

Union's Hometown Newspaper

Issue 36 • December 2013

10TH STREET LIVE Get Up Stand Ups Comedy, and OnFire Entertainment present

"MIRACLE ON 10TH STREET"

A Fund Raiser SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

for all-ages doors open at 6pm.

Reservations are being taken now at (908) 272-2664

More information can be found on page 2.

SNOW MAKES TREE LIGHTING A WINTER WONDERLAND

A large crowd turned out for Union Township's 30th Annual Holiday Celebration and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony held on December 8, 2013 in front of Town Hall.

Festivities included a live Nativity scene, including animals, created by Crossroads Christian Fellowship Church and families were invited to pose for pictures.

Holiday music was provided by chorus and instrumental groups including the Jefferson School Show Choir, Battle Hill Concert Choir, David Braham – Instrumental Interlude and Burnett Middle School Carolers.

The tree was lit by Santa who arrived on a fire truck, children then had the opportunity to have their pictures taken with Santa in the main meeting room of Town Hall by Molina Photography.

The festivities continue downtown with free horse drawn wagon rides Friday evenings from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm in front of the Union Movie Theatre on December 13th & 20th.



(above) Nicholas Maffei 10-years-old gives Woody a ride in Santa's sled in the City Hall lobby.

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(above) Refreshments were served up by the Union High School Performing Arts Club.







(above) Gabriel & Sarah Hildaido enjoyed the snow.

(left) Old friends met up at the event, Laruen Cassidy & Cali have been friends since meeting in Pre-K at Garden of Wonders, the girls all go to separate schools now.

(left) A live Nativity scene was created by Crossroads Christian Fellowship Church and families were invited to pose for pictures.

THIS SPACE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING!!!

Demand for advertising in this space has been high. It is now available on a first come first served basis. Call Tina today to reserve the space in this or other Renna Media publications. Each month 5,500 newspapers are printed and 5,000 are mailed free to businesses and residents with the balance being distributed free throughout town.

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



Spirit of Union is published by Renna Media. 5,500 newspapers are printed monthly and 5,000 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.

Tina & Joe Renna, Publishers 202 Walnut Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016 (908) 418-5586

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GIVE THE GIFT OF A GREAT FUTURE

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County is kicked off their Annual "Year End Appeal," November 15th through December 31st with a fund raising goal of \$25,000!

Youth members have the opportunity to develop positive character and leadership skills through Boys & Girls Club programs. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County impact the lives of over 4,000 youth in Union County each year, by providing the tools for them to be productive citizens and meet their full potential as adults.

"Kids come to Boys & Girls Clubs because they are safe, and feel that they belong. Our programming provides life-long skills, including water safety, public speaking, organizing community events, and civic engagement," stated Russell Triolo, Chief Executive Officer.

Students participated in many activities this year, including assembling food packages at NJ Community Food Banks, Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraising, Blood Drive, Canned Food Drive, and "Make a Child Smile" card making event. The 2013 Youth of the Year was awarded to Justin Phillips, who has been an active member of our Elizabeth Club for over 5 years. One of our Tidal Wave swimmers, Natalia Rincon, is competing at the state level for the Junior Olympics.

Be a hero, give a gift that allows us to not only continue, but grow our mission serving the children of Union County. To make a donation and to receive a tax deduction to the extent allowed by law, visit our website: www.bgucu.org/yearendappeal or mail a check made payable to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County labeled "Year End Appeal" to the following address: Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County, Corporate Office, 1050 Jeanette Avenue, Union, NJ 07083.

BENEFIT TO SUPPORT LOCAL VETERAN

From the outside looking in, December 21st will be like many other nights at 10th Street Live in Kenilworth. Laughter and dancing is commonplace for the music venue - bar - grille. However, while it may not be readily apparent, this night out will have a important undertone.

10th Street Live, Get Up Stand Ups Comedy, and OnFire Entertainment present "Miracle on 10th Street." This evening of comedy and dancing will raise money to provide a local family in need with extra holiday cheer.

"We are no strangers to hosting charitable events here at 10th Street Live," co-owner and production manager Kevin Bryan tweeted yesterday. With the assistance of Union resident Maria Vargo, with whom 10th Street Live has hosted several charitable events, Funk and Bryan are in touch with the local VFW to choose a family in need.

The event features the fast-emerging comedy troupe "Get Up Stand Ups." Comprised of talent from New Jersey and New York city, the troupe is accustomed to entertaining crowds, but this event brings something much bigger. "When Kevin and Funk presented the idea, I knew this

was something we had to be a part of," said troupe leader and Union, NJ resident Manoli Vosoz. "Kevin has been supportive of various causes I promote" (this summer saw a successful fundraiser at 10th Street Live for 'Camp Fatima'). "To be able to contribute to this great idea is very exciting."

Union-county based party promoters / Djs "OnFire Entertainment" will keep the evening "rocking till last call" with their eclectic blend of music spanning many genres and eras. Union resident, co-founder and WKTU radio personality Michael "Mikey P" Purcell has also been an integral part of the planning process.

All proceeds from admission will be donated to the selected family. The event to be held on Saturday, December 21st, is for all-ages, with doors opening at 6pm. 10th Street Live features a full kitchen and immense selection of craft beer. In addition, those who reserve a table in advance will enjoy 20% off their food bill.

Reservations are being taken now at (908) 272-2664, from 6pm to 2am, Mondays - Saturdays. No reservations are confirmed via voice mail.





BATTLE HILL SCHOOL HELPS RELIEF EFFORTS FOR THE PHILIPPINES

Fourth grade students from Battle Hill Elementary School in Union, New Jersey collected items from the school community to help victims of the recent typhoon in the Philippines.

Student council members and some of Battle Hill's finest fourth grade art students helped gather some of the most necessary items. Some of the items that were needed were: canned goods, plastic cutlery, over the counter medications, flash lights, batteries, baby supplies, toiletries, clean blankets, and sheets. The students were asked to decorate a puzzle piece that would be placed on the boxes. These puzzle pieces shared messages of hope and support. Student Council Advisors Alison Brehm and John Bogner, along with building Principal, Michelle Warren, organized the donations. Through the Joel P. Longares Foundation and Atlas Shippers, the boxes will ship for free. They will go directly to the most impacted areas.



(above) (top row, l-r) Saliyah Matute, Jake Sa, Alexandra Wuethrich, Nhi Cu, Alyssa Nunag, Charleze Fernandez, (bottom row, l-r) Jared Brody, Malik Johnson, Joseph Matos, Ryan D'Addario, Kevin Espinal, Tiffany Phan, Perry Dizon, Anthony Poco



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YMCA ANNOUNCES NAME CHANGE TO THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA

The YMCA of Eastern Union County is changing our name to better recognize the communities we serve. In 2014, look for us as The Gateway Family YMCA. This change provides an opportunity to redefine ourselves as an organization. We are changing our name, but our programs and services remain the same. Look for our exciting transition throughout the upcoming months.

The Gateway Family YMCA was a name chosen as part of a contest in which the community was asked to participate in helping to define an open, engaging name. Krystal R. Canady, CEO of The Gateway Family YMCA shared, "Our Y serves communities further reaching than the area defined as 'Eastern Union County', and we wanted to celebrate all members of our community. The Gateway Family YMCA defines the reach of our organization and our impact in the region."

Geographically, our branches are located in the Gateway Region of our state. In addition, many times the Y is first option for a family towards health; programs that help them reach their potential, or services like child care or housing. The Y stands as a personal Gateway for someone who is at the beginning of their journey towards improving their life. At The Gateway Family YMCA, we feel that Healthy Starts Here!

For more information about community programs and services provided by The Gateway Family YMCA, please visit www.tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch at elizabethinfo@tgfymca.org, 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch at fivepointsinfo@tgfymca.org, 908-688-9622, Rahway Branch at rahwayinfo@tgfymca.org, 908-388-0057, or the Wellness Center Branch at wellnessinfo@tgfymca.org

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CRANFORD MONTHLY JOINS RENNA MEDIA'S FAMILY OF NEWSPAPERS

Beginning in January 2014 Cranford Monthly will join Renna Media's family of newspapers. Just like Spirit of Union, Cranford Monthly will deliver important information from the departments in town hall, along with news from the schools and library. Community service organizations are encouraged to promote their events and celebrate their accomplishments free of charge. The newspaper's goal is to be a positive influence on the economic development and overall well-being of Cranford. There will be no investigative reporting or political content; Cranford Monthly exists to share all of the good things that are happening in town.

Renna Media is a Cranford based business owned and operated by husband and wife team Joe and Tina Renna. Cranford Monthly joins Renna Media's family of twelve community newspapers published in and around Union and Somerset counties. The publications are "hyperlocal" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town and are direct mailed within those towns.

The concept of being hyper-local is to give

local businesses a venue to promote events and services. Reaching local customers gives you the highest return for your advertising dollars. The newspapers are designed (black ink on newsprint) to keep the cost of an advertisement to as low as \$60. A discount is also applied for those businesses involved in their local Chamber of Commerce. Regional businesses can take advantage of one low rate for advertising in multi publications.

Joe and Tina Renna, owners of Renna Media, have been publishing community newspapers since 1998 with the launch of Around About Peterstown, a regional newspaper about the Italian-American neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ.

Renna Media sought to fill what they saw as a void in other communities and created newspapers that would give a venue to town administrations and non-profit organizations to promote upcoming events as well as to showcase the accomplishments of local residents and businesses.

Call Renna Media at 908-418-5586 or email info@rennamedia.com for more info.



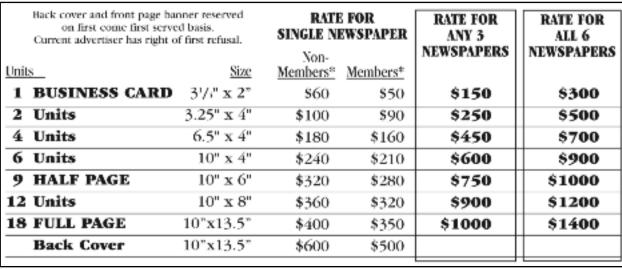


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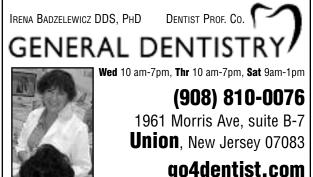




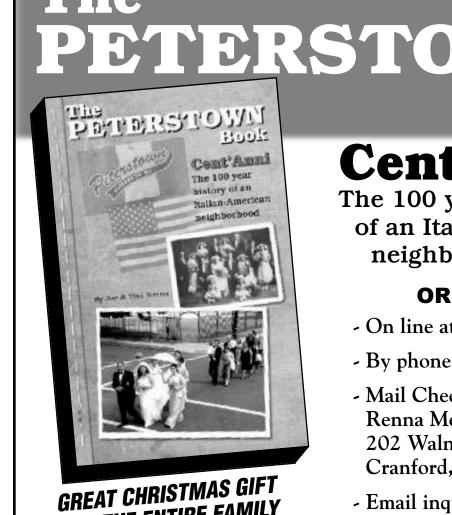








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The Peterstown Book is the 100 year history of an Italian-American neighborhood told through stories about the people and families who lived there. The book records the oral history in danger of being lost and illustrates the traditions and customs of the community through thousands of photos, hundreds of recipes, and antidotes shared by residents past and present.

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LIBRARY AWARDED 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF NJ GRANT

The Union Public Library is one of twelve New Jersey libraries that have been selected as recipients of The New Jersey Center of the Book's Anniversary Grants of \$500. The library will use these funds to provide free programs to the public celebrating 350 years of the founding of the state of New Jersey.

In keeping with one of the grant's stated purposes, the Union Public Library's winning entry "James Caldwell: The Fighting Parson of the Revolution" celebrates "an event of importance to that library's area of the state". Beginning in June, 2014 the library will present a series of free public events, exhibits and a walking tour celebrating the role played by the Reverend James Caldwell in one of the pivotal, final battles of our nation's fight for independence. Reverend Caldwell joined the rebel resistance in fighting the British and Hessian troops in the June,1980 Battle of Springfield after his wife, Hannah was shot and killed days before during the fighting at Connecticut Farms, just blocks from where the Union Public Library stands today.

The Union Public Library invites the public to watch for news of these exciting upcoming events!

Vauxhall Library After School Game Day

for children in grades 1 through 6 and their caregivers Thursday, January 23rd at 3:30pm. Space is limited. Signup is required.

Vauxhall Library Game Day

for children ages 3 – 5 and their caregivers Tuesday, January 28th at 11:00am Space is limited. Signup is required.

Annual Community Kwanzaa
Ceremony and Celebration,
Saturday, December 28th at 12:00 noon.
Please register by calling,
908-851-5451.

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY

1980 Morris Ave. • Union, NJ 07083 • web: youseemore.com/UnionPL Phone: 908.851.5450 • E-mail: UnionPL@uplnj.org

LIBRARY HOURS: Mon – Thurs: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. / Fri: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. / Sat: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

VAUXHALL BRANCH LIBRARY

123 Hilton Ave. • Vauxhall, NJ 07088 • Phone: 908.851.5451

LIBRARY HOURS: Mon: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. / Tue & Thurs: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. / Wed: 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. / Friday: Closed / Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

No registration required unless indicated.

Preschool Storytime

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

The Saturday Storytime and Craft Program

Saturdays, December 21st,
January 4th and 18that 11:00am.
Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome.

Bedtime Storytime

Mondays, January 6th, 13th and 27th at 7:00pm. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited. Come in your pajamas for songs, stories and games

Mother Goose Time

Tuesdays, December 17th,

January 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th at 10:30am.
for children 1 ½ - 2 ½ and their caregivers

Toddler Time,

Wednesdays, December 18th, January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th at10:30am for children 2 ½ - 3 ½ and their caregivers

Library Lego Club

Thursday, December 19th & January 16th from 3:30pm to 5:00pm.

for children ages 5 through 12. This is an opportunity for kids to get creative and build anything they choose. The library will provide the Legos, while the kids provide the imagination! All materials must stay at the library so bring your camera to document your creations.

Caregivers are asked to stay in the library and are welcome to assist. We are also looking for donations of gently used or new Legos for this program.

informal Homeschooling Meeting for homeschooling families.

This will be a place to meet and share information and ideas with others and also become familiar with the Library and the resources we have to offer. Families are encouraged to bring their own board games to the meetings. Upcoming meetings will be held on Monday, December 16th and January 27th from 10:30am to Noon. Please call or email Mary Pritting at mpritting@uplnj.org or 908.851.5450 x3 for more information.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT VAUXHALL BRANCH

No registration required unless indicated.

Bedtime Storytime

Monday, January 6th at 7:00pm for children of all ages and their caregivers

"Winter Snowman" Storytime and Craft

Tuesday, January 7th at 11:00am for children, ages 3-5, and their caregivers Space is limited. Signup is required.

Create your own ornament

Thursday, December 12th at 3:30 pm for children, grades 1 and up, and their caregivers.

Let's play chess

Tuesdays, December 17th,
January 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th at 3:00pm.

Learn to play or improve your game with instructors, Mr.

Perry and Mr. Outlaw. Children, ages 8 through 16, are invited to attend. Space is limited. Signup is required.

"I Have a Dream Mobile"

Thursday, January 16th at 3:30pm
School-Age Craft Program
This program is for children, grades 1 and up, and their caregivers. Space is limited. Signup is required.

The following movies will be shown.

Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.

Disney Movie Matinee Showing, "Mickey's Magical Christmas"

Tuesday, December 17th at 10:45 am.

"Arthur's Christmas"

Thursday, December 19th at 3:00 pm. "EPIC"

Thursday, December 26th at 2:00 p.m.

"Smurfs 2"

Thursday, December 30th at 2:00 p.m.

"LeapFrog: Scout & Friends

Adventures in Shapeville Park"

Tuesday, January 21st at 11:00am.

"Disney's Tarzan"

Thursday, January 30th at 3:00pm.



WARMEST WISHES

At this time of year, we would like to thank our customers, neighbors and communities. We offer you all our warmest wishes for a happy holiday season, and a joyous New Year.



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