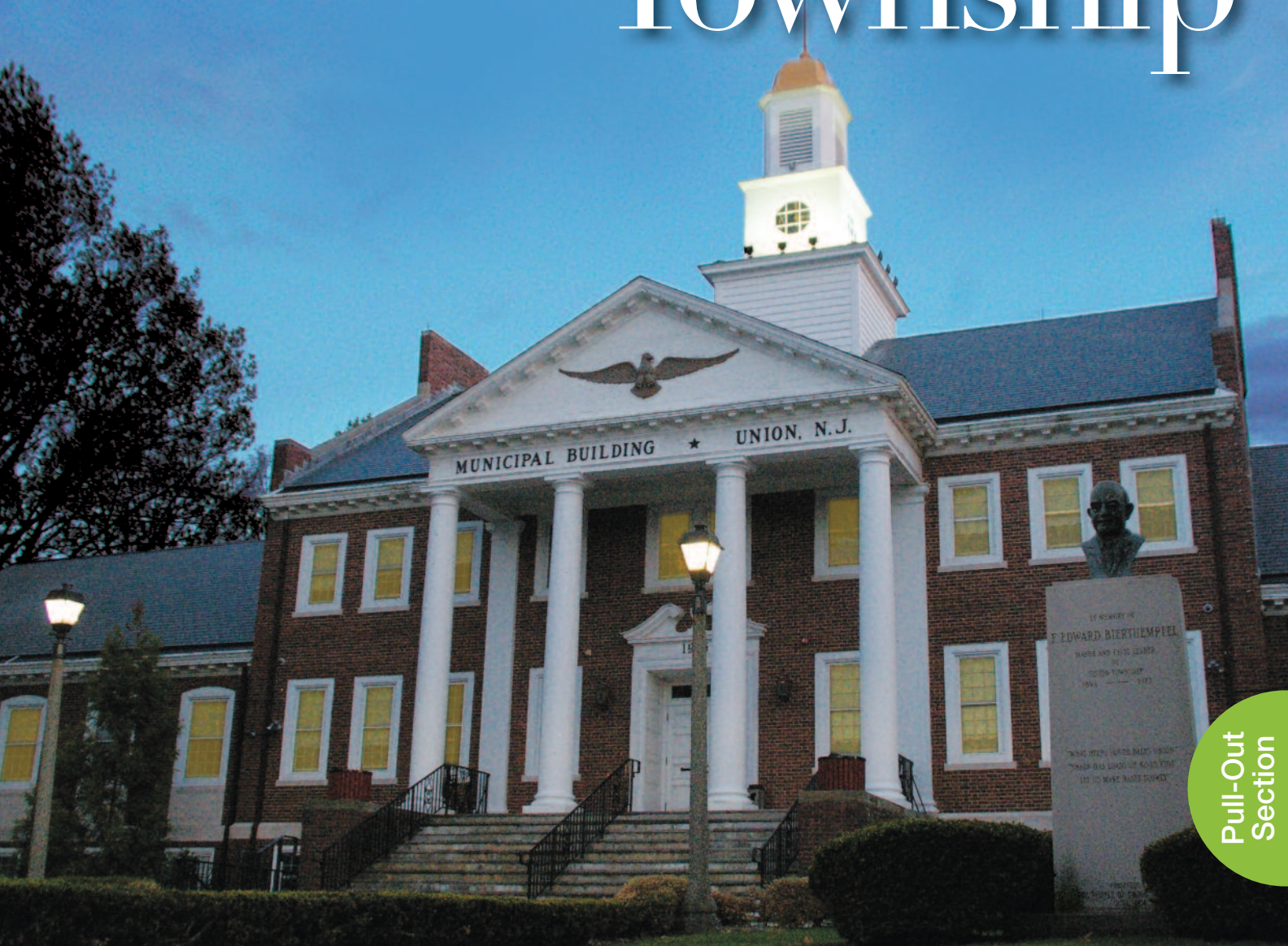


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## Township



Pull-Out  
Section

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Magazine



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This is a supplement of EDGE® Magazine, for further information call (908) 994-5138.



Special thanks to Jim Masterson and his staff at the **Union Township Chamber of Commerce** for their input and assistance.


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# Union Township

## *History in the Making*

The Union Township story began 350 years ago, when English settlers first arrived in New Jersey and set about the difficult and dangerous task of carving a new colony out of the wilderness. Their first foothold, Elizabethtown, encompassed land that included present-day Union Township. However, it would be several more years before a group of families pushed west and actually set down roots here. Many of these pioneers journeyed from Connecticut under the leadership of the reverend Samuel Pierson; consequently, the area was known for a century-and-a-half as Connecticut Farms. It was famous for, among other things, a particular type of hard cider known as Jersey Lightning.

During the struggle for independence, the residents of Connecticut Farms found themselves between the Redcoats and Washington's troops in Morristown. The militia turned back a combined force of British and Hessian soldiers at the Rahway River in the Battle of Springfield on June 23, 1780. The citizen-soldiers fought fiercely, outraged by the murder of Hannah Caldwell two weeks earlier. Caldwell, the wife of a popular minister, had been felled by a musket shot in her home while playing with her children. On the night after the battle, enemy soldiers (who may have imbibed some Jersey Lightning) broke into Liberty Hall and encountered one of Governor William Livingston's daughters in a white nightgown, backlit by an electrical storm. They fled in terror, believing her to be

Hannah's ghost. Caldwell's death is memorialized in the official seal of Union County.

In 1808, the close-knit farming community officially broke off from Elizabeth and chose the name Union. Among its most prominent families were the Kears, who married into the Livingston family and—three years after the township changed its name—purchased Liberty Hall. Over the next 196 years, the Kears lived in the historic structure, distinguishing themselves generation after generation in business and politics. In 2007, Liberty Hall became part of the Kean University campus. The school had moved to Union from Newark in 1958.

From a population of just a few thousand in the late 1800s, the township saw its numbers increase steadily throughout the 20th century. Farms gave way to residential neighborhoods as New Jersey grew and people migrated from the state's urban enclaves to its sylvan suburbs. Light industry followed, creating employment opportunities and boosting the population into the tens of thousands by the 1950s.

Today, Union is home to more than 55,000 people. It boasts two distinct cultural and commercial arteries—Union Center, a downtown shopping district, and busy Route 22—along with dozens of parks, playgrounds and athletic fields. In 2008, Union celebrated its bicentennial. That same year, it was ranked among the Top 100 places to live in America by CNN and *Money* magazine.



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**Sujala Chirila, MD**  
*Diplomate, American Board of Gastroenterology*

**Aaron Javier, P-AC**

# So You Think You Know

# Union...

*Test your knowledge of the township's history, landmarks and prominent citizens!*



**1. Present-day Union once went by the name Connecticut Farms because...**

- A Hartford cattle grazed there
- B Many of its original settlers were from Connecticut
- C It was founded by the Duke of Essex
- D Tobacco grew wild there

**2. In 1989, which international political figure visited Union High School?**

- A George Bush
- B Margaret Thatcher
- C Francois Mitterand
- D Mikhail Gorbachev

**3. Which Union neighborhood was featured in the 1989 Meryl Streep film *She Devil*?**

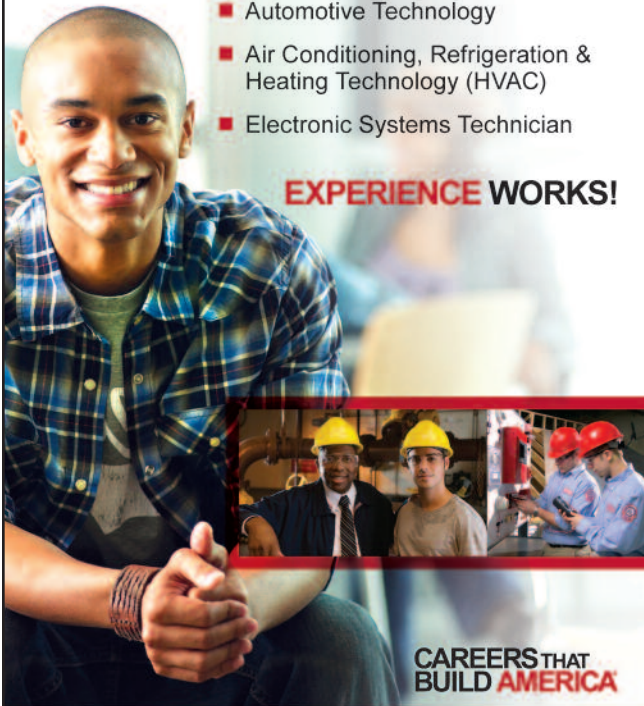
- A Putnam Manor
- B Larchmont Estates
- C Brookside Heights
- D Parkside Manor

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Marvel Comics

4. Which Union celebrity once appeared in a Spider-Man comic?

- A Robert Wuhl
- B Artie Lange
- C Ray Liotta
- D Kelly Kulick

5. In the early 1900s, sections of Union were taken to form...

- A Roselle Park
- B Hillside
- C Kenilworth
- D All of the above

6. Which Union mayor served 34 consecutive terms?

- A Charles Schramm
- B Fred Biertuempfel
- C James Woodruff
- D John Doremus

7. As of 2014, how many women have served as Union mayor?

- A Three
- B Two
- C One
- D None





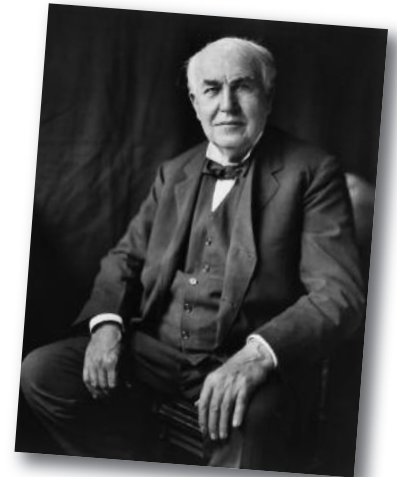
Uniontown

8. The 212-foot Union Water Tower was once...

- A Painted blue
- B The tallest watersphere in the world
- C Considered a hazard to planes approaching Newark Airport
- D All of the above

9. As part of an experiment, Thomas Edison designed several homes in Union out of what material?

- A Concrete
- B Rubber
- C Bakelite
- D Light bulbs



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Photo by Tom Sulcer

**10. Union's Home Depot is the largest in the country. How many square feet does it cover?**

- A 127,000
- B 172,000
- C 217,000
- D 721,000

**11. Which Union High graduate played baseball for both the Yankees and Mets?**

- A Elliott Maddox
- B Al Santorini
- C Ed Collins
- D Pat Collins

**12. In what year did Kean College (now Kean University) relocate from Newark to Union?**

- A 1855
- B 1955
- C 1958
- D 1985

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**Quiz answers at the end of page 12!**



# The Chef Recommends...



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*These menu picks turn first-timers into regulars*

By Millicent K. Brody

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— Patricia Inghilleri

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—George Niotis

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"I'm a pasta junkie...I love our Rigatoni Vodka, which may be served as a main dish, or as a side to accompany our Veal Chop Murphy. Our warm chocolate lava cake served with vanilla ice cream is our signature dessert."

—Carmine Cioffi

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"Our signature crab cakes are what brings people back to The Garden. The lunch menu features crab cakes with a medley of roasted vegetables and potato, while our dinner menu features an entrée portion served over a mixed green salad."

—Spiro Kritakos

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—John Garofalo

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—José Bargo

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Photo courtesy of Ursino

pistachio gremolata.”

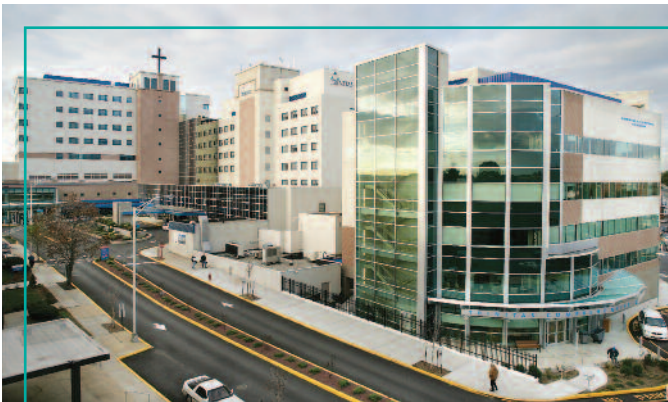
—Peter Turso

**Van Gogh’s Ear Café** • 1017 Stuyvesant Ave.  
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“Our customers love our small plates, including Buffalo chicken meatballs and house-marinated roast beef sliders with caramelized onions and horseradish

**So You Think You Know Union...**

**Answers:** 1B, 2A, 3D, 4D, 5D, 6B, 7B, 8D, 9A, 10C, 11A, 12C



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