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Issue 86 • April 2017

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OSTAL INDEN,

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH RAHWAY RIVER CLEAN UP SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

Boy Scout Troop #330 and Cub Scout Pack #30, along with numerous community organizations including the Rahway River Watershed Association, Rahway and Clark Environmental Commissions, and local school clubs, will hold its annual Earth Day Rahway River clean-up on Saturday, April 22nd (rain date of April 23rd). This cleanup event has been conducted annually since the 1990's under the auspices of the Union County Adopt-a-Park program.

All volunteers are welcome to participate. No registration is required. Interested volunteers should meet at the parking area adjacent to the waterfall of the Rahway River by the dam at Winfield Park at 8:45 a.m. The clean-up will generally be between 9-1, but any amount of time or effort that folks can volunteer is appreciated. Anyone can participate! Scout, school, church, and civic groups are just some of the organizations that have participated in the past.

There is a large volume of debris and garbage to remove from the river banks and areas of the river's floodplain. This includes debris like shopping carts, tires, and of course floatables (cans, bottles, plastics, etc.).





(above) Last year, nearly 150 volunteers participated and removed tires, and a number of other large pieces of debris, and over 100 large bags of floatable debris and other wastes.

Union County supplies gloves and garbage bags, and material donations from generous individuals and companies (donuts, bagels, coffee, bottled water, paper towels, hand-wipes, etc) support the volunteers. Last year, nearly 150 volunteers participated and removed tires, and a number of other large pieces of debris, and over 100 large bags of floatable debris and other wastes.

This is a great way to celebrate Earth Day! If you haven't participated in an event like this before, you would find it invigorating, and you will feel good about what you are giving back to your community and the environment.

Everyone will be able to work with a team. Teams will be spread out to a number of locations within the park.

All participants should wear jeans, long-sleeved shirts, gloves and boots. Participants can bring a standard 5-gallon carry bucket with a handle (put your name on the bottom)...this makes for easy carrying of "stuff" for transfer to the large garbage bags. When we complete the event we do a basic inventory of the "big stuff" that we removed....and within approximately 24 hours Union County Parks removes and disposes of all the trash. If you need more information on this Earth Day event please feel free to drop an e-mail to rivercleanup@comcast.net.





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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Linden Chamber of Commerce assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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View, share and download photos of Linden events and others at

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Engineering	908-474-8470
Municipal Attorney	
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Planning Board	908-474-8453
Public Works	
Recycling	908-474-9567
Recreation	908-474-8600
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LINDEN FIREFIGHTERS COMPETE AT COOKED AND UNCORKED FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

On Monday, February 27, 2017, Linden firefighters joined together with firefighters from around New Jersey to compete in The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off, part of the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival. The event, sponsored by Allied Beverage Group, ShopRite, Bayonne Community Bank, and Autoland, benefited the New Jersey State Firefighter's Mutual Benevolent Association and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center. The Fire Department Cook-off is part of a culinary extravaganza where participants were able to experience the tastes and flavors of more than 40 of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers and dessert shops all in one location. This event, held at The Pines Manor in Edison, NJ, drew more than 900 people from across New Jersey. The Cooked and Uncorked event has provided The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center with over \$139,042 in the past 6 years.



(above l-r) Linden Fire Department team: Justin Brose, Joe Braxton, Tadji Braxton And Daryl Roberts.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Life in Linden page on facebook.com

Feel free to "Like", "Tag" and "Share".

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LINDEN'S FINEST & BRAVEST BATTLE TO BENEFIT LINDEN PAL

On Saturday, March 18th members of the Linden Police and Fire Department's set aside their "rivalry" and took to the basketball court in a charity game to benefit the Linden PAL. In front of a crowd of children, families, and elected officials, the two teams went back and forth in just the kind of hard-fought game one would expect. Although tied at halftime, it was the Firemen who ultimately won the game 32-26.

"This event was about coming together and having a good time for our kids" said Linden PAL Director and Police Officer Danny Kuczynski. "It is just one example of how the PAL works to

On Saturday, March 18th members of the build relationships among kids, emergency nden Police and Fire Department's set aside personnel, and the community in a positive setting."

The Linden Police Athletic League is a nonprofit organization started in 1952. It operates year round to give children ages 5-13 an opportunity to play basketball, T-ball, baseball, volleyball, and flag-football in a safe and supportive environment. Aside from Kuczynski the organization is run completely by volunteers, and Kuczynski credits them with the organization's success. "We could never do this without them" he said "They give so much of their time, and often times money, to these kids without expecting anything in return."

This game is the latest installment in the "Battle of the Badges" events hosted by the PAL. The events began with a flag football game started by Kuczynski xx years ago and has grown to include a softball game and basketball game. "We are happy to provide an opportunity for the kids to get to know our Emergency Responders in a positive and fun way" said Kuczynski.

For more information about the Linden PAL, including how to volunteer or donate, please follow them on Facebook and Instagram.





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Evelyn Burnett Marchione

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Linden has been chosen Linden's 41st Annual Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year. This award is bestowed annually by the Linden "Knitt

Department of Public Property and Community Services Recreation Division upon the Senior Citizen who displayed the most exceptional service to the Community.

All Linden residents are invited to attend the celebration honoring Evelyn on Friday, May 5, 2017 at 1:00pm, 330 Helen Street, Linden. Refreshments will be served.

Evelyn moved to Linden from Staten Island in December 1997 when she married Pasquale Marchione, her second husband. Her first husband Frederick Burnett died in 1972 and Evelyn became a single parent concentrating her efforts on raising her two sons, Robert and Peter, and career.

Evelyn retired from the Unified Court System of New York with 22 years of service working for three different judges.

Some organizations Evenlyn has volunteered for include AARP Chapter 1894, Ladies Thursday Senior Friendship Club, Linden Retired Mens/Women's Club, Tremley Point Seniors

Evelyn Burnett Marchione, a resident of Club. She also assisted in instituting the volunteer nden has been chosen Linden's 41st Annual Telephone squad.

EVELYN BURNETT MARCHIONE NAMED 2017

OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Last but not least, is Evelyn's pride and joy, the "Knitting and Crocheting for a Cause Group". Evelyn was approached by the staff of the JTG Recreation Center in December of 2006 to launch this club. She embarked on the journey starting with a handful of women and growing to 32 talented women ranging in ages of 50-95 years of age. They have volunteered so much time and simply thousands of homespun goods inclusive of lap blankets, chemo hats, baby hats and blankets to the various hospitals, hospices, nursing homes and new babies in Union County during the past ten years.

You might also see Evenlyn around her neighborhood tending to elderly neighbors in the form of looking in on them, shopping for them and taking them to church or doctor appointments, when asked. She has even shoveled snow from neighbors' sidewalks.

One can well comprehend that together with her leadership abilities, the above accomplishments point to a woman worthy of the title of 41st Outstanding Linden Senior Citizen of the Year.



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Lunch 11am	[,] 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30p	m • 10:30pn
Adult	\$7.99	Adult	\$11.59
Kids 7-10	\$5.99	Kids 7-10	\$6.99
Kids 3-6		Kids 3-6	\$5.99
2 & Under			

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8:30AM - 10:00AM THE LINDEN LIBRARY

31 East Henry Street, Linden. The meetings are free and the public is welcomed. **Please R.S.V.P. by calling 908-352-0900**



"KIDS TO PAWS DAY" TO BE CELEBRATED AT WILSON PARK

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017 12:00 PM TO 4:00 PM Please join Mayor Derek Armstead, The Mayor's Youth Commission, Linden Public Property & Community Services

FOR A FREE FAMILY FUN-FILLED DAY OF OUTDOOR PLAY & EVENTS!

There will be Games, Fishing, Contests, Prizes and Give-A-Ways!!! Hot Dogs, Chips & Water Will Be Available 1st Come 1st Serve Ages Pre-K - 8th Grade But All Family Members are Encouraged to Come Out Enjoy Our Park the Fresh Air & Community



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CHAMBER'S CAREER BLUEPRINT EVENT HELD

The Workforce Education Committee of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce recently hosted the 19th Annual Business & Education Partnership Breakfast. The event drew 100 businesses, educators and students from throughout Union County.

The chamber's Workforce Education Committee comprises representatives from the business community, education, community organizations and the military. The committee develops relationships between chamber businesses and education institutions in Union County that will foster a well-qualified future work force and supports the training and development of employees. The annual breakfast is its signature event and this year had the theme of building the Career Blueprint.

"The message we want to communicate to the educators and students who attended is that to be successful in defining a career, the most important thing is to have good life skills," said Jim Coyle, chamber president. "More than anything life skills will enable them to go where they want to go."

Coyle hosted a panel discussion that featured Veronica Sanchez-Rico, nurse coordinator at Trinitas Regional Medical Center; Rob Leslie, owner of Computer Solutions Unlimited; and Filipe Agostinho, owner of Filipe Custom Woodwork, Inc.

Sanchez-Rico told the audience she decided to go into nursing later in life, earning her nursing degree after having three children and starting her career in retail. She said both education and life skills are essential for a successful career.

"No matter what anyone ever does to you, they can never take away your education and life skills," she said. "Always try to be the best at what you do and never stay stagnant."

Leslie told the audience he learned his trade while serving in the Marines and that continual learning is the key to his success as a business owner.

"I don't spend all day working," he said. "I spend all day trying to learn. The nighttime I spend studying. Before my head hits the pillow, I try to learn one new thing. At the end of the week I've learned seven new things. At the end of the month I've learned 30 new things."

Agostinho shared how he opened his first woodworking business at the age of 18 while growing up in Portugal and later emigrated to the United States, where he learned English on the job and by watching cartoons.

When he and the other panelists were asked by a high school counselor whether higher education is worth the cost when considering how many college graduates have difficulty finding work in their chosen field, Agostinho told the story of an intern he trained who now earns more than \$100,000 per year as a woodworking designer.

"There are a lot of professions where you can make good money without a college education," he said. "If you go to college, also get work experience, even through unpaid internships."

All three panelists agreed that the three life skills most important to a successful career are trust, dependability and likability.

The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce has over 1,200 members and comprises 12 regional and local chambers including Clark, Linden, and Kenilworth. To learn more visit gatewaychamber.com.



(above) The attendees of the 19th Annual Business & Education Partnership Breakfast.





See above display and others at www.cambridgepavers.com



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BRIAN VIEIRA ACHIEVES EAGLE SCOUT RANK

Catherine Vieira of Linden, has achieved Boy Scouting's highest rank, that of Eagle Scout.

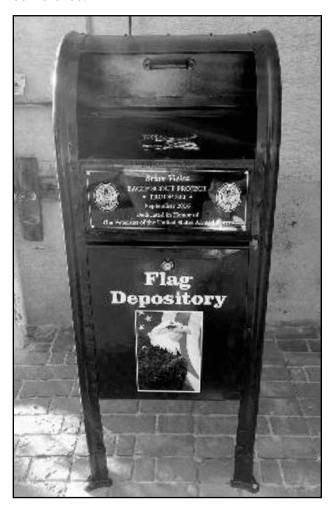
For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Brian coordinated a work crew to clear brush and beautify the VFW Post# 7363 Clark, NJ and he also installed a Flag Retirement drop box and plantings and retaining walls. Under his direction, scouts and adult volunteers completed the project.

Brian has been involved in Scouting for 11 years and is a member of Boy Scout Troop 330,



(above) Brian Vieira is a Senior at Union County Magnet High School in Scotch Plains. He reached his goal of Eagle on October 24, 2016 and received his Eagle badge recently during a Court of Honor Ceremony on February 12, 2017. Brian will be attending college in the Fall.

Brian Daniel Vieira, son of Sergio and sponsored by St. John the Apostle Church in Linden under the leadership of Scoutmaster Fredy Reyes. Brian began his scouting career as a Wolf Cub in Den 5, Pack 30 and continued through Cub scouting to achieve the highest award, the Arrow of Light. As a member of Troop 330, Brian has held several leadership positions including Den Chief, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. He has earned 31 merit badges. Brian attended and participated in the National Youth Leadership Training conference.



(above) For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Brian coordinated a work crew to clear brush and beautify the VFW Post# 7363 Clark, NJ and he also installed a Flag Retirement drop box and plantings and retaining walls. Under his direction, scouts and adult volunteers completed the project.



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LINDEN SCHOOL NO. 8 SHAMROCKIN MATH

at School No. 8:

What do you get when you add math content together with games, divided into four fun March 9, 2017.

Here's a math riddle for you from your friends stations, and multiplied by food, families, and live music for all?... Answer: ... You get School 8's "Shamrockin' Math Night," which was held



(above) Linden Police Officers Raul Jordan & Adam Mikolajczyk work with Layla Safner of School No. 8 at the Shake Shack station. School No. 8 families were challenged to build the tallest structure they could using paper cups and craft sticks. Amazing structures, such as the one pictured here, were created and then measured using yard sticks and measuring tapes. The next step was to compare the heights of their Shake Shack with the heights of the other Shake Shacks at their tables. Families were eager to increase the heights of their towers so that they were able to claim the bragging rights as the builder of "School 8's Tallest Shake Shack"! School No. 8 Shake Shacks seemed to defy gravity!

11 CRITICAL HOME INSPECTION TRAPS TO BE AWARE OF WEEKS BEFORE LISTING YOUR HOME FOR SALE

Linden NJ - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.njhomeinspectiontraps.com or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-243-5861 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

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LIFE in LINDEN • Page 12 • April 2017



SCHOOL NO. 4 READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

School #4 appreciate what parents and community members have done to celebrate the National Education Association's (NEA) Read Across America observance. This year marks the eighteenth annual celebration of reading and Dr. Seuss's birthday aimed to encourage children to pick up books and read. Many community members, including Mayor Armstead, members of the Linden Police Department, and a host of parents put aside the many hats they wear and

(above) Linden Police Captain Dave Hart sat in the class reading rocking chair in Carol Cetroni's 2nd grade class.

The administration, faculty and staff of Linden donned the ultimate hat of reading; the red and white striped stovepipe made famous by the Cat in the Hat, and served as guest readers throughout the school. Students were also immersed in various author studies throughout the month of February, highlighting the works of many famous authors of children's books. School #4 concluded the day with a "Drop Everything and Read" time where students, administration, staff members and teachers filled the hallways and read silently together. When we work together as a community both young and old to encourage our children to read, we bring. Dr. Seuss' quote to life, "the more you read, the more you know, the more you know, the more places you'll go."





(above) School No. 4 thanks the Linden Police Department for reading.

(above) The students welcomed Mayor Derek Armstead to School No. 4. Mayor Armstead read his favorite Dr. Suess book Please Try to Remember the First of Octember!









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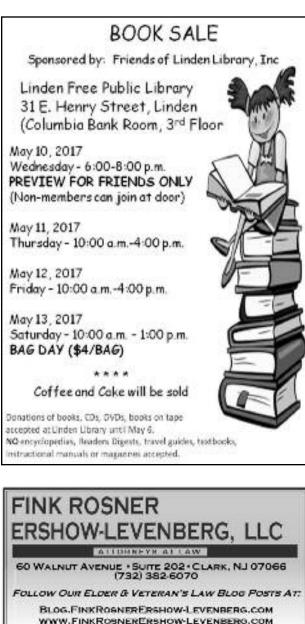
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LINDEN POLICE TO PARTICIPATE IN **UDRIVE. UTEXT. UPAY. CAMPAIGN**

down on distracted drivers as they join Law Enforcement Officers from across New Jersey in the UDrive. UText. UPay. Enforcement campaign.

Beginning April 1 and running through April 21, the high visibility law enforcement initiative will target motorists who engage in dangerous distracted driving behaviors such as talking on hand-held cell phones and sending text messages while driving.

"Distracted driving is a serious issue on our roadways," said Gary Poedubicky, Acting Director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. "The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that in 2014 alone, 3,179 people were killed in distracted driving crashes and an estimated 431,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver."

Despite the fact that using a hand held cell phone or texting while driving is illegal in New Jersey, the practice appears to be widespread. In a recent survey conducted by the FDU

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The Linden Police Department will crack PublicMind Poll for the Division of Highway Traffic Safety, 67% of respondents said they "very often" see people driving and talking on a hand held cell phone. 42% of respondents said they "very often" see driver's texting.

"We have all seen a car swerving while the driver is using a mobile phone" said Lt. Michael Babulski, Commander of the Linden Police Traffic Bureau. "It is the single most dangerous factor in motor vehicle crashes today." The enforcement of this is something that we take very seriously in Linden, and we recently established an aggressive traffic enforcement unit to specifically target distracted driving and other violations along the Route 1 Corridor in the hopes of reducing crashes."

The campaign is being carried out during the month of April, which the National Safety Council has designated as Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The New Jersey campaign is modeled after similar successful high visibility enforcement programs such as Click It or Ticket and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.



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HEARING SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Hearing Society is pleased to announce that it is currently accepting applications to its Sarah H. McGhee and Katherine Schmidt Memorial Scholarship funds for the school year 2017-2018.

These scholarships provide financial assistance to high school graduates who have documented hearing loss and have been accepted into accredited two-year colleges or vocational schools (\$2,000) or four-year colleges or



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presents Circus Mini Bowling Party Room! universities (\$4,000). A special characteristic of these awards is that they are renewable for one to three years for the student providing satisfactory grades are maintained.

Application forms are available on request by contacting Mrs. P. Hanigan, Scholarship Chairperson, 1213 Wyoming Avenue, Mountainside, NJ 07092, or by phoning her at 908 232 4512 (voice). Applications must be submitted no later than May 19, 2017.

The Hearing Society is a not-for-profit organization that has served people with hearing impairments in Union County since 1932. The society also sponsors a class in speech (lip) reading at the First Baptist Church in Westfield, and welcomes interested people from the area to attend.

For more information about the Society, contact Alice Knecht, 908-688-8241 (voice), or online at alirobkn@aol.com.

SCOUTING ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Remember that fellow Scouter you knew from all those Boy Scout, Cub Scout, Venture Crew, Sea Scout Crew, Sabattis, Philmont or Summit camping trips or from all those Order of the Arrow, service and Eagle projects or from working on planning and running all those Scouting events but with whom you lost touch over the years? There is a great likelihood that they will be attending this Alumni event sponsored by Patriots' Path Council.

If you want to recapture all those great memories from "back in the day when...," you need to be at the Garden Restaurant on Wednesday, April 19 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm by registering online at: ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2045647 before Monday, April 17.

Program will include presentations on 2017 Alumni events, such as the Alumni National Jamboree and an Alumni trip, recognition of Veteran Scouters and Silver Beaver Award recipients and a Collector's Patch sale. There is no charge for this Fellowship Dinner, yet there will be door prizes, a drawing for a free spot on the May 20 Alumni trip to Philadelphia and a great Patriots' Path Council Alumni Shoulder Patch for all attendees.

For more information, please register online or contact Mary Lynne Capen at 973–765–9222 x241 or marylynnecapen@scouting.org.

WORKSHOP FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

It's the American dream – having your own business, being your own boss, setting your own hours....But before you take the plunge (or before you get in too deep in a business that you just started), you need to do some serious selfreflection and homework.

That's why UCEDC, a statewide economic development corporation, is offering an intensive six-week workshop for start-up businesses (those in the idea/planning phase or in operation less than a year). The next session of Entrepreneurship 101 is scheduled for Thursday evenings (6:00 - 9:00 pm), May 4 – June 8, 2017

at UCEDC's headquarters in Cranford, NJ.

"Being a business owner is hard work and this workshop is equally demanding," says Erich Peter, UCEDC's Director of Training. "But we're going to work with you both in and outside of the classroom to make sure that the class material is relevant to your specific needs. And, we stick with our graduates for 12 months, providing free mentoring and counseling services."

Registration is now open for Entrepreneurship 101. Complete information can be found on the UCEDC website at www.ucedc.com or by calling 908-527-1166.

PROGRAM

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- 3. Sign-up (one parent must sign-up for a small package \$8.00 per month).

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4. Register to bowl free all summer

Kids Bowl Vip is a summer bowling program allowing your kids to bowl for free every day



BAYWAY REFINERY RECEIVES LINDEN FMBA "BUSINESS SERVICE AWARD"

Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery received the "Business Service Award" at the Linden FMBA Locals #34 and #234 Retirement and Valor Awards Banquet held recently. This award is presented to a business whose actions support the goals and philosophies of the FMBA and whose actions prove to be an asset to the Linden Fire Department and the City of Linden.

Linden Fire Chief, Joseph Dooley, presented the award honoring Hope Gray, Dave Dolnick, Jeff Merrill, Nancy Sadlon, and Mary Phillips for continued support of Linden Fire Department – consistent with Phillips 66's values of Safety, Honor, and Commitment. He noted there has been a significant difference in the support and collaborative efforts between Linden Fire Department and Bayway Refinery since Phillips 66 became the owners of Bayway.

Jeff Merrill accepted the award on behalf of

Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery. In addition to thanking the organization, Jeff noted: "For decades the Bayway Refinery has maintained a very strong relationship with the City of Linden, and we have also enjoyed the same relationship with the Linden Fire Department. When it comes to community safety and preparedness, fire prevention, education, training or emergency response, or the addition of resources which benefit the citizens of Linden, Chief Dooley knows he can count on Bayway's support, and I know we can count on his if needed as well." Jeff also congratulated the Linden Fire Department's Valor Award recipients and thanked these brave individuals for their service. Also attending the event supporting our Bayway honorees were: Patti Murgo, Kathy Merrill, Tony Muccia and Gina Muccia.



(above l-r) Hope Gray, Bayway Refinery Health, Safety & Environmental Manager; Dave Dolnick, Bayway Refinery Process Safety, Emergency Response & Security Team Lead; Jeff Merrill, Bayway Refinery Fire Chief; Nancy Sadlon, Bayway Refinery Public Affairs Manager; Tony Muccia, Bayway Refinery Health & Safety Specialist; Joseph Dooley, Linden Fire Chief. (Not pictured, Mary Phillips, Bayway Refinery Community Relations Coordinator).













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EXPLORE SUMMER CAMP AT THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA OPEN HOUSE

Summer Camp keeps youth moving, learning and exploring

The Gateway Family YMCA is gearing up for a summer of fun with the theme, "Once Upon a Summer", 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 April 29 12-3pm and May 16 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, as well as a multi-sibling rate for families. 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. Optional specialty 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 the world around them. 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 summer learning loss and gain weight twice as fast than during the school year. Attending summer camp at The Gateway Family YMCA is a memorable opportunity for kids to keep their minds and bodies active throughout the summer months.

"Attending summer day camp at the Y is a growth experience that every child should have an opportunity to experience, which is why our YMCA is dedicated to providing assistance to those in need in our community," says Krystal R. Canady, CEO of The Gateway Family YMCA. "In our day camp, kids are in a welcoming environment with caring role models, where they can belong, build relationships, develop character, discover their potential and achieve personal goals. We encourage parents to give their kids the gift of camp so that every child can benefit from the unique and beneficial 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. Through summer camp, the Y is helping to combat childhood obesity, summer learning loss and food insecurity.

For information, visit more 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.

LINDEN RESIDENT BECOMES CASA VOLUNTEER

Union County Superior Court Judge James Hely administered oaths to 16 community members on March 20, 2017 — among them Lucia Menyou Rocha of Linden — who stepped up to volunteer as extra eyes and ears for Family Court judges on cases involving Union County's abused, neglected or abandoned children now placed in foster care.

The new child advocates completed 30 hours in a new, flexible training option that comprises fewer in-person sessions than the traditional session, but incorporates an online learning component for scheduling flexibility. After the new advocates took their oath and received a commemorative CASA pin and certificate, they gathered with staff and board members for a celebratory luncheon, during which they were matched to their new case.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds make successful advocates and this class is no exception: Advocates range in age from 21 to 81; are parents and non-parents; recent retirees and students; and careers include business professionals, a teacher, nurse, attorney and

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professor; as well as homemakers. Languages spoken include Spanish, Chinese, Ukrainian and German. Most have no prior knowledge of the foster system.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as time spent with the youth. Volunteers advocate both in the community and court to ensure their youth's needs are met and their time in care is as short as possible. There are 600 Union County children currently in foster care and CASA of Union County serves approximately one-third; its mission is to provide an advocate for every foster child that needs one.

For details on future trainings,

- contact Courtney at 908-527-7045
- or cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org.

To inquire about other ways to support CASA of Union County, contact Executive Director Marla Higginbotham at 908-527-7041 or marlah@casaofunioncounty.org.



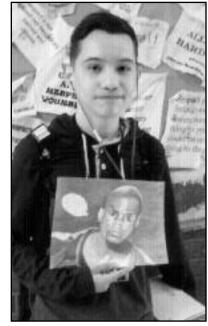
LINDEN RECREATION ANNOUNCES 2017 BLACK HISTORY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS





(above) Nicole DelCarmen Lopez, 9th Grade winner. She drew Whoopi Goldberg for the theme Black American Comedians.

(above) Merivs Fils-Aime 12th Grade winner.



(above) Thomas Guzman, 10th Grade winner. His drawing is of Kevin Hart for the theme Black American Comedians.

JAZZ FESTIVAL TO BENEFIT ST. JOSEPH SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER - APRIL 29

Service Center - April 29

A one night Jazz Festival to benefit St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2017, 8 p.m., Union Catholic High School Auditorium located at 1600 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ.

This event is a jam-packed evening of high quality jazz entertainment, presented by five musicians and three singers, all of whom are outstanding talents in jazz," America's music." Consider buying your tickets soon, supporting both live jazz and a most worthy non-profit organization...and treating yourself to a wonderful evening of entertainment. The show will be approximately two hours, not including the intermission. General admission is \$25, Premium Ticket is \$40.

Tickets can only be obtained through Brown Paper Tickets. Order online (AOneNightJazzFestival.brownpapertickets.com) or by phone (1-800-838-3006 Ext. 1), and pay by credit card or PayPal. You can receive your tickets by the method of your choice: physical tickets by mail, printable file emailed to you to print out, through mobile devices, or will-call (held at the gate.)

Brown Paper Tickets offers live sales and support 24/7 for ticket buyers. (They offer to send



Jazz Festival to benefit St. Joseph Social reminders, assist in finding the venue if the need arises, or offer to help in any way possible.) For questions about the show or the performers, email Bob at fairwayproductions@att.net.

> If you care to inquire about becoming a sponsor of the event, contact Phil Michel at pmichel@sjeliz.org.

To make a donation to support the work of St. Joseph's www.sjeliz.org. Please do not call St. Joseph's or Union Catholic High School for show tickets or information.

Tickets at the door, if still available, are the same price. Cash only, please. The doors open at 7:15 pm.

ABOUT ST. JOSEPH'S SERVICE CENTER

Since 1983, St. Joseph's has served the materially poor and homeless community of greater Elizabeth, New Jersey, by providing basic human needs such as food, clothing and medications, as well as a wide range of services and programs to help them acquire the material goods and social services they need to live with integrity. St. Joseph's is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.

If you're interested in learning more, donating, or joining our team of volunteer superheroes, please visit us at www.sjeliz.org or send us an email: info@sjeliz.org.





(above) Aaron Hauser, 10th Grade winner.

RUMMAGE SALE AT REFORMED CHURCH

The Women Together of the Reformed Church of Linden, 600 North Wood Avenue, will hold a Rummage Sale on Friday, April 28, 2017 from 1-4pm and Saturday April 29, 2017 from 9:am to 12:00 Noon. There will be men's, women's and children's clothing, toys, books, shoes, pocketbooks and a huge assortment of all kinds of household goods.

If you have any questions or would like to donate any items to the church please call 908-486-3714.

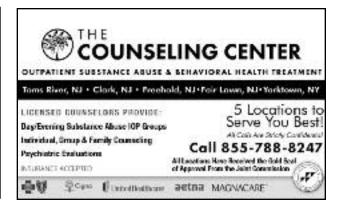
COFFEE HOUSE April 22nd 2017 **Reformed Church of Linden** 600 North Wood Avenue

The evening's performance features **Bob McParland** A wonderful singer, songwriter, playwright and writer.

And percussionist Michael Baron.

This amazing night of music and fun is appropriate for all age groups. Tickets \$10 each includes refreshments Doors open at 7pm, Show starts at 8pm

For more info call church at 908-486-3714 or Cathy Alba at 908-247-4483 or catharinealba@aol.com





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Absolut (regular)		
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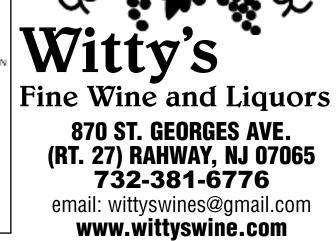
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