

Spirit of UNION NJ

UNION'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

FREE

Union's Hometown Newspaper

Issue 30 • June 2013

**TOWNSHIP OF UNION
ALL AMERICAN
SOAP BOX
DERBY**
Thursday
JULY 4th, 2013
10:00 a.m.
ON
Stuyvesant Ave.
between
Mountain View Ave.
and **Tyler Street.**
**INDEPENDENCE DAY
CELEBRATION
CONTINUES ALL
DAY AND EVE.**
(See article below
for details.)

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE HONORS VETS ALONG WITH THOSE KIA

Submitted by: Charlie Oliva - Photos by Ron Giameo, Jr.

Local veterans were honored for their service to our nation at the Union Township Veteran's Alliance 2013 Memorial Day Parade on May 27. The parade began at Stuyvesant and High Avenues, and there was an extended parade route in front of Connecticut Farms School.

Township World War II veterans served as the Grand Marshalls of this year's parade. There were floats, Clydesdale horses, military units and military vehicles, motorcycles, the Denville String Band, Civil War reenactments, and many civic and youth organizations who marched for our military. There was live cannon fire during the ceremony at the end of the parade at Honor Roll Park.

These and additional photos from this event can be found on Facebook at Township of Union, New Jersey - Government



ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The Township of Union will hold its annual Independence Day celebration on Thursday, July 4th, 2013. The festivities will begin with Union's 6th Annual "All American Soap Box Derby" at 10:00 a.m. on Stuyvesant Ave. between Mountain view Ave. and Tyler Street. Girls and boys between the ages of 8 and 12 up to 5'0 in height and no more than 100 lbs. can enter the race. Only Union Township residents can participate in this event. Participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to race. The deadline to enter is June 19, 2013. Space is limited to the first 32 qualified contestants. No late

entries will be accepted.

The festivities continue at Biertuempfel Park on Winslow Ave. & Vauxhall Road with the first of our outdoor Summer Concert Series. Emil Stucchio & the Classics will supply the entertainment at 7:30 p.m. followed by our "2013 Fireworks Spectacular" beginning at dusk. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the show!

In the event of rain the celebration will be held Friday, July 5th beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Biertuempfel Park.

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ROTARY CLUB HONORS DAVID ARMINIO



At its "Eloquence Soiree" on the evening of June 5, 2013, the Union Rotary Club honored Township of Union Board of Education member David Arminio along with the YMCA of Eastern County. Mr. Arminio had a 36-year career as a Language Arts teacher at Kawameeh Middle School. Among many other notable activities, Mr. Arminio is known for announcing the Union High School home football games.

MRS. MOSES HONORED AT UNICO DINNER



On Saturday, June 1, 2013, the Union Chapter of UNICO International presented plaques of recognition to Annie Moses, Principal of the Connecticut Farms Elementary School, and Michael Boll, Sergeant in the Union Police Department. Both honorees were recognized for their service to the Township of Union community, especially to children.

18TH CENTURY PASTOR REV. JAMES CALDWELL SPOKE AGAIN FROM HIS PULPIT

On Saturday, June 8, at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, 888 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, Jeff Tew, an actor and reenactor, portrayed Rev. James Caldwell, preaching two sermons he might have given during the American Revolution.

The first conveyed Caldwell's rabble-rousing against Great Britain—he was known as "The Fighting Parson." The second delivered his profound sorrow and anger over his wife's death at the hands of the British.

Consultation on the script was provided by Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith, pastor of Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Robert Higgs, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth—both of which were parishes of Rev. Caldwell that were burned to the ground by British forces during the war.

The event, sponsored by the Union Township Historical Society, commemorated Hannah Caldwell Day, June 7, the anniversary of the death of the minister's wife during the Battle of Connecticut Farms.

Non-members were invited to attend.



Refreshments followed at the Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Avenue, Union. Admission was free; donations were gratefully accepted.

The next meeting of the UTHS will be held on Sunday, June 23, at 2 pm at the Parsonage. For more information, call Barbara La Mort at 908-687-0048.

GARDEN CLUB OF UNION

The Garden Club of Union will meet Wed, July 3, at 7 p.m. in the Bonnel Room of Town Hall. We will discuss the maintaining the Municipal Gardens, trips and horticulture. It is also the last day to bring in your garden recipes. Refreshments will be served. New members always welcome.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

On Saturday July 13, 2013
the Garden State Ryderz MC
a non-profit motor cycle club
will be hosting a fundraiser
for Children with cancer.

The event will be held at the Indian Motor Cycle store located at 2385 Route 22. The event is called Christmas in July. There will be a 45-mile police escorted motorcycle ride through scenic Union County. Upon return the Club will be serving a hot and cold buffet. The donation is \$10 with a toy and \$20 without. Registration is from 9am to 11:30am the ride will leave at 12 noon. All are welcome. Even if you are not rider. Vendors will also be on site. 100 % of the proceeds will go to Davids Touch Foundation.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF UNION COUNTY HONOR VALUED VOLUNTEERS

On May 15, 2013, Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County held an awards dinner at Galloping Hill in Union, NJ. The dinner was held in honor of over 175 volunteers that donate their time to the Boys & Girls Clubs.

In attendance were Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County board members, professional staff, club teen volunteer members, and adult volunteers. Over 90 volunteers received an award for their hard work and dedication to the Clubs. Youth volunteers from each Club were also recognized for their community service efforts and participation in the Clubs' Keystone and Torch programs.

Among the award recipients was, Ned Fox, who has volunteered over 700 hours with Boys & Girls Clubs. Mr. Fox has dedicated his time and is the primary catalyst responsible in the re-launch of our successful Bike Exchange program at the Plainfield Clubhouse.

There were special performances were presented by some of the Clubs' talented members. The Elizabeth Club's dance troop performed their piece entitled "Don't Forget About Us," a spoken word performance that helped raise awareness about gun violence in their community. Marlisa Shaw, Union Club member, also performed her rendition of Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise." Both performances were featured at Steve Aduabato's Stand & Deliver: A Night of Eloquence.

Also in attendance was Justin Phillips, 2013 Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County Youth of The Year recipient. Mr. Phillips gave a warm welcoming to all the volunteers, thanking them for their hard work and dedication. He stated "Without people like you and without the Boys & Girls Club, I would not be where I am today."

Russell Triolo, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County, also addressed the attendees. Mr. Triolo thanked the volunteers and club members for their efforts throughout the year, referring to them as the most vital part of the organization. Mr. Triolo stated, "You have chosen to give us your most valuable commodity, your time, and



(above, l-r) Russell Triolo, Chief Executive Officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County; Erin Duffy, Plainfield Club Director; Ned Fox, Volunteer; Geraldine Boone, Board of Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County.

for that we are grateful!"

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County, which operates facilities in Union, Roselle, Plainfield, Elizabeth and Hillside, serves over 7,500 children. They seek to inspire and enable young people, who need them most, to realize their full potential and have provided opportunity for youth since 1955. They are part of a national network of some 4,000 neighborhood-based facilities, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, which serves more than 4.6 million young people annually, in all 50 states and on U.S. military bases worldwide. Known as "The Positive Place for Kids," the Clubs provide guidance-oriented character development programs on a daily basis for children 6-18 years old, conducted by a full-time professional staff. Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize leadership development, education and career exploration, financial literacy, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation, and family outreach.

To find out more about SMART Girls or the many year round youth development programs offered by BGCUC, please visit <http://www.bgcuc.org> or call 908-687-7976.

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VOLUNTEER PARK SOCCER FIELD NOW OPENED

Union Soccer Teams, fans and the public from the Township of Union were invited to the grand opening of the new soccer field at Volunteer Park on the corner of Burnet Ave. and Stanly Terr. The celebration took place on June 1st beginning at 9 a.m. Township of Union officials and special guests, including Manny Schellscheidt, Head Coach for Red Bulls Youth Academy were in attendance.

"Volunteer Park was originally dedicated for the use of our soccer enthusiasts back in 2002 as a state of the art soccer field at that time;" stated Mayor Clifton People Jr. "Several years later, the Township Committee enhanced the field with lights to lengthen the play time for the ever-growing soccer playing population in our town. The soccer program has continued to grow in leaps and bounds here in Union and the youth playing population is over 800 and growing

strong!"

The grand opening ended with a ribbon cutting with Mayor Clifton People Jr. and soccer player Andrea Santiago from Union Lady Dragons team followed by a ceremonial "first kick" through the goal, where 10 soccer players from various Union teams took part of.

"As a soccer mom of a 5 year old who participates in the kinder-soccer program here in town, I look forward to one day being able to sit in one of those bleachers actually watching him play in this field," commented Suzette Cavadas, Recreation Commissioner, "I look forward to that day. I believe that this soccer field will continue to inspire our youth to join the ever growing popularity of soccer in Union."

For more information on Volunteer Park Soccer Field please contact the Recreation Department at (908) 686-4200.



(above) Photos by Ron Giameo, Jr. These and additional photos from this event can be found on Facebook at Township of Union, New Jersey - Government

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VFW MICHAEL A. KELLY POST 2433 CELEBRATES LOYALTY DAY

At a luncheon and awards presentation program held recently, the Michael A. Kelly Post 2433, Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary honored two groups. The first included representatives of our uniformed services and a post member, while the second recognized winners of VFW essay contests in our schools.

Loyalty Day is celebrated across the nation as an opportunity to honor people who performed some heroic act or a group of patriotic acts in their communities. It generally includes, but is not limited to, fire, police and EMT personnel, post members and active local citizens.

This year's honorees are Rodney Sena of Union's Emergency Unit, Union Police Sgt. Robert Christie, Union Firefighter Randall Poole (Ret.), and Dick Rembert, Kelly Post Chaplain. Bob Johnsen, Post Quartermaster,

chaired the Loyalty Day Awards Program.

EMT Rodney Sena, who is known for his cheerfulness and dedication, serves in executive positions with the unit while maintaining high grades in his studies at Kean University where he is majoring in medicine.

Sgt. Robert Christie is commander of the Traffic Bureau and has also served in many outreach programs with the department. He has worked on D.A.R.E., as liaison with First Aid Squad, and as Director of the Explorer Post. He's been instrumental in securing grants to expand Union's D.W.I. enforcement and each year he spearheads the Clickit or Ticket Program which emphasizes the importance of wearing seat belts. A life member of the Union Volunteer EMS, county and state D.A.R.E. associations and Municipal Alliance Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse, he also finds time for Local 69 PBA and the NJ Explorer Advisory.

After a distinguished, 22-year career as a firefighter, proficient in all phases of the work and recipient of numerous Departmental Unit Awards for actions above and beyond the call of duty, Randall Poole was forced to retire because of a debilitating injury. Typically, he was trying to save the life of a Union teenager when he sustained the injury. A dedicated firefighter, his daily presence will be sorely missed by members of the Union Fire Department.

Dick Rembert, Chaplain of the Kelly Post, has distinguished himself for a number of years as he led the devotions at post meetings and group functions. He faithfully reported on illnesses or deaths and rarely missed a meeting, function, or funeral. He was also called upon to represent the post at civic gatherings and often led prayers at them. Dick is retiring from the office of chaplain this year, and the post honors his service with this award.

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(above, l-r) Kelly Post, VFW, Loyalty Day Honorees Leo Graf, Post Commander; Dick Rembert, Post Chaplain; Firefighter Randal Poole; EMT Rodney Sena; Union Police Sgt. Robert Christie; and Program Chair, Robert Johnsen, Post Quartermaster.

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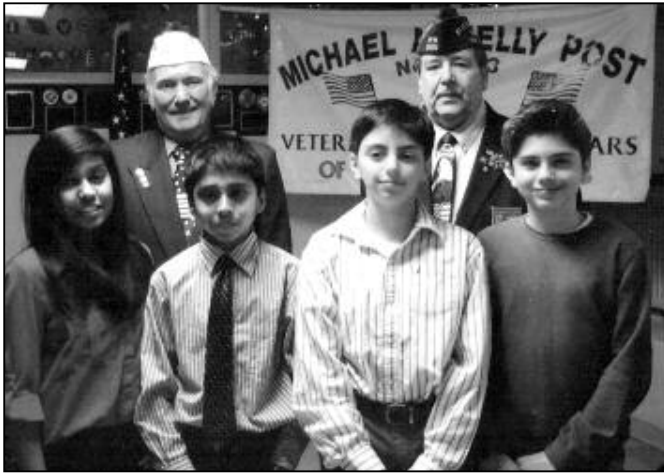


VFW ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Winner of this year's Voice of Democracy Essay Contest was Union High School Junior, Shivani Patel. Writing on the theme "Why I'm Optimistic About Our Nation's Future", she repeated her 2012 win.

First Place in the Patriot's Pen Contest went to Shivani's brother, Kawameeh 6th grader, Josh Patel. His essay on "What Would I tell America's Founding Fathers" also came out second in NJ's 5th District.

Second and Third place winners were Kawameeh 7th graders, Matthew Grahl and Michael Flanagan, respectively. Dennis Clark, Past State VFW Commander, chaired the essay contest committee.



(above, l - r) Voice of Democracy, 1st Place, Shivani Patel; Union HS; Patriots Pen, 1st Place, Josh Patel, Kawameeh MS; 2nd Place, Michael Flanagan, Kawameeh MS; 3rd. Place, Matthew Grahl, Kawameeh MS; Rear: Leo Graf, Kelly Post Commander; Dennis Clark, Past VFW State Commander.

MAYOR'S SPELLING BEE

Fifth grade students from Hamilton, Hannah Caldwell and Connecticut Farms School participated in a district-wide spelling bee which took place in May at Union High School. Each fifth grade classroom within the district held and individual spelling bee with an identical list of words. The winner from each classroom was then entered into the Mayor's Spelling Bee. In all there were 38 contestants, and the words were quite challenging! The winner of the contest, and this year's Spelling Bee Champion was Megan Felix from Hannah Caldwell School. First Runner-Up was Vincent Langan from Hamilton School. The winning word was 'Possession'.



(above, l-r) Mrs. Karen Steiner, Spelling Bee Chairperson; Vincent Langan, First Runner-Up; Manny Figueiredo, Deputy Mayor; Megan Felix, Spelling Bee Winner; and Mrs. Cynthia Pellis, Spelling Bee Committee Member.

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STORYTIME & CRAFTS

By Viktoria Morozovska

The Union Public Library often does events to foster a love of reading in children. A popular event is the Saturday Storytime and Craft Program. The most recent theme was “Sharks” and Ms. Mary brought out the children’s beloved puppet, Mr. Monkey to join in the fun. After several stories and Ring Around the Rosie, the children made shark masks. The library will host the next Saturday Storytime and Craft Program on June 22nd at 11 a.m. in the Activity Room on the second floor of the Union Branch of the Library.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION HONORS GRANT RECIPIENTS

On Thursday, May 9th, at Kean University’s Liberty Hall, teachers and students from the Township of Union Public School District were honored for grants they received from the Union Education Foundation. At this annual spring reception, selected teachers and students who

benefited from using the materials, gave presentations to display the work they have done with their grants. Many district administrators attended this event as well as various other teachers, parents, and Union Education Foundation members.



(above) Students from Nikki Toccaceli’s seventh grade English classes at Kawameeh Middle School. Mrs. Toccaceli was awarded 30 Amazon Kindles as part of her grant to implement electronic reading devices into the classroom. Top Row: Ashley Ferrigno, Peter Mounas, Matthew Grahl, Mrs. Nikki Toccaceli, Jessica Vargas, Manny Ruste, Frankie Estrada, Sean O’Flaherty, and Raquel DeCarvalho; Bottom Row: Andrew Kelley and Tommy Novak.

POETRY WALK

By Viktoria Morozovska

The school year is nearing its end, and amid all the testing, it is difficult to get students excited about a new topic. To keep their lesson on poetry creatively stimulating and stress free, Kawameeh Middle School English teachers Nicole Toccaceli and Jacqueline Fernandez, along with Principal Jason Malanda, created the Poetry Walk. Toccaceli and Fernandez have teamed up several times before; the most recent being their Dead Verbs event where the students buried overused words. The Poetry Walk, inspired by Shel Silverstein’s “Where the Sidewalk Ends,” is unique to 2013. Ms.

Fernandez mentions, “Each year we want to do something bigger, and so each year can have their own thing. A student can say, ‘Well I was the year they did the Poetry Walk in seventh grade.’ I want them to own it.”

With two groups of about eighty students, the day was a bit hectic, but the results were spectacular. The students chose from the bevy of styles they studied and imagined their own poems. They created concept sketches and brought their ideas to life on the sidewalk in front of the school’s main entrance. Cielo Abe chose to write a poem about a dream she had wherein she could fly, while Justin Wild’s preference for nature came through in his rainbow formatted poem about butterflies. It was a collaborative effort as most students either had partners or aided students whose partners were absent that day. Poetry may not be a large part of the curriculum, but this activity is certainly memorable for the students.

LIBRARY 2013 SUMMER READING CLUB “DIG INTO READING”

“Dig into Reading” is our theme this summer at the Union Public Library. Join us as we explore all things underground – animals, construction vehicles, dinosaurs, caves, rocks, Ancient Greece and more through storytelling, crafts, music, dance, and other activities. The 2013 Summer Reading Club Program is open to young people, preschool through grade 8. Registration for the Summer Reading Club began at the Main Library and Vauxhall Branch on June 1st.

For more information, call the library at 908.851.5450 x3 or check the library website at www.youseemore.com/unionpl. All library programs are free of charge. Don’t miss a great summer at the library.



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LUCERO LOPEZ EARNS SCHOLARSHIP TO THEATER AND DANCE WORKSHOP CAMP

The Lucero Family of Union has a lot to be proud of. Their talented children were all awarded scholarships to the Summer Theater and Dance Workshop Camp sponsored by the New Jersey Music and Dance Company. Lucero Lopez, a tenth grade student at Union High School, was awarded a full scholarship to the five-week Theater and Dance Workshop Camp valued at \$750, her brother David, a first grader, and sister Alison, an eighth grader were also awarded scholarships. Children ages 6 - 16 from all over Union County auditioned for full and partial scholarships. The children participated in the open auditions that were held in March. During the full day camp, which will be held from July 1 through August 2, the children will participate in various aspects of the performing

arts including acting, dancing, singing, media and broadcasting, experience performances by professionals in the entertainment field and take part in a final performance that will be viewed by managers, talent agents and producers.

New Jersey Music and Dance Company is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2002 to promote the arts and talent development through performances, events and education. This is the third year that the Company has awarded scholarships to the summer camp. This year they awarded over \$4,500 in scholarships. NJ Music and Dance Company are located at the New Jersey Center for Media Arts, 1203 W. St. Georges Avenue in Linden. For more information about the scholarships, please visit www.njmhc.org or call 908-587-2787.



(above, l-r) Alison Lopez, Diana Lopez (mother), Lucero Lopez, Luis Lopez (father), Juana Calderon (grandmother) and David Lopez.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR WIN AWARDS

The 2013 Kawameeh Jazz Ensemble and Mixed Choir performed at the Music In The Parks Festival in Lehigh Valley, PA. The Jazz Ensemble earned the 1st place trophy with a Superior rating. The Mixed Choir earned the 2nd place trophy with an Excellent rating. A special congratulations to Bassist, Emmett Walker IV who earned the Outstanding Overall Jazz Soloist Award and Medal. The students were led by Vocal Music Instructor Nancy Schoenberger and band and Orchestra Teacher Richard Grennor.



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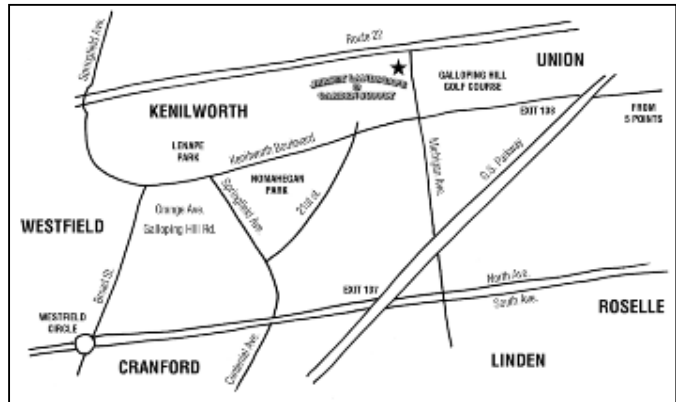
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