

\*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*\*C019  
 0  
 S PLAINFLD PUB LIBRY/2  
 2484 PLAINFIELD AVE  
 S. PLAINFIELD NJ 07090-3531

# Chronicle

FEB 20 2004

Since 1862

Vol. 143, No. 8

Saturday, February 21, 2004

50 cents

**INSIDE**

## Edison rejects redevelopment plan



By **TODD JACOBUS**  
 Correspondent

**EDISON** — Mayor George Spadaro and the Township Council needed just two days to review, and then reject, a proposed redevelopment plan for the former Revlon property on Route 27. The plan presented by Starwood Heller, a development firm that owns the 65-acre property, was turned down in a resolution unanimously passed by the council at its Feb. 11 meeting. The

council stated in the resolution that the proposal contains unsustainable projections, would unduly burden traffic patterns and does not fit the township's smart growth initiatives. "I am both shocked and disappointed," Spadaro wrote in a letter addressed to Starwood Heller. "Your proposal to the council espouses a 1970s planning view of a housing development with a strip mall. Unfortunately, it speaks to Edison's

past not its future." The proposal called for 600 housing units and 45,000 square feet of retail space on the property, which has been nearly vacant for the past eight years. During last month's state of the township address, Spadaro had called for the property to be redeveloped as a town center to include a civic center, library branch and open space, with minimal housing and retail space. "The presentation was made in the

most advantageous manner possible for the presenter," said Councilman Peter Barnes III. "They're businessmen. They want to make a profit and that's OK, but our job is different than their job." Barnes also explained the heavy burden that the plan would put on Route 27, and called for no strip malls or housing units on the site "whatsoever."

Continued on page A-2

### Irish sun catchers

Members of the Holy Family Academy Angels make St. Patrick's Day sun catchers for children suffering from cancer. **A8**



### Piscataway boys win

The GMC tournament got underway Tuesday night as Piscataway beat Dunellen 75-54. **B1**



### Leaders' visit honors legacy

New Jersey Secretary of State Regina Thomas taught the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King to pupils at Randolphville Elementary School in Piscataway. **A3**



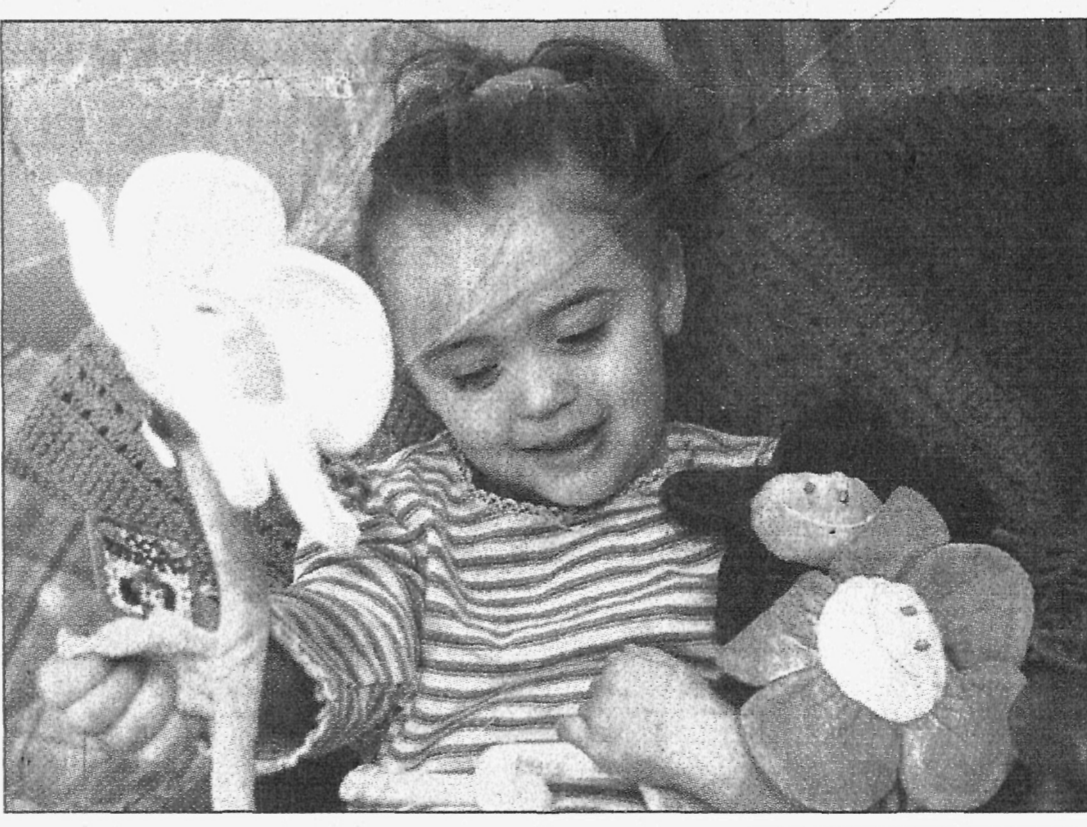
Amy Manna, owner of kid krazee, working from her home in Middlesex Borough, demonstrates how she decorates a personalized bundle that will hang from a stork. Her company began in 2002 renting wooden lawn storks to new parents.

NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Getting the news out on the wing

By **G.W. JOHNSON**  
 Correspondent

**MIDDLESEX** — Proud and eager to get the word out, new parents are quick to grab the phone and call family to share the news. Some send e-mails. Some call coworkers and tell their neighbors. Others call for a stork. That's where Amy Manna comes in. Along with husband Mike Wiczorkiewicz, Manna runs kid krazee, which specializes in renting wooden lawn storks that help families share their news with neighbors, friends and family. For Manna, it is not uncommon to receive phone calls at 3 a.m. from excited fathers looking for storks to be placed on their lawn. "I don't think they realize they are calling a residence," said Manna, who runs kid krazee out of her borough home. "But they are so excited when they call, and then I get excited for them. I don't really mind it at all."



Jessi Wiczorkiewicz, 2, daughter of kid krazee owners Amy Manna and Mike Wiczorkiewicz, is the company's main toy tester. Her favorite toys are these pose-able flowers.

NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Continued on page A-2

## Ball mixes intrigue with fun

By **FRANCISCO FREIRE**  
 Correspondent

**BOUND BROOK** — "Hide your face so the world will never find you," goes the line in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Masquerade." Get the chance this evening to hide your face, so to speak, at the Elks Club, Second Street and Maiden Lane, at the first Masquerade and Casino Ball, a fund-raising event sponsored jointly by the Bound Brook Chamber of Commerce and the Bound Brook and Middlesex Rotary Club. The ball is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. tonight and end at midnight. "We hope to make it an annual event," said Lynn Fazen, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. Fazen, a 22-year borough resident, said she has a great appreciation for the community. "It would be a great way to bring people together, both businesses and friends," Fazen said. "We thought it would be an enjoyable evening for everyone in our community." Although no costumes are required for entry into the ball, Fazen said masks are required for entry. "We will even have some masks of various prices for sale at the door," she said. Hors d'oeuvres, provided by Rosina's Italian restaurant, will be offered. There will also be a dancing, a silent auction, 50/50 and casino room. Tickets at the door are \$50. Get a free ticket for each pair purchased. Funds raised from the ball will be donated to the Elks fund to help handicapped children. Proceeds will also go toward a beautification project of Billian Legion Park. The Rotary Club will donate proceeds to its different charities nationally and internationally. "Both the Rotary Club and the Chamber are committed to our community," said

Continued on page A-2

**REMINDER**

### The African experience

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission is hosting "The African Experience in Word and Song" tomorrow at 3 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. The program is being presented by Talent-in-Triplicate, which is associated with the Newark School of the Arts. There is no charge to attend program, which is funded by the borough of South Plainfield.

**INDEX**

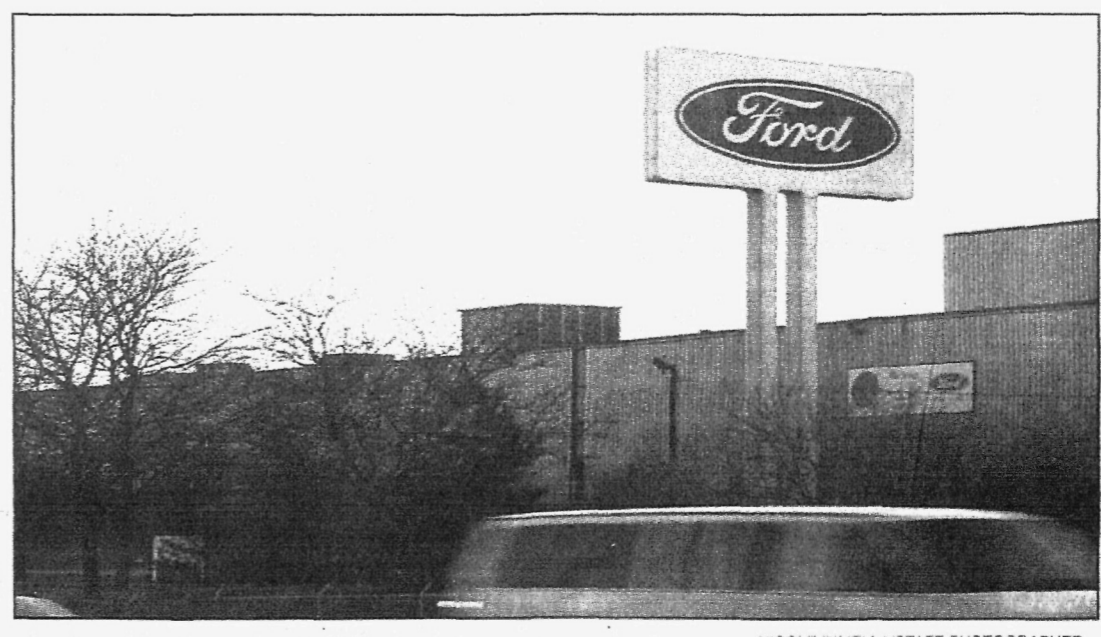
- Commentary .....A-4
- Entertainment .....A-11
- Sports .....B-1
- Senior Calendar .....A-9
- Obituaries .....A-5
- Calendar .....B-2
- In Your Towns .....B-8

## Departure doesn't mean end of the road for plant

By **TODD JACOBUS**  
 Correspondent

**EDISON** — The Ford assembly plant, a linchpin of Edison's business community since 1948, will cease operations on Friday, but Mayor George Spadaro has big plans for what he terms "the most desirable and marketable property in Central New Jersey, if not the entire state." Spadaro was joined by State Sen. Barbara Buono, D-Middlesex, and Susan Bass Levin, commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, as well as other state and local officials, as he detailed his plans for the 102-acre property on Route 1 during a recent press conference. "While we did all we could to keep the Ford plant open, the reality is the plant is closing," said Spadaro. "Plans to redevelop this site are moving forward and it will open a new, exciting and positive chapter in Edison's history." Spadaro said he sees the plant closing as "a unique opportunity to set the bar

*"While we did all we could to keep the Ford plant open, the reality is the plant is closing. Plans to redevelop this site are moving forward and it will open a new, exciting and positive chapter in Edison's history."*  
**George Spadaro**  
 Mayor of Edison



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This week will be the last that automobiles roll off the lines at the Ford assembly plant in Edison, but township and state leaders are already putting together plans for the future of the site.

high for a visionary and unique mixed-use showcase." Commercial, retail, entertainment and recreational uses are all part of the plans for what Spadaro hopes will

be what he called the "Chelsea Piers of Central New Jersey." Buono, a founding member of the Senate Smart Growth Caucus, was on hand to pledge

support to the township. "I am committed to working with the township of Edison, the developers, and other state and local officials to move the redevelopment

plans forward as smoothly and quickly as possible," said Buono. "However, we must be mindful of the impact these

Continued on page A-3

# Plan fails to meet Edison Council's vision for property

Continued from page A-1

"Let them bring in all warehouses," said Barnes, referring to an "alternative" plan presented by Starwood Heller during a previous meeting. "I'd rather have that than what this disaster would potentially bring to Edison."

Councilman Anthony Massaro joined his colleagues in their assessments of the proposal. "Anybody who would like a copy of a plan that's going in the toilet, you can have mine," Massaro said to those attending last week's meeting.

The proposal projected 31 school-aged children would be in the 600 housing units, half of which would have been age-restricted to occupants 55 and older. The council scoffed at that projection.

"They had proposed there would be 31 in the development," said Councilman Parag Patel. "I would propose there would be 31 at one bus stop in the development."

Council President Robert Diehl was also "puzzled with disbelief" as to why "these people were making this proposal in this town," noting the

plan was out of touch with the needs of the township.

Councilman Charles Tomaro, unable to attend the meeting, agreed with the mayor's disappointment in a letter read into the record.

"For the last two years we've been listening to the ideas for the Revlon property. What was presented at Monday's meeting (Feb. 9) was never presented to the council," said Tomaro. "This is not the same plan previously discussed on how the site would be developed."

Councilman William Kruczak, who was the council's point man in questioning the developers as they unveiled the plans, called their presentation "arrogant."

Township resident James Kukor congratulated the council for what he called "a gutsy decision," while resident Flavio Komuves commended them for "seeing through the fuzzy math."

Neither Starwood Heller nor the planning firm it retained returned phone calls for comment. The property is currently zoned for light industrial use and would need council approval to be rezoned for the mixed use proposed in the plan.

**"They had proposed there would be 31 in the development. I would propose there would be 31 at one bus stop in the development."**

**Parag Patel**



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Using the family garage that doubles as a workshop and storage space, Mike Wieczorkiewicz, co-owner of kid krazee, touches up a pink stork used to announce the birth of newborn girls.

# Stork business has really taken off

Continued from page A-1

These days, Manna and Wieczorkiewicz have expanded the business beyond renting out the seven-foot storks to include fund-raising programs for school groups and charity work.

"When we began, our goal was to have four stork rentals a month," Manna said. "But we have had months where we have had in excess of 20 rentals. It is very exciting."

"I'm not rich, yet I am so happy with what I am doing," kid krazee was started in March 2002, and today has representatives serving Hunterdon, Monmouth, Ocean and Middlesex coun-

ties, and North Jersey. She also has two affiliates located in Virginia and California. But the central hub is her home.

"My kitchen table doubles as a painting workbench," said Manna, who personalizes each bundle attached to the storks, right down to decorating it to match the baby's nursery color schemes. The new parents get to keep the personalized bundle.

Much of the growth has come from the hard work of self-promotion.

"I began going to baby shows and showing our work," she said. "Then I began to slowly make other connections with vendors at

the shows, and I have been able to offer other products through my business, and they offer mine through theirs."

"We started a partnership with florists, children's shops, bakeries and the like. They agreed to post our flyers and business cards in their place of business, and any rentals we get via this publicity we donate a portion of that rental to the charity of their choice."

Recently the company has expanded to include a fund-raising program for school-based organizations.

"All the work will come through here and I will make it as easy on the parent running their schools fund-raiser as possible," said Manna. "We will offer plush growth charts, tooth fairy pillows, child safety items, etc. as

items they can sell through the fundraiser, rather than the typical wrapping paper and candy."

"I will prepare the packets for the selling, have them funnel all finished orders to me, and I will pack them and box them and bring them back. I want to make it as easy for them as possible. And they won't have to wait months for the items. It can be a very quick turnaround."

Manna helped establish a program called Baby Bundles to help mothers in need, run in conjunction with the Somerset County United Way. She is accepting donations of new items for infants in need through March 5. For additional information about Baby Bundles, contact kid krazee at (888) kid-kraz or visit jerseystorks.com.

Consistently Lower Than The Big Home Centers

## Accurate Kitchens

Wholesale to the public • Buy direct

### \$250 OFF

Our Already Low Prices  
Complete Kitchen Cabinetry

(Minimum Purchase \$1,500)  
With coupon. Valid both locations. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. May not be combined with other offers.

**40 NEW DOOR STYLES**

**FREE Services We Provide:**

- Layout & Design
- Computer Generated Drawings
- Quick Price on Layout
- Literature & Specs
- Sample Doods
- Mica Samples For Tops

**550 Stelton Road, Piscataway**  
(Exit 5 Off Route 287)  
**732-926-1500**  
Fax: 732-926-1502

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am-8:30 pm; Sat. 9:30 am-3:30 pm

[www accuratetitchens.com](http://www accuratetitchens.com)

### CENTRAL JERSEY AUDIOLOGY & HEARING CENTER

invites you to an

## Open House!

Mon & Thurs., Mar. 1st & 4th

**\$400 off** a pair of digital hearing aids

Come and meet **Elizabeth Cook**, our Chief Audiologist who, together with our professional staff, will be introducing you to the latest in Digital Hearing Aid technology.

**ALL AT NO COST TO YOU.**

Space is limited, call for appointment:

## 732-205-1845

98 James St., Suite 301 • Edison

**12 months Interest Free Financing available**

Offers expire 3/4/04

# Masquerade ball helps local groups raise funds

Continued from page A-1

Rotarian Laura Shreve. "We feel this is a great opportunity to raise money for local community projects and have a great time doing it."

More than 90 businesses belong to The Bound Brook Area Chamber of Commerce. For additional information about the chamber, call (732) 356-7273.

Bound Brook/Middlesex Rotary Club is involved in many projects locally, a

Mentoring Program at Smalley School, a student business simulation program called Bridging the Gap, scholarship funds for students in both Bound Brook and Middlesex High Schools, child ID kits, a local food pantry, and a yearly coat drive just to name a few.

The Bound Brook/Middlesex Rotary meets every Tuesday at 12:15 for a luncheon meeting at Russo's Continental Catering, Route 28, Bound Brook.

# This Time, Instead Of Ordering New Checks, Why Not Order A New Bank?

"At Somerset Savings we understand that the recent buyouts and mergers between mega banks have left many customers more than a little overwhelmed. New checks, new account numbers, new telephone numbers, new people. And lots of new hassles. Well, instead of just picking out new checks, maybe you should just pick out a new bank. Somerset Savings Bank. We're here today and we'll be here tomorrow. So, as long as you have to change, why not simply come over to Somerset Savings and enjoy an unparalleled level of service, innovative products and banking convenience."

Tim LaFleur  
Branch Manager  
Flemington Office

## Somerset Savings "Sweeten the Switch" Coupon

Upon presentation this entitles you to **\$25** when you open a new

CareFREE CHECKING\* or FREE 50+ CHECKING ACCOUNT

Extra Bonus Special...  
Receive an **\$20** For Each Free DIRECT DEPOSIT Account You Open

The Cash Bonus will be directly deposited to the new account. The account for which the monetary gift is given must be maintained for 12 months or the gift will be refunded. Applies to new checking accounts only. Cannot be combined with any other checking or direct deposit offer. Offer may be withdrawn at any time without any notice.

\*Free for the first year, then only \$100 balance.

Our people make the difference...

## SOMERSET SAVINGS BANK

SLA

|                               |                              |                              |                             |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| BOUND BROOK<br>(732) 560-1700 | FLEMINGTON<br>(908) 782-4737 | MANVILLE<br>(908) 722-0265   | MIDDLESEX<br>(732) 356-2431 |
| RARITAN<br>(908) 725-9150     | SOMERVILLE<br>(908) 725-1957 | WHITEHOUSE<br>(908) 534-4167 |                             |

[www.somersetsavings.com](http://www.somersetsavings.com)

Deposits insured to \$100,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

# Nurses hold 50th reunion

SOMERVILLE — Members of Somerset Hospital's Nursing School, Class of 1953, held a 50th reunion at the home of classmate Eloise Conover Pope.

Out of a graduating class of 10 nurses, six were able to attend the reunion: Pope, of the borough, Lydia Eytushek Sabo of Middlesex Borough, Joyce Penny Clark of Middlesex Borough, Doris Swenson Hope of Neshanic Station, Barbara Wengrzyn Gorski of Fairlawn and Catherine Wintermute Robb of Franklin, North Carolina.

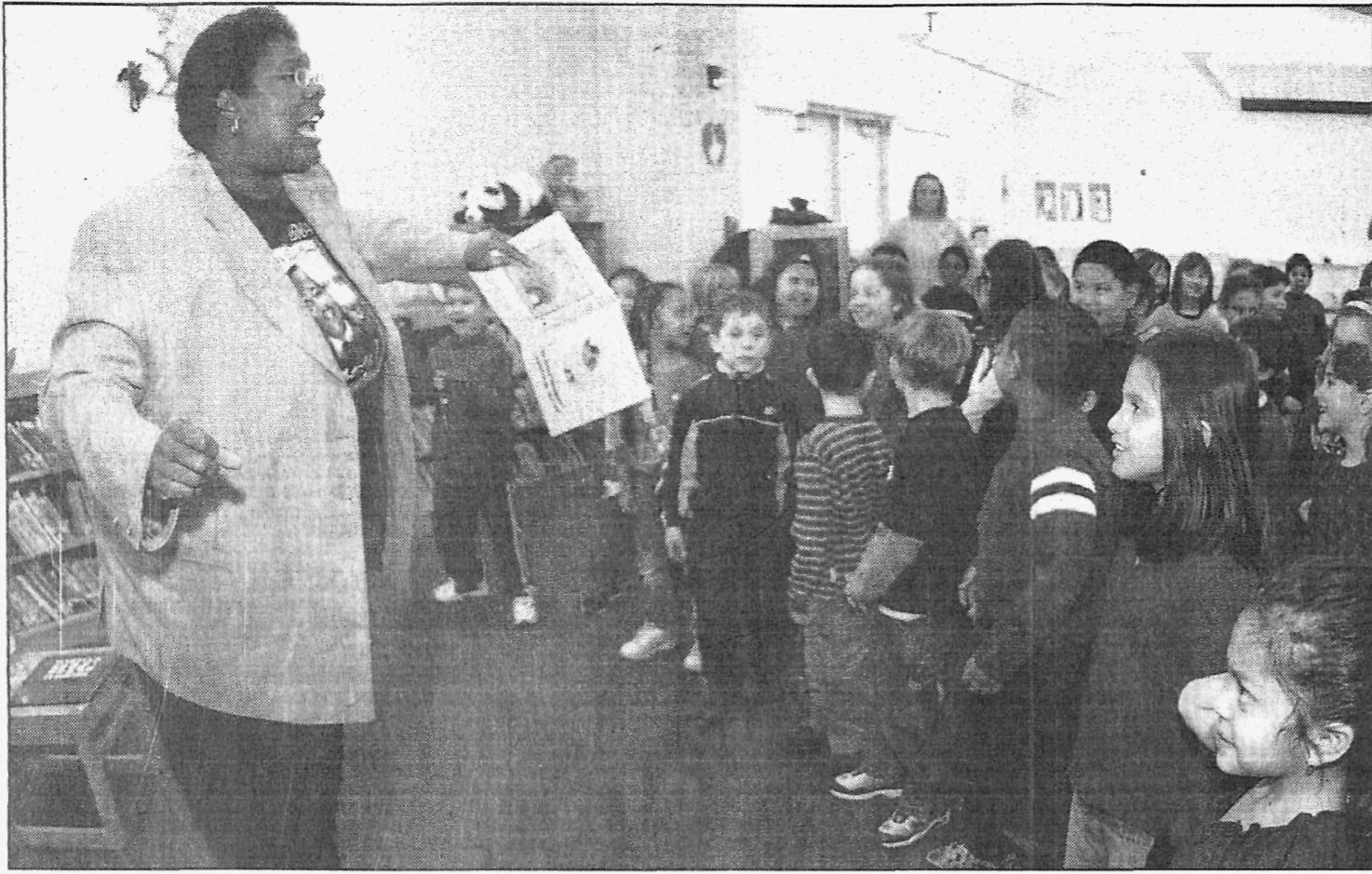
Fellow classmate Rosalie Reeks Veron of Doylestown, Pa., attended a later get-together.

Guest of honor at both reunions was Margaret Golski Kuzio of Bridgewater, a former nursing instructor at the school.

## The Chronicle

A Penn Jersey Advance, Inc. newspaper  
NJN Publishing © 2003

The Chronicle (U.S.P.S. 061-800)  
ISSN 1047-3351 is published Saturday by NJN Publishing, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville, NJ 08876. 908-575-6660 Periodicals postage paid at Somerville and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NJN Publishing, Fulfillment Office, PO Box 699 Somerville, NJ 08876. Subscription rates \$25 per year in advance. \$28 out of Middlesex County, \$30 per year out of New Jersey. To subscribe call 1-800-300-9321.



Regina Thomas, New Jersey secretary of state, reads to first grade pupils at the Van Derveer Elementary School in Somerville on Feb. 11. As part of Black History Month, Thomas visited three elementary schools in Middlesex and Somerset counties, including Randolphville Elementary School in Piscataway, to talk about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.

GEORGE PACIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Edison and state share vision for site

Continued from page A-1

changes will have on the community and surrounding area."

Levin said her department would act as partners with Edison and bring its planning expertise to the negotiating table.

Both Ford Motor Co. and Edison have been contacted by over a dozen national development firms regarding the prime piece of property. Although it will be Ford's final decision whom to sell to, Spadaro said the township and the company have committed to work closely together throughout the entire process, expected to last into the summer.

Spadaro expects to break ground on the redevelopment in early 2005.

There are still 843 workers at the plant, which has shaved its workforce over the past few years since the announcement was made to close the plant, according to a Ford spokesman. After transfers and retirements, 343 will be laid off.

"I didn't want to transfer and I'm too young to retire, so I'll be looking for other work," said project engineer Mohammed Kholaf, 37, who had been with Ford for five years. Kholaf said Ford has been upfront with all its affected employees and did its best to accommodate those to be laid off.

"Our goal is to replace each and every job lost," said Spadaro. "I don't know if we can do that, but that is our goal."

Local businesses near the plant will also be pinched by its closing. Frank's Trattoria, in an adjacent strip mall,

serves many employees during lunch hours. "We'll miss them for sure," said Anthony Tucci, an employee of Frank's. "With the plant being so close, there's no way we wouldn't."

The Tint Shop Inc. has been in business tinting automobiles for seven years just a few hundred yards down Route 1 from the plant. Although the plant only assembles cars and does not sell them, its employees were frequent clients.

"We'll miss every one that came in," said Robert Tabor, vice-president of the shop. He said about 10 Ford employees would use his services each year. "The referral factor from them was very important."

Tabor hopes the new redevelopment plans will not worsen the already "horrendous" traffic that exists on Route 1, explaining how he would ideally like to see open space dominate the property.

Public hearings will be held on the redevelopment plans once they are officially received, said Spadaro. He explained how any plan must consider the impact on the property's adjoining neighborhoods whose residents total in the tens of thousands. Ford paid over \$1 million in property taxes in 2003, but Spadaro believes that number should quadruple, with the redeveloped property ideally being worth \$200 million.

The assembly line at the plant now winds some 15 miles inside the plant that produced its first automobile, a Lincoln, on March 12, 1948. Over the years, the plant produced Falcons, Mustangs and Pintos, among other vehicle types. In 2002, it assembled 172,390 units, mostly Rangers and several lines from Mazda.

## Keeping King's legacy alive

### Secretary of State Regina Thomas shares civil rights message

By CHERYL ORSON  
Correspondent

PISCATAWAY — In honor of Black History Month, Knollwood and Randolphville kindergarten students were read to by a very special guest.

New Jersey Secretary of State Regina Thomas, a former student supporter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and member of the King Commission, and also one of only a handful of African-Americans nationwide to hold her current position, last week visited three schools in Middlesex and Somerset counties to share King's message with a new generation and "encourage children to unlock the promise of their potential by becoming strong readers."

To this end Thomas read students "Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." by Doreen Rappaport.

"This gives an opportunity to connect all history, which we don't do as well as we used

to, to share," said Thomas, stating it is now assumed young students automatically know some basic African-American history upon entering school. "This is my way of connecting with young people and saying: 'Guess what, I couldn't ride on a bus. I couldn't go to a mall. I couldn't drink out of a water fountain.'"

She said it is important to teach this particularly poignant lesson to kindergarten and first grade students. Thomas said she would most like the students to remember who King was and what he stood for lives in them.

What he stood for, explained Thomas, is "that it's almost the power of one."

"That an ordinary guy, a young man, using non-violent tactics could change the whole complexion of this country," Thomas added. "It wasn't about black versus white but about black and white together. It's important that we learn, that we understand our cultures and bond

more on our common ground and not our differences."

Thomas said this is vital in New Jersey "which is the most diverse state in the Union."

As the official Keeper of Records, charged with preserving and promoting state arts, history and culture, Thomas said "the stories that are told in our office are the stories that are kept."

Likewise, in order to keep stories like those of King alive, they must be told, she said, bringing her to schools throughout the state to share her personal experiences and read Rappaport's book.

The book relates how King, growing up in a segregated Atlanta and being exposed to "whites only" signs is told by his mother "you are good as anyone." Later, as a teenager and young man, King studied the works of Gandhi, concluding the world needed love, togetherness and peace rather than hatred and warfare.

As an adult King was a key focal point of the civil rights movement. In 1964, he was awarded the 'Noble Peace

Prize for teaching the world to "fight with words, not with fists." In 1968, while on his second day of working with striking garbage workers in Memphis, Tenn., King was assassinated.

"His big words are alive for us today," read Thomas from the book, telling students these words are "freedom, peace, togetherness, dreams and love."

"We can live together. The color of our skin does not matter. We should love each other," said Thomas urging the students to embrace and internalize this lesson.

Making the students solemnly swear on their honor to read six or seven books before the school year ends in June, Thomas said she always encourages students to work hard as "it's in them."

"The reality is Puffy Combs went to Howard University which is not an easy task. (Bill) Gates went to Harvard University. They knew education was the source of what they could be. It's about education," she said.

### Metuchen group holding women's support sessions

METUCHEN — Women Helping Women sponsors a support group for "Personal Growth" in the agency's main office at 224 Main St.

The support group meets 10 a.m. Wednesday for eight weeks beginning March 3. Fee per session is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members.

"One's point of view about self, life and relationships has a major influence on our experiences and relationships with people," Executive Director Melissa Higgins said. "In this highly valuable support group, participants can enhance their self-esteem and learn to take more control over the direction of their lives."

For additional information or registration, call (732) 549-6000.

### ACUPUNCTURE & NATURAL HEALING CENTER

February Special  
**FREE CONSULTATION**

- Acute / Chronic Pain
- Allergies
- Headache / Migraine
- Infertility
- Detox (stop smoking)
- Digestive Disorders
- Gynecological Disorders
- Hormonal Imbalances
- Chronic Fatigue
- Immune Support

Carole Bishop,  
L.ac., C.A., M.S.  
National Board Certified  
in Acupuncture &  
Chinese Herbolgy

\*Limited time offer - expires 2/28/04



**Fitness By Design**  
120 Centennial Ave. 646 Rt. 18N, Bld. B  
Piscataway East Brunswick  
(732) 885-1200 (732) 463-0984

*Silver Creek Landscaping*  
**SNOW REMOVAL**  
PLOWING - SALTING - ANTI-ICING  
BACKHOE SNOW LOADERS  
Office Buildings • Industrial Plants  
Retail Stores • Churches  
Apartment & Condo Complexes  
24 hour service - Fully Insured  
**908-756-7272**

**RELAX** and let  
**M.T.M Painting Co.**  
do the job for you!  
FREE ESTIMATES  
Interior-Exterior Painting • Power Washing  
**732-690-0429**

**MIDNIGHT MADNESS SALE!**  
FRIDAY, FEB. 27 5 p.m. 'til midnight  
**DON'T MISS OUR DOORBUSTER SPECIALS!**

|   |  |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Carhartt</b>   | <b>CAROLINA</b>  | <b>HANES</b>  | <b>LEE</b>  | <b>WOOLRICH</b>   |
| <b>SWEATS \$6.99</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small>                                   | <b>ALL CARHARTT WORKWEAR 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small>          | <b>ALL WIGWAM SOCKS 20% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small>        | <b>THERMALS 35% OFF</b> ALL DUOFOLD & MORGAN<br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small> | <b>LADIES DEPARTMENT UP TO 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small> |
| <b>ALL HANES UNDERWEAR 20% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small>                     | <b>FLIGHT JACKETS \$19.99</b><br><small>REGULAR TO \$49.99</small>             | <b>LADIES DEPARTMENT UP TO 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small> | <b>LADIES DEPARTMENT UP TO 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small>       | <b>LADIES DEPARTMENT UP TO 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small> |
| <b>ALL RUBBER BOOTS 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small>                        | <b>ALL WORK BOOTS 25% OFF</b><br><small>SOME AS LOW AS \$23.99</small>         | <b>LADIES DEPARTMENT UP TO 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small> | <b>LADIES DEPARTMENT UP TO 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small>       | <b>LADIES DEPARTMENT UP TO 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small> |
| <b>CHOPPERS 20% OFF</b> ALL WEST COAST & ORANGE COUNTY<br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small> | <b>ALL HOODED SWEATS &amp; FLEECE 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small> | <b>LADIES DEPARTMENT UP TO 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small> | <b>LADIES DEPARTMENT UP TO 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small>       | <b>LADIES DEPARTMENT UP TO 50% OFF</b><br><small>ONE NIGHT ONLY</small> |

Limited Quantities • While Supplies Last • All Sales Final • No Exchanges  
315 Bound Brook Rd • Middlesex 732-968-2848  
**DOORS OPEN at 5pm & CLOSE at 12am**

**All Grown Up**

**With Somewhere to Go**  
*Whispering Knoll Assisted Living*  
New Jersey's premier assisted living facility

You've spent your whole life being independent—and loving it. You've also lived your life with a style that defines just who you are. Now, with the passing years, you need to make some changes in the way you live. But some things you shouldn't have to give up. Here at Whispering Knoll we understand what's important to you. Independence and a rich life. Our assisted living facility is consciously designed with your lifestyle in mind, coupled with a compassionate regard for your quality of life.

At Whispering Knoll we have private studios and 1- and 2-bedroom suites, all appointed with elegance and sophistication, just like being home. Our residents enjoy gourmet meals, attentive housekeeping, special activities, transportation to local events, and other amenities. Located in central New Jersey, Whispering Knoll is a close affiliate of the highly regarded Solaris Health System and the JFK Medical Center. Also, we maintain dedicated suites providing 24-hour care for our residents with memory impairment.

Come visit. See what makes us different. See what peace of mind feels like.

**ASSISTED LIVING**  
Care for now. Care for always.  
62 James Street, Edison, New Jersey 08822  
**(732) 744-5541**

**WHISPERING Knoll**  
ASSISTED LIVING  
Care for now. Care for always.  
62 James Street, Edison, New Jersey 08822  
**(732) 744-5541**

[www.whisperingknoll.org](http://www.whisperingknoll.org)



# Edison to issue two additional liquor licenses

By **TODD JACOBUS**  
Correspondent

**EDISON** — The Township Council took a step toward fulfilling its vow of a keeping taxes stable this year by voting to issue two more liquor licenses.

The licenses are expected to produce at least \$1.4 million in revenues, equal to nearly two tax points.

"This is one of the ways we said over a month ago that we would be looking to generate extra revenues," said Robert Diehl, council president. "We are going to continue to be creative. We can't continue to rely on tax dollars for our revenues."

The resolutions authorizing the issuance of one retail distribution license and one retail consumption license were unanimously approved by the council. According to the resolutions, the minimum bid for each license is \$700,000. Edison will award the licenses to the highest bidders.

Councilman Anthony Massaro, who spearheaded the effort for the new licenses, explained that some residents might question why the township would grant two more liquor licenses.

"I'm sure people will ask 'are you in favor of more drinking?' No, I'm not in

*With the addition of two liquor licenses, Edison will have issued 30 of its 32 allowable consumption licenses, given to restaurants and bars, and five of its seven distribution licenses, given to packaged goods outlets.*

favor of more drinking," said Massaro. "It's an opportunity to pick up some additional revenue to lighten the hit on the taxpayers and to do it in a perfectly lawful way."

III said, "Our residents can see we're making a good faith effort to consider every avenue of revenue other than tax revenue." In December, Massaro, was the first council member

to publicly support keeping the tax rate flat, said the township needs to find more revenue to keep from having to increase taxes. Although recent budgets have featured a decrease in spending, or no increase in spending, tax hikes were still required.

"That's a nightmare for someone putting together a budget," said Massaro.

The resolutions call for a municipal background check to investigate the source of funds used to purchase the licenses, as well as favorable state and/or federal criminal background checks, before the licenses will be issued to

the successful bidders.

Under the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control guidelines, municipalities can issue, at a maximum, one retail consumption license for every 3,000 people living in a community and one retail distribution license for every 7,500.

With these new licenses, Edison will have issued 30 of its 32 allowable consumption licenses, which are granted to businesses such as restaurants and bars, and five of its seven distribution licenses, for use by establishments such as a packaged goods outlet.

## Emergency responders training offered

**MIDDLESEX** — Disasters can happen at anytime and the government may not be able to meet the needs of the community immediately, but there is something that community members can do about it.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began promoting nationwide use of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept in 1994. Since then CERT's have been established in hundreds of communities.

CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people that they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for their area and community.

In the event of a disaster, CERT members can assist others by applying the basic response and organizational skills they have learned during the training. These skills can help save and sustain lives following a disaster and daily emergencies.

CERT members will be assigned as an extension of the Middlesex Borough Office of Emergency Management, who will provide the necessary training and equipment. No experience is necessary. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.

To obtain more information and volunteer your services, call (732) 356-7900, Ext. 801.

## Radon program begins

**SOUTH BOUND BROOK** — Mayor Jo-Anne Schubert and health officer Kevin Sumner have announced that the borough will work with the state Department of Environmental Protection radon section in a radon awareness program.

The Elevated Radon Awareness Program provides outreach assistance to municipalities in which one or more homes were found to have radon levels above 100 picocuries per liter.

Although high levels of radon have been found in some homes in the borough, radon problems can be fixed. Radon reduction systems are extremely effective and the cost of remediation is no more than a typical major home repair.

The Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission is being provided with radon information materials, including brochures, videotapes, posters and funds for free radon test kits.

The health commission has ordered nearly 80 radon kits from a state-certified radon measurement company. These kits will be distributed free of charge to residents on a first-come, first-served basis. Any interested borough resident is encouraged to contact the health commission with proof of residency to obtain his test kit. In addition, educational materials will be made avail-

*Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission has ordered nearly 80 radon kits which will be distributed free of charge to residents.*

able to residents and assistance in understanding radon, radon levels and remediation of high radon is always available through the health commission. Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally when uranium breaks down in the soil and in rock formations. Small amounts of uranium are found in nearly all soils and rocks. Radon gas moves up through the soil and finds its way into homes through cracks in the foundation and openings around sump pumps, pipes and drains.

High radon levels are associated with a greater risk of lung cancer. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. There is no truly safe level of radon as lung cancer can result from very low exposures to radon. However, the risk decreases as the radon

concentration decreases. It is recommended that homes be remediated if they have radon concentrations of 4 picocuries per liter or more.

If homeowners have already remediated their home, it is recommended that they retest every two years to ensure their system is functioning properly. In addition, homeowners who tested in the past and found low levels of radon may wish to retest as radon concentrations may have changed due to changes in air flow within the house or due to nearby construction that may have caused changes in local geology.

Testing for radon is simple and inexpensive. In addition to the test kits provided at no cost to borough residents, the health commission provides radon test kits from a state-certified testing company for a cost of \$18. Also, the state department of environmental protection radon section can provide a list of state-certified companies that provide testing services or radon remediation services. For addition more information, call (732) 356-8090, Ext. 252, or (800) 648-0394.

## Community school announces courses

**MIDDLESEX** — The Middlesex Community School has scheduled these courses at Middlesex High School on Bound Brook Road:

"Excel I," 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, 9, 16 and 23. Ron Coupland teaches this course which covers spreadsheets. You'll learn to enter data, format and edit a spreadsheet, calculate basic formulas and manage files. Cost is \$95.

"One-Stroke Decorative Painting," 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 3 and April 7. You'll be taught how to blend and shade in one

stroke. Each person receives a project to complete in class and take home. Fee is \$20 per session. A \$15 materials fee, payable to instructor Ann Rothwell, will be collected at each class.

Senior citizen financial workshop, 7 p.m. Monday, March 15. Attorney Gail Abrams runs this workshop for people 60 and older. Admission is free.

Estate planning workshop, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 18. Abrams also leads this workshop on wills and living trusts. Cost is free.

For registration or additional information, call (732) 317-6000, Ext. 20206.

*Fax us your news!  
(908) 575-6683*

**AUTO ACCIDENTS? SOLUTION CHIROPRACTIC CARE**

**SYMPTOMS**  
Headaches • Neck Pain • Mid-Back Pain  
Lower Back Pain Numbness or Tingling in the Arms or Legs

**THERAPY**  
Trigger Point Therapy • Massage Therapy • Laser Therapy  
• Traction • Ultra Sound • Diagnostic Testing  
• X-Ray on Premises

**THOMAS A. CAMPANA, D.C.**  
Chiropractic Physician  
**(732) 572-6363**  
1665 Stelton Rd. Piscataway (Across From Fairway Golf Center)  
Mon 9-1, 5-9 p.m.; Tues 9-1; Wed 9-1, 6-9 p.m.; Fri 9-1, 4-9 p.m.

**DON'T TRADE IT - DONATE IT!**  
May be eligible for tax deduction.

**AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION**  
New Jersey  
1.800.577.LUNG  
www.donateyourcar.com

**PRESIDENTS DAY CLEARANCE**  
**MATTRESS FACTORY**  
Visit Us At Our Website • www.mattressfac.com  
**MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS MADE ON THE PREMISES**  
Open To The Public

**Tired of Your Mattress**

- Hi-Risers
- Brass Beds
- Bunkie Boards
- Custom Sizes
- Electric Beds
- Folding Cots
- Split Box Springs
- Crib Mattresses
- Sofa Bed Mattresses
- California King Sizes

**FUTONS**

**GARWOOD**  
518 North Avenue  
Factory Showroom  
908-789-0140

**E. HANOVER**  
319 RT. 10 East  
Warehouse/Showroom  
Passed McDonalds  
Toll Free 877-MATT-FAC

Open Mon-Fri 10-6 • Thurs 10-8 • Sat 10-5 • Sun 12-5 Garwood Only

**OAK TREE DISCOUNT WINES & SPIRITS**  
902 Oak Tree Rd., South Plainfield  
908-561-0051 (across from A&P Shopping Center) Custom Gift Baskets

**BUY BOTTLE LIQUOR** people of great taste

**Exceptional Values!**

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>BLACKSTONE CALIFORNIA</b><br>Merlot<br>8.99                | <b>COLUMBIA CREST GRAND ESTATES</b><br>Cabernet<br>8.99           | <b>RANCHO ZABACO DRAGON BULL</b><br>Zinfandel<br>7.99                        | <b>LINDEMANS</b><br>Chardonnay Bin 55<br>7.99                                 |
| <b>CK MONDAVI</b><br>Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay<br>9.99     | <b>COLUMBIA CREST GRAND ESTATES</b><br>Merlot, Chardonnay<br>8.99 | <b>LINDEMANS</b><br>Cabernet Bin 45, Merlot Bin 40, Shiraz Bin 50<br>5.99    | <b>MCWILLIAMS HANWOOD ESTATE</b><br>Shiraz<br>7.99                            |
| <b>ROBERT MONDAVI WOODBRIDGE</b><br>White Zinfandel<br>6.99   | <b>BLACKSTONE CALIFORNIA</b><br>Cabernet<br>8.99                  | <b>WYNDHAM ESTATE</b><br>Chardonnay Bin 222<br>6.99                          | <b>ECCO DOMANI</b><br>Pinot Grigio, Chianti<br>7.99                           |
| <b>J. LOHR RIVERSTONE</b><br>Chardonnay<br>9.99               | <b>J. LOHR LOS OSMOS</b><br>Merlot<br>11.99                       | <b>FRANZIA</b><br>Burgundy, Chablis, Rhine, Chianti<br>8.99                  | <b>PETER VELLA</b><br>White Zinfandel, Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay<br>10.99  |
| <b>CORBETT CANYON</b><br>Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay<br>5.99 | <b>SUTTER HOME</b><br>Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay<br>4.99        | <b>COCKBURN</b><br>Ruby or Tawny Port<br>9.99                                | <b>BELLA SERRA</b><br>Pinot Grigio<br>9.99                                    |
| <b>CANADIAN CLUB 80</b><br>Canadian Whiskey<br>17.99          | <b>SEAGRAMS 7 CROWN</b><br>Whiskey<br>14.99                       | <b>ROLLING ROCK PREMIUM &amp; GREEN LIGHT</b><br>12 oz. N/R Bottles<br>13.99 | <b>DOS EQUIS AMBER &amp; LAGER</b><br>12 oz. N/R Bottles<br>19.99             |
| <b>JOHN BEGG</b><br>Blue Cap Scotch<br>15.99                  | <b>JIM BEAM</b><br>Bourbon<br>21.99                               | <b>AMSTEL LIGHT</b><br>12 oz. N/R Bottles<br>20.99                           | <b>MOLSON CANADIAN LIGHT, GOLDEN &amp; ICE</b><br>12 oz. N/R Bottles<br>16.99 |
| <b>FLEISCHMANN</b><br>Dry Gin<br>11.99                        | <b>KETEL ONE</b><br>Vodka 80°<br>31.99                            | <b>MILWAUKEES BEST REGULAR, LIGHT &amp; ICE</b><br>12 oz. Cans<br>9.99       | <b>SHARP'S NOW-ALCOHOLIC</b><br>12 oz. N/R Bottles or Cans<br>11.99           |
| <b>FRIS</b><br>Vodka<br>21.99                                 | <b>MALIBU</b><br>Coconut Rum<br>12.99                             | <b>COORS &amp; COORS LIGHT</b><br>12 oz. Cans<br>13.99                       |   |
| <b>DANZKA</b><br>Vodka 80°<br>11.99                           | <b>COURVOISIER VS</b><br>Cognac<br>22.99                          | <b>KAHLUA</b><br>Coffee Liqueur<br>14.99                                     |   |
| <b>WOLFSCHMIDT</b><br>Vodka 80°<br>13.99                      |   |  |   |
| <b>SAUZA</b><br>Gold & Blanco Tequila<br>14.99                |   |  |   |
| <b>CAPTAIN MORGAN</b><br>Spiced Rum<br>22.99                  |   |  |   |
| <b>CHRISTIAN BROTHERS</b><br>Brandy<br>9.99                   |   |  |   |
| <b>GRAND MARNIER</b><br>Cordon Rouge Cordial<br>26.99         |   |  |   |
| <b>STOCK</b><br>Dry & Sweet Vermouth<br>4.99                  |   |  |   |
| <b>HIRAM WALKER</b><br>Blackberry Brandy<br>16.99             |   |  |   |

**PRICES EFFECTIVE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 THRU TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2004**

OPEN: Mon - Wed 9am - 9pm, Thurs - Sat 9am - 10pm, Sun 10am - 6pm

• We reserve the right to limit quantities • Not responsible for typographical errors  
• The specific prices and products within this ad are available at this store.

*Join us for a free seminar on*

# Eliminating Unsightly Varicose Veins

Join vascular surgeons Charles Argila, MD and David Richmand, MD of the Muhlenberg Vein Center for an interactive discussion on the newest, minimally invasive treatments for eliminating Varicose Veins.

Wednesday, February 25, 2004  
6:30 p.m.  
The Westwood  
438 North Avenue  
Garwood, NJ

Seating is limited. To reserve your place, please call  
**732-632-1526**  
Light refreshments will be served.

**MUHLBERG REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

www.solarishs.org SOLARIS HEALTH SYSTEM



# Non-profits can make videos on a shoe-string

By CHERYL ORSON  
Correspondent

PISCATAWAY — Once only the domain of large organizations, multi-media marketing campaigns are key to the success of just about any non-profit group. Next month leaders of area non-profits can learn how to create their own marketing video on a shoe-string budget during a program sponsored by township-based Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Award-winning filmmaker and marketing videographer Francesca Rizzo

will lead the day-long course. Techniques to be taught include how to add-in behind-the-scenes documentary footage, historical re-enactments, fascinating interviews, as well as how to layer artwork and edit-in existing footage, photographs, awards or clippings. Other tips and techniques for cutting costs, finding equipment rentals, getting vivid locations and hiring passionate talent will also be discussed. Participants are asked to have at least one video project in mind that will be worked on throughout the day.

Representatives are also asked to bring supporting printed materials, including brochures, catalogues and article reprints. According to the commission, Rizzo has worked in the New York City area for more than 18 years and has written and produced radio and on-air TV promotional campaigns for PBS/WGBH, AMC, Nickelodeon, Court TV, Bravo and MTV. Rizzo's independent film and video marketing firm, Movie Baby Productions, has garnered numerous industry awards for its highly imaginative original

films and promotional videos. Adding to her accolades, Rizzo has also been curator of unique independent film screening events in the tri-state area, and has been an invited panelist on the subject of film at a variety of venues, according to the commission. There is a non-refundable \$20 fee for materials and lunch for the course, which must be received prior to the program. Checks or money orders should be made out to the County of Middlesex/Cultural & Heritage. The course will be taught at George Street Playhouse, 9

Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 13. For additional information, call the commission's history services coordinator at (732) 745-4489. Those with hearing impairments can call (732) 745-3888 (TTY) or 711 via the New Jersey Relay System. George Street Playhouse is a handicap accessible site. An assistive listening system will be in use during the program. An American Sign Language interpreter can be provided with a two-week advance request.

WHAT: How to Create a Top-Notch Marketing Video on a Non-Profit Budget. The program is funded by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State. WHEN: March 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. WHERE: George Street Playhouse, 9 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick. (732) 846-2895 FOR MORE INFORMATION: Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, (732) 745-4489

# New Year's Day shooting suspect is caught in Indiana

By CHERYL ORSON  
Correspondent

PISCATAWAY — A man wanted for allegedly firing shots into a crowd on New Year's Eve has been arrested in Indiana and brought back to Middlesex County to face attempted murder and weapons charges. Richard Carrero of Plainfield was arrested on Feb. 11 in Highland, Ind., fol-

lowing a drug raid on a residence made by the Highland Police Department and federal Department of Drug Enforcement Agency officers. While investigating Carrero's identity and running his prints, it was discovered he was wanted in New Jersey for allegedly shooting two people at the party. Carrero waived his rights to oppose extradition during a hearing held on

Feb. 12 and on Feb. 13 he was brought back to New Jersey. Carrero is currently being held in the Adult Correctional Center in North Brunswick pending a bail hearing to be held in Middlesex County Superior Court in New Brunswick. During a New Year's Eve party a guest threw a punch at Carrero, who then pulled out a black handgun and fired

shots into an overflow crowd of approximately 30 people gathered outside the house, police said. Carrero allegedly fled on foot with others who have not been identified. Frank Oliver, 21, of Harrison Avenue in Middlesex Borough, and township resident Antonio Vargas, 20, of 11th Avenue, were shot in the incident. Oliver sustained a gunshot wound to his left thigh.

Vargas suffered a gunshot wound to his left arm and abdomen. Neither injury was life-threatening. Both were treated and released from Robert Wood Johnson Hospital.

Fax us your news!  
(908) 575-6683

## Dunellen briefs

### Shrove Tuesday Dinner at church

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen United Methodist Church is having a Shrove Tuesday Ham and Pancake Dinner 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the church. For tickets call (732) 752-7250.

### Somerset Patriots vouchers available

DUNELLEN — Dunellen High School Project Graduation is offering Somerset Patriots vouchers for \$8 each. The vouchers are redeemable for any home game at the Bridgewater stadium. Call Jackie at (732) 752-2505.

### English-style Fish and Chips Dinner

DUNELLEN — The Knights of Columbus will hold its annual English-style Fish and Chips Dinner 5-8 p.m. every

Friday during Lent at the Knights Hall, Grove and Madison avenue. Price is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors.

### Animated George Washington video

DUNELLEN — Children ages 5 and older are invited to the Dunellen Public Library 7 p.m. Feb. 23 to watch the animated video "General George Washington." Following the movie there will be various activities. To register, call (732) 968-4585.

### All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen Band Parents have procured the talents of a master chef for the fourth annual All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Supper 4-7 p.m. Feb. 21 at the high school cafeteria. Menu includes pasta, sauce, salad, meatballs, bread, hot and cold beverages and brownies and ice cream.

## Middlesex holding school registration

MIDDLESEX — Kindergarten in the borough's public schools is open to boys and girls who will be 5 years old on or before Oct. 31. Registration is in the elementary schools: Hazelwood School on Hazelwood Avenue, Parker School on South Lincoln

Avenue and Watchung School on Fisher Avenue. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, March 11-12. Forms are available in each elementary school. To find out which school your child would attend, call Nancy Johnson at (732) 317-6000, Ext. 20303.

**INFO LINE of Middlesex County**

HELP IS ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY.

Now also The Homeless Hotline of Middlesex County.

Info Line of Middlesex County can help you locate services for:

- Financial Assistance
- Counseling
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Food/Clothing
- Support groups
- Addiction Services
- Senior Services
- HIV/AIDS

... and much more.

**24 Hours A Day . . . 7 Days A Week.**

Call Toll Free 1-888-908-4636

Visit our on-line directory at: [www.info-line.org](http://www.info-line.org)

**SOMERSET COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF**

BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP, BERNARDS TOWNSHIP, BOUND BROOK BOROUGH, BRANCHBURG TOWNSHIP, BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN REGIONAL, FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, GREEN BROOK TOWNSHIP, HILLSBOROUGH TOWNSHIP, MANVILLE BOROUGH, MILLSTONE BOROUGH, MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP, NORTH PLAINFIELD BOROUGH, ROCKY HILL BOROUGH, SOMERSET HILLS REGIONAL, SOMERVILLE BOROUGH, SOUTH BOUND BROOK, WATCHUNG HILLS REGIONAL, WARREN TOWNSHIP, WATCHUNG BOROUGH, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY.

**NOTICE TO PERSONS DESIRING CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

If you are a qualified and registered voter of the State who expects to be absent outside the state on April 20, 2004 or a qualified and registered voter who will be within the State on April 20, 2004, but because of permanent and total disability, or because of illness or temporary physical disability, or because of the observance of a religious holiday pursuant to the tenets of your religion, or because of resident attendance at a school, college or university, or because of the nature and hours of employment, will be unable to cast your ballot at the polling place in your district on said date, and you desire to vote in the School Election to be held on April 20, 2004.

Kindly complete the application form below and send to the undersigned, or write or apply in person to the undersigned at once requesting that a civilian absentee ballot be forwarded to you. Such request must state your home address, and the address to which said ballot should be sent, and must be signed with your signature, and state the reason why you will not be able to vote at your usual polling place. No civilian absentee ballot will be furnished or forwarded to any applicant unless request therefore is received not less than 7 days prior to the election, and contains the foregoing information.

Voters who are permanently and totally disabled shall, after their initial request and without further action on their part, be forwarded an absentee ballot application by the county clerk for all future elections in which they are eligible to vote. Application forms may be obtained by applying to the undersigned either in writing or by telephone, or the application form provided below may be completed and forwarded to the undersigned.

Dated: February 6, 2004

BRETT A. RADI  
SOMERSET COUNTY CLERK  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 3000  
SOMERVILLE, N.J. 08876  
(908) 231-7013

**CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION**

N.J.S.A. 19:57-1et seq.

You must apply for an Absentee Ballot for each Election.

I hereby apply for an absentee ballot for the (Check one)

Primary  General  Municipal  Special

Local School  Regional School  Vo-Tech. School

Other \_\_\_\_\_ to be held on \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIFY CHECK & COMPLETE DATE

I live in the  Township or  Borough of \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MUNICIPALITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail my Ballot to the Following Address:

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MUNICIPALITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

**Check Reason for Ballot N.J.S.A. 19:57-3**

I am unable to vote at my regular polling place on election day because:

I expect to be absent from the State of New Jersey on election day.

DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Of illness or temporary physical disability

I am permanently and totally disabled, State reason \_\_\_\_\_

I am permanently and totally disabled and wish to receive an absentee ballot for all elections to be held during the remainder of the calendar year.

Observance of a religious holiday on election day

Resident attendance at a school, college or university on election day

Of nature and hours of my employment on election day

Under penalty of Law, I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true and correct

SIGN YOUR NAME AS IT APPEARS IN THE REGISTRY BOOK \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT OR TYPE YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

If sick or confined a voter may apply for an absentee ballot by authorized messenger. I designate \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF MESSENGER \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF VOTER \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized messenger must sign application only in presence of County Clerk or County Clerk designee. (Messenger must be a family member or registered voter, N.J.S.A. 19:57-4)

SIGNATURE OF MESSENGER \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ MUNICIPALITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Please Note: A voter may apply for an absentee ballot by mail up to 7 days prior to the election. He or she may also apply in person to the County Clerk until 3:00p.m. the day before the election. Applications are to be returned to the County Clerk in the county of your last domicile in New Jersey.

\* Permanently and totally disabled voters have the option of indicating on an application for an absentee ballot that they would prefer to receive an absentee ballot for each election that takes place during the remainder of the calendar year.

**SKI SALE**

HUGE SELECTION up to 1/2 OFF

JACKETS, PANTS, GLOVES, SHELLS, SKIS, BOOTS, SNOWBOARDS, GOGGLES, HELMETS, X.C. SKIS

EVERY SKI & SNOWBOARD MUST BE SOLD!

LOWEST PRICES OF THE YEAR

**Pelican POOLS, SPAS, GRILLS & PATIO FURNITURE**

LOWEST PRICES IN NEW JERSEY!

WHITEHOUSE • RT. 22 EAST (908) 534-2534

9 miles West of Bridgewater Commons Mall Hours: Mon-Fri 9-8 Sat & Sun 10-5

CHECK OUT [pelicanpool.com](http://pelicanpool.com) FOR GREAT COUPON SAVINGS!

**COST OF PRESCRIPTIONS GOT YOU DOWN?**

SAVE A LITTLE IN 2006 ... OR SAVE A BUNDLE NOW!

Why wait till 2006 for Medicare prescription "benefits"? Save up to 80% on your prescriptions. Starting now! No confusing coverage gap, no monthly fees, no deductibles and prompt delivery... right to your door!

For free information call 1-877-966-0567 or visit [www.canpd.com](http://www.canpd.com)

**CANADIAN PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, INC.**

Superior Delivery Services, Reduced Costs

30 Franklin Street • Belleville, Ontario K8N 1A1, Canada Fax: 1-613-966-6145 • E-mail: [rx@canpd.com](mailto:rx@canpd.com)

**TAX & FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**Floyd & Seils, LLC**

Certified Public Accountants

733 Rt. 202 N. • Bridgewater, NJ (Across from Wegmans)

Individuals • Corp. • Partnerships

Authorized IRS e-file Providers

908-231-1777

To Advertise Call Christine 908-575-6766

**INMAN GROVE SENIOR CITIZENS RESIDENCE**

Inman Grove Senior Citizens Residence of No. Edison, NJ, an independent living building will begin accepting preliminary applications for Studio apartments and 1 Bedroom apartments. Applicants must be 62 yrs or older. Tenants rents are subsidized by U.S. Dept. of HUD. Some units will facilitate the physically impaired. To have your name placed on the pre-application waiting list, complete the coupon and mail to:

Inman Grove Senior Citizens Residence  
1061 Inman Avenue, Edison, NJ 08820

Your coupon must be sent regular mail and postmarked no later than Feb. 24. No coupon will be honored after this date. All coupons received with a late post mark will be returned. No coupon accepted by telephone, fax, express mail, certified/registered mail or hand delivered. They must be sent regular U.S. Mail. Inman Grove is not responsible for coupons lost in the mail. Housing is available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

CLIP & MAIL Please Print

APPLICANT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE (DAY TIME) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

| NAME EACH FAMILY MEMBER LIVING IN DWELLING | RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT | AGE | SEX |
|--|---------------------------|-----|-----|
|  |                           |     |     |
|  |                           |     |     |
|  |                           |     |     |

INDICATE ALL FAMILY INCOME SOURCES

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CURRENT GROSS ANNUAL INCOME | CURRENT GROSS ANNUAL INCOME |
| WAGES _____                 | PENSION _____               |
| SOC. SEC. _____             | OTHER _____                 |
| SSI _____                   | TOTAL _____                 |

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**What if...**

you could buy a new heating and air conditioning system and get 50% of the cost back?

You may think... "If it's too good to be true it probably is" but please don't make that conclusion until you hear how this special program for homeowners can help you solve all your home heating and cooling problems for half the cost.

Call Us Today for the Details. You owe it to yourself to find out if this right for you. Program ends 3/15/04. Limited to 36 systems

**Service Professionals**

Accomplishing Great Things In Older Homes

**800-386-4897**

R. Bogda, NJ Master Plumber Lic.# 9897

# Board debating calendar

By CHERYL ORSON  
Correspondent

PISCATAWAY — Even though the present school year is only just half-complete, the Board of Education is working to finalize its 2004-05 school calendar.

Among the sticking points facing the board is Labor Day, which falls later than normal this year, on Sept. 6, leaving school to start a week late if the district decides to keep with tradition and not open until after the holiday.

Another question is Election Day, Nov. 2, during which many of the school buildings will double as polling places. With so many people visiting the schools to vote, some staff, parents and administrators are concerned opening there could be safety issues.

However, the New Jersey Education Association is also holding its annual Atlantic City convention the same week, which means, under this scenario, schools would be closed Tuesday for voting and again Thursday and Friday for the convention.

The scheduling conflicts were discussed during a recent meeting. Superintendent of Schools Robert Copeland said one possibility would be to close schools in the district on Election Day, or hold a staff development day.

"We're trying to balance an educational program that has some consistency with the realities of peoples' needs and where they need to be and so forth," Copeland said.

"I just think that voting is part of the democratic process, and that it's better to see their parents vote," board member Peggy Friedman said.

Board member Dan Ogilvie agreed with the idea of keeping the schools open. "It's an opportunity for citizens to go into schools," he said.

"The same parents pick up (or drop off) their kids and they can vote too," said board member Hector Perez.

The board is expected to continue discussions on the calendar in the future.



## Children catch some sun for a good cause



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
The Holy Family Academy Angels, part of Holy Family Academy in Bound Brook, has been making care packages for the children's cancer ward for the National Institute of Health in Maryland. Pictured at top, Russ Kingsland, 10, Vincent McGinnis, 11, Angelo Pirone, 10, and Michael Bender, 10, paint St. Patrick's Day sun-catchers to be put into the packages. Left, Jessica Neger paints a sun catcher. Above, one of the completed sun catchers sits along side several waiting to be painted.

**Fax us  
your news!  
(908) 575-6683**

# Kids' Korner



## Pharmacy offers a variety of taste options for prescriptions

The FLAVORx Medical Flavoring System, available at The Medicine Shoppe, 144 Maple Ave., Lakeview Plaza, South Plainfield, is a formula system found in pharmacies around the world that safely allows pharmacists to quickly flavor over 200 different li-

uid medications, powders, and pills with over 42 flavors.

Necessity really is the mother of invention. FLAVORx's founder, Kenny Kramm, and his wife, Shelley, were having a great deal of trouble giving their daughter, Hadley, her seizure medication, which she

had to take several times a day on a daily basis. Each dose was a struggle. By the time they finally got her to take her first dose, it was time to start again with her second dose.

After months of stress and agony Kramm realized he had to do something to make

everybody's life easier. Since he worked in a pharmacy that does compounding, he used some of the concentrated flavorings in the store and began to experiment with Hadley's medicine. After many unsuccessful tries, he landed on a formulation that made her medicine more palatable and Hadley began to take it in its entirety.

Kramm shared his discovery with local pediatricians and parents who also complained about the problem of adminis-

tering nasty tasting medicine to children, adults and even animals. Kramm continued his research for three years perfecting formulations for every liquid medication. They named the formulation system FLAVORx and began to offer it to all their customers. Realizing the universal need, Kenny packaged all his research and development into a system and began to license it to pharmacies across the country.

FLAVORx is now helping

millions of people around the world take the yuck out of medicines.

The addition of FLAVORx does not affect the stability or efficacy of a medication. To date, and over 4 million prescriptions later, tests show that FLAVORx does not impact the stability of the medicine nor has the company received any reports from any clients about a negative interaction.

The FLAVORx system can be used to flavor over-the-counter liquid medications. Many over-the-counter medications are as bad tasting but just as important for children (and adults) to take. FLAVORx can make the task of administering many of these OTC products much more bearable if not more enjoyable.

The following flavors are available: Apple, Sour Apple, Banana, Blueberry, Bubblegum, Butterscotch, Cherry, Chocolate, Grape, Lemon/Lime, Vanilla, Orange, Raspberry, Root Beer, Pineapple, Bubblegum/Grape, Watermelon, Chocolate Mint, Pina Colada, Chocolate Silk Pie, Strawberry Creamsicle, Lime Coconut, Coffee, Blackberry, Peach, Peppermint, Lemon, Blueberry, Raspberry Punch, Candy Cane, Strawberry, Cinnamon, Raspberry Sugar Cookie, Orange, Creamsicle, Peaches and Cream, Licorice, Mocha Cappuccino and Lemonade.

**we make medicine  
a lot less yucky**

COUPON

At The Medicine Shoppe  
we can flavor your  
children's medicine from  
apple to watermelon.

Regular \$3.99  
NOW ONLY  
**\$1.99**  
With This Coupon



**The Medicine Shoppe®**

144 Maple Ave., Lakeview Plaza,  
South Plainfield  
908-754-0707



Visit the **FLAVORx** website at [www.flavorx.com](http://www.flavorx.com)

**"Let Us Bring the Fun to You!"**

**FUN BUS**  
Fitness Fun On Wheels

Mobile, full-size school bus whose padded interior and safe equipment is guaranteed to make those childhood memories come alive. Bus NEVER moves while children are on board.  
Ages 2-7 years

• DAYCARES/SCHOOLS  
• BIRTHDAY PARTIES  
• SPECIAL EVENTS

**732-356-7874**  
[www.funbuses.com](http://www.funbuses.com)





# "Da Bums" played ball in N.J.

The Brooklyn Dodgers took a detour through New Jersey on their way to Los Angeles in a failed attempt to convince New York City to provide financing for a new ballpark to replace Ebbetts Field.

Those who loved them and those who didn't knew them as "Da Bums," a term of endearment, disgust or derision, interchangeable, adaptable and one that was popularized by the beat reporters, cartoonists and headline writers who toiled for the scrappy New York tabloids and broadsheets.

The Dodgers played 14 games at Jersey City's Roosevelt Stadium in 1956 and 1957, leaving behind the friendly confines of their home field for the minor league ballpark squatting on Droyer's Point between Route 440 and the Hudson River - and the hostile crowds who were as apt to boo the home team as they were the visitors who came to Jersey to play the Dodgers those two years.

Dodger's relief pitcher Clem Labine, now 77 and living in Vero Beach, Fla., came in from the bullpen in most of those games, and remembers being met with a chorus of boos. For many years, Roosevelt Stadium had been home to the Jersey City Giants, the minor league affiliate of the Dodgers arch-rival who were also looking for a way out of New York City's Polo Grounds.

If you know anything about baseball, or grew up in New York in the 1940s and '50s,

## Antiques & Collectibles

Rod Hirsch  
Executive  
Editor



the stories about the rivalries between the Dodgers, the Giants, and the Yankees are legendary.

Labine lived it, and was a big part of the Dodgers' success, but his fondest memories of playing in New Jersey have as much to do with golf as it does baseball.

During pre-game warm-ups, Labine and some of the other Dodgers pitchers would hit "fungos" - high fly balls - into the outfield from the sidelines, while infielders took fielding practice. The idea, Labine explained, was to hit the "fungo" high and far, challenging the outfielder to range under the ball, to test the sun and to get a "feel" for the field.

Labine took pride in his ability to poke the practice fly balls into the outfield, as did one of his fellow relievers and fungo hitters, Ed Roebuck. They'd have contests to see who could hit the ball the farthest.

"The outfield was huge," Labine recalled during a conversation last week from his home in Florida. "One time,

Ed showed up with a two-iron and we had a contest to see who could hit a golf ball out of the ballpark into the water.

"Roebuck had hit a home run off the Braves over the roof at Ebbetts Field," Labine explained, "but we had to walk all the way out to short-stop to just get it into the stands."

Labine, who left the day following the phone interview to participate in the Dodger's Fantasy Camp just seven miles down the coast from where he lives, was pleased to reminisce about his 13-year career and his days as a "Bum." He played alongside some of the legendary players of the game - Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Pee Wee Reese, Carl Furillo, Gil Hodges, Carl Erskine and Don Newcomb.

In addition to Erskine and Newcomb, Labine was part of a pitching staff that included Johnny Podres, Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale, a powerhouse staff that led the Dodgers to several league championships and a 1955 World Series championship.

"It was such a great club," he said.

He was traded from the Dodgers to the Detroit Tigers in 1960 and went to the Pittsburgh Pirates in a mid-season trade, appearing in 15 regular season games and the World Series, which the Pirates won in seven games over the Yankees. He came back to the Pirates in 1961, and finished his career in 1962 with the upstart Mets, playing for the legendary

Casey Stengel.

An assortment of mementoes and souvenirs gathered by Labine during his playing days in the National League are to be sold this weekend at a sports collectible auction hosted by Hunt Auctions in at the Inn at Chester Springs in Exton, Pa., about 30 miles west of Philadelphia on Route 100.

"I've gotten so much enjoyment from most of this stuff, I thought I'd give somebody else a chance to look at it," Labine explained.

A total of 52 lots have been consigned to the sale by Labine, including his 1960 World Series champion trophy and a catcher's mitt used by Roy Campanella given by the catcher to Labine at the conclusion of the 1955 championship season.

There's a lot of 1955 World Series programs, and other All-Star and game programs from throughout Labine's career, as well as press pins, badges and other ballpark and team souvenirs. There's dozens of autographed team baseballs from Labine's playing career, and several collected from his fellow retired players at Old-Timer's games. There's also a selection of autographed commemorative bats. There's a few of his signed player's contracts, and autographed photos, including a Jackie Robinson photo and Campanella photo, each of which was personalized.

The highlight of the Labine items is a set of four sepia-toned original photographs



shot for Life Magazine, each 9-by-13 inches, which follows Emmett Kelly, the original Brooklyn Bum and mascot of the team, during his pre-game antics at Ebbetts Field. Taken in 1957, the lot has a pre-bid estimate of \$4,000-\$6,000.

The balance of the auction is devoted to vintage baseball cards and other baseball memorabilia, including players' jerseys, hats, warm-up jackets, equipment, board games and mechanical games, vintage photos, press pins, advertising items and stadium seats from Pittsburgh's Forbes Field, Cincinnati's Crosley Field, Philadelphia's Shibe Park,

Yankee Stadium and Ebbetts Field.

There are no seats from Roosevelt Stadium, though they do show up from time to time at similar auctions.

Built for \$1.5 million in the midst of the Depression by the Works Progress Administration, Roosevelt Stadium was a pet project of Hudson County's legendary political kingpin, Frank "Boss" Hague. Named in honor of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the first ballgame was played there in 1937.

Demolished in 1985, developer K. Hovnanian has since built 380 townhouses on the waterfront site.

**The Best Kept Secret in Green Brook**

Does your car get it?

**GREEN BROOK**  
195 Route 22 East  
732-424-7300

## Library to host theatre group in March

MIDDLESEX — The New Jersey Theatre Alliance and Middlesex Public Library will present Youth Stages' production of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" 2 p.m. March 7. This performance is part of the seventh annual AT&T Family Week at the Theatre and is offered free to children and their families.

In this unique adaptation of the classic tale, all the roles are played by Laurie Hardy

and Joey Rizzolo with some audience participation. This imaginative and whimsical interpretation is directed by Pamela Hoffman.

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is performed in the round inside the library at 1300 Mountain Ave., adjacent to the Municipal Building. The show is recommended for ages 5 and up.

For more information, call (732) 356-6602.

# Highland Park honors high school graduates

HIGHLAND PARK — The Board of Education has publicly honored 35 Highland Park High School students, 15 of whom graduated in June.

Each received a certificate of appreciation from Superintendent Marylu Simon and President Michael Buchman during a recent board meeting.

Raphael Barcham and Aaron Buchman were honored as semifinalists in the National Merit competition. Each is eligible for National Merit Scholarships that are awarded this month.

Fourteen others were honored as National Merit

Commended scholars based on their PSAT standing. They are Dina Achkinazi, Rachel Feldman, Cory Fox, Dmitry Gershenson, Jaime Guarnaccia, Jin Ge, Hanna Komlos, Shuang Meng, Tatyana Shatova, Matthew Tunnell, Leigh Underwood, Lisa Wang, Xiaofeng Xue and Lei Ye.

Six alumni from the Class of 2003 were honored as AP Scholars with Distinction: Jonathan Bergknoff, Kelly Huang, Martha Kinsella, Nikita Panassenko, Ezra Schiff and Daniel Trub. Each had a score of 3 or higher on all AP examinations.

Two alumni and four current students were recognized as AP Scholars with Honor: Raphael Barcham, Jin Ge, Daniel Jobbins, Shuang Meng, John Orfanidis and Tatyana Shatova. Each had a score of 3 or higher on at least four AP exams. Jobbins and

Orfanidis were in the Class of 2003.

Six current students and seven alumni were honored as AP Scholars, for having a score of 3 or higher on at least three AP exams. Feted from the Class of 2003 were Leonard Ambos, Edward Guetti, Liza Lee, Yuval Orr, Daniel Rice, Ashwat Rishi and Jungwon Yoon. Feted from the current student body were Aaron Buchman, Dmitry Gershenson, Nicholas Gliserman, Jaime Guarnaccia, Matthew Tunnell and Lisa Wang.

Ten current students were honored as Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars: Raphael Barcham, Courtney Blachford, Aaron Buchman, Rachel Feldman, Scott Fischen, Jaime Guarnaccia, Jin Ge, Christen Paras, Tatyana Shatova and Lei Ye. Each will receive a scholarship if he enrolls for full-time study at a New Jersey college or university.

The **on-time** anytime **loan.**

Before you need a loan is the best time to get it, then you know it's there waiting for that special purchase or unexpected emergency. You can also use our loan to pay off an existing loan, consolidate debts, and much more. And it will cost you nothing until you actually use it.

**Equity Lines of Credit**

# 1/2%

**Below Prime For Life!\***

**Borrow up to \$200,000.**

- Use the money for anything you want or need.
- Interest may be tax deductible. (Consult your tax advisor.)

**Home-owner Equity Loans also available.**

- Borrow up to \$200,000 at a fixed rate.
- Terms from 3 to 20 years.

**Plus;**

- No application fee, closing costs, or annual fee.
- No "draw down."
- No minimum balance.
- You can close your loan at any Investors' branch location.

For more information, visit a local Investors Savings' office, see us online at [www.isbnj.com](http://www.isbnj.com), or call toll-free: 1-800-252-8119

*Borrow from the best!*

**INVESTORS SAVINGS BANK**

[www.isbnj.com](http://www.isbnj.com)

Member FDIC

\*Maximum loan term is 15 years. Stated APR (Annual Percentage Rate) requires automatic payment from any Investors transaction account or the rate is 1/2% higher. The APR is variable and adjusts according to the Prime Rate as published in the Wall Street Journal. APR will never exceed 15%. Combined loan-to-value ratio may not exceed 75%. Home equity loans and lines available on 1- to 4-family, owner-occupied New Jersey properties (no vacation or secondary homes). Hazard insurance is required. This offer may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice.

**Internet Faster & Easier!**

Unlimited Access!

**\$9.95 PER MONTH!** No Credit Card Required!

**FREE** Software CD or Download  
**TOLL-FREE** Technical Support

**5 Email Addresses - Webmail!**  
**INSTANT MESSAGING** - AIM, MSN and Yahoo  
**Custom Start Page** - News, Calendar, Weather & more!  
**Immediate Access:** [www.localnet.com](http://www.localnet.com)

Plus:

**LocalNet EXPRESS \$3 PER MONTH!**  
Surf up to 5x faster!

**908-725-7365**  
**LocalNet 1-888-488-7265**  
RELIABLE INTERNET ACCESS SINCE 1994

**Legal Notices**

**NOTICE OF ABSENT DEFENDANTS**  
(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO:  
DIANE B. LAGRUTTA

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon SHAPIRO & DIAZ, LLP, Plaintiff's Attorney, whose address is 406 Lippincott Drive, Suite J, Marlton, NJ 08053, an answer to the complaint (and amendment to complaint, if any), filed in a civil action in which FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION is Plaintiff and THOMAS L. LAGRUTTA A/K/A THOMAS J. LAGRUTTA are Defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, MIDDLESEX and bearing Docket # F-2162-04 within Thirty-five (35) days after the date of publication, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint (and amendment to complaint, if any). You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex, 24 Market Street, Trenton, NJ 08625, in accordance with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated November 14, 2002, made by THOMAS L. LAGRUTTA, as Mortgagor(s), to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. recorded on January 6, 2003, in Book 7955 of Mortgages for MIDDLESEX County, Page 279, and (2) to recover possession of the concerned premises commonly known as: 107 PARK GATE DRIVE, EDISON, NJ 08820.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling (201) 249-6000. You may also contact the lawyer referral service of the County of Venues by calling 908-828-0053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County of Venues by calling 908-249-7600.

You, DIANE B. LAGRUTTA, are made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you may have an interest in the subject property by reason of a lien, encumbrance, or otherwise which may be perfected against the property being foreclosed and for any right, title, claim or interest you may have in, to or against said mortgaged premises.

Dated: February 21, 2004

DONALD F. PHELAN  
Clerk of the Superior Court  
555 11/21/04  
\$16.66

**ANTIQUES & Collectibles**

**DIRECTORY**

**ANTIQUES**  
BEST PRICES • BEST SELECTION

1000's of items - from garage sale bargains to high end collectables

China, porcelain, pottery, collectibles, art, jewelry, lamps, crystal, silver plate, primitives, toys, linens, restored vintage Persian rugs plus huge selection

**ANTIQUE VINTAGE FURNITURE**

2 Great Locations  
**VENDOR SPACE AVAILABLE**  
At reasonable rates

[washingtonantiquecenter.com](http://washingtonantiquecenter.com)  
14,000 sq. ft. Victorian Antique Center  
44 E. Washington Ave. (Rt. 57)  
Washington, NJ 908-689-1900

[longvalleyantiques.com](http://longvalleyantiques.com)  
4,000 sq. ft. Charming Country Store  
2 W. Mill Rd. corners Rts. 24, 513 & 517  
Long Valley, NJ 908-876-1333

**SCRANBERRY COOP**  
42 Main St.  
ANDOVER, NJ 07821  
**973-786-6414**

Hours: Weds-Sundays  
10-4 p.m.

\*Gift Certificates  
\*Dealer Space Available

**Raritan Antique Village**  
44 W. SOMERSET ST.  
RARITAN  
(1 mile off Somerset Circle)  
**OPEN 7 DAYS**  
10-5 PM  
**908.526.7920**  
Multi Dealers on Two Levels

To advertise in our Next Antiques & Collectibles Directory  
Call Ellen at (908) 782-4747 x 687

# Gateway to Middle-Earth

## Illustrators bring life to mystical world of fantasy

By TINA PERROTTA  
Staff Writer

**PEAPACK** — Tim Hildebrandt looks and acts like an ordinary guy; he shops for groceries, mows the lawn and even feeds the family's cat.

Just by looking at him you would never know that the front door to his Victorian house on Jackson Avenue is the gateway to Middle-Earth and he is its guardian.

"People only recognize me at conventions. I wouldn't mind if I were recognized, but for the most part, people don't know who I am when they see me," he said, sitting in a rocking chair in the family room. Then he gave a smile, "There isn't much to look at, but I'm here."

He and his twin brother, Greg, were the first illustrators to depict scenes and characters from Middle-Earth, the setting of J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings."

His paintings and the movies' characters have an eerie similarity, but Tim Hildebrandt, being humble, doesn't take credit. Since the films have become a worldwide success, Hildebrandt's work is more in demand. His first Lord of the Rings calendar was recently re-released as an anniversary edition and a new set of the Hildebrandt brothers' trading cards is on the market.

"My paintings are 'back in' since the movies came out," he said. "I've seen the movies and I think they're good."

How Hildebrandt became the gatekeeper to Middle-Earth is another magical tale.

When he was 6 years old, he saw Walt Disney's "Pinocchio" and decided he would like to be an artist, specializing in fantasy. Maybe it was the fairy or the talking puppet which sparked his creativity, but whatever it was, he sent Hildebrandt, now 65, back to Catholic school with a pretty active imagination.

"I went home after watching 'Pinocchio' and just sat in my room and drew," he said. "But I was Catholic. And everything the church taught — demons, devils and angels — has influenced me."

There's a touch of "religiousness" in almost every one of Hildebrandt's illustrations whether it's a starry sky, a warm glow surrounding the characters, winged animals or good battling evil — the religious influence is readily apparent.

With a strict upbringing, Hildebrandt's only escape as a child, besides movies, was comic books. He latched onto comic books while his classmates carried Bibles.

"I always loved comics. We had a comic book burning at school," he said, shaking his head in disbelief. "I hid my comics at home, and man, I had to."

After graduating high school in Detroit, Hildebrandt joined the Army Reserves and then he and his twin brother pursued careers in art.

Together they attended Meinzing School of Art in Detroit where they studied basic drawing, perspective, color and design as well as anatomy.

From there, the Hildebrandt brothers were hired at Jam Handy Corp., which made television commercials and documentaries. Tim Hildebrandt worked in the animation department for five years.

They left Jam Handy and were recruited by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen to create documentaries on poverty.

"He was one of the best men I could ever meet in my life," Hildebrandt said. "He sent us to South America to cover poverty. I spent my time photographing and I came back and made a film about it. Greg and I agreed that we did not want to make Catholic films, so we came back and edited our own stuff."

The brothers had their hands in every project created by the bishop, but only a year into the job, Tim decided there was something more important than traveling — his new bride, Rita, a student at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

"I didn't meet her in a supermarket, not in a bar — I met her in a church choir," he said.

In 1969, the brothers decided it was time to stop working for Sheen.

The brothers then crossed paths with Carlo DeLucia, an art director for Golden Books. Greg and Tim began illustrating books, which gave Tim the opportunity to do something that he loved — illustrate comic books.

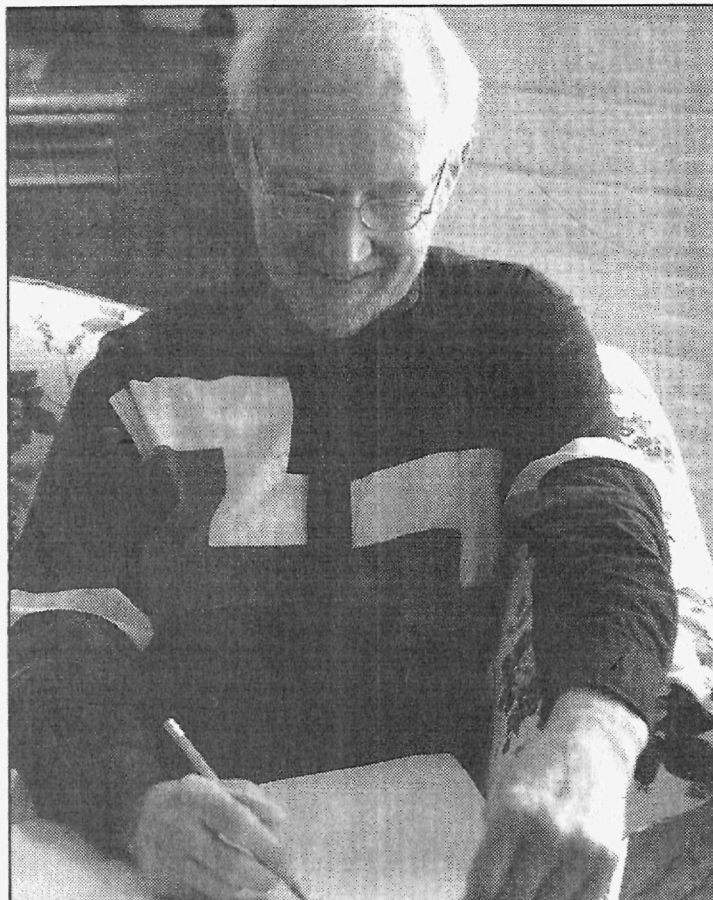
Around the same time, the brothers began reading the Lord of the Rings trilogy. Tim and his wife read the book out loud to their son, Charles.

Tim Hildebrandt got a Lord of the Rings calendar by Tim Kirk and on the back was an ad by Ballantine Books asking artists to send paintings for future Lord of the Rings calendars. The Hildebrandt brothers immediately answered the ad.

"That's how I got the job," he said. "We got instant worldwide recognition which was hard to take at the time."

The Tolkien Years calendars have been re-released over the years, but since the movies came out, Hildebrandt's work is more sought after by fans all over the world.

When asked if he has successfully transcended the genre of fantasy, Hildebrandt raises his hands and shakes his head, "No, me? Are you kidding? That's impossible! It's all been done before. Fantasy has always been here — fairy tales — it's never gone away or diminished. It's



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tim Hildebrandt of Peapack and his brother, Greg, were the first illustrators to depict scenes and characters from Middle-Earth, the setting of J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings."

just gotten stronger."

In addition to the Tolkien calendars, the Hildebrandt brothers have also created illustrations for Marvel comics, including covers and posters for Spiderman, Blood Hawk, Kingpin, Scarlet Witch and X-Men 2099, illustrations for Ballantine Books which include "The Sword of Shannara" and covers for Ballantine Books including "The Ship Who Sang" by Anne McCaffrey; "Run, Come See Jerusalem!" by Richard C. Meredith, "The Early Del Rey Vol. 2," by Lester del Rey, and "Apache Devil" by Edgar Rice Burroughs.

Greg has also illustrated dozens of books for Unicorn Publishing including "Robin Hood," "The Phantom of the Opera," "Dracula" and "Alice in Wonderland." He and Rita have collaborated on a 1983 cookbook, "Fantasy," and "Merlin and Dragons of Atlantis."

His son, Charles, was just a child when the Tolkien calendars were first published. Charles' friends looked up to Hildebrandt and often took advantage of the time they spent at the house where Middle-Earth came to life.

"I used Charles, his friends, our next-door neighbors and my wife as models," he said. "My wife has posed an awful lot."

Hildebrandt held up a painting of a starry sky and a man

and woman in a Star Wars setting.

"See this painting?" he said. "That's my son and his girlfriend at the time. He likes the painting but he's not too crazy that he has to stare at his ex-girlfriend."

Hildebrandt has spent hours, even months, to complete an illustration. He begins by creating the background because, "that establishes what the figure should look like and the colors you want to use." Then he creates the characters' faces.

"The time I spend depends on the painting. If it's a portrait, it could take two days. The last centerfold in the Tolkien calendar, "At the Grey Havens," took a month. But, the Lord of the Rings paintings were not difficult. I was so into those books I didn't want to leave that world," he said. "I didn't have to think about it too much — Greg and I came up with them instantly."

### Edison Briefs

EDISON — "Movie Magic" is the theme of the Edison Symphony Orchestra's final concert for 2003-04.

The program will be held 8 p.m. March 6 in the performing arts center at Middlesex County College. Selections include the themes from "Exodus," "Doctor Zhivago" and "The Pink Panther," all under the baton of conductor Judith Morse.

Also to be presented are works of Duke Ellington, seg-

ments from "Phantom of the Opera" and World War II songs. Times Three, an all-woman trio, sings the WWII hits.

Admission is \$30 for adults and \$25 for students. A package deal, including dinner at the Sheraton hotel at Woodbridge Center, is \$45. Group rates are available.

For additional information, call (908) 753-ARTS. The concert is sponsored by the Edison Arts Society.

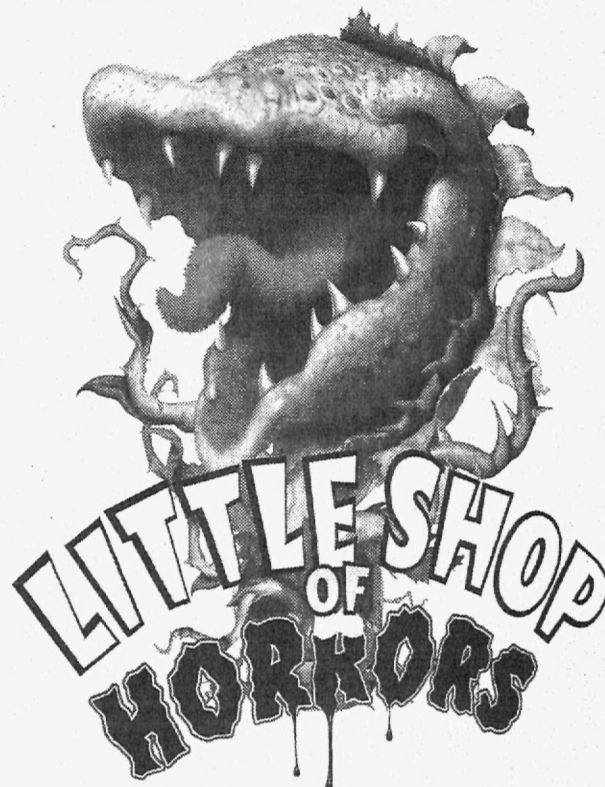
Fax us your news

908-575-6683

### GARGANTUAN SAVINGS ON BROADWAY'S MONSTER HIT!

ONLY \$50 TUES-FRI EVENINGS ONLY \$65 SAT & SUN MATINEES SUN EVENINGS

VALID FOR PERFORMANCES THRU MARCH 18'



CALL TELECHARGE.COM AT (212) 947-8844 OR VISIT

BROADWAYOFFERS.COM and use code "LS4ESH" or bring this ad to the box office.

\*Offer valid for all performances EXCEPT Saturday matinees until 03/18/04. Not valid 03/23/04. Subject to availability and prior sale. Not valid on prior purchases and may not be combined with any other offer. Telephone orders subject to chargeback.com service fees. Limit 8 tickets per order. All sales final, no refunds or exchanges. Offer may be revoked at any time. Offer expires 03/18/04.

at VIRGINIA THEATRE, 245 West 52nd St. Running time: 2 hours New Broadway cast album on CD

### JOIN THE

Hunterdon The Reporter Hunterdon Observer Hunterdon County Democrat Messenger-Gazette

# AT THE BIG APPLE CIRCUS

ON FRIDAY, MARCH 12 AT 7:00PM



Presented by American Express Financial Advisors

In association with Somerset Hills YMCA and Hunterdon County Park Commission

MARCH 6-28  
COMMERCE BANK BALLPARK  
(OFF RT. 287 IN BRIDGEWATER)

ticketmaster 212-307-4100

ticketmaster.com • All Ticketmaster Outlets

COMMUNITY BOX OFFICE AT THE SOMERSET HILLS YMCA

Mon-Fri 4pm - 8pm; Sat-Sun 9am - 1pm • \$1 per ticket service charge

Groups of 15 or more and additional ticket support call 800-922-3772

For tour dates and ticket prices visit bigapplecircus.org

### 'Gospel Gala' being held this evening

PISCATAWAY — The Piscataway Cultural Arts Advisory Commission is once again presenting the Acrodanse Theatre Company in "Gospel Gala" as a Black History Month program.

The free concert is 7 p.m. tonight in the Patton Building at Piscataway High School, 50 Behmer Road. Snow date is March 6.

Acrodanse Theatre Company is a multicultural professional dance troupe that for two years in a row took top honors in the Praise Dancing category at the McDonald's GospelFest. Under the direction of artistic director Michael D. Gary, the troupe explores social issues and is dedicated to developing the talents and excellence in New Jersey dancers.

This year's performance includes "The Soulful Messiah," based on "Messiah" as interpreted by Quincy Jones, and an excerpt from "The Limone Project."

Groups are welcome. For more information, call (732) 563-4117.

**DUNELLEN THEATER & Cinema Cafe**  
DINNER & MOVIE SPECIAL EVERY SHOW EVERY DAY!  
• 2 Movie Tickets  
• Large Cheese Pizza  
• Pitcher of Soda or Beer  
\$22.75 (Full Menu also Avail.)  
February 20th - Male Revue  
February 21st - Comedy Night  
Mike Bocchetti & Sal the Stock Broker  
Birthday Party Packages Available  
Call (732) 968-1020 for Details

Let's do **Brunch!**  
at Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance  
Every Sunday 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

**Omelet Station**  
French Toast  
Belgian Waffles  
Scrambled Eggs, Hash Browns  
Bacon, Sausage, Ham  
Danish, Muffins, Bagels  
Fresh Fruit and Fruit Juices

**Carving Station:**  
Prime Rib  
Roast Beef  
Virginia Ham  
Roasted Turkey  
Smoked Salmon

**Bountiful Salad Bar:**  
Greek Salad  
Caesar Salad  
Mixed Greens  
Fruit Mirror Display  
Clams, Shrimps & Oysters

**Buffet:**  
Loin of Pork  
Penne Vodka  
Sausage & Peppers  
\*\*Viennese Table\*\*

Includes Champagne Mimosas  
Served Noon till 3:00 PM

**\$19.95** per Adult  
Plus tax & gratuity.

**\$9.95** per Child  
8 years old and under  
Plus tax & gratuity.

Snuffy's **Pantagis RENAISSANCE**  
Call 908-322-7726  
Reservation recommended.  
Park Ave. & Mountain Ave.  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
www.weddingsatpantagis.com

# Take a trip around the world at museum

By CHERYL ORSON  
Correspondent

**PISCATAWAY** — With an eye toward the warmer spring weather, two culturally diverse events will be held at the historic village of East Jersey Olde Towne on River Road.

Next month everyone is invited to take a virtual vacation from this year's brutal winter and warm up to the tales of such exotic locales as Spain, Portugal, South America and the Caribbean.

On March 14 at 2 p.m., Nat Reiss of the Jewish Historical Society will pre-

sent a lecture on the history of the Sephardic Jewish community in Central New Jersey. This will include the exodus of many Sephardic Jewish families during the Spanish Inquisition of 1492. Their journey to South America and the Caribbean, and their descendants' eventual settlement in the Northeast, specifically Central New Jersey, will be chronicled.

On March 28 a Tropical Spring Celebration will be held including arts and crafts and storytelling. At 1 p.m. children ages 6-11 will have

the opportunity to create their own 3-D imaginary vacation pictures using a variety of materials. At 2 p.m. master Caribbean storyteller Ken Corsbie will warm up to the telling of tropical tales.

Growing up in Guyana with a multi-ethnic background of Chinese, African, Amerindian and Scottish heritages, Corsbie has inherited a wealth of cultural experience as articulated in his

tales, complete with the use of the accents. The sound of the sea and rainforest, heat of the sun, humor of the islands and rhythms of Calypso and Reggae can all be heard in these stories.

These breaks from winter are free thanks to funding being provided by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey Historical

Commission, a division of Cultural Affairs, in the Department of State.

Those interested in the program can register for these free events by calling East Jersey Olde Towne Village at (732) 745-3030. Those with hearing impairments can call (732) 745-3888 (TTY users only) or 711 via the New Jersey Relay System.

The Village, located at 1050 River Road, is a handicap accessible site. An assistive

listening system is on site and in use during all events. A sign language interpreter is available with a two-week advanced request.

The Village itself is open year round, Tuesday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sundays from 1-4 p.m. The Village is closed Monday through Saturday and on most holidays except July 4. Group tours can also be scheduled by appointment.

## St. Francis school releases second period honor roll

**METUCHEN** — St. Francis Cathedral School has issued its honor roll for the second marking period of the 2003-04 school year.

Students earning first honors:

**Grade 8B** — Sara Jane Davidson, Rae Celline Felismino, Sarah Ludwig and Elisabeth Scherer.

**Grade 7A** — Spencer Davis, Lucia Hoang, Bridget McManus and Jenna Meoni.

**Grade 7B** — Ryan Carr, Kathleen de la Cruz, Mairead Lawyer and Christopher Wolff.

**Grade 6A** — Jamie Ciocon and Holly Anne Rebovich.

**Grade 6B** — Kathleen Franklin.

**Grade 5A** — Christian Ludwig and Lauren Schreck.

**Grade 5B** — Lorenzo Azaron, Catherine Birri, Alison Dougan and Christiana Roberts.

Students earning second honors:

**Grade 8A** — Stephen Brandenburg, Olivia Do, Gabrielle Geller, Theresa Hoang, Isabel Kierencew, Margaret Lowenberg, Agata Rybalkiewicz and Sam Vinci.

**Grade 8B** — Amanda Bonaventure, Kerry Dougan, Paul Dellanno, Megan Nashed, Eddie Rossiter and Maureen Sharlow.

**Grade 7A** — Daniel Baran, Peter Birri, Robert Bruder,

Sean Freis, Giang Hoang, Donald LaPorta, Gabriella Mozo, Frances Nesi and Joseph Roberts.

**Grade 7B** — Conor Dick, Richard Fuchs, Rebecca Ghilino, Christopher Lewandowski, Nidhi Manchery, Jenna McMenamin, Daniel Misdea, Dani Scarmozzino, Caitlin Scherer, Laura Ann Sharlow, John Szilagyi, Kevin Van Buskirk and Alexander Vazquez.

**Grade 6A** — Andre Brito, Sara Bruno, Deirdre Graham, Kyle Harsh, Holly Hopke, Katherine Kacani, Tim Moczula, Ariana Russo and Matthew Szatkowski.

**Grade 6B** — Olivia Black, Matthew Egnasko, Zachary Farr, Emilee Frey, Michael Gallant, Paul Hoang, Brenna Kelly, Megan Lange, Rocel Maano, Devon Meadowcroft, Andrew Santos and Brandon Vitabile.

**Grade 5A** — Andrew Aquilini, Mariah Black, Donald Brandenburg, Tiffany Do, Casey Dougan, Allison Hawkins, Ryan McCadden, Leah Petty, Nicholas Sibayan, Tara Anne Smith, Evan Tardosky and Jeremy Zipf.

**Grade 5B** — Francis DeRupo, Eva Dice, Nicolle Donato, Christopher Kulesza, Kevin Major, Paul Pepkowski, Nicole Seerattan, Marissa Stavropoulos and Teresa Vinci.

*Take the Bus to the Best Slots*

**New Service Via CAMPTOWN BUS**  
**973-242-6100**

Daily Service to TROPICANA CASINO AND RESORT  
**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PACKAGE**  
**\$20** \$15 Coin - \$5 Deferred Voucher

News Plus, Garwood - 908-789-4655  
Westfield Mini Mart, Westfield - 908-654-7530  
Fernwood Corner Store, Fernwood - 908-322-2195  
Speedy Mart, Watchung - 908-756-7342  
Dan's Deli, Middlesex - 732-560-9160  
Towne Pharmacy, Dunellen - 732-968-1481  
Krauzer's, Piscataway - 732-752-7424  
Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Piscataway - 732-981-8181

**JOIN THE TROPICANA FREQUENT-RIDER PROGRAM**  
Ride 8 times and your 9th ride is on us!  
Diamond Club membership required.

An Azar Corporation Casino • Brighton and the Boardwalk  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401-6390 • www.tropicana.net  
Package subject to change without notice. Must be 21 years of age  
to receive this package. Gambling Problem? Call 1-800-GAMBLER.

**DHANI JONES FOOTBALL CAMP**

Daily instructions from several of the New York Giants!

Michael Strahan, Amani Toomer, Jason Sehorn

Ages 8-18 • 11th Big Year! • June 27-July 1 • East Stroudsburg University, PA • "The Best Camp in the USA!"

For FREE Brochure call 1-800-555-0801 or visit www.footballcamps.com

## Public safety improved

**EDISON** — Township police Chief Edward Costello announced two developments to help improve public safety.

One is a new pilot program called the Traffic Enforcement and Safety Team, the other a new police hiring ordinance.

After one month, Mayor George Spadaro announced

that a new pilot program designed to address rising traffic complaints, the Traffic Enforcement and Safety Team has produced positive results in terms of traffic enforcement.

Traffic summonses in January by the patrol of 12 officers in the team at target locations of frequent accidents and where excessive speeding violations and other motor vehicle violations have been reported were 793, which exceeded the total number of summonses issued by the entire 211 Edison police force in the previous January.

The presence of this program on Silver Lake Avenue, East Side Avenue, Stony Road, Idlewild Road and Old Post Road has also led to a significant reduction in the number of vehicle accidents in January compared to January 2003.

"The unit will also target the locations where motor vehicle accidents with serious injuries and fatalities have occurred," Spadaro said. "In just one month we've far exceed our expectations that the TEST program of a strong police presence in those locations on a consistent basis would reduce the number of motor vehicle violations and accidents."

In another significant development to increase the Edison Police Department's talent and diversity, Spadaro signed into law a new police hiring ordinance that will provide greater flexibility in hiring police personnel that will increase the talent and diversity of Edison's police force.

Among the changes in this ordinance for greater hiring flexibility is a change in residency requirements to allow for certain officers who are not currently Edison residents to be hired. The ordinance also allows the Edison Police to hire anyone who meets any of these criteria: Certified by the New Jersey Police Training Commission under the "Alternate Route" program, have completed two years of college and no less than 60 credits, two years active duty in the military with an honorable discharge, two years active duty in a federal, state, county or municipal law enforcement agency and be a member of the Edison Police Auxiliary for two years.

Under this ordinance no more than two officers can be hired in a year. Current police hiring requirements such as an oral interview, background investigation, medical and psychological examinations are unchanged by this new ordinance.

"After two years of hard work and support from many individuals, especially Councilman Parag Patel, Edison now has a police hiring ordinance that gives us the flexibility to hire individuals that have essential police skills," the mayor said.

"Most significantly ... this new ordinance means we can now hire more minority officers without the residency and strict Police Department experience limitation under our old ordinance," Spadaro said.

# Martin's Furniture

## President's Day Sale Extended

**7pc BEDROOM SET**

Hone Pine, 8 Drawer Triple Dresser with Hutch Mirror, Five Drawer Chest on Chest., Cannonball, Queen-size Bed and (2) Night Stands.

Reg. \$2389 **Sale \$1688**

**18th Century Mahogany Dining Room**

Rectangular Leg Table features 4-way Matched Crotch Mahogany Panels. Extends to 110". 4 Side Chairs and 2 Arm Chairs, 77" China Deck & Base.

Reg. \$7899 **Sale \$5899**

**Country 6 pc. Pine Bedroom Set: 62" Triple Dresser, Landscape Mirror, Five Drawer Chest, Queen Panel Headboard and 2 Night Stands.**

Reg. \$2479 **Sale \$1859**

## OVER 30 MASTER DINING ROOM SETS

**Drop Leaf Table**

42" Round Drop Leaf Table in Natural Butcher Block & 4 Chairs

Reg. \$469 **Sale \$349**

**Farm Table**

30"x60" Farm Table and 4 Windsor chairs. Choice of Natural, Natural with White or Natural with Green

Reg. \$429 **Sale \$325**

**American Classic 3 pc. Wall Unit in Pine, Cherry, Maple, Left Pier Center Entertainment Center & Right Pier Cabinet**

Reg. \$1849 **Sale \$1389** **!WOW! \$1249**

**Swivel Bar Stools**

Your Choice of Colors: Natural, Natural and White or Natural and Green or White Washed. 24" or 30".

**Sale \$69**

**Lane Cedar Chest**

Model Shown: "Bountiful. Pine, Distressed Medium Pine Finish, Award-winning Stencil Design, Deep Storage, 45"x18 1/2"x24ft., 5.8 Cu. Ft. Cedar Storage

Reg. \$769 **Sale \$399**

**Trestle Tile Top Table with Leaf**

Reg. \$1049 **Sale \$789**

## OVER 60 MASTER BEDROOM SETS ON SALE!

Visit our new Leather Gallery.  
Leather Sofas starting at just \$749.00

**6 pc. Cherry Traditional Bedroom Set: Triple Dresser, Landscape Mirror, Five Drawer Chest, Queen Panel Headboard and 2 Night Stands.**

Reg. \$2899 **Sale \$2159** **NOW \$1939**

**Oxford Hall Collection 7 pc. Cherry Bedroom Set: 72" Door Triple Dresser, Landscape Mirror, huge Armoire, Twisted Hi Poster Queen Bed and 2 Night Stands**

Reg. \$6699 **Sale \$4999**

## ODD SOFAS, LOVESEATS, END TABLES & JUVENILE FURNITURE UP TO 50% OFF!

**Martin's Furniture**

Financing Available

350 Rt. 22 West, Green Brook, NJ  
**732-356-8388**  
Mon.-Fri. 10-9 ♦ Sat. 10-6 ♦ Sun. 12-5  
432 Rt. 31 North, Washington, NJ  
**908-537-0075**

6 Months Interest Free to Qualified Buyers

VISA  
MasterCard  
Discover

















**In your towns**

**Project Graduation Basket Bingo**

EDISON — Edison High School Project Graduation will be sponsoring a Basket Bingo Feb. 29. Doors open at 1 p.m. and the first game will start at 2 p.m.

Refreshments, door prizes and a raffle will be held. The event will take place at Congregation Beth El, 91 Jefferson Blvd.

All proceeds to benefit the graduating class of 2004. Call (732) 248-0897 for ticket information.

**Oak Tree Nursery School registration**

EDISON — The Oak Tree Nursery School, 445 Plainfield

Road, has begun registration for the 2004-2005 school year.

The two-day, three-day and five-day classes provide a 2 1/2-hour pre-school program where children can grow socially, emotionally and intellectually. All learning is hands-on and fun.

Oak Tree School is a non-profit, non-sectarian, state-certified school. For more information call the school director, Audrey Kowalski at (732) 494-2120.

**Antiques appraiser at borough library**

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Certified antiques appraiser Alan G. Snyder be at the South Plainfield Public Library 2 p.m. March 14.

Snyder is president of A.G. Snyder and Associates of Watchung. A highly experienced professional in the field of antiques, his previous programs at the library have been

very well received. He'll provide brief appraisals of antiques brought in by the public.

Participants are limited to two items each. Appraisals will be made on a "first come, first served" basis. The program is being presented free of charge. No pre-registration is required.

South Plainfield Free Public Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave. For more information call (908) 754-7885 or visit their website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

**Defensive drivers course offered**

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — A defensive drivers course will be held March 10 and 11 at the Senior Center. A second course will be held March 13 and 20 at Muhlenberg Hospital. For more details and reservations call Mary at (732) 752-3764.



Seamstress Suzanne Gallic sews a traditional Irish dance skirt on her antique Singer sewing machine at her Warren home.

**Keeping herself in stitches**

By LESLIE A. SCOTT  
Staff Writer

WARREN — Suzanne Gallic wants everyone to know the benefits of being able to make their own clothes.

Gallic is starting sewing classes this spring at her home for those who are interested in creating some basic clothes and other items, including a window treatment.

"I think everyone should know how to do the basic stuff."

The classes will be held once a week for two months.

Gallic, who makes dresses for the Kelly Irish Dancing School in Westfield, has been a professional seamstress for the past four years.

She creates the school dress and solo dresses for those who practice and perform at Kelly School. She also does alterations for students.

She said a friend asked if she could help out with the dress-making and she gradually took over as the head seamstress at the school.

The school's uniforms are all the same: maroon with embroidered trimming. It is the solo dresses that vary in colors and design.

A school uniform can take 10 to 12 hours to make, but a solo dress can take up to 20 hours, she explained.

The dresses are not easy to make because sewing on them is like sewing on armor, she said. They are very stiff with many layers.

"With all the interfacing that's involved and all the angles that you have to work with," Gallic explained, "they are difficult to sew."

Irish dancing dresses are also expensive. A new solo dress



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Gallic has her own label.

Sewerage Authority and is a Somerset County Republican Committee member.

She has been sewing since she was a freshman in high school. There were seven children in her family and since she wanted to wear up-to-date clothing, she had to make them herself.

"I like creating stuff and I like clothing that's different."

She studied a year at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. She was already skilled by the time she entered the school, but she learned there to be comfortable with taking more risks with her designs and make the inside of a dress look just as good as the outside.

"A lot of times I just take pieces and parts of different patterns and size them up or down. Basically every dress is the same, it is the body that is different."

She does not have any desire to mass produce her fashions. Right now she enjoys working for the individual.

She explained that mass-produced clothes are made assuming that every body is built the same. Gallic can make alterations so clothing can fit better in a certain problem area. This is especially helpful for people who have a smaller waistline or larger thighs and they just want their dress to fit more comfortably.

"It's finding a creative way for people who have different needs whether it's height or weight or bust."

She also gets people in who would like to have straps or sleeves placed on a strapless dress. She did have one client who was very tall and had a dress that fitted perfectly but it wasn't long enough. Gallic added on a piece to make it longer. "It made it a totally different dress."

Making clothes at home does have financial benefits. There are many skirts in stores that sell for \$20 or more. Gallic said that those designs are so simple and could be made at a fraction of the cost.

For more information about the sewing class, call Gallic at (908) 755-0833 or email her at gallics@yahoo.com.

COMING FOR 2004 OUR NEW 5000 SQ. FOOT HEATED POOL!

# Oak Crest Day Camp

- Early Childhood Programs full and part time
- 1st-6th Grade Programs - Teen Travel Programs
- 5 Pools - Daily Instructional & Free Swim
- Red Cross Certified Swim Staff & Bumper Boats
- Door-Door Transportation-Hot Lunch Program
- Extended Care Available
- Full Athletic Programs, Ropes Course, Mini-Golf, Archery, Special Event Days...
- Fine Arts, Arts & Crafts, Mountain Biking, Ceramics, Go-Carts, and Wild and Crazy Special Events
- Professionally Trained AMAZING Staff & so much more...

Jonathan M. Gold, Director  
Call (732) 297-2000

FOR A PERSONAL TOUR OR OUR NEW BROCHURE AND VIDEO.

SAVE NOW WITH OUR MID-WINTER RATES EXPIRE 2/23

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22ND 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

We grow happy campers!

GROUPS CLOSING ACT NOW!

**Oak Crest Day Camp**

92 Cortelyous Lane Somerset, NJ 08873 Phone: (732) 297-2000  
www.oakcrestdaycamp.com Jonathan M. Gold, Director

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR PARENT TESTIMONIALS, INFO, DIRECTIONS AND GREAT SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES: www.oakcrestdaycamp.com

**\$50.00 OFF Any Program With This Ad!**

## DIABETIC ???

If you have Medicare or Private Insurance you may be eligible to receive your

**Diabetic supplies at NO COST TO YOU!**

For more information call -

**APEX DIABETIC SUPPLY**

TOLL FREE 1-800-493-7277

# Switching Banks. Perfected.

**Valley's Perfect Switch<sup>SM</sup>**

The hassle-free way to move accounts to Valley. Open a new checking, savings account or CD at Valley and we'll make it easy to close and switch-over your accounts. Unlike most banks, Valley's team does all the work for you...and we monitor the entire process. Visit any of our offices... or call **1-800-522-4100** to get started.

**Valley National Bank**

www.valleynationalbank.com 1-800-522-4100

© 2004 Valley National Bank. Member FDIC.

## Art auction to benefit choir trip

METUCHEN — The St. Luke's Episcopal Church Choir will host an Art Auction today at the church, 17 Oak Avenue, Metuchen.

The preview will begin at 7 p.m. with the live auction starting at 8 p.m. Ross Galleries of Holbrook, N.Y. will conduct the auction, which will feature more than 150 custom framed and matted works of art, lithographs, etchings, serigraphs, animation cells, watercolors and original oils signed by the artist, documented sports memorabilia and estate jewelry.

Featured artists include Kincaide, Wooster Scott, Picasso, Delacoroix, Chagall, Boulanger, Neiman, Fauchere and Shaviko. The majority of the art will have opening bids ranging from \$45 to \$300. Opening bids are generally 50 percent less than traditional framed gallery pieces.

Tickets for the event are \$10 and the community is welcome. The ticket price includes a wine and cheese social with hors d'oeuvres and desserts throughout the auction.

The funds raised by the event will benefit the choir's summer concert tour of London.

For tickets and further information contact St. Luke's at (732) 548-4308.