


Summit NJ Times

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VOLUNTEER FIRST AID SQUAD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At its general meeting on Monday, December 14, the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad newly elected trustees and officers for 2021 were sworn in by Summit Mayor Nora Radest. In opening comments, Mayor Radest praised the Squad, describing its members as “universally lauded among Summit citizens for their dedication and valuable service to the Summit community.”

Bob Flanagan was elected to a third term as President of the Squad. Kari Phair was reappointed as its Chief.

“I have been so impressed by the sheer resolve and courage of our Squad this year,” said Flanagan. “I believe that the pandemic has revealed its abundant character and strength. It is a privilege for me to be a part of this selfless and committed group of volunteers, and it remains an honor to serve as President.”

Flanagan further credits Chief Phair with the successful preparation of the squad for safe and effective operations

during the pandemic.

The Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad responds to approximately 2,000 9-1-1 calls a year. In addition to its 65 adult members, the squad includes 20 junior members that are high school students ages 16 and older that assist on emergency calls.

The Squad is currently in the midst of its annual fund drive and depends on the generous donations of supporters to sustain the services it provides to the Summit community. To donate online, volunteer, or learn more about the squad, visit summitems.org.

The Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad, Inc. is an independent non-profit corporation dedicated to providing emergency medical services (EMS), non-emergency ambulance transportation, and safety training to the Summit community. All of its services are provided free of charge and funded entirely through private donations.



(above, top, l-r) Robert Endress, John Christmann, Beverly Brown, Bob Flanagan, Mel Harari.
(second row, l-r) Fred Schwarzmatt, Matt Raymond, Mayor Nora Radest, Kerry Whitcher, Marco diMayorca.
(third row, l-r) Rob McGrath, Kari Phair, Kevin Carapreso, Bob Mendes, Dave Bernstein.
(bottom row, l-r) Wes Christmann and Richard Raymond.

Photo by City of Summit

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LITERACY NEW JERSEY - UNION COUNTY WELCOMES NEW TUTORS

Literacy New Jersey-Union County welcomed four new volunteer tutors to the program in December.

Lawrence Russo of Cranford, Carol Ann Townsend of Summit, Kacie Yip of Summit, and Roberta Tipton of Berkeley Heights all successfully completed a rigorous, 5-week online training program and received their certificates as Literacy New Jersey tutors.

Carol Ann Townsend of Summit is volunteering to tutor ESL students. She says: “I enjoy working with students and learning about new cultures. Ms. Townsend holds a graduate degree in Political science and History.

Kacie Yip of Summit tutors two different ESL classes each week. She is currently an intern at Mount Sinai Hospital and holds a Bachelor’s degree in Animal Science. “I enjoy sharing my knowledge so that others can progress in life and witnessing their improvements give me great satisfaction that I helped at least a little in their life.”

Roberta Tipton of Berkeley Heights works with ESL students on Saturday afternoons. She is the Business Librarian at Rutgers University. Roberta says “I enjoy meeting new people and working together with my students.”

Lawrence Russo of Cranford will be assisting adult students obtain their high school diploma.

He is currently retired, but was a science teacher for 44 years.

The tutors will engage with students in online English as a Second Language, High School Equivalency or Basic Literacy classes.

After completing the training sessions, tutors are matched with a small group of adult students from the growing waiting list of students who need to improve their literacy skills. Tutors meet with their students online for 2-hours per week.

Literacy New Jersey provides ongoing supervision and support to tutors in the form of free professional development workshops on specific topics such as Health Literacy, ESL Conversation, Small Group Instruction and Job Readiness.

To volunteer, you must be at least 18 years old, able to speak English and willing to tutor in Union County. You do not need to have any teaching experience and you do not need to speak a foreign language. The training will provide volunteers with techniques and strategies for working with adult learners, as well as sample instructional materials and activities. Literacy New Jersey is a non-profit organization.

For more information or to register, please call Literacy New Jersey at 908-486-1777 or email Barbara Bagger, Program Director at bbagger@literacynj.org.



(above) Carol Ann Townsend of Summit





(above) Kacie Yip of Summit



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Read any good books lately? If your answer is you have not, you may want to swing over to the Summit Free Public Library's website, summitlibrary.org, and browse our catalog of books, books on CD, DVDs, and music, among other offerings. Yes, the library may currently be closed to patrons, but our lobby is open Monday-Saturday for lobby pick-up of items you place on reserve.

HERE IS HOW IT WORKS:

Library materials may be requested through the online catalog or by calling 908-273-0350, option 3



LOBBY PICK-UP HOURS

Monday – Thursday 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Friday and Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

There will be no lobby pickup on Sunday

Once your hold is fulfilled (book/DVD/etc. pulled and put to the side) you will get an email or phone call. At that point, please call us at 908-273-0350 within 1/2 hour of your arrival so that the item can be checked out and placed in the lobby.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO WITH YOUR CARD?

Funny you should ask! With your library card you can also check out eBooks, eAudiobooks, eGraphic novels, movies, TV shows, music (Hoopla, Libby/Overdrive, Kanopy), learn a

foreign language (Rosetta Stone), learn a new skill (Lynda.com), download free music (Freegal), read favorite magazines (Flipster), read The New York Times or Star Ledger online, learn to knit, crochet, quilt or a myriad of other crafts (Creativebug), read digital comics online (ComicsPlus), online books for kids (Tumblebooks), Test Prep for Teens (ACT/SAT), and more! How do you find most of these resources? Just go to our website, select the Resources tab, and explore! Need help finding something? Call us at 908-273-0350, option 3—we are available Monday through Thursday from 9 am-9 pm and Friday/Saturday from 9 am-5 pm. Note, our lobby pick-up hours differ from our Information Desk hours.

FILM PRESENTATION JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE

The League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights, New Providence & Summit and the American Association of University Women-Summit College Club will be kicking off Black History Month with the presentation of the film John Lewis: Good Trouble with a discussion to follow. The film will be available via virtual screening 48 hours prior to the discussion. The Discussion will take place via zoom on Sunday, January 17th at 1:30 p.m. If you wish to participate you need to register by sending an e-

mail to LWVBHNPS@yahoo.com. The link for the virtual screening and the zoom meeting will be sent to you.

John Lewis participated in thousands of protests. He was arrested 45 times. He served 33 years in Congress. This is a portrait of courage. Many consider him an American Hero not only a hero for African Americans. "Sometimes change calls for a little trouble." Until his death on July 17, 2020, he called upon his fellow citizens to get into "Good Trouble".

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2
Frozen Family Night

Featuring Princess Elsa December 13th



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SHS SPEECH AND DEBATE SUCCEED IN COMPETITIONS

Six Summit High School Debate teams competed in the virtual Cypress Bay HS National Circuit Tournament held in November and set a team record by closing out the Junior Varsity division of Public Forum Debate.

- JVPF tournament champions:
The teams Ian Ritter and Ravi Naidu and Sophia Fu and Scott Au-Leung shared the title of JVPF tournament champions.
- Speaker awards :
1st speaker - Sophia Fu;
3rd speaker - Ian Ritter;
4th speaker - Ravi Naidu
- Tournament of Champions:
Varsity Public Forum debaters, Anthony Yu and Jeremiah Cohn advanced to the Octa Final round, receiving a silver bid to the Tournament of Champions. On Saturday, November 21, the SHS Speech and Debate Team claimed yet another 1st Place Sweepstakes Award at the Randolph High School Virtual Tournament.

FINALISTS INCLUDED:

- Varsity Public Forum:
5th - Claire Guo & David Fu
- Junior Varsity Public Forum:
2nd - Ravi Naidu and Ian Ritter
- Novice Public Forum:
5th - Andrew Cheung & Adam Livnat
- Top Non-Advancing Novice:

Matt Lameo

- Declamation:
1st - Ed Vela; 3rd - Hefziba Hef Campos; and
Top Non-Advancing Novice - Chloe Lee
- Original Oratory:
1st - Aarav Gupta; 3rd - Juliette Gringeri;
5th - Ana Estupinan
- Duo Interpretation:
1st - Thea Rind & Jake Modél;
3rd - Zach Siegel & Matt Hecker;
4th - Carolina Ferronato & Emily Huffman
- Oral Interpretation:
5th - Leah Competiello;
Top Non-Advancing Novice - Anna Heil
- Program Oral Interpretation:
1st - Josh Daley; 3rd - Sydney Veloso;
5th - Charlotte Butler; 6th - Zach Siegel
- Dramatic Interpretation:
1st - Josh Daley; 4th - Jayson Cahillane;
5th - Ella Szabados
- Humorous Interpretation:
1st - Lissette Green; 2nd - Charlie Zucker;
6th - Noah Jay;
Top Non-Advancing Novice - Clara Schulz
- Impromptu Speaking:
1st - Aarav Gupta
- Improvisational Acting:
1st - Alex Gallegos; 2nd - Josh Moore
- Informative Speaking:
2nd - Brett Colon; 3rd - Matt Polo;
4th - Eli Markowitz

ADAM FERN INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Longtime Summit High School teacher and Track & Field coach Adam Fern, will be inducted into the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Coach Fern will be enshrined in the NJSCA Hall of Fame Room located at the NJSIAA headquarters in Robbinsville.

Photo by Summit Public Schools



(above) Adam Fern was inducted into the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

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

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Edward Anthony Somma, MD
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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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FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF MENORAH LIGHTING AT FAITH LUTHERAN

Submitted by Larry Hold

On the evening of Tuesday, December 15, the sixth of the eight days of Hanukkah, Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence and the Summit synagogues of Congregation Ohr Shalom-Summit Jewish Community Center and Temple Sinai, lit the sixth candle of the Menorah at Faith. This was the fourteenth consecutive year that Faith and the synagogues have partnered in the lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah on the front lawn of Faith.

In response to the pandemic, this year's lighting was different than the earlier ones. At the prior thirteen, members of each of the three congregations attended. On December 15, only the three clergy of the congregations were present; Rev. Jane McCready of Faith Lutheran, Rabbi Avi Friedman of Congregation Ohr Shalom-Summit Jewish Community Center and Rabbi Erin Glazer of Temple Sinai. Each was masked. The ceremony was live streamed via Faith's Facebook Page: Faith Lutheran, New Providence.

The lighting ceremony began with a welcome from Pastor McCready, who expressed her appreciation for the long-term friendship Faith has had with the two synagogues. She observed that while the night's lighting was different than the past, the members of the three congregations were still together in spirit and emotion.

Rabbi Friedman thanked Faith for hosting again the lighting ceremony. He said "We should never forget that Rev. Murdoch MacPherson, pastor of Faith, began and led this fantastic tradition." Rev. MacPherson (Pastor Mac) served Faith for thirty-five years and passed away in 2017. The members of the Jewish community have great respect and love for his memory. Rabbi Friedman then lit the sixth candle of the Menorah.

In response to an anti-Semitic incident in the community in 2007, Pastor MacPherson initiated discussions with Rabbi William Horn, now Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Ohr Shalom-Summit Jewish Community Center, and Rabbi Stuart

Gershon, now Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Sinai. The result was the first lighting of the Menorah at Faith during Hanukkah later that year. Accompanying the Menorah was a sign saying, "In Celebration with our Jewish Brothers and Sisters." The sign has continued at each subsequent Hanukkah.

Rabbi Glazer expressed her appreciation to Pastor McCready and Faith for conducting the lighting ceremony with the two synagogues. Their members have been grateful for the friendship of and recognition by Faith. Rabbi Glazer then sang a Hanukkah song.

Also, on Faith's lawn and near the Menorah during the Christmas season is a manger, lying on straw within a small, open wooden stable. On early Christmas morning, a wrapped gift was placed within the manger. It represents the birth

of Jesus, a gift from God to all people. Christianity was born from the Jewish tradition.

The ceremony on December 15 concluded after Rabbi Glazer's Hanukkah song. Before the adjournment, Rabbi Friedman noted that following past ceremonies, everyone went to Faith's education hall and sang fun Hanukkah songs. The cantors led the singing. Subsequently, all enjoyed visiting and the kosher refreshments, provided by the synagogues. The refreshments included jelly donuts, latkes, cheeses, fruits, cookies and nuts, all traditionally served at Hanukkah celebrations.

Rabbi Friedman said the Menorah signifies light and hope for us. Let's aspire that the fifteenth anniversary of the Menorah lighting of the three houses of worship allows persons to attend in person.



(above) Rabbi Erin Glazer sings Hanukkah song during lighting of Menorah ceremony. Rabbi Avi Friedman and Rev. Jane McCready watch and listen.

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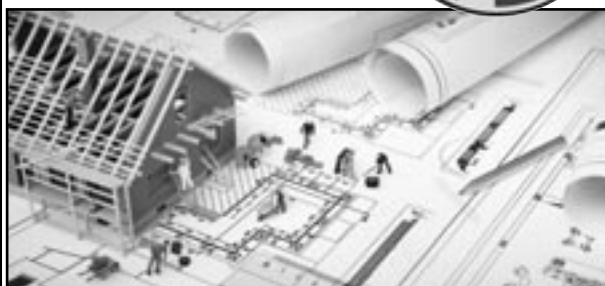
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CENTRAL CHURCH CELEBRATED THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH NEW CARILLON BELLS

Submitted by Jeanne Thiemann

Central Presbyterian Church of Summit, NJ, welcomed the holiday season with the inauguration of its new Schulmerich Carillon Bells on November 8th. The celebration took place seventy-five years after Summit's first Carillon concert marking Armistice Day, November, 1946. The service was held on the Maple Street lawn, led by Pastor Don Steele and Music Director, Charity Wicks. The congregation and visitors thoroughly enjoyed the concert of sacred and secular music.

Advent arrived on November 29th with a service taking place outdoors adjacent to the Church. All attending witnessed the lighting of the first Advent candle and Christmas music from the Carillon in the safety of their cars.

It was said by one worshipper on that day, "The gift of the carillon was especially poignant and significant at this pandemic time when most live performances are absent from our lives. It fills a very important need as we long to hear sacred and secular music."

Each day at noon, the Summit community was welcome to enjoy the music created by the carillon. During these long days, the bells from Central's tower may hopefully play a role in connecting, uplifting, and inspiring members of the community.

The Carillon gift represents the culmination of

Central's past year 150th Anniversary Celebration. The volunteer committee's goal was to secure a lasting "gift to the Congregation." It did so through the generous gift of the Bauer Family Foundation in loving memory of George and Ada Bauer, all long time members of Central.

The Central Church Carillon has played an important role in the life of the church since 1946, when the first Carillon, a gift of the Nicol Family, was given in memory of their daughter, Muriel. Bruce Bensley, son of Muriel and Dr. Maynard Bensley, co-founder of the Summit Medical Group, fondly remembers his Sunday School Days at Central many years ago.

The second Carillon of 1978 was also gifted by the Bauer Family Foundation, remembering George and Ada's many years supporting Central's programs. This year's gift once again brings Carillon music to Central for all to enjoy for many years ahead!

(right) Pastor Don Steele at the Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle on December 6, 2020.

Services were held outside and could be heard safely from your car.

Central Presbyterian Church is located at 70 Maple Street in Summit, NJ, and is worshipping virtually on Facebook, YouTube, and on Summit's HTTV channel 33/36. Visit centralpres.org for more information.



Photo by Martha Anderson

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Looking for joy in the new year? Love to sing? Making the most of the Zoom world, The Hickory Tree Chorus chapter of Sweet Adelines International offers a free Winter Sing series. Join the chorus via Zoom on Wednesdays in January, 7:15 to 9 p.m.

The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more. Using learning tracks and breakout rooms, singers continue to pursue their passion for singing via Zoom.

Hickory Tree is an award-winning women's

chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. We are passionate about music, performance, fun and friendship. We believe every voice counts and encourage women singers of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and orientations to visit us and share our joy of music.

Please contact the Chorus for the Zoom link for the free Winter Sing 2020 Workshops by email, info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399. For more information visit hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) The Hickory Tree Chorus chapter of Sweet Adelines International is offering a free Winter Sing series. Join the chorus via Zoom on Wednesdays in January, 7:15 to 9 p.m.



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VETERAN FIND SUPPORT FROM ROGER

ROGER, a search platform for New Jersey veterans, launched on November 9th, just ahead of Veterans Day 2020. The platform was created by Backpacks For Life founders Brett D'Alessandro and Alexa Modero. After serving the Veteran community for 6 years, they found many inefficiencies and convoluted systems that prevented veterans from getting the care they need in a quick and efficient way. From lengthy intake processes to outdated information on organizations' websites, the Backpacks For Life team knew there was a better way to get veterans the care they needed.

ROGER allows veterans and their family members to search for programs, resources and care by a variety of factors such as zip code, branch of service, discharge status and income. With these customizable search features, veterans will see only the programs that they qualify for. This helps mitigate time wasted for not only veterans searching for programs that fit their needs, but also the service providers to ensure the

veteran is a good fit for them.

"Navigating through resources is hard...we get it. As a veteran myself, I was often running around in circles trying to find programs that I was eligible for and that fit my needs. When we're working with veterans, every minute matters and with ROGER we can work more quickly to get veterans what they need. We're excited to bring ROGER to the NJ veteran community." - Sgt. Brett D'Alessandro, Retired US Marine & President of Backpacks For Life

To explore ROGER, visit www.roger.vet or contact the ROGER team at roger@backpacksforlife.org

Backpacks For Life is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization that serves the homeless and at-risk veteran community. By regularly distributing backpacks filled with essentials to veterans on the streets and providing mentorship to at-risk veterans and their families, Backpacks For Life aims to bridge the gap between veterans and the resources available to them.

BEREAVEMENT SEMINAR ON ZOOM

Submitted by Virginia Waters, PhD and Patti Williams, RN

We are all navigating through especially challenging times due to the ravages of the pandemic, exhaustion from political conflict, depletion of our resources, the loneliness of increased isolation, and the unprecedented chaotic environment in which we currently exist. When you are also grieving a loss in the midst of all these stressors, life can become very dark and everyday may seem overwhelming.

As we enter the darkest time of the year, we offer a ray of light and welcome you to join the Journey Toward Wholeness bereavement seminar. The seminar, sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, grew out of a spark from Dr. Bruce Williams who co-created this program 20 years ago. Due to our respect for keeping our participants safe, the program has transitioned from in person to a ZOOM platform which allows us to include participants from a wider distance.

The co-leaders of the program Patti Williams,

RN, Certified Bereavement Counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD have both personal and professional training and experience in the field of grief and loss and are joined by a team of trained facilitators who provide support and lead breakout groups for individuals with like losses.

Follow the light to find comfort, support, tools, and connection at our next seminar.

The seminar begins Sunday, January 10, 2021 for 6 consecutive weeks, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meet us on ZOOM, a meeting link will be provided upon registration. Register by calling Patti Williams at 908-709-1341.

We Welcome all who have experienced loss of any kind, in the past or present. All faiths are welcome. We also welcome all who have previously attended this Seminar to return for a refresher.

There is no cost for this seminar. We have had over 3,500 participants over 20 years. Come join us as we light up the darkness together.

UNITED WAY OF GREATER UNION COUNTY

As part of its transformation to continue providing programs and services, United Way of Greater Union County (UWGUC) recently announced that it has modernized their comprehensive approach to their family strengthening model. The organization is collaborating within its community resources network and its affiliated initiatives to provide a series of virtual webinars that will provide families and individuals with continued access to services, leadership and career focused initiatives, and ways they can advocate in their communities.

Building Resiliency Empowering Parents, Families and Individuals, the themed focus, serves to provide continued support to residents who are facing educational, health and economic barriers, and ensures services are provided in both the traditional and virtual (online) setting. During the Coronavirus pandemic, UWGUC saw

an increase in the number of families struggling to meet basic needs such as buying food, paying rent and utility bills, and having access to healthcare.

The organization, through donations of fresh and nonperishable food from Amazon Logistics and the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, also hosts weekly food distributions, where 900 families are served on average each week, since the pandemic began. UWGUC held a virtual back-to-school drive serving more than 400 students with backpacks and school supplies.

UWGUC is also calling for volunteers who are experts in their field to host a workshop or webinar that could help those in the community.

The virtual workshops and webinars are free and open to the public. Interested persons can access them through the United Way of Greater Union County website at uwguc.org/virtualworkshops.

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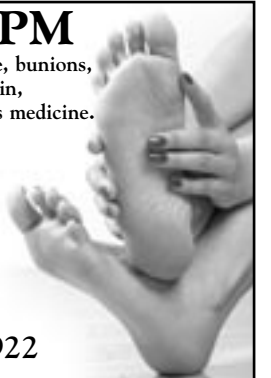
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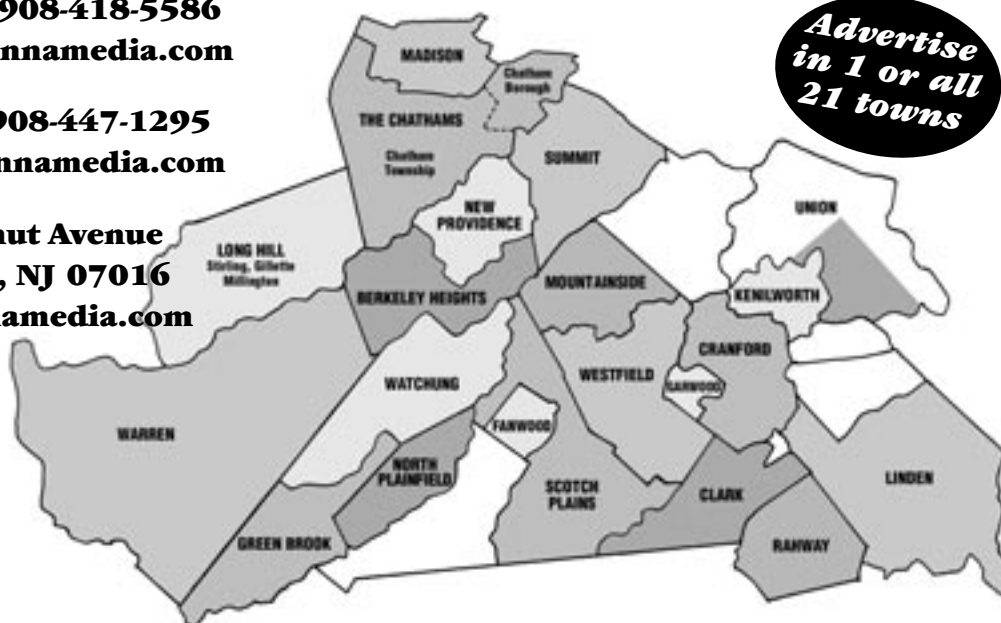
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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000
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