



# TEE TO GREEN

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Superintendents Association

## President's Message

### Thanks for the Memories

It doesn't seem all that long ago that I came to the New York Metropolitan area—although it has been more than 10 years now—or that MetGCSA member Mel Lucas called and asked me to join what I later found out was one of the finest association chapters in the nation. It's also hard to believe that it's been nine years since I first sat on the Board of Directors . . . or that my term as MetGCSA president is coming to a close. I suppose time really *does* fly when you're having fun.

But it's been more than just fun working with—and being surrounded by—some of the most talented professionals in the turf management industry. It's been an experience I'll never forget.

I've seen our chapter grow in professionalism through the '80s and into the '90s—a decade I hope will be as fulfilling and rewarding for my successors as the past one has been for me. The future is as bright as we want to make it. Our biggest hurdle, as I see it, will be the government regulatory bodies and the environmental groups opposing our own good intentions. We, along with the GCSAA and USGA, have to show the EPA and various environmental groups that we're as interested in—and serious about—preserving the land as they are . . . and that, as professional turf managers, we can provide the world with golf courses that are as *(continued on page 2)*

## Special Feature

### Bob Alonzi Voted 1991 Recipient of the Prestigious Sherwood A. Moore Award

This is one of those once-upon-a-time yarns. You know the script: Loyalty, dedication, and hard work pay off. The good guy makes good.

The subject? Robert Ubaldo "Bob" Alonzi of *the* Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY, named recipient of the coveted Sherwood A. Moore Award, tantamount to selection as "Super of the Year" by the MetGCSA.

The announcement was made by Scott Niven of The Stanwich Club, chairman of the MetGCSA's Awards Committee, who hailed Bob as "the consummate superintendent, the embodiment of all that the treasured superintendent stands for."

#### The Early Years

Alonzi, born an hour south of Rome, Italy, 48 years ago, arrived in America as a frightened, eager, hopeful 12-year-old, heading for the unknown "land of opportunity." Bob recalls, with vivid detail, every hour of that six-day jour-



Bob Alonzi, CGCS, the MetGCSA's 1991 Sherwood A. Moore Award winner.

ney across the Atlantic aboard the Italian liner Leonardo DaVinci.

"It was scary but still exciting," he recalls. "We had been thoroughly prepared for the trip by our parents. They literally paved the way as only devoted parents can."

This soft-spoken, *(continued on page 4)*

## Also in This Issue

- ② Larry Pakkala Hosts Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney
- ② Accepting Board Nominations
- ③ Field Day Notes . . . Member News
- ⑤ Announcing the First Annual Class B Outing . . . and Other Upcoming Events
- ⑦ Scarsdale Meeting Golf Results . . . plus a Look at the Teams Representing the MetGCSA in the Met Area Team Championship

environmentally safe as anywhere on earth. I leave you with this thought as I step down as MetGCSA president.

And at the same time, I'd like to thank the board members I've served with—for having tutored me through the earlier years and supported me through the later ones. I'd also like to thank my present administration for

their support and hard work. You've made my two-year term as president seem like a labor of love rather than a regretful commitment.

I look forward to serving the association two more years . . . as past president.

LARRY PAKKALA, CGCS  
President

Spotlight

## Larry Pakkala Hosts Superintendent/ Green Chairman Tourney

If you've been a MetGCSA member for any length of time, you're no stranger to Larry Pakkala or Woodway Country Club, site of the October 17 Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament. Larry, who's currently property manager of Woodway, has served on the Met Board of Directors for the past nine years—most recently as president—and has opened Woodway's doors to numerous association picnics and Invitationals.

Larry came to Woodway nine years ago—a move he considers the best of his career. But then, none of Larry's career moves have been too shabby.

After completing a turf management degree at Pennsylvania State University, Larry accepted a position as assistant superintendent at the prestigious Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, PA—the sight of many a U.S. Open and, most recently, the U.S. Amateur.

Three years later, he took his first superintendent's job at the Mid Ocean Club, a spectacular seaside course in Tuckerstown, Bermuda. After he'd mastered the art of growing warm-season grasses in a semi-tropical climate, Larry returned to the States and, in

March '81, became superintendent at St. Andrews Golf Club in Hasting-on-the-Hudson, NY.

From there, Larry moved to Woodway, where he's been applying his talents since February 1983 to both the club's golf course and beach club. Celebrating its 75th anniversary, Woodway is one of the few clubs in the area to boast two addresses—one in Darien, CT, where the golf course is located; the other on Stamford's Shippan Point, which offers an idyllic setting for its newly renovated beach club.

Among the major projects Larry's undertaken in his tenure are converting the course's irrigation mains; constructing new tees and greens; and renovating bunkers, a project still in progress. Larry's also had a significant hand in Woodway's swimming and beach complex renovations.

A firm believer in budgeting time for a little R&R, Larry enjoys golf, jogging, and wining and dining.

Larry and his wife, Carole, who is a teacher at the Developmental Learning Center in Fairfield, CT, live in Darien on club grounds with their two daughters, Christina, 15, and Lauren, 11.

Info Alert

Bob Alonzi and Mike Maffei are accepting nominations for the board of directors. Anyone interested in nominating a member, please contact Bob at Winged Foot Golf Club, 914-698-2827, or Mike at Back O'Beyond, 914-279-7179.

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ADDRESS: P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

## Another Field Day Worth Remembering

If you attended the September 17 MetGCSA Professional Turfgrass Field Day, you're well aware of its success. Over 400 turf and landscape professionals braved the steamy weather to view the event's special clinics, equipment demos, and exhibitor booths.

There were nearly 70 exhibitors, including booths with representatives from the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service, USGA, New York State Turfgrass Association, and New York State Turf and Landscape Association.

Numerous door prizes were awarded throughout the day. MetGCSA member Mike Maffei, superintendent of Back O'Beyond, was the lucky winner of the grand prize: a \$500 travel certificate.

Let's hear a round of applause for Field Day Committee Chairman **Bob Lippman** of Westchester Turf Supply and his 13 hardworking committee



MetGCSA members' wives (left to right) Anne Maffei and Judy Alonzi (not pictured is Kim Alonzi) eagerly await Field Day registrants.

members: **Joe Alonzi** of Fenway Golf Club, **Dan Breton** of Silver Spring Country Club, **Tracey Holliday** of Sterling Farms Golf Course, **Byron Johnson** of The Terre Company, **Patty Knaggs** of Westchester Country Club, **Pat Lucas** of Innis Arden Golf Club, **Mike Maffei** of Back O'Beyond, **Mike**

**Miner** of Connecticut Golf Club, **Tim O'Neill** of Country Club of Darien, **Larry Pakkala** of Woodway Country Club, **Fred Scheyhing** of Mount Kisco Country Club, **Jeff Scott** of Apawamis Club, and **Al Tretera** of Turf Products Corp.

And of course, a special thanks to Patty Knaggs and Westchester Country Club for their cooperation and support in making this event a success.

Last, but not least, we'd like to thank the exhibitors whose participation and support made it another field day worth remembering. As we did last year, we've listed each exhibitor, along with their area of specialty and phone number, on a separate sheet. You'll find it inserted in this issue of *Tee to Green*. Save it. Refer to it the next time you're in search of a contractor or supplier. And show these people the same support they showed us during our field day.

### New Members

**John Corsi**, Class BL (B Life), retired from Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY. John is the first Met member to be named to this class.

**Paul "Skip" Deubel**, Class C, Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc., West Suffield, CT.

**Anthony Girardi**, Class D, Country Club of Darien, Darien, CT.

**Guy Hobbs**, Class B, Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY.

**Robert Leslie**, Class C, W.A. Cleary Chemical, Somerset, NJ.

**Terrence Mulligan**, Class B, Silver Spring Country Club, Ridgefield, CT.

### Way to Go

Congrats to **Mike Mongon**, superintendent at Arcola Country Club in Paramus, NJ. At the New Jersey District 1 meeting at Walkill Country Club in Franklin, Mike hit a hole in one—a once-in-a-lifetime event that three other MetGCSA members—**Matt Ceplo**, **John O'Keefe**, and **Ed Walsh**—were there to witness it.

### Births

Bert Thomas to **Bert and Christine Dickinson**, June 20. Bert is superintendent at Willow Ridge Country Club in Harrison, NY.

William John to **Mike and Mary Medonis**, September 8. Mike is superintendent at Bonnie Briar Country Club in Larchmont, NY, and Mary is assistant superintendent at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

Heather Marie to **Scott and Dana Niven**, September 6. Scott is superintendent at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT.

### Speaking Engagements

**John Carlone**, superintendent at Middlebay Country Club in Oceanside, NY, and **Matt Ceplo**, superintendent at Westchester Hills Country Club in White Plains, NY, ran a workshop on sand trap construction and renovation at the NYSTA Golf Course Design/Construction Golf Day. It was held August 13 at the State University College of Technology at Delhi, NY.

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## Bob Alonzi Voted 1991 Recipient of the Prestigious Sherwood A. Moore Award

sincere titan of the turf has devoted a quarter of a century to the field—and 15 solid years of service to the association as a director, treasurer, vice president, and president. His brother, Joe, superintendent at Fenway Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY, currently serves as MetGCSA treasurer.

"I'm pleased, naturally, says Alonzi of the accolade. "I'm well aware of the fine men who have won the award before me (Sherwood Moore, Ted Horton, Bruno Vadala, Jim Fulwider), and that's as close to a turf hall-of-fame as you can get in these parts.

"Let's face it," he adds, "this is as good as it gets in this business. Where does one go after Winged Foot? And what's left here to win after the Sherwood A. Moore Award?"

Alonzi's philosophy is a basic gut concept: "Hard work, dedication, devotion . . . that's what it's all about," says the Greenwich resident. "When a Winged Foot member strolls by and winks, he's basically saying, 'Nice job, Bob. Keep up the good work.' That's the ultimate compliment," he adds. "That's what we all strive for. It's called recognition. And oh, how we struggle to attain that goal."

This, then, is that magic moment for the curly-haired, soft-spoken Winged Footer, the epitome of modesty. For reputation, self-esteem, and respect soar to a higher plateau with this award. Bob has finally assumed the mantle of his predecessor, the incomparable Sherwood A. Moore, for whom the "SAM" award is named.

There are no idols in the Alonzi resume. But Bob is quick to salute longtime friend Ted Jozwicz as his "unsung hero." For it was Jozwicz who put him to work a quarter of a century ago in the field. He calls Jozwicz a gentle, good person, who gained super stardom while associated with Fairview and Tamarack.

Bob also voices high respect for friend Ted Horton, whom he refers to as a "sharing, caring individual."

Alonzi's interest in turf management was piqued while working weekends under Jozwicz at Tamarack. And from

that point forward, it was two years with Uncle Sam's army, a year of study at Rutgers University, three years as superintendent at Rye Golf Club, five years as superintendent and general manager at Burning Tree Country Club, and six years at Fairview Country Club before joining Winged Foot as cosuperintendent with Sherwood for the 1984 U.S. Open Championship.

But all throughout that period, it was the encouragement and gentle, loving influence of Bob's wife, Kim, that provided the incentive vital to his success. "They were truly testing years, and without Kim, they would not have been possible," he says gratefully.

### The Trials of a Turfman

But don't be misled. The long uphill struggle hasn't all been a stroll along velvet-greenlike paths of Kentucky blue, perennial rye, and creeping bent. There were obstacles—were there ever.

"In this business, one is compelled to be part-time agronomist and part-time politician," notes Bob. "Water restrictions, pesticide fears, eager environmentalists, local laws—they force you to substantiate every single thing you do today. You can become overwhelmed by the record keeping alone."

Then there is the overemphasis on that new gadget known as the Stimp-meter. "There is entirely too much emphasis placed on the speed of greens today, thanks to that Stimp-meter," Bob warns. "Golfers seem to think that the higher the Stimp-meter reading, the better the greens. Unfortunately, they fail to recognize the agronomic devastation that results from attempting to achieve green readings of 11, 12, 13 on the Stimp on a day-to-day basis.

"The Stimp-meter," he continues, "was developed specifically for the superintendent to measure green speed to achieve a consistent roll on all greens. But unfortunately, its original purpose has been misapplied, mostly because the media, especially TV, has placed repeated emphasis on the speed of greens during major tournaments.

"It is almost out of the question to expect U.S. Openlike playing conditions

Monday through Sunday without jeopardizing the quality and health of the turf," Bob adds.

As for the garden spot called Winged Foot (Bob's home away from home), Bob almost apologetically refers to it as "an icon," whose worldly renown can literally tear at your heart and soul every working day. "You're scrutinized constantly," he says, "so you're always striving for perfection, a demanding assignment."

Sometimes the anguish cancels out the overwhelming feeling of personal joy and the inner satisfaction that comes with the job. "On occasion," says Bob, "when I walk the fairways alone, it's comparable to strolling through the giant redwood forests and saying to yourself: 'Wow, I've had a small hand in this.' That's quite a sensation."

### A True Professional

In a profession that demands the complete dedication of its disciples, Bob Alonzi has weathered well. His ever-expanding reputation has not altered his quiet personality one iota. He is exactly the same good person today that he was when he started out a quarter of a century ago.

He is treasured at Winged Foot by those in the know. His green chairman, Mark "Buddy" Stuart Jr., a six-time Winged Foot club champion (11-time with his late Dad), labels Bob "the perfect superintendent: low key, gifted, talented, and a real pleasure to work with. Bob's taken the assignment to a higher degree. I'm thrilled to death to work with him. He calls the shots. I merely consult on occasion."

Winged Foot Professional Tom Nieporte says: "Alonzi's the perfect man for the job. I'm constantly amazed at how many people seek him out for advice and consultation every week of the year."

The effort apparently has reaped dividends; recognition is at hand. And elevating the image of the super has been Bob's primary focus all of his working life.

"We've come a long way, indeed,

from the day when we were looked upon as glorified farmer-greenkeepers," he muses. "Now, we're recognized as a valuable group of talented, gifted professionals, making a giant contribution to the growth of the game. That makes me extremely happy," he concludes.

Bob and Kim and their children, Jennifer, Robert Jr., Dana, and Cassie, reside in Greenwich, CT.

Bob will officially be honored by the association October 17 at the annual Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament at Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT. All prior winners of the Sherwood A. Moore Award are expected to attend.

GUIDO CRIBARI

*Guido Cribari is the retired executive sports editor for The Gannett-Suburban Newspapers. He has covered the game of golf in the district for almost half a century.*

Meeting Reminder

**Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament**  
Thursday, October 17  
Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT

Larry Pakkala will be the host superintendent. You can read his profile on page 2. The Sherwood A. Moore Award will be presented.

Calling All Class B Members

**First Annual Class B Outing**  
Monday, October 28  
Milbrook Club, Greenwich, CT

Here's an opportunity to meet your fellow Class B members. Watch for a mailing, or call Dan Breton at Silver Spring Country Club, 203-438-6720, for further information.

Conference

**New York State Turfgrass Association Turf and Grounds Exposition**  
Tuesday-Thursday, November 5-8  
Rochester Riverside Convention Center  
Rochester, NY

The Expo will feature not only the customary trade show, but also a day of special seminars and a host of informative speakers, including several fellow MetGCSA members. For further information, contact NYSTA at 800-873-TURF or 518-783-1229.

Seminar

**Winter Seminar**  
Wednesday, January 8, 1992  
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Watch for details.

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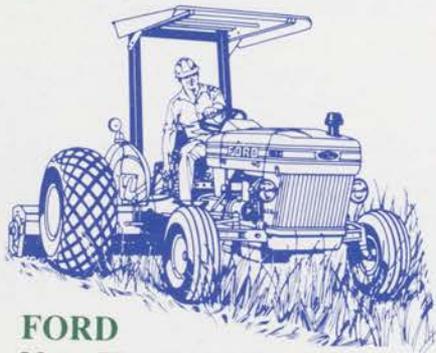
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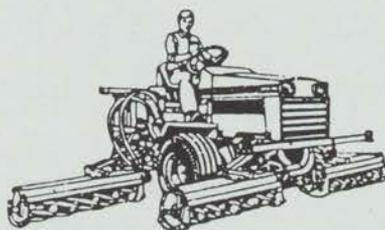
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## September Scarsdale Meeting Attracts 92 Golfers

The September 24 Scarsdale Golf Club meeting drew 92 golfers. Playing a blind-partner format, here's a look at how they fared. (Yes, believe it or not, Mark Millett has, again, taken the prize for the longest drive. The USGA people are still puzzling over his driver and ball.)

### Blind Partners

1st	L. Kennedy, <i>Oak Lane CC</i> S. Tretera, <i>Old Oaks CC</i>	4th	J. Carlone, <i>Middle Bay CC</i> T. Watroba, <i>Quaker Ridge GC</i>
2nd	F. Buschini, <i>Brae Burn CC</i> T. O'Neill, <i>CC of Darien</i>	5th	D. Griffin, <i>Down to Earth Lawn Mt.</i> E. Rizzio, <i>Turf Products Corp. (NJ)</i>
3rd	J. Ratsbutzky, <i>Guest</i> H. Waterous, <i>Scarsdale GC</i>	6th	B. Dunn, <i>Guest</i> J. Martin, <i>Shackamaxon CC</i>

### Closest to Pin

A. Savone, *Quaker Ridge GC*  
V. Sharkey, *Wykagyl CC*

### Longest Drive

M. Millett, *Old Oaks CC*

## Results of Final Qualifying Round for the Met Area Team Championship

The final qualifying round for the Met Area Team Championship was held at the September 24 Scarsdale Golf Club meeting.

Here's a look at the top contenders and their scores:

### Championship Flight

153 J. Fulwider, *Century CC*  
159 J. Carlone, *Middle Bay CC*  
160 E. Millett, *Ridgeway CC*  
160 M. Millett, *Old Oaks CC*

### First Flight (11-18)

146 J. Alonzi, *Fenway GC*  
146 C. Martineau, *Whippoorwill Club*  
146 R. Schock, *Wee Burn CC*  
147 A. Savone, *Quaker Ridge GC*

### Second Flight (19 and Above)

143 D. Arel, *Tamarack CC*  
144 F. Scheyhing, *Mount Kisco CC*  
147 L. Polidor, *Heritage Hills of Westchester*  
150 R. Alonzi, *Winged Foot GC*

### Class B Qualifiers

143 S. Tretera, *Old Oaks CC*  
147 F. Buschini, *Brae Burn CC*  
157 J. Cotone, *Briar Hall CC*

### Class C Qualifiers

145 A. Tretera, *Turf Products Corp.*  
146 D. Cancelleri, *J.A. Jackson Corp.*  
146 C. Quazza, *Haledon Nurseries*  
147 J. Farrell, *Lofts Seed*

The team that will be representing the MetGCSA in Met Area Team Championship is:

### Gross Team

John Carlone  
Jim Fulwider  
Earl Millett  
Mark Millett

### Net Team

Joe Alonzi  
Chuck Martineau  
Tony Savone  
Rick Schock

The Met Area Team Championship will be held October 15 at Fenway Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY.

Congratulations to all the winners, and many thanks to Scarsdale Superintendent Herb Waterous, Manager Doug Rapp, and Pro Bill Smittle for their help in making the day's tournaments a success.

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White Plains, NY, 914-428-1316

## Hawthorne Bros. Tree Service Inc.

John R. Hawthorne & Charlie Siemers  
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914-666-7035/203-531-1831

## Irrigation Systems Incorporated

Installation, Service, & GC System Design  
P.O. Box 66, Windsor, CT 06095  
203-727-9227

## James Barrett Associates, Inc.

Golf Course Irrigation Design & Consulting  
Jim Barrett  
201-744-8237

## James Carriere & Sons, Inc.

Bill Carriere  
7 Cottage St., Port Chester, NY 10573  
914-937-2136

## Landscape Supply Company

Wholesale Landscape Supplies  
James DeLiberio  
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## LESCO, Inc.

800-321-5325  
Seed, Fertilizer, Control Products, Equipment  
Greg Moran: 914-838-1650

## Lofts Seed Inc.

John Morrissey  
P.O. Box 146, Chimney Rock Rd.  
Bound Brook, NJ 08805, 201-356-8700

## Magovern Co.

Peter M. Moran & Joe Schnieder  
Windsor Locks, CT  
800-243-7718

## Metro Milorganite Inc.

Rick Appgar & Joe Stahl  
365 Adams St., Bedford Hills, NY 10507  
914-666-3171

## Montco/Surf-Side/Zap!

Surfactants-Defoamers  
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Robert Oeschle: 215-836-4992/215-628-3144

## Nor-Am Chemical Company

David J. Sylvester  
Area Sales Representative  
203-828-8905

## Partac Golf Course Top-Dressing

Kelsey Park, Great Meadows, NJ 07838  
Jim Kelsey: 800-247-2326  
Bill & Joe Carriere: 914-937-2136

## P.I.E. Supply Co.

Paul Roche & Pete Otte  
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## Proform High Performance Turf Products

Turf Seeds, Fertilizer, Control Products  
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NJ & South: Dave Jackson, 800-435-5296

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203-792-3032

## SAV-A-TREE

Complete Tree & Shrub Care, Naturally  
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## Shemin Nurseries Inc.

Horticultural-Irrigation Supplies  
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## Stephen Kay, Golf Course Architect

495 New Rochelle Rd., Office 2B  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
Office: 914-699-4437 Home: 914-738-3399

## Steven Willand, Inc.

Dave Marmelstein  
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## Tee And Green Sod Inc.

Bluegrass, Bentgrass, & Blue/Fescue Sod  
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David Wallace: 401-789-8177

## The Scotts Company

Area Technical Representatives  
NY: Frank Marra, 516-286-7712  
CT: Al Arison, 203-336-9890

## The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.

Byron Johnson Jr.  
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Paving, Cart Paths, Parking Lots,  
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## Turf Products Corporation

Turfgrass Supplies  
Ernie Rizzio - Buddy Rizzio  
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## Valley View Greenhouse

Frank Amodio  
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## W.A. Cleary's Chemical Co.

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## Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.

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Dennis DeSanctis/Jim Pelrine  
340 Main Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014  
201-471-0244