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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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ANNUAL YOUTH FISHING DERBY - 4/12

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.

ANNUAL NETWORKING FOR A CAUSE - APRIL 10

Township of Union

The Township of Union and The Rotary Club of Union are hosting a special “Networking for a Cause” event to support Layla D’Angiolillo, a 9-year-old Washington Elementary School girl recently diagnosed with leukemia and lymphoma.

The event will take place on Thursday, April 10th, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Lagar Restaurant. The primary focus of this event is to show support to Layla and her family as they navigate her diagnosis. Her situation is exacerbated due to her father’s recent job loss.

“When I first heard that she had been diagnosed with leukemia, my heart sank, and I knew I had to do something to support her through this difficult journey. I had my students write messages, send videos of jokes, and create cards, all to put a smile on Layla’s face while going through her treatments and to remind her

that we were her cheerleaders,” says Lisa Mason, Layla’s teacher at Washington Elementary School. “Then I learned that her father was out of work, and I felt the need to do even more for the family. The funds raised through this event will hopefully ease some of their financial burden, allowing them to focus on what matters most—keeping Layla healthy.”

For just \$30, attendees will have the chance to connect with local professionals while enjoying food and drinks provided by Lagar Restaurant. The event will also feature raffle opportunities and a 50/50 draw for additional fundraising.

All proceeds will go directly to Layla and her family to help cover medical expenses and living costs. Tickets can be purchased via:

eventbrite.com.

For event updates and donation information, please visit uniontownship.com or follow us on social media @twpunionnj.

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On Monday, February 24, 2025, Union Township 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) Union Township Fire Department Team: Bill Brower, Michael Bierce, Chris Davitt

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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



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

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) 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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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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Vauxhall Branch, 23 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, NJ 07088 • Phone: 908-851-5451 • <https://uplnj.org/>

Registration is required for all events. The Main interim library will officially be closed in April while we work on moving the entire library to our new building. All information and updates can be found here: uplnj.org/move/

Newark: Greatest Jazz City in the World

(Vauxhall Library)

Wed. 4/2 @ 6:00 pm

In this presentation, we will take a look at some of the important clubs, musicians, and events that have shaped Newark as “the greatest jazz city in the world”.

Saturday Afternoon Trivia:

Baseball (Vauxhall Library)

Sat. 4/5 @ 1:00 pm

Are you a fan of the Yankees or Mets? Do you consider yourself a wiz in baseball knowledge? Come join us for a fun day of trivia and prizes.

Vauxhall Community Advocacy Group

(Vauxhall Library)

Mon. 4/7 @ 6:00 pm

Are you a frequent user of the Vauxhall Branch Library? Do you have ideas to make it better?

We want to hear from you! Please join us and help make a difference at

the Vauxhall Branch Library!

Community Open Mic Night

(Vauxhall Library)

Wed. 4/9 @ 6:00 pm

Are you a musician? A poet? Maybe you like telling jokes? Well here is your chance to show off your skills to your neighbors and friends.

This is your chance to shine!

The History of Jazz

(Vauxhall Library)

Sat. 4/12 @ 1:00 pm

Please join us as Mr. Jerome Jennings will explore jazz history through a cultural, historical, social, and political lense. He will discuss how and what made jazz a truly American phenomenon and unpack some of jazz music’s influential aggregations and individuals over time. Mr.

Jennings is a drummer, activist, bandleader, composer, sideman, and Emmy winning composer who currently is a lecturer at Princeton University.

The Miracle Mets of '69

(Vauxhall Library)

Mon. 4/14 @ 6:00 pm

An Amazin’ year it was! Join us as we share memories of the 1960s Mets from their 1962 humble beginnings as the worst team in baseball to their triumphant 1969 season as World Champions. Includes Mets highlight videos and more!

Adult Crochet for Beginners

(Vauxhall Library)

Wed. 4/16 @ 6:00 pm

Please join us as Ms. Lisa Roberts teaches attendees the basics of learning how to crochet. Attendees can bring their own crochet hooks and yarn, but supplies will be provided!

Hilton Readers Book Discussion Group

(Vauxhall Library)

Wed. 4/23 @ 6:00 pm

April’s selection is Daylight by David Baldacci.

Animal Crossing Open Hours

(Virtual on Switch)

Fri. 4/25 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Come explore UPL Island! Check out our inclusive virtual library building that serves children, teens, and adults. Discover our Mario-themed maze, shake fruit/money trees, shop at Nooks & Abels, help craft DIYs, and leave a message on the bulletin board. As a thank you for visiting, there will be freebies! In order to visit our island, you must add us as a friend before entering the island. Our UPL Nintendo friend code is SW-4027-1837-6212.

All ages welcome.

No registration necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact jcarvajal@uplnj.org.

A Look at Black History Through Jazz

(Vauxhall Library)

Sat. 4/26 @ 1:00 pm

Renowned author and editor of Jersey Jazz magazine, Sanford Josephson, will take attendees on a journey through the rich and vibrant history of jazz, focusing on the important role it played in the Harlem Renaissance, as well as the experiences of expatriates and their resistance to racism.

Vauxhall Negro League Baseball Club

(Vauxhall Library)

Mon. 4/27 @ 6:00 pm

Are you a baseball fan and love history? Perhaps you are a fan of Satchel Paige or the Kansas City Monarchs? Come join us where our goal is to preserve the history of Negro League Baseball. Our meetings will consist of presentations, discussions, film viewings, book talks, and much more. Viewing & Discussion of the 1983 Documentary -There Was Always Sun

Shining Someplace:

Life in the Negro Baseball Leagues.

Library Karaoke!

(Vauxhall Library)

Wed. 4/30 @ 6:00 pm

Do you think you can sing better than Whitney or Taylor? Maybe you have better moves than the King of Pop? Please join us for some fun and meet some new people as we sing some music hits.

Weekly Chair Yoga

(Vauxhall Library)

Tues. @ 9:00 am

Take a deep breath with friends and stretch! A popular class for beginners or professionals now as a weekly series. Presented by the Gateway Family YMCA. Space is limited to 15 patrons, register in advance!

Walk-in Wednesdays: One-on-One Library Technology Assistance

(Vauxhall Library)

Weds. @ 12:30 – 2:00 pm

Get help with library resources, including downloading e-books from Libby and Hoopla, using the library catalog and resources, using mobile print, and using the photocopier and scanner. Registration is not required.

No Meditation This Month!



(above) We are thrilled to announce that we are in the process of moving back to our newly renovated Main Library at 1980 Morris Ave! Relocating an entire library with over 100,000 circulating items, along with furniture, equipment, and staff, is a major undertaking and we appreciate your patience during this transition. Grand opening TBA. To keep up with key dates visit: uplnj.org/move/

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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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Pay ranges from \$30-\$1600 depending on the study.

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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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THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA tgfymca.org

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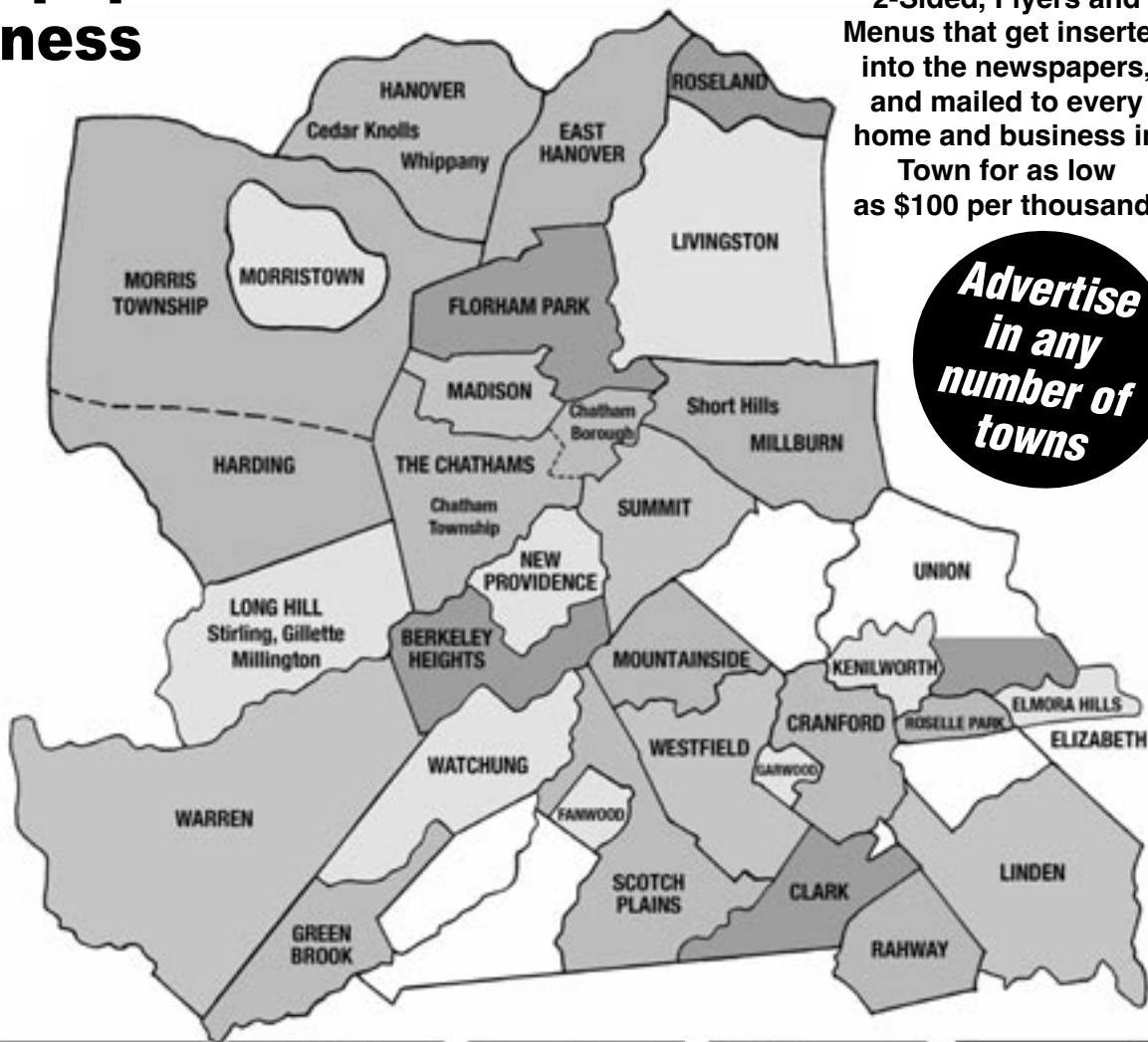
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2 Units	6.5"x2" or 3.25"x4"		150	360	560	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300
4 Units	3.25"x8" or 6.5"x4"		240	560	900	1000	1300	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100
6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"		320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF 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
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