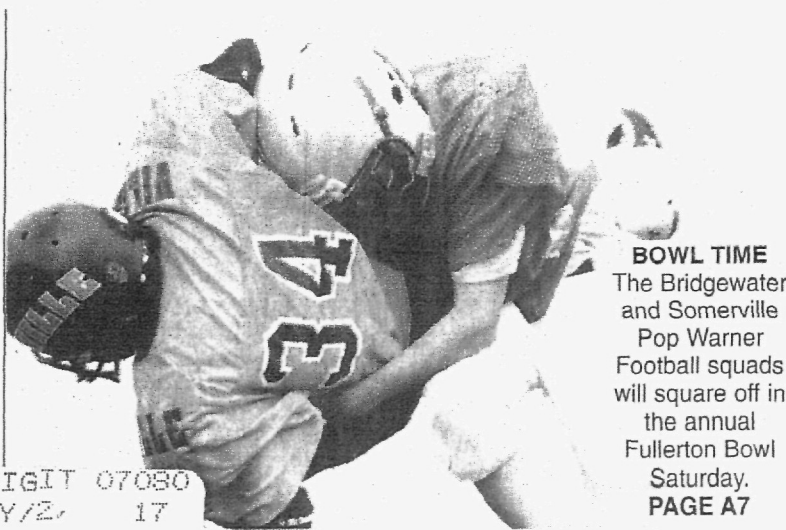




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Our look at the changing

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BOWL TIME
The Bridgewater and Somerville Pop Warner Football squads will square off in the annual Fullerton Bowl Saturday.
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FAN-FRIENDLY FRENZY
The ZOOperstars! brought their zany act to Commerce Bank Ballpark last week.
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The Chronicle

Since 1862

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Saturday, August 26, 2006

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INSIDE



Restoring history

Somerville's Borough Hall is a historic landmark, and with the help of grants and municipal funds the building could undergo a restoration at some time in the future. The ultimate goal, however, is to get the Victorian Gothic-style building listed on the State and National Historic Registry. **Page A8.**

County wins two awards

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority has received a national and communications awards for its 2004 Annual Report. The report, which summarized the MCIA's activities and achievements, was written by the MCIA staff and designed by The Marcus Group of Secaucus. It was originally distributed in July 2005. The full-color 24-page report received a silver award for the 2005 Vision Awards from the League of American Communications Professionals. The report was among more than 1,900 entries representing 16 countries for the Vision Awards, which are judged by a field of communications professionals affiliated with the league. The report also received an Award of Excellence in the 18th annual Apex Awards. It was among 4,756 entries received and judged for its graphic design, editorial content and its success in achieving overall communications effectiveness and excellence. "We are thrilled and honored to have received these prestigious awards," MCIA Chairman Leonard J. Roseman said. "It is only fitting that a report that summarizes our top-notch programs and services is recognized for its high quality."



Childcare center needs funding

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — In the spring, Cristie Iacoviello will earn her bachelor's degree in nutrition from Rutgers University.

The 22-year-old Basking Ridge resident knew it wouldn't be possible to complete her degree without New Moms, New Expectations — a Bridgewater-based program that provides free childcare for single parents, enabling them to continue their education.

Iacoviello's son, 16-month-old Aiden, has been enrolled in the program, located in a Cape Cod house on the grounds of St. Bernard Clairvaux Church, for a little over a year.

"I go to school and work part time so I make just enough money for things I need," Iacoviello said. "I could work fulltime, but then I'd never be able to see him. I really wouldn't be able to afford to send him many other places."

Since opening its doors in 2000,

Continued on page A2



PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Israel, who attends the New Moms, New Expectations childcare center in Bridgewater, gets up close and personal with the camera. At top, Michelle Creighton, a staff member at the center, watches as Isabella and Jaydon color.

Conservation Corps protects county land

Middlesex County Freeholder Director David B. Crabel announced the formation of the Middlesex County Conservation Corps "to protect and preserve our natural areas from misuse, polluters and the forces of nature."

Since the inception of the Open Space Trust Fund in 1995, Middlesex County has preserved more than 6,000 acres of open space and is poised to purchase for preservation another 1,000 acres this year.

"To fulfill the responsibility as stewards of these lands, the Middlesex County Conservation Corps will be charged with the care and management of them, by performing projects that maintain and improve the quality of the open space and allow limited public access," said Crabel, who introduced the initiative in his Director's Message in January.

The Conservation Corps will begin its first project this fall at the John A. Phillips Preserve in Old Bridge. Acquired in 1997, the preserve is an array of diverse habitats ranging from sandy soil Pine Barrens to wetlands. About 100 acres of the 1,700-acre park have been set aside for active recreation. The remaining 1,600 acres present opportunities for passive activities such as hiking, walking, bird watching and photography.

The corps will be composed of individuals from throughout Middlesex County who will be divided into two groups, youth corps and volunteers.

Continued on page A2

Middlesex food pantry is seeking donations

M.C.F.O.O.D.S., Middlesex County's centralized food distribution program that serves more than 60 food pantries and soup kitchens, is seeking food and personal product donations to meet an ever-growing summer demand.

The agency's name is an acronym for Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services.

"We are continually seeing a rise in the number of organizations coming to us for food each week and we are having difficulty keeping up with the increasing demands on our food supply," said M.C.F.O.O.D.S. coordinator Jennifer Apostol. "Summer always seems to be a very difficult time for us to get donations."

"Part of the increased need is due to children's summer vacation," said Freeholder Blanca B. Valenti, M.C.F.O.O.D.S. liaison. "Children in need are no longer getting breakfast and lunch at school and their families must rely on food donations."

M.C.F.O.O.D.S. is seeking businesses, individuals, summer camps, clubs, athletic teams, churches and organizations to donate items or sponsor a summer food drive.

"Thankfully we have an incredible amount of support from our community and corporate partners," Valenti said. "We are turning to them once

Continued on page A2

Woofs and wags at annual wash

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

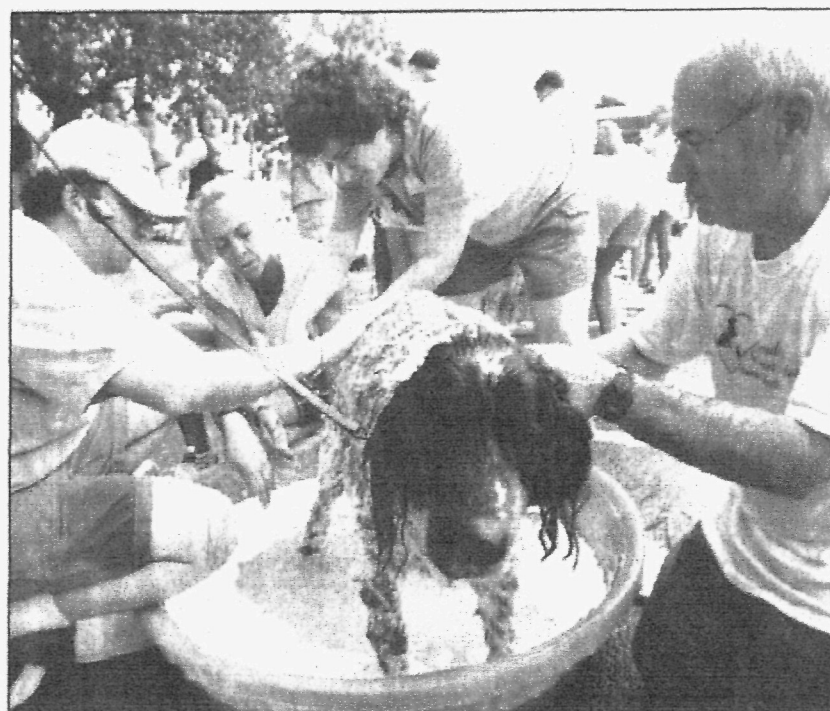
BRIDGEWATER — Gracie Nanna tried to comfort and cajole Maddie, but the pup was having none of it. She kept trying to climb out of the small swimming pool where her 6-year-old owner and volunteers from the Friends of the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter were soaping and rinsing her at the annual Dog Wash last Saturday.

Once she was finally lifted out, Maddie gave a good shake and then was taken to the fluffing station, where more volunteers descended upon her with towels. Finally, Gracie picked out a red bandanna for Maddie to wear, and with her black and tan coat shining, the small mixed-breed was ready for a prance.

For Gracie, who said she likes every kind of animal, helping out was part of the fun at the fundraising event, which goes to benefit shelter animals like Maddie was once.

"She came from the Linden shelter, but this is our local shelter," said Joanne Nanna, Gracie and Maddie's mom. "We saw it advertised and wanted to help out."

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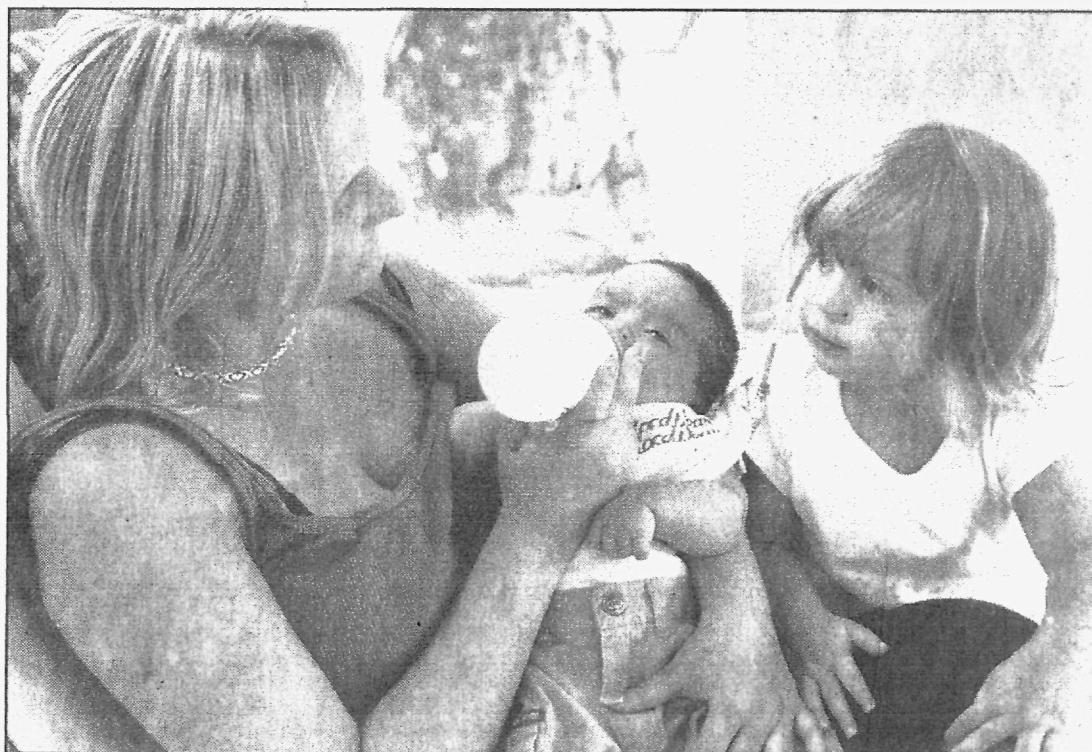


Volunteers Brian Olin, Pam Yula, Jacky Olin and Rich Huyler give Cookie a bath during the Friends of the Somerset Regional Animal Shelter's annual Dog Wash in Bridgewater Saturday.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Christine Ashmead, a staff member at New Moms, New Expectations in Bridgewater, feeds baby CJ while little Julia looks on.

Childcare center needs funding

Continued from page A1

New Moms, New Expectations has cared for and taught about 30 children of single parents from the area. The program provides developmental childcare for children from 6 weeks through 2 and a half years old. Now, the non-profit organization needs a helping hand. The loss of state-funding has threatened to close the doors of the program.

"The situation is critical," said Greg Devero, a member of the Friends of New Moms — a group that raises funds for the program. "We have lost about \$80,000 in state funding — roughly half our budget. Our

recent raffle helped bridge the gap, but we urgently need a corporate sponsor to ensure the survival of this precious community resource."

The raffle, offering prizes of a new car, a scenic helicopter ride and a bus trip to New York City, brought in about \$40,000. "But that's \$40,000 on not very much," said Anne Helmstetter, chairwoman on the New Moms board.

Helmstetter was not able to comment on when the center could close if it doesn't obtain funding.

"We are in dire straits, but we're reviewing the financials and looking for alternative sources," said Helmstetter, who noted that the board

might reach out to other area churches and organizations for future funding commitments. New Moms — a partnership of the Saint Bernard Church and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Metuchen — is a valuable resource that single parents can't afford to lose.

"Childcare can cost as much as \$250 a week," said Kelley Blaus, director of the organization's center. "A lot of mothers (outside of the program) work fulltime and go to school part time. It's almost like you're working just to send your child to childcare...It's an unbelievable program we have here. Subsidized childcare is not plentiful."

Corporations or individuals interested in making a donation can send funds to New Moms, New Expectations, 500 Route 22, Bridgewater, NJ 08807. For more, call Greg Devero at (908) 561-5577.

Woofs and wags at annual wash

Continued from page A1

They were not alone, as this year's Dog Wash left 167 pooches scrubbed and squeaky-clean, beating last year's record of 128 dogs.

"I've never seen this many people," said Kathy Healy, president of the volunteer group. "It's running pretty smoothly, but this is our biggest turnout."

In addition to the wash, fluff, and accessory, owners could also procure a "pawdicure" for their pets, as pro-

fessional groomers donated their time to help clip claws for the event. Dogs also left with a goodie bag filled with treats, chew toys, a ball, and other items, and a photo of their soapy time in one of the four wash stations.

Everything was donated by local businesses such as Camp Bow Wow and the Hungry Hound, and 55 volunteers gathered for the annual event, started by Open Your Heart in Hillsborough, a cat rescue group later folded into

Friends of Somerset Regional Animal Shelter.

"It's great. We'll raise boatloads for the shelter," said volunteer Linda Appezzato, who has been involved with the event for several years.

It was a good day not just for the dogs, but for some of the other shelter animals as well. Several were adopted and picked up by their "forever families," fulfilling the second mission of the fundraiser: to raise awareness about the shelter and its available animals.

Conservation Corps protects county land

Continued from page A1

The youth corps will be made up of paid seasonal high school and college students who will work at the preserve on Saturdays throughout the fall and spring, then weekdays in the summer. They will form the backbone for projects including trash removal, trail building, trail maintenance, perimeter marking and inventory of existing trail conditions. These individuals also would serve as team leaders

during project days that involve the general public.

Volunteer citizens will play a significant role in collecting information on the preserve to help frame a management plan. Projects would include plant and animal inventories, breeding bird census, trail monitoring and vernal pool surveys as well as any projects being worked on by the youth corps. Volunteers also could include students completing fieldwork from area schools, including Middlesex County

College and Cook College of Rutgers University.

"Volunteers provide an invaluable service by helping to maintain the quality of our open space while providing opportunities for citizens to use them," Crabel said. "They would allow the county to effectively manage open space at no extra cost to the taxpayer."

For more information or a volunteer application, call the county Parks and Recreation Department at (732) 745-5988.

Middlesex food pantry is seeking donations

Continued from page A1

more and also seeking new partners to meet the growing demands."

M.C.F.O.O.D.S. would provide collection containers and advertisement fliers to any group holding a drive.

Apostol said community or youth organizations may want to sponsor a food drive by collecting food at a local grocery

store. After the group gets approval from the grocery store, they are provided with fliers that can be distributed to shoppers entering the store. Donations would be collected as they exit. M.C.F.O.O.D.S. would pick up the donations from the group the next week-day.

Individual donations also are accepted year-round at the libraries in Edison, Milltown,

Monroe, North Brunswick, Plainsboro, South Brunswick, Spotswood and Woodbridge.

Food and nonperishable necessities are also collected at all Plays-in-the-Park performances and summer concerts held in Roosevelt Park, Edison. M.C.F.O.O.D.S. also accepts grocery store gift certificates.

To sponsor a food drive, e-mail ja@mciauth.com or call Apostol at (732) 729-0880.

Fall harvest spotlighted on NJN

Apples and cranberries are two very important crops to New Jersey farmers. Once cooler weather rolls around, everyone wants to get a taste of these fall favorites.

You'll get an inside look at apples and cranberries on "If Plants Could Talk" at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2 on NJN/New Jersey Network. Also, if you've ever grown apples in

your own garden, you'll want to tune in for tips from the experts.

Since autumn brings the green back to the lawn, it's a great time to do last-minute turf maintenance tasks as well. Bill Hlubik and Nick Polanin show some of the simple yet effective ways to insure a healthier lawn in 2007.

Hlubik is an agricultural agent with Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Middlesex County. Polanin is his counterpart in Somerset County. The agricultural agency produces "If Plants Could Talk."

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In The Towns

Extension service plans open house

SOUTH BRUNSWICK — Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Middlesex County holds an open house this month.

The open house is from noon-4 p.m. today at the Earth Center in Davidson's Mill Pond Park.

Rain date is Sunday, Aug. 27.

You can tour the gardens, get tips on compost, learn about proper nutrition, take in a 4-H demonstration and have some fun with arts and crafts. A Jersey Fresh taste test is also planned while supplies last. Free balloons will be available for the kids.

For more information, call (732) 398-5262.

Organize photos in library workshop

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — "Memories Matter" when it comes to organizing your photographs.

Dayel Giammarino, a Creative Memories consultant, leads this workshop at 6 p.m. Monday at the South Plainfield Public Library. Bring your own photos for the class.

Registration is required; call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library at 2484 Plainfield Ave. Kits will be available for purchase with a \$10 deposit at the time of registration and the balance due the night of the class.

Art exhibit has Bon Jovi house

HIGHLAND PARK — Joan Turner has never been so busy since she left banking and took up painting 10 years ago.

Her oil and acrylic paintings include many of her grandchildren and nieces, plus a New Jersey house owned by Jon Bon Jovi. The Turner paintings can be seen through Thursday at the Highland Park Public Library, 31 N. Fifth Ave.

For more information, call (732) 572-2750.

Salsa lessons for beginners

MIDDLESEX — Salsa dance lessons for beginners are held at 7 p.m. every Tuesday in August at Café Havana, 580 Union Ave.

No experience is necessary. Cost is \$10 per person; singles and couples are welcome.

For more information, call Jorge Ribba at (732) 574-0482.

Agency schedules volunteer training

EDISON — Training is scheduled for those who want to become volunteers with the

Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County.

Training is at 1:30 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 7, 14 and Oct. 5 at the agency's office at 515 Plainfield Ave. Current volunteers are also welcome.

Registration is required; e-mail ej.berman@jfvsv.org or call (732) 777-1940, Ext. 122.

Widows' group plans annual dinner-dance

CARTERET — Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers celebrate their 25th anniversary with a dinner-dance at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8 at St. Demetrius Hall, 681 Roosevelt Ave.

Cost is \$30. Tickets must be purchased in advance; call Dorothy at (732) 541-2174 or Lois at (908) 757-0515. All are invited.

Area synagogue holds blood drive

METUCHEN — A blood drive in memory of Michael Allan Thompson will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10 at Congregation Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave.

Whole blood and platelets can be donated. For an appointment, e-mail neveshalomblooddrive@yahoo.com or call Bruce Levin at (732) 906-1922.

Literary review will be honored at reading

EDISON — The Edison Arts Society presents a "Harvest of Poetry" marking the fifth anniversary edition of the Edison Literary Review.

This free reading is at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Sheraton Edison Hotel in Raritan Center.

The fifth anniversary issue features Patrick McDonnell.

Scheduled to read from their writings are Stacey Balkun, Amanda Berry, Jessica de Koninck, Tony Gruenewald, Charles Johnson, Adele Kenny, Diane Lockward and Edwin Romond. For more information, call (908) 753-2787. Copies of the fifth anniversary issue are available for \$5 each.

Edison club for those who speak Hebrew

EDISON — Chug Ivrit is a club for people who speak Hebrew on an intermediate or advanced level. The club meets at 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10 at the home of Rachel Weintraub, 120 Highland Ave. Members will read a short story in Hebrew and converse in that language as well. Admission is free. For registration, e-mail rachel@weintraubworld.net or call (732) 819-9298. Chug Ivrit is

sponsored by the Raritan Valley Chapter of Hadassah.

Arts Society holding art classes this fall

EDISON — The Edison Arts Society has scheduled its art classes for the fall.

Adult classes are at the North Edison Branch of the Edison Free Public Library, 777 Grove Ave. "Basic Realistic Drawing" is taught by Ray Skibinski at 1 p.m. Monday for six weeks beginning Sept. 11. "Dynamic Watercolors," also taught by Skibinski, is at noon Friday for six weeks beginning Sept. 15. "Acrylics with Drawing Instruction" is taught by Roy Stenberg at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday for six weeks beginning Oct. 18.

Cost for all three adult classes is \$135. A 15 percent discount is available for senior citizens and Arts Society members. You must provide your own art supplies.

Teen classes are at John P. Stevens High School, 855 Grove Ave. Laura Grozovsky teaches "Jewelry Making" for ages 12-15 at 10 a.m. Saturday for four weeks beginning Oct. 7. Cost of \$65 includes supplies.

For registration, visit www.edisonarts.org or call (908) 753-2787.

Go 'Painting in the Garden'

SOUTH BRUNSWICK — Interested in art and horticulture? Take an "Introduction to Water Color: Painting in the Garden."

This course meets at the Earth Center in Davidson's Mill Pond Park, South Brunswick. Adult classes meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 12-13. Children's classes for ages 7-12 meet at 9:30 a.m. Saturday beginning Sept. 9.

Instructor is Maxwell Nimeck, a master gardener with Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Middlesex County. Fee is \$25. For registration, e-mail denise.mcglan@co.middlesex.nj.us or call (732) 398-5262.

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-evening service is followed by a barbecue dinner from the Men's Club. Cost for the barbecue meal is \$14 for adults, \$7 for ages 3-12 and free for children under age 3. Bring your own kosher wine. For reservations, e-mail can2r11@aol.com or call (732) 548-2238. The synagogue is located at 250 Grove Ave.

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Floral Arrangement & Design (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PI	Heating and Heat Controls (10 wks-\$90)	PI
Holiday Wreath (1 night workshop-\$25)	EB/PI	HVAC I (20 wks-\$165)	EB
AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY		HVAC II (20 wks-\$165)	EB
Auto Body & Collision Repair (9 wks-\$80)	PI	HVAC III (20 wks-\$165)	EB
Auto Engine Perf. & Diagnostics I (9 wks-\$80)	EB	HVAC IV (20 wks-\$165)	EB
Auto Mechanics Basic (9 wks-\$80)	All	Intro to HVAC (12 wks-\$110)	PI
Automotive Brakes (9 wks-\$80)	EB	Refrigeration Engineering (20 wks-\$165)	EB
Automotive Steering & Suspension (9 wks-\$80)	PI	Refrigerant Handling Certification (5 wks-\$150)	PI
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Adult Basic Skills/Reading & Writing (9 wks-\$80)	EB/PI	Decorative Sewing for the Home (9 wks-\$80)	EB
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Solid State (20 wks-\$165)	EB		
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Medical Terminology (18wks-\$160)	PI		
OSHA 30 hr. for Construction Industry (10 wks-\$90)	PI		
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Senior Citizens Calendar

Bound Brook

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

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

For more information about the planned trips, call Frank at (732) 356-6310.

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

The Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's Bound Brook club sponsors Atlantic City trips to the

Taj Mahal casino the fourth Tuesday of each month. The bus departs from the church parking lot at 10:15 a.m.

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

Sept. 10 — Membership Meeting 2 p.m., school cafeteria
Sept. 26 — Atlantic City trip to Taj Mahal

Oct. 12 — San Gennaro Festival, Spring Lake trip - food, music, comedy, Sinatra tribute \$62. Call Vince at (732) 356-3862.

Dunellen

The Dunellen Senior Citizen Club is open to all Dunellen residents 60 years and older. Meetings are held at 10 a.m. each Friday at the new seniors building on Orange Street in Columbia Park. Bingo is played

each Friday after the meeting. Bus transportation is provided. New members are welcome. Coffee and tea are provided; bring your own sandwiches.

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

Edison

Edison Chapter of AARP #3346 meets the third Monday of the month at 1 p.m. (except July and August) at the Edison Job Corps center, located at 500 Plainfield Ave. New applications are being accepted.

Jewish Family and Vocational Services — The volunteer program at Elderday, "Chef for the Day" needs volunteers to prepare lunch for the elderly members of the social adult day program in Edison from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call E.J. Berman at (732) 777-1940, Ext. 122.

Elderday Care (a Social Day

Care Program) for folks with memory loss and various degrees of dementia has a few immediate openings available. Transportation is provided with sliding scale fees. Interesting program includes meals, snacks; and activities that all can easily participate. Consider this a great safe way to provide social activities for your loved one. Call (732) 777-1940 for information.

Openings are now available for CAMEO (Challenging Adult Minds and Energizing Ourselves), a social day care program tailored to the needs of adults who are physically disabled, but cognitively alert. Call (732) 777-1940.

Metuchen

The Metuchen Chapter 3208, AARP, holds a monthly board meeting at noon on the second Monday of the month at noon. The general meeting starts at 1:15 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. and Middlesex Ave. (Route 27).

Refreshments will be served. Guests are welcome at meetings, and this chapter is currently accepting new members; for information about joining the chapter call Mary or John McCabe at (732) 603-3967.

For additional information about trips, call Miriam Dingle at (732) 548-9395.

Piscataway

The Piscataway Senior Center has announced its schedule of upcoming events at the center, 700 Buena Vista Ave., off Hoes Lane behind the Kennedy Library. Group meetings for Tai Chi will be from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday. This is a drop-in class. Sign up at the reception desk. The Visiting Nurse Association will visit the center at 1 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at no cost. Sign up at the Reception Desk at the center.

Upcoming Events: Sept. 11 — New England trip - until Sept. 14. \$655 single, \$580 double per person. Call Center

for details (732) 562-1133. Sept. 13 — Lunch Cruise on the Spirit of New Jersey, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$86. includes transportation, lunch and dancing. Call Senior Center for more details (732) 562-1133.

South Plainfield

South Plainfield Chapter AARP, # 4144 meetings are held at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. the third Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. The Needlecrafters meet 1-3 p.m. every Wednesday. They knit for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. To join, call Jean at (732) 752-0358.

Upcoming Events: Sept. 16 and Sept. 23 — there will be a Safe Driving Course at Muhlenberg Hospital from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. both sessions must be attended to receive a three year discount on car insurance. A \$10 fee is due at registration. Must be legally licensed; only 25 seats available. Call Mary (732) 752-3764.

Campus Notes

Two area students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa. They are:

Jenevieve C. DeLosSantos of South Plainfield, a 2002 graduate of South Plainfield High School. She is the daughter of Oscar and Julia DeLosSantos. Lauren J. Reed of South Plainfield. The daughter of Andrew and Lynn Reed is a 2002 graduate of Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung.

Bianca S. Taylor of Piscataway was named to the honors list for the fall 2005 semester at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Va. She is majoring in biology.

Steven J. Smyth of Metuchen was named to the dean's list

for the fall 2005 semester at Albright College in Reading, Pa. The Metuchen High School alumnus is a junior majoring in crime and justice.

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

Jared Eimicke of Metuchen, a freshman majoring in television-radio-film at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

Eleazer Gorenstein of Metuchen, a junior majoring in newspaper journalism at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications.

Nora McCormack of Edison, majoring in management at the Martin J. Whitman School

of Management.

Laura Victor of Edison, a junior majoring in advertising at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and in marketing management at the Martin J. Whitman School of Management.

Lindsey Hopper of Middlesex was named to the dean's honor list for the fall 2005 semester at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa. Students on the dean's honor list hold a grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a scale of 4.

The daughter of Ken and Linda Hopper graduated from Middlesex High School.

Danielle Velez of Piscataway was named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md.

She is a freshman majoring in materials science and engineering.

Velez graduated from Bishop George Ahr High School in Edison.

Meixuan Bai of Edison has been awarded a National

Merit Scholarship funded by New York University.

Meixuan attends John P. Stevens High School and plans to major in finance at NYU. The school selected its scholarship recipients from National Merit finalists who intend to study at that institution.

Recipients qualified as National Merit finalists based on academic record, a principal's recommendation, SAT scores and a descriptive essay.

Erin Bunker of Piscataway recently presented the results of her research and extended coursework at Susquehanna University's Senior Scholars Day.

She is a senior majoring in psychology at the university. Bunker's research, "Social and Environmental Correlates of Physical Activity Among College Students on Commuter vs. Residential Campuses," was supervised by Dr. Michael D. Smith, for the department of psychology.

Bunker, a 2002 graduate of Piscataway High School is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernhard Bunker.

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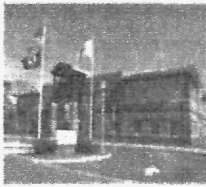
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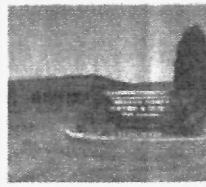
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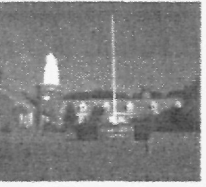
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ZOOperstars mascots eat up all the attention at ballpark

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — Steve Givans backed up the red Ford Fusion rental car to the side entrance at the Commerce Bank Ballpark last week and, along with Eric Miracle, he emptied three large trunks, two suitcases, a duffle bag and two backpacks from the rear of the vehicle.

Inside the luggage were several motors, numerous batteries, radios and plastic suits. When combined, these elements form characters from ZOOperstars! — a Louisville-based traveling entertainment act of inflatable characters parodying real life sports celebrities.

During the Somerset Patriots home stand game later that night, Monkey Mantle and Harry Canary bounced into an umpire. Cow Ripkin Jr. challenged a player from the Patriots opponents, the Newark Bears, to a dance-off. And Roger Clamens opened up his shell and ate a batboy. The whole time, fans giggled, clapped and shrieked.

Playing these lovable, zany characters is all just part of a day's work for Givans and Miracle.

ZOOperstars!, an independent traveling troupe of inflatable mascots, have performed at about 1,000 sporting and special events, including AAA All Star games, NBA playoffs and at Major League Baseball exhibition games, since its inception in 1998. Last Wednesday marked the sixth straight seasons ZOOperstars! performed at a Patriots game.

"(Booking) ZOOperstars! is a no-brainer," said Patrick McVerry, president and general manager of the team. "It's such a good act. They're creative. It's high energy and silly, funny and surprising. They get the players, the umpires and fans involved."

ZOOperstars! employs 18 full- and part-time individuals who don the 6 to 10 feet inflatable costumes. Other characters include Mia Hamster, Nolan Rhino, Clammy Sosa, Derek Cheetah, Dominik Hashark, Mackerel Jordan, Mario Lemule, Snail Earnhardt, Jr. and Tiger Wood-chuck.

Givans and Miracle arrived at field about an hour and a half before game time.

"Ninety percent of our job is this — meeting with sound technicians and downloading music, talking with the managers to let them know when we're taking the field, setting things up, borrowing a jersey from the opposing team and finding a batboy uniform," Givans said. "About 30 minutes before the game, we're set up and done. We wait to take the field and from then on, we just go."

The pair carries radios with them in their costumes incase something goes wrong.

"If the music doesn't cue up or something goes wrong, you can reach me on this," Givans told Patriots employee John Gibson before the game.

The pair performs five 90-second skits per game and visit fans in the stands and party deck.

The costumes are made from a stitched plastic material. Inside, a battery-powered motorized fan takes air from the outside to fill up the suit.

"It takes about 20 seconds for it to fully inflate," Givans noted. "On a hot and humid day, it's like being in a tent. If you've ever been camping on a hot summer day, you know what it's like."

Miracle and Givans suit up in the home team locker room. First they put their feet in the leg holes, attach the motor fan with a Velcro belt and partially zip up the sagging costume. In the underground tunnel, the two waited until there are two

outs before switching on the air. With the motors buzzing, they zipped up the quickly expanding suit. And with the final out made, the pair rushed, but barely fit through the tunnel to the field.

"I'm stuck on something!" exclaimed Givans, who, in the Harry Canary suit, was caught on a door handle. "I can't get through."

A Patriots employee pushed the door back open and the two bounced on the field to perform the first of their skits.

Givans said the snafu with the door was just a minor hold up.

"In Fresno (California), I went to flop on the field and I ripped a leg out," he recalled. "When something like that happens, you grab it together and get the hell off as fast as you can."

Completing crazy antics, such as flipping or face-planting on the field, can cause injuries.

"Someone got a bloody nose, another guy hurt his shoulder and had to get surgery," said Miracle. "A couple days ago there was a strong wind. You could feel the gust. The costume just slams into you."

Traveling with all their gear provides another set of challenges.

"We usually get stopped at the airport," Miracle noted. "They check our luggage a lot. We've had batteries confiscated."

"Every day is a travel day for us," Givans added. "We don't hang out in the city. We see the ballpark, the airport and a hotel room."

Growing up in Kentucky, neither Givans nor Miracle dreamed they'd be professional mascots.

"My degree is in chemistry," Givans said. "But I was a mascot in high school and throughout college (at the University of Louisville). I enjoy entertaining and performing."

Miracle, who will earn his teaching degree from the



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ZOOperstars! mascot "Roger Clamens," played by Steve Givans, swallows Eric Miracle, who dressed as a batboy for the skit at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater last week.

Historic village holds street fair

OLD BRIDGE — The 32nd annual Village Street Fair is from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30 within the Historic Village of Old Bridge, located in present-day East Brunswick. The fair runs along Kossman Street between Old Bridge Turnpike and River Road. Antiques, collectibles, handcrafted items, food, baked goods, yard and garden accessories will be available for purchase. Proceeds go toward community projects in the Historic Village. Historic displays and children's activities also are planned. In addition, take a walking tour of the Historic Village and visit the East Brunswick Museum. The tour is outlined in a booklet that will be available at the fair and museum. Space is available for additional vendors and displays; call Kathie White at (732) 651-1917.



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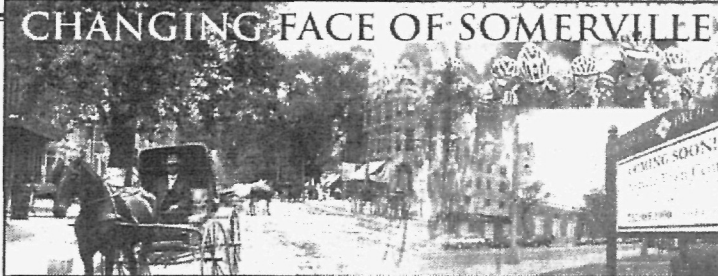
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This is the fourth installment in a five-week series on redevelopment in Somerville. As the county seat, what happens in the borough has an impact on all the communities in Somerset County. Coming next week, how all this change impacts the borough's future.

CHANGING FACE OF SOMERVILLE



Easy access can be a double-edged sword

The ins and outs of Somerville

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

Those traveling to and from downtown Somerville have their choice of routes, with four major highways converging around the borough. No matter what approach a driver takes, there is a way to get into Somerville.

For the borough, the many entry points are both an asset and a point of contention, as easy access is good for business, but creates traffic and parking hassles around downtown.

"Nothing brings more people into town meetings than parking and traffic," said Mayor Brian Gallagher.

Most of the major roads that lead into town — Mountain Avenue, West End Avenue, Gaston Avenue, both the north and south ends of Bridge Street — are not simply routes in and out. They also are places where people work, play, and live.

"Most of the roads leading into town are residential, so how do you alleviate those concerns?" said Gallagher. "What we're trying to do is minimize some of those issues."

One of the biggest areas of concern for residents that live along the heavily-traveled roads in and out of town is speeding on those residential streets, especially the ones that connect travelers from one highway to another.

"The north-south streets have functioned as bypasses for the circle," Gallagher said.

As a result, the borough has explored traffic calming devices to keep people to the largely 25-mph limits, and to try to separate what Gallagher called "destination traffic" from "through traffic."

As assistant borough engineer and a member of the parking and traffic committee, Brendan Nally has been involved in finding solutions to the traffic issues.

"There are a number of roads on the hit list, like Mountain Avenue, William Street, and Spring Street," he said, though one measure the borough has tried has improved traffic flow on Spring Street. The speed humps installed there have

drawn nothing but compliments from the residents.

"It was good for that street, and it's been done in Westfield and it's worked for them," Nally said. "It's been well received by residents, and we feel from the data we've gathered from before and after that there's been a reduction in speed. It's been a positive, and other people have been calling and looking to have them put in on their streets."

The speed humps did not work quite as well on Mountain Avenue, when they were installed by the county.

"That wasn't well-received at all," he said, noting that in contrast to the ones installed on Spring Street, the humps were pre-engineered, and drivers felt that they were more abrupt and jarring.

The borough also put out cones to simulate bulb-outs, a traffic calming device used in other municipalities around the state that provide a visual narrowing of the road to slow drivers down. While the cones were a way for the borough to see if bulb-outs worked without paying for the expensive intersection improvements, the project was not highly regarded by motorists on Mountain Avenue, West Summit Street, Cliff Street, and Prospect Street.

In contrast, speeding was reduced when the shoulder lines were painted on North Gaston Avenue, North Bridge Street, and Mountain Avenue, all of which are 25-mph roads.

"By putting the shoulder line in, you restrict the passage for cars going through so the reaction would be to slow down to navigate the constriction," Nally said. The lines also warn drivers that there are cars parked on the side of the road, and to be careful, he added.

And, of course, there is enforcement of the posted speed limits, which Nally said the police department handles well.

"It's always been about speed, and I do know that the police department gets calls and they react accordingly," he said. "They do have a mobile device, a speed-detecting radar unit that they put out on vari-

ous roads."

Officer Mark Butler, a 17-year veteran of the Somerville Police Department, said that traffic enforcement is one of the priorities on the department's list.

"Most police departments tailor their efforts to what's important to the community, and we're no different," he said, noting that traffic is a huge concern for borough residents.

"One of the important things people want is speed enforcement," he said.

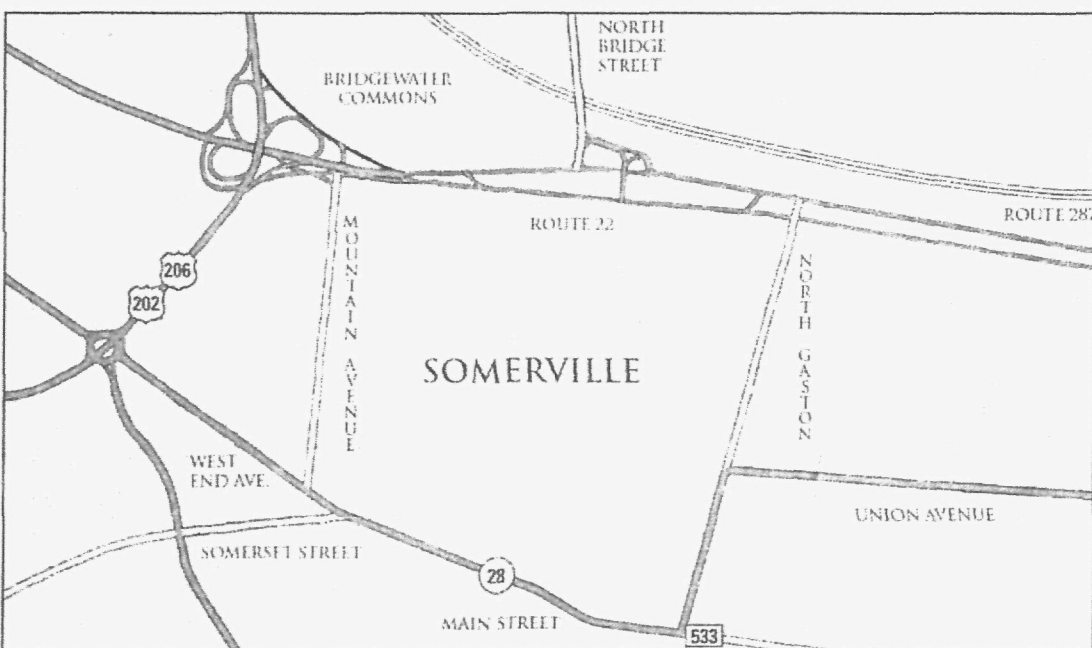
Traffic is a real quality of life issue for people who live on Somerville's main roads, Butler said, and "There's pretty much no way into town that doesn't have residential housing on it."

According to council member Sean Decker, who is a member of the parking and traffic committee, enforcement is the most expensive option, and the borough has been working hard to find grant money to fund other traffic calming projects. This year, he said, there will be a permanent radar and speed sign on Mountain Avenue, with hopefully a second one to appear on that road in the future.

"We don't want to be in the business of writing tickets for money. They're out there to make our roads safe, not to make money. Sure, we can put a cop on any main road in town. People always ask for it, but we only have a certain amount of resources," he said. "You're never writing enough tickets to pay for that cop's salary and benefits for that day."

Decker — who originally joined the parking and traffic committee as a resident angry with speeders using his street to avoid traffic on Grove and North Bridge Streets — said that the speed limits and traffic enforcement measures are not in place to impede drivers, but to help keep residents safe without turning downtown patrons away.

"We want to be known as a safe town, and a town you want to come to," he said. "It's a balancing act, because you want to keep your residents safe, but you don't want to put your town out of business."



GEORGE PACCIOLLO STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER. STAFF GRAPHIC

An aerial view and map of downtown Somerville. South Bridge Street can be seen in the middle of the photograph.



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Saturday, August 26, 2006

Sports

Miller set to tackle Big 10 competition

Somerville High graduate appears to have won job at offensive tackle

By DAVE ALLENA
Staff Writer

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Once intimidating on the football field simply because of his size, Jesse Miller has quickly developed into a big-time college player.

Slated to start at right offensive tackle when Michigan State University hosts Idaho Saturday, Sept. 2 in the season-opener, the former Somerville High standout has gone from being the biggest player on the field to just one of many giants.

But getting there has been a pretty quick transition for the 6-foot, 7-inch 302-pound third-year player (red-shirt sophomore), according to MSU Offensive Line Coach Jeff Stoutland, the man who recruited Miller three years ago.

"(Somerville Head) Coach (Kevin) Carty showed me some film and on it Jesse was playing tight end," the Spartan assistant coach said. "I saw him running 30-40 yards downfield going after linebackers and defensive backs with some pretty good speed. I just noticed an enormous individual that could run pretty well."

"Jesse was not dominating by any means in high school, which is what most colleges look for, but in his case I looked at his size and quickness as things we could work with. I'm into big here, and all of our guys are huge. Jesse fits right into the pack here, and he runs better than some of them."

"If you had asked me when we recruited him if I thought he would be a starter by this point

I would have said no. He's been a pleasant surprise. He's done a great job conditioning himself, and it's almost like he grew into his body. He's always been a good-sized kid, but now he's added some muscle."

For Miller, the transition from high school to college was not an easy one but it has been a quick one as he got feet wet a year ago getting into four games as a backup.

"I think I'm right on schedule," he said. "I've gone from a red-shirt to a backup to a starter in three years. I'm happy with the way my game has progressed. I've been working hard, and the consistent coaching I've gotten has really helped me."

"It feels good knowing I'm working with the first team and I'm going to start. The test is getting ready for the first game. That's what I'm working on."

"Camp has going pretty good. It's a lot easier now since my first year. I really didn't know I'd be starting by now. I mean, I hoped I would have been, but the timing couldn't have been better. I came here to work hard, and it's paid off."

Stoutland certainly likes the effort Miller has put in during in the short time he has been at MSU.

"For a relatively young player Jesse has developed into a pretty good player quickly," he said. "There are still a lot of little things he has to work on, but he's done a lot of good things here. We do a lot of things with our offense (one-back spread), and in a short time he's really picked it up. His best asset is as a pass blocker, but he's getting

better at blocking for the run."

"He runs very well for his size, and he's very well conditioned. We'll pull our guards quite a bit, and we also get him out on the perimeter on screen passes. You have to be relatively athletic to play here and to be able to block some of the guys we have in our conference at defensive end."

Miller went into the Spartans preseason camp vying for the job at right tackle with 6-7 325-pound junior Pete Clifford after Michigan State moved the incumbent Mike Gyetvai to left tackle. Eventually, Clifford was switched to guard leaving with the Spartans with three-first-year starters.

"I moved Mike to right side and Pete to guard because I thought it gave us our best five guys," Stoutland said. "In prior years we've had up to 109 (career) starts from our line-men. You like to have at least 100, but this group only has 38, so their experience is a concern."

"A game is played extremely fast, so much faster than in practice. Jesse has gotten into some games here, but hasn't started. I have the same concerns with two other guys, too, because it's a young offensive line."

"I feel good about the talent level and physical side, but the concern is about reaction time. The mental part is what we really need to work on — reacting quickly to what the other guy is trying to do."

Miller has certainly noticed the differences in the level of competition as well as the stage. After playing against smaller schools in high school, Michigan



PHOTO COURTESY MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Jesse Miller, a Somerville High graduate, works on his blocking technique during a Michigan State practice. The red-shirt sophomore looks like he'll be in the Spartans' opening-day lineup at right offensive tackle.

State regularly plays in front of 100,000 fans.

"It's a lot different atmosphere than playing at Somerville High School," he said. "I'm sure I'm going to be nervous in my first game. Isn't everyone? There's a lot more people in the stands than in high school."

"In high school I pretty much used my size to overpower kids because I was bigger than everyone else. There was no technique involved. Here, I

focus on everything — the field, the weight room, the class room. I'm stronger now, and I'm a little quicker."

And he's also a bit more assertive in his approach.

"Jesse is a very quiet guy, but the last half year I've seen change," Stoutland said. "I've seen him become more aggressive, more in your face. I've seen that come out. I think he's started to realize he's very talented. We tell him he has talent, but he didn't always believe it. Now I

see more confidence in his game."

Miller acknowledges there still things to work on, both on the field and in the class room, where he is a criminal justice major.

"I don't think you can ever be satisfied with anything," he said. "There's always another level you can move up to. You have to keep working and try to improve on everything. In class I had a 2.5 last semester. I plan on bringing that way up this year."

Ortiz finds a home with Patriots at SS

By DAVE ALLENA
Staff Writer

Nick Ortiz, one of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball's perpetual traveling men, has found a home.

After spending nearly four months on the road with the aptly named Road Warriors — a team that has no home park to call its own — the 33-year-old infielder had his contract purchased by the Somerset Patriots to play shortstop in the absence of Kevin Nicholson.

Coming to the team Aug. 15, Ortiz figures to be a good fit for the Patriots with his ability to play a number of positions as well as the offensive skills he brings with him.

Somerset certainly has to like what it's seen so far at the plate as the newest Patriot banged out 10 hits in his first 20 at-bats during the course of six games, four of which they won. He also scored five times and drove in four runs.

"I've been known to be a very good defensive player, and I've always hit in the .280-.290 range," he said. "I can help a team at three-four different positions with shortstop being my primary position. I just want to chip in and make a good team better."

"When I was coming here I was thinking that I'd have a chance to win a championship, and it's always more fun when you're winning. Traditionally, this has been a winning team. I'm glad to be here, and hopefully I can help make the playoffs."

The Patriots are definitely happy to have him. With Nicholson and right fielder Ryan Radmanovich leaving last week to join Team Canada for Olympic trials, the Patriots lost their two-year starting shortstop in Nicholson and their top offensive force in Radmanovich.

In Ortiz Somerset fills both needs. Obviously, he'll play shortstop, where he is reported to have very good range but did arrive having made 19 errors. Offensively, his .299 season average is right behind Radmanovich (.302) on the Patriots, while he has 19 doubles, seven home runs and 42 RBI.

"This is a good pickup for us," Manager Sparky Lyle said. "We've lost some guys this year, but we haven't been able to find anyone out there that would be



an upgrade. We didn't want to just bring in another body. With Nick we're getting a good player."

"I've watched him since he was with Bridgeport (2004). We've wanted to bring Nick here for a while, and it's been a matter of working things out with the Road Warriors. He's always been a strong player. He knows the game, and he has good range at shortstop."

"Under ideal circumstances I'd bat him lead-off, but these aren't ideal circumstances. I had him protecting Radmanovich, and now he'll probably bat fifth. It would be ideal if we had all three of these guys, Nick, Ryan and Kevin, in the lineup, but we don't."

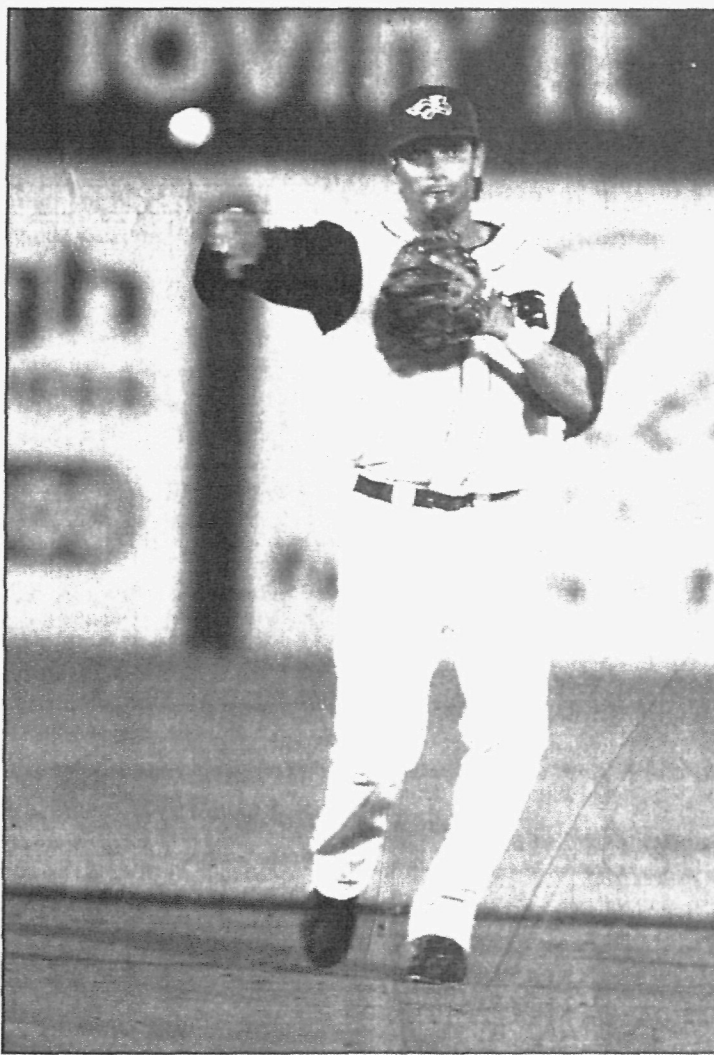
Ortiz came to the Patriots with a good idea of what to expect, and although it's a better living situation than with the Road Warriors it's not much of a change.

"Playing against these guys you get a chance to see what these guys are about and how they go about their jobs," he said. "I've played winter ball with Hector Almonte and Edgar Clemente, so it was good to have some friendly faces. You have a chance to talk to someone you know. As far as traveling all the time I'm staying in a hotel, so it's pretty much the same."

"I'm not really surprised the Road Warriors moved me. You play with that team in the hopes of getting picked up by one of the other teams, but my situation was a little different with the Road Warriors because I had a player-coach contract. I had a different role than other players."

"I know this is a great place to play. When I was with Bridgeport and again this year this is one of the places you can't wait to play at as a visiting player."

Ortiz has twice overcome major injuries to remain in the game. Two games into his third AAA season he had to have Tommy John surgery on his arm, and he missed all of last season after suffering an elbow



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nick Ortiz, the Somerset Patriots' recent addition at shortstop, makes a play Saturday night against the Atlantic City Surf.

injury during the 2004 season while trying to pitch for Bridgeport.

"It was tough being so close to the (Major Leagues) and not getting there, especially since I was starting for the first time (at AAA level)," he said. "It was very disappointing, but at the same time it was something I had to do to keep my career going."

"I'm not a guy who sits around and thinks about what might have been. I try to turn everything into a positive and accept the challenge of the situation."

After returning in 2003 Ortiz batted .297 in 43 games for AA West Tennessee in the Chicago Cub organization after getting four at-bats in spring training, and then had a .230 average in 35 games for AA Wichita in the Texas Ranger organization.

In 2004 Ortiz signed on with the Bridgeport Bluefish in the ALPB and batted .229 in 99 games, hurting his elbow in the middle of the season. Following surgery, he missed all of last season, coaching an amateur team in Puerto Rico.

"I just wanted to come back

this year and have fun," he said. "I didn't want my career to end because of an injury. I didn't have a good year in '04, and I wanted to come back and prove I could still play."

"The season has been very enjoyable. It wasn't that bad with the Road Warriors. You don't have to worry about transportation. You don't have to worry about bills. We had a bunch of guys that were loose, which is good when you're on the road all the time."

Married for the second time and with a daughter Gabriella, who lives in Miami with her mother, Ortiz has no timetable for retirement.

"I feel like I'm a young 33," he said. "I don't have a hard life off the field. I don't drink. I don't smoke, so I feel I have some good years left."

"How much longer I play depends on the opportunities I have in the future. I recently ran into someone I knew who has been in the baseball for 30 years and was getting back in the game next year. I might have a chance to do something with him."

Somerville back at Midget level

By DAVE ALLENA
Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — Bolstered by a great turnout, Somerville's Pop Warner Football program returns to action in the Midget Division of the Mountain Valley Conference this fall following a year off and looks to make its presence felt.

The Rams, however, will have work through uncharted waters if they're going to be successful since this group of youngsters has yet to win a title and is coming off a losing campaign at the Junior Midget level.

Co-Head Coach Paul Gibbons, in his ninth year with the program and sixth with the Midgets, is optimistic that can change this fall.

"This group of has never won anything, but I honestly think we can win this year because of the numbers and because they're working their tails off," he said. "I believe this turnout (22 as of last week) is the most we've had since I've been here. Usually we have 18 or 19."

"If you look at this group of kids at the Midget level now compared to where they were last year we're very happy. If they learn to win without it going to their heads we'll be OK."

"Size-wise this is probably the biggest team I've had. I've always had a couple of big kids, but from tackle to tackle we've good size. Speed-wise, though, this is the worst we've been. We have one or two kids that can run, but overall we're not fast."

Gibbons has been around long enough to know what it takes to win in the league. Two years ago his Midget squad won its first 11 games before bowing in the MVC title game and then in a bowl game for an 11-2 showing.

Now, after missing last year when the Rams couldn't field enough players for the 16-player minimum, Somerville is back.

"I think we have a chance to do something," Gibbons said. "The league is different this year. Last year there were 13 or 14 and two divisions. This year there's something like 10 Midget teams and one division with the top two teams playing

POP WARNER FOOTBALL

for the title. We don't have Hunterdon Hills and Bridgewater on our schedule, so maybe we're going to miss two of the better teams."

Second-year quarterback Thomas Mazurkiewicz will operate Somerville's multiple-set offense with Frank Apisa as the backup. Nicholas Ulassin, Matt Constantino, Jaquil Jones and Nicholas Espinal should get the majority of the carries from the halfback spots, while Steven Ricks is the fullback.

Jude Weekes-Young will also see time in the backfield while also playing end along with Jordan DeGrasse and Jake Grady.

Luis Vargas will anchor the big offensive line at center with Matt Doby, Shawn Dwyer, Matt Kansas, Jordan Lasko, Tyler Morgan, Jonathan Pillon, Rohun Sendhay, Evan Siegal, Connor Sims, Darrell White and Justin Young will all get time on the line. Pillon will also handle the kicking chores.

"If I had it my way I'd run the ball every play, try to run out the clock and win 7-0," Gibbons said. "By the time the season starts we'll probably run 70 percent of the time, but we could switch that and throw it a lot. It will probably change from week to week."

Defensively, the Rams will go with five- and six-man fronts with three or four linebackers. Jones plays middle linebacker, while Morgan, Sendhay, Simms, Vargas Weekes-Young will play on the outside. Apisa, Constantino, Espinal and Ulassin will get time in the secondary.

DeGrasse, Grady and Weekes-Young are slated to play end of defense, while Ricks is listed as the nose guard. Doby, Dwyer, Kansas, Lasko, Pillon, Siegal, White and Young will also get time on the D-line.

"We scrimmaged Manville Tuesday, and I don't know how good Manville is but they're probably a young team, and we looked fired up," Gibbons said. "We have some work to do, but we're in pretty good shape."

Somerville opens its season Sunday when it takes on Maplewood at Brooks Field.

Borough Hall seeks historic status, repairs

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI
Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — When Ann Laneve, deputy sewer collector for the borough, comes to work each day, she is thankful that her desk isn't located in a cubical at some sterile-feeling corporate office building.

At Borough Hall, housed inside a mansion, Laneve is surrounded by history and beautiful architecture. From her desk in the tax office on the first floor of the old home, she can turn around and gaze out the nearly floor-to-ceiling arched windows, which have decorative wood trim work.

"We like it here," she said of the building located at the intersection of West End Avenue, West Main Street and Somerset Street. "A lot of people come in and ask questions about the building. I think this could have been a big living room. I could picture a big table and people sitting around it."

In 1959, the borough purchased the Victorian Gothic style castle-like building, which was constructed in 1889 by the Daniel Roberts family, and made it the base for municipal operations.

Suffering from several fires, associated water damage, and normal wear and tear, the structure, which features two towers, a fireplace in every room and hand-carved woodwork, is in dire need of some TLC.

A dropped ceiling over the cathedral style ceiling of the second floor masks the water stains and cracked plaster. Some of the windows in the turret are boarded up with plywood because they are missing panes, their sashes are warped and holes have been drilled in parts of the window frames to run electrical wiring. The floor in the health office is sagging under the weight of several large floor safes used to hold borough records. Dingy storm windows hide the beautifully-crafted stained glass windows that decorate almost every room.

Passersby hardly notice the extremely faded and dull mural-sized Renaissance painting of a woman surrounded by angels, which is affixed on the ceiling of the main entrance. A rear first-floor employees' kitchenette is in shambles and unusable after a recent leak from one of the fixtures.

For the time being, though, only the most necessary repairs are being made to damaged areas of the building.

"We don't want to throw more sheetrock up on something that we want to restore," said Phil Decker, chairman of Somerville's Historic Advisory Committee.

With a \$38,500 Somerset County Historic Preservation Grant, the committee hopes to give the historic building the care it needs. The committee will embark on obtaining several preservation plans and a nomination for the State and National Historic Registry.

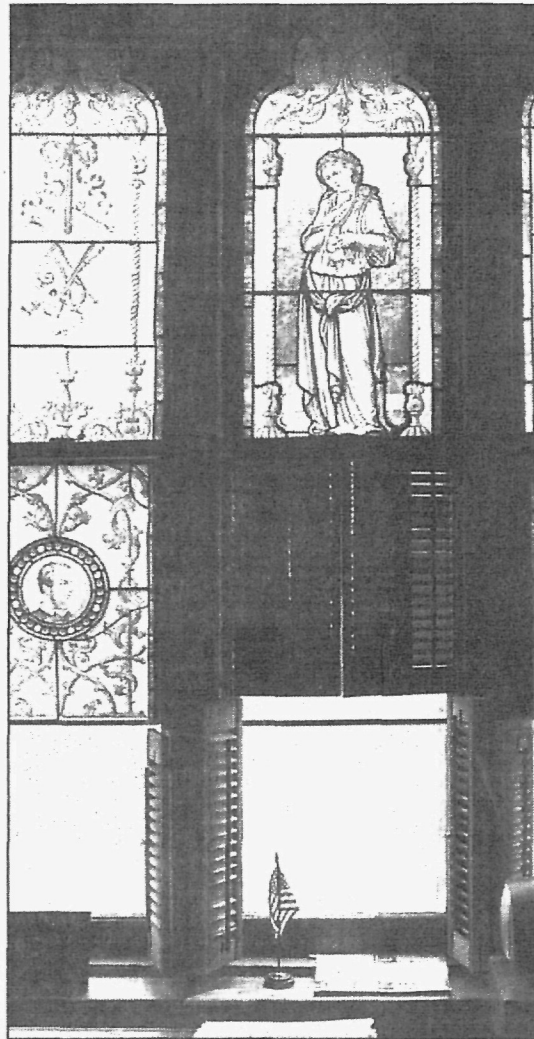
The committee is in the process of soliciting



bids for a Historic Preservation Plan, a detailed report that provides information on the structure's background as well as a course of action and cost estimates to restore the building. With a Historic Landscape Preservation Plan, a consultant will complete an archeological study of the grounds around the building, diagnose the condition of current foliage and recommend the installation of plants that are native to the area. These two plans will aid the borough in acquiring acknowledgement on the State and National Historic Registry, which allow the borough to seek out additional grant funds to complete restoration work on the deteriorating building.

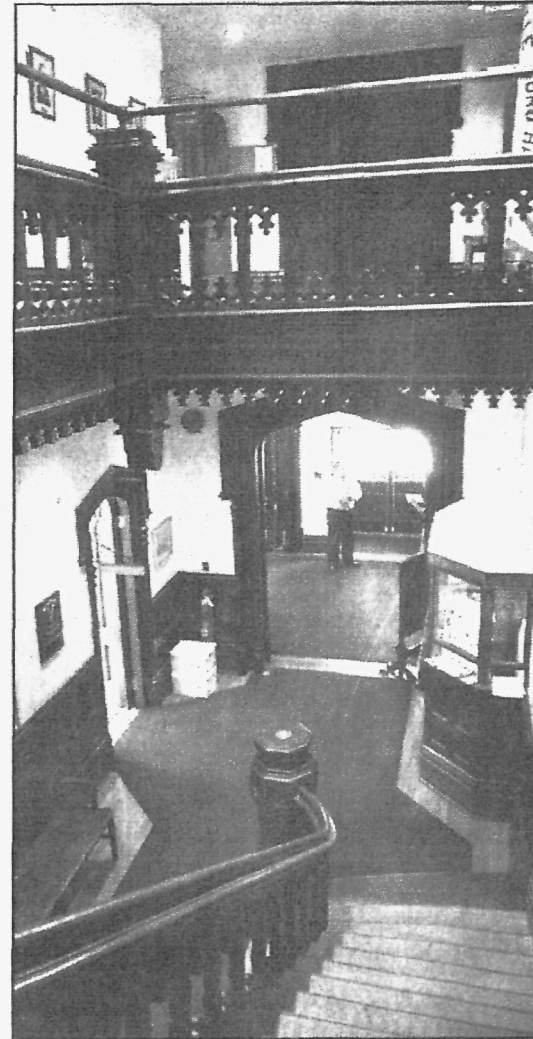
"Just for work on the exterior, it would be close to \$1 million," said Phil Decker, chairman of the advisory committee.

Additionally, the committee expects to use about \$120,000 — \$50,000 from the borough's capital budget and \$70,000 from a



Department of Community Affairs grant — to start restoration work on the building's 111 windows and repairing the turret and tower.

"We're meeting with the architect next week," said a hopeful Decker, who noted that the daily use of the building as municipal offices has certainly stressed the structure.



"What I envision is leaving it as a public building, but reserving it for special functions."

With four redevelopment zones, perhaps the borough could negotiate for a municipal building at a different site, Decker said, allowing history to remain intact.



Phil Decker, chairman of Somerville's Historic Committee, left, inside the tower section of Borough Hall, which is in need of repair. The exterior of Borough Hall can be seen at top left. Its stained-glass windows are pictured top center, and the hand-carved staircase top right. The mansion, which dates back to 1889, may one day be listed on the State and National Historic Registries.



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NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1697-06

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BODY TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE MIDDLESEX BOROUGH RESCUE SQUAD TO RENT A PORTION OF THE PREMISES OWNED BY THE RESCUE SQUAD LOCATED AT 1400 MOUNTAIN AVENUE, MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY FOR A TERM OF 5 YEARS AT A BASE RENTAL OF \$600.00 PER MONTH COMMENCING ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2006 AND TERMINATING ON AUGUST 31, 2011

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 August 22, 2006 and will be further considered for the final passage after a public hearing at a public meeting of said Borough Council to be held at the Municipal Building, 1290 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex, New Jersey, on September 12, 2006 at 6:00 PM.

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1698-06

Ordinance Authorizing the Middlesex Borough Fire Department to Institute a Junior Firefighters Program To Help Introduce Young People Living In The Area To The Duties And Responsibilities of Fire Fighters And To Increase Their Interest In Becoming Future Members of The Middlesex Borough Fire Department

The ordinance published herewith was introduced at a public meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, held on August 22, 2006 and will be further considered for the final passage after a public hearing at a public meeting of said Borough Council to be held at the Municipal Building, 1290 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex, New Jersey, on September 12, 2006 at 6:00 PM.

Borough of Dunellen
RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend the following:

That the Borough establish oversight of the Developer's escrow account activity within the Transmittance office function

That the request/purchase order system procedures be followed for all purchases

That all surety bonds be available for audit review

That all officials handling municipal funds deposit or remit all receipts within 48 hours of receipt in compliance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-15 that officials issue duplicate receipt forms for all fees collected, that monthly financial reports be prepared, and that officials record in their books of original entry all monies collected

That the Borough review its procedures regarding the maintenance of the detail of payroll deductions payable

That the Borough establish a Fixed Asset Accounting System

Public Notices Online
www.njpublicnotices.com

The above summary or synopsis was prepared from the Report of Audit of the Borough of Dunellen, Middlesex County, New Jersey for the fiscal year 2005. The financial data included in the summary or synopsis is presented in the form prescribed by the Local Finance Board, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey

Employment

Education 201

EDUCATION
LEAD INFANT/TODDLER TEACHER & LEAD & ASSISTANT PRE SCHOOL TEACHERS
The Goddard School
Branchburg, NJ
908-231-8600

Employment Agencies 205

Immediate Job Openings!
STAFFING ALTERNATIVES
Call 732-246-1687

Drivers 230

CHAUFFEURS NEEDED
For busy Hamilton Co. based limousine service. FT & PT opportunities. CDL a definite plus. Call for interview appointment.
908-735-8865

DRIVERS

FT/PT, Lebanon, owned messenger/delivery service looking for a reliable driver. Must have a clean driving record & pass DOT physical.
Call for interview: 908-735-7515

General Help 240

CARPET TECHNICIAN

Reliable technician for carpet & upholstery cleaning in Bridgewater. Must have own's business. Call today 908-334-9183

CHILD CARE

Work at your own home. Apply at Monday Morning, Inc. 908-526-4884

Chiropractic Office

Growing Chiropractic office in Lebanon, NJ has immediate openings for front desk, insurance/billing, dept., clinical chiro. assist and public relations. FT or PT hours. Must be willing to learn, provide excellent customer service and be a positive team player. Knowledge of chiropractic a plus. Excellent benefits package. Fax resume to (908) 236-7038. Serious inquiries should call (908) 236-6353.

General Help 240

DISPATCHER

Flemington Black & Supply seeks person with building materials background for block, brick and concrete dispatch. Excellent salary and benefits. Call Al Brong at 908-782-8545.

DRIVER

FT/PT for van. Light road service work. Please call 908-458-2351

ELECTRICIAN

23 yrs. exp. Benefits. 401k. Immed. 908-534-2404 or 908-256-0727

Electronic Manufacturer

Looking for full time assembler for PC boards. Experience a plus but not required. Exc. working conditions, company benefits, 401k, Health, Vision, NJ. Call: 908-638-3800

FENCE

Installation, Estimates, Subcontractors & Sales. 1-800-262-3245

HAIR STYLIST

Salon for hair styling for FT/PT either full or part time. Must have 2 weeks vacation, 401k, health insurance, etc. Call Tony 908-598-0800

HAIR STYLISTS

For Flemington Salon, Guaranteed Hourly, Guaranteed \$50 hourly bonus. Call 609-468-5093.

NJN PUBLISHING

is seeking a

Accounts Payable Clerk

Full time position, in Flemington. The ideal candidate has a minimum of five years' accounting/business experience, proficient on a calculator, accurate in data entry and has EXCEL and WORD experience necessary.

Interested persons should email your resume to: njnpublishing@nj.com

Restaurant/Cooks

Experienced line cooks for busy fine dining restaurant. Tom (908) 234-9055

General Help 240

PET SITTERS

Are you an animal lover? Professional pet-sitting service seeking mature, responsible, individual with reliable transportation to provide quality animal care to our clients' pets. Travel is within 10 miles of Warren Twp. Flexible hours, excellent pay, benefits. Please send resume Fax: 908-709-8123 or email ssilver@leongsilver.com

PRINT MEDIA SPECIALIST

Great opportunity to join the media buying team at New Jersey Newspaper Network, the well respected advertising service of the New Jersey Press Association!

Minimum of 13 years' newspaper planning, buying or advertising sales experience required. Must be an organized team player with dedication to customer service, attention to detail, PC proficiency (MS Excel a must) & excellent communication skills.

Convenient location in a beautiful office park, directly off I-95 in West Trenton. Email advertising@njpress.com or fax to 609-460-8500. No phone calls please.

RESTAURANT

Looking for:
★Waitstaff
★Greeters/Hosts
★Bussers
★Management

Apply in Person
Inn of the Hawk
74 South Union St.
Lambertville, NJ

SALES PERSON

Large producer of concrete and aggregate is searching for an energetic, self motivated person to join our Marketing Team. Sales territory of Hunterdon, Warren and Somerset Counties. Min. 5 years sales experience. BS degree in business preferred. Excellent benefits package. EOE A.A. Please email resume with salary history to: photos@usconcrete.com

General Help 240

SECRETARY

Crantford insurance agency seeks full time secretary. Duties include policy typing, endorsement typing, correspondence, data entry, answering phones, and PO Box pick up. Secretarial experience a must. Good benefits. Please send resume Fax: 908-709-8123 or email ssilver@leongsilver.com

Medical Help 250

CHHAs & CNAs

Are you a caregiver? Earn top dollar! Flexible hours available. Open Arms 908-823-0659

FIRST TIME AD

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Tuesday Only, 8am to 5pm. General practice, New Providence. Call: 908-464-6565

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST

Needed for Bridgewater area family practice. Approximately 26 hours per week. Heavy phone duty. Some computer skills & insurance billing exp. helpful. Pleasant office. Fax resume to: 908-685-8225 or Call: 908-685-1818. Ask for Denise

PEDIATRIC THERAPISTS

FT/PT Speech, full time/part time. New expanding clinic looking for experienced pediatric therapists of all disciplines with creativity and enthusiasm. Min. flexible hours and salary commensurate with experience. Fax resume Attn: Heather, 908-234-1343

1st Time PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Golden Opportunity! Immediate partnership track & salary. Central NJ. Phone: 908-904-0212 or fax: 908-904-9778.

Professional Help 260

BUDGET ANALYST

New Jersey based Publishing Company is seeking an individual who is organized, efficient, and a self-starter to join our team. This position will be responsible for the following:

- Preparing detailed annual budgets
- Must have the ability to capsule complex accounting and revenue reports for Senior Management
- Analyzing monthly financial results and investigating budget variances
- Assisting Sales Management in developing reports to monitor Sales Performance
- Be the Liaison with Corporate Accounting on all financial matters.

Requirements:

- Background in Accounting or Finance or Budgeting
- One to Two years' business experience preferred
- Proficient in Excel and Word

We offer a competitive salary, 401(k) & excellent benefits package. Please send your resume, a cover letter and salary requirements to: analyst@smartposh.com

Job location is:

Northeast New Jersey

Compensation: We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits package.

Situations Wanted 280

HOUSEKEEPERS, NANNIES, COMPANIONS
Aurora Agency 170 Mums Ave. L. Br. NJ 732-222-3369

POLISH REFERRAL SERVICE INC.

providing live-in/night housekeeper for elderly. Lic. Bonded 908-689-9140

FIND IT FAST in the Classifieds!

To Place Your Ad Call: 1-800-559-9495

PLACE YOUR AD 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK AT:

800.559.9495



Count on us Classifieds

Somerset County

From across the street to across the state, The Reporter & nj.com has what you're looking for!

We're powered by New Jersey's largest web site for local news & information - nj.com!

nj.com Everything Jersey
www.nj.com/placead

Classification 1385

Employment Classification 201

Merchandise Classification 550

Classified In-column deadline: Monday at 5 p.m.

Announcements 110

Disclaimer
The Reporter, Messenger-Gazette, and The Chronicle reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject any classified advertising at any time and will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. The Reporter, Messenger-Gazette, and The Chronicle liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error and will not be liable for failure to publish an ad.

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Good pay and benefits. The Goddard School Branchburg, NJ
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Immediate Job Opening!
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Installers, Laborers, Subcontractors & Sales. 1-800-262-3245

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Looking for full time assemblers for PC boards. Experience a plus but not required. Exc. working conditions, company benefits. High Bridge, NJ. Call: Marlon 908-638-3800

HAIR STYLIST

Salon for kids looking for PT/FT cutter for always busy salon. Incredible pay, great tips. 2 weeks vacation, bonuses, health insurance available.
Call Tony 908-598-0800

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For Flemington Salon. Guaranteed Base Pay/Commissions/\$50 Joining bonus. Call 609-468-5083.

NJN PUBLISHING

Is seeking a

Accounts Payable Clerk

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Are you an animal lover? Professional pet-sitting service seeking mature, responsible, individual with reliable transportation to provide quality animal care to our clients' pets. Travel is within 10 miles of Warren Twp. Flexible hours, excellent pay, benefits. Contact: 908-755-7387

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Convenient location in a beautiful office park directly off I-95 in West Trenton. Email resume with salary requirements to: adsales@njpa.org or fax to 609-406-0399. No phone calls please.

Restaurant/Cooks

Experienced line cooks for busy fine dining restaurant.
Tom (908) 234-9055

Opportunity

RESTAURANT

looking for:
★Waitstaff
★Greeters House
★Bussers
★Management
Apply in Person
Inn of the Hawk
74 South Union St.
Lambertville, NJ

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★Greeters House
★Bussers
★Management
Apply in Person
Inn of the Hawk
74 South Union St.
Lambertville, NJ

Condos & Townhouses 320

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act and the New Jersey Civil Rights Law, which make it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, familial status, creed, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, or national origin, or on the basis of age, disability or ancestry. The HUD TTY telephone number for the hearing impaired is 212-708-1455.

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★Greeters House
★Bussers
★Management
Apply in Person
Inn of the Hawk
74 South Union St.
Lambertville, NJ

Homes For Sale 330

JUST LISTED
"Count On Us For Results"
To Advertise Your Listings Call
Nancy
908-894-1066

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Homes For Sale 330

JUST REDUCED!
HOLLAND TWP HUNTERDON COUNTY
Low Taxes. Custom built home by builder on secluded 11.6 acres 2 lg. BR's on main floor, huge master BR in loft setting. Adjoining room off master BR, 3 full bathrooms, lg. ELK w/u-shape island, dining room, living room cathedral ceilings w/wood burning stove, skylights, rec. room w/wood burning stove, 3 car garage, large alarm, intercom, central vac, dishwasher, garbage disposal, solid surface, double oven, plenty closets, storage. Less than 10 miles 78, 22 & shopping, 30 min. to Poconos, 60 min. to NY & Philadelphia. Must be seen to appreciate. \$629,900
908-995-9619

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Commercial Property For Rent 410

Competitive Pricing
MUST SEE!
FLEMINGTON: PLAZA I
Commerce St
Various Sizes
1st Class Retail & Office Space
600-7500 s.f.
908-782-7043

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Merchandise

General Merchandise 580

Spa & Hot Tub Covers
\$99 & UP. Cover lifters
\$169. 888-772-7810

Washers/ Dryers- side
by side & stackball,
Small Refrigerator,
microwave, please
call for pricing
973-615-4089

ZZZ WOOD SHEDS
New/used, all sizes/
colors, delivered, MC/V
908-889-1117

Machinery & Tools 584

TRACTOR- Custom Cros-
ley Engine, 4 ft Snow
Plow, 3 Gang Mowers.
Parts \$1000
908-722-1623

Musical Instruments 585

I Buy GUITARS &
ALL MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS. Call Rob
609-577-3337

USED PIANOS

•Kohler & Campbell
Console\$1675
•Everett Console...\$1739
•Kohler Console Oak...
.....\$1745
•Strauss Console...
.....\$1879
•Kimball Artist Console
.....\$2127
•Schmer Console cherry
.....\$2327
•Yamaha Console
maple.....\$2479
•Knabe 48" Upright
gloss black.....\$3570
•Kawai 5'5" Grand
ebony.....\$5780
All include delivery
bench & 1 free tuning.
NOLDES PIANO
908-782-5400

YOU TOO CAN BE A BIG WINNER!

But not if you answer
ads that promise
easy riches. Call
1-800-876-7060 and
learn how to spot
telemarketing fraud.
It's easy, it's free,
and you can do it at
home.

PARTNERSHIP FOR CONSUMER EDUCATION

A public service message brought to
you by this publication and the
Federal Trade Commission.

Estate & Tag Sales 603

Super Buy!
SAT. AUG 26th, 10-4PM
13 Elwood Avenue
Flemington, NJ
Oriental rugs, antiques,
etc. Entire contents of
house. 201-954-2059

Garage / Yard Sales 605

RARITAN TWP / FLEMINGTON
5 FAMILY
YARD SALE
Sat. 8/26
9 am - 4 pm
119 Old Croton Rd
(RT 12 W. 1st light
after 3rd circle R to
Old Croton- 1 1/2 mi)

Antiques,
collectibles, HH,
Old farm bell, trunk,
train & access, brass
bed, teacher mate-
rials, trampoline

Garage / Yard Sales 605

WHITEHOUSE STATION MULTI FAMILY YARD SALE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
AUGUST 26 & 27
8AM - 4PM
13 WHITEHOUSE AVE
Rt 22 to Rt. 523 S
to Whitehouse Ave.

Barn contest,
Antiques, Tools,
Collectibles, &
more...
TOO MUCH TO LIST!

Wanted To Buy 625

All Lionel & Other Trains
Top cash prices pd.
973-334-8709 or
201-404-8030

Financial / Business

Business Opportunities 650

LOOK!

2006 POSTAL JOBS
\$18/hour starting, Avg.
Pay \$57K/year. Federal
Benefits. No experience
needed. Small uniform fee.
450-551-1773 ext 2100

Financial Services 655

**\$500-\$500,000+FREE
CASH GRANTS 2006!
NEVER REPAY ** Personal
/ Medical Bills, School,
Business/ Home/ Life
Operators. Approx. \$49
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15-YR FIXED	6.000	0.00	6.090	60	20	0-417	LISTED HERE ARE	15-YR FIXED	5.750	2.00	6.237	60	20	0-417	TO DITECH!
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