

LINDEN NJROTC HEADED TO NATIONAL COMPETITION

Linden NJROTC Drill Team will travel to the Navy and Marine Corps national Drill Team Championships at Pensacola, FL in the Spring. They would like your help raising the funds to cover the cost, which is about \$25,000. Checks can be made out to LHS Student Activities Fund / NJROTC and mailed to Linden High School

NJROTC 128 W. St. Georges Ave., Linden, NJ 07036. Please note on check memo line that your contribution is for the ROTC Nationals Fund Drive. For more information you can contact Commander William Murphy wmurphy@linden.k12.nj.us or call 732-552-7555.



(above) Linden High School Naval Junior Reserve Training Officers Corps (ROTC) Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade Barbara Gonzalez, Executive Officer of Charlie Company, along with Cadet Lieutenant Karen Varela, Commanding Officer of Charlie Company, salute during the presentation of colors at the Linden High School Veterans Day Observance.

ABIGAIL' CAFÉ CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

Recently Mayor Richard J. Gerbounka cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening of Abigail' Café a new restaurant in Linden located on the corner of W. Elizabeth Avenue and N. Stiles Street in Linden. Abigail's Café offers a unique mix of European and American dishes that is

affordable. Every Wednesday is Ladies' Night with special prices on drinks. Thursday is Karaoke Night. Every Sunday is Family Day with children eating half price from the Kids' Menu. There is special pricing on drinks on Sundays during football season.



(above, l-r) Owner Chris Chutnik, Councilman Bob Sadowski; Mayor Richard Gerbounka; Renee Banks, confidential aide to the mayor; George Vircik, municipal engineer; Joe Bodek, City Clerk; Ray Shea; Doreen Shea and Owner Barbara Chutnik.

PHENOMENAL KUTZ "N" STYLZ



Kareem Draper and Daryl Moran Celebrated the Grand Opening of there knew Unisex Hair Salon Phenomenal Kutz "N" Stylz, located at 106 North Wood Avenue. Among those present were the Honorable Mayor of the City of Linden Richard Gerbunka and Pastor Ron Young of Emanuel Tabernacle Church on Bower St. Linden, NJ. The two new owners who originally are from linden, have a lot to offer when it comes to hair styling with a mix of old and new school styles creativity, elegance and class. Mr. Draper and Maron are known for operating a respectful business. Kareem and Daryl love to support whatever Linden has to offer.

GENEROUS FUNDING TO TRINITAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the New York Tri-State Area (RMHC-NYTSA) recently made a significant donation to Trinitas Regional Medical Center for construction of a basketball court complete with paving, perimeter fence and equipment for the Residential Treatment Center at the medical center's New Point Campus in Elizabeth. Additional funds from the same grant were used to purchase computers, monitors and printers for use in the Child InPatient Psychiatric units.

Gary S. Horan, FACHE, President & Chief Executive Officer (center), graciously accepted the donation from Elke De La Cruz, the owner/operator of several McDonald restaurants in Union County (left), as Yvonne Lopez, Director of Donor Relations, at Trinitas Health Foundation, looks on.

"Elke, whose franchise locations include a store on Broad Street in Elizabeth near Trinitas, has been a great partner to our medical center," explained Yvonne. "She has been a valued advocate in securing financial support from Ronald McDonald House Charities for vital programs at Trinitas. We greatly appreciate her recent help to enhance the activities and programs that we can make available to young people in our behavioral health and psychiatry programs."

Life in Linden is published by the Linden Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Five thousand newspapers are printed monthly and distributed free at distribution sites throughout Linden.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Linden Chamber of Commerce assumes no liability for errors or omissions.



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Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 300
Elizabeth, NJ 07207-0300
908-352-0900

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kateconroy@gatewaychamber.com

LINDEN CITY COUNCIL

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Richard J. Gerbounka

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Inquiries concerning advertising and submissions of press releases can be made to the Linden Chamber of Commerce via email or fax to:

TINA RENNA

Email: TinaRenna@RennaMedia.com

Phone: 908-418-5586

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Message from the Mayor



STATE OF THE CITY SPEECH 2010

Being the Mayor of Linden is an honor, and representing our great city, interacting with its residents, industry and business is a privilege few people have the opportunity to experience.

As your mayor, you have my pledge that I will continue to work hard for each and every one, so that we can continue to make Linden a great place to live and work.

In order to make our city what we wish it to be, we have to recognize the dramatic changes that have taken place over the years. In the past taxpayers looked to industry to heavily subsidize residential taxes.

The Cyanmides, DuPont's, Gordon's Gin's, Anilines, and even the once mighty General Motors are all gone.

Where once these great giants of industry stood, there are now vacant brown fields which we have to develop.

A political slogan used some years ago, The Way We Were is not applicable today. You can never live in the past or recapture it. The Way We Are is what is important, and the present, rather than the past, must be the cornerstone of our new Linden. Today we must stand firm in this historic recession that has caused corporate giants to fail. Though we have lost a considerable amount of revenue by their leaving,.... their footprints are in the process of being reseeded.

The 104 acre GM site bought by Duke Realty is progressing on schedule. Once the Department of Transportation issues the necessary intersectional improvement permits, Lowe's and Super Wal-Mart will sign contracts to site on Duke's property, and six other retail stores will follow suit when these anchor stores are committed.

Financing for this project has never been a problem, and it is anticipated that groundbreaking will occur in early spring. When this site is fully developed, an economic assessment study projects there will be 2040 permanent jobs and 5.2 million in tax dollars.

I am pleased that a special councilmatic committee is renegotiating with PurGen regarding Linden's part in a settlement agreement to end current and future litigation on the 98 acre DuPont property bordering the Arthur Kill. We've been in litigation since 2003, and our own attorneys tell us it could be 8 to 10 years before the case is decided.

As everyone knows, I am a strong supporter of this project, as long as their process is environmentally safe,... but neither I nor any member on this council has the expertise to decide that.

That is why this determination should be made by the DEP, EPA, New Jersey Office of Pipeline Safety, National Atmospheric and Oceanic Agency, and all the other regulatory agencies that are responsible for issuing the necessary permits before construction can begin. We should not and cannot let scare tactics and doomsday scenarios from opponents impact our judgment. Let the experts decide whether this technology is appropriate or not...not lay people.

If this facility sites on the DuPont property, Linden would be handsomely rewarded with a host community benefit fee that would provide significant tax relief to our residential taxpayers besides providing 1500 construction and 150 permanent jobs.

Everyone should not forget 25 years ago when Linden City Council rejected the citing of Union County's solid waste incinerator in our city. Now this incinerator was built in Rahway, ¼ mile across our border on Route 1&9. The City of Rahway now enjoys 2.2 million dollars in revenue besides lower tipping fees per ton when they burn their garbage in the incinerator, and there is absolutely no negative environmental impact contrary to the predictions of its opponents.

This month our Planning Board will be entertaining an application by PSE&G to site 11 acres of solar panels on their property off of Grasselli Road in our heavily industrial zone of Tremley Point. These panels will produce 4 megawatts of electricity which will be put in the electric grid. This is in addition to the energy that will be produced by the solar panels being installed on strategically located telephone poles throughout Linden.

Last month Council President Bunk, LEDC Director Ron Stefanowicz and I attended the dedication of three massive transformers at Linden's Cogen Power Plant, which is owned by General Electric. These transformers allow the two major northeastern power grids of New York and New Jersey to share electricity during high and low peak demands. This is part of the new smart grid technology to which President Obama has given the highest priority, so our nation can become more energy efficient. Linden's immediate benefit is \$300,000 in new ratables.

Our public projects are moving along nicely. We intend to be in our new "state of the art" library by mid February. It will replace the existing library built in 1939.

This 24 thousand square feet three-story building is equipped with wireless internet capacity, a children's outdoor patio, and three community rooms. It will be the envy of Union County and a welcomed addition to our community.

We have two brand new fire stations of which Linden residents can be proud; one at DeWitt Terrace and St. Georges Ave, and the other at Stimpson Avenue and South Wood Avenue. Shortly, a new fire station at Elizabeth Avenue and Chandler Avenue will be built also.

Last year our P.A.L. under the new leadership of Officer Dan Kuczynski and Mr. Daryl Spruill exceeded my wildest expectations in their first year of operation.

The PAL building is now open all year round, offering more organized sports and recreational activities for our youth at no additional cost to the taxpayers. A strong working relationship has developed between the staff of our Recreation Department and the P.A.L. This creates an energy that feeds on itself, and the real winners are Linden's youth.

Of course I would be remiss if I didn't mention the tragedy that struck Linden, and both of these departments with the sudden and untimely death of Bryan Heasman DaCruz. He worked

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 4)

tirelessly for our youth, and is sorely missed.

Recently Linden received bad news regarding the banquet facility that was scheduled to be built in Aviation Plaza next to the Southern Smokehouse Restaurant.

The developers cannot get financing, and are proposing 55 and older age restricted housing instead. This is a disappointment, ... because the three essential elements of Aviation Plaza were a movie theater, hotel, and banquet facility.

Of course they have violated our contract, and will have to pay monetary penalties, or forfeit the property to the city, but we are waiting to see their new proposal before we commit to anything.

Although we have to live in the present, our focus has to be on The Way We Will Be, ... and that is what this administration is prepared to do.

That is why we sought and received a grant from the Department of Community Affairs, which will allow us to develop a partnership with Rutgers University's Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy to help formulate a vision plan for our city.... a vision plan that will show us where we are, where we want to be, and how we will get there.

In a short time we will be adopting a new zoning ordinance surrounding our railroad station. This will be the final step in obtaining Transit Village status from the State of New Jersey. This is a designation we have long sought.

This train station is extremely important to our future because of the new 9.3 mile long rail terminal being constructed under the Hudson River. This new tunnel will double rail capacity into New York City and be completed by 2016. Couple this with the New Jersey Transportation and Planning Authority's decision to invest the bulk of federal and state dollars into mass transit rather than new highways, and one can see the significance of our train station for the future of Linden.

With a little patience, planning, and forethought, I see young professionals flocking to live around our train station, once we recover from this recession and financing becomes readily available again.

That is why we need to plan wisely when developing the vacant property, which is environmentally clean, and we own on South Wood Avenue alongside of School No. 6.

The New Jersey Turnpike just finished a

massive reconstruction of Exit 12 in Carteret, and now they will be focusing their attention on the four lane access road from that exit to Tremley Point Road, using the 34 million dollars in stimulus money they recently received for this project.

Linden will not only benefit from opening up approximately 400 acres of brown fields for redevelopment with direct access to the Turnpike... but it will also enable Linden residents relief from excessive truck traffic on South Wood Avenue, our only road emanating from the heavily industrial zone in Tremley Point.

The Coast Guard has assured us that there are only minor environmental issues discovered during their Environmental Assessment Study, and they believe it is not too optimistic to suggest construction will start in the fall of 2010.

For the past 15 years, the Army Corps of Engineers has been working on deepening the Arthur Kill Channel from 35 feet to 40 feet, and will be completing this project shortly. Unfortunately, this deepening has only been authorized up to the ConocoPhillips docks.

The City of Linden has now taken the lead to convince our legislators in Washington to continue deepening the channel south down the Kill through Linden and Middlesex County to Raritan Bay. We are in the process of forming a consortium of stakeholders in the private sector and elected officials from both Middlesex and Union Counties.

I, along with Council President Bunk, Linden Economic Director Ron Stefanowicz and selected individuals met with the Army Corps of Engineers, and they are anxious to explore this project's feasibility due to the economic impact it would have on the region.

We are presently in the early stages of this process and now we have to roll up our sleeves and get to work to petition congress for some of the harbor dredging monies that are appropriated every year in support of maritime commerce.

This past year as anticipated was an economically difficult one for not only our nation, but for the City of Linden.

Although we were able to reduce our budget from 92.5 million in 2008 to 88 million in 2009, a decrease of 4 million dollars, our taxpayers still received a larger municipal tax increase than I would have liked. That is why we have to work even harder to reduce spending and do more with less.

Last year all the unions except police and fire,

worked with the city to accept three additional unpaid days off, and I thank them for their cooperation. The reason the police and fire departments were excluded from unpaid furlough days was due to a court ruling.

As a former president of the Linden Policemen's Benevolent Association, and Linden Superior Officers Association, I am disappointed that the PBA has filed for binding arbitration to resolve our contract impasse, also the FMBA membership voted down our last contract offer that was presented to them by their negotiating committee.

Our emergency services must realize that times have changed, and if they continue to insist on wage increases and refuse to work with us on contract concessions, they will "kill the goose that has been laying the golden egg."

We have opened our books to all the unions and the simple fact is we don't have the revenues that we once enjoyed. These are hard times. There is a 10% unemployment rate nationwide. Last year it cost Linden taxpayers \$14,000 per employee for health benefits under a family plan. We pay nearly 10 million dollars a year for employee hospitalization, and this benefit is projected to increase by 16% in 2010.

Add to this free dental, eyeglass and prescription plans, and something has to give, and it can't always be the taxpayer!

As your mayor, I can no longer justify large tax increases to our residents because of increased costs. We have to find ways to reduce these costs. We all have to make personal sacrifices for the common good, and give back to a city that has been good to us over the years.

Linden will never be the Linden we once knew, but we must not lament this; we must recognize it and embrace it... For if we know the Way We Were and the Way We Are, it will lead to a greater era of the Way We Will Be.

With the help and dedication of all our public officials, department heads, and city employees I am confident we will weather this financial storm and prosper. For we still live in the best nation on earth, the best state in the union, and the best city in New Jersey.

I thank you for your attention, and may this coming year be a healthy, happy and prosperous one for all of us, and for this great city we all love.

Mayor Richard J. Gerbounka

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1 Above offer is valid only at the Linden branch of Garden State Community Bank located at 225 North Wood Ave., Linden, NJ 07036 from Monday, January 4, 2010 to Saturday, February 6, 2010. Official entry forms for the iPod nano® Giveaways will be available at the Linden branch listed above from Monday, January 4, 2010 to Saturday, February 6, 2010. Need not be a Bank customer, no purchase is necessary and a purchase or transaction will not increase your chances of winning. Must be 18 years of age or older and a resident of New Jersey to enter. One entry per individual. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. Winner will be selected at the Linden branch on February 6, 2010 at 3:00pm. Approximate retail value of the iPod nano® is \$150.00. See branch for complete copy of the official rules. New York Community Bank is not affiliated with Apple® in any way. Apple® and iPod® are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Apple® is not a participant or a sponsor of this promotion.

Christmas in Linden 2009



(above) Tree Lighting ceremony Buggy rides.



(above) Santino Mannuzza.
(left) Emily & Philip at tree lighting

The Linden Holiday Event, organized by the Linden Cultural Committee, was held on Friday evening, December 4th. Open to all Linden residents, the crowd was calculated at more than 600 people, the largest group yet. Linden High School students sang holiday songs on a stage in front of City Hall. There was also a dance

performance by Linden High School Students. After the tree was lit, Linden residents and their children enjoyed warm drinks, cake and cotton candy in the JTG Center. Many had their photo taken with Santa Claus. All children received tickets for prize drawings, including games, toys, books and two bicycles.



(above, l-r) Volunteers Diane Wilverding, Diane Kettel, and Doris Matey.



(above) The Linden Public Library presented a concert of holiday music by Presley and Melody and The Baby Dolls on December 1 at the Gregorio Center entertaining dozens of children and their families.

LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN BRING JOY TO THE COMMUNITY

Music and laughter bring joy to the community by the children of Linden Public Schools who share their voices and talents during the winter season. Students from Linden schools sing and play instruments to various groups and elders. The students sing for the joy of expression and to lift the spirits of others. Everyone joins in and sings as their hearts fill with the warmth of love of children's voices.



(above) Nancy Gersick, left, distributed the premier issue of "Life in Linden" newspaper to the crowds watching the tree lighting.

LINDEN CHAMBER PROMOTES ROTC

The Linden Chamber of Commerce used the opportunity presented by their Christmas party to help the Linden NJROTC Drill Team with their fund raiser.

Guests of the party were generous when purchasing raffle tickets, which proceeds will be used for a trip to a national competition in Pensacola, FL.

(left, l-r) Mike Driscoll, purchases a ticket from Antoinette Modrak, as Mayor Richard Gerbunka and John Marsh wait their turns.



(above, l-r) - Kathyne Cortes and Alison Benitez of Linden School No. 4 look festive for the winter season. Photo by Christine Hudak, Linden Public Schools.



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CONOCOPHILLIPS AND INFINEUM USA L.P. PARTNER WITH JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

On November 25th, the employees of ConocoPhillips and Infineum USA L.P. donated books to their Introduction to Education class at Rahway High School as part of a thank you to the students for volunteering with local Junior Achievement programs. Both companies are longtime partners with Junior Achievement, supporting the organization's mission of delivering financial literacy education to local students and also providing volunteer role models to work with local schools.

Introduction to Education is a program at



Rahway High School that encourages students to pursue a career in teaching. Throughout the years, students from Ms. Toto's class have volunteered for Junior Achievement through the JA High School Heroes Program, which gives them the opportunity to see what teaching in a local elementary classroom is like.

The employees of ConocoPhillips and Infineum are committed to being good corporate neighbors. Over the years, employees from these companies have kept alive a strong tradition of "giving back" to the surrounding communities with their time, talent, and resources through a variety of programs and initiatives. The dedicated efforts of employee volunteers enrich education for students preparing them to become tomorrow's leaders. Their partnership with Junior Achievement has provided elementary school children with JA's interactive, colorful and information-rich curriculum and led hands-on games and activities designed to better equip the children to enter adulthood with a fundamental understanding of personal finances.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY TURNED OUT FOR HOLIDAY OFFICE PARTY



(above, l-r) The Fig Leaf Agency located at 21 W. Blancke St. in Linden invited the business community to their holiday office party on December 18th. Fig Leaf staff pictured: Theresa Kloc, Benjamin Sheedy, Frances Nemeth, Bryan Tomko (holding his daughter Emilie), Burke Gutkowski and Peggy Tomko - Broker/Owner of Walgert's Realty.

2010 INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

The Department of Public Property and Community Services, for 30 years, has provided free tax assistance for Linden residents earning less than \$50,000. Assistance will be offered February 5th through April 15, 2010.

To better serve the residents of Linden, trained tax volunteers continue preparing taxes at the following sites: Seventh Ward Recreation Center, Tremley Point Road - Tuesdays - 9:15am- 11:30am. John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen Street - Friday mornings from 9:30am - 3:00pm.

Appointments are necessary for all sites and can be made through the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center at 908-474-8627. Please bring in all statements of income at the time of the appointment, including W-2 forms; all 1099 Forms for interest, dividends, stocks and bonds; social security and railroad retirement; brokerage statements; IRA letters; last years income tax; property tax bills from 2008 and 2009 and all booklets received from IRS and state.

Tax Assistance is also available for Linden residents that are homebound due to a physical disability or frail condition. Call the John T. Gregorio Center at 908-474-8627 to set up an appointment.

All the volunteers assisting with the taxes have been trained in tax law and tax return preparation by the Internal Revenue Service and are capable of assisting persons in completing forms 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ. Volunteers have also been instructed in the correct procedures regarding pensions, interest, itemized deductions, credits for the elderly and New Jersey State Tax Forms.

A WEALTH OF LINDEN INFORMATION ONLINE

The next time you need to know what's going on in town, or to look for a municipal phone number, or who to speak to regarding city service check Linden's website.

You'll find Linden resources and information including Linden's history, demographics, and recreation offerings for city youth, adults, and senior citizens, current city projects and community life.

linden-nj.org

Find the Linden Chamber website through the "Affiliates" link on:

gatewaychamber.com

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 - (2) 3:30-4:30pm: Homework tutoring
 - (3) 4:30-5:50pm: Math & English online advance program (Free evaluation, diagnosis and report)
 - (4) 5:50-6:20pm: Enrichment programs (Everyday Chinese, Drawing, Crafts, Calligraphy, Chess, etc...)
 - (5) 6:20-6:30pm: Clean up and waiting for parent pick up
2. Weekend Chinese Class \$9/per hour
3. Weekend Children drawing Class \$9/per hour
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8. Chess \$10/45min

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TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES & SCHEDULES

LINDEN CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Conference meetings will be held in the Council Office. Regular meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Linden, New Jersey.

Regular meeting January 19 @ 7 pm

PLANNING BOARD

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Room, City Hall, Linden, New Jersey.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION:

Meetings are held at City Hall, normally on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

All meetings are open to the public.

LINDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular meetings are held in the auditorium, Linden, High School
121 W. St. Georges Avenue.

Next meeting: Dec. 16, 2009 at 7 P.M.

CURBSIDE RECYCLE DATES:

Nov. 12

If you like this newspaper, then thank an advertiser

GATEWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS

For additional event information call the Chamber at 908-352-0900 or visit our website at www.gatewaychamber.com

8:30 AM JANUARY 13
KENILWORTH CHAMBER MEETING
Public Library, 548 Boulevard, Kenilworth, NJ
6:00 PM JANUARY 19
IRISH BUSINESS ASSOC. (IBA) MEETING
Molly Maguire's, 1085 Central Avenue, Clark
6:00 PM JANUARY 20
NEW JERSEY REAL ESTATE SOCIAL NETWORK MEETING
8:00 AM JANUARY 20
The Westwood, 439 North Avenue, Garwood
EMPLOYER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Lana's Fine Dining, 1300 Raritan Road, Clark
11:45 AM JANUARY 21
GATEWAY ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS WOMEN LUNCHEON MEETING
La Casa di Martino,
301 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park
Cost per person: Gateway Members \$25.00
– Non-Gateway Members \$35.00
8:00 AM JANUARY 22
SOMERSET HILLS BUSINESS NETWORK MEETING
The Olde Mill Inn, 225 Rt. 202, Basking Ridge, NJ

JANUARY 26 8:30 AM
LINDEN CHAMBER MEETING
Cox Printers,
1634 E. Elizabeth Avenue, Linden

JANUARY 26 6:00 PM
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CLARK CHAMBER GROUP
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of Fink Rosner Ershow-Levenberg LLC
Deli-King @ Clarkton Shopping Center,
30 Clarkton Drive, Clark

8:30 AM JANUARY 28
SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER GROUP
Office of Emergency Management
@ Springfield Firehouse, 200 Mountain Avenue

JANUARY 28 & 29 – 73RD STATE CHAMBER ANNUAL WALK TO WASHINGTON
Visit www.gatewaychamber.com for details

SENIOR, ADULT AND YOUTH RECREATION AND SERVICES

Check our website at www.linden-nj.org (click onto Recreation) and the Local Access TV station, 36 for updated events and programs.

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball League

on Sundays January 17th through May 2 at the PAL Building, 400 Maple Ave. Call 732-735-2945 for more information.

Yoga/TaiChi/QiGong-

The Department of Public Property and Community Services sponsors Yoga/Tai-Chi/Qi Gong classes for Linden adults. Classes are held Thursday evenings, January 21st through March 25th, 2010 at the Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St. Cost is \$55.00 per participant. For more information call: 908-474-8627. Classes are also held throughout the year.

Sr. Citizen Line Dance Class- Classes for Linden seniors age 50 and older will start on January 22 through March 26. at the Gregorio Center, 330 Helen Street on Friday mornings from 10am-11am. Additional classes are available throughout the year.

Exercise Rooms

are available at the Gregorio Center (Call: 908-474-8627) and the Multi-Purpose Center (Call: 908-474-8639)

Baseball Sign-ups and tryouts are available. Watch for 2010 dates.

Call 908-474-8627 for more information about the following items:

Woodshop, Bowling, Pinochle Social Clubs, Computer Classes and Bus Transportation

is available for Senior Citizens.

Emergency Response System

(wireless device to transmit signal in case of an Emergency to a receiving station) is available.

Senior Citizen Craft Classes-

are held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings – 10:00am-12:00pm at the Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St. and the 4th Tuesday of each month at the 8th Ward Recreation Center, Bedle Place from 12:30-2:30pm.

Nutrition Program-

The Gregorio Center is a Union County Nutrition Site where lunches are served daily Monday through Friday at noon for anyone 60 years of age or older. A donation of \$1.75 is suggested and reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance.

Children's Ceramic Classes classes-

are offered throughout the year for students in Kindergarten through 8th grades at the Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St. The Fee is \$10.00. Classes are as follows: Valentines Day - Feb 4th, Easter- March 18th, Mother's Day - April 29th, Surprise-May 20th, Fathers Day June 10th. Other classes will be available for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Holiday.

Children's Karate Classes-

Karate Classes for Linden students 5 through 15 are held throughout the year at the Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St. on Friday afternoons from 4:00pm-5:00pm. The cost is \$55.00 per child.

Call 908-474-8600 for more information about the following items:

Children's Soccer

is open to Girls and Boys from 4 to 14 years of age throughout the year.

Wrestling

is available for boys and girls grades 1 - 6.

Children's Art Classes

are available in the fall and winter of each year for a fee of \$10.00. Call for 2011 information.

Classes on Building and Repairing Computers

are available for Linden students in grades 4 – 12 each year. Call for 2010 dates.

Boating Safety Certification Course

is given each year for a fee of \$75.00- Watch for 2010 date.

Complete Fitness Exercise Class

The Department of Public Property and Community Services announces Complete Fitness Exercise Classes for adults over the age of 18.

Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings, January 19th through March 25, from 6:30pm-7:30pm and throughout the year. The cost is \$75.00- no refunds. Check on line at www.linden-nj.org and click onto recreation. Classes are held at the Gregorio Center, 330 Helen St.

KNITTING AND CROCHETING FOR A CAUSE

Do you have free time that you would like to donate to a worthy cause? Would you like to meet new friends? The Department of Public Property and Community Services announces, they have formed a "Knitting and Crocheting for a Cause" group and would like to invite all ages, young adult through senior citizens to join.

All you need is a basic knowledge of knitting or crocheting and a set of knitting needles or a crochet hook. We'll teach you the rest.

Meetings are held Tuesday mornings from 10:00am – 12:00 noon at the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen Street. Projects are distributed to charitable causes.

For more information please call 908-474-8627 or visit our website at www.linden-nj.org.

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RED LIGHT CAMERAS INSTALLED AT DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS

The City of Linden has selected American Traffic Solutions (ATS) as the company to provide red light cameras at dangerous intersections where red light running is a contributing factor resulting in crashes. The cameras are expected to be operational in January 2010. The NJ State Dept. of Transportation has approved three intersections that qualified for a red light camera: Route 1 and S. Park Ave.; Route 1 and S. Stiles St. and Route 27 (W. St. Georges Ave.) and N. Stiles Street.

Red-light running is a dangerous and costly national problem. It is the leading cause of urban crashes according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. In 2006, there were 171,000 crashes, 144,000 injuries and nearly 900 fatalities in the U.S. attributed to red-light running. The financial cost to the public is estimated to be more than \$14 billion annually.

A crash caused by a driver who runs a red-light is more likely to result in serious injury or death. Deaths caused by red-light running are increasing at more than three times the rate of increase for all other fatal crashes. More people are injured in crashes involving red-light running than in any other crash type. Reduction in red-light running through a comprehensive

red-light camera program will promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare of your community.

Most people run red-lights because they are in a hurry, when in fact they only save seconds. Most Americans (96%) are afraid of being hit by a red-light runner. A majority of Americans (56%) admit to running red lights. Red-light runners can be any one of us who drives. One in three Americans knows someone who has been injured or killed in a red-light running crash. Red-light running is often a result of aggressive driving, and is completely preventable.

The Public Supports Red-light Cameras. Photographic detection devices, such as red-light cameras, are already being used extensively around the globe. More than 350 communities in the U.S. have red-light camera systems operational.

Red light cameras have demonstrated consistent decrease in violations, crashes and fatalities. The camera is activated when a vehicle enters the intersection AFTER the traffic signal has turned red. The camera takes a series of two images to document the violation. The violation is then mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.

How it works:

- The camera is activated only during the traffic signal's red phase.
- A single camera captures two images: 1) prior to the violation and 2) showing the vehicle in the intersection -- image shows the red light, and captures pertinent violation information (date, time, location, seconds into red phase and speed of the vehicle).
- A separate video camera captures 10-12 seconds of the vehicle committing the violation.
- The images and video are securely transferred electronically to American Traffic Solutions operations where they process the images and obtain vehicle owner registration information from the Division of Motor Vehicles.
- All of these captured violations are reviewed and approved by the City of Linden Police Department prior to the issuance of a citation.
- Red light cameras are paid for by violators and no tax dollars are used for the camera operations.
- Studies from around the nation show that in cities where red light cameras are used, red light violations and traffic collisions have dropped significantly.



(left) First image - Before shot of violation.

Second Image - Shot of vehicle in intersection.

Third image - License Plate close-up from one of the two violation images.

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