

# The Chronicle

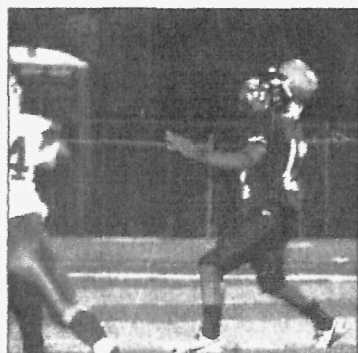
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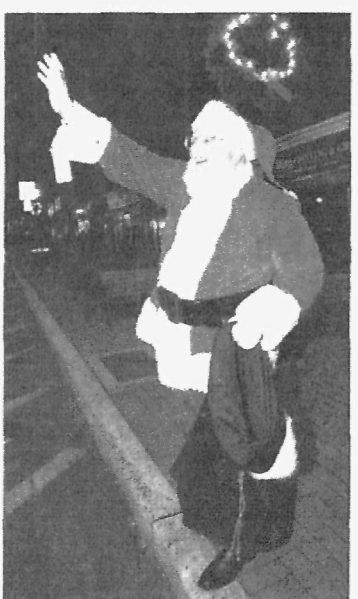
Saturday, December 10, 2005

50 cents



## Loss ends their dream

Piscataway High's football team went after a fourth straight sectional championship Dec. 2 at Rutgers Stadium, but Phillipsburg ended that dream with a 15-6 triumph. For a game recap, **Page B4**.



## Santa is coming

Santa waves to motorists on Main Street in Somerville last week. He will be making an appearance on the streets of Somerville every Friday leading up to Christmas as part of a downtown celebration. For more on area Santa sightings, **Page B1**.

## Grant helps students

**SOUTH BOUND BROOK** — Seventh and eighth grade students at Robert Morris School will have a unique opportunity to learn about the importance of protecting the watershed, thanks to an award-winning grant application by teachers Vincent Reo and Lorraine Lidon. Public Service Electric & Gas Co. recently awarded the school a \$2,326 grant as part of an annual grant program that encourages innovative environmental projects in New Jersey classrooms. Students at Robert Morris School will study how population changes and land use affect the quality and quantity of their drinking water. They will learn how pollutants travel through the ground and how improper disposal of hazardous materials can affect the water supply. They will visit a water treatment facility to find out what happens when water goes down the drain and the process it goes through to be purified. The PSE&G Environmental Education Grant Program helps inspire teachers to apply an interdisciplinary approach to teaching about the environment. Over \$265,000 has been awarded to 118 applicants since 1991. This year more than 70 applications were received and nine grants awarded. Applications were reviewed by representatives of the utility's Education Advisory Committee, the Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education and other educators. For additional information, visit [www.pseg.com/eeegrants](http://www.pseg.com/eeegrants).

## Ear and artistry, not computers, aid piano tech

By **JIM WHITE**  
Staff Writer

**SOMERVILLE** — With 20 years in the business Ken Smith has seen just about everything there is to see when it comes to pianos.

"I'll tell you a story I like to call 'what can end up in your piano,'" the owner of The Pianomsmith recently said inside his East Main Street shop where he repairs and refurbishes used pianos for sale.

Smith, 49, recalled how he had once gone to the home of a Branchburg woman to see why the console piano she had in her basement wouldn't play.

"The keys wouldn't go down," he said.

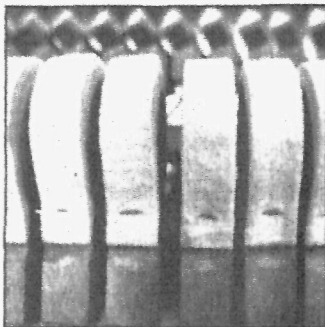
Smith said he then proceeded to investigate the instrument and soon found the problem hidden right beneath the ivories.

"Dog food," he said matter-of-factly. "Dog food was completely filled under the keys. ... Of course, mice put it there."

"For a rainy day. But they forgot to come back for it," added his wife Mary Smith, who handles sales at the shop.

Continuing on, Ken Smith recalled that a couple of years later, while appraising a piano for sale at a home in Piscataway, he was telling its owner the story about the dog food, and she seemed to get a kick out of it.

So it was more than just a



bit ironic for both of them when he pressed down on the keys of her piano and there was no sound.

And a peek beneath the keys was downright Twilight Zone-ish.

"Lo and behold, it was filled with dog food," he said with a hardy laugh. "The woman was just shocked."

But extracting dog chow from pianos is only one of Ken Smith's many skills, which were put to the test in October when he completed the requirements to become a registered piano technician.

Held in Harrisburg, Pa., the certification process included a written test on piano technology and hands-on exams in regulation, adjustment and tuning.

"They hand it to you and say 'Put it back together,'" he said. "Rebuilding a piano is quite the challenge."

Ken Smith, who also plays piano, is now recognized by the Piano Technician Guild, a non-profit international orga-



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Ken Smith**, owner of The Pianomsmith in Somerville, is one of 2,100 registered piano technicians in the United States and Canada. The work requires the skill of an artisan and the ear of a musician. Smith said he is no longer surprised about what he finds in a piano and under the keys.

established standards," said Ron Baughman, who works under the guidance of Ken Smith and plans on becoming a registered technician himself. "It's the closest thing to saying Ken Smith is a craftsman of particular merit."

"I'm nearing a point in my life where I'm looking to give back now," said Ken Smith,

Continued on page A2

## Business, community leaders honored

By **ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI**  
Staff Writer

**FRANKLIN** — Over 400 members of the county's business community gathered for lunch Tuesday at the Palace at Somerset to celebrate not only another year, but six award recipients, chosen for their work in both the business community and the county, at the 2005 Annual Meeting and Celebration of the Somerset County Business Partnership.

Raritan Valley Community College President G. Jeremiah Ryan, toy store owner Rick Grossman of the Learning Express, the Somerset Patriots, New Jersey Skyland Insurance, Cardinal Health, and the Somerset Patriots each took home awards from the organization.

The Economic Vitality awards honor companies that have a significant economic impact in the county and that foster growth and economic vitality in the county. This year, each of the businesses honored not only contribute to the financial situation of the county, but also give back to their communities.

Several philanthropic and community efforts of the Somerset Patriots were highlighted in the video introducing their award. The "Strike Out Drugs" program, the school visits by Sparkee and Patriots players and their support for *The Chronicle's* Operation:

Continued on page A2

## Love of Crete inspires entrepreneur

By **ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI**  
Staff Writer

**BRIDGEWATER** — When Esther Psarakis got married, she didn't just fall in love with her husband, who grew up on the Greek island of Crete.

"I became totally enraptured with the Greek culture, Greek food. I even learned the language," she said. She, her husband and their children visit the island every summer to see family and bring back goodies.

Once friends and family members here started begging her to bring back olive oil, cheese and other tasty treats from the region, Psarakis realized there was an unfulfilled niche for Cretan foods.

"When I go into the gourmet food market, I still don't find a lot of the gourmet Greek foods. I realized that there's a niche there," she said. Her business, Taste of Crete, is now just over a year old, and is already sold in local stores. Next month, the olive oil will be sold in Kings Supermarkets.

Psarakis attributes the popularity of her products to their flavor and health benefits.

"The Cretan diet is considered to be one of the healthiest of the subset (of the Mediterranean diets)," she said. "The oil is an extremely high-quality. The lower it is in acidity, the higher it is in antioxidants."

The flavor is important too. Psarakis runs tastings where people can experiment and find what they like, much as with wine.

"Olive oil is a lot like wine," she said. "You get people that like red wine and people that like white wine, and with olive oil, there are different flavor profiles just like in wine."

The Taste of Crete oil, which is produced by a

cooperative, meets the highest standards with its Protected Designation of Origin, or POD, and took home a silver medal in its first International Olive Oils of the World competition this year.

"Oil is of varying degrees of quality," she said. "I had it bottled according to EU standards, which are very stringent."

That won't be the only award Taste of Crete will be receiving this year. Tomorrow, Psarakis will be one of 15 business owners recognized by the Small Business Development Centers of New Jersey at a luncheon in Holmdel.

Psarakis credits the local center, run at Raritan Valley Community College, with helping her develop a thriving business.

"I was debating, should I go back to corporate life, or should I start something on my own? I decided that it was time to start something of my own," she said. She turned to the Small Business Development Centers for guidance, and meets regularly with one of their business counselors. "I've gotten support from them in all different areas, financial, marketing, strategic planning, every aspect."

It took a year and a half of preparation before the business was up and running. Psarakis got her import/export certificate, took entrepreneurial classes, a course on olive oil at UC Davis in California, put together a business plan, designed the logos and packaging and created a marketing plan.

Taste of Crete products are available at specialty foods stores in the area, including Bardy Farms in Warren, What's in the Ice Box? in Somerville and Monterey Gourmet in Bernardsville. For more information and to find more retail locations, visit [www.tasteofcrete.com](http://www.tasteofcrete.com).



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Esther Psarakis**, owner of Taste of Crete, with some of her products on display at What's in the Ice Box? in Somerville.

## Partnership preserves two farmland parcels

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — A 47.4-acre livestock farm in East Brunswick and a 28.6-acre farm in Monroe Township planted with field crops will be preserved forever now that they have entered the Middlesex County Farmland Preservation Program.

The county, with its funds and contributions from the state and respective townships, purchased agriculture preservation easements on the farms.

The development rights paid for the Warren farm on Fresh Pond Road in East Brunswick are \$1.659 million. The state contributed \$995,729.70; the county paid \$348,505.40; East Brunswick Township paid \$315,314.40.

The development rights paid for the Budrewicz farm on Gravel Hill-Spotswood

Road in Monroe Township are \$644,422.50. The state contributed \$386,653.50; the county and Monroe Township each paid \$128,884.50.

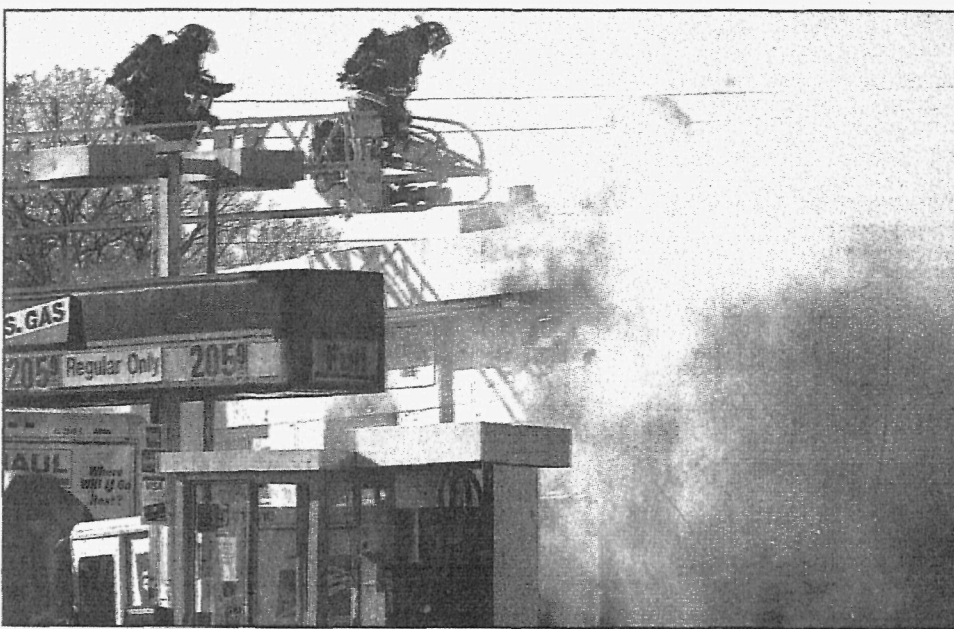
Cows, pigs, goats and horses now live on the Warren farm in East Brunswick. A barn on the property is being renovated to board additional horses in the future. About 20 wooded acres of the farm already are entered into the Woodland Management Program, overseen by the Natural Resources Conservation Service for harvesting the wood.

The Warren farm is adjacent to the 34-acre Giamarese farm, already part of the Farmland Preservation Program.

"Working with the farmers, the state and the local munic-

Continued on page A2

## Fire damages station



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A **Getty station** at Route 28 and Warrenville Road in Middlesex was damaged in a fire just before Thanksgiving. The fire damaged pumps as well as service bays at the station.



# Piano

Continued from page A1

who wants to pass along his knowledge of pianos just like others did for him when he was a younger man.

He fondly recalled the late Lou Hendrickson, a blind man from the borough who taught him how to tune pianos when he was in his early 20s.

"I was fascinated watching him tune pianos. He took me on as an apprentice," he said. "It was amazing from the standpoint of what he showed me was possible. Here's a guy who could have been bitter, but he was just such an optimistic person. It affects how I work today."

"It's a fun way to make a living," Ken Smith added. "It's a fun job, and I enjoy working with my wife."

The Somerville couple lives right up the street and moved the business out of their home to the former T-shirt shop at 136 East Main Street about a year ago.

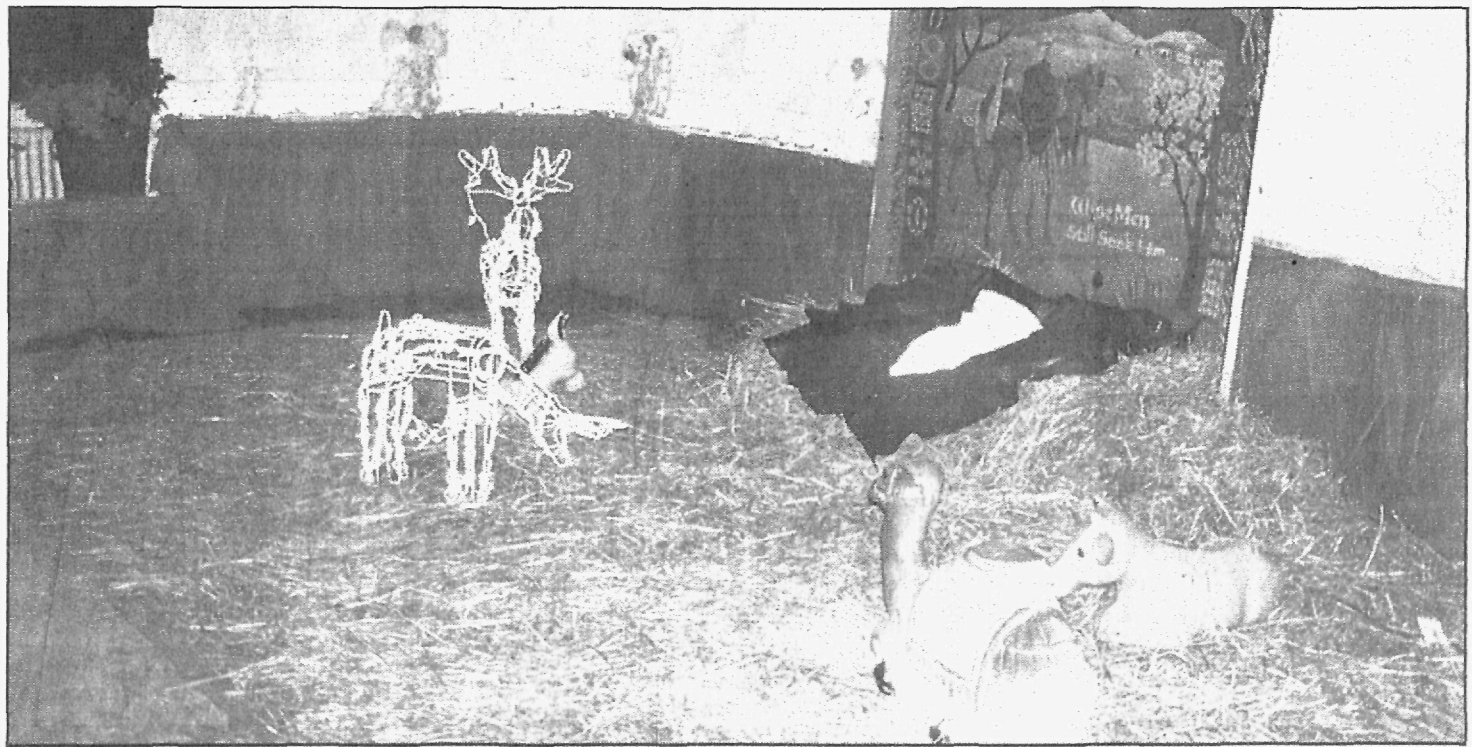
"We had a lot of pianos in our home, believe it or not," Mary Smith said. "I was like 'enough, already!' We were happy when this became available."

There are now about 35 pianos at The Pianosmith, including grands, uprights and players, ranging from \$1,000 to \$16,000.

"This is the original karaoke," Mary Smith, who does not play piano, said earlier in the day as a Universal Player piano, as if being played by a ghost, filled the showroom with the Beatles tune "With a Little Help From My Friends."

"If I had a child learning to play, I'd buy them a player," she said. "Because if they give it up I'd still have a fine instrument to play at parties."

# Historic homes open doors for holiday cheer



This Nativity scene, which was constructed in the living room of the Abraham Staats House, South Bound Brook, by the First Baptist Church of South Bound Brook, was part of last year's Holiday at the Staats House. The holiday event returns Dec. 17-18 at the house and at the Hendrick Fisher House and Reformed Church of Bound Brook. For additional information, call (732) 469-5836 or visit www.staats-house.com.

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WEDNESDAYS	Bread of Heaven Bible Study 12:00 noon Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAYS	Senior Citizens Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
SATURDAYS	Prayer Service 6:00 a.m. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 Men's and Women's Fellowship 8:00 a.m.

\*\*\* SPECIAL EVENTS \*\*\*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17	Christmas Celebration Concert 5:00 p.m.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25	Christmas Morning Worship Service 9:45 a.m.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31	Watch Night Service 9:30 p.m.

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# Grants

Continued from page A1

ipalities makes our land preservation efforts effective," said Freeholder Camille Fericola, liaison to the Middlesex County Agricultural Development Board. "Our shared goal — to maintain and protect Middlesex County's agricultural heritage — is greatly enhanced by these joint efforts."

"This brings the total number of acres in [the] Farmland Preservation Program to 3,706.5," said Peter Cantu, chairman of the Agricultural Development Board. "This program could not be the success it is without our farmers or with-

out (the) freeholders' commitment to protecting open space." The Farmland Preservation Program purchases the non-agriculture development rights on farmland that meets criteria established by the Agricultural Development Board and the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee. The value is determined by two independent appraisals.

The farmland is preserved by placing an agriculture preservation easement on the property. The state, county and township share the cost of the farms' development rights with the state paying the majority of the purchase price.

Middlesex County's program is strictly voluntary. Farm owners interested in participating in the program can call Linda Busch at (732) 745-4014.

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# Leaders

Continued from page A1

Shoebos New Jersey 2005 were all cited as examples of the Patriots' community involvement.

Steve Kalafra, who accepted the award in the small business category for the Patriots, thanked the partnership for being what he termed stewards of the community.

"They work so much, they care so much, and they give so much," he said, adding that beyond the partnership, one of the greatest things about doing business in the county is the people who run it, and said, "This could not be possible without the progressive politicians of Somerset County."

Small Businessman of the Year award winner Rick Grossman gave credit to a different county institution: Raritan Valley Community College and its Small Business Development Center, and also thanked the partnership for its support in forming partnerships and offering training.

"We have worked very hard over the last six years to the community and have tried to deliver programs you wanted," said Ryan, who is leaving RVCC to become a post-doctoral fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy at Princeton University. "This has been an incredible roller-coaster for me the last six years, and it's been a great ride."

A younger member of the community was also honored. Out of 11 nominations from various high schools around the county, Ryan O'Hara, of Manville, was selected as the recipient of the Young Entrepreneur Award. The Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School junior has run his own landscaping business, called ROH Landscaping, for the last six years.

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**Middlesex Briefs**

**Holiday program in South Bound Brook**

**SOUTH BOUND BROOK** — The Recreation Social Committee has scheduled its annual holiday program for borough youngsters.

This show is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the McLaughlin Gym at Robert Morris School. Enter the gym on Madison Street.

Taino Sana and Papo Nickel star in "Caribbean Holiday." Santa Claus is a special guest. Admission is free. For more information, call Ada Barber at (732) 469-2436.

**Toys For Tots begins annual collection**

**MIDDLESEX** — Continuing until Dec. 12, Jaeger Lumber at 500 Bound Brook Road, will be collecting for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots program.

Toys For Tots is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity and donations are tax deductible.

While organizers coordinate and manage the campaign, the ultimate success depends on the support of the local community and the generosity of the people to donate toys.

New and unwrapped toys can be delivered to Jaeger Lumber, and then they are picked up and sorted by age and gender.

**Dunellen church offers Santa lunch**

**DUNELLEN** — The Dunellen United Methodist Church serves "Lunch with Santa" from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday in the Religious Education Building,

316 Jackson Ave. Cost for the meal is \$4 at the door. Pictures with Santa are \$2.50 each. For more information, call Betty Hixon at (732) 752-7250.

**Synagogue to auction off goods, services**

**METUCHEN** — Congregation Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave., holds its annual goods and services auction at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Merchandise up for bid includes vacations, hotel accommodations, theater tickets, sports tickets, flat-screen TV sets, gas grills, original art and retail-store gift cards. There also will be a silent auction, 50-50 drawing and raffles.

Admission of \$7.50 includes coffee and dessert. For more information, call Martha Mack at (732) 548-2236, Ext. 17.

**Hanukkah goods sold in Metuchen gift shop**

**METUCHEN** — The Sisterhood of Congregation Neve Shalom sponsors a gift shop with items for your every Hanukkah need.

Candles, menorahs, dreidels, gelt, gift wrap and similar items are available. Gift shop hours are 9:30-11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, 18 and 25, plus noon-1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13 and 20. For additional information, call Sandy Schwemer at (732) 548-7431 or Jody Mantel at (732) 885-1841.

**Dickens classic to be performed for free**

**EDISON** — "A Christmas Carol" is being performed at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Edison Valley Playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Road.

This free performance is sponsored by the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission. Reservations are required; call (908) 753-0327. Seating is limited.

The Edison Valley Playhouse is on the Edison-South Plainfield border where Oak Tree Road meets Woodland Avenue.

**Edison orchestra to plan holiday concert**

**EDISON** — The Edison Symphony Orchestra holds its holiday concert at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Performing Arts Center of Middlesex County College.

Judith Morse conducts the Edison Symphony in the Violin Concerto in D major of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky; the "Allegro Appassionata," by Camille Saint-Saens; the "Hallelujah Chorus," from the oratorio "Messiah" by George Frederic Handel; and other Christmas selections.

Soloists are Betty Zhou of Edison, violin, for the Tchaikovsky concerto and Kenneth Han-wei Karizer, cello, for the "Allegro Appassionata."

The Edison High School a capella choir and John P. Stevens High School chorus perform the "Hallelujah Chorus" and holiday songs. The a capella choir is under the direction of Kenneth Brown and the JPS chorus is under the direction of Diane Wions.

Admission is \$35 for adults and \$20 for students. Group rates are available. For reservations, call the Edison Arts Society at (908) 753-2787.

The Performing Arts Center is on the main MCC campus at 2600 Woodbridge Ave.

**Garden Club holding dinner on Monday**

**EDISON** — The Edison Garden Club holds its annual holiday dinner at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Main Branch of the Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave.

Hostesses will provide refreshments for an evening of fellowship and good cheer. In addition, club members will decorate the library's Main Branch for the holidays.

**Register now for a visit with Santa**

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD** — The Recreation Department invites all children from ages newborn to 10 to visit with Santa between 1 and 3 p.m. on Dec. 17 at the Senior Recreation Center. Participants must register at the PAL building by Monday.

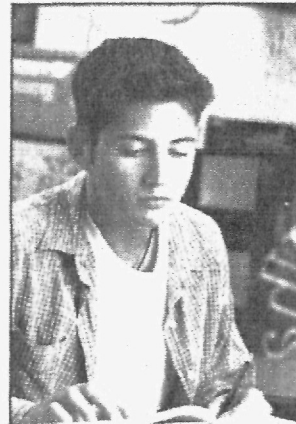
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Saturday, December 10, 2005

# Opinion

## Politics has no place in local government

The time has come for Bedminster residents to make a decision for the good of the township. Whenever personal attacks overshadow the business of running a township, it is the responsibility of those who elected the men and women to serve on the governing board to hold them accountable for their actions.

The last year-and-a-half has been tumultuous — to say the least — in Bedminster. It began last year during a campaign season that pitted Kurt Joerger, a newcomer to New Jersey politics, against Democrat Allen Mass. Joerger, who had been appointed to the Township Committee to fill an unexpired term, ended up having to let the local Republican Party defend him in court as Democrats challenged the close result.

In the end, the Democrats withdrew their challenge — stating they did not want to continue spending money to fight the election.

Over the next 11 months, the committee has fallen from a body that once worked together to one that has become divided. There have been personal attacks, accusations of impropriety and a lack of leadership.

During that time Trump National has sought to expand its new golf course, the community has considered the purchase of one of the last remaining privately-owned sewer treatment facilities in the county and debated the right of Somerset Airport and the New Jersey State Police to locate a NorthSTAR medevac helicopter in the township.

None of these are light issues — but all seemed to get lost in what quickly became a series of never-ending political fights. Committeeman Don Cross questioned outgoing Mayor Amey Mesko's ethics when he asked — during a public meeting — if she had ever asked for a discounted membership to Trump National while not recusing herself from matters regarding the golf course.

Matters such as these should have been dealt with by turning everything over to the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards under the Department of Law and Public Safety.

Even this year's election, where Mesko lost to Democrat Sally Rubin did little, it seems, to stem the tide of discord among the committee. Yes, there was a photo op moment as Rubin joined the committee — unofficially — to "vote" for Robert Holtaway to serve as mayor for the next year. But, soon Holtaway found himself in the crosshairs. It seemed as if becoming mayor meant you were the next person to have a target on your back.

On Monday, Joerger attempted to read into the

public record a 19-page paper on why he did not endorse Holtaway to become mayor. Part of this included a two-page November 2004 letter written by Mesko regarding concerns about Holtaway that were, according to her, given to fellow committee members during a closed session meeting.

These concerns were forwarded to the state's ethics commission, which, according to Holtaway, has never responded to the report.

During the meeting, Township Attorney Jeffrey Lehrer advised Joerger that there was no reason to read it into the record as it had been widely distributed.

The document — as sent to *The Chronicle* — also makes claims against a township employee and another elected official, claiming both were "biased" because of their involvement — real or imagined — with Somerset Airport. During Monday's meeting, he retracted both claims and said he apologized for making the accusations. At the time the challenge to Joerger's election was dropped, he was quoted in *The Chronicle* as saying: "I'm elected by Bedminster residents and I'm charged to do what is right by those people. I have absolutely no personal agenda. The only thing I want to do is what's right for the township and the people."

Today, a little more than 10 months later, there is a push lead by the Committee to Recall Joerger to oust Joerger — if it were successful he would be the first elected official in Somerset County to be recalled from his position. Joerger has also stated he believes there will be a future recall campaign against Cross as well.

Joerger states these actions are being taken because he has questioned others' actions and agendas.

But is doing this in the public theatre the best way? Are personal attacks rather than the creation of a municipal ethics board the solution?

And why was the committee — as some have claimed — powerless to create such a board while Mesko was mayor, a purely symbolic position in the township's form of government?

Perhaps it is because it is easier to attack than to push for real action. If these violations are real, then let those in power take action and begin an investigation, rather than playing for the masses and headlines in local newspapers. Or, let the people of Bedminster decide who stays and who goes, and, perhaps, that means recalling the whole committee and starting from scratch. The "ball" is now in the people's court, so to speak.

## Question of the week: Would you like to see a white Christmas?



BARBARA CRONIN

Forked River

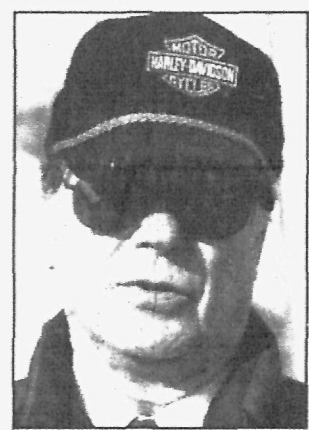
"Oh yeah, I would definitely like to see a white Christmas. The snow makes it even more beautiful, more magical."



TARA DESIMON

Bayville

"Yes, I just love Christmas, the Christmas spirit."



RAY ECKENRODE

Pittstown

"Always. Christmas is Christmas, but it's even better when it's a white Christmas."



THERESA SANGUILIANO

Scotch Plains

"No, I don't like snow. I just don't. I get chicken when I have to drive in it."

## Quotable

"I became totally enraptured with the Greek culture, Greek food, I even learned the language."

Esther Psarakis



## Letters to the Editor

# Aid appreciated during holidays

To The Editor:

This has been one of the busiest and most devastating hurricane seasons in recent history. The outpouring of compassion, support and prayers has been nothing short of awe-inspiring. I'd like to sincerely thank our generous donors for their support of the Salvation Army's relief efforts on the Gulf Coast. In New Jersey alone, donor support for the Salvation Army's relief effort amounted to more than \$3 million which in part has helped to assist more than 1.26 million hurricane victims.

As we move into the holiday season, I'd like to ask for your continued support of the Salvation Army. You see, needs in our local communities have risen by leaps and bounds and we anticipate that they will continue to grow over the winter season as people are challenged by

higher utility bills, the cost of affordable housing and the cost of commuting. For some, food and heat may become a luxury rather than a staple of life.

Inevitably, giving declines after a major disaster but our local needs do not. I'd like to ask for your continued support from our donors when encountering our red kettle bell ringers or when receiving a mail solicitation. It is only with the public's support that we will be able to continue our programs for the needy in our communities.

Once again, thank you for your support of the Gulf Coast hurricane victims and please help the Salvation Army as we enter a critical fund-raising season that supports our programs all throughout the year.

Maj. STEPHEN BANFIELD  
Commander, New Jersey  
Division, The Salvation Army  
Union

# New park offers something for all

To The Editor:

I recently received the fall 2005 newsletter from the township of Green Brook and learned about the newly opened Top of the World Park. Curious about what was there, I made a visit and could hardly believe how nice this park is. I encourage all area residents to see it for themselves.

There is something for everyone. There is a huge jungle gym and six swings, enough to keep kids happily busy for hours. There are two tennis courts and a ballfield. I understand from the newsletter that construction of permanent bathrooms and a covered picnic area will start soon and be ready for spring. This is a first-class facility and I can look forward to spending many hours there with my family. It is well planned, and Green Brook's Township Committee deserves credit for identifying a need for the community (more recreational facilities) and filling that need so perfectly.

No trip to Top of the World Park is complete without a visit to the recently dedicated 9/11 Memorial.

It is truly awe-inspiring. The memorial includes a piece of steel from the Twin Towers and a listing of the names of all who perished on that terrible day. It is classy and dignified.

Most importantly it is a peaceful spot where we can all go to pay respect to the fallen and reflect on what is most important in our own lives. Mayor Pat Walsh, who spearheaded the effort to build the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks Memorial, deserves particular credit for a job well done.

While I have always been proud to call Green Brook my hometown, Top of the World Park has quickly become one of my favorite spots in town and is a place that I can point to with even greater pride in my community.

PATRICK H. BOCCIO  
Green Brook

*The Chronicle* welcomes comments and news tips. The following is a list of our staff and how to reach us:

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## The Chronicle

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## The Chronicle is here for you

The following information will help you get your ideas and community news into *The Chronicle*:

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### Correction policy

The Chronicle will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to editor Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6698.

## Somerset County Briefs

### Outstanding women honored with award

The Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women is seeking nominations for its 2006 Outstanding Women in Somerset County awards program.

Nominations must be post-marked by Dec. 20. For a nomination form and guidelines, visit the [www.co.somerset.nj.us](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us) or call Commission Chairwoman Irene von Dohlen at (908) 604-6278.

Awards will be presented in March during the commission's annual Women's History Month celebration. Nominees must be women who reside or work in Somerset County.

All nominations will be reviewed by the commission's

selection committee.

Categories are: Arts/entertainment, business/management, education, entrepreneur, government/public service, "home-town hero," journalism/media, law, medicine/health services, social services and volunteerism.

Nominations should be as specific as possible, citing the ways the nominee has demonstrated outstanding performance or dedication in her job or community.

### Office for disabled donates eyeglasses

SOMERVILLE — The Somerset County Office for the Disabled recently turned over 700-plus prescription eyeglasses and nonprescription sunglasses to Mauri Buchanan, president of

New Eyes for the Needy of Short Hills.

The Office for the Disabled collected the eyewear from June through October.

Collection boxes will continue to be located in the lobbies of the county administration building at 20 Grove St. and 92 E. Main St. for future donations.

"We are very pleased with the response we have received to date from the public and county employees in this collection effort," said Freeholder Peter S. Palmer, human services liaison. "Included in this number are more than 300-plus eyeglasses donated by visitors who brought them to the county tent at the annual Somerset County 4-H Fair in August."

In addition to eyewear, the Office for the Disabled collect-

ed precious metal scraps, such as old watches, jewelry, silverware and hearing aides.

These items will be sold for their metal content to buy prescription lenses.

For further information about donating eyewear, contact Office for the Disabled Coordinator Mark Malone at (908) 704-6334.

### Award recognizes the county Planning Board

The Somerset County Planning Board received statewide recognition for the sixth consecutive year at the New Jersey Chapter of American Planning Association/Rutgers University's annual State Planning Conference held in New Brunswick.

The planning board was recognized for its work in promoting Transit-Oriented Development in the "Smart Growth in County Leadership and Community Education" category.

The awards honor plans, planning and design initiatives and organizations that are in the forefront of planning in New Jersey.

"We're excited that the American Planning Association has acknowledged this innovative planning report and guide for municipalities," said Freeholder Robert Zaborowski, planning board liaison. "Our goal is to advance smart growth planning by enhancing the critical linkages between land use and transit, and accommodating growth while reducing traffic congestion."

The planning board undertook an analysis of all vacant and underutilized land within a 1/4-mile radius of all rail stations and major bus corridors in the county.

It selected pilot sites in Branchburg, Somerville and Bound Brook to develop detailed plans and implementation recommendations.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority jointly funded the report, which will be used by the towns and county to promote the plan.

A similar study along the West Trenton Rail Line will be undertaken next year by the planning board, in close cooperation with Montgomery and Hillsborough townships.



# Scout devotes Eagle project to U.S. troops

Keith Price came to us with his mom and dad in October to learn more about Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 and to discuss his Eagle Scout project. We offered him support and encouragement, and one piece of advice - one person can make a difference.

**Rod Hirsch**  
Executive  
Editor



We weren't disappointed. We were overwhelmed. Keith, a Milltown resident, reached out to his neighbors in that Middlesex County town for help with his project, and they responded in grand fashion.

Last Saturday, Keith and other members of Scout Troop 33 from Milltown, along with several adult leaders, arrived at *The Chronicle* office to unload nearly 10,000 grocery items collected over the past several months - enough to fill the backs of two pick-up trucks and a van.

Keith also handed over \$1,205 in donations that were collected by the Scouts outside the Acme Supermarket when he and members of his troop stood outside handing out a shopping list of items requested by the soldiers and Marines who are overseas.

Keith also sought the help of the Provident Bank, where tellers handed out the same list to customers doing their banking.

Visitors to Milltown's borough hall also used a large box Keith put in the building to drop off donations.

Keith also got help from the Girl Scouts in Milltown. Troop 1046, led by Sue Vignuolo, reached out to Keith to ask what they could do to support his efforts after they read a public service message about OPSHBX on the Cablevision local access channel 22. As the Girl Scouts went around town asking residents to support their annual cookie drive, they also asked that their customers make a donation to allow the Girl Scouts to purchase additional boxes of cookies for U.S. troops.

On Tuesday, Keith's dad dropped off 85 boxes of Girl Scout cookies, which will be added to the stockpile of cookies that various Girl Scout

troops have dropped off the past few weeks for shipment overseas.

In addition to Keith and his parents, Greg and Sandy, special thanks goes to other members of Troop 33 for helping unpack and sort the items last week: Matt Capella, Dan Einbinder, Craig Leichtman, Nick Torre and Mike Zimmerman. Thanks also to adult leaders Patty McSherry, Terrie Rachael and Rob Rivera.

Keith is the first of whom we hope will be a long line of Scouts who choose to devote their Eagle Scout community service project to Operation Shoebox and the troops who will benefit from those efforts.

It will be a tough act to follow, but we encourage other scouts and their parents to consider a similar endeavor. We'll provide the same support and advice, and this time, we'll have Keith to call in as a consultant.

Keith is in line to receive his Eagle Scout award in April.

### Toys for Tots

Somerset Patriots manager Sparky Lyle will help the U.S. Marines collect toys at Commerce Bank Park in Bridgewater Saturday, Dec. 17 as part of the annual Toys for Tots program.

Fans are asked to bring unwrapped toys to the Somerset Patriots Gift Shop located at the ballpark between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. All toys will be donated to the Marine Corps Toys For Tots Program and the United Way.

Lyle will meet fans, sign autographs, and take pictures from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Patriots fans can also have their pictures taken with the

2005 Atlantic League Championship trophy that will be on display for the day.

Younger fans will have the opportunity to take photos and get autographs from Sparkee the Mascot.

"This has become a great holiday tradition for our fans and our staff. The Toy Drive is something we look forward to as a way to help less fortunate children in our community and bring some cheer during the holiday season," said Patrick McVerry, president and general manager of the Patriots.

Those who bring an unwrapped toy will receive 25 percent off all purchases from the store. The Patriots will have special Holiday Gift Packages available that include tickets and merchandise.

Call (908) 252-0700 for further information.

### Somerville Tribute

Somerville Mayor Brian Gallagher is asking borough residents for help in tracking down active servicemen and women, especially those on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan the Mideast.

The borough plans to recognize and honor all active soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen at its Jan. 1 reorganization meeting, according to Gallagher.

The mayor is urging parents, friends, husbands and wives to get in touch with Chick Sternadori, borough administrator, at (908) 704-6983.

We'd ask that you also contact *The Chronicle*, so that we can add those names to our shipping list to ensure they receive packages from their neighbors in Central New Jersey.

### T-shirts for sale

Looking for one more holiday gift? Maybe a stocking stuffer?

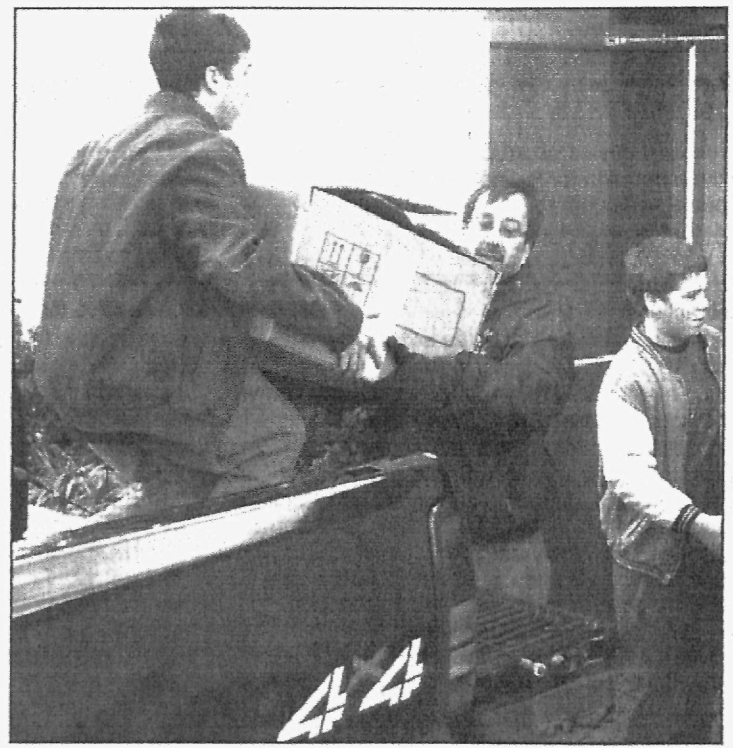
Quality t-shirts with the handsome Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 poster and logo are available for a donation of \$10.

Several stores on Main Street in Somerville and Main Street in Metuchen are selling the shirts, which feature the distinctive red, white and blue Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 logo, and a full-color reproduction of the Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 poster.

The shirts cost \$10 and are also available at *The Chronicle* office, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, and at several stores on Main Street in Metuchen. All proceeds from sale of the shirts directly benefit OPSHBX. Sizes available are medium, large and extra-large.

Buy one for yourself, buy a few as gifts. We can also reproduce the shirts in quantity for veterans' groups, corporations, or other sponsors, and include the name of your company or organization on the shirt. Call and ask for details.

Rod Hirsch is executive editor of *The Chronicle*. He can be reached at (908) 575-6684 or [rhirsch@njpublishing.com](mailto:rhirsch@njpublishing.com)



Keith Price passes a box to his father, Greg, as other scouts and troop leaders handle additional packages delivered to *The Chronicle* office last week for Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

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From Garden State Parkway from South Jersey: Take Exit 127 for I-287 North. Take Exit 10 (Route 527/New Brunswick/South Bound Brook). Follow Route 527 North to the first traffic light and make a left, turn onto Davidson Ave. Continue on Davidson Ave for one half mile. The center is one half mile east on the left.

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Look for our drop-off boxes at a store or business near you! Pick up The Reporter each week for updates and information. For details on becoming a drop off location, contact The Reporter's Executive Editor, Rod Hirsch at (908) 575-6684. Send your message of support today!

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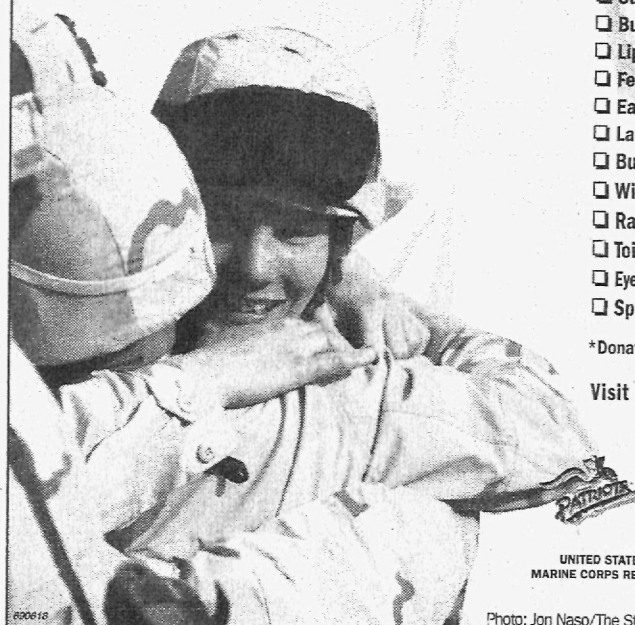


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### Stephen Lenart

DUNELLEN — Stephen E. Lenart, 79, died Nov. 28, 2005 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. Born in Central City, Pa., he was a son of the late Joseph and Victoria Lenart. Mr. Lenart was with Union Carbide Corp. in Piscataway for 35 years, retiring in 1998 as an invoice auditor. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. His wife, Sophie Bocian Lenart, died in 2001. Surviving are two sons, Michael and wife Martha of Bridgewater and Mark and wife Nancy of Bridgewater; and a grandchild. A funeral Mass was held Dec. 2 at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Sheenan Funeral Home. Burial was in Holy Redeemer Cemetery, South Plainfield.

### Julia Owsik

DUNELLEN — Julia Josephine Owsik, 80, died Nov. 26, 2005 at Genesis ElderCare-The Woodlands Center in Plainfield. Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., she was a daughter of the late Andrew and Mary Balut. Mrs. Owsik lived in Dunellen for most of her life and was a seamstress with the Blessings Co. in Bound Brook. She was a member of the Catholic War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary, the Columbiettes, the Bound Brook Senior Citizens Club and the Dunellen Senior Citizens Club. She also was a member of the Altar Rosary Society and the Leisure Club at St. Mary of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church in Bound Brook. Her husband, Edward P., died in 1999. Surviving are a son, Edward and wife Joann of Edison; a daughter, Maryann Larsen and husband Robert of South Plainfield; a brother, Leonard Balut of Bound Brook; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A funeral Mass was held Nov. 30 at St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, following services at the Bridgewater Funeral Home. Burial was in Bound Brook Cemetery.

### Derek Pagan

BOUND BROOK — Derek Jeyson Pagan, 23, died Nov. 28, 2005 at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington. Born in Somerville, he lived in Bound Brook before moving to Ringoes. Mr. Pagan loved "low rider" cars and raced imported vehicles. Preceding him in death were his grandfathers, Victor M. Castillo and Ramon. Surviving are his fiancée, Jennifer Cirasa; his parents, Gilberto and Judith; a sister, Vivian Medina; his grandmothers, Celina Castillo and Santa; an aunt, Inesly Meneses; two uncles, Victor Castillo and Jay Castillo; a niece, Ashley Lynn Medina; and four cousins, Shirley Castillo, Brandin Meneses, Kevin Meneses and Justin Meneses. A funeral Mass was held Dec. 2 at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home. Entombment was in the Resurrection Burial Park mausoleum, Piscataway.

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## Weekend Calendar

### Saturday, Dec. 10

**BRIDGEWATER** - Buffet Breakfast with Santa. Somerset County Vocational-Technical High School, Vogt Drive, 8:30-11:30 a.m. \$10 parent and child; \$5 each additional child. Reservations required: (908) 526-8900. Ext. 7263.

**BRIDGEWATER** - Holiday Craft show of Somerset County Vocational-Technical High School, Vogt Drive, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (908) 526-8900, Ext. 7263.

**SOMERVILLE** - Holiday Music with Linda Russell. Old Dutch Parsonage, 71 Somerset St., 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$10. Reservations required: (908) 725-1015.

### Sunday, Dec. 11

**BEDMINSTER** - Holiday Music with Fred Miller. Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road, 2 p.m. Registration: (908) 234-2325, Ext. 2.

**BRIDGEWATER** - Pancake-Sausage breakfast, all-you-can-eat meal of Findeme Reformed Church, 581 Bridgewater Ave., 8:30-11:30 a.m. Adults \$5; children \$3; blueberry, pecan pancakes \$1 extra. (908) 231-1928.

**BRIDGEWATER** - Music and Readings for Advent. St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1350 Washington Valley Road, 4 p.m. Free. (908) 304-0482.

**WATCHUNG** - Blood Drive at Firemen's Exempt Hall, 31 Mountain Blvd., 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Donor requirements: (800) 933-BLOOD.

**BOUND BROOK** - "Musical Fantasies," holiday concert of Somerset Valley Orchestra. Bound Brook High School, 111 W. Union Ave., 3 p.m. Adults \$8; seniors, students \$5; under age 12 free. (732) 356-2966.

**HILLSBOROUGH** - Winter Concert of Raritan Valley Symphonic Band. Hillsborough High School, 466 Raider Blvd., 3 p.m. Free. (908) 359-3136 or www.rvsb.org.

**MANVILLE** - Christmas Cookie sale of Ss. Peter and Paul Church, 605 Washington Ave., 11:30 a.m. (908) 334-6302.

### Monday, Dec. 12

**BRANCHBURG** - Business Plan review plus advice on "How to Obtain Financing." Raritan Valley Community College, 6 p.m. \$42. Registration: www.sbdcrvc.com or (908) 526-1200, Ext. 8516.

**SOMERVILLE** - Infant-Child CPR course of American Red Cross, 14 W. Cliff St., 6:30 p.m. \$40. Registration: (908) 725-2217.

**BERNARDS** - Environmental Story Hour for ages 3-5. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 10:30 a.m. \$8 parent and child; \$4 each additional child. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

### Tuesday, Dec. 13

**BRANCHBURG** - "Insurance Needs for Your Business." Raritan Valley Community College, 6 p.m. \$42. Registration: www.sbdcrvc.com or (908) 526-1200, Ext. 8516.

**SOMERVILLE** - Adult CPR course of American Red Cross, 14 W. Cliff St., 6:30 p.m. \$40. Registration: (908) 725-2217.

**WARREN** - Book Group discussing "The Dive from Clausen's Pier" by Ann Packer. Warren Township Library, 42 Mountain Blvd., 7:30 p.m. (908) 754-5554.

**BERNARDS** - "Mountains": nature program for ages 3-5. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 10:30 a.m. \$8 parent and child; \$4 each additional child. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

**BERNARDS** - "Mountains": nature program for ages 6-8. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 3:30 p.m. \$7.50. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

**BERNARDS** - "Natural Ornaments and Cards" for the holidays. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 6 p.m. \$20. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

# Here comes Santa Claus



Santa Claus, at left, looks over the pastries with Kevin Gora and Megyn Craine inside Dessert Plate in Somerville last week. At right, 5-year-old Stephanie Souberlich sits with Santa at the Santaland shop in the Downtown Somerville Shopping Center last week.

## Somerville warms streets for big arrival

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI  
Staff Writer

**SOMERVILLE** — Santa surprised and delighted patrons and store personnel alike when he ventured up and down Main Street on Friday evening, showering one and all with Christmas wishes and handing out candy canes.

From the kitchen to the bar at Verve Restaurant, Santa was greeted warmly as he handed out the sweet treats from his sack before heading back out into winter's chill to see the rest of downtown.

Standing at the corner of Main Street and South Bridge Street, Santa, also known as Bob Erdman, who is actually only a stand-in until the real Santa Claus arrives from the North Pole, waved to passing cars, drawing smiles, waves, and beeps from motorists.

"See, it doesn't matter who it is, they laugh, they smile," said Erdman, describing his warm welcome by the teenaged patrons of The Only Game in Town the prior weekend. Santa will be making an appearance on the streets of Somerville every Friday as a part of the downtown celebration.

Once in King of Wireless, Erdman warmly greeted 11-month-old Lindsay Vanderveer, who was happy to see the incarnation of Father Christmas. Standing firmly on her mother's lap, she bounced and giggled at Erdman, who handed her a candy cane, which her mother, Mandy, unwrapped for her.

"I was planning on taking her to see Santa this weekend," her mother said, watching a happy Lindsay eat her candy.

Erdman told her that he would also be at Santaland the following day. Santaland, which is sponsored by the Somerville Business and Professional Association, also features handmade items, from crocheted afghans to oil paintings, by the artists of the Senior Artists and Crafters, who will donate their profits to local charities.

"Thank you, Santa!" said Brian Betz, manager of the store, as Santa walked back out into the cold.

Once on the sidewalk, Santa ran into 7-year-old twins Amber and Dylan VanAllen, who were accompanied by their mom, Wendy.

"Look at how big you are! Last year, you were so much shorter," Erdman told them, as the Somerville residents gratefully accepted his gifts.

"Did you send me your lists yet?" he asked them, before they got back on their way. Erdman, who is also from Somerville, fell into playing Santa a bit unwillingly, and it took some encouragement from his wife.

"My wife told me I needed to embrace my inner Santa, and I did," he said, as he waved to cars while he walked down the next block. "I even grew my beard."

When he walked into the Unreal Skate Shop, manager Ed Kemp was a little surprised to get his candy cane.

"Really? Nice!" he said. "You like our store?"

"Yeah," Santa replied, though he preferred his sleigh to a skateboard. "I'd lose my leg on one of those things, though. Santa's a little fragile; he's getting older."

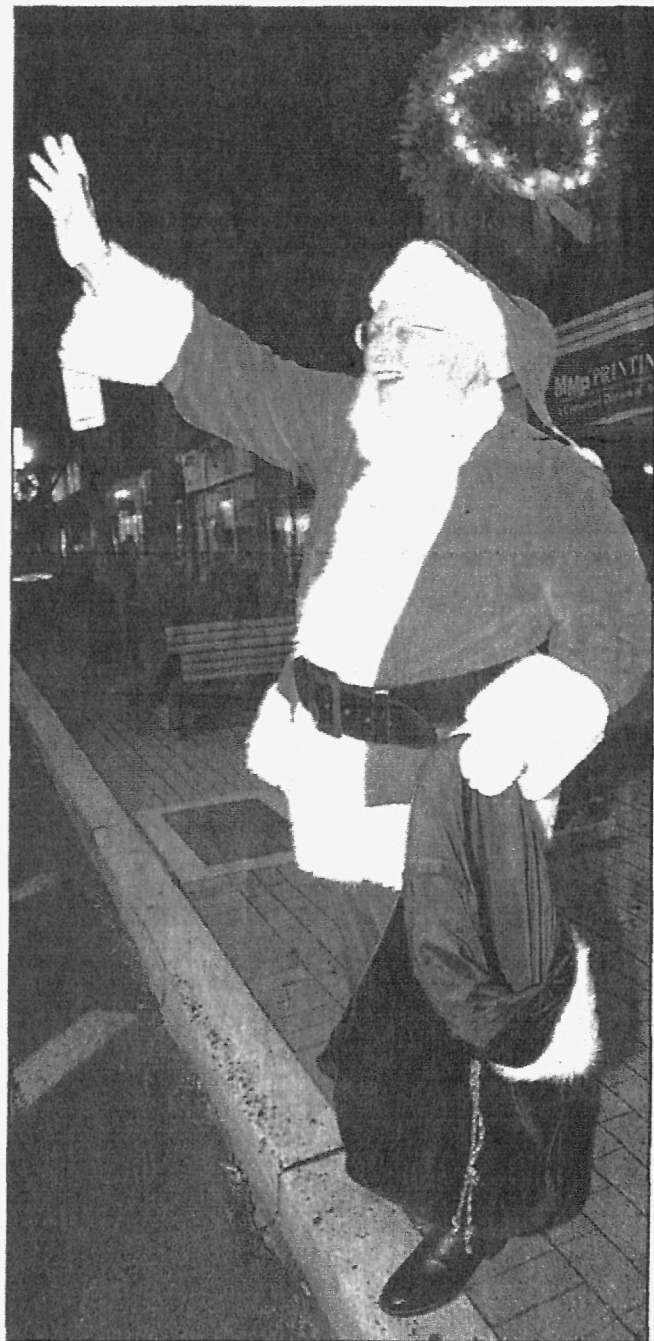
"Don't forget us on the 24th," said Kemp, as he bid Santa goodbye.

One of the most enthusiastic greetings Santa received on Friday was from Ginger, who was being walked along Main Street by Shannon Plenge, of Curmudgeon Music. Though Ginger didn't get a treat, she was still happy to see Santa; tail wagging, she leaned up against him to receive a Christmas pat.



"Did you send me your lists yet?"

**Bob Erdman,**  
one of Santa's helpers



Santa waves to motorists on Main Street in Somerville last week. He will be making an appearance on the streets of Somerville every Friday leading up to Christmas as part of a downtown celebration. Santa is seen at left arriving at the Central Jersey Airport in Hillsborough last week.



Somerville residents Arianna Hecht and her boyfriend, Ben Macey, pay a visit to Santa at Bridgewater Commons Sunday with their two dogs, Liberty and Ranger.

## Mall tradition gone to the dogs

By JIM WHITE  
Staff Writer

**BRIDGEWATER** — Meeting Santa Claus for the first time on Sunday, 8-month-old Baily was more excited than most children his age would be.

And there was no hiding it. He greeted everyone in line as if they were long lost friends. He even went so far as to roll over onto his back and expose his belly for a good rub.

Baily, a black Labrador retriever/terrier mix, and dozens of other dogs, and one cat, were brought to Bridgewater Commons by their owners Sunday night to have their picture taken with Santa.

"This is his first Christmas, and his first snow," said Danielle Tracy of Bedminster, who got Baily as a gift after graduating from Southern New Hampshire University in May.

"This is a very special day for

him," she said.

Barbara Finn, the mall's marketing manager, said the kind of person who brings a pet in for a picture with Santa is someone who "loves animals very much."

"Doting," she said. "Twenty-five dogs on a snowy night. That's pretty good."

Finn said that while it is obvious that some of the owners view their pets as children — "some were dressed; one had a hat and boots on, and a little jacket" — others, including a number of people with human children, just thought a picture with Santa would make for a cute Christmas decoration.

And Finn said all of the animals went along with the holiday cheer. "They were very well behaved," she said. "And (Santa's) so good with the kids and pets."

"They've been great. And I only got kissed by three of them," added Santa with a jolly

laugh.

Two very affectionate Lhasa Apsos, Ranger and Liberty, were brought to the mall by owners Arianna Hecht and Ben Macey, who have been dating for five years and live together with their dogs in Somerville.

"Ranger is 15 months, and Liberty is 21 months," said Hecht. "They're more like babies. We go by months."

Asked what kind of person would want a picture of their pet on Santa's lap, Hecht replied: "The kind of person who wants to make sure they get everything they want for Christmas."

Asked what Ranger and Liberty will find under the tree this year, Hecht and Macey answered in unison: "Lots of toys, treats, bones."

Pet owners will have another chance to get a picture with Santa from 7-9 p.m. tomorrow at the Bridgewater Commons.



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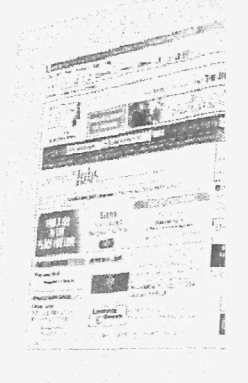


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**ADVERTISING SALES PROFESSIONAL (OUTSIDE SALES)**  
NJN Publishing's Union Division, which includes the Suburban News, Independent Press, Cranford Chronicle, Record Press, and Herald Dispatch, is seeking an organized, motivated, self-starter to join the outside sales team.  
We are looking for a talented professional with newspaper advertising sales experience who is eager to develop new relationships, demonstrate the ability to be creative in developing new ideas for customers, loves a challenge, and is goal oriented.  
We offer a competitive salary, commission and excellent benefits package.  
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Somerset County Classified

Sell your car, furniture, or no longer needed items

**\$19.95**

Run it 'til you sell it!

The Reporter nj

4 Line Ad. Additional lines \$4.90. Private party only. For up to six months. Seller responsible for renewing ad.

## CONSUMER MORTGAGE GUIDE

PURCHASING A NEW HOME? CALL THESE LENDERS TODAY!

TYPE	RATES	PTS.	APR	LOCK	DWN	LOANS	COMMENTS	TYPE	RATES	PTS.	APR	LOCK	DWN	LOANS	COMMENTS
<b>PAN AM MORTGAGE, LLC</b> 800-660-7987 Any income ANY CREDIT TO -															
30-YR FIXED	6.61	2.00	6.67	30	20	100-000	PROGRAMS - Buy	<b>LIGHTHOUSE MORTGAGE SERVICE CO</b> 800-784-1331 CONSISTENTLY LOW RATES.							
15-YR FIXED	5.28	2.00	5.34	30	20	100-000	OR REEL \$100	30-YR FIXED	6.00	0.00	6.00	30	20	100-000	
OPTIM. ARM	0.50	0.00	0.50	30	20	100-000	CREDIT WAD	15-YR FIXED	5.00	0.00	5.00	30	20	100-000	
5-YR FTR PAY	2.00	0.00	2.00	30	20	100-000		5-YR ARM	5.50	0.00	5.50	30	20	100-000	
<b>PANTHER VALLEY MORTGAGE</b> 908-684-4134 Why not get your mortgage with a local mortgage?															
30-YR FIXED	6.10	0.00	6.10	30	20	100-000	Professional	<b>LOAN SEARCH</b> 800-591-3279 NJS Low Jumbo Rates!							
15-YR FIXED	5.25	0.00	5.25	30	20	100-000		30-YR FIXED	6.10	0.00	6.10	30	20	100-000	
30-YR JUMBO	6.50	0.00	6.50	30	20	400-000		15-YR FIXED	5.25	0.00	5.25	30	20	100-000	
5-YR ARM (3)	6.10	0.00	6.10	30	20	400-000		10-YR ARM JUMBO	5.30	0.00	5.30	30	20	100-000	
<b>PARTNERS MORTGAGE, INC.</b> 888-RATE-SALE 888-821-1111															
30-YR FIXED	6.10	0.00	6.10	30	20	100-000	PTS 0 FEE	<b>Don't Forget to Mention NJN Pubs FOR THE BEST DEALS!</b>							
15-YR FIXED	5.10	0.00	5.10	30	20	100-000	LOANS AVAIL	<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE MORTGAGE RATES</b>							
30-YR ARM	5.10	0.00	5.10	30	20	100-000	FREE FINANCE								
15-YR JUMBO	6.10	0.00	6.10	30	20	100-000	FARMERS W/ ADL COM	SOURCE: Bankrate.com							
<b>SUMMIT FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK</b> 732-968-0665															
30-YR FIXED	6.30	0.00	6.30	30	20	100-000		<b>AMERICAN FEDERAL MORTGAGE CORP</b> 888-321-HOUSE(4687) ALL RATES AND FEES CURRENTLY IN WRITING							
15-YR FIXED	5.10	0.00	5.10	30	20	100-000		30-YR FIXED	6.10	0.00	6.10	30	20	100-000	
15-YR ARM	5.30	0.00	5.30	30	20	100-000		15-YR FIXED	5.00	0.00	5.00	30	20	100-000	
7-YR ARM	5.50	0.00	5.50	30	20	100-000		1-YR ARM	5.50	0.00	5.50	30	20	100-000	
<b>DITECH.COM</b> 800-616-8208 Your mortgage solution Delivered															
30-YR FIXED	5.75	2.00	5.75	30	20	100-000		<b>MORTGAGE LENDERS: REACH THOUSANDS OF HOME BUYERS! To appear in table, call 800-327-7717, ext. 1410</b>							
15-YR FIXED	5.10	2.00	5.10	30</											



Employment

Trades 275

SATELLITE TV TECHNICIANS

Have the opportunity to work for America's Home Service Provider. Work near your home. Most qualifications and you will receive the career opportunity, flexible schedule and benefits. Complete training with Great Earning Potential. Benefits with full training. Limited training. No experience. CALL NOW (977) 752-6431. Day Phone: 908-303-2305

Situations Wanted 280

HOUSEKEEPERS, NANNIES, COMPANIONS. All nationalities. Lic. bonded. AURORA AGENCY 179 Moore Ave., L.I.C., NY 11520-2139

Real Estate Sales

Acreage & Lots 305

RARITAN TWP - 2 beautiful lots. Ready to build. Frame home. Great views. 5 acres with pond. Call 908-906-6856 RDR Farms Inc.

Condos & Townhouses 320

Clinton Twp Beaver Brook 2 BR, 1 BA, new carpeting, updated kitchen, Call 908-303-2305

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All residential real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, and Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. These laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such prohibition, handicap, or discrimination. Family status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal guardians; pregnant women; and people seeking custody of children under 18.

Commercial Property

LAMBERTVILLE Must sell, new construction, 2 story colonial, 3BR, 2 1/2 BA, full kitchen, DR, study, on 1 1/2 ac. Call 908-303-2305

New Construction 332

HOLLAND TOWNSHIP RUBY BIRD BUILDERS Custom homes to be built to your specs on 5+ acres. Call 908-996-3183

Industrial Property For Sale 340

BRANCHBURG For Sale or Lease 3000, 6000 sq. ft. warehouse with small office 20 ft. ceiling. Call KNAUER REALTYCORP 908-526-7600 Ext 225

Real Estate Rentals

BOUNDED BROOK 1BR, Exc. Cond., Off St. Parking, no pets. \$550/mo + utility. 908-704-8723

CLINTON AREA - Carnegie House, LE Studio, avail 12/15. \$1200/mo plus sec. Credit check. No pets. 908-713-9003.

FLEMINGTON - 14 Court Street, 1/2BR, new carpet, parking included. \$910 to \$965/mo. Pets OK. Call 908-581-3188

FRENCHTOWN 2nd St. 2BR, \$975/month includes heat, w/d, off-street parking. 1.5 acres, no pets. 908-347-3766 908-237-9748

GARWOOD 1BR apt. in sm. friendly complex. Heat & hot water incl. No pets. Workout & laundry room onsite. \$1055/mo. 908-789-9198

Condos & Townhouses 320

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, and Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. These laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such prohibition, handicap, or discrimination. Family status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal guardians; pregnant women; and people seeking custody of children under 18.

Real Estate Rentals

CLINTON AREA - 2 family house, 2 BR, 1 BA, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

FURNITURE 560

BEDROOM SET 7 pc. Cherry wood sleigh bed, dresser/mirror, 2 nightstands. List \$25,000 - call 908-303-2305

Financial & Business Opportunities

TYPIST NEEDED! (Part Time) \$300 Daily Typing! Easy Guaranteed! No Experience Necessary. Full Training Provided. Immediate Opening! Fax Available. Register Online Today! www.HomeTypers.com

Transportation

Autos For Sale 1365 BMW 330i '01, prem & sport pkg. Manual silver. 47,000 miles. Call 908-647-2075

Transportation

Autos For Sale 1365 HONDA ACCORD EX '00 4-cyl. V6 Sedan, fully loaded w/ leather. 111,000 miles. \$10,900. 908-906-4519

Trucks & Trailers 1405

Ford F150 Supercrew, 4x4, '04, 5 yr, 75k warranty, 29,000 miles. Loaded. \$22,500. 732-496-5690

Real Estate Rentals

Apartments 405

GLEN GARDNER - Clean 1 BR, on 1 acre. No pets. \$450/mo + utility. Free also TV. 908-340-4074

High Bridge - 1 BR, 1 1/2 bath, new tile, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

High Bridge - 1 BR, 1 1/2 bath, new tile, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

NORTH PLAINFIELD 1 BR, 1 1/2 bath, new tile, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

NORTH PLAINFIELD - 1BR, 1 1/2 bath, new tile, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

POHATCONG TWP. - 2BR, 2 1/2 bath, new tile, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

RINGOES - 1 BR, 1 bath, new tile, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

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SOMERVILLE - 2BR, 2 1/2 bath, new tile, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

STERLING - 1 BR, 1 bath, new tile, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

STIRLING - 2 room studio apt. all electric, full kitchen, no pets, w/d, no pets, \$500/mo. 908-647-2144

Westfield New 1 - 3 bdr apt. w/d, refrigerator, oven, microwave, AM & room. \$1150. 908-591-6283

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Houses For Rent 430

Clinton Area - 2 family house, 2 BR, 1 BA, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

FRANKLIN TWP - 3 room townhouse, call 908-303-2305

GLEN GARDNER - 1 BR, 1 bath, new tile, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

High Bridge - 1 BR, 1 1/2 bath, new tile, hardwood floors, fireplace, W.D. AM, call 908-303-2305

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