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NINE PEOPLE INDUCTED INTO WALKWAY OF HONOR

The Township of Union Education Foundation held a ceremony on Friday, October 1, 2021, to honor new bricks installed in the 'Walkway of Honor'.

The Walkway is located adjacent to the main entrance of Union High School.

The nine people who were honored, were so special to the people who knew them or worked with them, that they chose to honor them by purchasing bricks.

Susan D'addario, Angela Dionisio and Maria Varga were para-professionals who worked in the district.

Jean Vincent was a school bus driver whose brick was purchased by his colleagues in the Transportation Department.

Marilyn Seneca and Janice Hibbard both worked in administration in the front office of the district and their bricks were purchased by a colleague.

Charles Lubetkin was an English teacher.

Anthony Manochio was a 3-term member of the Board of Education. And also served as President of the Board. He died suddenly in July



(above) The family of Anthony Manochio Sr.

2021, and leaves behind a long legacy of education.

Loretta Lee-Matthews was a volunteer who served on the Board of Trustees of the Township of Education Foundation for 18 years prior to her passing. Her brick was purchased by the other trustees of the Foundation.

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(above) The family of Marilyn Seneca, daughter Donna Carlin and grandsons Anthony John & Michael John.



(above) Dr. Scott Taylor, Superintendent of Schools, and Susan Lipstein, Education Foundation President.



(above, l-r) Angela Dionisio and Maria Varga, served Union Township as a para-professional.



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

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Spirit of Union

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joerenna@rennamedia.com

On Sunday, November 7, at 2 p.m. the Union Township Historical Society will host John Kieser at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, 888 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union. Mr. Kieser will present "The Revolutionary War Battles Almost in Your Backyard" in the church sanctuary. The program will be followed by refreshments in the adjacent Westminster Hall. Admission is free.

Mr. Kieser is a local history expert on the Battles of Connecticut Farms (Union), Springfield, and Elizabeth, in June 1780. His other credentials include: Historian, Sons of the American Revolution, Jockey Hollow Chapter; member, SAR, West Fields Chapter; Trustee, Summit Historical Society; member, Union and Springfield Historical Societies. Mr. Kieser is a retired Professional Engineer and real estate developer.

For more information, call (908) 591-4377.



(above) John Kieser will be the guest speaker on, November 7, at 2 p.m.

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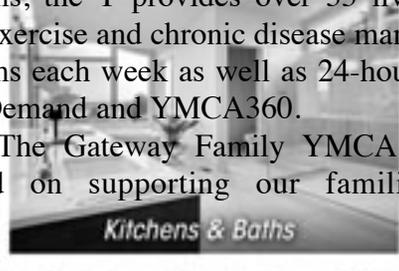
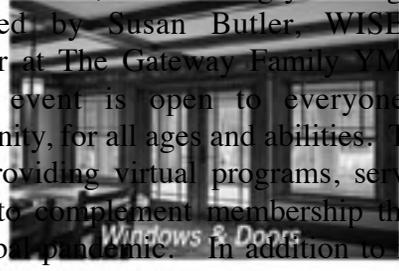
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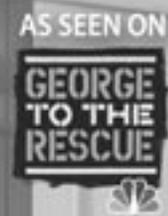
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The Gateway Family YMCA is inviting the community to join in on a virtual Family Fun event, Virtual Family Feud on Saturday, November 20 at 11:00am. To register to participate free, visit www.tgfymca.org/events

Hosted by Susan Butler, WISE Center Director at The Gateway Family YMCA, this family event is open to everyone in the community, for all ages and abilities. The Y has been providing virtual programs, services and events to complement membership throughout the global pandemic. In addition to in-person programs, the Y provides over 35 live virtual group exercise and chronic disease management programs each week as well as 24-hour Virtual Y On Demand and YMCA360.

“At The Gateway Family YMCA, we are focused on supporting our families with



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HELP US SAVE A VET!!

Michael D. Boll, Director
New Jersey Veterans Network

For the last few years the New Jersey Veterans Network and its mobile outreach team has been aggressively seeking out veterans in need and providing them resources to have a better way of life. This is only possible because of our volunteers' commitment and dedication with helping our veteran community. Donations are wonderful and help us purchase food, clothing, medical equipment and other life changing items, however someone's time is what makes an enormous difference.

During our charity's existence, we have provided meals for thousands of veterans and servicemen, dropped off PPE and clothing to veterans, provided medical equipment for disabled veterans, had 30 cars donated to disabled veterans, and most importantly we successfully saved the lives of veterans who were in some type of a dangerous crisis.

Every day we lose approximately 22 veterans to suicide and unfortunately this number hasn't changed over the years. Depression, PTSD and trauma run extremely high among our veterans and their family members. There are countless lifesaving programs out there for veterans, however it's a difficult task to get veterans to trust others and go get the help they need to live a better life.

The New Jersey Veterans Network also has a program called Operation Rebound that consists of a mobile outreach team that helps to train veterans for events like races, hiking, and other athletic activities. The goal of Operation Rebound is to do athletic events from 5k races to long distance Iron Man competitions in order to empower the veterans and show the public how people can do amazing things with the proper support. It is truly incredible to see the veterans go from no physical activity to completing these tremendous athletic challenges.

Recently, we formed a veteran anti-suicide and PTSD awareness coalition, called Uniformed Heroes, that will provide peer support sponsors for any veteran in need.

To make this upcoming Uniformed Heroes campaign successful, we are in desperate need of volunteers from both the veteran and civilian communities. There are numerous events and daily tasks that our charity could use assistance with and we are always looking to have more volunteers willing to help us reach veterans in need.

Our goal is to provide all veterans in need with a peer support sponsor that will do whatever they can to help veterans with obtaining the resources needed to live a better life. This is not an easy thing to do, but the New Jersey Veterans Network has already been able to make a huge difference because of the team's volunteers and its strong partnerships with other charities.

If you are interested in joining the team, please send us an email at NJVN1775@gmail.com and provide your name, email, and phone number. Also, if you have any questions, and concerns please feel free to contact us at 973-332-1556.



(above) Knights of Columbus Tank Pull Photos by New Jersey Veterans Network

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SCOUT EXECUTIVE SPEAKS TO ROTARY CLUB

Submitted by Dr. D. Michael Hart

Marc Andreo, the Scout Executive and CEO of the Patriot's Path Council, Boy Scouts of America spoke to the Rotary Club of Westfield on Tuesday, September 21, 2021. His topic was to update the club on the state of the local Scouting. The pandemic has decreased the scouting program somewhat, but it is still going strong, and they are planning to rebuild it to where it was before the shutdown.

Paul Harris, the man who started Rotary International in 1905, was great friends with James E. West who started the Boy Scouts of America in 1910. Paul gave advice on how to spread the program throughout the US, mirroring the way Rotary clubs were spreading. Both organizations have a lot of similarities, including an ethical code, teaching leadership skills, being community based and service oriented. Rotary clubs currently charter 1,000 scout units across

the US.

The Patriot's Path Council, BSA consists of 5 counties in northern New Jersey with more than 10,000 scouts and 4,000 adult volunteers. They are in the counties of Sussex, Morris, Somerset, Union and northern Middlesex. The headquarters in Cedar Knolls has only 25 full-time staff. There are two scout shops one in Cedar Knolls, and one in Mountainside.

The Council offers three Day Camps: at Watchung Reservation; Johnson Park, New Brunswick; and Camp Wheeler at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation. The Council offers four overnight camping opportunities: Winnebago Scout Reservation in Rockaway, NJ; Mt. Allamuchy in Byram Township; Sabattis Adventure Camp in Long Lake NY, and the four national high adventure bases: The Summit in West Virginia; Northern Tier in Minnesota, Sea Base in the Florida Keys, and Philmont Scout

Ranch in New Mexico.

Recent changes to the Scouts include welcoming girls to the Cub Scout and the legacy Boy Scout programs three years ago. The purpose was to include entire families in the activities. To accommodate this change, the "Boy Scout" program for ages 5th grade through age 18 was renamed the "Scouts BSA". The name of the parent organization remains the Boy Scouts of America. The Cub Scout program is for children from K through 5th grade; Scouts BSA is for children 5th grade through age 18. Other programs have been coed for many decades, including Explorers - who explore career opportunities, Venture Crews - who go on high adventure trips, Sea Scouts who learn mariner skills, and a relatively new program - STEM- in which students explore science related careers. These last four programs welcome boys and girls from ages 14 to 21.

Cub Scout Dens may be all boy and all girl, or coed. Scouts BSA Troops are either all girl or all boy. This year there are 250,000 young women in the scouts, and 1,000 girls were the first graduating class of female Eagle Scouts. Only 4% of all scouts ever achieve the rank of Eagle, making it a mark of distinction.

The residents of Westfield are enthusiastic supporters of Scouting. There are 12 units: 7 Cub Scout Packs and 5 Scout Troops, with nearly 500 youth, which is double the national average. Last year the Patriots' Path Council recognized 315 Eagle Scouts and Scouts collectively earned more than 6,200 merit badges. The Rotary Club of Westfield has been a long time supporter of the Scouts. Several members are Eagle Scouts, and many of the children of Rotarians are in the Scouting program, and a number have earned the rank of Eagle. The club likes to support Eagle Service projects financially.

Scout Executive Marc Andreo asked the Rotarians to help spread the word about local Scouting. With units and camps open again, they are seeking more youth to join the local programs. Please visit beascout.org to locate a unit near you!



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SEA SCOUT FROM SUMMIT EARNS COUNCIL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Sebastián Heredia has been awarded the 2021 Patriots' Path Sea Scout Leadership Award. Sebastián is a Sea Scout from Ship 228 in Linden and he is an Eagle Scout from Troop 67 of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church in Summit.

Sebastián discovered Sea Scouting in 2017 and has been dual enrolled in Ship 228 and Troop 67 ever since. In 2019, Sebastián was nominated Sea Scout of the Year and he was the only Sea Scout from Patriots' Path Council to attend the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia as a member of the National Sea Scout Ship. At the World Scout Jamboree, 40,00 Scouts and leaders participated from all over the world.

Sebastián earned his Eagle rank in 2019 and later earned the Silver Palm award. He is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. Sebastián graduated from Summit High School in 2020 and went on to become an EMT. He is a member of the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad.

Currently, Sebastián serves as the Patriots'

Path Council Boatswain. In 2021, he carried out a successful regional, virtual training program and was selected for this Area Leadership Award. He was also selected to attend SEAL this summer: the Sea Scout Advanced Leadership Training in San Francisco, California. SEAL Training is the highest leadership training for Sea Scouts. He is working to earn the rank of Quartermaster which is Sea Scouting's highest honor.

Sebastián is accepted to SUNY Maritime College and will enter the Regiment of Cadets in August. His goal is to obtain a United States

Coast Guard deck license and a degree in Maritime Transportation. His future plans hope to include military service. He is grateful for all of the opportunities that have been granted to him through Scouting.

Sea Scouting is open to both male and female youth ages 14-21 who have graduated the 8th grade. There is a Maritime Explorer Club for younger youth in 6th to 8th grade. Adult volunteers with maritime experience or captain's licenses are needed too. If you are interested in learning more about Sea Scouting and Ship 228 in Linden please visit ship228.com.

GARDEN CLUB MEETING - NOV. 3

The Township of Union Garden Club will meet Wednesday, November 3, at 7 p.m. in the Bonnel Room, Town Hall, 1976 Morris Avenue. Our guest speaker is Vera Figueiredo, who will speak

on "Winterizing Your Garden". Visitors are welcome. Any questions, please call President Veronica Doll 908-447-1991 or visit uniongardenclub.org.



(above) Sebastián Heredia has been awarded the 2021 Patriots' Path Sea Scout Leadership Award.

BAND SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Township of Union Municipal Band is back and is seeking new members to join the band! "Musicians of all ages are welcome," says director Howard Toplansky. "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. Out of towners are welcome.

The Township of Union Municipal Band rehearses on Monday evenings at Hannah Caldwell School. The band performs ten concerts throughout the year, including special concerts at Ehrhart Gardens and Putnam Manor.

Mr. Toplansky believes the municipal band contributes to the culture of the township, sharing that "the municipal band is one of Union's oldest traditions and is a great way to introduce members of the community to time-honored musical styles and compositions."

Musicians who are interested in joining the band should contact the Township of Union Recreation Department at 908-686-4200.



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YMCA FREE VIRTUAL FAMILY EVENT

The Gateway Family YMCA is inviting the community to join in on a virtual Family Fun event, Virtual Family Feud on Saturday, November 20 at 11:00am. To register to participate free, visit www.tgfymca.org/events

Hosted by Susan Butler, WISE Center Director at The Gateway Family YMCA, this family event is open to everyone in the community, for all ages and abilities. The Y has been providing virtual programs, services and events to complement membership throughout the global pandemic. In addition to in-person programs, the Y provides over 35 live virtual group exercise and chronic disease management programs each week as well as 24-hour Virtual Y On Demand and YMCA360.

“At The Gateway Family YMCA, we are focused on supporting our families with opportunities to belong from home,” stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. “We are happy to extend some virtual family events to include the greater community, so that everyone may participate.”

Sponsored by The Gateway Family YMCA, Shaping Eastern Union County and Shaping Elizabeth, virtual family events are intended to provide safe, family fun while continuing to

promote social distancing.

“The past year has been tough on families in our community. We understand the need for families to have a place to go together that is safe, which is what we provide every day at the Y through our programs and services. We also understand that busy families may be looking for opportunities to participate together without leaving their home,” stated Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO. “Our dedicated staff are here to provide additional support for all.”

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening the foundations of community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility. The Y impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faiths or incomes. The Y is a powerful association of men, women and children of all ages and from all walks of life joined together by a shared passion: to strengthen the foundations of community.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA branches, programs or events please visit www.tgfymca.org.

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A special thank you to our friends at Comcast for all the fantastic Back to School Supplies! Comcast employees throughout New Jersey took part in the school supply drive for their local Boys & Girls Club. Our members are excited to be back in the classroom and are ready for a great year of learning! A special thanks as well to YouGiveGoods.com for making the supply drive happen.

Comcast is a national partner of Boys & Girls Clubs of America for Digital Literacy and supports our program during the year. Through their support, members have hands-on learning on touch screen computers, coding, understanding technology, digital cameras, and digital printers. Comcast has designed a digital curriculum for youth ages 6-18 called "My.Future", which prepares youth for success in a digital world.

"We cherish our partnership with Comcast and the local employees," said Russell Triolo, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County. "They have provided our members with so many wonderful career development experiences, including a behind the scenes look at television production".

After-school programs are now open for our Union, Elizabeth, and Plainfield Clubs. Contact us at 908-687-2697 for information and registration. Teen Leadership Club programs are available at our Clubs in Plainfield, Elizabeth, and Union. Teen members participate in character, leadership, career preparation, and community service activities throughout the year.

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 an 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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Thursday 11/4 @ 11:30AM

Join Bindu Bhatt for a virtual meditation session. No experience necessary.

Beginners Flow Yoga (Zoom)

Thursdays 11/4 @ 6:00 pm

This class will lead you through the foundations of yoga postures, body awareness and alignment, relaxation of the mind and a connection with the breath. You will learn how to improve muscle strength, promote flexibility, and build your own yoga program specific for your mind and body.

AARP Today (Zoom)

Tuesday, 11/9 @ 12:30 pm

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An Evening of Poetry and Open Mic Readings (Zoom and in-person at Kean University)

Tuesday, 11/9 @ 6:30 pm

Join Kean University Poets and read your own work (limited to one poem) in a very special hybrid event. Please register to read by writing to dwalter@uplnj.org. Please register for the program and get the link at:

<https://uplnj.org/events/> and check this website as the date nears. Note: Kean requires vaccination for all in person events.

Broadway Goes to War (Zoom)

Wednesday, 11/10 @ 7:00 pm

Unlike much of WWII entertainment, Broadway theater addressed controversial topics like isolationism, racism, genocide, and battle fatigue, and, the war's impact on daily life. Join Robert L. McLaughlin and Sally Parry, authors of Broadway Goes to War, for a picture of the war's impact on daily life.

Memoir Writing (Zoom)

Wednesday, 11/17 @ 7:00 pm

Ever want to write stories from your life for yourself or others to read? Lisa Sisler from Kean University leads this directed workshop to get you started.

Meditation (Zoom)

Thursday 11/18 @ 11:30AM

Join Bindu Bhatt for a virtual meditation session. No experience necessary

Beginners Flow Yoga (Zoom)

Thurs., 11/18 at 6:00 pm

Improve muscle strength and promote flexibility. Build your yoga program through postures, body awareness, relaxation, and connecting with your breath.

Off the Shelf Book Club (Zoom)

Thursday, 11/18 @ 7:00 PM

This month the group reads Nowhere Girl by Cheryl Diamond. New members are always welcome.

Hilton Readers Book Discussion Group (Zoom)

Monday, 11/22 at 6:00PM

Members discuss their favorite books and authors and new members are always welcome. November's title is The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett.

Where Soul Music Began (Zoom)

Tuesday, 11/23 @ 7:00 pm

Stax Records was influential in creating Southern and Memphis soul music, using integrated bands, staff, and artists, which was unprecedented at the time. Artists included Booker T., Otis Reading, Isaac Hayes, Richard Prior, N'dambi, the Staple Sisters and more.

Enjoy a "visit" to the Stax Museum to experience it first-hand.

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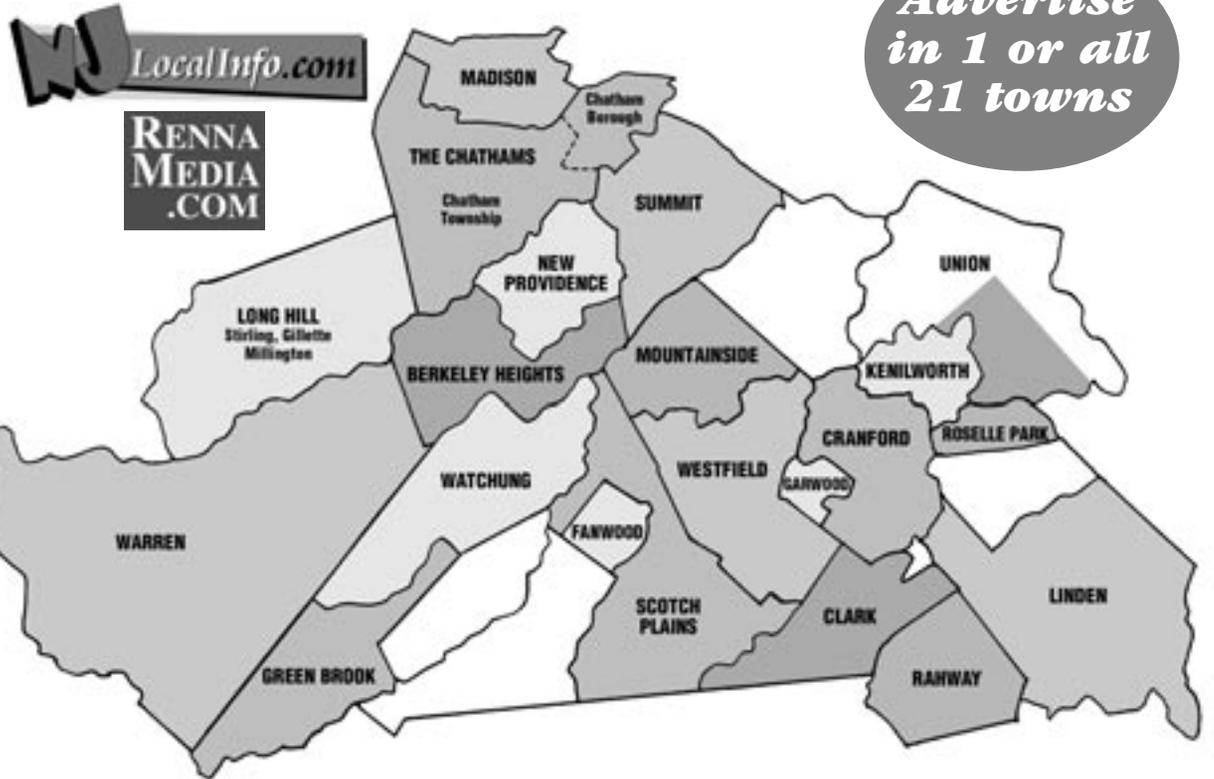
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EXCITING CHANGES AT THE LIBRARY

The Township of Union will break ground on a new Public Library building in November. The Township along with the Library Board of Trustees recognize the need for a 21st century library that allows our community to connect, explore and discover.

During this period of transition, operations and layouts will be altered. However, library staff will continue to provide the services and resources that patrons have come to expect.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- On or about October 20, the Main Library on Morris Avenue will close for approximately 3 weeks, while staff relocates material, systems, and furniture. During that time, the Vauxhall Branch will remain open to serve our community.
- Once the initial move is complete, the Main Library will reopen to the public, at 1060 Stuyvesant Avenue.

THIS INTERIM LOCATION WILL INCLUDE:

- Children's and Young Adult collections
- New books and DVDs
- Public computers and free Wi-Fi

Printing, scanning and copying
Newspapers and magazines
Reference and Children's Librarians
Holds, pickups and returns

- All other books and material will be kept off site, but accessible to patrons by placing a hold. To best meet the needs of the community, library officials expect to be able to move material back and forth between locations on a daily basis.
- Construction is expected to last for approximately two years. The new facility will include spacious seating and reading areas, bright displays, quiet study and meeting rooms, bathrooms on every floor, a community performance center, and so much more.

Officials ask residents for patience during this transitional time, and encourage everyone to visit the Library's website uplnj.org for the most up-to-date information and a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

For more information please email unionpl@uplnj.org or call 908-851-5450.

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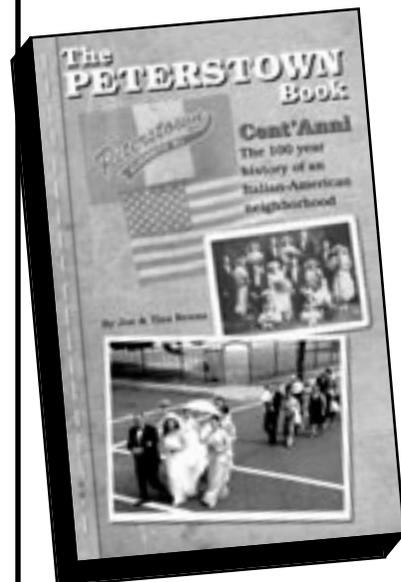
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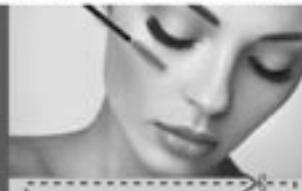
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