

Special points of interest:

- Prior to the European colonial incursion, the **Lenni Lenapi Native American tribe** inhabited the general area of what we know and call Union County in the 21st century.
- From the 15th-17th centuries, Union County saw the expansion of **Dutch and English settlers**.
- **The Elizabethtown Purchase of 1664** represented a land title agreement between the Lenni Lenapi and a group of Englishmen, which gave the English settlers a large tract of land extending from the **Raritan to Passaic Rivers**.
- In **1683**, four counties, **Bergen, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Essex** were created. Union County was originally a part of Essex County.
- Union County was created on March 19th, 1857. It was the last New Jersey county to be created. It is the most densely populated county in New Jersey.



The above illustration represents the **Seal of the County of Union, New Jersey**. The seal's inspiration is steeped in **Revolutionary War** history and lore. See www.unioncountynj.org/ctyclerk/brochure2.html for more details.

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
800 PARK AVE.
PLAINFIELD, NJ 07060
908-757-1111 X112
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A GUIDE TO UNION COUNTY, NJ

Plainfield Public Library Pathfinder

July 2010

Overview Commentary

Are you a new resident of Plainfield or a close adjacent neighborhood? Do you need a quick, no-hassle guide to the resources available to you as a new resident of Union County?

The Plainfield Public Library can be your first stop in acquainting yourself with your new environment. We can help you find everything a new resident needs, from what your legislative voting district is, to what community assets are available to you (E.g., The United Way of Greater Union County, polling places, One Stop Career Centers, area hospitals, etc.).

Whatever your goal is, from locating area parks to finding out the recycling schedules and stipulations for your area, to finding out cultural attractions or local places of worship, your library can help you find the information you need. We have a plethora of information, from flood insurance maps to the names of your area legislators, to vaccination centers in the influenza season. If you need assistance, you can ask a **Reference Librarian** for help at the **Information & Research Assistance Desk**, e-mail the same desk at ref@plfdpl.info, or call **908-757-1111, ext. 112. HELLO AND WELCOME, NEIGHBOR!**



The **Lenni-Lenapi** (sometimes spelled **Lenape**) were a part of the **Algonquin** nation. They were organized into the sub-tribes of the **Minsi** (in the north part of New Jersey), the **Unami** (in the center), and the **Unilachtigo** (in the south). Because of European infringement, tribal decimation, migration, and the like, The tribe was pushed down into Burlington County. From there, the decimated tribe spread to other parts of the Mid-Atlantic region, the South-west, and Canada. Some joined the Cherokees and Osages west of the Mississippi River.

Some Highlighted Resources

- www.ucnj.org/home.html
- **Hill-Donnelly Cross Reference Directory: Consumer and Business Guide for Union County West, New Jersey, and Vicinity**, by Hill-Donnelly Corporation, call # NJR 974.936 HIL 2006 AUGUST (Archives Collection)
- **The Illustrated History of Union County**, by Frank Thorne, call # NJ 974.936 THO (Circulating Collection)
- **Union County, NJ and Plainfield maps**, ask for these maps at the **Information and Research Assistance Desk, Reference Staff**
- **Manual of the Legislature of New Jersey**, call # NJR 328 NJ3Z 2009, ask Reference Staff



The Solaris Health System encompasses many nearby locations in Union and Middlesex Counties. For details about the services available in both counties, see the Solaris home page at: www.solarishs.org. For more information about the Neighborhood Health Services Corporation, formerly called the Plainfield Health Center, see its home page at: www.phcmednet.org/index.htm.

"I look forward to working with all our County family, all our employees and residents in bringing renewed prosperity to Union County."

DCS

*Daniel Sullivan
2010 Freeholder
Chairman Address*



"Rhythm and Blues by the Brook" is an annual event hosted by Cedar Brook Park. For details of all Union County activities, consult the web page: www.ucnj.org/calendar/index.html.

In-house Books

- *NAMI Union County Resource Guide: Help in Navigating the Mental Health System in Union County*, by NAMI Union County (N.J.), call # NJ 362.2 RES (NJ Circulating Collection)
- *Union County Black Americans*, by Ethel M. Washington, call # NJ 974.936 Was (NJ Circulating Collection)
- *Encyclopedia of New Jersey*, by Maxine N. Lurie, call # NJ 974.9 ENC
- *Union County Business to Business Directory*, by Corfacts, Inc., call # NJR 658.8 UNI (Stored Material)
- *Master Plan: City of Plainfield, Union County, New Jersey*, by John Taikina, call # PR 307.12 MAS 1998 (Located in the Plainfield Room)

Articles

- **CAIT CALLAHAN. 2009.** Rhythm and Blues festival draws Plainfield together. *Courier - News, June 7*, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed May 4, 2010).
- **MARK SPIVEY. 2008.** Emotions run high at meeting to determine Muhlenberg Hospital's fate. *Courier - News, June 27*, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed May 4, 2010).
- www.mycentraljersey.com/union (see this web page URL for online news articles about Union County)
- **TINA CASEY. 2010.** Union County celebrates Community Development Week. *Courier - News, April 21*, <http://www.proquest.com/> (accessed May 4, 2010).

Online Resources

- www.ucnj.org/home.html
- www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp
- www.solarishs.org
- www.city-data.com/county/Union_County-NJ.html
- www.state.nj.us/nj/gov/county/localgov.html
- <https://voter.njsvrs.com/PublicAccess/jsp/PollPlace/PollPlaceSearch.jsp>
- www.unioncountynj.org/cultural/index.html
- www.ucpac.org
- www.plainfieldsymphony.org
- www.fidelityland.com/siteplan.html?id=17 (*This site shows the stores at Watchung Square Mall, Rte. 22 West, Watchung, NJ.*)
- www.gatewaychamber.com/members/union_county.asp
- www.uwguc.org