

Union Township Chamber and The Union Special Improvement District

BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT

Wednesday August 21, 2013
5:00 -7:00 p.m.
at AVE Residential Living Green Lane, Union

NEW FLAGS FOR UNION SENIOR CENTER

The destruction brought about by catastrophic events like Sandy is widely reported and described in vivid detail by news media and personal experience. Many, many small but important losses also become part of the total picture. Some are never replaced for any one of many reasons, while others just go unnoticed.

One of these Sandy losses was felt by the Union Senior Center when the American and MIA flags on the large pole at the Center's entrance were destroyed. Director of the center, Phyllis Monguso, recognized the problem and promised to have it addressed. Amid the multitude of other related and unrelated issues this loss was on a back burner for a while, but never forgotten. Earlier this year she contacted Leo Graf, Commander of the VFW Post 2433, Veterans of Foreign Wars of Union and Bob Johnsen, Post Quartermaster who provides liaison between veterans groups and township officials. They made arrangements for the Post to donate the new flags which now fly majestically at the center.

At the presentation Monguso and Johnsen emphasized the long standing working relationship that exists between the

seniors and the veterans groups. Graf spoke to the importance of displaying flags wherever possible, and the responsibility to keeping them properly maintained.



(above) Commander Leo Graf, Senior Center Director Phyllis Monguso and Quartermaster Bob Johnsen.

DERBY, CONCERT AND FIREWORKS CELEBRATES JULY 4TH

Submitted by: Viktoria Morozovska

As part of the 2013 Summer Concert Series, Hannah Caldwell Elementary School hosted Kenny Vance and the Planotones on July 18th. While the audience sacrificed a starry night for air conditioning, no one seemed to mind. During his time filming American Hot Wax, Kenny Vance created the fictional Planotones. However, after leaving Jay and the Americans, Vance brought The Planotones to life. And what a lively group they are! Vance, Kurt "Frenchy" Yahjian, and Jimmy Bense showed off their dance skills during their rendition of "I'm So Happy (Tra-La-La-La-La)." While performing "In the Still of the Night" Vance joked with the audience suggesting, "This might be a bit risqué for you, but I remember hearing this song at a make out party. I knew this song was sensual before I even knew what the word meant." The fully packed hall laughed and sang along with the boys as they charmed the crowd.



(above, l-r) Jimmy Bense, Tony Gallino, Kenny Vance, Chip Degaard and Johnny Gale.

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DEATH OF THE FIGHTING PARSON

At the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union, on Sunday, September 15, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., Sid Frank will present his unique program, "Death of the Fighting Parson" about the murder of Rev. James Caldwell, a hero of the American Revolution.

Mr. Frank has been a museum educator and tour guide at Liberty Hall Museum on Morris Avenue in Union, since 2002. Earlier in his professional career, he was a journalist, a song writer, and a playwright. Mr. Frank was inspired to create his current presentation by the poem, "Caldwell of Springfield," by the noted American poet, Bret Harte, who spent time in Morristown in 1871 and learned of Rev. Caldwell there.

Mr. Frank's program will be part of the monthly meeting of the Union Township Historical Society, which begins at 2 p.m. Non-members are cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free; donations are greatly appreciated. Go to www.uniontwphistoricalsociety.webs.com or call Barbara La Mort at 908-687-0048 for more information.



(above) Artist's rendering of Rev. James Caldwell, nicknamed "the fighting parson," at the Battle of Springfield, in June 1780. He was shot dead a little more than a year later.

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UNION TOWNSHIP SUMMER CAMP

The Union Township Summer Camp was for children entering grades 4 or 5 this September. There were two three-week sessions with 35 children per session. Some of the daily trips and activities the children enjoyed were the Turtle Back Zoo, Lady Liberty Basketball at the Prudential Center, Somerset Patriots Baseball, Bowcraft Amusement Park, Newark Museum, Monmouth County Fair, Pump It Up, Monster Golf, Trailside Nature Center, Liberty Science Center, swimming, bowling, roller skating, movie day and face painting.




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CHILDREN'S PROGRAM MAIN LIBRARY

Homeschooling Meeting

Monday, September 23rd from 10:30am to Noon for homeschooling families. This will be a place to meet and share information and ideas with others. Families are encouraged to bring their own board games. Please call or email Mary Pritting at mpritting@uplnj.org or 908.851.5450 x3 for more information.

Color and Shape Bingo

Friday August 16th at 2:00 pm for preschoolers and their caregivers.

Book Bingo

Friday August 16th at 2:00pm for children who can read well,

Saturday Storytime and Craft Program

Saturdays, September 14th and 28th at 11:00am Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome. Come in your pajamas for songs, stories and games at our Bedtime Storytime to be held on Mondays, August 12th and September 23rd and 30th at 7:00pm.

Mother Goose Time

Tuesday, September 24th at 10:30am for children 1 ½ - 2 ½ and their caregivers

Toddler Time

Wednesday, September 25th at 10:30am for children 2 ½ - 3 ½ and their caregivers

Preschool Storytime

Thursday, September 26th at 10:30am for children 3 ½ through Kindergarten

"Dig into Reading" Scavenger Hunt

Tuesday, August 13th at 11:00am Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome.

Would you like to be a Scientist?

Tuesday, August 13th at 2:00pm The Union Township Chem Club performs a program of science experiments for your entertainment. Children of all ages are invited to attend.

"Owl Puppet" School-Age Craft program

Wednesday, August 14th at 11:00am. This program is for children in grades 1 through 6

Circus Party and Craft Program

Thursday, August 15th at 11:00am

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Friday: Closed / Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS VAUXHALL BRANCH

No registration required unless indicated.

Family Movie Matinee: "The Smurfs"

Wednesday, September 4th at 11:00am

Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.

"Meet and Greet" the staff at the Vauxhall Branch

Library as we celebrate Library Card Month

Wednesday, September 4th from 4:00 – 7:00pm

Family members will design a bookmark and library card holder for themselves. All are welcome to attend.

"Grandparents Wall Art" Storytime and Craft Program

Friday, September 6th at 11:00am

for school age children thru 6th grade and their caregivers. Space is limited. Signup is required.

"Back-to-School" Storytime and Craft Program

Tuesday, September 10th at 11:00am

children, ages 3-5, and their caregivers. Space is limited. Signup is required.

"Kids Make a Difference" discussion and craft program

Wednesday, September 11th at 3:30pm

about the importance of giving back to your community September 11th has been designated as the National Day of Service and Remembrance. This program is for school-age children thru 6th grade and their caregivers. Space is limited. Signup is required.

After School Game Day

Thursday, September 12th at 3:30pm

for children in grades 1 through 6 and their caregivers. Space is limited. Signup is required.

Bedtime Storytime

Monday, August 12th & September 16th at 7:00pm children of all ages and their caregivers will be held on.

"Self Expression Sun Visor" School-Age Craft Program

Wednesday, August 14th at 2:00 pm

This program is for children, grades 1 and up and their caregivers. Space is limited. Signup is required.

The film, "The Ant Bully"

Friday, August 16th at 2:00 pm

This program is for children of all ages and caregivers.

Our After School Movie Presentation of

"Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs"

Thursday, September 19th at 3:30pm

Children of all ages are welcome to attend. Space is limited. Signup is required.

Game Day

Tuesday, September 24th at 11:00am

for children ages 3 – 5 and their caregivers. Space is limited. Signup is required.

"Back to School" School-Age Craft Program

Thursday, September 26th at 3:30pm

This program is for children, grades 1 and up, and their caregivers. Space is limited. Signup is required.

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YMCA SPLASH TEACHES KIDS HOW TO BE SAFER AROUND WATER

More than 200 kids were taught how to be safer in and around water by taking part in YMCA Splash Week. The YMCA of Eastern Union County Five Points Branch delivered the program to all 3rd Grade students at Harrison, Polk and Washington Elementary Schools. During the classroom portion of the event, students learned about basic water safety and swimming skills that can help prevent accidents in pools, at the beach, while boating, or around other water environments. The week culminated with a free swim lesson for all 3rd graders followed by open swim for the children and their families.

According to Ellen Daudelin, Aquatic Director, the benefits of the program extend beyond safety. "We've noticed that when kids learn to swim, it really boosts their self-esteem. In some cases, they're overcoming some major fears. That makes them feel proud."

The Y offered YMCA Splash in response to an important community need. Each year, an

estimated 5,000 children ages 14 and under are hospitalized due to near drowning. Drowning is the third leading cause of death for children under age five.

"We work to nurture kids' healthy, successful development all year long," said Daudelin. "So naturally we're concerned about their safety and protection. Plus, the Y has been teaching people to swim for over a century. What better organization to teach kids how to keep safe around water?"

The YMCA Splash Week was a free program that included information on beach safety, backyard pool safety, boating safety, and character development. YMCA Splash was one more way for the Y to help parents as well as kids. Parents were invited to attend a meeting where they received information on how to be vigilant and keep their kids safe around water. Families were also invited to attend the free swim lesson and open swim so that they could practice the skills they learned during the week.



THE YMCA OF EASTERN UNION COUNTY is a not-for-profit community service membership organization working to meet the health and social service needs of the children, men and women. Committed to our mission of building healthy lives through programs that strengthen spirits, minds and bodies for people of all ages, religions and cultures, the YMCA serves over 15,000 through four branches located in Elizabeth, Union (2)(Five Points) and Rahway. We do this by providing programs and services in Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. Visit our website at www.ymcaec.org to learn more about our Y.

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RAPIDS SWIM TEAM ANNOUNCES TRYOUTS: AUGUST 26, 27 AND 28

The YMCA of Eastern Union County "Rapids" Swim Team is back for its second season. After a very successful inaugural season the Rapids swim team is looking to keep on growing! Our team consists of 52 swimmers from all over the area; Colonia, Clark, Linden, Elizabeth, Union, Rahway, Roselle, and Roselle Park.

In the Rapids first year, we had a dual meet record of 3 wins and 3 losses, but had a great championship meet season with 90% of the team getting their personal best times at the championship meets. We participated in 8/under

Championships, Bronze YMCA, and YMCA State Championships.

Our swim season runs from September through March with dual meets starting in October and the Championship meets starting in February. Our swim meets are on Saturdays and can be home at the Rahway Branch of the YMCA of Eastern Union County or at the site of the YMCA team we are competing against that week. We will be attending additional meets this year to give our swimmers more experience and more competitiveness.

Coach Ed Soder and Patt Krug believe that

the Rapids are more than just a swim team. They strive to help each team member be the best they can be in the pool and throughout their lives. Coach Ed believes that every swimmer has untapped potential that is waiting to come out. One of the coaches key quotes is "If you believe you will Achieve" and that is a focus during every meet and every practice all season.

The Rahway branch of the YMCA of Eastern Union County will be holding a Summer Tune-up Clinic August 12 through August 22, 2013. The clinic will meet on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. This clinic is a great way to get ready for the season as we will be working on endurance, starts and turns.

Tryouts for the Rapids will be held August 26, 27, and 28 (please choose one day to try out). For the 10/under age groups tryouts will be 5:30 - 7:00 Pm and for the 11/older age groups it will be 7:00 - 8:00 PM. The Rapids are looking to make some waves in 2013-2014 - so come be a part of something bigger-join the Rapids!



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