



# SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

## New Providence NEWS

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On Saturday, December 12, 2020, Santa Claus will be escorted around town on a Fire Engine to say Happy Holiday's to all of our borough families.

Although Santa cannot make stops this year, he is excited to visit the borough before the big day!

We will be making passes through all borough streets during the timeframe of 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We encourage all families to step outside and wave, make signs, and say Happy Holiday's to Santa!

On the day of the event, Santa will be sending his elves out ahead of him to let you know he is close by!

In the event of inclement weather, Santa will be escorted on December 19, 2020.

Please check our Facebook page for updates @ New Providence Volunteer Fire Department.



## FAITH LUTHERAN WINTER COAT COLLECTION

For the twentieth consecutive year, Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence has collected gently used winter coats for the needy. The approximately 140 coats of this year were given to the Market Street Mission in

Morristown. Administrators of the Mission distributed the coats to men, women and children during the Mission's annual give-away on Saturday, November 7 at the Morristown Town Hall parking lot.

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*Join us online only this Advent and Christmas*

**Service of the Word - Advent Sundays**  
Special Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.  
November 29, December 6, 13 and 20

**Midweek Service - Advent Wednesdays**  
Liturgy and Music of the Season at 12 noon  
December 2, 9 and 16

**Online Christmas Services**  
Christmas Eve with Choir, Bells and Strings  
Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.  
Christmas Day - Nativity of Our Lord  
Friday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.  
Service of Lessons and Carols  
Sunday, December 27 at 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday, January 3 at 10:00 a.m.

*All services are streamed on Facebook at Faith Lutheran, New Providence*

*Join us online Sundays at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome!*

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**Rich Vaill**  
*Business Development  
Officer Team Leader*

**Learn more about our Union County Team at [spencersavings.com/unioncounty](https://spencersavings.com/unioncounty).**

## EMS WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Alex Pereira is a lifelong resident of New Providence and has been a member of the NPF for the last three years. He is a sophomore at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he studies History as well as Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

In his free time, Alex enjoys volunteering with the Boy Scouts in town and spending time with friends and family. Welcome to the team Alex!

Follow New Providence EMS on Facebook



## LOCAL CHURCH CELEBRATES CENTENARIAN WITH A CAR PARADE

*Submitted by Julie Lister*

New Providence United Methodist Church did the unthinkable during the Pandemic and pouring rain...they celebrated this centenarian with a car parade! Leonard Blessing of New Providence turned 100 on October 16th. Over 40 cars came to honor this special man.

He enjoyed seeing people from his alumna Montclair State University, Millburn High School where he taught for 37 years,

his bridge club where he actively played until last year, his neighbors and his beloved church family. It was a day to be remembered by all...miles of love and joy!



*(above) The Conti family celebrate Leonard Blessing.*



*(above) Claire Stang, Rev. Victor Franco, and Leonard Blessing await guests.*

## ANNOUNCING THE NEW OFFICE OF DR. EDWARD SOMMA IN BERKELEY HEIGHTS

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Internal Medicine

After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was elected Chief Resident of Internal Medicine in his final year.

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall's Physician Assistant Program as an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.



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## COUNCILWOMAN MICHELE MATSIKOUDIS HONORED BY NJ VETERANS NETWORK



(above) Michele Matsikoudis, New Providence Borough Councilwoman, was awarded the NJVN Plaque, State proclamation, and the NJVFW medal. She was honored for setting up charity events including a comedy night, assisting during height of Covid by making and collecting ear savers and masks.

On Veterans Day the New Jersey Veterans Network hosted its first team awards ceremony at the Union VFW. Councilwoman Michele Matsikoudis was 1 of over 50 contributors who were honored during a ceremony that practiced social distancing protocol.

The New Jersey Veterans Network is a volunteer mobile outreach team that aggressively seeks out veterans and their families members in need.

In the last few years the NVN has saved over a dozen lives, donated 20 cars, 400 business suits, and during covid the team provided over 3,000 meals and thousands of PPE items for disabled veterans and active servicemen.

The team is fully backed by the NJ VFW, NJ American Legion, NJ PBA, NJ FOP, NJ FMBA, multiple service groups, and several elected state officials.

Former VFW State Commander Barbara Hagemann presented over 30 NJ VFW Award Commendations.

NJVN President Michael Boll presented all the members in attendance with NJVN team plaques in recognition of their contributions. Each member also received a proclamations from the New Jersey Senate and Assembly.

Congressmen Tom Malinowski presented the Presidents Volunteer Service Award with a Gold

Medal and a Congressional Commendation to the team's executive board including Michael Boll, Sara Abraham, Frank Schupp, Bob Johnsen, and Leo Graf. Frank Schupp was presented an American Flag that was flown over the Capital Building in his honor. Schupp is the mobile outreach program director. He was awarded for his outstanding work mentoring veterans during Covid and organizing an effort to feed over 3,000 veterans.

### ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our team is raising awareness of our veterans needs by organizing public speaking engagements, meeting with business and political leaders across the state and sponsoring fundraising events. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. To ensure that every single one of our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this great country, receives the resources that they require and deserve.

If you are interested in joining our team, would like us to speak at your event, or contributing to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email [mdbollio@optonline.net](mailto:mdbollio@optonline.net). To learn more visit [njvn.org](http://njvn.org).

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# OPERATION BLUE ANGEL - SAFETY PROGRAM FOR OLDER COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The New Providence Police Department P.A.C.T. Program and New Providence-Our Community For All are proud to offer a new program: Operation Blue Angel. This safety program aims to aid older adults who are over 55 years of age, are medically impaired or are frequently alone. Operation Blue Angel gives emergency services quick access to a residence if the resident is unable to open the door.

Those who participate in the program will receive a small, free combination-controlled lockbox to store a spare key in. The key is provided by the resident, and the lockbox will only be accessible to the resident's local police department; no one else will have the code. In the case of an emergency where the resident is unable to come to the door, police, the fire department or emergency medical services (EMS) will be able to enter the home using the spare key.

Participation is completely voluntary, free, and may be stopped or started at any time. In addition to providing access in an emergency, the program promotes safety and peace of mind at home.

To enroll: call the New Providence Police Department at (908) 665-1111 and leave a

message for the Community Policing Officer, Detective Dave Rodriguez.

Detective Rodriguez and his team will make an appointment with the resident to talk about Operation Blue Angel and set up the lockbox. They will also be able to discuss other safety programs for older community members like Smart911, the File of Life and safety evaluations.



(above, l-r) New Providence Chief of Police, Theresa Gazaway; Detective and Community Service Officer, Dave Rodriguez; and Executive

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1  
*Winter Wonderland Lights Festival*

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Special Guests Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be on hand Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>

2  
*Frozen Family Night*

**Featuring Princess Elsa December 13<sup>th</sup>**

For details please give us a call or visit us online.

## DECEMBER 2020 EVENTS AT THE NP LIBRARY

### Indian Instant Pot Cooking Demo (Adults)

December 1, 7 PM - 8 PM

Local food blogger Amrita Ghosh of ThePinchofTaste.com will demonstrate over zoom how to cook Indian dishes in an Instant Pot. To register, email the library at npmlref@yahoo.com.

### Among Us with the Library (Teens)

December 3, 5 PM - 6 PM

Who are the Imposters? Join with local teens and the NP Library for a few games of Among Us. We'll open a Discord server so you can chat within the game and in Discord to team up. Open to NP teens age 13-17 who have a current NPML Library card. Email npmlteens@gmail.com for the Discord invite.

### Gingerbread Train Kit FUNraiser (All Ages)

December 7, 10 AM

Families, groups or individuals can pick up a gingerbread train kit to decorate at home. You must reserve your kit by emailing npmlchildrens@gmail.com. To help us in this endeavor, a \$10 donation is suggested per gingerbread kit. Any overages are gratefully accepted!

### Virtual Read to a Dog (Kids)

December 8, 7 PM

Join us on Zoom and practice reading aloud to trained Seeing Eye dogs and puppies. Email npmlchildrens@gmail.com to receive the link. For children in grades 3 & up.

### Virtual Jazz Holiday Concert (Adults)

December 13, 4 PM

The Florian Schantz Jazz Combo will perform a jazz holiday concert after last year's well received Oktoberfest concert at the library. This concert was made possible by the Friends of the New Providence Memorial Library. Email npmlref@yahoo.com to receive the link.

### Winter Tales Virtual Storytelling with Julie Pasqual (All ages)

December 15, 4 PM

Come travel around the world while not leaving your home, as professional storyteller Julie Pasqual brings you folktales from the different corners of the earth that may surprise or puzzle you, and hopefully make you laugh!! Email npmlchildrens@gmail.com to receive the link to this live Zoom.

### DIY Spa Gift Kits for Teens (Teens)

December 16, 3 PM

Pick up a kit after school on Wednesday, Dec 16 to make your own Gingerbread Body Butter and Peppermint Body Scrub. You will pick up all ingredients and instructions needed to make one jar of each spa gift, as well as labels and ribbon to decorate them if you'd like to give them as gifts. Great scents for the holiday season and great for dry skin that comes with winter weather! Kits are for students in grades 6-12. Teens can email NPMLTeens@gmail.com to register for their kit.

### Collage Virtual Workshop (Adults)

December 28, 7 PM - 8:15 PM

Want to relieve stress and anxiety while creating? This method of using "Torn Paper Collage" rather than cutting allows you to skip the detail as you tap into your intuition and expression. Local artist and Adult School instructor Lisa Brown will give you a theme to work with and have you answer some journal questions to discover the deeper meaning in your creation. For class you will need 3-5 pages of blank paper or a blank journal with no lines, markers, stick glue and magazines that you are willing to tear up. The library can provide some of these materials - let us know when you register. To register, email the library at npmlref@yahoo.com

### Signup for January Teen Take Out boxes (Teens)

December 28, 10:00AM

Teen Take Out is a monthly box of fun for NP teens in grades 6-12 with a current NPML library card. Each month, we put together a box for you including fun treats like snacks, crafts, bookmarks, buttons, stickers and more. Plus, we select a YA Fiction book for you based on your answers to our questionnaire! Use our Google form to sign up for the January box starting Dec 28. (First 12 signups each month; preference to those who have not yet gotten one.) email NPMLTeens@gmail.com.

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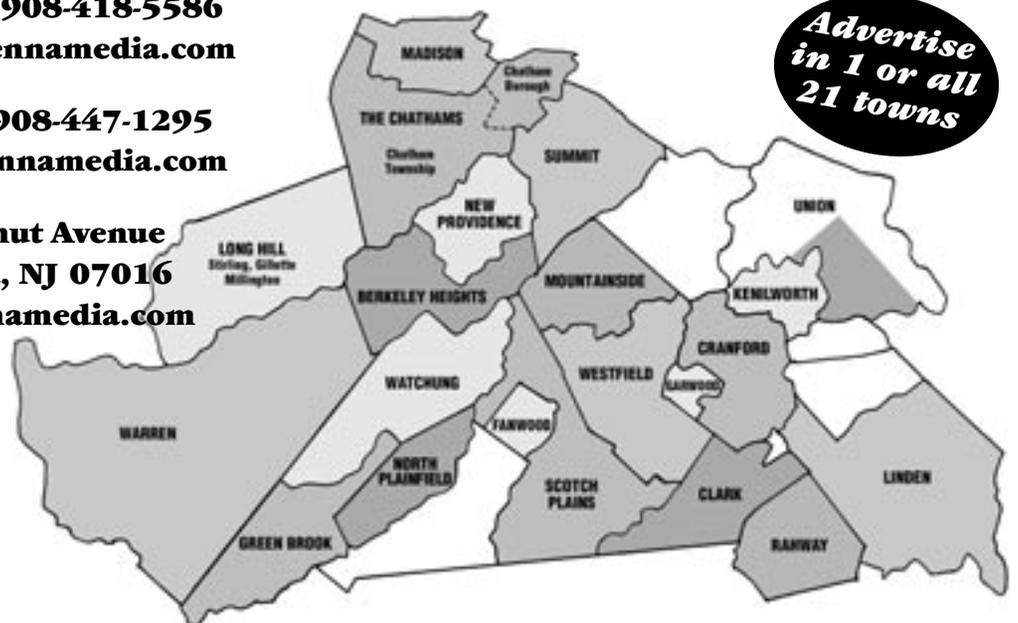
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6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
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# THE GIFT OF SIGHT: SAYING YES! CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE

"I am passionate about spreading the important lifesaving and enhancing message of organ and tissue donation because I know the powerful impact it can have," said Peter DeSarno, member of the New Providence Lions and double cornea transplant recipient. "It is an honor to bring together two organizations (The Lions Club and Eversight) that do so much good and have personally impacted my life".

That was the way the presentation at the November 4 New Providence Lions Club meeting began as members heard the personal story of one of its own members receiving the gift of sight and discussed the 50-year history of Eye Banking in New Jersey with Jennifer Rosenblatt, Director of Philanthropy at Eversight.

Peter went on to share that when he was in high school, he was diagnosed with a condition called Keratoconus that affected both of his eyes and at the age of 24. He then received two cornea transplants that restored his vision and forever changed his life.

The gift of his first donor cornea in his left eye came to him with the assistance of the Lions Eye Bank of Texas. The second transplant in his right eye was procured with the assistance of the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey (now Eversight) working in conjunction with the New Providence based, NJ Sharing Network.

Peter put his experience into perspective by saying that today he looks out of the eyes of two other individuals. Peter explained that unfortunately he has not been able to make contact with and thank his donor families. He said what he does know is that they were two heroic human beings who came from two loving, caring and generous families who in their darkest hour displayed an incredible amount of love and compassion in providing him with the gift of sight. He said that he doesn't think humanity gets any more beautiful than that.

The Lions Club's work in fighting blindness goes back many years. In 1925, as an ambassador for the newly formed American Foundation for the Blind, Helen Keller addressed the Lions Club

International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio hoping that the Lions would partner with the American Foundation for the Blind and lend their support as an organization to those who had lost their sight.

It was at that convention where she appealed to the Lions and challenged them to become "knights of the blind in this crusade against darkness."

She had no idea just how far the association would take her challenge. Before the convention was over, the association dedicated itself to making Keller's dream a reality and the Lions would become Keller's Knights of the Blind.

Since 1925, millions of lives have been changed through the vision-related work of Lions around the world, and today the association is as dedicated as ever to hastening the day when no one should suffer unnecessarily from vision problems. Lions work to end preventable blindness and aid the visually impaired through eye centers and hospitals, medicines and surgeries, eye glasses and eye banks.

Jennifer Rosenblatt, Director of Philanthropy at Eversight, shared with the New Providence Lions Club an inspiring presentation about the Eye Bank in New Jersey and the work of her organization. Specifically, the work at Eversight to restore sight and prevent blindness through the healing power of donation, transplantation and research.

From its home in Clark, NJ, Eversight proudly partners with NJ Sharing Network, Lions Clubs, surgeons, businesses and philanthropists throughout New Jersey to advance its mission.

In 2019, Eversight worked with the families of 882 New Jersey residents who gave the gift of sight for transplantation, research and education. Through outreach and programs, Eversight provided donated tissue for 8,176 sight-restoring corneal transplants in 2019 in New Jersey and around the world.

Saying "yes" to donation can change someone's life.

For details about donation visit



(above, left) Jennifer Rosenblatt, Director of Philanthropy at Eversight, shared with the New Providence Lions Club an inspiring presentation about the Eye Banking in New Jersey and the work of her organization. (above, right) Peter DeSarno, member of the New Providence Lions and double cornea transplant recipient, recently shared his personal story with the Lions Club.

[eversightvision.org/our-work/donation](http://eversightvision.org/our-work/donation).

For how to register to become a donor, visit [eversightvision.org/get-involved/#join-registry](http://eversightvision.org/get-involved/#join-registry).

The New Providence Lions Club is a 501(c)3 organization, giving back to the community 100% of the proceeds raised. Being a Lion empowers you to help others in a way that no one person could alone. The Lions are dedicated to helping others. Lions make a difference! For more information/membership please email [info@nplions.org](mailto:info@nplions.org) and visit [nplions.org](http://nplions.org).

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