Union's Hometown Newspaper

Issue 64 • April 2016

UNION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

61ST ANNUAL DINNER BALL

& INSTALLATION **OF OFFICERS**

APRIL 8TH 6:00pm

GALLOPING HILL **CATERERS**

> 5 Points Union, NJ

Reserve by March 18th

BATTLE HILL ELEMENTARY FUNDRAISERS

Submitted by Alison Brehm, 4th Grade Teacher

Battle Hill Elementary School's mission this year was to lend a helping hand to those in need, especially children battling cancer. They began the school year with a fundraiser for The Team Campbell Foundation. Each child and staff member had the opportunity to place their hand print on the Battle Hill playground using gold paint. The Battle Hill PTA offered their time to ensure that each child participated in this memorable experience that will be on the Battle Hill playground for years to come. The school raised \$1,275!

The Battle Hill school community of teachers and parents then joined together for another great cause. They recently created over 150 pillowcases for Caseforsmiles.org, an organization which helps reduce the emotional stress associated with a hospital stay for children. Parents and teachers came together after school to create these whimsical pillowcases.

Each pillowcase was packaged with a special note from Battle Hill. In addition to the pillowcases created, the school collected over \$400! These experiences not only helped members of the community in need, it enriched the lives of the students, parents and teachers by helping others.





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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.

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REIGN OF TERROR – THE UNION COUNTY BANDITS



Dr. Walter E. Boright

Dr. Walter E. Boright, historian and member of the Union County Historical Society, will be the featured speaker at the Society's annual spring dinner to be held Sunday, April 10, 2016 at the Garden Restaurant located at 943 Magie Ave., Union.

of Terror – the Union County Bandits." His Power Point presentation will address the gang

E. Kenilworth. The trio caused a reign of terror throughout Union County from December 1920 to February 1921. The threesome committed a total of 21 hold ups of trolleys, automobiles, and business offices before captured following a bloody shoot out on Morris Ave. Dr. Boright has gone through considerable research to carefully document those events of 95 years ago.

held Sunday, April 10, Advanced reservations are encouraged as last 2016 at the Garden year Dr. Boright's presentation about Governors Restaurant located from Union County drew a capacity crowd. at 943 Magie Ave., Tickets are \$32 person.

Reservations with checks payable to UCHS are to be sent to William Frolich, 116 East 4th Ave., Roselle, NJ 07203. A choice of entrée should be indicated: filet of salmon, pasta with sauce, or chicken saltimbocca.

"MADE IN UNION" AT CALDWELL PARSONAGE

On Sunday, April 17, at 2:30 p.m. Tom Beisler and Tom Haggerty, trustees of the Union Township Historical Society, will give a lecture on the history of manufacturing in the town—augmented by a newly created slideshow, "Made in Union"—at the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union.

of three bandits who lived in Roselle Park and

Their presentation will focus on the people and products of businesses that once made—or still make—their homes in Union, such as: Headley's Cider Mill; Headley ship mast hoops; Tuscan Dairy; Peerless Beverage Company; Ce De Candy, Inc.; Wm. Kratt Company, which made harmonicas and pitch pipes; Pyro Plastics Corporation, which made toy ray guns; Gemex watch bands; John J. Reid Varnishes; International Paint Company; Potter Aeronautical Corporation, whose flow meters were used for fuel in the U.S. space program's first rockets in the 1950's; Elastic Stop® Nut Corporation, which made self-locking fasteners used, among others, by our military in WW II; National Woodworking Corporation; and Permutit water softeners.

The program will be part of the meeting of the Union Township Historical Society, which will begin at 2 pm. Non-members are cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served, including



(above) Capture from video clip featuring Mr.
McFeely of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood at the
Wm. Kratt Company, demonstrating how
harmonicas were made at the factory on
Johnson Place in Union.
Go to this link to see the clip: youtube com/

Go to this link to see the clip: youtube.com/ watch?v=2Wmrz8BM-4M&feature=share

Smarties candies, which are "made in Union"! Admission is free; donations for the preservation of the Parsonage are greatly appreciated.

For more information, call 908-687-0048 or visit the UTHS website, uniontwphistoricalsociety.webs.com/.



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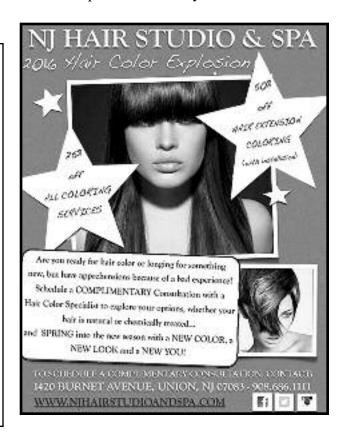
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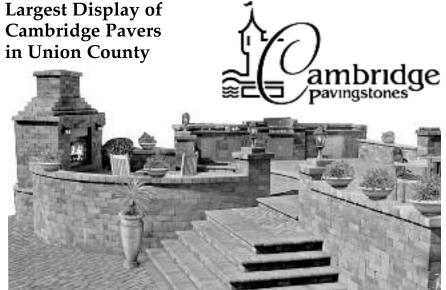
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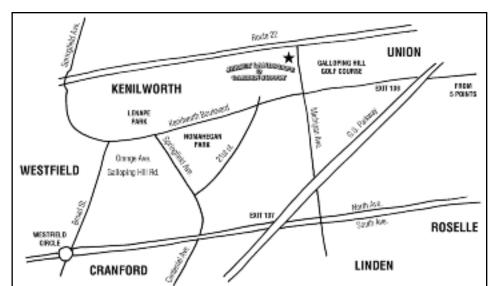
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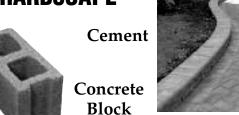
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TOGETHERHOOD® COMMUNITY EVENT "COME TOGETHER"

The Gateway Family YMCA Invites the Community to "Come Together" April 15th

Togetherhood® volunteers at The Gateway Family YMCA welcome members of the community to a meet and greet with local Community Organizations on April 15th, 6:00 – 8:00pm at the Wellness Center Branch, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union, NJ. The Y will be hosting the event for the community to learn how to get involved with organizations such as the Township of Union Community Garden, Community Access Unlimited, Union County Interfaith Council, Backpack for Life, Gateway Pregnancy, Operation Rebound, Mental Health Association of NJ, Boys & Girls Club, Relay for Life, Rotary Club of Roselle Park and The Gateway Family YMCA.

This event, titled "Come Together" is planned to help community organizations connect with members of the community, providing information on how they can get involved.

Togetherhood® is a member-led YMCA program engaging members in volunteer opportunities within the local community. This program invites Y members to activate their social responsibility by participating in the Y's cause to strengthen community. Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA stated, "Togetherhood® provides Y members with fun, convenient and rewarding ways to give back and support their neighbors." This event is being organized by the Wellness Center Branch's group of Togetherhood® volunteers.

Admission is Free and we welcome everyone in the community to attend.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA, visit www.tgfymca.org. For more information on Togetherhood® or the Come Together event, please contact Alane McCahey at amccahey@tgfymca.org or Paul Mickiewicz at pmickiewicz@tgfymca.org or 908-349-9622.

GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA

For more information, visit www.tgfymca.org/day-camp or contact The Gateway Family YMCA Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622 or Rahway Branch 732-388-0057.

EXPLORE SUMMER CAMP YMCA OPEN HOUSE

Summer Camp keeps youth moving, learning and exploring

The Gateway Family YMCA is gearing up for a summer of fun and is inviting the public to learn more about summer camp at an open house this spring. Summer camp open house dates are scheduled for March 29 5-8pm, April 30 12-3pm and May 18 6-8pm. Summer day camp is available at the Elizabeth Branch, 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, the Five Points Branch, 201 Tucker Avenue, Union and the Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway.

The Gateway Family YMCA offers summer camp programs for preschool through grade 11. And, to ensure that all youth have the chance to experience camp, The Gateway Family YMCA offers financial assistance to those in need. Summer camp at the Y gives kids and teens an adventurous, active and healthy summer.

YMCA camp programs offer youth fun and unique experiences with an opportunity to explore the outdoors, meet new friends, discover new interests and create memories that last a lifetime. Attending an open house is a first step in selecting a summer camp experience that complements your child and their interests. Camp experiences include sports camps, arts camp, dance camp and swim camp along with traditional summer day camp.

Summer is the ideal time for kids to get up, get out and explore. But, for some kids summer means no access to recreational and educational activities to help them learn, grow and thrive during out-of-school time. As a result, some kids can experience learning loss and gain weight twice as fast than during the school year. Attending summer camp at The Gateway Family YMCA is a wonderful opportunity for kids to keep their minds and bodies active.



(above, l-r) Cadet Ensign Shanice Burgos Drill team commander receiving the 2nd place overall trophy.

"YMCA summer camp supports the socialemotional, cognitive development and physical well-being of kids," says Krystal R. Canady, CEO of The Gateway Family YMCA. "In our day camp, kids are in a welcoming environment where they can belong, build relationships, develop character and achieve – discovering their potential. We really encourage parents to give their kids the gift of camp so that every child can benefit from the experience," added Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO.

A leading nonprofit committed to nurturing the potential of youth, the Y has been a leader in providing summer camp for nearly 130 years. The Gateway Family YMCA continues to give youth an enriching, safe experience with caring staff and volunteers who model positive values that help build their kids' character.



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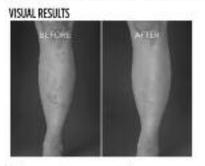


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PHOTO ALBUM FROM FIREHOUSE **COOK OFF IS ONLINE**

Photo albums of current and past Community Events are available to view, download and share at www.rennamedia.com. and on on Facebook at Facebook.com/SpiritofUnion "Like", "Tag" and "Share".







FIREFIGHTERS MATCH CULINARY SKILLS TO BENEFIT THE BURN CENTER AT SAINT BARNABAS

The Sixth Annual Firefighter Cookoff and Food and Wine Tasting was held on February 29, 2016 at the Pines Manor in Edison, New Jersey. Over thirty-five restaurants, bakeries and caterers, twenty-five tables of wines, spirits, liquors and cordials and the Firefighter Cookoff involving twenty fire departments from around the State will get together for an evening of good eats, good spirits for a good cause.

The event featured a cook off pitting teams of firefighters against each to be judges for thier culinary skills. The event was started by Robert Hill, retired Fire Chief of Roselle, NJ. What started as a lighthearted competition for bragging rights has turned into a major fundraiser for The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas sponsored by the New Jersey State Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association.

Though the event had a party atmosphere the there is some serious cooking going on. The event originally was to choose the team with the best "Firehouse Food", quickly made dishes that can fill the hearty appetite of firefighters on duty. Over the years the dishes that were being prepared were elevating out of the realm of firehouse food and so a gourmet category was added to the competition. Now half of the teams, determined by lottery, compete in the fire house food category while the other half compete in the gourmet category. Then an over all winner is crowned.



Shifts are twenty four hours long so the need for breakfast, lunch and dinner is a daily concern. Usually the task of cooking is shared amongst the firefighters unless there is some one who loves to cook and then the rest are usually in for a treat. The teams are given gift cards donated by Shoprite with a \$500 limit to get the supplies they need for the cook-off.

Besides the judged competition the public got to vote for their favorite Firefighter Chef. Everyone who attended, approximately one thousand people, got to vote for their own People's Choice Award. More information can be found on line at cookedanduncorked.com or by calling 973-322-4305.

BACKPACKS FOR LIFE

participating in the mission of "Backpacks for Life" in an effort to help homeless Veterans reintegrate into society. On Sunday, March 20th at 11 AM Sgt. Brett D'Alessandro, USMC from their organization told his story and explained what their organization does and how people can help. Townley Church is currently collecting various items for the backpacks. Items such as small shampoos, lotions, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, new socks, new T-shirts, new or gently used backpacks, etc. If you would

Townley Presbyterian Church in Union is like to attend the presentation and/or donate items, the Church's doors are open to all..... Sunday Worship Service begins at 10AM immediately followed at 11AM by the presentation and light refreshments. The collection has been going on through March and will continue through April. Let's help give our homeless Veterans hope and resources for a brighter future!

Townley Presbyterian Church is located at 829 Salem Road in Union.

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UNION TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTED PETERSTOWN HISTORY TALK

Township Historical Society (UTHS) hosted a presentation given by Joe and Tina Renna, coauthors of The Peterstown Book: Cent'Anni (The 100-Year History of an Italian-American Neighborhood). The event took place at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church.

People of all ethnicities can relate to The Peterstown Book's universal themes - the struggles and triumphs of families in search of the American Dream that were achieved through hard work, strong values, and dedication to their church. The volume describes the section of Elizabeth, New Jersey, that's been called

On Sunday, March 20, 2016, the Union Peterstown. It relates the stories of the many generations who have lived in that area.

> The Peterstown Book covers the 100-year history of an Italian immigrant/Italian-American neighborhood by focusing on its people. The book preserves a valuable oral history in danger of being lost and beautifully illustrates the traditions and customs of the tightknit community through thousands of photos, hundreds of recipes, and anecdotes shared by former and current residents.

> For additional information about the book or to place an order visit PeterstownNJ.com or call Joe at 908-447-1295.



(above) Authors Joe and Tina Renna with members of the Union Township Historical Society, Anita Centeno, Marie and Joseph Canarelli, Barbara and Dennis LaMort and Michael Yesenko.

NJ FOUNDATION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT

TO PRESENT

FREE SEMINAR

Tuesday, April 26 6:30 - 8:30 PM

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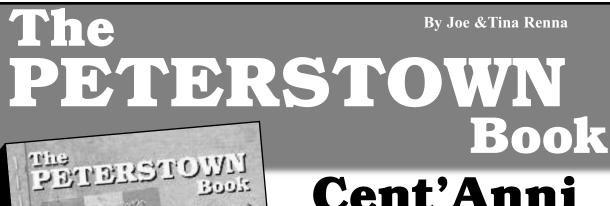
220 Walnut Ave. • Cranford, NJ Community Room Located on the First Floor

Join the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government (NJFOG) the evening of April 26, 2016 for a discussion of the state's open public records and meetings laws.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the laws that provide public access to government meetings and documents and that allow citizens greater insight into the operations of state and local governments in New Jersey.

The seminar is free and open to everyone, so please help us spread the word and feel free to bring your questions on April 26. Handouts and light refreshments will be provided.

Please let us know you will be attending by registering via email to info@njfog.org.



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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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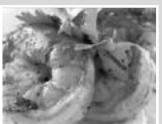
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