

Clark Monthly NJ

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CLARK UNICO 11TH ANNUAL ITALIAN AMERICAN FEAST

Clark UNICO held their 11th Annual Italian American Feast on the grounds of the Municipal Complex for 4 days over the Columbus Day weekend. Warm weather brought out record crowds each day and night. The feast featured nightly entertainment, rides, food, games, 50/50 raffle, beer, wine, and novelty and craft vendors. The Feast is the Clark chapter of UNICO's biggest fund raiser and the monies raised are distributed throughout the Township, through scholarships and selected charities.



Photos courtesy of Clark UNICO.



CLARK STUDENTS HONORED AT UNICO FESTIVAL

Several students were honored as the Columbus Day Essay Contest winners at the Clark UNICO Festival held on October 8. Winners included Emma Herko, fifth grader at Valley Road Elementary School; Nicholas Cardoso, fifth grader at Frank K. Hehnly Elementary School; John Fleckenstein, eighth grader at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School; and Michael Buttelmann, tenth grader at Arthur L. Johnson High School. Students shared their essays and were presented with certificates as well as Barnes and Noble gift cards.

The contest, sponsored by UNICO, asked students to write about an Italian who made a positive contribution to society. Superintendent Edward Grande stated, "We are most proud of our student author winners and are beyond appreciative of Clark UNICO for their ongoing support of our students and schools." John Gregorio, twelfth grader at Arthur L. Johnson High School, was also recognized for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Italian National Anthem, "Il Canto degli Italiani" at the event.

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HEHNLY STUDENTS HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS

The Frank K. Hehnly Elementary School Student Council partnered with the Clark Fire Department and Shoprite of Clark to sponsor a diaper drive to help the youngest victims of the recent hurricanes across the country.

The Student Council, led by Mrs. Hayes and

Ms. DeVita, collected hundreds of diapers and wipes from Hehnly's generous students and families. The items will be donated to the American Red Cross and distributed to families in need who were affected by the latest hurricanes.



(above) Frank K. Hehnly Student Council members proudly team up with the Clark Fire Department and Shoprite of Clark to collect diapers for hurricane victims.

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67 BROOKSIDE TERR - \$799,900

2 WORDS BEST DESCRIBE THIS CUSTOM HOME...AMAZING & HUGE! 5 BEDROOMS, 3.5 BATHS, GOURMET KITCHEN WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF CABINETS, BREAKFAST BAR, GRANITE COUNTERS & A MARBLE FLOOR, BANQUET SIZED DINING RM, FAMILY ROOM, GLEAMING HARDWOOD FLOORS, HIGH CEILINGS, RECESSED LIGHTING, THE 1ST FLOOR MASTER BEDROOM & MASTER BATH IS PERFECT FOR ANY MOTHER/DAUGHTER ACCOMODATION, WALK-IN CLOSETS GALORE TOO! THE SLIDERS LEAD TO A DELUXE PAVER & CONCRETE DECK & AN ENORMOUS BACKYARD...(104X187) THE PAVER DRIVEWAY IS BEAUTIFUL TOO! THIS CUSTOM HOME WAS COMPLETELY REBUILT IN 2000 & THERE ARE SIMPLY TOO MANY AMENITIES TO LIST!



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640 MADISON HILL RD - \$539,900

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56 MAE BELLE DR - \$739,000

AMAZING CENTER HALL COLONIAL SITUATED IN A TOP LOCATION CALLED THE HILLCREST SECTION IN THE DESIRABLE TOWN OF CLARK. THIS IMMACULATE HOME OFFERS 5 BEDROOMS & 3.5 BATHS AND IS SITUATED ON A HUGE LOT! (100X150) FROM THE MINUTE YOU ENTER THE SPACIOUS FOYER YOU WILL BE CHARMED BY THE UPGRADES & IMPROVEMENTS & ATTENTION TO DETAIL THROUGHOUT... THE NEWER KITCHEN OFFERS BEAUTIFUL CABINETRY, GRANITE COUNTERS, STAINLESS STEEL APPL & A CENTER ISLAND! THE FAMILY RM HAS A COZY GAS FIREPLACE & THE LARGE FINISHED BASEMENT IS HIGH & DRY AND HAS A WET BAR. ABUNDANT CLOSETS & STORAGE GALORE! UPGRADES INCLUDE A NEW ROOF & GUTTERS, REFINISHED HARDWOOD FLOORS & A NEW MASTER BATHROOM THAT IS PERFECT! THERE ARE TOO MANY AMENITIES TO LIST...THIS IS A MUST SEE HOME!



53 LEFFERTS LANE - \$538,000

ONE FLOOR LIVING AT IT'S BEST! BEAUTIFUL & SPACIOUS BEST DESCRIBES THIS COMPLETELY UPDATED WELL BUILT BRICK RANCH SITUATED ON A LOVELY STREET IN THE DESIRABLE TOWN OF CLARK! 3 BEDROOMS, 2.5 BATHS, THE SPACIOUS LIVING RM HAS A COZY WOODBURNING FIREPLACE & A GLEAMING HARDWOOD FLOOR, LOVELY FORMAL DINING RM, THE NEW KITCHEN WILL AMAZE YOU WITH THE ABUNDANCE OF KRAFTMAID CABINETS, GRANITE COUNTERS, CENTER ISLAND, BUILT IN BUFFET & KITCHEN AID ARCHITECT SERIES APPLIANCES. THE UPDATED BATHROOMS ARE PERFECTION. THE BASEMENT IS ALMOST FINISHED & INCLUDES THE BAR & POOL TABLE. ENCLOSED REAR PORCH AFFORDS A VIEW OF THE FREE FORM SALT WATER INGROUND POOL. 2 CAR GARAGE, WITH ATTIC STORAGE, NEWER ROOF & CENTRAL AIR. THIS AMAZING HOME HAS TOO MANY AMENITIES TO LIST!



230 EAST LANE - \$889,000

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CLARK CRUSADERS WIN UNICO BOWL

Clark UNICO recently held the Annual UNICO Bowl which features the Clark Crusaders vs the Hillside Comets. The friendly game has been held and played for many years. Hillside took the trophy home last year but the Crusaders

came out in full force winning the game and the trophy this year.

Clark UNICO President Joe Arancio took the field for the coin toss and presentation of the trophy at the end of the game. Hillside UNICO

President Angelo Bonanno handed over the trophy to the Clark team after the game. Also in attendance on the field was past President Ralph Bernardo and UNICO members George Abruzzo and Henry Varriano.



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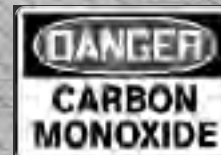
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Mrs. Petela’s second grade class at Valley Road Elementary School recently completed a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) activity. First, the class listened to the story, Pete the Cat...I Love My White Shoes. Then, students were divided into small groups and given the STEAM task of designing a bridge that would safely carry Pete over a patch of

strawberries. Given only tape and plastic straws, students had to work collaboratively and think outside of the box. Pete's new white shoes stayed nice and white as all of the students successfully built bridges that carried Pete over the strawberry patches. Mrs. Petela stated, “It was great to see the students work cooperatively and apply their STEAM skills to achieve a common goal.”



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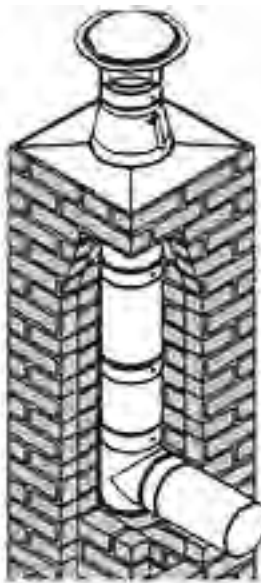
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GEORGE VISCONTI WINS WENDY'S HIGH SCHOOL HEISMAN AWARD

On Oct. 18, George Visconti Jr., a senior at ALJ, was named a High School Winner of the Wendy's High School Heisman award. He will receive a certificate in recognition of his leadership both on the courts and in the classroom.

George has been a stand-out athlete throughout his years at ALJ. His contributions to the basketball program are significant, most notably leading the 2016-2017 team to the Central Jersey Group 2 State Championship game, a first for the Crusaders. George has been a starter for the basketball team since his freshman year, and amazingly holds the school record for most points with one year remaining in his playing career.

In school, George has been able to carry a high grade point average in honors and Advanced Placement level courses. He participates in the Crusader Athletic Leadership Council as well as many other school activities.

About Wendy's High School Heisman

The Wendy's High School Heisman was created by Wendy's founder Dave Thomas in 1994. Dave Thomas dropped out of high school when he was 15 years old in order to work full-time and went on to become one of the most successful entrepreneurs in history. While this nontraditional path led to his prosperity, it always worried Dave that others would follow in his footsteps and expect to achieve similar fame and wealth by not finishing high school or attending college.

Faced with this dilemma, at 61 years old, Dave enrolled at Coconut Creek High School in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and received his General Equivalency Diploma (GED). Inspired by this moment and with a desire to celebrate the outstanding achievements of youth in America, he launched the Wendy's High School Heisman program.

Twenty-two years later, Wendy's High School Heisman has honored more than 600,000 of the nation's most esteemed high school seniors who share Wendy's values of giving back to their communities, treating people with respect, continuing education and excelling on the athletic field.

The Wendy's High School Heisman is a joint program between Wendy's and the Heisman Trophy Trust, host and custodians of the Heisman Memorial Trophy®.



(above) George Visconti and his parents.

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CUB SCOUT PACK 145

Cub Scouts from pack 145 led by Scott McCabe met early the morning after the 4-day UNICO Italian Feast was held to clean up and put back together the entire municipal building grounds. Thank you to our cub scouts!!!

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Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm
Adult\$7.99	Adult\$11.99
Kids 7-10.....\$5.99	Kids 7-10.....\$7.49
Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

SUNDAY ALL DAY DINNER

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LINK PROGRAM COMES TO VALLEY ROAD SCHOOL

Valley Road Elementary School in Clark has recently started the Mentor LINK Program. The program, under the direction of Nicole Arpino, school psychologist; Sarah Badillo, guidance counselor; Lauren Ceccarelli, behaviorist; and

Lisa Giandana, LDTC, promotes opportunities for positive interaction among students.

Doreen Babis, Director of Student Support Services, stated, "We are very excited to have this program at Valley. It's a wonderful chance for the students to work together and learn from each other."

The mentors, nominated by staff members, have volunteered to lead lessons and activities on various topics during the first meeting of the month. The second meeting of the month will consist of an activity with both mentors and mentees. Students are looking forward to one of the first activities planned, a picnic.



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(above) Valley Road School's Mentor LINKS.

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PRESCHOOLERS LEARN ABOUT FIRE SAFETY



October is Fire Prevention Month, and the Clark Preschool has been busy teaching the students important lessons in fire safety and prevention.

The preschoolers learned that there are many actions people can take to improve their safety at home, school, and work. Caleb Bain, physical education teacher, practiced fire and evacuation drills. He taught the students to “stop, drop and roll.”

The highlight of the week was a visit from the Clark Fire Department. The department demonstrated the sounding of the fire alarm and taught students how fire hoses were used. They also showed Sparky the Fire Dog, a video which taught the children key messages related to fire safety. The students then participated in several follow-up activities teaching them to use their senses by:

- Listening for the sound of the fire alarm
- Touching the door to see if it is hot. If it is, don't use it.
- Looking for the safest way out
- Smelling for smoke

The Fire Department also distributed junior fire hats, coloring books, crayons, tot finder labels, and fire safety information for the parents.

Fire Prevention Month is sponsored by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA). It was established to commemorate the 1871 Great Chicago Fire. The theme for 2017 is: “Every second counts; plan two ways out!”

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FIFTH GRADERS ENTER RED RIBBON CONTEST

Fifth grade students at Frank K. Hehnl Elementary School and Valley Road Elementary School participated in a poster contest sponsored by Prevention Links. The contest, open to all fifth graders in Union County, asked students to draw their anti-drug(s) and create a catchy slogan.

Mrs. Badillo, elementary school guidance counselor and organizer of the contest, was very

pleased at the number of students who participated. She stated, “This year we have almost tripled the number of entries from previous years.” Students at both schools are anxiously waiting to hear if a Clark student will be one of the winners. Below is a picture of Mrs. Badillo and some of Hehnl School's participants with their entries.



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Clams casino or oreganato	1.25 ea.
Mozzarella En Cassola	1.25 ea.
Jumbo Jumbo crab cakes (mini)	3.25 ea.
Cocktail franks	0.60 ea.
Stuff Mushroom with crabmeat	2.00 ea.
Stuff Mushroom with sausage	2.00 ea.
Jumbo Shrimp cocktail	2.50 ea.
Vegetable springs roll	1.50 ea.
Fried Shrimp	2.50 ea.
Chicken tender	1.50 ea.
Mozzarella sticks	1.00 ea.

APPETIZERS

	Small (8-10 people)	Large Thin (12-15 people)
Fried Calamari w/marinara	45.00	60.00
Mussels marinara	25.00	35.00
Zuppa di clams	30.00	45.00
Seafood salad	85.00	115.00
Broccoli rabe & sausage	45.00	70.00
Buffalo wings	7.95 per dozen	

	Small (8-10 people)	Medium (12-15 people)	Large (16-20 people)
Cold Antipasto	40.00	55.00	85.00
Fresh Mozzarella & Tomato	30.00	45.00	70.00
Roasted Peppers & Mozzarella	30.00	45.00	70.00
Fresh Tomato Bruschetta	20.00	30.00	40.00
Seasonal Grilled Vegetable	25.00	35.00	50.00
Assorted Imported Cheese	40.00	55.00	85.00
Seasonal Fresh Fruit	30.00	40.00	55.00
Vegetable Cauldron	20.00	35.00	45.00

SALADS

	Small (8-10 people)	Large Thin (12-15 people)	Large Deep (16-20 people)
Ciao Bello	30.00	35.00	45.00
House	30.00	30.00	35.00
Roasted Beet	30.00	35.00	45.00
Caesar	25.00	30.00	40.00
Fennel	35.00	40.00	45.00
Benny's Salad	35.00	40.00	45.00
Arugula	30.00	35.00	40.00

Descriptions:

Ciao Bello – assorted fresh greens, fresh mushrooms, Italian, goat cheese, side of balsamic vinaigrette
House – mixed greens with cucumber, tomatoes, olive oil, onion, side of Italian dressing
Roasted Beet – cucumber, tomatoes, red & golden beets, red onion, gingerbread cheese side of balsamic vinaigrette
Caesar – crisp romaine leaves tossed in creamy & peppery reggiano side of caesar dressing
Fennel – thinly sliced fennel & baby arugula, roasted pears, candied walnuts, goat cheese side of fig vinaigrette
Benny's Salad – iceberg lettuce, grape tomatoes, avocado, red onion, corn, black bean, cucumber, parmesan reggiano & side of red wine vinaigrette
Arugula – Organic baby arugula, pigroli tomatoes, tomatoes, avocado, onion, arugula, parmesan cheese in a balsamic vinaigrette

SANDWICH PLATTERS

Fresh Baked Focaccia (served round platters)

Small-12 pieces (8-10 people)	Medium-24 pieces (12-15 people)	Large-32 pieces (16-20 people)
\$25.00	\$45.00	\$70.00

- Grilled chicken with roasted peppers & fresh mozzarella
- Oven roasted turkey with lettuce, tomatoes & onions
- Chicken tender or grilled fennel, tomatoes & honey mustard
- Prosciutto roasted peppers & mozzarella
- Roasted peppers, grilled eggplant, and fresh mozzarella
- Chicken parm • Eggplant parm

Wrap It Up: Choice From

Small-16 pieces (10-12 people)	Medium-32 pieces (16-18 people)	Large-48 pieces (24-26 people)
\$30.00	\$55.00	\$85.00

- Grilled chicken caesar
- Grilled vegetable with fresh mozzarella
- Sirloin steak with sautéed onions, peppers, mushrooms & mozzarella
- Chunky white tuna salad
- Grilled chicken sautéed spinach, onions, mushroom & fresh mozzarella
- Sliced turkey with lettuce, tomatoes & onions
- Grilled chicken broccoli rabe roasted peppers and fresh mozzarella
- Barbeque chicken lettuce tomatoes Bacon & Monterey jack cheese

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CHICKEN

	Small (8-10 people)	Large Thin (12-15 people)	Large Deep (16-20 people)
Murphy (Hot or Sweet)	45.00	60.00	75.00
Oreganato	40.00	55.00	70.00
Cacciatore	40.00	55.00	70.00
Scarpatellu	45.00	60.00	75.00

Ciao Bello	6.00/piece	Salimbocca alla romana	6.00/piece
Chicken Benny	6.00/piece	Francese	6.00/piece
Balsamico	7.00/piece	Marsala	6.00/piece
Milanese	7.00/piece	Parmigiana	7.00/piece

Descriptions:

Murphy (Hot or Sweet) – medallions with tomato, peppers, potatoes & mushrooms
Oreganato – medallions sautéed in lemon, butter white wine topped roasted bread crumbs
Cacciatore – medallions sautéed with mushrooms & onions in a light basil tomato sauce
Scarpatellu – medallions with sliced sausage, fresh tomato in a wine cornmeal
Salimbocca alla romana – topped with prosciutto & mozzarella over spinach in a tomato wine dressing
Francese – lightly breaded sautéed in a lemon white wine sauce
Marsala – bread sautéed with cream mushrooms in a marsala wine dressing
Parmigiana – lightly breaded with mozzarella & meat sauce
Ciao Bello – Lightly breaded chicken breast topped with eggplant, roasted peppers, fresh mozzarella finished with wild mushrooms & cheddar cheese reduction
Chicken Benny – Pan seared chicken breast, peach peaches, and sun dried cranberry in a roasted thallent cherry wine dressing
Balsamico – bread topped prosciutto, white wine balsamic dressing over spinach
Milanese – bread sautéed chicken breast sauté with onions, chopped tomatoes, fresh mozzarella in a light balsamic vinaigrette

SEA FOOD

(Market Price)

Chilean Sea Bass • Halibut Swordfish
 Tilapia • Flounder • Salmon • Shrimp

Ways Prepared:

Napolitano – fresh herb chopped tomatoes and sliced garlic white wine balsamic sauce
Oreganato – topped with roasted bread crumbs in a lemon white wine tomato sauce
Livornese – sautéed with onion, herbs, olive oil and garlic in a light tomato sauce
Herb creamed – sautéed spinach and sun dried tomatoes drizzled a balsamic reduction
Francese – lightly breaded sautéed in a lemon white wine sauce
More Chianti – white wine garlic clam sauce with sautéed mushrooms, chopped shrimp
Cajun or Blackened – served over sautéed broccoli rabe and cherry peppers

SLIDERS & PLATTERS

Small-10 pieces (12-14 people)	Medium-18 pieces (18-21 people)	Large-24 pieces (24-26 people)
\$25.00	\$50.00	\$75.00

- * Angus Beef slider served on potato roll
- * Angus Beef slider with cheese served on potato roll
- * Meatball Parm slider served on potato roll
- * Chicken Parm slider served on potato roll

PASTA

	Small (8-10 people)	Large Thin (12-15 people)	Large Deep (16-20 people)
Baked Ziti	30.00	50.00	60.00
Ziti Sicilian Eggplant or Sausage	40.00	60.00	70.00
Cavatelli Broccoli	40.00	60.00	70.00
Baked Lasagna	35.00	60.00	N/A
Penne Marinara	25.00	35.00	50.00
Penne Meat Sauce	30.00	40.00	55.00
Homemade Fusilli	45.00	70.00	80.00
Penne Vodka (w prosciutto)	40.00	55.00	65.00
Penne Primavera	45.00	60.00	70.00
Shell & Shrimp Marinara	50.00	70.00	80.00
Penne Broccoli Rabe & Sausage	45.00	55.00	65.00
Penne Broccoli Rabe & Shrimp	50.00	70.00	80.00
Penne Whole Wheat Ciao Bello	40.00	50.00	60.00
Ravioli Marinara	2.00 ea.		
Manicotti	2.50 ea.		

FAVORITES

	Small (8-10 people)	Large Thin (12-15 people)	Large Deep (16-20 people)
Sausage Peppers	45.00	60.00	75.00
Eggplant Parm	55.00	55.00	N/A
Eggplant Sorrentino	30.00	50.00	N/A
Eggplant Rollatini	5.00 ea.		
Jumbo Meatballs with Sauce	5.00 ea.		
Mini Meatball with Sauce	2.00 ea.		

MEAT

Marsala	6.00 piece	Sorrentino	7.00 piece
Salimbocca Alla Romana	7.00 piece	Parmigiana	7.00 piece
Francese	6.00 piece	Milanese	7.00 piece

Descriptions:

Marsala – with exotic mushrooms in a marsala dressing
Salimbocca alla romana – topped with prosciutto & mozzarella over spinach in a tomato wine dressing
Francese – lightly breaded sautéed in a lemon white wine sauce
Sorrentino – lightly breaded with eggplant, sliced tomato, prosciutto, mozzarella cheese and olive in a light pink vodka sauce
Parmigiana – lightly breaded with mozzarella and meat sauce
Milanese – quick sautéed with angelica, topped, topped tomatoes, fresh mozzarella in a light balsamic vinaigrette

VEGETABLE & SIDE DISHES

	Small (8-10 people)	Large Thin (12-15 people)
(Sautéed or Steamed)		
Spinach	25.00	45.00
Broccoli	30.00	55.00
Broccoli Rabe	40.00	70.00
Fresh Vegetable	30.00	50.00
Asparagus	35.00	55.00
Roasted red potatoes	25.00	45.00

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CRUSADER ATHLETIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Submitted by Gus Kalikas

The Crusader Athletic Leadership Council (CALC) is an organization that has been founded to help educate our student athletes on some of the expectations that we have for them as they compete interscholastically in a variety of athletics. We hope that by informing this council of some of our expectations, we will be able to foster an open and healthy relationship amongst our student athletes, the school culture, and the community of Clark.

Not only will this be of great help to all Arthur L. Johnson student athletes and coaches, but it will offer up a vast array of opportunities for the members of the Crusader Athletic Leadership Council, including the ability to place this activity on future college applications.

The organization will meet monthly and will discuss a variety of topics and issues. Future meetings will include guest speakers, coaches

and administrators of the Clark School District, a visit to the Children’s Hospital, and more.

The C.A.L.C.’s first meeting was held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. The C.A.L.C. was lucky enough to have Michael Spence come in as a guest speaker to discuss leadership as it pertains to all student athletes.

The Crusader Athletic Leadership Council would like to thank Michael Spence for coming to Arthur L. Johnson High School to share some of his insightful ideas on leadership as it relates to student athletes.

The C.A.L.C. would like to thank Michael Spence for coming in to share his thoughts on leadership. His vast experience was not only interesting, but useful in our quest to develop better leaders amongst our student athletes.

Listed below are the members of the 2017-2018 Crusader Athletic Leadership Council:

Mike Adamowitz, Jason Applin, Andrew Beach, Dylan Bohm, Tyler Bohm, Kellie Bonaccorso, Thomas Bowen, Eric Bretz, Hannah Brogan, Michael Bruno, Anthony Caldeiro, Nicole Cassano, Alyssa Colicchio, Joe DiProfio, Ty Dobbins, Jeffrey Dragin, Joshue Fabrizzio, Emma Francisco, Christopher Fuschetto, Logan Guarino, Victoria Gulbin, Danielle Hartzler, Joshua Hill, Chloe Hessler, Lindsey Hofschneider, Brandon Hund, Samantha Ianco, Mahmoud Ibrahim, Tara Jacobsen, Andrew Kehrle, Brandon Laraway, Jessica Lopez, Kristina Palella, Marissa Petronella, Angela Pieros, Mackenzie Purcell, Brandon Rapp, Bailey Rosenmeier, Ryan Spallone, Morgan Thomas, Zach Thornton, Joe Turek, Matthew Vigliotti, George Visconti, Amy Wysocki, Sydney Zamboni, Amanda Zambrana, and Greg Zukowski.



(above) Michael Spence with the 2017-2018 C.A.L.C.

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VICTORIA SASSO NAMED UNION COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CLARK MONTHLY • Page 17 • November 2017

Victoria Sasso, teacher at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School, was recently honored at the Clark Board of Education Meeting for being named the Union County Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Sasso is among twenty-one educators in New Jersey to receive this recognition by the New Jersey Department of Education.

"Mrs. Sasso is an exemplary educator who is most deserving of this recognition. We are honored to have her as a part of the Clark Schools family," said Superintendent Edward Grande.

Mrs. Sasso began her teaching career in 2002 joining the Clark Public School District in 2006. She was initially hired as a Gifted and Talented Instructor at the elementary school. Four years ago, she began teaching sixth grade language arts at the middle school.

Teachers are nominated for Educator of the Year at the school level through the Governor's Educator of the Year Program. They then go on to compete for the county and state recognition. As Union County Teacher of the year, Sasso will collaborate with other educators and bring valuable information back to the district.



GIVE AND SHARE HOLIDAY COLLECTION

The Clark Give and Share Program is sponsoring a special Holiday program entitled "A Bag of Sides" This will be the fifth year of the program. During the past few years we have collected over 400 bags of sides to supplement the Holiday meals of the needy.

The program is seeking to collect the following: one box of instant mashed potatoes or stuffing mix, 1-2 cans of vegetables, one can of turkey gravy and one can of cranberry sauce.

We also have the capacity this year to collect turkeys, hams and chickens. Please call ahead before dropping off perishables.

Collections are on-going and will end on November 10th, 2017.

Anyone wishing to donate a "Bag of Sides" can simply drop the bag off at the Clark Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave., room 18 between 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Anyone with questions can contact Nancy Raymond, Health Officer at 732-428-8405



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VALLEY RD SCHOOL KICKS OFF READING PROGRAM



(above) Assistant Principal Mallory Applebaum and Principal Joe Beltramba.

Students at Valley Road Elementary School in Clark cheered as they saw their beloved storybook characters come to life during an assembly to kick off Reading Warriors, this year's reading program. Sharing their enthusiasm for reading, teachers and administrators dressed as memorable characters from their favorite books and paraded throughout the gym. At the assembly, students were reminded that reading truly is an adventure.

Valley Road School Principal Joe Beltramba asked, "Where's Waldo?" He then continued, "It's great to see the reading program off to such an exciting start."

As part of the reading program, every grade level is given a specific number of books to read and record in a log each month. If the students meet the monthly goal, they receive an incentive provided by the PTA. Each student who achieves the goal for the full five months is given a ticket to the Somerset Patriots, a ticket to Great Adventure, and a dance party with a DJ.

The program, run by teachers and parents, is led by Mrs. Peitz, a first grade teacher. Other events include: Story Time for K-2 students, Legends of the Courtyard for 4th and 5th graders, Reading Café for students in grades K-4, and Mystery Night for students in grades 3-5.



(above) Valley Road Teacher Trish Peitz and Superintendent Edward Grande.



CLARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

SCAM ALERT: On October 12, 2017 a resident reported that an individual came to their home saying that they were from the Tax Collector's Office. Please note, that employees from the Tax Office do NOT make trips to residences. If you're ever unsure please feel free to contact the Police Department at 732-388-3434 or the Tax Collector at 732-428-8403. Follow the Clark Police Department on FaceBook.



(above) Valley Road Teachers Ms. Heller, Ms. Guenther, Ms. Kane, Ms. Salvatore.



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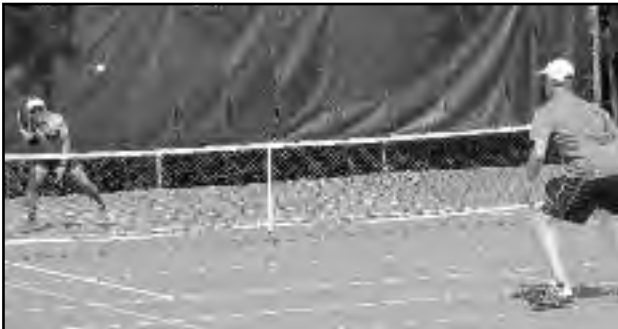
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CLARK RECREATION FALL PROGRAMS

CLARK MONTHLY • Page 19 • November 2017

Fall programs and classes are in full swing at the Clark Recreation Center. Yoga, Cooking, Music, Soccer Squirts, Ballet, Ceramics and Pickleball are just a few of the forty classes being offered, many free to Clark residents.

Registration is ongoing. To join a program stop by the Recreation Center to sign-up, or visit www.ourclark.com/departments/recreation. For further information please feel free to contact the Recreation Department 732-428-8400.



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NEW TEACHERS TOUR CLARK

New teachers to the Clark Public School District recently enjoyed a tour of the town’s historic sites and other points of interest. Some stops included the Township Library, Clark Municipal Building, Town Recreation Center, and Robinson Plantation. Other areas of town were shown to the teachers accompanied by narration from Ken Davidson, a retired Valley Road teacher.

Ralph Bernardo, Director of Recreation, provided the new teachers with a tour of the Municipal Complex. Scott McCabe, Director of the Dr. William Robinson Plantation & Museum, showed the group the plantation. Local librarians gave a tour of the Clark Township Library. The new teachers were also joined by Board of Education Member Henry Varriano, who shared some information with the new teachers as they traveled throughout town.

The tour was created several years ago by Davidson, Township Historian and Council Member Brian Toal, and Valley Road School Principal Joseph Beltramba. Beltramba stated, “The tour is a wonderful opportunity for the new teachers to learn about the supportive community they have joined. Additionally, it shows the teachers where they can find resources to enhance the educational experience for their students.”



(above) Director of Recreation Ralph Bernardo showing the history room at Town Hall.



(above) Board of Education Member Henry Varriano observing the new teachers touring the teen center.



(above) Teacher at Robinson's Plantation.

DESIGNER HANDBAG BINGO AND TRICKY TRAY RAFFLE

The Music Parents Association of Clark (MPA) will host a Designer Handbag Bingo and Tricky Tray Raffle fundraiser at the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, Clark, on Wednesday, November 29, 2017.

Admission is \$35 per person, which includes 3 games of bingo per designer handbag offered. Tickets for tricky tray raffles, 50/50 and other “specials” will be available for purchase. Additional bingo cards will also be available for purchase.

The Music Parents Association of Clark is a

nonprofit organization formed to support music education.

The Clark school district offers an outstanding, comprehensive music program, led by a team of outstanding instructors who motivate their students to strive for musical excellence and instill in them a lifelong love of music. The Music Parents Association is committed to continuing the program's success.

For more information or to reserve your tickets, please email Music Parents Association of Clark at MPACLARKNJ@GMAIL.COM.

Music Parents Association of Clark

Designer Handbag Bingo & Tricky Tray









Wednesday, November 29

Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, Clark

Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. – First Game at Approx. 7:30 p.m.

\$35 per person (Includes 3 Games of Bingo per Designer Handbag Offered)

***** GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY *****

Tickets For Tricky Tray Raffles, 50/50 & Other “Specials” Will Be Available For Purchase. Additional Bingo Cards Will Also Be Available For Purchase.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Individual Ticket(s): [] I need ____ Non Refundable UNRESERVED ticket(s) @ \$35 ea.

Group Tickets: [] I need ____ Non Refundable RESERVED shared table(s) of 6 @ \$210 ea.

Enclosed is \$ _____ Check Number _____ (payable to MPA of Clark) (All tickets will be held under the name above)

Please mail your completed form along with payment to: Music Parents Association of Clark
P.O. Box 5395 – Clark – New Jersey – 07066 (Attn: Bingo)

Do not hesitate to contact us with any questions: mpaclarknj@gmail.com

Thank you in advance for supporting music within our community

MPA Executive Board: Gina Prussack, Patty Shaughnessy, Donna Mulvihill, Jennifer Springle, Heidi Facchini

CLARK CUB SCOUT PACK 145 ANNUAL TOYS FOR TOTS EVENT



This is our 11th year participating in the toys for tots event along with the US Marines. We are looking for donations of new, unwrapped toys that get donated to the toys for tots program each year. Drop boxes are being placed the first week of November at the following locations:

CLARK TOWN HALL – MUNICIPAL BUILDING

430 Westfield Avenue

CLARK RECREATION CENTER

430 Westfield Avenue

CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY ... AT MAIN ENTRANCE

303 Westfield Avenue

INVESTORS BANK

56 Westfield Avenue

INVESTORS BANK

77 Central Avenue, (Target parking lot)

November 26th between 3pm and 6pm the cub scouts will be curbside at the Clark Holiday Winter Festival collecting toys for donation. Please stop by and say hi!

December 9th & 10th between 11am and 4pm a collection box will be at the Dr. Wm. Robinson Museum located at 593 Madison Hill Road. It's the museums Holiday Celebration – don't miss hearth cooking and free pictures with Santa, too!

For more museum information please go to www.DrRobinsonMuseum.org

For more information on scouting please go to www.cubpack145.info

14th Annual Tree & Menorah Lighting

Sunday, November 26th • 3:00-6:00

Clark Recreation & Municipal Building

Tree Lighting promptly at 6:00

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DECEMBER 9TH & 10TH

Holiday Celebration

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Hearth Cooking • Free Pictures With Santa

www.DrRobinsonMuseum.org
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ALJ OPENS DOORS TO THE FUTURE

Submitted by Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School has a proven reputation of preparing students for successful futures. Given ALJ's block schedule, a student-centered learning environment promotes educational growth at each grade level. Over 200 courses provide dynamic instruction to meet the needs of every student. With 24 advanced placement classes and over 25 honors classes, the school fosters a rigorous academic program. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, ALJ will offer AP Capstone™, which will teach independent research, collaboration, and communication skills. In combination with AP exam scores, this class can lead to the AP Capstone Diploma™ recognizing outstanding achievement of college-level academic and research skills.

Students also have the benefit of earning college credit in several unique dual enrollment courses such as Holocaust and Genocide Studies offered through Kean University and the Tomorrow's Teachers Internship Program offered through Rider University. Union County College provides up to six credits for students attending their dual enrollment program. Another way for students to extend their learning beyond the traditional classroom is through our partnership with the Union County Vocational School. In this program, students have an opportunity to gain real-world experience in a variety of fields from cosmetology to automotive technology.

ALJ students enjoy many exciting electives, including Conspiracy Theories Throughout History, Forensic Explorations, and Marine Biology; all of which provide a chance to deeply explore a specific content area. Some new changes for the 17-18 school year include additions like Engineering-Design Thinking, New Jersey History, and American Sign Language 2.

From before applications even go out to acceptance, students are supported throughout the entire college and career planning process. Our ALJ Guidance Department ensures that every student has a plan in place post-graduation. Nearly 90% of ALJ graduates pursue two or four-year colleges. Our students are accepted into highly competitive schools including Princeton University, Yale University, Boston College, University of Chicago, School of Visual Arts, Villanova University, and Bucknell University. They are also involved in challenging academic programs at their selected schools. An ALJ student was accepted to the University of the Sciences Dual-Degree Doctor of Osteopathy program, which only admits three students among hundreds of applicants.

Offering over 30 clubs and activities from Student Council to Science Olympiad, every student has an opportunity to get involved in the school community. For those interested in developing their writing skills, students can choose to work on the school newspaper (The Crusader Today Blog), the school literary magazine (The Quest), or the yearbook (The Lance). The arts also play an important role at ALJ with the school providing activities such as

Marching Band, Drama Club, and Drawing Club. By joining organizations like Key Club or becoming a Peer Leader, ALJ students show their dedication to servicing their school and local communities. ALJ offers a wide variety of sports as well with 23 athletic programs and 31 teams. Our Crusader sports teams have won multiple state, conference, and county championships. Given the diversity of experiences at ALJ, our students learn valuable skills while forging new relationships.

When asked about her experience at ALJ, Maryann Makosiej, a senior, stated, "ALJ truly strikes a balance between encouraging personal growth and instilling a sense of teamwork. With so many different clubs, honor societies, and varsity sports, opportunities to get involved abound at the school, local, and even global level. In this vein, student-run organizations (e.g. Key Club, Spanish National Honor Society, the Civics Unplugged Forum) are strongly encouraged via leadership initiatives." She continued, "I would recommend ALJ without reservation because I truly feel that it is an experience unlike any other high school in the area. The friendships I've cultivated, the depth of learning, and the

opportunities for growth are simply unparalleled."

Arthur L. Johnson High School is an accredited member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The school has been recognized by Newsweek magazine as a Top American Public High School, by College Board as a District of the Year for success on Advanced Placement exams, and as one of America's Best High Schools That Challenge Their Students to Excellence as reported by The Washington Post.

Superintendent of Schools Edward Grande stated, "ALJ has a superior program that is second to no other in preparing its students for college and future careers. I encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about our offerings to contact us."

Learn more about Crusader Pride by visiting the ALJ Website to review our 2017-18 Program of Studies and watch our Open House video. Also, be sure to read the School Profile on the Guidance Department's website to learn more about what makes ALJ an outstanding school that challenges students to achieve both in and outside of the classroom.

JUNIOR LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP) is excited to share their 2017-2018 Board of Directors. This year's board includes a complementary mix of returning and new board members who are excited to come together to plan another year of fulfilling events for JLEP, including kicking off 95 years as a Junior League chapter in the Spring. JLEP's Board of Directors: President Nydia M Diefenbach, President Elect Suzanne Gallagher, Treasurer Naomi Benson, Nominating Placement Ashleigh Nudo, and Sustainer Reps Josephine Stack and Teri DiFrancesco.

For almost 95 years, JLEP has been helping women and children in need in the greater Union County area. From the League's signature projects Career Closet and Teen Closet to the League's annual Angel Tree partnership with Healthy Families Elizabeth, JLEP is proud of the volunteer work it accomplishes and the positive impact it provides to the local community. JLEP

is a small but mighty league that loves the work they do!

ABOUT the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield:

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield is a chapter of the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. and is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. In spring 2018, JLEP will celebrate 95 years as a Junior League chapter.

JLEP operates from September through May during the League's calendar year. To learn more about JLEP, please go to www.jlepnj.org or email information@jlepnj.org. You may also contact Nydia M Diefenbach, President 2017-2018, Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield at (908) 709-1177.



(above l-r) Teri DiFrancesco, Ashleigh Nudo, Naomi Benson, Suzanne Gallagher, Nydia Diefenbach, Josephine Stack

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual celebration of both people with disabilities who work and those businesses and organizations that employ them. More than 18 million Americans with disabilities are employed today, contributing to their employers' productivity and profits while paying taxes and supporting the economy as consumers.

Locally, the nonprofit Community Access Unlimited (CAU) has a robust program for preparing its members with disabilities for employment, then connecting them with businesses looking to employ them, according to Joanne Oppelt, assistant executive director of business development at the agency.

CAU operates an Employment and Day Habilitation Services Department that assists those members who wish to work, comprising pre-placement services, including training in interviewing skills, work dress and on-the-job behavior, liaison support, on-the-job coaching, and follow-up to ensure both the member and the employer are happy, according to Oppelt.

"We're always serving as the advocate for both the member and the employer," she said.

CAU member Sharon Mohry has been employed at ShopRite for more than 20 years, working six hours a day one or two days a week. She started in maintenance and today restocks returns and helps fill orders that come in online for either pick-up or delivery. Mohry loves her job.

Laura Augustine, ShopRite From Home Manager in Clark, said Mohry is an excellent employee.

CAU member Chavia Crute is a food service worker for Witsons Culinary Group at Irvington High School, working Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She has been with Witsons for about one year.

Krystal Tanner, food services director at Witsons, is thrilled with Crute's performance and the way she interacts with the adults and teenagers at the school.

More than 50 CAU members are employed at local businesses in Union County, in areas including retail, maintenance, clerical, culinary, security and animal care, according to Oppelt. In addition to ShopRite and Witsons, businesses employing CAU members include Sam's Club, Target, Marshall's, the Swan Motel, the Humane

Society and CAU itself (8 percent of CAU's 1,200 employees are people with disabilities).

Studies show employees with disabilities are absent less frequently than those without disabilities and are more likely to stay at their job, according to Oppelt. That translates into savings, as the cost to a business of refilling a high-turnover, low-paying position (earning less than \$30,000 per year, for example) is 16 percent of the annual salary, or \$3,328 for a \$10 per hour retail employee, according to Zane Benefits.

Employees with disabilities are less likely to get work-related injuries. A study by DuPont found workers with disabilities performed significantly higher than those without disabilities in the area of safety, according to the Michigan Community Service Commission.

Employing people with disabilities increases a company's diversity, which has been documented to benefit businesses in such areas as enhanced customer service and improved return on investment and sales. According to HR and recruitment firm Brazen, diverse workforces result in better decision-making and improved customer service while a 2015 study by Deloitte showed that diverse companies had 2.3 times higher cash flow per employee over a three-year period than did non-diverse companies.

A study conducted by the Institute for Corporate Productivity stated, "More than three-quarters of employers surveyed ranked their employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities as good or very good on work quality, motivation, engagement, integration with co-workers, dependability and attendance. Many employers reported being initially leery of hiring people with IDD, only to see their concerns dissolve after the employees were on board."

Businesses seeking to learn more about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and how to go about doing so should visit the Employee Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion at www.askearn.org.

CAU is a statewide Elizabeth-based nonprofit providing support programs and services to adults with disabilities as well as youth served under the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to enable them to live independently in the community, providing supports in areas including housing, vocational skills and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.



(above) Sharon Mullroy (left), a person with disabilities, poses with Laura Augustine, ShopRite From Home Manager, in front of the Clark ShopRite.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 38th year in 2017, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU provides support and gives voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little support and no voice in society. CAU helps people with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil right. CAU currently serves more than 6,000 individuals and families, with the number served growing each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908.354.3040, online at www.caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

"WHO CARES FOR THE CAREGIVER?": A PRESENTATION BY DR. EUBANKS

The Union County affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will present Dr. Robin Eubanks, a motivational trainer, educator and author, at their November 28th public meeting. Dr. Eubanks will lead a workshop designed to help caregivers realize that "self-care is not selfish. You as a caregiver cannot serve from an empty vessel." This workshop will present tools for emotional survival for caregivers particularly during the holiday season. Dr. Eubanks feels that it is so important for caregivers to know that they are not



alone.

Union County NAMI exists to support all who care for a loved one who struggles with mental illness. Come join us for Dr. Eubanks' program and learn new ways to support yourself.

Our meetings are always free and open to the public. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. on November 28 at the RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness Center, located at 2120 Lamberts Mill Rd., Scotch Plains, NJ.



For more information call 908-233-1628 or email namiunioncounty@yahoo.com.




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Registration is required for programs unless noted. Additionally, free movies are shown at the library on Monday and Wednesday at 1:00p.m. Newly released DVDs are featured each Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. No registration is required for movies. Visit our online calendar at www.clarklibrary.org or call 732 388 5999 for more information.

We will be closed on Friday, November 10 in observance of Veterans Day. We will close at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, November 22 and reopen on Saturday, November 25 at 9:30 am for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Michelangelo: The Little Therapy Horse

Monday, November 6 at 3:30 pm

Meet this amazing little horse that wears sneakers!--Children will learn about miniature horses, what they eat, where they live, and what jobs they do. Have your photo taken with Michelangelo and get the opportunity to pet him.

Pajama Time Story Time

Tuesday, November 7 at 7:00 pm

Come in your PJs for our evening family story time! Stories, songs, and fingerplays for children ages 2 - 5 years old. Great for working parents and busy families.

Sunday Family Movie Matinee

Sunday, November 12 at 2:00 pm

Rated PG. In this world, each emoji has only one facial expression, except for Gene, who is bursting with multiple expressions. Determined to become normal, Gene enlists the help of his handy best friend Hi-5 and Jailbreak.

Mother-Daughter Book Club

Sunday, November 12 at 4:00 pm

Read a great book and have a meaningful discussion with your daughter and her peers. We will be discussing Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper. Recommended for ages 9 and up.

Union County Division on Aging Services

Monday, November 13 from 10- Noon

The Union County Division on Aging will be at the Clark Public Library to answer them. Drop by anytime between 10am-12pm and get answers to your questions about: pharmaceutical assistance, home energy assistance, home care, home delivered or congregate meals, caregiver relief, medicaid, transportation, and other questions you may have.

Tinker Tuesday

November 13 at 3:30 pm

Please join us for a Thanksgiving story and craft to take home! For elementary aged children.

Registration is required.

Mad Science Electricity Workshop

(rescheduled from Oct. 12)

Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 pm

This workshop introduces students to the fundamental concepts of electricity: circuits, conductors, insulators, and how electricity is converted for everyday uses. Students get to create different circuits, interact with

plasma balls, discover "sticky" static electricity and make their own static energy chambers to take home. For students in grades 3-6. Registration is required.

Friend's of the Library Annual Vendor Fair

Saturday, November 18

Get a jump on your holiday shopping at the annual vendor fair.

Mad Science Magnetic Magic Workshop

Monday, November 27 at 7 pm

Students will investigate the powers and daily uses of magnets! In this class, the children will learn about polarity, will visualize magnetic fields, and see how a compass is made. They will even use invisible magnetic fields to levitate magnets! For students in grades 3-6. Registration is required.

Our 4 week session of Storytimes

will begin the week of

November 27

Tales for Tots

Mondays or Thursdays at 10 am

First session is Monday, November 27.

Stories, finger plays, and songs for active listeners. Geared toward ages 2-3 with a caregiver. Older children are welcome! 30 minutes of open play follows.

Baby Bookworms

(formerly called Lapsit for Little Ones)

Tuesdays at 10 am

First session is Tuesday, November 28.

Stories, songs, nursery rhymes, and movement. Geared toward babies and toddlers under 2 years old with caregiver. 30 minutes of open play follows.

Stories & More

Thursdays at 1:30 pm

Stories, movement, songs and a craft for active listeners ages 3 -5 years old. Sorry, younger siblings may not attend. Registration is required.

First session is Thursday, November 30.

Grown-Up Coloring Club

Meets Weekly on most Fridays

November 3 and 17 at 1:30 p.m.

Coloring isn't just for kids anymore! Join us for a relaxing afternoon of coloring for grown ups. Relieve some stress while stimulating your creativity!

No registration is required.

Teen Tech Help

Most Fridays at 3:30 pm and Saturdays at 2:00 pm

The library now offers one-on-one assistance with a variety of technological issues. Sessions last one hour and may also focus on e-mail, e-books, Microsoft Office or other technology questions you might have.

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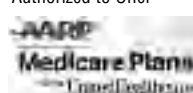
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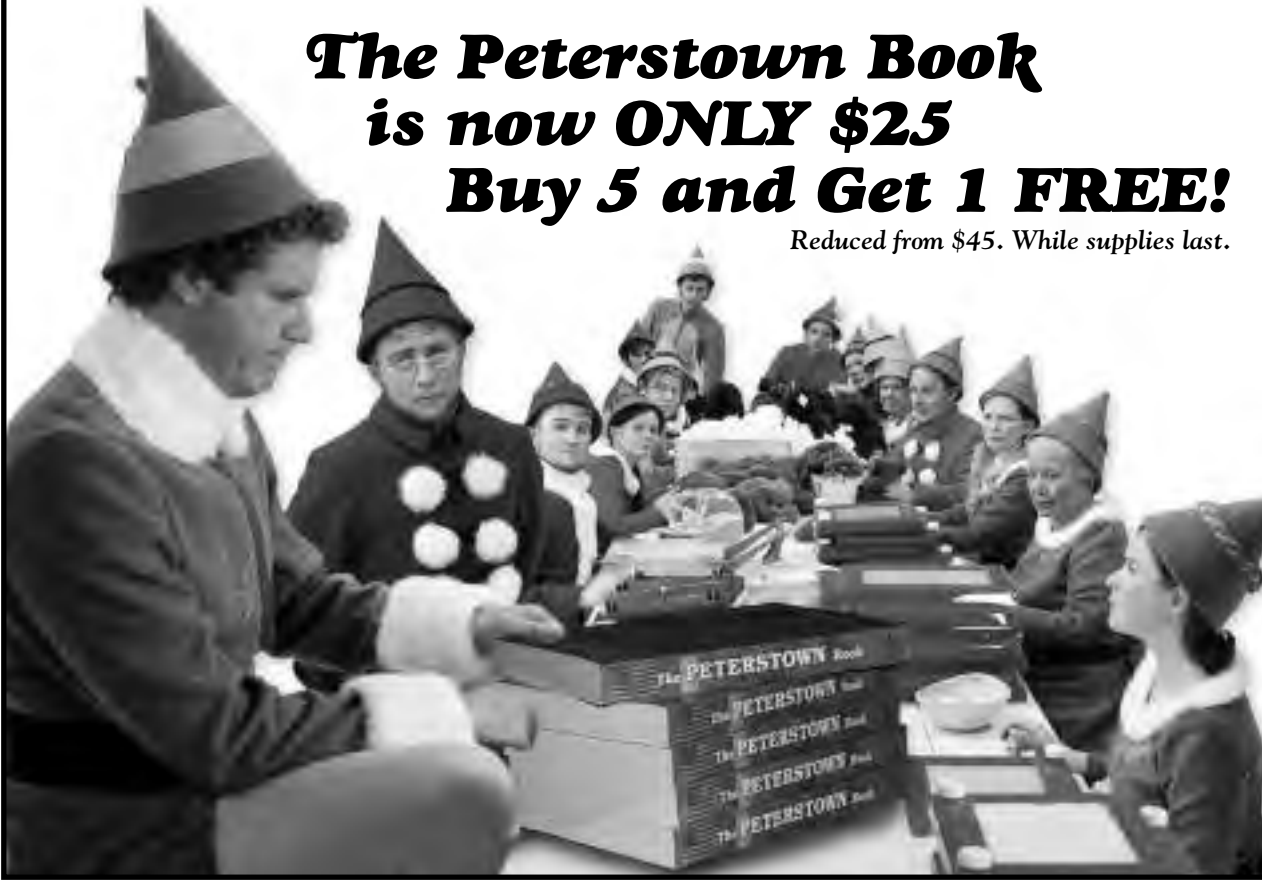
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(above) Joe Arancio, Clark UNICO President; Mayor Sal Bonaccorso; and Ralph Bernardo, Clark UNICO Vice President. UNICO is the largest Italian American service Organization in the nation.

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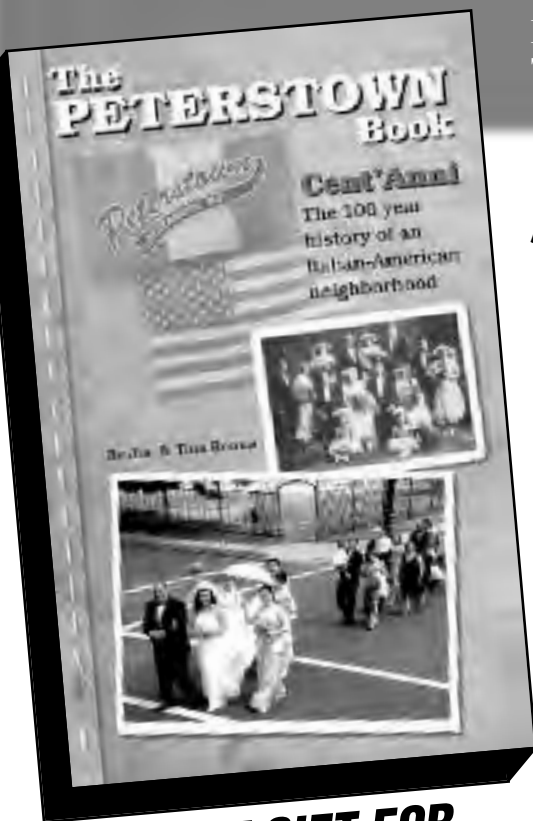
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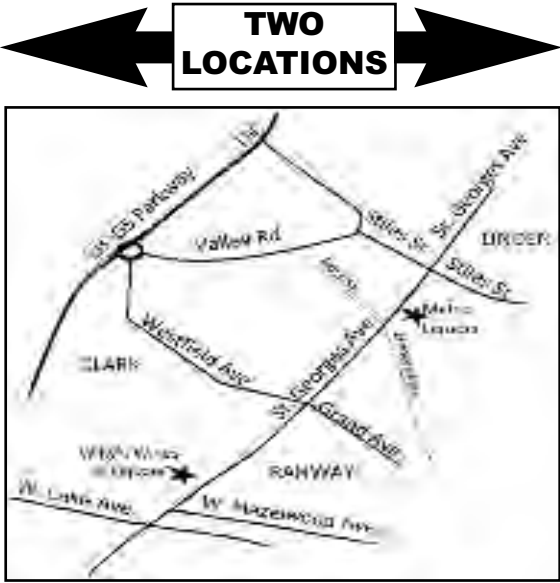
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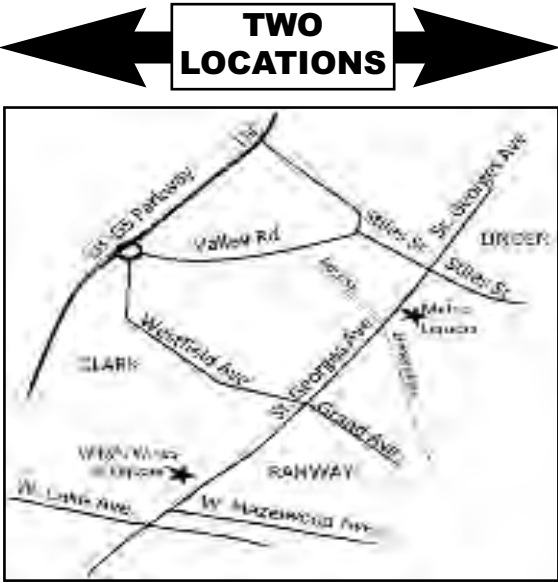
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