

ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 10TH ANNUAL PIZZA CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus Monsignor Loreti Council #3240 at Church of the Assumption in Roselle Park held its' 10th Annual Pizza Contest on February 10, 2024. The contest was a blind taste test with each attendee asked to sample pizza from eight area pizzerias and vote on the pizza they liked best. 130 people attended the event at Church of the Assumption and a good time was had by all! In a closely contested vote, Costa's Restaurant & Pizzeria in Roselle Park was the winner. Congratulation's Costa's! We would

like to thank all who attended, Costa's and the other pizzerias for taking part in contest: Calabria (Cranford), Johnny Napkins (Union), Mike's Bagel Deli & Pizza (Roselle), Master Pizza (Union), Naples (Roselle), O' Sole Mio (Cranford), Papa Johns (Kenilworth). Without their generosity and support, the contest could not take place. The event raised over \$1300 for the Knights of Columbus Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to students attending catholic high schools.



Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Roselle Park Monthly page on Facebook. Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

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THE WONDER BAND TO PLAY MARCH 9

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents The Wonder Band – a Tribute to Stevie Wonder’s Music, Saturday, March 9, 2024. The doors open at 7:15 p.m., the show starts at 8 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 non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities.

The Wonder Band is made up of three extremely talented performers who are well known to the Metro NY/NJ area music scene. Ed Alstrom, leader, is the organist for Yankee Stadium, as well as keyboard player for many famous performers such as Bette Midler, Chuck Berry, Leonard Bernstein, Herbie Hancock and others. The list goes on and on.

Accompanying Ed will be guitarist Al Orlo. Al has recorded with the legendary Ben E. King and was his musical director for 25 years. Al also held the #1 chair at Broadway shows, such as Kinky Boots, Carol King Musical, Hairspray and Smokey Joe’s Café, to name a few.

Bobby Deitch on drums rounds out the trio. Bobby has performed on several recordings such as Richard Sorce’s Latin album “A Place I’ve Never Been” and Richie Hart’s “33 1/3” album.

States Ed Alstrom, “Obviously, Stevie’s music is even more fun to play than it is to listen to. This group does a mix of the hits and some lesser-

known things, without the vocals, and it doesn’t hurt the music one bit not to have them, because they’ll be playing in your mind!

Original artwork by local artist James Spath will be on display at the Roadhouse Gallery of Fine Art for all to enjoy before, during and after the show.

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.

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.

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WEBINAR ON TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT DEATH AND DYING



(above) Scan QR Code for Webinar on Talking to Kids about Death and Dying

Imagine

“A child can live with anything as long as he or she is told the truth and is allowed to share with loved ones the natural feelings people have when they are suffering.” – Eda LeShan

We often struggle to find the words to talk to kids about life changing diagnoses, illness and death. Sometimes, we feel so unsure of what to say that we don’t say anything at all. But our kids need to be given the opportunity to engage in honest conversations about these life changing events.

The staff at Imagine are offering a free webinar to help community members navigate these difficult conversations. On Thursday, March 14th from 7-8:30 p.m., Imagine will offer a webinar on Talking to Kids about Death and Dying. Those attending the webinar will learn to:

- Recognize that grief begins at diagnosis
 - Describe how children grieve at different developmental stages
 - Develop tools for creating a safe space where children can share their feelings
 - Discover ways to navigate conversations about diagnosis, illness and death
- If you’d like to join us for this webinar, please visit our website at imagineNJ.org or scan the QR code below to register. Once you register, you’ll receive a zoom link to join us on March 14th. Please contact Imagine’s Training and Education Director, Veronica C Ortiz, LPC at veronica@imagineNJ.org with any questions.

Because loss is inevitable, it’s so important that we have open conversations with our kids in these difficult moments. We hope that you can join us as we work to create a world where no child grieves alone.

ANNUAL ST. PATRICK’S CELEBRATION

On Saturday, March 16th, the Borough of Roselle Park will host its annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration. The event will take place at the Casano Community Center, 314 Chestnut Street in Roselle Park from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., attendees can enjoy free food and live music from Joe Caroselli’s Masterpiece Orchestra.

Attendance for this event is free and is open to all Roselle Park residents. For more information, please contact the Casano Community Center at 908-245-0666.

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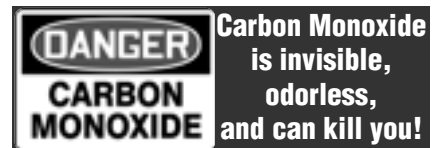
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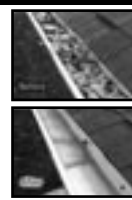
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MARCH EVENTS AT THE ROSELLE PARK VETERANS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

404 Chestnut St., Roselle Park, NJ 07204. (908)-245-2456. library@rosellepark.net

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10:00am-8:00pm, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00am- 5:00pm, Saturday:10:00am-2:00pm, Sunday: Closed
Closed March 29 (Good Friday) & March 30 (Holy Saturday)

TOT PROGRAMS (AGES 0-4)

BOOKS & BADGES

TUESDAYS 11:00 AM

Children will build vocabulary, enjoy a book and craft with our officers from the RPPD.

TODDLER TIME

WEDNESDAYS 11:00AM

Learn preschool basics with Miss Faith through rhymes, simple stories and engaging activities.

KIDS PROGRAMS (AGES 5-11)

***STEAM SQUAD

MONDAY 03/11 3:30PM

Join Miss Faith on a STEAM adventure as we craft balloon powered two wheeled cars!

*** JR. CHEF

MONDAY 03/25 3:30PM

Practice kitchen safety and make a tasty treat. Space is limited; online registration is required!

TWEEN/TEEN PROGRAMS

Join Ms. Lisa on a creative journey

Wednesdays for 7 weeks (2/7 - 3/27)

Create short stories that will be put together into a lovely book. There will be snacks!

FAMILY EVENTS

JAZZ NIGHT LIVE PERFORMANCE

Friday, March 8th 5:00 pm-6:30pm

Live contemporary interpretations of the American songbook to classical jazz.

NJ MAKER'S DAY

Saturday, March 16th 11:00 am-1:00pm

Knitting & crocheting, origami, button making, painting, building birdhouses and more!

PAJAMA STORY TIME

THURSDAYS 6:30 PM

Bring your favorite stuffed animal, wear your pajamas, for a cozy bedtime story and craft.

LEGO CLUB

WEDNESDAYS 3:30PM-4:30PM &

SATURDAYS 11:00AM- 1:00PM

Use the library's LEGO bricks to build your own creations. Check the calendar for dates.

TINY ART GALLERY KIT

MARCH ALL MONTH LONG

Pick up your Tiny Art Gallery Kit. Drop your finished canvas by April 1st to have your work featured in our Tiny Art Gallery, which will open on April 8th. All ages welcome!

ADULT PROGRAMS

***ADULT BOOK BINGO

FEBRUARY 1ST-MARCH 30TH

Enter our winter book bingo game to try and win the grand prize! See the circulation desk for a bingo board. Adults only.

TAKE A BREAK TUESDAYS

TUESDAYS 6:30-7:30PM

Refresh, Recharge, & Revitalize. Join us every Tuesday for your weekly wellness ritual.

***ADULT CRAFT NIGHT

MONDAY 03/18 6:00PM

Create a Lucky Beaded Garland while Maria reviews The Golden Couple By: Greer Hendricks & Sarah Pekkanen.

***CAFFEINE & CHAPTERS ADULT BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, March 28, 6:00PM

Review our book of the month over a cup of coffee (decaf included) with Lisa and the crew!

KNITTING CLUB

WEDNESDAYS 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Knit and crochet winter hats and scarves to donate to charities.

QUILTING CLUB

2nd + 4th THURSDAYS 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Try out new quilting patterns with friends.

***ESL

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PASSAIC COUNTY CASA EXPANDS TO UNION COUNTY

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Passaic County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), a leading child advocacy organization focused on protecting the best interests of abused and neglected youth, has announced the expansion of its service footprint to include Union County. With this expansion, critical volunteer advocacy for child victims removed from home and living under the jurisdiction of the family court will be made

available to even more of New Jersey's most vulnerable children. This expansion allows for greater community impact, efficiency in operations, and greater long-term sustainability.

CASA recruits, screens, trains, and supervises community volunteers to advocate for local abused, neglected, and abandoned youth from birth to age 21 involved in the child welfare system through no fault of their own.

Executive Director Erica Fischer-Kaslander, who continues to lead the expanded advocacy organization, said, "There's no doubt this expansion will reap even greater rewards for Union County's vulnerable youth. The synergy created from two experienced programs allows far greater community impact and enhances its ability to withstand today's shifting landscape as a strengthened, multi-county program." Acknowledging the nearly two-decade impact of the previous Union County CASA organization, Fischer-Kaslander adds, "The dedicated advocates in Union County remain focused on fulfilling CASA's mission: quality advocacy, continuity of presence, and increased access to services for local vulnerable youth-victims. As a combined force, we will build on that good work. I remain grateful to all professionals involved in these cases for their support – judges, attorneys, caseworkers, and more – and look forward to the collaboration required for us all to do our best for the children depending on us."

Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan, Content Director for CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, added, "In my 11 years working with CASA in Union

County, I have seen the organization pivot to meet unforeseen needs, adapt to changing trends, and persevere through recent challenges faced by all nonprofits, including a global health pandemic. Indeed, passion for and commitment to every child drives us, and this new chapter is simply an opportunity to enjoy greater efficiency, resource allocation, and space for innovation. Ultimately, the expansion of Passaic County CASA to include Union County breeds a strengthened organization that bolsters CASA's impact throughout the county. For our local youth, that's what matters."

Considered extra "eyes and ears" for judges hearing abuse and neglect cases, CASA volunteers are assigned to a youth or sibling set by court order, granting access to all parties in the youth's life. Advocates use unbiased observations to make fact-based recommendations to judges deciding the future of each youth. Often, CASA volunteers are the only long-term, caring, and informed adult in the corner of a youth awaiting a safe, stable, and permanent placement.

Volunteer advocates need no prior experience in child welfare. All prospective volunteers complete a 36-hour training course, extensive application, and screening process in addition to background checks. Volunteers with the newly expanded CASA of Passaic and Union Counties program are supported by a 26-person professional staff with extensive experience in child welfare. For details on becoming an advocate or other ways to get involved, visit casapassaicunion.org.



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STUDENTS OF THE MONTH AWARDS

The Rotary Club of Roselle/Roselle Park recently presented Students of the Month Awards to three deserving seniors from Abraham Clark High School, Roselle Park High School and Roselle Catholic at a breakfast meeting held at the Anthony Amalfe Community Center 1268

Shaffer Avenue, Roselle, NJ.

The Club presented three students awards. Each student was recognized for their scholastic achievement, school-based and extra-curricular activities, and their service to others.

Donna Eleazer, Rotary Club President,

presented the awards to each recipient and stated, "Rotary Roselle-Roselle Park has a long tradition of honoring high school seniors for their dedication to one of Rotary's most coveted ideals, that of service to others. In fact, Rotary's motto is Service Above Self."

The Rotary Club of Roselle Park is a service organization which has served the twin boroughs of Roselle-Roselle Park since 1923 - 100 years! The only qualification for joining is that you are a good person who wishes to make a difference in the community, the world and in the lives of others. See what we do at roselle-roselleparkrotary.org, and join our cause.



Pictured with Rotary Club President for 2023/24 Donna Eleazer (right) are (from left to right) Roselle Catholic's Jeremy Wiggan, Ashley Novoa of ACHS and Noah Beckford of RPHS. Others in the group photo include Rotarians, parents and siblings of the honorees and school guidance counselors.

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NEWSPAPER AD RATES

Units	Size	1 TOWN	3 TOWNS	6 TOWNS	9 TOWNS	12 TOWNS	15 TOWNS	18 TOWNS	21 TOWNS	24 TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25" x 2"	\$60	\$150	\$250	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550	\$600
2 Units	6.5" x 2" or 3.25" x 4"	\$100	\$250	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1000
4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
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
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
2-PAGE SPREAD	21" x 14"	\$700								
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YMCA SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Gateway Family YMCA

It's never too early to begin thinking about Summer Camp and researching the best opportunities for your child to thrive. The Gateway Family YMCA understands the unique needs of children and families, providing transformational Summer Camp experiences for hundreds of children throughout Eastern Union County each year. Learn more about Summer Day Camp at The Gateway Family YMCA this Spring at YMCA Summer Camp Parent Information Sessions.

Hosted at 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 Camp Parent Information Sessions are scheduled on March 21st 6:00-8:00 P.M., April 20 12:00-2:00 P.M. and May 16 5:00-7:00 p.m. Parents are invited to join YMCA Camp Directors for tips on getting the most out of your child's camp experience, transition from school to camp, summer safety and fun! Advance registration is optional, with



(above) The Gateway Family YMCA is offering Summer Camp Information Sessions

additional information available at tgfymca.org/events.

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 STEAM and academic enrichment, a Y Summer Day Camp experience offers kids the chance to learn new things and enjoy new adventures.

Camp is available in one-week sessions for Pre-K Age 3 through Grade 6. Registration is first come, first serve and parents are reminded to register early.

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.

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.

Membership Madness

YMCA Open House March 28-30

Open to the Community! Take a Swim, Shoot Some Hoops, Try a Class! Learn More at tgfymca.org/events

SO JOINER FEE
March 28-30
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THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA tgfymca.org

FIND YOUR PASSION!
YMCA ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Your Support is Greatly Needed to Support Our Community!

We're Hiring!

The Gateway Family YMCA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening community.



RENNA MEDIA LAUNCHES YOUTUBE PODCAST

Joe Renna

Renna Media has posted its first episode of "Mind Your Own Local Business," a podcast that gives advice on how to run a successful local business.

This is my 40th year in business and I draw from my experience and expertise to give advice. I have received so much help in my career from mentors and seasoned business owners, and this is a way to pay it forward.

I already offer free one-on-one consultation on putting together business plans and marketing plans. The show would be a way to reach many more people.

I started in business in 1984 as a graphic designer and grew into a full-service marketing and advertising company. Now, along with my wife Tina, we publish twenty-four community newspapers mailing out 160,000 to homes and businesses monthly.

Like the newspapers, the show will serve as a venue to support local community service organizations and events and production costs will be covered by advertisers. There are several marketing and advertising opportunities for businesses to be included with the freedom to be unique and creative.

I am looking forward to having a lot of fun doing the show. It is another application of my Do-What-You-Love mentality. The show is a free-form magazine format production that is flexible. I welcome business owners to join in the fun.

To learn more call me, 908-447-1295, or email joerenna@rennamedia.com.

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