

ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY

Courtesy photos

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ROUTE 28 MURAL HIGHLIGHTS RAHWAY VALLEY RAILROAD

Union County Connects

Roselle Park residents and visitors traveling on Route 28, can now enjoy a landmark work of art for many decades to come: a mural celebrating the proud history of the borough's rail line and envisioning its potential as a different type of community resource.

Created by the renowned artist Distort on the west-facing wall of Son-Rise Document Solutions, the mural was unveiled in July by Union County Connects (UCC), the nonprofit organization that developed and acquired necessary funds for the project. Creating this artwork is among the group's first visible steps in a long-range plan to increase pedestrian and cyclist safety and promote outdoor recreation and socialization.

The mural is a historically accurate rendition of trains that operated on the Rahway Valley Railroad, the short line system that operated for 95 years, providing supplies and employment opportunities to residents of the Roselle Park area.

At the unveiling, Sunil Badlani, one of the project's funders through the Nikhil Badlani Foundation, spoke eloquently about his dedication to road safety and the family tragedy that has made it a major passion in his life.

Preventing death and serious injury on Union County roads

is among the top priorities of Union County Connects according to President Stephen Dunn Jr., an Elizabeth firefighter as well as an avid bicyclist and father of two. Under his direction, the group conducted its third annual "Celebrate Trails" walk in April, an event attended by hundreds of area residents.

Dunn's speech at Son-Rise addressed the eventual goal of converting dormant rail lines in the county into active, safe pathways for citizens' use as recreational trails and practical ways to access shopping and workplace areas. He also credited the teamwork of the Union County Connects officials and volunteers and "the power of public-private partnerships in advancing rail-trail conversions and historic preservation."

The keynote speaker at the mural unveiling was Richie King, President of the Tri-state Railway Historical Society. Richie emphasized the important significance of the Rahway Valley Railroad as Union County grew by supplying building materials and household goods to these communities. He also told the crowd that the RVRR was originally built to transport golfers to Baltusrol Golf Course.

For more information about Union County Connects, or to learn how you can become a donor or volunteer, go to: unioncountyconnects.org.

Courtesy photo



(above) The unveiling of a mural celebrating the proud history of the borough's rail line and envisioning its potential as a different type of community resource was attended by over 100 volunteers, local dignitaries and community residents.

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CENTER FOR HOPE AUXILIARY FUNDRAISING CONTINUES

Submitted by Dana Gillie

The Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Auxiliary hosted its annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser recently. During the event Dolores Paruta, president of the Auxiliary, presented Frank Brady, president of the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care with a check for \$75,000. Our Auxiliary raises funds to support the Charity Care Program at the Center providing financing for patients who are unable to pay for the services of the Center. Last year alone the Auxiliary was able to donate well over \$100,000. These funds are raised through events sponsored by the Auxiliary such as the Wine Tasting in the spring and our Baskets of Hope luncheon fundraiser in the fall. The Hope Chest thrift store, located on Prospect Street in Westfield, is manned fully by volunteers and is the auxiliary's major fundraiser.

The Auxiliary's next fundraiser will be the Baskets of Hope on October 6, 2024, at the Gran Centurions in Clark. Please contact the Hope Chest, 908-233-9973, or the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care, 908-889-7780, for further information regarding the event.

The Auxiliary is always happy to welcome new members and information on membership can be found at the above numbers or on the Center's website - cfhh.org.



(above) Auxiliary president, Dolores Paruta and Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care President Frank Brady.

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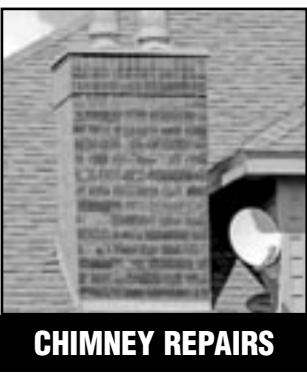
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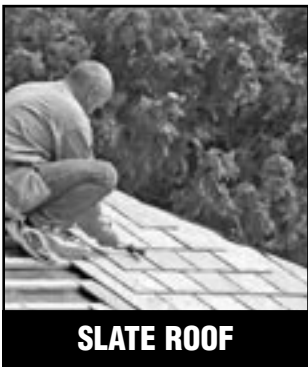
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LONG-TIME PUPPY RAISERS HONORED

The Seeing Eye

The Seeing Eye recently honored five long-time puppy raisers with induction to “The Seeing Eye 21 Club”, a special honor for volunteers who have raised at least 21 Seeing Eye® puppies. The non-profit also honored the Seeing Eye puppy raising club volunteers with two awards, the Outstanding Leader Award and the 20-year Leader Award. Finally, 34 exceptional college-bound puppy raisers were awarded college scholarships totaling \$64,000.

“Each year, The Seeing Eye’s Family Day is a celebration of all the hard work and dedication of our volunteer puppy raising families,” said Seeing Eye director of canine development Peggy Gibbon. “An army of volunteers provides each Seeing Eye puppy with a loving home environment, socialization, and basic training that prepares them to become Seeing Eye dogs for people who are blind.”

“We’re actively recruiting puppy raisers and puppy sitters for our upcoming litters that are planned for the coming months. If you’re interested in joining our community of dog lovers, now is a great time to reach out to us and learn what puppy raising is all about,” said Gibbon. “We need homes and families of all shapes and sizes for our puppies because fully trained Seeing Eye dogs are placed in similarly diverse families and living situations with people who are blind.”

A puppy raiser family is responsible for providing a loving and nurturing home environment for approximately one year. During

that time, the raiser is responsible for teaching basic obedience, house manners, bringing the puppy to Seeing Eye puppy club meetings and socialization trips in their area. The Seeing Eye puppy could be a German shepherd, Labrador retriever, golden retriever, or a Labrador/golden retriever cross.

Puppy raisers must live within New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware or New York (Rockland or Orange Counties) so they can attend regular puppy club meetings where they will receive help and coaching with their puppies. All veterinary expenses are covered by The Seeing Eye and a stipend is provided to help cover the cost of dog food. If a Seeing Eye puppy does not graduate from the program, the family who raised the puppy is offered the first option to adopt the puppy they raised. For more information visit seeingeye.org/raise.

Established in 1929, The Seeing Eye provides specially bred and trained dogs to guide people who are blind. Seeing Eye dog handlers experience greatly enhanced mobility and independence, allowing them to retain their active lifestyles. The Seeing Eye is a 501(c)3 non-profit supported by contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, bequests, and other planned gifts.

The Seeing Eye is a trademarked name and can only be used to describe the dogs bred and trained at the school’s facilities in Morristown, N.J. If you would like more information on The Seeing Eye, please visit the website at SeeingEye.org, call 973-539-4425, or email info@seeingeye.org.



(above) Pam Heady was among those inducted into “The Seeing Eye 21 Club”, a special honor for volunteers who have raised at least 21 Seeing Eye® puppies.

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9TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF INDIA - OCT. 5

The Borough of Roselle Park will be celebrating its 9th Annual Festival of India on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at Roselle Park High School. This seasonal favorite will feature traditional fare, music, and dance. All are welcome to celebrate the rich traditions of Indian culture!

The festival begins at 5:00 p.m., with light

food being served from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., while supplies last. As the night goes on, Garba and Raas dances will begin at 7:00 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring their dandiya!

Roselle Park High School is located at 185 West Webster Avenue. For more information, please contact the Casano Community Center at 908-245-0666.

ITALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL – OCT. 19

The Borough of Roselle Park will be celebrating its inaugural Italian Heritage Festival on Saturday, October 19, 2024. The vibrant and rich tapestry of Italian culture will be on full display!

Roselle Park's Italian Heritage Festival will offer a unique opportunity for attendees to

immerse themselves in Italian cultural heritage. The festival will feature an array of activities and attractions, including, food trucks, live music, a wine garden, a cannoli eating contest and inflatables for the kids. The festival aims to honor and share Italian culture with people of all ages and backgrounds.

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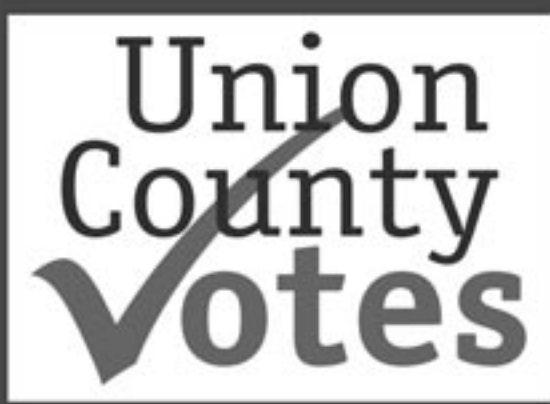
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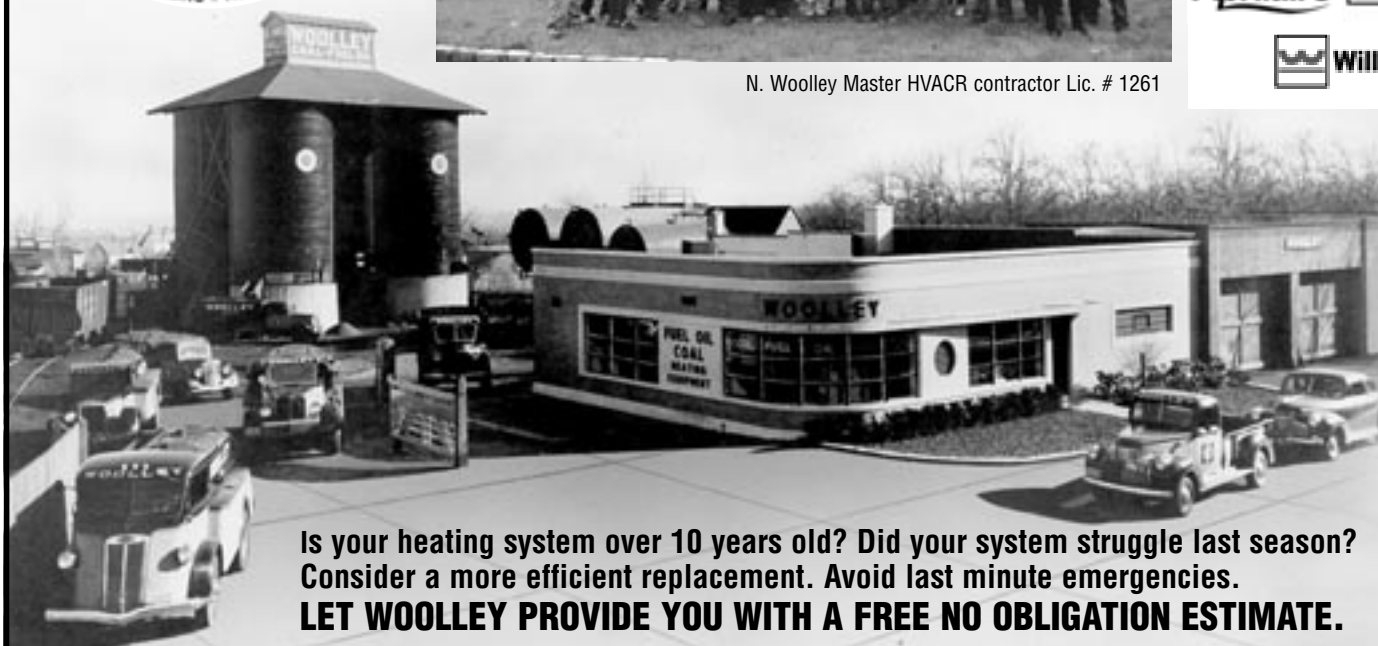
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Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	Summit & Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield MONTHLY NJ Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

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SENIOR HEALTH & FITNESS DAY - OCTOBER 16TH

The Gateway Family YMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA will host Senior Health & Fitness Day on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. The Y is providing a Community Open House with activities like Swimming, Group Exercise, Water Exercise, Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring, a Community Health Fair, Health Screenings and Information at Y branches in Elizabeth, Rahway, and Union. For details on individual Y branch events, classes, and times, visit tgfymca.org/events

According to Melynda A. Disla, President/CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA, "We are committed to ensuring that everyone in our community is supported, promoting health equity, and providing access to chronic disease prevention and management programs. Our commitment reaches beyond the walls of our branches, throughout the community and virtually, from home."

During Senior Health and Fitness Day, community members will join the YMCA and community partners for a Community Health Fair with vaccination information. The Gateway Family YMCA, Shaping Elizabeth and Shaping Union County will be hosting this event, along with the YMCA Open House with access and activities provided free of charge for all.

In addition, throughout the day on October 16th, the community is invited to visit The Gateway Family YMCA's Facebook page for

helpful resources, information and updates and discussions at:

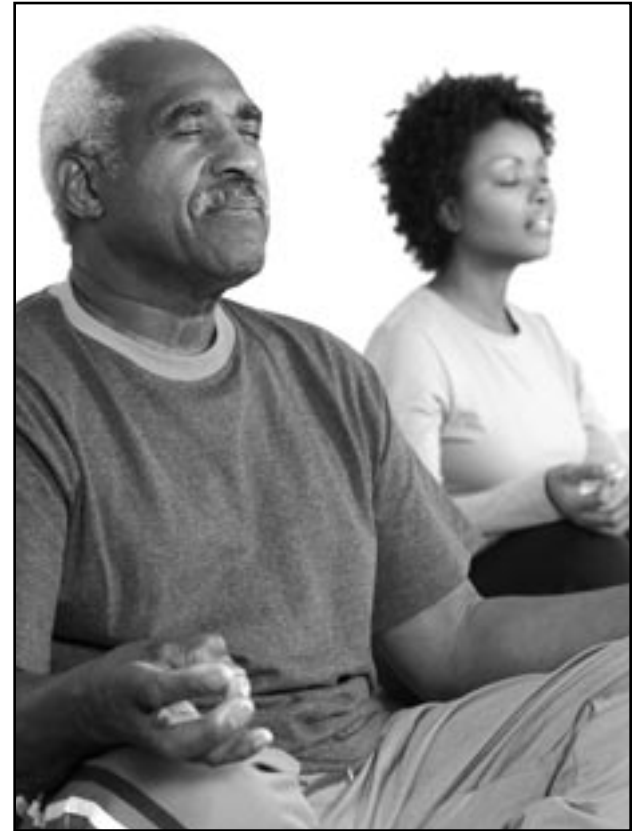
facebook.com/GatewayFamilyYMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA provides chronic disease self-management programs free to the local community in English and Spanish. Interested participants can register for the Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program (BPSM), Group Lifestyle Balance Diabetes Program, Diabetes Management Program or LiveSTRONG at the YMCA for cancer survivors at www.tgfymca.org or contact 908-349-9622 or bpsm@tgfymca.org for additional information.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening the foundations of community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faith, or incomes.

Shaping Eastern Union County is committed to improving the health and well-being of county residents and creating strategies to support improved health, nutrition, and physical activity for all. Shaping Elizabeth, Shaping Rahway and Shaping Union are also sponsoring this event.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA visit tgfymca.org or contact the Y at 908-349-9622.



(above) The Gateway Family YMCA Celebrates Senior Health & Fitness Day on October 16th.

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Senior Health & Fitness Day
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Wednesday, October 16

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