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## WHIPPANY RIVER CLEANUP PROGRESS

Morris County

Morris County Commissioner Deputy Director Stephen Shaw and Sheriff James Gannon joined U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill, Hanover Mayor Thomas “Ace” Gallagher and other local officials in East Hanover Township on January 17th to witness the progress being made to “de-snag” sections of the Whippany River, launching debris cleanup efforts to address flooding that has long plagued riverside communities.

The initiative, called the Whippany River Improvement Project, is being led by the Whippany-Passaic River Flood Remediation Task Force, which was formed by the mayors of towns along the river. They include Mayor Gallagher, East Hanover Mayor Joseph Pannullo, Florham Park Mayor Mark Taylor, Morris Plains Mayor Jason Karr, Morristown Mayor Timothy Dougherty and Parsippany-Troy Hills Mayor James Barberio.

Congresswomen Sherrill secured a federal Community Project grant of more than \$2 million to fund the work, which is being done in phases. By removing debris from waterways, rivers flow more easily and capacity is enhanced, which helps to prevent erosion and flooding.

“This initiative, three years in the making, demonstrates the power of partnerships. From local municipalities to federal support, we are working together to alleviate persistent flooding issues that impact so many residents and businesses,” said Deputy Director Shaw, the county commissioners’ liaison to the Morris County Flood Mitigation Program.

“I especially want to thank Mayor Gallagher and Congresswoman Sherrill for their leadership. This is about more than cleaning a river; it’s about reducing flooding and improving the quality of life for Morris County residents,” Shaw added.

According to Mayor Gallagher, Phase 1 of the project has already cleared nearly 275 cubic yards of debris, including trees, railroad ties, shopping carts, and other long-accumulated materials obstructing the river in Hanover Township. Phase 2, currently underway behind the auto store at 30 Ridgedale Ave. in East Hanover, targets another 200 yards of obstructions. Completion of the initial phases will require 12 to 15 days of work by professional contractors.

Photo by Morris County

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(above) The Whippany-Passaic River Flood Remediation Task Force, workers from Downes Tree Service, Inc. and others at the site of the Whippany River tree and debris removal taking place in East Hanover.

Courtesy photo

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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](http://ccm.edu/admissions/for-veterans).



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**FEBRUARY 15 AT 8 PM:**

#### WE MAY BE RIGHT: A BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE

Be serenaded by the beloved tunes of Billy Joel, performed by New Jersey's premier tribute led by the charismatic Karl Dietel, this talented band promises a night of pure musical magic.

**FEBRUARY 16 AT 3 PM:**

#### THE DUPREES WITH WHO'S JOHNNY

For over 60 years, their unique and timeless sounds have captured hearts. Tommy Petillo, with the group for over 46 years, contributes dynamic vocals. Jimmy Spinelli, since 1989, brings energetic showmanship. Shawn Stevens, the newest member, adds his experience with legendary doo-wop groups and stage performances.

### MARCH 30 AT 3 PM: RE-LIVE THE BEATLES

Come together for a magical journey through the Fab Four's illustrious career. This is more than just a concert—it's a trip down memory lane that captures the essence of an era - celebrating the music that changed the world! Relive historic moments like The Ed Sullivan Show, Shea Stadium, the Sgt. Pepper era, and Abbey Road.

### APRIL 6 AT 3 PM:

#### MICHAEL PATRICK'S RING OF FIRE BAND: A JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE

Over a decade ago, Michael Patrick became captivated by Johnny Cash's music—the simplicity, sincerity, and deep, expressive voice. Since then, he's been passionately paying homage to this musical legend.

<p><b>WE MAY BE RIGHT</b> NJ's Premier Billy Joel Tribute</p>  <p><b>FEB 15 - 8PM</b></p>	<p><b>THE DUPREES</b> NJ Ambassadors of Love Songs</p>  <p>Special Guests <b>Who's Johnny</b></p>  <p><b>FEB 16 - 3PM</b></p>	<p><b>Come Together on a Magical Journey</b> FROM THE INVASION TO SHEA STADIUM, SGT. PEPPER TO ABBEY ROAD</p>  <p><b>Re-Live THE BEATLES</b></p> <p>A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC THAT CHANGED THE WORLD</p> <p><b>MARCH 30 - 3PM</b></p>	<p><b>Michael Patrick's RING OF FIRE BAND</b> A TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH</p>  <p>Special Guest <b>JENNI BEE</b> As June Carter</p> <p><b>APRIL 6 - 3PM</b></p>	
<p>Email for Group Rates <a href="mailto:GDPresentstix@gmail.com">GDPresentstix@gmail.com</a></p>		<p><b>DREW</b> THE CONCERT HALL</p>	<p>Drew University Madison, NJ</p> 	<p><a href="http://GDPresents.simpletix.com">GDPresents.simpletix.com</a> 917-567-5842</p>

## EXPLORE SUMMER CAMPS AT FREE FAIR

**Morris County NJ Camp Fair**  
**Morris Museum**  
6 Normandy Heights Road,  
Morristown  
**Saturday, February 22, 2025**  
12pm - 3pm  
**Admission is free.**

This is a great time to explore all sorts of summer camps and programs for your child. Meet directors in person from traditional day camps, sleepaway camps or specialty camps like sports, adventure, travel, academic, arts/performing arts, STEM, robotics, nature and more. Will it be a full summer away in the woods, a month traveling, a 4- or a 2- week camp, a general day camp or one focused on learning a new skill?

This is a free educational resource where you can meet a diverse set of high quality camps in person. Kids ages PreK through High School go to camp! Camps will be hiring camp counselors too.

For over 35 years, the NJ Camp Fairs and the ACA, a non-profit organization, have been connecting kids to great camp experiences. Please RSVP at [www.njkidsonline.com/camp-fairs](http://www.njkidsonline.com/camp-fairs) to let us know you're coming and you'll receive a free gift at the fair.

# 2025 NJ CAMP FAIRS

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### Hanover Township Lunch, Matinee and Slot Play!

*On Wednesday, February 12, 2025,*  
Hanover Township senior residents are invited to a bus trip to Resorts World in the Catskills. The day includes lunch, a matinee show of "The Great American Songbook", and a \$25 casino slot voucher.

The bus leaves the Hanover Township Community center  
*at 9:15 a.m. and returns by 7 p.m.*

The cost of the trip is \$75 for Senior Citizens Club members and \$80 for Hanover Township senior non-club members.

To reserve your spot, register via Community Pass or contact Hanover Township Recreation at 973-428-2463.

### Painting & Pastries

Are you a Hanover Township senior looking for an evening of creativity? Grab your favorite person and join Hanover Township Recreation for a night of "Painting and Pastries" *on Thursday, February 13, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.*

During the evening you can indulge your imagination and paint freely. This is not a follow-along session. During the evening, you can also enjoy a selection of pastries, including glute-free options. The fee is \$20 for Hanover

Township Senior Club members and \$25 for Hanover Township resident seniors who are not members. To register for the evening, please register via Community Pass or contact Hanover Township Recreation at 973-428-2463.

### Hometown Heroes

The Township of Hanover is proud to continue its Hometown Heroes Banner Program. This program is a living tribute meant to honor Hanover township Residents and former residents who have served or are currently serving in any branch of the military.

The double-sided vinyl banners are on display throughout the municipal complex and feature a photo of the uniformed soldier, along with their name, branch dates of service, conflict and any medals or commendations. The name of the sponsor will also be displayed on the bottom.

Pick up packets and submit completed applications in person at the Hanover Township Recreation Department located at the Hanover Township Community Center or by mail to 15 North Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 7, 2025.

For more information, contact Hanover Township Recreation 973-428-2463.



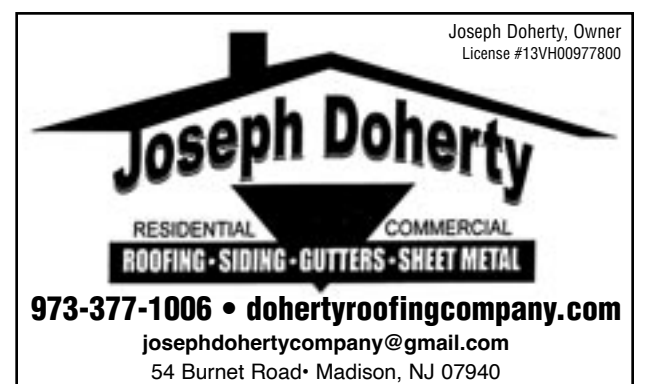
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## NCJW, WEST MORRIS ZOOM SERIES: 'SOUNDS OF OCTOBER RAIN'

### WHIPPANONG LIBRARY FEBRUARY EVENTS

To register for events, go to the  
Whippanong Library event page at  
[www.whippanong.org/events-calendar](http://www.whippanong.org/events-calendar)

#### **Sandy's Snowpeople (Grades 6 – Adult)**

Tuesday, February 11, 6:30 PM

Create adorable snowpeople out of materials found in the Dollar Store! All materials supplied. Must pre-register.

#### **Paper Flower Valentines (Grades K-5)**

Monday, Feb. 10, 6:30 PM

Learn to make paper flowers with Ms. Laurel! Makes a great Valentine's Day gift! Limited to Hanover Township Residents. Under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Must pre-register.

#### **Winter Storytimes (Ages 18 months-2 1/2)**

Tuesday, Tuesdays, thru March 25,  
10:00 AM

Ages 18 month - 2 1/2

Join our storyteller, Miss Laurel, for stories, movement, music and more.

Limited Space.

Must be a Hanover Township resident.

#### **Winter Storytimes (Ages 3-5)**

Tuesdays thru Mar. 25, 10:45 AM  
Ages 3-5

Join our storyteller, Miss Laurel, for stories, movement, music and more.

Limited Space. Must be a Hanover Township resident.

Books, Blocks & Babies!  
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2nd & 4th Thursday of the month thru  
Mar. 27, 10:00 AM

Ages 0-18 months

A sensory play and storytime for the smallest library patrons and their grown-ups.

#### **Children's Chess (Grades 1-5)**

Thursdays, October-May, 4:30-5:30 PM  
Grades 1-5

Thursdays, October 3, 2024 - May 29, 2025

Learn chess and improve your chess skills against other players.

Cantor Perry Fine of Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston will offer a free two-part series, titled "Sounds of October Rain," exploring Israeli popular song in the aftermath of the Oct. 7, 2023 terrorist attack in Israel. The series will take place via Zoom on Thursdays, Feb. 6 and 13 at 1 p.m.

Cantor Fine's program is sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), West Morris Section's Our Jewish World program, under the leadership of Ilene Dorf Manahan and Melanie Levitan, both of Morristown.

Cantor Fine will examine a wide range of musical responses to the events of Oct. 7, reflecting a myriad of emotions--from sadness to anger to resolve, and the role of music in helping to heal a nation. With the cantor's insightful guidance, participants will study the poetry of each song, which often is laced with biblical allusions, and how the music helps bring out the meaning of the text.

Session one will look at a variety of newly composed songs, including "October Rain," the Israeli song entry in the prestigious Eurovision Song Contest 2024. The cantor will delve into the lyrics' meaning and significance, and the controversy surrounding the song's inclusion in the song festival.

Session two will focus on how popular songs of the past, including those by Naomi Shemer and James Taylor, were reintroduced to the public in new arrangements, and how these classics, reimagined, took on new meaning to fit the times.

During 2024, Cantor Fine celebrated his 33rd year in the cantorate and his 13th at Temple Beth Shalom. A graduate of the University of Michigan and the Jewish Theological Seminary, Cantor Fine has given numerous concerts and lectures, including many years as part of the NCJW, West Morris Section's Clergy lecture series.



(above) Cantor Perry Fine

Courtesy photo

Cantor Fine is the co-founder and principal conductor of Voices in Harmony, an interfaith choral ensemble that has served the greater Essex County community for the past 27 years. He has been awarded the Conservative Movement's Nathan H. Winter Award for Professional Excellence, and in April 2024, he was honored by both the South Orange/Maplewood Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service and the Seton Hall Sister Rose Thering Jewish/Christian Studies Program for lifetime achievement.

For the past 28 years, Cantor Fine has served on the faculty of the Jewish Theological Seminary, teaching biblical cantillation to a generation of budding cantorial students.

Preregistration is required for "Sounds of October Rain." To register, email [iadpr@aol.com](mailto:iadpr@aol.com).

## EXPERIENCE THE FLAVOR AT "A TASTE OF MORRISTOWN"

### 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

Westin Governor Morris Hotel  
Morristown, NJ

Don't miss this chance to experience the best of Morristown's culinary scene and support a great cause. Tickets are limited, so secure yours today! For tickets and more information, please visit [www.tasteofmorristown.org](http://www.tasteofmorristown.org)

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## 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."

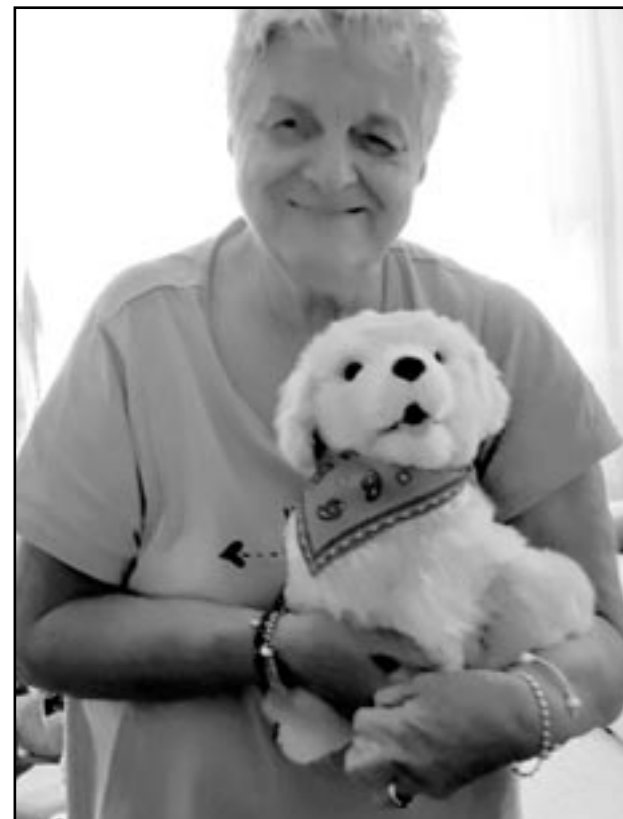
The pets respond to motion and touch: the cats will roll over and purr, while the dogs bark and wag their tails. The pets do not come with names, allowing recipients the personal experience of naming their new robotic dog or cat, which they are welcome to keep for as long as they wish.



(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

Photos by Morris County





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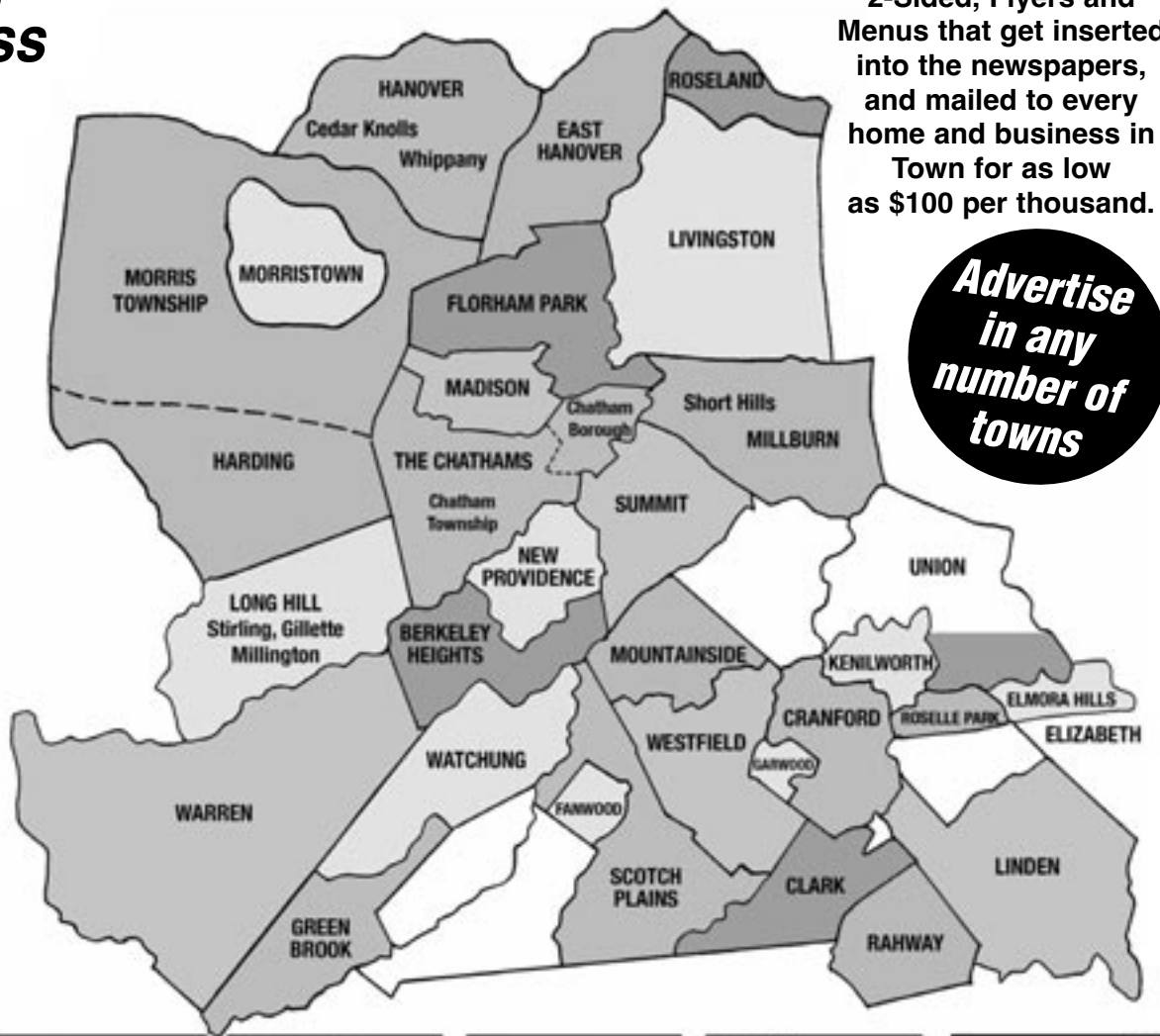
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# AN UNUSUAL GOOSE REHABBED AND RELEASED

## The Raptor Trust

The Brant goose, with its compact size and striking black-and-white plumage, is a remarkable bird. Adapted to drink saltwater, these geese embark on long migratory journeys from their Arctic breeding grounds to coastal winter



(above) We're thrilled to see this Brant goose take to the skies (or water) once more! It was a charming patient.

Photo by The Raptor Trust

habitats. Look for them in estuaries, mudflats, and saltmarshes, where they thrive throughout the winter months.

Recently, The Raptor Trust treated a Brant goose (Admit #21-4190) found in Long Valley with wounds from a predator attack. After intensive care, including suturing lacerations, treating an eye injury and parasites, this resilient bird was successfully released at Sandy Hook on November 2nd.

### ABOUT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located at 1390 White Bridge Rd., Millington, NJ. They provide free care and assistance to injured, sick, or orphaned wild birds. They offer educational programs to the public about wild birds, especially birds of prey. They strive to provide a human example for others. For more information about upcoming events, to make a donation, and volunteer opportunities visit [info@theraptortrust.org](mailto:info@theraptortrust.org). To report an injured wild bird call 908-647-2353.

# BLOOD SERVICES VOLS NEEDED

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), a division of New York Blood Center, which provides blood for local patients, is looking for a few good volunteers. The blood drive volunteer is an integral member of our team whose tasks include assisting donors with registration and/or at the refreshment area. No medical background necessary. Volunteers should be outgoing to provide friendly customer service, be able to perform tasks as needed, must provide proof of COVID Vaccination prior to volunteering and must have transportation. All training is provided including additional precautions for the safety of our team and blood donors. For additional information call or text Sharon Zetts, Manager, NJBS Volunteer Services at 732-850-8906, Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To apply online as a blood drive volunteer, please go to:

[volgistics.com/appform/2127944197](http://volgistics.com/appform/2127944197)

# 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**

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