

2026 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - MAY 25

Township of Union

The Township of Union is proud to announce that Jake Fernandez, a lifelong resident, decorated Special Forces Sergeant, and dedicated local first responder, has been named the Grand Marshal for the 2026 Memorial Day Parade. This year's parade, scheduled for Monday, May 25, carries added historical weight as a featured event in the local celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States.

"As we gather to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation, there is no one who better represents the spirit of American service than Jake Fernandez," said Patricia Guerra-Frazier, Mayor. "Jake has devoted his life to safeguarding others, from his military service to his daily work here in Union. We are proud to have a homegrown hero lead our parade as we honor the brave men and women who have fought for our freedom throughout our history."

Fernandez is a 2005 graduate of Union High School who joined the U.S. Army in 2008 and earned the elite Green Beret, serving as an 18B Special Forces Weapons Sergeant with the 7th Special Forces Group. His military service includes combat tours in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraq for Operation Inherent Resolve, as well as

numerous international training missions in the Dominican Republic, Germany, and Panama.

In 2015, Fernandez returned home to serve his neighbors directly, first as a member of the Union Police Department and currently as a Firefighter and EMT with the Union Fire Department on Tour 3. Beyond his professional duties, Fernandez is a vital advocate for veteran wellness, working alongside the New Jersey Veterans Network to mentor and support veterans and first responders.

The Memorial Day Parade will kick off at 10:00 AM on Monday, May 25, 2026, following its traditional route and featuring local marching bands, civic organizations, and veterans groups. As part of the USA 250 celebration, the event will include special historical tributes honoring the specific contributions of Union to the American story.



(left Scan the QR code for more info about Memorial Day Parade and Encampment.

For more updates on future events, visit uniontownship.com and follow @twpunionnj on social media.

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FREE VETERANS INITIATIVE AT THE YMCA

Last year, The Gateway Family YMCA launched a new Veterans Wellness Initiative, offered at the Wellness Center Branch in Union, NJ and at the Elizabeth Branch in Elizabeth, NJ. Beginning this Spring, the free Veterans Wellness Initiative program will continue with new sessions in Union and Elizabeth and will expand to include an additional session at the Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway. Each 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 this program has had on our veterans and their families,” shared Susan Butler, Director of Community Wellness. “I am excited to continue to expand the Veterans Wellness Initiative throughout our YMCA branches.”

The Veterans Wellness Initiative began as a way to create community and wellness opportunities for veterans. 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. To join the interest list for participation in the program, please visit: tgfymca.org/contact-us

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



(above) The Gateway Family YMCA has expanded their Veterans Wellness Initiative.

Courtesy Photo

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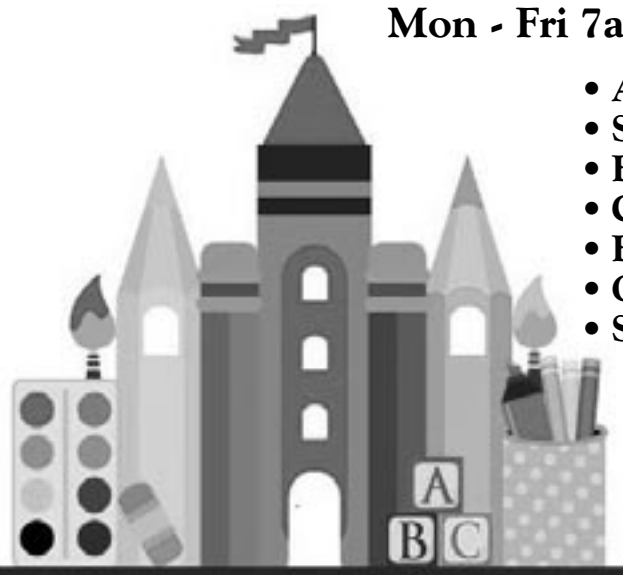


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ANGEL SOUTO ART SELECTED FOR AIRPORT EXHIBIT

Local contemporary painter Angel Souto has been named one of only 20 artists statewide selected for the 2026 Digital Art Program at Newark Liberty International Airport's Terminal A. The year-long exhibition, a collaboration between the Port Authority of NY & NJ and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, transforms the terminal into a massive digital gallery to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

Souto's selected work, "Great Falls," offers a bold, contemporary cubist interpretation of the Paterson Great Falls. The piece serves as a visual bridge between New Jersey's revolutionary past and its industrial future, referencing the exact site where Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, and the Marquis de Lafayette famously envisioned the nation's economic independence.

"Seeing my work up at Newark Airport's Terminal A, greeting millions of travelers, feels surreal and really exciting," says Souto. "With my interpretation of the Great Falls, I wanted to capture the layered history of the Great Falls and the raw, powerful energy of the site and state that helped shape American identity."

The digital installation will be showcased on high-definition welcome banners and large-scale screens throughout the award-winning Terminal A, which serves over 9 million passengers annually.

A Season of Recognition The airport selection follows a string of recent accolades for the Union-based artist. Souto recently received an Honorable Mention at the Monmouth Museum's 46th Annual Juried Exhibition,

A Time Within a Time. His work in that show continues his exploration of memory and the dialogue between historical and modern contexts. The museum exhibition remains open to the public through May 10, 2026.

Originally from Galicia, Spain, Angel Souto has been a resident of Union, New Jersey, for over 30 years. His work is characterized by a unique fusion of traditional oil painting techniques and linear geometric flow. His work explores life's beauty inspired by nature, Spanish culture & symbolism.



(above) Union Artist Angel Souto

Courtesy Photo

ST. ANTHONY FEAST IN ROSELLE PARK, JUNE 4-7

The Church of the Assumption's annual St. Anthony Italian Feast returns for its 26th year! The Feast will feature rides, games, live entertainment, homemade cooking, food vendors, a beer and wine garden, and a SUPER 50/50 drawn Sunday, June 7th, at pm! The Feast, located on the Church grounds at 113 Coolidge Place, Roselle Park, NJ, begins on Thursday, June 4 and runs through Sunday, June 7. Feast hours: Thurs 6-10pm, Friday 6-10pm, Saturday 5-10pm and Sunday 2-7pm. On Sunday, June 7, there will be a 12 noon mass honoring St. Anthony, followed by a procession through Roselle Park beginning at 12:45pm.

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT:

Thursday, June 4:

Paper Statues and Deadlinez
(Valencia School of Music), 8pm-10pm

Friday, June 5:

Valentied, 730p-830p, Serenphoria, 9p-10p

Saturday, June 6:

Diamonds in Jupiter, 7pm to 10pm

Sunday, June 7:

Simply the Best, 4pm-7pm

Additional entertainment will be announced on the Church of the Assumption website as acts are confirmed.

Pay-One-Price Unlimited Ride wristbands are available for opening day, Thursday, June 4. Wristbands will be sold at the Feast for \$35. Visit the Church of the Assumption website at <http://www.assumptionrp.com/> for more information and sponsorship opportunities. If you would like to volunteer at the Feast of St. Anthony, scan here:



(above) Those interesting volunteering can use the QR code for more information.



Annual 2026 Feast of St. Anthony

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50/50s Rides Games Music Homemade Food

Thursday, June 4	Friday, June 5	Saturday, June 6	Sunday, June 7
 Valencia School of Music Paper Statues & Deadlinez 8:00pm-10:00pm	 Valentied 7:30pm-8:30pm SERENPHORIA 9:00pm-10:00pm	 Diamonds in Jupiter 7:00pm-10:00pm	 Simply the Best 4:00pm-7:00pm

A special thank you to the Borough of Roselle Park for supporting our Feast!

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SEEDLING GIVEAWAY

The Township of Union and the Department of Public Works are excited to announce our upcoming Seedling Giveaway! Whether you have a green thumb or are just starting your planting journey, come grab a little piece of nature to call your own and help keep Union green and beautiful.

The event takes place on Saturday, May 16, at the Department of Public Works located at 1 Swanstrom Place East. We begin at 9 a.m. and will continue until supplies last, so be sure to arrive early to secure your choice of Red Buds or Magnolias.

Please remember that this event is for Township of Union residents only, and proof of address is required. There is a limit of one seedling per person, and no businesses are permitted.

SEEDLING GIVEAWAY

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GRANTS TO TEACHERS FOR 26-27 SCHOOL YEAR

Township of Union Education Foundation, Inc.

The Township of Union Education Foundation is proud to announce that the Foundation will be funding the following grants to teachers for the 2026-2027 school year.

Nicole Osborne, Burnet Middle School teacher for 6th and 7th grade multiple disabilities class will receive a mini-grant for Cricut machine and materials for making assorted items for the BMS Life Skills store, a student run school store designed to provide meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities for the students with special needs. Nicole Osborne will also receive a macro-grant for materials for her students for hands-on, multi-sensory and game-based learning specifically for her students, who have multiple disabilities.

Cynthia Carhart, third grade teacher at Connecticut Farms, will receive a grant for all third grade classes at Connecticut Farms school for students to study three books in a series written by award winning author Tami Charles, research the author, discuss the books in depth. This will culminate in a live in-person visit by the author in February 2027 for all students at Connecticut Farms Elementary School.

Darcy Villarino, third grade teacher at Connecticut Farms School, requested a subscription for all third grade students to Scholastic News Magazine and Science Spin. Scholastic News makes nonfiction reading interesting and easy to understand. Science Spin is a science program designed to help young students explore and understand the world around

them.

Karen Freitas, fourth grade teacher at Connecticut Farms School, will receive subscriptions to Scholastic News Magazine and Science Spin for all fourth graders at her school. These subscriptions will integrate reading, writing, science, and social studies into the curriculum.

Mary Ellen Patricco, fourth grade teacher at Connecticut Farms School, and Brooke Gilligan, requested a grant for all fourth graders to enhance the curriculum with an emphasis on the importance of geometry. Hands on activity kits and picture books will enhance and bring to life the importance of geometry in our classrooms.

Anthony Manderichio, Michael Reis and Ursula Smith, G & T teachers in Livingston School and Hannah Caldwell, will receive materials for a "Teamwork Day" for all G & T second graders in the district. They will have a day of projects at Hannah Caldwell School which will strengthen collaboration, problem-solving, and critical thinking through engaging, developmentally appropriate STEM and teamwork – based activities.

The Township of Union Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to raise funds for teachers for creative and innovative educational programs. Contact us on Facebook, tuef.org or 908-851-9869. Checks made out to TUEF can be sent to TUEF, P.O. Box 1282, Union, NJ 07083 or through paypal on our web site, www.tuef.org.

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2026 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Township of Union

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For more updates on future events, visit uniontownship.com and follow @twpunionnj on social media.

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MEMORIAL DAY Parade



MON, MAY 25TH, 2026

KICK OFF AT VFW ON HIGH STREET AT 10AM
 REVIEWING STAND AT PEARL HARBOR CIRCLE
 REENACTMENT & MEMORIAL PROGRAM AT HONOR ROLL PARK AT 12PM

Join us as we commemorate the men and women who lost their lives while serving in the military. Come see vintage cars, motorcycles, military units & vehicles, revolutionary war reenactors, civic & youth organizations as they march for our military!

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FREE LAWN CONCERT, FEATURING CMJ JAZZ BAND - MAY 30

The Salem Roadhouse Café, together with Townley Presbyterian Church are proud to present the CMJ Jazz Band on Saturday, May 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. The show will be located at Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ in the front courtyard facing Salem Road. A free will offering will be accepted to be used for the church's Blessing Room, a place where needed items find their way into the hands of needful people. The Blessing Room operates in coordination with local and county governments and agencies to put clothing and small household items needed most by families and individuals.

Returning to the Roadhouse Café and Townley Church, the CMJ JAZZ BAND is an energetic, dynamic band based in New Jersey that blends Smooth Jazz, Traditional Jazz and Hip Hop in a creative way to captivate audiences of all ages. Known for their stellar musicianship and intimate relationship with audiences, the band is blowing people away with their energy, creativity, polish, and lyrical word rhymes. People attending their concerts reflect on the fun they had dancing, singing, and interacting with the band.

Should inclement weather happen on the show date, the concert will be moved indoors to the church sanctuary.

About Salem Roadhouse Café

It's not "church music." It's music music. Folks who've come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it's a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed. What's the common thread? They're all great musicians playing the kind of music people like to hear. There's no message, just music.

Now in its 18th year of operation, the Roadhouse was started in 2008 by members of Townley Presbyterian Church with a grant from the Presbytery of Elizabeth. Hey — that's why we're located where we are, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities. That's its social mission.


But the many musicians who've played the Salem Roadhouse Café see it as a solid performance venue. They love it because of its special intimacy and great audiences. They say people here "really listen." Ask any of the musicians you meet here — they love to play the Roadhouse, and they want to come back often.

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti

Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. Many thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.




Courtesy Photo



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SCOUTS MARCH IN ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

It was a sunny day when the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade returned to the streets of Union Township on Saturday, March 14. Organizations marching in the parade, including Irish groups, police and fire departments, elected officials, school bands and pipe and drum bands, and Scouting units, were cheered on by tens of thousands of people lining Morris Avenue and Stuyvesant Avenue.

Boy Scout Troop 23, sponsored by St. Genevieve's Roman Catholic Church in Elizabeth, has been marching in the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade since 1998, a year after the parade was first held. They were

back again this year, joined by Cub Scouts from Pack 23. Wearing their iconic yellow sweatshirts, they were led by a banner depicting Troop 23's mascot, a duck named Webby. Webby is equipped and ready to hike or camp, at any time and in any weather.

The Scouting program has instilled character, good citizenship and physical fitness in the youth of Elmora and beyond for over 60 years. Cub Scout Pack 23 and Boy Scout Troop 23 provide activities and training for children of all faiths, from Kindergarten through high school graduation. For more details, please contact Dan Bernier, Scoutmaster, at (908) 451-1948 or webfootroop@gmail.com.



(above) Boy Scout Troop 23 and Cub Scout Pack 23 of Elizabeth add color to Morris Avenue in Union during the 2025 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15. Brandon and Victoria lead the Scouts with the iconic yellow Webby the Webfoot Duck banner.

Courtesy Photo

Help Us Refill WHAT THEY'VE GIVEN.

Our veterans spent years filling our nation's cup with courage, service, and sacrifice, and now that cup is running low. With this campaign, we're asking our community to help refill it.

A simple \$5 donation provides connections to veterans and their families in our communities. One small act of gratitude goes a long way - Help us refill what they've given.

100% of all donations support our local Berkeley Heights VFW Post 6259 and surrounding communities

VFW Post 6259 Berkeley Heights NJ

NJO NEW JERSEY FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

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* Individual or joint checking account offer is contingent upon opening a Member Savings Account in the amount of \$100 in conjunction with free checking account to be funded with a \$25 bonus. The prospective member must also be at least 21 years old to open a Member Share Savings Account to participate in this offer. If the account should be closed within 45 days, there would be an account closure fee of \$25. One ACH transfer or direct deposit is a requirement of this offer. This offer is available for redemption through May 28th, 2026. New members must also live, work, worship, attend school, or own a business or other legal entity in Union County or Carteret.

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Westfield, NJ

GREEKFEST 26

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 GALLOWS HILL ROAD, WESTFIELD

May 29, 30, 31

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5 pm - 11 pm	Noon - 11 pm	Noon - 6 pm

Greek Food & Pastries • Greek Music & Dancing
Kids Zone • Marketplace • Mega 50/50 Raffle

Big Night Out, SATURDAY, MAY 30 featuring Greek-American pop star and Eurovision finalist, EVANGELIA!
For tickets, simply scan the QR code or visit us at:

www.njgreekfest.com

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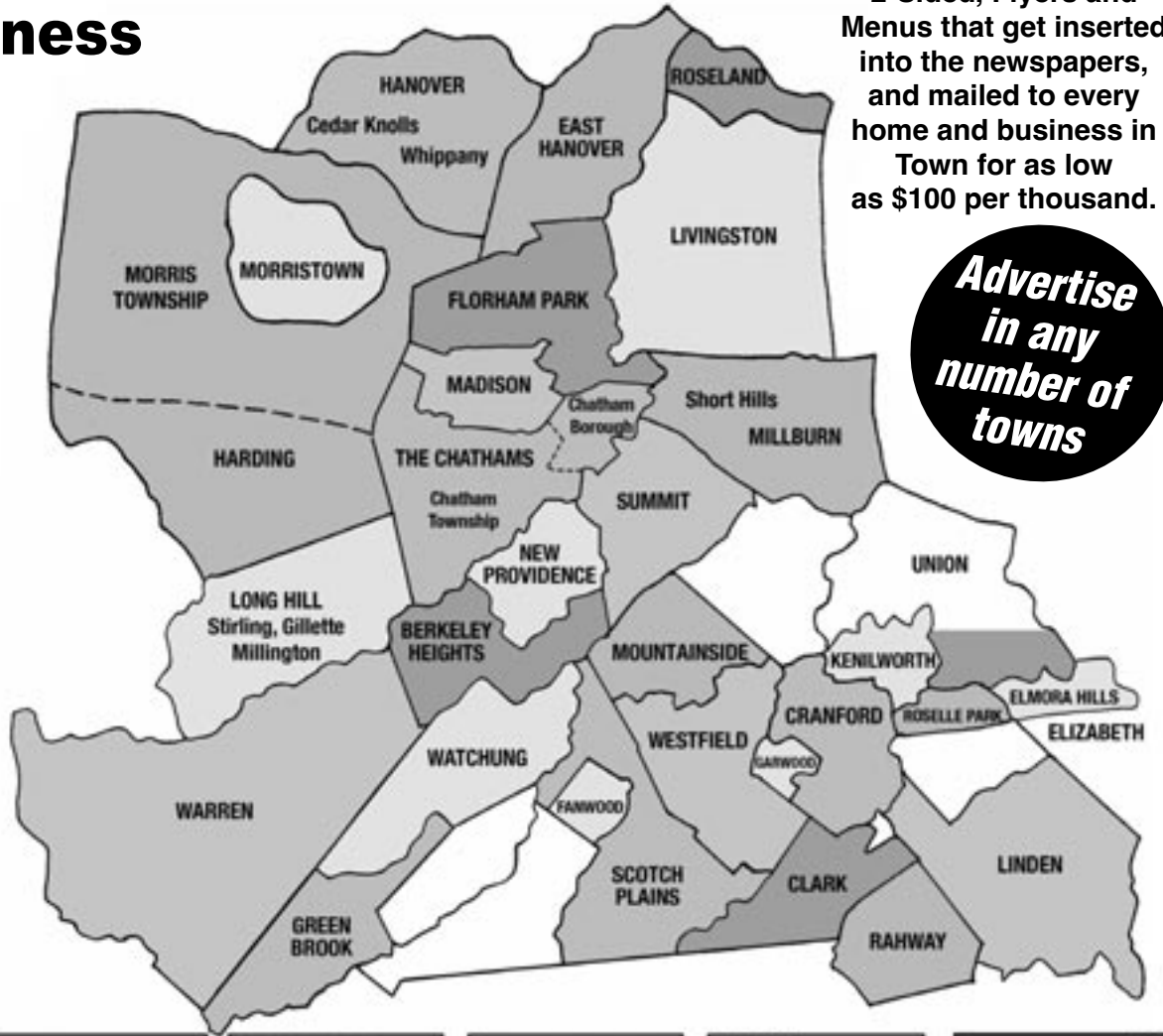
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Units (wide x High)	Size	TOWN	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS	TOWNS
1 Unit (Business card)	3.25"x2"0	100	260	360	460	560	600	660	700	800	900	1000
2 Units	6.5"x2" or 3.25"x4"	150	360	560	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300
4 Units	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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MAY EVENTS AT THE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

Registration is required for all events. To register visit the library, or online at uplnj.org.

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 Main Library at 1980 Morris Avenue or at our Vauxhall Branch at 123 Hilton Ave.

Book Talk with Author Sheila D. Hairston

(Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. May 2nd @ 1:00 pm

Please join us as local author, Sheila D Hairston, hosts a book talk and signing of her first novel, E'kalb Hollow. Her book is a historical fiction novel that takes place at the height of Jim Crow laws.

Vauxhall Negro League Baseball Club

(Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. May 4th @ 6:00 pm

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.

Sweet Treats:

Desserts & Delicacies from the Garden State

(Main Library)

Mon. May 4th @ 6:00 pm

Check in with us at the Union Public Library to celebrate the 250th in a fun way by exploring a variety of "sweet" culinary traditions from the 18th and 19th centuries and consider how the treats we enjoy have changed.

Mobility Club with Jon Leslie

(Main Library)

Wed. May 6th @ 10:00 am

Restore your body to its natural state using the functional movements of a mobility club. It will help improve your mobility, flexibility, strength, balance and posture. Move better. Feel better.

Try exercising with a Mobility Club.

Weight Loss Nutrition with Courtney Gaines

(Vauxhall Branch Library)

Wed. May 6th @ 6:00 pm

Please join us as Courtney Gaines from Just Gaines LLC leads a discussion on the basic principles of nutrition and attendees will learn easy ways to manage your weight loss.

Clutter Control

(Main Library)

Thur. May 7th @ 6:00 pm

Do you have trouble finding: your keys, the remote, etc.? Are you overwhelmed by clutter?

Don't know where to begin and is procrastinating about it stressing you? This workshop may be for you.

Union Rocks: Meet Musicians from Union Who Went From the Garage to the Stage

(Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. May 9th @ 1:00 pm

Remember going to the Battle of the Bands? Hearing music coming from your neighbor's garage or basement? Join music documentarian Paul Reitz as he brings together a panel of musicians from Union for a discussion of their memories and subsequent musical journeys.

Historical Society: Mayor Biertuempfel

(Main Library)

Mon. May 11th @ 6:00 pm

Learn about the life and career of F. Edward Biertuempfel, the Township's most important and successful public official, who served as mayor for 34 years. As added trivia, you can learn about his vast collection of elephants.

Black Women Entrepreneurs:

A Film & Community Discussion

(Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. May 11th @ 6:00 pm

Please join us as we watch an uplifting documentary that explores the passionate pursuits of Black women and their entrepreneurship journeys. Attendees will see an intimate peek inside the truths, trials, and triumphs of beloved entrepreneurs who continuously raise the glass ceiling for future generations. A discussion will follow the film.

Wednesday Night Stretch

(Vauxhall Branch Library)

Wed. May 13th @ 6:00 pm

Please join us as Courtney Gaines from Just Gaines LLC leads a stretching session where attendees will learn exercises to help relax your muscles, increase range of motion, and increase your overall energy.

Senior Zumba Gold

(Main Library)

Thur. May 14th @ 10:00 am

Zumba Gold is a low-impact, fun dance workout designed for active adults, beginners, or anyone who prefers a gentler pace.

Meet the Vauxhall Historical Society

(Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. May 16th @ 1:00 pm

Are you into history or want to learn more about your town? Please join us for a day with the members of the Vauxhall Historical Society. Attendees will get to see displays, collections, presentations and have the opportunity to ask questions about their town.

Union Public Library's Silent Book Club

(Main Library)

Mon. May 18th @ 6:00 pm

Join us for Union Public Library's Silent Book Club. There's no assigned reading. All readers are welcome to join in. Bring your own book and join us as we read in quiet camaraderie.

Library Karaoke! (

Vauxhall Branch Library)

Mon. May 18th @ 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.

Continuing your Education with UCNJ

(Main Library)

Tues. May 19th @ 6:00 pm

The Continuing Education Department of UCNJ offers a variety of courses for professional development and industry credentials. Stop by and learn how they can help you choose the right path and the right program for your educational journey.

Build Your Balance

(Main Library)

Wed. May 20th @ 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.

Adult Game Night: Family Feud

(Vauxhall Branch Library)

Wed. May 20th @ 5:30 pm

Do you like the game show Family Feud? Compete against other attendees to see if you can guess the most popular answers to survey questions. This program is for adults only.

Spring in Weird NJ

- In and Around Union County

(Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. May 23rd @ 1:00pm

Please join us as Mark Scurman and Mark Moran of Weird NJ lead an interactive presentation where participants will explore the unique, mysterious and peculiar side of Union County and New Jersey.

Mobility Club with Jon Leslie

(Main Library)

Wed. May 27th @ 10:00am

Restore your body to its natural state using the functional movements of a mobility club. It will help improve your mobility, flexibility, strength, balance and posture.

Senior Zumba Gold

(Main Library)

Thurs. May 28th @ 10:00am

Zumba Gold is a low-impact, fun dance workout designed for active adults, beginners, or anyone who prefers a gentler pace. Our goal is to bring pure joy and sparkling excitement to the senior community — lifting spirits, boosting confidence, and improving the overall quality of life.

"What's in a Name?" by METC

(Main Library)

Thurs. May 28th @ 6:00 pm

Join us with the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts as this program focuses on surnames derived from occupations, a common origin of last names. Discussion of each occupation is accompanied by pictures of related objects from METC's collection and participants have the opportunity to handle a number of objects from the museum's education collection.

Vauxhall Vinyl Music Club: The Beach Boys

(Vauxhall Branch Library)

Sat. May 30th @ 1:00pm

Do you collect records? Please join us at the Vauxhall Vinyl Music Club. Not only will we play the music, but we will go in depth on important tracks and the making of an album. May's selection will be the landmark and immortal Pet Sounds by The Beach Boys.

Meditation (Virtual on Zoom)

Mondays @ 6:30 pm

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

Chair Yoga (Main Library)

Tuesdays in May @ 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!

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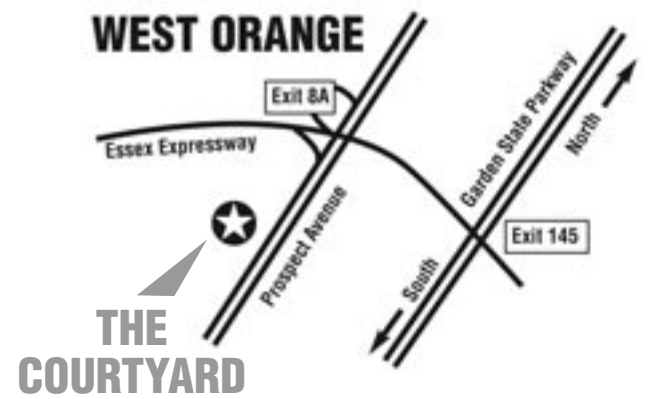
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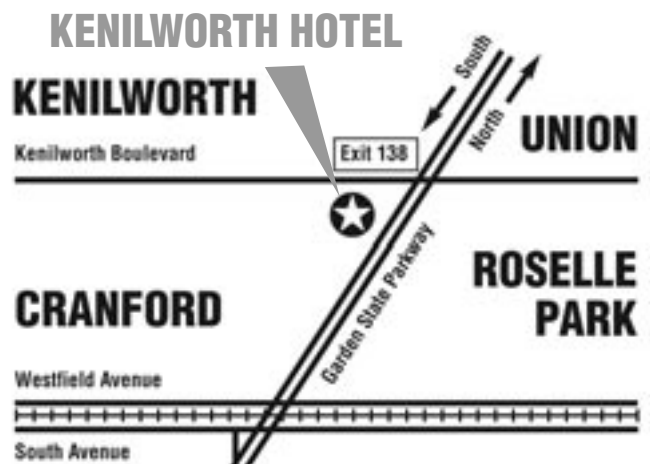
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