



commUNITY

A Newsletter for the Uniondale Community

April, 2021

Notices

Next UCC Meeting
April, 19 2021

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UCC Members Interviewed for a High School Student's Uniondale History Project

In the fall of 2020, Acting Superintendent, Rhonda Taylor, arranged for High School student leaders to be integrated into various organization in the community. The intent was to provide the students with the opportunity experience first hand the concept of community service and involvement. Laika Jerome, a senior, was assigned to participate in the meetings of the Uniondale Community Council and she is now in the process of completing a Senior project on aspects of Uniondale History.

On April 8th, several members of the UCC Board, were invited to be interviewed by Laika. Dr. Cecilia Bonner, Dean of Academic Services, and the media staff of the School District arranged for the sessions to be recorded and taped for video. Laika will edit the pieces and the UCC hopes to show the video at an upcoming meeting.



Laika Jerome



Left to Right: Paul Gibson, Julia Ross and Mary-ellen Kreye

Continued on page7



A Publication of the
Uniondale Community
Council
806 Jerusalem Avenue
Uniondale, NY 11553

Monthly Raffle

Our monthly raffle has proven to be a fun and popular agenda item. Join us on April 19th and remain to the end of the meeting for the raffle.

You may be a winner!

Donations of Raffle Prizes Are Welcome.

Alumni Wall of Fame

In the fall of 2020, the Uniondale School District created an Alumni Wall of Fame and inducted the first class of honorees. The District's Community Outreach Public Relations Committee recently announced the the schedule for the Spring of 2021 inductees, beginning on Saturday, April 10th and continuing each Saturday through June. The ceremonies are conducted on the courtyard at Cornelius Court School, 1060 Cornelius Court, Uniondale and banners featuring the candidates photo, graduation class and current career position are unveiled on the fence facing Uniondale Ave. for all who pass to applaud.

Induction into the Uniondale Alumni Wall of Fame is an honor reserved for those individuals who have demonstrated the core principles of our district – leadership, outstanding character and values, and evidence of serving our community with integrity.

On Saturday, April 10th, the honoree was Erica Lee Bennedetto, Uniondale HS Class of 94 and CEO of Marquis Who's Who. Erica is a member of a family that has strong roots in and are active imembers of the Uniondale community.

Four outstanding alumnae, Ms. Kierra Stanley, Class of 2016; Mr. Nathan Samuel, Class of 2015; Ms. Kadeen Kelly, Class of 2014; and Mr. Imran Ritchie, Class of 2014 were inducted into the Uniondale Alumni Wall of Fame on Saturday, April 17, 2021. All four were outstanding students and active in school sports and other activities. They are also digital investment counselors and work through Tradehouse Digital Investors.



Erica Lee Bennedetto and Acting Superintendent Rhonda Taylor.



Erica with her family including her uncle David Greaves (left), President of John J. Byrne Center, and her father James Lee.



Right Erica Lee Bendetto with Uniondale Administrators and members of the committee.

Find a photo of four inductees on Page 4!



U-CLT Milestone Event

Closing on the House on Macon Place

The mission of the Uniondale Community Land Trust of providing “sustainably affordable properties, with an emphasis upon stabilizing homeownership and providing economic opportunity” has come to fruition with the March 26th closing on the renovated home at 774 Macon Place.

Originally purchased in the fall of 2017, construction on the abandoned building began early in 2019. In the fall of 2020, bids were accepted from almost 100 parties interested in obtaining title to the building. (The Land Trust maintains title to the property.) A lottery was held and a qualified applicant began the process of obtaining a mortgage. All seemed to be in place for a closing in the spring of 2020. Then the pandemic hit and with the shut down of county and town offices, everything was on hold.

Finally, on March 26th, a closing was held and the new owner is expected to take up residence shortly.



In September 2020, the U-CLT had reached a level of stability regarding financial resources to enable the Land Trust to hire its first Executive Director on a full time basis. Nicole Jean Christian comes to the position with an extensive background in the fields of affordable housing, grant writing and administration, and community and economic development. Ms. Christian is an alumna of the highly-regarded U.S. Presidential Management Fellowship program and holds a Master of Public Administration degree and graduate certificate in non-profit management from George Mason University.

School Board Candidates

Residents will also be voting to fill two open seats on the Uniondale School District Board. Three candidates are running for Trustee position on the Board.

Charmise Desiré, current Board President is running for re-election and Christopher Moses and Natalie Longworth are running for the position being vacated by Justin Brown. All three have been invited to address residents during the UCC meeting on Monday, April 18, 2021.

The PTA will hold its annual: “Meet the Candidates Night” via Zoom on May 5, 2021 at 7pm.

**Unondale Community
Council Meeting**
Monday, April 19, 2021
7:00pm via ZOOM
**Candidates for School
Board**
Proposed School Budget
High School Students
Community Updates
Complimentary Raffle

Unondale School District 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

Assistant Superintendent, Steven Epstein has been invited to make a presentation of the proposed budget, on which residents will vote on May 18, 2021, at the April 19th meeting of the Uniondale Community Council. Join the meeting to hear a detailed explanation of the budget.

The proposed budget maintains high academic programs for students, provides for necessary capital projects and includes an additional \$11.9 million in state aid. The District is presenting a \$221,303,686 for voter approval which reflects an increase of 4.83% over the current 2020-21 budget. The increase in state aid and the use of \$10,500,622 from Reserves, resulted in a tax levy of \$125,852,550 which is exactly the same tax level proposed in May of 2020. Thus there is a ZERO increase in the tax levy and 0% increase to local taxpayers.

This is the 11th consecutive year that the District has kept the tax levy increase under 2%.

**School District Budget Vote—Tuesday,
May 18, 2021, 6am to 9pm
at local elementary schools.**
0% Tax Levy Increase!

Uniondale HS Site of Multiple Vaccination Events

During the March and April the school district hosted several COVID-19 vaccination events, including one that provided vaccine doses to the entire staff of the School District, ensuring as much as possible the safety of the students returning, in April, to the school several days a week.

One event, held in early March, sponsored by State Senator Kevin Thomas's office was done in conjunction with the school district and community organizations, primarily Nostrand Gardens Civic Association. That event provided vaccine to about 250 residents of Uniondale who were 65 or older.

On Saturday, April 17, the New York State Department of Health in conjunction with Northwell Health held another vaccination event which was open to all eligible adults. A visit to the site, indicated that the event was running smoothly and those with appointments were arriving on schedule.

The District security and maintenance staff were on site to ensure the safety of the participants and the Northwell staff on site and to provide necessary equipment and supplies. The dedicated staff members are to be congratulated for their efforts in making the day a success.



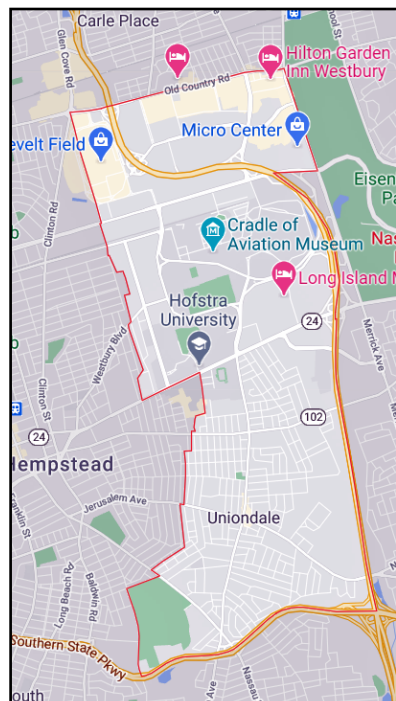
We are pleased to announce that the Uniondale Community Council officers and staff were able to assist about 150 community members in obtaining vaccination appointments and shots.

Above left and middle: Uniondale HS Staff members. Both are Uniondale residents. Right a dose is administered.

ViCTORY!

The community activists and the organization of the community, including the Uniondale Community Council, the Fire Department, GUAAC, Nostrand Gardens and others have worked for years to ensure that Uniondale boundaries are recognized and the community gets the recognition it deserves. At the GUAAC meeting on Saturday, April 17th, success was celebrated.

The map, now on-line, shows the boundaries of Uniondale to extend from the Southern State Pkwy north to Old Country Rd. It may still take diligence to ensure that the boundaries are maintained. Gone is the designation of East Garden City which had been frequently used for the portion north of Hempstead Turnpike.



Left to Right: Imran Ritchie, Kierra Stanley, Kadeen Kelly and Nathan Samuel.

Uniondale History

First School in the Community



This three room building served the Uniondale Community for decades, first as a school as pictured, then as a church and finally as home to Uniondale's first public library.

Located at the corner of Uniondale Ave., and Cedar St., Uniondale, the school building most likely began its task of educating children as a one room school house in the middle of the 19th century. As the population grew, the cross wings were added resulting in this three room structure. We have no date to assign to this photo or the building itself, but we have another similar photo where the trees are larger and we know that the building was moved in the early 1900's to make room for a brick, eight room school on the property. We also know that the cornerstone for what eventually became known in the community as School #1, or the Cedar Street School was laid in 1908. While construction took place, students attended classes in the above building then located on Uniondale Ave. in the parking lot currently across from the Unondale Public Library.

Once the new school was completed, the building was dedicated as a chapel, named for St. Catherine of Sienna, as part of the Roman Catholic parish of Our Lady of Lorretto in Hempstead. By 1915, the church was renamed for St. Martha and Polish priests were assigned to service the Polish residents of the community. By the middle of the 1920s, a new larger church was built in Hempstead and the parish of St. Ladislaus was officially created.



St. Martha's in 1927.

Beware of the Scams *by Kathleen Lyons*

It can't be said enough. Very smart people have acted on emotions and gotten unknowingly trapped into a scam! As a retired teacher, I was recently invited to a ZOOM Seminar on Scams sponsored by NYSUT, the New York State Teachers Union. When registering for the seminar, I anticipated hearing much of the same information that is widely known. Much to my surprise, there was more to the topic than I realized.

Beth Nelson, NY State Senior Action Council, began the presentation speaking about Medical related scams. She warned about schemes such as Genetic Testing – asking you to order tests to detect cancer, etc; Medicare Card Scams—offering a laminated card with a chip or a COVID “passport” as proof of vaccination; Medicare forms mailed to order durable medical equipment; COVID related Telehealth –“doctors” providing testing for COVID and contract tracing. Prior to the COVID the number of such calls was 15,000 per week and post COVID they are 2.4 million per week.

Ms. Nelson advises potential victims to get a name and phone number and check with County Department of Health. Call back if the offer was legitimate and you are interested.

You can call the Senior Action Council at 1-800-333-4374 to request a FREE Persona Healthcare Journal.

The second speaker was Laura Kirchmyer of the Better Business Bureau. She reported that fraudulent “on-line purchases” was the biggest scam during the month of March and that the “top” products were pets and pet supplies. Most seniors have been warned to avoid answering phone calls when they do not recognize the number. The scam artists are well ahead of the general population! Today on 9.3% if scams come through phone calls. People are now targeted through emails, websites and social media.

She repeated the usual warnings such as watching for “fake phone calls” but added “cell phone text schemes, price gouging, fraudulent health products such as masks, phishing emails, fake charities or donation requests” to the list.

Check Give.org for legitimate charities and the Better Business Bureau website at www.bbb.org/scamtracker for a monthly scam update. Also report any scam attempt to the Federal Trade Commission, the US and State offices of the Attorney General and the FBI. You can also report scams on the above Better Business Bureau scam tracking option.

The last speaker on the very informative program was Gary Brown from the New York State Attorney General's Office. Mr. Brown mentioned price gouging as a post COVID problem. Health and safety items were offered at 15% or more above suggested guidelines and disinfectant wipes are still being overpriced. The office has had complaints about lotions/potions that claim to prevent COVID, cancellations and refunds not being processed, and now COVID vaccine scams. Fake vaccination cards are being sold on-line. This creates several problems...the original sale and cost to a victim who thinks it is legitimate and individuals who, knowing they are fraudulent, purchase the cards and use them to enter restaurants, educational facilities and stores that require proof of vaccination or to book a flight –exposing others to the virus and a potential new surge.

The scammers are playing to individual emotions rather than logic which is why the “grandparent” Scam or the “friend in need” variant work. Knowing that seniors have essentially “stayed in place” during the pandemic and thus are keeping cash in the house, they arrange to come “pick” up the requested cash rather than have the victim forward it by other means. And rather than trying to impersonate a grandchild or friend, the scammer now pretends to be a “bail bondsman” avoiding the possibility that the intended victim would question the call based on the lack of voice recognition.

He also mentioned that utility scams, focusing on those who have had difficulty paying those bills, technology support and unemployment insurance schemes have become more prevalent during the pandemic. He suggested that you ask questions, especially those scammers would have no way of knowing the answer, especially if the call addresses one of the versions of the “grandparent” scam.

All offered advice:

- Check credit report regularly.
- Check a phone number: google it. If attached to a legitimate organizations or company, that name will pop up.
- Shop on line at secure websites and use a credit card and not a debit card.
- Screen phone calls using caller ID and allow the call to go to voice mail if you do not recognize the name and phone number.
- Legitimate requests and calls will not ask for Social Security, Medicare, bank account, credit card numbers. Never provide those if you have not initiate the call or purchase.

- Social Media sites encourage us to “share information” and events in our lives. Scammers search those sites for information about you and items they can use to scam you. People are taking “selfies” with the COVID vaccine cards and posting them on line...and the scammers are right there scooping up the information.

What did participants learn?

1. One out of six scams are successful.
2. Most of us put ourselves and our personal information in harms way by not recognizing the harmful consequences relative to the potential loss of that information when we provide personal information on line or by phone.
3. There are many entities that offer services and information that help keep us and our personal information safe from those who would abuse that information.
4. Be suspicious. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is not true. If something does not sound right or a phone call is worrisome, hang up. Call back if it turns out to be legitimate.
5. No one is “too smart” not to get caught up in a scam. Mr. Brown mentioned a situation where his mother got a phone call about an unpaid utility bill. He happened to call her cell as she was walking to the bank to get money to pay the bill as she did not want her electricity turned off during the 90 degree heat wave. He warned her of the scam and reminded her that her grandson, who was living with her, was now responsible for paying the bill. She reacted to the threat and the uncomfortable heat rather than consider the improbable logistics of a bill being unpaid.

Resources:

Better Business Bureau

www.bbb.org/scamtracker

www.bbb.org/riskreport

Metro area phone number: 914-333-0550.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance: www.give.org

Dr. Ruth Westheimer video on grandparent scam: “Dr. Ruth says Watch Out for the Grandparent Scam.” This video was produced by the BBB in conjunction with Alive Insider Foundation. Google it or find it at <https://vimeo.com/224391851>.

Videos on grandparent scam- with true stories– are available on-line.

Videos are available on-line relative to most scams. Google the scam adding the word video.

IdentityTheft.gov –check credit report weekly.

NY Senior Action Council: 800-333-4374.

NY Senior Action Council: www.nysenior.org

State Attorney General: <https://ag.ny.gov>

State Attorney General Phone: 1-800-771-7755.

Student History Project *continued.*

Mary-Ellen Kreye, Vice-President of the Uniondale Community Council, coordinated the event with Dr. Bonner and the UCC Board members. Martha Ann Brady, Julia Ross, Paul Gibson and Kathleen Lyons were interviewed in addition to Mrs. Kreye. Questions focused on the personal and family decisions regarding how and why each chose to live in Uniondale, what they knew of the history of the community, its growth and demographics. The change in demographics was also explored. Mrs. Brady and Ms. Lyons were interviewed together as were Mrs. Kreye and Mrs. Ross.



A video “studio” was set up on the stage in the HS auditorium.

Scam Pyramid

Report Scams for Optimal Outcomes

A Healthy Serving of Prevention

Red Flags: Stop! It's a Scam!

Common Scams



Questions about Scams? Call
the NYS Senior Medicare Patrol
1-800-333-4374

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0010-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201

History of Uniondale *continued*

St. Martha's The small mission church on Uniondale Ave would remain a part of the St. Ladislaus parish until September 1949 when it was the Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn created a new parish of St. Martha in Uniondale. The new parish was needed due to the building of new homes and the influx of residents following the end of World War II.

The new pastor, Reverend John J. Byrne, for whom the Neighborhood Center on Jerusalem Ave. is named, soon realized that the growing parish needed a larger church and began construction for a new church on Greengrove Ave. The new church was dedicated in 1953 and the community soon realized that it was a perfect place to temporarily house the new public library being planned across the street.

The Uniondale Historical Society, championed by Ernest and Marie Catanese, vainly fought to preserve the building and eventually it was demolished.

As the population of Uniondale continued to increase, a second school was erected on Northern Parkway and construction on School #3 on California Ave was begun in 1929. Additions were added to both building over the years, but it was not until 1949 that a new school building was built in Uniondale. In a few years, the Goodrich St. Elementary School would be replaced by the Walnut St. School and renovated, expanded and renamed as Uniondale HS.

Are You a Dues Paying Member of the Uniondale Community Council?

The fiscal year of the Uniondale Community Councils runs from October 1st through September 30th. The support of the entire Uniondale Community is necessary if the organization is to continue the programs offered, over the course of several decades, to the young members of the community through the Council's Youth Project. Thus, we are encouraging everyone to become a dues paying member. Your dues and/or a donation to the Council help financially but are also indicative of strong community endorsement of the Council and its Youth Project. Evidence of such community support is vital when grant applications are submitted to the State of New York and local government entities such as Nassau County and the Town of Hempstead.

Programs sponsored by the Uniondale Community Council are available to the students and residents living in the Greater Uniondale Area, which encompasses sections of Baldwin, Hempstead and Westbury that are part of the Uniondale School District.

Note: The information provided will remain confidential. All contributions are tax deductible in the fullest extent of Section 501(c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue tax code.

Please Print (Make checks payable to the Uniondale Community Council and Send to UCC, 806 Jerusalem Ave., Uniondale, NY 11553)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Level: _____

DUES/Donor Levels: Student \$5.00 Individual \$10.00 Parent/Guardian \$15.00

Family (2 or more) \$25.00 Supporting \$50.00 Sustaining \$100.00

Angel Over \$100.00 Other \$ _____

Individual Life Membership \$250.00 Family Life Membership \$500.00

Keep Connected with the Uniondale Community Council:



Fb.me/ucommcouncil



@UCommCouncil



516-538-9487



ucomm.council@gmail.com



www.uniondalecommunitycouncil.com

Are you included the Uniondale Community Council Email List? If not please share your address by: Emailing your name, address and email address to ucomm.council@gmail.com. Or you may register through our website at www.uniondalecommunitycouncil.com.



commUNITY Newsletter



UCC: Founded 1977

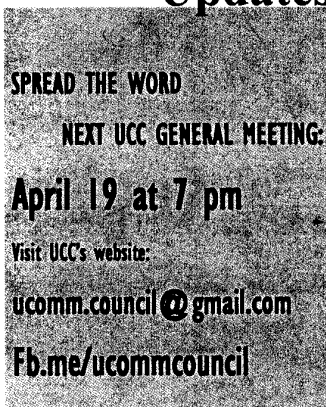
Volume 23
no. 7
4/19/2021

President: Nancy Skeete

Serving the Uniondale School District commUNITYs

PROGRAM—April 19 **School Budget Trustee Candidates**

Community Updates



Attendance: Mar 15, 2021

K Lyons, P Gibson, L Danser, R Taylor, M-E Kreye, D Mabry, G Maffettone, J Ross, J & P Jacobs, C Bonner, P Harris, Y Roberson, MA Brady, B Borum, J Agosta, C Moses, A Hawthorne, J Pinard, C Bohanan, K Ahmed, R Accius, C Mathurin, D Kirirons, A Blanco-Harvey, L Reynolds, T Cumbarbatch, L Pringle, M Amazan, O Nicks, S Epstein, T & C Mangum, M McCaw, A Ellis, E Smith.

Meeting Agenda

April 19, 2021

- 7:00 Pledge to the Flag
- 7:05 Youth Project Report
- 7:30 L Jerome History Project & other Students
- 7:45 Uniondale Schools Budget Proposal
- 8:20 Trustee Candidate
- 8:40 Police Statistics, 1st Precinct
- 8:45 Uniondale Fire Department
- 8:50 Hofstra Updates
- 8:55 Community Updates/Adjourn

Notes from the March Meeting

Youth Project: Exec/ Dir. Lorraine Danser announced the after-school program opened in person today. Group A meet Mon, Tues, Group B Thurs, Fri. It is closed Wed for cleaning. 134 children return to school in 6th Grade. 7th & 8th graders return April 12. Grades 3 to 5 also return April 12. Program consists of socializing (desperately needed), homework time, more outside activity, more relaxed curriculum. Temperatures are taken. Closed campus.

UNIONDALE SCHOOLS: Acting Supt. Taylor shared that the 6th and 9th Graders were welcomed back with a d j, balloons, and an article in Newsday. Other scholars will not return until after Spring Break. Staff expects to receive 2nd vaccine. 4277 technology devices have been distributed (laptops, I pads, mi fi, chrome books, tablets). The District received a \$19,000 grant from Children's Hope for 400 Amazon Fire tablets.

Construction begins on the elementary school additions. The District was awarded \$3.8 million by NYS to aid demolishing the temporary buildings and for the parking fields.

Assistant Supt for Business Steve Epstein is working to keep below the 2% tax cap. PPE will be reimbursed by federal aid & Hempstead Town. No coaches, transportation, events, so topped off the oil tanks for the furnaces & accelerated those type of expenses.

MEMBERSHIP:
JOIN UCC to
strengthen YOUR
commUNITY.

April 19 UNIONDALE SCHOOL BUDGET

SCHOOL TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Calendar of Events

YOUTH PROJECT POLICE STATS

FIRE DEPT

POLICE STATISTICS: 3 Commercial burglaries, 2 other burglaries (1 copper from a vacant building, 1 garage), 3 stolen vehicles, 3 larcenies from autos, 2 commercial robberies (1 a shoplifting), 2 robberies on the street. Precinct will do a strategic review of Uniondale during March. Covid 19 ,.Optimum & IRS scams continue. If ask for Gift Cards= SCAM !!! Neighborhood Problem? POP Unit-573 6170 leave message & phone number, (you may ask NOT to be visited at your home). For immediate attention, 911.



806 Jerusalem Avenue
Uniondale, N.Y. 11553



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Do NOT delay!! DISPOSE OF MEDS TODAY at any NC Police Department precinct.

1st Precinct 573 6100
900 Merrick Rd Baldwin
Disposal container is in the lobby.
Do NOT flush medicines.
Always store meds securely.

dclarke@pdcn.org

HOFSTRA: Anita Ellis reported that there will be no Spring break.

U FIRE DEPT: The Dept. is working to decrease ambulance response times. 4/1 UFD will become part of 911 dispatch.

Wrote letter to Google that N or Hempstead Tpk is NOT E G C!

Uniondale Fire Dept

742 3300

www.uniondalefd.org

Change batteries in fire & CO alarms.

CALENDAR: (Please save these dates)

****UCC Board Meets Mon, Apr.19 5:30pm on zoom**

Join us at UCC's monthly meetings to hear and learn more: Next meeting will be May 17 on zoom @ 7pm, also 6/21

HEMPSTEAD TOWN BD
Check hempsteadny.gov for meetings and contacts
Vaxmobile hotline is 516 812 3678

**Nassau County
Legislator
Kevan Abrahams
571 6201**

**NYS Assemblywoman
Taylor Darling
516 489 6610**

**NYS Senator
Kevin Thomas
516 739 1700
Also Covid vax appointments**