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UNION 9/11 CEREMONY TO BE HELD SEPT. 9TH

The Township of Union will be recognizing the 15th anniversary of the September 11th attacks on the U.S. with a remembrance ceremony on September 9th at 7:00pm in front of town hall, located at 1976 Morris Ave in Union.

"This year is a significant one," said Mayor Manuel Figueiredo. "The generation of children who were born that year are finally coming of age and can understand the significance and the everlasting impact of what happened that day."

Nine residents of Union were lost in the attacks:

- Bella Bhukhan
- Brian Goldberg
- Edward Calderon
- Robert Hepburn
- Khalid Mohammad Shahid
- Wing-Wai Ching
- Charles Karczewski
- Thomas Fisher
- Wayne Russo

The ceremony seeks to honor their lives and the lives of all those who perished on 9/11 and, in addition, signify the passing along of the duty of keeping their memories alive to the next generation of Union residents.

"These men and women were our neighbors, our friends, and members of our families. We owe it to them to always keep their spirits alive and never let their deaths have been in vain," Figueiredo said.

For additional information on the 9/11 remembrance ceremony please contact Natalie Pineiro, Public Information Officer, Township of Union at 908-851-5096 or via email at npineiro@uniontownship.com



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UFD'S SPURR HONORED FOR EMT EXCELLENCE

Chief Thomas Byrne described Union Fire Department Captain Steven Spurr as a "model EMT" when he presented his colleague with a 2016 EMT Excellence Award on behalf of Overlook Medical Center in Summit.

Appointed to the Township of Union Fire Department on Feb. 1, 1990, Spurr was promoted to lieutenant on Jan. 13, 2004, and to captain on Oct. 7, 2008. During his career, Byrne noted, Spurr has been assigned to countless fires and emergencies throughout the township and surrounding communities, and received honors including a Group Award after a motor vehicle crash that involved a fire and entrapment on Route 22 in 2013, two Unit Awards for actions bringing credit to the fire service in 2007 and 2008, and The Heroism and Community Service Award from Firehouse Magazine. In addition, as an ambulance squad callman, Spurr earned a Meritorious Award for assisting in the rescue of a victim at a house fire on Burnett Avenue in Union in 1988.

Spurr and his wife Vicki have two sons, Ian and Nolan. In addition to Spurr's service to the UFD, Byrne noted, the captain is also a state-certified paramedic who "personally delivers compassionate patient care, using his knowledge and experience to provide comfort to his patients. Steve also helped to initiate and author our EMS Standard Operating Procedure and led the way for the Union Fire Department to implement the Confined Space Rescue Program." It is due to the officer's expertise in the EMS field, according to Byrne, that "Steve has been appointed as the EMS chairman to the New Jersey State FMBA," the Firefighters' Mutual Benevolent Association.

"As chairman," said Byrne, "he offers expert

advice on all state and federal issues that affect local and fire-based EMS, coordinates continuing EMS education for FMBA members and works with the New Jersey State FMBA Legislative Committee on legislation regarding EMS." Byrne said he feels there is "no candidate more qualified and deserving than Steve to receive the Overlook EMT Excellence Award, not only for his contributions to the EMS program at the Union Fire Department but also for his dedication and service to the entire local and state-wide EMS community."



(above) Captain Steven Spurr of the Union Fire Department has been honored with a 2016 EMT Excellence Award from Overlook Medical in Summit. He received a plaque presented to him by the department's chief, Thomas Byrne.

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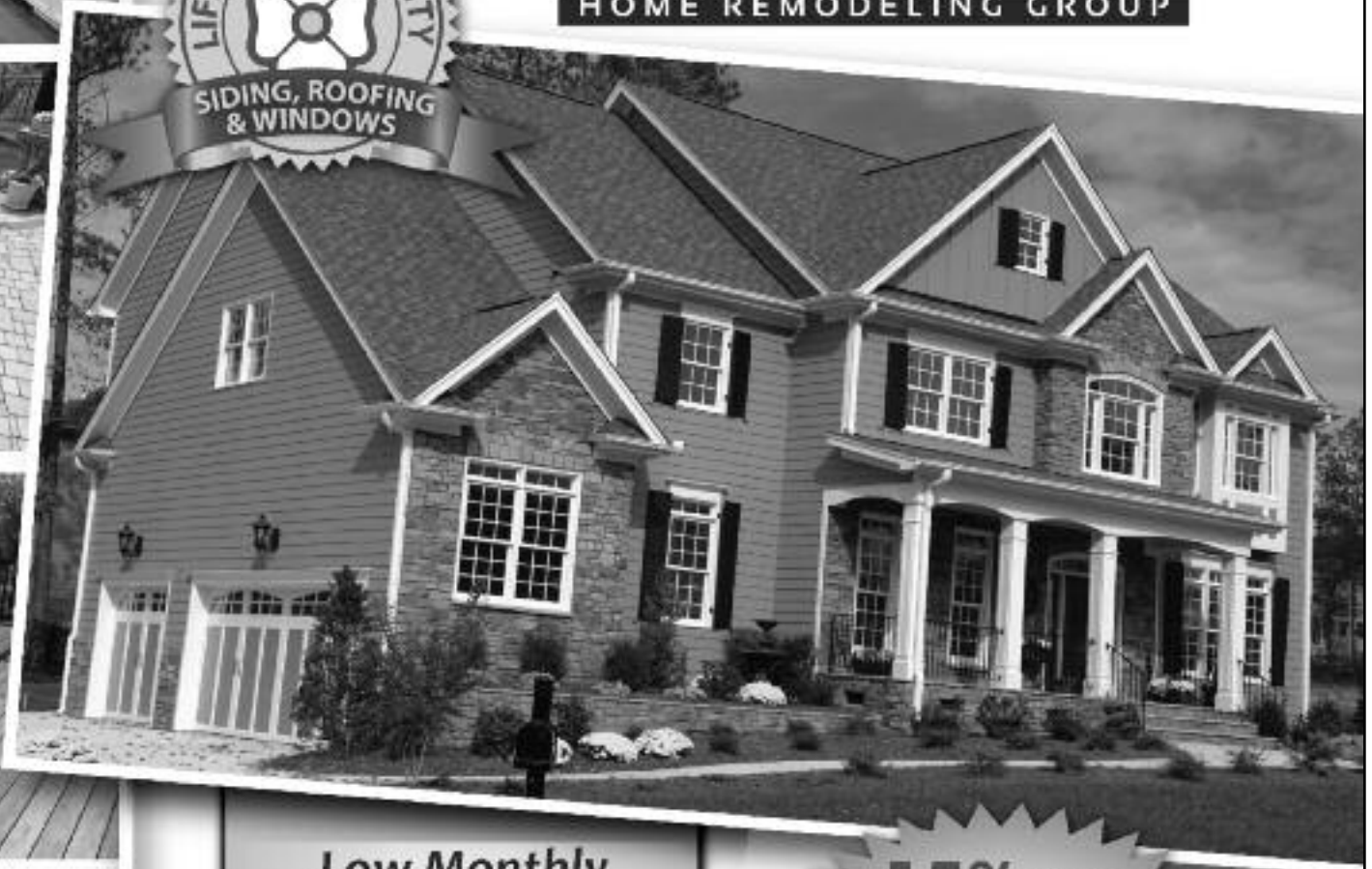


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“MADE IN UNION” BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

The presentation, “Made in Union,” by Tom Beisler and Tom Haggerty last April was such a rousing success that the two trustees of the Union Township Historical Society have been asked to reprise their program at the Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Avenue, on Thursday, September 22, at 7 pm.

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; Melovino, the state’s first and only meadery; 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 is free and open to the public. Smarties candies, which are “Made in Union,” will be served. Elevator access is available. For additional information, please call 908-851-5450 or visit www.uplnj.org.

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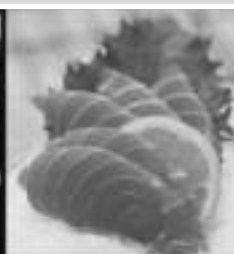
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NESTLÉ, BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS “GOLD MEDAL GAMES” TO UNION COUNTY

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County and Nestlé joined together recently to host a “Gold Medal Games” Fitness Competition as part of the #Nestlé150for150 National Day of Service, which brought together thousands of employees to more than 150 community events across the country to celebrate Nestlé’s 150th birthday. More than 60 local kids and teens from Union County and 20 Nestlé employee volunteers participated, encouraging Club members to seek their inner champion through physical fitness activities and positive competition.

“What a great day! Our members had fun and learned the importance of physical activity and setting goals,” said Russell Triolo, Chief

Executive Officer. “Thank you to the team from Nestlé for organizing and hosting this event.”

The Gold Medal Games included Putt-Putt Challenge, Volleyball, Free Throw, Beach Volleyball, 50 meter Dash, Torch Relay, Long Jump and Shot Put. Individual scores and times for each age level were recorded and leaders were acknowledged.

Employees from Nestlé volunteered to make the day perfect, assisting with each activity and cheering on members. Following the games, everyone enjoyed a team lunch hosted by Nestlé. Kevin Shipp, Customer Sales Director for Nestlé USA, presented members with a Certificate of Participation and Recognition.

“There’s no better way to celebrate our 150th anniversary than helping build healthier communities where we live and work,” said Shipp. “Our volunteers had a great time helping Union County kids and teens learn about health and physical fitness - and have some fun along the way!”

This special-edition of the Nestlé-sponsored National Fitness Competition is part of a national partnership between Nestlé and Boys & Girls Clubs of America that helps Club kids and teens set and achieve tangible, short-term fitness goals to help them develop the ability, confidence and desire to be physically active for life.

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THREE MAYORS CUT RIBBON FOR EL LECHON DE NEGRON IN UNION

Spirit of UNION • Page 7 • September 2016

The mayors of three towns, Carl A. Hokanson of Roselle Park, Manuel T. Figueiredo of Union, and Chris Bollwage of Elizabeth, were on hand in January 2016 to cut the ribbon of a new restaurant in Union, New Jersey, el Lechon de Negrón. The restaurant is located at 1331 Maggie Avenue close to where the three towns meet.

The restaurant serves authentic Puerto Rican cuisine. Owners Vincenzo Soldano and his fiancée Tiffany Negrón are hands on in the kitchen. Tiffany has been in the food business for four years when she opened up her own food truck and catered to the workers during their lunch breaks. Her business grew and she has a full calendar of events that she caters, from



private parties to corporate events, specializing in pig roasts. Tiffany stresses that they are “more than just pork” though. She never hesitates to cater a special order of any cuisine.

Residents of the three neighboring towns can call 908-577-6229 for take out and el Lechon de Negrón will deliver.

(left) el lechon de negron's food truck available for special events and private parties.

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(above, l-r) Vincenzo Soldano, Mayor of Roselle Park - Carl A. Hokanson, Mayor of Union - Manuel T. Figueiredo, Tiffany Negrón, Mayor of Elizabeth - Chris Bollwage



(clockwise, from top) Vincenzo Soldano, Tiffany's sister Stacie Olmo, Tiffany Negrón and her father Manuel Negrón.

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As part of this collaboration, the Union Public Library now has full access to the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service and can download books and magazines to use with

the free digital audiobook player provided by the TBBC. BARD is provided by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a division of the U.S. Library of Congress.

Our partnership with the TBBC, only the third in Union County, will expand the services of the Talking Book and Braille Center and enable our library to reach a currently underserved population. The BARD downloading process may pose a challenge to some users, so this pilot project allows librarians to provide local assistance with demonstrating the simple and easy to use audiobook player, as well as downloading material for those registered with the TBBC program

For more information, please call the Union Public Library at 908-851-5450 x 2. The Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083.

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UNITY DAY TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 18TH

By: Jason Krychiw

With all of the tragedies and social strife going on around the country, it is easy to be pessimistic and negative about the future of human relations, community, and equality on a national level. In times like these, however, it is imperative that we come together in order to start the conversations that can one day become the solutions to these problems. This is especially true locally.

What is the name of the town we live in? What is the name written on the badges of police, across the fronts of our schools, and on our municipal building? Union. Issues like the ones going on now all start at the local level and are about unity. That is the namesake of our town. Look at all the racial and cultural diversity here. Go to Union Center and you can get Italian, Filipino, Thai, and Portuguese food all within a block of each other. When I graduated from Union High School in 2008, my graduating class was about one-third, black, one-third white, and one-third Hispanic. Look at all the events the police have done and continue to do to help our town and our residents. Union is what the rest of America aspires to be like.

When people become frustrated and feel as if their voices aren't being heard, they feel like they have to shout, rally, and protest to get their points across. However, this shouting can lead to arguing and that arguing can lead to division. In

times like these, we need unity most of all. That is why as a town and residents who care about this town, we are hosting a Unity Day Picnic right here in Union. An event put on by the people, for the people, meant to bring this town even closer together. Many of us are so proud of the diverse, welcoming, strong community we call home, so let's make this a day for our residents, our businesses, and especially our law enforcement to appreciate and strengthen our relationships throughout. There is no easy solution to national issues like these, but to even begin to solve them, communities like ours have to be the example. No place is perfect, but by coming together, by being united, and by getting to know each other as friends, neighbors, and fellow Unionites, we can be that example to the rest of the surrounding towns, the state, and the country. It is on us to carry the torch for change and progress. Small steps lead to big ones and this is not just an announcement for a singular event, this is an announcement for the start of something big.

Please join us September 18th in Rabkin Park, 2-7 p.m. In case of rain in the forecast the event will be held on October 2nd, same time and location. For more information please contact Jason Krychiw at jkrychiw@yahoo.com or Holly Schneider at hollyaschneider1981@gmail.com and 908-821-5334.



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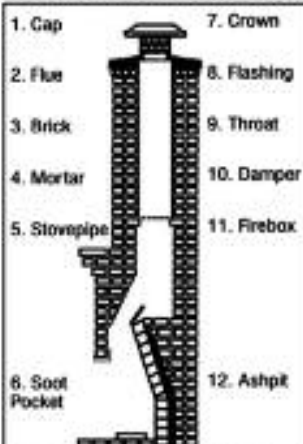
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YMCA PROVIDES OPEN HOUSE IN SUPPORT OF WELCOMING WEEK, SEPTEMBER 16 - 25

THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA SUPPORTS 7TH GRADE STUDENTS WITH FREE MEMBERSHIPS

The Gateway Family YMCA provides free memberships for all 7th Grade students as part of the NJ YMCA 7th Grade Initiative, a state-wide program designed to support and encourage teens to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Providing services for Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County, The Gateway Family YMCA has branches in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union, NJ. 7th Grade students from the surrounding areas are invited to visit the YMCA and sign up for this complimentary membership.

The goal of the 7th Grade Initiative is to increase physical activity and support teens in the development of lifetime healthy habits while providing a safe and supportive environment at the YMCA. "We recognize that 7th grade is a pivotal time in youth development, where sports become more competitive and many teens begin to become less active," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA. "We believe in providing these students with a positive environment, where healthy habits can be learned and reinforced, where new friendships can be made, and where positive programs and role models are part of the daily routine," added Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO.

Students within Eastern Union County and Northern Middlesex County are invited to visit The Gateway Family YMCA with a parent/guardian and proof of grade to sign up for the free membership. Students are invited to participate in programs and services offered by the YMCA, and are provided with a complimentary Full Privilege membership including health and wellness options, swimming, group exercise, as well as teen programs. "Our goal is to provide support for 7th grade students, allowing them to strengthen healthy behaviors, increase activity, gain a better understanding of nutrition and the importance of continuing these habits into their adult lives," stated Thomas Galuppo, Director of Healthy Living, Five Points Branch.

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA or the 7th Grade Initiative, please visit www.tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch at 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch at 908-688-9622, or Rahway Branch at 732-388-0057.

The Gateway Family YMCA will celebrate Welcoming Week, September 16th – 25th by hosting an open house at branches in Elizabeth, Rahway and Union, NJ. Welcoming Week is an annual celebration bringing together thousands of people at local events that celebrate the contributions of immigrants and refugees and the role each community plays to foster greater welcome. The Gateway Family YMCA is joining Welcoming America, a leading movement of inclusive communities making everyone who lives there feel like they belong, in hosting events to celebrate diverse communities.

"The Gateway Family YMCA's participation in Welcoming Week through an open house and activities shows that in our community, people of all backgrounds are coming together to create stronger, more prosperous communities. We are proud to be a part of Welcoming Week, demonstrating that in places large and small, rural and urban, people are coming together to create stronger communities," stated Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA.

Throughout the week of September 16th – 25th, The Gateway Family YMCA is opening its

doors to the community and providing activities to welcome everyone into the Y. For details on events at a specific branch, visit www.tgfymca.org. "Welcoming Week is a time to celebrate the values that unite us as neighbors, parents and colleagues, and to make our towns more welcoming to newcomers and to everyone who calls our community home," added Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO.

"These celebrations are part of a powerful and growing movement in our country and around the world," said David Lubell, Founder and Executive Director of Welcoming America. "Communities recognize that they are more vibrant and prosperous when everyone feels welcomed and can fully participate. In events across the world this week, new and long-time residents are building bridges that make their communities stronger."

For more information about The Gateway Family YMCA or Welcoming Week activities, please visit www.tgfymca.org or contact the Elizabeth Branch at 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch at 908-688-9622, or Rahway Branch at 732-388-0057.

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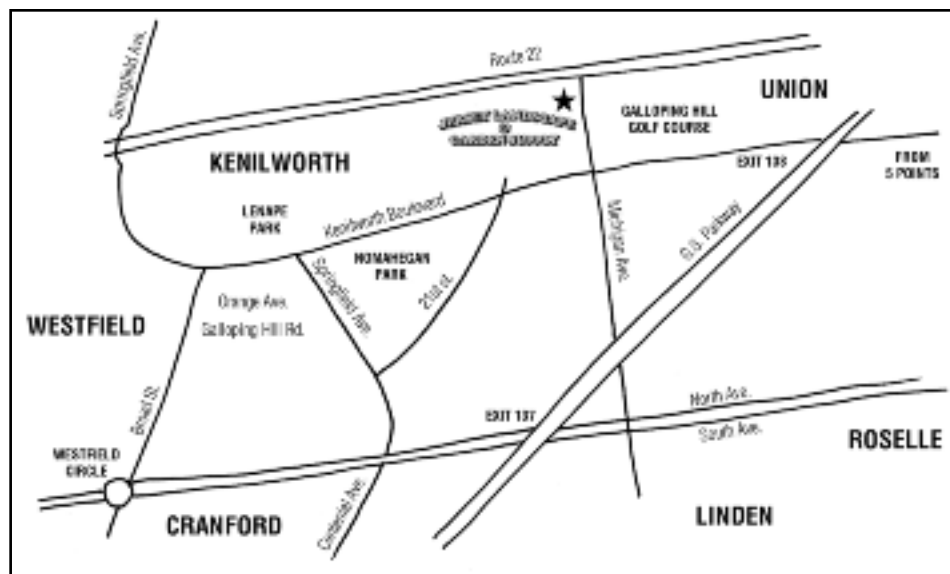
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