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Michael D. Boll, President, NJVN

Every year we honor the fallen, who have sacrificed their lives so we can live in the best country in the world. Please reflect on the service our heroes perform to keep us safe and protect our way of life. This Memorial Day we are asking people to call and check on our active duty soldiers and veterans that have served. Every day we lose twenty-two veterans to suicide and 40 percent of veterans that return from combat are diagnosed with PTSD. Unfortunately, this number has not changed much, and we feel that recreational therapy and peer support can really make a difference for our veterans living in crisis. The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) is fully committed to combat this epidemic by aggressively seeking out veterans in need. Our goal is to contact the veteran before they fall into a deep state of depression and provide them lifesaving and lifechanging resources.

Over the last few years, the NJVN has been able to provide thousands of meals to our veterans and active duty soldiers. Thousands of veterans were given new suits and clothing from our storage area, over thirty newly refurbished

automobiles were gifted to disabled veterans, and the most important thing the NJVN does is save lives through our peer support /mentorship program.

The NJVN works from the heart and is therefore able to work with all the other amazing veteran charities that share the same common goal, putting veterans first. Our donations go directly to the veteran's programs, which allows us to assist veterans and their families throughout the entire state and host numerous recreational therapy activities as well. This year we are starting up a few veterans' retreats and will focus on increasing events at our state veteran hospitals and shelters.

We are always looking for volunteers that can both assist with upcoming events and help mentor veterans so they can live better productive lives. Volunteers are the most important NJVN resource, and we would love to have more people help us save lives. If you need assistance or are interested in joining the team, please send us your name, email, and phone number to NJVN1775@gmail.com or call 973-332-1556. Check out our website NJVN.org for our services and accomplishments.

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(above) New Jersey Veterans Network veterans and volunteers at a recent event.

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2024 GRAND MARSHALL SGT. MICHAEL BOLL

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE & ENCAMPMENT

The Township of Union Veterans' Alliance Memorial Day Parade is back! Join us on Monday, May 27, 2024 at 10 a.m. (from the VFW on High St.) as we march in honor of our veterans. For best viewing, watch the parade from Pearl Harbor Square on Stuyvesant Ave.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE AT THE PARADE

Featuring music by the Uptown String Band, floats, show cars, military units and vehicles, Clydesdale horses, civic and youth organizations, and a historic war reenactment, the parade features something for people of all ages. There will also be a Revolutionary War Battle at 11:30 a.m. at Veterans Honor Roll & Memorial Park, followed by a formal program at 12 p.m.

Interested in marching in the parade? Email kcaulfield@uniontownship.com

PRE-MEMORIAL DAY ENCAMPMENT

Residents are also encouraged to stop by Friberger Park, behind Town Hall, on Sunday, May 26th from 1-4 p.m. to experience the Pre-Memorial Day Revolutionary War Encampment, featuring American and British Crown Forces and historical demonstrations.



Michael Boll has dedicated his life to charity and helping others. Following graduation from Union High School, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served in Operation Desert Storm. Michael received an Associate's Degree from Rutgers University and joined the Township of Union Police Department. During this 25-year law enforcement career, Michael was promoted within his first few years and assigned to several specialized units.

In 2017, he founded the NJ Veterans Network, a non-profit charity that aggressively seeks out veterans in need and provides them with the resources and solutions to live a better life. The NJVN has been able to assist thousands of veterans in need and is responsible for saving dozens of lives.

Currently, Michel is employed at the NJ State VFW, where he continues to help veterans and their families daily.



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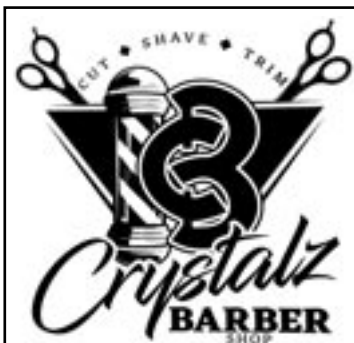
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JAZZ BANDS TO PERFORM MAY 18TH

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents CMJ Jazz Band, with an opening act by Flesh World, Saturday, May 18, 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 Bailey Hall, below Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities.

Returning to the Roadhouse, the CMJ Jazz Band is an energetic, dynamic band based in New Jersey that blends Smooth Jazz, Traditional Jazz and Hip Hop in a creative way to captivate audiences of all ages. Known for their stellar musicianship and intimate relationship with audiences, the band is blowing people away with their energy, creativity, polish, and lyrical word rhymes. People attending their concerts reflect on the fun they had dancing, singing, and interacting with the band.

New to the Roadhouse, Flesh World is a collaboration of drummer Justin Vedovelli, keyboardist Peter Rushing, and saxophonist/keyboardist Carter Vames. They play an eclectic and experimental mix of diverse musical styles, ranging from free jazz to Afro-Caribbean and pop. Their repertoire includes cutting-edge original compositions as well as covers of tunes by popular artists such as Britney Spears, Juice WRLD, and Nine Inch Nails.

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café music 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.

Now in its 16th year of operation, 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 non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That's its social mission.

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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KENILWORTH STREET FAIR - SUNDAY, MAY 19TH

HANNAH CALDWELL DAY – JUNE 8

The Union Township Historical Society invites you to honor Hannah's heroism during the 1780 Battle of Connecticut Farms, when she lost her life and became a martyr for the cause of the American Revolution. Come to the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union, on Saturday, June 8, between 2 and 5 p.m. Admission is free! For more information, call 908-591-4377.

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

Chatting with Hannah's husband, the "Fighting Parson," Rev. James Caldwell (played by Meridoc "Doc" Burkhardt thru a Union County HEART grant); sampling old-fashioned sugar cookies and lemonade; butter-making; playing Native American and colonial games; working a wringer washing machine; shopping for souvenirs; making tricorner hats and colonial bonnets; collecting historic trading cards; getting Union County passports stamped.



(above) A Hannah Caldwell trading card

The 2024 Kenilworth Street Fair and Classic Car Show, hosted by the Borough of Kenilworth, will take place on Sunday, May 19th. The Boulevard will be closed to vehicle traffic from 14th St. to 24th St. and transformed into a giant block party from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This event will feature quality exhibitors, a special crafter's section, lots of great food, kiddie rides, and kids area, live music and performances, and local merchants and civic organizations.

SHOPPING

Shop til you drop along the Boulevard with over 100 quality exhibitors selling their merchandise such as jewelry, handbags, sports collectibles, clothing, home decor, and much more. There is a special section with handmade crafts from local and nearby crafters and artisans with unique one-of-a-kind items.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Whether on stage or under our music tents, you will enjoy the sounds of some very talented cover bands, soloists, dancers, demonstrations from the local karate and dance studios and more. It's also a chance to kick back, take a break in the music section filled with tables and chairs for your use.

KIDS ZONE

The children will enjoy this section filled with kiddie bounce rides, slides, and interactive blow-ups, face painters, sand art & kids games, temporary tattoos, and face painting, just to name a few things.

FOOD TRUCKS

As you stroll along the Boulevard stop to have a bite to eat and sit at tables in our live music area. Come hungry and enjoy eating carnival food favorites like a sausage & pepper sandwich, cheesesteaks, kettle corn, chicken fingers, ice cream, zeppole, shish kabobs, gyros, fresh-cut fries, fresh-squeezed lemonade, Italian ice, and the many great gourmet foods from the food trucks.

CAR SHOW

This year's event will again feature a car show of Custom... Classic... Street Rod... Muscle Cars in front of Harding School. Set up starts after 10 a.m. Registration – Day of Show. Cars must be registered by 1:00 p.m. to be judged.

Trophies for Winners! All Proceeds go to Pride in Kenilworth Committee. For more Car Show Info send email with your questions to: rprflocal3@gmail.com

LOCAL SENIORS ARTS & CRAFT SHOW

At this street fair, local seniors (Age 60 or older) will have an opportunity to show and/or sell their artwork, crafts, and photographs during a Kenilworth Senior Arts, Crafts and Photography Show that will take place at the newly renovated Kenilworth Senior Center. The event, a major highlight of the center's planned grand reopening celebration, coincides with the timing of the Kenilworth Street Fair. Exhibit space in the show will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested participants should register by May 8. Registration forms will be available at the Kenilworth Senior Center and Kenilworth Public Library. For further information, please call Shirley Boyden Maxwell, senior program director, at 908-276-1716.

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YWCA AWARDS ANNE EVANS ESTABROOK LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

YWCA Union County proudly announces Anne Evans Estabrook as the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in the family justice field. Ms. Estabrook has been a loyal supporter of the YWCA for many years and a champion of causes that benefit children and families.

In addition to her support, she was active in the development and establishment of the Family Justice Center in 2017, and has helped rebuild the YWCA's administrative headquarters after it burned down.

Ms. Estabrook is the Owner and Chairperson of Elberon Development Group, a family-owned real estate holding company in northern New Jersey. Much of her career has been spent building women up in her industry, and to give woman in violent situations the skills to rebuild their lives professionally and financially. She was chosen by New Jersey Monthly Magazine as one of its Top 25 Leading Women Entrepreneurs and in May 2011 Ms. Estabrook was honored with The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children's "Vitae Discimus Award".

Ms. Estabrook will receive the award at the inaugural Champions for Family Justice Breakfast held on Thursday, May 9, 2024 from 8am to 10am at the Embassy Suites in Berkeley Heights, NJ. Along with her, this prestigious celebration will honor and award the achievements of other community champions who have made significant contributions in the field of family justice.

"The Champions for Family Justice Awards



(above) Anne Evans Estabrook

are a great opportunity for us to celebrate all of those who work hard to support families in crisis throughout Union County, and we are especially excited to present Anne with the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of all of the support she has provided to the YWCA which enables us to support victims of domestic violence in becoming survivors," shared Lisa Poris, Director of Union County Family Justice Center.

The Family Justice Center was implemented in partnership and receives annual support by the Union County Board of County Commissioners and the Union County Department of Human Services. Each year, hundreds of victims of domestic violence come to the Family Justice Center (FJC) to receive emotional, financial, and legal help, as they take steps towards a safe and stable future. The event will benefit core funding for these services offered by the FJC.

"Not only are we excited to be launching our first ever Champions for Family Justice Breakfast," says Kathryn Lynch, Interim Executive Director YWCA Union County. "We

are thrilled to dedicate this event to spotlight all of our amazing honorees and the remarkable work that the FJC does throughout the year for our clients."

Sponsors for the event include: Phillips 66, Lowenstein Sandler, Northfield Bank, Elberon Development Company, Resnick Law Firm and Alliance Community Healthcare.

Tickets to the Celebration Can Be Purchased at: ywcaunioncounty.org/champions-for-family-justice/

ABOUT THE UNION COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER:


The Union County Family Justice Center is a joint collaborative between Union County, the Union County Prosecutor's Office, and the YWCA Union County. Each year, hundreds of victims of domestic violence come to the FJC to receive help as they take steps towards a safe and stable future.

ABOUT YWCA UNION COUNTY:

YWCA of Union County is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Its mission is to empower survivors of domestic violence to become safe and free from abuse, and to promote social justice and eliminate violence against women and girls. We accomplish this mission through the provision of comprehensive, client-centered services, and through education, collaboration and advocacy that builds safe, informed and supportive communities. Its programs include a 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline (908-355-HELP), Community Support Services, Family Justice Center, Residential Programs, PALS (Peace: A Learned Solution), and Community & Professional Education. For more information, please visit www.ywcaunioncounty.org or call (908) 355-1995

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9 AM - 8 PM; Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM; Sunday: Closed

Walk-in Wednesdays: One-on-One Library Technology Assistance (Vauxhall Branch)

Wed. 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/29
@ 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Get help with library resources, including downloading e-books from Libby and Hoopla, using the library catalog and resources, using mobile print, and using the photocopier and scanner. Reservations are not required.

Hula Hooping for Adults (Vauxhall Branch)

Wednesdays 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/29 @ 6:00 pm

Hula Hooping conditions the core, works on body alignment, boosts flexibility, stability, and lowers stress with a weight loss workout. Please bring your own Infinity Hula Hoop as supplies are limited.

Meditation (Virtual on Zoom)

Thursdays 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23 @ 11:30 am

Join Bindu Bhatt for a virtual meditation session. No experience is necessary. Bindu has practiced meditation for over 30 years and wants to share her insight.

Canva for Beginners (Vauxhall Branch)

Tues. 5/7 @ 10:00 am

Learn how to use Canva. Canva is a free web-based design tool that can help design flyers, calendars, social media posts, presentations, and more! Register for the program here.

Practice Your English (Vauxhall Branch)

Thurs. 5/9 @ 12:00 pm

Do you know anyone who would like to practice English? Now's their opportunity. Join us for a drop-in group that's more like a party than a formal class. Registration is required, lookout for the registration link here. (Must be able to speak basic English.)

Practice Your English (Main Library)

Mon. 5/9, 5/13 & 5/23 @ 6:00 pm

Do you know anyone who would like to practice English? Now's their opportunity. Join us for a drop-in group that's more like a party than a formal class. Registration is required, lookout for the registration link here. (Must be able to speak basic English.)

Practice Your English (Vauxhall Branch)

Thurs. 5/23 @ 12:00 pm

Do you know anyone who would like to practice English? Now's their opportunity. Join us for a drop-in group that's more like a party than a formal class. Registration is required, lookout for the registration link here. (Must be able to speak basic English.)

Friends of the Library (Main Library)

Thurs. 5/9 @ 6:00 pm

Join the Friends of the Library at their monthly meeting. New members are always welcome.

Come to support your library.

Home Run King: The Remarkable Record of Hank Aaron (Vauxhall Branch)

Sat. 5/11 @ 1:00 pm

Noted Baseball Historian Dan Schlossberg presents his new work, Home Run King. Published in time for Aaron's 50th anniversary of breaking Babe Ruth's lifetime home run record.

Boogie Woogie Adult Dance Fitness (Vauxhall Branch)

Mon. 5/13 @ 6:00 pm

Get your exercise in with a fun cardio workout featuring hip-hop inspired dance moves, presented by Tiffany Taylor!

LinkedIn for Beginners (Vauxhall Branch)

Tues. 5/14 @ 10:00 am

LinkedIn is an invaluable resource for projecting your professional persona, networking with those in your field, and finding new opportunities. In this class, we'll set up an account and explore the free service.

Build Up Your Balance (Main Library)

Wed. 5/15 @ 10:30 am

Through gentle exercises and stepping strategies, learn to keep your body balanced in different situations.

Yankee Stadium: From the Organ with Ed Alstrom (Vauxhall Branch)

Wed. 5/15 @ 6:00 pm

Ed Alstrom just finished the 20th season as the Weekend Organist at Yankee Stadium. In his presentation, he will talk about his job, how he does it, and some stories and experiences at the stadium.

Off the Shelf Book Club (Main Library)

Thurs. 5/16 @ 6:30 pm

This month, we are reading White Teeth by Zadie Smith. Pick up your copy at the Main Library. Great way to make new friends!

Edward Bowser Jr: NJ's First Black Architect (Vauxhall Branch)

Sat. 5/18 @ 1:00 pm

Just us with local historian and architect, Mr. Frank Gerard Godlewski who will be discussing the life of Edward Bowser Jr, the first African American architect. He famously designed the Ronson firm in Central NJ and the Medical Arts building in East Orange.

Monday Night Trivia: Black TV Sitcoms (Vauxhall Branch)

Mon. 5/20 @ 6:00 pm

Fan of A Different World or Good Times? Maybe you still watch reruns of Living Single and Martin? Come join us as we test your TV knowledge for fun and prizes!

Google Drive for Beginners (Vauxhall Branch)

Tues. 5/21 @ 10:00 am

Google Drive is a cloud-based storage service for those with a Google email. Join us as we learn how to log in to your Google account, access Google Drive, create a folder, file.

Hilton Readers Book Discussion Group (Vauxhall Branch)

Wed. 5/22 @ 6:00 pm

May's selection is Tell No One by Harlan Coben

Animal Crossing Open Hours (Virtual on Nintendo Switch)

Fri. 5/24 @ 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Come explore UPL Island! Check out our inclusive virtual library building that serves children, teens, and adults. Discover our Mario-themed maze, shake fruit/money trees, shop at Nooks & Abels, help craft DIYs, and leave a message on the bulletin board. As a thank you for visiting, there will be freebies! You must add us as a friend before entering the island. Our UPL Nintendo friend code is SW-4027-1837-6212. All ages are welcome. No registration is necessary.

Adult Candle-Making Workshop (Main Library)

Sat. 5/25 @ 10:30 - 12:30 pm

Indulge your creativity at our exclusive candle-making workshop led by Salimah Scott, the talent behind Urban GLÖ. Limited slots available. Registration is required.

Google Docs for Beginners (Vauxhall Branch)

Tues. 5/28 @ 10:00 am

Google Docs is a free web-based word processing software by Google. Learn to create, share, save, download, and more with your documents on Google Docs.

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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
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55TH ANNUAL VALOR AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 200 Club of Union County

Union Fire Department Captain Kenneth DeHart and Firefighter Cody Mendoza-Ryals will be among those honored at the 55th Annual Valor Awards Luncheon to be held on Friday, May 17, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn Springfield, 304 US-22, Springfield, NJ. Tickets are \$100pp and can be purchased at uc200club.org. Fourteen Local Heroes will be honored, and student scholarships will be awarded.

The Two Hundred Club Medal of Valor Award is a prestigious honor reserved for the courageous Police and Firefighters of Union County who have gone above and beyond in the line of duty. Each spring, our Annual Spring Valor Award Luncheon is held, attracting hundreds of attendees who gather to celebrate and honor these true heroes. Since 1968, we have recognized over 400 police officers, firefighters, and State Troopers, all of whom have selflessly risked their lives in service of the public good. The Valor Awards Luncheon is also a time to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. With solemn respect, we honor the memory of those

who have given their lives to protect and serve our community.

UNION FIRE DEPARTMENT HONNOREES

On March 29, 2023, Captain DeHart and Firefighter Mendoza-Ryals of The Union Township Fire Department were called to a blazing fire in a three-story mixed-use building. Without hesitation, they rushed into the building with a charged line, ready to combat the flames.

As they navigated through a smoke-filled apartment, they discovered a victim lying on the kitchen floor, unconscious but still breathing. Despite the danger surrounding them, Captain DeHart and Firefighter Mendoza called for backup to contain the fire and shifted all of their focus to rescuing the trapped victim. Thanks to their quick thinking and unwavering bravery, the victim was saved and eventually made a full recovery.

For their fearless resolve and extraordinary bravery in the face of danger, Captain DeHart and Firefighter Mendoza-Ryals are receiving The Two Hundred Club of Union County Medal of Valor.



WATCH EPISODE 3 OF RENNA MEDIA PODCAST

Renna Media has posted its second episode of "Mind Your Own Local Business," a podcast that gives advice on how to run a successful local business. To learn more call me, 908-447-1295, or email joerenna@rennamedia.com.



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