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On Tuesday, August 6, 2019, the Township of Union Police Department invited the community to join millions of neighbors across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide for National Night Out. They were joined by other first responders. They held demonstrations for the kids, and allowed them to explore their vehicles and equipment and ask questions.

The event also featured a face painting station, inflatable activities, a DJ, free food and giveaways, and other entertainment.

Photos of the event can be found on the Facebook page: Township of Union, New Jersey – Government where they posted “Thank you to our Union community, our Police Officers & Explorers and our sponsors for coming out and helping make our 2019 National Night Out Against Crime a successful event last night! Let’s continue this safe and positive atmosphere throughout the year and continue to foster a closer relationship between our local police, first responders and the people they serve.”

WHAT IS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT?

National Night Out is an annual community building campaign that promotes police community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August. Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more. For more information visit natw.org.

Photos by Township of Union



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JEFFERSON SCHOOL HOSTS UNION'S 25TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S SPELLING BEE

M-I-L-I-T-I-A is how Jefferson Student Giulianna Musceuage, in round five, won the 25th Annual Mayor's Spelling Bee on Friday, June 21, 2019, at Jefferson School. In the early rounds of the spelling bee, words like "cemetery", "calendar" and "echoes" wiped out over half of the students, leaving Giulianna and runner-up Juliet Gawel to tackle much more challenging words.

"The Township Committee and I are always delighted to watch the students of Jefferson School compete in the spelling bee. We know that each student has worked hard to get to here," stated Mayor Michele Delisfort. "We look forward to also honoring the winner and runner up at our June Township Committee Meeting."

After months of preparation in their classrooms, one Jefferson School student from each homeroom had the opportunity to compete for 1st and 2nd place and receive a trophy from the Township of Union's Recreation Department.

"This year's Mayor's Spelling Bee was extremely special to us as we are celebrate our 25th year," said Karen Steiner, Spelling Bee Coordinator. "The words for this year have become more challenging and each student has worked diligently to study and prepare for the contest."

For more information regarding the 25th Annual Mayor's Award please contact Jefferson School at 908-851-6560, or visit their website at Jefferson.twpunionschools.org.



(above) Runner up, Juliet Gawel and winner Giulianna Musceuage, along with Committeeman Manuel Figueiredo and Spelling Bee Coordinator Karen Steiner

Photo by Township of Union Public Schools

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TEENS CELEBRATE KEYSTONE CONFERENCE AT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

Submitted by Lisa Sepetjian

Thirty teen members and 6 professional staff of Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County recently attended the National Keystone Conference in Orlando, Florida. This year's conference theme was Imagine. Do. Become.; we believe that our teen leaders demonstrate this theme in their everyday lives.

Keystone Club (Teen Leadership) members worked hard throughout the year in different leadership projects to qualify to attend the National Keystone Conference. Special congratulations to teens from our Elizabeth Club

for winning the National Teen Outreach Award! Teens had the opportunity to connect with peers and participate in a variety of educational sessions, such as: How to Build Your Team, Your Meeting, Your Way, Networking, ACT prep, Career Preparation, and much more! Over 1,500 teen leaders from Boys & Girls Clubs around the world attended the annual conference administered by Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Teens were recognized for their leadership, academic success, and preparation for the future. Throughout the week, members had a wonderful time getting involved in many off site activities such as top golf, a table tennis tournament, and ALL STARS Sports Festival. Overall, members learned new leadership skills and had a great experience!

"We are so proud of these teens that have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills," said Russell Triolo, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of

Union County. "They continue to work hard for future success".

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County
Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County seek to inspire and enable young people, who need them most, to realize their full potential and have provided opportunity for youth since 1955. They are part of a national network of some 4,000 neighborhood-based facilities, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which serves more than 4.6 million young people annually, in all 50 states and on U.S. military bases worldwide. Clubs provide guidance-oriented character development programs on a daily basis for children 6-18 years old, conducted by a full-time professional staff. Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize leadership development, education and career exploration, financial literacy, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation, and family outreach.

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(above) Members and staff of Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County at the National Keystone Conference in Orlando, Florida.

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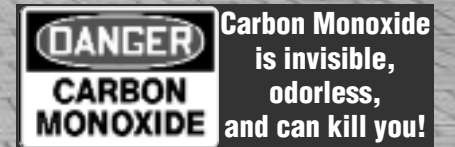
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YAMEL ABREU OF UNION NAMED NJCAA ALL-AMERICAN



For the 2018-2019 academic year, Union County College had six student-athletes named All-Americans by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). Yamel Abreu of Union, Chisom and Nwaneka Chinedu of Freehold, Josh Fitts of Roselle, Maya Lawler of Cranford, and Jessica Woods of Linden all had excellent performances in their respective sports to be named to an All-American team, the highest honor awarded to a student-athlete at a community college.

Yamel Abreu, a guard/forward on the women's basketball team, had a spectacular second year. In addition to being named a First Team All-American, she was the NJCAA Region XIX Division II Player of the Year. She passed her 1000th point mark and averaged 16.7 points per game. She was also named Garden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) Player of the Year Award.

Sisters Chisom and Nwaneka Chinedu were both members of Union's Track and Field team. Chisom was named to the First Team All-American in the 400m hurdles and to the Second Team All-American in the 100m hurdles. Nwaneka was named to the First Team All-American for the high jump. Chisom and Nwaneka are part of a set of triplets and their sister Tochi were all members of the team.

Josh Fitts was also a member of the Track and Field team and was named to the Second Team All-American in the 100m. He received an Honorable Mention placement for his 200m performance.

Maya Lawler, a defender on the women's

soccer team, was named a First Team All-American. For a second year she was also named the NJCAA Region XIX Division III Player of the Year. This past season she had 23 points with 10 goals and 3 assists. She helped bring the team to a national third place finish this year. Maya is the first player for a Union team to be named to an All-American team for two consecutive years. In 2017, she was named to the Second Team All-American.

Jessica Woods, a center for the women's basketball team, joined Yamel and Maya as a First Team All-American. She grabbed her 500th career rebound and averaged a double-double with 14.3 points and 11.7 rebounds per game. For her excellent performance, she was also named to the All-Region Team as a First Team member and to the GSAC Division II All-GSAC team.

"Congratulations to our six All-American student-athletes. We are proud of your achievements," stated Union's President Dr. Margaret M. McMenemy. "By pursuing athletics at the collegiate level, these students have learned about leadership, time management, organizational skills, and how to handle success and adversity with grace and humility. Their experiences at Union County College will help them succeed after graduation in life and in their careers."

For the 2019-2020 academic year, Union has added women's bowling and men's wrestling to its list of NJCAA teams. To learn more about Athletics at Union, go to unionowls.com.

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UNION TOWNSHIP CHAMBER PLANS NINTH ANNUAL MAYOR'S DAY 5K RUN

Runners and walkers of all levels are invited to join the Union Township Chamber of Commerce again this year at its Ninth Annual Mayor's Day 5K Run on Sunday, September 22, 2019.

Held rain or shine, the race will start and end at Union High School on Cooke Drive, following a course certified by USA Track & Field. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with the actual race commencing at 9:00 a.m.

"This year marks the ninth anniversary of this popular community event, and we are working to continue to make a big impact," said Chamber Executive James Masterson. "We are grateful to the Township of Union Board of Education for generously hosting this event, and we hope for great participation again this for 2019."

Prizes will be awarded for various age categories, and t-shirts and gift bags will be distributed to the first 300 registrants.

Masterson added that a portion of the proceeds

will go to help defray the medical expenses of a local resident and his family, specifically, the family of Officer David Cuozzo, who was stricken with a life-threatening illness.

"We are grateful to be of some help to the Cuozzo family through our 5K event," Masterson said. "We encourage our community to come out and help provide assistance to this wonderful and deserving family."

To register, go online to runsignup.com, and enter Mayor's Day 5K. Further information is available by contacting the Chamber directly at 908-688-2777, visiting unionchamber.com or emailing the Chamber at executivedirector@unionchamber.com.

Businesses wishing to become a sponsor may contact Masterson at executivedirector@unionchamber.com for a listing of the various levels of support. All sponsorships include a table at the event for businesses to highlight their companies.

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UNION'S VICTORIA UTOH BECOMES ADVOCATE FOR FOSTER YOUTH



(above) Union resident Victoria Utoh joined Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County as an advocate for foster youth.

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Union resident Victoria Utoh is among the latest community volunteers to successfully train as advocates for Union County youth removed from home due to abuse or neglect, and now living in foster care. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County is the only organization serving as extra eyes and ears for family law judges in an effort to protect best interests and ensure needs are met.

Utoh said, "I decided to become a CASA volunteer because I realize that the world is much bigger than myself; it's bigger than my needs. Becoming an advocate has given me the opportunity to potentially change the trajectory of a child's life by simply being there, and that is huge!"

As Utoh and her classmates arrived at the courthouse, Judge Richard Wischusen continued his practice of exiting his courtroom to greet and speak with the waiting volunteers. Later, while on the bench during the ceremony, he commended each for their commitment to the community's fragile child victims, and discussed the value of the CASA program to those children and case stakeholders, noting he always reads the

CASA report and seeks their input during hearings.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds make successful advocates and this class, ages 24 to 71, is no exception. Each brings diverse experiences, including an adoptee, an adoptive parent, former military, immigrants, nonparents and parents, retirees, full- and part-time employees, and undergraduate and graduate students. Professional backgrounds include education, retail, nonprofit, information technology and academia. Most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

The final step before meeting their assigned foster youth is observation of seasoned CASA volunteers in court. Once assigned to the case, a court order grants access to the child, foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, enabling advocates to make informed recommendations in the child's best interests.

There are approximately 500 Union County youth from birth to age 21 in foster care, and more than 200 are waiting for a CASA volunteer. Is that you? Contact Courtney at cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org or 908-293-8136 to learn more.

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GIRLS ON THE RUN NEW JERSEY WELCOMES ERICA BELL TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Submitted by Lori Kapferer

Girls on the Run New Jersey East is proud to welcome Union resident Erica Bell to its Board of Directors. Girls on the Run (GOTR) is a nonprofit youth development program that inspires girls in 3rd through 8th grade to recognize their limitless potential and boldly pursue their dreams.

Erica Bell provides a wealth of experience through her service to several community organizations including the Township of Union, Kean University, the NJ State Assembly, Urban League of Union County, the National Council of Negro Women, and Atlantic Healthcare System. Bell is the Branch Manager at the Vauxhall Branch of the Union Public Library, where she has been employed for 25 years. A Certified Life and Career Coach and owner of Pathways Learning Institute, LLC, Bell also brings her knowledge as a local business owner. Bell has served as a volunteer coach at the Union-based GOTR program site for two seasons.

Describing her journey to the GOTR Board, Bell said, "I was introduced to Girls on the Run through my daughter, who is a program participant. While she was attending practice, interacting freely and joyfully with a diverse population of girls, I was learning about the importance of carving out me time so I began walking and gradually running. When we crossed the finish line of our first 5K race together, we felt accomplished and wanted more. I was invited to learn more about the organization and from that point on I was all in, fully invested and telling everyone about GOTR. I love that we are empowering young girls and teaching them how to let their star power shine!"

Girls on the Run New Jersey East has used physical activity to empower girls throughout Essex, Morris, Union, Burlington, and Mercer Counties since 2000. The council is generously supported by presenting sponsor R. Sealaus & Company, Inc., a Summit, NJ-based financial services firm. With the help of the Board of Directors and volunteers, the program continues to grow each year, inspiring more girls to be



(above) Union resident Erica Bell joins the Girls on the Run New Jersey East Board of Directors.

joyful, healthy and confident.

Girls on the Run currently seeks volunteers and girls to participate in the upcoming fall season. To learn more visit girlsontherunnj.org.

ABOUT GIRLS ON THE RUN

More than a running program, Girls on the Run inspires girls in 3rd – 8th grades to recognize their inner strength and celebrate what makes them one of a kind. Participants learn critical life skills such as helping others, resolving conflict, managing emotions, and making intentional decisions. Each session is led by trained volunteer coaches who mentor the girls. The ten-week program concludes with all participants completing a celebratory 5K event, which gives them a tangible sense of achievement as well as a framework for setting and achieving life goals. Since its inception in 1996, Girls on the Run has served more than 1.6 million girls across all 50 states.



(above) Erica Bell and her daughter participating with the Girls on the Run New Jersey East for a 5K race.

GRAND OPENING ANYTIME FITNESS



Anytime Fitness held a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on July 13th, 2019 for the new location in Union New Jersey. The day was a great success thanks to the support of the Township of Union and the community for coming out. Union Mayor Michele Delisfort, along with former Mayor Manuel Figueiredo, and Jim Materson the Union Chamber of Commerce President, were in attendance for the official ribbon cutting and tour of the facility.

The new Anytime Fitness is located at 1350 Galloping Hill Rd, Union, NJ 07083.

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Library hours are Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.,
Friday & Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (Saturdays Closed in the Summer), Sunday, Closed

WEEKLY/REGULAR PROGRAMS

Construction Zone

Mondays at 3:30 PM

All ages | No registration necessary
Learn, play, and build every Monday using Legos, K'Nex, and more during this fun drop-in program!

*Please note: Program will not take place 9/2.

Alphabet Soup (Storytime)

Mondays at 4:30 PM

Ages 4 - 6 | Registration required

We explore phonics, letter recognition & numbers all while reading fun stories, singing songs, doing crafts & making new friends!

*Please note: Program will not take place 9/2.

Tiny Tots (Storytime)

Wednesdays at 10:30 AM

Birth - 18 months | No registration necessary
Spend this special time with baby listening to stories and singing songs & rhymes, followed by free play & socialization. The 8/14 session will be a music & movement class led by Boogie Woogie Babies.

Toddler Tales (Storytime)

Fridays at 10:30 AM

18 months - 3 years | No registration necessary
Enjoy stories, singing, and movement, following a different theme each week! The 8/23 session will be music & movement.

*Please note: Program will not take place 8/2.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Crafternoon: Back to School

Tuesday 9/2 at 4:30 PM

Ages 5 - 12 | Registration required

Join us for a special craft celebrating the start of the school year!

Tween Wii U & Boardgames

Friday 9/13 at 3:30 PM

Ages 10+ | Registration required

We're breaking out our collection of board games, card games, and puzzles! Join us for an afternoon of games & friendly competition.

Masterpiece Studio

Saturday 9/14 at 1:00 PM

Ages 5 - 10 | Registration required

Learn about well-known artists & their techniques, then create a masterpiece of your own based on their unique styles! This month, we'll look at the pop art style of Robert Indiana!

ShopRite Kids Cuisine

Wednesday 9/18 at 4:00 PM

Ages 6 - 12 | Registration required

Learn about healthy eating and make some delicious & easy snacks with Kelsey Pezzuti, Retail Dietitian from ShopRite of Union!

Kidoodlers

Thursday 9/19 at 3:30PM

Ages 5 - 12 | Registration required
Stop by after school and join us for a fun art activity!

Sew It! Workshop for Teens

Monday 9/23 at 6:00 PM

Ages 13+ | Registration required
Ellen Lumpkin Brown from Sew It! will teach us how to make a locker caddy. No previous sewing experience necessary!

Howling Woods Farm

Thursday 9/26 at 6:00 PM

All Ages | Registration required
Join us for a special program brought to you by Howling Woods Farm! Learn about wolves and wolf dogs and get a chance to meet these majestic creatures.

Saturday Stories

Saturday 9/28 at 11:00 AM

All Ages! No registration required
Spend your Saturday morning listening to some fun stories, singing songs, and more!

Paws to Read

Monday 9/30 at 2:00 PM

For Emerging and Independent Readers
Registration required

Bring along a book or two and practice reading aloud to Toto, our visiting therapy dog

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY - VAUXHALL - YOUTH PROGRAMS

123 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, NJ 07088. Tel: 908-851-5451 • Visit us at www.uniontownship.com/379/Union-Public-Library
Library hours are Monday, & Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Friday, Closed,
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (Saturdays Closed in the Summer), Sunday, Closed

WEEKLY/REGULAR PROGRAMS

Toddler & Pre-K Time

Tuesdays at 11:00AM

Ages 2 - 5 | Registration required

Interactive storytimes, crafts, and more for young children and their parents/guardians.

Story & Craft - 9/3

(National Library Card Sign Up Month)

Music & Movement - 9/10

Interactive Learning Time - 9/17

STEM Story & Activity (Fall) - 9/24

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Library Card Sign-up Drop-in

Craft & Card Drive

Friday 9/6, from 3:00PM - 5:00 PM

All ages | No registration required

September is National Library Sign-up Month! Patrons are invited to stop by the library and get a new card or renew an old one. Also, there will be a drop-in craft available. **In order to get a library card, you must be 18 years or older. Please present your photo ID and a piece of mail with your current address. If under the age of 18, a parent/guardian must be present and provide these documents. Also, there is a \$2.00 charge to replace a lost card.

Grandparents, Grandchildren, and Games!

Monday 9/9 at 6:30 PM

All Ages | Registration required

Making memories across generations is vital to sustaining relationships, and having traditions that celebrate family is important. Grandparents are invited to bring their grandchildren aka "good luck charms" with them to a special game night for grandparents and grandchildren!

Homeschool Hangout

Thursday 9/12 at 11:00 AM

Ages 10+ | Registration required

Meet, learn, and engage with other local homeschooling families through a variety of fun and interactive activities!

Tween Dance Workshop with Studio 426

Thursday 9/12 at 3:00 PM - 9 - 13

Registration required

Join us for a hands-on dance workshop brought to you by Studio 426. Make sure to wear clothing you can move and groove in!

Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday 9/18 at 5:00PM

Ages 14 and up | Registration required

Help us make Union Public Library the place for you! Let us know what programs and events you want to see at the library. Recommend books, movies, and music you want to see on the shelves, and earn community service hours by coming to TAB meetings and participating in programs!

Club Teen: 'Self Defense Workshop'

Wednesday 9/18 at 6:00PM

Ages 14 and up | Registration required

Learn the basics of self-defense in this hands-on workshop led by Andrew Crescenzo of USA Fitness and Karate.

Tween S.T.E.M. Builders Club

Thursday 9/19 at 3:00 PM

Ages 9 - 13 | Registration required

Play around with Legos and 3-D magnetic tiles to create amazing shapes and structures!

Tween

'Make it at Your Library'

Thursday 9/26 at 3:00 PM

Ages 9 - 13 | Registration required

Join us for a special DIY craft! Materials will be provided.

YMCA ANNOUNCES HEALTHY WEIGHT AND YOUR CHILD REGISTRATION IS ONGOING FOR THE UPCOMING FALL SESSION OF PROGRAMS

This Fall, The Gateway Family YMCA is launching the second session of Healthy Weight and Your Child, a family program designed to combat childhood obesity. The program is available through the Wellness Center Branch, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union. For more information or to register for the program, visit tgfymca.org or call 908-349-9622.

Healthy Weight and Your Child is based on Mind, Exercise, Nutrition...Do It! (MEND), the most widely disseminated and extensively evaluated child weight-management program in the world. Research on the program model has shown statistically significant reductions in body mass index, waist circumference, and sedentary activities, and improvements in physical activity and self-esteem at six months—results that were sustained at 12 months. The program is designed to support youth and families as they seek to achieve positive change including the following goals: a reduction in the child's body mass index

(BMI); the adoption of healthier eating habits by the family; an increase in daily physical activity; and improved self-esteem for participants.

"In response to this critical health care issue, Healthy Weight and Your Child (HWYC) is an evidence-based, weight-management program that seeks to empower children and families through education, healthy eating, and physical activity," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "The program's goal is to elicit positive change and help families learn skills and behaviors that enable them to live a healthier lifestyle so that children enter adulthood at a healthy weight," stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO, The Gateway Family YMCA.

Childhood Obesity is a growing problem in the United States. More than one third of children and teenagers ages two to 19 are obese or overweight, and that rate has tripled in the past 30 years. Childhood obesity can have a harmful effect on the body in several ways, putting

children at high risk to develop cardiovascular disease, diabetes, sleep apnea, asthma, joint problems, heartburn, and social and psychological problems. Obese children are more likely to become obese adults, leading to more serious health conditions including heart disease, diabetes and some cancers.

Through the leadership of trained Y staff, Healthy Weight and Your Child engages a child and adult as a pair so that, together, they can understand how the home environment and other factors influence choices that lead to a healthy weight. This small-group family program creates a safe, fun, and active environment where families have the opportunity to explore and adopt proven methods to living a healthier lifestyle

To learn more about Healthy Weight and Your Child at The Gateway Family YMCA, visit tgfymca.org.



SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ'S
12th ANNIVERSARY SHOW—FEATURING
MIKE ZUKO & FRIENDS
with opening performance by special guest performer
MELINDA DAVIS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 8:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM ADMISSION: \$20.00 STUDENTS \$15.00
Admission includes snacks, beverages, tea, coffee & desserts




Michael & Friends return to the Roadhouse stage, where Michael will be introducing his new album cuts for the first time to a live audience. A literal fixture at the Café Mike and Friends have been entertaining crowds to WOW shows since the inception of the venue in 2008. The audiences love him and his music. This year Michael will bring on some of his new material for our listening pleasure, featuring his new hit "A Touch Of Blue" and other ear pleasing tunes. Special guest MELINDA DAVIS opens the show. Melinda was the Roadhouse Café's very first performer back in 2008, when Michael was the guest performer. These two make a perfect team!

Original art work by The Roadhouse' summer resident artist
ANDREW WASHINGTON
 will be on display at the **ROADHOUSE GALLERY OF FINE ARTS**

2019 Show proceeds will benefit
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WEBSITE: www.roadhousecafe.org FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/salemroadhouse



(above) The Gateway Family YMCA offers Healthy Weight and Your Child, a family program designed to combat childhood obesity.



FAMILY FUN & FITNESS DAY
 YMCA Open House
 Visit tgfymca.org
 For branch event information

FALL I PROGRAM REGISTRATION Begins 8/19



7TH GRADE INITIATIVE
 Join free with proof of grade & guardian

THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA
ELIZABETH-RAHWAY-UNION

UNION TOWNSHIP GARDEN CLUB

Submitted by Joyce Cababe

The Union Township Garden Club began when, in 1983, a group of enthusiastic local gardeners wanted a club to bring other gardening enthusiasts together. Their mission was to enrich their hobby by exchanging ideas, bringing in guest speakers, and visiting public gardens. The Garden Club has enjoyed visits to numerous gardens in NJ such as Grounds for Sculpture, Duke Gardens and Reeves Arboretum. Interstate trips have included Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania and the Macy's flower show in New York City. They have hosted numerous speakers on composting, native plants, organic gardening, and much more.

The legacy of the Union Twp. Garden club is

the beautiful flower beds we plant and maintain in front of Town Hall. TV 34 airs our annual June Rose Contest, with the Mayor emceeding the event. We also offer scholarships to high school students pursuing a horticultural career. A community garden was borne out of this group. It is a separate entity but all are welcome to visit their website at Communitygardens.org.

36 years later, we still meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Bonnel Room of Town Hall, excluding January, our only month off. The meetings are structured and friendly, ending with refreshments and our plant exchange. . Visit us on Facebook.

Or for more information contact our President, Veronica Doll, 908-447-1991.

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Project Ready will be accepting applications for its free five-week job preparedness program on September 4, 2019 at 10 a.m. Students receive training in basic business and computer skills as well as resume writing, interviewing and job searching techniques. Project Ready is located within St. Joseph Social Service Center at 118 Division St. in Elizabeth, NJ. For more information please call (908) 353-1045 x 213 or visit sjeliz.org.

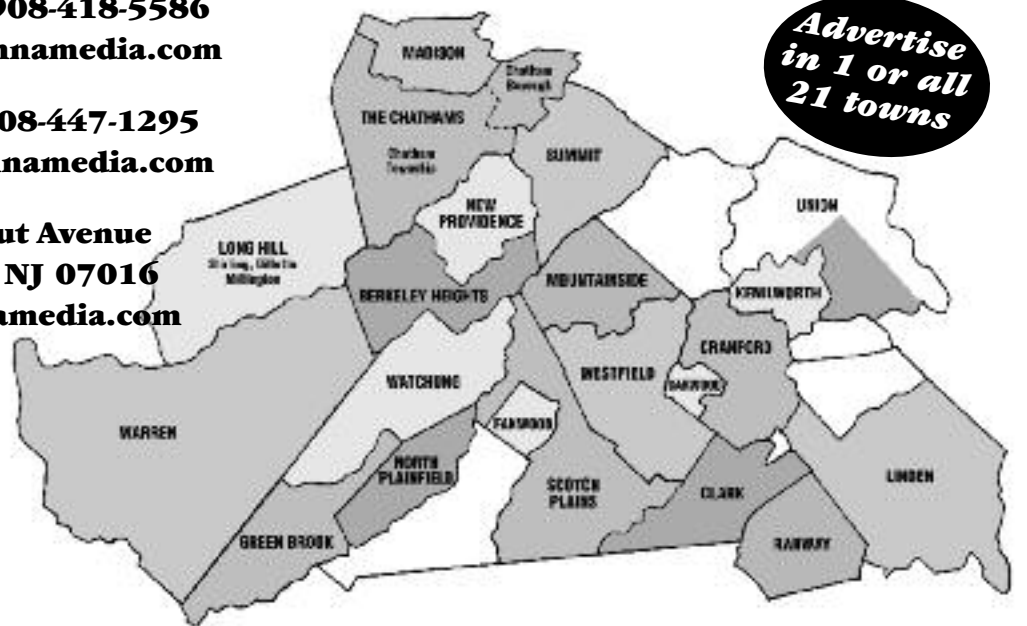
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ONE DISTRICT, THREE SCHOOLS - SO MUCH TALENT!

Submitted by Akua Boakye

The students and teachers at Kawameeh Middle School, Burnet Middle School, and Union High School united this spring to showcase the great artistry of students at the Second Annual United Poetry Slam.

Over forty students participated in total, including two student hosts from Union High School, thirty student poets, six “live artists” who created art on stage in front of the audience, and about ten student volunteers who helped to run the event.

The event was created to unite the three schools and provide an opportunity for student expression. Committee member and ELA teacher at KMS, Mrs. Jennifer McCartney, said “It is incredibly important for students to have an outlet to express themselves. Poetry is a way

for all students to express their dreams, speak out against injustice, or simply let the world know their thoughts. Often they feel like no one is listening; poetry gives them a voice, and this event lets their voices be heard.”

The students were thrilled to be a part of the event. They were moved by their peers’ engagement and applause, and emboldened by their chance to share their poems with the world. Also featured was a “gallery walk” of images and poetry created by students who did not perform. The art created by the live artists were later auctioned off in a silent auction.

All proceeds from the event and the silent auction of the live-created artwork benefited the Community FoodBank of NJ in Hillside, where every \$1 provides up to three meals.


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