

The ATOM TABLOID

& Citizen-Gazette

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Pizzeria Fights City Plan

PERTH AMBOY — The owners of Sciortino's Pizzeria are determined to do all they can to preserve their business and way of life.

The pizzeria, along with 17 other businesses and homes, are scheduled for demolition so that the city can build a new municipal complex. The \$30 million municipal complex on New Brunswick Avenue will house a fire headquarters, police station, rescue squad, courthouse and family recreation center. Construction could begin as early as late summer.

Louis Seminski Jr., whose father owns the pizzeria, says

that the family is exploring their options to keep the pizzeria open.

As of last week, he said that they had over 1,000 signatures on a petition to keep the pizzeria open. Seminski said that he hopes to present the petition to officials at higher levels of government in the coming weeks to see if they would be more receptive to a plan that would preserve the pizzeria.

Seminski is also looking into having the pizzeria, or at least the oven, protected by a historical landmark designation.

Unfortunately, these efforts may prove to be too little, too

late. Seminski said that appraisers are due to look at the New Brunswick Avenue properties this week, which will mean that they are one step closer to demolition.

"I'm disappointed. This is my livelihood. I'm here every day. There is so much tradition. The reason people come here is because we've made pies the same way since the 1930s," says Louis Seminski, Sr.

The pizzeria property will be used to provide a parking lot for the new municipal complex. Seminski is urging the city to consider building a parking deck, which would

allow the pizzeria to be spared. Mayor Joseph Vas has said that a parking deck would be too expensive.

Sciortino's Pizzeria has been an area fixture since it was built in the 1930s. The family-owned business has been making pies in their 20-foot by 25-foot coal-fed brick oven, built into the back wall of the pizzeria.

Vas has said that all affected property owners will be offered relocation assistance. However, unlike the other businesses, Sciortino's can't relocate because it would be impossible to move the 70-year-old brick oven.

MCC Scholarship Ball

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Rothe-Johnson-Fantacone, one of New Jersey's leading architectural firms, has been named honoree of the 2002 Scholarship Ball sponsored by the Middlesex County College Foundation. The award will be presented at the 33rd annual Scholarship Ball on Saturday evening, May 4.

"We have had the privilege of being a part of your commitment to education for the past 15 years," said Thomas A. Fantacone, partner of the firm. "In working closely with your administration and faculty, we have shared your vision in creat-

ing an educational environment conducive to maximum learning and a sense of well-being for all your students."

John P. Mulkerin, president and chief executive officer of First Savings Bank and chairperson of the Foundation Board of Trustees, noted that Rothe-Johnson-Fantacone has been among the largest supporters of the Middlesex County College Foundation's work to provide scholarships and financial aid to students. In addition, they have been the successful bidders in winning contracts to design five buildings constructed on the

campus since 1987.

The Scholarship Ball is the largest of the three annual Foundation fundraising events, with all the proceeds directed to scholarships for current and incoming students. Linda Landis of Highland Park, chair of the 2002 Ball, announced that this year's goal is \$140,000, which will provide scholarships for more than 200 students.

Invitation to the Scholarship Ball is open to the community at a price of \$200 per ticket, which includes a tax-deductible contribution of \$120. Sponsor tickets are \$250 each, which includes

mention in the program. Corporate tables for ten are available at \$2,500.

The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with an extensive cocktail buffet and open bar, followed by dinner and dancing to the band, "Miracle." Catering is by Richfield Regency of Verona. A commemorative Journal of the Scholarship Ball, sent to every guest and sponsor, includes photos of the event and offers additional opportunities for supporter recognition.

For information about the Scholarship Ball and the Middlesex County College Foundation, call (732) 906-2564 or e-mail Foundation (@middlesex-cc.edu).

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS**Gardens Of Edison**

EDISON — The Edison Arts Society is pleased to present a new exhibition, "The Gardens of Edison."

A unique collaboration between Edison gardeners and artists, this juried exhibition will be held at the Center for the Arts, 1070 Grove Avenue, from Friday, April 12-Sunday, April 14. A reception and award ceremony honoring the winning artists and gardeners will be held on Sunday, April 14 at 1 p.m.

Linda LaStella and Sandy Mezins from Metuchen and Bill Giacalone from Highland Park.

A poster was designed by Edison artist Linda Trella to commemorate the show. To complete the "Gardens of Edison" theme members of the Terra Nova Garden Club will host a display table at the exhibit.

Winning artists whose work will be exhibited include Peter Arakawa, Joan Lok and Thomas Martin from Edison, exhibit.

Free Preschool Speech-Language Screenings

EDISON—WeeSpeak, Inc., a provider of speech language services to children ages three, four and five, will be offering free speech and language screenings to preschoolers and free workshops to parents of preschool age children. Screenings and workshops will be held at two locations in Edison.

Speech and language screenings for children ages three, four and five will be held on Saturday, April 13 at the Minnie B. Veal Recreation Center, 1070 Grove Avenue, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and on Saturday, April 27 at the Edison Public Library, Main Branch, 340 Plainfield Avenue, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Parents who have concerns about their preschooler's speech, language or social skills are encouraged to bring their child. It is strongly recommended that parents call for a screening appointment.

Parent workshops will take place on Tuesday, April 9 at the Edison Public Library, Main Branch from 7:30-9 p.m. and on Thursday, April 18 at the Minnie B. Veal Recreation Center from 7:30-9 p.m. The topic of discussion will be "Developing Fun Home Activities to Build Preschoolers' Language Skills." Parents who have concerns about their preschooler's speech, language or social skills are encouraged to attend. An activity packet will be provided at the workshop, which contains hands-on home activities to help improve preschoolers' language skills.

To make a screening appointment or to find out information about services provided by WeeSpeak, Inc., please call Hope Weinstein, Director of WeeSpeak, Inc., at (973) 218-0482.

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Citizen-Gazette

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Pelzman Proclaims Autism Awareness Month

WOODBIDGE — Mayor Frank G. Pelzman has proclaimed April "Autism Awareness Month" in Woodbridge. The move is in response to an effort by the Center for Outreach and Services to the Autism Community (COSAC) to raise awareness of the disorder. COSAC is a non-profit New Jersey based organization.

"Autism is a disability that can be devastating to families," said Pelzman. "People need to educate themselves about Autism, so they can recognize the warning signs."

Autism affects a person's behavior, learning abilities and/or social skills. Originally thought to be a rare disorder affecting as few as one in every 10,000 children, autism is now

known to be much more common, affecting one in every 500 children. The cause is unknown, and there is no known cure. But according to COSAC, research has shown that if a child is diagnosed at an early age, the child can benefit from intensive intervention therapy. Early warning signs of autism include:

- Little or no eye contact
- Acting deaf, or unaware of what's happening around him/her
- Overactive or extremely passive behavior
- Resistance to change in routine

Early intervention therapy can result in the child being educated in a mainstream classroom.

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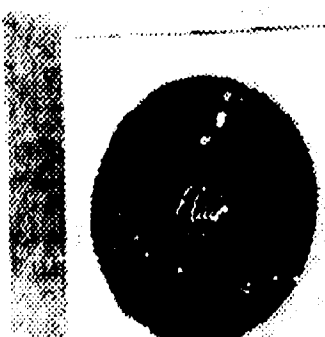
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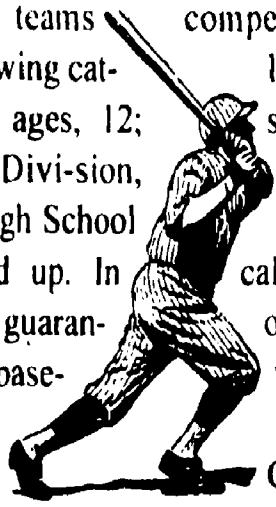
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Garden State Baseball Wood Bat League Seeks Players

AREA—The Garden State Baseball Wood Bat League is in search of competitive teams and players in the following categories: 12u Division ages, 12; College Unlimited Division, ages 18 and up; and High School Division, ages 15 and up. In these leagues, you are guaranteed pure competitive baseball.



The leagues include: up to a 30 game weekend schedule, tournament play, an equal competition matching system, league all-star games, standings kept on the Internet and much more.

For more information, call (732) 382-4610 or check out the website at: www.gardenstatebaseball.com or e-mail Gsabi2000@aol.com.

Bill Provides Tax Credit For Rehabilitating Historic Properties

STATE—Legislation that would provide taxpayers with a tax credit for rehabilitating historic property was released recently by the Senate Economic Growth Committee.

Sponsored by Senator Joseph Kyrillos, the measure would provide a gross income tax or corporation business tax credit for 25 percent of the cost paid by a taxpayer to rehabilitate a historic property owned and occupied by the taxpayer.

"New Jersey's historic places tell a very unique story of the days when life was different. It is important that we preserve these places and the stories they tell through architecture and design elements," said Kyrillos, R-13. "If a person or business purchases one of these historic places to refurbish and use as a primary residence or place of business, it is only fitting that we recognize their efforts by providing a historic rehabilitation tax credit."

Under the terms of the bill, S-860, taxpayers who wish to

claim the credit must obtain certification from the State Historic Preservation Officer that the property is qualified as historic property and that the rehabilitation has been completed in compliance with the applicable federal standards. In addition, the taxpayer must have owned and occupied the property for at least one year as the taxpayer's principal place of business or residence. Within any 10 year period, a taxpayer filing for a gross income tax credit would be eligible to receive a cumulative tax credit up to \$5,000 and for a taxpayer filing a corporation business tax credit, the 10 year limit would be up to \$10,000.

"Restoring a historic place is a wonderful way to give back to the community and preserve a part of local history. With this legislation, we can recognize and show our appreciation for those people who pour their hard-earned dollars and time into restoring New Jersey's historic places," added Kyrillos.

Pallone To Receive Prestigious Indian Civilian Award At Ceremony

STATE—U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) traveled to New Delhi, India on Sunday, March 24 to be awarded the Padma Bhushan, one of India's highest civilian awards recognizing his work to better relations between U.S. and India. The New Jersey Congressman will become only the second member of the United States Congress to receive this prestigious award.

"I am extremely honored to be receiving this award," Pallone said. "Since coming to Congress 14 years ago, I have

worked to build a stronger relationship between the United States and India. Through the creation and growth of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, the issues and concerns of India, the world's largest democracy, have become more important in the House of Representatives.

This is an achievement that I am quite proud of, and to be recognized by the Indian government for this work over the years is an honor. I look forward to returning to India to receive this award."

Over the last couple of years, Pallone strongly urged both the Clinton Administration and the Bush Administration to lift economic and military sanctions against India.

These sanctions were finally lifted last October allowing the two nations to finally forge ahead with stronger economic and military cooperation. The New Jersey congressman believes that improved diplomatic, political and strategic relations between the two nations, as well as enhanced

(continued on page...15)

Menendez Highlights Hispanic Outreach Activities

AREA—With new congressional districts reflecting the tremendous growth of the Hispanic population over the past decade, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) Chair Nita Lowey and Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Robert Menendez held a briefing to discuss how the Hispanic vote will effect Democrats in the 2002 election.

"We have an opportunity to make history this election cycle by recruiting, promoting and electing a record number of Hispanics to Congress," said DCCC Chair Nita Lowey, "together in an historic partnership with Democratic Hispanic Members of Congress to take advantage of diverse new districts."

"The Democratic Party is backing up its words with actions," said Rep. Menendez. "We're not only reaching out to Latinos with a message that resonates throughout the community, but more importantly, we are working on issues important to them, like education, health

care, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and providing job training programs."

Working with Hispanic members, Democrats have been successful in their efforts to recruit Hispanic congressional candidates and undertake Democratic outreach to Hispanic communities across the county. As part of the redistricting process, Demo-

crats stand to gain a number of seats with a significant Hispanic population.

Democrats have strong Hispanic candidates running in districts across the county. Lowey and Menendez featured many of the Hispanic candidates running for Congress in 2002,

(continued on page...15)

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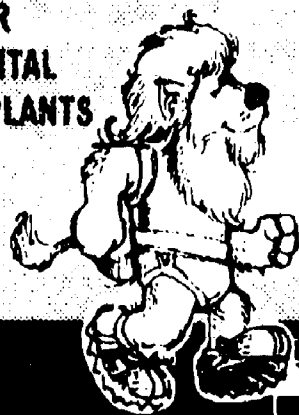


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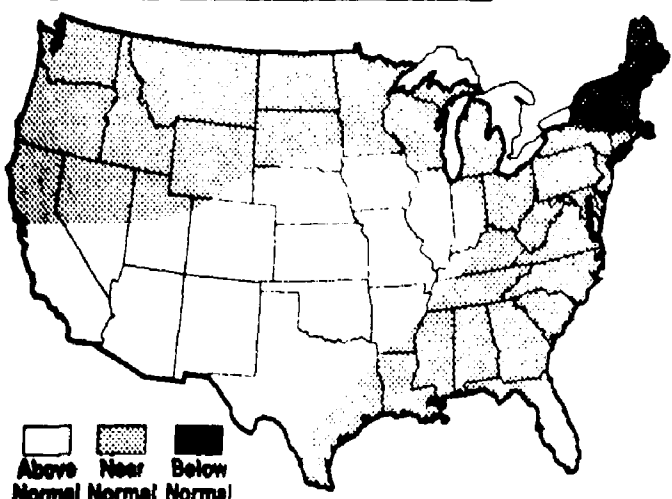
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
							
Bright and sunny.	Clear and cold.	Mostly sunny.	Plenty of sunshine.	Mostly sunny and windy.	Sun and some clouds.	Mostly sunny.	Clouds and sun.
52	32	57/37	55/38	59/45	56/33	56/40	65/50

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Temperatures

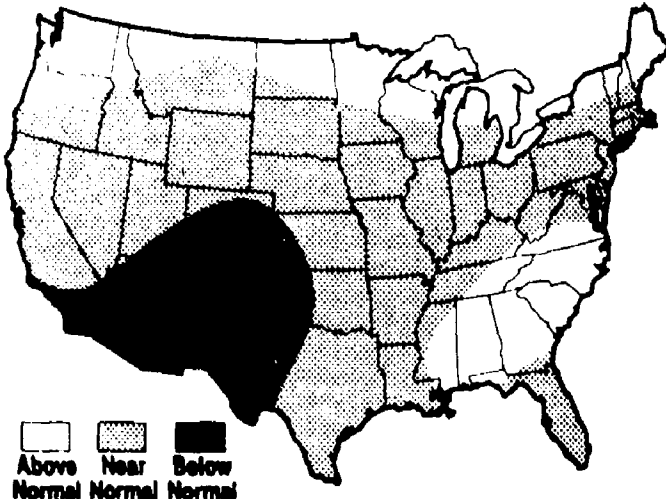


NATIONAL SUMMARY

The northern tier of the country will have above-normal precipitation during this period due to an active jet stream and storm track. Areas of the Southeast may also get above-normal precipitation from moisture returning north out of the Gulf of Mexico. Temperatures will be above normal in the southern Plains and Desert Southwest while temperatures in the Northeast average slightly below normal.

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Precipitation



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
City	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	68 48 pc	68 47 s	70 50 s	71 54 pc
Boston	52 32 s	46 34 s	48 38 s	54 43 pc
Chicago	44 24 s	52 38 pc	60 42 pc	66 42 c
Cleveland	38 26 sl	42 26 pc	53 39 s	59 36 s
Denver	68 38 s	72 38 s	66 34 pc	66 36 s
Des Moines	52 33 c	60 42 pc	68 45 pc	64 47 pc
Detroit	42 29 s	49 39 s	57 40 s	58 35 s
Houston	68 52 c	72 54 c	76 56 r	78 56 pc
Indianapolis	48 33 s	58 39 s	63 44 s	62 45 s
Kansas City	54 36 c	68 46 s	72 48 pc	66 52 pc
Los Angeles	74 47 pc	73 50 pc	74 49 pc	72 47 pc
Miami	85 70 s	83 69 s	82 70 s	82 68 pc
Minn.-St. Paul	42 26 s	48 32 pc	50 36 sh	48 30 sh
New Orleans	69 54 c	74 57 pc	76 59 s	78 62 pc
New York City	50 35 s	55 43 s	53 41 s	58 46 s
Omaha	51 34 pc	65 44 pc	72 46 pc	66 48 pc
Phoenix	92 62 s	90 60 s	86 58 s	90 60 s
San Francisco	65 51 pc	63 51 c	64 50 pc	65 52 c
Seattle	60 44 c	56 40 sh	55 42 c	56 51 r
Washington	56 36 s	63 45 pc	60 46 s	65 50 pc

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset	
Thu.	5:36 a.m.	6:25 p.m.	
Fri.	5:35 a.m.	6:26 p.m.	
	Moonrise	Moonset	
Thu.	1:26 a.m.	10:38 a.m.	
Fri.	2:16 a.m.	11:36 a.m.	
Moon Phases			
Last	New	First	Full
			
Apr 4 20	Apr Apr	12 26	Apr
Weather (W):			
s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.			

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
City	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Amsterdam	63 40 pc	59 44 c	57 47 pc	60 48 pc
Berlin	57 35 pc	61 42 pc	58 45 c	58 43 c
Buenos Aires	77 63 pc	77 63 pc	82 68 c	75 59 r
Cairo	88 61 pc	95 65 s	94 66 s	92 62 s
Jerusalem	63 46 pc	74 49 s	78 54 s	78 47 s
Johannesburg	80 57 pc	79 59 pc	79 61 c	73 58 c
London	63 43 pc	59 44 c	59 45 c	59 48 c
Madrid	52 36 pc	47 41 sh	49 42 r	53 44 sh
Mexico City	74 52 pc	73 51 pc	73 52 c	71 51 r
Moscow	33 17 pc	39 35 pc	43 25 pc	39 22 pc
Paris	61 47 pc	56 44 c	53 48 sh	57 50 sh
Rio de Janeiro	77 67 c	77 65 sh	75 63 sh	75 64 c
Rome	60 48 r	52 47 sh	61 52 c	62 49 r
San Juan	86 74 c	86 75 pc	84 74 pc	83 73 c
Seoul	68 51 s	66 57 pc	73 55 sh	63 54 c
Sydney	76 54 s	73 55 c	69 56 r	73 53 pc
Tokyo	58 50 s	59 54 pc	65 62 pc	70 60 r
Toronto	38 22 pc	42 29 c	41 40 sn	50 27 c
Winnipeg	22 13 s	30 19 sn	27 21 sn	35 17 c
Zurich	60 43 sh	60 46 c	59 44 r	55 50 r

Community Calendar

APRIL 6-Kick Butts Rally 2002-Educational presentation by REBEL members and information display. Woodbridge Center Mall, Lower Level, Village Court, near carousel from 12-4 p.m.

APRIL 7-Larry Fuhro, a teacher of American history at the Cranford High School will speak on the Spanish-American War at the meeting of the Union County Historical Society at 2:30 p.m. at the Dr. Carl Hanson House, 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford.

APRIL 8-Addiction Prevention Awareness Month: Woodbrook Elementary School, Edison-lobby display for students, parents and faculty.

APRIL 8 at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and APRIL 9 at 10 a.m.-The Kean Children's House will present *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in Wilkins Theatre, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Tickets are \$6 for adults and children. For more information or to reserve tickets, call the Box Office at (908) 527-2337.

APRIL 8 at 7:15 p.m. or APRIL 9 at 2 p.m.-Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will be hosting a book discussion of John Steinbeck's *The Wayward Bus*. For information, call the library at (732) 388-5999.

APRIL 9, 23, MAY 7 & 16-The Rutgers Cooperative Extension will be sponsoring Spring Garden Speakers Series for the Spring 2002. Composting, April 9; Simplifying Gardening, April 23; Shade Gardens "Natures Jewels," May 7 and Houseplants and Transplanting on May 16. Lectures are free and start at 7:30 p.m. Classes are held at the County Administration Building, 300 North Avenue East, Westfield. Call to reserve a seat at (908) 664-9854. Parking is available in the back of the building.

APRIL 9 AND 10-Coast Boating School will be conducting a personal watercraft/safe boating course, under the NJ State law, at Union County College, Cranford campus from 6-9 p.m. For more information or to register, call (908) 709-7601.

APRIL 9 & 18 from 7:30-9 p.m.-Wee Speak, Inc., a provider of speech, language and learning services to preschool age children, will conduct free workshops at the Edison Main Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., Edison on Tuesday, April 9 from 7:30-9 p.m. and Thursday, April 18 from 7:30-9 p.m. at Minnie Veal Recreation Center, 1070 Grove Ave., Edison. For more info. and to register for a workshop, call Hope Weinstein at (973) 218-0482. Union.

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An Important Community Message From Your Community Bank.



Dear Friends:

The newspapers are reporting that some pompous financial institutions have decided to fight the system and bully their way into your neighborhoods. How arrogant!

In one case, a bank you know is suing the township where it wants to build. It seems when this bank does not get its way it runs to its attorneys. Who pays to defend against these suits? The very people the bank wants to "serve." Some service...legal briefs!

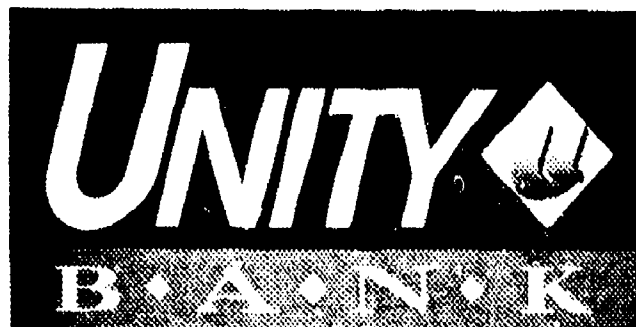
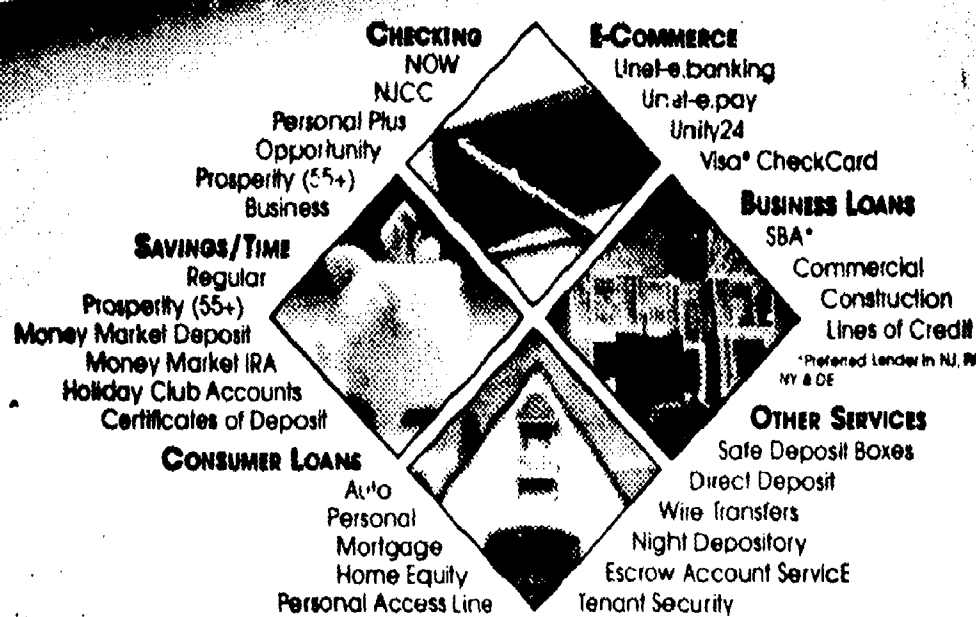
The bank in question continues to pressure local leaders to change township building rules. They plunder through your municipal codes to build their stark, neoteric, cookie-cutter branches...the picturesque landscape be damned.

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MEMBER FDIC



YOUR HEALTH NEWS**Asthma Sufferers Need To Take Extra Precaution During Hay Fever Season**

AREA — Come spring, the grass turns green and flowers start to blossom. However, springtime allergies, also known as "hay fever," begin to sprout as well. For hay fever sufferers, watery eyes, runny noses and sneezing are as common, and benign, as spring fever. Unfortunately, for asthma sufferers, springtime allergies can be much more serious.

"The body's immune system is designed to protect us against bacterial or viral infection. When the immune system mistakenly identifies pollen, dust or dander as an infectious agent, it releases histamine to stimulate body defenses," says Philip Bonaparte, M.D., chief medical officer of Horizon/Mercy.

"In most people, the histamine simply causes the sneezing, watery eyes, swelling and runny noses that we refer to as hay fever. But in people with asthma, these histamines can

trigger a more serious condition known as asthma attacks." Common symptoms of asthma attacks include frequent cough, shortness of breath, wheezing and pain or pressure in the chest.

Even though there is no known way to prevent hay fever, asthma sufferers need to know how to lessen, and sometimes even significantly lessen, allergy outbreaks that can lead to asthma.

Dr. Bonaparte recommends asthma sufferers follow these guidelines to help them cope with this year's allergy season:

1. Stay inside during peak pollen hours. These are usually mornings on dry, windy days. "Also find out the peak pollen count, which is often reported in the newspaper and on TV newscasts," advises Dr. Bonaparte.

"On days when the pollen count is high, curtail your outdoor activities."

2. Turn your air conditioner on and close your windows. Also, make sure to vacuum your carpets and change air filters regularly. "They are prime places for pollen to collect," says Dr. Bonaparte.

Keep pets free of dander and pollen. "Even if you're not allergic to animal dander, your pets' fur collects pollen," says Dr. Bonaparte. "Bathe your

pets regularly and, at least during allergy season, keep them out of your bedroom."

By following these guidelines, asthma sufferers may significantly reduce the chance of asthma attacks that hay fever brings at this time of year.

Horizon/Mercy is New Jersey's largest managed health-care organization serving the

publicly insured, providing healthcare services to more than 270,000 people in all 21 New Jersey counties. With headquarters located in Trenton, N.J., the organization is a partnership of Horizon Healthcare of NJ, Inc., a subsidiary of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield (HBCBS), and Mercy Health Plan, a subsidiary of Mercy Health System.

Spring Into Action: Donate Blood**Blood Center Announces Community Blood Drives**

AREA — The Blood Center of New Jersey is announcing blood drive locations and asking healthy adults to call and sign up to donate. "We are hoping that more people come out to donate as the weather begins to change," said Judy Daniels, BCNJ spokesperson. "It has been a long and difficult winter for the community blood supply."

The Blood Center of New Jersey is an independent, non-profit organization supplying

blood and blood components to hospitals in Essex, Bergen, Morris, Hudson, Union, Somerset, Passaic, and Middlesex counties. All blood is collected, tested, processed and distributed in New Jersey.

Donors must be 18 years of age. Seventeen-year-olds may donate with parental permission. There is no upper age limit for donors provided they meet health requirements. Donors should know their social security number and bring a

signed or picture form of identification. People with a fever or sore throat should wait until they are feeling better before donating, and there is a 24-hour deferral for teeth cleanings and fillings. For those who have traveled outside of the United States recently, call the blood center at 973-676-4700, ext. 132 for eligibility criteria. For more information or to sign up for a blood drive, call the blood center at 1-800-652-5663, extension 140.

THE BLOOD CENTER OF NEW JERSEY**COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVES • April 1 -15, 2002**

Sat., 4/6	St. Helena's Parish, New Dover Rd. & Grove Avenue, Edison	9am-2pm
Sun. 4/7	First Presbyterian Church of Perth Amboy, 250 High St., Perth Amboy	9am-1pm
Tues., 4/9	Rutgers University, Douglas Student Center, 100 George St., New Brunswick	10am-4pm
Thurs., 4/11	Middlesex Public Library, 1300 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex	3-8pm
Sat., 4/13	Knights of Columbus, 164 High Street, Carteret	8am-2pm

— FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP TO DONATE, CALL 1-800-652-5663, x140 —

Members Cope With Depression

AREA — To help its members cope with the impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America and other related depression issues, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey (Horizon BCBSNJ) has mailed letters on depression screenings to all primary care practitioners and pediatricians.

The letter encourages doctors to screen their patients, especially those with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, congestive heart failure and

asthma, for possible signs of depression. It recommends that physicians use the "Whooley Depression Screen" (Whooley), tool a brief two-question depression screening that can be administered verbally to patients. This technique has the validity comparable to much lengthier tools.

"We encourage our physicians to screen our patients by using the Whooley test which is suitable for initial screenings of depression, where the goal is to pick up as many "true cases" as

possible," said Dr. David Bendich, senior medical director of quality management and outcomes measurement for Horizon BCBSNJ. "The Whooley test is very quick and effective, and can easily be incorporated into a doctor's busy schedule."

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ, with headquarters in Newark, is New Jersey's largest health insurer providing coverage to more than 2.5 million people. The company, with over 4,500 employees, has annual revenues of \$5.9 billion. Horizon BCBSNJ's company web site is located at www.horizon-bcbsnj.com.

HEALTH HOTLINES

For information on ...

Call ...

AIDS Treatment Information Service	1-800-HIV-0440 1-800-448-0440
National Institute on Aging Information Center	1-800-222-2225 1-800-222-4225 (TTY)
Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center	1-800-438-4380
Cancer Information Service	1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237) 1-800-332-8615 (TTY)
National Institute of Child Birth and Human Development	1-800-370-2943
National Diabetes Education Program	1-800-438-5383
National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI)	1-800-729-6686
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Information Line	1-800-575-WELL (1-800-575-9355)
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Bladder Control for Women Campaign	1-800-891-5388
National Institute of Mental Health -Anxiety	1-888-8-ANXIETY (1-888-826-9438)
National Institute of Mental Health -Depression	1-800-421-4211
National Institute of Mental Health -Panic	1-800-64-PANIC (1-800-647-2642)
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease (NIAMS)	1-877-22-NIAMS (1-877-226-4267)
Osteoporosis and Related Bone Diseases - National Resource Center	1-800-624-BONE (1-800-624-2663)
Weight-Control Information Network (WIN)	1-877-946-4627

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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS

Ten Ways To Avoid Problems At Tax Time

AREA — Looking for ways to avoid the last-minute rush for doing your taxes? The IRS offers these tips:

1. ORGANIZE YOUR TAX RECORDS. Tax preparation time can be significantly reduced if you develop a system for organizing your records and receipts. Start with the income, deduction or tax credit items that were on last year's return.

2. DON'T PROCRASTINATE. Resist the temptation to put off your taxes until the last minute. Your haste to meet the filing deadline may cause you to overlook potential sources of tax savings and will likely increase your risk of making an error.

3. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FREE TAX ASSISTANCE. The IRS offers recorded messages on about 150 tax topics through its TeleTax service at 1-800-829-4477. It also offers federal tax forms and publications at 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). Many post offices and libraries carry the most widely requested forms and instruc-

tions. Libraries may also have reference sets of IRS publications. The IRS also staffs a tax help line at 1-800-829-1040, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays through April 13.

4. VISIT THE IRS ONLINE. Taxpayers accessed the IRS web site at www.irs.gov more than 1 and a half billion times last year. Anyone with Internet access can download tax forms, instructions and publications as well as tax law information and answers to frequently asked tax questions.

5. USE IRS WALK-IN SITES AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS. Forms, publications and tax help are available at more than 400 IRS offices nationwide. Check your newspaper or local IRS office to find locations for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly sites.

6. FILE YOUR RETURN ELECTRONICALLY. More than 40 million taxpayers filed

their returns electronically in 2001. Aside from ease of filing, IRS e-file is the fastest and most accurate way to file a tax return. If you're due a refund, the wait time for e-filers is half that of paper filers.

7. DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR MATH AND DATA ENTRIES. Review your return for possible math errors and make sure the names and identification numbers for yourself, your spouse and your dependents are correct and legible.

8. HAVE YOUR REFUND DEPOSITED DIRECTLY TO YOUR BANK ACCOUNT.

Another way to speed up your refund and reduce the chance of theft is to have the amount deposited directly to your bank account. Check the tax instructions for details on entering the routing and account numbers on your tax return.

9. DON'T PANIC IF YOU CAN'T PAY. If you can't immediately pay the taxes you owe, consider some stress-reducing alternatives. You can apply for

an IRS installment agreement, setting your own monthly payment amount and due date, and getting a reduced late payment penalty rate. You also have various options for charging your balance on a credit card, either as part of an electronic return or via a phone call to a processing agent. Electronic filers with a balance due can file early and authorize the government's financial agent to take the money directly from their checking or savings account on the due date.

Note that if you file your tax return on time even if you can't pay, you avoid potential late filing penalties.

10. REQUEST AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE. If the clock runs out, you can get an automatic four-month extension of time to file, to August 15. An extension of time to file does not give you an extension of time to pay, however. You can call 1-888-796-1074, e-file a Form 4868 that is included in most tax preparation software, or send a

paper Form 4868 to the IRS. You will need the Adjusted Gross Income and Total Tax amounts from your 2000 return if you request the extension by computer or phone. You may also get an extension by charging your expected balance on a credit card and you won't have to file the form. Official Payments

Corporation may be reached at 1-800-2PAY-TAX (1-800-272-9829), or at www.official-payments.com. PhoneCharge, Inc. may be reached at 1-888-ALLTAXX (1-888-255-8299), or at www.1888ALLTAXX.com. There is no IRS fee for credit card payments, but the processors charge a convenience fee.

Note that the extension itself does not give you more time to pay any taxes due. Generally, you will owe interest on any amount not paid by the April deadline, plus a late payment penalty if you have not paid at least 90 percent of your total tax by that date.

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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS**Tax On Child's Investment Income**

AREA — Part or all of a child's investment income may be taxed at the parent's rate rather than the child's rate, according to the IRS. Because a parent's taxable income is usually higher than a child's income, the parent's top tax rate will often be higher as well. This special method of figuring the federal income tax only

applies to children who are under the age of 14. For 2001, it applies if the child's total investment income for the year was more than \$1,500. Investment income includes interest, dividends, capital gains, and other unearned income.

To figure the child's tax using this method, fill out Form 8615, "Tax for Children Under Age 14

Who Have Investment Income of More Than \$1,500," and attach it to the child's federal income tax return.

Alternatively, a parent can, in many cases, choose to report the child's investment income on the parent's own tax return. Generally speaking, this option is available if the child's income consists entirely of interest and

dividends (including capital gain distributions) and the amount received is less than \$7,000. Eligible parents can choose this option by filling out Form 8814, "Parent's Election to Report Child's Interest and Dividends," and including it with their tax return.

These special tax rules do not apply to investment income received by children who are age 14 and over. In addition, wages and other earned income

received by a child of any age are taxed at the child's normal rate.

More information can be found in IRS Publication 929, "Tax Rules for Children and Dependents." This publication is available on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov through the "Forms and Publications Finder." You may also order it by calling the IRS toll free at 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Gambling Income And Expenses

AREA — Hit a big one lately? With more and more gambling establishments, the IRS reminds people that they must report all gambling winnings as income on their tax return.

but is not limited to, winnings from lotteries, raffles, horse and dog races and casinos, as well as the fair market value of prizes such as cars, houses, trips or other noncash prizes.

Gambling income includes,

Generally, if you receive

\$600 or more in gambling winnings, the payer is required to issue you a Form W-2G. If you have won more than \$5,000, the payer may be required to withhold 28% of the proceeds for Federal income tax. However, if you did not provide your Social Security number to the payer, the amount withheld will be 31%.

The full amount of your gambling winnings for the year must be reported on line

21, Form 1040. If you itemize deductions, you can deduct your gambling losses for the year on line 27, Schedule A (Form 1040). Your gambling loss deduction cannot be more than the amount of gambling winnings.

It is important to keep an accurate diary or similar record of your gambling winnings and losses. To deduct your losses, you must be able to provide receipts, tickets, statements or other records that show the amount of both

your winnings and losses.

For more information on record keeping, see IRS Publication 529, "Miscellaneous Deductions," or Publication 525, "Taxable and Nontaxable Income." You may also want to check out Form W-2G and its instructions. All are available at the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov through the "Forms and Publications Finder." You may also order publications and forms by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

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Taxable Or Nontaxable?

AREA — Generally, most income you receive is taxable, according to the IRS.

But there are some areas where certain types of income are partially taxed or not taxed at all. A complete list is available in IRS Publication 525, "Taxable and Nontaxable Income."

Some common examples of items not included in your income are:

- Child support payments
- Gifts, bequests and inheritances

• Workers' compensation benefits

• Meals and lodging for the convenience of your employer

• Compensatory damages awarded for physical injury or physical sickness

• Welfare benefits

• Cash rebates from a dealer or manufacturer

If you surrender a life insurance policy for cash, you must include in income any proceeds that are more than the cost of the life insurance policy. Otherwise, life insurance proceeds paid to

you because of the death of the insured person are not taxable unless the policy was turned over to you for a price.

Another example of income that you may or may not exclude is a scholarship or fellowship grant. If you are a candidate for a degree, you can exclude amounts you receive as a qualified scholarship or fellowship. Amounts used for room and board do not qualify.

These examples are not all-inclusive. For more information, visit the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov and view or download Publication 525 through the "Forms and Publications Finder." It is also available by calling toll free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676) and at local IRS offices.

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WINNING PICK-3**SUNDAY, Mar. 24**

Mid-Day 905 7540
Evening 902 6861

MONDAY, Mar. 25

Mid-Day 778 4623
Evening 123 0797

TUESDAY, Mar. 26

Mid-Day 342 6460
Evening 785 9091

WEDNESDAY, Mar. 27

Mid-Day 992 9095
Evening 175 0548

THURSDAY, Mar. 28

Mid-Day 152 4993
Evening 718 3342

FRIDAY, Mar. 29

Mid-Day 435 8731
Evening 302 4664

SATURDAY, Mar. 30

Mid-Day 607 1296
Evening 883 9165

WINNING PICK-6 Numbers**MONDAY, Mar. 24**

4-5-7-17-47-49
THURSDAY, Mar. 28
2-15-33-40-41-42

WINNING PICK-4**JERSEY CASH-5****SUNDAY, Mar. 24**

4-10-12-19-21

MONDAY, Mar. 25

18-21-25-29-38

TUESDAY, Mar. 26

11-12-15-33-35

WEDNESDAY, Mar. 27

17-18-22-25-34

THURSDAY, Mar. 28

4-7-24-28-38

FRIDAY, Mar. 29

4-6-7-27-35

SATURDAY, Mar. 30

10-13-17-28-34

BIG GAME WINNING Numbers**TUESDAY, Mar. 25**

1-15-17-22-40-22

FRIDAY, Mar. 29

15-26-28-35-44-30

LOTZEE WINNING Numbers**WEDNESDAY, Mar. 27**

30-36-49-66

SATURDAY, Mar. 30

3-15-52-71

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YOUR SCHOOL NEWS

Once-A Year Education Hotline Set

AREA — Once a year the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) holds an education hotline, dubbed the National Principals' Hotline, to give families an opportunity to speak directly, but anonymously, with a school principal or school psychologist. On April 7, 8, and 9, 2002, NAESP holds its thirteenth

Hotline for parents, grandparents, or anyone with a question on education or children. It's a toll-free phone and e-mail service dedicated to answering any questions about schools, children, and education.

Approximately 150 educators will staff the phones and computer terminals while they attend NAESP's annual convention.

The Hotline's purpose is to ease difficulties and encourage constructive communication between schools and families. Parents who are curious, troubled, or simply need some reassurance regarding their child's education may speak confidentially with a principal or get specialized advice from a school psychologist from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Calls will be taken

in Spanish and English.

Call toll-free 1-800-944-1601 or e-mail the Hotline by accessing www.naesp.org during the following days and times in your area (Note: e-mail service begins early on Saturday, April 6):

Co-sponsored by TIAA-CREF and *Family Circle* magazine, the Hotline averages more than 1,000 calls each year from the continental U.S., Hawaii, Alaska, and Canada. Callers ask about a variety of topics, including children's reading problems,

school discipline, special education policies, testing, learning difficulties, kindergarten entrance, and school safety. Calls on any subjects are welcome.

The 2002 Hotline originates from San Antonio, TX, where 5,000 K-8 principals will attend NAESP's convention. Callers may also receive free copies of *What Parents Should Look for in Their Child's Elementary School* and *A Parents Guide to Helping Children Cope with Fears*, booklets produced by NAESP and TIAA-CREF.

Reunion Info.

AREA — A gala reunion is currently being organized for the following High Schools:

HIGH SCHOOL YEAR

CEDAR RIDGE 82
CEDAR RIDGE 92
COLONIA 82
COLONIA 92
COLUMBIA 82
COLUMBIA 92
EAST BRUNSWICK 82
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EDISON TOWNSHIP 61-64
EDISON TOWNSHIP 92
HOWELL 82
HOWELL 92
JFK ISELIN 92
JOHN P. STEVENS 76
JOHN P. STEVENS 82
JOHN P. STEVENS 92
MADISON CENTRAL 82
MADISON CENTRAL 92
MANALAPAN 82
MANALAPAN 92
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MATAWAN 92
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MIDDLETOWN SOUTH 92
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OCEAN TOWNSHIP 92
PISCATAWAY 82
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SAYREVILLE WAR MEMORIAL 82
SAYREVILLE WAR MEMORIAL 92
SHEEPSHEAD BAY 80 & 81
SHEEPSHEAD BAY 84-89
WATCHUNG HILLS 92
WOODBRIIDGE 64
WOODBRIIDGE 77
WOODBRIIDGE 82
WOODBRIIDGE 92

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July 13, 2002
July 13, 2002
November 30, 2002
November 9, 2002
November 29, 2002
May 4, 2002
April 20, 2002
November 29, 2002
August 17, 2002
September 27, 2002,
August 3, 2002
April 20, 2002
August 3, 2002
August 10, 2002
July 20, 2002
June 1, 2002
June 21, 2002
November 29, 2002
April 27, 2002
November 29, 2002
March 23, 2002
July 6, 2002
May 4, 2002
November 29, 2002
August 10, 2002
November 30, 2002
November 29, 2002
May 18, 2002
November 30, 2002
September 28, 2002
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Asthma Athlete Scholarships Program Expanded For 2002

AREA — Schering/Key has announced a significant increase in scholarship grants for its annual "Will to Win" Asthma Athlete Scholarships Program, nearly tripling the awards from \$35,000 in 2001 to \$100,000 in 2002.

The expanded "Will to Win" program for high school scholar-athletes marks its 18th consecutive year in 2002. The program in 2002 will grant \$100,000 in scholarships to 11 high school seniors who have excelled in athletics in spite of the challenge of asthma. The grand prize winner will receive a \$20,000 Gold Award, with four Silver and six Bronze Award winners each receiving \$12,500 and \$5,000, respectively.

Information and applications for the 2002 "Will to Win" Asthma Athlete Scholarships may be obtained by calling the "Will to Win" hotline at 1-800-558-7305 or visiting the Web at <http://www.thewilltowin.org>. Interested seniors can visit the new "Will to Win" Web site for complete details and information on recent winners. The deadline for entries is April 30. Winners will be notified in writing in June.

The "Will to Win" program recognizes the nation's top high school athletes with asthma and serves to demonstrate to America's 5 million young people with asthma that their condition, when

properly treated and managed, need not be a limitation to success. In keeping with the guidelines of the National Institute of Health, the scholarships underscore Schering/Key's commitment to the concept of asthma management. The concept, which has proven to be an effective preventative, includes regular exercise, careful monitoring of asthma symptoms, and close coordination between patients and doctors.

The scholarship program has gained the support of some of America's most prominent professional and Olympic athletes, all of whom have overcome asthma in their athletic careers. Recent

"Will to Win" spokespersons include soccer sensation Briana Scurry, track stars Dwight Stones and Mary Slaney, and tennis legend Billie Jean King.

"The response to the program has been truly amazing," said Muhammad, "and our new \$100,000 scholarship package should greatly increase interest." Dr. Slavin noted, "Will to Win" program increases awareness that asthma can be managed with proper care and adherence to a treatment program, and parents of children with asthma have become more comfortable allowing their kids to participate in competitive sports."

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EDITORIAL

Editorial

Late last month, Perth Amboy Mayor Joseph Vas announced that the city was one step closer to beginning construction on a new \$30 million municipal complex, which will house a fire headquarters, police station, rescue squad, courthouse, and family recreation center.

That's great news – unless you're one of owners of the property that's to be acquired for the project.

Owners were notified through a form letter written by law director Alberto Rivas, who has said that if the city cannot negotiate a purchase price for the affected properties, it will proceed with condemnation. It's not hard to see why business and property owners feel that Vas is being

unsympathetic. It is difficult to understand why the city wants to close successful businesses. But he's doing more than just forcing some businesses to move – he's ending a way of life for many people.

Sciortino's Pizzeria has served Perth Amboy since the 1930's. Family members have worked hard for generations to make it the successful business that it is.

It's not just business owners, either. A number of houses apartments are also scheduled for demolition. Some of those residents have been living there for fifty or sixty years.

Progress is important, but sometimes it's also important to keep the past alive.



ASSEMBLYMAN
JOHN WINIEWSKI'S
**Report
From
Trenton**

April Fools Day is traditionally a day to play lighthearted pranks on our family, friends and co-workers. It is a good way to begin the month that brings us out of the winter doldrums and starts the Spring season. However, April is also the month that brings into focus a very serious problem, alcohol abuse.

Every April since 1987, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD), has sponsored Alcohol Awareness Month. The organization's hope is to encourage local communities to focus on the problem of alcohol abuse, it's affect on families and the role the family can play in recovery from alcoholism.

Alcohol abuse is a serious problem in the United States. Approximately one-half of our nation's adults report a family history of alcoholism or problem drinking.

According to the Brown University Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, more than nine million children live with a parent who is dependent on drugs or alcohol. Alcohol abuse crosses all demographic lines, including income level, education, race, religion and social status. It is also closely linked to many of America's most difficult social problems, including, crime, homelessness, teen dropout rates and domestic violence. Unfortunately, adults are not the only age group confronting alcohol abuse. Underage drinking is one of our nation's greatest social ills. More than 41% of high school seniors perceive no great risk in consuming four to five drinks nearly every

day. According to a University of Michigan study, 22% of 8th graders and 41% of 10th graders report having consumed alcohol during the past month. Underage drinking has tragic results, alcohol is the key factor in the three leading causes of death (motor vehicle crashes, homicides and suicides) for 15 to 24 year olds. In addition to the tragic human costs, alcohol abuse has enormous financial costs to our society, estimated at \$185 billion a year.

As dire as these statistics are, there is a way out for the family and for the alcoholic. It is important to understand, alcohol addiction is not an issue of morality or "will power", it's a chronic disease and needs to be treated as we treat other chronic diseases. The best solution for the family's problem requires changing what the non-alcoholic members are doing because family members cannot control the alcoholic's drinking. There is plenty of help available for the family including self-help groups, referral services and professional care facilities.

Similarly, though facing an alcohol problem is a fearful one, when the alcoholic is ready to accept help, it is available. The most common form of self-help is participation in support groups. There is also both inpatient and outpatient professional care. For help in understanding the available options the Middlesex County Chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence is an excellent resource.

In recognition of Alcohol Awareness Month, NCADD of Middlesex County is sponsoring a wide variety of programs with local organizations, schools and businesses. For a schedule of events or other information contact NCADD at 732-254-3344 or visit them on the web at www.ncadd-middlesex.com.

Readers Commentary...



People Keep A City Shining

Dear Editor,

Along with many others, I am annoyed as hell about the whole Sciortino's Pizzeria scenario. Why in God's name would Vas (or any other city official) want to tear down a landmark let alone the past and present lives of an entire family...a family that migrated to this country, then to the city of Perth Amboy...worked hard to build a successful business that has

flourished and served the community for many many years...70 years...does anyone have any idea what it feels like to have an entire family's past ripped out from under their feet? Not just "a past" but "a lifetime"...literally, blood sweat and tears...my father's blood and sweat, his family's blood and sweat...and now my tears, the tears of my aunts and cousins that have lived, loved and worked there their entire lives.

Have a heart Joe, how would you feel if "Vas Village" down on State St. was facing this very

same threat? I firmly believe that Perth Amboy can continue to move forward and progress without this kind of destruction.

I have lived in this city all my life and I have no problem remembering just how great it was.

Everyone reading this, I ask you to please remember, buildings and municipal complexes do not make a city shine, but a lifetime of contributions, hard-working, and caring people can keep it shining for all eternity.

**Francene Sciortino-Kopas
Perth Amboy**



Vas Has Become The Enemy

I remember when Vas opposed Otowski.

Seems to me, he has turned into that which he hated. Instead of using land that is run down

and neglected, he chooses to close the three businesses that are doing well on New Brunswick Avenue.

One only needs to ride by and see that the residents this would affect actually clean up in front of their house. Amazing how the people that care about their city street are told to leave.

I no longer care for Vas as mayor and hope someone does

what he did to Otowski: Recall him. He waited until the deadline for the city council was closed to release the information about Sciortino and surrounding properties.

Vas new campaign slogan = Serve the political agenda and screw the people.

**Stefan Kopas
Perth Amboy**



Vas Throws Out Families, Businesses

Dear Editor,

I am not alone when I say that I am completely outraged over the demolition plan for the Sciortino pizzeria in Perth Amboy. This is much more than

a pizzeria, bar and barbershop. People lived here all their lives; there is a family history, hard work and memories.

This is a question of the needs and wants of Mayor Joseph Vas. Perth Amboy does not need a new police complex that will cost \$30 million. It's selfish to kick small-business owners and residents out of their homes after they've served the community for more than 70

years. My family worked very hard to build this business. They came here as did everyone else to live the American dream.

I urge the city of Perth Amboy to reconsider this plan and think about the lives that will be affected and the dollars taxpayers will be spending.

**Krisi Christin:
Perth Amboy**

Editorial Policy

The Atom Tabloid & Citizen ~ Gazette wants to hear from you. Letters to the editor will be published weekly on the editorial page, as space allows.

All letters should be typed and must include a daytime telephone number at which the writer may be reached for verification. Letters should be as concise as possible.

Letters to the editor must be in our office by noon Friday for consideration for publication the following week.

Keep us informed of your feelings and concerns so we can keep you better informed

of the events that are affecting your life.

The Atom Tabloid & Citizen ~ Gazette reserves the right to edit all letters and guest columns for grammar, spelling, length and questionable content.

Letters and columns may be mailed to: *The Atom Tabloid & Citizen ~ Gazette*, P.O. Box 1061, Rahway, NJ 07065. They also may be faxed to (732) 388-4143, Attn: Editor, or reach us via e-mail at editor@devinemedi.com.

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Crafters Wanted

SOUTH AMBOY—The First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy is sponsoring its annual Spring Craft Show and Food Sale on Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the church basement, 150 Broadway, South Amboy.

Tables are available for \$20 and the deadline is April 15. Call (732) 721-9257.

Carteret Serenaders

CARTERET—The Carteret Serenaders have been putting on an hour variety show since 1973.

The group performs for nursing homes, assisted living homes, church groups, school groups, senior groups, veteran groups and for many different organizations.

The members include singers, a dancer, accordionist and a pianist and students from dance schools are guest acts.

The members are Janet Foglia, Jean Kosky, Margie Vanwoert, Tony Bonventure, all of Carteret; Barbara Sarisky of Avenel; Rosemary O'Brien of Woodbridge; Maria Carmen of Rahway; Joann Schmidt and Tim Ellis of Plainfield; Christine Eddington of Iselin and Andy Fortuny of Sewaren.

Anyone interested in this group may contact Janet Foglia at (732) 969-3345 for more information.

Celebrating 25 Years Of Service

METUCHEN—The New Hope Baptist Church of Metuchen will be celebrating the Twelfth Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. and Mrs. Ronald L. Owens who are celebrating 25 years in Ministry at a Silver Anniversary Banquet on Friday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Brunswick Hilton. Tickets are \$75 each. For additional information call (732) 549-8941.

The following is the schedule of service events from April 8-14.

April 8-7 p.m.—Rev. Dr. Perry Simmons, Abyssinia Baptist Church, Newark; April 9-7 p.m.—Rev. Tracey Brown, Ruth

Fellowship Church, Plainfield; April 10-7 p.m.—Rev. Ronald Green, Greater Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Linden; April 11-7 p.m.—Rev. Dr. Kenneth Saunders, North Stelton AME Church, Piscataway; April 14-11 a.m.—Rev. Fred Sharp, New Hope Baptist Church, Metuchen and April 14-4 p.m.—Rev. Albert Morgan, Union Baptist Temple, Bridgeton.

All services are being held at New Hope Baptist Church, 45 Hampton Street, Metuchen. For more information, call (732) 549-8941.

Unity Bank Opens Café in Edison

EDISON— Since Monday, April 1st, when clients walk into Unity Bank's Edison branch office, located at 1746 Oak Tree Road, they find more than the typical bank lobby. In addition to teller stations and customer service desks, clients and neighborhood residents can now gather at café-style tables for a cup of gourmet coffee, tea or hot chocolate and enjoy fresh pastries at Café Unity. "At Unity Bank, we want to make our clients and neighbors feel comfortable when they visit us," said Branch Manager, Sharda Mathur. "We want our offices to be community centers where customers feel free to stop by, even when they aren't conducting banking business."

Café Unity in Edison is the third Unity Bank branch office location to offer these amenities. The Clinton location's Café Unity even includes a piano.

Unity Bank strongly believes

in supporting the businesses that are in the local communities, so Café Unity purchases its food and beverages from local restaurants or charitable organizations. Edison's Café Unity refreshments will reflect the tastes and culture of the neighborhood and include Indian pastries and teas.

"Unity Bank is unlike other banks," stated Unity Bank President, Tony Feraro.

"Today, most banks want to keep their customers out of their branch offices and encourage them to use ATMs or the Internet and telephone banking services. We provide these services and offer them as conveniences, but we prefer to meet with our clients and develop a personal relationship. When we know our clients, then we can really understand their personal situations and help them achieve their financial goals," Feraro added. "Café Unity lets our

clients know they are welcome at our bank, and they are invited to come in and visit whenever they wish."

In addition to providing clients with a friendly and inviting atmosphere, the Edison office is open seven days a week for even greater convenience. "We tailor our products and our banking hours to meet the needs of each of our neighborhoods," said Mathur. "Our Edison clients are busy people who can't always get to the bank during traditional banking hours," she added.

Unity Bank has twelve branch offices located throughout New Jersey. As of December 31, 2001, total assets were \$379 million, total deposits \$340 million. For more information about Café Unity and Unity Bank, call 800.618.BANK (2265) or visit the website at www.unitybank.com.

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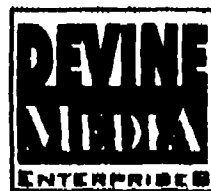
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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Velveteen Rabbit Hops Into Forum Theatre

METUCHEN—The Forum Theater Company's program adaptation of the classic children's tale, *A Velveteen Rabbit*, now in its sixth season. This enchanting tale is

retold with wit, warmth and music, having a book by Paul Whelihan and music and lyrics by Paul Farinella. (This creative team brought the critically acclaimed blockbuster to the Forum in December, *A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Carol*).

It is the story of how a young boy's toy rabbit becomes Real. As a child's favorite plaything over many years, the rabbit is truly loved; this—and the help of the nursery magic fairy—help turn the Velveteen Rabbit into a Real rabbit.

Designed for audiences ages two to ten and their families, *Velveteen Rabbit* follows the boy and Velveteen through many imaginary adventures, from deep dark caves to the wide-open sea. The Boy's nursery—ruled by his nursemaid, Nana—has many other animated toys, such as Motle (the model boat), Amelia (the toy airplane), Diesel (the toy engine) and Riding Horse, all of whom have their ideas

about what it is to be Real.

Through life's journey, Velveteen meets Verdon and Fosse, two real rabbits who try to engage him in play, and Divine Intervention, the Fairy.

A Kid's Forum productions are performed by professional actors with live music, colorful sets and imaginative costuming.

Cast members meet and greet the children after each performance, signing autographs and having their pictures taken with new friends from the audience.

All musicals are recommended for children ages 2 and up. All seats are reserved. Ticket prices are \$10 for everyone with discounts for groups of 20 or more. Camp groups, daycare centers, Boy and Girl Scout Troops as well as other organizations are all encouraged to book early for best availability. For tickets, call (732) 548-0582 or visit the web at www.akidsforum.com.

State Theatre Presents Julio Iglesias

NEW BRUNSWICK — Julio Iglesias was recently added to the State Theatre schedule of events for May 29 at 8 p.m. This one man, world-wide musical phenomenon is a multinational force having sold more than 250 million albums in numerous languages to music lovers on every continent. During this engagement, Spain's most famous singer will perform from his collection of fiery hits that include "Moonlight Lady," "La Cumparsita," "A Media Luz," and "To All Girls I Loved Before."

Tickets for this performance are on sale. Call (732) 246-7469 or toll free (877) STATE-11, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; and Wednesday from 11 a.m.–7 p.m. for ticket purchase or information. Patrons may order tickets online at www.StateTheatreNJ.org. The State Theatre Box Office is located at 15 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick.

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Thursday **Drink Specials All Night!** | **KAREOKE**
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Friday	APR 5	APR 12th	APR 19th	APR 26th
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Saturday	APR 13th	APR 20th	APR 27th
APR 6	Class of '57	Collage	N.J. Train
The Characters	6 Piece Band. Oldies	7 Piece Band. Oldies	5 Piece Band 70's & 90's Music

Sunday **Complete Prime Rib Sunday Prime Rib Dinner \$9.95**

Vietnam Educational Center Hosts Film Discussion

AREA — On Saturday, April 13, at 1 p.m., the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation will present *Seabees in Vietnam*. The presentation will feature the documentary film "We Build...We Fight: The Story of the U.S. Navy Seabees" with a discussion led by Vietnam Veterans Gene Cusanelli and Bill Weber. The program will be held at the Vietnam Era Educational Center, Holmdel.

"We Build...We Fight" recounts the formation and proud accomplishments of the U.S. Navy's military construction force known as the Seabees. Formed shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Seabees served in the war zones of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm.

Gene Cusanelli of Middletown was 19 when he joined the Navy in 1966, assuming that service in the Navy would put him on a ship instead of in the jungles of Vietnam. Bill Weber of Little Ferry joined the Navy that same year when he was 18. However, both were assigned to the Seabees. Cusanelli was a builder with MCB-71 (Mobile Construction Battalion 71) in Chu Lai and Binh Son in South Vietnam, while Weber was a plumber and pipe fitter with MCB-4 in Da Nang, Khe Sanh and other places in Vietnam. Rather than sailing on a ship, these Navy men spent their Tour of Duty on land, clearing the jungles and constructing buildings and bridges, and when necessary, they fought.

Lecture attendees are asked to RSVP to the event to (732) 335-0033. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested. The Vietnam Era Educational Center is located adjacent to the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116. The Educational Center is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Regular admission is free for veterans and active-duty military personnel. Regular adult admission is \$4; student and senior citizen admission is \$2; and children under 10 are admitted free.

Garay Gets Promoted

PERTH AMBOY—Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Erica Garay, a 2000 graduate of Perth Amboy High School, recently was promoted to her current rank while serving with Marine Air Control Squadron

Seven, Marine Air Control Group 38, Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz.

Garay was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in her designated speciality.

Swallick Completes Training

PERTH AMBOY—Army Pvt. Eric P. Swallick has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Knox, Ky.

During the training, the trainee received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military cour-

tesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Swallick is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Swallick and nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Kingston, all of Perth Amboy, N.J.

Vazquez Reports For Duty

PERTH AMBOY—Air Force Staff Sgt. Joseph K. Vazquez has arrived for duty at Yokota Air Base, Tokyo, Japan.

Vazquez is an arms and equipment supervisor assigned to the 374th

Security Forces Squadron. He has 12 years of military service.

He is the son of Norman R. and Teodula M. Vazquez of Perth Amboy.

His wife, Keri, is the son of David H. Whitmore of Tigard, Ore., and Rebecca L. Golding of Portland, Ore.

The sergeant is a 1988 graduate of Perth Amboy High School.

Rolon Graduates Basic Military Training

PARLIN—Air Force Airman Christine Rolon has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received

physical training and special training in human relations.

Rolon is the daughter of Daniel Rolon of Parlin and Elizabeth Rivera of N. Chelmsford, Mass.

She is a 1999 graduate of Greater Lawrence Technical Vocational High School, Andover, Mass.

Alland Completes Basic Military Training

PERTH AMBOY—Marine Corps Pvt. Oscar Alland, son of Nivia and Oscar Olland of Perth Amboy, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Alland successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

In addition to the physical conditioning program, he spent numerous hours in classroom

and field assignments which included learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training.

He also received instruction on the Marine Corps' core values—honor, courage and commitment, and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct.

Alland is a 2001 graduate of Perth Amboy High School.

Valentin Reports For Duty

WOODBIDGE—Navy Seaman Jessica Valentin, daughter of Luz M. and Roberto Valentin of Woodbridge, recently reported for duty at Naval Security Group

Activity, Fort George G. Meade, Md.

Valentin is a 1999 graduate of Long Branch High School and joined the Navy in April 2000.

Cruz Joins Army

PERTH AMBOY—Kelvin Cruz has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program. The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay entering active duty for up to one year.

The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a new skill,

travel and become eligible to receive as much as \$50,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic military training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career job specialty.

The recruit qualifies for an \$11,000 enlistment bonus. Cruz, a 2001 graduate of Perth Amboy High School, N.J., will report to

Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga., for basic training.

He is the son of Miguelina Delacruz and Raphael Cruz of Perth Amboy.

Lopez Graduates From AIT Course

PARLIN — Army Pvt. Fabian A. Lopez has graduated from the light-wheel vehicle mechanic advanced individual training (AIT) course at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

The student was trained to perform maintenance, troubleshoot, and repair wheeled vehicles and related mechanical components, including suspension systems, internal combustion engines and power trains, wheel-hub assemblies, hydraulic brake and steering systems, and operate a wheeled-vehicle crane, hoist and winch assemblies.

Lopez is the son of Irma C. Lopez of Parlin.

The private is a 2001 graduate of Old Bridge High School.

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OBITUARIES

Marie Ciaccio, 82 of Metuchen

Mrs. Marie (Calta) Ciaccio of Metuchen died March 15 at Mary Anne Hale Pavilion of Haven Hospice, Edison. She was 82.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she lived there before moving to Metuchen in 1986.

She worked at many retail businesses as a salesperson before retiring in 1980.

Mrs. Ciaccio was a communicant of St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen.

Her husband, Peter A. Ciaccio, died in 1962; a son, Peter J. Ciaccio, died in 1992.

Surviving are a daughter, Phyllis Michalski of Metuchen; a granddaughter, Andrea Michalski and a grandson, Christopher Michalski, both of Metuchen.

Francisco Roman of Carteret

Mr. Francisco Roman of Carteret died March 16 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy. He was 66.

Born in Puerto Rico, he lived in Carteret for many years.

He was employed for 22 years at Coca Cola, retiring last year.

Surviving are his wife of 43 years, Ines Jorge; three daughters, Evenly Schorea, Diana Perez and Carmen Perez, all of Carteret; a son, Frank Perez of Carteret; two sisters, Juanita Perez and Carmen Noriega; three brothers, Angel Martinez, Jose Noriega and Arlen Noriega; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Lorraine Quinn, 75 of Avenel

Mrs. Lorraine Quinn (nee Murphy) of Manahawkin (formerly of Avenel) died March 17 at Southern Ocean County Hospital, Manahawkin. She was 75.

Born in Jersey City, she lived in Avenel before moving to Manahawkin, where she resided for the past 21 years.

Her husband, John J. Quinn, died in 2001; a son, Robert J. Quinn, died in 1992; her sisters, Catherine Brennan, Lillian Graham and Margaret Corcoran; and three brothers, Robert, Joseph and John Murphy, are all deceased.

Surviving are a son, Stephen Quinn of Galloway and a grandson, Mickey Quinn.

Hermine Fitzig, 78 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Hermine (Marciniak) Ruble Fitzig of Cooper City, Fla., (formerly of Perth Amboy) died March 21 at home in Cooper City. She was 78.

Born in Perth Amboy, she resided in Perth Amboy and Seaside Park before moving to Cooper City, Fla.

She managed rental properties in Jersey City before her retirement.

Her brother, Robert Marciniak, is deceased.

Surviving are her husband, Seymour Fitzig; a son, Lance Ruble of Cooper City; a daughter, Cindy Zayko of East Greenwich, R.I.; a sister, Alberta Ashton and four grandchildren, Leigh, Kate, Michael and Maggie.

John Henry, 86 of Iselin

Mrs. Ruth (Burton) Wirkowski of Edison died at Naples Community Hospital, Naples, Fla. She was 76.

Born in Mount Vernon, N.Y., she lived in Edison for the past 50 years, while spending summers in Barnegat Light on Long Beach Island and in the winter months, in Naples, Fla.

She graduated from A.B. Davis High School and Berkeley Secretarial School.

She worked in Manhattan for Pan American Airlines and

Time-Life.

A daughter, Joanne Wirkowski, died in 2001. Her parents, Florence and David Burton and a brother, Jack Burton, are also deceased.

Surviving her husband of 50 years, Edward Wirkowski; two sons, John Craig Wirkowski of St. John, Ind. and James Wirkowski of Edison; four grandchildren, Christopher and Katherine, both of Indiana and Jamie and Joseph, both of Edison.

Mary A. Volek, 86 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Mary A. (Sarisky) Volek of Ocean Township (formerly of Perth Amboy) died March 26 at home. She was 86.

Born in Perth Amboy, she lived in Neptune and Long Branch before moving to Ocean Township four years ago.

She worked in the delivery room and nursery of Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch for 18 years, retiring from there in 1978.

She also worked at the Crippled Children's Camp in Oakhurst for 43 years before

retiring in 1993.

Mrs. Volek was a member of St. John's Orthodox Church, Perth Amboy.

Her husband, John, and a son, Edward Volek, are both deceased.

Surviving are two sons, John Volek Jr. of Long Branch and Robert Volek of Neptune City; a daughter, Margaret Athnarios of Long Branch, Bernice Bernacchi of Neptune Township; a daughter-in-law, Carol Volek of Vero Beach, Fla.; 15 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

Ruth Wirkowski, 76 of Edison

Mrs. Ruth (Burton) Wirkowski of Edison died at Naples Community Hospital, Naples, Fla. She was 76.

Born in Mount Vernon, N.Y., she lived in Edison for the past 50 years, while spending summers in Barnegat Light on Long Beach Island and in the winter months, in Naples, Fla.

She graduated from A.B. Davis High School and Berkeley Secretarial School.

She worked in Manhattan for Pan American Airlines and

Time-Life. A daughter, Joanne Wirkowski, died in 2001.

Her parents, Florence and David Burton and a brother, Jack Burton, are also deceased.

Surviving her husband of 50 years, Edward Wirkowski; two sons, John Craig Wirkowski of St. John, Ind. and James Wirkowski of Edison; four grandchildren, Christopher and Katherine, both of Indiana and Jamie and Joseph, both of Edison.

Frank Esposito, 106 of Fords

Mr. Frank Esposito of Fords died March 25 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 106.

Born in Santangiano, Italy, he lived in Fords for the past 89 years.

He was employed by Anaconda Raritan Copper Works, Perth Amboy for over 40 years before retiring in 1960.

Mr. Esposito was a member of the Tripoli Club, Perth Amboy.

He was a communicant of Holy Rosary R.C. Church, Perth Amboy, and helped build the original Holy Rosary Church, Perth Amboy.

His wife of 66 years, Catherine (Virgilio) Esposito, died in 1977. Two sons, Adam and George Esposito; a son-in-law, Michael Horvath Sr. and two daughter-in-laws, Vinnie and Grace Esposito, are all deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Elvira Horvath of Fords; seven grandchildren, Kathleen Bennett, Geraldine Disomma, Georgianna Kozack, Carol Hauck, Michael Horvath, Jr., Cathy Esposito and Raphaella Burness; 17 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

R. Wojciechowski of Melrose

Mrs. Rose Gomolka Wojciechowski of the Melrose section of Sayreville, died March 16 at home. She was 90.

Born in Irvington, she lived in Melrose for the past 80 years.

She was a seamstress for various clothing companies in the area, lastly by Maidenform Co., Perth Amboy.

Mrs. Wojciechowski was a member of Sacred Heart R.C. Church, South Amboy and belonged to the church's Senior Citizens Club and Holy Rosary Society.

Her husband, Joseph, died in 1989. Three brothers, Jack, Eddie and George Gomolka, are all deceased.

Surviving are three sisters, Dorothy Kuczynski of Sayreville, Martha Tabaszewski of Spotswood and Peggy Ziola of Morgan; a niece, Peggy Burdak of Melrose; and other nieces and nephews.



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- Worship Services 6:30am, 8:30am, 11:00am
- Sunday Christian Education 8:15 & 9:15 am
- Children's Church, Junior Church and Teen Church - 2nd & 4th Sun 11:00am
- Holy Communion - 1st Sunday Each Worship Service (and as announced)
- Water Baptism - 3rd Sunday 11:00am (and as announced)
- Baby and Child Dedications 2nd Sunday

Monday through Friday ~ Sunrise Prayer 6:00 am

MONDAY

- Man to Man Bible Class 6:30pm
- Sister to Sister Bible Class 6:30pm

TUESDAY

- Cathedral Bible Institute 6:30pm-10:00pm

WEDNESDAY

- Mid-Day "Hour of Power" 12:00/Noon

THURSDAY

- Pastoral Teaching Service 6:30pm



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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

DEP Urges Public To Be Fire Wise

STATE—After experiencing one of the driest years on record, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commission Bradley M. Campbell cautioned that the chance of fires early in the spring forest fire season have increased dramatically.

"Residents and visitors to the state should take extra safety precautions in New Jersey's forested regions, recreational areas and in areas where homes are located near wildlands and forests during this critical forest fire period—from March 15–May 15," said Commissioner Campbell.

Spring weather conditions such as high winds and higher temperatures coupled with low humidity can spur wildfires. Even when spring rains fall on New Jersey, forests can dry out in one to two days.

Wildfires spread quickly and threaten homes, property, natural resources, wildlife and human lives. During this past year 1,929 wildfires consumed 4,476 acres of forest; since October 1, there have been 1,116 wildfires, which represents the busiest winter for the Division of Parks and Forestry in more than three decades.

But taking fire prevention steps can lessen the likelihood of fires. "Fire protection in wildland/urban interface areas is everyone's responsibility," said Campbell, adding that, "Wildfires have the potential to affect entire communities. Most wildfires are caused by human carelessness or arson."

Recreational fire permits are restricted, administered and coordinated through the Forest

Fire Service. To obtain permits or information on permits for recreational fees, call the DEP Forest Fire Office in your area.

For more information on fire prevention visit <http://www.parksandforestry.org>. Or call one of the three Forest Fire Headquarters: North—located in Sussex County (201) 827-

6100; Central—located in Burlington County (609) 726-9010; or South—located in Atlantic County (609) 625-1121.

For up-to-date information on the state's drought conditions as well as open burning and water-use restrictions visit <http://www.njdrought.org>.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

IT'S A BOY! Michele Christine and Andrew John Pilch of Flemington are proud to announce the birth of their son, **Christopher Matthew**, born March 5, 2002 in Hunterdon Medical Center, Flemington. Christopher Matthew weighted 7 lbs. 5 ozs. and measured 21 inches. The maternal grandparents are Jeff and Michele Jones. The paternal grandparents are Andrew and Geri Pilch. The maternal great-grandparents are Charles and Mary LoGrande.

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Menendez Highlights Hispanic Outreach Activities

(continued from page...3)

proving that Democrats are doing a better job of recruiting strong Hispanic candidates for competitive 2002 congressional races than the Republican Party.

Stressing the Democrats' record of service to the Hispanic Community, Lowey and Menendez said that Democrats know that Hispanic voters will be judging parties and candidates based on who delivers meaningful action to improve their quality of life, like health care, education and jobs and the Democrats have done that, and will continue to fight for these issues in 2002.

Pallone To Receive Prestigious Indian Civilian Award At Ceremony

(continued...)

(continued from page...3)

opportunities for trade and investment in the private sector will only strengthen our bilateral relationship.

Under Pallone's chairmanship, the Caucus established a regular series of briefings for members of Congress and their staffs on a wide range of issues affecting U.S.-India relations and the Indian-American community.

The Caucus frequently plays host for visiting delegations from India's government and private sector—visits, which became more common with the growing bilateral relationship between the world's two largest democracies.

Pallone, who represents a large Indian-American community, is also a strong proponent of greater involvement on the part of ethnic communities in the U.S. on behalf of foreign policy goals and objectives.

The New Jersey congressman says the Indian-American community, which has achieved one of the highest levels of education and affluence of any ethnic group in the nation, can serve as an important human "bridge" between the world's two largest democracies.

Bill Extending Drug-Free Zones Passes Assembly

STATE—The Assembly has passed legislation Assembly Assistant Majority Leader John S. Wisniewski and Assemblyman Willis Edwards III sponsored to extend the drug-free school zones concept to publicly assisted housing.

The measure (A-378) would amend the state law authorizing drug-free zones at public parks, public housing complexes and public building. The bill would extend protection to housing communities—such as the Lakeview Housing complex in Sayreville—that are not technically "public housing complexes" but which receive government funding.

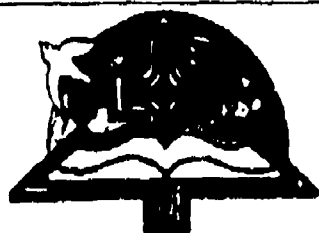
Under the measure, any person distributing illegal drugs within 500 feet of public assisted housing would be guilty of a second degree crime punishable by up to 10 years in jail and \$150,000 in fines.

Under the measure, a "publicly assisted housing complex" is defined as one that is privately owned but receives public assistance or subsidies. Funds contributed to these facilities—which may be in the form of grants or loans—can come from a federal, state or local government agency.

"Just because a complex is privately owned does not mean that the state should not protect the residents—especially the children—from drugs," said Wisniewski.

The measure was passed by a vote of 73-3-0 and now heads to the Senate for further consideration.

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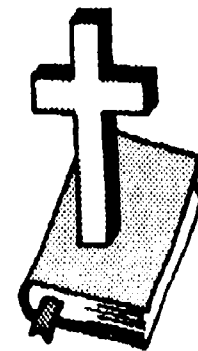
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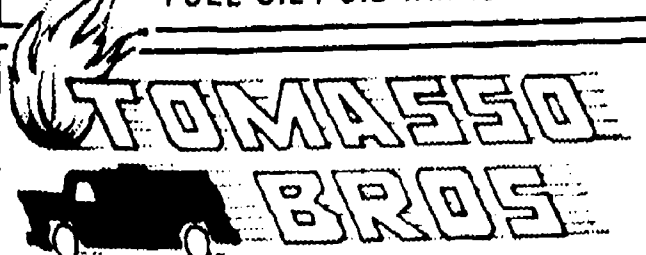
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Celebrating Irish Roots

"I am proud of my Irish heritage and the legacy my grandparents brought here when they immigrated to the United States,"

WOODBIDGE—In celebration of his Irish heritage, Governor James E. McGreevey participated in the Woodbridge St. Patrick's Day parade on March 10.

"I am proud of my Irish heritage and the legacy my grandparents brought here when they immigrated to the United

States," said McGreevey. "Our growth as a nation has been built upon the genius and industry of immigrants who came to America from countries such as Ireland."

McGreevey's Irish heritage includes family roots in County Carlow and County Down. He is the grandson of a

Jersey City Irish immigrant police officer and has fought for many Irish causes during his career in public service.

As a legislator, McGreevey sponsored a bill that required the Irish famine to be incorporated into the New Jersey public school curriculum. He also sponsored legislation that enacted the MacBride principles, a law that bans New Jersey corporations that do business in Ireland from the practice of employer discrimination. In addition, he sponsored legislation that would memorialize Bloody Sunday in the New Jersey State Senate.

McGreevey was the Grand Marshall in the 2001 Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade and the 1996 Woodbridge Township St. Patrick's Day parade. He is active in many Irish organizations including the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the American-Irish Association of Woodbridge. He was the Ocean County Emerald Society 2001 "Irishman of the Year."



CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY—Governor James E. McGreevey and his mother, Veronica McGreevey at the Woodbridge St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Library Expands Kids Programs

"The new selection of materials at our Main Library is in keeping with the library's efforts to make learning fun for kids,"

WOODBIDGE – There are now more multi-media choices for children at the Township's Main Library. The selection in the Children's Room has expanded to include educational CD-ROM computer programs and games, children's music CDs, and DVD children's films. "The new selection of materials at our Main Library is in keeping with the library's efforts to make learning fun for kids," says Mayor Frank Pelzman.

Library Director John Hurley says the library has acquired some popular titles, which will be both fun and educational for youngsters.

Educational CD-ROM games include Magic School Bus, Arthur, Blue's Clues, and Reader Rabbit. Among Music CDs to choose from, are Raffi, Tom Chapin, Barney, Disney, Franklin, and Peter and the Wolf. From the DVD film collection, children can choose from such

characters as Barney, Elmo, and Clifford the Big Red Dog. Hurley says the CD-ROMs and DVDs are enhancing a children's section which already includes some 1000 children's videos on VHS tapes.

The Main Library will also be featuring its popular Summer Reading Club again. This year, the theme will be "Star Spangled Summer," in keeping with the country's heightened sense of patriotism. Last year, nearly 2000 children participated in the program. "The Summer Reading Program keeps children's reading skills sharp during the summer months," says Mayor Pelzman. The 2002 Summer Reading program will begin at the end of June.

Weichert's Office Honors Top Associates

EDISON—Fernando Gonzalez, manager of Weichert, Realtors' Edison Office, announced that two sales associates were recognized for their industry achievements in the month of January.

Francine Calcado led the office in listings. A licensed real estate professional, this is the most recent award for Calcado.

Mahmoud "Mike" Hamza led the office in sales. A member of Weichert's Sales Club, Hamza qualified for the New Jersey Association of Realtors Million Dollar Sales Club in 2000 at the bronze level. A new homes and land specialist, Hamza is a member of the Middlesex Board of Realtors and the Middlesex County Multiple Listing System.

To reach these top producing real estate professionals, call Weichert's Edison Office at (732) 494-6800, located at 123 Lincoln Highway.

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