

Spirit of UNION NJ

UNION'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

FREE

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Issue 165 • September 2024

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FESTIVAL CELEBRATES GREEK CULTURE - SEPT 5, 6, 7 & 8

Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors of Greece at the 47th Annual Greek Festival, taking place at the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Union, NJ. This eagerly anticipated event, the largest and longest-running Greek Festival in Union County, will delight attendees from September 5th to September 8th, 2024, with a weekend of cultural immersion, culinary delights, and family-friendly entertainment.

What to Expect:

Authentic Greek Cuisine: Indulge in a feast of traditional Greek dishes including souvlaki, moussaka, pastitsio, spanakopita, loukoumades, and baklava, all freshly prepared on premises with the finest ingredients reminiscent of your Greek Yia-yia's cooking.

Live Music and Dance: Experience the lively rhythms of Greece with live music and dance performances featuring traditional Greek folk music and dances such as syrtaki and



kalamatianó.

Artisan Marketplace: Browse through a bustling marketplace offering handmade jewelry, clothing, and imported goods from Greece.

Event Details:

Dates: September 5th to September 8th, 2024

Location: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Rahway Ave, Union, NJ 07083 (Free Parking in neighboring lots)

Admission: \$2 general admission; a portion of admission proceeds benefit local Union Township/Union County charities

"We are thrilled to invite the community to join us for our 47th Annual Greek Festival," said Betty Spiropoulos, Festival Committee Co-Chair "This event is a celebration of our Greek heritage and a wonderful opportunity for everyone to experience the warmth and hospitality of our culture."

About the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church:

Established in 1928 in Newark and relocated to Union in 1984, the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church has been a cornerstone of the Union Township community, celebrated for its rich diversity and dedication to promoting Greek culture, faith, and community spirit. Over the years, it has warmly welcomed people from various backgrounds, fostering an inclusive environment that embraces cultural diversity and unity among its members.

Social Media:

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and behind-the-scenes looks at the festival: [@stdemetriosunion](https://www.facebook.com/stdemetriosunion)

Don't miss out on this unforgettable celebration of Greek culture and community! Join us at the 47th Annual Greek Festival in Union, NJ, for a weekend filled with delicious food, vibrant music, and family-friendly fun.

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ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
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GREEK FESTIVAL
FOOD • MUSIC • VENDORS • ENTERTAINMENT
SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2024

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5 6PM-10PM	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6 5PM-12AM
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7 12PM-12AM	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8 12PM-7PM

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Spirit of UNION

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GRANT WILL HELP VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery provided a \$25,000 grant to the YWCA Union County supporting temporary housing for domestic violence victims. Phillips 66 continues to strive to be a trusted community partner. At Phillips

66, we understand that we share our communities and take responsibility for our neighbors' safety and well-being. To learn more about the YWCA Union County visit ywcaunioncounty.org.



(above, l-r) Kathryn Lynch – YWCA Union County, Lisa Barra – Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery, Patricia Mejas – YWCA Union County, Ann Janson – Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery

Courtesy photo

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Registration & Payment is due no later than September 5, 2024
Registration / Sponsorship Levels

Hole Sponsor	\$125	Includes Signage
Foursome	\$700	
Golfer	\$175	
Dinner Guest Only	\$35	

Name: _____
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Phone Number: _____
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Please list the name of every golfer: _____

Payment is enclosed for:

Day of Golf (\$175)
 Foursome (\$700)
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 Dinner Guest Only (\$35)

Checks should be made payable to Knights of Columbus 6226
and mailed to: P.O. Box 501; Cranford, NJ 07016
Venmo Payments: @KofC6226 Code: 7778

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GOLF OUTING AT GALLOPING HILL - SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Galloping Hill Golf Course Kenilworth, NJ
The Cranford Knights of Columbus will be holding our Annual Golf Outing at Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth, NJ on Friday, September 20, 2024. The cost is \$175.00 per Golfer which includes Golf, Golf Cart, Prizes, Lunch and Dinner. There will be Lunch starting at 11 :30 AM, a Shotgun Start at 1 :00 PM to golf and a Dinner following immediately afterwards at the Columbian Club of Garwood. The Golf Outing proceeds will benefit all of the Council's supported Charities as well as Folds of Honor who provides scholarships for the spouses and children of America's fallen or disabled military as well as first responders and the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless which provides the homeless and near homeless with the tools and support to live healthy, self-efficient lives.

For more Information about Sponsorships, Playing or to get involved, please contact:

- Tom Turner - Grand Knight - 908-884-4083 - thomasmturmer@2verizon.net
- John Doolan - PGK, Golf Outing Committee 908-451-8947- idoolan@verizon.net
- Jim D'Arcy- Golf Outing Committee 908-482-0132 - iimdr@verizon.net
- Ed Bagniewski - Golf Outing Committee 973-445-1075 - hfobaggy(iyverizon.net
- Ed Nestor- Golf Outing Committee 908-447-2804 - enestor2825@gmailcom
- Wally Shackell - Golf Outing Committee 908-868-9988 - shackell3@vahoo.com
- Joe Starkey - Golf Committee 908-489-0575 - starkey301@.aolcom
- Rich Leahey - Golf Committee 908- 720-6559 - rcleahey@.aolcom
- www.gallopinghillgolfcourse.com

SCOUTS INVITE CHILDREN TO MEET 1ST RESPONDERS

The Cub Scout Packs and Scouts BSA troops in the City of Elizabeth extend an invitation to all children from Kindergarten through 8th grade in the eastern towns of Union County to join them for their Hometown Heroes event. Local and County police, fire and EMS agencies have been invited to show the children what they do in their daily missions.

This free event will be held on Saturday morning, September 28, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Location is in the parking lot of the former Our Lady of Fatima School, 403 Spring Street, Elizabeth. Parking will be conveniently provided in the church parking lot across.

There will be other fun activities and snacks, as well. Information will be available for any boy or girl interested in joining the Scouting America program.

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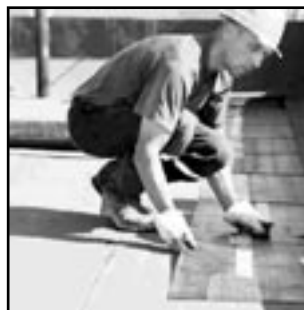
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Are you tired of running after what the world has to offer: money, fame, fortune? Are you seeking peace of mind, heart, and soul?

Explore answers to the ancient question, the first question that Jesus asked his followers, “What do you seek?”

Come to the 7-part Zoom series, “Beta: The Search,” hosted by Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish of Scotch Plains, NJ.

This series is free to all. It runs 7 consecutive Wednesday evenings on Zoom, from Wednesday October 2, 2024, until November 13, 2024, beginning at 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

You will gather with other seekers, watch a 30-minute video on life’s big questions, and then engage in small group discussion. This series is for all seekers; young, old, single, married, faithful, atheist, and agnostic.

There is no cost to participate but spots are limited so please register early. Just bring yourself and a desire for frank discussion, a willingness to participate and a commitment to attend. You will need a computer or smartphone capable of Zoom sessions.

To register go onto IHMparish.net, scan the QR code or call Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish at 908-889-2100 with any questions you may have.

Beta: The Search returns on
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7 Episode Series on
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on ZOOM from
October 2 until November 13.
Please sign-up at
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help 908-889-2100



CAR SHOW TO BENEFIT FOOD PANTRY

The Roselle Park Knights of Columbus Council 3240 is holding its 6th Annual Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show at the Church of the Assumption, 113 Coolidge Place, Roselle Park, NJ, on September 28, 2024 (Rain Date: October 5, 2024), from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registrations starts at 9 am. \$15 Early Registration – Make checks payable to: K of C

3240 and mail them to Church of the Assumption, 113 Coolidge Place, Roselle Park NJ 07204. \$20 Registration at the Door. Trophy’s Awarded. Food and Music Available. All Proceeds to benefit the Church of the Assumption Food Pantry. For further info, call or email Frank Rebimbias, rebi622@gmail.com, 908-858-0699.

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ELKS FAMILY FUN DAY TO HELP HOMELESS VETS

The NJ Elks East Central District is proud to announce the 2nd Annual Family Fun Day event on September 28, 2024 from noon to 6pm at the Stirling Elks Lodge at 1138 Valley Road in Stirling. This event aims to bring the community together for a day of food, fun, and entertainment for all ages to help support a crucial cause.

Included with entry, all attendees will enjoy a delicious pig roast, grilled burgers, hotdogs, pulled pork, sausage & peppers, sandwiches, sides, desserts, water, soda, beer, wine, sangria, and more. Kids' activities will include DJ Mr. Socks, contests, games, a bounce house, magic performances, a fire truck, and more. Adults and teens can participate in a professionally run cornhole tournament, a golf pitching contest, volleyball, and bocce ball. Additionally, the event will feature a special rendition of the National Anthem, a NJ State Police helicopter, World War II vehicles, bagpipers, a dunk tank, 50/50s, a Silent Auction, and a paratrooper parachuting the American Flag into the event.

Admission is \$25 (donation) for adults. Children under 12 are free.

There are thousands of homeless veterans in New Jersey which is a tragic reality that the NJ Elks are determined to change. Over the past five years, the New Jersey Elks have successfully helped to move over 2,400 homeless veterans into homes, providing them with a fresh start and

a sense of stability.

The Elks National Veterans Service Committee operates on a 100% volunteer basis, ensuring that all proceeds from this event will go directly towards improving the lives of our American heroes who have fallen on tough times. In addition, they are actively seeking sponsors and donors to support their efforts and their public relations committee will work hard to acknowledge them through several sponsorship packages.

Donations and advanced ticket purchases can be made at: <http://donate.njelks-ecd.org> or mailed to Elks ECD Veterans Committee, 87 Harrison Ave., Colonia, NJ 07067. Checks should be made payable to: ECD Veterans Committee, with 'homeless vets' in the memo. (If a 501(c)(3) receipt is needed, please make checks payable to: NJSEA, with 'homeless vets' in the memo).

For sponsorship interest or more information about this event, please contact Apollo Hrehorovich at funday@njelks-ecd.org, call or text 732-540-0062, or visit <http://funday.njelks-ecd.org>.

Elks pledge "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them."

For more information about the Elks and how to join, please visit <http://elks.org> today.

ELKS EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT
FAMILY FUN DAY
PICNIC
TO BENEFIT HOMELESS VETERANS
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28
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\$25
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Chair Yoga (Main Library)

Thurs. 9/5 @ 10:00 am

Friends of the Library Meeting (Vauxhall Library)

Thurs. 9/5 @ 6:00 pm

Sickle Cell Information Session (Vauxhall Library)

Sat. 9/7 @ 1:00 pm

Adult Crochet for Beginners (Vauxhall Library)

Wed. 9/11 @ 6:00 pm

From Slavery to Freedom: The Logistics of the New Jersey Underground Railroad (Vauxhall Library)

Sat. 9/14 @ 1:00 pm

Monday Night Trivia: TV Commercials (Vauxhall Library)

Mon. 9/16 @ 6:00 pm

Voter Registration Day (Vauxhall Library)

Tues. 9/17 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Build Up Your Balance (Main Library)

Wed. 9/18 @ 12:30 pm

Off the Shelf Book Club (Main Library)

Thurs. 9/19 @ 6:30 pm

Animal Crossing Open Hours (Virtual on Nintendo Switch)

Fri. 9/20 @ 3:00 - 5:00 pm

An Afternoon with Cocomama: A Hispanic Heritage Month Musical Performance (Vauxhall Library)

Sat. 9/21 @ 1:00 pm

Know Your Rights? (Vauxhall Library)

Mon. 9/23 @ 6:00 pm

Hilton Readers Book Discussion Group (Vauxhall Library)

Wed. 9/25 @ 6:00 pm

The 350+ Year Evolution of Salsa (Vauxhall Library)

Sat. 9/28 @ 1:00 pm

Black Baseball History (Vauxhall Library)

Mon. 9/30 @ 6:00 pm

Meditation (Virtual on Zoom)

Thurs. @ 11:30 am on 9/5 & 9/12



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ELKS CARE PACKAGES FOR OVERSEAS TROOPS

Submitted by Jon Joshua

Area Elks Club members recently teamed up with Girl Scouts from New Providence and Chatham at the Stirling Elks Lodge to assemble and mail 22 care packages packed with cookies and "Thank You" cards to troops from NJ who are currently deployed overseas.

They were joined by Air Force 2D Lt. Mitchell Horn from the New Jersey Air National Guard and a member of American Legion Post 322 in Summit who explained how receiving a care package can have a huge positive impact on the morale of someone who is serving thousands of miles away from home.

The National Veterans Service Committee of the NJ Elks East Central District, with Lodges in Stirling, Summit, Springfield, Mountainside, Cranford, Union, and Rahway, spent approximately \$1,200 to purchase the cookies and postage. Elks members help to support programs like this through grants, donations, and fundraising events.

Elks pledge "So long as there are Veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." The same holds true for active duty military members and their families. Please visit Elks.org for more information about the Elks and how to join.



(above) Area Elks recently teamed up with local girl scouts to send care packages to NJ Troops that are stationed overseas.

Courtesy photo

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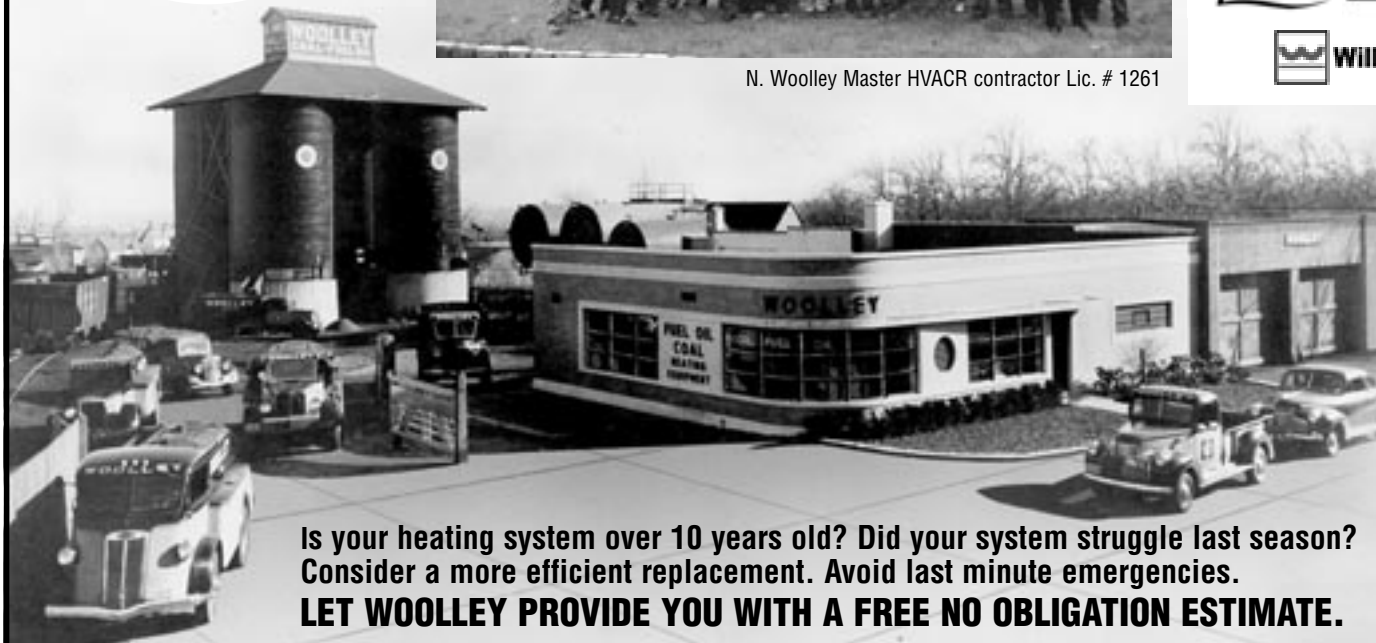
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Marketing Toolbox

Renna Media offers a full range of marketing services, in print and online, hyper-local to regional, for every budget and market size.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTS

We mail 160,000 newspapers to every home and business in 24 towns. You can advertise in any number of towns. Ads start at \$60.

FULL COLOR PRINTING

We print flyers and menus, full color, two sided, on coated stock for only \$45 per thousand.

DIRECT MAIL

Insert your flyer into the newspapers and get it mailed to every home and business for \$60 per thousand and as low as \$30 per thousand for higher quantities.

ONLINE MARKETING

Online ads and press releases designed and placed to drive traffic to your website and get your phone ringing.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

RENNA MEDIA NEWSPAPER RATE SHEET

WE MAIL 160,000 NEWSPAPERS MONTHLY!

Tina Renna 908-418-5586 • tinarena@rennamedia.com

Joe Renna 908-447-1295 • joerenna@rennamedia.com

202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

Online at RennaMedia.com
and NJLocalInfo.com

Call today for **FREE** consult on marketing and business plans.



Advertise in 1 or all 24 towns



Berkeley Heights COMMUNITY NEWS Qty: 4,700 Zip: 07922	THE CHATHAMS NJ Qty: 7,500 Zip: 07928	Clark Monthly Qty: 6,700 Zip: 07066	CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ Qty: 9,900 Zip: 07016	Elmora Hills ELIZABETH, NJ Qty: 5,400 Zip: 07208 <small>Section of Elizabeth, NJ</small>	Fanwood Post NJ Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023
Florham Park Press NJ Qty: 5,500 Zip: 07932	Garwood NJ Times Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	Green Brook NJ Gazette Qty: 3,000 Zip: 08812	BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH NJ Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	NJ LIFE in LINDEN Qty: 17,900 Zip: 07036	Long Hill LEADER NJ Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980
MADISON MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	MOUNTAINVIEW NJ Qty: 2,900 Zip: 07092	New Providence NEWS NJ Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	OUR TOWN Rahway NJ Qty: 13,000 Zip: 07065	ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY Qty: 9,400 Zip: 07076
Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	Summit NJ Times Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield NJ MONTHLY Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

Rates are per month. Artwork included in price. Newspapers are black on white.

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								
BACK PAGE	10" x 14"	\$500								
FRONT PAGE BANNER	8.25" x 2"	\$320								
FRONT PAGE BOX	1.5" x 4.5"	\$240								

PREPAY 6 MONTHS AND GET 1 MORE FREE
PREPAY 12 MONTHS AND GET 3 MORE FREE

Back cover, front page banner and front box reserved on first cover, first-served basis. Current advertiser has right of first refusal.

Make Checks payable to Renna Media, 202 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016

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SERVICE**

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FIVE STAR CUSTOMER RATING



**15% OFF
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DISCOUNT**

**\$300 OFF
ANY
CHIMNEY
REPAIR**

Before After



With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Expires 9/30/24.

**\$175
GUTTER CLEANING**



Average house size. With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Expires 9/30/24.

**\$1,300
CHIMNEY
LINER**



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Expires 9/30/24.

**\$300 OFF
ANY ROOF
REPAIR**



With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Expires 9/30/24.

**\$400 OFF
NEW STEPS**



With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Expires 9/30/24.

**\$800 OFF
ANY NEW
ROOF JOB**



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- STEPS
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- SIDEWALKS
- REPAIR

ROOFING

- RE-ROOF
- NEW ROOF
- ROOF REPAIRS
- SHINGLES
- FLAT ROOF

CHIMNEY

- CLEANING
- RE-LINE
- REPAIRS
- REBUILD
- CAPPING

GUTTERS

- CLEANING
- INSTALLATION
- SCREENING
- REPAIRS
- REPLACEMENTS

COMPLETE SET OF STEPS
Up to 6 Feet, 5 Steps / Brick, Limestone & Concrete

Special \$4,300

BEFORE **AFTER**

With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Some restrictions apply. Expires 9/30/24.

CHIMNERY LINER

Special \$1,300

WHY SHOULD I USE A CHIMNEY LINING SYSTEM?

- Protect your house from heat transfer combustibles
- Protect the masonry from the corrosive by products of combustion
- Provide a correctly sized flue for optimum efficiency of appliance

Save \$1,000 ON ROOF REPLACEMENT

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Easy & Effective Cleaning

Long Term Preservation

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DANGER CARBON MONOXIDE Carbon Monoxide is invisible, odorless, and can kill you!

\$600 OFF NEW SIDING JOB

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\$350 OFF ANY CHIMNEY REPAIR of \$1,000 or more

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\$350 OFF ANY ROOF REPAIR of \$1,000 or more

With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Some restrictions apply. Expires 9/30/24.

\$400 OFF ANY FOUNDATION JOB of \$2,000 or more

With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Some restrictions apply. Expires 9/30/24.

\$150 GUTTERS CLEANING (any Average House)

With coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Some restrictions apply. Expires 9/30/24.