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PEARL HARBOR DAY MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The Veteran's Alliance of Union held its annual Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Ceremony on Sunday, December 4th. This ceremony was held at the post home of the Michael A. Kelly Post 2433, Veterans' of Foreign Wars. In addition to the Kelly group, members of the Alliance include Connecticut Farms Post 35, American Legion and the I.D. Harris Chapter 40 and the Disabled American Veterans.

Union High School's JROTC cadet Sergeant First Class Matt Tremaine, cadet Second Lieutenant Richard Arce, cadet Captain Tiffany Gois, and cadet Captain Nicholas Deitrich participated in the Color Guard along with the Color Guard Unit from the Civil Air Patrol's Teterboro Composite Squadron consisting of C/CMSgt Cyrl Rojas Wahl, C/A1C Charlie Hesse, C/2d Lt Lenny Komar, C/TSgt Alex Sisco, and C/TSgt Chris Lacarno.



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(above) Color Guard made up of Union High School's JROTC and Civil Air Patrol's Teterboro Composite Squadron.



Spirit of Union is published by Renna Media. Five thousand newspapers are printed monthly and 4,000 are mailed free to businesses and residents in Union and distributed free at distribution sites throughout town.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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SANTA IN BLUE COLLECTING TOYS

The Township of Union Police Department and P.B.A. Local #69 are once again conducting the "Santa in Blue" Program for the 2011 Holiday Season. The "Santa in Blue" program, established in 1995, utilized police officers, who, on their own time, collect toys throughout the Township and wrap each item with the assistance from the P.T.A. The toys are then hand delivered to needy families by uniformed officers on patrol.

All toys collected will be donated to local charities and the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. After toys have been collected, they will be sorted and categorized for age appropriateness, wrapped and distributed to

local charities in time for holiday giving to children in need.

Toys can be for any age child. Sporting goods and games for older children are also in need.

Anyone having toys to donate may drop them off until December 30th at the lobby of Police Headquarters, 981 Caldwell Avenue, Union.

Anyone required additional information should contact Sgt Boll (973) 332-1556.



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AVE RECEIVES BUSINESS OF THE MONTH AWARD

The Township of Union's Business of the Month for November was AVE. AVE opened its elegant facility in April 2008 located at Union Station at Morris Ave and Green Lane. Mayor Joseph Florio presented the Business of the Month award to Lea Ann Welsh, President of AVE last week during the Township Committee meeting.

AVE guests enjoy all the luxurious features of hotel living while residing in beautiful residence. AVE presents luxuriously appointed, fully furnished one and two bedroom suites accompanied by gourmet kitchens with top of the line appliances and housewares, walk in closets and spacious elegant bathrooms. AVE participates annually in multiple outreach and philanthropic events. Communities run blood-drives through the Red Cross, collect canned foods for those in need, and participate in the Toys for Tots program during the holidays. Additionally, AVE sponsors and participates in run/walks for MS, bike rides for the American Cancer Foundation, and locally supports ventures within our towns.



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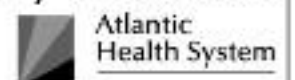
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SIX FAMILIES IN UNION CELEBRATE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING THANKS TO BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS!

The Builders Club and the Student Council at Burnet Middle School in Union, NJ brought students and faculty together in the spirit of Thanksgiving.

They collected food throughout November. They prepared six food baskets with turkeys. The baskets were then given to six needy families in town.



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FIELD TRIP TO THE RAINFOREST

In Kawameeh Middle School, Mrs. Stempniewicz and Mrs. Hrdina's class learned about the rainforest. They studied the layers of the forest, the animals living in each layer, and the importance of the rainforest to our Planet Earth. Each child was assigned an animal which they did a project on. After the project was completed, the students put together a bulletin board, where each of their animals was displayed in the proper layer. As part of the lesson, the class took a trip to the Rainforest Café where they had a tour of the different animals there and were able to hear the many sounds of the rainforest. Our class was accompanied by Mrs. Zaleski's class from Burnett Middle School.



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WEEK OF RESPECT AT KAWAMEEH MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Week of Respect was observed by the students at Kawameeh Middle School in a variety of ways. Our students first voted for the school's anti-bullying motto – and chose, "It isn't big to make others feel small." Purple wrist bands with the motto printed on them have arrived and are available for purchase.

Our students also "tied together against bullying." Neck ties were donated and tied together in a display in our lobby as a visual reminder of our commitment to end bullying in our school.

Los Angeles Clipper star guard and Newark native Randy Foye addressed the student body on the topic of respect and education. Randy's story of overcoming obstacles on his journey to the NBA was inspiring. He encouraged all of our students to work hard in school, and to surround themselves with people who have their best interests at heart, and to never give up on their dreams!

A contest was conducted to see which homerooms had the most students wearing purple, the anti-bullying color, on Wednesday of the week of respect. Three homerooms were awarded a munchkin breakfast for being awash

in a sea of purple!

Anti-bullying activities will continue throughout the year at Kawameeh and include poster contests, evening parent workshops, and ongoing classroom lessons. For more information about Kawameeh's anti-bullying activities, contact the anti-bullying specialist at kmsnobully@twpunionschools.org.

(right) Chris Charles, Professional Basketball Player, Serbia, Jill Hall, Student Assistance Counselor/Anti-Bullying Specialist Kawameeh Middle School, Coordinator of Week of Respect Activities, Randy Foye, NBA Player, Los Angeles Clippers.



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TOWNSHIP OF UNION NEW LEVEL OF ROAD SAFETY ACTIVATED WITH START OF RED-LIGHT CAMERA PROGRAM

Red-Light Safety Cameras will be activated in the Township of Union on Saturday, December 3, ushering in a new level of protection for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists at three intersections. A public education and 30-day warning phase will accompany the start of the program, giving drivers an opportunity to become familiar with the system. Fines will not be issued during the warning period, but photographs will be taken and warning notices will be mailed to the vehicle's registered owner.

The Township of Union is one of almost 40 localities in New Jersey saying yes to red-light safety camera programs, and for good reason. Over the past decade, on average, red-light runners have caused 885 fatalities and 165,000 injuries annually in the U.S. Two-thirds of the time, the person who dies is someone other than the red-light runner. National and international research shows cameras reduce red-light running violations and the life-threatening T-bone collisions that can result when vehicles

collide in the middle of an intersection. This year, an Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study found Red-Light Safety Cameras saved more than 150 lives in 14 of the country's largest cities.

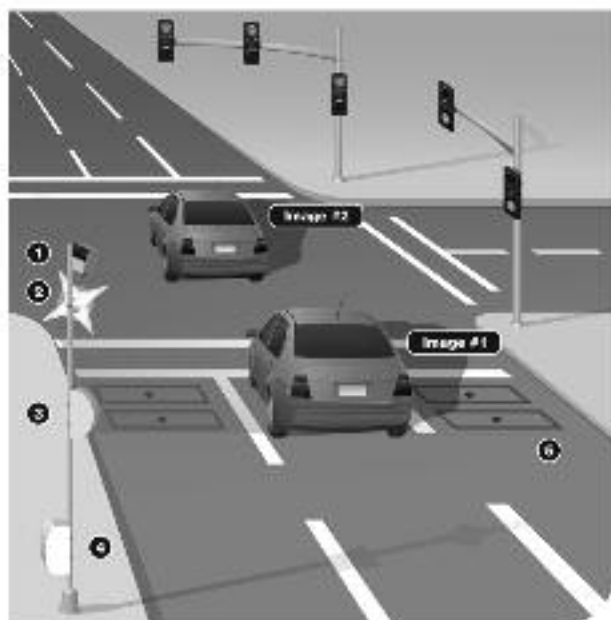
Cameras along with warning signs will be located at these intersections and approaches:

North, east, south and westbound approaches at Stuyvesant and Morris Avenues; North, east, south and westbound approaches at Salem Road and Morris Avenue; and East, west and

southbound approaches at Morris and Liberty Avenues.

Cameras will operate 24 hours a day and capture images of every vehicle running a red light. Persons who receive a ticket will be able to review the collected evidence including the photograph of the license plate and brief video of the event. The program is administered by American Traffic Solutions, and all violations are issued and approved by the Township of Union Police Department.

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Image #1 The 1st Image records the vehicle behind the stop bar while the light is red

Image #2 The 2nd Image records the vehicle proceeding through the intersection while the light is red

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UNION TOWNSHIP LIBRARY JOIN TOGETHER TO CHECK OUT HUNGER IN NJ

Help check out hunger this holiday season with donations to a Food Drive being sponsored by the Libraries of Union County. From December 1st through December 30th the Union Public Library will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items to benefit the New Jersey Community Food Bank and other local food pantries. Collection bins will be located at both the Main Library and the Vauxhall Branch. 100% of all donations will be sent to these food banks.

During these tough economic times, many people in New Jersey have been left behind; low income families; struggling single parents; the elderly on a fixed income; the unemployed. The New Jersey Community Food Bank assists these families by supplying food to over 1,500 non-profit charities in 19 counties, including soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, local food banks, and after school programs and senior centers.

Visit the Union Public Library and its Vauxhall Branch this holiday season and help us check out hunger by dropping off non-perishable food items. The food items most

urgently needed are: canned meat and fish; canned soups and stews; peanut butter in plastic jars; boxed pasta and rice; powdered milk; infant formula; and canned fruit and vegetables.

For more information visit the Union County Public Libraries web site at www.luccnj.org.

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Friday: Closed

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ANGELO BARBER SHOP DAY PROCLAIMED



(above) Philip, Mayor Florio and Angelo.

On December 1, 2011 Mayor Joseph Florio proclaimed the date as Angelo Barber Shop Day in the Township of Union commending Angelo Ruggiero for his 40 years of service to the community. Angelo started his barber shop in Union in December of 1971. Angelo was also honored with a Mayor's Award in 2006. His son Philip works in the shop with him and Angelo Jr. worked in the shop for 28 years.

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