

Union's Hometown Newspaper

Issue 81 • September 2017

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WELLNESS CENTER BRANCH ANNOUNCES EXPANSION

The Gateway Family YMCA – Wellness Center Branch announced plans to expand the YMCA located at 1000 Galloping Hill Rd, Union. Expansion plans include renovations to the facility creating an additional group exercise studio on the main level for program space. The Wellness Center Branch opened in 2011 and is one of five branches that comprise The Gateway Family YMCA, serving Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County since 1900.

"The Gateway Family YMCA is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing the highest level of service to all, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to improve their lives. With a shared commitment to nurturing the potential of every member and fostering a sense of social responsibility, The Gateway Family YMCA provides financial assistance to those who qualify and free memberships to all students in 7th grade," stated Krystal R. Canady, Chief Executive Officer, The Gateway Family YMCA.

"This expansion will allow our membership to grow and our services to expand, in particular our focus on programs for those with chronic diseases. The additional space will allow us to better serve our members and the Union community," stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO.

The expansion project is anticipated to be complete for the Fall program session. "Over the course of the past two years, we've conducted surveys for member feedback, targeted member focus group meetings and conversations with our most valuable resource, our members. What we heard is that our members love our staff and they love our classes, but they want more. We're excited to embark on this expansion project at our branch," stated Colleen Clayton, Interim Branch Executive.

Future plans at the Wellness Center Branch include the ability to expand options for member health and well-being needs, including additional programs. The Wellness Center Branch offers Enhance Fitness for those with arthritis, the Diabetes Prevention Program and LiveSTRONG at the YMCA – a free community program in support of cancer survivors. "Our focus is creating a supportive environment to serve those that need a little more assistance and guidance to improve their health and well-being. The Y specializes in services for those facing challenges from arthritis, diabetes, weight management, back issues and joint replacement," added Paul Mickiewicz, Senior Director of Healthy Living.

The Gateway Family YMCA, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening the foundations of community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faith or incomes. The Y doesn't just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families and communities.

For more info about programs and services provided by The Gateway Family YMCA – Wellness Center Branch, please visit www.tgfymca.org or contact wellnessinfo@tgfymca.org or 908-349-9622.



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YMCA FALL Membership Special September 1 -17

When dealing with life's daily demands, people need a place to go where they can feel supported and receive help in trying times. A place where adults can find life balance; children can reach their full potential; seniors can be active and find camaraderie; and families can connect and strengthen relationships. To help more people benefit from the Y, The Gateway Family YMCA is holding a membership drive September 1 - 17th providing a special joiner fee rate of \$25 for all memberships.

As a leading nonprofit committed to strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, the Y seeks to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has an opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. The Gateway Family YMCA is a non-profit charitable organization serving Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County for 117 years.

The Gateway Family YMCA offers a variety of programs to help achieve greater health and wellbeing, nurture youth and inspire individuals to give back to better their community. Fall programs begin September 5th at the YMCA including new swim lessons, youth sports, active older adult fitness and art programs. Spirit of UNION • Page 2 • September 2017



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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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www.RennaMedia.com CITY OF LINDER SATURDAY, SEPT.23** HAM - 7PM, WOOD AVE. AT CITY HALL (Rain Date Sunday, Sept. 24th) Sponsored by the Linden Activities for All Ages Cultural & Heritage Committee DJ & Live Music at Promenade + Classic & Custom Car For more information on and Molorcyle Show Linden events. visit www.linden-nj.org Delicious Festival Food Eating Contests Fun Carnival Rides ityofLinden Beer Tent NEW JERSEY Domining Diversity Program Vendor Marketolace

UNION FIRE DEPARTMENT TO HOST 9/11 MEMORIAL

Members of the Community are invited to participate in a September 11th Remembrance Ceremony on Monday, September 11, 2017 beginning at 8:15 a.m. at Union Fire Headquarters located on Bond Dr.

"Marking the anniversary of this tragic event provides the opportunity to recognize the many instances of heroism, bravery and generosity which have reflected back so strongly on America since that day more than 15 years ago," said Suzette Cavadas, Mayor.

The intent of this remembrance by the Union Fire Department is to participate in and conduct a single nationwide salute to fallen firefighters, law enforcement and civilians alike.

The event will be coordinated to occur at the exact moment the World Trade Center events occurred and will be marked by a series of two bell chimes- one for each of the towers whose collapse took countless lives, followed by the reading of the names of the service members whose lives were lost that day.

For additional Information please contact the Township of Union Office of Public Information at 908-851-5096 or via email at publicinfo@uniontownship.com.



(above) Image from the Township of Union 2016 September 11th Remembrance Ceremony. This year's ceremony will take place at Union Fire Headquarters located on Bond Dr. beginning at 8:15 a.m. (photo courtesy of the Township of Union)





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UNION COUNTY INTERFAITH COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Union County interfaith Coordinating Council, an organization of clergy and lay persons representing all faith traditions, held an Interfaith Prayer Unity Service at the First United Methodist Church, Westfield, NJ on July 20. This event followed a solidarity gathering held on June 28 at Temple Sha'arey Shalom in Springfield, NJ.

Additional programs are being planned 354-3040 x 4324. including supporting Union County

Thanksgiving Services in November, a Homeless Sabbath in December and the Third Annual Day of Prayer Service at The Parish Community of St. Helen in Westfield on October 24. For more information on the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council please contact Rod Spearman at rspearman@caunj.org or UCInterfaith@caunj.org or by phone @ (908) 354-3040 x 4324.



(above) The following clergy, spokespersons and musicians participated in this truly ecumenical service: The Rev. Dr. David Mertz, host pastor of The First United Methodist Church of Westfield, Rev. Anthony Randazzo of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church of Westfield, Rev. Carmine Pernini of Zion Lutheran Church, Rahway, Rev. Ann Marie Alderman of the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, Zagham Chaundry of the Muslim Community Center of Union County, Eric Kussman, Jr. of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield, Rev. Mayra Castaneda of the First Baptist Church of Westfield, Rev. Richard Hogans, Chaplain of the Union County Correctional Center & Shiloh Baptist Church in Elizabeth, Rabbi Ethan Prosnit of Temple Emanuel, Westfield and Dr. Mohammed Ali Chaudry of the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge. Music selections were provided by Jonathan Evers of the First United Methodist Church in Union.

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NORTHFIELD BANK FOUNDATION PROVIDES SUPPORT TO YMCA

The Northfield Bank Foundation presented a generous donation to The Gateway Family YMCA in support of the Power Scholars Academy. The \$15,000 donation was presented by Diane Senerchia, Executive Director, Northfield Bank Foundation to Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. The donation provided supports the Power Scholars Academy summer learning program.

"As a charity, we are dedicated to nurturing the potential of every child and teen, improving the nation's health and well-being, and giving back and providing support to our neighbors," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO. "The Northfield Bank Foundation has been a great supporter of our YMCA and the children we serve in the local community."

The Gateway Family YMCA is the only YMCA in New Jersey chosen to host the Power Scholars Academy. Power Scholars Academy is a partnership between the Y and the national nonprofit BELL (Building Educated Leaders for Life), a five-week summer program designed to not only tackle summer learning loss in math and reading, but to also foster physical and socialemotional growth.

The Power Scholars Academy offers summer learning for youth in grades K-8 with the goal of increasing students' academic success and boost self-confidence, while also engaging families in the education process.

The program is designed to address summer learning loss for children in low-income households living in under-resourced areas and

thereby enhance overall youth development, academic performance and graduation rates in the community.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3)non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening the foundations of community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faith or incomes.

To learn more about the Y's cause or Annual Support Campaign, visit www.tgfymca.org or contact The Gateway Family YMCA-Association Office at 908-249-4800.

OFF



(above) YMCA Power Scholars Academy participants, Y leaders, Northfield Bank Foundation and Northfield Bank donors pose for a photo. (Adults Left to Right): Elsa M. Muniz, Northfield Bank and YMCA Board Member, Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA, Diane Senerchia, Executive Director, Northfield Bank Foundation, Maria Fuentes, Northfield Bank, Sabrina Elson, Northfield Bank and Rodger D. Koerber, The Gateway Family YMCA.





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Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:00pm
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Adult\$7.99	Adult\$11.99
Kids 7-10\$5.99	
Kids 3-6\$3.99	Kids 3-6\$5.99
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Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm
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Kids 3-6\$3.99	Kids 3-6\$5.99
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11am · Ivpm	
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Kids 3-6	\$5.99
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GOLDEN RULE LODGE NO. 24 AND CHAPT. 50 RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

Members of Golden Rule Lodge No. 24 and Golden Rule Chapter No. 50 were recognized recently by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Union for their unwavering commitment to the greater Union/Vauxhall community exhibited through their countless service projects affecting

residents both young and old throughout the year. Ranging from back to school supply drives, toy drives, and participation in local food pantries, to walking/raising money for various causes, both entities were recognized by Mayor Suzette Cavadas as valued assets to the community.



(above) Members of Golden Rule Lodge No. 24 and Golden Rule Chapter No. 50 with the Mayor and Committee Members of the Township of Union.





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WE'RE GETTING BETTER, TOGETHER

UNION KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MAKES DONATION TO ST. JUDE'S CHILDREN HOSPITAL

On Sunday, July 16, at a festive fundraiser, the Union Knights of Columbus at the Columbian Club of Union in Union, NJ hosted a pig roast. Grand Knight, Michael Willemse, organized this outdoor event with the intention of donating to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

The \$600.00 donation was a result of proceeds from the net sale of event tickets. The Grand Knight chose St. Jude's Hospital because of its mission statement to advance cures for pediatric catastrophic diseases, and for never denying a child treatment regardless of race, religion or the family's ability to pay. Since its creation in 1962, St. Jude has become one of the world's premier pediatric research institutions.

"We are thrilled to be able to make this donation," stated Michael, as he signed the check, and handed it to Union Council's Financial Secretary, Ed McCormick. "This organization has been a shining example of how our medical profession needs to continue to be; for the patient first and not a business," continued Michael.

this an annual event to further support St. Jude and all they do for children around the world.

GERTRUDE EMMA SCHWARZ (1923 – 2017)

Gertrude Emma Schwarz, affectionately known as 'Gerri', or 'Trudy', was born in Newark, New Jersey on August 3, 1923—an only child of loving parents Edward and Grace Kraft. These adoring parents also raised other family relatives, so Trudy was among a very loving, caring family. She lived through the Great Depression and after finishing high school, as the nation labored through the World War II years, she worked in a factory. In 1946 Trudy married her childhood sweetheart whom she had known since she was three-Navy man Otto C. Schwarz. A survivor of USS Houston (CA-30), Otto had just been liberated from prisoner-of-war camps in Burma and Thailand at the conclusion of WWII.

Gertrude and Otto started a rather simple life in Newark, NJ, raising two sons.

Otto regularly lamented at how he missed, and might never see again, so many fellow shipmates and prisoners of war (many from Australia). At Trudy's urging he began the process of making contact with those approximately 268 men—an effort which led to the birth of the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations® which is still alive and well to this

day. From 1946 until the very day of Trudy's passing—71 years!—she served that association as its mentor, inspiration, and in so many ways: its major contributor.

Trudy Schwarz loved her immediate family including: sons Edward and John; daughter-inlaw Sara Jane Jelin-Schwarz; granddaughters Jessica, Bessie and Willa and grandsons Jake and Marty. She loved her relatives, friends and neighbors, her Westfield YMCA exercise group and the Union Optimist family. She loved her church, Connecticut Farms Presbyterian, and her bakery family at Romano's, both in Union, NJ. She came to love her caretakers Anita and Eunice and her Doctor R. Solomon, as well as the entire Hospice Team who cared for her until her passing.

She loved and adored her Survivors' Association family and the best part is: all of the above truly loved her back!

The Schwarz family is thankful that Gertrude passed away as peacefully as one could ever hope for, at her home in Union, New Jersey on the morning of June 26, 2017. God Bless and rest in peace this wonderful woman.





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LAW EXPLORER POST 629 ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS

It is that time again when students will be returning to school and choosing their after school activities. Law Explorer Post 629, now on its seventh year, is gearing up for another year of exploring the field of law and government through trips, guest speakers, discussions and hands-on activities. Students who are interested in this career path or simply want to learn more about law and government are welcomed to sit in on one of the meetings and discover what the program is all about.

Law Explorer Post 629 is an after school enrichment program where youth have the advantage of seeing and experiencing law and government in a captivating, age appropriate way. The program is open to Union County youth, ages 14 - 20. The youth Explorers meet in the Law Offices of Lucia E. Perpina, Esq., 629 North Wood Avenue, Suite 5, Linden, NJ on Friday nights, from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. In addition to its educational goals, Post 629 also offers fun outings during the year which may involve hiking, bowling, camping or other non-law related activities to foster teamwork and cohesion within the group. The youth are also encouraged to select and organize a year-long community project (relating to law and/or government) in which all the members will take an active role. Post 629 is not a political group, does not have any political affiliations, and all members must be open minded and accepting of all people.

Post 629's adult volunteers welcome the opportunity to speak with parents and youth about the program prior to making any commitments regarding membership in the program. If you are interested in the program, you may call (908)718-5877 or simply stop by on a Friday evening. Weekly meetings have already begun and the program accepts members on rolling basis.



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