

Berkeley Heights

COMMUNITY NEWS NJ

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IN BERKELEY HEIGHTS

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CAROLYN GEORGE RECOGNIZED FOR AED ENCLOSURE

The Aliver Foundation

In celebration of The Aliver Foundation's first anniversary, local business partners, community leaders, first responders, donors, and new friends gathered at the Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad on January 23, 2025.

The highlight of the evening was when The Aliver Foundation surprised a few individuals who helped make 2024 phenomenal including Berkeley Heights Township's Associate Recreation Director, Carolyn George, who spearheaded the community's efforts in investing in a lifesaving equipment bundle for Lower Columbia Park. Back in May, BHVRS's Chuck Kleinberg (now a board member with The Aliver Foundation) arranged for a meeting between the organization and Ms. George. She was extremely passionate about bringing an all-weather, climate controlled outdoor AED enclosure to Berkeley Heights and made sure this equipment was ordered as quickly as possible. Every town in the United States needs

a champion like Carolyn George.

Founder, Jill A. Pall and Board Treasurer, Pamela Lips, discussed what The Aliver Foundation accomplished in just one year's time, including being directly responsible for over 100 all weather, climate controlled AED enclosures having been installed in outdoor public recreation spaces, ensuring lives can be saved 24/7/365; providing over 2000 hours of mental health support for cardiac arrest survivors and their loved ones through their Healing Hearts program, facilitated by a trauma therapist; educating more than 650 people on the stats of cardiac arrest, CPR, and AED usage at nine in-person events; and having content viewed nearly 120,000 times through their social media channels and website.

Ms. Pall and Ms. Lips said that 2024 was a testament to how remarkable things can happen when we work together. They also talked about the organization's 2025 focuses which include deepening relationships with the communities they worked with last year, leaning into education, encouraging counties and communities to invest in outdoor enclosures, and supporting businesses and individuals who want to bring lifesaving equipment to their neighborhoods.

The Aliver Foundation is grateful to the Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad for their hospitality and thanks Stop & Shop Berkeley Heights for their generous food and beverage donation.

Please visit: thealiverfoundation.org to learn more.



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(above) Chuck Kleinberg (President, Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad & Board Member of The Aliver Foundation), Carolyn George (Associate Recreation Director, Berkeley Heights Township), and Jill A. Pall (Founder & President of The Aliver Foundation) at Impact Night 2025.

Courtesy photos



(above) Captain Frank Mea, Jr. (Berkeley Heights Police Department) and Carolyn George (Associate Recreation Director, Berkeley Heights Township) at Impact Night 2025.

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Berkeley Heights COMMUNITY NEWS NJ

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NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Berkeley Heights Public Schools

In February, schools across the United States celebrated National School Counseling Week and it was a perfect opportunity for BHPS to thank the school counselors throughout the district for all they do for their students.

Dr. Ashley Janosko, District Director of School Counselors, expressed, "In celebration of National School Counselor Week, we are honored to recognize the expertise and steadfast dedication of the school counselors within the Berkeley Heights Public School District. From PreK to 12th grade, our counselors play a vital role in supporting each student's social and emotional growth. As the heart of each school, their ability to deliver outstanding, student-centered services—whether addressing concerns, navigating challenges, or celebrating successes—sets them apart. The commitment of our counselors to student care, their collaboration with families, teachers, and administrators, and their unwavering dedication to student success are deeply valued. Thank you to our counselors for your professional expertise, compassion, and exceptional service to our students and families. You make BHPS proud!"

OUTSTANDING COUNSELORS IN BHPS INCLUDE:

GLHS: Mrs. Emily Adriaanse,
Ms. Marissa Gold, Mrs. Michelle Morin,
Mr. Jay Pimentel, Mrs. Carolyn Quigley;
Student Assistance Counselor:
Ms. Casey Nebus

CMS: Ms. Gina Delauro, Mrs. Ashley Morris,
Mrs. Heather Saunders, Ms. Abby Rabinovich
Thomas P. Hughes: Mrs. Elizabeth Bartlett
Mountain Park: Mr. Christopher Coughlin
Woodruff: Mrs. Deborah Velelis
MKM: Mrs. Aida Swon

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Students from Governor Livingston High School's Digital Design Club recently used their creative talents to support the Friends of the Berkeley Heights Public Library (BHPL), designing a new logo that reflects the organization's mission and community impact.

The Friends of BHPL is a volunteer group dedicated to engaging the community and enhancing library services through fundraising and advocacy. Their efforts help sustain the library as a welcoming space for learning, connection, and enrichment.

Under the guidance of Digital Art Teacher Brianna Titus, students worked to develop a logo and promotional materials that capture the spirit of the Friends of BHPL. The final design highlights the organization's role as a vital supporter of the library and a partner to the Berkeley Heights community.

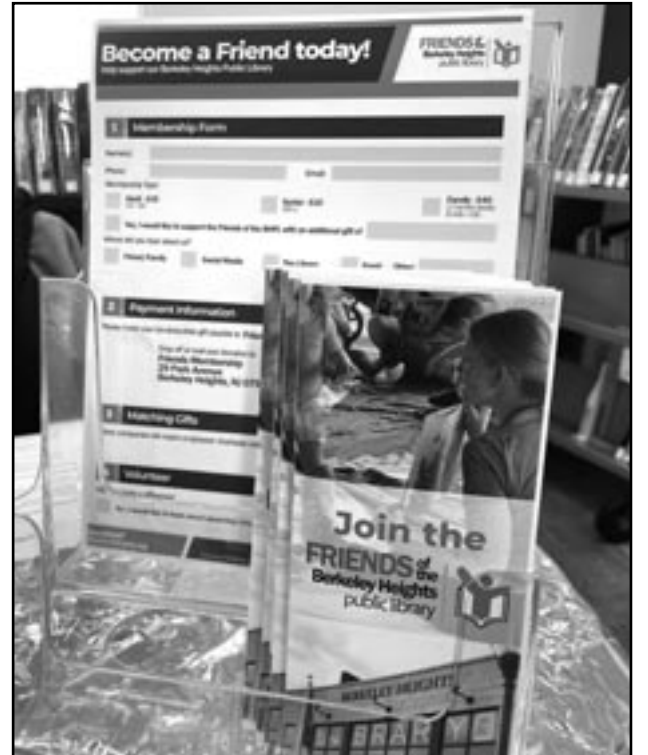
"Collaborating with the Friends of BHPL was a great opportunity for our students to apply their skills to a real-world project," said Ms. Titus.

As the Friends of BHPL continue to grow, they welcome new members who share their passion for literacy, learning, and community impact. Whether through membership, donations, or volunteering, there are many ways to support their mission.

"The heart of our library lies in the people who support it," said Sharon Loeb, President of the

Friends of BHPL. "Together, we can continue to invest in the library, ensuring it remains a unique asset for Berkeley Heights and future generations."

Join the Friends of the Berkeley Heights Public Library today and help make a difference! To learn more about membership, donations, or volunteer opportunities, follow us on Facebook or LinkedIn or contact us at Friends@bhplnj.org.



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MEN'S FENCING PLACES 5TH AT PRESTIGIOUS TOURNAMENT

Governor Livingston High School

The Governor Livingston Men's Fencing team placed 5th in the State out of 55 schools at one of the world's biggest high school tournaments held

in February, the Cetrulo Memorial Fencing Tournament. This is the first time the GL Men's Team has placed in the Top 5 in over a decade. The foil and saber squads finished 13th and the

epee squad finished 9th in their respective disciplines. Special recognition for the Women's Epee squad which finished 14th in the Santelli tournament.

Photo by Berkeley Heights Public Schools



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WRESTLING WINS SECOND PLACE AT UNION COUNTY TOURNAMENT

Governor Livingston High School

The Governor Livingston Varsity Wrestling Team competed in the Union County Tournament taking Second Place overall as a team and with three of student athletes winning their classes:

- Brandon Rayack - 126 pounds
- Cristian Gioia - 165 pounds
- Nate Faxon - 215 pounds

Other GL place-winners included:

- Brandon McGuire - 113 Pounds - 6th
- Eddie Ribeiro - 120 Pounds - 2nd
- Henrique Ribeiro - 138 Pounds - 2nd



(above, l-r) Brandon Rayack, Cristian Gioia, Nate Faxon.

Photo by Berkeley Heights Public Schools

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SENIOR DAY TRIP

The Berkeley Heights Seniors are sponsoring a trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on March 17. The bus leaves the parking lot at Town Hall, 29 Park Avenue, at 8:30 a.m. And returns at approximately 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$40, which includes bus transportation, and a \$20 voucher for slot play. For more information or reservations, call Ramona at 908-647-3295.

JUNIOR LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Junior League of Summit is pleased to announce our 2025 Scholarships Program. From February 5 - March 31, 2025, we will be accepting applications for three Shirley Wight Keeney Voluntarism Scholarships.

The Shirley Wight Keeney Scholarships are \$3,000 awards given to three graduating high school seniors who demonstrate a commitment to voluntarism in his/her community.

The Scholarship is open to students who meet the following criteria:

Applicants must live or attend school in Berkeley Heights, Chatham, New Providence or Summit;

Applicants must demonstrate academic excellence within their high school graduating class throughout their high school career;

Applicants must be continuing their education at an accredited two- or four-year college or business/vocational school;

Applicants must show significant volunteer work during their high school years that aligns

with the Junior League of Summit's mission.

All materials must be received by March 31, 2025. Award winners will be announced in May.

The scholarship recipients will be asked to provide the contact information for their school/college once available, as the scholarship will be paid directly to the institution.

The Junior League of Summit, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. For more information about the JLS go to: summit.jl.org

Applications are open now thru March 31, 2025 and should be submitted through our online application forms found here:

summit.jl.org/community/scholarships
Supporting documentation, as outlined in the application, should be emailed to: grantsandscholarshipscommittee@jlsunmit.org

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2nd annual NJ Makers Day Event

Saturday, March 22,

10am - noon & 2pm - 4pm

WEEKLY CHILDREN'S STORYTIMES AND PROGRAMS:

Baby Storytime

Mondays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31

10am

Crafternoon

crafts for ages 4-7 with caregiver:

Mondays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31

3:30pm

Toddler Explorations:

for toddlers with caregiver

Tuesdays, March 4

(art), 11 (music), 18 (sensory exploration),

& 25 (play tea party) at 10am

Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, & 26

10am

Baby Playtime

Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26

1:30pm

Block Party

Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27 - 10am

Play Pals

Fridays, March 7, 14, 21, 28 - 10am

Saturday Hangouts

March 8 (play), March 15 (storytime)

March 29 (games) - 10am

MONTHLY CHILDREN'S EVENTS:

Lego Play

Friday, March 7 - 3:30pm

Good Time String Band

Tuesday, March 11 - 10:30am

A fiddle and banjo sing-along

Holi and Purim Crafts

Thursday, March 13 - 3:30pm

Read to a Dog

Wednesday, March 19 - 3:30pm

Family Fun Friday

Friday, March 21 - 3:30pm

Make a no-sew sock bunny

Family Movie Matinee

(The Incredibles)

Sunday, March 23 - 2pm

Make a cherry garland for the birds

Sunday, March 30 - 2:30pm

TWEENS & TEENS PROGRAMS

(For ages 10 and up)

Block Printing

Thursday, March 6 - 6:30pm

Teen Zine Making

Wednesday, March 12 - 3:30pm

Trap a Leprechaun Food Craft

Thursday, March 20 - 6:30pm

Teen Book Club: (The Poet X)

Tuesday, March 25 - 6:30pm

Tea & Teens

Thursday, March 27 at 6:30pm

ADULT PROGRAMS

Silent Reads

Sunday, March 2, 2:30pm - 4:30pm &

Friday, March 14, 11am - noon

Tinker Tuesday Crafts

March 4 - 7pm

(candle transfer)

March 14

(embroidery hoop initial)

Pins & Needles Crafting Group

Sunday, March 9 - 2:30 pm

Coffee & Conversation

Wednesdays, March 12 & 26 - 1pm

Watch & Make

Saturday, March 15 - 1:30pm

(A League of Their Own)

Music Program

March 16 at 3pm

Performer to be announced, Sunday

Friday Movie Matinee:

(Fly Me to the Moon)

Friday, March 28 - 1pm

Armchair Traveler: (Charleston)

Tuesday, March 25 - 7pm

Get Weird with Art:

(inspirational collage)

Wednesday, March 25 - 7pm

BOOK GROUPS

MORNING BOOK GROUP

Lady Tan's Circle of Women

Friday, March 7 - 10:30am

Joy of Cookbooking: (Brunch Recipes)

Monday, March 10 - 6:30pm

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The First Ladies

Tuesday, March 11 - 7pm -

Mayor's Book Club

Thursday, March 13 - 7pm

Burnout

Friends of the Library Meeting

Tuesday, March 18 - 7pm

Books Speak Volumes

Thursday, March 20 - 7 pm

The Vapors

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

register at library.org/bhplnj/:

Power of Reset and How to Change What's Not

Working with Dan Heath

Wednesday, March 12 - 2pm

How Women's Liberation Transformed

America: In Conversation with Clara Bingham

Thursday, March 20 - 2pm

Dreams We Chase with Novelist

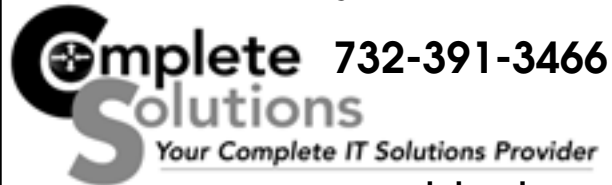
Jennifer Weiner

Wednesday, March 26 - 7pm

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MARCH 19 - 22

The Friends of the Mountainside Library will hold its semi-annual book sale as follows:

March 19: 12 - 5:30 p.m.; March 20: 12 - 7:30 p.m.; March 21 & 22: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

A large selection of hard cover and paperback books, games, jigsaw puzzles and music will be for sale.

Donations will be accepted March 15, 17 and 18 during library hours only. No reference books, dictionaries, text books, outdated travel guides or cookbooks will be accepted.

All monies raised will be used to enhance the library's programs and collections. If you have any questions, please call 908-232-0115.

WHARTON ARTS PRESENTS FREE CONCERTS IN SUMMIT

Wharton Arts, New Jersey's largest not-for-profit community performing arts education organization, will present several free concerts during the 2024-25 season at Saint John's Lutheran Church located at 587 Springfield Avenue in Summit.

Said Wharton Arts Artistic Director Helen Cha-Pyo, "We are excited to partner with Saint John's Lutheran Church and music director Christopher Harlow-Jennings for our Wharton Arts in the Community series. From the fun, interactive Halloween Hoopla to uplifting Jazz Vespers and world-class performances, this series offers something for everyone. It's a wonderful way to connect with the Summit community and make music accessible to all."

"I am thrilled to partner with Artistic Director Helen Cha-Pyo and her team at Wharton Arts this season to bring exciting new musical offerings to the greater Summit community," said Saint John's Lutheran Church Director of Music Christopher Harlow-Jennings. "This unique collaboration builds on our respective institutions' strong musical foundations and programming to engage listeners of all ages."

JAZZ VESPERS

MARCH 23, 2025, AT 4:00 P.M.,

LANCE BRYANT TRIO AND SAINT JOHN'S CHOIR

An inclusive experience of Lenten words and music, both modern and ancient, featuring the Lance Bryant Jazz Trio.

For more information, call 908-790-0700 or visit WhartonArts.org.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3-12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve over 500 students in grades 3-12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities. Based in Paterson, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of Wharton Arts that uses music education as a vehicle for social action by empowering and inspiring young people to achieve their full potential through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing. From Pathways classes for young children to Lifelong Learning programs for adults, the Wharton Performing Arts School has a robust musical theater and drama program and offers both private and group classes for instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing

arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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SPRING PROGRAMS

Spring is here, and so are our exciting recreation programs! Registration is now open, and programs begin March 10.

Sports & Fitness | Arts & Enrichment | Programs for Toddlers Through Seniors
There's something for everyone

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Get ready for another exciting summer with Berkeley Heights Recreation! Mark your calendars and don't miss out on the fun!

Pre-K Camp Registration
ongoing

Teen Scene Travel Camp Registration

Opens Saturday, March 1 at 9:00 AM

Playground Camp Registration

Opens Monday, March 3 at 9:00 AM

Spots fill quickly, so be sure to register early!

FREE SENIOR PROGRAMS: WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Berkeley Heights Recreation offers many fun and free activities for our seniors! We invite you to try them out

Mahjong, Exercise, Yoga, and more!

**Go Grocery Shopping
with the Recreation every WEDNESDAY!**

PICKLEBALL/TENNIS INFORMATION:

Pickleball/Tennis Permits – 2025 Season
Play your way through the seasons! The 2025-2026 Pickleball & Tennis Permit Season runs from February 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026. Permits (or guest fees) are required for play. Permit holders enjoy the exclusive benefit of reserving court time in advance

ANNUAL SHARING THE QUILTS SHOW – MARCH 22

Harvest Quilters of Central New Jersey

Harvest Quilters of Central NJ will present their 41st annual quilt show on Saturday, March 22, 2025. The 41st Sharing the Quilts will be held at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children under twelve.

At 10:30 a.m., Elsa Hahn of Edison will show her work and speak on "Surface Design – Making it Personal." The award-winning quilter and retired Westfield music teacher will share her firsthand knowledge of various art quilting techniques, including the pros and cons of popular methods.

Janice M. Tellier of Mountainside will be recognized as 2025's Featured Quilter. The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) graduate and lifelong creative spirit will display 20 plus works of original art. Of her 14 vibrant bed-sized quilts Tellier quipped, "I often think my beds are better dressed than I am."

Tellier's whimsical fiber art will be featured alongside her acrylic paintings, crochet, examples of bobbin lace making and a fascinating diorama of a miniature modern quilting studio. "My hope is to have the quilts speak to the viewer, with a sense of humor or play on words," Tellier said.

As is tradition, local charities will benefit from drawings for a modern lap-sized quilt, a traditional queen-sized bed quilt, gift cards and craft themed gift baskets.

In addition to viewing a full array of modern, traditional, art and wall-hanging quilts, attendees can participate in viewer's choice awards, kid's crafting table and vendor sales area.

A tearoom offering lunch, snacks, homemade baked goods, and beverages will benefit Willow Grove Church programs.

For additional information, please visit harvestquilters.com, or email: harvestquiltersnj@gmail.com.



(above) Janice M. Tellier will be recognized as 2025's Featured Quilter.

Courtesy photo

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GLHS BAND MEMBERS PERFORM WITH KEAN UNIVERSITY HONORS BAND

Berkley Heights Public Schools

During the weekend of January 31-February 2, select GLHS musicians had the opportunity to perform with the Kean University Honors Band. The students, who were selected by the GLHS High School Band Directors, were given the music two weeks prior to the performance weekend. They prepared the music on their own and upon arrival at Kean University on Friday afternoon they were auditioned and assigned chair placements.

Rehearsals and sectionals were run by Kean University Music Department faculty Friday evening and all day Saturday before the performance on Sunday afternoon. Family members and teachers were invited to attend the concert on Sunday afternoon at Enlow Hall at Kean University.

"On behalf of the music staff at GLHS, it is exciting to see our GLHS students enjoy the

opportunity to perform on the stage at Kean University. These students are all a part of GLHS music programs which include Concert Band,

Marching Band, Jazz Band, and Jazz Improvisation," shared Josef Ellis, Music Teacher, GLHS.



Student performers from GLHS included: Aiden Jiang – Clarinet, Slade Rojas – Horn, Arav Misra – Trombone, Ankush Sathe – Euphonium, Sonya Mehta – Percussion, Aayan Maharjan – Percussion, and Evan Chan – Percussion

Photos by Berkley Heights Public Schools

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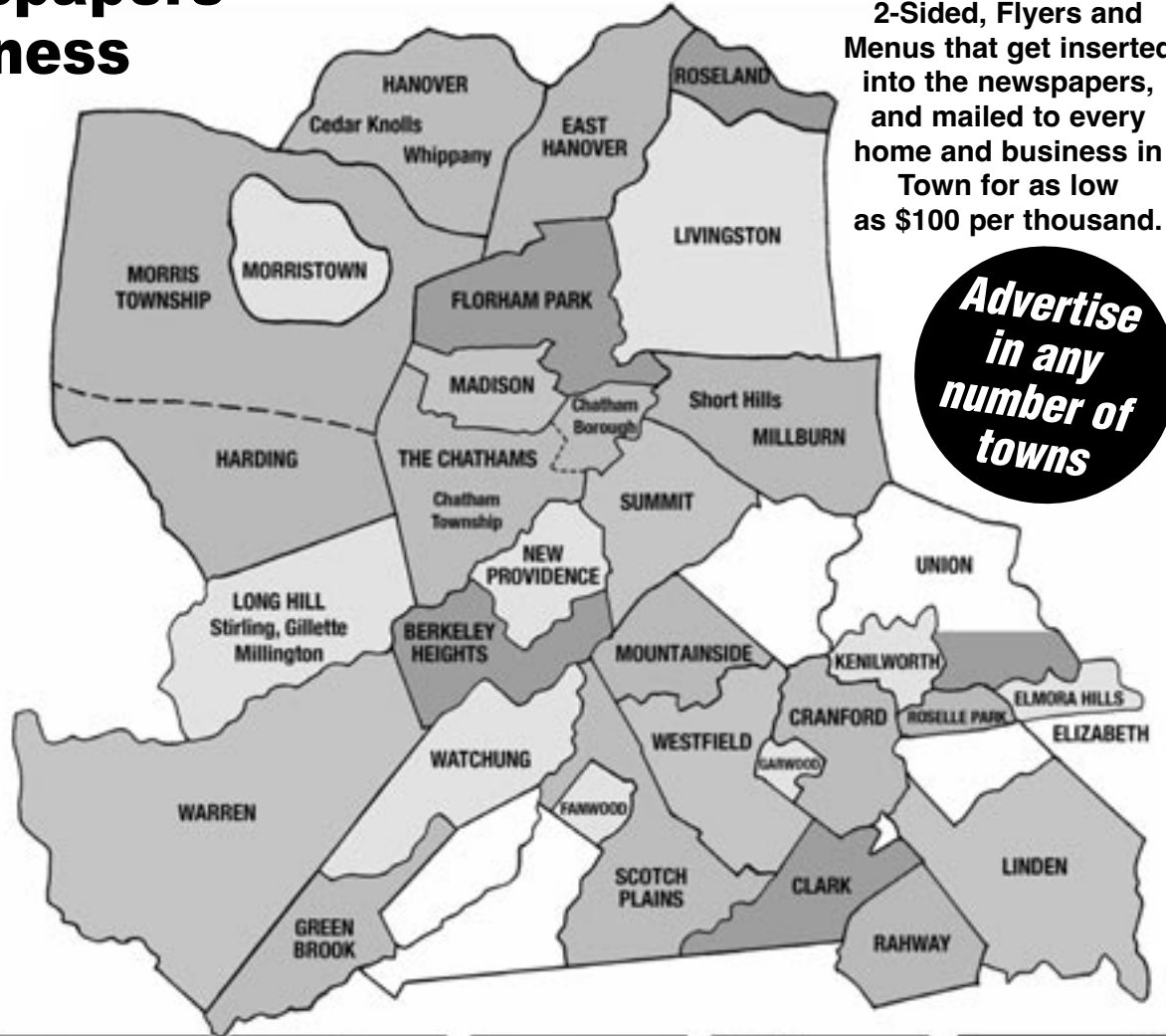
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RESIDENTS REMINDED TO PREVENT FATBERGS

Township of Berkeley Heights

Ever wonder what happens to the grease you dump down your drain? Well, it's going into our sewer system and causing massive "fatbergs" in our sewer pipes, which can cause serious sewer backups in your home, particularly if you have a finished basement with a bathroom. This is not a system fault; fats, oils and greases (FOG) should never be put down the drain in any sewer system. And neither should baby wipes - even the "flushable" ones; they are not actually flushable and contribute to clogs.

As part of the ongoing efforts to maintain the health and efficiency of our town's sewer system, the Township of Berkeley Heights is issuing a crucial advisory to all residents about fatbergs. A fatberg is a massive, rock-like mass of waste matter in a sewer system formed by the combination of flushed non-biodegradable solids (such as wet wipes) with fat, oil, and grease

(FOG) deposits that have cooled and congealed to create sludge blockages in the system. Scraps and leftovers from dishes and cooking that are washed down the drain, add to the buildup.

As the blockage forms, sewage can overflow resulting in property damage and the spread of harmful toxins into local water sources. Blockages also lead to untreated sewage entering rivers and streams, causing pollution and harming aquatic life. In addition, the removal of fatbergs requires specialized equipment and labor, resulting in higher maintenance costs for the township and, ultimately, higher expenses for taxpayers.

These obstructions can grow to enormous sizes and are problems in towns, states, and countries everywhere. Considering the danger they pose to infrastructure and the environment, it is imperative everyone understands how they form and how to avoid them.

Residents can help prevent Fatbergs here in Berkeley Heights and protect their property by following these few simple steps:

- Never pour fat, oil or grease (FOG) down the drain.
- Use a strainer. Install a strainer in the sink to catch food scraps and dispose directly into the trash.
- Collect fat, oils and grease in a can or compostable container and dispose of it in the trash or other appropriate place.
- Wipe greasy pots and pans with paper towels before washing, and then dispose of the paper towels.

Dispose of sanitary products and other non-flushable items, such as wipes, diapers, feminine products in the trash, not the toilet.

Please share this information with friends and family to help raise awareness and encourage responsible practices.

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DISPOSE of food waste directly into the trash.

COLLECT fat and grease in a can or compostable container and dispose of.

WIPE greasy pots and pans with paper towels before washing, and then dispose of the paper towels.



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