

Spirit of UNION NJ

FREE

UNION'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Union's Hometown Newspaper

Issue 10 • October 2011

Township of Union
Mayor's Day
**FIRST ANNUAL
5K WALK/RUN**
Presented by the Union
Chamber of Commerce
SAT. OCT 22
Cooke Drive, Union High
School, Union
Registration 8.30 am,
Race start 10 am
REGISTER AT
TINYURL.COM/UNION5K
\$23 pre-registration,
\$30 on race day,
Student are \$10
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PARTICIPANT A GIFT CERTIFICATE
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& \$23 FOR ADULTS.

10TH ANNIVERSARY 9/11 MEMORIAL CEREMONY

On September 9th the Township of Union remembered those that lost their lives on the tragic day of September 11, 2001. The 10th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony at the Town Hall Memorial Plaza brought members of the community together for a moving tribute.

The Union High School JR ROTC commenced the ceremony with the lowering of the flags followed by the National Anthem played by the Union High School Band. Essays were read by two Union High School students based on the theme "How did these last 10 years shape you? And how will your generation keep the memory alive?"

The memorial ceremony also highlighted the 9-11 Generation 5th graders whom marched at the ceremony representing the generation that was born on that tragic year of 2001. The students marched to the ceremony from Connecticut Farms lead by Superintendent Dr. Patrick Martin, Union Police Department Honor Guard and parents. This year's flags were presented to each one of the Township's schools. A student representative from each school received the flag.



Photos by TV34



1ST ANNUAL TOWNSHIP OF UNION MAYOR'S DAY EVENT

The Union Center Special Improvement District and the Township of Union Chamber of Commerce have partnered for the first Union Mayor's Day to be held on Saturday October 22nd. There will be two events: Event 1 – Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce – 5K run at 9am; Event 2 – Festival on the Green at 12noon til 6:00 pm., with a rain date of Sunday October 23rd, 2011.

The Union Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the First Annual 5K Run/Walk with race registration beginning at 8:30 am and a race time of 10:00 am. The 5K Run/Walk will start and finish on Cooke Drive at Union High School along a USATF certified course.

Sponsored by Union Center Special Improvement District
Corporate Sponsors: •Union Center

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The Festival on the Green will be held on Saturday, October 22 from 12-6 pm in Friberger Park, Union, NJ. It is a free family friendly festival open to the public, with activities for both children and adults. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs for an afternoon packed with art, music, culture and fun. Participants should come prepared to learn, create, move and groove.

Interested artists, crafters and vendors can email familyartsmovement@gmail.com for information.

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

Advertising in this newspaper

Each month 5,000 newspapers are printed and 4,000 are mailed free to businesses and residents with the balance being distributed free throughout town.



Reserve your space in the next issue. Call Tina today at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com

THANKSGIVING FOR VETS

On Thursday, November 10, Grace Lutheran Church, 2222 Vauxhall Road, is hosting a free Thanksgiving Dinner for 75 Veterans. They are doing this as part of their 75th Anniversary observance and celebration. The exact time has yet to be coordinated with the Veteran's facility in Lyons. This dinner will be limited to the first 75 Veterans and their spouses who make a reservation. To make a reservation call the church office at 908-686-3965 or email them at gracelu4u@yahoo.com.

A FALL BAND CONCERT

Presented by The Union Municipal Band
Dr. John H. Bunnell, Director

OCTOBER 24, 2011

7:45 p.m.

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UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS: BANKING SOLUTIONS FOR SENIORS AND CHILDREN

Representatives from the Valley National Bank will be speaking to parents about savings accounts for their children and discussing banking solutions for seniors at the Union Public Library on Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 10 A.M.

The public is cordially invited to this free program. Refreshments will be served.

The Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Avenue in Union, New Jersey. For more information, please call the reference department at (908) 851-5450, ext. 5452

Deborah Hospital Park Union Chapter
Tricky Tray October 23, 2011

Place: Emeralds Irish Pub/Restaurant
304 Route 22 W. in Springfield, N.J. 07081
Doors open 11am

Entertainment by The Cameos.

Cost: Tickets are \$50.00

Raffle books are available

(book of 25 tickets, at \$2 per chance = sell a book, get entrance ticket for free)

More information: Jackie Leddy-Wyklanski

(908) 451-0004 or e-mail:

jackiewyklanski@hotmail.com

Kim Imperiale (908) 370-6178

Nina Calavano (908) 577-8212

SpiritofUnion.com

The website features up to date articles, a calendar of events, archives of Spirit of Union and photo albums of events.



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HALLOWEEN PARADE AND COSTUME CONTEST SET FOR OCT 30TH

The Union Recreation Department will sponsor its Thirty-Fifth Annual Halloween Parade and Costume Contest on Sunday, October 30th. The parade will start at 1:30 p.m. from Axton Avenue South on Stuyvesant to Roosevelt Avenue and Connecticut Farms School.

Judging will take place in the Connecticut Farms School Auditorium at approximately 2:00 p.m..

The costume contest will be Toddler to age 3, Pre-School to Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 2, and Grades 3 & 4.

The event is open to Township of Union residents only, toddlers to 4th grade. Parents must register their child in person, Monday through Friday at the Union Recreation Department office, 1120 Commerce Ave., Union, located behind Hannah Caldwell School between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. An evening sign up will be held at the Recreation Department on Monday, October 24th from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Deadline date will be Wednesday, October 26th at 1:00 p.m.

Trophies will be awarded to the winners of the following categories: Most Original, Cartoon Characters, Cutest, and Scariest.

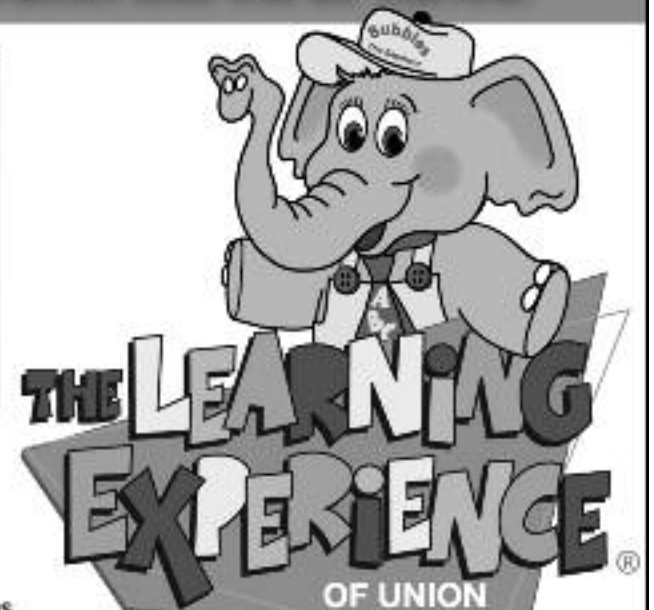
Registration forms are available in all schools, or at the Union Recreation Department office.

Further information may be obtained by calling the Recreation Department at 686-4200.

In the event of rain, the Parade will be cancelled. However, the costumes will be judged in Connecticut Farms School at 2:00 p.m.

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ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK FESTIVAL

Community from near and far enjoyed the foods and sounds of Greece at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church's 34th Annual Greek Festival, the weekend of September 8-11, 2011. A photo album from the event can be views at www.spiritofunion.com.

(above) Father Alex with the pastry ladies: Angela Hondros, Mrs. Tsakiridis, Mrs. Gerakaris, Mrs. Greberis, Fr. Alex Kile, Panorea Vasilopoulou, Angela Vayas.



(above) Luke Loucopulos and son. (above) Joanna Vasiliadis

(right) Nikoletta Pagratis, Argyro Papatsambasis, Sammie Wolz, Irene Melachrinos, Nicholas Papadopoulos



(above) Chef Teddy with his kitchen helpers: Konstandinos Vasilopoulos, Steve Mimides, Theodore Kastis, Petros Voci.



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PBSIS COMES TO BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL!!!

Kicking off the week of October 3rd, Burnet Middle School launched the PBSIS (Positive Behavior Support in Schools) Program. This program will strive to improve the school's climate by recognizing students who exemplify expected behaviors. The staff at Burnet has been thoroughly trained in this, and expectation posters are hung throughout the building to remind the students of their "Dedication to Education," on a daily basis. The program began on October 4th with the students being taught the expectations throughout the building. On Friday, October 7th, the school held a "Kickoff Event" to celebrate PBSIS. The event consisted of a game show, obstacle course, face-painting stations, music, arts & crafts, prizes, and much more. Burnet is striving to promote positive behavior school-wide.

ANTI - BULLYING AT BURNET MIDDLE SCHOOL

New Jersey has enacted the toughest Anti - Bullying Law in the country, but the students at Burnet are already taking the steps to combat bullying in Burnet. After a recent assembly they had teaching them about bullying and its affects, all the students at Burnet Middle School took the "Anti - Bullying Pledge." The dedication of the students of Burnet to beat bullying has spilled

over into an interest in forming an "Anti - Bullying Club" lead by Miss Colandrea, where they will meet to not only learn about bullying, but implement programs around the school to help educate their peers on anti-bullying strategies. Currently, the school is in a competition to come up with an "Anti - Bullying Slogan" to display around the school, put on wristbands, t-shirts, and a banner!



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UNION BIKES AND CARS RALLY AROUND JASON



(above) Union Elk's Motorcycle Club members participated in Jason's Annual Motorcycle Run.

The Galloping Hill Cruisers and Al-X Auto Center of Union were two of the many sponsors to support a fund raiser for Jason Condit held on September 25, 2011 at the Clark Community Pool. The event featured a motorcycle and car show in a fair-like setting.

Jason is on chemotherapy and waiting for his first operation. "Friends of Jason" was formed to

assist the family in the cost of treatment. The group's efforts has resonated throughout the county and are supported by organizations like the Union Elks Motorcycle Club.

Information about making donations or sponsoring an event for Friends of Jason can be obtained by calling Century 21 JRS Realty at 732-396-0606.





(above) A parrot named Fortune kept Jason company during the motorcycle run and car show in his honor.



(above) sponsors of the Friends of Jason event.

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ROCK 'N' JOE CUTS RIBBON ON NEW COFFEEHOUSE

Rock 'n' Joe Coffee, the purveyor of specialty coffees, sandwiches and desserts, celebrated its newest franchise on Tuesday, September 20, at 900 Green Lane in the Union Train Station. "We are so excited to be open in this great location, here at the Union Train Station", said Kevin Brennan, CEO and Founder of Rock 'n' Joe Coffee. "We are confident that our concept will have lots to offer the commuters, students and local community. Rock 'n' Joe offers high quality coffee (Our roaster was voted "Best in North America 2011" by Roast Magazine.), an outstanding variety of fresh morning pastries, desserts and great made to order and just made sandwiches and salads. All of this is served in an atmosphere that combines a Rock Music theme

with a fun and friendly vibe. This place will be a second home for lots of people."

The Union franchise will be run by Owners, Bo Chea and Ted Kwok. Brennan, who founded the first Rock 'n' Joe in 1993, said, "Bo and Ted are an ideal fit for Rock'n' Joe. They are the perfect team, and the customers can really relate to them. We're proud to have them on board."

The store opens daily at 6:30am and FREE Wi-Fi is available.

For more information, you can call the store directly at 908-354-0660 or visit the website at www.rocknjoe.com

(right) Owners Bo Chea and Ted Kwok with Mayor Florio and Rock "n" Joe's founder Kevin Brennan at ribbon cutting ceremony.



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COMPUTER TRAINING FOR SPANISH-SPEAKING JOB SEEKERS AT THE UNION LIBRARY

Funds from Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will enable community colleges to provide training

Union County College will begin offering classes to Spanish-speaking job seekers at the Union Public Library to improve their computer and job search skills. The classes will focus on the basic computer skills needed by every job applicant today making them more confident and self sufficient. All courses will be delivered in Spanish at a basic user level, are four hours in length, and built around workforce development skills. Classes are scheduled as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------|
| Windows OS | Oct. 19, 2011 | 10-1 PM |
| Word | Oct. 21, 2011 | 10-1 PM |
| Outlook | Oct. 26, 2011 | 10-1 PM |
| Internet Explorer | Oct. 28, 2011 | 10-1 PM |

Students are advised to bring their own computer flash drives to the training sessions. The public is invited to this admission-free program.

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Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday: Closed
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MYSTERY STORY-LINES CREATED AT THE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY BY SISTERS IN CRIME AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the Central Jersey Chapter of Sisters in Crime, who are published authors, will conduct a session of audience participation at the Union Public Library on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 7 PM..

Sisters in Crime members will take suggestions from the audience and concoct a mystery story-line, thus demonstrating that old question, "Where do writers get their ideas?"

Sisters in Crime is a national organization with chapters in several states including New Jersey. Made up of mystery enthusiasts, the meetings draw authors, readers, and others interested in advancing the careers of women mystery writers.

THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT OF THE UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

No registration required.

Mother Goose Time

for children 1 ½ - 2 ½ and their caregivers
Tuesdays, October 18th & 25th, November 1st, 22nd and 29th at 10:30am.

Learn how to play or improve your chess game

Then join Mrs. Renda Cutts at our Chess Program
Wednesdays, October 19th, Nov. 2nd, 16th and 30th.
The session for children, ages 6 through 8, will be from 3:15 – 4:00pm. The session for children, ages 9 through 12, will be from 4:15 – 5:15pm.

Toddler Time

for children 2 ½ - 3 ½ and their caregivers,
Thursdays, October 20th and 27th at 10:30am.

Preschool Storytime

for children 3 ½ through kindergarten
Wednesdays, November 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th at 10:30am.

The Saturday Storytime and Craft Program

Saturday, October 22nd at 11:00am
Children of all ages and caregivers are welcome.

"Halloween" Storytime and Craft Program

Monday, October 31st at 7:00pm.
Children of all ages and caregivers are welcome.

"All Aboard: Trains" Storytime and Craft Program

Saturday, November 5th at 11:00am
Children of all ages and caregivers are welcome.

Disney's classic animated films

"Robin Hood"

Monday, October 24th at 7:00pm;

"101 Dalmatians"

Monday, November 7th at 7:00pm

"The Sword and the Stone"

Monday, November 28th at 7:00pm.

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BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Submitted by Union Township Police Department

KAWAMEEH STUDENT TO BE AWARDED THE GEORGE WASHINGTON HONOR MEDAL

Kawameeh does it again! Last year's Kawameeh Middle School President Luis Alvarado won the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation's national contest. He came in first place out of thousands of students across our country. Luis will be awarded the George Washington Honor Medal.

Luis accepted the challenge of writing an essay on "What it Means to be Patriotic". He was encouraged and instructed by Mr. Jack Soroka. The two had a unique experience. Mr. Soroka, a World War II naval hero and educator of over 60 years served as a mentor to Luis.

Luis was inspired by Mr. Soroka to write the essay. He heard of the senior man's experience and was honored to write the essay. Luis was also assisted by English teacher Jennifer Winters and History teacher Ed Graf.

In the essay, Luis referred to some of his family's experiences and how far they have come, particularly due to hard work and determination. This was especially so with the struggles of his great grandfather.

The hard work that Luis shows, his willingness to learn from elders such as Jack Soroka, his patriotic spirit, and his evident leadership demonstrated as Student Council President, will certainly enable him to succeed now at the Union County Magnet School as well as in the future.

Summer is over, school has begun and children have returned to the classroom. With all of the excitement related to back to school, sometimes important things can be overlooked. The Township of Union Police Department urges students, parents, and especially drivers to be aware of the increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Parents should take time to review the basic safety rules with children, including the routes they should be taking to and from school and the locations of school crossing guards. Encourage use of the same route each day. Young children should be advised of basic safety rules, including the importance of not talking to strangers.

Parents who drive students to school should remember to pull up to the curb before letting children out and only park in designated areas around schools. Disregard of parking regulations, especially around schools, can create dangerous situations for both drivers and children.

Sergeant Robert Christie, Supervisor of the Union Police Department's Traffic Bureau feels children are never too young to learn good safety rules. "Learning how to stay safe is something that can be fun and doesn't have to be frightening," advises Christie. "Children need to be taught how to keep themselves safe as they grow and venture out into the expanded world of school and community, although the Police Department and other community helpers are there to provide assistance, parents are often their child's first and best teachers in this area," added the Sergeant. Mayor Florio encouraged parents to sit down with their children and to advise them about basic safety rules. "Parents

are a child's best and first teacher when it comes to safety," stated Mayor Florio. "Safety should never be overlooked."

Parents of students who walk to school (Middle and High School students) should be aware that walking in the street rather than on the sidewalk is not only dangerous for the student, but is a violation of a traffic law 39:4-34. (Where sidewalks are provided it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.)

Parents of students who ride bicycles to school should know that any person under 17 years of age is required to wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet. The safety of the students should be a concern of all, so following these rules will help make Union safe for the children on their way to and from school.

According to Union's Police Director, Daniel Zieser, the Department will be utilizing strict enforcement when it comes to motor vehicle and pedestrian violations. "Strict traffic enforcement and summoning of all violators is an effective tool in reducing motor vehicle accidents and protecting the safety of local residents, said Zieser. "The serious injury of one person due to disregard of traffic laws is one too many. We have to do everything we can as police officers to modify driving behaviors that are obvious causes of accidents and injuries," added the Director.

The Union Police Department also advises parents to discourage children from taking items of value to school such as cell phones, i-pods, mp-3 plays, expensive jewelry or other costly items. These items are often misplaced or can become the target of a theft.

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