

COURIER-POST
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IN OUR TOWNS

3B

IN BRIEF

Prosecutors say man set fire to avoid eviction

MOUNT HOLLY — A 34-year-old man from Burlington was portrayed as knowing exactly what he was doing when he torched a house and injured three sheriff's officers.

Defendant William Burr Jr. threw the officers were sent to arrest him in August 1986 and blew up the house to thwart the eviction, deputy first assistant prosecutor James Ronco told the jury in opening statements.

But defense attorney Tim Heilly countered that Burr had been depressed and did not mean to hurt anyone. Heilly told the jury that the evidence will show that Burr was concentrating so heavily on taking his own life that he wasn't aware that the sheriff's officers were at the house.

Burr is on trial for attempted murder, aggravated arson and aggravated assault. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years in prison.

Business owners join forces in Maple Shade

MAPLE SHADE — The newly formed Maple Shade Business Association — the first in the township in 10 years — had its first meeting recently, but it already numbers 55 members, said its president, Martin P. Cohen.

And he hopes to attract more members. The organization isn't just for businesses on Main Street, but also for those on the highways and home-based businesses, Cohen said.

The group will meet 7:30 a.m. the first Tuesday of each month at Perfect Heat Caterers, 507 Route 78 North.

For further details call Cohen at 778-9796.

Session on bird feeding planned in Haddon Twp.

HADDON TWP. — George Fox of Wild Birds Unlimited, a local bird feeding specialty shop, will present information on the types of feeders and food that attract different species of birds in South Jersey at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Haddon Township Library, 15 MacArthur Blvd. For more information contact 854-2752.

Pennsauken teacher receives \$500 grant

PENNSAUKEN — Susan Wagner, a teacher at DeWitt School, received the 1997 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award for excellence in teaching. Wal-Mart presented a \$500 grant to the school.

Wagner was one of 1,500 teachers throughout the country who were selected for the award. The winners received a total of \$750,000 in grants for their schools or school districts.

Free vision screening available at library

VOORHEES — The Camden County Library branch at 203 Laurel Road will host free vision screenings for adults on Tuesday, Oct. 7, and Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. No appointments are necessary. The screening will include tests for near, distance and peripheral vision, as well as tests for glaucoma.

For more information, call 772-1636.

Gloucester Habitat chapter seeks new volunteers

CLAYTON — The Gloucester County chapter of Habitat for Humanity will hold its next general meeting Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church, 515 North Dakota Drive, Clayton.

With several new projects about to start, the nonprofit organization is seeking volunteers. A new house will be built on a lot on Academy Street, Gloucester, and a cleanup is being organized at the burned Gloucester Baptist Church which was the target of an arsonist.

For information on ways to help Habitat for Humanity, either through fund-raising, clerical work or as a construction assistant, phone 256-9400.

Courier-Post staff

Candidates' voting records questioned

By KIM HABAN
Courier-Post Staff

CHERRY HILL — Problems are mounting for Republican council candidates, as Michael King said Wednesday he never expected to vote until the day when he decided to ask public office.

"I never thought I could make a difference," King said. "I never thought you vote could make a difference."

Public records show King, 38, registered to vote for the first time on April 8, one day before he declared his candidacy.

King said he decided to register after his wife, age 38 and 12, asked him who he voted for in the presidential election and he could not answer.

"It's a 10-year-old saying, 'You didn't vote, dad?'" King said. "It looks funny, but my intentions were there."

The Republican candidate said he's running for office because he

wants to make a difference now.

"You've got to start somewhere," King said. "You've got to go back to your community."

King's opponent, Democratic council president Art Simons, blasted him for not registering until six months ago.

"It's not an adult in this day and age has to say that to his child," Simons said. "I don't understand that at all. I was raised to go and make a difference. Millions of people have died

for me to have the right to vote."

King, who has lived in the township since 1993, is the second Republican council candidate in a week to come under fire for their voting record.

GOP hopeful Marlene Weinstein Castello registered to vote April 4, just six days before she declared candidacy. Records show the 31-year-old Castello, who grew up in the township and moved away several years, never voted in Cherry Hill.

Castello, however, said she has, although she could not remember when.

In addition, according to state law, Castello has not lived in the township long enough to run for public office.

"I think this is symptomatic of the Republicans' lack of interest in the township," Simons said. "King has attended a single council meeting that I know of and he's never said a word. And his running mate is in violation of the state residency law."

Retiring pharmacist 'pillar of the community'

Max Schwartz operated Bell Pharmacy of Haddon and Kaighn avenues in Camden for 51 years.

By KEVIN RYDAN
Courier-Post Staff

CAMDEN — After 51 years at Bell Pharmacy, Max Schwartz has hung up his white jacket for good.

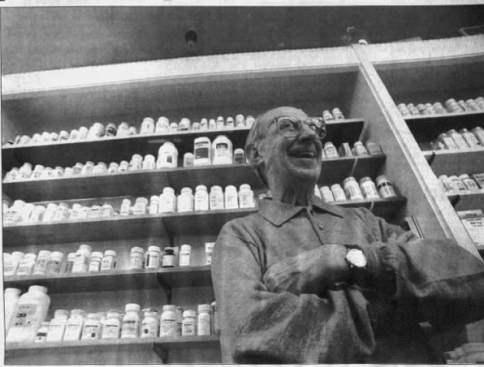
Schwartz — still spry and smiling at age 85 — says he is happy to be retired. And the fact that he sold his landmark business to the Duponts family, which has its own half-century tradition in the pharmacy trade in Camden, makes him happy as well.

For it, Max Schwartz is a happy guy. That, along with a good old-fashioned work ethic, is clearly what enabled him and his pharmacy to survive and thrive despite the invasion of chain drugstores, the revolution in health care, and profound change in the city where he began making his living in 1946.

"Hey doc, how are you? You're a legend," Robert Walker, a longtime Bell customer, said Wednesday, as he greeted Schwartz inside the store.

"I earned it a week," Schwartz said. "I liked it from the beginning. I liked meeting the public."

Schwartz received bachelor's degrees in pharmacy and biological science from Temple and Villanova universities, respectively, before volunteering for the Navy during World War II. He bought Bell Pharmacy in 1946, the brother of the previous owner, his sister — and got it



Happy: Retiring pharmacist Max Schwartz survived in his Camden pharmacy despite the invasion of chain drugstores.

The focus of all this attention is a slightly built man with a hawk nose, Haddon and Kaighn was the thriving downtown of the city's Parkside section, home to a large Jewish population as well as Italian and Polish families. The Parkside area was once just down the block and there were "seven corners," including the popular Hanky's, Schwartz recalled.

Many prescriptions cost 75 cents. Pharmacists didn't just count pills and get them in many medications. And pharmacies were somewhat like neighborhood emergency rooms, where almost any ailment — and got it

with its own budget and can hire consultants, is empowered only to make recommendations to the township council.

Such corporations also are eligible for certain grants and matching funds through the state that are not made available to commissions and other governmental bodies.

Gledhill said the commission was formed about three years ago with the intent that it would evolve into a corporation.

Council President Helen Reed said she and other council members are still confused over the differences and the ramifications of an economic corporation versus a commission. Council will schedule a special meeting with Gledhill and Flore before its next scheduled meeting on Oct. 14.

Flore said the corporation could be composed of between 12 and 20 men and women.

Councilman Richard Cox said he favors the concept.

"This is something that should have been done two years ago," Cox said.

Gledhill said other communities, such as Gloucester, have reaped big financial benefits from their economic development corporations in recent years.

"I've known him since he was a little kid," said Ryan, who is a volunteer with Oak Valley Fire Company. "This really could not have happened to a better person."

Building meeting room.

One volunteer, Jerry Ryan, said Gallagher's hiring was one of the best decisions the board has made.

"I've known him since he was a little kid," said Ryan, who is a volunteer with Oak Valley Fire Company. "This really could not have happened to a better person."

"I'm lucky, I guess," he smiled.

Monroe may form economic development agency

By GENE VERNACCHIO
Courier-Post Staff

MONROE — The township council will consider creating a new economic development corporation later this month.

Officials believe such a corporation will be more successful in obtaining grants from the state Economic Development Authority than its existing 11-member economic development commission.

Richard Gledhill, chairman of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission, urged council members to consider forming the corporation during a meeting Tuesday.

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Deptford district appoints township's first full-time fire chief

By MONICA LEWIS
Courier-Post Staff

DEPTFORD — A new era is under way for Deptford's fire district with the appointment Wednesday of the township's first full-time fire chief.

By a 5-0 vote, the Board of Fire Commissioners hired Mike Gallagher to a one-year contract for \$50,000 plus benefits. The contract, effective Oct. 1, will be renegotiated next September.

Gallagher, a 27-year veteran firefighter, becomes the first full-time fire chief in Gloucester County. He will earn \$50,000 a year as fire chief.

Jim Reed, board chairman, said the 41-year-old Gallagher was the most qualified person for the post and his hiring

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