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Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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TWENTY NINE STUDENTS SELECTED TO PERFORM ON REGIONAL CHOIR, BAND, ENSEMBLE, AND ORCHESTRA

An unprecedented 23 students from Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) have been selected to perform on the Central Jersey Music Educators Association (CJMEA) Region II Treble or Mixed Choirs, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, or Orchestra.

Of the 17 instrumental students who were selected, five were selected to perform in two instrumental groups: Senior Carl Peterson, Senior Ethan Marmolejos, Junior Jeremy Cui, Senior Jack Horan, and Sophomore Cristina Sarrico. Of those, four have been selected to perform with both the Wind Ensemble and Orchestra, Carl Peterson, Ethan Marmolejos, Jeremy Cui and Jack Horan; and one has been selected to perform with the Symphonic Band and Orchestra, Sarrico.

Two WHRHS students were selected twice as "First Chair" for their instrument for both the Wind Ensemble and the Orchestra: Oboe, Jeremy Cui; and Tuba, Ethan Marmolejos.

The WHRHS student singers selected for the Region II Treble Choir are: Junior Summer Stuart, Sophomore

Christine Tanko, Junior Kyra Anthony, and Junior Madelena Goffredo.

The WHRHS student singers selected for Region II Mixed Choir are: Junior Angelina Carrano and Senior Ben Allgor.

The WHRHS student musicians selected for the Region II Symphonic Band are: Flute, Senior Lindsey Shi and Junior Cathleen Luo; Clarinet, Sophomore Katie Tan, Freshman Alan Wang, Senior Olivia Xu, and Junior John Kolibachuk; Trumpet, Sophomore Matthew Schaefer, and Junior Ryan Branco; and Trombone, Sophomore Cristina Sarrico.

The WHRHS student musicians selected for the Region II Wind Ensemble are: Oboe First Chair, Junior Jeremy Cui; Trumpet, Senior Carl Peterson; Bass Trombone, Senior Jack Horan; and Tuba First Chair, Senior Ethan Marmolejos.

The WHRHS student musicians selected for Region II Orchestra are: Violin, Sophomore Catherine Cai, Sophomore Dave Ki, Freshman Tyler Wu, and Freshman Victor Hu; Oboe First Chair, Junior Jeremy Cui; Trumpet, Senior Carl Peterson; Trombone, Sophomore Cristina Sarrico and Senior Jack Horan; and Tuba First Chair, Senior Ethan Marmolejos.



(above) 2018 All Regional Band and Chorus.

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ADELE DELEEUEW SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE TO WATCHUNG STUDENTS

A scholarship fund of \$1 million was established by the late Adele DeLeeuw to assist needy students in the Plainfield area for their pursuit of post-secondary education. The fund is managed by PNC Advisors (PNC), and is administered by the Plainfield Foundation through the Rotary Club of Plainfield-North Plainfield.

Adele DeLeeuw was a well-known author of books for children of all ages, a prominent Plainfield resident for almost her entire life. She was a patron of the arts and literature, and took a special interest in young people.

Adele lived in Plainfield with her parents and her sister, Cateau, who was an artist. Her father was a consulting engineer with an office in New York City.

After their father and then their mother passed away, Adele and Cateau continued to reside in Plainfield. They were members and proud supporters of many literary and arts organizations in the area.

Adele was also a champion for her City of Plainfield. An article in the Courier News from 1979 said that Adele "relishes giving the Queen City, her home since 1914, an oral or written boost."

She had the opportunity to give that support in her freelance writings for the Courier News over an eight-year period. Her opinion pieces were well-received, and were eagerly anticipated by many readers.

Adele died on June 13, 1988. She was pre-deceased by her sister, Cateau. With no immediate survivors, Adele set aside a portion of her estate for a scholarship program to be administered by the Plainfield Foundation.

Reflecting her own and her family's interests, Adele stipulated in her will that the annual earnings from her scholarship endowment would be awarded to graduating seniors from high schools in Plainfield, North Plainfield, South

Plainfield, Edison, Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Watchung, and Warren. She further stipulated that eligible seniors must pursue a course of study in art, poetry, writing, journalism, or engineering; courses of study that reflected her own family's careers and interests.

Eligible students who receive first-year scholarships are encouraged to submit applications for subsequent years and receive additional awards.

To be eligible applicants must attend or be accepted to attend an accredited college or university on an undergraduate or graduate level in one of the eligible areas of study: art, engineering, journalism, poetry, and writing.

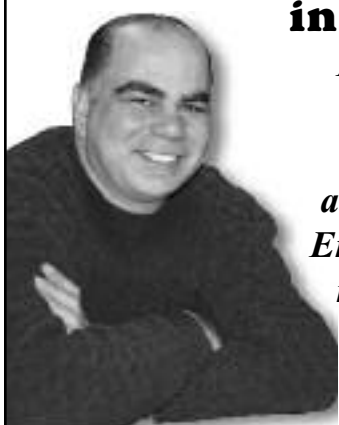
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(above) Adele DeLeeuw (1899 to 1988).

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GARDEN CLUB HOSTS BLACK BEAR TALK



(above) Tom Sheppard.

The Garden Club of Watchung will host a presentation by Chief Park Naturalist of Hunterdon County, Tom Sheppard, on the New Jersey Black Bear at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at St. Mary's Stony Hill Church, Murray Hall, 225 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung.

The New Jersey Black Bear program strives to promote an understanding of the black bear through education. Tom will discuss the lifecycle of our largest land mammal and what the state has been doing to monitor the population. He will also cover how to make your

property less attractive to bear and what to do if you have a black bear encounter.

Tom has had the pleasure of working for Hunterdon County since 2000 and is lifelong resident of the county with roots that date back to the early settlers in the county. Through the years, Tom worked for many individuals in schools, scout, and homeschool groups and offering a wide variety of interpretive and recreation programs. Mr. Shepherd offers a monthly environmental education for homeschool group series, and welcomes inquiries about the county parks and wildlife.

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TWO WATCHUNG TEAMS JOIN FOR ONE CAUSE

Submitted by Kurt Weber

Photos by Jordan McMeen



Watchung's Cub Scout Pack 32 and Buffalo Wild Wings (BWW) restaurant in Watchung recently got together for a community service project that broke all previous records. With Scouts, parents, and BWW staff working side-by-side, exactly 1000 utensil kits were packaged up for a county mobile soup kitchen. This amount crushed the previous number of kits made at the Pack by over 200. Each kit contained eating utensils and napkins along with a unique item from BWW: a wet-napkin. All the items were placed into a bag and given to the Samaritan Homeless Interim Project (SHIP), an organization that delivers hot meals from one of their mobile kitchens to needy people and

families throughout Somerset County.

To date, the Pack has made over 3000 utensil kits for SHIP in the last four years. The group's director, Tom O'Leary (Eagle Scout), has said, "Thank you so much for all you boys do for us." The Pack also extends a big thanks to the team at BWW in Watchung, particularly Holly, Jasmine, Jordan, and Brian. They were excellent hosts of the pack meeting, giving Scouts a tour of the facilities and teaching them about the hospitality industry. They also cooked up a lunch of their delicious wings, which was a huge hit. BWW didn't stop there, though, they demonstrated the Scout motto of a Good Turn by donating all 1000 pieces of the utensil kits for the project!



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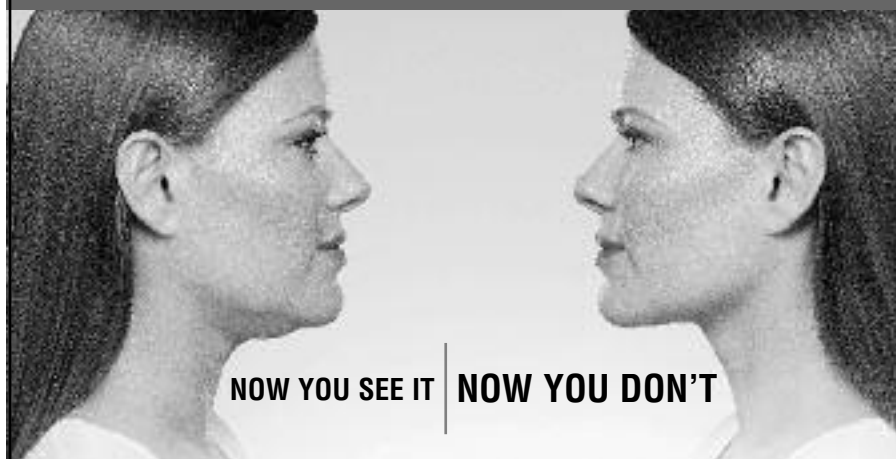
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WHRHS DISTRICT PLACED ON 8TH ANNUAL AP® DISTRICT HONOR ROLL

Watchung Hills Regional High School District is one of 447 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 8th Annual AP® District Honor Roll. To be included on the 8th Annual Honor Roll, the Watchung Hills Regional High School District had to, since 2015, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals shows that this district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP.

“The shared ownership and collaborative efforts of our faculty members across grade levels and departments have cultivated a learning environment in which our students continue to exceed our expectations. Our percentage of students scoring 3 or higher and 4 or higher has steadily risen each year since 2012, while we continue to open access and opportunities for more students to take AP courses,” stated Elizabeth C. Jewett, WHRHS Superintendent.

National data from 2017 show that among American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half are participating. The first step to getting more of these students to participate is to give them access. Courses must be made available, gatekeeping must stop, and doors must be equitably opened. The Watchung Hills Regional High School District is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

“Congratulations to all the educators and administrators in this district who have worked to clear a path for more students of all backgrounds to participate and succeed in AP,” stated Trevor Packer, head of AP and Instruction. “These educators and administrators are fostering a culture in their schools and classrooms that allows students to face new challenges and build the confidence to succeed.”

Helping more students learn at a higher level

and earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with initiatives and strategies to see how they can expand access and improve student performance at the same time.

In 2017, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admissions process. Inclusion in the 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2015 to 2017, looking across 38 AP Exams, including world language and culture. The following criteria were used.

Districts must:

Increase participation/access to AP by at least four percent in large districts, at least six percent in medium districts, and at least 11 percent in small districts;

Increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students taking

exams and increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students scoring 3+ on at least one AP Exam; and

Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2017 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2015 percentage, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students earn a 3 or higher.

When these outcomes have been achieved among an AP student population in which 30 percent or more are underrepresented minority students (American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander) and/or 30 percent or more are low-income students (students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch), a symbol has been affixed to the district name to highlight this work.

The complete 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found here:

apcentral.collegeboard.org/score-reports-data/awards/honor-roll



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BEADED SCULPTURES BRIGHTEN WINTER DAYS

Last month at Somerset County Library System New Jersey's (SCLSNJ's) Watchung Library branch, young patrons and their families came together to create beaded sculptures using colorful wires and beads. Displaying her sculpture is Gianna Canepa, 4, of Watchung.

This program was inspired by the works of American sculptor Alexander Calder, known as the originator of the mobile. His colorful, whimsical, and often massive mobiles and sculptures grace museums and outdoor spaces around the world. On February 14, 2018, the Watchung branch will be holding another craft program called modular origami. Register at sclsnj.libnet.info/event/560709.



(above) Gianna Canepa, 4, of Watchung.

LIBRARY AWARDED FOUR-STAR NATIONAL RATING

The Somerset County Library System of New Jersey was once again named a four-star Library by the Library Journal Index. This is the fifth consecutive year, and eighth time in 10 years, that SCLSNJ has been named a Star Library. Of the over 250 libraries in the state, SCLSNJ is one of six Libraries to receive this honor.

The Library Journal Index is a measurement tool that compares United States public libraries with their spending peers based on four per capita output measures: circulation, library visits, program attendance, and public Internet computer use. Scores on the Library Journal Index are produced by measuring the relationships between each library's statistics and the averages for its expenditure category.

"New Jersey has more than 250 public libraries; we're so proud to be one of the six that were named Star Libraries. It's a great testament to the quality of services the public here enjoys. And yes, we are shooting for five stars next year!" said SCLSNJ's County Library

Administrator Brian Auger.

"Our patrons are great library users, and that's part of why we're a Star Library again this year. Having made the transition to our new catalog system, we're hoping that patrons will have an even easier time finding and checking out what they're looking for," said SCLSNJ's Director of Operations Lynn Hoffman.

ABOUT SCLSNJ:

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org.

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Free support groups are available for children, teens, and parents coping with loss due to death or illness on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Imagine located at 244 Sheffield Street in Mountainside, NJ.

Imagine is a free year-round peer grief support program for children age 3-18 and young adults 18-30 who have had a parent, brother, or sister die, or who are living with a family member with a life-altering physical illness. Concurrent support groups are available

for parents and guardians in both programs. Imagine also provides educational workshops and on-site bereavement and crisis support for businesses, corporations, schools and community agencies.

Imagine supports children and families coping with loss and fosters resiliency and emotional well-being for all those who grieve. If you or someone you know could benefit please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or email info@imaginenj.org.

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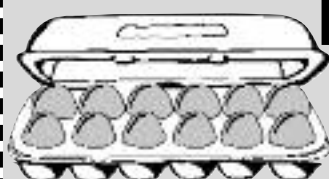
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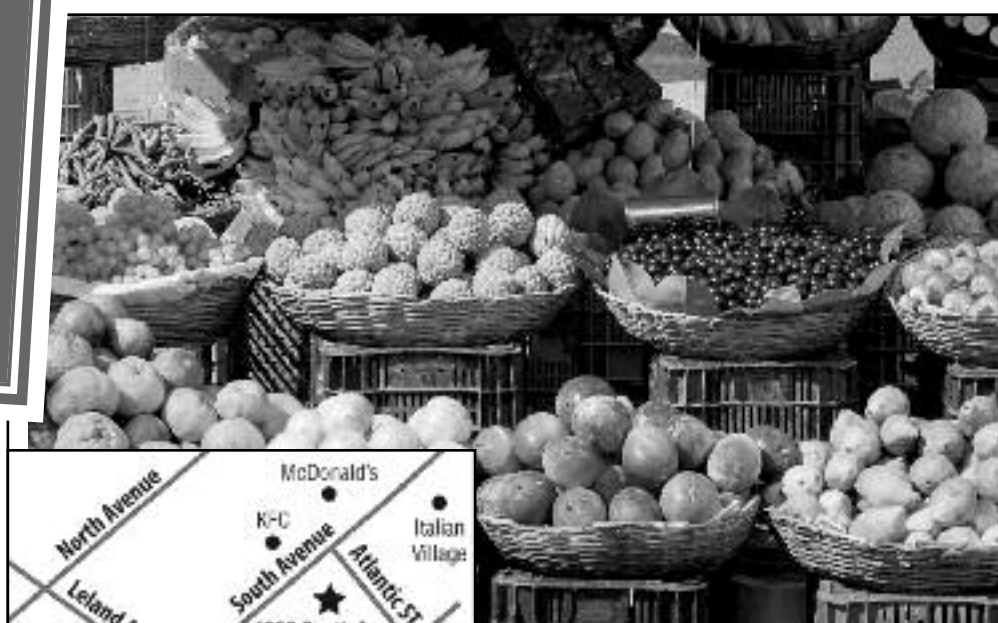
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MUSICIAN TRACY GRAMMER AT ARTS CENTER

Celebrating the release of her new CD, "Low Tide," Tracy Grammer comes to the Watchung Arts Center for a Sunday afternoon performance on February 11, 2018 at 3 p.m. Tracy will be joined by singer and multi-instrumentalist Jim Henry. The audience will have an opportunity to meet Tracy Grammer at the special dessert reception following the performance.

Tracy Grammer rose to acclaim as half of the "postmodern, mythic American folk" duo, Dave Carter & Tracy Grammer. From 1998-2001, the duo released three internationally celebrated, folk chart-topping albums featuring Carter's mythopoetic Americana songcraft and in 2002, toured with Joan Baez, both as featured artists and Baez's band members. Called "the new voice of modern folk music," the duo was clearly in its ascendancy when in July 2002, Carter suffered a

fatal heart attack while the duo was on tour. He was 49; Grammer, 34.

Grammer has become one of folk music's most beloved artists. Renowned for her springwater-clear alto, perfectly intoned violin, and guitar playing that is by turns percussive and delicate, Grammer is also a masterful storyteller with an ease and charisma on stage -- not to mention a riotous sense of humor -- that hardly belie her modest beginnings as Carter's reclusive accompanist. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door. You may purchase tickets securely through Eventbrite. For more information, please call 908-753-0190 or e-mail us at wacenter@optonline.net.

The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung on the Watchung Circle, is a multi-disciplinary arts facility serving Watchung, the surrounding communities and the Tri-State Area. To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, and monthly art exhibitions, please visit WatchungArts.org or call 908-753-0190.

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WATCHUNG HILLS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL 2017 MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT

Submitted by Denis Kelly, WHRHS

As 8th grade students in Warren Township, Long Hill Township, Watchung, and Green Brook Township settle into the last half-year of their middle school career, they do so having received the gift, three days before Christmas, of being able to feel "Warrior Pride" as the future Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS)



(above, l-r) Two Marching Band's Color Guard Flagbearers, Junior Daria Monti, and Junior Victoria Tartivita, of Stirling, contributed a sense of movement to the number, "May It Be," from "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring."



(above) During a break in the main performance space, which gave production crews an opportunity to rearrange chairs and music stands for instrumental bands, a smaller musical group of student musicians, The Sax Quartet, occupied the interest of the audience by performing several jazzy numbers. Among them was, appropriately, "Take Five," Dave Brubeck's best-known composition.



(above) Eighth grade students from Middle School in Warren Township, Long Hill Township, Watchung, and Green Brook Township, all soon-to-be First Year high school students, were the guests of honor at the 2017 Middle School Choral & Instrumental Concert, December 22, 2017, at the WHRHS Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Class of 2022.

The soon-to-be First Year high school students, were the guests of honor at the 2017 Middle School Choral & Instrumental Concert, Friday, December 22, 2017, at the WHRHS Performing Arts Center (PAC). They were welcomed by the Warrior Music Department, whose participants performed selections and highlights from the Winter Instrumental and Choral concerts that entertained audiences on December 7 and 14, 2017, respectively.

Likewise a small number of WHRHS Dance students and members of the Marching Band Color Guard provided choreography for some of the selections at the concert. Several behind-the-scenes student production crew volunteers helped make the concert a smooth performance.

Among the choral music highlights at the Middle School Concert was a reprise of the Choral Concert's crowd-pleaser, "Bohemian Rhapsody," by Queen. The anthem had figured prominently in the movie, "Wayne's World," and the theme of the concert was "Music in the Movies." The "Bohemian Rhapsody" arrangement at the concert appropriately included

student musicians on piano, electric lead guitar and bass guitar, and a drum kit.

Likewise, among the highlights from the Instrumental Concert performed at the Middle School Concert was the Wind Ensemble's rendition of perennial favorite, "A Christmas Festival," by Leroy Anderson. During a break in the main performance space behind the curtain on stage, during which production crews rearranged chairs and music stands to support different set-ups for the various instrumental bands, a smaller musical group of student musicians, The Sax Quartet, performed several jazzy numbers. Among them was, appropriately, "Take Five," Dave Brubeck's best-known composition.

As future Warriors filed out of the auditorium to return to their middle schools and then to their holiday week off, current Music Department students lined their way out, giving them greetings from WHRHS. Many encouraged the Class of 2022 to consider joining them next year as singers, instrumentalists, dancers, Marching Band and Color Guard members, and even production crew volunteers.



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to register on-line at ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2300308
Scouts can email Will Adams at Will.adams@scouting.org for more info.

Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers.
Lunch will be provided for all players and fans.
This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.



(above) Among the choral music highlights at the Middle School concert was a reprise of the Choral Concert's crowd-pleasing finale, "Bohemian Rhapsody," by Queen. The choral director is Choral Music Teacher Angela DiIorio Bird, (left).



(above, l-r) Freshman Kayla Chun of Green Brook, Sophomore Jenna Hansen of Gillette, Freshman Olivia Kider of Warren, Freshman Alexis Roskosny of Warren, Sophomore Brianna Cosas of Watchung, Sophomore Abigail Kotar of Millington, and Sophomore Brianna Robinson of Green Brook.

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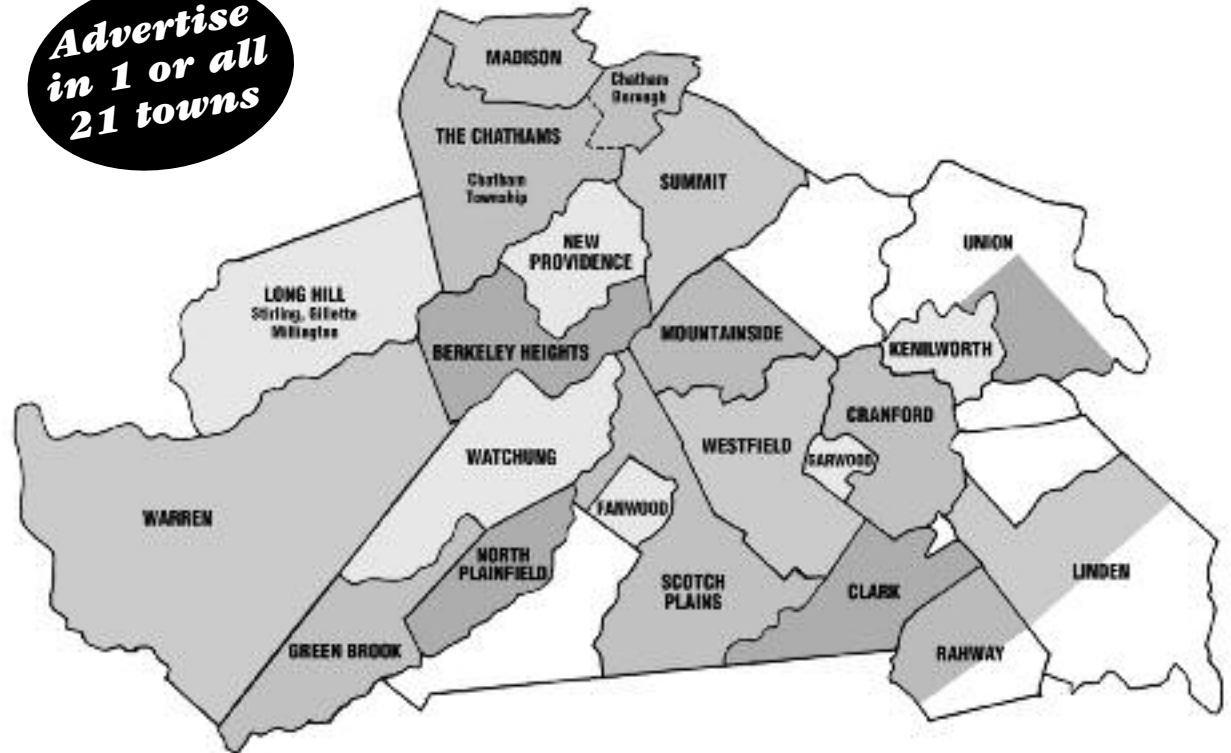
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