

The Borough of Union Beach

Newsletter

“The Best Little Town in New Jersey”

Spring 2023

Mayor Charles W. Cocuzza

Council President Albin J. Wicki
Councilman Louis Andreuzzi
Councilman Anthony Cavallo

Councilman Albert Lewandowski
Councilwoman Cherlanne Roche
Councilwoman Eileen Woodruff

Union Beach Army Corps Flood Risk Management Project

The long-awaited flood protection project for Union Beach has begun. Contract 1 construction, consisting of two (2) terminal groins, or jetties, placement of 607,000 cubic yards of sand, three (3) pedestrian crossovers and one (1) vehicle access element, is scheduled to be completed by November 2023. It is anticipated that the eastern groin construction at Flat Creek will take place from March through June followed by the west groin from June to September. Sand placement, delivered from off-shore, will occur from June to September followed by the construction of the access crossovers.

While the Army Corps, General Contractor and the Borough hope to keep disruptions to a minimum during the busy summer months, it will be necessary for UB Recreation to forgo its annual July 4th fireworks display for safety reasons. The town’s Memorial Day parade honoring our fallen heroes and the UB 5K Run will not be affected.

To keep our residents informed, as best as possible, during this construction period, a weekly “Look Ahead” will be posted on the Borough’s website (ubnj.net) after each weekly construction meeting conducted by the Contractor.

Subsequent Phases 2N, 2S, 3 & 4 remain in design stage. The list for real estate acquisitions for Phase 2, moving easterly from Flat Creek, is expected within the next 12 months and construction beginning in 2024-25. Full project completion date provided by the Army Corps is expected to be in 2030.

Election Information

Primary Election date is June 6. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Monmouth County will have 10 specially designated in-person early voting locations. Voters can go to any one of these locations during the early voting period to vote, regardless of which municipality in which they reside.

For the 2023 Primary Election, early voting will be Friday, June 2 through Sunday, June 4. Hours will be Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Check Monmouthcountyvotes.com for early polling places and additional information.

*** This Newsletter is intended for the residents of Union Beach **only**. Information regarding curbside pick-ups pertains only to Union Beach. The Union Beach Recycling Center does NOT accept any type of materials from residents outside of Union Beach. ***

Borough Meetings and Events

April

- 1 (Saturday) Easter Egg Hunt from 12 to 2 p.m. at Scholer Park— Must Register
4 (Tuesday) Library Association Meeting at 7 p.m. in the Library
7 (Friday) Borough Offices Closed — Good Friday
8 (Saturday) Rain Date for Easter Egg Hunt from 12 to 2 p.m. at Scholer Park
12 (Wednesday) Community Alliance Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
13 (Thursday) Mayor & Council Agenda Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall
17 (Monday) Board of Health Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Borough Hall
20 (Thursday) Mayor & Council Public Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall
24 (Monday) Recreation Commission Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
26 (Wednesday) Planning Board Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
29 (Saturday) Free Tree Seedlings from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 1400 Florence Ave.

May

- 1 (Monday) Free Tree Seedlings from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 1400 Florence Ave.
2 (Tuesday) Library Association Meeting at 7 p.m. in the Library
10 (Wednesday) Community Alliance Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
11 (Thursday) Mayor & Council Agenda Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall
12 (Friday) Summer Recreation Program Sign-up from 7 to 9 p.m. at Library
13 (Saturday) Summer Rec Program Sign-up from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Library
15 (Monday) Board of Health Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Borough Hall
18 (Thursday) Mayor & Council Public Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall
22 (Monday) Recreation Commission Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
24 (Wednesday) Deadline for Submission to 2023 Spring Newsletter
27 (Saturday) Memorial Day Parade at 1 p.m. at Borough Hall
29 (Monday) Borough Offices Closed — Memorial Day
31 (Wednesday) Planning Board Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall

June

- 6 (Tuesday) Primary Election Day — Polls open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
8 (Thursday) Mayor & Council Agenda Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall
9 (Friday) Summer Recreation Program Sign-up from 7 to 9 p.m. at Library
10 (Saturday) Summer Rec Program Sign-up from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Library
13 (Tuesday) Library Association Meeting at 7 p.m. in the Library
14 (Wednesday) Community Alliance Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
15 (Thursday) Mayor & Council Public Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Hall
19 (Monday) Board of Health Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Borough Hall
24 (Saturday) Union Beach 5K Race at 9 a.m.
26 (Monday) Recreation Commission Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
28 (Wednesday) Planning Board Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall

** More information on many of these events can be found throughout this Newsletter.

** Please check the Borough's web site, ubnj.net, as well as the web sites and social media pages of each separate organization for updates regarding cancellations.

Borough Phone Numbers

FIRE	911
FIRST AID	911
POLICE	(732) 264-0313
Chief Michael Woodrow	
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR	(732) 264-3026
Robert M. Howard, Jr.	
HEALTH OFFICE	(732) 264-2365
SPCA of MONMOUTH CNTY	(732) 383-1090
SEWER DEPARTMENT	(732) 264-5657
Alice Ostervich	
FINANCE DEPARTMENT	(732) 264-9029
Michael Pennell	
BOROUGH CLERK	(732) 264-2277
Anne Marie Friscia	
Carol Seney	
TAX ASSESSOR	(732) 264-2360
Michael DeRe	
COURT ADMINISTRATOR	(732) 264-9098
Sharon Devaney	
TAX COLLECTOR	(732) 264-5662
Desiree Durkin	
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.	(732) 264-1133
Mary E. Mancini	
RECYCLING CENTER	(732) 264-1133
Mary E. Mancini	
PLANNING/ZONING BOARD	(732) 739-1503
Laurette Wade	
CODE ENFORCER	(732) 526-8686
Amado Bencosme, Jr.	
CONSTRUCTION DEPT.	(732) 526-8687
Timothy Davis	
RECREATION	Search "Union Beach Recreation" on Facebook (732) 264-3792
LIBRARY	(732) 264-3133
BOARD OF EDUCATION	(732) 264-5400
MEMORIAL SCHOOL	(732) 671-6400
T&M ASSOCIATES	(732) 850-6103
O.E.M.	(732) 850-6103
Michael DeRupo	

NJ AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

1-800-652-6987

NJ NATURAL GAS COMPANY

1-800-GAS LEAK

JCP&L

1-800-662-3115

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Please do **NOT** blow/sweep cut grass or leaves into the road, or into the catch basins.

Newsletter Deadline

Submissions for the 2023 Summer Issue of the Borough of Union Beach Newsletter are due by May 24. All submissions should be sent in writing to Mary Mancini, Department of Public Works by emailing memancini@unionbeachnj.gov or faxing 732-264-5829.

Free Tree Seedlings

In an effort to replace trees lost in Hurricane Sandy, and other storms, and thanks once again to the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, free tree seedlings will be available to Union Beach residents at the Department of Public Works located at 1400 Florence Avenue.

Distribution will take place on Saturday, April 29, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Monday, May 1, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Seedlings will be 2' to 4' high, bare root seedlings. They will be distributed to residents on a first-come first-served basis (5 per address) and will include informational materials. For additional information, please go to www.ubnj.net.

A Message from the Chief of Police, Michael J. Woodrow

I've mentioned it many times before, however, I would be remiss not to thank our wonderful residents and visitors alike, yet once again, for the constant phone calls, and in person visits, at Headquarters thanking our police officers for the job they do. It is truly appreciated by all. Our men and women come from college/university, military, and prior law enforcement experience backgrounds—they truly comprise the finest force anywhere!

As the Spring is upon on, it brings with it the warmer weather, which brings an increase in pedestrians, walkers/joggers, vehicles/motor bikes, cyclists, etc. sharing our roadways. Collectively we ask everyone to remain vigilant, courteous and attentive while driving.

You will see an exponential increase in strategically placed MPH Radar signs by the UBPD—Traffic Safety Bureau throughout our town; the latter are compliments of our partnership with the United States Department of Defense.

The Army Corps project has commenced. If you have any questions regarding the latter please call HQ. The UBPD will be working in concert with the US Army Corps to ensure no apparatus are tampered with during the construction phases. Please contact the UBPD immediately if you observe a careless motorist or see an increase in speeding in your particular neighborhood. Our police officers patrol over 25.60 miles (41.20) of roadways as well as additional trails and waterways in our 2 square mile area (State, County, Municipal).

Please visit our social media sites for the many community outreach programs the UBPD offers, as well as for additional information, or contact us at Headquarters at 732-264-0313. Once again, we truly live in the best town in the State of NJ, not just due to the scenic beauty, but rather, most importantly, due to the residents that inhabit it making it the close knit shore community it is today.

Respectfully, Chief of Police, Michael J. Woodrow [NJ State Chief's of Police "Advanced" Accredited Executive]

Keyport Ministerium Food Pantry

We are located at 42 Elizabeth Street in Keyport.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, we had 1,183 clients come through for food. This figure includes people who came through more than one time. In the same time frame, we provided food for 3,550 adults and children, again with some of them receiving food more than one time.

We use reusable bags for the food that we give to the clients. We are always in need of donations of new reusable bags, or gently used bags.

The food items we are most in need of, and can always use, are: cereal, canned fruit, beans (all types), rice, pasta, pasta sauce, or tomato sauce. Other types of non-perishable food are also accepted. Donations of non-perishable food items are accepted Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please place donations (and clean reusable bags) in metal bins outside. If the bins are not outside, please do not leave donations.

We serve Keyport, Union Beach, Hazlet, Keansburg, Aberdeen, Matawan, Cliffwood Beach, Middletown (Port Monmouth, Belford & Leonardo), Atlantic Highlands, and Highlands.

The Borough of Union Beach
2023 Flood Protection Information Newsletter

Flood Hazard Reduction

In order to minimize the effects of floods, the following standards have been developed:

1. All new construction and substantial improvements must be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement of the structure. Substantial improvement is defined as any repair, construction, or improvement to a structure whose cost is 50% of the building market value or greater.
2. All new construction and substantial improvements must be constructed with materials, utility equipment, methods, and practices resistant to flood damage.
3. All new public utilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems must be located so as to minimize flood damage and contamination.
4. For all new construction and substantial improvements, fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor, that are subject to flooding, must be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of floodwaters.
5. Check with the Building Department at (732) 526-8687 before you build, alter, re-grade, or fill your property to determine if a permit is needed. Report these activities to this number if you do not see a permit where work is being done.

Flood proofing: Residents can protect their building from flood damage by retrofitting. The following are several ways to flood proof or retrofit existing dwellings: waterproofing walls, installing watertight enclosure over doors, raising existing building above flood levels, and installing check valves in sanitary sewer lines. The Building Department can provide additional information on these methods.

Why Protect Stream Corridors?

A stream is composed of several essential elements including the stream channel itself, associated wetlands, flood plains and forests. When stream corridors are maintained in their natural condition with minimum disturbance, they are instrumental in performing the following functions:

- Removing sediment, nutrients, and pollutants by providing opportunities for filtration, absorption and decomposition by slowing storm water velocity, which aids in allowing storm water to be absorbed in the soil and taken up by vegetation.
- Reducing stream bank erosion.
- Displacing potential sources of non-point source pollution from the water's edge.
- Shading surface waters to prevent excess warming.
- Maintaining biotic diversity of aquatic plants and wildlife.
- Preventing flood-related damage and associated costs to surrounding communities.
- Helping to maintain adequate flows of filtered water to underground aquifers.
- Providing greenway corridors for wildlife.

BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

Union Beach has a "pooper scooper" law. All pet owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets.

Please report all violations to the Union Beach Health Department at (732)-264-2365

REMINDER: NO PETS ALLOWED ON BEACH OR WALKWAY

CATCH BASIN ALERT

- Keep our streams, creeks, and outfalls clean.
- Do not use your curb line as a trash can.
- Do not use your storm catch basin as a trash can.
- Do not use streams, creeks, and outfalls as dumps.
- The only thing that belongs in a catch basin, stream, creek, or outfall is rain water.

ANYTHING ELSE MAY VIOLATE FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL LAWS

Additional flood information is available at the Public Works Department or through the following agencies:

FEMA Distribution Center
P.O. Box 2010
Jessup, MD 20794-2012
1-800-480-2520

Copies of the following publications are available free:

- Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your Home from Flooding, FEMA P-312, 2014
- Design Manual for Retrofitting Flood Prone Residential Structures, FEMA 114, December 1986
- Engineering Principles and Practices for Retrofitting Flood Prone Residential Buildings, FEMA P-259, January 2012

The following publications are available from:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District
Attn: CESP-ET-PH
4101 Jefferson Plaza, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3435

- Flood Proofing Techniques, Programs, and References, May 2000
- Flood Proofing: How to Evaluate Your Options, July 1993
- Local Flood Proofing Programs, February 2005

Office of Emergency Management

This is a volunteer organization that offers a wide variety of services.

For more details on the Borough's emergency warning system, evacuation routes, or to join, please call 732-850-6103.

A FLOOD ZONE MAP IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN THE BUILDING/ZONING DEPARTMENT

Disposal of Branches/Brush/Grass Clippings

Our garbage contractor will accept branches/brush along with your regular garbage pick-up — on the second pick-up of the week (either Thursday or Friday). Branches **MUST** be bundled. Bundles **CANNOT** be more than 4 feet in length and **CANNOT** weigh more than 50 pounds. Anything larger than 3 inches in diameter **MUST** be cut up. If branches are too small to bundle, they should be placed in a can, the weight of which should **NOT** exceed 50 pounds. The contractor will accept only **THREE** bundles or cans at a time. **PLEASE NOTE:** The garbage contractor does not accept grass clippings; neither does the Department of Public Works. We recommend that you leave cut grass on your lawn, as it is actually good for your lawn.

Union Beach Board of Health

All Union Beach residents must register their dogs, as required by law.

Register your dog today through the Borough web site, or in person, at Borough Hall. There is also a drop box located in Borough Hall that is available any time.

For critter issues, please now call the SPCA Animal Control at 732-383-1090.

Union Beach Library

The following events will begin at approximately 3:30 p.m.: April 10, come and visit with a therapy dog; April 17, come and see a performance of "*The Sword and the Stone.*" *Come relive the magic of Merlin!* In May, come listen to veterans from our own town tell their stories of patriotism — date to be determined. Check out our Facebook page for more activities!! All activities are free unless indicated.

If you are Spring cleaning and find books, don't throw them away — we have a book drop on Columbia Avenue. The book drop is a source of revenue for us and keeps paper out of the garbage! In fact, you can save money by coming to the Library; we can order books from the Monmouth County Library System. Deliveries are made to our Library every Monday and Thursday! Check it out!!

New Association members are needed. We meet once a month to discuss Library programs. Please consider joining. Our upcoming meeting dates are: April 4, May 2, and June 13.

Union Beach Recreation

Easter Egg Hunt Celebration — Saturday, April 1, 2023; Rain Date: Saturday, April 8, 2023.

Join Union Beach Recreation for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and visit with the Easter Bunny! The Easter Bunny is coming to Scholer Park between 12 and 2 p.m. Participants can enjoy an egg hunt, pictures with the Easter Bunny, and receive a special gift! ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER PRIOR TO THE EVENT. The link to register can be found on our Facebook, Instagram, and Union Beach web site. Registration is required in order to participate.

Summer Recreation Program Sign-Ups at the Union Beach Memorial Library

Friday, May 12, 2023 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, May 13, 2023 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Friday, June 9, 2023 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, June 10, 2023 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Our Summer Recreation Program is back by popular demand! Participants ages 5 to 13, are encouraged to sign up for a summer of fun! Join us for new themed days, exciting assemblies, and trips, July 3 to 28, 2023. More information will be posted on our Social Media accounts as well as the Union Beach web site. **Birth certificates required at time of sign up.**

Stay up-to-date with all of our upcoming events! Make sure to LIKE us on Facebook:

Union Beach Recreation and FOLLOW us on Instagram @UnionBeachRecreation. Questions or concerns? Email us: UBRec@unionbeachNJ.gov.

Clean Communities Day

Our next Clean Communities Day will be held on Saturday, September 23. Please watch future Newsletters, as well as the Borough's web site (www.ubnj.net) for further information. If you have any questions, please contact Union Beach Clean Communities Coordinator, Mary Mancini, at 732-264-1133.

Union Beach 5K Race

The Union Beach 5K is set for Saturday, June 24, 2023, with the race kicking off at 9 a.m. sharp. This is the first year that the Union Beach PBA will be the host for the event. For any questions, please reach out to our email at pba291fundraising@gmail.com or follow us on our Facebook page — Union Beach 5K.

Memorial Day Parade

The Union Beach Memorial Day Parade will begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 27 at Borough Hall. For more information, please visit www.ubnj.net.

Bayshore Sports and Recreation (BSAREC)

The Bayshore Sharks just finished our 2023 season of basketball at the Memorial School gym. The players and fans had a lot of fun learning the game. Registration for the next basketball season will start in October, 2023.

Baseball and softball are underway. We play our games at Scholer Park and St. John's Field. We are looking forward to a fun season.

Bayshore Sports and Recreation is always looking for new volunteers to help throughout the year. We currently run baseball and softball in the Spring and Fall, and basketball in the Winter. Please contact the league if you are interested in helping in any way. The more help we have, the better our programs will be!

Follow Bayshore Sports and Recreation (BSAREC) on Facebook and our web site (www.bsarec.com) to get upcoming registration information and find out about volunteer opportunities.

Beachfront Parking Passes

The red and white parking passes are for 2 years, and good through 2023. These passes are for free parking only in the numbered spaces along the beachfront. If you are a Union Beach resident and would like a parking pass, please stop by Borough Hall with a registration card for each car, and your driver's license.

Electronics Recycling

Public Works will continue to accept electronics from Union Beach residents ONLY. By law, television sets and computer components must be recycled. Each address will be restricted to the disposal of three television sets per calendar year. Proof of residency must be provided.

Recycling — Did You Know?

Whether you place your commingle at the curb for pick-up, or bring it to the recycling center, it should contain CANS and BOTTLES ONLY! Any plastics which are not bottles, are NOT commingle and should be placed in your regular garbage.

The Borough of Union Beach
2023 Flood Protection Information Newsletter (continued)

Borough residents enjoy the beauty of residing near the waters of the Raritan Bay, Flat Creek, East Creek, Thorne’s Creek and Chingarora Creek. However, the associated benefits are accompanied by threats of natural disasters, specifically hurricanes, nor’easters, flooding and the potential damage they bring to our shorefront community. Our entire 1.8 square mile Borough is affected by the tidal forces that have brought flood waters onto our roads and into our neighborhoods, businesses, and homes. As your Borough Council, we strive to prevent flooding due to accumulated debris and infiltration, and enact emergency notification and evacuation procedures.

Every Union Beach resident contributes to the overall success of our Borough’s preparedness. Please take a moment to review the enclosed information and follow the established guidelines. For further information, please contact Borough Hall at (732) 264-2277.

Services: The flood zone map provides data on flood zone areas, locations of warning lights/sirens, and emergency evacuation routes. The official map is on record in the Building/Zoning Department. Please contact the Building Department at (732) 526-8687 for more information on flood zones and the Office of Emergency Management for more information on the warning systems and evacuation routes. The Borough of Union Beach Department of Public Works is responsible for the inspection and maintenance of the creeks and drainage systems on all Borough property as well as portions of the drainage systems and streams which are located on the easements dedicated to the Borough of Union Beach. Trash, debris, or obstructions in the Borough’s drainage system or creeks should be reported to the Department of Public Works at (732) 264-1133.

Citizen Responsibilities Property owners can do their part to remove debris and obstructions from ditches, streams, retention basins, and drainage systems on their property. Leaves, grass clippings, and branches can block systems and contribute to flooding.

Residents also have a duty to maintain public areas for the common protection and enjoyment of all citizens. The Borough Ordinance (Section 16-1.a.0) states it is unlawful to dump or throw anything into the waters of any pond, lake, stream, or other body of water in or adjacent to a park or any tributary system, storm sewer, or drain flowing into such water. Any violations should be reported to the Union Beach Police Department at (732) 264-0313.

Flood Hazard Safety Tips

- Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive. If you must walk, use a pole or stick.
- Move personal belongings and furniture to higher ground.
- Do not drive through a flooded area.
- Do not drive around road barriers, the road or bridge may be washed out.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Report downed power lines to JCP&L.
- Do not use appliances or motors that have gotten wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried.
- Be aware of fallen debris, such as branches, wood, glass, or metal, since they may result in injury.

Flood insurance: If you don’t have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner’s insurance policies do not cover damage from floods, but you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy which covers all surface floods because of the Borough’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

There are approximately 960 flood insurance policies. If you have flood insurance, check the amount and make sure the contents are covered. Typically, there is more damage to furniture and contents than to the building itself.

2023 Curbside Leaf Pick Up

Leaves will be picked up curbside in the Fall according to schedule. Please make sure to use brown paper bags ONLY. Please make sure bags contain ONLY leaves. Residents may continue to bring leaves year-round to the:

Department of Public Works
 1400 Florence Avenue
 Monday through Friday
 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more info call: (732) 264-1133
 or go to:
www.ubnj.net

Street Sweeping

Please check your calendars for your street sweeping schedules. We ask your cooperation in moving your vehicles.

Thank you.

Keep Union Beach Clean!

All trash must be placed in trash cans and put out curbside the **night before** your scheduled pick-up. Do not block sidewalks with trash cans or bulk trash. **Do not store trash cans on sidewalks or on the street.**

Household Hazardous Waste

The Monmouth County Household Hazardous Waste Facility is located at 3211 Shafto Road in Tinton Falls, NJ 07724. All Monmouth County residents are welcome to drop off paints, chemicals, hazardous materials, etc. For appointment call 732-683-8686. Drop off days — which were previously held in Hazlet (behind Burger King) and Upper Freehold — **will no longer be available**. Latex paint cans are considered “regular” garbage once they are completely dried out.

For more information call: (732) 683-8686
 Or go to: www.ubnj.net

Code Red Notifications

All residents may register their phone numbers, both landline and cellular, to receive emergency notifications and critical community alerts. To opt in or out, please go to www.ubnj.net and click on the link for “Code Red.”

Message from the Code Enforcement Office

The Code Enforcement officer would like to thank all those residents that are helping to keep our town looking beautiful. With the Spring weather coming up, we are asking for help with the following:

1. Yards should be well maintained. This includes removal of rubbish and debris, cutting of grass, removal of weeds, etc. We will be placing a large emphasis on exterior maintenance of properties throughout this upcoming season.
2. All empty lots must post a board with either the property address, or the block and lot numbers. This board must be large enough to be read from the street and placed in a location that is visible from the street.
3. All homes must have a house number that is large enough to be visible from the street. You never know when an emergency will hit, and the first responders will have to try to locate your home.

Grace United Methodist Church

Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church, 115 St. James Ave., Union Beach. Our weekly Sunday services start at 9 a.m. led by Pastor Gene Chamberlin. Scott Woolley, Certified Lay Speaker, and Donna Bondi, Lay Servant, assist during our services. Our Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. All are welcome, and we invite you to come and join us. You can also hear our service live-streamed on our Facebook page.

Our community outreach programs include an NA group that meets every Monday; Boy Scouts meet on Tuesdays; and a yoga group meets on Wednesdays. WIC is here on the first Monday of every month.

We hold various fundraisers throughout the year. Watch our Facebook page for more information! We are holding a fundraiser at the Texas Road House on April 4. Join us for a great meal! We will be having a vegetable plant sale during the month of May. Watch for the dates when the plants will be available. Come grab some plants for your home veggie garden. We will be holding a pet adoption/vendor fair on May 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church's side yard located on the corner of Edmunds and St. James. Castle of Dreams will be there with dogs available for adoption. We will also have vendors with pet-related items for sales. Stop by and check it out!

We are still accepting gently used clothing, shoes and towels/sheets/linens, which will be shipped to countries in need. Donations may be placed in a plastic bag and dropped off in front of the garage located at 122 Floyd Avenue, next to the church parking lot.

We are planning for our 100 year anniversary in 2025. If anyone has any information on the history of Grace, including pictures, please contact the church. You can leave a message on our phone, and someone will get back to you.

If you are in need of prayers for yourself, or anyone else, please contact the church and we will add your request to our prayer list. Pastor Gene will be happy to speak to anyone in need. You can contact the church at 732-264-0916 to leave your information, and someone will return your call. Our email address is GraceUnitedMeth@optonline.net. Please follow us on Facebook at Grace UMC Union Beach.

As always, we ask for God's Blessings on all who are reading this, your families and friends, our first responders, and our men and women serving in our Armed Forces. We keep all of our children in our prayers, and we pray for protection and guidance for them.

God's greatest gift is our children! We ask that God watch over all of our 2023 graduates, and guide them in their future endeavors. We ask that He cover all of us with peace, love and protection. We pray for peace on earth! God Bless!

Engineer's Corner

Borough Engineer, Edward Broberg, P.E., provided the following information concerning the status of ongoing construction projects:

Rehabilitation of the Basketball Courts at Scholer Park

The Governing Body authorized the preparation of design plans and contract specifications for the rehabilitation of the existing basketball courts at Scholer Park. The improvements include the milling, resurfacing, and painting of the existing pavement surface. We anticipate the construction to begin mid-Spring of 2023.

Firefighters' Park Improvements

The Borough authorized the preparation of plans and contract specifications for Improvements to Firefighters' Park. The improvements include the milling, resurfacing, and painting of the pavement surface and the installation of a new gazebo. We anticipate the construction to begin mid-Spring of 2023.

Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control Project

The Army Corps of Engineers recently awarded a construction contract for Phase I of the multi-phased shore protection plan to Weeks Marine. Weeks Marine has begun to mobilize equipment with the anticipation of starting construction on or about March 6, 2023. Phase I project consists of the beach fill element of the project extending from the westerly most end of the shore front (point) to Flat Creek. The work will begin with the construction of the two terminal groins at either end of the beach fill. The beach fill will begin early June of 2023 and is anticipated to be completed by December of 2023.

2023 NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant

The Borough was awarded a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Grant Program in the amount of \$301,710 for the Roadway and Drainage Improvements along Park Avenue from Poole Avenue to Pine Street. The improvements will include the installation of drainage, replacement of certain sections of concrete curbs and sidewalks, installation of ADA compliant sidewalk ramps at the intersections, and the milling and resurfacing of the existing roadway. We anticipate the project to be part of the 2023 Roadway Improvement Program.

2022 Turf Maintenance Program

The Borough awarded a three-year contract in 2021 for the Turf Maintenance Program of all ball fields, parks, and open space areas throughout the Borough. The 2023 Turf Maintenance Program is the third year of the three-year contract and includes the fertilization and treatment of all athletic fields and common grassed areas within the Borough. The Spring of 2023 treatment will begin late March of 2023, weather permitting.

Congratulations to all 2023 Graduates!

A Message from Mayor Charles W. Cocuzza

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone made it through this winter of unpredictable temperatures we experienced from day-to-day and are ready to enjoy the warmer months and extended hours of daylight as we enter into Spring!

As we head into Spring there will be quite a few events and construction projects taking place throughout the Borough which I have listed here:

CONSTRUCTION

- The USACE Flood Protection Project Phase One has begun! Please visit our Borough website (www.ubnj.net) for updated news as it progresses through the summer and fall. Scheduled completion date for Phase I is November 2023.
- The Borough has been awarded a grant from NJDOT in the amount of \$301,710 for concrete repair and pavement replacement on Park Avenue between Poole Avenue and Pine Street.
- Additional road, park and sewer infrastructure projects are being finalized for the 2023 construction season.

EVENTS:

- Union Beach Recreation Easter Egg Hunt at Scholer Park on Saturday April 1st with a rain date of April 8th.
- American Legion Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 27th with line up at Borough Hall beginning at 12 p.m. & step off at 1 p.m.
- The Union Beach 5k is scheduled for Saturday, June 24th and is being sponsored by our Union Beach PBA (check UB5K page on Facebook or our Borough website for updates)
- Due to the Army Corps of Engineer's Flood Protection Project, this year's Fourth of July Fireworks event, unfortunately, is canceled. However, it will return in 2024 and be bigger and better!

(For more information on these and other town happenings please visit our Borough website at www.ubnj.net)

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer our Congratulations and Best Wishes to ALL of our Class of 2023 Graduates! We are very proud of you!

Finally, I would like to Thank the Borough Council, Board of Education and all of our Borough Employees, Professional staff, First Responders, Volunteers and Residents for their continued hard work and dedication to our community each and every day. It is your collective efforts that continue to make Union Beach The Best Little Town in NJ!

May God Bless all of our First Responders and keep them safe!

May God Bless all of you and your families!

Be Safe!

Charlie

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The Borough of Union Beach Spring 2023 Newsletter