

The ATOM TABLOID

& Citizen-Gazette

VOL. 120, NO. 38

Friday, September 7, 2001

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504

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Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Events Fall 2001 Schedule

MIDDLESEX COUNTY —
The Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management is pleased to announce its first Fall-Household Hazardous Waste Days scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15 at the Woodbridge Public Works. Other upcoming dates include Saturday, Oct. 20 at the Middlesex County Road Department in North Brunswick on Apple Orchard Lane; and on Sunday, Nov. 18 at the Middlesex County College in Edison, near the Mill Rd. entrance. All collection times are 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Household hazardous wastes that are improperly disposed of are identified as a danger to children and animals, a potential cause of ground water pollution and a potential threat to garbage collection crews.

Acceptable materials which County residents can bring to the events for disposal include but are not limited to: pesticides/herbicides, flammable liquids, solvents, pool chemicals, used motor oil, oil filters, paints, car batteries, household batteries, anti-freeze, propane tanks, fluorescent light bulbs (no bro-

ken bulbs) and asbestos. Residents wishing to bring asbestos must pre-register by calling the Division.

Materials that residents must not bring and will not be accepted at the drop-off days are tires, explosives and munitions, infectious waste, unknown materials and empty containers. Please contact the Division for information regarding a separate Tire Recycling Program.

Drop-off Days are sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and conducted in cooperation with the

Township of Woodbridge, the County Roads Department, and Middlesex County College. The events are open to residents of Middlesex County only and are free of charge. Items should be brought in clearly marked containers.

For further information, residents may contact the Division of Solid Waste Management by calling (732) 745-4170; by e-mailing mcswm@superlink.net or by visiting the following web site: www.njhazwaste.com/midhome.htm.

NJ Transit Police Officer Promoted

AREA—Eleven NJ Transit police officers have been promoted to sergeant or lieutenant positions within the 141-member department, responsible for protecting 384,000 daily passengers, 10,000 employees and all of the statewide transportation Corporation's facilities and equipment.

During a ceremony at NJ Transit's headquarters building in Newark, each of the officers was recognized for their professionalism and dedication in

law enforcement.

"These officers — and the other men and women serving in the NJ Transit Police Department — are committed to the safety and protection of thousands of bus, rail and light rail passengers and employees throughout the State of New Jersey," said NJ Transit Executive Director Jeffrey A. Warsh. "Thanks to their efforts, our

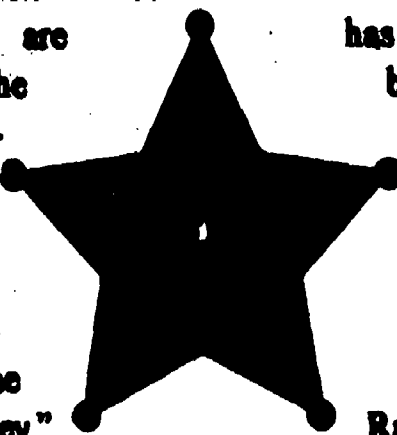
passengers are riding one of the safest public transportation systems in the world."

"Each of these officers has a tremendous background in law enforcement and strong rapport with their peers," said NJ Transit Police Chief Mary F. Rabadeau. "I have the greatest respect and confidence in these officers and their abilities to perform the new duties and responsibilities that will fall in their individual jurisdictions."

Locally the following were

promoted from police officer to sergeant:

Robert T. Leminelle of Woodbridge, a 14-year veteran of the NJ Transit Police Department. Leminelle earned an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Middlesex County Community College. Leminelle graduated from the Jersey City Police Academy and has served in the NJ Transit Police Department Patrol Division and as a Field Training Officer. Prior to joining NJ Transit, Leminelle was an officer with the William Paterson College Campus Police Department.



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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

History Programming For Middlesex County

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — History Grants Program. For the second year, The Funding for History Grants supports programming or projects relating to New Jersey history, Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission announces recipients of grants from its staffing or technical needs,

and/or publications. More than \$30,000 went to over a dozen non-profit organizations within Middlesex County.

The funding program also ensures inclusion of those with disabilities. As a condition of providing history programming support, the Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA, must have been addressed in order for a grant to be approved. Project Grants had to serve a public or student audience in accordance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Staffing Grants needed to confirm to Title II of the ADA. For instance, the Buchleuch Mansion located in Jamesburg received funding for the creation of a video of the mansion's sec-

ond floor. Those who cannot access the second floor due to mobility impairments can visit the area via video technology. Buchleuch also received approval for the creation of large-print publication materials for those with vision impairments.

The Commission reviewed applications from museums, historical societies, historical commissions, preservation groups, historic sites and cemetery preservation groups for possible Project or Staff Grants. Libraries, human relations groups, community organizations, arts commissions, celebratory commissions, civic groups, parks and recreation departments, municipal groups and

other cultural groups were restricted to Project Grants. Overall, thirteen applicants from Middlesex County based not-for-profits were awarded funding.

For more information about the ADA compliance requirements, the approved projects or the organizations that received grants, contact Isha Vyas, History Services/Grants Coordinator at (732) 745-4489. Funding for the 2001 History Grants is, in part, from the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State.

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AFSCME Council 73 Endorses Vitale

"I am honored to have the support of the New Jersey State AFSCME Council 73," said Senator Vitale.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — The New Jersey State AFSCME Council 73 announced their endorsement of State Senator Joseph F.

Vitale in his bid for reelection.

"Senator Vitale has proven to be a tireless advocate for working families," said Gerard Meara, Executive Director AFSCME Council 73. "He has consistently fought for our members who provide essential care in New Jersey health-care institutions."

"I am honored to have the support of the New Jersey State AFSCME Council 73," said Senator Vitale. "This endorsement represents the time and effort we have dedicated to being a voice from the working families of the Nineteenth Legislative District. I am proud to know that AFSCME Council 73 sup-

ports me in this endeavor and we will continue to work together to improve the quality of life for residents of the Nineteenth District and the State of New Jersey."

AFSCME, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, is the nation's largest union of public employees, with over 1.3 million members. The New Jersey Council of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFSCME Council 73, is one of the 65 district councils that are affiliated with AFSCME International. Council 73's 10,000 members work for cities, counties, the State, private universities and other local units of government.

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

'No Tax Increase' For Municipal Budget In Woodbridge

WOODBIDGE—Woodbridge Mayor James E. McGreevey has introduced a Fiscal Year 2002 budget which contains no tax increase for municipal services.

The proposed budget of \$80.4 million maintains the current municipal tax rate of \$1.06 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. For the owner of a home assessed at \$75,000, the tax bill for municipal services will remain at \$792. The total tax levy for municipal services is \$33.4 million.

The Mayor noted that municipal services account for approximately 19 cents of every property tax dollar in Woodbridge Township. The school district tax

levy, which accounts for 62 cents of every property tax dollar in Woodbridge, has increased by an average of nearly \$1,000 for every Woodbridge household since 1990, resulting now in an average tax burden for school district purposes of approximately \$2,500.

* With the support and cooperation of the public in bagging leaves and other recycling initiatives, Woodbridge is saving more than \$600,000 in reduced landfill disposal costs each year while protecting and preserving our environment.

* Working with the Woodbridge Economic Development Corporation, Woodbridge has generated over 4,000 new job

opportunities, boosting Township rateables.

* Crime totals continue to decrease, underscoring the value of programs such as police accreditation and community policing initiatives.

* Opportunities for family recreation activities are expanding with programs such as the Mayor's Summer Concert Series, the Woodbridge Community Center, the new 39-acre park in Sewaren, the Community Playground, youth leagues sponsored by the Woodbridge Township Youth Recreation Council and the municipal pools operated by the Woodbridge Branch YMCA.

In addition, the Township is working in partnership with other governmental agencies to move forward on several major initiatives while maintaining the impact on local taxpayers.

* Construction is nearing completion for the new 39-acre park on the Sewaren Peninsula that will provide Woodbridge families with passive recreational opportunities. The park, being funded by Middlesex County, will include a playground and an amphitheater.

* Construction of the Woodbridge Community Center is under way. The indoor family and recreation facility will be built and operated without municipal tax dollars. The completed project

will feature an NHL-sized ice rink, a 75 x 150 roller rink, indoor pool, gymnasium, wellness center, computer lab, theatrical area, arts/crafts room and multi-purpose rooms.

* The Township has approved plans and specifications for the Woodbridge Center Drive/Main Street intersection, which will be improved with a \$20 million project (funded with Federal and State dollars) that includes an overpass with ramps.

* Woodbridge is using \$1.5 million in State funds to further expand Fords Park. The park already has been enhanced by a \$2.5 million improvement project, funded by Middlesex County.

Musical Theatre And Acting Workshops

FORDS—This fall the American School for Performing Arts will offer two new Performing Arts Workshops on Tuesday evenings. Workshop classes begin on Sept. 25 for a period of twelve weeks. Students age 11-17 can choose either the Musical Theatre Workshop or the Acting Workshop.

The musical track includes a singing class, a Musical Theatre production class and an Acting class. Students who wish to study only acting receive classes in Acting and an Oral In-

terpretation class, which includes speech and diction training for the stage. Admission to class is by interview only.

Teachers for these classes include Rod Hausen and Sue Winik. Both have extensive professional musical and theatrical credits and both have specialized in the training of young professionals for over 25 years. Classes are given for both beginning and advanced students. The school is located in Fords.

For more information, call (732) 738-8239.

Council Tables Oakcrest Decision

EDISON—The township council discussed the idea of trying to acquire the Oakcrest Swim Club on Inman Avenue to preserve it as a community pool during the Aug. 22 council meeting. However, the council decided to table the issue.

Councilman Charles Tomaro originated the plan to acquire the 14-acre club because the club's owners are looking to sell to a developer. If the plan is approved, Edison officials can begin negotiating to buy the club. However, if negotiations fail, the council could use its power of eminent domain to forcibly acquire the property.

Tomaro said that one of the swim club's owners asked him if the council would consider changing the zoning of the club from light industrial to residential, so that potential developers would have more options.

The club has been a part of the

neighborhood since 1957, but has seen a decline in membership in recent years. However, use increased sharply this year when the Edison-Metuchen YMCA began to lease the club for a new day camp.

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NO MINIMUM BID • NO RESERVE BID

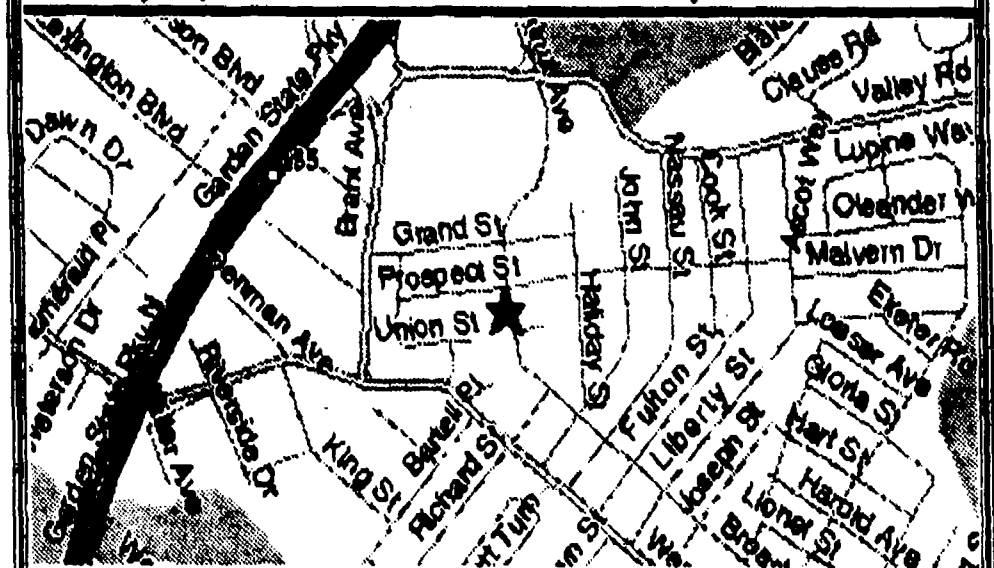
IMPORTANT: This means each unreserved rug will be sold on the highest bid
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• If a large 9' x 12' room-size unreserved Persian rug only reaches \$900.00 it will be sold, if it only reaches \$700.00 it will be sold, if it only reaches \$500.00 it will be sold on the final bid. Be Prepared To Take Advantage. Come Early, Limited Seating Available.

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Auction Held: Sunday, September 9, 2001

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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

Early Voting

AREA—There's a good chance that the polls will open an hour earlier in November, which should help boost voter turnout. Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco is considering legislation passed by the Senate and Assembly with bi-partisan support that opens the polls at 6 a.m. instead of the traditional 7 a.m. starting time.

The bill was sponsored in the Assembly by Thomas Kean, Jr. and Albio Sires; in the Senate by Anthony Bucco and Bernard Kenny. All four legislators have sizeable commuter constituencies.

Test Your Heating System

AREA—Summer does not officially end until Sept. 22, but PSE&G is urging customers to test their furnaces now, before chilly weather arrives. Should customers have difficulties starting their systems, they can call PSE&G's 24-hour customer service center at 1-800-350-PSEG (7734) to arrange assistance from a service technician.

Customers whose gas central heating system has a pilot light should check to make sure it is lit. If they require assistance in lighting the pilot, PSE&G will perform this service free of charge before Sept. 17. From Sept. 17-Oct. 31, there is a \$25 charge to perform this service.

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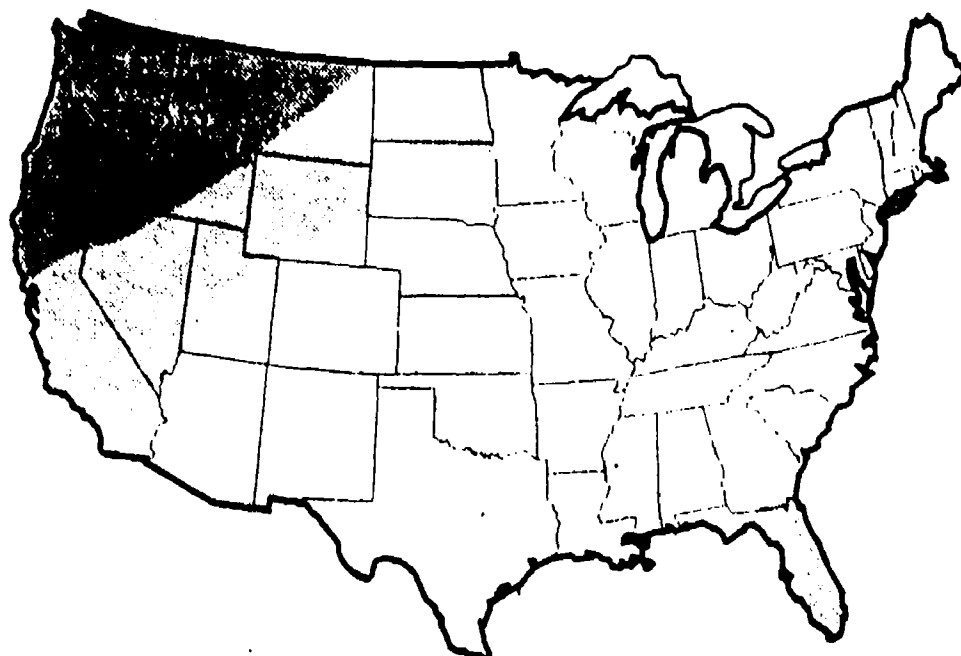
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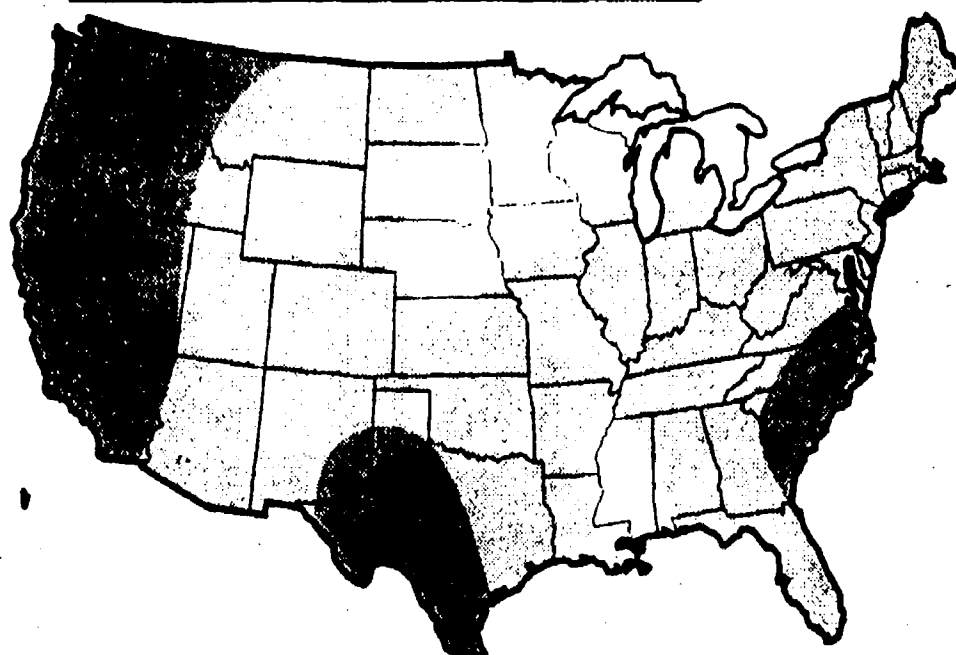
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A GRAPHICAL FORECAST OF TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION TRENDS FOR LABOR DAY WEEK



Precipitation



ABOVE
NORMAL



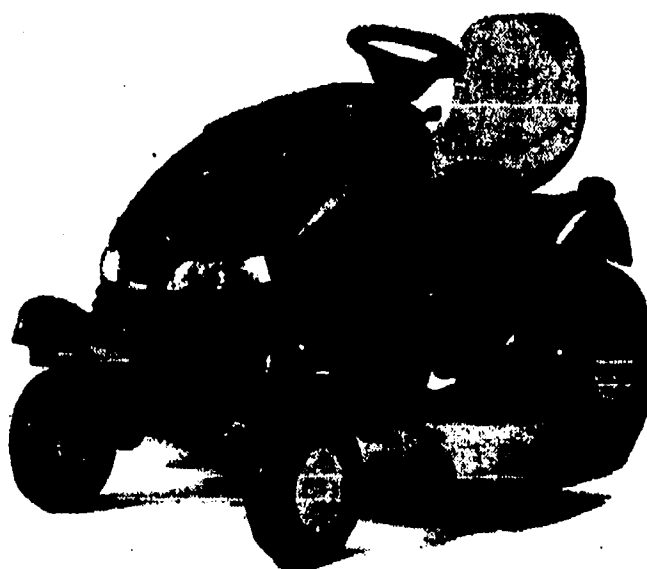
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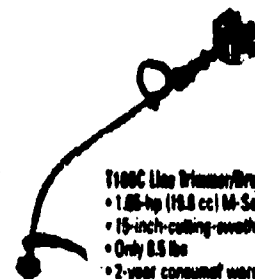
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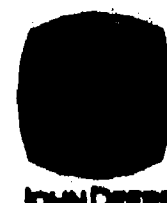


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Join Union County College As A CISCO Local Academy

AREA — Union County College is a CISCO Regional Academy and provides training and technical support to other area CISCO local academies. As

a regional academy, Union County College is seeking to support ten local academies. Currently, seven of these are located at: Elizabeth High

School, Cranford High School, Hillside High School, Franklin Township Board of Education, Middlesex County College, and the County College of Morris.

UCC provides training to the employees of each local academy preparing them to become CISCO Certified Network Associates (CCNA). These employees, in turn, train the students in their academies for CCNA certification.

In those academies located in high schools, juniors and seniors can take classes during their regular academic day that will prepare them to become CCNAs. Upon graduating from high school, these students will be eligible to participate in the CISCO Work-based Learning Program, offered at Union County College that will help to

place CCNAs in employment.

To learn more about the CISCO programming, UCC's Office of Continuing Education and Community Services will be hosting an Open House on Wed., Sept. 12, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Seminar Rooms A & B on the College's Cranford campus at 1033 Springfield Avenue and on the Plainfield Campus at 232 Second Street.

For more information on CISCO or becoming a local academy in this exciting program, contact Dr. Paul Willenbrock, Dean of Continuing Education at 908-709-7603.

Foundation Offers Free Teasing And Bullying Workshop

AREA — Committed to the promotion of violence prevention, the NJ State Bar Foundation's latest initiative, "An Introduction to Teasing and Bullying," complements its conflict resolution program and focuses on the issue of bullying. Newspapers and broadcast media are full of stories about bullying in our nation's schools, playgrounds and neighborhoods. This only emphasizes the importance of teaching educators how to recognize the problem and developing ways to combat it.

The Foundation's first training will be held Thurs., Sept. 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This interactive training session will:

- Educate teachers, administra-

tors and para-professionals about the myths and facts of bullying.

- Allow attendees to differentiate teasing from bullying and tattling vs. reporting.

- Explore strategies for creating a peaceful classroom and helping targets of bullying as well as the students who bully.

- Examine ways to develop a school-wide approach to bullying.

The Foundation is a registered NJ professional development provider. Teachers will receive 6-1/2 professional development hours for the training session. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Space is limited to 25 participants. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more informa-

tion or future training dates, call Leisa-Anne Smith at 732-937-7517.

The N.J. State Bar Foundation's mission is to promote public understanding of the law through a free, comprehensive public education program. Among its activities, the Foundation, established in 1958, conducts seminars and conflict resolution training, publishes materials, operates a videotape loan library and speakers bureau, and coordinates elementary, middle and high school mock trial competitions. For more information about the Foundation's programs and publications, visit online at www.njsbf.org or call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

Historical Commission Sponsors Teaching Prize

STATE — The N.J. Historical Commission is now accepting nominations for its 2002 Mildred Barry Garvin Prize. The Garvin Prize, an award of \$1,000, is given for outstanding efforts in making students aware of and interested in African-American history. The late Mildred Barry Garvin (1926-1993) was a member of the N.J. General Assembly and the Historical Commission. Legislation she sponsored established the Commission's Afro-American History Program in 1984.

In 2001, two teachers shared the prize. Natalie Kieninger, Dennis Township Elementary School, Dennis Township, and William E. Gaines, Sr., Columbia High School, South Orange-Maplewood School District. Ms. Kieninger, inspired by the story quilts of renowned black artist Faith Ringgold, has had her fourth-grade students fashion "Heroes of African-American History" quilts. For ten years Mr. Gaines has prepared a curriculum for, and taught a course on, African history and its relationship to African-American history and served as the mentor to the Columbia High School team that participates in the annual "African-

American History Challenge Bowl."

Teachers, counselors, or school librarians who have helped students learn about the African-American past, and how it relates to New Jersey, are eligible. Such persons can be engaged in K-12 education in a public, private, parochial, or charter school. Nominations must be postmarked by Nov. 1. The awardee will be notified by Jan. 17, 2002.

The Commission will present the Garvin Prize at its Annual

Black History Month Conference, Sat., Feb. 16, 2002, at the Paul Robeson Campus Center, Rutgers University in Newark.

To obtain a nomination form and information for the Garvin Prize, as well as information for the Annual Black History Month Conference, please contact Giles R. Wright, Director, Afro-American History Program, NJ Historical Commission, P.O. Box 305, Trenton, NJ 08625-0305; 609-292-6062; fax 609-633-8168; email giles.wright@sos.state.nj.us

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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS

The Rebates Are Coming! The Rebates Are Coming!

by Dr. Karen Ensle,
RD, FADA, CFCS

AREA — New Jerseyans are in store for a double windfall during the next few months. Not only will we be receiving our state property tax relief checks this fall, but President Bush and the U.S. Congress are also sending us a federal tax refund. Federal tax refund checks will be sent according to a staggered schedule, based on the last two digits of a person's Social Security number. For couples, the IRS will use the first Social Security number listed on a couple's tax return.

The mailing of federal tax refund checks (there was no time to verify bank account information for direct deposit) began the week of July 23 and will continue through the week of Sept. 24. If you're planning to move in the next few months, be sure to notify the IRS so your check is not delayed. Ditto for notifying the state Division of Taxation so that you receive that check also.

The federal tax refund is a result of a change in the structure of federal marginal tax brackets. A new 10% marginal tax bracket was added, reducing the tax rate from 15% to 10% on the first \$6,000 of taxable income for singles, \$12,000 for married couples filing jointly, and \$10,000 for heads of households. This translates into a \$300 refund for single taxpayers, \$600 for couples, and \$500 for heads of households who earn the full amount of income in the 10% bracket for their tax filing status. For those who earn less than the full 10% tax bracket amount, refund checks will be pro-rated.

So what are you going to do with these two windfalls? This is an important question because some families will be receiving around \$1,000 from both the state and federal rebates combined. Now is the time to make plans for wise use of this money because it is a significant enough sum to affect your future financial security. Below are several ideas to invest it for your

future:

First, there is probably no better "investment" of \$1,000 than to repay consumer debt (e.g., outstanding credit card bills). Paying off an 18% credit card is equivalent to earning a 25% return for a person in the 28% tax bracket ($18 \div (1 - .28) = 25$). That's because you'd have to earn a 25% return to be left with 18% after taxes. Unlike investments, like stocks and bonds, the amount that you'll earn by repaying debt is guaranteed and tax-free.

If you have no outstanding consumer debt (congratulations!), consider investing your tax rebates. A number of low-cost investment alternatives are available, including mutual funds that require \$1,000 or less to open an account and hundreds of stocks with direct

purchase plans (check the Web site www.netstockdirect.com). In addition, U.S. Treasury securities (bills, notes, and bonds) are available in \$1,000 increments, as are unit investment trusts and corporate bonds. Don't think a \$1,000 investment will really matter? Think again. With an 8% return, your money will double in nine years according to the Rule of 72. At the end of 20 years, your one-time \$1,000 investment will grow to \$4,660. Check the Web site www.investing.rutgers.edu for additional investment ideas.

You could also use \$1,000 to fund half of your 2001 IRA. Check the calculators linked to the Web site www.rothira.com to determine whether a traditional or Roth IRA is a better choice based on your age,

planned retirement date, and marginal tax bracket. You are allowed to contribute up to \$2,000 maximum to any IRA or combination of IRAs. In the years 2002-2004, the maximum IRA contribution amount will increase to \$3,000 and eventually rise to \$5,000 in 2008 and later.

Another good option is to invest in yourself or, as economists like to say, "build your human capital." Take a course or other job training experience to improve your knowledge and skills. It could eventually lead to a raise or promotion and pay back your tuition payment many times over. Two good places to continue your education are county community colleges and professional or trade associations related to your occupation.

Employer Benefits Save Time And Money

by Dr. Karen Ensle,
RD, FADA, CFCS

AREA — Many employers offer workers benefits in addition to a paycheck. Benefits may include paid time off, retirement savings plans, health and/or life insurance, employee discounts, and education benefits. Fringe benefits often equal a quarter (or more) of a worker's salary. They are generally provided at no or low cost to employees and provide products or services that workers would otherwise have to pay for out-of-pocket or do without (e.g., health insurance). Benefits are generally tax-free, so for average earners, every dollar of benefits is worth about \$1.40 of earnings. Below is a description of a dozen common employer benefits:

1. **Health Insurance** — Options include health maintenance organizations (HMOs), preferred provider organizations (PPOs), and "fee for service" (a.k.a., "indemnity") plans. Other health benefits provided by some employers include dental coverage, vision care, a prescription drug plan, and health insurance coverage for eligible retirees.

2. **Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs)** — These plans allow workers to contribute up to \$5,000 of pre-tax income annually to be used for out-of-pocket medical expenses and child/elder care. Thus, for every \$100 set aside, workers save \$15

to \$39.60 in federal tax. Any money left in an FSA account at the end of the calendar year is lost; it cannot be carried over.

3. **Employer Disability Insurance** — This coverage helps make up for lost wages, usually for a short time period like two years, if a worker is sick or injured on the job or anywhere else.

4. **Tuition Reimbursement** — Generally employees pay for courses and their employer reimburses them if they receive a passing grade.

5. **Child/Elder Care** — Benefits can include an on-site dependent care center, emergency (e.g., sick child) care, overnight care for business travel, and resource and referral services.

6. **Employee Discounts** — Examples include store discounts for retail workers and free or reduced travel for airline employees and low-cost college courses for university employees. Many employers also provide discounts on their products/services or company stock.

7. **Retirement Plans** — Employer benefits include pensions (defined benefit, defined contribution, or cash balance) profit-sharing plans, thrift savings plans, employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs), and salary-reduction type plans such as 401(k) and 403(b) plans.

8. **Group Term Life Insurance** — Benefits are generally

a multiple (e.g., three times) of a worker's salary. Coverage generally ends upon termination of employment.

9. **Legal and Financial Counseling** — Some employers provide pre-packaged legal services or financial seminars. Other employee assistance benefits include counseling for family/marital problems or substance abuse.

10. **Incentive Stock Options** — These are increasingly being offered to non-managerial workers and allow employees to receive cash or company stock after a specified vesting period (e.g., three to five years).

11. **"Cafeteria Plans"** — Employers provide a fixed amount of benefit options (e.g., insurance, vacation).

12. **"Flex-Time" and Telecommuting** — Some employers provide workers with flexibility in their workday, thus saving them commutation time and money. Often a certain number of "core" hours are required, however, after which people can choose the hours that they work.

This MONEY 2000™ message is sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. MONEY 2000™ is a program designed to increase the financial well being of New Jersey residents through increased savings and reduced household debt. For further information about MONEY 2000™ and other educational programs, contact your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension office.

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YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Diversifying Organ Donations

AREA — September marks Minority Health Month 2001 in New Jersey and throughout the nation. Minorities are predisposed to certain illnesses, such as diabetes, that may lead to a need for organ transplants, according to Thomas Cannon, Community Relations Manager for The Sharing Network. However, minority groups have historically been less likely to donate their organs — which has led to a minority donation shortfall. This shortfall can cause a longer wait for minorities awaiting transplants because some blood and tissue matches are closest within races.

In order to reach the minority community with their life-saving

message, The Sharing Network has formed an African-American Planning Committee (AAPC) whose goal it is to raise \$100,000 to be used toward an African-American media campaign that will help to educate minorities about the importance of registering to become an organ donor. The committee is composed of more than 30 people — many of whom are African-American transplant recipients. "Our goal is to have our committee members spread the life-saving message of organ donation throughout their churches, civic organizations and places of employment," Cannon said.

"African-Americans have a high blood pressure and kidney

failure rate four times greater than Caucasians. Hispanic-Americans face a type 2 diabetes rate estimated to be two times higher than Caucasians and about 24% of Mexican-Americans in the United States and 26% of Puerto Ricans between the ages of 45-74 have diabetes," he said.

"In the United States, the incidence of end-stage renal disease, a condition where the patient requires dialysis or a kidney transplant in order to live, in people with diabetes is more than four times as high in African-Americans and four to six times as high in Mexican-Americans and six times as high as Native-Americans than the general population of diabetes patients," he added.

With over 2,000 NJ residents currently on waiting lists for life-saving transplants — nationally that figure is over 76,000 — we rely on our dedicated staff of volunteers, such as the African-American Planning Committee, to go out into the community and spread the word about organ donation and transplantation," said Joseph Roth, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Sharing Network. "Their efforts are invaluable to us," he said.

The Sharing Network's annual African-American Heritage Award Ceremony, to be held at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark on Feb. 14, 2002, is one of many initiatives the volunteers are responsible for orchestrating. The Sharing Network volunteers will continue to be involved in many

outreach activities — promoting organ donor awareness — throughout Minority Health Month including participation in city festivals, community health fairs, civic organization sponsored walk-a-thons and numerous other activities in churches and local conventions throughout the state.

The Sharing Network is a non-profit, federally certified, state-approved procurement organization responsible for recovering organs and tissue for transplant in New Jersey. For more information on how to become an organ donor or to join the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, call the Sharing Network at 1-800-SHARE-NJ or visit their web site at www.sharenj.org.

2001 "Walk-Along" For Lupus

AREA — This year, the Lupus Foundation of America, New Jersey Chapter, will hold a statewide 5K (3.2M) "Walk-Along for Lupus" events on Sun., Oct. 21, at Johnson Park, Grove 4, River Road in Piscataway. This event is part of our national and statewide Lupus Awareness Month designed to alert the public about the potentially devastating disease, lupus.

This fun and fund-raising event begins with registration at 9:00 A.M. Corporate sponsors include AES NewEnergy, BJ's Wholesale Club, and Dunkin Donuts. DJ Plus starring Tom Blair of Nutley will supply music. In addition to a continental breakfast, warm up aerobics start the day with the official 'Walk' beginning at 10 a.m. When completed, walkers will enjoy a

festive celebration (clowns, balloons, — bring the kids) with local radio personalities. Prizes will be awarded to top money raisers. Every participant who registers with a \$10.00 donation will receive a gift bag and 'walkers' who bring in at least \$75.00 the day of the "Walk-Along For Lupus" will also receive a "T" shirt.

Gloria Spadaro, Executive

Director of the Lupus Foundation of America, New Jersey Chapter explains, "Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that, according to recent research, affects over 2 million Americans, mainly women in their childbearing years. As yet, we still don't know the cause or have a cure for lupus, but recent breakthroughs give us hope. The challenge is still ours to raise the research monies needed to utilize this information to find improved and less toxic medications. Early detection is a key to a good prognosis especially to the many teens that have lupus. This event serves three important purposes: to increase public awareness of

this multi-system, complex and often devastating disease, to help raise funds for vital lupus research, and to maintain and expand the foundation's support services for lupus patients and their families."

Mrs. Spadaro, who has lupus, comments "that awareness is paramount because more people have Lupus than AIDS, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Sickle Cell Anemia and Cystic Fibrosis combined."

Join us on Oct. 21 by walking individually, as a team, or by volunteering your time. To sign up to receive more information, contact the LFA/NJ at 800-322-5816.

A Healthy Way To Help Sick Kids

AREA — The National Retail Systems Liberty Waterfront Run will again showcase the finest running talent on the East Coast competing alongside everyday health joggers with the blare of the starter's horn on Sun., Sept. 30.

The 8th annual event, staged at Jersey City's Mack-Cali Harborside Financial Center, is host to the DiFeo Half-Marathon, the Liberty 5K Run & Health Walk and the Fleet Youth Run, a half-mile race for grade-school kids. Runners and walkers of all ages and abilities from top athletes to weekend warriors are encouraged to enter and have fun.

At 13.1 miles, the DiFeo Half-Marathon is an endurance test, run through Liberty State Park and local streets with spectacular views of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the Manhattan skyline. The dramatic finish at the foot of Montgomery Street affords runners and spectators a stunning vista across the Hudson.

This year's Half-Marathon

has been accorded the dual honor of being designated as the USA Track & Field, New Jersey championship for men and women and the USA East Region Half-Marathon championship. Running teams hailing from Maine to West Virginia will converge on the waterfront to vie for awards, prize money and bragging rights. For 2001, the National Retail Systems Liberty Waterfront Run is the sponsor of the USATF-New Jersey Running Club Grand Prix Series.

The Liberty 5K Run & Health Walk is the peoples' event, a good-time celebration in the fresh early autumn air. The quick and the leisurely will cruise the 3.1 miles from Harborside to the finish line as DJ music guides them to the awaiting refreshments and post race activities.

For the children, there is the Fleet Youth Run sponsored by Fleet Bank. Kids from 1st through 8th grades give their best in this exciting half-mile run. All the youngsters will

receive a commemorative medal for their efforts.

All participants receive the Liberty goodie bag, a custom-designed Liberty Waterfront Run shirt, food and drink and the chance to win a random prize. Pre-Registration fee (before Sept. 24) for the Half-Marathon or 5K Run & Health Walk is \$20.00. The Fleet Youth Run costs \$5.00. For more information or an application, call 201-915-2040 or visit www.LibertyHCS.org.

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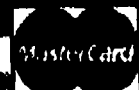
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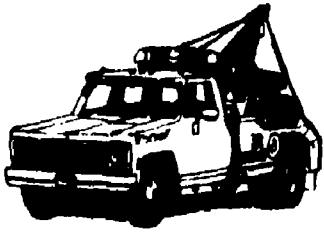
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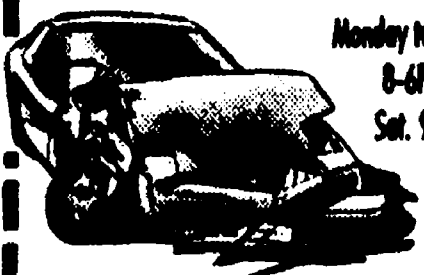
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Back To School

School's Open—Drive Carefully

AREA—In the coming weeks, sidewalks, school bus stops and roads will be booming as thousands of children walk, bike and ride their way to school. As the 2001-02 school year begins, AAA Mid-Atlantic once again reminds motorists to remember the ABC's of auto safety in its *School's Open—Drive Carefully* campaign.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 404 school-age pedestrians died in traffic crashes in 1999. AAA's annual *School's Open—Drive Carefully* campaign alerts motorists to the special risks to school-age children from motor vehicle fatalities. In the campaign, AAA emphasizes that driving carefully begins even before you leave your driveway.

The key is to expect the unexpected, as some children have very little experience in dealing with traffic situations. There could be kids walking or biking to school right behind you as you

back out of your driveway. When driving in school zones, near playgrounds, or in neighborhoods where children play, expect a child to dart out into the roadway. That way, you'll never be taken by surprise and be able to stop in time.

During the campaign, AAA is noting that drivers should remember that children are not small adults. It could be more difficult for a child to judge traffic situations because their peripheral vision is one-third narrower than an adult's. Children may also make the mistake of assuming that if they can see a car, the driver can see them—often motorists have a difficult time seeing children because of their small stature.

To help protect the children, AAA Mid-Atlantic urges motorists to follow these safety tips:

- * Slow down in or near school zones and residential areas.
- * Get in the habit now of recognizing school zones on your

route.

* Always stop for school buses that are loading or unloading students, as state laws in PA, DE and NJ require.

* Look for bicycles, children playing or AAA School Safety Patrol members, which indicate children are nearby.

* Scan between parked vehicles and other danger zones for hiding children.

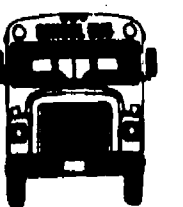
* Drive with headlights on at all times so children and other drivers can see you.

* Practice extra caution in bad weather.

* Be prepared to take evasive action—fast.

AAA has conducted the *School's Open—Drive Carefully* campaign for 68 years. AAA started the National School Safety Patrol movement in 1920, and continues to be the sole, national sponsor of the program.

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Looking For 100 Couples To Attend Unique "Hallowedding" Ceremony

AREA—Combine the macabre Halloween season, a full moon, Dracula, dead flowers, a massive, morbid cake and the nation's largest seasonal theme park, and what do you get? Six Flags Great Adventure theme park's unusual "Hallowedding," a mass, Halloween-themed wedding ceremony. Six Flags is looking for 100 couples to either marry or renew their vows, offering them a complete, bargain wedding package. The "Hallowedding" will take place in the theme park during the annual Fright Fest Halloween festival at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 12.

In celebration of Fright Fest, the Northeast's largest Halloween party, Six Flags Great Adventure held its first "Hallowedding" on Friday, the 13, 2000. What began as small special event evolved into an elaborate and extraordinary event, capturing the attention of national and local media. Forty couples from five states were married under a full moon on that spooktacular evening and this year the park officials are

expanding the event hope to join 100 couples in marriage.

Couples on a boo-dget or those looking for an atypical wedding should consider the "Hallowedding," as the entire package will only cost \$55 per couple for Six Flags season passholders, and \$75 per couple for non-passholders. The package includes Count Dracula as "best man," Evil-Lynn as "maid of honor," the restless spirits of the dead as the wedding party (who sing and dance during the ceremony), outrageous dead flower *booquets* and *bootonnieres*, a festive reception with buffet dinner, dancing, DJ, creepy wedding cake and photo and so much more. Those couples without wedding rings can exchange park-supplied plastic spider rings.

The evening's special guest emcee (last year featured Elvis), will welcome the couples and their guests, turning the event over to the justice of the peace. The couples will then pledge their eternal love under a full moon, exchanging vows and rings. In true Six Flags Fright Fest-style, the wedding



will end with a "bang" and guests will be invited back to the FestHaus for a reception of mischief and merriment at 7:30 p.m.

The guest emcee will lead revelers in a bone-chilling "Bloody Mary" toast and introduce the wedding song. The happy couples and their guests

will enjoy a buffet dinner of chicken Francos and lasagna, as a DJ spins Halloween music and beckons guests to the dance floor. The couples will also receive a free wedding photo, posed in front of an enormous, three-tiered wedding cake covered in black and purple flowers, bugs, severed fingers and topped with talking witch and Frankenstein figures. "Hallowedding" guests can party and howl at the moon until the clock strikes 10 p.m. or head out into the theme park until 11 p.m.

All general park guests are welcome to watch the "Hallowedding" ceremony as it unfolds, free with park admission (reception not open to the general public, but park/reception tickets may be purchased in advance by friends and families of the couples). The Friday the 12th "Hallowedding" is part of Fright Fest at Six Flags Great Adventure, the Northeast's largest Halloween party. On Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays from Sept. 28 to Oct. 28 (plus Columbus Day, Oct. 8), Six Flags Great Adventure will unearth a thoroughly gha-

ly collection of Halloween-themed rides, attractions and shows for scream-seekers.

Couples interested in more information should call Six Flags Great Adventure's Scream Team at (732) 928-2000, ext. 2833. The event will be limited to the first 100 couples to register, the registration deadline is Sept. 28 and reception space is limited to the first several hundred guests to pre-purchase their tickets.

Six Flags Great Adventure is owned by Six Flags, Inc., the world's largest regional theme park company. The company owns and operates 39 parks throughout North America, Latin America and Europe. Six Flags theme parks serves 20 of the 25 largest metropolitan areas in the United States. The parks annually host more than 50 million guests worldwide. A publicly held corporation, Six Flags, Inc. maintains corporate offices in New York City and Oklahoma City. The company's stock trades on the NYSE under the symbol: PKS.

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EDITORIAL

Guest Editorial

Back To School Welcome

by Commissioner of Education, Vito A. Gagliardi, Sr.
Dear Editor,

I would like to welcome the 1.3 million children and more than 100,000 teachers and other employees who are returning to school for the 2001-02 school year. We enter the coming year with a great deal of pride in what we have already accomplished and high expectations for the quality of education our children will be receiving in the more than 600 school districts in our state. At the state level, the Department of Education, along with the Governor and Legislature, has tried to do its best to provide our children and teachers with the tools necessary for a quality education.

It has been five years since the state enacted rigorous academic standards designed to ensure a high-quality education for all children. Since that time, we have phased in a series of difficult assessments that are familiar to many of you. We have new, tougher tests at the fourth- and eighth-grade levels in language arts

literacy, math and science. This year, for the first time, we are testing fourth and eighth graders in social studies. Also, for the first time, our eleventh graders will begin taking a new, more difficult graduation test.

I believe that we must ensure that our schools are accountable to parents, taxpayers and most of all to the children. I believe that our system of standards and assessments will guarantee that our schools will be held accountable.

It is also my strong feeling that parents ought to have a choice of where to educate their children. That's why our state has enacted laws creating both interdistrict public school choice and charter schools.

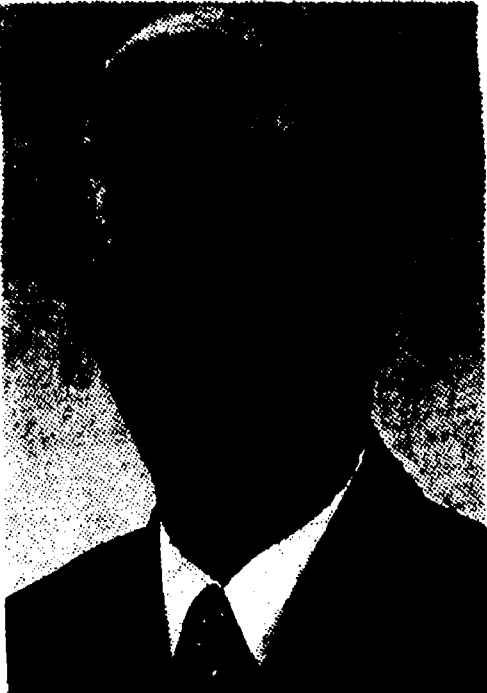
Our school choice program is growing by leaps and bounds. In the coming school year, more than 300 children will be participating—three

times more than last year which was the first year of the program. In the 2001-02 school year, there will be 11 choice districts, one more than last year. Next year there will be 13.

New Jersey's charter school program is also thriving. This year, in the fifth year of the program, there will be more than 12,000 children attending 51 charter schools, including consolidated charter schools. In addition, we received 18 more applications from groups that would like to start new schools.

Although the Department of Education is the regulatory body that oversees our system of education, I want to get away from the notion that we set policy from on high and then demand that school districts follow along. I believe strongly in gathering as much input as possible from the public before making a decision. I also think that the only way to make our system work is to establish a strong, collaborative bond among the state, local school districts, parents and teachers. In short, we all need to work together.

Good luck to all, as we enter a bright, new school year with the hope and optimism that we will continue to provide our children with the highest possible quality of education.



Vito A. Gagliardi, Sr.

Housing Discrimination: Know Your Rights

By Jane M. Kenny,
Commissioner
NJ Dept. of
Community Affairs
Dear Editor,

A young African-American man responds to an advertisement for an apartment. When he arrives he is informed that the unit has just been rented.

A landlord informs a family with young children that he only rents to adults.

The rental agent at an apartment complex tells a disabled person that no handicap-accessible units are available.

This is a small sample of the types of housing discrimination complaints investigated in New Jersey each year.

Discrimination can be blatant and it can be subtle, but it is always illegal. Now, by calling a toll-free number set up by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, people can obtain information about the state's fair housing laws and how to file a complaint.

That number, 1-800-390-4845, is part of a statewide effort that the Department of Community Affairs has launched to inform citizens as well as landlords and others in the housing industry about New Jersey's fair housing laws.

It is against the law to refuse to rent or sell housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status or disability. It is also illegal to discriminate against a prospective tenant on the basis of sexual orientation or to refuse to rent an apartment to someone because the person will be paying with a Section 8 voucher.

People calling the Department of Community Affairs toll-free

number can get answers to their questions about housing discrimination. They can also obtain a new brochure, available in English and Spanish, describing the state's fair housing laws and the process for filing a complaint.

As part of its awareness campaign, DCA will also be hosting workshops for landlords and property managers about the fair housing law and ensuring equal opportunity and airing a public service announcement about housing discrimination.

DCA's website, www.state.nj.us/dca, offers additional resources on the rights of tenants. A free DCA publication called *Truth-in-Renting* is available describing responsibilities of residential landlords and tenants. Another publication, *Tenants Rights in New Jersey*, written by Legal Services of New Jersey, is also available through DCA's website. It covers a broad range of rental issues such as finding a place to live, security deposits, leases, rent increases, the responsibilities of landlords and tenants, and the right to safe and decent housing.

DCA wants to make sure that people know their rights. We also want to see that New Jersey's strict laws against discrimination are enforced.

Housing discrimination complaints in New Jersey can be carried out by the state Department of Law and Public Safety, as well as by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Information about the complaint process and contact numbers for these two agencies can be obtained by calling DCA's toll-free number. The number is 1-800-390-4845.

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September Library Programs

EDISON—Come visit the Children's Room of the Edison Public Libraries in September. The librarians have planned some exciting programs including:

A Kid's Gotta Read What A Kid's Gotta Read Contest: Edison Public Library children's librarians are interested in producing a new reading list of books selected only by the children of Edison. Sorry, Moms and teachers no entries allowed. Visit the library each day during

Jazz Quartet To Perform At The Barron Arts Center

WOODBIDGE—Like Jazz? dig out that lawn chair and join the rest of the gang on the front lawn of the Barron Arts Center for a free concert by The Tom Butts Jazz Quartet on Friday evening, Sept. 14 at 8 p.m.

Sponsored by the Woodbridge Township Cultural Arts Commission chaired by Dr. Dolores Capraro Gioffre with support from the Woodbridge Township Arts Council and Mayor James E. McGreevey, the concert promises to be a solid evening of jazz that will entertain the entire audience.

Tenor saxophonist Tom Butts will be teaming up with a bass player, drummer, guitarist and vocalist to entertain the audience with jazz standards and original compositions.

Tom Butts has performed with the Glen Miller Orchestra, Mel Torme, Rosemary Clooney, Billy Eckstine, Margaret Whiting, Les Brown, Mitch Miller, Roberta Peters, Ray McKinley, Don Cornell, Lisle Atkinson, Roni Ben-Hur, John Colianni, Don Friedman, Chuck Wayne, Steve La Spina, Rufus Reid, Jack Wilkins and others.

He has performed on two recordings, *Alberta Clipper* in 1997 and *Match Point* in 1999 which demonstrates Tom's own individual style on this second smash release.

The Barron Arts Center, a disabled accessible facility, is located at 582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge Proper at the intersection of Rahway Avenue (Rte. 514) and Port Reading Avenue.

In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held indoors with seating on a "first come-first served" basis.

For further information, call the staff of the Barron Arts Center between 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays at (732) 634-0413.

the month of September and enter a drawing for some special plush bookmarks. On your entry please indicate a favorite book you have read this summer that you would like to see on this new list. These lists will appear on a new booklist by the end of October. Enter at all Edison Branches and Bookmobile.

Library Card Sign-Up Month: September is Library Card Sign-up Month. During this month the children's librarians will visit at Kindergarten classes in Edison to encourage

the children to get their first library card. Those children who come during this month to get their library card will receive special Rugrat Character Stickers to take home with them.

Fun for 4's and 5's: A program for children 4-5 years of age. Registration will begin in person or by phone on Sept. 24. Join our 4 week series of children's stories, crafts, films and fingerplays on a variety of topics. Main Library, Tuesdays, Oct. 2-23 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30

p.m.; Clara Barton Branch, Wednesday, Oct. 3-24 at 1:30 p.m.; North Edison Branch, Tuesdays, Oct. 2-23 at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesdays, Oct. 3-24 at 10:30 a.m.

Locations of the libraries are: Main Library, 340 Plainfield Ave. (732) 287-2351, ext. 3; North Edison Branch, 777 Grove Ave., (732) 548-4759, ext. 228 and Clara Barton Library, 141 Hoover Ave., (732) 738-0748.

Election Year Drive

WOODBIDGE—The first meeting of the Election Year Drive of the Greater Colonia Democratic Club will be held at the Inman Avenue Firehouse on Wednesday evening, Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

The featured speaker of the evening will be Maggie Moran, Campaign Manager for Victory 2001 Democratic Coordinated Campaign. Moran is a dynamic speaker who speaks with deep convictions and fills her audiences with great enthusiasm. She has her audience proclaiming, "I'm glad I was here!"

All residents of Colonia are invited to attend and enjoy a very enlightening night out.

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To Respond to an AD: Responding to any ad costs \$2.00 each. Simply write your letter, place the letter in an envelope, seal it and write the ID# on the front of the envelope(s) you can respond to as many as you like. Mail your letter(s) in a larger envelope along with your fee of \$2.00 per each response to: Devine Media Enterprises c/o Singles, P.O. Box 1061, Rahway, NJ 07065. * NOTE-We cannot guarantee you will get any response from ads placed or ads you are responding to.

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

SWF 52, In search of SWM, 50-57. Must be honest, sincere and caring. Compatability and understanding a must. Enjoy traveling, music, dining out, movies, flea markets & laughter. Looking for someone to grow old with and enjoy all that life has to offer. ID# 1014

DWF 43, Mom of one -Seeking tall dark and handsome male for long term friendship. Please have a sense of humor as well as large amount of cash. (First time I married for love...ha-ha) Serious inquiries only. Lots to learn about me, so choose this ad...ID# 1003

DWF 39, -(two children) Enjoys family, movies, music, dining out, dancing, gardening, reading and traveling. Seeking honest caring S/DWM 35-45 to share life with. Non-smoker please....ID# 1013

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

SWF 41, -Enjoys drives to the country, hiking, reading, and quiet times at home. Seeking SWM 35-52, for dating and possible relationship. Only serious inquiries will be considered. Non- smoker, please...ID# 1004

SWF 67, Seeks SWM, 65-70 years of age. Non-smoker, Enjoys the beach, movies, walks, drives. Looking for a friend. Long-term relationship. ID# 1015

Attractive nice lady - A widow in late sixties, seeking a nice man for companionship right now, maybe more later on... I enjoy movies, dining out, shows, walking. I am an animal lover. Prefer a man to be between 65-70 years of age. ID# 1010

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

SWM 21 - Seeks SWF 20-23 for friendship. Must enjoy camping, bowling, billiards and motorcycle riding. And love cats too! ID# 1012

SWM 45 - Never-married, 5'10", 160lbs. Kind, considerate, open-minded, honest. Enjoys art, music, movies, reading, traveling and bicycling. Seeks vivacious SWF, 35-45, to share life with. ID# 1005

Marriage-minded WWM 50- 6' 190 lbs, blue eyes, brown hair, sensitive, humorous, down to earth, no children, financially secure. Looking for same 45-55 yrs old, kids ok, smoker ok. Middlesex County area. Lets live life. ID# 1009

DSM 47-Enjoys dancing, music and quiet times at home, movies. Race doesn't matter. Seeking any race 21-47 years old for dating and relationship.ID# 1008

DWPM 39-Educated, handsome with blue eyes smoker/social drinker into politics and conversation and good food. Seeking a single female who likes same and loves kids and the simple pleasures of life. Union County area. ID# 1001

SWM 48 yrs old - never been married, tall, trim, youthful in appearance, enjoys movies, music, walking, dining out and good conversation. Would like to hear from a slender S/DWF. South Amboy ID# 1016

26 yr old - Hispanic male looking for someone in her 20's, who likes to have fun and enjoys romance. I like

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

dancing, romantic walks, sports and motorcycle riding. So if you are someone who likes these things and is looking for a companion, please respond. ID# 1006

DWM 46 - Would like to meet a woman who is athletic, enjoys the outdoors as well as a good movie. I enjoy playing guitar, tennis, karate, all sports, playing more than watching. For dating. ID# 1011

FRIENDS

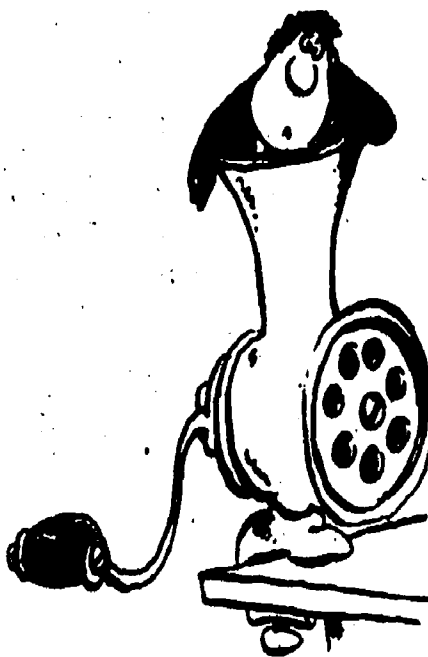
ARTIST 38 -Seeks other artists for life drawing classes. Need about 10-15 serious artists committed to improving their drawing skills. Models F/M 18-55 needed as well, paying \$15/hr for 3 hrs once a week. ID# 1002

ALTERNATIVE

WM 30's - Seeking dominant BM or WM, who likes keeping in shape, just hanging out and having fun, with no strings attached. Discreet pleasures abound.....ID# 1007

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OBITUARIES**Frank Ricciardi, 89
of Edison**

Mr. Frank Ricciardi of Edison died July 21 in JFK Medical Center, Edison. He was 89.

Born in Newark, he moved to Edison in 1961.

He co-owned with his wife, Pauline, for 63 years, Ricciardi's Cleaners in Newark from 1950-74, when he retired. Prior to that, he had been a partner in Ricci's Clothing, a family business in Newark that manufactured ladies' suits.

Mr. Ricciardi served in the Army during World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Pauline; and a brother, Michael.

**Edward Waitkus, 67
of Edison**

Mr. Edward Waitkus of Edison died July 30 at St. Peter's University Hospital, New Brunswick. He was 67.

Born in West Hazelton, Pa., he lived in Edison for the past 40 years.

He was a mail carrier for the Postal Service for over 30 years, assigned to the Edison post office.

Mr. Waitkus was a Navy veteran of the Korean War.

He was a communicant of Guardian Angels R.C. Church, Edison.

Surviving are his wife, the former Lillian Breivogel; two daughters, Carol Baker of Livingston and Elaine Langlois; a sister, Eleanor Bucher of Michigan; and two grandchildren.

Michael Zick, Sr. of Perth Amboy

Mr. Michael A. Zick, Sr. of Perth Amboy died July 12 at home. He was 32.

Born in Perth Amboy, he resided there before moving to McAfee five years ago.

He was a graduate of Perth Amboy High School and the Lincoln Technical Institute.

He was employed by James Wickstead Design Associates, Cedar Knolls for the past five

Maureen Patterson of Edison

Mrs. Maureen June Patterson of Edison died July 28 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. She was 69.

Born in Orange, she lived in South Plainfield before moving to Edison 29 years ago.

She was the founder and co-owner, along with her late husband, of Patterson Floor Covering in South Plainfield for seven years. She retired in 1985.

**Frank Swiderski, 73
of Edison**

Mr. Frank W. Swiderski of Edison died July 26 at his son's home in Edison. He was 73.

Born in Perth Amboy, he lived in Fords for 10 years before moving to Edison 39 years ago.

He was employed as a salesman for Macy's (formerly Bamberger's) in Menlo Park for 30 years before retiring in 1990.

Mr. Swiderski was an Army veteran of World War II.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of Peace R.C. Church, Fords.

He was a former member of the Knights of Columbus, Woodbridge, the Clara Barton American Legion, Edison and the Fords Fire Company.

He had volunteered his services at Stewart's Restaurant on Amboy Avenue, Edison, for the past 12 years.

His wife, Helen, died in 1998. A sister, Violet Pelesak, is also deceased.

Surviving are a son, Richard of Edison; a daughter, Diane Voelkel of Metuchen; a brother, Joseph Swiderski of Fords; a sister, Frances Gyorfy of Metuchen; two grandchildren, Cheryl and Karyn Swiderski and many nieces and nephews.

years as a senior mechanical project engineer and coordinator.

Surviving are his parents, Paul and Gail Berardo Zick of Perth Amboy; a daughter, Kristianna; a son, Michael Zick Jr. and their mother, Melissa Zick of Vernon; a brother, Paul E. Zick III of South Carolina; and his maternal grandparents, Laird and Ellen Stratton of Rumson and Eugenie Berardo of Whiting.

Her husband, James V. Patterson, died in 2000.

Surviving are a son, James G. Patterson of Edison; two daughters, Laurie Mohr of Metuchen and Patricia Cape of Piscataway; two brothers, Lawrence and Jack Kressman; and three grandchildren, Christopher, Daniel and Katherine.

**Michael Mikovich, Jr.
of Colonia**

Mr. Michael Mikovich Jr. of Colonia died July 31 at Rahway Hospital. He was 86.

Born in Jersey City, he moved to Colonia 45 years ago.

He worked at Peter J. Schwietzer Co., Elizabeth, as a millwright for 35 years before retiring in 1976.

Then he worked at his family business, Commercial Trailer Sales, Carteret, for six years, retiring from there in 1982.

Mr. Mikovich was an Army veteran of World War II.

He was a member of Colonia Chapter 3459 of the American Association of Retired Persons and a member of St. John Vianney Senior Citizens of Colonia.

Surviving are his wife of 59 years, Loretta (Brennan) Mikovich; two daughters, Bernadette Koziol of Wall and Michele Cook of Colonia; four grandchildren, Robert Koziol, Cynthia Caccamo, Frank Cook and Tara Cook; and a great-grandson, John Caccamo.

Victoria Gatyas, 86 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Victoria Gatyas (nee Saratowicz) of Perth Amboy died July 19. She was 86.

Born in New Brunswick, she lived in Perth Amboy.

Mrs. Gatyas was a member of St. Stephen's R.C. Church, Perth Amboy.

She was also a member of the Union of Polish Women and the St. Joseph's Society.

Mrs. Gatyas was a member of the Perth Amboy Democratic Club.

She was a telephone operator at Perth Amboy General Hospital for 15 years, retiring

in 1980. Her husband, Joseph; and three brothers, Thaddeus, Edward and Stephen and two sisters, Amielia and Helen Saratowicz, are all deceased.

Surviving are two daughters, Patricia Rolak of East Brunswick and Theresa Triolo of Prineville; two sisters, Sophie and Adele Saratowicz, both of Perth Amboy; and five grandchildren, Gayle Rolak, Craig Rolak, Cynthia Triolo, Kathryn Triolo and Matthew Triolo.



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BUSINESS REVIEW

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FRIDAY	Aug. 24	694	\$252.00	\$42.00	\$25.00
--- It Pays To Advertise ---					
SATURDAY	Aug. 25	073	\$271.00	\$45.00	\$27.00
--- Read our ATOM TABLOID ---					
SUNDAY	Aug. 26	142	\$274.00	\$45.50	\$27.00
--- Read our PERTH AMBOY GAZETTE ---					
MONDAY	Aug. 27	882	\$246.50	\$82.00	\$24.50
--- Read our NEWS RECORD ---					
TUESDAY	Aug. 28	996	\$150.00	\$50.00	\$15.00
--- Read our CLARK PATRIOT ---					
WEDNESDAY	Aug. 29	308	\$191.50	\$31.50	\$19.00
--- Don't Miss A Single Subscription ---					
THURSDAY	Aug. 30	251	\$245.50	\$40.50	\$24.50

Quarter	Draw	Box
FRI • Aug. 24 • Devine Media	0847	\$3,391.50 \$282.50
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 9-13-16-23-31		
BIG GAME ... 2-10-23-26-38/26		
SAT. • Aug. 25 • Devine Media	5574	\$3,926.00 \$327.00
LOTZEE ... 19-37-47-99		
SUN. • Aug. 26 • Devine Media	0628	\$2,633.50 \$219.00
MON. • Aug. 27 • Devine Media	0036	\$2,939.00 \$244.50
PICK SIX ... 3-22-25-26-27-37		
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 6-25-26-28-34		
TUE. • Aug. 28 • Devine Media	4404	\$2,147.00 \$536.50
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 8-9-13-32-37		
BIG GAME ... 10-29-39-47-50/35		
WED. • Aug. 29 • Devine Media	3370	\$3,499.50 \$291.50
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 10-14-24-30-35		
THUR. • Aug. 30 • Devine Media	9833	\$2,650.00 \$441.50
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JERSEY CASH 5 ... 7-8-19-22-27		

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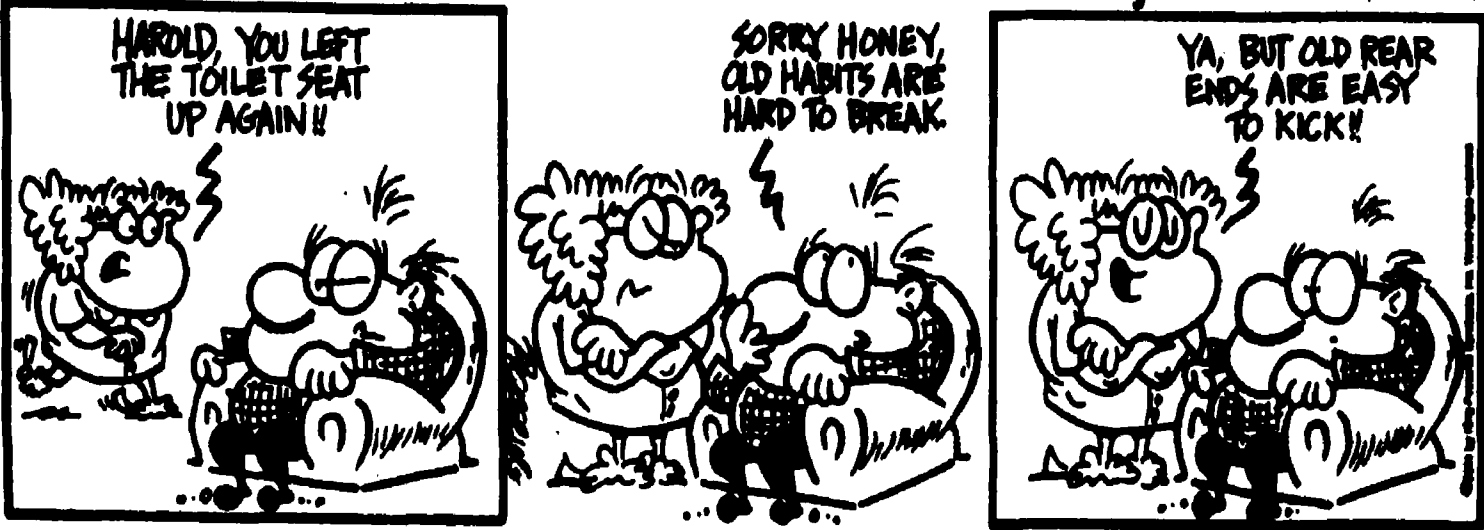
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2.	25.50	34.00	42.50
3.	38.25	51.00	63.75
4.	51.00	68.00	85.00
5.	63.75	85.00	106.25
6.	76.50	102.00	127.50
7.	89.25	119.00	148.75
8.	102.00	136.00	170.00

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THE SPATS

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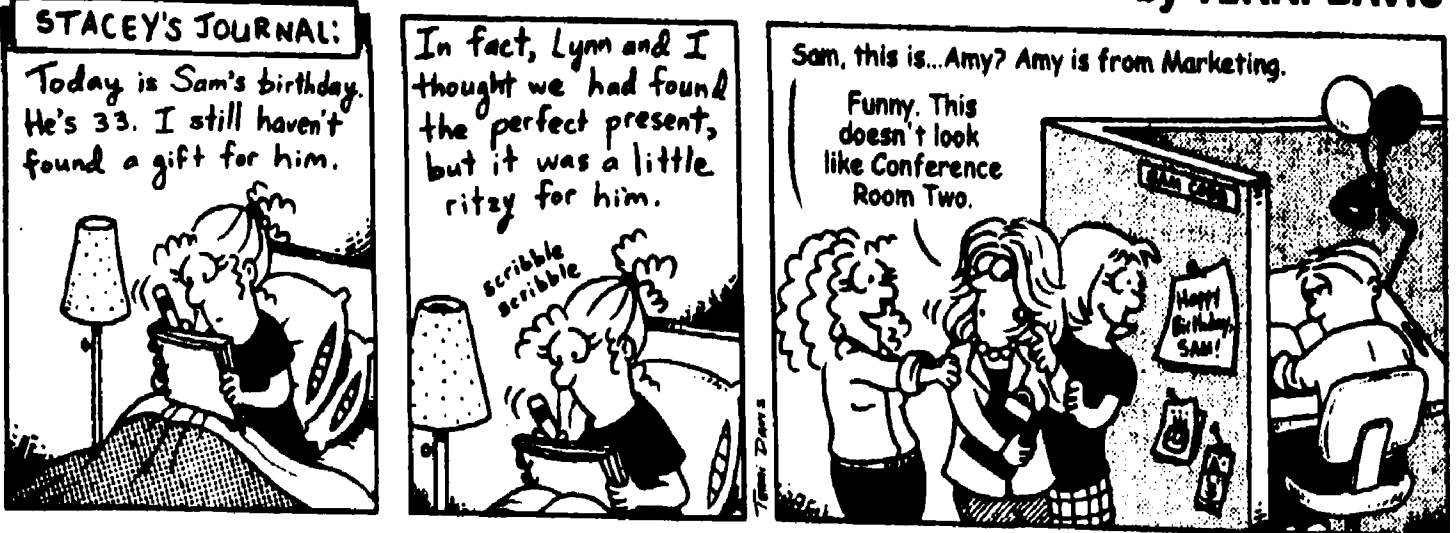
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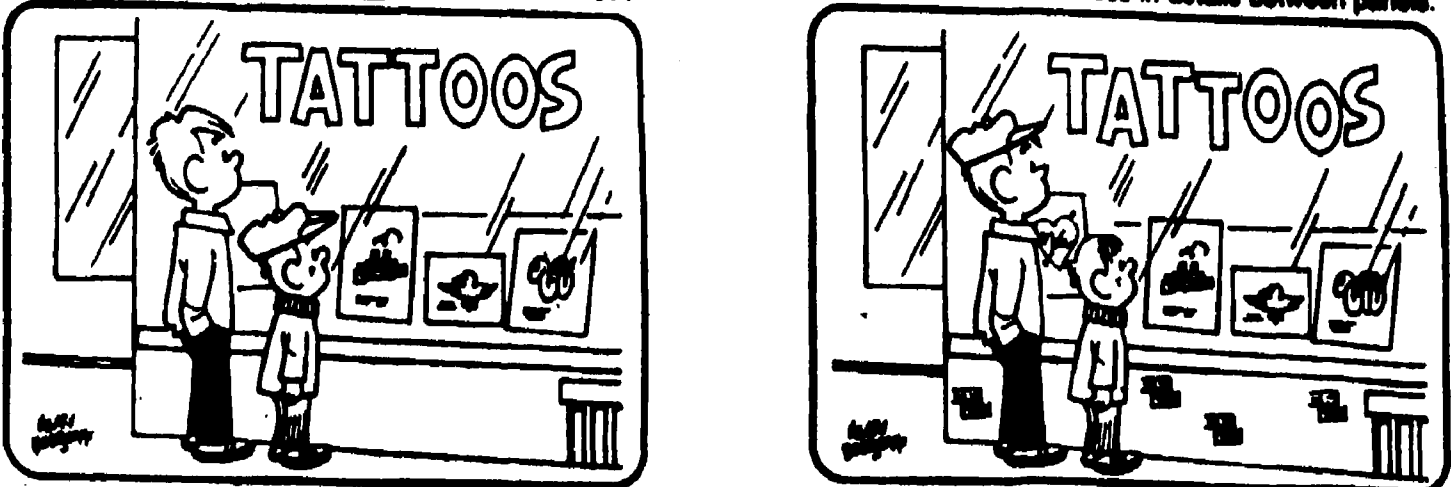
GOT A LIFE

by TERRI DAVIS



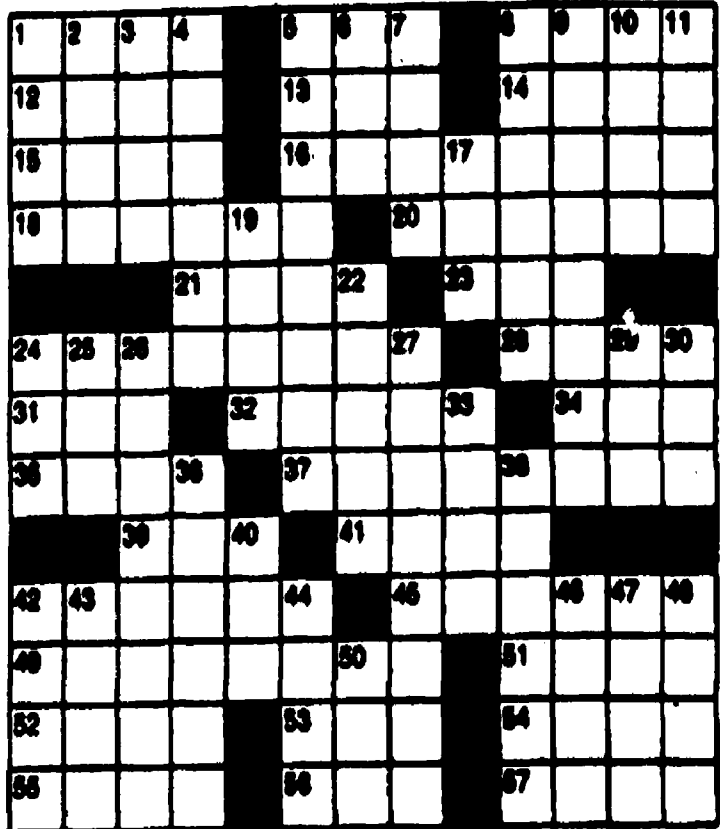
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels. Differences: 1. Tattoos' letters are staggered. 2. Different boy in waiting hat. 3. 'Tattoo' tattoo is added. 4. Bridge added to building. 5. Snake is longer. 6. Boy's nose is different.

- ACROSS
- 1 Mordil
 - 5 Airline to Stockholm
 - 8 In which case
 - 12 Admission to Nanette
 - 13 He gives a hoot
 - 14 Popular piano number
 - 15 Italian wine region
 - 16 Cop on the beat
 - 18 Diner's stat
 - 20 Nightclubs
 - 21 Information
 - 23 Scepter topper
 - 24 Flamboyant pianist
 - 28 Crests
 - 31 Oklahoma city
 - 32 "Hoorsy"
 - 34 Box top
 - 35 Playwright Connolly
 - 37 Green game
 - 39 Peak "still"
 - 41 Get ready, for short
 - 42 Batman's butler
 - 45 Juster in "Hamlet"
 - 49 Mountaineer's lodge
 - 51 Gawk at
 - 52 Lotion additive
 - 53 Brew for two!
 - 54 Christmas refrain



- DOWN
- 1 Rodents do it
 - 2 Get up
 - 3 Oppositionist
 - 4 Well-groomed
 - 5 Computer programs
 - 6 Hole-making tool
 - 7 Thick chunk
 - 8 Unhealthy
 - 9 Stealers' game
 - 10 - gin fizz
 - 11 Feeding ill
 - 17 Excessively
 - 19 Flavor enhancer
 - 22 Rascally sort
 - 24 Folan's fight
 - 25 Mrs. McKinley
 - 26 Unshed
 - 27 Commonplace
 - 29 Tones
 - 30 McMahon and Sullivan
 - 33 Sandwich treat
 - 36 In truth, archaic

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MAGIC MAZE • STANS AND STANLEYS

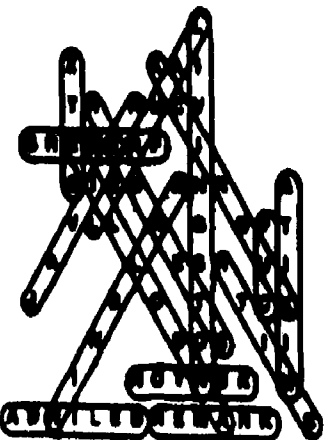
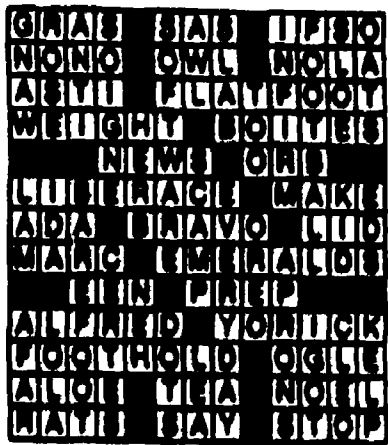
XUROLIEBYLVSONK
HEBZYWTKAIROLJG
EBYTRWRUCVURPNK
IGREBERFGIDBZXV
SQOGIEMMBNRKIAO
ECAVLLYAWGUBPTS
QPANLIJLHESHFUIE
CJAYXDVOUTSTCKQ
PNMKWJHFDLOSEIIC
MUSIALNOTNEKBMZ
ADNILEBREMARKYS

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

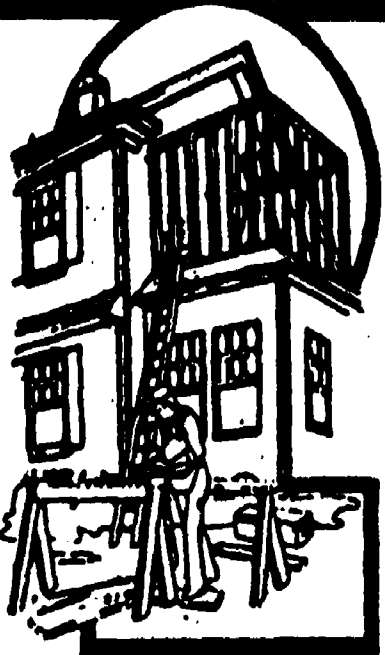
- | | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|---------|
| And Otto | Freberg | Kramer | Milda |
| Baldwin | Gotz | Kubrick | Smith |
| Belinda | Javier | Laurel | Steamer |
| Cup | Kenton | Livingston | |

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to Puzzles



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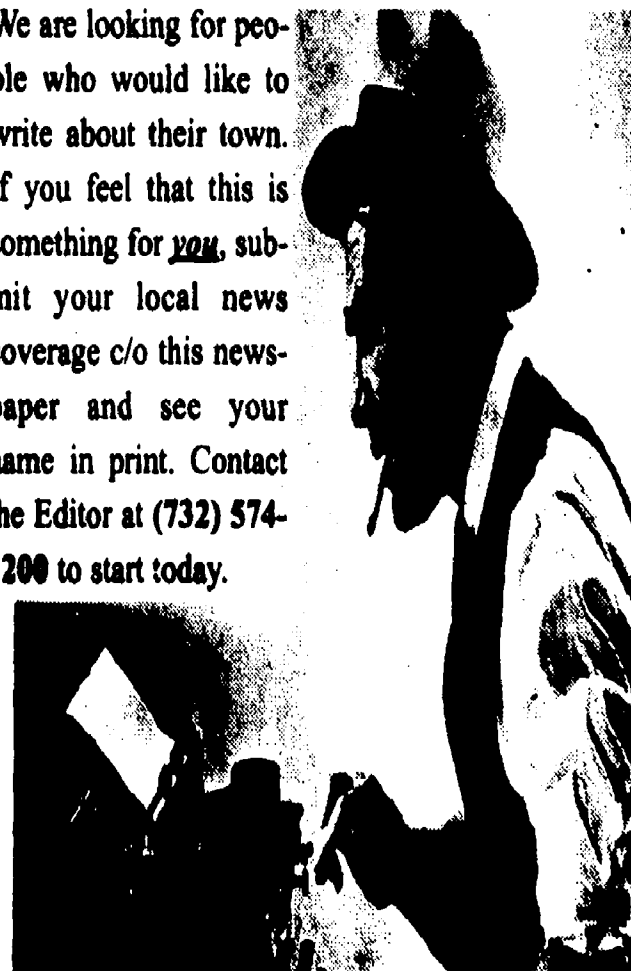
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AREA—NJ Transit's Newark City Subway has begun a new era with inaugural service on its new Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs). The vehicles—part of a \$188 million City Subway rehabilitation project—replace the nearly half-century old Presidents' Conference Committee (PCC) cars that were retired in ceremonies recently.

NJ Transit Executive Director Jeffrey A. Warsh was joined by elected officials and NJ Transit staff during the morning rush hour to welcome customers to the "new" Newark City Subway. The first LRV left the new Branch Brook Park Station at 4:35 a.m.

"It's the same Newark City Subway, but a whole new feel," said Warsh. "These new, modern vehicles feature amenities that City Subway customers will certainly welcome, including a smoother ride and the latest in passenger comfort. I invite residents of New Jersey and the region to try the 'new' Newark City Subway."

Some of the new LRV customer amenities include:

- * low-floor vehicles boarded at platform level;
- * quieter operation;
- * a modern heating and air conditioning system;
- * improved lighting;
- * an automated and manual public address system both inside and outside the LRVs, and four doors on each side for customers to board and alight LRVs.

The LRVs can accommodate 188 customers (68 seated and up to 120 standees), more than twice what PCC cars accommodated. They are also bi-directional—with operator cabs at each

end—allowing for single-track operation of the Newark City Subway when necessary. In addition, bicycles are permitted aboard LRVs at all times except during peak hours on weekdays (6-9:30 a.m. and 4-7 p.m.).

NJ Transit purchased 16 light rail vehicles for the Newark City Subway for a total cost of \$55 million, or approximately \$3.5 million per vehicle. The LRVs are almost identical to those operated on the Corporation's Hudson-Bergen Light Rail system.

Customers at Orange Street Station began using a new center-island platform recently. This platform—which is accessible to customers with disabilities—replaces two smaller side platforms. Branch Brook Park Station—which remains under construction—will be fully accessible later this year; it currently has one accessible platform. In the future, more Newark City Subway stations will become accessible, beginning with Newark Penn and Washington Street stations.

The Newark City Subway will continue to operate from 4:35 a.m. until about 12:30 a.m. each weekday. Substitute bus service will continue on weekends—while contractors connect the City Subway's main branch to the one-mile extension into Belleville and Bloomfield. On weekdays, service will operate:

- * every 12-20 minutes during early morning hours.

* every 3-6 minutes during morning and afternoon peak periods.

* every 7 minutes during midday hours.

* every 7-15 minutes during evening hours before 10 p.m. and;

* every 30 minutes between 10 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

Late this fall, the Newark City Subway's extension will open, offering two new stations. LRV testing will occur on the City Subway extension at all times, including weekends. As a result, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists are reminded to exercise caution when approaching intersections crossed by the Newark City

Subway, including Belmont Avenue, Franklin Street, Heckel Street and Watchung Avenue in Belleville and Orange Street, Newark.

NJ Transit is the nation's largest statewide public transportation system providing bus, rail and light rail services for 384,000 daily commuters on 240 bus routes, two light rail lines and 12 commuter rail lines. It is the third largest transit system in the country with 162 rail stations, 26 light rail stations and more than 17,000 bus stops including major points in New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia.

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Miss Ruth School of Dance

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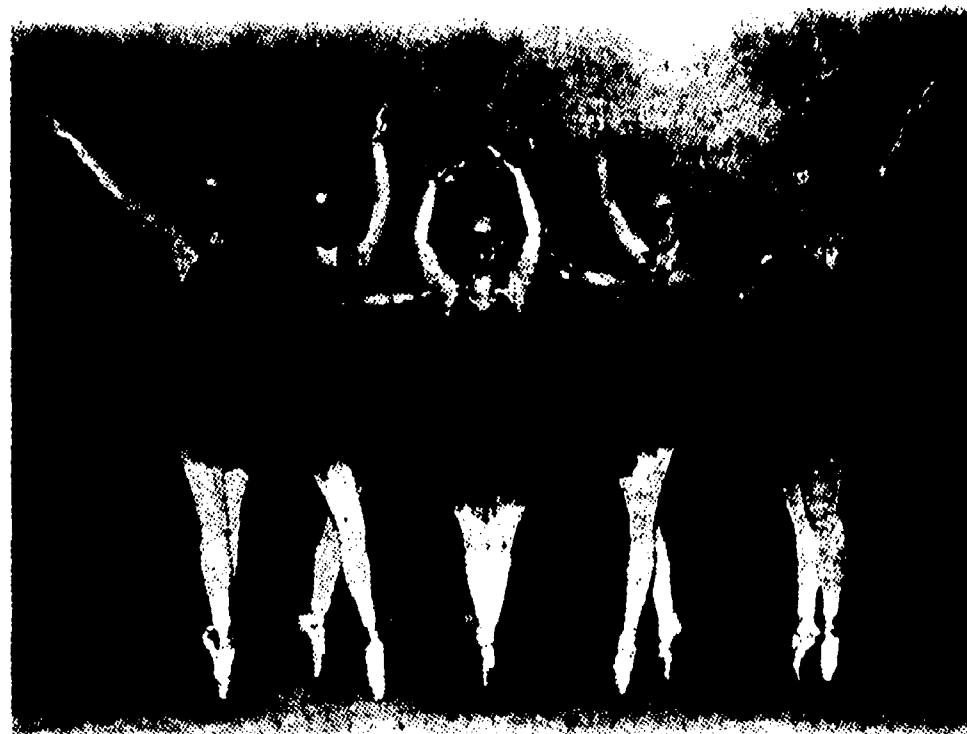
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Miss Ruth School Of Dance—48th Season!

FORDS—Quality of training and experienced, professional teachers have always been a priority at Miss Ruth School of Dance. They pride themselves on having a "family" atmosphere and in many cases, three generations of students have attended the school. They count many friends among them.

Classes are offered in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Modern. As in previous years, Miss Ruth places the highest priority on dance techniques and does not participate in competitions. This year they are pleased to be offering Tai-Yoga classes for adults! There is



CELEBRATING 48 SEASONS—Pictured (L.-R.) are Shannon Carson of Edison, Casey Dougherty of Fords, Lynn Eggert of Edison, Katelyn Mazur of Edison and Kate Mesavitz of Port Reading.

also the Children's Music Theatre Workshop for ages 6-10.

Director Rod Hausen, son of Miss Ruth, oversees a staff of experienced professional performer-teachers whose credits include Broadway, Television, Movies, and Ballet Companies. "Our staff knows their craft because they've lived their craft," explains Rod, "Our mission is to educate, enlighten, encourage and inspire-and do so with love and patience." Children also have the opportunity to perform for local events.

Miss Ruth School is located in Fords at 14 Corrielle St., close to all major highways-NJ Turnpike, GSPkwy., Rtes. 1 & 9, etc. Registration is taken on Wednesday and Thursday from 4-8 p.m. Call (732) 738-8239 or come in person.

Papp Enroll At Cittone

FORDS—Frank L. Papp of Fords, a former resident of Perth Amboy, will begin his studies in the network systems professional program at The Cittone Institute in Edison.

Papp, a graduate of Matawan Regional High School, will begin his studies on Oct. 16.

The Edison Cittone campus, located at 1697 Oak Tree Road, is one of 23 facilities operated nationally by Lincoln Educational Services. Open for day and evening sessions, it also offers programs in electronics and networking systems technology, computer programming with Web technology, software applications specialist, and help desk analyst. Cittone is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools.

Fireman Auker Participates In Festival

CARTERET—Navy Fireman Christopher R. Auker, son of Monica I. and Barry C. Auker of Carteret, recently participated in the annual Chibikko Young Festival while assigned to the guided missile destroyer USS Chancellorsville, forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

During the festival, Sailors from Auker's ship joined Japanese Sailors in a day of fun, food and celebration to strengthen international ties and educate the public about the navies of both countries. More than 4,000 visitors from throughout Japan toured the American and Japanese ships and watched demonstrations by helicopters and a Japanese explosive ordinance team.

This is the fourth year a U.S. ship has participated in the event and the second consecutive year for USS Chancellorsville Sailors.

HELP US CELEBRATE ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

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Thursday, September 13th
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