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ROBOTIC COMPANION PETS DISBURSED TO HOMEBOUND

Morris County

The Morris County Office of Aging, Disabilities, and Community Programming (ADCP) reminds residents of the importance of supporting the senior community and ensuring they feel connected, valued, and cared for during this special time of year.

The ADCP office provided more than 110 "Joy for All" robotic companion pets to qualifying residents and facilities across the county as part of an initiative aimed at alleviating social isolation, loneliness, and cognitive decline among seniors.

The program, which was funded by the Aging American Rescue Plan, allocated 20 robotic companion pets to the Morris County Sheriff's Office, which distributed them to clients enrolled in its Project Lifesaver program. Additionally, 12 pets were donated to the Cornerstone Adult Day Center and each of the county's 12 nutrition sites "adopted a pet" to keep onsite. 40 pets were distributed through the Nutrition Home Delivered Meals program, and Hope House will distribute another 25 pets.

"When addressing social isolation and dementia care, we wanted something creative approach. The "Joy for All" companion pets have been the focus of rigorous, peer-reviewed studies demonstrating their efficacy to alleviate the many of the effects of loneliness and social isolation," said

Christine Hellyer, Christine Hellyer, Director of the ADCP office. "The partnership with the Sheriff's Office to distribute the pets was an essential component of this program. In total, about 120 companion pets were provided to seniors or senior programs that could benefit from them."

To qualify for a companion pet, recipients must be at least 60 years of age, homebound, and either socially isolated or experiencing dementia or a similar cognitive condition. Designed to mimic real pets, the "Joy for All" animals aim to provide companionship and comfort for those unable to care for live animals.

Sheriff Gannon, who joined in delivering a companion pet to a Project Lifesaver client, emphasized the importance of this program.

"Anytime the Sheriff's Office can provide comfort to those in need, we are going to do it. This simple act of support provides aid to those who are homebound," said Gannon. "We look forward to seeing the tremendous benefits of this program being passed on to a sometimes forgotten population in our community."

The pets respond to motion and touch: the cats will roll over and purr, while the dogs bark and wag their tails. The pets do not come with names, allowing recipients the personal experience of naming their new robotic dog or cat, which they are welcome to keep for as long as they wish.

Photos by Morris County

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(above) Morris County Sheriff James Gannon and a Project Lifesaver client with a companion pet cat.



(above) Morris County resident Lynn Biss receives her companion pet dog.



(above) Morris County resident Regina Shekon with her companion pet dog

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VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER GRAND OPENING

The County College of Morris (CCM) celebrated the grand opening of its Veterans Resource Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 6, drawing veterans, students, and local dignitaries from around the county in support of a reconstructed area of Sheffield Hall that will assist veterans and their families both on campus and in the broader community.

The Veterans Resource Center on campus was designed to provide a dedicated space for veterans to access U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits, academic and career advice and counseling services. The center will also connect veterans to county, state, and federal resources available directly on campus.

The CCM Veterans Resource Center was developed in partnership with a Veterans Steering Committee comprised of representation from CCM, public officials, area veterans and organizations including the VA and many others throughout the state and county. The steering committee was led by CCM Board of Trustees Chair Paul Licitra (U.S. Army Vietnam veteran), former director of the Secaucus Vet Center David Cathcart (U.S. Army Vietnam veteran), Morris County Commissioner John Krickus (U.S. Marine Corps veteran), U.S. Dept. of VA Public Affairs Specialist Scott W. Dadaian (U.S. Navy veteran), Morris County Sheriff's Officer Ryan Wood (U.S. Army Veteran), and VFW Post 7333 members Emerson Crooks (U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam veteran), Deacon Richard Reck (U.S.

Army Korean War veteran) and William Menzel (U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran).

During the event, Assemblywoman Aura Dunn (Morris-25) and Assemblyman Mike Inganamort (Morris-24) presented joint assembly resolutions to Cathcart, Crooks, Menzel, Dadaian and Reck, and Paul Licitra acknowledged Wood, who had just returned home from being deployed.

"The Center was created with extensive input from community veterans," said Dr. Anthony Iacono, president of CCM. "It will be a true resource not only for CCM students who are veterans, but for veterans in the community along with their families. CCM is honored to have this opportunity to serve the men and women who have sacrificed for our country, allowing all of us to enjoy freedom and democracy."

The idea for the center originated after CCM hosted the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall in July 2022, an initiative spearheaded by State Senator Anthony Bucco in partnership with VFW Post 7333. Following the event, CCM leadership engaged with veterans to identify their needs and began planning the resource center.

The Veteran Resource Center's services are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Veterans can reach out to CCM's Coordinator of Veteran and Military Services, Shenandoah Ellis-Ulmer, MSgt (ret.), USAF, at 973-328-5220 or SELLIS-Ulmer@ccm.edu. For more information, visit ccm.edu/admissions/for-veterans.



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FLORHAM PARK ROTARY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Florham Park Rotary has sent Scholarship Applications to Hanover Park High, Morris County Tech, Seton Hall Prep, and other local high schools. Students should speak with their counselors to be considered. Seniors with a record of volunteer/community involvement, who live in Florham Park, and are applying to accredited colleges or technical schools may

qualify. The deadline for the Rotary club to receive applications is April 4. Interviews with candidates will then be scheduled to determine the 2025 students who will earn a scholarship. Last year six were awarded.

On Friday, January 10, Mia Cicarelli, one of the 2024 scholarship recipients joined a Rotary breakfast meeting with her Mom, Gina, to share how she is doing in her first semester. Last year's Hanover Park High Student Government Association president, she has continued her involvement in student government as she attends Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT. She is in the Thomas Moore honors program at Sacred Heart University. She is pursuing a 1-year graduate program in Film and Television Production. On campus she was elected as the Student Government vice president for the Class of 2028. She is also a member of Zeta Tau Alpha and currently serves as the Fraternity Education Chairman.

Rotary Scholarship Chair, Betty O'Brien, shared that it was great to see Mia again and hear how well she is doing after her first semester. We eagerly look forward to receiving and reviewing this year's scholarship applications.

About Rotary

Rotary International is a nonpolitical and nonsectarian organization open to all people, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, or political preference. There are 40,000+ clubs in 200 countries worldwide dedicated to humanitarian services, high ethical standards, and goodwill and peace around the world. One such club is in Florham Park. To learn more and consider joining, guests are welcome to attend a weekly Rotary breakfast meeting at the Florham Park Diner at 182 Ridgedale Ave. Meetings are 7:47 to 8:50 a.m. every Friday.

For more info visit FlorhamParkRotary.org, or contact info@florhamparkrotary.org, 917-848-0982.



(above) Following the Rotary breakfast meeting, Mia Cicarelli received the gift of a Florham Park Rotary Club banner from Scholarship Chair Betty O'Brien and Scholarship committman Peter Nicolas Past President Simone Campbell.

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THI TRAN PLACES AT COUNTY SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Hanover Park High School
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Rotary Club of Morristown

Get ready for a culinary extravaganza like no other! More than 35 of the area's finest restaurants are coming together for "A Taste of Morristown," an exclusive food and beverage sampling event where you can indulge in a world of flavors—all under one roof. From classic French and Italian cuisine to contemporary fusion and American favorites, including decadent desserts, this event promises a culinary journey to remember.

Pair your delectable bites with wines from around the globe at our Wine Tasting Gallery, generously provided by Gary's Wine & Marketplace. Explore a curated selection of wines to complement your palate and enhance your evening.

Join us for an evening of great food, beverages, and fun on Monday, March 3rd, 2025, at the elegant Westin Governor Morris Hotel in

Morristown, NJ.

"A Taste of Morristown" is more than just a night of indulgence; it's an opportunity to give back. This annual charitable fundraiser supports the Rotary Club of Morristown's local community and international service projects. By attending, you'll be helping to make a difference in the lives of others while enjoying an unforgettable evening.

Monday, March 3, 2025

6 p.m. - VIP Hour, 7 p.m.

General Admission

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FEBRUARY 16 AT 3 PM:

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APRIL 6 AT 3 PM:

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NEW CRICKET FIELDS AT LEWIS MORRIS PARK

County of Morris

The Morris County Board of County Commissioners joined the Morris County Park Commission and local leaders at Lewis Morris County Park on October 16th to dedicate two new cricket fields in honor of Russell W. Myers, the first Director of the Morris County Park Commission.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked a significant milestone in accommodating the growing popularity of cricket within the county. Among those joining the event were state Sen. Joe Pennachio (Morris-26), state Sen. Anthony Bucco (Morris-25), Mayor James Barberio of Parsippany-Troy Hills, Sheriff James M. Gannon and representatives of the New Jersey Softball Cricket League. Cricket players from the league, including members of Teams Titans XL and Parsippany Sports Cricket XL, showcased their skills at the event.

The project's roots go back several years, when the growing Indian American community in Parsippany Township began searching for more places to play cricket, a popular sport in Britain, India, and many other places around the world. Sen. Pennachio and Mayor Barberio took up the search, approaching Executive Director Dave Helmer of the Park Commission, which has been accommodating cricket team games for years on picnic grounds.

The Morris County Board of County Commissioners stepped in last year and agreed to finance development of two cricket fields at Lewis Morris Park when the Park Commission identified an open field area.

The dedication honored the late Russell W. Myers, who served as Director of the Morris County Park Commission from 1957 to 1983. Under his leadership, the park system expanded dramatically, and his legacy continues to shape Morris County's recreational spaces today.

The newly developed cricket grounds, located in the Russell W. Myers Recreation Area, will serve as a dedicated space for cricket beginning in spring 2025. Cricketers will need to schedule use of the fields through the Park Commission.

The two fields are tailored for the softball version of cricket. The site, previously used for overflow parking, is located close to restroom facilities in the park and has ample parking on-site and nearby.

Lewis Morris County Park, established in 1958 as the county's first park, has grown from 350 acres to 2,213 acres, making it the second-largest park in the Morris County system. Address is 270 Mendham Rd, Morristown.

For more information on Morris County parks and facilities, please visit the Morris County Park Commission website.

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

"A MUSICAL WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE" WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 2025

On Wednesday, February 12th, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., at the Florham Park Community Center, singer Matt Mathesis, will entertain us with an uplifting and interactive musical program titled "A Musical Walk Down Memory Lane".

Our Senior Citizens monthly club meetings are held at the Florham Park Community Center located in the borough hall complex, address 111 Ridgedale Avenue, located 200 yards behind town hall. Note the Florham Park Community Center is also called the Recreation Center (large brown building). Social Time is at 10:45a.m. With refreshment served.

"2025 MEDICARE UPDATE" WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH, 2025

On Wednesday, February 26th, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., at the Florham Park Community Center, there will be a speaker to provide updated information on the 2025 Medicare Program changes. Plan for an informational and fun time with Bingo, prizes and refreshments.

Our Senior Citizens monthly club meetings are held at the Florham Park Community Center located in the borough hall complex, address 111 Ridgedale Avenue, located 200 yards behind town hall. Note the Florham Park Community Center is also called the Recreation Center (large brown building). Social Time is at 10:45a.m. With refreshment served.



(above, l-r) Jigar Shah, Mayor James Barberio, Commissioner Deborah Smith and Douglas Cabana, Commissioner Director Christine Myers, Commissioner Deputy Director Stephen Shaw, Stu Lasser, Commissioner John Krickus, Betty Cass-Schmidt, Sen. Joe Pennachio, Sen. Anthony Bucco, KC, Dave Helmer (back), Parsippany Councilman Justin Musella and Matt Manzi of the Morris County Park Commission.

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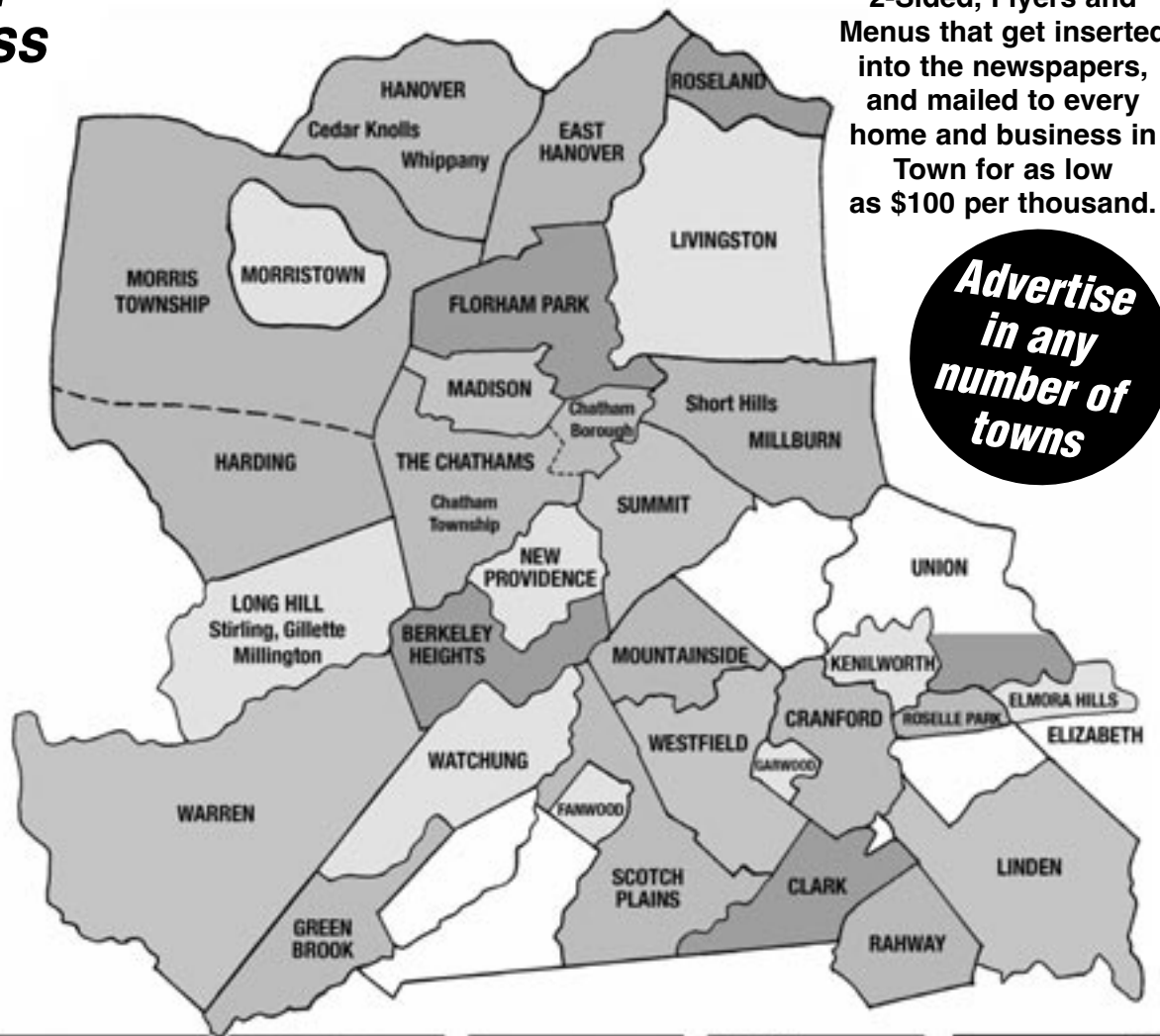
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1 Unit (Business card)	3.25"x2"0	100	260	360	460	560	600	660	700	800	900	1000
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
18 FULL PAGE	10"x14"	500	1200	1800	2200	2500	2800	3000	3300	3600	3900	4300
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ROTARY TO HOST FREE HEART HEALTH PRESENTATION - FEB 21

The Florham Park Rotary is hosting "GET YOUR HEART INTO IT", a free short Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center presentation on February 21 at the Florham Park Diner.

This program will discuss facts regarding cardiovascular disease, conditions, and medications. The presenter discusses complementary vs. Alternative medicine, vitamins, and their risks and benefits. In addition to these topics, health conditions such as Hypertension, cholesterol levels, conditions requiring blood thinning agents, thrombosis, and blood pressure readings will be discussed along with the risks that hypertension plays on your heart.

Helene DeCapua, B.S.P.H., CVT, NCMA, NCPT | Community Coordinator, Community Health & Outreach has coordinated several of these programs with the Florham Park Rotary.

"These 30-minute informative programs, offered over a cup of coffee, start at 8:10am and

are completed by 8:40am, thus meaning guests can be back home or at work by 9:00am." explains Peter Nicolas, Florham Park Rotary Sergeant-At-Arms.

"Our club in Florham Park is one of 40,000 worldwide Rotary clubs, each being a nonpolitical and non sectarian organization open to all people. While our specific club focuses on programs that benefit students in Florham Park, we also support initiatives, including health for adults. It's all about addressing community needs", per Damion Bernard, club president.


To learn more and consider joining, guests are welcome to attend a weekly Rotary breakfast meeting at the Florham Park Diner at 182 Ridgedale Ave. Meetings are 7:47 to 8:50 a.m. every Friday. For additional information visit the new website at www.FlorhamParkRotary.org, check Florham Park Community TV (Channels 21 for Cablevision and 35 for Verizon), or write info@florhamparkrotary.org or call Membership Chair George Gregor at (917) 848-0982.

2025 NJ FMBA COOKED & UNCORKED

On Monday, February 24, 2025, firefighters from around New Jersey will compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival, at the Pines Manor in Edison. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Mark A. Virag Memorial Cancer Fund, Family Promise of Bergen County, and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off is an integral part of the evening as firefighters will compete in three different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of some of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers, and dessert shops all in one location.




COOKED and UNCORKED

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE COOKING COMPETITION OF THE YEAR!

MONDAY FEBRUARY 24TH, 2025
PINES MANOR, EDISON
6:00PM - 9:00PM
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM

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PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
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