died in 1981. A brother, Ernest Nelson Day, died Jan. 29, 2005.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth Bragg Day; two stepdaughters, Judy Appenedi of Bluffton, S.C., and Cheryl Bare of Fayetteville, N.C.; a stepson, Buddy Pare of Lantana, Fla.; a niece, June E. of Rocky Hill, Conn.; a nephew, Charles R. "Bunky" of Greenville, Va.; 10 step-grandchildren and six step-great-grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday at the Mundy Funeral Home in Dunellen with Rev. J. Kenneth Mart, former pastor of the First Baptist Church of New Market, officiating. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

Jerry R. Vogel Jr.

BOUND BROOK — Jerry R. Vogel Jr., 45, died Dec. 23, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born Feb. 20, 1960 in Plainfield, he lived in Bound Brook before moving to Bridgewater.

Mr. Vogel owned Vogel's Landscaping and at one time worked for Union Carbide Corp. in Piscataway.

A brother, Jeffrey R., died in 2000.

Surviving are his parents, Jerry R. Sr. and Lucy Coy Vogel of Little York; a son, Jerry R. III, a daughter, Samantha Lynn Vogel, and a close friend, Judi Rispoli, all of Bridgewater.

Private arrangements were by the Johnson-Walton Funeral Home in Milford. Donations may be sent to Hunterdon Humane Society, 576 Stamets Road, Milford, NJ 08848.

Evelyn Williams

MIDDLESEX — Evelyn C. Mitchell Williams, 90, died Dec. 25, 2005 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Scranton, Pa., she lived in Nutley before moving to Middlesex in 1995. Mrs. Williams retired in 1975 as an assembler with Allegri Tech in Nutley.

She was a member of the Middlesex Senior Citizens Club and the Women's Circle at the Vincent United Methodist Church in Nutley.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Francis; a son, Frank; and a brother, Walter E. Mitchell Sr. Surviving are a daughter, Esther J. Leeder; two sons, Norman and Edward; three sisters, Bertha Grady, Christina LePree and Jennie LaFerrier; seven

grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Thursday at the S.W. Brown & Son Funeral Home in Nutley. Burial was in Crest Haven Memorial Park, Clifton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to American Heart Association, 2550 Route 1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-4301.

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Middlesex Briefs

Ready to recycle
Christmas trees?

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Holiday hours for the recycling center and yard waste site on Kenneth Avenue has been announced.

The recycling center will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today, and noon-7 p.m. Wednesday. The facility will be closed Tuesday, a day the center would normally be open.

The yard waste site is open through today for residents to drop off Christmas trees. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today plus 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. through tomorrow. Be sure the ornaments and bases are removed.

For updates, call (908) 226-7620.

In addition, 2006 permits for the yard waste site are available in the Borough Clerk's office at Borough Hall. Bring the registration for the vehicle you will use.

College is holding
evaluations Jan. 9

EDISON — Middlesex County College will host an Instant Evaluation Evening designed to highlight opportunities at the College and provide enrollment information for this spring.

It is scheduled for 4-7 p.m. Jan. 9 in the College Center, rooms 100-102.

Instant Evaluation Evening allows students who would like to enroll this spring to come to the college and receive an evaluation of any credits they have earned and to enroll. Please bring copies of all transcripts. While there is normally a late fee for people registering on that day, it will be waived.

The college is offering three

new programs: Information Systems Security, which trains technicians to protect the nation's computer networks from hackers, criminals and terrorists; Help Desk Administration, which teaches students how to help people with computer problems over the phone; and Energy Utility Technology, a program in cooperation with PSE&G in which students learn to be technicians for the electric and gas industry.

The spring semester begins Jan. 23.

"Instant Evaluation Evening allows students to conveniently come to campus to find out about our programs and to enroll," said Peter Rice, director of Admissions. "We're going to highlight some very exciting new additions to our academic areas that we think will be very popular. While everyone is welcome, I think this will be especially valuable for adult students considering returning to college."

For additional information or to schedule an appointment, call (732) 906-4243.

Meals on Wheels drivers
needed

EDISON — The Jewish Family and Vocational Services of Middlesex County urgently needs caring volunteers deliver meals to home bound clients.

There is an immediate opening on Thursday's delivery route. The Kosher Meals on Wheels program is a five day a week service that provides two daily meals to seniors and disabled individuals who are temporarily or permanently unable to shop or cook for themselves.

Volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of two delivery

dates per month for a 90-minute route.

Someone who is unable to drive can still make a meaningful contribution as a "jumper" — a navigator who works alongside the driver to deliver the meals. Also needed are substitute drivers and jumpers.

For additional information, call E. J. Berman to set up a meeting at (732) 777-1940, Ext 122.

Woman's club has
membership drive

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Suburban Woman's Club is recruiting new members.

Women interested in serving their community are welcome to join. The Woman's Club participates in civic and community activities in the area. In addition to contributing to national and local charities, the club sponsors a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior from South Plainfield High School.

For membership, program and activity information, call Grace Farinella at (908) 753-5753.

Watching school
kicks-off fundraiser

MIDDLESEX — Watchung Elementary School is kicking off its annual fundraiser of collecting empty computer printer cartridges — inkjet and laser — and used cell phones.

All items donated to the school are recycled by the Watchung PTO, which earns cash for school programs and activities.

Drop off items to the Watchung School main office, 1 Fisher Ave. For more information, contact Kirsten Vogl at (732) 764-9733.

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RED WINE 750 ml - ON SALE

Insignia - 96 Pts.....	\$99.07
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Ruffino Reserve Ducale Gold	\$27.17
Di MaJo Norante Sangiovese - 90 Pts	\$8.97
Amberhill Cabernet	\$8.07
Lindeman - All Types	\$5.77
3 Blind Moose - All Types	\$7.17

WHITE WINE 750 ml - ON SALE

Meridian Chardonnay	\$7.97
Smoking Loon - All Types	\$7.07
Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio	\$18.07
Clos Du Bois Chardonnay	\$9.57
Kendall Jackson Chardonnay	\$10.17
Gallo of Sonoma Chardonnay	\$8.17
Coppola Diamond Chardonnay	\$11.17

BEER - ON SALE

Bud All 30 Packs	\$15.77
Busch All 30 Packs	\$11.97
Corona Light or Reg. 24 Bottles	\$22.97
Natural 30 Packs	\$10.97
MGD 12/24 Bottles	\$14.07
Imperial Cerveza 6 Pack Case	\$20.99

TABLE WINE - ON SALE

Ruffino Chianti 1.5 L	\$10.37
Beringer White Zinfandel 1.5 L	\$8.07
Yellow Tail All Types 1.5 L	\$10.97
C. Rossi All Types 4 L	\$8.27
Luna DiLuna All Types 750 ml	\$7.17
Bolla Wine - All Types 1.5 L	\$10.27
Cavit Pinot Grigio 1.5 L	\$11.07
Bella Sera Pinot Grigio 1.5 L	\$9.37
Glen Ellen All Types 1.5 L	\$7.07
Forest Glen All Types 1.5 L	\$11.37
WoodBridge All Types 1.5 L	\$10.07
Opici Barberone 4 L	\$11.97

SPIRITS - ON SALE

Dewars 1.75 L	\$29.17
Svedka Vodka 1.75 L	\$18.17
Smirnoff Vodka 1.75 L	\$18.07
Bacardi Light Gold 1.75 L	\$19.07
Grey Goose Vodka 1.75 L	\$51.27
Jack Daniels 1.75 L	\$35.97
Johnny Walker Red 1.75 L	\$28.97
Absolut 750ml	\$18.27
Johnny Walker Black 750ml	\$26.27
Seagrams "7" 1.75 L	\$14.27
Gordons Gin 1.75 L	\$14.07
Clan MacGregor 1.75L	\$15.97

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Saturday, December 31, 2005

Opinion

Volunteers are lifeblood of local government

Politicians and volunteers alike will get their chance to shine in the spotlight over the coming week.

The new year brings with it an annual municipal government tradition — the reorganization meeting. Once it would have been considered almost sacrilegious to hold the "reorg" meeting on any day other than Jan. 1. Some towns even held the meetings promptly at 6 or 7 in the morning.

These days it's not taken so seriously. Some communities might even wait almost a week before gathering to those who will sit on what committee and who will be liaison to what.

The reorganization meeting is also the one time each year when unpaid volunteers — who make up the vast majority of people sitting in positions of real importance to a community — get the chance to be acknowledged for their hard work, their sacrifices and struggle to make some hard decisions for the best of all the people they serve.

From a recreation commission chair to a planning board member, these people are often the hidden faces who keep a community on the right path.

All too often people look to those who are

elected to lead their town, but it is to the volunteer that the elected leaders look to for guidance in running the place.

An example is a recent survey completed by the Environmental Commission in Montgomery, which looked to what residents viewed as the most important environmental concerns in the township.

The survey found that leading the way is traffic, open space preservation and the population of deer. Sound familiar? If you live anywhere in Somerset County — or Central Jersey, for that matter — it should. It was a well-rounded study as well, with 402 adults and 289 high-school age students taking part.

It was the kind of poll that will help the Township Committee in keeping a pulse on what their constituents see as important environmental issues in the township. In the past, other communities have conducted similar surveys — some looking at recreation needs, some at open space purchases, some at traffic.

Almost all have been lead by a volunteer commission, and helped that municipality know what the people living there are thinking.

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)
45 Mountain Blvd., Building D, Suite 1, Warren, NJ 07059, (908) 757-7835
214 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-5361
— Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th)
30 Schuyler Place, Second Floor, Morristown, NJ 07960, (973) 984-0711
2442 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-3011, (202) 225-5034

STATE OFFICE HOLDERS

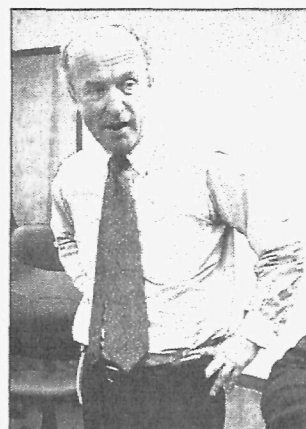
— Sen. Walter J. Kavanagh (R-16th)
76 North Bridge Street, Somerville, NJ 08876, (908)-526-4222
— Assemblyman Christopher Bateman (R-

16th)
36 East Main St., Somerville, NJ 08876, (908)-526-3600
— Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi (R-16th)
1 East High St., Somerville, NJ 08876, (908)-252-0800

The Chronicle welcomes comments and news tips. The following is a list of our staff and how to reach us:

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Takesha Pettus, staff writer, (908) 575-6695; tpettus@njnpublishing.com
Press releases can also be sent to somerset@njnpublishing.com

Quotables of the Year:



"Things could have been done better, much better. It made my blood boil to see all those school buses under water. As we rebuild, we need to examine the best course of action."

**CONGRESSMAN
RODNEY
FRELINGHUYSEN**

Speaking about seeing the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina firsthand.



"When you're going through something like this, it's a process. It's one step at a time. Most people would say 'Don't worry about it. The insurance company is paying for it. Why do you care?' But I have to care. I have to be concerned. This is my house. The insurance company doesn't have to live here. I do."

**FAWENDA
GENOVESE-GARCIA**
Lost her Green Brook home to a fire in March.

Letters to the Editor

It's still critical to donate blood

To The Editor:

In recent years New Jersey has had to import over 50,000 units of whole blood annually because our population does not donate enough blood to cover the needs of New Jersey hospitals.

Our state faces an immediate shortage for select blood types and this will likely be the case of the coming winter as inclement weather could force the cancellation of scheduled blood drives.

In working to recruit current blood donors to donate more, we need to build a new generation of blood donors for the ultimate goal of all New Jersey-based blood services is to create a self-sufficient and self-sustaining blood supply for New Jersey. 'Tis always the season to give the most precious gift — "The Gift of Life."

January is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month and a great time to start the new year off right with a blood donation that will help save lives.

Readers of *The Reporter* can donate blood through New

Jersey Blood Services. Interested readers and donors can call (800) 933-BLOOD or go online at www.nybloodcenter.org to locate drives convenient to their homes and workplaces. Donors must be 17 years old, weight at least 110 pounds and be in good health. Healthy donors can actually donate whole blood every 56 days, while citizens age 76 and older can donate if they have a physician's permission.

Since 1973 New Jersey Blood Services has been running blood drives in New Jersey. Blood is our only business. To supply blood products to the hospitals we serve, New Jersey Blood Services runs blood drives seven days a week. We also seek companies and organizations that want to hold blood drives in support of their community's health. Interested parties can call (732) 220-7184 or (732) 220-7096. Help address the state's blood supply shortage — donate today.

MAGGIE O'SHEA
*Executive Director, New Jersey Blood Services
New Brunswick*

Protect history before it is gone

To The Editor:

My 100-year-old family home at 702 Madison Ave., Dunellen, has been sold.

The buyers have decided to tear this house down, subdivide the property and put up two houses in its place. These will never have the character of a renovated 100-year-old house.

My dad died in January and the proceeds from the sale of the house, as specified in his will, are going to 15 charities. There were three executors (I'm the only family member) and we were challenged to get top dollar for the house (not by the charities).

There were three neighbors who wanted to buy the house, fix it up and live there, which I would have loved, but the house needed a lot of work and they couldn't compete with contractors' offers. If I had control of the situation, I would have gladly sold the house to one of them for much

less. I did all I could to have a family live there and raise their children.

My father and mother, Ernie and Ruth Day, bought that house in September 1937 and he lived there for over 67 years. I know they never dreamed it would come to this. I'm sure he thought that someone would buy the house, live in it and the proceeds would go to the charities. It greatly saddens my family and me that it didn't happen this way.

My only regret is that I didn't have the house put on the state historic register.

If you have an old home in Dunellen or property that can be subdivided, be careful how you word the disposition of it in your will and even in your power of attorney. This could have been avoided. Be very specific. Then maybe your family home will remain standing.

JUNE E. DAY
Rocky Hill, Conn.

Many helped make holidays a success

To The Editor:

I want to thank all who supported and volunteered their time for Raritan Borough's annual Christmas tree lighting and Santa's visit.

I would like to thank Gaetano's Beauty Salon, Quick Chek, Commerce Bank, PNC Bank, Scott's Florist, Tropiano & Son Jewelers, Mugs, Value Towing (Felix), Schoor DePalma engineers and Stan Schreck, Bruce Doory, Raritan Pharmacy, Raritan Police Department, Raritan Fire Department, Raritan Recreation Staff, Public Works Department, Terry Hudak and the mayor

and council for all their dedication to this event.

A very special thank you to Gaetano Izzo for the donations and time spent on this event. Also Quick Chek in Raritan for the use of their property and donations, and Mike from Raritan Pharmacy for film donations and picture taking.

Also, I would like to thank all who I may have failed to recognize for their dedication to this exciting event. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

VICTOR J. LAGGINI Jr.
Member, Raritan Borough Council

The Chronicle

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The Chronicle is here for you

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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.

Somerset County Briefs

Culinary event raises funds for PeopleCare

BRIDGEWATER — Over the past 13 years, PeopleCare Center's Taste of Somerset has become the largest and most respected culinary event of its kind in the state.

Taste was the first of what has become a popular fund-raising event for non-profits and now boasts the greatest number of participating restaurants, caterers and food vendors, often with more than 600 guests enjoying the best of Somerset County cuisine.

The 14th Annual Taste of Somerset, featuring more than 60 participating chefs and food vendors, will take place from 6-9 p.m. April 24 at the Bridgewater Manor on Route 202/206.

Taste will be spread over two

floors of the Bridgewater Manor, providing guests with an ample opportunity to wander through the dozens of food stations, sampling the best fare available in the county, interacting with owners and chefs, and meeting friends and associates old and new.

Entertainment will be provided by a jazz combo, harpist and other quality entertainers.

Taste tickets are available at \$75 for this all-you-can-eat event and may be purchased at the PeopleCare Center office, 120 Finnerne Ave. For more information, call (908) 725-2299 or visit www.peoplecare-center.org. Tickets purchased by today will be discounted to \$65.

Taste of Somerset has become a model for culinary fund-raising events. Hundreds of local businesses have bene-

fited from the exposure and thousands have enjoyed the cuisine. Taste has generated more than \$300,000 for the PeopleCare Center. The funds raised serve to provide a secure, comfortable and affordable home to non-profit agencies.

PeopleCare was established in 1984 as a permanent home for human service agencies that offer programs designed to enrich the lives of the young and old, the physically and mentally disabled, the invisible and the lonely.

PeopleCare is a private non-profit organization in Somerset County which provides a physical plant to house non-profit agencies and organizations at below market cost. The center seeks to maximize the accomplishment of community service goals by encouraging shar-

ing of human and physical resources.

County college given \$1 million energy grant

NORTH BRANCH — Raritan Valley Community College has been awarded a \$1 million incentive grant from the New Jersey Office of Clean Energy for its new energy-efficient power plant expansion, which is currently under construction.

The college will receive the energy rebate upon completion of the project.

The funding is provided from a joint program operated by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. The initiative is designed to make it more affordable and cost effective for public institutions and

businesses to make investments in renewable energy systems and energy efficient equipment.

"The \$1 million rebate from the New Jersey Office of Clean Energy is further evidence that our new power plant is a prudent investment for the college," said John Trojan, vice president for finance and facilities at the college. "Not only will the new plant pave the way for the expansion of our campus facilities, it will enable us to reap substantial savings on our energy costs."

Earlier this year, the college embarked on an \$11.5 million upgrade to its power plant. The project is intended to add heating and cooling capacity to support future campus growth, enable the college to generate approximately 80 percent of its electrical needs

and improve the cost efficiency of all its major equipment components.

The project's first phase has included the replacement of all the underground piping for hot and cold water distribution from the central plant. This part of the project corrects significant areas of corrosion and water leakages.

The second phase, expected to be completed by winter 2007, includes the replacement of two boilers and three smaller chillers with higher capacity and greater efficiency equipment. In addition, a combined heat and power unit (co-gen) will be added to generate 1.3 megawatts of electricity. The chillers and reciprocating natural gas fired engine will be housed in a building extension to the existing power plant.

CARDS AND LETTERS FROM THE HEART

Homefront 'war correspondents' boost morale

We've been inundated with cut-out gingerbread men and Christmas trees, scores of American flags cards plastered with cut-out stickers of baseballs, basketballs and soccer balls, clouds, magic wands and hearts.

Since our last shipping date Nov. 5, more than 1,000 letters and cards from school age children and the occasional adult have been received at The Reporter office; all are destined for soldiers and Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The messages inside are simple, direct and as heartfelt as a seven- or eight-year-old can manage.

U.S. troops count on these greetings, which are packaged with the supplies we send overseas.

A few days before Christmas, Christine Benato dropped by The Chronicle office with a large envelope filled with greeting cards, each one of them made by hand by her daughter, Chiara, and several of her friends during Chiara's birthday party. We've included some of those greetings, and others, as they were written, complete with misspellings.

Good lauke We love you. Love Katie

Come home soon. You are missed!

Dear Military Good lauke From Lee

I hope you get back soon from Stacey

I hope you canm see your family for the holidays and win the war.

Thanks for helping our country be a better place. Love Christine

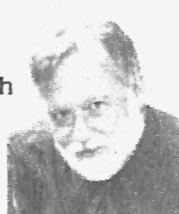
Thank you for serving our country. We are proud of you. You are the best. We are thinking of you and praing for you. You are our heroes. We love you. Let freedom ring.

Nicole, 7

Girl Scout Troop 1048, including members Erika, Rose, Colleen, Danielle, Leanna, Samantha, Rachel, Kristin and Kaite, all 10 and 11 years old, used postcards distributed by Patriot Media Cable television in July, to send greetings to the troops:

I think you are doing a great job saving the USA. I hope you have a great holiday season. I hope this

Rod Hirsch
Executive
Editor



card will brighten up your holiday. Keep up the good work.

Danielle, 11
Hillsborough

Several dozen letters were written by a third- fifth- and eighth-graders who attend St. Mary's of Mount Virgin School in New Brunswick, including this one from Josiah Vargas:

Dear U.S. Soldiers:

I thank you guys for fighting for our country. Also for not letting us get hurt. God Bless you guys. Come back safe.

Third-grader Wilfredo writes:

Dear Soldier,

I hope you stop the war and make it peaceful and help the people survive. Please help the people rebuild their homes that were bombed. I hope you come home soon.

Classmate Jerica Ramirez writes:

Dear U.S. soldier,

I thank you for everything you have done for us, you fought for us, you kept danger away from us and we thank you for that. We all pray for you and hope that you will go home someday. We all love you guys very much. Thank you.

Girl Scout Troop 974 from Skillman sent a bundle of cards, "Girl Scout Troops for Troops"

Dear Soldier,

You are wonderful people to go and fight for the freedom of Iraq people. Stay strong and brave. And You are a hero.

Melissa

Dear Soldier,

I am sad for you to be away from your family, and you are brave to be fighting for the freedom of Iraq people. Be hopeful, strong and take care of yourself.

Gabriella

Dear Soldier,

I hope you enjoy the cookies. Thanks so much for being brave just for us. Fighting for freedom is something good to look up to.

Kelsey

Last week, we wrote about the Dec. 18 collection drive held at the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA in Morris County. Members of the Y's Leaders Club, students in grades 7-12, sent along a few letters:

Dear Soldiers,

Thank you for fighting for our country. The Lakeland Hills Family YMCA Leaders Club has teamed up with Operation Shoebox New Jersey to put together a collection for you. We hope that you enjoy everything. Our prayers are with you and your families, come home soon.

Tia White
Mountain Lakes NJ

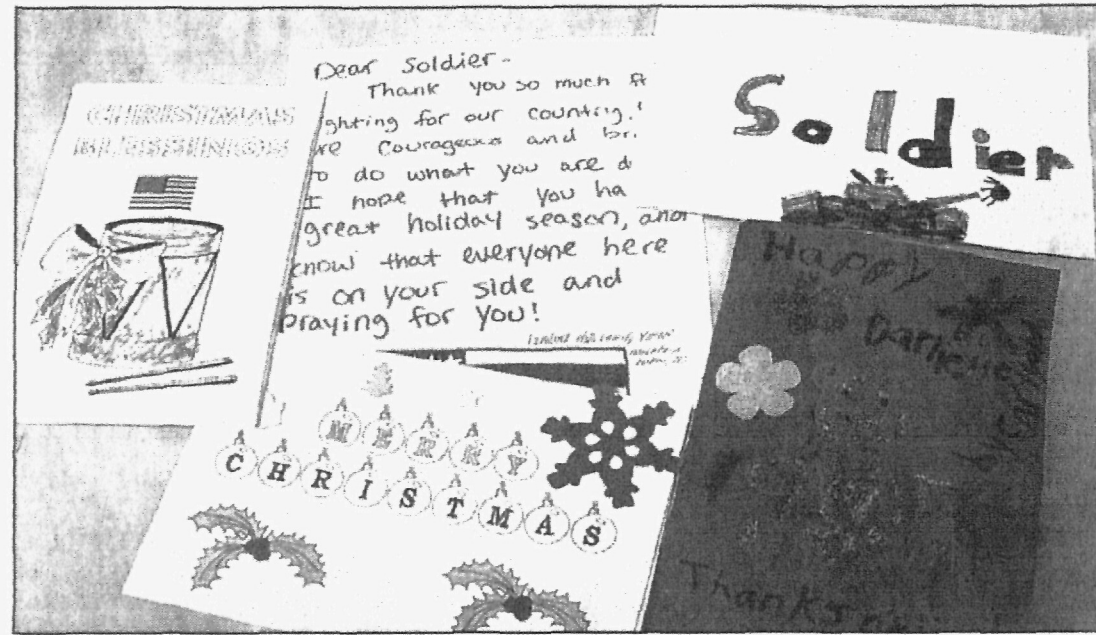
Dear Soldiers -

Thanks you so much for fighting for our country. You are courageous and brave to do what you are doing. I hope that you have a great holiday season, and know that everyone here is on your side and praying for you.

Lakeland Hills Family YMCA
Mountain Lakes, NJ

Honor roll

Bound Brook Carpet, owner Ike Himhesh, \$750 and his son, Jacob, \$250; Helena Mitchell, Somerville, \$150; Donald and Patricia Gray, Watchung, \$100; Francine Cornell, Somerville, \$100; North Brunswick Woman's Club, \$100; James Sachs, Yardley, Pa., \$100; Magdaline Halafsky, Pluckemin, \$100; William Dudeck, Bridgewater, \$100; Catherine Hotkewicz, Louisville, Ky., \$50; Barbara Rudolph,



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

More than 1,000 handmade cards and letters intended for U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, most written by students, have arrived at The Chronicle office over the past month.

Bridgewater, \$50; Douglas and Ruth Mengak, Bound Brook, \$50; Tim Grooms, Bridgewater, \$50; Cari Anne Battersby, Hackensack, \$50; Joann Papera, Bridgewater, \$50; John and Nicole Rutigliano, Martinsville, \$50; Sylvia Monahan, Piscataway, \$25; Shirley Krawz, Somerville, \$15 and \$130.40 in additional pledges made to Somerville Councilman Robert Wilson, who raised close to \$3,000 in pledges from friends and family when he competed in November's New York City Marathon.

Soldiers' Shopping Spree

Mother and daughter Dawn and Alexa Concepcion are spending a part of their holiday season greeting shoppers at the Hillsborough Pathmark Supermarket on Route 206 to hand out our shopping list of items needed by U.S. troops overseas.

They'll be inside the lobby of the store from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. again today, having been there as well yesterday, piling up groceries donated to OPSHBX by shoppers.

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 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.

Friday's performance begins at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday's show is at 7 p.m.

T-shirts for sale

Quality t-shirts with the handsome Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 poster and logo are available 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.

We can also reproduce the shirts in quantity for veterans' groups, corporations, or other sponsors, and include the name of your company or organization on the shirt. Call and ask for details.

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

Proud relative contributes \$50

From Louisville, Kentucky comes this letter from Catherine Hotkewicz, along with a check for \$50:

Dear Sir:

I would like to make this contribution of \$50 to Operation Shoebox New Jersey in honor of my nephew, David Weller. David was 13 years old when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center. Many of David's classmates in Bridgewater, N.J., were affected by this tragedy, but David was also moved to action. He committed himself at that time to becoming a soldier and defending our country.

During the last three years,

David has remained steadfast in his commitment. Moreover, he has involved himself in activities that would move him closer to his goal. David has earned the rank of Petty Officer 2 as a member of the US Naval Sea Cadets. He has participated in both the Petty Officer Leadership Academy at the Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, Va., and served as a staff cadet for Recruit Training of the USS New Jersey battleship. David has also won a Recruit Incentive ribbon for his efforts to bring other young men into the Sea Cadets.

In addition to these pursuits, my nephew has been an exemplary civic leader. He has served as a member of the color guard

for AVETS Post 34 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Dist. 8 for many local events, such as Memorial Day, Veterans' Day and Loyalty Day ceremonies. David was also recognized with community service awards for leading a program on drug resistance in his local school district.

I am incredibly proud of David and am certain that he will continue to represent and honor our nation with his commitment and service. For this reason, I wanted to honor him by giving this gift in his name to support our troops overseas at Christmas.

Sincerely,
Catherine Hotkewicz

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- ☐ Small drink mixes
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Clothesline/pins
- ☐ Snack food
- ☐ Cereal/protein bars
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- ☐ Hard candy/gum
- ☐ Writing materials
- ☐ Batteries (any size)
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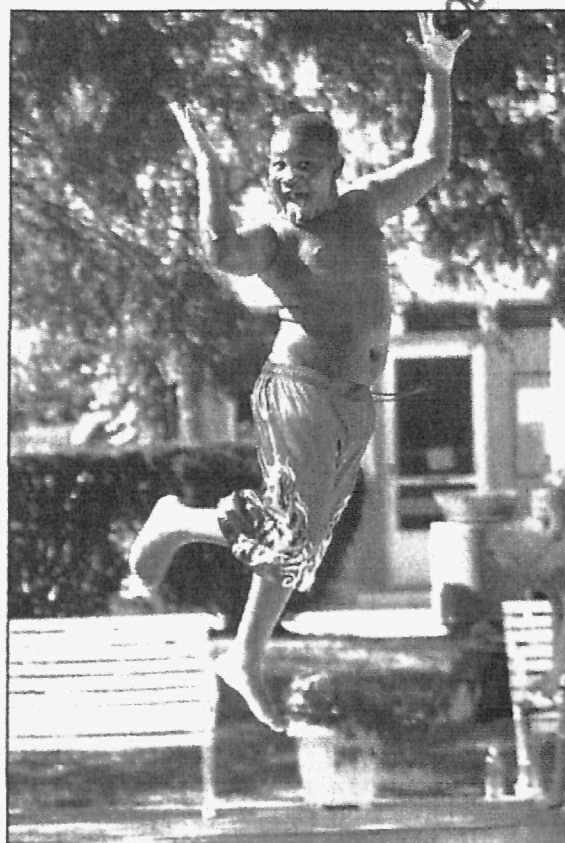
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Saturday, December 31, 2005

Middlesex Life

Winter meant fun for Isabel Van Der Kroft Glanzberg, 7, pictured at right, as she sleds at Watchung Lake on Jan. 25. Kwaceem Maloney, 8, pictured second from right, jumps into the municipal pool in Bernardsville July 20. Thanks to the Fresh Air Fund, Maloney gets to spend two weeks each summer with the McHale family, who live in the borough. Lady Justice, far right, got her shine back in 2005 and, with the help of James Marshie and Tom Triano, was returned to the top of the Somerset County Courthouse on May 18. Work on the statue, which included a fresh coating of gold leaf, was done by Paragon Restoration.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

‘We all need somebody to lean on’

2005 is remembered as a year of giving

The year that was 2005 began with a call to help others half a world away, and is ending with a renewed conviction to lend a helping hand to those in need, whether they be in Asia or down the street.

Relief and recovery efforts following the tsunami in Southeast Asia dominated headlines — both nationally and locally — in the first few months of the year. In Central Jersey, many people helped with their wallets. This fall, many helped the victims of Hurricane Katrina in more tangible ways — donating supplies and sweat and opening their doors here to the victims along the Gulf Coast.

This year also brought a new initiative to *The Chronicle* — Operation Shoebox: New Jersey 2005 was launched in February and by year's end thousands of boxes containing tens of thousands of supplies has been sent to the armed forces serving in Iraq.

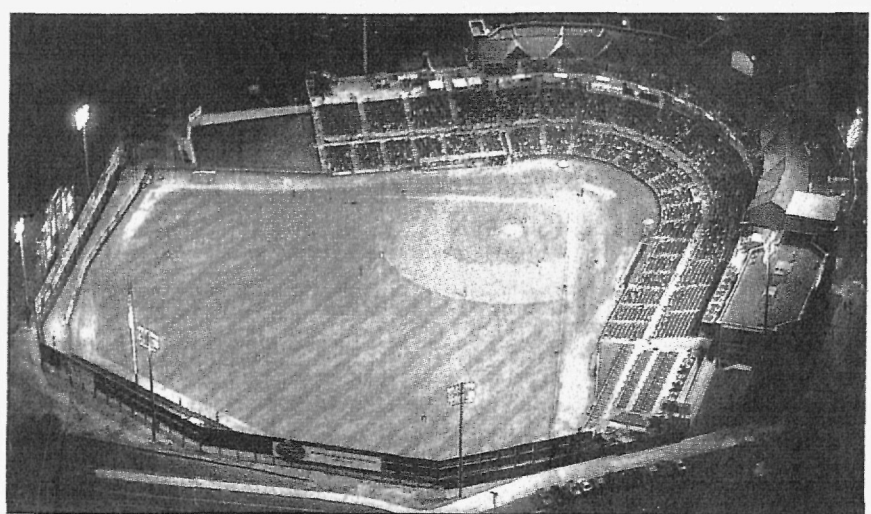
We also met Felix Garcia, pictured at right, and his wife, Fawnda Genovese-Garcia, whose Green Brook home was destroyed by fire in March. Over the next 10 months they have allowed readers to follow their journey as they rebuild their home, and piece their lives back together.

During the year there were so many other stories — a cooling real estate market, skyrocketing gas prices thanks to hurricane-fueled shortage fears, new construction at Somerset Medical Center, the unveiling of the redevelopment of the Somerville Shopping Center, political intrigue and mudslinging in Bedminster, and yet it is how others came together to help those in need that dominated 2005.



PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Felix Garcia, top right, looks through a book on April 16 in what was to be an office at his Green Brook home, which was destroyed by a fire in March. Matthew Smith is pictured above hugging his mom, Michelle, on July 9. Having a child with autism, she said, changes your life forever. “You live with autism,” she says. “You have your family and then autism creeps in and takes up residency with you and you have to learn to combat it the best you can and live with what you can't beat — until you can beat it.” The annual Tour of Somerville, pictured above right, held May 30 signaled the start of summer, while Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater, seen at right on Oct. 11, was a favorite spot for many during the summer and early fall.



Bowl fever hits locals as Knights shoot it out in desert

By JIM WHITE
Staff Writer

Some came from New Brunswick. Others came from as far away as the Sunshine State. Donna and Bill Mener came from Branchburg and brought their neighbors.

Rutgers fans who couldn't make it out to Arizona for Tuesday night's Insight Bowl descended upon local pubs and eateries like a giant, red army hoping to pay witness to the end of a 27-year drought.

The Insight Bowl pitted the 7-4 Scarlet Knights against the 6-5 Arizona State Sun Devils at Chase Field in Phoenix. Coincidentally, it was ASU who Rutgers faced in the 1978 Garden State Bowl at Giants Stadium, where the Sun Devils beat the Scarlet Knights 34-18.

“They're going to win (this time),” Donna Mener, a self-described “huge Rutgers fan” said during halftime inside The Clubhouse above Mannion's Pub and Restaurant in Somerville, where a Rutgers bowl game party was in full swing after the Knights finished up the first half with a 24-17 lead.

“Arizona had the flu,” she said, referring to an outbreak of flu-like symptoms among Arizona's players prior to Tuesday's game.

Donna Mener's neighbors, Eileen and Freddy Boosman, both Rutgers graduates, backed Mener's prediction. “When I went to Rutgers, back in 1978, I was just a freshman,” Eileen Boosman said. “It's been a 27-year drought. It's over tonight.”

However, despite an impressive

effort by the Knights, they would come up short in the fourth quarter and lose to the Sun Devils 45-40.

But fans on both sides of the country witnessed a classic shootout in the Arizona desert, with Rutgers quarterback Ryan Hart passing for 374 yards and three touchdowns and Sun Devils QB Rudy Carpenter throwing for 467 yards and four touchdowns.

Earlier in the game, fans, students and alumni who packed the Colorado Café in Watchung erupted in cheers midway through the first quarter when fullback Brian Leonard took a screen pass from Hart 31 yards to the end zone to give Rutgers 14-7 lead.

The Colorado Café Insight Bowl bash was organized by former Scarlet Knights mascot Ken Karmichael of New Brunswick, a 1995 graduate of

Cook College, and an employee of the school's Continuing Education department.

Karmichael recalled his days of wearing the stuffy Scarlet Knight costume. “I had to do every football game, every basketball game, three to four days a week,” he said. “It was the best wait-loss system I ever had.”

Karmichael was noticeably excited by Rutgers' first-quarter performance and repeatedly blew a bull horn in celebration. “Just making it to a bowl is a victory,” he said. “If they win this game, it will put Rutgers on the map every day, every year.”

Midway through the second quarter, Rutgers had cushioned its lead 17-7 as patrons were glued to TV screens inside the Chimney Rock Inn in Bridgewater.

Diego Sarmiento of New Brunswick, who graduated last May with a degree in economics, commented on the recent news that Rutgers coach Greg Schiano had agreed to a new seven-year contract with the team, which will raise his salary to \$250,000 in 2006 and to \$350,000 by 2012.

“I think it's a great thing,” he said. “Schiano recruits a lot of players out of Florida. Some of the greatest athletes come from Florida.”

Steve Colosimo of Ocala, Fla., never played for Rutgers and never attended Rutgers, but the former Bridgewater resident is a big fan was in town Tuesday with his girlfriend Pati Raney. “We came back for the holidays and weren't going to miss this. We don't get to see a lot of Rutgers in Florida,” he said.

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BRIDGEWATER — Somerset Patriot outfielders Ryan Radmanovich and Jeremy Owens were named to the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball All-Star Team this past season.

Radmanovich, a 34-year-old rightfielder, finished the season among the ALPB leaders in hitting with a .319 average, 154 hits, 80 runs scored, 27 doubles, 28 home runs and 89 runs batted in.

The lefty hitter, along with third baseman Jeff Nettles, set a Patriots team record for homers in a season with 28. This was his third year with Somerset.

In the South Division playoff series against the Atlantic



City Surf last week, Radmanovich hit two crucial home runs to help the Pats take the series two games to one. In the deciding contest his three-run homer in the eighth inning snapped a 1-all tie and sparked a 5-1 triumph at Commerce Bank Park.

The 28-year-old Owens hit .290 with 29 doubles, six triples, 24 homers and 77 RBI while playing 137 of the Pats'

140 games. A defensive whiz in center field, Owens totaled 152 hits and stole 29 bases, second on the team to Billy Hall's league-leading 61. He set career highs in batting average, homers, RBI and tied his best for doubles.

The ALPB also named the Patriots ground crew, led by Ray Cipperly, as the Grounds Crew of the Year for the second straight season.

Rounding out the league All-Star Team outfield were Long Island's Henry Rodriguez and Bridgeport's Gary Burnham.

The infield is comprised of catcher Lance Burkhardt of Lancaster, first baseman (and Most Valuable Player) Brian

Becker of Nashua, second baseman Carlos Hernandez of Long Island, Atlantic City shortstop Rayner Bautista and his teammate, third baseman Dario Delgado.

The All-Star designated hitters were Newark's Jose Herrera and Lancaster's Jeremy Todd and the utility player was Nashua's Joe Kilburg. The righthanded pitcher was Camden's Brett Laxton, who also was named Pitcher of the Year, the lefty was Long Island's Lance Davis and the All-Star reliever was Todd Erdos of Long Island.

Nashua's Butch Hobson, whose club fell to Somerset in the playoff finals, was named Manager of the Year.

Gsell wouldn't mind return to Pats

BRIDGEWATER — Although seeing his playing time diminish considerably as the season wound down, Tony Gsell quietly accepted his role as a Somerset Patriots reserve and seems willing to fill the same niche next year if that's what the team's plans call for.

Gsell, an Immaculata High graduate and resident of Flemington, saw no action in the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball playoffs,

which the Patriots won for the third time in the past five years.

Manager Sparky Lyle, who indicated he may be thinking about stepping down, last penciled Gsell's name into the lineup for a Sept. 22 game against Bridgeport, three days before the regular season concluded.

"I talked to Sparky about next year a few days ago, just chit-chatting about it," said Gsell shortly after stepping off the Patriots' team bus at Commerce

Bank Park Oct. 3 following their playoff-clinching trip to Nashua, N.H. "I'm open to anything. Whatever I get from him, I get."

"Whatever playing time I get is a bonus," he added. "I never complain about playing time or why I'm not in the lineup. I'm just happy to be here with the guys and do what I have to do whenever I get in there. That's my role, and that's why I never have a complaint with him."

Gsell, who's played on two ALPB championship clubs during his three years with the Patriots, finished the season with a .230 batting average, collecting 42 hits in 183 at-bats. Usually playing left field, he appeared in 66 games, the fewest of any Patriot who was with the squad the entire campaign.

The husky righthanded hitter, a former football and baseball standout at Immaculata and a draft choice of the Chicago

Cubs out of Old Dominion University, had 20 doubles, drove in 26 runs, drew 11 walks and struck out 51 times. He had five home runs — the last one a grand-slam Aug. 28 after entering the game as a pinch-hitter at Nashua.

"It was a good year — a little longer than usual — but it all worked out well for us and now I can look back on it and reflect on it," he said. "It's all good now."

Gsell started four games in September, all in left field, going 3 for 13. Last year he played in 69 games, hitting .244 with five homers and 23 RBI. During the 2003 season he hit .263 with 11 homers, six doubles and 35 RBI in 67 games.

As in the past, the Hillsborough native will spend much of the off-season instructing at the Jack Cust Baseball Academy at HealthQuest in Flemington, just up Route 31 from his home.

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1680-05
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:

Employees hired prior to July 1, 2003 shall enjoy the following:	2006	2007	2008
Rank	4%	4%	4%
Captain	\$92,251	\$95,941	\$99,779
Lieutenant	\$86,648	\$90,114	\$93,719
Sergeant	\$81,039	\$84,281	\$87,652
Patrolman A	\$75,338	\$78,343	\$81,477
Patrolman B	\$67,135	\$69,820	\$72,613
Patrolman C	\$63,260	\$65,790	\$68,422
Patrolman D	\$59,837	\$62,231	\$64,720
Patrolman E	\$55,834	\$58,117	\$60,448
Probationary Officer	\$52,021	\$54,102	\$56,266
Academy	\$30,160	\$31,366	\$32,621
Corporal	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Detective Stipend	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000

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

Rank	4%	2007	2008
Captain	\$92,251	\$95,941	\$99,779
Lieutenant	\$86,648	\$90,114	\$93,719
Sergeant	\$81,039	\$84,281	\$87,652
Patrolman A	\$75,338	\$78,343	\$81,477
Patrolman B	\$67,135	\$69,820	\$72,613
Patrolman C	\$63,260	\$65,790	\$68,422
Patrolman D	\$59,837	\$62,231	\$64,720
Patrolman E	\$55,834	\$58,117	\$60,448
Probationary Officer	\$52,021	\$54,102	\$56,266
Academy	\$30,160	\$31,366	\$32,621
Corporal	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Detective Stipend	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000

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.

ADOPTED: December 27, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the following Ordinance was adopted at a Public Meeting of the Borough Council of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey held on the 27th day of December, 2005 in the Municipal Building, 1200 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex, New Jersey:

Kathleen Anello
Borough Clerk
B282.1T.12.31.05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1681-05
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:

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING ROADS, PARKS, SANITATION, RECYCLING AND SEWERS:	2006	2007	2008
Title	2006	2007	2008
First six months	\$11.76	\$12.23	\$12.66
6-18 months	\$14.14	\$14.71	\$15.22
18-24 months	\$16.57	\$17.23	\$17.83
24-36 months	\$18.95	\$19.70	\$20.44
36-48 months	\$21.33	\$22.15	\$22.99
48-60 months	\$23.71	\$24.60	\$25.48
60 months plus	Top Rate	Top Rate	Top Rate

Garbage Department Employees:	2006	2007	2008
Title	2006	2007	2008
Lead Person	\$27,500	\$28,636	\$29,697
Garbage Truck Driver	\$27,500	\$28,636	\$29,697

Parks Department Employees:	2006	2007	2008
Title	2006	2007	2008
Lead Person	\$27,500	\$28,636	\$29,697
Public Works Employee #1	\$27,500	\$28,636	\$29,697

Solid Waste Department Employees:	2006	2007	2008
Title	2006	2007	2008
Lead Person	\$27,500	\$28,636	\$29,697
Public Works Employee #1	\$27,500	\$28,636	\$29,697

Road Department Employees:	2006	2007	2008
Title	2006	2007	2008
Lead Person	\$27,500	\$28,636	\$29,697
Public Works Employee #1	\$27,500	\$28,636	\$29,697

Sewer Department Employees:	2006	2007	2008
Title	2006	2007	2008
Lead Person	\$27,500	\$28,636	\$29,697
Public Works Employee #1	\$27,500	\$28,636	\$29,697

General Public Works Employees:	2006	2007	2008
Title	2006	2007	2008
Utility Person	\$15,049	\$15,699	\$16,397

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.

ADOPTED: December 27, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the following Ordinance was adopted at a Public Meeting of the Borough Council of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey held on the 27th day of December, 2005 in the Municipal Building, 1200 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex, New Jersey:

Kathleen Anello
Borough Clerk
B282.1T.12.31.05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1682-05
AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARY RANGE OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX

TITLE	Basis	Salary Range	To
Borough Administrator	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Borough Clerk	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000
Deputy Borough Clerk	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000
Tax Collector	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

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
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Kathleen Anello
Borough Clerk
B282.1T.12.31.05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1683-05
AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARY RANGE OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX

TITLE	Basis	Salary Range	To
Borough Administrator	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Borough Clerk	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000
Deputy Borough Clerk	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000
Tax Collector	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

SECTION 2
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SECTION 3
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Kathleen Anello
Borough Clerk
B282.1T.12.31.05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1684-05
AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARY RANGE OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX

TITLE	Basis	Salary Range	To
Borough Administrator	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Borough Clerk	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000
Deputy Borough Clerk	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000
Tax Collector	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

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.

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SECTION 5
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ADOPTED: December 27, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the following Ordinance was adopted at a Public Meeting of the Borough Council of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey held on the 27th day of December, 2005 in the Municipal Building, 1200 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex, New Jersey:

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1685-05
AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARY RANGE OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX

TITLE	Basis	Salary Range	To
Borough Administrator	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Borough Clerk	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000
Deputy Borough Clerk	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000
Tax Collector	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

SECTION 2
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ADOPTED: December 27, 2005

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Kathleen Anello
Borough Clerk
B282.1T.12.31.05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1686-05
AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARY RANGE OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX

TITLE	Basis	Salary Range	To
Borough Administrator	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Borough Clerk	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000
Deputy Borough Clerk	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000
Tax Collector	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

SECTION 2
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Kathleen Anello
Borough Clerk
B282.1T.12.31.05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1687-05
AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARY RANGE OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX

TITLE	Basis	Salary Range	To
Borough Administrator	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Borough Clerk	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000
Deputy Borough Clerk	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000
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Kathleen Anello
Borough Clerk
B282.1T.12.31.05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1688-05
AN ORDINANCE FIXING AND DETERMINING THE SALARY RANGE OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX

TITLE	Basis	Salary Range	To
Borough Administrator	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Borough Clerk	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000
Deputy Borough Clerk	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000
Tax Collector	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

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Available shifts include: Sunday through Saturday 12pm - 9am Monday and Friday 5pm-12am Other flexible shifts. Please contact Kathy Brady at (609) 397-0078 Lightfields Riding School Holiday Gift Certificate! Special! New customers only. Lesson/Lease packages 10 lessons \$250. 20 lessons \$400. Call for details 908-534-6701 Sue Pets 640 Jack Russell Puppy 1 Male, Shots, Tan and white, 10 weeks old. \$300. 908-996-3683 LAB PUPPIES AKC Yellow/Black, guaranteed. \$600+ 1 adult (free) 908-246-8509 or 732-469-5685.	Financial & Business Opportunities Financial Services 655 **\$5,000-\$500,000++FREE CASH GRANTS! 2005! NEVER REPEAT** Personal/ Medical Bills, School, Business/ Home! Live Operators, Approx. \$49 billion unclaimed 2004. Live Operators, CALL NOW! 1-800-274-5086, Ext. 42. **\$5,000-\$500,000++FREE CASH GRANTS! 2005! NEVER REPEAT** Personal/ Medical Bills, School, Business/ Home! Live Operators, Approx. \$49 billion unclaimed 2004. 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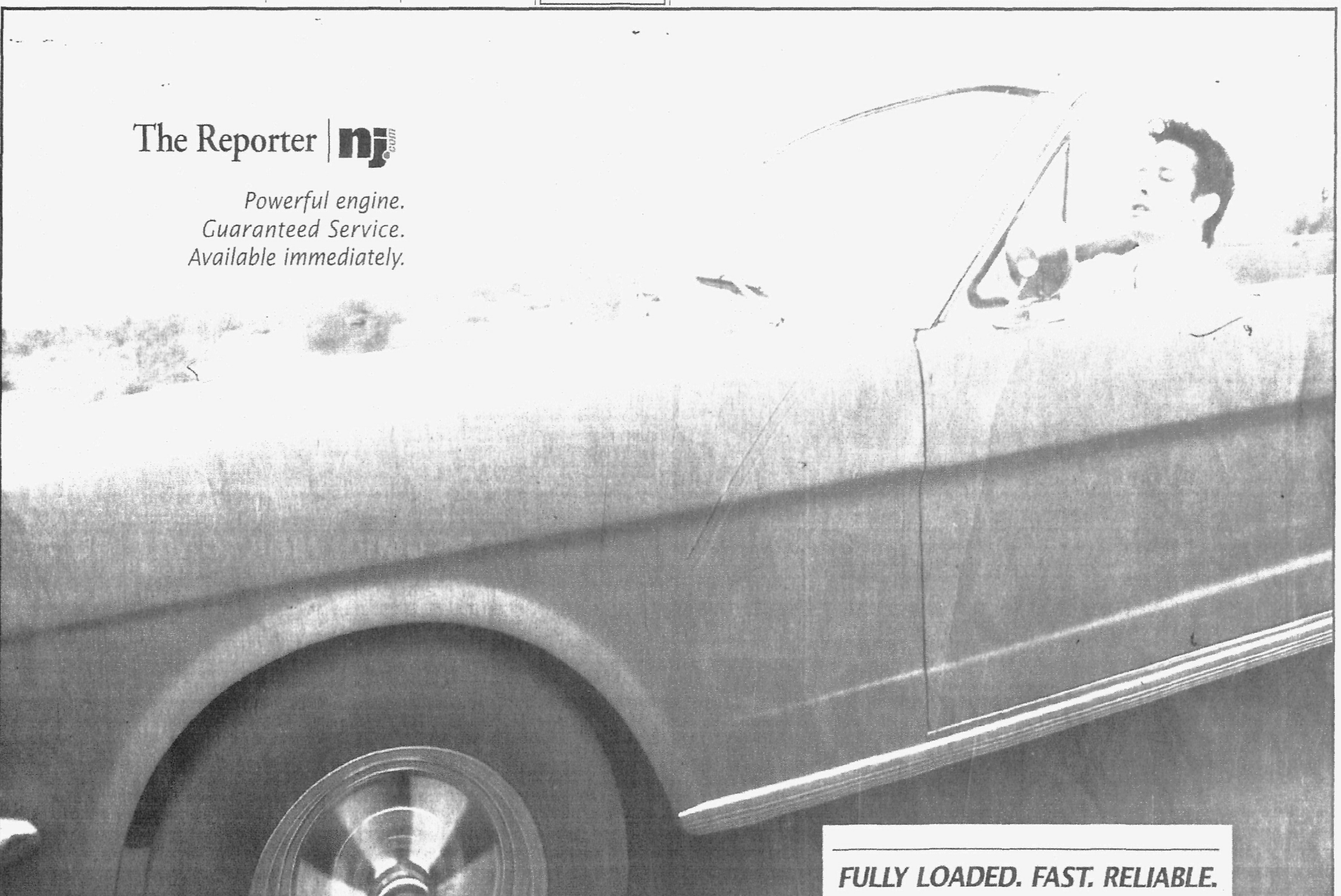
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