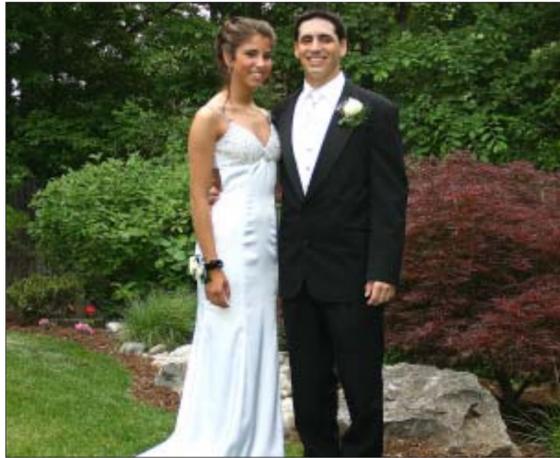




**PROM TIME...**Above, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students leave the pre-prom gathering at John Mains' Scotch Plains home to meet the stretch limos and Hummers taking them to their prom on Friday evening. PHOTO SHOOT...Below, Lauren Dalaisio and Adam Perez pose for pre-prom photos.



## Peregrine Falcons Start Family Atop Courthouse

**ELIZABETH** - Three tiny chicks have hatched by a pair of Peregrine falcons nesting atop the Union County Courthouse Tower.

The chicks appear healthy and are about a week old, county officials said.

The falcons have been living on the courthouse tower for at least two years. They had attempted to build nests on ledges and gutters around the tower, but their nests had failed, prompting the county and state Department of Environmental Protection to erect their new home.

Last year county workers, with assistance from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Endangered and Nongame Species Program, erected a nest box on the roof of the 17-story tower.

Considered an endangered species in New Jersey, Peregrine falcons are crow-sized predatory birds. Historically they have nested on cliff faces and rocky outcrops, according to a county press release. As these habitats vanished, the birds have adapted to their manmade equivalents: high buildings and bridges. In the 1960s and 1970s they saw a dramatic decline in numbers, some believe from the widespread use of DDT pesticide. State officials estimate that there are only 18 nesting pairs in New Jersey.

**Holy Trinity Plans Party for Dorothy Szot**  
MOUNTAINSIDE - Plans are underway for a celebration in honor of Dorothy Szot, principal of Holy Trinity Interparochial School.

The party, to be held at the Pines Manor in Edison on June 14, is open to all. The dinner committee is searching for addresses for former students and their families.

Anyone wishing an invitation may obtain one by sending an e-mail to dsdinner@hotmail.com, by visiting htisnj.com/dsdinner.htm, or by calling the school office at (908) 233-0484.

Joe Nolan, Holy Trinity Class of 1972 and current WABC and WPLJ on-air personality, will emcee the dinner. Mr. Nolan said, "This will be a fun night of reminiscing with Mrs. Szot, and we'll have great entertainment with Tim McLoone and the Shirleys, and with the wonderful speakers lined up for the event. Don't miss it."

### Resuming Off-Shore Water Sampling Urged

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In a letter last week to Region 2 Administrator Alan Steinberg, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-6th) urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to resume the 30-year offshore water sampling program.

"It has recently come to our attention that the EPA Region 2 has discontinued its offshore water sampling program for dissolved oxygen and bacteria in New Jersey.... We find this sudden change in EPA policy inappropriate and urge the immediate reinstatement of the offshore water-sampling program for dissolved oxygen and bacteria levels off the coast of New Jersey. EPA's unilateral decision to shut down this testing with no public discussion or input is unacceptable. Without that monitoring, New Jersey and New York lose the first alert system for signs of water quality problems.... We urge you to immediately reinstate EPA's offshore water sampling program for dissolved oxygen and bacteria," the lawmakers wrote.



## Scotch Plains Talk Scavengers Seek Ultimate Bargain at Trash Pick-Ups

Fred Rossi, Westfield Leader/The Times

**SCOTCH PLAINS** - It's said that one man's trash is another man's treasure - and judging by some of the unwanted items being put out for pickup this month in Westfield and Scotch Plains, it's a safe bet that scavengers looking for something used, but not necessarily unusable, are in luck.

The two towns' annual collection of household items too big for regular trash pickup gets underway this week, which explains the sometimes large piles in front of some homes. The piles themselves, upon close inspection, offer a glimpse into the changing priorities and demographics of area households as well as what some residents are spending their money on. Does the discarded exercise equipment signal an end to the homeowner's New Year's resolution? Do the children's toys and yard equipment seen in front of numerous homes signify that the under-five years old population is shrinking? Do the two lawnmowers at the curb mean the resident is planning to hire a landscaping service? Do dozens of neatly stacked and tied trash bags indicate that the family packrat has finally thrown in the towel, either voluntarily or under pressure?

And what about the couches, stoves, patio furniture, bedroom dressers, boxsprings and mattresses, disassembled wall units and rolled-up carpeting? Are they being replaced with bigger, better and newer versions or are some people planning on a more ascetic lifestyle? And there certainly is fodder for amateur psychologists when one homeowner places their household refuse at the curb in an orderly, neatly stacked fashion while their neighbor's junk looks as if it had been flung haphazardly out the window in the general direction of the curb.

While both towns prohibit scavenging,

### Bramnick to Serve As Hospital Auctioneer

**WESTFIELD** - On Monday, June 11, The Children's Specialized Hospital will conduct an auction to raise funds for its services and programs. Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-LD21) will be the auctioneer.

The Children's Specialized Hospital is one of the largest pediatric rehabilitation hospitals in the country. For over 100 years they have provided specialty health, developmental and rehabilitation services to infants, children, adolescents and young adults. In 2006, the hospital treated nearly 16,000 children.

Mr. Bramnick has served as a fundraiser for diabetes, AIDS, World Trade Center victims, League of Women Voters, the New Jersey Symphony and other charitable groups.

### Gabel Elected President Of County NJSCPA

**COUNTY** - Michael Gabel, CPA, has been elected President of the Union County Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) for a one-year term that began on June 1.

Mr. Gabel joined the New Jersey Society of CPAs in 1989. In the Union County Chapter, he has served as vice president, treasurer, secretary and director. This is Gabel's second consecutive term as president. He has also served as a member of the NJSCPA Personal Financial Planning and Young CPAs committees.

In Westfield, he serves on the board of the Wychwood Gardens Cooperative, Inc. Mr. Gabel earned his B.S. in accounting from St. Peter's College. He and his daughter reside in Westfield.

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gers from stopping to pick through the curbside piles for something they might need, it certainly didn't prevent anyone with a van or a pickup truck from driving up and down streets this past weekend in search of that coveted second-hand item, be it old Christmas decorations, a console television, a living room chair, shelving, the kitchen table or the stereo speakers that maybe didn't sell at a recent yard sale.

A few homeowners showed flashes of marketing savvy, with one putting out two washing machines and a dryer that were soon snapped up by a passing pickup truck. Later in the afternoon, the same homeowner put out several pieces of bedroom furniture to entice those in search of the ultimate bargain. Another homeowner discarded a battery-powered infant swing, but perhaps in an effort to move the merchandise, wound it up so that it sat in the street with the empty swing rocking back and forth.

While it's not clear what becomes of the items that are taken before the official pickup gets underway, it's likely that some scavengers are inspired by Fred Sanford's beat-up pickup truck on the old "Sanford & Son" television show. Emblazoned across the side of that truck were the words: "We buy junk, sell antiques."

Both towns are collecting household waste from homes that have purchased permits. The pickups will be done on a zone basis, with each zone's collection being conducted during a one-week period in June. For further information, Scotch Plains residents can call (908) 322-6700, extension 243 or 244. Westfield residents can call (908) 789-4100, extension 600.

### MS Shakespeare Plays Set for June

**MOUNTAINSIDE** - The Mountainside Public Library will sponsor two performances of the 2007 Shakespeare in the Parking Lot. The first will be on Saturday, June 23 at 7 p.m. entitled, "Twelfth Night." The second will be on Saturday, July 21 at 7 p.m. entitled, "Henry IV, Part 1."

The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey Next Stage Ensemble will perform the plays outdoors in front of the Mountainside Library. The approximate run time for each show is 1 hour. Bring your lawn chair or blanket.

The parking lot will close at 7 p.m. In the event of rain, performances will be held at the Mountainside Borough Hall Community Room. The Friends of the Mountainside Library sponsor these performances. For more information, call (908) 233-0115 or see mountainsidelibrary.org.



**PROM MAGIC...**Above, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students pose together for one last shot before the big dance. From left: Jeffrey Mysel, Jon Finkle, Jimmy McManus, Sean Sullivan, Sam Crawford, Jack Trimble, Tom Parkinson and Adam Becker. PICTURE PERFECT...Below, the girls pose for a glamour shot early in the evening. From left: Tracy Dalton, Meredith Kender, Jacqui Snyder, Emily Kieczkowski, Kristina Cofone, Erica Ammermuller and Gillian Kape.



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