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# **CHAMBER AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO GRADUATES**



(above) Union Township Chamber of Commerce members with scholarship winners (holding sign) Tracy Tran and Shamir Medalla.

Courtesy Photo

Donors to the Greater Union Township Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund gathered recently to meet the two Union High School graduates who received scholarships for 2025.

Named the "Union Township Chamber of Commerce Businesses Scholarship," the award was created to allow Chamber member businesses to collectively contribute to the fund and thereby allow for bigger awards. This year, two scholarships of \$2,700 each were presented to Tracy Tran and Shamir Medalla.

The scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Anthony Giordano, a longtime Chamber member who served on its Board of Directors for more than a decade. Affectionately known as "Uncle Tony" by his friends and colleagues, he was a major force in the Chamber in the 1980's and 1990's and chaired the organization's Golf Outing for many years.

"Year after year, I continue to be amazed at the number of Chamber businesses who contributed to this year's fund, which promotes our future business leaders," said James Masterson, Chamber CEO. "Our Chamber is an important and active part of the community —and this is one way in which we demonstrate our commitment to the Township of Union. I encourage our community to show their gratitude by patronizing these businesses."

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## **LANDSCAPE WITH BIRDS IN MIND**

#### The Raptor Trust

How many Eastern Screech Owls do we currently have at The Raptor Trust? Apparently ALL of them! Most of these owlets were displaced after the trees that held their nests were cut down.

Cutting down trees and landscaping especially during nesting season - can destroy active nests, scare off parents, and even injure adult birds during a critical time.

Most birds nest between March and August. Even small projects - like pruning shrubs or pulling out vines - can have a devastating result

Here's how you can help:

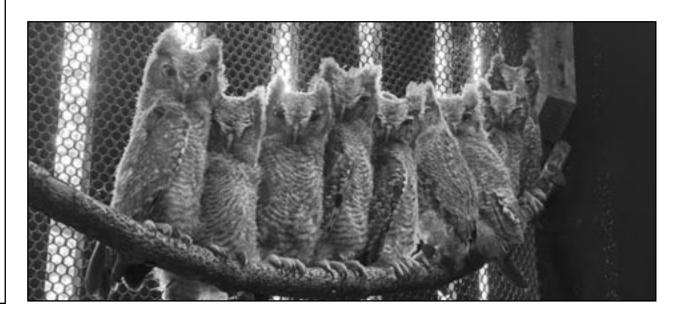
- Delay major trimming until fall
- Check for nests before cutting or clearing

- Leave a few brush piles
- birds and critters love them
- Avoid pesticides and non-native plants

These small steps can make all the difference for birds trying to raise their families nearby—or young birds in the first days of their lives.

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization which provides free medical care to thousands of orphaned or injured birds each year. Our infirmary staff is available seven days a week during daylight hours to admit injured birds, but we must rely on the people who find them to bring them to us for care.

If you find a bird that needs help, please visit our websitetheraptortrust.org for instructions. We cannot do what we do without the kindness of many – including our visitors!



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## **GARDEN CLUB WILL FEATURE PAUL TRADER PRESENTATION - AUG 6**

The Township of Union Garden Club will feature Paul Trader who will give a presentation on Weed Control in the Yard and Garden.

He will teach about categories of weeds and how they can be prevented and controlled in the garden and yard using least-toxic methods and products. He will also discuss solutions for controlling moss, poison ivy, and Japanese Knotweed.

Paul Trader is the retired horticulturist and executive director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County, New York, in addition to teaching Integrated Pest Management courses in the School of Professional Horticulture at the New York Botanical Gardens

in the Bronx.

The public is invited to hear Mr. Trader speak at 7pm on August 6th in the Bonnel Room located on the second floor in the rear of Town Hall at 1776 Morrris Avenue, Union. For more information contract Veronica Doll 908 447-1991.





(above) Cub Scout pack #68 and their parents joined with members of the Township of Union Garden Club to renovate the municipal gardens located at in front of the town hall at 1776 Morris Avenue, Union. Courtesy Photo



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Drew University's Concert Hall in Madison

This fall, Drew University's Concert Hall in Madison, NJ, comes alive with a 14-show series spotlighting iconic American sound and viral comedy. From legendary rock tributes to timeless doo-wop harmonies and internet-famous humor, this lineup invites audiences of every generation to celebrate, sing, and laugh together.

Whether you're reliving the golden age of rock with tributes to Mellencamp, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Led Zeppelin, swooning to the timeless croon of Sinatra, swaying to soulful harmonies from The Duprees and The Classics, or laughing out loud with the offbeat charm of Rodney Norman, this series is designed to stir memories, spark new favorites, and keep every guest entertained from curtain rise to final bow. With appearances from The BStreet Band, Jersey Four, Motor City Revue, and A Brother's Revival, Drew University's Concert Hall has become a destination for music lovers and comedy fans alike.

Nestled in the scenic campus of Drew University, the Concert Hall boasts seating for 433 and features rich acoustics in an intimate setting, ensuring every performance feels personal and immersive.

- Sept. 13 Human Wheels: A Tribute to John Mellencamp
- Sept. 19 A Brother's Revival: Feat. David Rooks - The Allman Brothers Experience
- Sept. 20 Gypsy: A True Stevie Nicks Experience, Feat. Sabrina Staats
- Sept. 26 Southern Steel:
   A Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd
- Sept. 27 Rodney Norman Live: Comedian and Viral Star
- Sept. 28 Lights Out: The Jersey Beach Boys
- Oct. 5 Afternoon of Doo Wop: The Chimes, Emil Stucchio
   & The Classics, and The Fireflies
- Oct. 11 Michael Martocci and Brandon Tomasello, Sinatra, A Man & His Music
- Oct. 18 Jersey Four: A Tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, Feat. Gerry Polci
- Oct. 25 Four Sticks:
   A Led Zeppelin Experience
- Nov. 1 The BStreet Band: The Original Tribute to The Boss
- Nov. 15 Your '80s Request Show Performed by 1989
- Nov. 21 Motor City Revue: From Hitsville to Soulsville Feat. Layonne Holmes
- Nov. 29 Christmas with The Duprees and Anthony Duke Claus

# **SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

The New Jersey Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) has been very busy this month in Union County. We presented the SAR Bronze JROTC Medal to cadets at Linden Naval JROTC, and Abraham Clark Marine JROTC on June 9th at each schools award ceremony. We took part along with the Church & Cannon Chapter of the NJ Daughters of the American Revolution in a Commemoration of the Battles of Connecticut Farms (now Union) and Springfield on June 14th at the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield. We also held an Army 250th birthday celebration afterwards at the church. On June 21st the State Color Guard was at the re-Dedication of the James and Hannah Caldwell Monument in the First Presbyterian Church graveyard in Elizabeth, hosted by the Union County Historical Society. Then on June 22nd the Color Guard was the Dedication of the first sign of the Forgotten Victory Trail in Taylor Park, Millburn. The Forgotten victory Trail covers the Campaign of the Battles of Connecticut Farms and Springfield.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a genealogical organization for men with Revolutionary War ancestors.

If anyone has an interest in joining email chrissands44@aol.com.



(above) The SAR Color Guard with the wreath commemoration for the Battles of Ct. Farms and Springfield.

Courtesy photos

(above) Cranes Ford Chapter DAR and Union County Historical Society at the James and Hannah Monument Re-Dedication.





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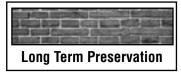


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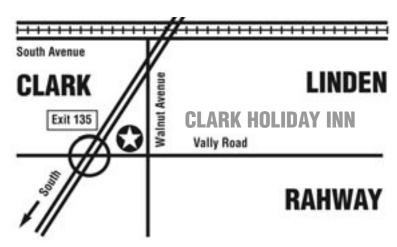
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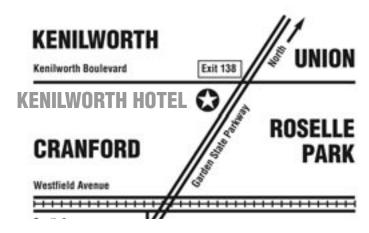
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## **BOY SCOUT TROOP AND CUB SCOUT PACK RETIRE AMERICAN FLAGS**

Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 retired 50 worn out or damaged American flags on Flag Day, Saturday, June 14.

The ceremony, in which flags are properly retired by cutting them into quarters and then burning them, was held behind the St. Genevieve's Church Convent on Princeton Road in Elizabeth.

Dozens of Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, leaders, parents, other family members and guests participated in the solemn and respectful ceremony, with each having the chance to place flag sections into the fire. The Scouts who participated will receive a brass flag grommet, sifted from the ashes and strung on a leather lanyard, to commemorate their participation.

The Scouting program instills character, good citizenship and physical fitness in youth through outdoor activities such as campouts and hikes, involvement in community activities, and just plain fun! Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 provide activities and training for children of all faiths, from St. Genevieve's parish and the surrounding area, from Kindergarten through high school graduation. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfoottroop@gmail.com.

# **STOCK UP NOW ON FIREWOOD**

Do you need firewood for your backyard chiminea, fireplace or wood-burning stove?. You can get well-seasoned split hardwood logs at St. Genevieve's Church, 200 Monmouth Road, Elizabeth, for less than what you pay in the supermarket. And at the same time, you will be supporting the camping program of Boy Scout Troop 23, including a campership fund that helps send financially-challenged Scouts to summer camp.

Help yourself from Webby's Wood Shed, located behind the Rectory near the garages that face 818 Livingston Road. Follow the directions on the envelopes provided to make a payment. Thank you for your support!



(above) Firewood is available from Webby's Wood Shed at St. Genevieve's Church. Purchase helps send Scouts to summer camp.



(above) The Scouts of Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 retired old and worn American flags on Flag Day at St. Genevieve's Church in Elizabeth.

Courtesy Photo



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## **GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF NJ 5K AT ORANGE RESERVOIR - SEPT 21ST**



On Sunday, September 21, Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) will host its annual "I Run for Girls 5K Run/Walk" at a brand-new location: the scenic Orange Reservoir in West Orange. The event kicks off at 9:00 AM, with check-in beginning at 8:00 AM.

This USATF-sanctioned race is open to runners and walkers of all ages and abilities including families with strollers and individuals using wheelchairs. Participants will enjoy a vibrant morning of community, fun, and purpose, with proceeds supporting Girl Scout programs that help girls explore new interests, gain realworld skills, and build lasting friendships.

All registrants will receive a custom event Tshirt and medal. Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each USATF age category.

Proceeds from the race help fund Girl Scout programs that spark curiosity, build confidence, and foster leadership in more than 13,000 youth from kindergarten through 12th grade. Girl Scout troops from across the region will also be on hand to help bring energy and spirit to the day.

"Whether you're racing or strolling, you're helping create life-changing opportunities for young people," said Natasha Hemmings, CEO of • All registrants receive: T-shirt and medal GSHNJ.

To register, donate, or start a fundraising team, visit www.gshnj.org/irunforgirls.

#### **ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF NEW JERSEY**

Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) believes in the power of every girl. Our leadership program is designed to help girls discover who they are, what they can do, and

connect with a powerful community of girls and mentors to make it happen. With unique opportunities, Girl Scouts explore, learn, succeed, and take action to make a difference in their community. Providing over 13,000 girls from kindergarten through 12th grade access to leadership programs and mentors throughout Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Somerset, Union, southern Warren, and parts of Middlesex counties, GSHNJ offers girls a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership. GSHNJ operates two service centers located in North Branch and Westfield and the Girl Scout Leadership Center in Newark as well as three camp locations: Camp Hoover in Middleville, N.J., Camp DeWitt in Hillsborough, N.J., and The OVAL in Maplewood, N.J. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join, please visit www.gshnj.org.

#### **Event Details**

- Location: Orange Reservoir, 9 Cherry Lane, West Orange, NJ 07052
- Check-In Opens: 8:00 AM
- Race Starts: 9:00 AM
- Awards: Top three finishers in each USATF age group category

Registration Fees	Sept.	Race	
Category	1 - 20	Day	
Adult Runners (18+)	\$50	\$60	
USATF Members	\$45	\$55	
Adult Walkers (18+)	\$45	\$50	
Youth (under 18)	\$25	\$25	

- running or walking

Register/donate: gshnj.org/irunforgirls

# **ATLANTIC FEDERAL AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Atlantic Federal Credit Union

The Atlantic Federal Credit Union ("The Atlantic") proudly awarded scholarships to three local high school graduates who are preparing to begin their college journeys this fall. These scholarships aim to ease the financial burden of tuition and support their continued academic success.

The scholarships were awarded based on multiple factors, including overall academic performance, community service, personal essays and letters of recommendation. The three recipients this year included Ayana J., a graduate of Union High School, who will be attending Rutgers University; Zachary H., a graduate of Flex School in Berkeley Heights, who will be attending Beacon College; and Nathaniel E., who will be attending Stanford University.

On site at The Atlantic's Union Township branch location to present the scholarships was Anthony Mero, Chief Executive Officer of The Atlantic. "It's an honor to recognize and support these three outstanding young adults as they take the next step in their education and leadership development. We're excited to see how they'll continue to grow and make an impact within our community."



Certified Event



(above) Ayana J., a graduate of Union High School

Courtesy photos

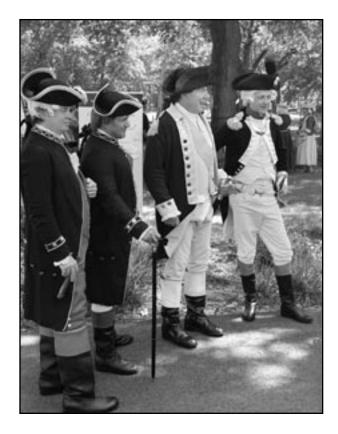
# THE BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN ARCHIVES & CENTER FOR AMERICAN MUSIC TO BE SIGNATURE GROUP AT 6TH ANNUAL MARCH TO YORKTOWN DAY

As the country enters a year of celebrations leading up to 2026 and America 250, the Semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route New Jersey (W3R-NJ) announces an event that is a prelude to Westfield Celebrates America 250.

The 6th Annual March to Yorktown Day Commemoration & Encampment Festival in Westfield, NJ will be held on Sunday, August 17th from 12:00 noon – 4:00pm.

The event will kick off at 12:00 noon at outside of Westfield's Town Hall with an opening ceremony and the playing of patriotic music followed by remarks about the importance of Westfield commemorating when the French and American troops marched from Newport, Rhode Island to Yorktown, VA (an almost 700 mile, nine state, land and water journey) to lay siege to the British forces there, securing independence for the United States. The march of the troops took place in the summer of 1781 taking them through several Union County towns including Westfield, Mountainside and Scotch Plains on August 29, 1781. The March route was designated in 2009 as the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, a unit of the National Trail System, administered by the National Park

At 12:30, the community is invited to watch or join-in the symbolic march re-enactment along East Broad Street to Mountain Ave. Wreaths of remembrance will be placed at the Presbyterian burial grounds where over 70 Revolutionary War Veterans, their families and other patriots are buried. The march will continue into Mindowaskin Park accompanied by the Generals Rochambeau, Washington and Lafayette, the New Jersey Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the New Jersey Fifes and Drums, the Miller-Cory Museum colonial living history group, women camp followers and the New Jersey Militia Heard's Brigade.



From 1:00 to 4:00, a history themed festival will be set up in Mindowaskin Park. A talk on African American experiences in the Revolutionary War will be given by Dr. Sean Dineen, Adjunct History Professor, Kean University and disabilities advocate. The event's signature group is The Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music. They will be on hand to share news about their mission and they will have an exhibit with engaging items. Children's games and activities along with information will be provided by local history organizations such as the Forgotten Victory Trail Association, Westfield Historical Society, Miller-Cory House Museum, Princeton Battlefield Society, Westfield Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, West Fields Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of the Revolution in New Jersey, Washington Association of New Jersey, North Jersey American Revolution Roundtable, Fortnightly Club, Swan Historical Foundation, Trent House

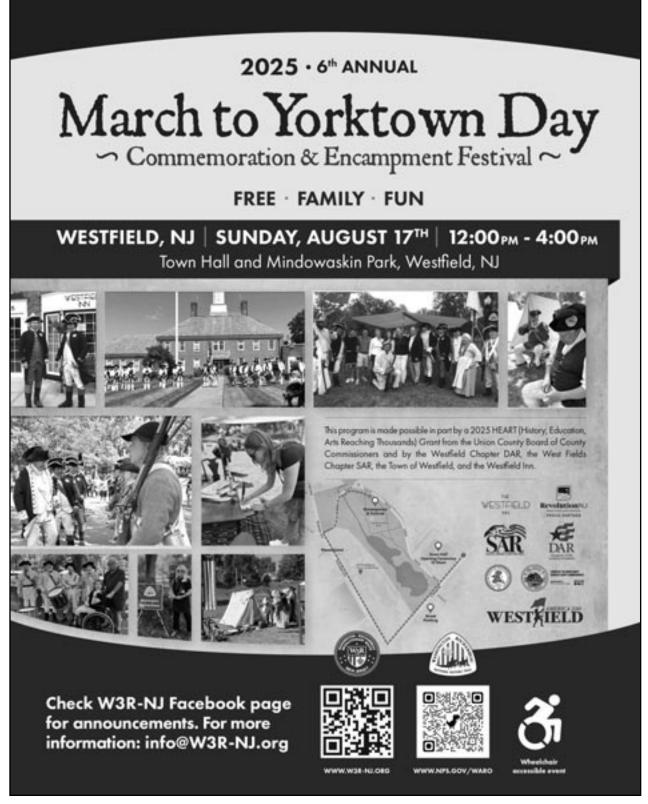
Museum, Merchants & Drovers Museum, Frazee House Museum, Center for Creativity at the Rialto, Liberty Hall Museum and others.

An encampment with tents, cooking demonstrations, fife and drum music, musket firing and marching drills will occur during the festival.

Food by A Taco Affair of Westfield, will be available for purchase.

This event is made possible by support from Mayor Shelley Brindle, the Westfield Town Council, the Town of Westfield, and in part by a 2025 HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of County Commissioners, The Westfield Inn, Chez Catherine, the West Fields Chapter SAR, the Westfield Chapter DAR, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, New Jersey (W3R-NJ).

For more information email info@W3R-NJ.org Follow on Facebook @W3RNJ and www.w3r-nj.org



## **AUGUST PROGRAMS AT THE UNION TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Registration is required for all events stop in a library branch, or visit upland.org.

For more information about our adult programs and resources, please call Adult Services at (908)-851-5450 extension 3, or our Vauxhall Branch at (908)-851-5451, or check out our website at uplnj.org or visit us at the Vauxhall Branch at 123 Hilton Ave.

#### Vauxhall Branch Library Community Advocacy Group (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. 8/4 @ 6:00 pm

Are you a frequent user of the Vauxhall Branch Library? Do you have ideas on how to improve the library?

# Nikki Giovanni: Film & Community Discussion (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. 8/11 @ 6:00 pm

A world-renowned poet and one of the foremost authors of the Black Arts Movement, please join us as we celebrate the legacy of Nikki Giovanni.

# Feather Drawing for the "Non-Artist" (Main Library)

Tues. 8/12 @ 5:30 pm

Join us in this class designed specifically for those who don't consider themselves artists. If you've ever hesitated to try your hand at drawing, this is the perfect class to begin your artistic journey!

### **Build Your Balance (Main Library)**

Wed. 8/13 @ 10:30 am

It's more important than ever to avoid the risks of falling as we age. Through gentle strength exercises, and stepping strategies, learn to keep your body balanced in different situations.

# Argentine Guitar Recital with Carlos Pavan (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Wed. 8/13 @ 6:00 pm

Brooklyn based composer/guitarist Carlos Pavan, who skillfully blends Argentine tango & folklore rhythms with classical and jazz concepts..

# Pepper Farm - Benefits, Cultivation, Samples (Main Library)

Thur. 8/14 @ 6:00 pm

Meet Cross Country Nurseries, one of the largest Pepper Farms in Jersey. Learn about the varieties of peppers grown in our state.

# Adult Dance Fitness (Vauxhall Branch Library) Mon. 8/18 @ 6:00 pm

Get your exercise in with a fun cardio workout featuring hip-hop inspired dance moves, presented by Tiffany Taylor!

# Adult Crochet for Beginners (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. 8/20 @ 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!

#### Union Public Library's Silent Book Club (Main Library)

Mon. 8/25 @ 6:00 pm

There's no assigned reading. All readers are welcome to join in, from fiction and non-fiction to ebooks and more! Bring your own book and join us as we read in quiet camaraderie.

#### Vauxhall Negro League Baseball Club (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. 8/25 @ 6:00 pm

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.

### How To's of Cognitive Health (Main Library)

Tues. 8/26 @ 6:00 pm

Presented by Kerry T. Jordan of the Gateway Family YMCA. Learn how food, fitness, and friendship are essential to how well your mind works, not just your body!

# Black August Movie Viewing: Cruel & Unusual (Vauxhall Branch Library)

Wed. 8/27 @ 6:00 pm

Cruel & Unusual tells the story of the Angola 3, Black Panthers, who have been fighting for justice since the early 1970s and have spent over a century in solitary confinement.

#### Animal Crossing Open Hours (Virtual on Switch)

Fri. 8/29 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Inclusive virtual library building that serves children, teens, and adults. Discover our Mariothemed maze, shop at Nooks & Abels, help craft DIYs, and leave a message on the bulletin board. There will be freebies! Must add us as a friend before entering the island. Our UPL Nintendo friend code is SW-4027-1837-6212.

#### Meditation (Virtual on Zoom)

Mons. @ 6:30 pm

Join Bindu Bhatt for a virtual evening meditation session. No prior experience is necessary. Bindu has practiced meditation for over 30 years and wants to share her insight.

#### **Chair Yoga (Main Library)**

All Tuesdays in August @ 9:15 am

Take a deep breath with friends and stretch!
From beginners to professionals, join this
popular class as a weekly series. Presented by
the Gateway Family YMCA. Space is limited,
please register to secure your chair!

#### Walk-in Wednesdays: One-on-One Library Technology Assistance (Vauxhall Branch)

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.

#### **50TH REUNION FOR CLASS OF 1975**

Battin, Thomas Jefferson & Edison High Schools in Elizabeth NJ

Saturday, October 11, 2025

from 6-11pm Hilton Garden Inn

Route 22 West in Springfield.

The cost is \$145.00 per person - guests invited. Donations are also welcomed.

Interested parties should contact Linda Mallozzi by email at lemlaw@comcast.net.

## MOUNTAINSIDE PAL TOWN WIDE GARAGE SALE SATURDAY, SEPT. 13 2025

9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

MAP PICK UP AT THE LIBRARY- 8 AM SALE DAY

For more information or to

get a link to the sale application, please e-mail Mountainsidegaragesale@gmail.com

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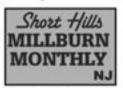
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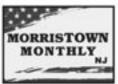
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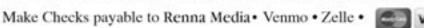
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# YMCA'S CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER OPEN HOUSE - AUG. 14TH

The Gateway Family YMCA Offers YMCA Five Points Branch Child Development Center. Child Care Programs in Elizabeth and Union. Child Care and Early Learning programs at the Y focus on nurturing child development by building foundational skills, fostering healthy relationships and boosting self-reliance, all in a safe and supportive environment. With programs run by caring adult role models who are invested in helping every child reach their full potential. The Gateway Family YMCA's Child Care Programs are a safe place providing support for working families.

"We believe that every child is a unique individual. The values and skills learned early on are vital building blocks for quality of life and future success," stated Lisa Yanez, Senior Director of Child Development. "We are committed to promoting each child's individual development and supporting the entire family."

The Gateway Family YMCA is hosting Open House and Parent Information Sessions at the

201 Tucker Avenue, Union and the Youth Development Branch Child Development Center, 16-20 Jefferson Avenue, Elizabeth on Thursday, August 14th 6:00-7:30 p.m. Families are invited to visit the Y and learn more about programs and options to fit their needs for infant, toddler and preschool care. For more information, visit: tgfymca.org/events

Registration is available in August for the 2025-2026 session of Infant, Toddler and Preschool Child Care. The YMCA also offers Before and After School care in local elementary and middle schools, on-site public Preschool in Rahway and Union, Vacation Day programs during school holidays and Summer Day Camp.

The Gateway Family YMCA's Child Development Centers follow the Creative Curriculum built on theories of development in young children, that all children learn through active exploration of their environment and therefore the environment plays a critical role in learning. The philosophy of the Creative Curriculum is that young children learn best by doing. The research-based Creative Curriculum is implemented in all classrooms through ageappropriate activities, lessons and daily routines and learning extends to the Y's core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility.

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 Y doesn't just strengthen bodies - it strengthens people, families and communities.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA's Child Care programs, visit www.tgfymca.org or contact the Youth Development Branch 908-355-3061 or the Five Points Branch 908-688-9622.





(above) The Gateway Family YMCA Offers YMCA Child Care Programs in Elizabeth and Union.





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Prices subject to change without notice.

