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‘AN EVENING OF SHINING STARS’ SPECIAL NEEDS TALENT SHOW

Submitted by Michael P. Curci

One of the area’s most anticipated events, “An Evening of Shining Stars,” featuring members of the special needs community from around Union County, will take place on Friday May 4, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Founded by Cranford resident Sally Curci, the 7th annual showcase will feature “Music from the Decades” with the cast set to sing and dance their way into your hearts as they show off their amazing talents.

And for the very first time, the “Shining Stars” cast will take the professional stage at the beautiful and historic Union County Performing Arts Center, where many of America’s biggest names have performed.

“We are so excited to give our special cast the chance to perform at such a great venue,” noted Sally Curci. “Our audience has grown each and every year, and our cast continues to grow as we spotlight talent from around Union County. It’s going to be a night to remember.”

When the lights will go up, the “stars” will shine, entertaining you with music from the ’20s through today, with solo acts and full cast dance choreography, which is one of the highlights of the show.

Adam Fleissner, who has performed in every show, can’t wait to take the stage again, as he prepares to sing “Help!” by the Beatles.

“We meet so many great people,” said Fleissner. “We get new people in every year and everyone has a good time meeting each other and performing. All of it is just fantastic.”

Caitlin Madden is also excited to team with volunteer buddy Mark Lynch on the Elton John song, “Don’t Go Breaking My Heart,” with rehearsals in full swing.

“I’m very excited for the show, I like my number,” said Madden. “I like all the years I’ve been doing it. It’s fun. Come see us!”

Tickets are on sale now at UCPAC.org/events. Find the Shining Stars logo, select your seats and you’ll be in for one of the best nights of the year!

“An Evening of Shining Stars” is presented by Shining Stars Network, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Union County that shines the light on the special needs community by creating inclusive events such as their annual talent show, dances at local high schools, and our Ambassadors basketball team, which travels to play local first responders to promote friendship and understanding.

SSN will also host their 2nd annual two week performing arts camp, “Camp Shine,” from August 20 through August 31 in Scotch Plains. To reserve your spot, or for more information on any of these programs or events, email shiningstarsnetwork@gmail.com, or check out their website at ShiningStarsNetwork.org.



(above) Cast to appear at Union County Arts Center 2018 Shining Star Show May 4, 2018

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Carol Lombardo

Did you know that at the Longwood Gardens, in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, you can experience a beautifully restored Aeolian Organ, that was custom built here in Garwood, in its factory on North Avenue?

In 1929, the great ballroom in Longwood Gardens was built by Pierre duPont to house a new organ and to protect it from any temperature changes. Organist Firmin

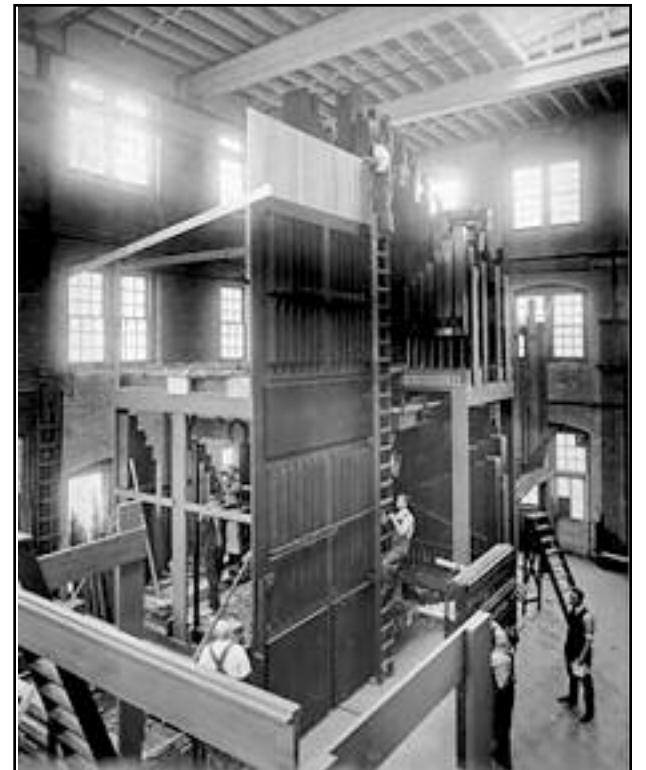
Swinnen created the specifications of the organ that was hand-crafted in the Aeolian factory. The organ had 10,010 pipes set up in 146 ranks, making it one of the largest Aeolian organs ever built. At that time, 1929, the organ cost \$122,700. Mr. Swinnen was the concert organist in residence at Longwood from 1923 to 1956 where he played regularly on the 1930 Aeolian Organ.



(above) Aeolian Factory.



(above) Aeolian Company building.



(above) Construction of pipe organs.




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LINCOLN SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN SOUPER BOWL OF CARING'S VISION

Submitted by Mary Emmons, Principal
Lincoln School in Garwood recently joined forces with the organizers of the Souper Bowl of Caring in utilizing Super Bowl weekend in America to mobilize young people to help fight hunger and poverty in their local communities.

Souper Bowl of Caring's vision is to transform Super Bowl weekend into America's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving. Members of Lincoln School's student council and the Garwood Knights of Columbus, who, along with the entire Lincoln School

community, collected over 550 nonperishable food items during a school spirit filled week leading up to Super Bowl Sunday. The student council, led by Mrs. Tamara Benc, donated the items to the Garwood Knights of Columbus food bank.



(above) Members of Lincoln School's student council and the Garwood Knights of Columbus.

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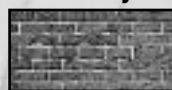
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LINCOLN SCHOOL TEAMS UP WITH NEW YORK JETS TO HELP BULLYING

Submitted by Mary Emmons, Principal

Lincoln School in Garwood recently teamed up with the New York Jets and STOMP Out Bullying to help tackle all forms of bullying. The Jets generously provided schools in New Jersey with the resources to promote a school climate of “upstanders.” An “upstander” is someone who stands up against bullying. Lincoln School is one of many schools that participated in the New York Jets Upstander of the Week Program which was a 16-week initiative that provided schools with 3 Jets tickets to award to a student who demonstrated “upstanding” qualities. Lincoln School elementary and middle school students exemplified what it means to be a true upstander by interjecting in a positive manner to discourage negative interaction amongst their peers.



(above) Lincoln School Elementary Upstanders.



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(above) Lincoln School Middle School Upstanders.

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GPD WELCOMES OFFICER EDWARD MIRONSKI

By Chief James Wright

The Garwood Police Department is pleased to welcome Officer Edward Mironski to its ranks. He has been a resident of Garwood for over 21 years and recently served as a sheriff's officer with the Union County Sheriff's Department. Prior to his service as a sheriff's officer Mironski was employed as a corrections officer with the New Jersey Department of Corrections. He received his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Union County Community College. Mironski has cited his desire to "Give back to his community" as a driving force in his decision to become an officer with the Garwood Police Department. His appointment will fill the void created from the resignation of Dylan Cosgrove who will be seeking other opportunities with the Union County Prosecutor's Office.



(above) Officer Edward Mironski.

GPD PLANNING YOUTH ACADEMY

By Chief James Wright

The Garwood Police Department is in the early planning stages of hosting our first ever Garwood Police Youth Academy. The Youth Academy is an opportunity for our young residents to not only get to know our officers but to get a hands-on experience of what a career in law enforcement is like. The Inaugural session of the Garwood Police Department Youth

Academy has been scheduled for the week of August 20 to 24, 2018. The program is offered to youth in grades sixth through eight of the 2018/2019 school year. Parents or guardians looking to enroll their children can contact Sgt. John Wright or Sgt. Philip Lewis for an application. Or visit our website at GarwoodPD.org.

THE MUSTANGS WORKS OF HEART CLUB

The Mustangs Works of Heart Club was recently recognized by Garwood's Mayor and Council. The Club is comprised of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students attending Lincoln School in Garwood, New Jersey. Under the direction of club advisor, Mrs. Carol Del Conte, they created crafts for the winter holidays and Valentines' Day as gifts for the Senior Citizens Club in Garwood to let them know how much we

appreciate them. The presentations were so well received by the seniors, that the Mayor issued a commendation to every member of the Mustangs Works of Heart Club in appreciation of their community service to the Seniors of Garwood. Club members attended the February 27, 2018 meeting of the Mayor & Council to receive their awards from the Mayor and Councilwoman Blumenstock.



(above) The Mustangs Works of Heart Club recognized by Garwood's Mayor and Council.

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THIRD ANNUAL SHOW LOVE FOR GARWOOD SCHOOLS FUNDRAISER

Submitted by Sara Todisco

The third annual “Show Love for Garwood Schools” fundraiser held on February 8, 2018, in support of the Education Foundation of Garwood (EFG) was a record-breaking success! Attendance doubled and a total of \$400 was raised through a contribution of 15 percent of patrons’ checks at The Station Bar and Grill, 99 Center Street, Garwood, New Jersey.

The owner of The Station Bar and Grill, Brian Cruikshank, said, “The output from the kitchen was nonstop from about 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and it was wonderful to see so many people come out to support the kids and the teachers.” Flyers brought by patrons supporting the EFG were honored from 3 p.m. to midnight. All proceeds will be used for scholarships for Garwood students and grants for Lincoln School teachers.

In reflecting on the night, EFG President Sara Todisco said, “I want to say a big thank you to Brian and The Station for the continuous support of the Garwood community.” She elaborated, “A good number of people had come out in the past for our ‘Show Love’ fundraiser, but that record was blown out of the water this year and it just goes to show you what can happen when you roll out a new event and stick with it.”

The next EFG event will be its 14th Annual Appreciation Dinner, which honors an Educator of the Year as well as a Person Making a Difference. This signature event will be held on Thursday, April 26, at The Westwood, 438 North Avenue, Garwood, from 6 to 9 p.m. Dinner tickets cost \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door.

They are available at the Garwood Public Library, 411 Third Avenue; the Lincoln School,

400 Second Avenue; or through the foundation president, Sara Todisco (saramtodisco@gmail.com or 908-377-7890). Tickets will cover a buffet dinner, beer, and wine. The EFG is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. It was founded in 2004 to work with the Garwood School District “in pursuit of educational excellence.” You can follow the foundation on Facebook at “Education Foundation of Garwood.”



(above, l-r) Education Foundation of Garwood President Sara Todisco accepts a check on behalf of the foundation from Brian Cruikshank, owner of The Station Bar & Grill, for a recent fundraiser.

EASTER EGG HUNT



GARWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY APRIL 2018 EVENTS

The Garwood Public Library is located at 411 Third Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey. Visit the website at: youseemore.com/garwood.

For more information and to register for programs, call 908-789-1670. The Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Amnesty Week April 9 to 14

in honor of National Library Week no fines will be charged for any overdue book returned during this week.

Tax Talk

Monday April 9 at 6:30 p.m

Johnathan Barrett, CPA from AXA Advisors will host a program focusing on the recent tax reform, social security planning and other financial topics.

Knitting Club

10:30 a.m., every Monday and Thursday, No registration required; Learn how to knit or show others how it's done while enjoying fun conversation. Needles and yarn provided to newcomers.

Kid's Chess

every Monday in April at 3 p.m. No registration required. Limit 12; Informal chess game for children of all ages. This is a non-instructional program. Six boards provided.

Monday Afternoon Book Club

at 1 p.m. April 16th. No registration required; Discussing On Chesil Beach By McEwan

Design It: STEM

Every Tuesday at 3 p.m. Registration required for children third grade and up. Limit 15. Using simple materials kids create incredible structures.

Adult Craft

Tuesday, April 10 at 6 p.m.

Registration required. Limit 10. Spring Wreath. Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday. No registration required. For children birth to age 4.

Lego

at 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 12 and 26. Registration required for children age 4 through 12. Limit 15. Be inspired by this month's theme and build whatever comes to mind. Then share your creation with others. Some will be displayed in our showcase.

Kid's Craft

Thursday, April 19 at 3 p.m. Registration required for children 2nd grade and up. Limit 20. Join Linda the Librarian to make spring bunnies.

Friday Morning Movie

Friday, April 6
“Lady Bird”
April 13
“The Darkest Hour”
April 20
“The Shape of Water”
April 27
“The Greatest Showman.”

Paws to Read.

Read to a therapy dog
Saturday, April 14 at 10 a.m.

SENIORS TRIP TO PATERSON'S HISTORIC LANDMARK, THE BROWNSTONE

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

The Garwood Senior Club took a trip, via bus, to Paterson New Jersey's historic landmark, The Brownstone, for the St. Joseph Festival; which was attended by three other senior citizen groups on St. Joseph's Feast Day, March 19, 2018.

In one of the Brownstone's elegant banquet rooms, a full course meal was served, including two free drinks, pasta, salad, a choice of chicken parm or sausage and peppers, vegetable and potato, dessert, coffee, tea, and soda.

Entertainment was provided by Joe Zisa and Friends (jerseydreamers.com); and Floyd Vivino, aka Uncle Floyd (unclefloyd.net).

As soon as Joe Zisa and Friends hit the stage, the seniors were soon out on the floor dancing. Songs consisted of oldies and party tunes, including, "Mac the Knife," "Quando Quando Quando," "Volari," "Come Fly with Me," "My Guy," and "It's Now or Never." Band members

consisted of: Joe Zisa, Dennis Oricchio, Sal Sellito, Ron Tattersall, Donna Albanese, and Bernie La Porta who played with The Happenings, who had the hits "See You in September," and "I Got Rhythm."

It was Zisa's idea to have the luncheons for seniors at The Brownstone, with dining and dancing from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. "All our fans and followers came from the night clubs fifteen years ago," said Zisa. "These seniors don't stop. Gigs we play at night are nothing compared to this."

And how right he was! The seniors danced nonstop during the entire time Joe Zisa and Friends performed.

Over 50 seniors were in attendance. "I'm happy to see a full bus," said Pat DiFabio, president of the Garwood Senior Club, Garwood, New Jersey.

"I'm happy to be here," added Betty

Herzberg, Garwood Senior Club's chairman of activities, adding, "I always love to see new people," as an invitation for more to join their senior club.

Evelyn Nardone was a member of the Garwood Senior Club for many years. She said, "Eleven of us out of the club are close-knit. We go to A.C. [Atlantic City]. We look out for each other. We've been here [The Brownstone] a number of times."

The Garwood Senior Club meets every first and third Thursday of the month at the Garwood Fire House Meeting Room, 403 South Avenue, Garwood, beginning at noon with a meeting, followed by lunch and Bingo. Often, there are guest speakers providing interesting and informative talks pertinent to seniors and their lifestyle. For more information on The Garwood Senior Club, visit: garwood.org or call the president, Mr. Pat DiFabio at 908-789-0835.



(above) The Garwood Senior Club arriving at The Brownstone.



(above) Joe Zisa and Friends entertaining the seniors.



(above, left) Evelyn Nardone of Garwood Senior Club.



(above, l-r) Pat DiFabio, president of The Garwood Senior Club; Betty Herzberg, and Shirley Swayze, both chairman of activities for Garwood Senior Club.



(above) Pat DiFabio and Uncle Floyd.



Photos by Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

GARWOOD SENIOR'S CLUB

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday
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ONCE UPON A MATTRESS AT CDC

If you think you know the classic fairy tale “The Princess and the Pea” by Hans Christian Anderson, the next show at CDC Theatre in Cranford, New Jersey, may surprise you! “Once Upon A Mattress” carries this tale of royal courtship, curses and love along on a wave of wonderful songs composed by Mary Rodgers.

Zach Mazout, who has appeared often on the CDC stage, jumps into the director’s chair for this show. ““Once Upon a Mattress’ is one of my favorite shows because of its iconic music and tongue-in-cheek humor,” he recently shared. “Although the show was written in the late 1950s and first performed in the early 1960s, at the center of the story is an atypical ingénue, Fred, whose story challenges traditional fairytale princess stereotypes. This theme has only gained popularity among modern audiences. It has the spectacle of a classic Broadway show without feeling dated or boring, and it’s a show that audiences of all ages can enjoy.”

Boasting a large cast of talented local performers, the show opens on Friday, May 4, and runs for three weekends until May 19, 2018. Additional information about the show and ticket purchases can be found by visiting the theatre’s website, cdctheatre.org.

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey, will hold their six-week seminar “Journey to Wholeness: Healing the Grieving Heart” on Sundays, April 15 to May 20, 2018, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Patti Williams, R.N., and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD, will lead the sessions in the Thompson Youth Center. Patti and Virginia in the 18th year of this ministry, and have helped approximately 2650 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives, and feel joy once again. This is an experience like no other. Teaching is interactive, and the small groups are homogenously categorized among a facilitator with the same loss.

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies and tools for the journey, taking good care of ourselves, dealing with changes, decisions, loneliness, holidays, anniversaries, and building a support system.

Both leaders, and all the facilitators, have experienced loss within their lives and share from “the inside out.” It does not matter if your loss is divorce, death, depression, loss of health, or job loss. Loss is loss; it must be grieved. It does not matter how long ago you experienced

loss. Bring family members and friends. All faiths are welcome. You must pre-register for this life changing event and attend the first session. Registration closes as of session one. Please call Patti to register- 908-709-1341. No fee is charged.

The seminar is dedicated to Patti’s late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams, who had a vision for this program wanting to help others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.



(above, l-r) Patti Williams and Virginia Waters.

IMAGINE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

CDC Theatre

Once Upon a Mattress

May 4-5 8PM
11-8PM
12-2 & 8PM
18-19 8PM

TICKETS:
(908) 276-7611
CDCTHEATRE.ORG

cdctheatre.org 78 Winans Ave. Cranford, NJ

Join Imagine in supporting children and adults coping with loss. 20,000 children in New Jersey lose a parent to death each year. Imagine supports children and families coping with loss and fosters resiliency and emotional well-being for all those who grieve through our peer-support and educational programs.

From April 5 to 8, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Volunteer Facilitator Training will be held at 244 Sheffield Street, Mountainside, New Jersey. Come for the four-day, experiential training that provides you with the tools to facilitate Imagine

support groups for children and adults. Learn about the Companionship Model.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and need no special background other than a willingness to listen and the ability to be with children and adults in pain without trying to fix, solve problems, or give advice. No prior experience is necessary. Volunteers must be 21-years or older.

For more information or to register contact: Mandi Zucker at mandi@imagineNJ.org or call 908-264-3100.

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THE NEXT BIG THING!!!

JOE RENNA'S HYPER LOCAL NETWORK

Renna Media has launched a new YouTube Channel called Joe Renna's Hyper Local Network! The channel will consist of a variety of shows, each with its own focus. The first episode of each show is up and ready to view.

Mind Your Own Local Business

Mind Your Local Business uses real life examples to illustrate successful techniques for managing and marketing your business. Local businesses will be featured. The first episode is about crafting a 30 second elevator speech. The February meeting of the Irish Business Association at Molly Maguire's in Clark, NJ. Businesses that would like to be featured in an episode can email Joe at joerenna@rennamedia.com

The Peterstown Show

The Peterstown show is a video continuation of the Peterstown Newspaper. The show focuses on the 100-year history of an Italian American Neighborhood in Elizabeth, NJ. Like the newspaper, it preserves the culture and traditions while recording the oral history that may be lost. The first episode is an interview with Carmela Lepore who turned 108-years-old on January 30, 2018.

Renna's Arena hosted by Nick Renna

Nick Renna has been the voice of high school sports as a public address announcer and brings that experience to a variety show; an eclectic mix of old and new video about general interests. His first episode is a video he shot of 5th and 6th grade St. Anthony's Grammar School game from 1989.

The Video Shoebox

As a camera bug from a very young age Joe Renna amassed a collection of VHS tapes and 8 mm film. The first video is of the Linden Debutant Ball that he shot in 1992. There are hundreds of hours of videos to come.

Anyone with 8mm film or VHS tape to transfer should email joerenna@rennamedia.com.

Renna Media will convert for free if we use it on the show.

PLEASE VIEW / LIKE / COMMENT / SUBSCRIBE.

More shows will be coming in the future! And if you have ideas for what you'd like to see, please comment or email me at JoeRenna@rennamedia.com. ▼ Please SUBSCRIBE to my channel to get regular business insights and networking guidance. ▼ I welcome your likes, shares and comments! You can learn more about me and my business by visiting my website at rennamedia.com.

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 <p>MIND YOUR OWN Local BUSINESS With Host JOE RENNA 0:27</p>	 <p>30 Second Elevator Speech Mind Your Own Local Business 12:43</p>	 <p>THE Peterstown SHOW ELIZABETH, NJ The Burg 0:45</p>	 <p>Carmella Lapore Turns 108 Years Old 18:19</p>
<p>Mind Your Own LOCAL Business- Marketing/Sales</p>	<p>How to Give the Perfect Elevator Pitch Examples</p>	<p>Peterstown Show & Book- an Italian-American Community</p>	<p>Carmella Lapore Turns 108 Secrets to Aging Well </p>
 <p>Renna's Arena with Host Nick Renna 0:21</p>	 <p>St. A's 1989 E1 6:58</p>	 <p>Joe Renna's Video Shoebox Hometown Home Movies Film and Video Archives 0:30</p>	 <p>Linden Debutant Ball 1992 56:44</p>
<p>Renna's Arena - Introduction to Local Sports Show & More</p>	<p>St Anthony's vs St Rocco's Basketball, Elizabeth NJ</p>	<p>The Video Shoebox 50 years of Hometown Home Movies </p>	<p>Debutante Ball Linden NJ 1992 Video Shoebox Ep#1</p>

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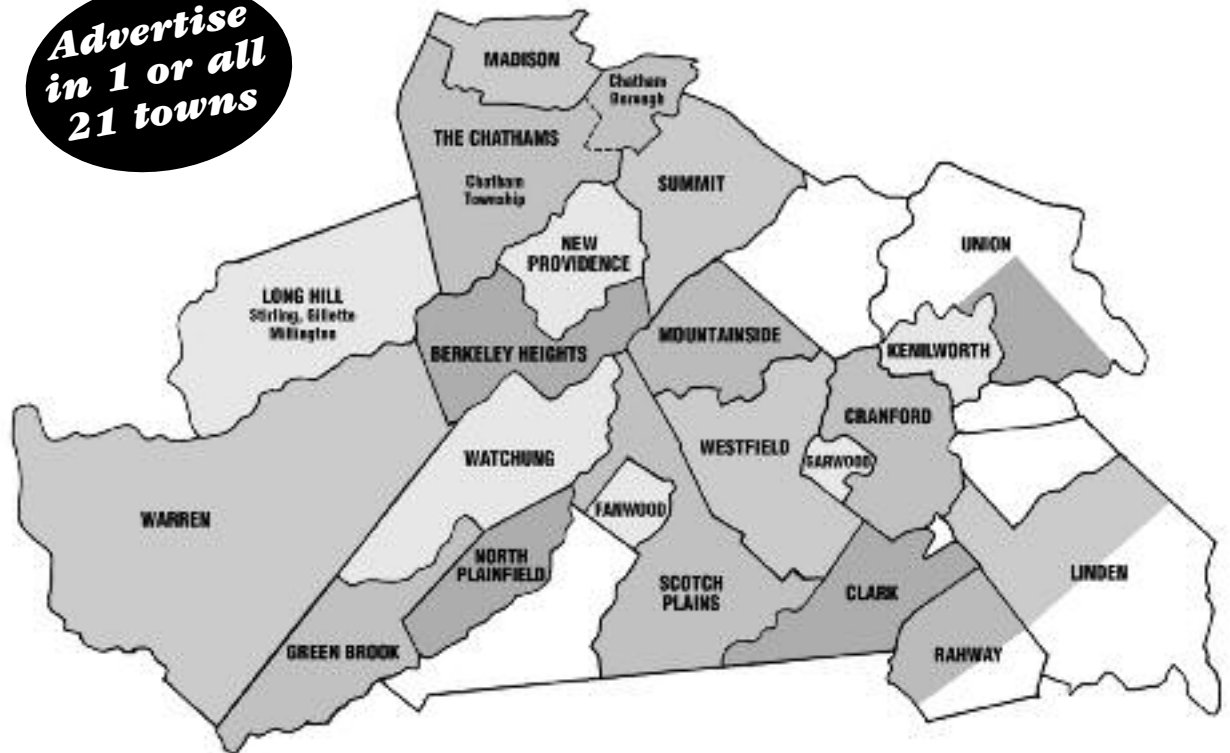
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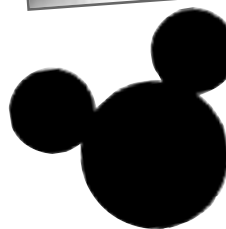
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