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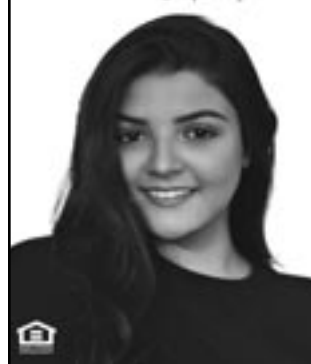
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GARY MILLER NAMED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY ELKS LODGE

Lifelong Linden resident Gary Miller has been chosen as the 2025 Citizen of the Year by the Piscataway Elks Lodge No. 2414.

Miller was honored in a ceremony on Saturday, March 8, at the Woodbridge Elks Lodge along with 10 other winners from Central Jersey lodges. He was selected for his work as public information officer and webmaster for Piscataway Township Schools.

Miller formerly held a similar position as public information officer and communication coordinator for Linden Public Schools, and was a teacher at Linden High School.

"I'm incredibly honored to be selected as Citizen of the Year by the Piscataway Elks," Miller said. "This award is recognition of the tremendous role Piscataway Township Schools plays in our community. Our schools are a focal point for family involvement and support, and I treasure my role in celebrating and strengthening that bond."

Piscataway Elks Incoming Exalted Ruler Peter Namen said Miller was selected because of his award-winning work in promoting the successes of Piscataway Township Schools and in strengthening the school district's ties with the township and community groups, including the Elks.

"Gary has ingrained himself in our community as he works to engage families, celebrate students and staff, and elevate the profile of Piscataway schools in the eyes of educators and leaders statewide," Namen said during his introduction of Miller at the awards ceremony.

Piscataway's Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Glenn Lottmann was on hand for the awards ceremony to show the district's support for Miller and the Elks.

Miller has won multiple awards over the past two years from the National School Public Relations Association and the New Jersey School Public Relations Association, including a National Award of Excellence as editor of the school district's annual School Guide & Calendar. Miller has also won state and national



(above) Lifelong Linden resident Gary Miller, front center, surrounded by family and friends at the Woodbridge Elks Lodge after being named among the Citizens of the Year for Central Jersey.

Courtesy photo

awards for social media, newsletter, and photography.

Miller has written two articles for School Leader magazine, a staple on the desks of superintendents and school board members around the state. These pieces highlighted Piscataway's innovative educational programs, including efforts to ensure non-college-bound students get the attention and support they need to find success after graduation, and the district's successful Freshman Seminar program that eases the way for ninth-graders into Piscataway High School through team building and peer mentorships.

"Gary has been invaluable in spreading awareness of achievements by Piscataway Township Schools' students and staff, both within our community and statewide, and working with local groups for the betterment of our schools," said Piscataway Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Ranelli. "This is a very well-deserved honor."

Aside from his daily duties of keeping families informed and involved, Gary also sits on the Piscataway Board of Education's Culture, Climate & Community Relations Committee and is executive director of the Piscataway Education Foundation.

"Gary has worked with Piscataway Elks on promoting our annual backpack and school supplies drive and Halloween Trunk or Treat," Namen said, "and the Elks in turn have donated to support the efforts of the Piscataway Education Foundation to uplift students and teachers."

"We've developed a great partnership that benefits both sides – and the greater Piscataway community as a whole."

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FIREFIGHTERS COMPETE AT FOOD FESTIVAL

On Monday, February 24, 2025, Linden 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) Linden Fire Department Team Dan Leuddeke, Jose Espinal, Justin Brose, and Daryl Robert

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EARTH DAY RAHWAY RIVER CLEAN-UP – SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Rahway River Association

All volunteers are invited to celebrate Earth Day 2025 with a clean-up of the Rahway River within Union County Parks and Recreation's Rahway River Park on Saturday, April 26th (with a rain date of Sunday, April 27th).

Please join the Rahway River Watershed Association, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, local officials and environmental commissions, fisherman and other stakeholders in this annual event. The clean-up will focus on areas upstream and downstream of the dam at Winfield Park, New Jersey in Cranford, Clark, Linden, and Rahway.

Please come by the parking area adjacent to the waterfall of the Rahway River by the Bloodgood Dam at Winfield Park at 8:45 a.m. to register, pick up bags, gloves, bottled water and snacks, and receive safety information. Teams will be encouraged to travel to any part of the river within the park where they would like to perform cleanup activities. We specifically ask all folks to register and to work in small groups for safety purposes. Everyone under 18 must have adult supervision to participate.

Cleaning up a river and park area is a great way to celebrate Earth Day and if you haven't participated in an event like this before, you will find it invigorating, and you will feel good about what you have accomplished...it is also fun and educational...especially for Scouts and young adults as they always find something interesting. Over the 25+ years this cleanup has occurred thousands of folks have participated, and pulled some amazing things from the river improving its quality. The Rahway River watershed is a better place thanks to the commitment of so many great volunteers over the last quarter century!

The clean-up will generally be between 9-12, but any amount of time or effort that folks can volunteer is appreciated. There is always a large volume of floatable debris to pick up. The team working registration will provide suggestions on areas with large volumes of floatable debris.

All participants should wear jeans, long-sleeved shirts, gloves and boots, Waders are welcome for folks who like to get a little wet. Each participant should bring a standard 5-gallon carry bucket with a handle (put your name on the bottom)... this makes for easy carrying of "stuff" for transfer to the large garbage bags. A mulching rake is also a great asset to have to enable reaching out and pulling debris into shore from the riverbank.

After the event there is an inventory of the debris removed, and within approximately 24 hours Union County Parks and Recreation removes and disposes of all the trash.

There is no RSVP required but if more information is required please contact rivercleanup@comcast.net or the Rahway River Watershed Association at CleaCarchia@outlook.com.

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ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Joanne Seebode

The Church of St. John the Apostle began its 75th Anniversary Celebration on February 26, 2025 with a Gala Dinner at Nanina’s in the Park in Belleville NJ. Over 250 parishioners and parish friends attended the event along with the current Pastor Mauro Primavera and Auxiliary Bishop Elias R. Lorenzo, OSB, regional bishop for Union County. Also present were Parish Clergy, the Sisters of St. Dominic as well as representatives from the Township of Clark and the City of Linden. Honoree at the celebration



(above, lr) Rev. Mauro Primavera,
Sister Donna Marie O’Brien OP.
Bishop Elias Lorenzo.



(above, lr) Rev. Gabriel Camacho,
Rev. Mauro Primavera,
Bishop Elias R. Lorenzo OSB, Rev. Peter Voltz.

was Sister Donna Marie O’Brien OP who was honored for her commitment to Catholic Education and shaping the minds of countless children from 1960-2015. Sr. Donna was past principal of St. John the Apostle School for 34 years, retiring in 2015.

Bishop Elias Lorenzo addressed the attendees at the Gala and wrote in the Commemorative Anniversary Book, “The Diamond Anniversary offers all in the parish the opportunity to renew and reinvigorate your founding mission... and be a community of living faith that witnesses Christ’s love to the world!”

The Most Reverend Thomas J. Walsh, Archbishop of Newark founded the parish on June 4, 1948, and appointed the Rev. Thomas F. Mulvaney as the first pastor. Father Mulvaney was given the task of organizing the parish and construction the buildings. The new parish used the Winfield Park Community Center for masses until the new church building was ready. The cornerstone was placed on September 10, 1949. On March 10, 1950, Archbishop Walsh dedicated and blessed the new church and school and the

first mass was celebrated in the church.

St. John the Apostle School opened in September 1950 with of a registration of 710 students. The teaching faculty was led by Sisters of the Dominican Order who served for the school for 65 years. The school enrollment grew and a third floor was added to the school. By 1963, enrollment had more than doubled to 1,429 students prompting the construction of the annex building to accommodate a growing middle school.

Saint John’s is a vibrant growing parish with over 300 students enrolled in its religious education programs, 340 students enrolled in its Pre-k to 8 school, 24 Hour Perpetual Adoration, ongoing adult religious education programs, and many other social and religious events. You can learn more about us by visiting our website at www.sjanj.net.

Continued 75th Anniversary Celebrations will continue throughout the year. A closing Anniversary Mass will be celebrated by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, CSsR, Archbishop of Newark on Sunday October 12th at the 12 noon mass.

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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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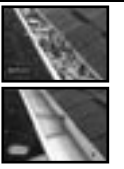
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SENIORS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



A Black History Month celebration brought Linden seniors of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds together at the JTG Recreation Center. The seniors were served lunch and were given goody bags. A free raffle was held and the prizes were Black History Month t-shirts.

Photo by City of Linden

VFW PANCAKE BREAKFAST - APRIL 26

Come one, come all to the VFW#1397 Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 26, 2025 for the VFW Post #1397, which will be held at the American Legion Post 102, located at 112 West Elizabeth Ave in Linden from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Donations: Adults \$7.00 / Seniors & Children \$6.00/ Ages 5 & Under Free. Take outs are available.

This event is open to the public, so come out and enjoy a home cooked breakfast, and support our veterans!

AMERICAN LEGION APRIL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

No Breakfast this month as it falls on Easter Sunday. Wishing all of our supporters a Happy Easter!

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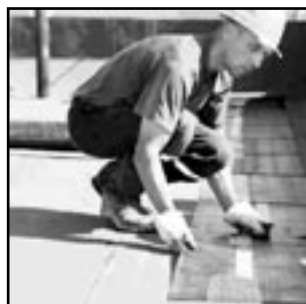
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ANNUAL YOUTH FISHING DERBY - APRIL 12

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 730/8:00 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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Hours Monday - Wednesday: 9am – 9pm, Thursday & Saturday : 9am – 5pm,
Friday: 9:30am – 5pm, Sunday: Closed • Website: <https://lindenlibrary-nj.gov/>

The Linden Public Library is excited to announce the adoption of a fine free policy beginning January 1, 2025. This means that the library will no longer charge daily accruing fines on any late materials. Additionally, all existing late fines will be forgiven on January 1st. This policy, however, does not apply to items that have been lost or damaged.

The library strongly believes in providing free and equitable access to information. The library is for everyone and no one should fear being denied access because of late fines. Our hope with this policy is to remove a barrier to access and welcome back people who previously felt

alienated due to the late fine policy.

"I believe that our new fine-free policy ensures that all library materials are accessible to everyone," Acting Library Director Josh Melissari explains. "This policy reflects our trust in the community we serve, and we are confident that our patrons will continue to respect and value the many resources we provide."

For more information on this or other happenings at the library, please call or visit our website at LindenLibrary-NJ.gov.

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YMCA LAUNCHES FREE VETERANS INITIATIVE

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.



(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

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.



(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.

FIND YOUR FUN AT THE Y!

YMCA Healthy Kids Day Open House

Bring your family to the Y for fun games, information on Summer Camp and more! Join us on 4/26 at all branches!

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Join the Y & Use Code HKD

THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA tgfymca.org

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Summer Camp Open House Parent Information
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The Gateway Family YMCA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening community.

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VENDOR POP UP APRIL 6TH

Welcome shoppers and community members, you're invited to join us for a delightful day at the Fanwood Train Station parking lot on Sunday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stroll through our marketplace and discover a wide array of unique arts and crafts, handmade jewelry, fashion accessories, candles, vintage women's clothing, children's books, all-natural dog treats, portrait photography, honey, vinyl records, polarized sunglasses, wooden American flags, and much more!

Our selection of food trucks and local restaurants will be ready to satisfy your cravings, and live music will add to the festive atmosphere. Discover one-of-a-kind treasures and enjoy a day of shopping and fun!

This free event is hosted by the Borough of Fanwood and is located at 256 South Avenue, Fanwood, NJ. Please note that the event is outdoors and will be canceled in case of inclement weather. For more information, please visit JC Promotions.Info.

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AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IS CALLING ALL HAMS

The New Providence Amateur Radio Club is a general interest amateur radio club open to all. Our goals are technical growth, community service, fellowship, and fun! We also hope to encourage more people to become hams. If you are thinking about becoming a ham, or if you are a ham looking for a club affiliation, we invite you to visit one of our meetings or activities and talk to some of our members.

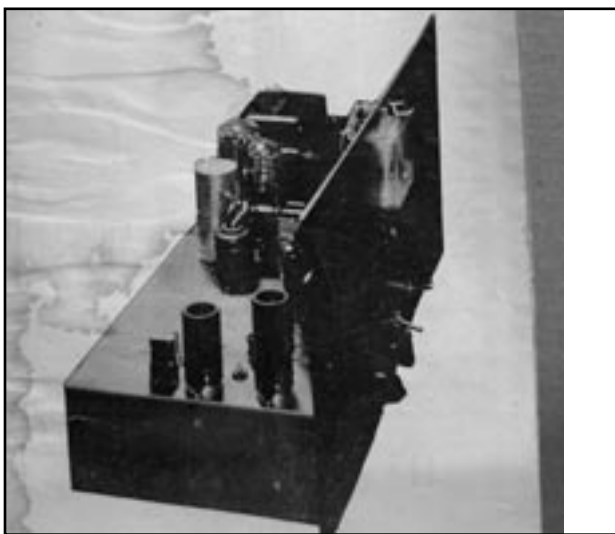
We do all kinds of Ham Radio Activities. We take part in contests and exercises to practice our communications skills. We work with local kids, at school and at summer camps

The club was formed in 1965, primarily by hams working at Bell Labs. Meetings were (and are still) held in New Providence, hence the name of the club. Despite the name, there are no resi-

dency requirements for membership, although most members happen to live within 20 miles of New Providence, NJ, which is in Union County.

We currently have about 50 members - men and women - of all ages, including students, with a wide variety of ham radio skills and interests. Please join us!

Our meetings are held in the Salt Brook Elementary School in New Providence, NJ at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of every month when the school is open. Topics discussed at our meetings are always related to Ham Radio or electronics, but are frequently non-technical, or presented for the education of our young and/or new members. YOU are cordially invited to attend one of our meetings. For more information, please visit nparc.org, or call 908-464-1730.



Mayor Al Morgan, Rick Anderson, Councilwoman Diane Bilicska, and Councilman Alex Kogan

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