The PRIDE of North Plainfield



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NEW SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM TO ASSIST RESIDENTS

If you were facing homelessness, hunger, or even a mental health crisis, would you know where to turn?

To assist Somerset County residents in need, Rutgers School of Social Work has provided the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) with social work interns who specialize in providing social services.

According to the 2017 U.S. Census Bureau nine percent of North Plainfield residents live at or below the poverty level.

This new social services program supports the Library's mission to connect, to explore, to share, and to discover by connecting members of the community to the help they need, by exploring resources available throughout the County, by sharing knowledge available throughout the Library System, and by helping residents discover solutions.

"Partnering with Rutgers and their social work students is an extension of what libraries do for our patrons. While we provide a range of information and knowledge to people seeking answers, social workers can provide the personal guidance that helps those same individuals navigate the information and services that have been presented to them," stated W. Keith McCoy, SCLSNJ's director of public services.

The interns, Josue Hidalgo and Caroline Coghlan, are working towards obtaining their master's degrees in social work. They assist Library patrons by connecting them with the appropriate social service agencies and resources as well as aid with job placement, health services, financial assistance, housing services, and more. In addition to one-on-one meetings, the interns also work closely with librarians to enhance programs that already exist.

"The Library provides a safe and welcoming space for all community members. As a social work intern my commitment is to honor the dignity of all people, especially those found in vulnerable situations," stated Hidalgo.

Hidalgo recalls aiding a patron who had lost all his personal documents and could not apply for a job or housing without the proper identification. Together, they were able to create an action plan and connect with the appropriate sources to receive a copy of the patron's documents. Through the recovery of the documents the patron was able to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and other recovery services.

"I have come to define my role as a community resources coordinator bringing awareness of these services to every patron walking in through the Library doors, empowering them to reach a higher quality of life. My desire, along with community partners and library staff, is to provide a one-stop shop model in which patrons can access resources for education, emergency services, employment, family matters, health improvement, and immigration," stated Hidalgo.

At the North Plainfield Library branch, Coghlan has assisted literacy volunteers by bringing social service information to English



(above) Social Work Intern Rutgers School of Social Work intern Josue Hidalgo.

conversation classes. She primarily assists individuals with job searches and resume building, as well as introduces patrons to available services in the community and connects them to the agencies that can directly assist them.

"Individuals come in to the Library everyday looking for various kinds of information. It is important that individuals who might need community services are made aware of how many resources exist within these communities. Even if I am unable to directly assist an individual, I have the resources to find the necessary information so that the individual can be assisted," stated Coghlan.

Coghlan interns at the Bound Brook and North Plainfield branches on Mondays from 1 to 6 p.m. and North Plainfield branch on Thursdays from noon to 5 p.m.

"Libraries are no longer places to just check out books," stated Cindy Mangel, SCLSNJ's Bound Brook branch manager. "Having the services of a social work student available to our patrons is an example of how libraries are changing and expanding services."

Connect with a social services intern: SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch 6 Rockview Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m.

For more information call the library at 908-458-8435.

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The PRIDE of North Plainfield

The Pride of North Plainfield is published by Renna Media. 6,500 newspapers are printed monthly and are mailed to every businesses and homes in North Plainfield, NJ using the 07060 zip code and are distributed for free pick-up throughout town.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-858-4012

PIONEER NURSING INSTRUCTOR NEVER QUIT, DESPITE RACISM

Submitted by Tom Kranz

As the first black faculty member at Muhlenberg Nursing School in Plainfield, New Jersey, Corliss Henry remembers being on the receiving end of plenty of racist comments from both students and staff.

"I experienced it, yes," she said while chatting at The Chelsea at Fanwood assisted living residence where she now lives. "But you know what, I managed."

A lifelong registered nurse, Mrs. Henry grew up in the Bronx but lived in Plainfield most of her life. Since she was a little girl, she had a passion for helping others, which led her to pursue her career in nursing, earning her Bachelor's degree from Hunter College in New York and then her Masters from New York University. She went on to teach nursing at Muhlenberg when being black and being a nurse was a rare combination. The racism was palpable but believes that the civil rights movement made a difference.

"I never took it home," she said. "I didn't go to sleep with it. Because I knew I was what I was meant to be. I hung in there, I didn't quit."

During the summer months when there were no classes, she worked as the plant nurse at Lockheed on Route 22 in North Plainfield, now the site of the Watchung Square shopping center.

Mrs. Henry took a new job at Middlesex County College in 1968 where she taught nursing

As the first black faculty member at for 24 years. She loved reaching young adults so uhlenberg Nursing School in Plainfield, New they could chase their dreams.

Today at age 93, she remains a positive influence at The Chelsea at Fanwood, with a smile and a good word for just about everyone.



(above) Corliss Henry at The Chelsea.

Photo by Tom Kranz.

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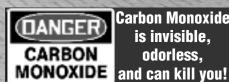
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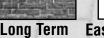
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NORTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS 'LEGALLY BLONDE'

is "Legally Blonde." Based on the movie of the same name, which starred Reese Witherspoon, the play tells the story of Elle Woods, a California sorority girl, and her transformation as she tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. As the play opens, Elle appears to have it all, but her life is turned upside down when her boyfriend dumps her so he can attend Harvard

North Plainfield High School's Spring Musical Law. Determined to get him back, Elle charms her way into the prestigious law school. While there, she struggles with her peers, professors, and her ex. With the support of some new friends, Elle quickly realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world.

> The stars of this year's show are Jasmine Lattimore as Elle Wood; Jackson Coslit as her soon to be ex-boyfriend Warner; Nabil Twyman

plays the tough Harvard teacher, Professor Callahan; Grace McGrath plays the zany but warm-hearted Paulette; and introducing Nico Pucciarelli as Emmett, the assistant professor and Elle's new friend and potential love interest.

The musical runs March 22 to 24th, 2018 in the NPHS auditorium at 34 Wilson Ave, North Plainfield, NJ 07060. Ticket prices are \$8 students/seniors and \$10 general admission.



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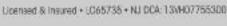


















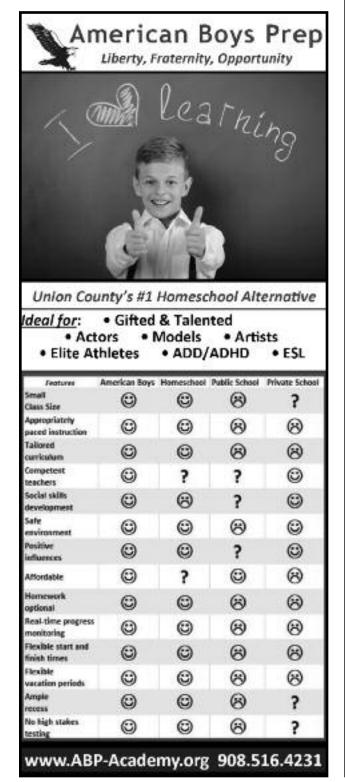






(above) The commemorative badges North Plainfield Firefighters will wear in March.

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NORTH PLAINFIELD FIREFIGHTERS HOST 15TH ST. BALDRICK'S DAY FUNDRAISER

their 15th St. Baldrick's Day head-shaving event on March 24, 2018, 1 p.m. in fire headquarters.

The annual event welcomes volunteer "Shavees" into the firehouse to brave-the-shave as a sign of solidarity with kids who lose their hair to cancer treatments. A small but meaningful and significant sacrifice.

Money is raised with pledges, no amount is too little to benefit the St. Baldrick's Foundation, one of the largest volunteer driven non-profits in the country. Nearly 70 cents of every dollar raised funds meaningful science in the field of pediatric oncology. Clinical trials, fellowships and research grants are awarded annually after applications pass critical scientific review to ensure the money is directed to projects with the best chance at making an impact in the pursuit of a cure for kids' cancers.

The North Plainfield event has raised more than \$1 million for the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

The North Plainfield Firefighters will host Since 2005 the St. Baldrick's Foundation has awarded more than \$232 million in research grants due entirely to events around the world like the one in North Plainfield.

> For their 15th anniversary the firefighters will display an optional commemorative badge on the duty uniform for the entire month of March along with a green shoulder patch.

> The event is always looking for volunteers and licensed hair stylists to get involved.

> It is family friendly and open to the public featuring a silent auction and music.

> To register, sponsor, or make a donation visit stbaldricks.org/events/NorthPlainfield2018.

> To learn more about the St. Baldrick's Foundation visit stbaldricks.org.

> For more information about the North Plainfield Event contact the Event Organizer, 732-259-8857 Robert Beattie at npfd58@optonline.net.





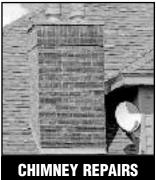




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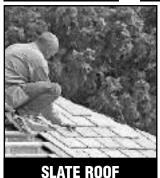




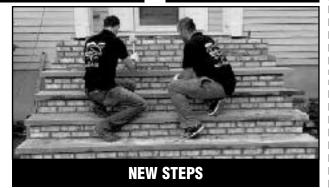
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IRS WARNS PUBLIC ABOUT SCAMS TARGETING TAXPAYERS

The IRS is urging the public to be aware of suspicious individuals claiming to be from the IRS.

Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scams. Scammers use the regular mail, telephone, or email to set up individuals, businesses, payroll, and tax professionals.

The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or financial information. Recognize the telltale signs of a scam.

SCAMS TARGETING TAXPAYERS IRS-IMPERSONATION TELEPHONE SCAMS

A sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be IRS employees, using fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a gift card or wire transfer. Victims may be threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. Victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

Some thieves have used video relay services (VRS) to try to scam deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Taxpayers are urged not trust calls just because they are made through VRS, as interpreters don't screen calls for validity.

Limited English Proficiency victims are often approached in their native language, threatened with deportation, police arrest and license revocation, among other things. IRS urges all taxpayers caution before paying unexpected tax bills. Note that the IRS doesn't:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer.
 Generally, the IRS will first mail you a bill if you owe any taxes.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Demand payment without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

SCAMS TARGETING TAX PROFESSIONALS

Increasingly, tax professionals are being targeted by identity thieves. These criminals — many of them sophisticated, organized syndicates - are redoubling their efforts to gather personal data to file fraudulent federal and state income tax returns.

SURGE IN EMAIL, PHISHING AND MALWARE SCHEMES

Phishing (as in "fishing for information") is a scam where fraudsters send e-mail messages to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal and financial information that can be used to steal the victims' identity.

The IRS has issued several alerts about the fraudulent use of the IRS name or logo by scammers trying to gain access to consumers' financial information to steal their identity and assets.

Scam emails are designed to trick taxpayers into thinking these are official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry, including tax software companies. These phishing schemes may seek information related to refunds, filing status, confirming personal information, ordering transcripts, and verifying PIN information.

Be alert to bogus emails that appear to come

from your tax professional, requesting information for an IRS form. IRS doesn't require Life Insurance and Annuity updates from taxpayers or a tax professional.

Variations can be seen via text messages. The IRS is aware of email phishing scams that include links to bogus web sites intended to mirror the official IRS web site. These emails contain the direction "you are to update your IRS e-file immediately." These emails are not from the IRS.

The sites may ask for information used to file false tax returns or they may carry malware, which can infect computers and allow criminals to access your files or track your keystrokes to gain information.

For more details, visit www.irs.gov; YouTube IRS Videos on Tax Scams.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the North Plainfield police department.

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LIBRARY PATRONS EXPLORE THE WORLD OF HARRY POTTER

Muggles and wizards united to celebrate Harry Potter Book Night on February 1, 2018, at Somerset County Library System New Jersey (SCLSNJ)'s North Plainfield Memorial Library branch. More than 20 Library patrons dressed in costumes, crafted unique magical creatures, and participated in Harry Potter trivia and games.

Explore SCLSNJ's complete Harry Potter collection today: catalog.sclsnj.org.



(above) Grace Klikus, 10, of North Plainfield, dressed as Dolores Umbridge.



(above) Anabelle Lynn, 12, and Ariana Lynn, 15, both of North Plainfield, exhibiting their mini-Nagini finger snakes.



(above) Campbell Maloney, 7, of North Plainfield, posing with his wand in the most wanted photo booth.

AFRICAN MASK MAKING AT NORTH PLAINFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Sommerset County Library System New creating African clay masks. Jersey's (SCLSNJ) North Plainfield Memorial Library branch, recently held an art program participated.

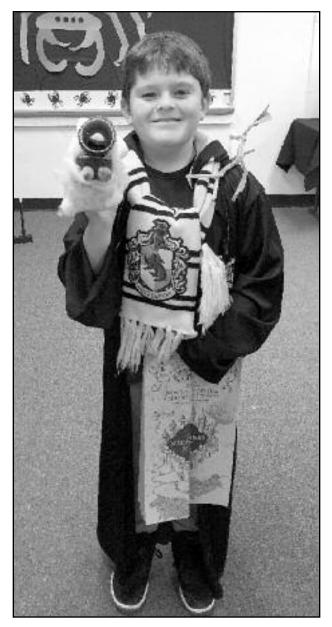
Hosted by Ivy Omere, over 20 patrons







(above, left) Misael Velasquez, 11, of North Plainfield, working on his African clay mask. (above, middle) Bella Alvarado, 4, of North Plainfield, creating the eyes of her mask. (above, right) David Verdugo-Nunez, 11, of North Plainfield, displaying his work.



(above) Sean Costello, 9, of North Plainfield, dressed in his Hufflepuff gear displaying his handcrafted magical creature.



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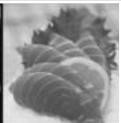
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Kids 7-10\$5.99	Kids 7-10\$7.49
Kids 3-6\$3.99	Kids 3-6\$5.99
2 & UnderFREE!	2 & UnderFREE!

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Kids 7-10	
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NPCCR MEETING TO BE HELD APRIL 5

The next meeting of the North Plainfield Citizens for Community Rights (NPCCR) will be Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the North Plainfield Community Center 614 Greenbrook Rd. Our guest speaker will be Chief of Police William Parenti. There will be time, once the chief's presentation is completed, for questions. If there is a specific topic you would like addressed, please email frankdsr@comcast.net as soon as possible.

NPCCR posts the current police reports and council meetings on our site. You can view them by going to www.npccr.org.

NORTH PLAINFIELD LION'S CLUB ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

North Plainfield Lion's Club Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 25, 2018, from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Luke's R.C. Church, 300 Clinton Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey, in the Church Hall. Entrance is in the rear of the church.

Proceeds are for benefit of sight, blind, and hearing. Donations \$6; senior citizens \$4; and children \$3. Pay at the door.

For more information visit lionsclub.org.

NORTH PLAINFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

North Plainfield Memorial Library branch is located at 6 Rockview Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey. New Jersey. For more information call 908-458-8435 or visit SCLSNJ.org.

All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library for more

information and to register. **ALL AGE PROGRAMS**

It's Your Lucky Day

March 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND **TEEN PROGRAMS**

Holiday Celebrations Around the World

March 1, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (ages 7 to 11)

Homework Helpers

March 6, 13, 20, 27; 3:30 to 5 p.m. (grades K to 6)

Storytime: Rhyme and Play

March 7, 14, 21 28; 10 to 11 a.m. (ages 2 to 4)

Choose Your Own Adventure

March 7, 14, 21, 28; 3:30 to 5 p.m. (grades 6 to 12)

Storytime: Discover Storytimes

March 8, 15, 22, 29; 10 to 11 a.m. (ages 6 months to 3 years)

Miss Jen's Lab

March 22, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. (ages 5 to 10)

Holiday Celebrations Around the World

March 30, 10 to 11 a.m. (birth to 5 years)

Peep Dioramas

March 30, 2 to 3 p.m. (ages 5 to 11)

ADULT PROGRAMS

US Citizenship Course

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 6 to 8 p.m.

First Friday Foreign Films

March 2, 2 to 4:30 p.m.

English Language Learning

March 5, 12, 19, 26; 6:15 to 8:45 p.m. **English Language Learning**

March 5, 12, 19, 26; 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

English Conversation Group

March 5,12; 7 to 8:30 p.m. **Reflections Book Club**

March 6, 7 to 8 p.m.

Beginner Spanish Course

March 6, 20; 7 to 8 p.m. **English Language Learning**

March 7, 14, 21, 28; 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

English Language Learning

March 7, 14, 21, 28; 6:15 to 8:45 p.m.

Book Discussion

March 8, 1 to 2 p.m.

Morning Knit & Crochet

March 13, 27; 10 a.m. to noon

Book Discussion

March 15, 7:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Financial Literacy Workshop

March 19, 7 to 8 p.m.

Healthy Avenues Van

March 20, 1 to 3 p.m.

Vegan Baking

March 22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Sewing Class

March 29, 6 to 8 p.m.

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band schedule

Sunday, March 11

"Round the House" at Bridgewater "Bloody Callan" at Gillette Three Seatings Available: 3:30, 5:30 & 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 13

"Hooley Shooters" at Bridgewater "Celtic Rebels Band" at Gillette Two Seatings Available: 5:45 & 7:15 pm



Thursday, March 15

"The Snakes" at Bridgewater "Hooley Shooters" at Gillette Two Seatings Available: 5:45 & 7:15 pm



ST. PATRICK'S DAY * Saturday, March 17

"Bloody Callan" at Bridgewater "Courtney Colletti" at Gillette

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NORTH PLAINFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION **SUMMER CAMP AND PLAYGROUND PROGRAMS**

The Department of Parks and Recreation has finalized our summer camp and playground programs for 2018. For complete details and registration forms, please visit our website at NP-RECREATION.COM

Our registration prices for both programs are the same as 2017. We are changing our venue for summer playground. This summer, our weather permitting playground operation is relocating from East End School to

Green Acres Park offers much more for the

children. The playground area is much larger offering more swings, slides, etc. We have 2 basketball courts plus a multi surface area for soccer or street hockey that were renovated three years ago. There's enough land to play baseball, softball or soccer on grass. There's a picnic area protected by a pavilion from the sun

If you need further assistance, please call the recreation office at 908-756-0247 or write us at rec@npmail.org.

NPBA HOSTS CONGRESSMAN LEONARD LANCE

The North Plainfield Business Association (NPBA) was pleased to host Congressman Leonard Lance at their March meeting. The meeting was held Tuesday March 27, 2018, at Fabricland, 855 Route 22, North Plainfield, New Jersey. Refreshments will be served.

The North Plainfield Business Association meets the last Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Meeting locations are determined by sponsors. To become a member of the NPBA or to sponsor an upcoming meeting, contact NPBA President, Bruce Heyman at 908-755-4700 ext.102 or bruce@fabricland.com. The NPBA is an apolitical organization and looks forward to hosting the Democratic candidate for the 7th District after June primaries.

NEED A PASSPORT? PROCESSING FEES WILL INCREASE APRIL 2

Do you need to apply for a passport this year? Somerset County Clerk Steve Peter wants residents to be aware that the U.S. Department of State plans to increase passport processing fees from \$25 to \$35, effective April 2, 2018.

The \$10 increase will only apply to application form DS-11, which is used by firsttime applicants over age 16, children under age 16, and applicants who re-apply after reporting their previous passport lost or stolen.

There are two fees associated with passport applications. The first is the State Department's application fee and the second is a processing fee, which is intended to cover costs incurred by designated passport acceptance agencies, including U.S. Post Offices, County Clerk's Offices and public libraries. The State Department has determined that the cost incurred by these agencies is about \$35.

For more information, visit the State Department's website at:

travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports

To accommodate residents who need to apply for a passport, the Somerset County Clerk's Office, located in the county Administration Building at 20 Grove St., extends its office hours until 6 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. one Saturday a month, usually the first Saturday. This year, Saturday hours will be offered on March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1. Information about applying for a passport can be found at: http://bit.ly/CC-Passports.

During weekdays, free parking is available in the Bernie Field Parking Deck, adjacent to the county Administration Building. The entrance is located off of High Street. On weekends, street parking is available.

For more information, contact Somerset County Clerk Steve Peter at (908) 231-7013 or CountyClerk@co.somerset.nj.us.



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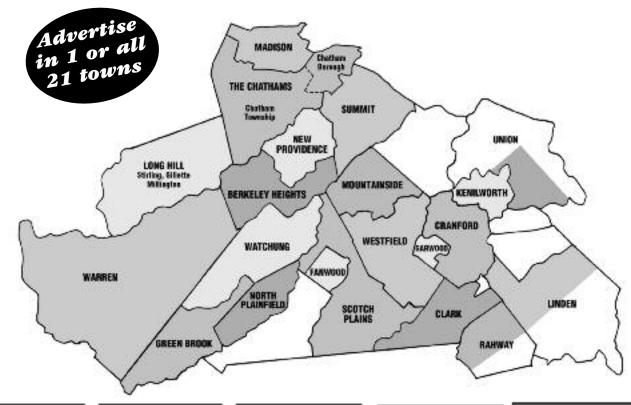
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