

January 2020  
Year 17  
Issue 172

# Passaic Valley UNICO

## Our January 2020 Monthly Newsletter



Passaic Valley UNICO  
PO Box 341  
Little Falls, NJ 07424

**Serving**  
**Little Falls**  
**Totowa**  
**Woodland Park**

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Website [www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)  
Website [www.UNICOMembers.com](http://www.UNICOMembers.com)  
Website [www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO](https://www.Facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO)  
Website [www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org)  
Email [PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com](mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com)

## ***A Message from our Chapter President***

*Members,*

*I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this year be healthy and blessed for you.*

*Now that the holidays are over, I hope in the upcoming months we can all work together to make this year a successful one.*

*Our January meeting will be held at St. Agnes Episcopal Church. It will be a pizza meeting. This will keep the cost down for January because our beefsteak will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Russian Hall. This is an event that we all need to support. The beefsteak and the golf outing will be our only fundraisers this year. Please try to come and sell tickets to your family and friends. See Joe Benvenuti regarding tickets for the Beefsteak. The flier is on page 6 of this newsletter*

*On behalf of the district I would like to notify everyone that on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> there will be a pasta dinner at the Wayne PAL. This will be held to support the Christmas party that is held every year to benefit our special need friends. Please support this excellent cause. The flier is on page 7 of this newsletter.*

*As my final note for this message, the hotel reservations for Steve's 2020 installation as the UNICO National President at the Sanibel Marriott in Fort Myers Florida are open. The convention flier is on page 8 of this newsletter.*

*Once again have a happy and healthy 2020.*

*Ciao,  
Carmen*



## January Birthdays

01-22 Dominic Giuliano

## Photo Albums

All of our chapter events pictures can be seen on our website.

Additional pictures from our "NJ IV District" and also a lot from our "UNICO National" events can also be seen on their websites.

[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

[www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org)

[www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com](http://www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com)

## Food Pantry

Please don't forget about our UNICO Phil Arena Food Pantry ... Your non-perishable donation will help restock it

You can bring it directly to the pantry in the basement of Holy Angels Church ... or to any chapter meeting

## Upcoming Events – Local and National

**January 8** ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday ... **Our Chapter Monthly Meeting** ~ A pizza meeting ... St. Agnes Church Hall ... 7:00 pm dinner – 8:00 pm meeting

**January 31** ... Friday ... **A \$20.00 NJ District IV Pasta Fundraiser for our December 2020 Special Needs Christmas Party** ... "If giving means something during the Holiday Season, then please try to be a part of this event" ... The flier is on page 7 this Newsletter

**February 8** ... Saturday ... **Annual Beefsteak Fundraiser** ... The flier is on page 6 of this newsletter

**February 28** ... Friday ... **Passaic-Clifton Chapter – NJ District IV** ... It is their 70<sup>th</sup> Chapter Anniversary of serving UNICO and their communities

**March 19, 20, 21** ... Thursday, Friday, Saturday ... **UNICO National Midyear Board Meeting** ... St. Petersburg FL ... **Delegates and representation from our chapter is urged**

**July 22, 23, 24, 25** ... Wednesday through Saturday ... **The 98<sup>th</sup> Annual UNICO National Convention** ... Fort Myers, Sanibel Harbour Beach Marriott ... The Convention Flier is on page 8 of this newsletter



**Buon Anno Nuovo ~ Happy New Year**

## Below are our UNICO's CORE VALUES

If you know of someone who has them or  
If you know of someone who would like to help us make a difference  
Please invite them to a meeting and possibly have them  
join our chapter as a new member

**U – Unity**

**N – Neighborliness**

**I – Integrity**

**C – Charity**

**O – Opportunity**

**“Service Above Self”**



**New Year Trivia:**

Many Italians in Italy celebrate the New Year with food: Lentils, Risotto, Raisons

Symbolic traditions in Italy include throwing pots, pans, and clothes out of their windows to let go of the past and move toward the future

Firing up a Christmas Log before New Years Day to turn away evil spirits and invite the Virgin Mary to warm baby Jesus

Wearing red underwear for good luck

**ComUNICO**

You can now read the Com-UNICO magazine online, just by clicking on the cover page below



**Who's Who**

**Our 2019-2020 Executive Board**

President ..... Carmen Gaita Jr.  
 1st Vice President ..... Eileen Wood  
 2nd Vice President ..... Pat Ligouri  
 Treasurer ..... Bruce Ponchak  
 Recording Secretary ..... Steve Pelonero  
 Sgt. At-Arms ..... Dominick Bucci  
 Corresponding Secretary ..... John Morano

**Our 2019-2020 Board of Directors**

Bruce Ponchak	Chapter President	2016 & 2017
John Barbieri	Chapter President	2014 & 2015
Robert Appaluccio	Chapter President	2012 & 2013
Steve Pelonero	Chapter President	2010 & 2011
Carmen Criscione	Chapter President	2008 & 2009
Salvatore Benvenuti	Chapter President	2006 & 2007

**Our 2019-2020 Chapter Delegates**

President Carmen Gaita Jr ... 52 Members (President +3)  
 ..... Delegate Dominick Bucci  
 ..... Delegate Jean Chomko  
 ..... Delegate Eileen Wood

**Fundraising Committee Heads**

Beefsteak ..... Joe Benvenuti  
 Convention 2020 Fundraising ..... John Morano  
 Dine with UNICO ..... Joe Benvenuti, Mark BiFalco, Jean Chomko  
 Golf Outing ..... Joe Barone  
 Holiday Donations ..... Robert Appaluccio  
 Overseas Armed Service Care Packages ..... Pat Corrado

**Non-Fundraising Committee Heads**

Christmas Tree Lighting w/ Candy Cane Giveaway ..... Joe Agresti PNP  
 Community Service Day (April) ..... Chuck Russo  
 Easter Egg Hunt w/Breakfast ..... Joe Agresti PNP / Patrick Ligouri  
 Food Pantry ..... Roni Corrado  
 Good and Welfare ..... Sal Nocella  
 Membership ..... John Barbieri  
 Newsletter ..... Steve Pelonero  
 Scholarship / Brian Piccolo ..... Chuck Russo Study Abroad  
 College Grants ..... Joseph Agresti PNP  
 Website ..... Steven Pelonero / John Barbieri

## ***A few of the photo's from the NJ District IV Bus Ride Fundraiser That is supporting the 2020 Convention***



Above photo Left: Steve Pelonero (Executive Vice President whom this Fundraiser is for the 2020 Convention when he gets sworn in as national President in July of 2020), his sister-in-law Marie, his wife Patricia, Debbie and Pat DeFransisci from the Cedar Grove Chapter and David D'Arco president of the Passaic-Clifton Chapter who organized this fundraiser

Above Photo Right: In Rockefeller Center by the Christmas Tree: Steve Calantone NJ District IV Governor and his wife Julie Anne, Pat Pelonero and her sister-in-law Marie, Pat and Debbie DeFransisci, and Steve Pelonero

Bottom Left: At Puglia's for Dinner" Sal and Maryanne Ingallina, Carmen, Donna, Doreen and Fran, all friends of Dominick Bucci from our PV UNICO Chapter, Paul Alongi PNP and his friends Betty Ann from the Bloomfield Chapter, and Julie Anne and Steve Calantone NJ IV DG from the Wayne Chapter

Bottom Right: All friends of UNICO with Steve Ruccio President of the Montclair Chapter on the right side of table in the center, and Laura and Gary D'Uva from the Sparta Chapter are sitting against the wall

# Photos from our December 1<sup>st</sup> Special Needs Christmas Dinner & Party



Above left photo: The event MC Paul Alongi welcoming everyone along with the members if the band: Band members from the left: Bob Gizzi on keyboards, Paul Alongi PNP on Sax, Carmen Criscione on Drums, John Morano on Sax

Above right photo: Santa's non-UNICO helpers working the Reception Table: Pat Pelonero and Debbie Benvenuti

Below left: NJ District IV Governor Steve Calantone thanking everyone for attending and supporting this event

Below right: UNICO National Officers and friends with Santa: From the left: Joe Agresti PNP, Steve Pelonero Executive Vice President, Steve Calantone NJ IV DG, Sal Benvenuti Executive Director, Paul Alongi PNP. Then we had a visit from Santa, Carol Capolla from the Circle of Friends, Natiional President Dr. Frank DeFrank, David and Bob Capolla also from the Circle of Friends, Ralph Contini 2<sup>nd</sup> National Vice President, and Sal Ingallina UNICO National Membership & Retention Chairman





## THE PASSAIC VALLEY UNICO BEEFSTEAK DINNER



Beer, Wine & Soda

FEBRUARY 8th, 2020



7 PM to 11 PM

Music By

The American Expression



Location will be

First Russian Hall Home

4- 6 Woodhull Avenue

Little Falls, NJ



\$55.00 per person

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

JOE BENVENUTI

973-610-9365 CELL ~ 973-785-0513 HOME

All Proceeds to Benefit Local Charities

# SAVE THE DATE!



**JANUARY 31, 2020**  
**FRIDAY 6:30 to 10:30 PM**  
**UNICO NJ DISTRICT IV**

## **PASTA DINNER PARTY**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT OUR  
ANNUAL "SPECIAL NEEDS FRIENDS" PARTY**

**LOCATION: WAYNE PAL BUILDING  
B.Y.O.B. 1 PAL DRIVE, WAYNE, NJ**

**\$20.00 Per Person - \$10.00 children under 12**

***PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND  
TO SUPPORT THIS MOST WORTHY CAUSE!***

**FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**



**STEVE CALANTONE - 862-668-8682**

**JOE AGRESTI - 201-874-0546**

**DAVE D'ARCO - 973-417-0731**



## *UNICO National's 98<sup>th</sup> National Convention*



### *Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa*

*July 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2020 ~ \$169.00 per night*

*17260 Harbour Pointe Drive ~ Fort Myers, FL 33908*



- Thirty Five Minutes from Fort Myers Airport (RSW)

- Six Onsite Dining Choices

Tarpon House ~ Casual American Dining

Courtside Steakhouse ~ Fine Dining

Sanibel Harbour Princess Yacht ~ Views of Sanibel and Fort Myers while you relax and eat

Charley's Cabana Bar ~ Appetizers and Cocktails

Palm Court Bakery ~ Starbucks Coffee and Pastries

The Cove ~ Poolside Restaurant

- On premise: Spa ~ Fitness Center ~ Three Pools

Famiglia ~ La nostra famiglia UNICO lavoriamo insieme

Family ~ Our UNICO family working together



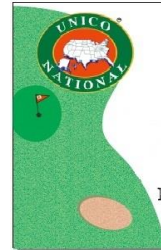
## Committee Comments

Would you like to be on a committee?  
 Would you like to be a chapter officer?  
 Do you have a Fundraising idea?

Please step up and  
 Serve our Chapter, our Community  
 and UNICO National

Keep us strong

Let more people know what we do



**Passaic Valley Chapter  
 Annual Golf Outing  
 Sponsor**

If you would like to be a  
 PV UNICO Sponsor  
 Please contact us  
 @  
[PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com](mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com)

Do you know of some who would like to  
 sponsor our UNICO Chapter?

For just \$100.00 for the year,  
 it gets them in this newsletter and  
 on our chapter website  
 for our entire UNICO year.

Please contact us via our chapter email:  
[PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com](mailto:PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com)  
 Or use our website to fill out the online form  
[www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org](http://www.PassaicValleyUNICO.org)

### Please support our sponsors

See pages 11,12,13, 14 in this newsletter

### Please also support our UNICO Charities

#### National

Armed Services ~ Calendar ~ Columbus Day

#### Foundation

21<sup>st</sup> century ~ Anti-Bias ~ Cancer Research & Prevention

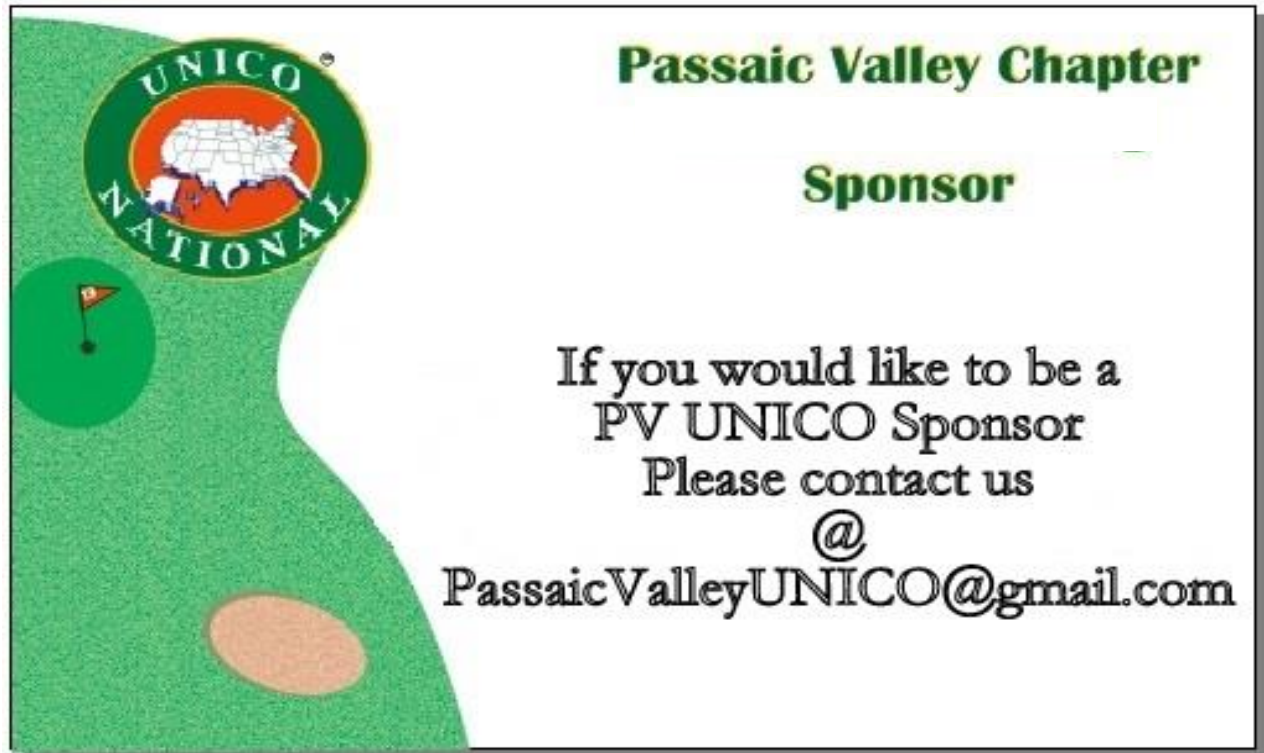
Cooley's Anemia ~ Italian Studies ~ Mental Health

Scholarships ~ Torraco Food Bank/Shelter



## *It's Never Too Late*

*We will advertise your name for an entire UNICO year  
(See pages 12,13,14,15)*

The advertisement features a green background with a circular UNICO National logo on the left. The logo contains a map of the United States and the text 'UNICO NATIONAL'. To the right of the logo, the text reads: 'Passaic Valley Chapter', 'Sponsor', 'If you would like to be a PV UNICO Sponsor Please contact us @ PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com'.

**Passaic Valley Chapter**

**Sponsor**

If you would like to be a  
PV UNICO Sponsor  
Please contact us  
@  
PassaicValleyUNICO@gmail.com

**About UNICO** ~ UNICO is the largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States  
Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, Opportunity

UNICO was founded on October 10, 1922 in Waterbury, Connecticut. A group of 15 men, led by Dr. Anthony P. Vastola, came together to create what has become a very special and very proud organization. It was Dr. Vastola's dream to create an Italian American service organization to engage in charitable works, support higher education, and perform patriotic deeds. Our motto is "*Service Above Self*".

Each year, the UNICO Foundation and the UNICO National Chapters across the country donate approximately \$1 million to various charities. Scholarships continue to be the primary focus of UNICO, as roughly one-third of all monies raised goes to deserving students from all of the chapter locations throughout the chain.

UNICO National has funded major research in Cooley's Anemia and Mental Health. Through its association with the Jimmy Valvano Foundation it has funded over 10, \$50,000 grants to help find a cure for Cancer. These worthy areas continue to receive generous support from the chapters and its members for these worthy causes.

If you would like to attend one of our meetings to see if you might be interested in joining UNICO, please contact us through any member, or through our email. We would be honored to have you as a member of our Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter.

## January ~ gennaio

### It's a new UNICO Year For Us

### A thanks to our 2019-2020 Sponsors and Supporters

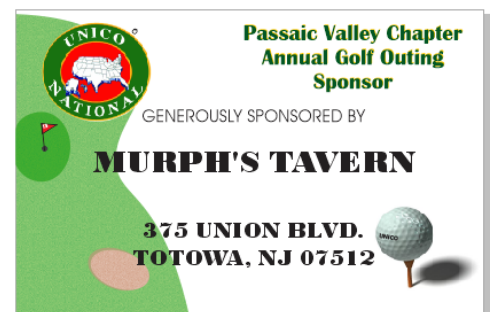
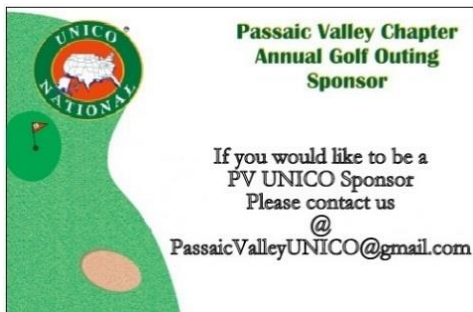
### It's Never Too Late to Help

< Just ask any chapter member for more information on how you can also help >



## Our 2019-2020 Gold Sponsor Senator Kristen M. Corrado

## Our 2019-2020 Silver Sponsor Murph's Tavern



# Never Ending Support and Giving Back To our Passaic Valley Towns




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Bagels Unlimited**  
Gregory Evangelou  
163 East Main Street  
Little Falls, NJ  
973-785-2211





Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Murray Contracting**  
Murray Paving & Concrete, LLC  
South Hackensack, NJ  
201-670-0030





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Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Chuck Russo**  
Wenzel Agency / Atlantic Insurors  
Little Falls, NJ



Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**CPR Inc**  
Commercial Plastic Recycling  
Tampa, Florida  
Joe Benvenuti  
Account Rep




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**James A. Martin**  
Certified Public Accountant  
Ramsey, NJ





Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Little Falls ShopRite**  
Little Falls, NJ





Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Woodland Park**  
Democratic Club





Passaic Valley Chapter  
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**Joe & Ellen Kliminski**  
Little Falls  
Friends and Supporters of  
Passaic Valley  
UNICO




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
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**Sal Benvenuti**  
Passaic Valley Chapter Member  
Tax Consultant  
& Mediator




Passaic Valley Chapter  
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**Little Falls**  
Democratic Club




Passaic Valley Chapter  
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**Gaita Memorial Home**  
Little Falls, NJ




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Passaic Valley  
UNICO





# You too can be a "Proud Sponsor"

## Just \$100.00 Helps Us to Help Others




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**Crews-Wilbert Vault Co.**





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**Gregory S. Liss, DDS**  
*Advanced Dentistry for Health, Comfort and Appearance*





94 Main Street  
Little Falls, NJ 07424  
**973-256-5001**



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**Cestone Electric Company**



23 Jackson Street  
Little Falls, NJ



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**STIX**  
CIGAR SHOP AND CLUB

440 Route 23 North  
Pompton Plains, NJ  
973-831-2499




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**FRANK'S PIZZA**



261 Comly Road  
Lincoln Park, NJ  
973-686-9005



Passaic Valley Chapter  
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**Santangelo Funeral Home**


Woodland Park, NJ  
973-345-2500



Passaic Valley Chapter  
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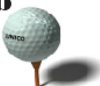
**Thatcher McGhee's  
Irish Pub & Eatery**

Pompton Lakes,  
Denville & Fairfield




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Sponsor

**Little Falls  
Republican Club**



Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor




**Casa Bella**  
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE  
ENTRANCE →  
Denville




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**Keith Kazmark  
Woodland Park Mayor**




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**Gregory S. Liss, DDS**  
*Advanced Dentistry for Health, Comfort and Appearance*




94 Main Street  
Little Falls, NJ 07424  
**973-256-5001**



Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
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**NJ  
Orthopaedic Institute, LLC**

504 Valley Road  
Suite 200  
Wayne, NJ



# Please support our Sponsors

## As They Support Us



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**Tri-Tec Design Inc.**  
13 Fairfield Ave.  
Little Falls, NJ 07424  
973-256-5030





Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Hanson & Ryan Inc.**  
Insurance Since 1876  
973-256-6000






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Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor

**Metropolitan Society  
Private Cigar Club**  
1275 Bloomfield Avenue  
Bldg. 8, Suite 62  
Fairfield, NJ





Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor



**Wilson's Auto Body**  
1265 McBride Avenue  
Woodland Park, NJ


Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
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**Amore**  
Ristorante  
Italian Cuisine  
973-925-5600  
(F) 973-925-5599  
www.AmoreRistorante.com  
110 Rifle Camp Road - Woodland Park, NJ 07424






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**GUN FOR HIRE**  
America's Unsub Defense Institute Since 1992  
AT WOODLAND PARK RANGE

1267 McBride Ave.  
Woodland Park, NJ 07424  
888.Gun For Hire


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**Anthony's Cleaners**  
279 Browertown Road  
West Paterson  
1581 Rt. 23 South  
Wayne

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Sponsor

**Schumacher Chevrolet**  
Little Falls, NJ




Passaic Valley Chapter  
Annual Golf Outing  
Sponsor



**Viva**  
LA PIZZA  
We Deliver!  
973-785 7501

1605 McBride Ave., Woodland Park, NJ 07424  
(Park West Shopping Center)