

ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY

Published by Renna Media, LLC. On-line at RennaMedia.com

Issue 51 • February 2025

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RPFD GIFT 400 TOYS & 200 CLOTHING ITEMS FOR HOLIDAYS

Roselle Park Fire Department

This year the Roselle Park Fire Department collected 400 toys and 200 (hats, gloves , jackets boots , baby outfits baby food) , \$315 in donations which we used to purchase toys. Everything collected was split between St. Barnabas (Burn Center , Pediatrics, Cancer Center) , St Joseph's (in Elizabeth) , and the Troopers Foundation.

We would like to give a big thank you to everyone who donated including St. Genevieve's church (Helping hands, CCD, altar servers and confirmation class), Triton International, Roselle Park Library, Cacique Cigars (Roselle Park) , and AtA Marshall Arts (Roselle Park). At this time, we would like to give a BIG Thank You to Grace Albert's a student at the Roselle Park High school who has been helping out with our toy drive for years.

To all our helpers Lisa (Elizabeth Police Dispatcher), Fanny (good friend), and all the Roselle Park fire fighters thank you for helping to put a smile on all the children's faces.

Courtesy photo



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STATE GRANT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO PERSHING AVENUE

Borough of Roselle Park

The year is off to a strong start for the Borough of Roselle Park, with state officials confirming \$374,868 in municipal aid for improvements to Pershing Avenue. The upcoming project will include enhancements to the pedestrian, roadway, and storm drainage infrastructure spanning from Westfield Avenue to East Clay Avenue.

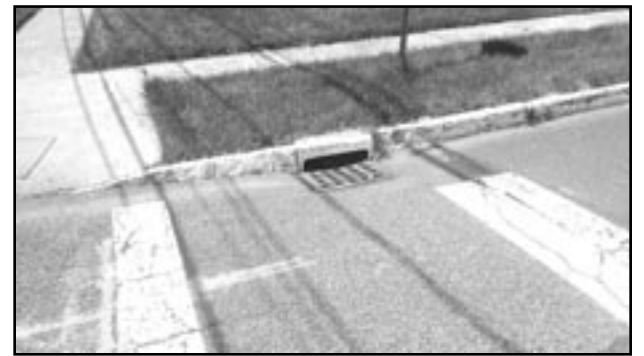
“Each year we’re getting through more of the infrastructure backlog I inherited seven years ago,” explained Mayor Joseph Signorello III. “We’re repaving and improving pedestrian connections at a faster pace by finding outside sources of funding like these.”

New storm drains are included in the project, converting the existing ones to a newer style that prevents floatable debris from entering the stormwater system, and is safer for pedestrian and cyclist traffic. Sidewalks that have become uneven over time will be repaired, and new ADA curb ramps will be constructed.

“In preparation for warmer weather, our professionals are preparing specifications for the bidding process,” said Borough Administrator Andrew J. Casais. “Once drafting is complete, specifications will be sent to NJDOT for review and required by the grant agreement. Once approved by the Department, we will proceed to bid, award, and commence the project.”



(above) A section of sidewalk along Pershing Ave. that will be repaired and made safer for pedestrians.



(above) A dilapidated storm drain along Pershing Ave. that will be upgraded to a bicycle safe one that prevents debris from entering the system.

ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY

Renna Media, LLC, Publishers
202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016

Roselle Park Monthly is published by Renna Media. 5,600 newspapers are printed monthly and mailed to every business and resident in Roselle Park, NJ. Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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ANGELS IN AMERICA PART ONE: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES" AT CDC

We are excited to announce that Tony Kushner's acclaimed play, "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches," will be in performance at the CDC Theatre in Cranford from February 14 to March 1. This monumental production is a significant event in the cultural calendar and promises to be a landmark moment for theatre enthusiasts.

"Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" is the first part of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic that explores the complex themes of politics, sexuality, and faith against the backdrop of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. The play is known for its profound narrative, compelling characters, and its unflinching examination of societal issues.

The CDC Theatre in Cranford is honored to host this powerful work. As one of New Jersey's longest producing community theatres, CDC Theatre has a rich history of bringing high-quality productions to the stage. The upcoming performance of "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" is set to continue this tradition, offering audiences an unforgettable experience. Directed by Michael Kidney is the cast: Corey Chichizola as Prior Walter, Brian Petty as Louis Ironson, Sean Lynch-Littlejohn as Joe Pitt, Molly Reinhardt as Harper Pitt, Lisa Barnett as Hannah Pitt, Aaron Hancock as Belize, Richard Colonna as Roy Cohn and Even T. Charpentier as The Angel.

The staging of "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" at CDC Theatre is not just an exciting theatrical event; it is a cultural milestone. The play's themes are as relevant today as they were when it first premiered in 1991, making this production a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggles and triumphs within our society.

We invite you to join us for this extraordinary

production. Tickets are available at cdctheatre.org. Don't miss the chance to witness Tony Kushner's masterpiece come to life on the stage of CDC Theatre in 2025. This is an event you won't want to miss.

Made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



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GRIEF FACILITATORS WELCOMED; VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

The staff at Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss are so pleased to welcome 10 new facilitators to their wonderful team of volunteers! The new facilitators completed three full days of training where they learned about Dr. Alan Wolfelt's Companionship Model practiced at Imagine, and role-played situations in which they used their new facilitation skills assisted by members of the Imagine staff.

One of the participants in the training shared a bit about her experience saying: "I was amazed by the way a group of strangers could feel so safe

in a non-judgmental environment to share their most vulnerable feelings and stories." Another spoke about the Imagine staff who facilitated the training sharing: "All three facilitators were more than generous of heart and spirit."

Each of the new volunteers is now facilitating a grief support group on one of Imagine's Nights of Support in Mountainside or Newark. The staff at Imagine are so grateful to welcome this new team of volunteers! One of the largest hurdles the staff at Imagine faces in meeting the demand for their services is finding compassionate individuals like those above, who can dedicate their time and talents to volunteer.

If you would like to explore the possibility of joining Imagine's incredible team of volunteers, please visit their website at imagineenj.org to

complete their interest form, or contact Imagine's Communications and Volunteer Engagement Manager, Val Stierhoff at val@imagineenj.org. Additional trainings are planned for youth facilitators in January, and for adults in February and May 2025.

Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss is a 501c3 that offers grief and loss education and training to the community and 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. For more information, please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or info@imagineenj.org or visit our website at imagineenj.org.

Please join Troop 83 in thanking our Veterans & First Responders at our 8th Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, February 23, 2025
anytime between 8:00am - 12 noon

Kenilworth VFW Hall
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(above, l-r) Participants in Imagine's recent facilitator training. Back Row: Indira Jagoo, Imagine's Newark Clinical Program Director; Cynthia White; Zeinab Fattahi; Virginia Farnum; Arlette Rodriguez; Tikeisha Johnson; Rena Jordan, Imagine's Chief Development Officer; Sonia Nunez, Imagine's Bilingual Program Manager; Ruth Lushen; Front Row: Abigail Preece, Imagine's Clinical Program Supervisor; Tracy Maitin; Tèanna Johnson and Caroline Hislip

Courtesy photo

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ROTARY'S STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The Rotary Club of Roselle/Roselle Park presented Students of the Month Awards to deserving seniors from Abraham Clark High School, Roselle Park High School and Roselle Catholic High School at recent breakfast meetings at the Anthony Amalfe Community Center 1268 Shaffer Avenue Roselle, NJ. Students of the Month from Roselle Park High School Madison O'Connell and Franco Marcelo.

Each student was recognized for their scholastic achievement, extra-curricular activities, and 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."

Students of the Month is a service project of the Rotary Club of Roselle-Roselle Park honoring a senior from each of the high schools in Roselle and Roselle Park, including Roselle Park High School and Roselle's Abraham Clark High School and Roselle Catholic High School. Each student receives a personalized plaque commemorating the occasion, a gift card to Barnes and Noble and an opportunity to speak to the group outlining their service to school and community and their academic successes.

The Rotary Club of Roselle Park is a service

organization which has served the twin boroughs of Roselle-Roselle Park since 1923 - 101 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 using the Contact Us feature.



(above) Students of the Month from Roselle Park High School Madison O'Connell and Franco Marcelo.

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2025 NJ FMBA COOKED & UNCORKED

On Monday, February 24, 2025, firefighters from around New Jersey will compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival, at the Pines Manor in Edison. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Mark A. Virag Memorial Cancer Fund, Family Promise of Bergen County, and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off is an integral part of the evening as firefighters will compete in three different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of some of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers, and dessert shops all in one location.




COOKED and UNCORKED

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VICKIE BOLL: A VOLUNTEER WHO MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

New Jersey Veterans Network

Every day, the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) supports disabled veterans and their families, providing crucial resources that can truly change lives. A big part of that success is due to our amazing team of volunteers who give their time, energy, and heart to help our heroes.

One volunteer who stands out is Vickie Boll. Vickie is a regular face in the veteran community, and her dedication to the cause is nothing short of inspiring. Despite facing her own challenges as someone with autism, Vickie works tirelessly to ensure that veterans have access to the resources they need and that they feel appreciated and supported. Whether it's helping load trucks with supplies or bringing cheer to veterans at recreational therapy events, Vickie is always there, offering a helping hand and a smile.

For Vickie, helping veterans is more than just a task – it's a personal passion. She finds a sense of safety and belonging with veterans, who, she says, are nonjudgmental and deeply appreciative of her efforts. Their gratitude motivates her to continue her work, and her positive attitude has made a real impact on the lives of many veterans.

But Vickie's good deeds don't stop there. Her



(above) Vickie Boll is a regular face in the veteran community, and her dedication to the cause is nothing short of inspiring.



Courtesy photo heart of service extends beyond veterans. Most recently, she spearheaded a successful collection for St. Hubert's Animal Rescue, further showing her commitment to making the world a better place for both people and animals.

It's an honor to have Vickie on the NJVN team. Her kindness, compassion, and tireless work ethic are a reminder that small actions can make a huge difference. The world is truly a better place because of people like her.

Help us save Vets – and make a lasting impact on those who served.

NJVN 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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Saturday: 10am – 2pm, Sunday: CLOSED • Website: <https://roselleparklibrary.org>

TOT PROGRAMS AGES 0-4

BOOKS & BADGES

(Tuesdays 11:00am)

Children will have a chance to build vocabulary and enjoy a book and craft with our officers from the RPPD Children up to age 9 with a caregiver welcome.

PLAY & LEARN STORY TIME

(Wednesdays 11:00am)

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

1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN AGES 0-5

Sign up for our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Get your reading log, log your books, collect your prizes, and join us for the end of summer reading party! Sign ups are ongoing, drop in any time to sign up. Roselle Park residents only.

Roselle Park residents only.

KIDS PROGRAMS (AGES 5-12)

JR. CHEF***

(Monday 2/10 3:30pm)

Join Miss Faith for a story and to practice kitchen safety as we make a tasty treat. Space is limited; online registration is required!

Ages 5-12

KIDS BINGO ***

(Monday 2/24 3:30pm)

Join Miss Faith and Miss Jessica for some after school fun! Play BINGO and win prizes! Space is limited; online registration is required!

FAMILY EVENTS

EATING HEALTHY & CHRONIC DISEASE SEMINAR***

(Monday 2/10 6:00pm-7:30pm)

Join Victoria Lodato from the Nutrition

Education Team at Community Food Bank of NJ with a hands-on nutrition education session.

PAJAMA STORY TIME

(Thursdays 6:30pm)

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

LEGO CLUB

(Wednesdays 3:00pm-4:00pm)

(Saturdays 2/8, 2/15 11:00am)

Use the library's LEGO bricks to build your own creations

T(W)EEN PROGRAMS (AGES 12-17)

T(W)EEN VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS

Wednesday 2/5 At 3:00pm

Join us at the library to make Valentine's Day Cards for your family and peers.

T(W)EEN COOKIE DECORATING

Tuesday 2/11 At 3:00pm

Come to the library to decorate Valentine's Day cookies and showcase your artist abilities!

T(W)EEN MOVIE

Tuesday 2/25 3:00pm

Join us in an afterschool movie event. There will be snacks!

ADULT PROGRAMS

KNITTING CLUB

(Wednesdays 1:00 - 3:00pm)

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

QUILTING CLUB

(2nd + 4th Thursdays 1:00 - 3:00pm)

Try out new quilting patterns with friends.

ESL

(Thursdays 2/6, 2/13, 2/20 6:00pm -7:00pm)

Sign up for our English language learning class.

**SOUND BATH WITH SANA YOGA

(Saturday 2/22 12:00pm)

Bring a mat, water, and have a relaxing time

CAFFEINE & CHAPTERS ADULT BOOK CLUB

(Thursday 2/27 6:00pm)

Review our book of the month. Call the circulation desk or come in to reserve a spot.

TAI-CHI

(Tuesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm)

Build strength, flexibility, and balance through this gentle form of exercise for ages teens through adults. Space is limited. Roselle Park residents given priority.

ADULT BOOKCLUB

(Monday, 2/24 6:00pm)***

Join Maria in discussing Something in the Water by Catherine Steadman and creating your own DIY lip oil!

TECH HELP

(Mon-Fri 10-5)

Available in Spanish or English. Appointments available, walk-ins welcome.

NOTARY SERVICES

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, &

Fridays 10:00am-4:30pm

Tuesdays 1:00pm-7:30pm

Please call before arriving to ensure a notary is available!

The Library Board meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month all are welcome to attend.



(above) Children along with their caregivers had a blast celebrating the New Year at our Play & Learn Story Time held in January. We sang songs, read stories, counted up and back down, had fun with parachutes, danced, and played with rhythm sticks—everything leading up to the big balloon drop with confetti! Cleaning up the big mess we made took a bit of time but the giggles and memories we created will stick around for much longer! Join us on Wednesdays at 11 for storytime fun!



(above) During the January Books and Crafts Club attendees made beautiful wreaths.

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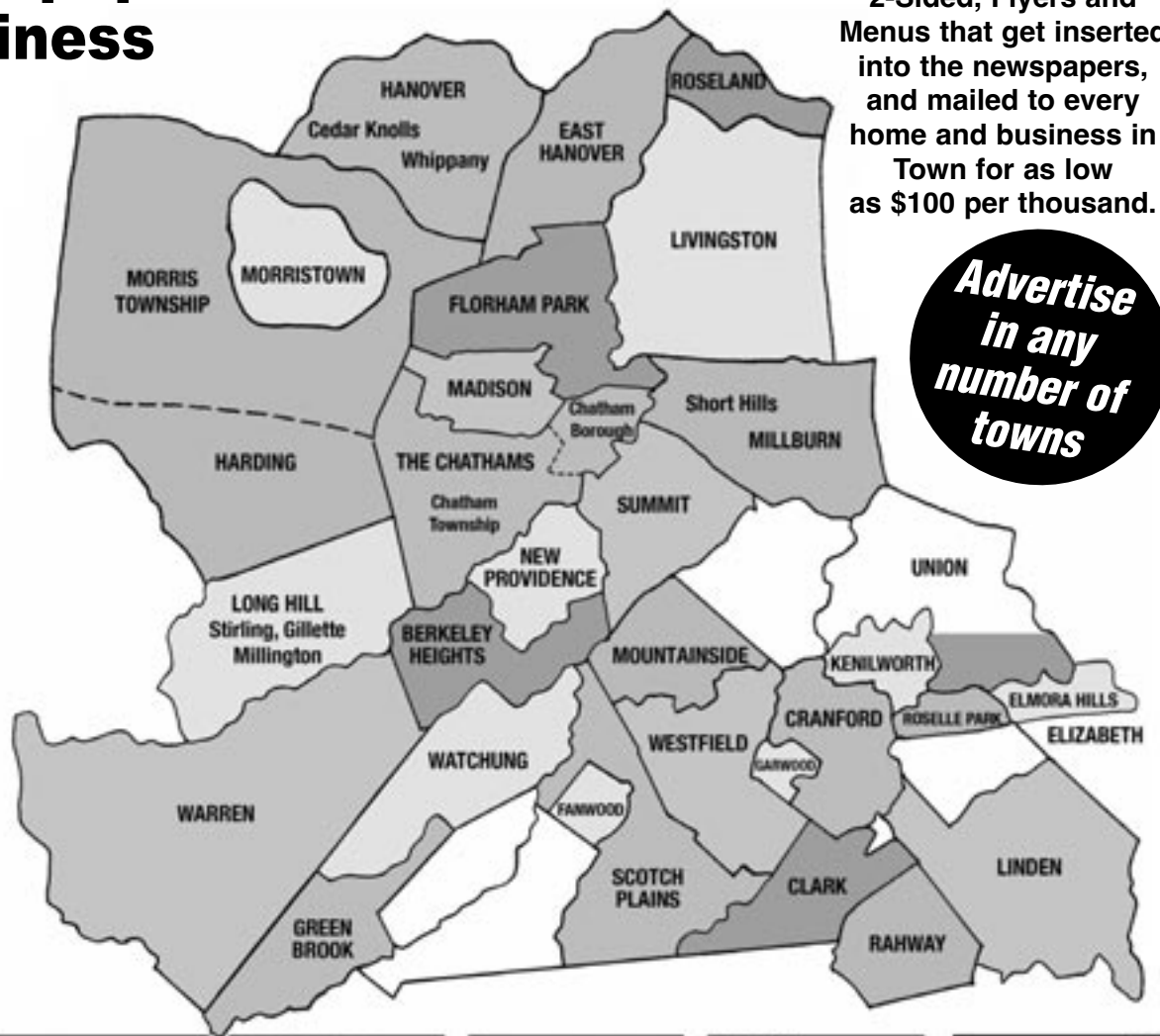
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
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UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVING HISTORY

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The Hannah and James Caldwell Memorial Obelisk recently underwent a complete restoration and cleaning at the Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church (formerly known as the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown) in Elizabeth thanks to the Union County Historical Society (UCHS).

UCHS President Joanne Rajoppi said, "The 179-year-old obelisk honoring Revolutionary War pastor and patriot James Caldwell and his wife Hannah, was in terrible condition: encrusted dirt from years of neglect with loose mortar and unreadable engravings. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our country, what better time to reflect, remember and honor the contributions of our patriots, especially the Caldwells, who sacrificed their lives for independence."

The Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church cemetery is one of the oldest in the state, dating to the late 1680s. More than 40 officers of the

Continental Army are buried there, many of whom attended the church while Reverend Caldwell served as its pastor. Caldwell also served as General George Washington's Deputy Commissary of supplies during the war. The British placed a bounty on his head and he was murdered in 1781. His wife Hannah and mother of their nine children had been murdered the previous year by a British soldier in the aftermath of the Battle of Connecticut Farms.

There are also more than 313 enslaved and free African Americans buried in the historic cemetery, often in unmarked graves: some are children, and some are likely war veterans. The 313+ Ancestors Speak Project acknowledges and commemorates their lives and burials. A monument with their names was recently erected in the cemetery.

The restoration of the Caldwell memorial was partially funded by a Union County Heart Grant,

donations by the Union Township Historical Society, the NJ Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, (NJSAR), the West Fields Chapter of SAR, American Legion Post 248, the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield and many individual contributors.

Ms. Rajoppi said that the restoration included a workshop on how to clean gravestones.

Volunteers, including local area Boy Scouts, the Crane's Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and UCHS members attended the four-hour event.

The restoration work was completed by Richard Grubb & Associates, a full-service cultural resource management firm and one of the largest, independent archaeological and historic preservation consulting companies in the eastern United States. Their corporate headquarters are in Cranbury, New Jersey.

ABOUT THE UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

The UCHS was incorporated by an Act of the 93rd Legislature of the State of New Jersey on April 1, 1869. The objective of this Society is the collection and preservation of all matter of historical relics, books, records, documents, and manuscripts, to stimulate and encourage historical research and the study of history pertaining to the territory originally embraced by Elizabethtown and the present Union County.

The Society exists through the help and generosity of its members. Membership is comprised of citizens who have a common interest in preserving the past. There is no paid staff. The Executive Board and Members perform all Society functions.



(above) The recent restoration and cleaning of the James and Hannah Caldwell Memorial Obelisk at Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth was commissioned by the Union County Historical Society.

Courtesy photos

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