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ELMORA YOUTH LEAGUE OPENS 2022 SEASON

After being sidelined for two years by Covid-19 restrictions, the Elmora Youth League held an Opening Day Parade, on April 2nd, to start the 2022 season. Family and friends cheered on the little league players as they marched from Elmora School 12 on Magie Avenue to the fields at Thomas J Hanratty Complex on Westfield Avenue in Elizabeth, NJ. A ceremony followed with speeches by local dignitaries that culminated with Elizabeth Mayor Christian J. Bollwage throwing out the first pitch.

First responders were present in support of the youngsters as well as a contingent of NJ State Troopers. The Troopers have been at the foundation of the league since Trooper Thomas J Hanratty died in the line of duty in 1992. Thomas grew up playing on the fields back in 1976. In 1998 the complex was dedicated in his honor. Each year NJ State Police participate in the opening day ceremonies by marching in the parade and engaging with the players.

Elmora Youth League has ten divisions for a variety of ages and skill sets. In Softball there are Teeners, Ponytails, and Middle School. Baseball has Teeball, Pioneer, Rookie, Minors, Majors and Jr. Sr. Baseball. There are approximately 525 players registered for the 2022 season.

Elmora Youth Little League is a nonprofit organization and is run by all volunteer staff, from the president to board members and field crew. New volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

There is also opportunity for businesses to contribute as a sponsor or reserving advertising space on the home run fences.

Anyone interested in volunteering or sponsoring can contact the league via email at info@ElmoraYouth.com. More information can be found on the league's website elmorayouth.com. The league is also active on social media sites using @elmorayouth on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



(above, l-r) Sparkee the Somerset Patriot Mascot, Elizabeth Board of Education Commissioner Stan Neron, Elizabeth Councilman Nelson Gonzalez, Mayor Christian J. Bollwage, and Elizabeth Councilman Kevin Kinery.

(See more photos on pages 8 & 9)

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on Elmora Hills page on facebook.com. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



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CUB SCOUTS VISIT THE GREAT SWAMP

Submitted by Dan Bernier

Cub Scout Pack 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church in Elizabeth, visited the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Morris County on Saturday, April 9. The Cub Scouts started their trip by walking a boardwalk trail to a bird blind at the Wildlife Observation Center. In spite of some rain, the Cubs used binoculars to look for birds at the blind, and learned to identify several trees, bushes and other plants along their walk. They learned how they can make birch beer from black birch trees and how they can eat the leaves of skunk cabbage (if they can get past the smell).

Pack 23's next stop in the Great Swamp was the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center, where the Cubs saw exhibits about wildlife and habitat and visited the gift shop. The neatest moment of the day came outside of the Visitor Center,

where the Cubs saw a fox bring food to its four kits.

A Great Blue Heron flew overhead while the Scouts ate their lunch at a pavilion behind the Visitor Center. Then Pack 23 drove to its final stop of the day – the Raptor Trust. Located on the southern border of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the Raptor Trust is a private, volunteer-staffed hospital and rehabilitation center for injured and orphaned birds. The Cub Scouts strolled the grounds, where many hawks, owls, and even bald eagles are housed in enclosed pens.

Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 have served the youth of St. Genevieve's parish and the surrounding area for almost 60 years. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.

Courtesy photo



(above) The Cub Scouts of Pack 23 visited the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge on April 9. Pictured with a black bear in the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center are (left to right) Nicolas Akay Fulan, Sebastian Velastegui, Anthony Maiorana, Christian Skamangas, Athan Skamangas and Gabriel Chaban.



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SEA SCOUTS OPEN HOUSE – MAY 21

Sea Scouts from Ship 228 operate the 65' vessel Sea Dart II, one of the largest Sea Scout vessels on the east coast, along with a fleet of smaller vessels (including sailboats) from their base located in Linden, NJ. Sea Scouting (Part of the Venturing Program of the BSA – Boy Scouts of America) offers young adults the opportunity to travel and learn skills that could be useful in future careers.

Whether you're steering the vessel from the wheelhouse, learning engine room repair or visiting a new port on one of the many trips, there's something you'll enjoy in Sea Scouting. So, try something different, check us out, and prepare yourself to set sail for a real adventure.

Parents, give your son or daughter a valuable gift by encouraging them to join Sea Scouting today. The time you invest in him today will make a difference in the person he becomes tomorrow.

Sea Scouting is for boys and girls who are at least 14 years old (or 13 years of age and have completed eighth grade) and under 21 years of age. We have a Maritime Explorer Club for middle school aged youth as well. Potential adult volunteers are welcome too!

The crews of Patriots Path Sea Scouts will host their open house at the Carteret Marina, located in the Carteret Waterfront park, 200 Middlesex Avenue, Carteret, NJ, on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sea Scout Ship's 228 and 243 normally operate out of their base at 4400 Tremley Point Road in Linden, NJ, which is currently undergoing a construction project. As a result, the town of Carteret has graciously offered the use of their municipal marina to host our open house this year.

The open house will include tours of the council's main vessels (the 65-foot Sea Dart II and Sea Horse), an introduction to the Sea Scout program, and fun activities that are bound to pique a young adult's interest in boating and scouting. There will be free hamburgers and hot-dogs for those who tour the vessels. No reservation required. Come down to visit and bring a friend or family member!

For more information visit ship228.com.





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(above) The crews of Patriots Path Sea Scouts will host their open house at the Carteret Marina, located in the Carteret Waterfront park, 200 Middlesex Avenue, Carteret, NJ, on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The open house will include tours of the council's main vessels (the 65-foot Sea Dart II and Sea Horse), an introduction to the Sea Scout program, and fun activities that are bound to pique a young adult's interest in boating and scouting.

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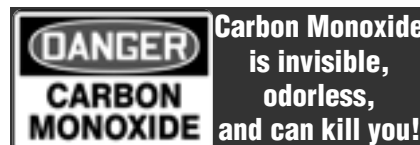
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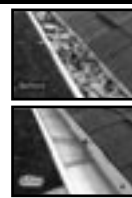
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That is where ITO needs you—the local business owner. ITO asks employers to allow an individual with disabilities, along with an ITO staffer, to visit your business and try out a task. This helps the staff at ITO assess the individual's interests and aptitude as well as give the person

experience, however brief, in a work environment.

ITO assures employers that no significant time is taken from your employees or customers and, therefore, there won't be any disruption to your workflow. The ITO individual and staffer will be at your workplace for just a short period of time.

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partnering with ITO is rewarding in and of itself. In addition to intangible rewards, ITO will recognize you and your business on its social media platforms, give you a \$100 gift card to RAILSIDE Café in Fanwood, present you with a certificate of appreciation to display in your workplace, and post signage naming you as a partner at all Inroads Events.

For more information, email ocuc@inroadsto.com, visit inroadsto.org, or call 908-241-7200.

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SUMMER DAY CAMP OPEN HOUSE AND PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

The Gateway Family YMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA is gearing up for an exciting summer, and is inviting parents in the community to learn more about Summer Day Camp at The Gateway Family YMCA. In person Summer Day Camp Open House and Parent Information Sessions are available on April 30th at 12 p.m. and May 23rd at 6 p.m. at YMCA branches in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union. Information and optional registration is available at tgfymca.org/events.

Camp locations include The Gateway Family YMCA – Elizabeth Branch, 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, Five Points Branch 201 Tucker Avenue, Union, and Rahway Branch 1564 Irving Street, Rahway. Summer Day Camp at The Gateway Family YMCA is available June 27 through August 28 in one-week sessions for Pre-K Age 3 through Grade 6. Registration is

first come, first serve due to limited capacity for 2022.

At Y Summer Day Camp, kids can develop skills and self-confidence, make new friendships and gain a sense of belonging – all while having tons of fun. From games and sports to arts and crafts to outdoor adventures to science and technology, a Y Summer Day Camp experience offers kids the chance to learn new things and enjoy new adventures.

“In order to have fun and thrive, kids need to feel both physically and emotionally safe. When you drop your child off at The Gateway Family YMCA Summer Day Camp, you can rest assured that their total well-being will be nurtured and supported by our caring Y staff team members, who are committed to ensuring that their experience is a great one,” stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA.

Summer at the Y allows kids the space to grow stronger and more confident in a safe, nurturing environment. The Summer Day Camp experience teaches essential leadership and social skills and helps kids build character and develop confidence and independence.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a leading 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other. With a focus on empowering young people, improving health and well-being, and inspiring action in and across the local community, the Y brings together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, to ensure that all have access to the opportunities, relationships and resources necessary to learn, grow and thrive. The Y doesn't just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families and communities.



(above) For more information on Summer Day Camp at The Gateway Family YMCA, visit tgfymca.org/day-camp or contact The Gateway Family YMCA Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622 or Rahway Branch 732-388-0057.



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ELMORA YOUTH LEAGUE 2022 OPENING DAY



(above, l-r) After throwing the ceremonial first pitch, Mayor Christian J. Bollwage shakes hands with the catcher of the pitch, NJ State Trooper Reinaldo Cruz Jr., a resident of Elizabeth as well as a volunteer coach with two sons presently on the rosters.



ELMORA YOUTH LEAGUE 2022 OPENING DAY



SHINING STARS TO PRESENT “GREATEST HITS” - MAY 14TH

The Shining Stars are back! Celebrating 10 years on the stage, the talented special needs cast will be presenting “The Greatest Hits” — covering many of the memorable performances over the past decade.

The outdoor show will take place on the campus of Woodbridge High School, located at 1 Samuel Lupo Way, Woodbridge, on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 5 p.m. There will be food trucks, a tricky tray and a 50/50 raffle.

“It’s hard to believe it’s been ten years, but it’s been an incredible journey,” noted Shining Stars Network Founder and Show Director Sally Curci. “We continue to be inspired by our performers every day. Their passion, dedication and talent is what makes our shows come to life.”

The Shining Stars have performed in front of audiences of 1,000 or more, with cast members from seven different counties performing over the years. The Cranford-based organization still has many Cranford residents, but is open to anyone who wants to experience the performing arts.

“We’re all about inclusion and opportunity while building self-esteem and creating friendships,” said Shining Stars Network Founder and President Mike Curci. “There have been so many incredible performances over the years and we can’t wait to see our stars shine on stage once again.”

Tickets are available by going to ShiningStarsNetwork.org and clicking on the “purchase tickets” page. General admission tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the show. Please bring a folding chair or blanket. Seating boxes are first-come, first-served. Gates open at 4 p.m. Plenty of on-site parking is available. Rain date is May 21st. Any cancellation will be noted at ShiningStarsNetwork.org.

SHINING STARS NETWORK is a non-profit organization based in Cranford, N.J. founded by Sally and Mike Curci that shines the light on the special needs community by creating opportunities in the performing arts, with the goal of building self-confidence and self-esteem while enjoying the experience of performing on stage. In addition, their Shining Stars Ambassadors basketball team travels to play local first responders and organizations while building

friendship and understanding. Now entering its 6th year, Camp Shine (for ages 10-20 years) and The Shining Stars Summer Workshop (21 and over performers) are two-week intensive programs open to everyone, including those with developmental disabilities, that will take place August 15-26, 2022. For more information on Shining Stars Network or any of their programs, please visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org or send your email to ShiningStarsNetwork@gmail.com.



(above) Shining Stars, a special needs performing arts group, takes the stage on May 14th. For more information visit ShiningStarsNetwork.org.

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ MAY SHOW

The Salem Roadhouse Café, located at 829 Salem Rd., Union, NJ, presents the Mark Adamy Band, Saturday, May 14, 2022. The doors open at 7:15 p.m. Admission: \$20, includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert.

New to the Roadhouse Café, Mark Adamy is a multitalented keyboardist and vocalist who works with artists around the globe as a live performer and recording artist. This includes his own band: The Mark Adamy Band, which is a group of accomplished musicians that has thrilled listeners with its original stylings fusing pop, rock, jazz, R&B, world, and spiritual music.

Mark has enjoyed popularity as a sought-after talent for special events, productions, and performances. Mark has won honors including Entertainer of the Year and Boston Music award nominations. He has shared the stage with greats like Chaka Khan, James Brown, The Four Tops, John-Lee Hooker, Pieces of a Dream, Howard Hewitt, Phil Driscoll, Phil Keaggy, Roger Humphries, and many others. Mark has played in many Broadway productions as well as music directing off-Broadway productions in NYC.

Mark's concert credentials are extensive with

acts such as the Coasters, the Cadillacs, Ink Spots, Jive Five, Silhouettes, Marvellettes, the Charelles, and guitarist Billy Davis. He has jammed with jazz artists such as Warren Hill, Makoto Ozone, Darren Lyons Group, and Lee Robinson at venues ranging from New York’s Russian Tea Room and Knitting Factory to Boston’s Symphony Hall.

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

It’s not “church music.” It’s music music.

Folks who’ve come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it’s a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed. What’s the common thread? They’re all great musicians playing the kind of music people like to hear. There’s no message, just music.

The Roadhouse started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from

the Presbytery of Elizabeth. Hey — that’s why we’re located where we are. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That’s its social mission.

But the many musicians who’ve played the Salem Roadhouse Café see it as a solid performance venue. They love it because of its special intimacy and great audiences. They say people here “really listen.” Ask any of the musicians you meet here — they love to play the Roadhouse, and they want to come back often.

Community Involvement

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, and others. Thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.

ELMORA BRANCH LIBRARY MAY 2022 PROGRAMS

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Registration for all our programs will now be on our website!

Please go to elizpl.org to check-out all our events!

Sudoku Saturday

every Saturday (Passive Program)

Are you up for a challenge? Each week (Saturday) there will be a new sudoku puzzle to solve. Don't know how to play? The instructions on how to play will be posted next to the puzzle.

Take & Make Craft

Monday, May 2

Drop by Elmora Library and grab a bagged Take and Make Craft kit for Mother's Day

*While supplies last.

Elmora Matinee Movie:

Spider-Man: No Way Home

Tuesday, May 3 at 1:00 PM

With Spider-Man's identity now revealed, our friendly neighborhood web-slinger is unmasked and no longer able to separate his normal life as

Peter Parker from the high stakes of being a superhero. When Peter asks for help from Doctor Strange, the stakes become even more dangerous, forcing him to discover what it truly means to be Spider-Man.

Bilingual Story & Craft

Wednesday, May 4 at 5:00 PM

Stories, songs, and fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the whole family. What's a beautiful Storytime without crafts!

Take & Make Craft

Thursday, May 5

drop by Elmora Library and grab a bagged Take and Make Craft kit for Cinco De Mayo

*While supplies last.

Plant Gift For Mommy

Thursday, May 5 - Saturday, May 7

Beginning late evening of May 5 bring your kids to Elmora to pick up a plant for Mother's Day. Plants will be available while supplies last.

Boogie Woogie Babies

Friday, May 6 at 10:00 AM

Grab your little ones and join us for a groovy morning filled with songs and dancing

Bubbles aRe US

Saturday, May 7 at 1:00 PM

Location: 640 3rd Ave, Elizabeth, NJ
Come by hang out listen to some cool stories and have some free pizza.

Elmora Matinee Movie:

Raya and the Last Dragon

Saturday, May 7 at 1:00 PM

Long ago, in the fantasy world of Kumandra, humans and dragons lived together in harmony. However, when sinister monsters known as the

Druun threatened the land, the dragons sacrificed themselves to save humanity. Now, 500 years later, those same monsters have returned, and it's up to a lone warrior to track down the last dragon and stop the Druun for good.

Craft- Tea & Chat

Tuesday, May 10 at 3:30 PM

Join us for our monthly Craft-Tea! Bring the craft you are working on to the library and socialize with other crafters! We'll provide tea (and water). Not currently working on a craft project? No problem! We will have colored pencils, paper, and other crafting supplies available.

Boogie Woogie Babies

Friday, May 13 at 10:00 AM

Grab your little ones and join us for a groovy morning filled with songs and dancing

Plan Your Garden

Friday, May 13 at 2:00 PM

Love to Garden? Groundwork Elizabeth will give you a tour of the Microfarm and answer any gardening questions that you might have.

Also, take home 4 vegetable seedlings for

Spring planting!

Cultural Heritage Play

Saturday, May 14 at 2:00 PM

In celebrating Asian/ Pacific Heritage Month, join us for a tangible interactive board game on the cultural heritage of East Asia. Light refreshments will be provided!

Crochet with Sol

Mondays, May 16 & 23, and

Tuesdays, May 17 & 24 at 11:00 AM

Get hooked on crocheting with Sol! No experience is needed.

Lil' Bookworms

Wednesday, May 18 at 5:00 PM

Kids will share the love of reading, learn to talk about the books they're reading, and motivate kids to read.

Stitch- It at Elmora

Thursday, May 19 at 2:30 PM

Mend your clothes at Elmora Branch library. We have sewing machines available for you to use during the program. Note: Bring your fabric and thread.

STEM Building Challenge

Thursday, May 19 at 4:00 PM

join us for a fun building challenge for the kids. Who can build the highest tower using only playing cards? Winners will receive an Ice Moon Gift Card!

Toddlers World

Saturday, May 21 at 11:00 AM

Enjoy an interactive program that promotes early learning and a happy heart and mind with Ms. Martha

Coloring for Adults

Tuesday, May 24 at 11:00 AM

Drop-in for some relaxing coloring fun! Come discover the calming effects as well as meeting some good company! Supplies and cookies provided, as well as soothing music! No experience is required! Feel free to bring your own pencils and markers, and coloring sheets. Just bring yourself and your creativity!

Bilingual Story & Craft

Wednesday, May 25 at 5 PM

Stories, songs, and fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the whole family. What's a beautiful Storytime without crafts!



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SCOUTS MARCH IN ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Submitted by Dan Bernier

The Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade returned to the streets of Union on Saturday, March 26, after a 2-year delay due to the pandemic and an additional 2 week postponement because of rain. Organizations marching in the parade, including Irish groups, police and fire departments, elected officials, school bands and pipe and drum bands, and Scouting units were cheered on by thousands of people lining Morris Avenue and Stuyvesant Avenue.

Boy Scout Troop 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Roman Catholic Church in Elizabeth, has been marching in the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade since 1998, a year after the parade was first held. They were

back again this year, joined by Cub Scouts from Pack 23. Wearing their iconic yellow sweatshirts, they were led by a banner depicting Troop 23's mascot, a duck named Webby. Webby is equipped and ready to hike or camp, at any time and in any weather.

The Scouting program instills character, good citizenship and physical fitness in youth through outdoor activities such as campouts and hikes, involvement in community activities, and just plain fun! Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 provide activities and training for boys of all faiths, from St. Genevieve's parish and the surrounding area, from Kindergarten through high school graduation. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.



(above) Boy Scouts Ben Banic (left) and Alex Banic (right) carry the banner for Boy Scout Troop 23 of Elizabeth in the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade in Union on March 26. Senior Patrol Leader Mel Nistal walks the center line of the street, keeping the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts in an orderly formation.

Courtesy photo

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A NEW KIND OF VETERANS' EVENT

Submitted by Jesus Alejandro MiroQuesada

The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has a different way of reaching out to veterans and they proved this during their recent NJVN Veterans Salute event, a joint venture between the NJVN and the State VFW. NJVN Director Frank "Doc" Schupp and President Michael Boll treated NJ veterans to an event filled with enjoyable times, hot meals, free business attire, and resources for our state's heroes.

As you walked into the large room at VFW 2433 in Union Township, NJ, there were dozens of veterans smiling and mingling while DJ Doc Bear (an army veteran) played some tunes. The usual serious tone of similar events was replaced with a feeling of fun, comradery and comfort.

Air Force Veteran Cristina Lozada said "This event provided an outlet for these veterans to be themselves and have fun in an environment with like-minded individuals. I saw firsthand how taking the time to give back really impacted these veterans lives by feeling cared for and acknowledged."

While waiting their turn to choose their clothing from an attic full of free apparel, veterans partook in video games, card games, and Army vs Navy, and Air Force vs Marines chess games. Delicious pizza was available from nearby Reggio's Pizza which was sponsored by NJVNs partner JM Rodgers. With impressive skill, local barber Emilio of Signature Barbers of Elizabeth, NJ cut veteran's hair free of charge. Volunteers, vets, and family members all enjoyed themselves side by side while honoring our brave men and women.

When asked about the event, organizer Doc Schupp explained, "We wanted to make it a point to create an atmosphere where vets can have fun while receiving resources; this way instead of feeling anxious and uncomfortable, they are relaxed while speaking to service providers."

The Veteran Salute program had plenty of community support as representatives from the

MOVES program, Vet Center, VFW, American Legion and New Bridge Medical Center were on hand to talk to veterans. The atmosphere was a very relaxed as vets interacted with service providers over games and refreshments.

Camillo Vanegas of the MOVES program was on hand to discuss their veteran job placement program. American Legion Commander Dennis Duddie listened respectfully to veterans' stories and advised them of various local programs. The Vet Center was on hand to answer questions about counseling and case management. Bergen New Bridge Medical Center set up a table explaining their many veteran assistance programs. FDU's internship program.

Volunteers included the Union High School ROTC, 5-year-old Vickie Almanazar volunteered alongside her father Daniel, Army veteran Uncle Homer, and many more served food, helped with clothing distribution, entertained, or just visited with the veterans while listening to their stories.

Army recruit Miss Matias, who was shipping out to basic training shortly, was on hand to volunteer and shared her thoughts, "The Veterans Salute event was so successful. We helped a lot of people and touched so many lives. Sometimes all a person needs are a warm smile and friendly conversation to take their mind of their troubles, even if only for a moment."

ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. If you are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org



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6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
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