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LOCAL TALK Weekly

Local News Flash

LOCAL NEWS
flash

BY WALTER ELLIOTT

**Newark Co-Hosts
Outdoor Memorial Day
Observance**



NEWARK : Some 220 people took advantage of the City of Newark and Prudential Insurance's first outdoor Memorial Day Observance to honor local war dead under warm and sunny conditions here at Military Park May 26.

The observers - including some insurance company personnel and some pausing commuters - saw six members of American Legion Gibraltar Post No. 36 lay a wreath before Gutzon Borglum's "Wars of America" monument at 9 a.m. The color guard detail then made an about-face turn to salute the Stars and Stripes waving from a 110-foot pole at the park's apex.

Mayor Cory A. Booker and Prudential Chairman and Chief Executive Officer John Strangfeld spoke between somber and patriotic selections performed by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet.

Booker reminded the gathering that Newarkers have answered the United States government's call to arms and have prepared at the park since before the American Revolution. Strangfeld announced that his company is donating a \$2,500 check to the G.I. Go One Stop Center in City Hall.

The ceremony, on first brush, is among the first of thousands to be held now through Memorial Day May 31. Wreath layings and playings of "Taps" are to be replicated at the Arlington (Va.) National Cemetery - where the original Decoration Day was held May 30, 1868 - and elsewhere on U.S. soil. The observance includes, since a Congressional resolution was passed in 2000, people pausing for a moment silence 3 p.m. local time May 31.

Strangfeld, after the ceremony, explained that Post 326 had been holding its ceremony indoors since 1945. The company leader added that their donation to the G.I. Go Fund was to recognize the center's service and potential.

"There's a memorial in our Washington Street building to company employees who served and died in World Wars One and Two," said Strangfeld. "We try to do something a little different each year, last year, we donated the flag that's up on the pole. We need a dozen centers like G.I. Go to turn our intentions to help veterans into reality."

The City of Newark is to meanwhile hold its own annual observance 11 a.m. May 28 at City Hall.

**25 Walkers Navigate
Newark's "Intersection Hell"**

NEWARK - Most of the 30 inaugural New Jersey to New York 50-Mile Walk along the East Coast Greenway took on - and beat - what they called "Intersection Hell." here in the Ironbound May 23.

The NJ2NY50 group had spent about five hours walking through Weequahic Park, Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark Penn Station and Ferry Street when they approached their most challenging part of the walk at about 4:30 p.m.

"This is where Ferry Street, Raymond Boulevard, U.S. Truck Route 1-9 and the New Jersey Turnpike meet," said walking leader Roger Kiczek, of Morristown. "The



Pulaski Skyway is overhead. There are no shoulders or sidewalks and the area is dirty."

The area, furthermore, tends to flood after moderate rain storms. Kiczek and East Coast Greenway Mid-Atlantic Trail Coordinator Michael Oliva added that five members chose to take the PATH tube from Newark and are to rejoin them at Jersey City's Journal Square.

It took Kiczek and his band 10 minutes to walk from Ferry and Lockwood streets and reach the Passaic River bridge. They walked single file most of the way, ducking a five-foot-high bridge clearance and straddling guardrails. Oliva, of Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., had to stop traffic when the group had to cross three exit ramps.

Kiczek and Oliva, afterward, explained that they want to promote pedestrian access of the greenway with their 50-mile walk. They said they have heard that bicycling workers use the route between Jersey City and Newark.

The walkers include Jen Chaky and Rani Moti, of Montclair and West Orange natives-turned Jersey City residents Dennis and Steve Quinn and Megan Kiczek. M. Kiczek teaches English in West Orange.

"Jen saw their Web site and, as a friend, decided to come along," said Moti. "I now see how highways separate communities." "I do recognize some billboards along 1-9 that I've driven past," said S. Quinn. "I never saw other places, like the Coliseum Truck garage on Ferry Street, before."

Oliva added that he and several greenway members erected a gazebo just inside of Weequahic Park's Meecker Street and Elizabeth Avenue entrance May 22.

**East Orange Church
Envisions Ampere
Community House**

EAST ORANGE : Greater Cornerstone Baptist Church intends to expand its Ampere community services by

remodeling a corner building two doors south of its 235-237 North 18th St. sanctuary.

"We have just bought 231 North 18th on the corner," announced Pastor Niles R. Wilson during the church's inaugural motorcycle blessing service May 1. "Our next step is to work in the financing. We intend to turn it into a new ark for youth and the community."

231 North 18th Ave., at Crescent Place, is a vacant two story building. It has housed Broadway real estate, Connolly & Connolly Insurance and, more recently, Ampere Coin Store, 1950-65.

Pastor Wilson, who is also a Newark Police Department Deputy Chief, said that 235-237 North 18th Ave., used to be the Ampere Theater into 1957 and was American Legion Post 73 by 1965. The theater's balcony is still evident in Greater Cornerstone's sanctuary.

"Greater Cornerstone started in Newark," said Wilson. "We got moved out by the Society Hill townhouses."

Both the prospective center and church are in the heart of East Orange's Ampere section. The East Orange Ampere Branch Library, closed since January for asbestos cleaning, and the Ampere Station site, razed by New Jersey Transit in 1992, are nearby.

Wilson and Newark's Paradise Baptist Church Senior Pastor Jethro C. James blessed 18 motorcycles in one of Greater Cornerstone Baptist Church's Centerway parking lots May 1. The blessing is part of Greater Cornerstone's Victory Motorcycle Club - a newly formed arm of its Men's Ministry.

**Local Church & Temple
Hold "Walk Of Ages"**



NEWARK : Members of Wells Cathedral Church of God in Christ here and Congregation Oheb Shalom, now of South Orange, took 30 minutes to hold their joint "Walk of Ages" May 23.

Some 200 worshippers and friends left the Greater Newark Conservancy headquarters at 95 Prince St shortly after 10 a.m. and mostly walked south on Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Boulevard to Wells Cathedral at 672 King Blvd. Wells Pastor Hersey Taylor and Oheb Shalom Rabbi Mark Cooper then held an interfaith service - including a reading of the congregation's torah for the first time here since 1958.

The walk is part of Oheb Shalom's 150th anniversary. Oheb, as one of Newark's "three trunk synagogues," was founded in a Prince Street house before occupying its first temple on the block 1884-1911.

Oheb stayed at 672 King Blvd. before moving to its present 170 Scotland Rd., S.O. edifice in 1958. The move allowed Wells to buy the former temple.

The ecumenical walk and service was also staged to benefit the conservancy, Lighthouse Community Services and the Community Soup Kitchen of Orange. The conservancy sees to reuse 95 Prince St. for a presentation hall. The kitchen, formerly at the First Presbyterian Church of Orange, has been on hiatus since March 28 until it finds a new home.

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