

The Borough of Union Beach *Newsletter*

"The Best Little Town in New Jersey"

Spring 2025

Mayor Charles W. Cocuzza

Council President Albin J. Wicki
Councilman Louis Andreuzzi
Councilman Albert Lewandowski

Councilman Louis Riccardi
Councilwoman Cherlanne Roche
Councilwoman Eileen Woodruff

Congratulations on your retirement

John Barresi

Thank you for your years of service to Union Beach!
You will be missed!

Happy Birthday Union Beach!

**Save the Dates: July 3 & July 5
For our Centennial Celebration!**

Union Beach is turning **100**, and we're inviting you to be part of this historic celebration! **Save the dates** — July 3 and July 5, as we honor our town's past, present, and future with a weekend of unforgettable festivities.

The **Centennial Celebration** is still in the planning stages, but we promise a memorable experience filled with entertainment, community gatherings, and special moments. Stay tuned for exciting event details, including live performance, family-friendly activities, and more!

For the latest updates, visit our web site's **100th Anniversary tab** [https://www.unionbeachnj.gov/ubnj/100th Anniversary/](https://www.unionbeachnj.gov/ubnj/100th%20Anniversary/). A complete list of events, venues, and time will be provided in our next newsletter as well.

Let us come together to make the **Union Beach Centennial** a truly spectacular celebration!

Please check the Borough's web site www.ubnj.net to find answers to your questions, in addition to valuable information about what is going on in our community.

*** 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

- 9 (Wednesday) Community Alliance Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
10 (Thursday) Mayor & Council Agenda Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
15 (Tuesday) Library Association Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Library
17 (Thursday) Mayor & Council Public Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
18 (Friday) Borough Offices Closed — Good Friday
25 (Friday) Comedy Show at 8 p.m. at American Legion Post 321
28 (Monday) Recreation Commission Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
30 (Wednesday) Planning Board Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall

May

- 8 (Thursday) Mayor & Council Agenda Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
10 (Saturday) Paper Shredding Event at 9 a.m. at DPW (1400 Florence Avenue)
13 (Tuesday) Library Association Meeting at 6:30 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 p.m. in Borough Hall
19 (Monday) NJDMV Mobile Unit at 9 a.m. at Borough Hall (Appointments ONLY)
23 (Friday) Deadline for Submission to 2025 Summer Newsletter
26 (Monday) Borough Offices Closed — Memorial Day
26 (Monday) Recreation Commission Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
28 (Wednesday) Planning Board Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall

June

- 10 (Tuesday) Primary Election Day (Polls open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
11 (Wednesday) Community Alliance Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
12 (Thursday) Mayor & Council Agenda Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
17 (Tuesday) Library Association Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Library
19 (Thursday) Mayor & Council Public Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
23 (Monday) Recreation Commission Meeting at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall
25 (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.

THE BOROUGH OF UNION BEACH
WISHES
TO CONGRATULATE ALL OUR
2025 GRADUATES!

Borough Phone Numbers

FIRE	911
FIRST AID	911
POLICE	(732) 264-0313
Chief Michael Woodrow	
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR	(732) 264-3026
Robert M. Howard, Jr.	
HUMAN RESOURCES	(732) 264-5611
Paula Cavalier	
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
Alexandra Sweeney	
Dawn Gambacorto	
TAX ASSESSOR	(732) 264-2360
Michael DelRe	
COURT ADMINISTRATOR	(732) 264-9098
Sharon Devaney	
TAX COLLECTOR	(732) 264-5662
Desiree Durkin	
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. & RECYCLING CENTER	(732) 264-1133
Ronald Burkhardt	
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	
"Union Beach Recreation" on Facebook	
LIBRARY	(732) 264-3792
BOARD OF EDUCATION	(732) 264-3133
MEMORIAL SCHOOL	(732) 264-5400
T&M ASSOCIATES	(732) 671-6400
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 2025 Summer Issue of the Borough of Union Beach Newsletter are due by May 23. All submissions should be sent in writing to Mary Mancini, Department of Public Works by emailing memancini@unionbeachnj.gov.

Primary Election June 10, 2025 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 of these locations during the early voting period to vote, regardless of the municipality in which they reside.

For the 2025 Primary Election, early voting will be June 6 to June 9. Hours will be Wednesday to 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.

If you wish to have a mail-in ballot, you must register by 3 p.m. on June 9 for the primary election. An application can be picked up at the Borough Clerk's office Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Once it is completed, you can put the application in the mail. *Please do not return to the Borough Clerk's office.*

ATTENTION: POLLING PLACE HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY RELOCATED!

To All Residents in Polling District 5: Polling District 5 has been moved from the Harris Gardens Fire Department to the Union Beach Fire Company No. 1 located at 1110 Union Avenue.

District	Location	Address
1	Union Beach Memorial Library	810 Union Avenue
2	Union Hose Fire Company	1224 Florence Avenue
3	Borough Hall-Council Chambers	650 Poole Avenue
4	Borough Hall-Seniors' Room	650 Poole Avenue
5	Union Beach Fire Company No. 1	1110 Union Avenue

Please check our town's web site (www.ubnj.net) for the most up-to-date information — Council meeting schedule, committee meetings, important dates, and any other information regarding the town.

Food Donation Drop-Off at DPW

The Union Beach Department of Public Works is still accepting donations of non-perishable food items. All donations will be brought to the Keyport Ministerium Food Pantry. Please consider making a donation, especially if you're dropping off recycling! Items which are always needed include: pasta, pasta sauce, canned vegetables, tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly and cereal. Please make sure all items are not past their expiration dates. Let's make sure that no one in our community goes hungry!

If you wish to donate perishable items, please call Natalie directly at 732-888-1986.

Dumpster/Storage Container Permits

EVERY dumpster and container used in the Borough of Union Beach **MUST** have a proper permit. All dumpsters/containers **MUST** be placed on property. Special permission to use the street may be given in extreme cases only. Permits cost \$30 and are good for thirty (30) days. For more information, please call the Code Enforcement Office at 732-526-8686.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

The Monmouth County Household Hazardous Waste Facility is located in Tinton Falls. The phone number is 732-683-8686. Always call before you go, as their hours change daily. This is where residents can take many items that are not picked up curbside, and are not accepted at the Recycling Center in Union Beach. Some of things they accept are: fire extinguishers, propane tanks, household chemicals, etc. Remember, latex paint containers become regular garbage once they are completely dried up.

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

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Union Beach Police Department, "HAPPY CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY UNION BEACH!" As Chief of Police, I am honored to announce that I was elected President of the New Jersey State Bayshore Chiefs of Police Association on January 1 and continue on the legislative board at the New Jersey and Monmouth County Chiefs Associations. The latter, most importantly, has proven to benefit our community exponentially through the acquisition of additional resources to ensure the safety of our community!

As previously mentioned, "to kick-off" the UBPD's 100th year Birthday, the world's largest professional association for police leaders — the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) — which has over 31,000 members in over 165 countries (on all 7 continents), chose to "spotlight" the Union Beach Police Department in its globally distributed "Police Chief" magazine (December 2024 issue). The spotlight article highlights the UBPD policies and initiatives, centennial anniversary and, includes as well, the recent collaboration between Brookdale College and UBPD regarding the restoration of our 1966 Chrysler Newport police car by the BCC students. (The '66 is dedicated to the memory of UBPD Det. Cpl. Timothy Kelly, Jr., and is now identified with the call sign TK-31.) Copies are at Headquarters for our residents and the public to read. (Thank you for stopping by!) We are also honored to announce that we are in receipt of congratulatory centennial letters from our law enforcement partners across the USA and the globe, that we have worked with over the last 100 years. They will be on display at HQ, as well as an anthology for reference.

Many great community events will be taking place soon in our gorgeous town throughout the year. All are encouraged and welcome to attend! We recommend you follow our official social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, web site, etc.) to keep abreast of the various community events and general police news.

As always, please contact us directly at 732-264-0313 if you have questions, concerns, or emergencies. Please also continue to use due caution at Memorial Elementary School, especially during drop-off and pick-up times. In the event you observe careless driving, please advise a police officer so as to address the issue immediately.

The UBPD handles nearly 12,000 calls for service per annum. Our dedicated, professional, and devoted police officers are equipped and trained to handle any given situation that presents itself; no job is too big or too small. Although we have been recognized internationally for "policing excellence," it is the accolades we received from our residents on a daily basis that are more important. Union Beach truly is the best place to reside anywhere, not only due to the gorgeous ecosystem we inhabit, but once again, due to the people that reside here.

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

Appliance, Metal, Leaf & Christmas Tree Pick-Up

While we do keep to a schedule, you can now go to www.ubnj.net to make us aware of when you need any of the above items picked up. Click on "Report a Concern Non-Emergency" and fill out the form. You will receive an email telling you when your items will be picked up. Appliances/Metals are collected every two weeks.

Leaves are picked up weekly from the end of October until mid-December. Christmas Trees are picked up weekly in January. Bulk items will be picked up by our contractor according to the 2025 Recycling and Trash Collection Calendar.

Code Red Emergency Notifications

Consider enrolling in the Borough's Code Red notification system. 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."

Union Beach Board of Health

All Union Beach residents must register their dogs as required by law. Registration was due January 31, 2025. Late fees apply. Avoid a summons with a mandatory court appearance, and register now. Register your dog through the Borough web site (www.ubnj.net), or in person at Borough Hall. For critter issues, please call the SPCA Animal Control at 732-383-1090.

Tenant Landlord Registration was due February 15. Please register in person or on our web site today!

Business/Rental Insurance was due on March 1. Please register in person or on our web site today!

Keyport Ministerium Food Pantry

We would like to thank our volunteers for their commitment to the pantry and its clients, as well as those who donated food, made financial contributions, and hosted food drives during the holiday season. All of what we do here wouldn't be possible without all of you.

Unfortunately, food insecurity is a year-round issue. If you are able, please continue supporting the pantry. The following is a list of our most needed items: **pasta, pasta sauce, soup, canned vegetables, tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly, and cereal.**

All donations can be dropped off at 42 Elizabeth Street, Keyport. Donations are accepted Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you are in need of assistance, have perishable food to donate, or would like to host a food drive, please reach out to the Director of Operations, Natalie Smith, at 732-888-1986, or message us on our Facebook page: **Keyport Ministerium Food Pantry.**

Memorial School

Happy Spring!

Just a reminder that preschool registration is open. Parents can register any preschool-aged resident child on our web site at www.unionbeachschools.org. Registration is under the school tab.

Just a reminder that in order to attend Union Beach Public Schools, your child must be living in Union Beach. An individual cannot use the address of a family member in town without living there. Any claims of residency fraud will be thoroughly investigated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Superintendent Amanda Lewert at 732-264-5400.

American Legion Post 321

The Sons of American Legion (SAL) are hosting a Comedy Show on April 25, 2025. Tickets are \$30 per person. Doors open at 7 p.m.; show begins at 8 p.m. The event is open to the public. Info available at the Post. The SAL also hosts breakfast on the third Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon — \$10 per adult/\$5 per child. This breakfast is open to the public. Come have breakfast with a view!

Keep an eye on the Post's Facebook page for upcoming events and membership information.

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.

The Borough of Union Beach **2025 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 OR ANY PARK**

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: CESPA-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**

The Borough of Union Beach
2025 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.

2025 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

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

Street Sweeping

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

Thank you.

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."

NJDMV Mobile Unit

NJDMV Mobile Unit will be in Union Beach at Borough Hall on Monday, May 19 beginning at 9 a.m. The Mobile Unit will be accepting appointments to register for a Real ID. Please keep an eye out on our town's web site 30 days prior to the date for the link to make an appointment. Appointments ONLY, no walk-ups, will accepted. More information to follow on www.ubnj.net.

Message from the Code Enforcement Office

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

1. Yards should be well maintained. This includes removal of rubbish and debris, cutting of grass, removal of weeds, etc. This includes front yard, rear yard and any grass on adjacent curbs. We will be placing a large emphasis on exterior maintenance of properties throughout this upcoming season.
2. All homes and empty lots must be identified with an address number. This information should be in a conspicuous location that is visible from the street.

Thank you in advance for helping to keep our town safe and clean during these next few months!

Grace United Methodist Church

Grace United Methodist Church is located at 115 St. James Avenue in Union Beach. We welcome everyone. If you would like to be part of a small, friendly group of people, try us out! Our weekly Sunday services start a 9 a.m., led by Pastor Gene Chamberlin. Scott Woolley, Certified Lay Speaker, and Donna Biondi, Lay Servant, assist during our services, as well as our acolytes. Our Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. If you are unable to attend in person, our service is live-streamed on our Facebook page.

Our community outreach programs include NA groups that meet every Sunday and Monday and a yoga group that meets on Wednesdays. We also have a bereavement group for those that have lost a child. This group meets on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. If you would like further information, please contact our church, and we will arrange for someone to get in touch with you.

We hold various fundraisers throughout the year. In April, we will be having our annual Easter Candy sale. Watch our Facebook page for more information! In May, we will be having our vegetable and herb plant sale. Watch our Facebook page for the dates when the plants will be available! Come and get some home grown plants for your garden!

We are still accepting gently used clothing, shoes and towels/sheets/linens, stuffed animals or other soft toys, 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.

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 reach out to us via our email address, GraceUnitedMeth@optonline.net, or you can contact the church at 732-264-0916 to leave your information. Please follow us on Facebook at [Grace UMC Union Beach](https://www.facebook.com/GraceUMCUnionBeach).

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. We ask for God's blessing on all those children and young adults who will be graduating this year, and we ask God to guide them as they follow their hearts as they begin new chapters in their lives. We ask that He cover all of us with peace, love and protection. We pray for peace on earth! God Bless!

Recycling — Did You Know?

Fun Facts About Recycling:

Paper Recycling — Americans recycle a lot of paper. Paper recovered for recycling in the U.S. in 2022 would fill more than 4,000 Washington Monuments!

Steel Recycling — The United States annually recycles enough scrap iron and steel scrap to build more than 900 Golden Gate Bridges!

Aluminum Can Recycling — It takes as little as 60 days for an aluminum beverage can to go from the recycling bin back to a grocery shelf!

Plastic Container Recycling — Plastic containers recovered for recycling are used to make new plastic containers, clothing, carpeting, decking, playground equipment, cell phone cases and more!

Glass Recycling — Recycling helps save energy. Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours, power a computer for 30 minutes, or a television for 20 minutes!

Learn more about recycling at recycling.nj.gov.

Electronics Recycling

Public Works continues to accept electronics from Union Beach resident ONLY. By law, television sets and computer components must be recycled. Each address will be restricted to the disposal of three (3) television sets per calendar year. Proof of residency must be provided.

Clean Communities Day

Our next Clean Communities Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 27 — help us keep Union Beach clean by coming out on that day to pick up litter at the beach and parks! A limited number of mini-grants (up to \$100) are available for organized groups — sports teams, scouts, churches, etc. All ages are welcome! Helping us out can also count as community service. 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.

Reuse Opportunities

It has often been said that one person's trash is another person's treasure. Instead of discarding unwanted items, try donating them or selling them. Not only will you be reducing waste, but you will be helping others. Local churches, community centers, thrift stores, schools, nonprofit organizations, and other organizations will often accept a variety of donated items. Check out the reuse opportunities below and look for additional opportunities in your areas.

Books — Did you know the Union Beach Library has a drop book for used books? It is outside on Columbia Avenue. This a great way to share used books and keep them out of the landfill!

Clothing, Shoes, Towels/Sheets/Linens, & Soft Toys — Grace United Methodist Church is accepting these items to ship to countries in need. Place in plastic bag and drop in front of the garage at 122 Floyd Avenue.

Food — Keyport Ministerium Food Panty is always in need of donations. You can drop off non-perishable food items at DPW to be donated to them!

Toner Cartridges — Toner cartridges can be refurbished and then reused. DPW collects name-brand cartridges and works with a vendor to get them refurbished. This keeps them out of the landfill!

Union Beach Paper Shredding Event

Union Beach will be hosting a Monmouth County Paper Shredding Event on Saturday, May 10. This is a great way protect your identity against theft!

This event will be held at the Department of Public Works located at 1400 Florence Avenue from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If the trucks fill before 1 p.m., the event will be stopped!

You **MUST** stay in your vehicle and follow the directions of our staff. We will do all we can to get you in and out as quickly as possible, and in the order that you arrive.

All binder clips must be removed; staples and paper clips may remain. Each vehicle will have a limit of 100 pounds (which is equivalent to four office paper boxes, or four large-sized trash bags).

This is a free service for Monmouth County Residents **ONLY**. You **MUST** bring ID showing you are a Monmouth County Resident. **NO BUSINESSES ALLOWED!!**

For further information, please check the Union Beach web site (www.ubnj.net) or the Monmouth County web site (www.visitmonmouth.com).

Fire Safety Tips for Homeowners

The devastating wildfires in California should make us consider how safe our homes are from fire. We are not immune from these types of dangers in New Jersey.

Please remember the following during Spring cleaning:

- Regularly clean leaves, pine needles, and anything that can burn from gutters.
- Remove anything that can burn from underneath decks.
- Keep your grill well away from siding and deck railings and out from under eaves and hanging branches.
- Develop a fire-resistant landscape where plants and hardscape are maintained so that they do not easily transmit fire. Establish your defensible space so that the risk of fire transmission to your property is reduced. Wood bark mulch should be substituted for a more fire-resistant material. Mulch can spontaneously combust, particularly when piled in large, deep quantities, as the heat generated from its decomposition can build up and reach a point where it ignites on its own; this is more likely in hot, dry weather conditions with low humidity.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS ARE SEVERE IN OUR AREA. High winds and drought conditions prompt **RED FLAG WARNINGS** issued by the State of New Jersey. Please be aware of these conditions and **DO NOT** use outdoor fireplaces or fire pits during these conditions. A stray ember could travel hundreds of feet and start spot fires.

You can get further information at njwildfire.org.

Union Beach Library

Come and visit the library as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Union Beach. Displays of pictures and newspaper articles from past years will be available throughout the year!!!

Check out our Facebook page, www.ubnj.net, or listen to our phone message to receive up-to-date information. You can also email Ublibrary07735@gmail.com with any questions.

Don't forget — if you're *Spring Cleaning* our book donation book drop on Columbia Avenue is a great way to support the Library and keep books out of the landfill! Have a great Spring!

Engineer's Corner

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

Reconstruction of Fifth Street — The Governing Body recently authorized the preparation of design plans and contract specifications for the Reconstruction of Fifth Street from Florence Avenue to Pine Street. The improvements include the installation of drainage, new concrete curbs, and sidewalks, where it exists today, and a reconstruction of the existing roadway surface. The project is to be included in the 2025 Roadway Improvement Program.

Scholer Park Improvements Phase X — The Borough received a grant in the amount of \$300,000 from the Monmouth County Open Space Grant program for Scholer Park Improvements Phase X. The improvements include the installation of Sports Lighting at existing ball fields. We anticipate the construction to begin late Spring/early Summer 2025.

Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control Project — The construction contract for Phase I of the multi-phased shore protection project is completed and the beach was open to the public early 2024. The Corps continues with the design plans for the remaining phases of the project. The design plans for Phase II are scheduled to be completed in early 2027.

2025 New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Grant — The Borough was awarded a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Grant program in the amount of \$217,456 for the Roadway and Drainage Improvements along Park Avenue from the Flat Creek Bridge to Union Avenue. The improvements will include the installation of certain drainage, installation of certain sections of new concrete curbs and sidewalks, and milling and resurfacing of the existing roadway. The project will be included in the 2025 Roadway Improvement Program.

Pavement Resurfacing Columbia Avenue — The Governing Body recently authorized the preparation of design plans and contract specifications for the milling and resurfacing of Columbia Avenue from Union Avenue to Shore Road. The improvements include replacement of certain sections of deteriorated curbs, installation of ADA compliant ramps at the intersection of Union Avenue, and the milling and pavement resurfacing of the remaining section of Columbia Avenue, including the intersection of Shore Road. The project will be included in the 2025 Roadway Improvement Program.

Various Roadway Improvements — The Governing Body recently authorized the preparation of design plans and contract specifications for certain roadway improvements throughout the Borough. The improvements include reconstruction of the intersection of Second Street and Pine Street, reconstruction of the intersection of Shore Road and Sydney Avenue, and drainage improvements on Donnelly Street. The project will be included in the 2025 Roadway Improvement Program.

2025 Monmouth County Community Development Grant Application — The Borough will be submitting a grant application to the Monmouth County Community Development Grant Program for the Reconstruction of Fourth Street from Florence Avenue to Dock Street. The improvements will include the installation of drainage, new concrete curbs, and a total reconstruction of the existing roadway. If successful, we anticipate construction to be part of the 2026 Roadway Improvement Program.

2025 Turf Maintenance Program — On-Site Landscape continues in the Spring of 2025 with the second year of a three-year contract for the Turf Maintenance Program for all ball fields, parks, and open space areas throughout the Borough. The Turf Maintenance Program includes the fertilization and treatment of all athletic fields and common-grassed areas within the Borough.

A Message from Mayor Charles W. Cocuzza

Dear Friends,

We have made it through another Winter of freezing temperatures and are ready to enjoy the warmer weather and extended hours of daylight as we enter into Spring!

Union Beach turns 100 years old in 2025! Join us as we celebrate our Centennial. We are planning a day of fun and activities for all, to be capped off by a fireworks display on July 5th! Continue to check the Borough's website at www.ubnj.net for more information.

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 Borough has been awarded a grant from the NJDOT in the amount of \$217,456 for Phase III of the Reconstruction of Park Avenue, from the Flat Creek bridge deck easterly to Union Avenue.
- The Borough has been awarded a Monmouth County Open Space Grant in the amount of \$300,000 for the installation of sports lighting around the baseball and softball fields at Scholer Park
- The Borough will be reconstructing 5th Street from Florence Avenue to Pine Street along with other smaller projects.

EVENTS:

- Union Beach Recreation Easter Egg Hunt at Scholer Park is scheduled for Sunday, April 6th from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 pm.
- Fourth of July Fireworks event is Thursday, July 3rd beginning at dusk.
- The last day of school for our Memorial School students is tentatively scheduled for June 20th (provided no more snow days are required). As always, we ask everyone to please drive carefully and be mindful that our streets, parks and beachfront will be busier during the summer months.

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

We would also like to take this opportunity to offer our Congratulations and Best Wishes to ALL of our Class of 2025 Graduates. We are very proud of all 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

**BOROUGH OF UNION BEACH
650 POOLE AVENUE
UNION BEACH, NJ 07735**

**ECRWSS EDDM
POSTAL PATRON
UNION BEACH,
NEW JERSEY 07735**

STANDARD RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 482
RED BANK,
NEW JERSEY
07701

The Borough of Union Beach Spring 2025 Newsletter