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Issue 19 • September 2023

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COMMUNITY CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2023

Follow City of Elizabeth on Facebook

National Night Out, a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships, was held on Tuesday, August 1st at Carteret Park Playground in Elizabeth. The free event was sponsored by the City of Elizabeth and along with fun activities the main focus was for residents to meet and greet with members of the Elizabeth

Police Department and other city officials.

National Night Out is held annually. It 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. For more information visit natw.org.















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Joe Renna at 908-447-1295 - email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com







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SEND US YOUR NEWS

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 (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: editor@rennamedia.com**

ADVERTISING Joe Renna: 908-447-1295 joerenna@rennamedia.com



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WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING?

A free spirituality seminar is being offered by Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains, NJ. Meetings are weekly, and most are on Zoom.

Some of the most interesting and meaningful discussions occur when we talk about subjects that really matter to us. What is important to you? What fills you with joy? What do you seek in life? What do you believe? Alpha was created as an opportunity to examine important topics that ask us to reevaluate what we believe and why.

The four in-person meetings begin with a meal, followed by a short video on various Christian topics, small group discussions and conclude with some summary comments. The other meetings are conducted on Zoom. There are twelve meetings in total. While it seems as though only people with faith are the target audience, all are welcome whether a believer, an atheist, or an agnostic. Come and bring a friend.

Listening is critical to this format. It is as important to understand other points of view as much as to be understood. Dialogue is expected to be respectful not confrontational. No one is forced to talk if they simply choose to listen.

The comments of those who have done the Alpha Program offer the best reasons to "Try Alpha":

"I needed a spiritual tune up and I got it." "It was a safe place to discuss deep topics of faith." "I found a new energy and peace about my faith."

A free spirituality seminar is being offered by "It gave me a sense of hope." "I found my faith maculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch again."

The next Alpha Program will begin on Monday, September 18, 2023 with a dinner at 7 p.m. in the Nazareth Center at Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Church, 1571 S. Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains. Since most meetings will be on Zoom it will require access to a device for the Zoom meetings. Links and directions for Zoom will be provided to those who register. Participation is capped at 30 people. Sign up by visiting the IHM website: ihmparish.net. If you have any questions about Alpha, email: office@ihmparish.net or call: 908-889-2100.



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YMCA WELCOMING WEEK OPEN HOUSE – SEPT. 8-17

This Welcoming Week, September 8 -17, The Gateway Family YMCA will join Welcoming America, other YMCAs and organizations nationwide to celebrate immigrants' contributions to communities and bring together all residents in a spirit of unity. The Gateway Family YMCA invites the community to visit the YMCA Open House inclusive of all, with details and schedules available at tgfymca.org/events/welcome23 including a Community Health Fair with vaccination information, fun family programs, social events for all ages, blood pressure self-monitoring and programs open to the community.

In addition to a YMCA Open House for all September 8-17, The Gateway Family YMCA is offering a Membership Special with \$0 Joiner Fee. Individuals and families are invited to tour and join at any YMCA branch in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union, and can join online at tgfymca.org/join-the-Y with code WEL3 during Welcoming Week.

The Gateway Family YMCA celebrates Welcoming Week with the local communities each year, as part of a commitment to the mission of serving all. Every day, The Gateway Family



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This Welcoming Week, September 8 -17, The ateway Family YMCA will join Welcoming merica, other YMCAs and organizations tionwide to celebrate immigrants' contributions communities and bring together all residents opportunities for seniors and families.

As part of the YMCA commitment for inclusive access, the Welcoming Week Open House also includes a digital and virtual program and social component. Community members are encouraged to visit the Y's website and social media channels to participate in Welcoming Week 2023. For individuals who are unable to visit the Y in person, the YMCA will be providing a Digital Community Health Fair and Community Conversation Prompts throughout week the on Facebook at facebook.com/GatewayFamilyYMCA and YMCA Virtual programs are available from home.

Welcoming Week is an annual, non-partisan event that celebrates diversity and the community

benefits of welcoming everyone and their contributions to the social fabric of the country. The Y will be celebrating with themed events for program participants in Child Care, YMCA Residential Housing, Aquatics, Group Exercise and WISE Community Services programs.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a leading 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose, and each other. By bringing together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, the Y ensure that all have access to the opportunities, relationships, and resources necessary to learn, grow and thrive.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA or Welcoming Week, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch 732-388-0057 or Wellness Center Branch 908-349-9622.

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ອກເອ 1010 ing Kabul By Sylvia Khoury Directed by Taylor Reynolds SEPTEMBER 7-24, 2023 Taroon once served as an interpreter for the U.S. military in Afghanistan. Now it is 2013, and Taroon spends his days in hiding, a target of the increasingly powerful Taliban. **Bauer Boucher Theatre Center at Kean University** PREMIERESTAGESATKEAN.COM | 908-737-7469





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On View

National Collage Society: 39th Annual Juried Exhibition HouseBroken by Melissa Stern **RE:History Contemporary Takes by Lisa Ficarelli-Halpern**

> Complimentary Admission Reservation Required

> > galleries.kean.edu (908) 737-5300

Carol Mullen, "Monarch," collage, 18x2x.5 in. Melissa Stern, "Deflated," 2020, sculpture, 43x18x17 in. Lisa Ficarelli-Halpern, "Joy, after Reynolds," 2023, oil on carwas, 62x38 in.

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In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month in September, Imagine will be offering a free community webinar on Grief in the Latinx Community on September 21st from 7 - 8:30 p.m. There will be two webinars held simultaneously with one being presented in English and the other in Spanish.

Those who attend the webinar will be able to: • Gain awareness of intersectionality and grief

- as it applies to the Latinx Community • Learn traditional cultural values within the
- Latinx Community
- Identify different types of grief and loss that pertain to the Latinx Community

Registration for the English speaking webinar is available through Imagine's website at imaginenj.org.

Those interested in attending the Spanish speaking webinar do not need to register and can contact Sonia Nunez at sonia@imaginenj.org for more information. Imagine's staff hope to see you at the upcoming webinar!

Imagine is a 501c3 nonprofit that offers free year-round grief support groups for children ages 3-18 and young adults 19-30 who are coping with a loss due to death. Concurrently, support groups are available for the parents and guardians of the children in the groups and offered in English and Spanish. Imagine also offers grief and loss education and training to the community. For more information please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imaginenj.org.

WOOFSTOCK SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Home for Good Dog Rescue

Join us for our epic Home for Good Dog Rescue summer music festival event – WOOFSTOCK! Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 9th, and Sunday, September 10th, 2023. You don't want to miss this annual bash at Brook Valley Farm, 336 Loantaka Way, Chatham, NJ.

This is Home for Good's largest adoption day of the year and is a blast for the whole family. This event is pet-friendly, so be sure to bring your beloved pup to join the fun! All Home for Good Dog alum are invited to reunite with their siblings and former foster families.

Live music will be rockin' on both days from the popular band The Cliffs. Endless entertainment includes food trucks, craft vendors, beer and wine, prize raffles, children's activities, and of course Dog Adoptions!

Gates open 11 a.m. Activities commence at 12 noon and conclude at 5 p.m.

Pre-registered tickets are \$30 for adults & \$12 for children (12 and under). Pre-registration will close on Thursday, Sept. 7th at 6 p.m. Tickets at door: \$35/adult.

To become a sponsor for Woofstock 2023, please email development@hfgdr.org, or go to this link: https://bit.ly/38VjhQU

To become a food or craft vendor at Woofstock 2023, please email volunteer@hfgdr.org

ABOUT HOME FOR GOOD DOG RESCUE

Home for Good Dog Rescue (HFGDR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization headquartered in Berkeley Heights, NJ. We rescue dogs from high-kill shelters in the South, transport them to our rescue, and give them a second chance at life. As a uniquely 100-percent foster-based rescue, we place each dog into a loving foster home until adoption, and since our inception, we have rescued over 10,000 dogs and given them loving homes for good. For more information visit homeforgooddogs.org.



FRI - SAT, SEPT. 29-30 😑 2023

FRIDAY 3:00 PM - 11:00 PM | SATURDAY 12:00PM - 11:00PM



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 46[™] ANNUAL SEPTEMBER 7-10, 2023 FRIDAY THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8 SEPTEMBER 7 5PM-12AM 6PM-10PM SUNDAY SATURDAY **SEPTEMBER 10** SEPTEMBER 9 12PM-12AM 12PM-7PM 721 RAHWAY AVE, UNION, NJ 07083 LOCATED IN THE PARKING LOT

ELMORA BRANCH LIBRARY PROGRAMS

740 W Grand St, Elizabeth, NJ 07202 • Phone: (908) 353-4820 • www.elizpl.org/
Mon - Thur: 8:30 a.m.-7:45 p.m. • Fri: 9:30 a.m.-5:45 p.m. • Sat: 9:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m.
• Sunday: Closed. *The library will be closed on September 2nd & 4th*

Library Card Sign-up Month

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month by participating in our guessing game. Guess how books are at Elmora Branch Library. 3 winners will receive a Barnes & Noble gift card.

> **Toddlers World** Friday, September 1, 8, 15, & 22

at 11:00am

Hour of fun songs to sing, music, and playtime! Adult Chess Club

Friday, September 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 12:30pm

Beginners are welcome! Registration required Coding for Kids (Virtual)

Friday, September 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 4:15pm

Learn to use code to create anything you dream of! From websites to games, fulfill your dreams in the free bootcamp for grades 6-8!

Grown Up Coloring

Tuesday, September 5, 12, 19, & 26 at 1:00pm

Drop in for some relaxing coloring fun! Come discover the calming effects as well as meeting some good company!

Tai Chi with Pete

Wednesday, September 6, 13, 20, & 27 at 10:30am

Every Wednesday, join Pete in mindfulness Tai Chi. You will feel refreshed after every class. So, give us a call at (908) 353-4820 or register on our website @elizpl.org

Lil' Bookworms

Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30pm Kids will share the love of reading, learn to talk about the books they're reading, and be motivated to read. Ages: 5-8 Bad Art

Thursday, September 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 6:00pm

Calling all artists and non-artists come to Elmora and make the "worse" art one can make!

Zumba Gold

Monday, September 11 & 18 and Thursday, September 7, 14, & 21 at 8:30am CALL 908-353-4820 to reserve a spot but walk-

ins are welcome! Crochet with Sol

Monday, September 11 and Tuesday, September 5 & 12 at 12:00pm Learn the tips and tricks with Ms. Sol! She will teach you everything you need to know to get started, from fundamental stitches to

understanding gauge.

Mahjong

Monday, September 11 & 18 from 1:30pm - 4:00pm Everyone who loves Mahjong is welcome to come & play at the library. Bring friends or come alone & find new partners. We'll provide the space for open play. A minimum of 4 players are required to play the game. Ages: 18 & up

Chess Club for Kids

Monday, September 11, 18, & 25 at 4:00pm Join our Chess Club for Kids every Monday at 4pm. Beginners are welcome!

Coloring for Kids

Saturday, September 9 at 10:30am Relax & color at the Elmora Branch for an hour!

Stitch & Chat

Tuesday, September 12 at 10:00am Come stitch your clothing back up at Elmora! Just bring the article of clothing you want to mend! Assistance will be available.

Adult Scrabble

Wednesday, September 13 at 1:00pm Word lovers! Exercise your B-R-A-I-N (7 points) by playing Scrabble with other likeminded adults.

Stitch & Chat

Wednesday, September 13 at 5:00pm Come stitch your clothing back up at Elmora! Just bring the article of clothing you want to

mend! Assistance will be available.

Hand Therapy

Thursday, September 14 at 10:00am Free hands-on therapy, Thursday, September 14 at 10am; housed at Elmora Branch Library. Register while you can!

Drawing for Kids

Join Ms. Martha for a cute storytime and learn to draw different animals! ESL for Kids

Wednesday, September 20 at 5:30pm Join us to learn English as a Second Language with fun interactive activities. For ages 5-12

Adult Spanish Book Club

Thursday, September 21 at 2:00pm Join Martha for a monthly book discussion for adults in Spanish!

Bubbles aRe Us

Saturday, September 23 at 1:00pm Located on 640 3rd Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ Join Ms. Martha for songs, stories, crafts, and oh-so-much fun! This storytime will feature stories in English and Spanish for the

whole family.

All Age Lego

Saturday, September 23 at 3:00pm It's Lego Hour at Elmora on Saturday @3pm. Come build an enormous tower or make a race car; the imagination is limitless!

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SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ - A JAZZ EVENING WITH DAVID BRAHAM TRIO

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents Carrie Jackson and the Jazzin' All Stars, Saturday, September 9, 2023. The doors open at 7:30 p.m., the show starts at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. The venue is located in the basement of Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a nonprofit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. The performance will be held upstairs in the church sanctuary.

Pianist/Organist Dave Braham has played with and/or recorded with many of the top names in jazz, including Etta Jones, Houston Person, Lou Donaldson, Al Grey, David "Fathead" Newman, Arthur Prysock and Irene Reid. He has two recordings as a leader – "To Be Free" on the RandomAct record label and "Blue Gardenia" on BlueJay records. He has also taught music in NJ public schools, including Union Public Schools. Dave will be backed up with bass and drums by two of the area's finest musicians, creating a musical treat for all who come to this exciting allacoustic show in a great listening environment.

Bassist Belden Bullock has quickly become one of the most sought-after jazz bassists in the greater NYC area. He has travelled extensively with jazz piano giants Ahmad Jamal, South African pianist Abdullah Ibrahim as well as the Harlem Blues and Jazz Band. Belden lives in a very talented household. His wife, Audrey, is a very busy professional singer. Their two sons are actors/dancers.

Drummer Willie Martinez is well known in the tri-state area as one of the most versatile percussionists around. He has played and recorded with a wide variety of artists – jazz musicians such as Benny Powell, Mulgrew Miller and George Cables; Cuban bandleader



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locally owned since 1984 www.vdsnj.com facebook.com/vdsnj email: ira@vdsnj.com 908-964-4004 406 Chestnut St. • Union, NJ 07083 Chico O'Farrill; even pop singer Faith Hill. In addition to drum set, Willie is a master of the timbales and other Latin percussion instruments. Willie can also be seen leading his own Latin Jazz sextet, La Familia.

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, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a nonprofit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That's its 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.

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. Many thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.



2022 Show proceeds will benefit Townley Church Missions

All shows are featured on UNION TV34's "UNION AFTER DARK" nightly music series Plenty of free parking in our two lots and on the street

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ @ TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 829 SALEM ROAD UNION NJ 07083 PHONE: 908-686-1028 (leave message) E-MAIL: salemroadhouse@gmail.com WEB: www.townleychurch.org FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/salemroadhouse

BOY SCOUT TROOP 23 ATTENDS SUMMER CAMP

Boy Scout Troop 23, which is sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church of Elizabeth, recently held their annual summer camp at Winnebago Scout Reservation in Rockaway, New Jersey. Nine Scouts and four adult leaders spent a week in their traditional Delaware campsite.

The Scouts learned outdoor skills and worked on merit badges in cooking, environmental science, geocaching, fishing, leatherwork, woodcarving and nature, to name a few. Scouts spent a lot of time fishing in Durham Pond, and learned how to fry a fish so they could eat it.

Troop 23 participated in a Christmas in Julythemed campwide event, the Water Carnival and two campwide campfires. They scored highest among all of the troops in camp for the Cleanest Campsite Award.

Scouts Alexander Banic, Matthew Colon and Zachary Pedreiras were recognized at the Friday night campfire for earning the Acorn Award, which required completion of 5 separate activities.

A hike on Thursday afternoon started as a Nature hike to learn to identify trees and shrubs, but turned into a treasure hunt. After hiking half way around Durham Pond and fighting their way through sticker bushes and a swamp, the Scouts located a geocache box that they learned about a year ago.

Cub Scouting provides activities and training for boys and girls in the first through fifth grades.



(above) Scout Alex Banic of Elizabeth, and his father, Assistant Scoutmaster Ken Banic, show off a largemouth bass caught during an early morning visit to Durham Pond.



Boy Scouting is for boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated from the fifth grade. New members are welcome at any time, all year round.

Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 have served the youth of St. Genevieve's parish and the surrounding area for over six decades. These units have earned hundreds of awards on the local and national level, have produced 80 Eagle Scouts, and have leaders who are well-known and widely respected by other Scout leaders across the country.

For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.



(above) Scouts and leaders of Troop 23 posed for a troop photo during their annual week-long summer camp in July at Winnebago Scout Reservation.



(above) The staff of Winnebago Scout Reservation taught the Scouts of Troop 23 how to fry up the catch of the day.



Marketing Toolbox

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We can design and/or manage your social media campaign from passive to aggressive plans customized to work within your budget.

WEBSITE AND SEO SERVICES

Start with an audit/analysis of your website giving you a report and recommendations for \$250.

It is highly recommended to have a marketing plan and budget before spending.

CALL JOE RENNA FOR A FREE CONSULTATION. 908-447-1295





ONLINE ADS & PRESS RELEASES DRIVE LOCAL TRAFFIC TO YOUR WEBSITE

GET UNLIMITED CLICKS

An alternative to expensive pay-per-click programs FREE AD DESIGN AND COPYWRITING Advertising webpage includes many features

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

ENNA

EDIA

сом

email: JoeRenna@RennaMedia.com

Joe Renna at 908-447-1295

Block of 20 for \$200 Single post is \$20

LocalInfo.com

PER POST

including write-up, images, video, Google map, etc. POSTS ARE SHARED THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA Posts shared on multiple Facebook pages and twitter. PAID SEARCH ENGINE PROMOTIONS

Posts are promoted by industry, key words and location.

TRACKABLE RESULTS

All ads include a live view counter.

Full Color Flyers and Menus Printed and Mailed to Every Home and Business in Town! FLYERS

FLYERS - \$45 PER THOUSAND

8.5" x 11" / Full color / 2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock Tri-fold add \$10 per thousand. Minimum order \$450

LARGE MENUS - PRINTING - \$85 PER THOUSAND For quantities more than 50,000 cost is \$55 per thousand. 11"x17" / Full color /2 sided / 60lb gloss coated stock. Min. order \$850 Includes folding (quarter fold or tri-fold, with or without coupons tab)

INSERTED AND MAILED TO EVERY HOME AND BUSINESS \$60 per thousand. (as low as \$30 per thousand depending on quanttiy.) Minimum order \$400

WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

STARTER WEBSITE: \$500

Basic static site that can be developed further

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

Call for free a consultation if you need help developing an online marketing plan.

Call Walter at 201-478-7408 email: wwwinnj@gmail.com

STARTER

WEBSITE

\$500

WEBSITE AUDIT/ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION PLAN

 SEE WHAT IS WORKING AND NOT WORKING Know where your web traffic is coming from and why.

• ELIMINATE / AVOID COSTLY SCHEMES

Evaluate the return you are getting from your online marketing costs. INCREASE ONLINE MARKETING RESULTS

Recommendations include ways to increase traffic to your website NO OBLIGATION

This service is recommended even if you have an existing web management contract. Use it to tune up your marketing plan.





Call for a consultation if you do not have a website or if need a new one. **Call Walter at 201-478-7408** email: wwwinnj@gmail.com





Our floor-to-ceiling renovating team... is in the Neighbothood?



ROOFING

Roof Replacement Gutter Installation



CEMENT/STONE

Masonry Hardscaping



PAINTING Interior & Exterior Deck Refinishing Floor Refinishing



RENOVATIONS

Additions Attic & Basement Remodel Kitchen & Bath Remodel



CARPENTRY Deck Building Millwork Floor Installation Cabinet Installation



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