Union's Hometown Newspaper

Issue 108 • December 2019



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ANTHONY STEITZ HONORED AT VETERAN'S DAY REMEMBRANCE

The Township of Berkeley Heights held a Veterans Day ceremony on Monday, November 11, 2019 at Veterans Memorial Park. Following the ceremony guests were invited to the VFW for a breakfast and an 'Eleventh Hour Service' to commemorate the armistice signing, which ended the Allies fighting in WWI on November 11, 1918.

The Union High School Jr ROTC once again participated as the color guard for the ceremony.

This year, the late Anthony Steitz was honored. Antony was killed in an auto accident last year. He was a student at Union High School and Jr ROTC caddete who regularly participated at Berkeley Heights veteran ceremonies.

The Steitz family were presented with a plaque which stated in part:

In memory of Cadet Captain (P) - Anthony P. Steitz January 2, 2002 - April 20, 2019

This future leader and outstanding JROTC cadet is a credit to his family, Union High School Corps of Cadets, and the United States of America.

He was greatly admired by his subordinates, peers,

and adult leadership for all he did and will be missed by all who came to know him for the superb individual he was.



(above, l-r) The family of Anthony Steitz: Glen Steitz, Gary Steitz, Emily Steitz, Maria Steitz, and Thomas Lombardi, Commander VFW Post 6259.











(above) Anthony Steitz



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

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Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Do you have an event that you need help publicizing? Then send Renna Media your news!

Call: 908-418-5586 Email: editor@rennamedia.com

UNION DELIVERS OVER 2,000 WATER BOTTLES TO COMMUNITY FOODBANK OF NEW JERSEY



Mayor Michele Delisfort standing next to two pallets of bottled water that was donated from the Township of Union to the Community Foodbank of New Jersey located in Hillside, NJ on Tuesday, October 2, 2019.



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UNION MUNICIPAL BAND HOLIDAY CONCERTS

The Union Municipal Band, under the direction of Howard Toplansky, will present two Municipal Band Concerts featuring the music of the holiday season at Ehrhart Gardens, 100 Francis Court, on December 9 and at Hannah Caldwell School Auditorium, 1120 Commerce Avenue on December 16. Both concerts will start at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and the public is cordially invited to attend.

selections: "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!", "I'll Be Home For Christmas", "Chanukah Celebration", Block M March, "A Christmas Festival", Danube Waves Waltzes, "Estrelita", Folk Dances by Shostakovich and Show Boat Highlights.

The band would like to invite musicians from Union and the surrounding communities to join

The concert will include the following the group. If you are interested please call the band director Howard Toplansky at 908-415-4939. For directions or questions, please call the Recreation Department at 908-686-4200.

> Sponsored by: The Township of Union Recreation Department; Robert Cowper, Superintendent of Recreation; Suzette Cavadas, Commissioner of Recreation; and Michelle Delisfort, Mayor.

BAND SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Township of Union Municipal Band is seeking new members to join the band. Director Howard Toplansky says "If you are a high school musician looking for extra practice or a retired professional who wants to get back into music, the municipal band is a perfect fit." The band is looking for new members who play any instrument, however there is an immediate need for low brass, woodwinds and percussion.

The band rehearses on Monday evenings at Hannah Caldwell School in Union, NJ and performs ten concerts throughout the year. Musicians who are interested in joining the band should contact the Township of Union Recreation Department at 908-686-4200.







(above) The Union Municipal Band invites you to a free holiday concert. They will perform at Ehrhart Gardens on December 9 and at Hannah Caldwell School Auditorium on December 16.



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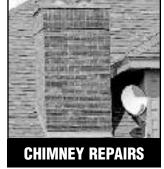






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EDWARD CHRYSTAL NAMED 2020 GRAND MARSHAL



(above) Brigadier General Edward Chrystal will be the Grand Marshal for the 2020 Union Memorial Day Parade.

Submitted by Natalie DaSilva

During the 6th Annual Dinner Dance Fundraiser held at the Knights of Columbus, the Township of Union Veterans' Alliance Memorial Day Parade Committee announced Brigadier General Edward Chrystal as the Grand Marshal for the 2020 Union Memorial Day Parade.

"This is a great honor and very humbling," stated Brig. Gen. Edward Chrystal, "Union will always hold a place in my heart."

Brig. Gen. Edward Chrystal, a former Connecticut Farms Student, is currently retired from the New Jersey State Police at the rank of Lieutenant after twenty-five years of service. Brigadier General Chrystal is presently serving as the Land Component Commander for the New Jersey Army National Guard and also serves as the Superintendent of Veterans Haven North, a transitional home for homeless veterans. Brig. Gen. Chrystal marched in the 2019 Memorial Day Parade, escorting Gold Star Mother Maria Cacoilo.

"The Parade Committee and I always try to choose a Grand Marshal that uplifts and showcases our veteran community here in Union and throughout the state," stated Parade Chairman Bob Johnsen. "We're proud to have a local homegrown Brigadier General march and represent our parade."

The 2020 Township of Union Veterans' Alliance Memorial Day Parade will step off Monday, May 25, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. on Stuyvesant Avenue. The parade will follow Stuyvesant Avenue, through the Union Center Downtown District, turn left on Wewanna Ave. The parade will conclude at the Veterans Honor Roll and Memorial Park with a closing ceremony.

For more information on the 2020 Township of Union Veterans' Alliance Memorial Day Parade, call the Public Information Office at 908-851-5096, or to sign your non-profit organization to march in the 2020 parade email kcaulfield@uniontownship.com.



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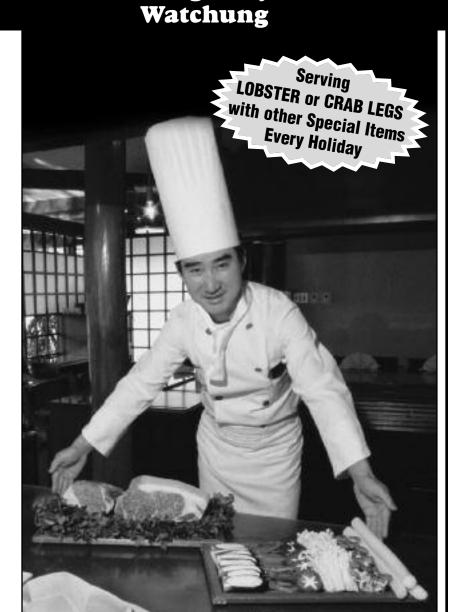
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The HD&O meets the Trenton Northern trolley at Bernardsville, New Jersey on The Model Railroad Club's HO scale layout.



A Hudson, Delaware & Ohio passenger train makes a station stop at Bellefonte on The Model Railroad Club's HO scale layout.

2019 "LIGHT AND SOUND" MODEL TRAIN SHOW

The Annual "Light and Sound" Show at Union County's Model Railroad Club runs on weekends from Friday November 29 to Sunday, December 15.

The show features dozens of 1950s-era model trains riding through New Jersey towns like Summit, Bernardsville, Kenilworth, Ringoes and more on the Club's huge 11,000 square-foot layout. Music, lights and stories help to bring this period of history to life for young and old alike. The 25-minute show runs repeatedly throughout the day and evening; the last show each day is 30 minutes before closing time.

Between shows, parents and kids can tour the trains and layout up-close, and get an insider's peek at the expansion that's currently under construction. See how track is being hand-laid, how mountains and scenery are created, and find out about the planning and engineering that goes into the club's bi-level corkscrew loop. In addition to the HO-scale trains featured in the show, there are G-scale and N-scale layouts on display, a small play area, snack bar and gift shop.

THREE WEEKENDS:

Nov 29-Dec 1, Dec 6-Dec 8, and Dec 13-15 Opening Day, Fri, Nov. 29 Special Extended Hours from 12 Noon-8pm Fridays (Dec 6 & 13), 7-10 pm Saturdays (Nov 30, Dec 6 & 14), 10am-8pm Sundays (Dec 1, 7 & 15),11am-6pm **Last Show of the Day Starts 30 Minutes Prior to Closing**

LOCATION

The Model Railroad Club, Inc. - Free Parking! Jefferson Avenue, off Route 22 East, Union Township, NJ (Behind The Home Depot) Building is Wheelchair-Accessible. More than 200 Model Train Cars on a 40x40-foot Layout Tell the Story of NJ Railroads in the 1950s NOV 29 - DEC 15 (Fri, Sat and Sun) Info & Tickets: www.tmrci.org/ annual-show.html | (908) 964-9724



(above) Visitors of all ages enjoy the HO scale layout at The Model Railroad Club, Inc. in Union, New Jersey.



(above) Venckus family at N-Scale, @BenMartin



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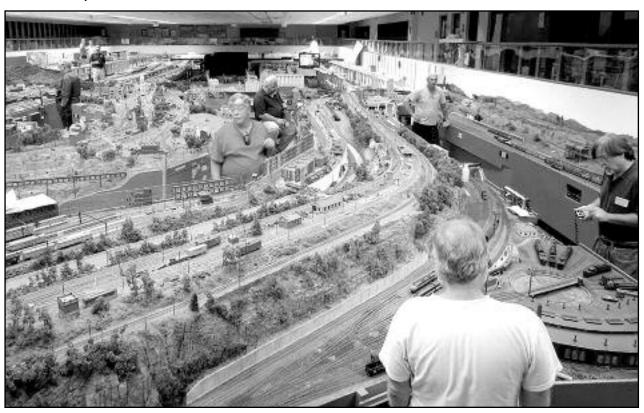
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The HO scale layout at The Model Railroad Club, Inc. in Union, New Jersey is one of the world's largest at approximately 11,000 square feet.

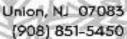
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Spirit of UNION • Page 9 • December 2019

LIBRARY BAG SALE

The Friends of the Union Public Library are having a library bag sale from November 25 through December 23, 2019 at the Union Public Library and Vauxhall Branch.

Buy a bag for \$10 and fill it or buy items individually! We have something for everyone with books, DVDs, CDs and more on sale for adults and children.

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BEGIN THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE AT CDC THEATRE

The fully staged version of the classic holiday movie It's A Wonderful Life, adapted by Philip Grecian, will bring George Bailey, his family, friends and the town of Bedford Falls to life on the CDC Theatre stage beginning December 6, 2019. Located at 78 Winans Ave., in Cranford, NJ the theatre is celebrating its 101st season.

The beloved Everyman, George Bailey, who had dreams of adventure and travel has given his entire life to his community, only to have it unravel through the machinations of the selfish banker Mr. Potter. In his despair, George questions whether it would have been better had he never been born. Clarence, a befuddled angel who hasn't earned his wings yet, arrives to show him exactly what this wish might really mean.

When asked what inspired him to return to direct at CDC Theatre, Maurice Moran responded "I have always loved the movie version of this story – and the play follows that script very well - because I think it is important that we stop and take stock of our lives now and then. How did we get from there to here? Who changed our lives by a word or work? And more importantly, whose lives have we touched along the way? And, keeping that in mind, how do we continue to affect people we meet? When my parents passed away, I was comforted by those who attended the funerals, illustrating how much these two people touched so many lives from so many walks of life. And I thought, wouldn't it have been nice for them to see that, too? George gets to see that and discovers that we all make a difference on this earth."

Boasting a large cast that ranges from 8 to 80, including a children's chorus of carolers singing holiday favorites, It's A Wonderful Life is a great way to usher in the holiday season! Running from December 6-15, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. with 2 p.m. matinees on December 8,14,15. Ticket and group sales information can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org.



(above, l-r) The Bailey family is getting ready for Christmas at CDC Theatre. Ben Bouffard as George Bailey, Rachel Zuckerman as Mary, Geovanna Ayala is Tammy, Olivia Kelly is Janie and Katia Bergstrom-Shaw is Zuzu.

3RD ANNUAL WINTER WONDERLAND AND HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING, DECEMBER 6 AND 7

Union will hold its 3rd Annual Winter Weekend beginning Friday, December 6, featuring ice skating in front of Town Hall on an artificial ice rink.

"We're excited to transform Town Hall into a winter wonderland again and bring back one of Union's most cherished events," said Mayor Michele Delisfort. "The smiles, the laughter, and the display of togetherness are what make the holidays in Union truly special."

Free ice skating will be available Friday, December 6, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, December 7, from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m.

On Friday, the festivities will also include live music, roaming characters, toy soldier stilt walkers and snack vendors.

The 36th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration will then take place on Saturday, December 7, beginning at 12:00 p.m. Throughout the day there will be an ice carving demonstration, toy soldier stilt walkers, live nativity, horse-drawn carriage rides, roaming characters, free hot chocolate and cookies, holiday games, and arts and crafts in the Center. The tree lighting ceremony, featuring holiday performances from local schools, will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m. The festivities will culminate with a visit from Santa, and the lighting of the Holiday Tree. The event is free of charge.

Photos with Santa will be available inside Town Hall immediately after the Tree Lighting.

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ROCK OUT FOR SANTA IN BLUE AT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE - DEC 7

The Salem Roadhouse Cafe will host a special 3 hour rock show to aid the Union Police Department's annual "Santa In Blue" toy drive on Saturday, December 7, 2019.

A rock festival to help the Union Police department collect toys for needy children, the show will feature fantastic performances by: Melinda J. Davis, Robert & Paulina Hill & Friends, Ray Powers & Friends, Mike Zuko & Friends featuring Erica Cohen, Jake Thistle, Carla Ulbrich(professional smart aleck/singer, songwriter), Slam Poetry by St. Pat, plus much more.

Andrew Washington will be on display at the Roadhouse Gallery Of Fine Arts for all to enjoy.

Fans won't want to miss this live, big, up front and personal show.

so bring the entire family!

Admission for this special show is a new, unwrapped toy with a value of \$20.00 per person.

(\$20 cash admission in lieu of a toy at the door will also be accepted and will go towards the

Admission includes hot and cold snacks, beverages, three blends of coffee, teas and luscious desserts.

Plan now for an evening of great music in Jersey's Most Intimate Northern New CoffeehouseTM.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

Dedication best defines the Salem Roadhouse Fun and colorful Artwork by local artist Café: dedication to excellent music and dedication to the community. In its tenth year, The Salem Roadhouse Café reaffirms its commitment to both.

Started in 2008 by members of Townley All ages are welcome. It's a wholesome show, Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth, the Roadhouse Café Doors open 7:00 p.m. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. continues to operate as a non-profit that raises

funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That may be its social mission, but the Roadhouse Café is and has been a solid performance venue beloved by the musicians who play there because of its special intimacy with the audience.

CHURCH MUSIC, IT'S NOT

The Roadhouse Café has always offered its stage to local and independent main stream musicians. It's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music, in a world of clubs and bars. Jazz, rock, folk and other groups have performed. During the past ten years well over 100 different entertainers have appeared. Local fine artists also display their works.

COMMUNITY ORIENTATION

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, Groundwork Elizabeth, Family Promise Union County and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

The musicians who play the Roadhouse often ask to return as soon as possible. The Roadhouse has given them a place with a beautiful stage, good acoustics, a live, attentive audience, and a sound system that is first class.

Now in its eleventh year of operation, the Salem Roadhouse Café features many incredibly talented performers and often brings new talent to the Café stage.

Union 34TV records the shows for broadcast — so check out past shows on cable TV34. See the Roadhouse on Union TV Channel 34's "Union After Dark" nightly music series.





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CALENDER EVENT: \$20

Block of 20 events \$200 (\$10 per event)

Events get posted on RennaMedia.com calender and included in weekly newsletter shared on our Facebook network

ONLINE PRESS RELEASE: \$130

Block of 20 ads \$1,200 (\$60 per PR)

Ad gets its own indexed web pages on NJLocalInfo.com and RennaMedia.com Searchable through search engines and shared on our Facebook network.

DISPLAY ADS (12 months)

Banner Ad (500 x 100 pixels) \$240 on RennaMedia.com

Column Ad (300 x 200 pixels) \$960

Column ad appears on all pages of on RennaMedia.com and NJLocalInfo.com

WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

- · Website Audit/Analysis and recommendation plan: \$250
- Website creation/update: \$2,400 (Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design)
- Website Hosting: \$300 per year
 - Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
- SEO Services average cost \$1,000 \$2,000 per month
- Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing
- Blast your online ad or press release to a targeted market \$100
- National Press Release Distribution to 300 to 500 news outlets. Budget choice from \$300 to \$500.

CONTACT JOE FOR DETAILS 908-447-1295

joerenna@rennamedia.com Visit RennaMedia.com or NJLocalInfo.com

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE et TOWNLEY PRESENTERIAN CHIRCH ROCK OUT *for* HOLIDAY IOY DRIVE A rock festival to help the Union Police Department collect toys for needy children. WITH PERFORMANCES BY ROBERT HILL BAND: MELINDA DAVIS: JAKE THISTLE RAY POWERS/MIKE ZUKO & FRIENDS not ERICA COHEN: CARLA ULBRICH (Singer/songwriter/comedienne) slam poetry by SAINT PAT and more...... SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM ADMISSION per person: A new, unwrapped toy with a value of \$20.00 (or \$20 cash at the door) Admission includes hat & cald stacks, beverages, tea, caffee & desserts

Original art by Local Artist ANDREW WASHINGTON will be on display at the ROADHOUSE GALLERY OF FINE ARTS The show will be recorded by UNEON TV34 for their "UNEON APTER DARK" nightly invoic series

Pleaty of free parking in our two late and on the atree.

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAPÉ 829 SALEM ROAD UNION NJ 07083 PHONE: 908-686-1028 (leave message) E-MAIL: salemroadhouse@gmail.com WEBSETE: www.roadhousecafe.org FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/salenroadhouse

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- NEW ROOF
- ROOF REPAIRS
- SHINGLES
- FLAT ROOF

CHIMNEY



- CLEANING
- RE-LINE
- REPAIRS
- REBUILD
- CAPPING

GUTTERS

- CLEANING
- INSTALLATION
- SCREENING
- REPAIRS
- REPLACEMENTS



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Chimney Lining System? Protect your house from heat transfer

- combustibles Protect the masonry from the corrosive by products of combustion
- Provide a correctly sized flue for optimum efficiency of appliance



Safety



Preservation



Cleaning

EE ESTIMATES

SPECIAL 4 SEASON CLEANING SALE For just one single payment of just \$395 Get all the following services in Nov, April, and June!

- Inspect the roof for missing shingles
- Clean the Gutters - Clean the Roof
- Inspect the chimney
- Clean Roof Valleys and Flashing areas
- Clean the leaders and downspout elbows

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Save \$900 ON ROOF REPLACEMENT

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GUTTERS CLEANING (Any Average House) With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

Expires 1/6/20.

ANY ROOF REPAIR

of \$500 or more With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 1/6/20

ANY CHIMNEY REPAIR

of \$800 or more With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 1/6/20.