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DO I SEE REINDEERS AT THE OVAL?

Camuso Holiday Display Committee Holiday Events

Do I see Reindeers at the oval? . . . Yes, it is that time of year again. The Camuso Holiday Display Committee is back and preparing a special 2024 holiday celebration at the High School Oval.

Since last year, the Committee has been meeting to raise funds and to plan improvements to the display. "We vowed last year that 2024 would be bigger and better than ever," said Chief ELF Tom Cooney. We are very excited that the Livingston Police Department will be added to the exhibit next to the Fire and First Aid Departments. "We are excited to be part of this annual effort that brings so much joy to our community and beyond" expressed Sean Whalen and Joy Klapel, members of the Livingston Community Policing

Beth Lippman, Executive Director of the BID has been spearheading the Committee's fundraising efforts. As noted by Beth, "We have great businesses in town that support this spectacular event"! Funds go towards the repairs and upgrading of the display. It takes a lot of work, special parts and special people to keep them working!

PURCHASE AN ORNAMENT!

This year we will be selling a Holiday Ornaments made by the elves. Names will be painted on them, and they will be placed around the display. The Ornaments will be given to the donors when the display is taken down. The cost will be \$20 per Ornament.

COME VISIT THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE!

And don't forget to look for the Elf on the Shelf hidden somewhere in the display. His location changes every night. **OPENING NIGHT!**

The display will open with a spectacular lighting ceremony on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Livingston Starliners Dance Team will open the event at 6:30 p.m. Lights will go on at 7:00 p.m. The Trackless Train is back. Get on Board for this spectacular community event. This year we were able to secure a visit from . . . wait for it . . . BLUEY AND BINGO! They will be there to take pictures with you and your

children. Don't miss it! **SPECIAL SANTA APPEARANCE**

Friday, December 13, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. we will have a special Santa appearance for the Livingston Committee for Disabilities.

SANTA AND HIS ELF AT THE GAZEBO

Livingston UNICO will once again sponsor Santa and his elf at the Gazebo on Saturday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. - Livingston's First



Responders are sponsoring this event. The Livingston Fire Department, First Aid Squad and Police Department are hosting a fun Craft Night for all the children. Santa will make a second appearance, and hot chocolate will be provided to help celebrate this holiday season. Back again will be the Clydesdale Horse and wagon ride for the family. A petting zoo and pony rides will provide a festive time at the oval.

CHANUKAH CANDLE LIGHTING

Thursday, December 26 we will host a Chanukah Candle Lighting to celebrate the holiday. Rabbi Simeon Cohen of Temple Beth Shalom will help us light the candles with songs and Chanukah cookies to celebrate together!

The exhibit open weather permitting, at 5:00 on Weekdays and close at 9:00pm. It will open on Friday and Saturdays at 5:00 and close at 10:00pm. The last day it will be open is January 1, 2025.

A GIANT THANK YOU

A Giant THANK YOU to our Sponsors: Fairview Insurance, Schumacher Chevrolet, Air Group, Progressive Companies, Livingston UNICO, Livingston Kiwanis Club, the Rentis Family, Knights of Columbus

"This is a community event," said Cooney "and we want every group in town to feel welcome to participate. So come out and help celebrate this Livingston tradition with us.

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

Do you have a community service that you need help publicizing? Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (honor, award, etc.), send us your news! **Email: editor@rennamedia.com**

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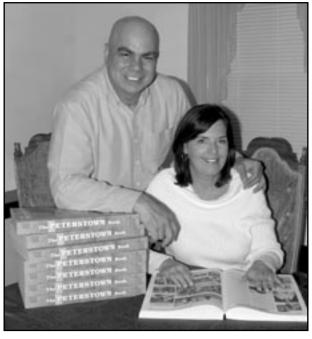
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WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY OF NEWSPAPERS

Welcome to the premier issue of Livingston Monthly, Renna Media's newest addition to our family of newspapers. Livingston Monthly will be mailed to every postal patron in Livingston and will deliver important information from the departments within town hall, along with news from the schools and library. Community service organizations are encouraged to promote their events and celebrate their accomplishments free of charge. The newspaper's goal is to be a positive influence on the economic development and overall well-being of Livingston. Livingston Monthly exists to share all of the good things that are happening in town.

Renna Media is a Cranford based business owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Joe and Tina Renna. Livingston Monthly joins Renna Media's family of thirty community newspapers published in and around Essex, Morris, Somerset, and Union counties. The publications are "hyperlocal" in nature in that they contain information focused on each individual town and are direct mailed within those towns.

The concept of being hyper-local is to give local businesses a venue to promote events and services. Reaching local customers gives you the highest return for your advertising dollars. The newspapers are designed to keep the cost of an advertisement to as low as \$100. Regional businesses can take advantage of one low rate for advertising in multi publications. Renna Media can also design and print full-color flyers and menus that get inserted and mailed to every home and business along with the newspapers.



(above) Joe and Tina Renna have been publishing community newspapers since 1998 with the launch of Around About Peterstown, a regional newspaper about the Italian-American neighborhood located in Elizabeth, NJ.

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NJ WOMAN'S LIFESAVING PANCREAS TRANSPLANT

NJ Sharing Network

Kerry O'Connor celebrated a significant milestone this September – it is 11 years since a pancreas transplant saved her life. Reflecting on her journey, Kerry is using this anniversary to advocate for NJ Sharing Network and encourage people to register as organ and tissue donors to



(above) Pancreas transplant recipient Kerry O'Connor enjoys a precious moment with her husband Billy and their children Saoirse, Gracyn, and Seamus.

Courtesy photo

help save and enhance lives.

"Not a day goes by that I don't think about the incredible gift my organ donor gave me. Their selfless choice has given me a life I never imagined possible," said Kerry. "Sharing my story with others is my way of honoring my donor's legacy and supporting the vital work of NJ Sharing Network."

Kerry's health challenges began at a young age when she was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Despite using the most up-to-date diabetes technology, including an insulin pump and Continuous Glucose Monitoring System (CGMS), Kerry struggled with severe hypoglycemia unawareness. Her blood sugar levels could drop dangerously low without warning, putting her life at constant risk. Simple activities like folding laundry could cause her blood sugar to plummet, forcing her to administer glucagon to herself to prevent losing consciousness.

Kerry had been living with Type 1 diabetes for 28 years. The only solution to her condition was a pancreas transplant. She was placed on the waiting list, and after 11 months, she received the life-changing call. Kerry's donor, like her, was CMV and EBV negative, a rare match that allowed for the successful transplant on September 3, 2013, at University of Minnesota Medical Center.

Since her transplant, Kerry has not only regained her health but has also embraced life with a renewed sense of purpose. She has traveled to France, volunteered often for NJ Sharing Network, and most notably, welcomed three children into the world. Her children, Gracyn (8), Saoirse (6), and Seamus (3), are a testament to the incredible second chance at life that her transplant provided.

"Most pancreas transplant recipients don't have children, let alone three," said Kerry. "My husband Billy and I are truly blessed. I am living proof of the lifesaving power of organ donation. Our children are a daily reminder of what a miracle this journey has been. I hope my story inspires others to consider registering as organ and tissue donors. You truly have the power to save lives."

According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), over 100,000 Americans are waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant, with nearly 4,000 of them in New Jersey. One organ and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance the lives of over 75 others. But the need for registered donors is critical, as only 3 in 1,000 people pass away in a manner that allows for organ donation.

To learn more about organ donation, get involved, and join the National Donate Life Registry, visit NJSharingNetwork.org.



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LIVINGSTON STUDENT WINS 2ND PLACE IN STEM COMPETITION

Society for Science

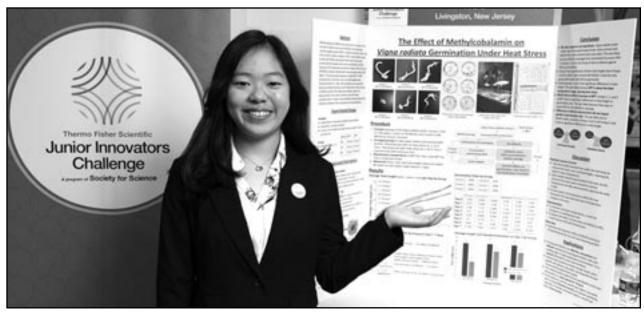
Sophia Hou, a 15-year-old student from Livington, NJ, won second place in the Engineering Award category, as part of the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge, a leading national middle school STEM competition, hosted by the nonprofit organization, Society for Science. Sophia won a \$2,500 scholarship to STEM summer camp.

The competition judges found that Sophia Hou demonstrated acumen and promise in the engineering category. The 30 finalists were selected from a highly competitive applicant pool of nearly 2,000 students representing 48 states, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. The winners were chosen by a distinguished panel of scientists, engineers, and educators.

About the Winner: Sophia is a competitive swimmer who has swum at the state championships and practices six days a week. She has a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. She also loves cooking, drawing and painting. "My most recent painting was of a groundhog," she recalls. She'd like to be a biologist. "I haven't decided on a field within biology that I would like to pursue, but I am interested in cancer biology, immunology and cell biology," she says. "There's so much to be discovered that can help people."

Project Background: Sophia wanted to see if methylcobalamin, an activated form of B12, could change how quickly seeds germinate when they are at high temperatures. She tested 120 mung bean (Vigna radiata) seeds. "My grandmother and I grew Vigna radiata sprouts together when I was younger, and they are a staple in Asia," Sophia says. She separated her seeds into six groups. Three groups were germinated at 80 degrees, and three at 98 degrees. Each of the three groups received either zero, three percent or eight percent methycobalamin in their water.

You can view Sophia's Virtual Project Showcase here: societyforscience.org/jic/2024student-finalists/sophia-hou/



(above) Sophia Hou "I am interested in cancer biology, immunology and cell biology," she says. "There's so much to be discovered that can help people."

Courtesy photos





ABOUT SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE

Society for Science is a champion for science, dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of science and the vital role it plays in human advancement. Established in 1921, Society for Science is best known for its awardwinning journalism through Science News and Science News Explores, its world-class science research competitions for students, including the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair and the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge, and its outreach and equity

programming that seeks to ensure that all students have an opportunity to pursue a career in STEM. A 501(c)(3) membership organization, Society for Science is committed to inform, educate and inspire. Learn more societyforscience.org.

ABOUT THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. is the world leader in serving science, with annual revenue over \$40 billion. Our Mission is to enable our customers to make the world healthier, cleaner and safer. Whether our customers are accelerating life sciences research, solving complex analytical challenges, increasing productivity in their laboratories, improving patient health through diagnostics or the development and manufacture of life-changing therapies, we are here to support them. Our global team delivers an unrivaled combination of innovative technologies, purchasing convenience and pharmaceutical services through our industry-leading brands, Thermo including Scientific, Biosystems, Invitrogen, Fisher Scientific, Unity Lab Services, Patheon and PPD. For more information, please visit thermofisher.com.

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SANTA AT TWIN MAPLES

The entire family is invited to one of the areas loveliest historic homes, Twin Maples in Summit, on Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8 to join Santa for food and fun. The weekend event is hosted by the Fortnightly Club of Summit and sponsored by the Peapack Gladstone Bank.

Festivities begin each morning at 9:30 a.m. with a delicious Holiday 'Breakfast with Santa' served in the beautifully decorated ballroom with catering by 'What a Dish.' Breakfast includes live music, family photos and stories with Santa.

For those who can't make it for breakfast, 'Stories with Santa' is available at reserved intervals between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on both days. This portion of the event gives families the opportunity to join Santa for photos, cocoa and homemade cookies, stories and sing-alongs. There even might be some gingerbread!

Tickets to Santa at Twin Maples can be purchased at https://www.fortnightlyclub.org.

Pricing for Breakfast with Santa is \$45 for adults and \$20 for children. Please bring booster seats for children. Highchairs are not available.

Reserved tickets for Stories with Santa are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children.

The weekend event benefits the preservation of Twin Maples, a property on the New Jersey and National Historic Registers. The house was designed by New York architect Alfred F. Norris in the Colonial Revival style, referencing the White House. The Fortnightly Club purchased the property in 1949. Today, Twin Maples serves as a clubhouse and hosts many community events and fundraisers.

The Fortnightly Club of Summit, a non-profit organization founded in 1893, offers women camaraderie and a full calendar of interesting events and volunteer opportunities. The Club

supports the preservation of Twin Maples, education, the arts and humanitarian efforts. For over twenty-years the Club has awarded annual scholarships to deserving young, local women.

Fortnightly Club members are from Summit and many neighboring towns. To join or for more information, visit the Club's website at https://www.fortnightlyclub.org.





(above) Madelyn Monaghan







CELEBRATE WITH THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS

The beloved Pipes of Christmas fundraising concert is delighted to be entering their second quarter century with a brand-new production.

The popular holiday event will be returning to theMadison Avenue Presbyterian Church in NYC on Decemebr 14, and Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, NJ on Decemebr 15.

The Pipes of Christmas brings together musicians, soloists, and performers from across America and the UK to share the magic of the holiday season through the timeless sounds of Celtic music. The show features traditional favorites and newly commissioned works performed on pipes and drums, harp and fiddle, organ, brass, and more, as well as readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

Featured performers include guitarist and music director Steve Gibb from Inverness, Scotland, actor James Robinson of "A Merry Scottish Christmas," "Braveheart," and "Outlander," fiddler Caitlin Warbelow from Broadway's "Come from Away," and US Harp Champion harpist Rachel Clemente.

Audiences will thrill to the Commonwealth Pipes and Drums under the leadership of Pipe Major Adam Holdaway and the B-Line Brass Quintet led by CJ Waldrop.

In both locations, the company will include the Solid Brass ensemble and the St. Columcille United Pipe Band led by Pipe Major Cameron MacDougall.

Also making her Pipes of Christmas debut will be Madelyn Monaghan, an Irish American traditional (sean-nós) singer based in New York City. In September of this year, Madelyn was a leading performer at the Celtic World Forum in Dublin alongside the likes of Máiréad Nesbitt and Clannad's Moya Brennan and appeared in the Celtic Music Festival in Rockport, MA. Her voice can be heard via TikTok, museums, film scores, and commercials, and her album éist is available on all streaming platforms.

Proceeds Support Scholarships and Cultural Heritage Initiatives

The Pipes of Christmas is hosted by the Learned Kindred of Currie, a non-profit cultural

and educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Scottish and Highland heritage and the arts. As its primary fundraiser, the concert enables the Kindred's continued efforts to support the global Scottish community through initiatives such as:

- Producing Tartan Day on Ellis Island, perhaps the largest Tartan Day event in the world, which received 80,000 visitors in 2024 alone
- Providing scholarships to deserving students in the US, Canada, and Scotland
- Sponsoring competitions and festivals across the globe
- Commissioning of new musical and cultural works
- A global monuments initiative, which helps erect and preserve new and existing locations such as the Scottish Writers Museum and Bale nam Bàrd (the bard's home) on the Island of South Uist
- Developing a cultural heritage center in Scotland (currently in preliminary stages)

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets are now available via Eventbrite. Reserved VIP and general admission seating is available. Access to the global web stream of concert highlights can also be booked in advance. Tickets for Summit are \$60 general admission and \$150 VIP - reserved tickets.

ABOUT "THE PIPES OF CHRISTMAS"

Since its debut, The Pipes of Christmas has played to standing-room-only audiences. Now a cherished holiday event, the concert gives audiences a stirring and reverent celebration of the Christmas season and the Celtic spirit. Audience-goers return year after year to experience the program, many reporting that the Pipes of Christmas has become part of their family's annual Christmas tradition.

The concert has been lavished with critical acclaim. In his review for Classical New Jersey Magazine, Paul Somers wrote, "The whole evening was constructed to introduce gem after gem and still have a finale which raised the roof. In short, it was like a well-constructed fireworks show on the Glorious Fourth."

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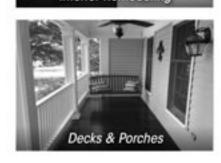
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NJIO PRESENTS FREE FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT IN SUMMIT

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra will be entertaining families on Sunday, December 8, 2024 with a free concert of seasonal holiday favorites. The concert will be from 2pm to 3pm at Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ. Families with children of all ages are invited to come and join in the fun! NJIO's three orchestral ensembles will

OLD GUARD DECEMBER SPEAKERS PROGRAM

The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet most Tuesdays at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave. Our dues are minimal, and members manage all aspects of the operation. Our motto is "Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends." The organization was founded in 1930.

IN DECEMBER. WE WILL HAVE TWO SPEAKERS:

On December 3rd, our speaker will be Ron Brachman, an internationally known expert in Artificial Intelligence. In 2023 he retired from his positions as the Director of the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech and Professor of Computer Science at Cornell University. He has also held research leadership positions at Yahoo, DARPA, AT&T Labs, and Bell Labs. Ron will discuss the amazing leaps forward in Artificial Intelligence over the past several years, and examine the unexpected, humanlike blunders the programs continue to make. Briefly, the algorithms, capable of constructing solutions to many complex problems, lack what is generally perceived as 'common sense'. In his talk, Ron Brachman will consider what common sense is about, what AI has tried to do about it, and what's still missing.

On December 10th, James M. Kossler will discuss the FBI versus the Cosa Nostra. Jim spent 23 years as an FBI agent and was the Coordinating Supervisor for the New York office responsible for directing the Organized Crime unit. As an expert witness he testified in numerous mob trials in New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia. Jim was featured in the Netflix documentary "Fear City: New York vs. the Mafia." Jim will provide a brief history of Cosa Nostra (Mafia) and how they went from controlling unions and industry in New York and New Jersey, to being turned into street gangs.





(above, l-r) Dr. Brachman, James Kossler Courtesy photos

combine to perform music by Corelli, Reinecke, the Arts; Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation; Strauss, and more! The concert concludes with Leroy Anderson's exciting Sleigh Ride, with percussion accompaniment provided by the youngest members of the audience!

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Following the concert, the famous NJIO Instrument Petting Zoo returns! Experienced NJIO musicians will guide young audience members and assist them in safely trying out the instrument of their dreams. Instruments are loaned by Elefante Music of New Providence and Scotch Plains.

Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 2 pm Summit High School 125 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, NJ Admission is free;

donations are gratefully accepted.

This concert is made possible by funds from: the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for

The Lillian Schenck Foundation; The Henry S. and Agnes M. Truzack Foundation; Investors Foundation; Standish Foundation; and many other generous supporters. NJIO is a proud participating organization in the Families First Discovery Pass Program, a program of the NJ Departments of Health and Human Services.

NJIO is committed to ensuring that its programs and concerts are accessible. For more information regarding the concert or to inquire about patron services, please contact NJIO at info@njio.org, or visit NJIO's website njio.org.

New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, now in its 31st season, has been nationally recognized as a leader in intergenerational excellence through its unique approach to teaching musical performance and as a model for intergenerational orchestras across the country. Depending on space availability, NJIO welcomes new members of all ages and abilities each concert period to one of its several orchestras - no auditions needed!





ANNUAL TOY DRIVE COLLECTION

The Livingston Youth & Community Services (LYCS) Leaders Program and the Recreation & Senior Services Department are collecting toys for children in need this holiday season. Join the community in donating a new, unwrapped toy or a roll of wrapping paper and tape. Toys should be appropriate for ages 0 through 12 years. Beginning Monday, December 2, 2024 items should be dropped off in the collection boxes at the Livingston Senior/Community Center on 204 Hillside Avenue, upper and lower level entrances. The deadline for drop off is Monday, December 16, 2024. For additional information, contact Jennifer Quirk at 973-535-7925 ext. #7209 or email jquirk@livingstonnj.org.

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Whether or not you are affiliated with a running club come check out the Rose City Runners! We meet every Saturday morning at the Kitchell Rd. parking area of nearby Loantaka Park in Morris Township. Meet time is at 9 a.m. November-March and 8:30 a.m. April-October. We leave promptly so if it's your first time come a little early so you can be introduced.

We share post Saturday run breakfast on a park picnic bench. We even have a fire in the shelter fireplace on cold winter days to keep us warm when we share breakfast. We do have other activities including member hosted house parties. Some members also race, and we form a team

Whether or not you are affiliated with a when there is enough interest from members. nning club come check out the Rose City anners! We meet every Saturday morning at the membership.

Just come some Saturday! Members run varying paces (including a few walkers) and cover 3-8 miles, much on quiet wooded park trails. We often have turnouts of over 20 runners even on cold days. We have a diversity of ages from 20's to 70's. When park trails are icy or snow covered, we use alternate routes. We are a friendly welcoming group.

Contact BarbaraRushman@yahoo.com or visit our website RoseCityRunners.com to join or to learn more. There is no cost for membership.



(above) A recent Rose City Runners club run.

Courtesy photo

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE NOW OPEN

Junior League of Summit

Do you love bargains? Have you started shopping for the holidays yet? Need a toy for a child or a gift for a hostess? Stop by the Junior League of Summit Thrift Shop located at 37

Deforest Ave., Summit, NJ.

Starting on November 30, JLS Thrift Shop invites you to its annual Holiday Boutique — a special event with even more incredible bargains on exceptional, high-quality merchandise. They sell holiday clothing, giftwares, decorations, toys, and jewelry.

Shop hours are 9 a.m. -1 p.m., Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and 3 p.m. -7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

Going strong for 90 years, the JLS Thrift Shop remains the oldest retail business in downtown Summit.

Since its inception in 1934, the shop has been owned and operated by the Junior League of Summit and all items for sale are donated to the shop by League members and the local community. Over \$3,000,000 in proceeds have been returned to the community in the form of grants, projects, scholarships, and other programs.











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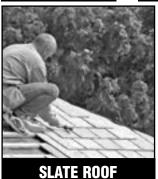
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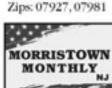


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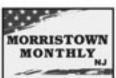
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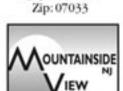
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2400

2700

3000

15

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600

800

1600

1800

2200

2400

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800

1100

1900

2400

2800

3300

3600

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700

1000

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2200

2600

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3300



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