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YMCA LAUNCHES FREE VETERANS INITIATIVE THIS SPRING

The Gateway Family YMCA

The Gateway Family YMCA is launching a Veterans Wellness Initiative, offered for the first time at the Wellness Center Branch in Union, NJ. Beginning this Spring, the free Veterans Wellness Initiative program will meet weekly for in-person exercise and wellness, led by a wellness coach, as well as virtually, online to discuss their health in mind, body and spirit.

Open to active military, military veterans, and their spouse or partner, the free 12-week Veterans Wellness Initiative program provides participants access to health and wellness opportunities, as well as meaningful social connection with those who share the bond of military service. Participants benefit from 24-hour access to the YMCA360 virtual platform, an adult couple membership to the Y during the 12-week session, and an additional six month individual adult membership following successful completion of the program.

“I have seen first-hand the impact our Y programs have had on so many individuals and families,” explained Susan Butler, Director of Community Wellness. “I have worked with veterans throughout our programs and am excited to begin the Veterans Wellness Initiative this spring.”

The Gateway Family YMCA is joining other Y’s in our

region in launching the Veterans Wellness Initiative. The Veterans Wellness Initiative began in 2015 at the Doylestown branch of the River Crossing YMCA as a way to create community and wellness opportunities for veterans. The Gateway Family YMCA is collecting an interest list of veterans to participate in the program launch at tgfymca.org/contact-us. For additional information or questions, contact veterans@tgfymca.org or 908-349-9622.

During the 12-week course, classes will focus on balance, nutrition, tai-chi, mental health, working out with tension bands, stretching and the circuit course, as well as other weight machines. Small group discussions will build bonds and provide support.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other, the Y focuses on empowering young people, improving health and well-being and inspiring action in and across communities. The Gateway Family YMCA has served the community in Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County since 1900.

To learn more about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Wellness Center Branch 908-349-9622 for more information.

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(above) During the free 12-week course, classes will focus on balance, nutrition, tai-chi, mental health, working out with tension bands, stretching and the circuit course, as well as other weight machines. Small group discussions will build bonds and provide support.

Courtesy photo

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CASA of Passaic and Union Counties

Calling all trivia buffs, pub quiz champions, and fun-seekers! CASA of Passaic and Union Counties invites you to its first-ever Pub Quiz Trivia Night to benefit local children living in foster care through no fault of their own.

Held 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2 at the “The World Famous” Waiting Room in Rahway, forget your midweek woes and enjoy an unforgettable night of brain-teasing questions, team strategizing, and community spirit. Whether a seasoned trivia master or just there for the laughs and good food – children under 12 years old eat free on Wednesdays! – there will be plenty of competition, camaraderie and, most important, charity.

Show off your smarts in pop culture, sports, history, science, and more, amid friendly rivalry and a community playing for a purpose. All proceeds benefit CASA of Passaic and Union Counties, which champions the best interests of abused and neglected children through effective advocacy in court, community, and classroom.

You can help change the lives of local children in foster care, one question at a time. So rally your friends, coworkers, or family and form a team of two to six players, or go solo for the big win yourself. Prizes go to the top three individuals or teams.

Pre-registration is suggested. Tickets are \$20 per person.

For more information

and to secure your spot at the table visit: www.childfocusnj.org/pubquiz, or contact Courtney Como at courtney@childfocusnj.org.

CASA of Passaic and Union Counties is a program of Child Focus, which prioritizes the needs and well-being of infants, children, and teens impacted by, or at risk of, abuse or neglect. For details about the CASA program, call 973-832-4002, e-mail info@casapassaicunion.org, or visit casapassaicunion.org.



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On Monday, February 24, 2025, Elizabeth firefighters joined together with firefighters from around New Jersey to compete in The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off, part of the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival.

The event benefited the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Fire Department Cook-off is part of a culinary extravaganza where participants were able to experience the tastes and flavors of some of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location.



(above) Retired Firefighter Team: Lee Fuller (Roselle), Dennis Conon (Elizabeth), and Bob Hill (Roselle)



(above) Elizabeth Firefighters served Lobster Rolls



(above) Elizabeth Fire Department Team: Nick Sisk, Matt Okpych, Edward Fox, and Chris Barry

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CUB SCOUTS CAMP OUT ON STATEN ISLAND

Boy Scout Troop 23

The William H. Pouch Scout Camp is a forested oasis surrounding a pond in the middle of Staten Island. When Boy Scout Troop 23 spent a weekend there in the middle of February, it was hard for them to tell that they were in one of the five boroughs of New York City.

The Scouts stayed in Beech Cabin, where they learned about and practiced the safe use of a knife and ax, as well as other outdoor skills. The Scouts

took turns cooking and cleaning up from four meals., including Taylor ham, egg and cheese sandwiches; chicken fajitas; and a hearty chicken and noodle soup. They even baked an Oreo cake in a Dutch Oven in the cabin's fireplace.

Boy Scout Troop 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church of Elizabeth, welcomes any

boys who are at least 11 years old or graduated from the fifth grade to join them on upcoming camping trips and hikes, a 4-day trip on Memorial Day weekend to Philadelphia, and a week-long summer camp in July. Contact Scoutmaster Dan Bernier at 908-451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com for more details.



(above) Frankie spreads icing on an Oreo cake that Scouts baked in a Dutch oven in a fireplace at Pouch Scout Camp.



(above) Scouts of Troop 23, Elizabeth, enjoy the hot dinner they cooked on a cold weekend in February in Beech Cabin in William H. Pouch Scout Camp on Staten Island.

Courtesy photos



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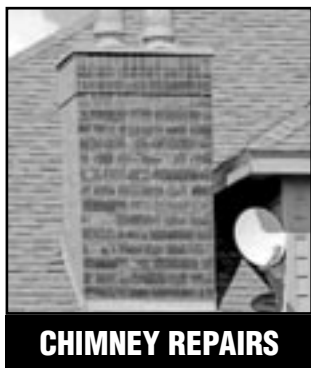
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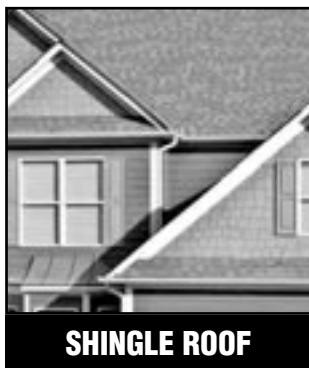
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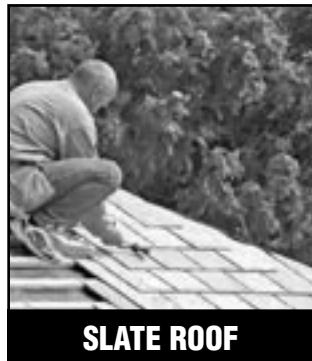
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*April 18 & 19**

Tai Chi & Qi Gong

Wednesday, April 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 at 9 am

Monday, April 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 4 pm

Join Pete on Monday & Wednesday for Tai Chi, a gentle Chinese art that combines slow, flowing movements with deep breathing. Experience the refreshing benefits of mindfulness!

Lil' Bookworms

Wednesday, April 2 at 5 pm

Encouraging kids to share their love of reading, engage in book discussions, and feel eager about reading.

Zumba Gold

Thursday, April 3, 10, 17, & 24, Monday,

April 7, 14, 21, & 28, and

Tuesday, April 8, 15, 22, & 29 at 9 am

Add fitness to your daily routine through the joy of dance! Walk-ins are welcomed.

Junior Chess Club

Friday, April 4, 11, & 25 at 4 pm

Don't miss out on our Chess Club for Kids! We welcome beginners.

Join us and let's play some chess!

Storytime at Green Acres Park

Saturday, April 5 at 11 am

Join Ms. Martha for storytime and craft at the park! No registration required

Mahjong

Monday, April 7, 14, 21, & 28

from 12 pm - 2 pm

Everyone who loves Mahjong is welcome to come & play at the library. Bring friends or come alone & find new partners. We'll provide the space for open play. A minimum of 4 players are required to play the game.

Ages: 18 & up

Monday Cinema at Elmora

Monday, April 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 1 pm

At 1pm, don't miss out on the fun! Join us for a Monday Cinema at Elmora Branch Library. It's going to be a great time! This month's showtime is "Emilia Pérez" on 4/7, "Wicked" on 4/14, "Flow" on 4/21, & "Anora" on 4/28.

Adult English Book Club

Tuesday, April 8 at 11 am

Join our Book Club meeting and engage in a lively discussion about our latest book.

Crochet with Sol

Tuesday, April 8 & 15 at 12 pm

Learn the tips and tricks with Ms. Sol! She will teach you everything you need to know to get started, from fundamental stitches to understanding gauge.

Toddlers World

Friday, April 11 & 25 at 11 am

An hour of fun songs to sing, music, and playtime.

Spring Scavenger Hunt & Craft to Go

Friday, April 11 - 17 (All Day)

Join us for an exciting scavenger hunt at Elmora for Spring and take a craft home to remember the day!

Stitch & Mending

Tuesday, April 15 at 10 am and Wednesday,

April 16 at 5 pm

Come to Elmora to mend your clothing. Bring the article you need help with and assistance will be provided.

Adult Spanish Book Club

Thursday, April 17 at 2 pm

Come and join Martha as she hosts a monthly book discussion for Spanish-speaking adults!

Gardening for Kids

Wednesday, April 23 at 5 pm

Sprout into storytime and craft with Ms. Martha about gardening!

Adult Scrabble Club

Thursday, April 24 at 2 pm - 3:30 pm

Word lovers! Exercise your B-R-A-I-N (7 points) by playing Scrabble with other like-minded adults.

Game Day at Elmora

Thursday, April 24 at 4 pm

Join us at Elmora Library to enjoy a variety of board games and card games that the whole family can play!

Puzzle Palooza

Saturday, April 26 at 10 am - 12 pm

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CUB SCOUTS VISIT THE GREAT SWAMP

Cub Scout Pack 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Church in Elizabeth, visited the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Morris County on Saturday, March 8. The Cub Scouts started their trip by walking two boardwalk trails to bird blinds at the Wildlife Observation Center. In spite of some wind, the Cubs used binoculars to look for birds at the blind, and learned to identify several trees, bushes and other plants along their walk. They learned that you can make birch beer from black birch trees.

Pack 23's next stop in the Great Swamp was the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center, where the Cubs saw exhibits about wildlife and habitat and visited the gift shop. The Scouts ate their lunch at a pavilion behind the Visitor Center.

Then Pack 23 drove to its final stop of the day – the Raptor Trust. Located on the southern border of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the Raptor Trust is a private, volunteer-staffed hospital and rehabilitation center for injured and orphaned birds. The Cub Scouts strolled the grounds, where many hawks, owls, and even bald eagles are housed in enclosed pens.

Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 have served the youth of St. Genevieve's parish and the surrounding area for almost 60 years. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at 908-451-1948 or webfootroop@gmail.com.



(above) The Cub Scouts of Pack 23 visited the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge on March 8, and took a picture with a black bear in the Helen C. Fenske Visitor Center.

Courtesy photo

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HEALTHY KIDS DAY® - SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH

The Gateway Family YMCA is hosting the Y's annual Healthy Kids Day® on Saturday, April 26th at YMCA Branches in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union, NJ. This free, annual event features a variety of family-friendly activities to encourage healthy kids, healthy families, and a healthy start to the summer season.

Hosted at The Gateway Family YMCA – Elizabeth Branch, 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, Five Points Branch, 201 Tucker Avenue, Union, Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway, and Wellness Center Branch, 1000 Galloping Hill, Union, The Gateway

Family YMCA's Healthy Kids Day takes place on April 26th, with free registration available at tgfymca.org/events

The Gateway Family YMCA is offering a one-day Membership Sale in honor of Healthy Kids Day on all memberships with code HKD at tgfymca.org/join-the-Y on April 26th.

"It is very important for kids to stay active over the summer, both physically and mentally," stated Melynda A. Disla, President/CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "At the Y, we believe in providing resources for families to create healthy habits, no matter the time of year. Healthy Kids

Day is a fun, free community-wide event that encourages families to take advantage of all the great summer activities the Y has to offer."

Sponsored nationally by Peanuts, Healthy Kids Day's mission is to prepare community families for a safe, healthy and fun summer. Some featured activities at The Gateway Family YMCA include Family Yoga, Swimming, Basketball, and a Summer Day Camp Parent Information Session 12:00-2:00 p.m.

In addition to the Healthy Kids Day event, YMCA programs including Child Care, School Age Before/After School Care, Swimming Lessons and Youth Sports will be celebrating Healthy Kids Day activities with youth and families throughout the week.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening community through Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services for all. The Y doesn't just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families and communities.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch 732-388-0057 or the Wellness Center and WISE Center Branch at 908-349-9622.

(above) The Gateway Family YMCA Sets Kids Up for a Safe, Healthy and Fun Summer at Healthy Kids Day. The free family event is open to the community on April 26.



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

12th Annual Greta's Run for Imagine



Join us on **Sunday, May 18th!**

Roosevelt Intermediate School • Westfield, NJ

9:00AM: 5K

10:00 AM: 200 Yard Kids Fun Run

10:30AM: Memory Walk and Dove Release

Live Music all morning by Award Winning Local Band Southpaw!

Come out and support *Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss* for a morning filled with fun and connection for the whole family!



Scan QR Code to Register for Greta's Run

Use code **NEWSPAPER** to receive **\$5 off your registration!**

Register today at runsignup.com/gretasrun

Learn more about Imagine at www.imaginenj.org

ANNUAL YOUTH FISHING DERBY - APRIL 12

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club Annual Youth Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at Echo Lake Park in Westfield, NJ. The event is free for children under 16, and \$10 for adults who wish to participate. Sign up is early morning 7:30/8:00 a.m. and throughout the event.

Tagged Fish will be stocked that day so the children can see them get stocked. Prizes are awarded for different species of fish. This is an ongoing event until May 3 so if a child cannot fish that day they can sign up and send in their tag if they catch a tagged fish up to the deadline that tags will be received.

You may donate and sponsor a fish for this event. Download our form online at nbfcc.org, we can mail one to you, or stop in at Ponzio's, 211 Union Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ.

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club was founded in 1907 and remains the oldest fishing club in the nation. We are listed on Amazon Smile and are a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit. We provide outings to support veterans, adults and children as well as people with disabilities which focus on environmental education, fishing knowledge and practice. We are always looking for new members, donations, and volunteers if anyone would like to get involved. Our monthly meetings are held at the Kenilworth VFW, located at 33 S. 21st St., Kenilworth, NJ, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (except July and August). There is no fee to attend a meeting. For more information visit nbfcc.org or contact Bob Jones: BJonesJRNJ@hotmail.com, 908-325-6657.



(above) The Newark Bait and Fly casting Club Annual Youth Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at Echo Lake Park in Westfield, NJ. - Photo from 2019 Derby

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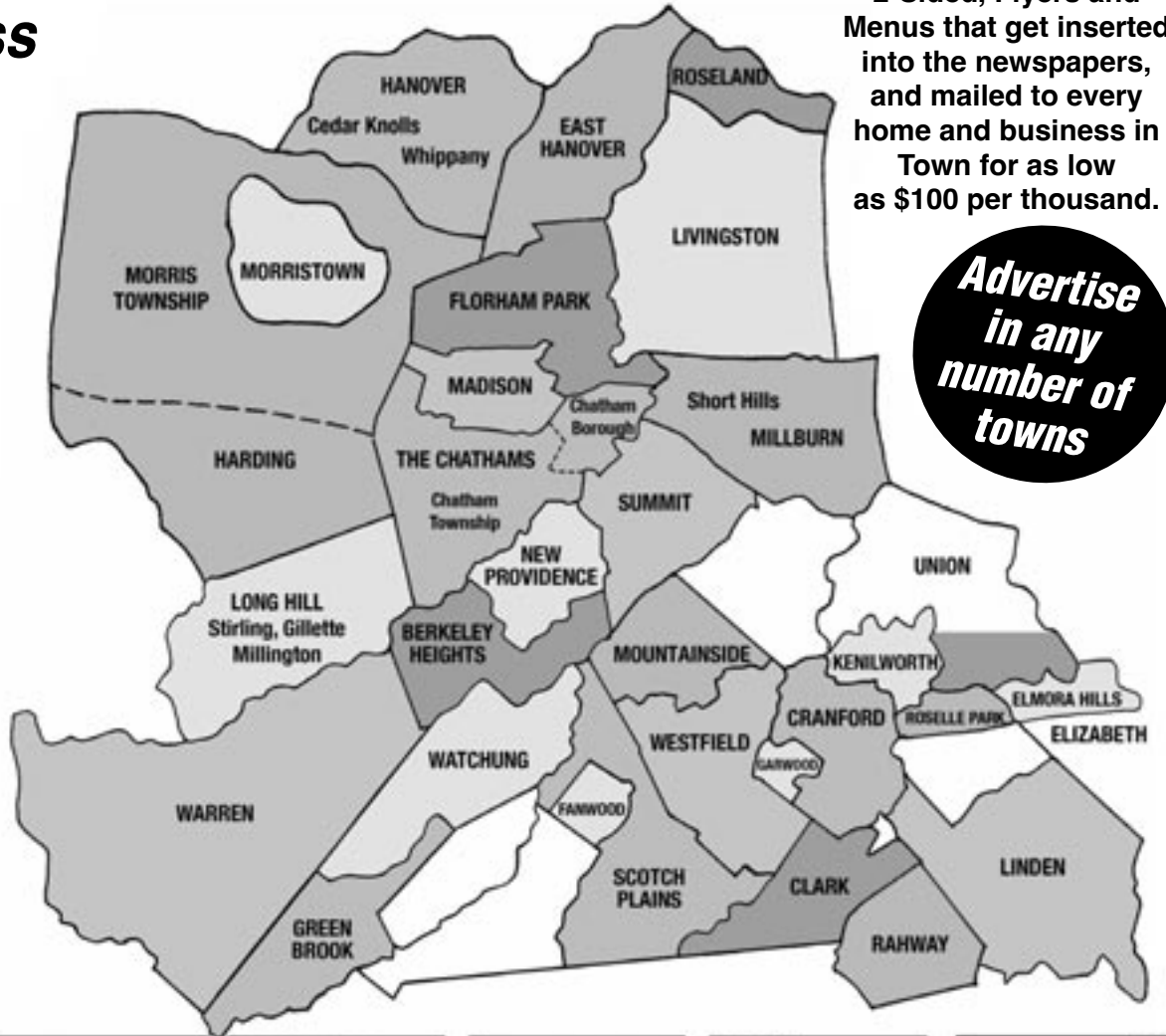
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2 Units	6.5"x2" or 3.25"x4"	150	360	560	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300
4 Units	3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"	240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
18 FULL PAGE	10"x14"	500	1200	1800	2200	2500	2800	3000	3300	3600	3900	4300
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