

Gerald Gillespie, 85, Research Chemist; Enjoyed Family, Golf and Baseball

Gerald Joseph Gillespie, 85, of Westfield died peacefully on Thursday, February 9, 2012, at Overlook Medical Center in Summit after a short illness.

Born in Jeannette, Pa. to Mark J. Gillespie and Barbara (Broker) Gillespie, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and mathematics at Georgetown University and did graduate work in chemical engineering at Carnegie-Mellon University. He worked as a research chemist in plastics and coatings for Koppers Company and U.S. Steel Corporation.

He also served in the Army Air Force and was honorably discharged in 1945.

Surviving are his sister, Mary, and wife, Charlotte (Jaquish). They were married 62 years, and traveled the world after his retirement. They were parents to four children, Mark (Carol), John (Susan), Catherine Diaz (René) and the late Gerald Robbins. He also was grandfather to eight (Robert, Daniel, T. Isaac, David, Christopher, Steven, Benjamin and Joel) and great-grandfather to one (Abigail), and enjoyed spending time with family at the beach, as well as playing golf, and was an avid baseball fan.

The funeral was held on Tuesday, February 14, at the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield. Interment followed at

Fairview Cemetery in Westfield. Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, 315 First Street, Westfield N.J. 07090.

February 16, 2012

Emily A. Townsend, 93

Emily A. Townsend, 93, of Westfield passed away peacefully at home on Friday, February 10, 2012.

Mrs. Townsend was born in Perth Amboy and raised in Fords. She lived in Westfield since 1943. Emily was the head teller at City Federal Savings in Elizabeth for 17 years. She retired in 1983.

Surviving are her husband, Charles Townsend, Sr., and her son, Melvin C. Knight. She also will be deeply missed by her granddaughter, Sharon Knight.

Relatives and friends are kindly invited to visit the Dooley Colonial Home, 556 Westfield Avenue in Westfield, on Saturday, February 18, 2012, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Humane Society of the United States, Dept. HACEE110501001, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037 or to Joslin Diabetes Center Development Office, One Joslin Place, Boston, Mass. 02215.

February 16, 2012

Obituaries

Wanda Tarasko, 88, Former Longtime Resident of Township of Scotch Plains

Wanda Tarasko (née Radzinski), 88, of West Orange passed away on Saturday, February 11, 2012, at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.

Born in Newark, she was raised in Hillside and graduated from Hillside High School. She married her husband, Theodore, in 1947 and moved to Bloomfield the same year. She moved to Scotch Plains in 1961 and lived there until 2006, when she moved to West Orange.

She was predeceased by her husband, Theodore, in 1993, and by her brothers, John, Casimer, Stanley and Matthew Radzinski.

Surviving are her daughter, Donna Ostroman (and her husband, William); her grandson, Matthew

Ostroman (and his wife, Jenna); her great-granddaughter, Molly, and two brothers, Walter and Ed Radzinski.

The funeral was held yesterday, Wednesday, February 15, from the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Avenue in Fanwood. A Funeral Mass followed at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. Interment took place at St. Bernard's Cemetery in Bridgewater.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Jeanine Marie DiBenedetto Foundation for Nigerian Healthcare, 23 Crestfield Road, Boonton Township, N.J. 07005. For additional information or to sign the guestbook, visit www.fanwoodmemorial.com.

February 16, 2012



Wanda Tarasko

Price Fixe Dinner on Feb. 28 To Benefit Resolve Services

SCOTCH PLAINS - The board of directors of Resolve Community Counseling Center, Inc., in partnership with Two River Community Bank and The Stage House Inn, will host a dinner at the Inn on Tuesday, February 28, to benefit and to honor Resolve.

A private, non-profit mental health agency founded in 1974, Resolve is located in Scotch Plains. It is dedicated to providing quality and affordable counseling, advocacy and educational programs for children, adolescents and adults, individually and in groups.

The Stage House Inn, located at 366 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains (at the corner of Park Avenue and Front Street), will present a four-course, \$50 price fixe dinner with a choice of several different entrees, appetizers and desserts. A salad course also will

be included. Beverages will be available, or diners may bring their own beer or wine. Proceeds from the evening will help Resolve continue its mission of providing cost-effective mental health services.

For reservations, call Resolve's office at (908) 322-9180 and leave a name, telephone number, desired reservation time and the number of guests who will attend. Reservations will be confirmed by phone.

The staff of Resolve includes psychologists, social workers and licensed professional counselors who address a wide range of concerns, from substance abuse to depression, panic, suicide, family problems and sexual abuse. Fees for individual counseling are determined on a sliding scale, according to ability to pay. For more information, visit resolvenj.com.

Great Backyard Bird Count To Take Place Feb. 17 to 20

FANWOOD - During this Presidents' Day Weekend, February 17 to 20, the Fanwood Environmental Commission invites members of the public to discover and help birds in their local community by participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC).

Each year, tens of thousands of people throughout the United States and Canada take part in the GBBC. Participants count in their backyards, out their office windows, at local parks and nature centers and anywhere else. Individuals can spend as little as 15 minutes counting birds or even make a whole weekend of it.

This fun, family-friendly and educational activity is free and open to all ages and skill levels. People of all levels of bird-watching experience are welcome. Participants may count alone or with their family, community group, school or friends. Individuals are asked to count birds at any location they wish for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count and then enter their tallies at birdcount.org.

Participants can explore which species have been seen in their community, state or province using maps and charts on the GBBC website.

The Fanwood Nature Center, which features eight acres of unspoiled land, is located on Cray Terrace in Fanwood, off Terrill Road, and has been home to many types of birds, including cardinals, woodpeckers, finches and scarlet tanagers.

Jewish Singles Plan Lunch For Sunday

AREA - The Circle of Single Jewish Friends 49+ will hold a Meet and Eat Lunch this Sunday, February 19, at noon at Cheeseburger in Paradise, located at 625 South U.S. Route 1 (across from the Woodbridge Mall) in Iselin.

The cost is the price of a meal off the menu and tip plus \$3. Interested persons are asked to respond by calling Roberta at (908) 668-8450 or contacting roger678@optonline.net.

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

Date Adopted: 02/09/12

Public Notice is hereby given that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded a contract without competitive bidding as an extraordinary unsecurable service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a) (11). This contract and the resolution authorizing it is available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

RESOLUTION NO: 2012-166 AWARDED TO: Housing and Community Development Services, Inc, South Orange, New Jersey

SERVICES: for the purpose of administering the Housing Assistance Payments Program (HAPP) also known as Section 8 Program

PERIOD: March 1, 2012- December 31, 2013

COSTS: in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders 1 T - 2/16/12, The Leader Fee: \$24.48

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RESOLUTION NO: 2012-165 AWARDED TO: Housing and Community Development Services, Inc, South Orange, New Jersey

SERVICES: for the purpose of administering the Union County Home Improvement Program (UCHIP)

PERIOD: March 1, 2012- August 31, 2013

COSTS: in an amount not to exceed \$222,400.

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders 1 T - 2/16/12, The Leader Fee: \$23.46

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RESOLUTION NO: 2012-185 AWARDED TO: Palumbo & Renaud, Cranford, New Jersey

SERVICES: to provide representation to Kenneth Burkert in the matter entitled Gerald & Laura Hatton v. Union County, et als

COSTS: in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders 1 T - 2/16/12, The Leader Fee: \$21.42

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RESOLUTION NO: 2012-183 AWARDED TO: Kologi & Simitz, Linden, New Jersey

SERVICES: to provide representation to William Burkert in the matter entitled Gerald & Laura Hatton v. Union County, et als

COSTS: in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00

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RESOLUTION NO: 2012-170 AWARDED TO: Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Elizabeth, New Jersey

SERVICES: to provide pre-employment physicals/employee medical evaluations and other related medical services to the County of Union

PERIOD: February 1, 2012- December 31, 2012

COSTS: at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders 1 T - 2/16/12, The Leader Fee: \$22.95

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RESOLUTION NO: 2012-184 AWARDED TO: Krevsky, Silber, Brown & Bergen, Cranford, New Jersey

SERVICES: to provide representation to Kevin Burkert in the matter entitled Gerald & Laura Hatton v. Union County, et als

COSTS: in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders 1 T - 2/16/12, The Leader Fee: \$21.93

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RESOLUTION NO: 2012-173 AWARDED TO: Matrix New World, East Hanover, New Jersey

SERVICES: for the purpose of performing Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) environmental services, as required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)

COSTS: for an amount not to exceed \$14,255.00

James E. Pelletiere, Clerk of the Board Chosen Freeholders 1 T - 2/16/12, The Leader Fee: \$21.93

IHM to Host Kickoff Event For '40 Days For Life'

SCOTCH PLAINS - The pro-life advocacy group "40 Days for Life" has announced the upcoming start of its second 40-day initiative focused on Plainfield and the tri-county area. The local campaign will be preceded by a kickoff celebration this Sunday, February 19, at 3:30 p.m. at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church, located at 1571 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. It will formally begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and conclude on Palm Sunday, April 1.

"40 Days for Life" is an intensive, pro-life initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, 40 days of peaceful vigil at abortion facilities and 40 days of grassroots educational outreach addressing the emotional scars arising from abortion as well as potential alternatives to the procedure.

The 40-day time frame is drawn from Biblical examples of world-changing transformations occurring within that particular span.

"We were really honored last fall to be able to reach out in love and service to those who are most in need," said Katie Wills, spokesperson for the Plainfield Area campaign. "We were approached by several post-abortive women who thanked us for our presence. As they shared their stories with us, they all expressed a regret that no one had been there for them. It was a gift for us to be able to listen and show them organizations that could help them in the healing process."

Ms. Wills invites anyone interested in learning more about the Plainfield campaign to call her at (908) 322-6763, e-mail her at ktwills1973@gmail.com or visit 40daysforlife.com/plainfield.

Another Letter to the Editor

Continued from page 4

Vetoed Bill Would Have Increased Costs for Volunteer EMS Squads

New Jersey's volunteer emergency medical services (EMS) community is grateful to Governor Christie for his veto of A-2095. For the record, the New Jersey State First Aid Council (NJSFAC) supports changes to the EMS system that lead to better patient care. We objected to those portions of the bill that would have increased costs, bureaucracy and red tape, and ultimately pushed out the volunteers.

The 83-year-old non-profit NJSFAC represents more than 20,000 EMS volunteers affiliated with 325 volunteer ambulance, first aid and rescue squads throughout the state.

Using "Robo-call" scare tactics and false propaganda, the bill's supporters - largely those in the paid-EMS sector who had everything to gain from the bill's passage - ran a smear campaign against the volunteers. Before the Legislature revisits the so-called "EMS redesign" issue in the coming months, we volunteers want to set the record straight.

Every emergency medical technician (EMT) in the state, whether volunteer or paid, must successfully complete the same training and certification process, and adhere to the same standards. Distorted insinuations that volunteers are less qualified than paid responders are ridiculous.

EMS volunteers are professionals; they just don't collect a paycheck for their work.

Although the bill would have waived costs for volunteer EMTs' background checks and licensing, it failed to waive those fees for other volunteer EMS responders.

Background checks and licensing would have to be paid by someone, either state or local taxpayers, or maybe the EMS agencies themselves.

N.J. EMTs are certified by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). Requiring them to be licensed would be an extra, unnecessary and costly step.

Boards within the Division of Consumer Affairs license all medical professions in the state. Under the bill, the DHSS also would have had EMT

and EMS agency licensure power. Why? Again, who would pay for that?

The bill called for a state EMS medical director who must be a board-certified emergency room physician. Who would pay for this director and his/her staff?

The bill also would have established three regional EMS medical directors and staffs. Where would this money come from?

The bill included many hidden costs, but made no mention of how they would be funded. Even the Office of Legislative Services, which prepares fiscal notes on pending bills, indicated the measure would have resulted in additional DHSS administrative costs and increased training costs. And what about the costs to municipalities, existing EMS providers and state residents?

NJSFAC analysis indicated the bill would have cost tens of millions of dollars, at a minimum. The bill's supporters, who denied it would cost anything, aren't fooling anyone.

Consider this: In many areas of New Jersey, when someone calls 911, the ambulance responding likely is staffed by volunteer EMTs. In 2010, NJSFAC volunteers spent three million hours answering 355,000 calls, saving New Jerseyans \$225 million.

N.J. Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness officials past and present have stated publicly that, without its current, strong volunteer EMS base, New Jersey would be unable to respond appropriately to disasters such as 9/11, or the debilitating hurricanes, floods and blizzards that frequently target our area.

The vetoed bill would have discouraged volunteers, leaving many municipalities throughout New Jersey without close, affordable EMS coverage on a daily basis, much less during catastrophes.

Let's also remember that the EMT Training Fund, which was established in 1995 to pay for volunteers' training, then raided of millions by former Gov. Jon Corzine, is broke. In addition, the pending new EMT curriculum could double the required initial training hours from 120 to 240, demanding even more time and money out of pocket from volunteers who simply want to help their neighbors.

The naysayers who accuse the NJSFAC of having a "me, me, me" mentality are wrong, wrong, wrong.

Barbara Aras, President N.J. State First Aid Council Little Silver

Legal Advertising

MORE IN BACK SECTION

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RESOLUTION NO: 2012-172 AWARDED TO: Netta Architects Springfield, New Jersey

SERVICES: for the purpose of providing architectural structural engineering services for the Emergency Building Stabilization at the Union County Election Board, Elizabeth, New Jersey

COSTS: for an amount not to exceed \$134,000.00

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Social Justice Group Plans Discussion February 21

FANWOOD - In honor of Black History Month, Social Justice Matters (SJM) will present a discussion led by Peter Harvey on Tuesday, February 21, at 7 p.m. at The Chelsea Assisted Living, located at 295 South Avenue in Fanwood.

SJM is a group of Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents who have come together to discuss issues of race, ethnicity and social justice. The group believes that by engaging in truthful conversations about prejudices and preconceptions, people can build the base for a better world - one person, one group, one community at a time.

Mr. Harvey is a past Attorney General of New Jersey and a former federal prosecutor. As such, he has been a central player in civil and criminal trials, government investigations and consumer-fraud matters for many years.

His more than 25 years of courtroom experience includes significant commercial matters, frequently within the media and entertainment industry. Currently, Mr. Harvey represents corporations and individuals in business disputes throughout the nation.

He has tried multiple major civil and criminal jury and non-jury cases

in federal and state courts. Additionally, he conducts internal investigations for senior executives seeking to learn facts about employee misconduct or inappropriate business practices.

Mr. Harvey will discuss various issues revolving around the basic theme of "Why Social Justice Matters."