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The 38th annual Borough of Mountainside Tree Lighting celebration took place on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Recreation Department also invited all Mountainside residents to a free night of ice skating at the Westfield Rink.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Mountainside View page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."

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HICKORY TREE CHORUS WINTER SING-ALONG

Stay warm this winter by putting some music in your life in 2025! Join the Hickory Tree Chorus for a Winter Sing-Along, which will include a meet-and-greet, warm-ups and, of course, some wonderful singing. Dates are January 8 and 15, 2025, from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ. The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more, in a fun, supportive community. Come sing with us and share the joy of music together! Stay for friendship and fun!

And the event is free!

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 Winter Sing-Along by email at info@hickorytreechorus.org. Find more information at hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) The Hickory Tree award-winning women's chorus is hosting free events on January 8 and 15, 2025, from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ.

Courtesy photo

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THE JANUARY SPEAKERS PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMIT AREA OLD GUARD

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 JANUARY, WE WILL HAVE FOUR SPEAKERS:

JANUARY 7: FRED POLAK

On January 7th, Fred Polak will relate the love story of his parents, Jack and Ina, who nurtured their relationship through the exchange of letters while each was incarcerated in concentration camps during WWII. After liberation, they married and moved to America in 1950. Jack became the president of the Ann Frank Center, USA and lectured extensively on the Holocaust. Jack passed away at the age of 102 and Fred has been dedicated to retelling his parents' story and the lessons to be learned from this awful period.

JANUARY 14: SCOTT WALKER

On January 14th, we will learn how Rutgers Provides academic Support Services to Student Athletes. Our speaker will be Scott Walker, executive director of Rutgers' Academic Support Services for Student Athletes program (ASSSA), and a Princeton graduate. Services provided by ASSSA are available to all student-athletes at

Rutgers. During his tenure, which includes entry of Rutgers into the Big Ten, Scott has overseen the expansion and modernization of the program and the unprecedented academic success achieved by individual student-athletes and team sports. Scott will provide an insider's view of the services provided by ASSSA and how it has evolved over the years.

JANUARY 21: DR. STANLEY GERSCH

On January 21st, our speaker will be Dr. Stanley Gersch. He will discuss how Invisalign® revolutionized orthodontics and expanded the use of clear teeth aligners and about his early interest in how innovative technologies could enhance treatment for his patients, his early-stage introduction to Invisalign®, and how Invisalign® grew to become the leader in clear teeth aligners. Stan has been a practicing orthodontist in

Westfield, Cranford, and Linden for over 35 years and is the director of Invisalign® training in NYU's post graduate orthodontic department.

JANUARY 28: HON. JOEL B. ROSEN

Finally, on January 28th, our speaker will be the Hon. Joel B. Rosen. Joel will discuss the changing landscape in U.S. law, including the notion of the rule of law, federal prosecutions, judicial review, and ethics. Judge Rosen is a former United States magistrate judge, and as a former partner of the law firm Montgomery McKracken, was a nationally recognized leader in the practice of alternative dispute resolution. Over the course of his career, Judge Rosen has overseen thousands of state and federal legal matters, lectured extensively on constitutional principles, and was an adjunct faculty member of Rutgers Law School.



(above) Fred Polak



(above) Scott Walker



(above) Stanley Gersch



(above) Joel Rosen

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UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVING HISTORY

The Hannah and James Caldwell Memorial Obelisk recently underwent a complete restoration and cleaning at the Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church (formerly known as the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown) in Elizabeth thanks to the Union County Historical Society (UCHS).

UCHS President Joanne Rajoppi said, "The 179-year-old obelisk honoring Revolutionary War pastor and patriot James Caldwell and his wife Hannah, was in terrible condition: encrusted dirt from years of neglect with loose mortar and unreadable engravings. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our country, what better time to reflect, remember and honor the contributions of our patriots, especially the Caldwells, who sacrificed their lives for independence."

The Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church cemetery is one of the oldest in the state, dating to the late 1680s. More than 40 officers of the Continental Army are buried there, many of whom attended the church while Reverend Caldwell served as its pastor. Caldwell also served as General George Washington's Deputy Commissary of supplies during the war. The British placed a bounty on his head and he was murdered in 1781. His wife Hannah and mother of their nine children had been murdered the previous year by a British soldier in the aftermath of the Battle of Connecticut Farms.

There are also more than 313 enslaved and free African Americans buried in the historic cemetery, often in unmarked graves: some are children, and some are likely war veterans. The 313+ Ancestors Speak Project acknowledges and commemorates their lives and burials. A monument with their names was recently erected in the cemetery.

The restoration of the Caldwell memorial was partially funded by a Union County Heart Grant, donations by the Union Township Historical Society, the NJ Society of the Sons of the

American Revolution, (NJSAR), the West Fields Chapter of SAR, American Legion Post 248, the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield and many individual contributors.

Ms. Rajoppi said that the restoration included a workshop on how to clean gravestones.

Volunteers, including local area Boy Scouts, the Crane's Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and UCHS members attended the four-hour event.

The restoration work was completed by Richard Grubb & Associates, a full-service cultural resource management firm and one of the largest, independent archaeological and historic preservation consulting companies in the eastern United States. Their corporate headquarters are in Cranbury, New Jersey.

ABOUT THE UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

The UCHS was incorporated by an Act of the 93rd Legislature of the State of New Jersey on April 1, 1869. The objective of this Society is the collection and preservation of all matter of historical relics, books, records, documents, and manuscripts, to stimulate and encourage historical research and the study of history pertaining to the territory originally embraced by Elizabethtown and the present Union County.

The Society exists through the help and generosity of its members. Membership is comprised of citizens who have a common interest in preserving the past. There is no paid staff. The Executive Board and Members perform all Society functions.

For more information visit unioncountyhistoricalsocietynj.org.



(above) The recent restoration and cleaning of the James and Hannah Caldwell Memorial Obelisk at Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth was commissioned by the Union County Historical Society.

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Time: 9:00am to 11:00am

Place: 1459 Deer Path, Mountainside

For: All families interested in registering for the 2025-2026 school year!

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MRS RECEIVES PREHOSPITAL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

Eric Pastore, Chief/EMT

At the National Conference on EMS recently held in Atlantic City, the Mountainside Rescue Squad was awarded the 2024 Prehospital Program of the Year. This award is given to an agency that has exemplary achievement in areas of patient care, public access to EMS, disaster preparedness, public education, and training. This is the first time a volunteer agency has received this award since 2016!

We are honored by this award, and we promise to continue striving for excellence in EMS. We remain committed to training, innovating, and adapting to meet the ever-evolving needs of our community and the field of emergency medicine.

We thank all Mountainside Rescue Squad members, past and present, as well as the Mayor and town council, the Watts Foundation, and the residents of the Borough of Mountainside for their support.



(above) Members of the Mountainside Rescue Squad accepting the 2024 Prehospital Program of the Year award.

Courtesy photo

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GLHS ART STUDENTS SHOW THANKS



Berkeley Heights Public Schools

Students in Studio 23 at Governor Livingston High School worked hard on some special projects 'commissioned' by the Township of Berkeley Heights. Under the guidance of GLHS Art Teacher, Ms. Michelle Harpster, two 4x8 pieces of artwork have been created, one of which is a fall-themed 'thankfulness board' that was on display at the inaugural Berkeley Heights Gobble & Go 5K Turkey Trot held on

Thanksgiving Day.

This beautiful, and massive, piece of artwork kept students busy during classes, lunch, and after school, as artists have been lending a hand any time they could to ensure it was done in time. Students and staff signed the board with what they are 'thankful for' and community members had the opportunity to do the same when they attended the event.

Photos by Berkeley Heights Public Schools



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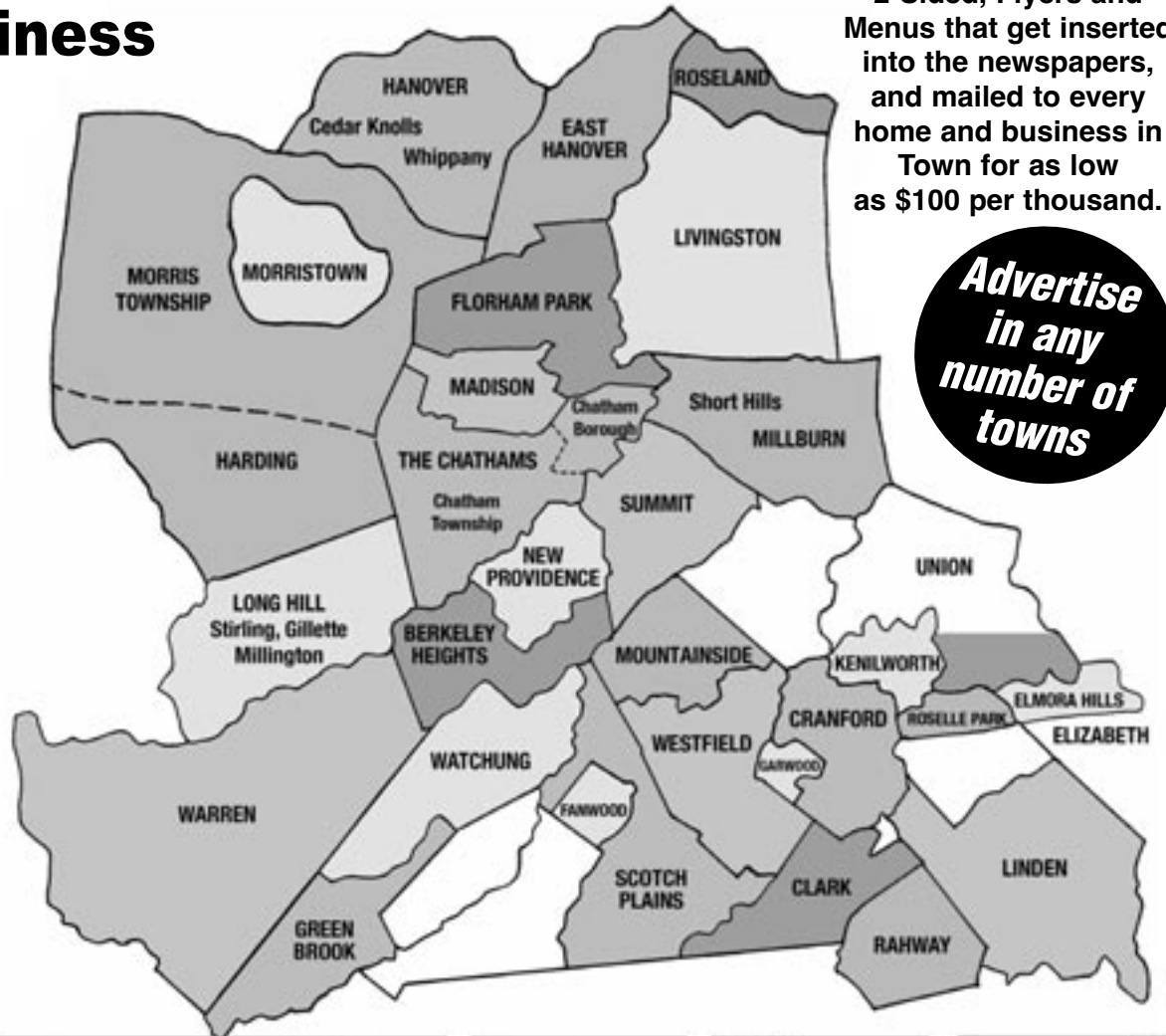
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9 HALF PAGE 6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
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JANUARY LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Register by calling 908-933-0115

The Mountainside Public Library kicks off 2025 by continuing our regular Winter programming as well as offering many new programs and events for adults and children. The library will be closed on New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1st and Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 20th.

OUR WINTER STORY TIMES

Check out the calendar on our website for exact dates:

Cuddle Story Time

Tuesdays (10am-10:30am)

Nursery rhymes, simple stories & songs for children up to 2 with their caregivers and siblings.

Lego Club

Tuesdays, Jan. 7th (3:30pm-4:30pm)

Come in and build with your friends. We have an amazing variety of Legos! Lego Club is a drop-in activity for school age kids. Your creations will be put on display. Parents must remain in the library.

Family Story Time

Wednesdays (10am-10:45am)

Stories, rhymes, songs and a craft for preschool children and their caregivers.

Babies-in-Arms

Wednesdays (11:15am-12pm)

A lap-sit story time for the littlest.

Yoga Story Time

Thursdays (10am-10:30am)

With Jennifer from Little Pathfinders. For preschoolers and a caregiver. Arrive early to get a spot.

Read to a Therapy Dog

Thursday, Jan. 16th (4-5pm)

Come cuddle up and read for 10-15 minutes. Bring three of your own books when you come. All readers are welcome. Register and reserve your spot by emailing Ms. Elizabeth at eperrin@mountainsidelibrary.org. Include your reader's name, age and phone number.

The Great Courses Series

How Winston Churchill Changed the World

Monday, Jan. 6th (1pm)

Light refreshments will be served.

Monday Night Book Club

Jan. 6th (6:30pm)

Join us to discuss "The Chilbury Ladies' Choir" by Jennifer Ryan. Books are available at the library. Call to reserve your copy or get more information.

Monthly Documentary

Wednesday, Jan. 8th (1pm)

"Frank and Ollie". A study of the personal and professional relationship of Disney animators Frank Thomas and Ollie Johnston, who started at the studio in the 1930's and worked on 23 films together. Written and directed by Frank's son, Theodore Thomas.

Friday Afternoon Movies

Jan. 3, 24 & 31 (1pm).

2 workshops presented by Enjoy Explore India

Saturday, Jan. 11th

Kids Storytime: Raakshas Bhaakshas (1-2pm)

Ages K-5: This exciting story is about a little boy whose bravery was admirable and his quick-thinking mind simply amazing. Find out how he beat a "Raakshas" (giant in Hindi language) saved his people, and even married a princess! Best of all, you get to make your own "Raakshas" mask! Limit of 15 people.

For Adults: Cooking Masala Dosas (3-4pm).

We make sambhar (lentil soup with veggies), potato vegetable filling, coconut chutney and the dosas. Limit of 15 people.

Blood Drive

Monday, Jan. 13 (1pm)

Save a Life! New Jersey Blood Services is hosting a blood drive at the library. Walk-ins are welcome but to sign up ahead of time, visit www.nybc.org/drive. Use sponsor code 72685 or use the QR code in the photo. For eligibility requirements or Covid-19 information visit www.nybc.org/eligibility.

Duck Donuts Winter Treat

Friday, Jan. 17 (3:30-4:15pm)

For Kindergarteners and older kids only: Come decorate a box of Winter-themed donuts to take home. All supplies and instructions will be provided by Duck Donuts. Space is limited so register soon by calling the library during open hours.

Scrapbooking

Saturday, Jan. 18 (1pm)

Make a scrapbook. Bring 8-10 photos and learn some scrapbooking techniques from Jessica. Registration is required. Email spicaro@mountainsidelibrary.org.

Snapology- Pokemania

Wednesday, Jan. 22 (3:45-4:45pm)

Snapology of Summit is back with a new class. Pokemania will let kids create their own Pokemon habitats and become the best Pokemon trainer. Ages 7-12 welcome to register. Limited to 12 students.

Snapology- Junior Engineers

Friday, Jan. 24 (10-11am)

Join Snapology for fun with DUPLO bricks and other interactive toys. The kids will be engaged in structured and imaginative building. For kids ages 3-5 only. Call during open hours to register. Limited to 12 students with their caregivers.

Classics Book Club

Saturday, Jan. 25 (10:30am)

This group will meet every other month on a Saturday at 10:30am. Our first book is "Ethan Frome" by Edith Wharton. Copies will be available at the library. This book is also available through Libby, Hoopla or Project Gutenberg and other websites. Registration is not necessary but you may call the library for additional information or email Barbara Madurski @ bmadurski@mountainsidelibrary.org.

OPERAS ON FILM SEASON LINEUP

Mountainside Rescue Squad

The Mountainside Rescue Squad presents Operas on Film, now in its 12th season. The selected films from famous opera houses throughout the world, will be played with subtitles on the second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. hosted by Mena Clemson. It is free to attend. Whether you are an opera buff or an opera neophyte, you are invited to join us for the following films:

JAN 10TH

WIENER BLUT-BY JOHANN STRAUSS

94 MINS, STARRING RENE KOLLO

GERMAN COMEDY

FEB 14TH

EINE NACHT IN VENDIG

BY JOHANN STRAUSS, 96 MINS,

STARRING ANTON DE RIDDER

GERMAN COMEDY

MARCH 14

ERNANI - BY VERDI

140 MINS, STARRING LUCIANO PAVAROTTI

APRIL 11TH

THE PEARL FISHERS BY BIZET

122 MINS, STARRING ANNICK MASSIS

MAY 9TH

IL TROVATOR BY VERDI

133 MINS, STARRING LUCIANO PAVAROTTI

JUNE 13TH

LA BOHEME BY PUCCINI

123 MINS, STARRING LUCIANO PAVAROTTI

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