LIFEINLINDEN

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INAUGURAL PERUVIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

A triple celebration was held on July 28, 2025, during Linden's Inaugural Peruvian Independence Day, celebrating Peru's 204th year of independence, the 25th anniversary of dedicated community service by Peruvians for Progress Inc.

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COMMUNITY CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

City of Linden

National Night Out, a national communitybuilding campaign that promotes police-community partnerships, was held on Tuesday, August 5th in Linden.

The free event was organized by the Linden Police Department and featured giveaways, food, drinks, and entertainment. Members of the Police Department, along with community partners,

were on hand to interact with the community. National Night Out culminates annually on the first Tuesday in August. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. For more information visit natw.org.



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September 7th @ 10:00am

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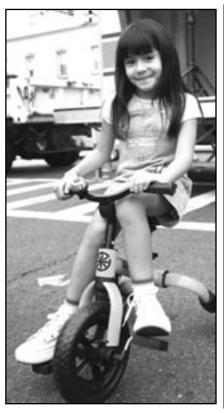
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Photos by Cranford Police Department

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Concert Date Band Name

Sept. 2 Kryer

Sept. 9 Epic Soul

Sept. 19 Blues People

Sept. 25 Afterwork House Music House

Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors of Greece at the 48th Annual Greek Festival, taking

place at the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Union, NJ. This eagerly

anticipated event, the largest and longestrunning Greek Festival in Union County, will delight attendees from September 4th to September 7th, 2025, with a weekend of cultural immersion, culinary delights, and familyfriendly entertainment.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Authentic Greek Cuisine: Indulge in a feast of traditional Greek dishes including souvlaki, moussaka, pastitsio, spanakopita, loukoumades, and baklava, all freshly prepared on premises with the finest ingredients reminiscent of your Greek Yiayia's cooking.
- Live Music and Dance: Experience the lively rhythms of Greece with live music and dance performances featuring traditional Greek folk music and dances such as syrtaki and kalamatianó.
- Artisan Marketplace: Browse through a bustling marketplace offering handmade jewelry, clothing, and imported goods from Greece.

EVENT DETAILS:

- Dates: September 4th to September 7th, 2025
- Location: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Rahway Ave, Union, NJ 07083

(Free Parking in neighboring lots)

GREEK FESTIVAL CELEBRATES CULTURE,

CUISINE, AND COMMUNITY IN UNION

• Admission: \$2 general admission; a portion of admission proceeds benefit local Union Township/Union County charities "We are thrilled to invite the community to join us for our 47th Annual Greek Festival," said Betty Spiropoulos, Festival Committee Co-Chair "This event is a celebration of our Greek heritage and a wonderful opportunity for everyone to experience the warmth and hospitality of our culture."

ABOUT THE ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH:

Established in 1928 in Newark and relocated to Union in 1984, the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church has been a cornerstone of the Union Township community, celebrated for its rich diversity and dedication to promoting Greek culture, faith, and community spirit. Over the years, it has warmly welcomed people from various backgrounds, fostering an inclusive environment that embraces cultural diversity and unity among its members.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and behind-the-scenes looks at the festival: @stdemetriosunion

Don't miss out on this unforgettable celebration of Greek culture and community! Join us at the 48th Annual Greek Festival in Union, NJ, for a weekend filled with delicious food, vibrant music, and family-friendly fun.

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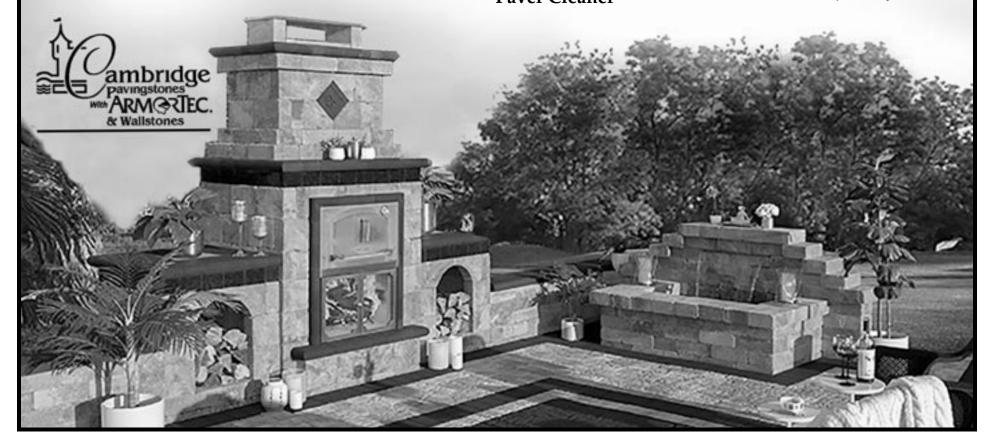
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AMERICAN LEGION Breakfast Pancake Breakfast – September 21, 2025

American Legion Post 102

112 West Elizabeth Ave., from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
This month's special will be French Toast!
Donations: Seniors & Children \$7.00
Adults \$8.00 / Ages 5 & Under Free.
Take outs are available.

VFW BREAKFAST

Pancake Breakfast - September 27, 2025 American Legion Post 102

112 West Elizabeth Ave in Linden

8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Donations: Seniors & Children \$6.00
Adults \$7.00 / 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!

K9 OFFICER, DRACO, EOW 8/6/2025

Mark Julian, Township of Union Chief of Police

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved K9 officer, Draco, EOW 8/6/2025. Draco and his handler Officer Brenton Linton, faithfully served the community of Union Township since 2017, bringing dedication, courage, and loyalty to every call.

Draco joined us from Hungary and quickly became more than just a partner in law enforcement. He was a friend, a protector, and a symbol of bravery for Union Township. His presence will be deeply missed, but his paw prints will forever remain in our hearts.

Thank you for your years of service and the love you shared with all of us.

Rest in peace, Draco. Job well done!



Courtesy Photo

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS DINNER

The Linden Chamber Division of the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce hosted there 24th Annual Awards Scholarship Dinner on June 12th, 2025, at III Amici's Ristorante in Linden, NJ. Linden High School students were awarded scholarships. with the mission to provide support to local businesses. The Chamber works to provide support for new and current businesses, advocates site development and promotes a forward thinking and carefully planned business environment in Linden. Their meetings are

- \$1,500 Scholarship Recipients were Kylani De La Cruz, Kayla Lewis, and Alyssa Goodman.
- \$1,200 Scholarship Recipients were Abigail Armstead, and Alyssa Sasarak.
- Honored during the dinner were Business of the year:
- Northfiled Bank Linden Branch;
- Coldwell Banker Liberty

Ana Maria Argote & Mario Aistizbal

• Person of the Year - Cathy Montella.

The Linden Chamber Division of the GECC is leader among the great organizations representing the Linden Business Community, established with the mission to provide support to local businesses. The Chamber works to provide support for new and current businesses, advocates site development and promotes a forward thinking and carefully planned business environment in Linden. Their meetings are designed for sharing information and experiences. Representatives from the Linden Government are always in attendance at meetings, which allows for an open and communicative relationship between business owners and the municipality. Meetings take place at 8:30 a.m., on the fourth Tuesday of every month, except July and August.

Our next Chamber meeting is September 23rd, at 8:30 a.m., at the JTG Center on Helen St. in Linden. All business professional are welcome to attend. For more information about the Linden Chamber visit elizabethchamber.com, or call (908) 355-7600.

PUBLIC NOTICE MERCK SITE, RAHWAY/LINDEN, NJ

Notice to Release Title V Permit Renewal and Environmental Justice Impact Statement and Intent to Hold Public Information Session for Title V Operating Permit Program Interest (PI) No. 41712, Title V Operating Permit Renewal Activity No. BOP240005 and Title V Operating Permit Modifications Activity No. BOP240004, EJ Project No. 35009928

NJDEP Environmental Justice Regulations

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:1C-4.1 and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Environmental Justice (EJ) regulations that the Merck site, located at 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey, intends to hold a public information session on October 22, 2025 at 6 p.m. to share details about its Title V permit applications and Environmental Justice Impact Statement (EJIS).

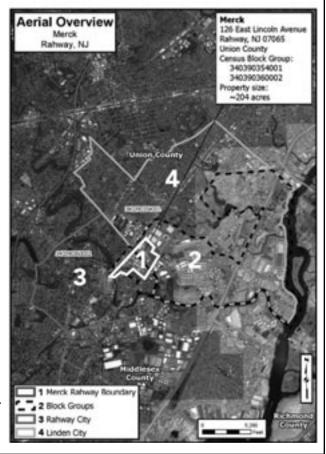
The Merck site is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and NJDEP as a major Title V facility. Title V of the Clean Air Act (CAA) directs States – like New Jersey – to develop and enforce an operating permit program that set air emission limits from specific sources. This Title V operating permit is a legal document that is issued to all major sources of air emissions and cites what a facility must do to control sources of air emissions. Merck operates with a Title V operating permit under the EPA CAA.

In September 2020, the New Jersey State Legislature signed an EJ law that requires the NJDEP to explore public health impacts and environmental stressors during review of environmental permits related to new, upgraded and expanded facilities. Regulations implementing this law were adopted by NJDEP in April 2023. The Merck site is one of the many facilities in Union County and New Jersey that is subject to the new EJ Law, as it is a major-source permit holder located within an area designated as an "overburdened community" or OBC.

The Merck site submitted its Title V renewal application to the NJDEP on May 23, 2024. This application incorporates various permit modification details that reflect new and pre-existing equipment for multiple projects at the Merck site. An EJIS is an extensive review of environmental and public health conditions in an overburdened community that identifies and analyzes: existing/adverse environmental public health stressors; cumulative stressors and a facility's potential contributions to stressors; and mitigations that the facility can take to avoid adverse cumulative impacts to the community. The public can view a copy of Merck's EJIS at the Linden Free Public Library (31 E

Henry St, Linden, NJ 07036) and Rahway Public Library (2 City Hall Plaza, Rahway, NJ) or online at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's website: https://dep.nj.gov/ej/meetings/#union.

Merck will hold a public information session on October 22, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the Linden Free Public Library – Columbia Bank Room located on 31 E Henry St, Linden, NJ 07036 and on Zoom. To attend the meeting on Zoom, please register at the following link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Gh3m1v KfTqaWs_cVXayZhA. Merck will accept public comments at the information session and during a 90-day comment period from August 22 to November 22, 2025. Comments on Merck's EJIS may be submitted via email to: Charris.alexander@merck.com or via mail to: Merck EJ Comment, C/O Environmental Resources Management, Tony Bianchini, 200 Charles Ewing Boulevard, Suite 160, Ewing, NJ 08628.



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YMCA CELEBRATES WELCOMING WEEK - SEPTEMBER 12-21

The Gateway Family YMCA will join Welcoming America, other organizations and YMCAs across the country to celebrate Welcoming Week, September 12-21. Welcoming Week is an annual celebration that encourages communities to come together, celebrate shared values and the integral part that welcoming plays in local neighborhoods.

At The Gateway Family YMCA, the community is invited to visit the YMCA for an Open House with details and schedules available attgfymca.org/events including fun family programs, social events for all ages, a Community Health Fair, Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring and programs open to the In addition, the Y will be community. celebrating with events for program participants in Child Care, YMCA Residential Housing, Aquatics, Group Exercise and WISE Community Services programs.

The Gateway Family YMCA is celebrating 125 years of serving the community in 2025, which will be a theme included in this year's

Welcoming Week events. This week-long celebration is an opportunity for neighbors to get to know one another and celebrate what unites us as a community.

In addition to a YMCA Open House September 12-21, The Gateway Family YMCA is offering a Membership Special with \$0 Joiner Fee on all memberships. Individuals and families are invited to tour and join at any YMCA branch in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union, or online at tgfymca.org/join-the-Y with code WEL during Welcoming Week.

The Gateway Family YMCA, along with Shaping Eastern Union County, Shaping Elizabeth, Shaping Rahway and Shaping Union, celebrate Welcoming Week locally each year. The Gateway Family YMCA offers a complimentary Community Membership for access to select programs and events for every member of the community focused on chronic disease prevention and social opportunities for seniors and families.

Welcoming Week is an annual campaign and

888400

celebration to showcase the movement of communities striving to be more welcoming places. Launched in 2012 by Welcoming America and its members, Welcoming Week provides individuals and communities the opportunity to proclaim welcoming values through events and local initiatives that foster mutual understanding between people and foster a deeper sense of belonging.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a leading 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization committed to strengthening community by connecting everyone to their potential, purpose and each other. Working locally, the Y focuses on empowering young people, improving health and well-being, and inspiring action in and across communities.

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





(above) Welcoming Week Celebration takes place at the YMCA September 12-21



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ADAM ABUHAMOUD HONORED

City of Linden

The life and legacy of Adam Abuhamoud, a beloved Linden resident and dedicated city employee was beautifully honored on July 25th, by his family in a touching memorial ceremony. In a tribute to his enduring spirit, a cherry blossom tree was planted and a commemorative bench installed in Bacheller Avenue Park. Now, each spring, the tree will bloom with the same warmth and joy Adam brought to those around him, offering a peaceful place for reflection and remembrance.





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Saturday, October 11, 2025

from 6-11pm **Hilton Garden Inn**

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

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

OPEN HOUSE AND SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

The Linden Public Library, in conjunction with the Friends of Linden Library, will be hosting an Open House for the community on Saturday, September 6, from 11 am - 3 pm.

The event will have activities and programs aimed at all ages including drop-in crafts, a special storytime, games, a bouncy house, and of course, library card sign ups. All members of the community are invited to attend. "This event is a fun way for families to discover all the library has to offer," said Josh Melissari, Acting Library Director.

During the event, the Friends of Linden Library will launch Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Linden. "We're so excited to be able to offer this program for kids here in Linden. One of our main goals, as the Friends, is to promote literacy and a love of reading from a young age," said Theresa Villani, President of the Friends, "Our hope is this will inspire others across the state to launch their own programs." Families will be able to sign up their children, ages 0-5 years after the launch.

Since launching in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has become the preeminent early childhood book-gifting program in the world. The flagship program of The Dollywood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has gifted over 280 million free books in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and The Republic of Ireland. This is achieved through funding shared by The Dollywood Foundation and Local Community Partners. The Imagination Library mails more than 3 million high-quality, age-appropriate books directly to children's homes each month. Each child enrolled in the program receives one book per month from birth to age five - at no cost to families. Dolly envisioned creating a lifelong love of reading and inspiring children to Dream More, Learn More, Care More and Be More.

The program's impact has been widely researched, and results demonstrate its positive impact on early childhood development and literacy skills. Penguin Random House is the exclusive publisher of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. For more information, please visit imaginationlibrary.com.

Located at 31 East Henry Street, the Linden Public Library has been at the center of social, educational, civic, and cultural life within the City of Linden since its founding in 1928. For more information on this or other programs please call us at (908) 298-3830 or visit our website at LindenLibrary-NJ.gov. Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

ALL AGES:

9/6, 11 am -3 pm, Library open House

Join us for drop-in crafts, a special storytime, games, a bouncy house, and more!

CHILDREN:

9/22 at 4 pm, Minecraft: Fall Harvest Frenzy 9/23 at 4 pm, Back to School Craft 9/24 at 4 pm, Chess Club 9/29 at 4pm, Boom Buckets

TEENS:

9/15 at 4 pm, Baking: Berry Crumble 9/22 at 4 pm, Pumpkin Spice Bath Bombs 9/29 at 4 pm, Baking: Pumpkin Spice Cookies **ADULTS:**

9/3 at 6:30 pm, Dungeons & Dragons

(registration required) 9/10 at 6:30 pm. De-Stress Fest

9/16 at 7 pm. Trivia 9/17 at 6:30 pm, Adult Craft Club (registration required)

9/18 at 6:30 pm, Morning Makers Craft Club (registration required)

10/1 at 6:30 pm, Book Club: The Safari

In addition to these, movies will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 pm, for the full listing of movies please visit our website or call. Chair Yoga will be held every Tuesday at 10 am and Project Healthy Bones every Wednesday at 10 am.

All programs are presented free of charge. Space is limited so advance registration is recommended. To register for events please go to LindenLibrary-NJ.gov/events or call 908-298-3830. For more information on these or other programs please call or visit our website at LindenLibrary-NJ.gov. Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.

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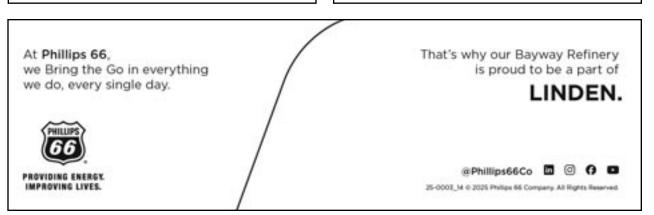
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MULTICULTURAL MUSIC FESTIVAL COMES TO ROSELLE PARK

The Multicultural and Heritage Music Festival will bring a wide range of ethnic entertainment to Roselle Park on Saturday, September 27. Presented by the Borough of Roselle Park, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Greg Johnson Civic Association, the festival will run from noon to 5 pm at Michael Mauri Park on Chestnut Street. It will feature food trucks, a CPR information station, local displays including an exhibit highlighting Roselle Park's historic railroad system and performers celebrating diverse styles of music from around the world.

3:45 PM -- Afro Dominicano. Headlining the festival is a Latin fusion band performing what is called AfroCaribbean soul. Its traditional folkloric roots music from the Dominican Republic incorporates Afro beats, reggae, calypso, samba, funk, punk rock and other Caribbean rhythms. In addition to original songs, they include covers such as Bill Withers' Just the Two of Us and Amy Winehouse's Valerie. The band, acclaimed worldwide, features vocal, guitar, bass, accordion, drum, conga, guira and tambora.

2:20 PM - Verdict. If you like to dance and love reggae and soca music, Verdict is the band for you. Verdict is fronted by vocalist and keyboardist Roland from Monserrat, whose enthusiasm is infectious as he leads the audience to dance along with him as he plays. Guitarist Raga comes from Trinidad-Tobago and bassist Marcellino from Panama. Johnny Youth is the band leader and drummer. Their story continues as does their unending quest to play the transcendent jam, to create the perfect moment, to revel in shared experience with their fans.

1:00 PM - Pradhanica. A contemporary Kathak dance production, Pradhanica, which means "female leader," is led by Kathak dancer, choreographer and percussionist Jin Won. Its compositions use Indian rhythms for the African djembe, Spanish cajon, with Indian sitar and tabla. Exploring emotions of anger, joy, compassion and peace, Pradhanica shows the pure rhythmic aspect and emotional resonance of the dance form.

12:00 PM - Chris Bolger

and the Jamesons Gang. This North Jerseybased quartet has been bringing Gaelic-flavored rock, folk and ballads to pubs, festivals and other events in New York and New Jersey for many years. In addition to guitar, bass and drums, they incorporate Irish music staples such as the bouzouki, mandolin and banjo to provide a crowd-pleasing mix of traditional and modern tunes.

Another highlight of the festival will be an exhibit showcasing the three railroads that nurtured Roselle Park's growth into a vibrant community. The Tristate Railway Historical



(above) Afro Dominicano



(above) Verdict



(above) Pradhanica



(above) Chris Bolger and the Jamesons Gang

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3:45 PM - Afro Dominicano

2:20 PM - Verdict

1:00 PM - Pradhanica

12:00 PM - Chris Bolger

& Jamesons Gang

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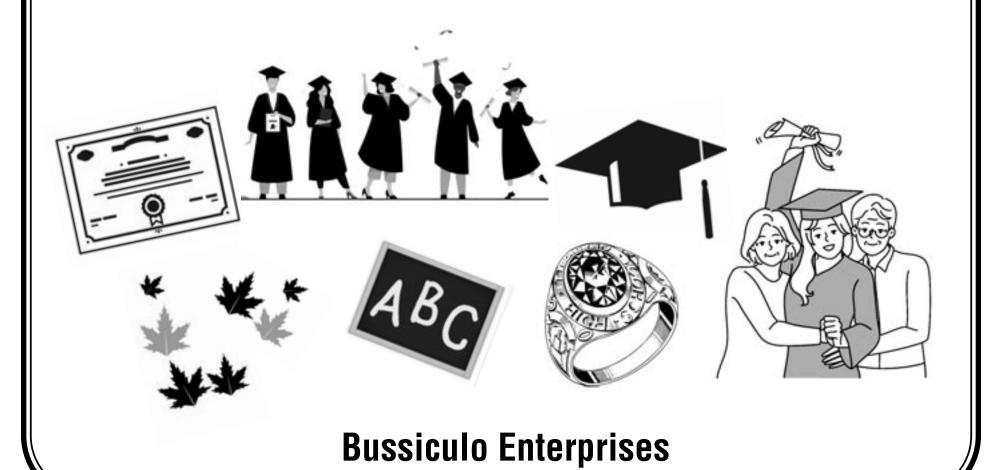
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