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the Super tenacious Ultimate Frisbee Fanatics, will be at the Somerset County 4H Fair. PAGE A8

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WHO WANTS SOME CANDY? PAGE A6

The Chronicle

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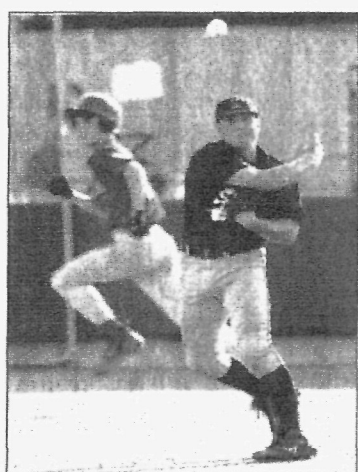
AUG 07 2006

Vol. 145, No. 31

Saturday, August 5, 2006

50 cents

INSIDE



Youthful talent

Although fielding one of the Pyramid Baseball League's youngest squads this summer, Immaculata proved it could compete with everyone, posting an 11-7-2 record and qualifying for the American Legion state tournament. **Page A7.**

Red Cross gets honor

The Greater Somerset County Chapter of the American Red Cross has been honored by the national Red Cross office as one of its best-performing chapters.

To achieve this designation the chapter was evaluated on a comprehensive set of criteria through the "Chapter Performance Standards" system of the national office. The chapter is one of two in New Jersey that received such an honor.

"This is an outstanding achievement for our chapter," chapter Chairman William Sundheim said. "This award is the direct result of the hard work of our employees and volunteers, including the members of our local board, and would not have been possible without the support of the members of the community."

Eight employees and 530 volunteers work with the Greater Somerset County Chapter. Its coverage area includes 14 municipalities in Somerset County, including Bound Brook and South Bound Brook. The chapter also serves Middlesex Borough.

For more information on the Somerset County chapter, visit redcross.org/nj/gscoc or call (908) 725-2217.

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Outstanding art now on display

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Artwork from 109 professional and non-professional Middlesex County artists over age 60, who participated in the county Department on Aging Senior Art Contest, are on display at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave.

The works are part of the county contest, which includes artwork in nine different media. Professional and non-professional artists were judged separately.

All the works will be on display at the Senior Center through Aug. 21. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. The show is free and open to the public.

First-place winners from each category go on to compete in the New Jersey senior citizens art contest exhibited in September. The winners are:

Acrylic — William Kastan of North Brunswick, first place, professional; Alberto Longo of Monroe Township, first place, non-professional; Paul Huang of East Brunswick, second place, non-professional; Dorothy Elstein of East

Brunswick and Bob Weidits of South Brunswick, honorable mention, non-professional.

Craft — Gerald Gitlitz of East Brunswick, first place, professional; Sheldon Berman of Monroe Township, first place, non-professional; Manny Bar of Monroe Township, second place, non-professional; Betune Banner of Middlesex, honorable mention, non-professional.

Drawing — Fran Nimeck of North Brunswick, first place, professional; Jean Literate of Iselin, second place, professional; Fay Llewellyn of East Brunswick, first place, non-professional.

Marjorie Behrens of Avenel, second place, non-professional.

Mixed Media — Stephanie Barbetti of Kendall Park, first place, professional; Maxwell Nimeck of South Brunswick, second place, professional; Andy Skislak of East Brunswick, first place, non-professional; Hira Beltangi of East Brunswick, second place, non-professional.

Oil — Dick Sommers of Old Bridge, first place, professional.

Continued on page A2

CHANGING FACE OF SOMERVILLE



Somerville is ready to rediscover itself

It's an exciting time to live and work — and shop, and eat — in Somerville. Every week, there are new changes to the downtown landscape, and the energy is picking up. What's in store for Somerville over the coming weeks, months and years, and who are the people that are making it happen and seeing things change? Over the next five weeks, *The Reporter* will take an in-depth look at the people, places and plans that are affecting and affected by the changes, large and small, to the face of Somerville.

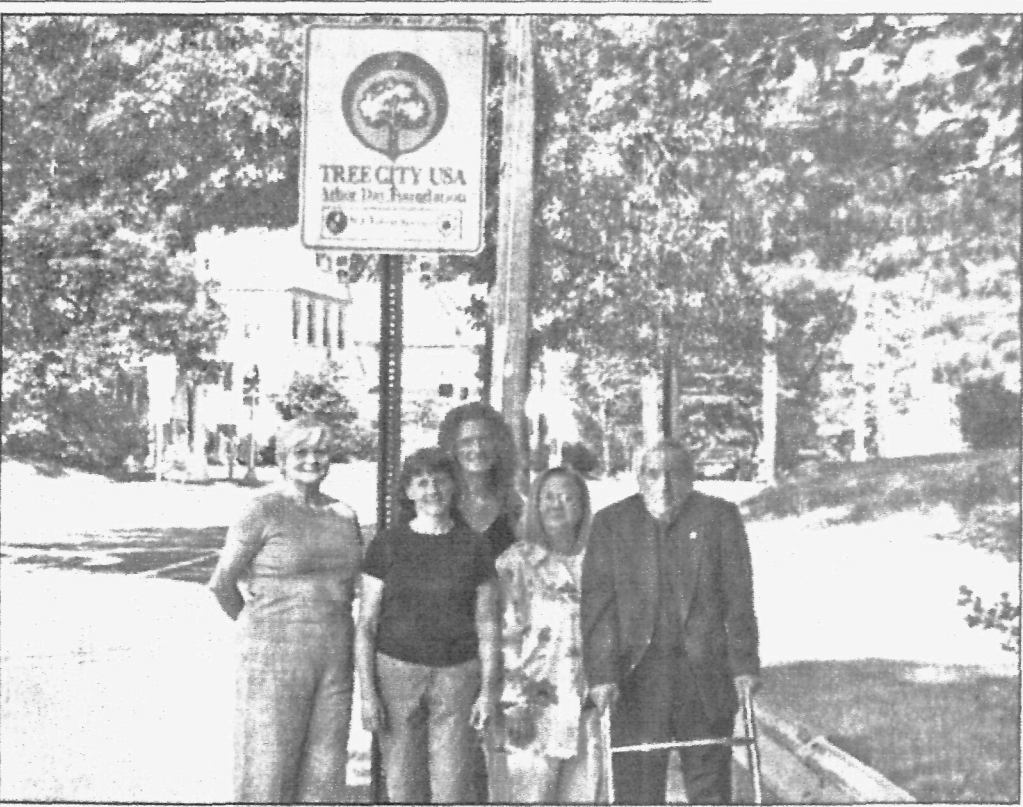
From its past to its future, Somerville has been the center of county life, both geographically and metaphorically. Its status as county seat — both a blessing and a chal-

THE CHANGING FACE OF SOMERVILLE BEGINS ON A4.

lenge — and its central location have brought people to the borough, either for jury duty or a quick trip to "town." Now, its redevelopment reflects the changing county, which is grappling with development and redevelopment issues.

"Originally, there were grocery stores, department stores — all kinds of merchants. That has evolved. Those wants have been

Continued on page A2



Members of Bound Brook Shade Tree Commission are joined by Mayor Frank Ryan in front of "Tree City USA" signs.

Borough unveils 'tree' signs

BOUND BROOK — The borough, one of only five New Jersey towns to be named a new "Tree City USA" this year, has installed signs at gateways to the municipality that proclaim the town's new status.

Travelers entering the borough via Union Avenue from the east and Talmage Avenue from the west will notice the new green and white signs, provided by the NJ Community Forestry Program.

The national Tree City USA program, co-sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and individual state forestry programs, recognizes municipalities that have demonstrated a commitment to maintaining their community forest.

The borough's Shade Tree Commission applied for Tree City status after meeting

all criteria set by the program, including having a comprehensive tree ordinance, tree board, minimum per-capita budget and an annual community Arbor Day event.

Shade Tree Commission members and Mayor Frank Ryan recently took a moment to pose with the signs after the DPW finished installing them.

"Tree-lined streets help to give Bound Brook its hometown charm," said Kerry Miller, chairperson of the commission. "Becoming a Tree City is one way to show that we value our trees."

The borough is home to one of the state's oldest oaks, the Council Oak, chosen this year as the logo for Main Street banners marking the borough's 325th anniversary.

Nurses learning valuable substance abuse lessons

PISCATAWAY — Erin Noonan, Andrea Morash and Bette Miller are three of 39 school nurses from elementary and secondary schools in the United States, Mexico, Zimbabwe and Japan who recently participated in the Johnson & Johnson School Nurse Fellowship Program, an intensive training program on innovative alcohol and drug prevention techniques, early detection methods and treatment.

The annual program is conducted by the Rutgers University Center of Alcohol Studies, located on the Busch Campus in Piscataway.

Noonan is a nurse with the North Plainfield Board of Education. Morash is a nurse at Bonnie Brae in Bernards Township. Miller is with the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission, based in Piscataway.

The participating nurses engaged in discussions about emerging issues in the addiction field; legal issues related to alcohol and drugs in the school; problems and treatment of adolescent alcohol and drug use; and recovery from substance abuse. Additional topics included mental health issues, obesity, eating disorders, the role of nurses in crisis management, and the growing concerns around HIV and AIDS.

"By participating in the Johnson & Johnson School Nurse Fellowship Program, school nurses become more aware of the enormous impact of substance abuse and its interference with the educational and developmental

"By participating in the Johnson & Johnson School Nurse Fellowship Program, school nurses become more aware of the enormous impact of substance abuse and its interference with the educational and developmental process."

Gail Gleason Milgram
Program Director,
Johnson & Johnson
School Nurse
Fellowship Program

process," said Program Director Gail Gleason Milgram. "Through their daily contact with students, school nurses are in one of the best positions to enhance health promotion and facilitate substance abuse prevention within schools."

The program also recognizes the importance of cooperation between the nurses and their school administrators in implementing strategies aimed at substance abuse prevention and crisis intervention. School principals join nurses from their schools for two days during the weeklong program, providing an opportunity to share ideas regarding the role of school nurses in combating substance abuse and the administrator's role in alcohol and drug policies and programs.

Outstanding art now on display

Continued from page A1

al; Don Bloom of East Brunswick, second place, professional; June Carroll of Edison, first place, non-professional; Mary Ann Iannitto of South Plainfield, second place, non-professional; Marylyn Rosenthal of Monroe Township, honorable mention, non-professional.

Pastel — Sandy Behrend of Kendall Park, first place, professional; Lloyd Vela of New Brunswick, first place, non-professional; Helen Plank of South River, second place, non-professional.

Photography — Howard Rosenthal of Monroe Township, first place, non-professional; Harvey Levine of Edison, second place, non-pro-

fessional; Ingrid Freese of Highland Park, honorable mention, non-professional. (No professional entries.)

Sculpture — Elinor Winstanley of Avenel, first place, professional; Edward Kolwicz of Metuchen, first place, non-professional; Robert Gallagher of Parlin, second place, non-professional.

Watercolor — Margaret McCrory-Anderson of Piscataway, first place, professional; Harriet Charatan of Edison, second place, professional; Antonio Roubo of Metuchen, first place, non-professional; Nancy Tripod of Edison, second place, non-professional; Annette Newmark of Monroe Township, honorable mention, non-professional.

Somerville is ready to rediscover itself

Continued from page A1

satisfied increasingly by strip malls and ultimately box retail stores. But now, you can find stuff here you can't find anywhere else," said Jim Somerville, a member of the borough's historic advisory committee.

But as the more modern facades — like the one above the Big Little Railroad Shop and La Delizia — come down to reveal the town's historic roots, there are plenty of modern reminders of a town on the upswing.

Property values are rising, and so are rents, leading some businesses to different locations and different municipalities as a result, and new ones are coming in to take their places, some that might not reflect what

many view as the "uniqueness" of downtown.

"A lot of people are saying they don't want to see the commercial (retailers), because they want to keep it a quaint downtown, but we can keep that with the names," said Pat Mannion, owner of Mannion's Pub and Restaurant. With a location directly across from the former Landmark Shopping Center, Mannion has an eagle-eye view of the borough's first redevelopment project, one of four slated to transform the town.

With its proximity to the Railroad, Somerville has always been a transit-oriented town, long before there were state designations for the type of development currently being proposed.

Congressman holding 'Town Hall Forum'

EDISON — Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-6th Dist.) is holding a "Town Hall Forum" for residents of this township and of Metuchen.

The forum is at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the Township Council chambers at the Municipal Complex, 100 Municipal Blvd. Issues of importance to New Jersey and the nation will be addressed.

Bible school is a 'Fiesta'

PISCATAWAY — Christ United Methodist Church holds its Vacation Bible School at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 7-11.

This year's theme is "Fiesta: Where Kids Are Fired Up About Jesus!" Cost is free and space is limited.

For registration, call (732) 463-1517. The church is adjacent to the Municipal Complex at 485 Hoes Lane.

Summer programs offered at library

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The South Plainfield Public Library has summer programs for children and teens.

Several programs are at the same time every week in July and August:

"Storytime" for ages 3-up, 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and 1:15 p.m. Thursday. No registration is necessary.

"Time for 2's and 3's," open to ages 2-3 years old, 1 p.m. Tuesday and 10:30 a.m. Wednesday. No registration is necessary.

"Books-N-Babies" for those up to age 3 years old, 10:30 a.m. Thursday and Friday. No registration is necessary.

"Reading with Miss Mija" for children ages 6-up, 6:30 p.m. Thursday. No registration is necessary.

Chess Club for beginner and advanced players, 3:30 p.m. Friday. No registration is necessary.

Other programs are at a specific time and day:

"Kidcraft" for ages 6-up, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7 and 14. There is a \$1 materials fee each week. Registration is required.

End-of-summer party for young adults, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17. Registration is required.

For registration, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library at 2484 Plainfield Ave.

Great Train Expo on track

EDISON — The Great Train Expo is coming down the track to stop at the New Jersey Convention Center in Raritan Center. Model trains and toy trains in all gauges and sizes will be set up for all to marvel. Show hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 12-13.

Admission is \$7 for adults and free for children under age 12. For more information, visit www.greattrainexpo.com or call (732) 417-1400.

Party to honor retiring librarian

DUNELLEN — Colleen Fantini is retiring this summer from the Dunellen Public Library, where she has been the children's librarian for many years.

A party in honor of Fantini will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28 in the library at 100 New Market Road. The public is invited.

Anniversary parade participants sought

BOUND BROOK — The Parade Committee for the Bound Brook 325th Anniversary celebration, being held Oct. 8, is looking for local groups to sponsor floats depicting various historical eras during the history of Bound Brook, from the signing of the deed with the Indians right up until today's redevelopment efforts. The committee is looking for local organizations to sponsor a float in the parade.

Some float examples include: The making of the Betsy Ross flag, The Revolutionary War period, the founding of local churches, the opening of the borough's first school, the founding of the local library, the flood which took place in the 1800s, as well as Tropical Storm Floyd in 1999, or the railroad coming to the borough.

Any group interested should contact Phyllis Pourmaras at (732) 356-0141. The organizers of the parade will make an effort

to supply a flatbed truck, if needed, as well as give ideas on how to put together the float. The committee will have a list of historical times to give suggestions.

Governor's School includes local teens

EDISON — Two Edison boys have been accepted for Governor's School programs over the summer.

Jack Groshen was accepted for the Governor's School of Public Issues, a four-week program held at Monmouth University in West Long Branch.

Matthew R. Rodriguez was accepted for the Governor's School of Engineering and Technology. This four-week program is at the Rutgers School of Engineering in Piscataway.

Both students attend the Middlesex County Academy for Science, Mathematics and Engineering Technologies, located on the Edison campus of Middlesex County College. The academy is affiliated with the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools.

Take a tour of Earth Center

SOUTH BRUNSWICK — Guided tours of the Middlesex County Earth Center are now available by appointment.

The Earth Center includes a 1,000 square foot vegetable garden and a 13-bed herb garden, plus a display of shade trees and ornamental trees. All are found at Davidson's Mill Pond Park.

Clubs, scout troops and other organizations are welcome to take these tours. A fee is charged for each tour. For more information, call (732) 398-5262.

Bookmobile adds summertime stop

PISCATAWAY — The library's Bookmobile has rolled out its summer schedule with a new stop at Camp Cabrini on Tuesday afternoons.

In addition to the regular neighborhood stops, the Bookmobile will also return to Piscataway Township's "What's Up Youth Center" on alternative Monday afternoons; the Piscataway School Summer Camp at Martin Luther King School on Thursday afternoons, and the Piscataway Recreation Department park sites

at Tara and Irishtown Parks on Friday mornings. Copies of the Bookmobile summer schedule will be available at all Library locations and on the Library web site at www.piscatawaylibrary.org. For further information about the Library and its programs, contact the Reference Department at (732) 463-1633, Ext. 6.

Summer Reading Club prizes are showcased

PISCATAWAY — The public library will showcase the 2006 Summer Reading Club prizes in the display case at the John F. Kennedy library, located at 500 Hoes Lane, during the summer.

Registration for both continues throughout the summer. Children from birth through grade six (infants and preschoolers can be read to) are invited to explore Paws, Claw Scales and Tales with the Children's Reading Club; teens from grades seven through 12 are invited to Creature Feature, the Young Adult reading club. An additional display case in the new book area features special displays highlighting the history of the Piscataway Public Library in celebration of Piscataway Library anniversaries.

For more information about the library and its programs, please contact the reference department at (732) 463-1633, Ext. 6.

Sharky B's opens doors in Edison

EDISON — Danny Basovich, better known as Kid Delicious, was part of a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the official opening of Sharky B's on Townsley Street.

He is a New Jersey resident and currently the second-ranked billiards player in the world. Kid Delicious plays in tournaments around the world and is featured in instruction videos. Sports Illustrated profiled him for a feature last year. Sharky B's has 21 regulation-size billiards tables plus Ping-Pong, foosball, video games, pinball machines, electronic darts, chess, checkers and backgammon. Two 50-inch television sets and an online jukebox provide entertainment.

The center features a Ladies Night on Monday, Kid's Night on Tuesday and group packages by appointment. Call (732) 632-9277.

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A Gold Mine in Bedroom Drawers

Newsline: People are selling their old scrap gold that is gathering dust for its cash value because gold prices are so high. With the price of gold at a 25 year high (over \$650.00 per ounce), it makes sense. ScrapGold.com, a gold recycler, offers free insured recycle kits so people may cash in their scrap with 24 hour service and guarantee satisfaction. They accept

broken and outdated items like chains, charms, rings and more. "Everyone has bits of gold just lying around which can be turned into cash" says Richard Zakroff, VP of marketing. "Even old dental gold has value." ScrapGold.com processes over 10,000 recycle Kits per month. People can get a free GoldKit at 1-800-283-4700 or ScrapGold.com.

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Lease program helps add to buying power

Fire trucks, police cars, ambulances, street sweepers, dump trucks, pickup trucks with snowplows and computer equipment are among the items Middlesex County and 10 of its municipalities will be lease-purchasing through the Middlesex County Improvement Authority's Capital Equipment Lease Program.

This is the 15th year of the popular purchasing program, which offers pooled, low-cost financing that has saved the county and municipal participants more than \$3 million since its inception in 1992.

The bonds are tax-exempt and guaranteed by Middlesex County, which enjoys an excellent credit rating from Standard & Poor's.

"Municipalities participating in the Capital Equipment Lease Program can take advantage of Middlesex County's fiscal strength to save money when lease-purchasing big-ticket items for their towns," said Frecholder Director David B. Crabel, liaison to the MCIA. "The program makes excellent financial sense for municipalities."

Participating municipalities are Carteret, Cranbury, Edison, Highland Park, Monroe, Old Bridge, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy and Spotswood.

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In The Towns

RWJUH plans three blood drives

NEW BRUNSWICK — Three blood drives are scheduled for August at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

Blood drives are in the Arline & Henry Schwartzman Courtyard from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24. No appointment is necessary.

Donors must be at least age 17, weight at least 110 pounds and generally be in good health. They also must not have donated blood within the last 56 days. All donors must bring a photo ID and eat a meal before giving blood.

For more information, call (732) 235-8100, Ext. 244.

Synagogue has Patriots tickets

METUCHEN — Congregation Neve Shalom is selling tickets for Jewish Community Day with the Somerset Patriots on Sunday, Sept. 17.

Game time is 1:35 p.m. at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater. The first 1,500 children in attendance at the game against the Newark Bears receive a free school notebook. There will be an autograph session before the game.

Tickets are \$7 and must be paid for by Tuesday, Sept. 5. For

more information, e-mail can2r11@aol.com or call (732) 548-2238.

Cancer society has free program

EDISON — "I Can Cope" is an American Cancer Society program for cancer patients, their families, friends and caregivers.

This free program is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the radiation oncology department at JFK Medical Center, 65 James St. Theme of the presentation is "Discovering Resources and Celebrating Life."

Speakers include JoAnn Gavine, director of patient and family service for the American Cancer Society, and Mary Aloia, a counselor with the Haven Hospice of JFK Medical Center.

For registration, call (800) ACS-2345. Refreshments will be served.

Mini-Academy still has openings

MIDDLESEX — A number of openings are still available in the Middlesex Police Mini-Academy.

This week-long program runs from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 7-11. Anyone in Grades 6-8 who attends Middlesex public schools is welcome.

For more information, call Capt. Kevin Reilly at (732) 356-1900, Ext. 229.

Widows, widowers have an open dance

CARTERET — Middlesex East Widows or Widowers will hold an open dance at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11 at the American Legion hall, 1155 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret.

All are welcome to this dance with live music and refreshments. Admission is \$8 for members and \$9 for guests.

For more information, call (732) 541-2174 or (908) 757-0515.

Make creatures out of origami

PISCATAWAY — Teens in the township can learn to make origami creatures out of paper.

This program is at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 14 at Westergard Library on Murray Avenue off Stetson Road. For registration, visit the library's reference desk or call (732) 752-1166 Ext. 6. Space is limited.

Widows' group plans meeting

CARTERET — Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 14 at the Carteret Community Center, Pershing and Cooke avenues.

All widows and widowers are invited. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Dorothy at (732) 541-2174 or

Lois at (908) 757-0515.

Library Players have a 'Vile Vet'

PISCATAWAY — The Library Players are a summer theater troupe formed by the Piscataway Public Library in 1992.

Their production this year is "The Vile Veterinarian," where life is "ruff" in Woof Creek and the Nein to Five Pet Store and Hotel is in the (dog)house. Showtimes are 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16 at Kennedy Library, 500 Hoes Lane.

The gold has run out in Wolf Creek and all the miners have left their animals behind. Poor sweet Polly Purina and her grandma, Kay Nein, are struggling to make ends meet at the pet shop. Just when it seems Polly and Kay will be out in the streets Ray Breeze and Kitty Litter come by, posing as a veterinarian and his assistant. They just want the gold they know is hidden in the caves surrounding the pet shop!

For more information, call (732) 463-1633, Ext. 6.

Dance for widows and widowers

MIDDLESEX — The Somerset-Hunterdon WOWs holds a special dance for widows and widowers at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18 in the American Legion hall on Legion Place.

Friends and relatives are invited. For more information, call (732) 489-0626.

Silhouette art is program topic

PISCATAWAY — Before cameras were common an American president often sat to have his silhouette cut.

Ruth Grabner speaks about "Silhouette Papercutting" at East Jersey Olde Towne Village at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19. She also will show how this folk art is done as part of this free program.

A former art teacher with 30 years experience, Grabner is a member of the Guild of American Papercutters. She holds a master of fine arts degree from Montclair State University.

Registration is required; call (732) 745-4489. East Jersey Olde Towne Village is at 1050 River Road, at the stop light with Hoes Lane West.

Band parents seeking alumni

PISCATAWAY — The Superchief Band Parents Association supports the Superchief Band at Piscataway High School.

The band parents are looking for alumni who played in the Superchief Band or were in the

Band Parents Association. If you are among their alumni, visit www.superchiefs.org or call Pat Blath at (732) 752-5968.

Barbecue meal follows service

METUCHEN — Congregation Neve Shalom holds a "Friday Night Alive" service at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15.

This special Sabbath-eve service is followed by a barbecue dinner from the Men's Club. Cost for the barbecue meal is \$12 for adults, \$6 for ages 3-12 and free for children under age 3.

For reservations, e-mail can2r11@aol.com or call (732) 548-2238. The synagogue is located at 250 Grove Ave.

Service preceded by Israeli picture

METUCHEN — Selichot services at Congregation Neve Shalom are at 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, the weekend before Rosh Hashanah.

Before the service "Ushpizin" will be screened at 9 p.m. This 2004 motion picture from Israel is in Hebrew with English subtitles. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

The synagogue is at 250 Grove Ave., between Middlesex and Amboy avenues.

Campus Notes

Shannon Clegg of Piscataway was named to the dean's list for the spring 2006 term at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass. She is a senior majoring in athletic training.

Nineteen area students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester at Rider University in Lawrenceville. They are:

Jason Bellew of Piscataway, a junior majoring in secondary education and biology.

Ashley Benham of Edison, a junior majoring in finance.

Rafal Bielecki of Edison, a junior majoring in finance and accounting.

Shannon Boyles of South Plainfield, a sophomore majoring in elementary education and psychology.

Megan Bozzomo of Middlesex, a junior majoring in elementary education and psychology.

Iiona Brodetsky of Metuchen, a senior majoring in political science.

Suzie Chu of Edison, a freshman majoring in journalism.

Sandra Cortes of Edison, a senior majoring in management.

Brian Fabiano of Highland Park, a senior majoring in marketing.

Beth Gard of Edison, a junior majoring in journalism.

Shelly Helfgott of Edison, a junior majoring in elementary education and communi-

cation.

Jessica Mortenson of Edison, a sophomore majoring in elementary education and psychology.

Christopher Papp of Metuchen, a senior majoring in management.

Grishma Patel of Edison, a senior majoring in finance and management.

Meaghan Schweers of South Plainfield, a junior majoring in elementary education and psychology.

Joseph Seaton of Edison, a freshman majoring in actuarial science and finance.

Marisa Tavesat of Edison, a junior majoring in English.

James Tocco of Edison, a postgraduate student in accounting.

Stephen Trainor of Piscataway, a freshman majoring in secondary education and physics.

Four area students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester at Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y. They are:

Janara Garcia of South Plainfield, a junior majoring in architecture.

Miroslav Milanov of Bound Brook, a freshman majoring in industrial and interaction design.

Joshua Seidner of Edison, a senior majoring in architecture.

Ryan Walsh of Edison, a junior majoring in drama.

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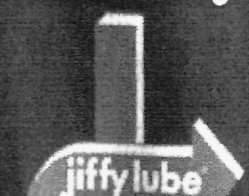
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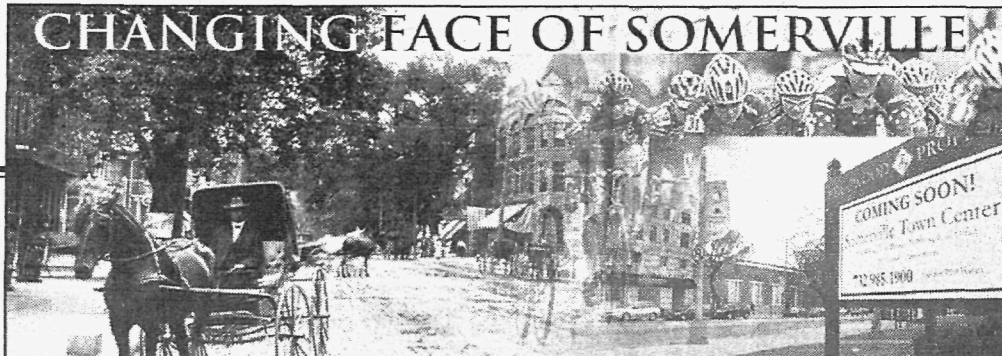
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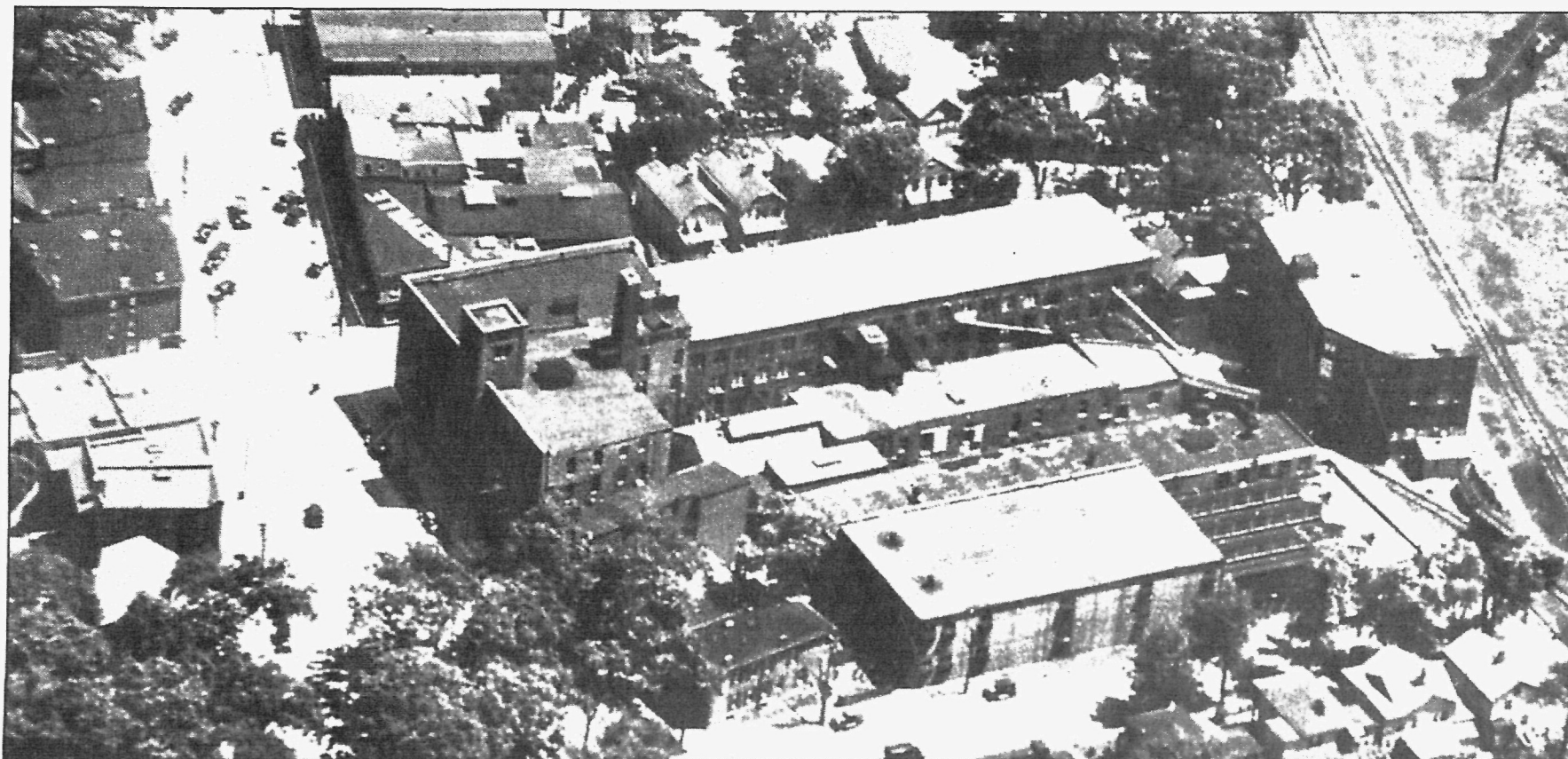
Beginning this week, *The Chronicle* is taking an in-depth look at redevelopment in Somerville. As the county seat, what happens in the borough has an impact on all the communities in Somerset County. Coming next week, the buying and selling of Main Street and the architecture of Somerville.

CHANGING FACE OF SOMERVILLE



Saturday, August 5, 2006

To see its future, Somerville looks to past



This aerial view of Somerville, left, taken before World War II, shows what the west end of Main Street looked like before the Downtown Somerville Shopping Center was built. Where the center is now, at the top of the photo, was a mix of row houses and shops, one bearing the borough's name on its roof. Somerset Hospital, seen below in 1901, would become Somerset Medical Center, today a bustling regional hospital.

COURTESY ALAN GRANETZ (above); THE REPORTER ARCHIVES (below)

Borough is returning to its roots

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI and ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writers

SOMERVILLE — With Somerville's future looming large over the downtown and its denizens, plans for the future look awfully familiar: A return to Somerville's small-town roots.

From where it's been to where it's going, Somerville's return to a destination downtown is a well-trod path. While many envision a bustling downtown drawing people from other parts of the state to its unique stores, that's not too far from what Somerville once was.

Since the early 1800s, Somerville has been the place to go for needs and wants for people from the surrounding areas.

"It's been central for those very early reasons as a market center, a rail center, and a center of government," said James Sommerville, the reference librarian at the Somerville Public Library and a member of the borough's historic advisory committee.

To this day, people can complete almost all their holiday shopping with stores on Main Street that cater to peoples' wants. However, there aren't too many stores these days that fulfill the basic necessities in life. There are few clothing stores and drug stores and there's only one main food store. But Somerville didn't always used to be that way.

"The first businesses must have been the basics of life — food, drink, medicine, bedding and clothing," said Sommerville.

"Originally, there were grocery stores, department stores — all kinds of merchants," he said, when Somerville was full of products and produce from the surrounding towns. "That has evolved. Those wants have been satisfied increasingly by strip malls and ultimately box retail stores. But now, you can find stuff here you can't find anywhere else."

In the early days, Main Street was lined with groceries, markets, hotels, taverns, and clothing stores, as well as the county government, which has had its home in Somerville since 1783. With the construction of the railroad even more businesses came to the borough — not a far cry from the transit-oriented development in store for Somerville's future.

"The big push (for retail) began with the coming of the railroad in 1845," Sommerville said. "The building boom is directly related to the railroad and Somerville became more and more affordable as a bedroom community to New York. The 19th century was a very prosperous time."

With more people coming to and traveling through the borough hotels and restaurants were a profitable industry. Where Mannion's now stands, there has been a restaurant since the 1870s, said Sommerville, noting that restaurants have always been of interest in the borough. There were at least four hotels in Somerville during the 1800s that served as lodging and dining facilities as well as areas for community gatherings. Main Street as it is known today has been a central road

since the early 1800s.

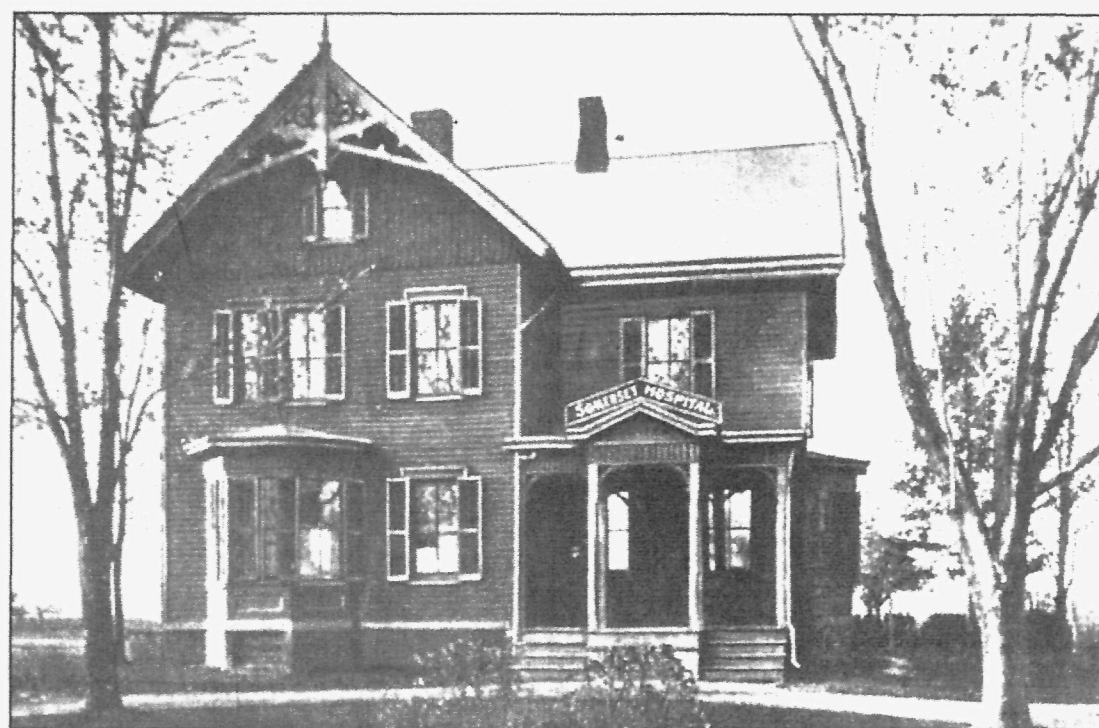
"The main layout (of Main Street) has been as you see it for a long time," he said. "It's a continuation of Old York Road and was the main artery for people traveling from New York to Philadelphia."

Where there are roads and travelers, the car couldn't be far behind, and once cars started to appear on Main Street, businesses catering to them popped up as well.

"The George Thompson family had the first car in 1905," Sommerville said. "After that, you'd see auto dealers and auto parts stores on Main Street starting in the early 20th century. There were a lot of livery stable son the side streets. The car and horse co-existed in Somerville for a very long time — up until the first war. The clothing stores were all the more important as the war progressed. It (the war and the need for material) left not so much opportunities for fashion, but what was here was very much desired."

While the geography has not changed, some of the institutions have relocated. The borough has also been home to medical services since Mary Gaston opened a doctor's office in 1889. While the hospital was originally downtown, in the basement of the Gaston Building, it moved several times, including a location on East Main Street, before settling off the drag on Rehill Avenue in 1925.

While the hospital, now Somerset Medical Center, remains, there are aspects of life that have moved away from downtown. Despite the new



proposal to put a teen dance club downtown, the entertainment venues of yesteryear are gone.

"Somerville used to have bowling alleys. There were opportunities for dancing at the armory for years," Sommerville said, noting that there were also nickelodeons and a movie theater.

The people entertained by such venues have always come from a wide variety of backgrounds, however. The diversity of Somerville has been a facet of the community since the early days.

"There has always been socioeconomic diversity," said Sommerville. "There was always a percentage that would have followed and been watered by the upscale traveler and the bedroom commuter."

Additionally, the coming of the 1900s brought industrial uses to the borough — a woolen mill once sat on Main Street, and there were iron works, a lumberyard, and stone works — which lead to calls for more housing. Regardless of what type of goods were offered on Main Street, living close to or in the downtown has always been popular, Sommerville said.

"Space has always been at a premium in town," he said. "People always liked to live on Main Street. As far as I can tell business owners would have liked to live upstairs (from their stores). When heavy industry came to town, you needed to create space for the workers."

Nature's Holiday was once a die work mill that was labor intensive for 100 years. There

was an iron works and a large lumber yard, brick works and all those people needed a place to live."

With over 260 units to be built downtown as part of the Somerville Town Center, local officials and Edgewood Properties are betting that downtown is still a desirable place to live.

Hopefully, it will also continue to be a desirable place to shop.

The shift to eclectic specialty stores started in the early 1970s, Sommerville said. Today, Main Street businesses still tilt towards antiques and specialty stores, and downtown organizations try to recruit more.

"Somerville has had to reconfigure and reinvent itself," Sommerville said. "Lately it's been a success."

Goal: to make Town Center downtown's 'gem'

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI and ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writers

The Downtown Somerville Shopping Center was built to be a shining example of urban renewal, 1970s-style. Not too long after it was built, however, it started to founder. Today, as tenants vacated and few took their places, a developer came into Somerville offering to give the complex a fresh start, by tearing it down.

These days the center is nearly unoccupied, waiting for the demolition to start, which could happen in just a few weeks.

The new Somerville Town Center project is slated to be the jewel of Main Street in ways the shopping center never was: A hub of shopping, dining, fitness, and the residences of people who will do all those things, not just in the center, but in Somerville as a whole.

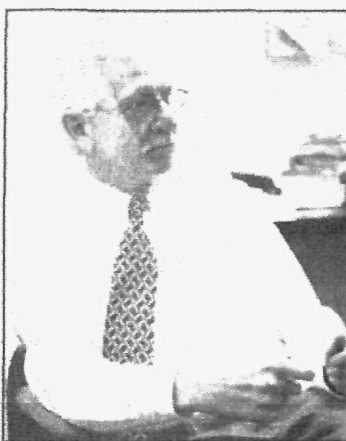
"Somerville is such a strong market. It's the county seat in one of the wealthiest counties in the country, and it's beautiful," said Joe Morris, vice president of commercial leasing and marketing for the project. "The downtown kind of got

forgotten for a while because of the Bridgewater Commons and the shopping (centers) on the circle. Projects like these cause a Renaissance — look at where Hoboken was 15 years ago. That needs to happen here and we're going to be able to do it."

In Hoboken, developers targeted blighted areas, transforming them into shopping centers and apartment complexes, making the community a destination for young professionals looking for an easy — and somewhat affordable way — to live while working in New York City.

Morris — no relation to Jack Morris, owner of JSM, the parent company of Edgewood Properties — said the developer's vision for the new center and the apartments above is a place that will appeal to young professionals in a way not dissimilar to the Hoboken experience. Most of its tenants will be young, single or newly-married, with disposable income looking for time to spend it. With a NJ Transit train station right across the street, the location will be a NYC-commuter's dream.

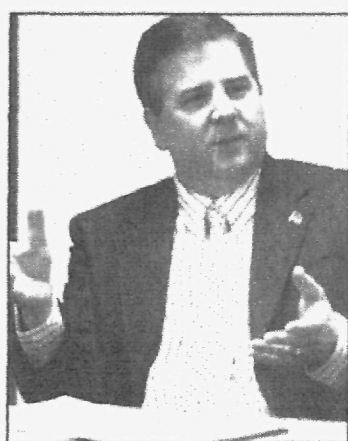
"This will be the hip place to



"It'll create more permanent sustainable jobs, hopefully for borough residents. There will be a couple hundred construction workers in town for a few years." Colin Driver, Economic Development Director

be," Joe Morris said. "It's a true downtown center. You have the train station, supermarkets, dining all within walking distance. This market has really established itself. There are so many people who want to be here."

For those with businesses on



"This development has the ability to generate a lot more interest in Somerville. It has the opportunity to bring attention to Somerville and be a catalyst for other development."

Brian Gallagher, Somerville Mayor

Main Street, the potential result will be a bonanza of new residents with money to burn and leisure time to spend — that's the hope, at least.

ALL THE BENEFITS

From jobs to shopping to tax benefits, the hope of borough leaders is the center will con-

tinue the revitalization of a downtown district that has long worked to recover from the severe blow it was dealt by the construction of the Bridgewater Commons in 1980s.

"This development has the ability to generate a lot more interest in Somerville," said Mayor Brian Gallagher. "It has the opportunity to bring attention to Somerville and be a catalyst for other development."

Already, the center has helped speed redevelopment of other areas within the borough.

A nearby landfill that once looked like it would be turned into a big-box shopping center is finally on target to be developed and a vacant office park at the other end of town is the latest to be named a redevelopment zone.

The big promise of the Somerville Town Center is that it will increase property values downtown, helping take some of the property tax burden off of the residential parts of Somerville. The center itself is expected to bring in \$2 million in municipal property tax revenue annually, which is expected to help offset future prop-

erty tax increases.

"The big thing is the taxes," said Gallagher. "We have the highest taxes in the county, but we're different from other towns in that we have created a plan that will address that."

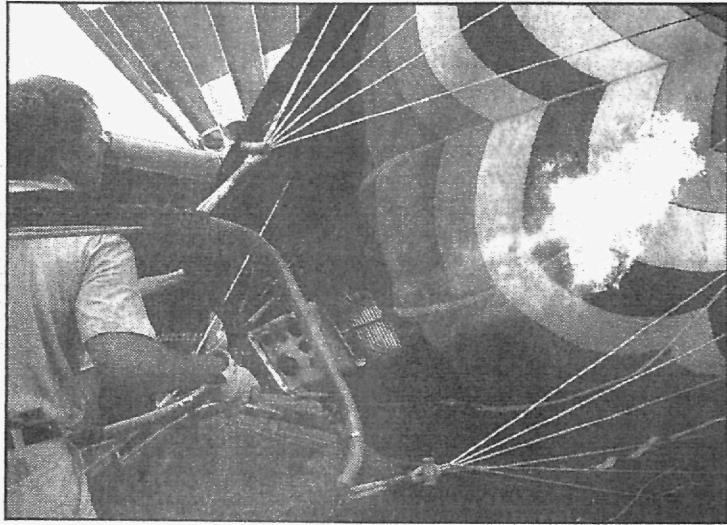
Colin Driver, director of economic development for the borough, said that as is, the shopping center has been losing value to the borough for years.

"The assessed value of that property has gone down over the years," said Driver. "The new center will bring a far stronger ratable base. The borough will benefit directly."

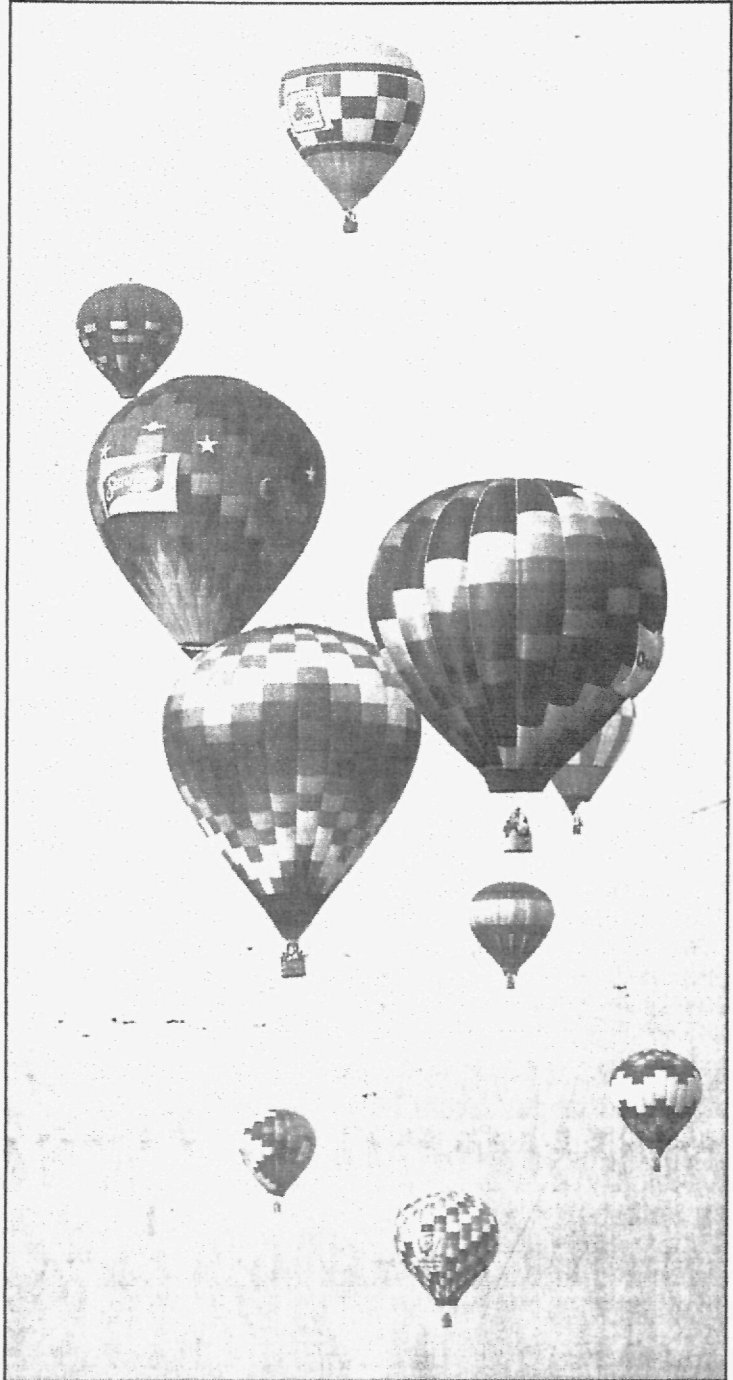
There are other direct benefits as well. New shopping, new residents, and new jobs are all part of what a project known as the West End Redevelopment is expected to bring to the borough.

"It'll create more permanent sustainable jobs, hopefully for borough residents. There will be a couple hundred construction workers in town for a few years," said Driver. "They'll spend their money for lunch and breakfast here and as the buildings start closing out, those will transfer to long-term sustainable employment."

Up, up and away



PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Hot air balloon pilot T.J. Bradley, above, fires up the burners to heat the air and inflate his balloon for takeoff during last weekend's Quick Chek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning at Solberg Airport in Readington. Balloons fill the summer sky below.



Entrepreneur gives up audits for chocolates

RVCC helps woman's candy dreams come true

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

NORTH BRANCH — Karin Wessel's job never leaves a bad taste in her mouth.

The best part of running Candy Bouquet, which held its grand opening last Thursday, is the obvious: the chocolate, said the Bridgewater resident.

Her last job, as an auditor for a large insurance company, didn't quite give her the same feeling. Handing out audit reports, she said, is a good way to earn people's dislike.

Candy Bouquet, however, is a much different story.

"I always liked the gift business, and it's much more exciting than insurance," she said. "I'd rather do a 20-hour day here than a 10-hour day in insurance."

"I needed what a franchise could offer," she said, of selecting Candy Bouquet as the business she wanted to run. From making that decision — the most difficult part of the process, she said — it was mere months before she was up and running, thanks to a little help from the Raritan Valley Community College Small Business Development Center.

While she was originally going to work out of her home, she ultimately decided to open in a store front instead.

"My original thought was to be home based, but then I realized this is such a visual product. You can describe it all you want, but people won't get it until they see it," she said.

With lollipops, candies, and chocolate wrapped up brightly and beribboned into bouquets — hand-wrapped and put together by the store's employees — the store's product isn't just about the taste, but the look as well. According to Wessel, it's a look many find appealing in a world full of gift baskets and flowers.

"It was this or gift baskets, and that market is sat-



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Karin Wessel, owner of Candy Bouquet in North Branch, with some of her gourmet chocolates inside the shop, which had its grand opening last Thursday.

urated," she said.

Plus, the franchise allows her to explore her creativity and carry things of her choice, as well as design her own bouquets and gifts.

"Candy Bouquet allows for a lot of creativity. They don't tell me what I have to sell," she said. She's chosen to install a candy case, where she keeps the fudge and some sugar-free candy,

and sell Jelly Belly jelly beans, along with gourmet food products such as cookies.

A mother of two boys adopted from South Korea, T.J., 4, and Keith, almost 3, Wessel sometimes brings them to work — a treat for them. "They love coming here," she said.

So do her employees, many of whom are mem-

bers of the youth group Wessel runs at Zion Lutheran Church in Oldwick.

"We're always singing and dancing, and we're always putting on music from people's iPods," said Norma Lamo, who will start her senior year at North Hunterdon High School this fall. "It's the energy, it's a fun place to be."

The Reporter

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Saturday, August 5, 2006

Sports

Young Spartans a hit in Pyramid senior ball

Playing baseball at Immaculata High often means waiting your turn.

For more than two decades Immaculata has been the standard Somerset County baseball has been measured against, and that doesn't happen without each year replenishing a talent pool that's been depleted by graduation. Seemingly, the Spartans' pool never runs dry.

That's evidenced in part by the program's success this summer in the Senior Division of the Pyramid (American Legion) Baseball League.

With only one varsity starter from the spring in its lineup and playing with basically what should be next year's junior varsity squad, Immaculata posted an 11-7-2 record to share fourth place and earn a spot in the American Legion State Tournament, although it passed on the bid.

Considering that just about every other opponent's lineup consisted of a combination of graduated seniors, first-year

college players and next year's projected varsity lineup, it's clear the Spartans had an outstanding summer, especially during the second half when they closed out the schedule with an 8-1-1 run.

"I was pretty happy with our season because we basically played with a junior varsity team," said Joe Capasso, the Senior Legion team's head coach and a high school varsity assistant. "I know Tom (Gambino, Immaculata High's head coach) was pretty happy with it."

"We were pretty young in a league that had some teams with college players. That can be a little intimidating. It's a big jump from JV to varsity, and it took some time for the kids to adjust. Also, in the beginning of the season I really wasn't emphasizing winning because I was trying to get everyone in each game."

"We also got a late start because we were in the state (high school) tournament, and it was tough to get the kids motivated right away. After a

while the guys just put it together. After playing everybody for a while, we pretty much went with the same lineup."

"At one point we had only three wins. I was just hoping to get to .500, and then we finished 11-7-2. The kids were proud of themselves, and I was proud of them. Once they realized they could compete at that level they started to come on. At a lot of high schools most of these guys would be starting varsity."

With the program's best players competing in highly-competitive environments this summer, it opened up playing time for the younger kids with the Senior Legion. With senior-to-be Tom Burke, the Immaculata shortstop the past two years, leading the way, the Spartans more than held their own.

"We had Tom with us because we wanted to give him a chance to pitch this summer, and we also gave him a break at shortstop by playing him at third and second," Capasso said. "He's pretty much a leader, and he took the younger kids under his wing."

"He had pitched before, but he hadn't pitched the past two years with the varsity because we needed him at shortstop. Tom beat Ridge and (Pingry standout) Park Smith, so he has some ability. He should get some innings with the varsity next year."

With Immaculata High starters returning at six positions other than pitcher next spring, only two spots figure to be open for grabs — second base and right field. Rising junior Frank DeNick figures to be a leading candidate in right, and Henry Knabe should be in the mix at second.

After that the Legion roster is filled with players biding their time and hopefully getting some action with the 2007 varsity.

"The thing we tell the kids is you never know what's going to happen," Capasso said. "Kids get hurt, and sometimes they decide not to play, so you have to be ready. When the summer started I told the kids there were only two spots open on the varsity, and to just go out and have fun."

"I think what the kids got from the summer was they now know they have the ability to play at a higher level. They found out they can hit varsity pitching. They all started to believe in themselves."

"They just need to play more baseball. In high school, when a JV game gets rained out it doesn't get made up, so these kids don't play as many games as the varsity."



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pitcher Tom Burke, here firing to third for a force-out against Flemington during a June 28 game at HealthQuest Field, was a veteran leader for an otherwise youthful Immaculata team this summer in the Pyramid Baseball League. Immaculata finished strong for an 11-7-2 record.

Branchburg 12s finish fourth in region tourney

HOPEWELL TWP. — While only one team can walk away with the championship trophy, the Branchburg Bulldogs were able to take home more than their share of positive moments from the Cal Ripken Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament.

The Branchburg age 12-and-under squad narrowly missed reaching the losers' bracket final round Monday afternoon, suffering a last-inning 6-5 setback to Hamilton Township at a steamy Hopewell Valley Baseball Complex.

"They did Branchburg proud," said Bulldogs Head Coach Paul Millar afterwards. "They made us all proud."

Branchburg split four games in the double-elimination tourney and finished fourth — the best post-season showing ever by a Branchburg Baseball club.

"These guys just went out there every game and laid it all on the line," said Millar. "They just went out there and played the game the way it's supposed to be played, and people were going out of their way to give them credit for that after we played them. They showed respect for the game and carried themselves so well."

"This was a great group of kids. They're all good kids and made it a pleasure for us coaches. I enjoyed this season more than any I've been a part of, and that's what it's all about. As long as the players and coaches are having fun, that's a good mix."

The Bulldogs, most of whom have been teammates for several years, obviously had the ideal mix between the lines all summer. They concluded the campaign with an overall 38-6-1 record, winning the Ripken North Jersey State Tournament (to reach the regional) along with the District 10 crown and the Mount Olive, Montgomery and Branchburg tournaments.

Faced with staying alive via the losers' bracket after Saturday's loss to Methacton (Pa.), Branchburg bounced back impressively the next afternoon for a 6-2 conquest of Delaware and then faced perennial power Hamilton, a local Mercer County squad, in sweltering heat Monday.

The contest was even at 5-all when Hamilton's Little Lads came to bat in the bottom of the sixth inning (last inning) and two walks, a passed ball and a one-out single to left by clean-up man Paul Piromalli against Tyler Fox sent in the deciding run.

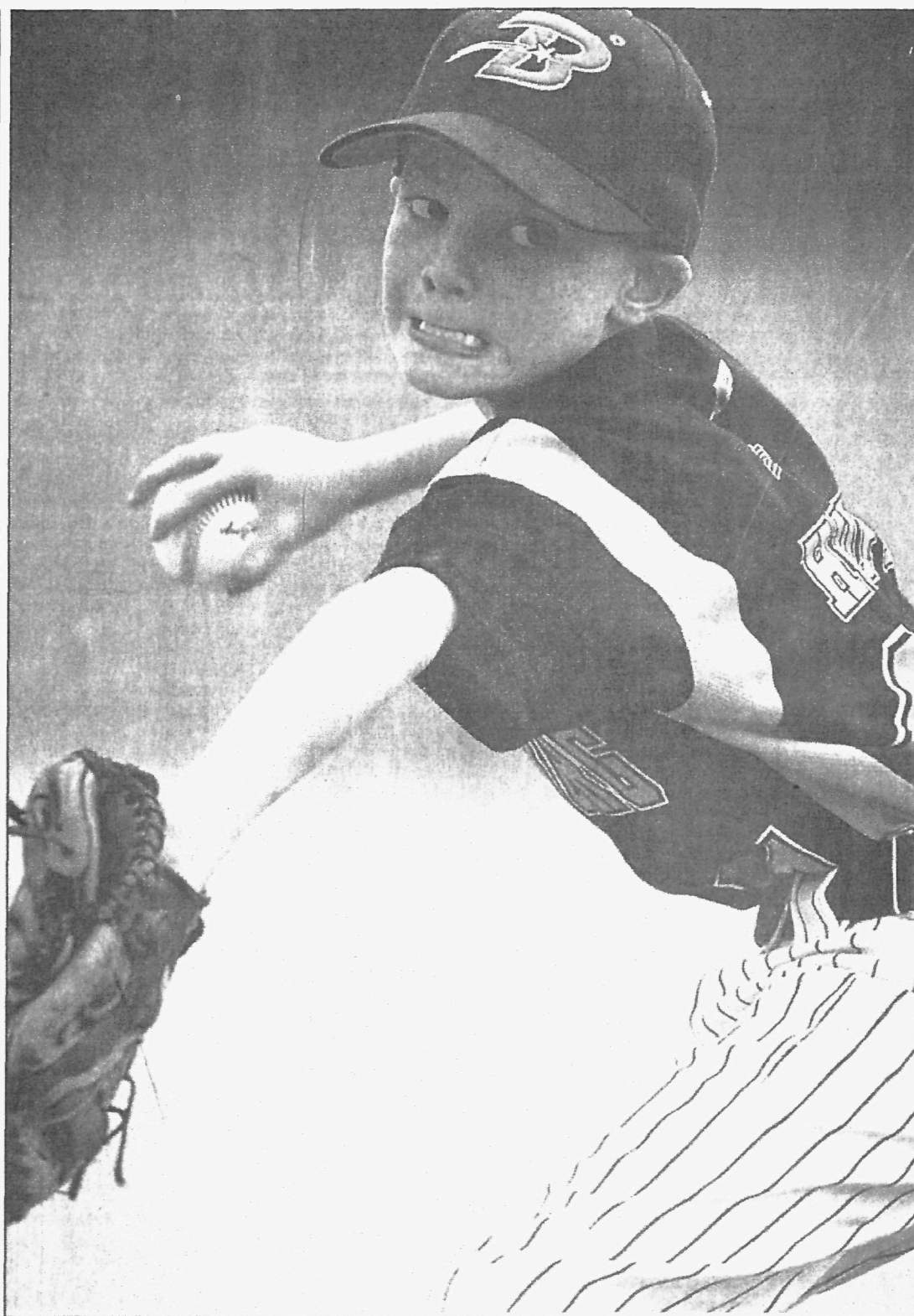
"It was a tough way to lose, right down to the last pitch," said Millar. "But we had our opportunities, too, and didn't always take advantage of them. We gave them lots of opportunities, especially with walks. Walks killed us in both of our losses."

Chris Kiesel pitched the opening inning for Branchburg, giving up one hit, two walks and three runs. Dylan Cruz came in for the next three, yielding two runs, before Ben Laub and Fox finished up. The Bulldog hurlers yielded just five hits but nine walks.

Kyle Flood's two-run homer put the Bulldogs on the board in the second frame and Nick Annunziata's hit to left drove in Flood, who'd singled, with their third run in the fourth.

Kiesel's line-drive homer to center in the fifth pulled Branchburg into a 5-5 deadlock and in the next inning Fox rapped out his second hit of the day with one out and Annunziata reached on an error. They advanced to second and third before Dylan Murphy wrapped up a route-going performance by striking out the next two batters.

Following Saturday's 12-7 loss to Methacton, the Bulldogs had stayed alive with a triumph over the Delaware Bears.



LARRY MURPHY/CORRESPONDENT

Branchburg pitcher Paul Huff gets set to fire one in July 27 during the Bulldog 8-year-olds' Raritan Valley Baseball League playoff clash with Westfield Independent at White Oak Park. Branchburg eventually advanced to the championship game, where it fell to Westfield National 13-11.

Young Bulldogs' first season is a winner

By DAVE ALLENA
Staff Writer

Branchburg Baseball's 8-year-old all-stars had the kind of summer all beginning players should have: they enjoyed themselves, picked up some valuable lessons and also had their share of success.

Even though Branchburg fell short in the Raritan Valley Baseball League's playoff championship game Sunday night when it dropped a 13-11 verdict to Westfield National, the first-year competitive squad did win its division with an 11-1 record along with capturing the Montgomery Tournament crown while posting an overall record of 19-5.

For Head Coach Joe Annunziata, who assisted with the 8-year-old squad a year ago, it was a summer of unexpected results.

"I was a little skeptical when the season started, but once we started playing and I saw the competition I thought we could be better than just a .500 team," he said. "I was very happy with the way things turned out this season."

"Hitting was the strength of the team, but I thought we did pretty good with our pitching and defense, too. We certainly scored a lot more than we gave up. We outscored the other teams 302-98. I think the kids learned some things. They had fun and learned some things about playing baseball."

After dominating RVBL rivals during the regular season, the Bulldogs found themselves in a couple of tough situations in the playoffs, surviving a scare in the semifinals with a sixth-inning rally but then falling short despite a big comeback in the final.

Facing Westfield Independent in a semifinal game that began July 27, was suspended and then completed two days later, Branchburg led 7-3 after three innings, fell behind 9-7 when Westfield scored five times in the top of the sixth and won it 10-9 with three runs in the bottom of the sixth. That also avenged the Bulldogs' only regular-season

BRANCHBURG YOUTH BASEBALL

loss.

In Sunday's final against Westfield National in Warren, Branchburg led 1-0 and 2-1 before Westfield scored 12 unanswered runs between the third and fourth innings to build a 13-2 advantage. Branchburg, however, made it interesting with seven runs in the fifth and two more in the sixth before bowing.

"I was pleasantly surprised when we beat Westfield Independent," said Annunziata. "I never counted us out, but it's not often you see 8-year-olds coming back like that after giving up the lead in the top of the sixth. It was also a nice payback win for us. The kids were excited. I was happy for them."

"In the final I didn't count them out even after we fell behind 13-2. It was disappointing to lose the last one like that, but the emphasis has to be put on the comeback. We just couldn't come up with one more big hit in the fifth inning. That was a tough one. It was a great comeback. We just came up a little short."

Branchburg looked like it was in for a long day against Westfield National despite a run in the first on Vinny Annunziata's triple and Kellen Hardy's single and an RBI single by Josh Dela Cruz in the second. Westfield erupted for five runs in the third and seventh more in the fourth to take command.

Rarely facing any kind of deficit this summer, the Bulldogs battled back in the fifth to get to within four. Paul Huff tripled in a run, Dela Cruz delivered a two-run single and Hunter Muratore laced a two-run double as Branchburg took advantage of two hit batters and four walks to score seven times. But the Bulldogs also left runners at second and third.

In the sixth Huff got it started with a single and following

a walk to Andrew Prescott, Annunziata came through with a two-run single. But that proved to be as close as Branchburg could get.

Huff finished the game 3 for 4 to lead a 10-hit attack, while Annunziata and Dela Cruz both went 2 for 2. That same trio combined to handle the pitching with Huff working the first three innings.

Against Westfield Independent, Branchburg got some help early with Dela Cruz's two-run single in the three run second and Annunziata's sacrifice fly in a two-run third the key production on the way to its 7-3 advantage.

Westfield, however, scored five times in the sixth for a 9-7 lead and then made Branchburg earn the victory in the bottom of the inning. The Bulldogs did just that, as singles by Prescott, Hardy, Ethan Kornbrek, Tim Doran and Tommy Charnikow produced the three runs that won it with the latter three getting an RBI each.

Huff, Prescott, Kornbrek and Doran notched two hits each in the 12-hit attack, while Huff, Kornbrek and Annunziata handled the pitching before Hardy came on and struck out the only batter he faced to end the top of the sixth and earn the victory. Robert Quick, Jake Kobuta and Tim Shust also contributed to the team's fine season.

Branchburg 6, Hillsborough 4 — Getting three hits from Kobuta and two apiece from Annunziata and Huff, the Bulldogs trimmed Hillsborough recently to win the Montgomery Tournament championship.

Annunziata's double, Kornbrek's single and Quick's triple staked the Bulldogs to a 2-0 first-inning lead.

Kornbrek and Huff both pitched three strong innings, each yielding two runs. Facing a 6-4 deficit, Hillsborough loaded the bases with none out in the final inning but Branchburg held on for the victory.



Robby Slovik, 15, of Hillsborough, tosses a Frisbee outside his home last week. Slovik is president of the Super Tenacious Ultimate Frisbee Fanatics, a 4-H club, and will be at the Somerset County 4-H Fair Aug. 16-18 to teach people about the game.

JIM WHITE/THE REPORTER

Ultimate Frisbee, anyone?

By JENNIFER ROSENBAUM
Correspondent

"Huck," the equivalent to a kickoff in football, means the long throw after a point is scored to restart the game. "Layout," means a diving catch. "Backhand" and "forehand" describe ways to throw.

This is just some of the lingo spoken during the game of Ultimate Frisbee, all of which the Super Tenacious Ultimate Frisbee Fanatics are trying to make the public aware during the Somerset County 4-H Fair being held Aug. 16, 17 and 18 at North Branch Park in Bridgewater.

The 4-H clover symbolizes four actions that members try to accomplish with their head, hands, heart and health.

The pledge is as follows: "I Pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country and my world."

The president of the Super Tenacious Ultimate Frisbee Fanatics, Robby Slovik, 15, of Hillsborough, is using his head, hands, heart and health, to promote the game.

"We are trying to open the game to the public because not many people know about it," he said.

Ultimate Frisbee is a game similar to football except there are 14 players participating at one time. The objective is to progress the disc up the field by completing a series of passes that finally

enable a player to catch the Frisbee in the end zone, worth one point. But, players cannot move once they have the disc in their hands. Leagues typically play 24 minute halves or until the score reaches 21. Overtime lasts five minutes or when one team has reached a two goal margin over its opponent.

Slovik became interested in Ultimate Frisbee when his neighbors introduced him to the game. He has played for the last five years and participates in the group started at the high school when he isn't working at his part time job. He went on to start the club within 4-H because it seemed like the next step.

"My mom has been a volunteer (for 4-H) for as long as I can remember, I just grew up with it. I love it," said Slovik.

This is the second time the club is attending the annual fair, which is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. This year they will have numerous activities including a game where the object is to knock over cans using the Frisbee, another game is to throw the Frisbee at a stationary target, and there will also be a pickup game of Ultimate Frisbee.

In addition, the club will be manning an information table under the science tent with pamphlets about Ultimate Frisbee jargon and group meetings.

This past year, the fair has proven to be a success for the 12 or 13 members in the group.

Obituaries

Stacey Jackson Bell

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Stacey B. Jackson Bell, 39, died July 27, 2006 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Elizabeth, she lived in Scotch Plains before moving to South Plainfield in 2001.

Mrs. Bell was an administrator in the information technology department of the IEEE in Piscataway. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration

from Trenton State College in 1988.

In her college years Mrs. Bell was an exchange student at Chico State University in Chico, Calif. She bowled on the IEEE bowling team at Stelton Lanes in Piscataway.

Her father, Curtis M. Jackson, died in 2004.

Surviving are her husband, Eric D.; her mother, Brenda Jackson; a stepdaughter, Emani; a brother, Scott Jackson; a niece; a nephew; and many aunts, uncles and

cousins.

Services were held Wednesday at the Scotch Plains Baptist Church. Burial was in Graceland Memorial Park, Kenilworth.

Arrangements were by the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to All Saints' Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 or Morning Star Church Community Center, 1009 Chandler Ave., Linden, NJ 07036.

Martha Shurn

PISCATAWAY — Martha Shurn, 83, died July 28, 2006 at her home in Fanwood.

She was born in Piscataway and lived in the township before moving to Fanwood in 1953.

Mrs. Shurn worked at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield for 20 years, retiring in 1993 as an outpatient claims processor in the billing department. She graduated in 1943 from the Drake Business College in Plainfield.

She was a longtime member

of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Dunellen.

Her husband, John, died in 1987.

Surviving are two sons, Donald and wife Jean of Bridgewater and Stephen of Pompton Lakes; a sister, Olga Sobolak of Fanwood; six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Private arrangements were by the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Donations may be sent to St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, 119 Madison Ave., Dunellen, NJ 08812.

Fredrick DeSepio

PISCATAWAY — Fredrick J. DeSepio, 52, died July 28, 2006 at his home.

He was born in Plainfield and lived in Piscataway for most of his life.

Mr. DeSepio was employed at Bagel Junction in Whitehouse Station.

Preceding him in death was his father, Dominic "Fritz."

Surviving is his mother, Alberta Dudak DeSepio of Piscataway.

Private arrangements were by the McCricken Home for Funerals, in South Plainfield.

Charles Gruver Jr.

PISCATAWAY — Charles R. "Chick" Gruver Jr., 68, died July 26, 2006 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. Born July 4, 1938 in Kingston, Pa., he was a son of the late Charles and Virginia Dare Gruver.

Mr. Gruver lived in Courtdale, Pa., before moving to Piscataway in 1970. He was a longtime partner and operator in CRC Building

Contractors in Piscataway. He also spent 33 years with General Motors Corp. in Linden until his retirement.

A marksman as a Marine Corps private, Mr. Gruver was a member of American Legion Post 306 in Middlesex.

Preceding him in death was a son-in-law, Eric Holzapfel.

Surviving are his wife, Philomena Bernardo Gruver; three sons, Charles III and wife

Kim of South Plainfield, Dominic and wife Jeanne of South Plainfield and Ronald and wife Julie of Piscataway; a daughter, Carol Holzapfel of Bridgewater; a sister, Carol Bythway of Courtdale; and six grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at the McCricken Home for Funerals, in South Plainfield. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
Middlesex County
Docket No. F-12268-06

STATE OF NEW JERSEY vs. Jose Ruiz, Rosa Ramirez and Rosa Ruiz
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon Puerto, Backer, & Saltman, LLC, whose address is 20000 Horizon Way, Suite 500, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054. An Answer to the Complaint and Amendment to Complaint, filed in a civil action in which Sovereign Bank is Plaintiff and Jose Ruiz, et al, are Defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, bearing Docket No. F-12268-06, with thirty-five days (35) after August 5, 2006 exclusive of such date if you fail to do so, judgment by Default may be rendered against you for relief demanded in the Complaint and Amendment to Complaint. You shall file your Answer and Proof of Service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice Complex, CN-971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with

the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure
This action has been instituted for the purpose of foreclosing the mortgage dated September 14, 1998, and made by Jose Ruiz, to Bankers Savings recorded in the Middlesex County Clerk's Office, Book 3713, at Page 801; to recover possession of and concerning real estate located at 515-515 Sayre Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861. Sovereign Bank is the successor by merger to Bankers Savings.

You, Jose Ruiz, are made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you are the owner of record of the mortgaged premises and because you signed Plaintiff's Note and Mortgage and may be liable for any deficiency and for any lien, claim or interest you or they may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises being foreclosed herein by the Plaintiff.

You, Rosa Ramirez, are joined as a party Defendant to this foreclosure action by reason of a Child Support Judgement dated September 1, 1992,

Judgment number J-155507-1992, Case No. CS 516894 B1A; Venue: Atlantic; Debtor: Jose Ruiz; in an undisclosed amount.
You, Rosa Ruiz, are joined as a party Defendant to this foreclosure action by reason of a judgement dated November 20, 1991, Judgment number J-28834-1991, Case No. FMD-01643-97; Venue: Middlesex; Debtor: Jose Ruiz; in an undisclosed amount.

You may contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County in which this action is pending by calling 908-828-0053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County in which this action is pending by calling 908-249-7600.

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


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