

LIFE *in* LINDEN

FREE

Linden Chamber of Commerce is an affiliate of Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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STUDENT PROJECT TO HELP AMPUTEES REACHES GOAL

It's a shining example of the Linden family coming together to "pay it forward." Two Linden High School seniors selling socks to help needy amputees were able to reach their goal thanks to a generous donation from two Linden police unions, who in turn were able to help homeless veterans.

Miesha Burnam and Nyssa Joseph started the "Socktober" project with the goal of selling 120 packs of socks at \$12 each. That would allow them to purchase one above-the-knee prosthetic and one below-the-knee prosthetic through a group called LegWorks, which helps amputees in need.

The donations from Linden Patrolmen's Benevolent Association Local No. 42 and the Linden Police Superior Officers Association purchased 17 pairs of socks, putting the Socktober project over the top as the calendar changed to November.

"Thank you so much for your help," Burnam told the presidents of the two police unions, Officer Timothy Hubert and Sgt. Joseph Birch.

But the generosity didn't stop there. The police unions then donated the socks to Backpacks for Life, a group that provides basic life essentials to homeless veterans.

That group was founded in 2014 by Marine Corps veteran Brett D'Alessandro, who visited LHS to accept the donation of socks. He said starting the group to help others helped him, too, as he struggled in reintegrate to society after a seven-month tour in Afghanistan.

"I knew there were so many veterans out there that needed help," D'Alessandro said. "As I overcame my personal battles, I knew I could help veterans overcome theirs by giving them tools and resources that helped give me a second chance at life."

Burnam and Joseph – who calls herself the silent partner in the Socktober project – are both students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, the most rigorous course of study at Linden High. They chose Socktober as their Creativity, Activity and Service community service project, which is required of all IB students. Samantha Kosty, a guidance counselor and coordinator of the CAS program, was instrumental in guiding the girls throughout the project.

They got the socks through a group called We Help Two. Half of the money goes to We Help Two to pay for the socks, and half goes to the charity of their choice: LegWorks.

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LINDEN, NJ 07036



(above l-r) Sgt. Joseph Birch, president of the Linden Superior Officers Association; LHS senior Miesha Burnam; Backpacks for Life founder Brett D'Alessandro; LHS guidance counselor Samantha Kosty; LHS senior Nyssa Joseph; and Officer Timothy Hubert, president of Linden PBA Local No. 42.

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LIFE in LINDEN

Life in Linden is published by Renna Media in cooperation with the Linden Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

6,500 newspapers are printed monthly. 5,400 are mailed to homes and businesses and 1,000 distributed free at distribution sites throughout Linden.

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS
Emergency911
Non-Emergency Police908-474-8500
Non-Emergency Fire.....908-474-4550
Mayor's Office.....908-474-8493
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City Clerk.....908-474-8452
Construction Code908-474-8462
Engineering908-474-8470
Municipal Attorney908-474-8468
Municipal Court.....908-474-8546
Planning Board908-474-8453
Public Works.....908-474-8666
Recycling908-474-9567
Recreation908-474-8600
Social Services.....908-474-8620
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Tax Assessor908-474-8544
Transportation & Parking908-474-8404
Weights & Measurers908-474-8403
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INTERFAITH NETWORK FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

On November 14th & 15th the Linden Fire Officers Association FMBA Locals 34 and 234 were on hand to help distribute holiday meals to Linden residents during the LINCS Food Pantry Thanksgiving distribution. The Linden Fire organizations also generously donated \$1,500 towards the effort.

One hundred and fifty families received a turkey, a bag of potatoes, carrots, and a pie. About 50 other individuals also received the makings for a holiday meal.

The Linden Interfaith Network for Community Service (LINCS) Food Pantry is a 501c(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible. You can help by mailing a check payable to LINCS, 14W. Munsell Ave., Linden, NJ 07036. For more information about how you, or your company, can help call 908-925-2523.

LINCS services Linden and Winfield Park residents. All recipients must be pre-qualified by Linden Social Service. For more information on how to qualify call 908-474-8620.



(above) LINKS army of volunteers.



(above) Members of the Linden Fire Officers Association FMBA Locals 34 and 234.

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SIDING & ROOFING • WINDOWS & DOORS • KITCHENS & BATHS • BASEMENTS & ATTICS

LINDEN COMMUNITY MOURNS THE LOSS OF LINDA VILLANI

Linda K. Beirn Villani, 69, resident of Linden and vice president of Villani Bus Company located in Linden, NJ, passed away with loved ones by her side on Wednesday, November 22, 2017.

Linda was born Aug. 7, 1948, in Piscataway, N.J., to the late Mary and Bob Beirn. Mrs. Villani was dedicated to her family-owned Beirn Bus Service in Roselle, N.J., prior to becoming vice president of the Villani Bus Company in Linden.

Linda Villani was a beloved wife and mother, and is survived by her husband, Diodato Villani; daughter, Courtney Villani, son-in-law, Hector Torres of Linden; and brother, Bob Beirn of Illinois.

During a recent Linden Chamber of Commerce meeting many recalled Linda's love of the Linden community. The Villani Bus Company motto is "if you need a bus call us" and they are always on hand to lend a bus to the community when needed, whether it be the Linden Halloween Parade or driving Veterans to each Linden veteran's memorial on Memorial Day, and the Memorial Day Parade held in New York City.

Linda loved her family, and her employees who recall her treating them as family. She also loved Linden and her country. She was a big personality, and everyone who knew her will surely remember her as always being full of life and love.

(right) Courtney and Linda Villani enjoyed decorating busses for every holiday and would display them outside their bus depot on Linden Avenue. They are always a favorite at Linden's Halloween parades.



(above) Linda Villani



(above) Courtney Villani with parents Diodato and Linda during a reception held in November 2016.



The Lovin' Spoonful



"SUMMER IN THE CITY" • "DAYDREAM"
 "DID YOU EVER HAVE TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND?"
 "YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE SO NICE"
 "DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC?"
 "DARLING BE HOME SOON"

JAY AND THE AMERICANS



"THIS MAGIC MOMENT" • "CARA MIA"
 "ONLY IN AMERICA" • "SHE CRIED"
 "SOME ENCHANTED EVENING"
 "COME A LITTLE BIT CLOSER"
 "LET'S LOCK THE DOOR"

STARS OF THE 60s COME TO THE UCPAC! ONE NIGHT ONLY DECEMBER 9

DENNIS TUFANO

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"KIND OF A DRAG" • "DON'T YOU CARE"
 "HEY BABY! THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG"
 "SUSAN" • "MERCY, MERCY, MERCY"



The Vogues

"YOU'RE THE ONE"
 "5 O'CLOCK WORLD"
 "TURN AROUND, LOOK AT ME"



Terry Sylvester
 of The Hollies

"THE AIR THAT I BREATHE"
 "HE AIN'T HEAVY, HE'S MY BROTHER"
 "LONG COOL WOMAN IN A BLACK DRESS"

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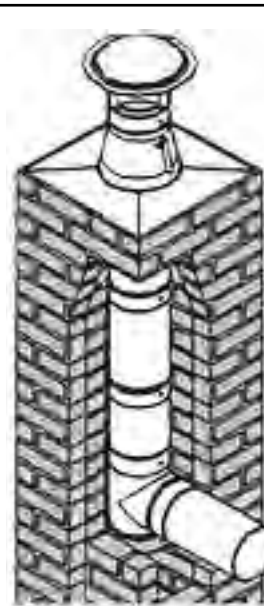
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FREE HOLIDAY GIVEAWAY EVENT

On Thursday, December 7, 2017, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery and Infineum USA L.P. will be hosting a Holiday Community Giveaway at the Linden All Purpose Community Center, located at 1025 John Street, Linden, NJ.

Our neighbors in the local communities are invited to come to the Center and help themselves to FREE gently-used clothing, shoes, bedding, small household items, toys, and other assorted items which were donated by the employees at the Bayway facility through their "Never Forget Thy Neighbor" (NFTN) Program.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be on hand to pose for pictures with young and old alike and the children will receive candy canes and a present.

Both companies have long traditions of service and support to Linden, Elizabeth, and other surrounding communities; they have hosted this annual giveaway event for more than 30 years.



You're Invited to Attend a
Community Holiday Event
Hosted by
**Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery
& Infineum USA L.P.**
Thursday
December 7, 2017
from 9:00AM until 2:30PM
**Holiday Community
Giveaway**
Linden All Purpose Community Center
1025 John Street, Linden, NJ.

Our neighbors in the local communities are invited to come to the Center and help themselves to **FREE**, gently-used clothing, shoes, bedding, small household items, toys and other assorted items*

Santa and Mrs. Claus will pose for pictures with young and old, and the children will receive candy canes and a present.



*All items donated by the employees at the Bayway facility through their "Never Forget Thy Neighbor" (NFTN) Program. Both companies have long traditions of service and support to Linden and other surrounding communities; they have hosted this annual giveaway event for more than 28 years.

Season's Greetings
from
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Crown Royal.....	1.75 l.....	47.99
Dewars White Label.....	750 ml.....	19.99
Dewars White Label.....	1.75 l.....	32.99
Fireball.....	750 ml.....	17.99
Fireball.....	1.75 l.....	28.99
Gentlemen.....	750 ml.....	29.99
Gentlemen.....	1.75 l.....	51.99
Hibiki.....	750 ml.....	59.99
Jack Daniels.....	750 ml.....	25.99
Jack Daniels.....	1.75 l.....	44.99
Jameson.....	750 ml.....	28.99
Jameson.....	1.75 l.....	49.99
Johnnie Walker Black.....	750 ml.....	29.09
Johnnie Walker Black.....	1.75 l.....	59.09
Johnnie Walker Red Label.....	750 ml.....	19.99
Johnnie Walker Red Label.....	1.75 l.....	32.99
Johnnie Walker Double Black.....	750 ml.....	34.99
Johnnie Walker Blue Label.....	750 ml.....	179.09
Old Smuggler.....	750 ml.....	11.99
Old Smuggler.....	1.75 l.....	19.99

WINE

Alamos Malbec.....	750 ml.....	8.99
Andre (All types).....	750 ml.....	5.99
Apothic Red.....	750 ml.....	9.29
Avalon Cab.....	750 ml.....	9.99
Barefoot.....	1.5 l.....	10.39
Bartenura.....	750 ml.....	10.99
Black Box (All types).....	1.5 l.....	21.99
Bogle (Chard/Merlot).....	750 ml.....	6.99
Cakebread Napa Valley Cab.....	750 ml.....	59.99
Casal Garcia Red/White.....	750 ml.....	5.99
Cavit all types.....	1.5 l.....	13.99
Chateau St. Michelle Reiseling.....	750 ml.....	8.99
Cockburn Ruby/Tawny.....	750 ml.....	10.99
Cupcake (All Types ex Moscato Processo).....	750 ml.....	8.99
Dom Perignon.....	750 ml.....	149.99
Franzia (select Types).....	3 l.....	13.99
Kim Crawford Sauv Blanc.....	750 ml.....	13.99
Korbel Brut Extra Dry.....	750 ml.....	11.99
La Marca.....	750 ml.....	13.99
Liberty Creek (All Types).....	1.5 l.....	7.99
Mark West Pinot Nior.....	750 ml.....	9.99
Mi Amore Red/White.....	750 ml.....	8.99
Moet Imperial.....	750 ml.....	39.99
Papi (All Types).....	1.5 l.....	10.99
Rex Goliath (All types).....	1.5 ml.....	10.99
Ruffino Chianti.....	750 ml.....	7.99
Ruffino Chianti.....	1.5 ml.....	13.99
Santa Margeritha.....	750 ml.....	20.99
Senor Sangria.....	1.5 l.....	11.99
Silver Oak Cab.....	750 ml.....	59.99
Sutter Home (All types).....	1.5 ml.....	8.99
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Valenzano Red/White.....	750 ml.....	9.99
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Hennessy V.S Congac.....	1 l.....	41.99
Hennessy V.S Congac.....	1.75 l.....	62.99
Paul Masson Peach Brandy.....	750 ml.....	9.99

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Absolut.....	1.75 l.....	29.09
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Ciroc.....	1.75 l.....	57.99
Exclusiv.....	750 ml.....	9.99
Exclusiv.....	1.75 l.....	19.99
Finlandia.....	750 ml.....	15.99
Finlandia.....	1.75 l.....	24.99
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Ketel One.....	1.75 l.....	39.09
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Pinnacle.....	1.75 l.....	17.99
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New Amsterdam.....	1.75 l.....	19.99
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Smirnoff 80 proof.....	1.75 l.....	After rebate 9.29
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Sobieski.....	1.75 l.....	18.99
Soplica.....	750 ml.....	9.99
Svedka.....	750 ml.....	11.99
Svedka.....	1.75 l.....	19.29
Three Olives (all flavors).....	1 l.....	19.99

RUM

Bacardi (all flavors).....	1.75 l.....	19.09
Bacardi (superior/gold/select).....	1.75 l.....	19.09
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DEPT. OF PUBLIC PROPERTY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Any Linden resident needing more information or wanting to register can call:

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or visit our website at www.linden-nj.org.

THE LINDEN MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER

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All events will be held at the JTG Recreation Center, located at 330 Helen Street.

ADULT 2017 HOLIDAY CERAMICS CLASS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15; 6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Deadline to register – December 14th For Linden adults 18 years of age and older. A one day make and take project. All supplies are included. Each participant will make and take home a project. Fee: \$10.00 (no refund). Pre-Registration is required.

CHILDREN'S 2017 HOLIDAY CERAMICS CLASS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15; 6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Deadline to register –December 14th For students grades Kindergarten through 8th. A one day make and take project. All supplies are included. Each participant will make and take home a project. Fee: \$10.00 (no refund). Pre-Registration is required.

SENIOR CITIZEN LINE DANCE CLASSES -

**FRIDAYS STARTING JANUARY 5 UNTIL MARCH 9;
10:00 - 11:00 A.M.**

Classes are free. Come out and enjoy time with your friends and make new ones! No registration necessary, just stop in and join.

COMPLETE FITNESS EXERCISE PROGRAM -

**TUESDAY EVENINGS STARTING JANUARY 9
UNTIL MARCH 13; 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.**

A whole body workout using kickboxing, high and low aerobis, cardio and body toning for adults 18 and older. The program will go on for 10 weeks. Pre-registration is required, registration deadline is January 8, 2018. Class size is limited. Fee: \$40.00 (no refund). Make Check or money order payable to the City of Linden. A one-time annual \$6.00 insurance fee will be charged to your total registration if you have not paid for this already with another program registration. WATER, TOWELS AND EXERCISE MAT REQUIRED.

YOGA - THURSDAY EVENINGS STARTING JANUARY 4 UNTIL MARCH 8; 7:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Yoga is the oldest system of personal and healthful development that embraces your mind, body and spirit. For Adults 18 years of age or older. Pre-Registration is required, registration deadline: January 3rd. Fee: \$60.00. See instructor for Free introductory class. A one-time annual \$6.00 insurance fee will be charged to your total registration if you have not paid for this already with another program registration. Minimum 10-Maximum 30 Participants. Class size is limited. Please bring a yoga mat.

PILATES AND BARRE EXERCISE CLASS -

**THURSDAY EVENINGS STARTING JANUARY 4
UNTIL MARCH 8; 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.**

Pilates consists of mind-body exercises that train several muscle groups at once, using smooth and continuous movements, teaches body awareness and good posture, while improving flexibility and agility. Barre is a fusion of ballet, pilates and stretches. The course program is for adults ages 18 and older. Fee: \$40.00. Make checks or money order payable to The City of Linden. Registration deadline January 3rd. A one-time annual \$6.00 insurance fee will be charged to your total registration if you have not paid for this already with another program registration.

KARATE CLASSES - MONDAYS STARTING

JANUARY 22 UNTIL MARCH 19; 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

For students ages 5 through 15. Martial arts gives children a positive way to burn calories and socialize with quality friends in a safe setting. Your child will learn important life skills including: confidence, Self-Discipline, Courtesy, Loyalty, Respect, Perseverance, Integrity, Goal Setting, Increased Fitness, Honor and Self-Control. Pre-Registration is required. Class size is limited to 60 students.

Registration deadline: January 21st. Fee: \$50.00 (no refund). A one-time annual \$6.00 insurance fee will be charged to your total registration if you have not paid for this already with another program registration.

No Class Feb 19th.





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(above) At a recently Kiwanis meeting new officers were sworn in by Rosemary Oarsley- NJ Kiwanis Governor including Sabrina Elson, President Lois Bass, President Elect Xiomara Turcios, Vice President Mike Merlo, Treasurer June Lazaro, Secretary Trustees - Dolores Maslo, Tom Bejgrowicz, James Gilligan, Al Volpe. Missing from photo are Elizabeth Garcia and Chester Lobrow.

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LOX HAIR STUDIO OPENS IN LINDEN

On Sunday, November 19th, friends and family gathered to help Eliana Cale celebrate the grand opening of Lox Hair Studio, located at 881 North Styles Street in Linden, NJ.

Eliana has been a Linden resident for 12

years. Her family owns the Chop Spot restaurant, which is located in the same strip small as her studio.

For appointments stop in to see the beautifully renovated studio, or call 908-486-1200.



(above) Linden Mayor Derek Armestead was on hand to cut the red ribbon and celebrate the grand opening of Lox Hair Studio.

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STUDENTS RAISE \$4,000 DURING BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Linden Public Schools came together in October with creative and caring efforts to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month — raising a total of over \$4,000 to help victims and fund research.

The Linden High School girls volleyball team raised \$1,500 through its Pink Out event. The players set aside their normal orange and black for the Oct. 30 match against Elizabeth to wear pink uniforms and to decorate the gym with pink ribbons, balloons and signs. The team sold Pink Out shirts ahead of time, sold homemade baked goods the day of the match, and accepted donations from fans. All proceeds went to the Rutgers Cancer Institute for breast cancer research. The team also honored breast cancer survivors at the match with pink roses.

“Our Pink Out is an extremely important event to us at Linden High School,” said volleyball head coach Marissa DelloRusso. “We are trying to bring awareness to breast cancer, all while raising funds for breast cancer research. Since breast cancer is so prevalent in today’s society and early detection is vital to improving survival rates, the girls volleyball team is trying to make a difference in our school and community by spreading its awareness.”

The Linden High School Naval Junior ROTC donated \$1,300 to Susan G. Komen North Jersey on Oct. 18. Participating cadets gave at least \$20 each, \$10 of which went to buy a pink aiguillette (a decorative braid worn on the shoulder of their uniforms for Breast Cancer Awareness Month) and the rest went toward the donation.

NJROTC Commander Boyd Decker credited senior Bermuda Pierre with the idea, and said he’d like to make it a growing tradition. “Maybe next year it will be \$3,000 or \$4,000,” he said.

With the help of its parents, families and community, School No. 2 raised \$800 through sales of ribbons, hats and socks.

The money will be donated to the American Cancer Society. The school also held a “hats off” to Breast Cancer Awareness day on Oct. 30, when students, faculty and staff wore blue and pink as well as hats to honor those who have battled cancer. Students also decorated the building with ribbons to raise awareness.

McManus Middle School raised over \$300 with a mini-carnival in the school’s media center on Oct. 19. Students visited during their lunch periods to play boardwalk-style games for 25 or 50 cents apiece, with all proceeds going to the Susan G. Komen organization. Student were

able to win tickets, which they cashed in for prizes on their way back to class.

School No. 8 held a pink-out day on Oct. 20 when students dressed in pink and donated \$1 to the cause. The effort raised over \$200, which was added to a fundraiser to fight cancer at ShopRite in Clark.

The Linden High School football booster club gave the team pamphlets about breast cancer and pink socks to wear during games to raise awareness and to honor breast cancer survivors - particularly Jean Banks, the mother of one of the players and a booster club member.



(above) Items sold at School No. 2 to raise money for breast cancer research.



(above) A ceremony at the Linden High School girls volleyball match on Oct. 30 honored breast cancer survivors. (above l-r) Cancer survivor Barbara Carter; Linden volleyball seniors Karisma Lewis, Deja Ampey, Toni Frino, Lexis Rodriguez, Maria Manuel and Ny'lah Dent; cancer survivors Mary Ann Devaney and Patricia Lewis; and coach Marissa DelloRusso.



(above) Linden High School Principal Yelena Horre speaking at the girls volleyball Pink Out match, with the players behind her in their pink uniforms.



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(above) Gathered on the front steps of Linden High School are about 130 Naval Junior ROTC cadets who participated in the fundraising effort to fight breast cancer. (front, l-r) Chief Petty Officer Mark Velez, Commander Boyd Decker, Regimental Command Master Chief Janali Casanas, Regimental Executive Officer Bermuda Pierre, Tina Jacobs of Susan G. Komen North Jersey, Regimental Commanding Officer Jet'aime Thompson, Regimental Operations Officer Alexandra Alvarez, and Linden High School Principal Yelena Horre.



(above) The T-shirt sold by the girls volleyball team to raise money to fight breast cancer.



(above) The Linden High School football team show the pink socks they received from the team's booster club. They are gathered around Jean Banks, the mother of player Christopher Banks and a breast cancer survivor.



(above) The NJROTC cadets wore pink aiguillettes on their uniforms in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

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SCHOOL NO. 4 GIVES FATHERS A PLACE TO SHARE, LEARN AND BOND

It was just a casual conversation among a group of guys sitting in a circle. From the tone, they could have been in one of their basements or around a table at a diner. They could have been talking about politics or fantasy football.

But this group was meeting in the School No. 4 reading room. It was the monthly gathering of the school's fathers program, and they were discussing a subject of great importance: their kids.

The program is a pet project of Principal Anthony Cataline, who started it seven years ago and sits in on every meeting along with the school social worker, Jennifer D'Alessio.

"I find it tremendously rewarding to see how interested the guys are to being here," Cataline said. "And how committed some of them are."

The purpose of the program is to get more fathers involved in the school and their child's education, and to give them a network of other fathers they can lean on and learn from. Child care is provided during the meeting so dads can come with their kids.

The meetings are informal and wide-ranging discussions where the fathers are free to open up without risk.

"We have rules that we review before we start," Cataline said. "There are no putdowns, you don't interrupt, one person speaks at a time, and confidentiality is the key."

The confidentiality is taken seriously so that fathers are able to share personal aspects of their lives or their children's lives.

"We have a motto," said group member Carlos Herrera. "What's said in here stays here."

Each meeting starts out with a topic, but the conversation can drift and grow into something new.

"It takes on a life of its own," Cataline said. "I love it."

Some of the topics covered include homework, bullying, technology, discipline, divorce and improving relationships.

"They get to learn a lot about the school that they don't know," Cataline said. "And as long as it's not something that's confidential, I have no problem sharing what some of our issues are here. And I think they're appreciative of that. It develops a nice bond between the fathers and the school, the fathers with the classroom, the fathers with the kids."

And the fathers with the other fathers.

"It's just a great outlet for fathers to come together and build synergy, to provide insight and share what we know," said Derrick Smith, a group member who has three children in School No. 4. "As fathers, we all have different perspectives on things. Synergy is one great force, combining with another force to create an even greater force. It's iron sharpening iron."

Many of the fathers in the group said they get so much out of learning from one another.

"I'm 25 and just starting out being a father," said Cesar Cardenas, who has a son in pre-K. "So to get a lot of different opinions from different fathers is great. It helps out a lot. Because I'm learning just as much as my son is right now."

Since last school year, the program has been

funded through PRIDE grants from the Linden Education Association and New Jersey Education Association, which are used to build community support and involvement in schools. Prior to that, the program was funded through donations from community organizations and local businesses.

For many, the fathers program contributes to the overall positive atmosphere at School No. 4, which has about 400 students in pre-K through fifth grade.

"I really like this school," said Claudio Almeida, who has two children in the school. "The kids love it, too. They have no problems with the teachers, don't have any problems with bullying or anything like that. I like the events that the school does for the kids, and the activities. And this for the parents is great."

One father, Walter Longshore, continues to come to meetings even though his son has moved on to middle school.

"Even though my son isn't here, I can get advice," he said. "And I can give advice."

As positive as the group is for the fathers and the school, Cataline is in a bit of a Catch 22 because if it gets too popular, it would lose its casual feel.

"I don't think we could do this with more than 15," the principal said. "You just can't run a group with masses of people. We really try to find

12 committed fathers who are willing to come every month so that there is some continuity. Sometimes we get 16 and sometimes we get seven. So we're flexible."

In the springtime, though, the school opens up the fathers program to all the fathers in the school for a larger event in the gym.

"The gym teacher runs activities for fathers and kids together, and that's a blast," Cataline said. "The kids love to see their fathers getting involved, doing relays and things like that. The kids enjoy themselves, and the fathers enjoy themselves."

And the last meeting of the year in June is always some kind of group meal or barbecue for the fathers and children together.

"We also do a craft, a project the fathers and kids can leave with, for our last session," Cataline said.

The group atmosphere creates a bond among its members, a camaraderie that carries over outside the school walls.

"We all are friends," said Jesus Ocambo, who has a son in second grade. "We see each other outside of school, because we all live in Linden. It's like a church, that's how we feel. It's that kind of friendship."

"And every single meeting that we have makes us that much closer to each other."



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LINDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY FOOD DRIVE

Help check out hunger this holiday season with donations to a Food Drive being sponsored by the Libraries of Union County Consortium (LUCC). From November 27 - December 18, your local public library will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items to benefit the New Jersey Community Food Bank and other local food pantries. Collection bins will be conveniently located at the public libraries and library staff will then route 100% of the donations to designated food banks.

Even though experts say our economy is in recovery, many people in New Jersey have been left behind: low income families, struggling single parents, the elderly on a fixed income, and the unemployed. The New Jersey Community

Food Bank assists by distributing food to more than 1,500 non-profit charities in 19 counties, including soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, local food banks, after school programs, and senior centers. Local food pantries such as SHIP in Summit serve food to the homeless and low-income individuals on a daily basis. These donations will help to fill shopping carts and bellies.

To make this holiday season hunger free, simply visit your local library with a donation of non-perishable items. Groceries most urgently needed are canned meat and fish, canned soups and stews, peanut butter (in plastic jars), boxed pasta and rice, powdered milk, infant formula, and canned vegetables and fruits.

CITIZENSHIP PREPARATION CLASSES

The Union Public Library in partnership with Jewish Vocational Service will be offering free classes to help legal permanent residents prepare and apply for U.S. citizenship. The curriculum will focus on all aspects of the citizenship exam and interview, as well as legal assistance in completing the N-400 Application for Naturalization.

The Union Public Library will hold exam preparation classes on Saturdays, 9am-1pm for

10 weeks beginning January 2018. Registration and the first class; will be held on January 6 at 9am. All prospective registrants must bring their Green Card in order to be registered.

For more information, please contact Inna Kramers at ikramers@jvsnj.org or 862-704-2283.

The Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave., Union, NJ 07083. (908) 851-5450 or on the web at www.uplnj.org.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS FROM LINDEN FMBA LOCALS #34 & #234

With the Winter Holidays upon us, Linden FMBA Locals #34 & #234 would like all of the residents of the City of Linden to have a safe and healthy holiday season. We would like to thank Ms. Tina Renna for allowing us to submit some safety tips to "Life In Linden" in order to keep our residents informed.

During this season, please keep the following safety tips in mind to keep you and your family safe.

- Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

- Be careful not to overload extension cords. Before you start plugging in, find out the wattage rating of your extension cord, as well as the power requirements of any lights or decorations you're planning to plug into it.
 - It is important to check all electrical decorations for cracked or damaged wiring before decorating with them.
 - If you are frying, grilling or broiling food, never leave it unattended – stay in the kitchen. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
 - Keep anything that can catch fire - pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels or curtains - away from your stove, oven or any other appliance in the kitchen that generates heat.
 - Keep kids and pets away from the cooking area. Make them stay at least three feet away from the stove.
 - Keep a fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. Try to cover it to smother it or use the extinguisher.
- On behalf of all of the officers and members of Linden FMBA Locals #34 & #234, we would like to wish all of the residents of Linden a Happy Holidays and a Safe and Happy New Year.

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(above) Metro Liquors.



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KIWANIS CLUB 5TH ANNUAL TASTE OF LINDEN

Submitted by June Lazaro, The Kiwanis Club of Linden

The Grand Banquet Hall in Linden held the 5th Annual Taste of Linden on November 13, 2017. Oh – What a Night! Special thanks to our community for coming out in the cold and feeling our warmth. The evening was filled with local restaurants, supporting businesses, jazz music and some spirits too. Such fun seeing so many neighbors' smiling faces.

For a brief moment the room was silent; we opened up as our traditional Kiwanis meetings do, with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Armstead, and then Antoinette Modrak, coordinator of special projects for the Linden Public Schools, spoke briefly with a celebratory note for our club's dedication to our community; especially our children. Robin Bacote, owner of Robin's Nest Rhythm and Blues Club, and Mike Weinstein then entertained us with their musical gifts. From 50/50s, door prizes, and items being donated, to a food drive to benefit LINCS, a memorable successful event was held.

Restaurants included: III Amici Ristorante, Abigail's, Applebee's of Linden, Chevys Fresh Mex, Johnny Prince's Famous Bayway Diner, Labél Kwizin, Meson Tropical, Parkway Grill, Primavera's Café, Ristorante, Pizzeria, Savannah's Southern Belle Restaurant, South Wood BBQ, T & L/Leon's Catering, and Venice Pizza & Restaurant. Sam's Club donated needed supplies and cakes. Caruso's Cotton Candy had

popcorn, while Menchie's Frozen Yogurt and Cold Stone Creamery Planet Smoothie soothed our pallets. Metro Liquors and Pied Piper Liquors shared their delights.

Thanks to our sponsors over \$4,000 was raised. Sponsors included: Platinum: Infineum USA L.P., Linden Education Association. Gold: Northfield Bank, Severyn Fur Salon, SNS Worldwide Inc. Silver: Linden Chamber of Commerce, Unity Bank Bronze: A Focused Advantage, Mayor Derek Armstead, New Look Hair Salon, Primavera, Primerica, Santander Bank, Stella & Walter Tylicki.

Special thanks to the ROTC cadets and Leo from T & L Catering who served with smiles and even stayed to assist with the cleanup. The City of Linden was a collaborative partner and their contribution is greatly appreciated.

Donations received go towards scholarships, sponsoring of our LPS clubs and other community projects. Please consider joining our club, as members are aging and our youth is our future. For information on joining, contact June Lazaro at 908 930-8310 or email her at junlazaro@verizon.net.

The Kiwanis Club of Linden usually has Thursday luncheon meetings at Primavera's. "Like" our Kiwanis Club of Linden Facebook page and look for updates on our next Taste of Linden event.



(above) Ill Amici Ristorante.



(above) Primavera's Café Ristorante, Pizzeria.

Photos from this and other events can be found
 online at rennamedia.com

and on the Life in Linden page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/lifeinlinden)

Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share"



(above) Chevys Fresh Mex.



(above) Parkway Grill.



(above) Pied Piper Liquors.



(above) Label Kwizin Hatian & American Restaurant.



(above) Caruso's Cotton Candy.



(above) Savannah's Southern Belle Restaurant.



(above) T & L / Leon's Catering.



(above) Johnny Prince's Famous Bayway Diner.



(above) Menchie's Frozen Yogurt.



(above) Applebee's of Linden.



(above) Venice Pizza & Restaurant.



(above) South Wood BBQ.



(above) Abigail's.



(above) Meson Tropical.



(above) Cold Stone Creamery



(above) Sam's Club.

LINCS FOOD PANTRY

How you can help

The Linden Interfaith Network for Community Service (LINKS) Food Pantry is a 501c(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

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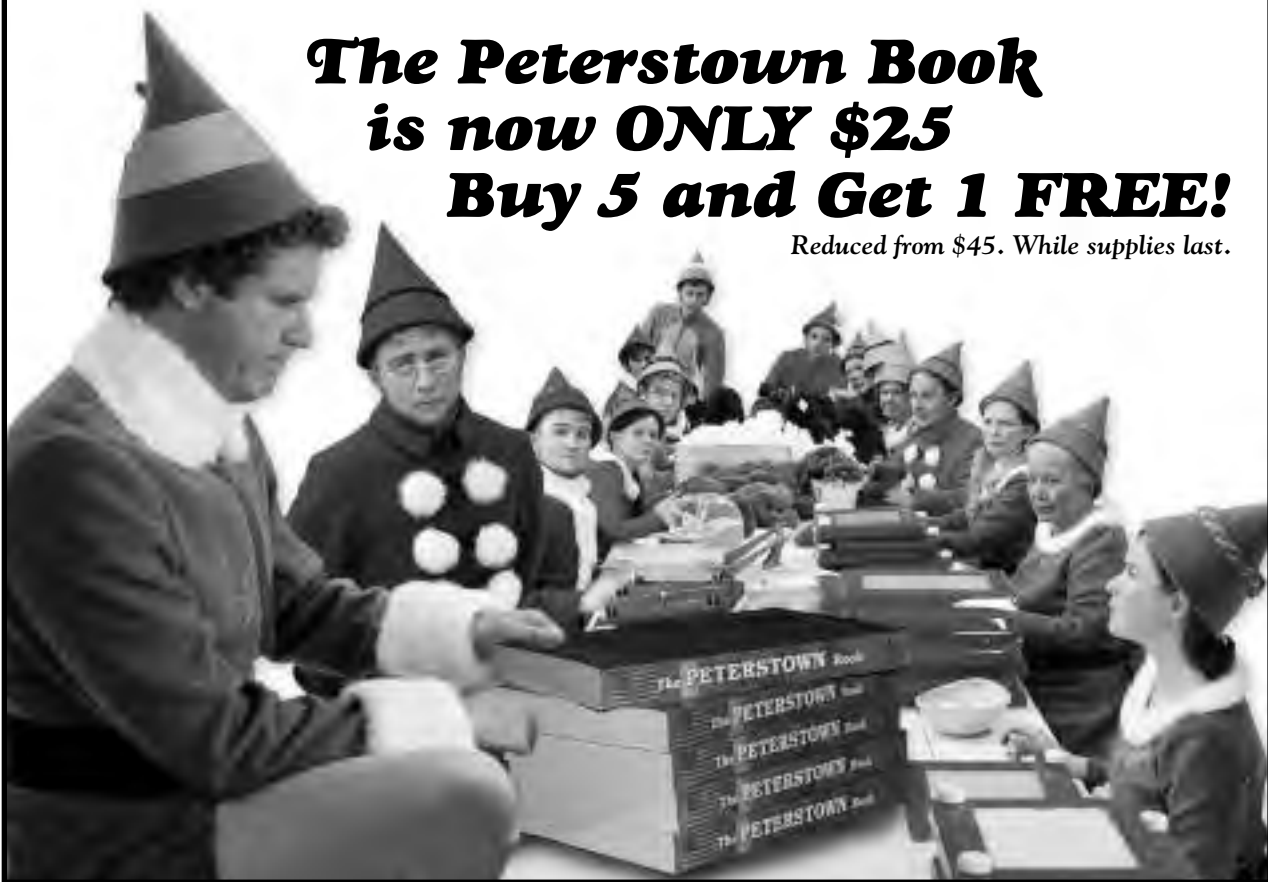
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STORY OF PERSONAL COMEBACK KEYS 2017 UNION COUNTY CONFERENCE

Marion Simmons spent 19 years in foster care, experiencing emotional, physical and sexual abuse at every stop until coming to Community Access Unlimited (CAU) at age 16. In time Simmons went to college, worked within New Jersey's child welfare system and recently started a business teaching at-risk youth the skills they need to be successful in life.

Simmons served as the keynote speaker at the Fifth Annual Union County Youth Services Networking Conference held in November at CAU in Elizabeth. The conference drew more than 175 child services professionals from more than 50 government agencies and nonprofits from throughout Union County.

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.

Simmons told the audience she believes everyone in life deserves the opportunity to turn a setback into a comeback. Her story outlined her own.

She entered foster care at age 4 because of her mother's substance abuse. Due partly to her rebellious nature and partly to the abuse she experienced at various locations, Simmons was referred to what she was told was her last chance, Community Access Unlimited.

"Before I came to CAU I was lashing out but

they didn't give up on me," she said. "They told me, 'We'll let you cry and be mad, but you're still going to work on your goals, your driver's license, getting a job, graduating.' I thrived here. CAU truly is the key that opens the door."

Simmons became a leader at CAU, then earned a bachelor's degree in human services and sociology from Lincoln (PA) University before going to work for the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency. While there she was instrumental in changing the practice of having youth in foster care carry their belongings in black trash bags when moving to now being given luggage.

Simmons now works as a project coordinator at JBS International, Inc. in Bethesda, MD., and recently started HOTE (Holding Onto Exceptional People), LLC to help other at-risk youth succeed in life as she has.

"If I had not gone through the things I went through in those 19 years in foster care, I wouldn't have the passion to be in child welfare and the courage to start my own business," she said. "If I had not suffered, I would not have had the ability to rebound."

Attendees of at the conference also heard presentations by Jessica Trombetta, director of the Office of Adolescent Services; Alice Hunnicutt, state director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; and Gordon MacInness, president and chief executive of New Jersey Policy Perspective. In addition, they participated in roundtable discussions on a variety of topics impacting the youth they

support, including transitioning to adulthood, behavioral health and substance abuse, and employment training and life skills education.

The annual conference is produced each year by the Union County Youth Services Steering Committee, 16 leaders from the county's nonprofit and government sectors working in youth services.

"It is important for us to bring all the various providers and mental health professionals, anyone working with young people, together to learn and network," said Jim Kimberly, director of development at the Cooperative Counseling Services and a member of the committee. "We also try to get speakers who are relevant to the issues we are working with."

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.



(above) Members of the Union County Youth Services Steering Committee gather before the Fifth Annual Networking Conference.

RENNA MEDIA LAUNCHES THREE NEW NEWSPAPERS NOW MAILING 125,000 NEWSPAPERS BRINGING TOTAL TO 21 TOWNS

Renna Media will be launching three new newspapers in January 2018. *Garwood Times*, *The Chathams*, and *Madison Monthly* will join Renna Media's family of newspapers, bringing the number of publications to 21 with a total of 125,000 newspapers mailed to homes and businesses monthly.



(above, l-r) Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, have been publishing community newspapers since 1998.

The publications are "hyper-local" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town and are direct mailed within those towns.

The hyper-local design gives businesses the highest value for their advertising dollars. The newspapers are designed (black ink on newsprint) to keep the cost of advertising as low as \$60 for a business card size ad. Regional

businesses can take advantage of one low rate for being in multiple publications. Inserts are also available.

Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, LLC, have been publishing community newspapers since 1998.

For info about Renna Media publications, please contact info@rennamedia.com; or call 908-418-5586.

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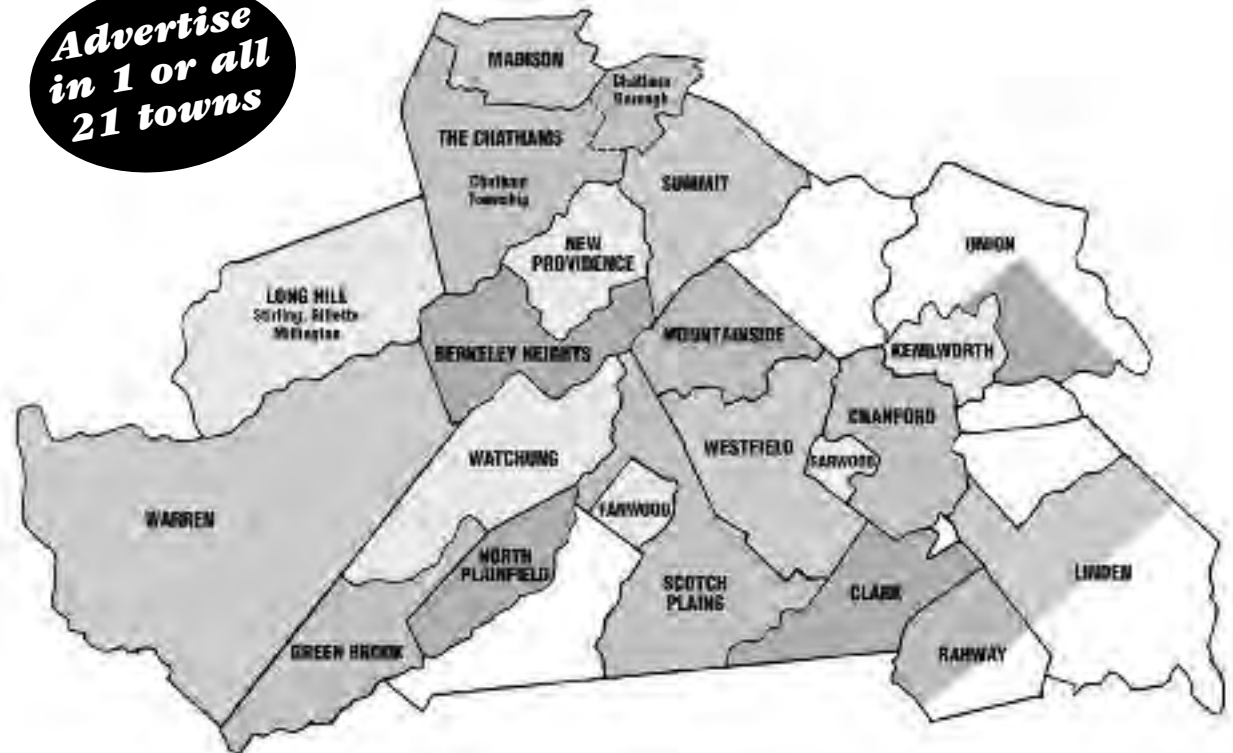
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Dogfish Head 60 min.	24pk	\$33.99
Yuengling Lager cans and bottles	24pk	\$17.99
Zywiec (11.2oz)	24pk	\$19.99

“Cold or warm Beer = Same Price”
“Visit the store for more In-Store Specials!”

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
HEADQUARTERS**



ABC prices prevail other prices, limited to store inventory. Not responsible for typographical errors. Prices valid till December 31, 2017.



**1179 WEST ST. GEORGES AVE.
(RT. 27) LINDEN, NJ 07036
908-925-1770**
email: metroliquors@gmail.com
Hours: Mon. thru Sat. 9am - 10pm Sun. 12pm - 8pm



Witty's
Fine Wine and Liquors
**870 ST. GEORGES AVE.
(RT. 27) RAHWAY, NJ 07065
732-381-6776**
email: wittyswines@gmail.com
www.wittyswine.com

Like us on Facebook: Facebook.com/metrolinden and Facebook.com/wittyswines *Hours: Mon. thru Wed. 9am - 9pm, Thur. - Sat. 9am - 10pm, Sun. 10am - 7pm*

VISIT THE STORE FOR MORE IN-STORE SPECIALS

WINE



Alamos Malbec	750ml	\$ 8.99
Andre (All Types).....	750ml	\$ 5.99
Apothic Red	750ml	\$ 9.29
Avalon (Cabernet Sauvignon).....	750ml	\$ 9.99
Barefoot All Types	1.5L	\$10.39
Bartenura Moscato	750ml	\$10.99
Barone Fini (Pinot Grigio).....	750ml	\$10.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	750ml	\$ 4.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	1.5L	\$ 8.69
Black Box (All Types).....	3L	\$19.99
Blackstone (All Types).....	1.5L	\$13.99
Bogle (Chardonnay and Merlot).....	750ml	\$ 6.99
Bolla	1.5L	\$12.99
Caymus Napa Valley (Cabernet Sauvignon).....	750ml	\$75.99
Carlo Rossi (Chablis, Burgundy, Sangria, Blush).....	4L	\$13.99
Carnivor (Cabernet Sauvignon).....	750ml	\$10.99
Casal Garcia Vinho Verde	1L	\$ 5.99
Cavit (All Types)	1.5L	\$13.99
Chateau ste Michelle Columbia Valley Cabernet and Merlot	750ml	\$13.99
Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Chardonnay	750ml	\$ 9.95
Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Riesling	750ml	\$ 8.99
Clos du Bois Chardonnay	1.5 L	\$19.99
Clos du Bois Cabernet, Merlot.....	750m	\$ 9.95
Cockburns Ruby and Tawny Porto	750ml	\$10.99
Concha Y Toro Frontera	1.5L	\$ 8.99
Coppola Diamond Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot.....	750ml	\$13.99
Coppola Diamond Chardonnay	750ml	\$11.99
Corbett Canyon (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 7.99
Cupcake (All types, except Prosecco and Moscato)	750ml	\$ 8.99
Dom Perignon	750ml	\$149.99
Dreaming Tree (All Types)	750ml	\$11.99
Ecco Domani (Pinot Grigio).....	750ml	\$ 8.99
Fish Eye (All Types).....	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Flip Flop (All Types).....	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Franzia (Crisp White, Blush, Sangria, Chilable red).....	5L	\$13.99
Freixenet.....	750ml	\$ 9.99
Gato Negro (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Gazela Vinho Verde	750ml	\$ 5.99
Ghost Pines (Merlot and Red Blend).....	750ml	\$15.99
J. Lohr Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$11.99
Josh Cabernet Sauvignon.....	750ml	\$13.99
Joseph Carr Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$19.99
Kendall Jackson Vintners Chardonnay	750ml	\$12.09
Kim Crawford (Sauvignon Blanc)	750ml	\$13.99
Korbel (All Types except Natural and Organic)	750ml	\$11.99
La Crema Sonoma Pinot Noir.....	750ml	\$16.99
Liberty Creek (All Types).....	1.5L	\$ 7.99

Louis Jadot Beaujolais	750ml	\$ 9.99
Louis Jadot Beaujolais Villages.....	750ml	\$ 10.99
Louis Jadot Pouilly Fuisse	750ml	\$20.99
Luna di Luna (All Types).....	1.5L	\$13.99
Mark West Pinot Noir.....	750ml	\$ 9.39
Mark West Pinot Noir.....	1.5L	\$17.99
Martini & Rossi Asti	750ml	\$11.99
Menage a Trois Red	750ml	\$ 8.99
Merry Vale (Cabernet)	750ml	\$49.99
Mezzacorona Pinot Grigio.....	1.5L	\$12.99
Mi Amore Red	750ml	\$ 8.99
Moet Imperial Champagne	750ml	\$39.99
Noble Wine 337, 667.....	750ml	\$10.99
Papi (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.98
Real Sangria	1.5L	\$10.99
Rex Goliath (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.99
Robert Mondavi Private Select	750ml	\$ 8.99
Robert Mondavi Private Select	1.5L	\$16.99
Rodney Strong Sonoma Cabernet & Merlot.....	750ml	\$15.99
Rodney Strong Sonoma Chardonnay	750ml	\$11.99
Rombauer Chardonnay	750ml	\$30.99
Ruffino Chianti	750ml	\$ 7.99
Ruffino Chianti	1.5 L	\$13.99
Ruffino Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$11.99
Ruffino Chianti Gold	750ml	\$30.99
Ruffino Tan label	750ml	\$19.99
Santa Margerita Pinot Grigio.....	750ml	\$20.29
Senor Sangria (All Types)	1.5L	\$11.99
Silver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet	750ml	\$70.99
Simi Chardonnay.....	750ml	\$12.09
Sonoma Cutrer Chardonnay.....	750ml	\$20.99
Sutter Home (All Types).....	1.5L	\$ 8.99
Tom Gore (All Types)	750ml	\$ 9.99
Woodbridge (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.99
Yago Sangria	3L	\$14.99
Yellow Tail (All Types)	1.5L	\$11.49

**VISIT THE STORE FOR
MORE IN-STORE SPECIALS**

**We specialize in
hard to find items
and custom orders,
just ask!**

10% OFF
**Any purchase of
6 bottles of wine**
Non sale items only. (Excludes RED &
YELLOW TAG items.) Sale items do
apply towards purchase requirement.

15% OFF
**Any purchase of
12 bottles of wine**
Non sale items only. (Excludes RED
& YELLOW TAG items.) Sale items do
apply towards purchase requirement.

Visit our facebook page for news of next tasting event: facebook.com/metrolinden