

“ ’round the town”

by Michael Dragonetti

Late January is always a special time for residents of Uniondale. Many of the different groups and organizations come together for the Uniondale Community Council's Annual Dinner Dance and "Uniondale: A True Global Village." Nassau County Legislator Kevan Abrahams, now Deputy Presiding Officer for the Legislature, said, "For 30 years (the U.C.C. has) touched my life. (They've) opened their hearts to so many people." The Global Village, a salute to the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., featured many musical performances by St. Martin de Porres Marianist School, Unique Styles Dance, and the Northern Parkway School Chorus. Julius O. Pearse, President of the African-American Genealogical Society gave an inspirational speech on Rev. Dr. King. "It was a great community event," commented Dr. Brenda Williams-Jackson, President of Friends of the Library, the sponsor of the Global Village, "and a wonderful opportunity to share our community pride."

Uniondale/Roosevelt's Weed and Seed program is offering free tax preparation to low income families making \$45,000 or less. Contact the Rev. John J. Byrne Neighborhood Center at (516) 538-9487.

The UCC sponsors Teens After School Knowledge and Skills, an after school program for Lawrence Road and Turtle Hook Middle schools. TASKS Program Director Jeannine Maynard said the program is, "going strong. There are over 100 teenagers at each school (enrolled in TASKS.)"

In response to a rash of GPS thefts, the Police of Nassau County's First Precinct urge all motorists "not to leave GPS units in your cars. Don't even leave the holders in the windshields. Wipe the windshields

clean after you remove the GPS units." The First Precinct also has a unit called Problem Oriented Policing which addresses the various quality of life issues in Uniondale. They can be reached at (516) 573-6170.

Uniondale Neighbors In Total Effort reports that 100 new trees have been promised to Uniondale. If you're interested, contact the Town of Hempstead.

The Cradle of Aviation Museum is offering \$5 admission for Senior Citizens on Tuesdays thru Fridays after 1pm. The former Nunley's Carousel, currently being restored in Ohio, is expected back on Mitchel Field's Museum Row in July.

The Uniondale Fire Department urges all to "check the batteries in their smoke detectors every six months. And if the smoke detectors are more than three years old, they should be replaced."

The Nostrand Gardens Civic Association has announced that 2008 is "the year of the community." President Melvin Harris has launched a "people's campaign," addressing the issues of Sanitation, Crime, and Illegal Housing. Graffiti is being removed from Jerusalem and Uniondale Avenues, and garbage "hot spots" on Front Street are being cleaned up. Their March 3rd meeting will focus on Illegal housing, and in April they're planning a Tax Revolt.

Several members of Boy Scout Troop 390 are working toward their Eagle Scout badges, and they need community projects. For more details, contact Scoutmaster Ricky Ford at (516) 565-5348.

The next meeting for the Uniondale Community Council is Monday, February 25th at 6:15 pm at the Library. The Nostrand Gardens Civic Association will meet on Monday, March 3rd at 7 pm at the Library. All are encouraged to attend both meetings. And a schedule of upcoming Uniondale events can also be found at www.11553.com