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ANNUAL SWAPFEST AT MILLINGTON SCHOOL

Long Hill Township Girl Scouts

Long Hill Twp Girl Scout Service Unit joined together on Friday evening February 7th to create "SWAPS" at Millington School.

"SWAPS" is a clever acronym for "Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere". Eleven troop levels from the Kindergarten Daisy through middle school Cadette level participated. Each troop hosted their own table providing enough supplies for each scout to create a specific Swap. Approximately 95 scouts circulated from table to table throughout the 1-hour event each creating

11 swaps. These swaps will be brought to future girl scout events and they can share and swap among each other. A few examples of the unique creations included weather forecaster worms, s'mores, sleeping bags and horseshoe swaps.

Long Hill Girls Scouts are committed to giving back to the community with each participant asked to provide food donations for Twelve Baskets Pantry resulting in 25 bags of food collected.

A big thank you to Millington School and the custodial staff for allowing the service unit use of an ideal venue for this event.



Courtesy photos

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Long Hill LEADER

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ATTENTION MORRIS AREA RUNNERS

Rose City Runners

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 when there is enough interest from members. Racing is an option and not a requirement for 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

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25th Annual Venison Dinner
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25TH ANNUAL VENISON DINNER – MARCH 8TH

The Stirling Volunteer Fire Co.'s 25th annual Venison Dinner will be held on Sat., March 8 in their firehouse at 321 Somerset St., Stirling - doors open at 6 p.m. The \$60 per person (\$30 for children under 12) donation includes meal of venison cooked several different ways ranging from grilled tenderloins to chili, tacos, stuffed peppers, meatloaf, and more.

Additionally, there is salad, a variety of freshly prepared hot sides, fresh baked bread, and dessert as well as wine, beer, soda, coffee, tea, and bottled water included. The food is served buffet style, and you may eat all you care to eat. Take-out meals are also available.

This feast is expertly prepared by Stirling firefighter chefs and every year attendees' rate this as the best venison dinner in the state! Tickets are available by calling 908-304-3975, or from Stirling firefighters, or you may pay at

the door. There will also be a large Tricky Tray, a 50-50, and other raffles.

This is one of the Stirling Volunteer Fire Co.'s most important fund raisers and residents and non-residents are welcomed to enjoy themselves at this exceptional event. If you cannot attend and wish to support these dedicated local firefighters, please send your donation to: Stirling Volunteer Fire Co., P O Box 123, Stirling, NJ 07980.

Funds collected are used for firefighter training, equipment, and firehouse maintenance and utility expenses. The firefighters built, own, and maintain their firehouse. Stirling volunteer firefighters have been answering calls for help and had saved lives In Long Hill Township every day since 1913. Please support them in this event and others. New members are always welcome, and training and uniforms are free.

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RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE – MAR 14-15

Meyersville Presbyterian Church

The Almost-Spring Rummage Sale at Meyersville Presbyterian Church is back! The rummage sale will be a 2-day event this year. Friday, March 14th and Saturday, March 15th from 9am to 4pm each day.

The sale, which is a fund-raiser for the church, will include an interesting assortment of old and new items as everyone has been cleaning out their houses throughout the winter. A house that was lived in for 90 years by the same family has donated most of the contents-interesting knick-knacks and vintage items that date back to the early 1920s-1970s. A real “Granny’s Attic”.

Look for lots of kitchen and household items like pots and pans, bakeware, Fireking, pottery pieces, office and sewing supplies, vintage linens. Children have grown so there are lots of nice infant and toddler toys and Madame Alexander dolls to be found at great prices.

There is a teacup collection and lots of Disney stuff. Of course there is jewelry, books, and puzzles too. There will be antiques and collectibles, small furniture/lamps, art/frames, silverware, garden tools. Everything you’d expect at a classic church rummage.

Delicious homemade Baked Goods will be available for sale too. Come enjoy and find a treasure or two to take home. There is a little something for everyone. The church is located on the circle at 223 Hickory Tavern Rd in the Meyersville section of Long Hill Township. For more information, call 908 647-0390.

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9:00 am – 3:00 pm

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NEXT MARKET DATES : APRIL 12 AND MAY 10

St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church
1407 St. Georges Ave, Rahway, NJ

3rd Annual **STIRLING ELKS** Craft Fair

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

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COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

Morris County Commissioner Director Tayfun Selen gave a "State of the County" address at the Morris County Chamber of Commerce's 104th Annual Meeting, which drew about 500 attendees at the Hanover Marriot Hotel in Whippany on February 13, 2025.

Meghan Hunscher, president and CEO of the Morris County Chamber of Commerce delivered a "State of the Chamber" address, thanking all the sponsors, local businesses and community leaders who make an impact in Morris County.

"I am proud of the community we have cultivated here at the Morris Chamber. As we enter our 104th year, it is imperative that we continue to innovate and introduce new initiatives that build on our success. I look forward to developing new ways to connect our members to valuable resources, opportunities for business growth and rewarding relationships with members across the region," said Hunscher.

Hunscher also announced changes to the chamber's Board of Directors for 2025-2026, with Dr. Anthony Iacono, president of County College of Morris, succeeding outgoing chair Deirdre Wheatley-Liss, Esq., of Porzio, Bromberg & Newman. Wheatley-Liss reflected on her two-year tenure and the chamber's achievements before passing the role to Dr. Iacono, who emphasized his commitment to education, workforce development and economic growth in Morris County.

The Chamber luncheon also celebrated the success of individuals and businesses from throughout the county.

The keynote speaker, Sudeep Kesh, chief innovation officer at S&P Global Ratings, shared practical insights on mitigating risk while fostering creativity, strategies for navigating an increasingly connected economy, the future of human-AI collaboration and the critical "innovation imperative" for succeeding in a rapidly changing world.

Christine Cox-West, founding partner of The Fortis Agency, a financial services agency, was honored with the Saint Clare's Health William P. Huber Award for Outstanding Community Leadership. The award recognizes a person who displayed outstanding leadership to benefit the



(above, l-r) Morris County Commissioner Director Tayfun Selen delivers the State of the County. Keynote speaker, Sudeep Kesh, chief innovation officer at S&P Global Ratings.



Courtesy photos

community during the previous year.

In his remarks, Director Selen emphasized that Morris County's success is about synergy.

"It's about businesses investing here and schools educating our students. It's about leaders who drive innovation and economic growth. It's about the people who built our county and those who continue to build our communities by choosing to live and raise their families here," said Director Selen, who also thanked past and current county officials for ensuring that the county is prepared for a bright future.

Selen said 2026 will offer tremendous opportunities to boost tourism and support local businesses with the 250th anniversary of American Independence and the FIFA World Cup. Currently, the county has more than 120 restored historic sites, including the first National Historic Park, and is anticipating thousands of visitors for these two major events.

For more information on how you can participate in Morris County's 250th Anniversary, email 250@morriscountyalliance.org.



YOUR BELOVED BUT BROKEN ITEMS REPAIRED FOR FREE

Summit's Repair Cafe event, hosted by Repair Cafe Garden State, will offer free repairs on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Barnwell Hall in Christ Church from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., final repairs accepted at 2:30 p.m. Christ Church is located at 561 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ.

Repair services for this event will include electronics, lamps, woodworking, bicycles, sewing/textiles, and knife sharpening. Each person is permitted to bring a maximum of 2 items for repair.


Replacement lamps parts will be available at a nominal at-cost fee. Please ensure you can carry your items unassisted when bringing them to the event. No appointments are necessary; wait times may vary, as this event is not a drop-off service.

This event is co-sponsored by the Summit Area Green Faith Circle and Repair Cafe Garden State. For more information about Repair Cafe Garden State and other free Repair Cafe events throughout New Jersey, visit repaircafegs.org.

Repair volunteers are always welcome at this event, as well as all future repair events. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us on our website.

Courtesy photo







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ARIN HARKAWAT SPARKS CHANGE

Warren Hills Regional High School

Arin Harkawat, a senior at Watchung Hills Regional High School, is an environmental advocate who recently sparked change on 1,4-Dioxane Contamination.

The journey into environmental advocacy for Arin began with a poignant encounter at an environmental conference. While networking with speakers and attendees, Arin Harkawat, who grew up in Warren, was inspired by a man's heartfelt concerns over the deteriorating quality of his local waterways and tap water. This conversation prompted a deep dive into reports detailing toxic compounds in New Jersey's waterways, with one standing out repeatedly: 1,4-Dioxane. This chemical, commonly found in personal care products like shampoos and cosmetics, poses significant risks to human health, including potential liver and kidney damage, or even death. Alarming, New Jersey had no regulations addressing its presence. Recognizing the potential for severe environmental and health consequences, Harkawat resolved to act.

WHY 1,4-DIOXANE?

The decision to focus on 1,4-Dioxane was strategic. New York enacted regulations on the chemical in 2023, creating momentum for addressing this issue. The Environmental Justice Coalition, the campaign led by Catherine Callinan and Arin Harkawat and sponsored by Senator Raj Mukherji, decided to build on that progress in New Jersey, a state known for its environmental consciousness. Tackling 1,4-Dioxane served as a manageable first step, with hopes of expanding efforts to address broader concerns like lead contamination in the future.

RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Harkawat's campaign was rooted in extensive research. He pored over scientific studies, regulatory reports from agencies such as the EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and details of New York's legislation. Additionally, he leveraged a network of environmental leaders, professors, and members of the American Public Health Association's Environmental & Environmental Justice Committee. This network provided valuable insights, ensuring the campaign was informed and strategic.

MENTORSHIP AND GUIDANCE

Mentorship played a crucial role in shaping the advocate's approach. He drew inspiration and guidance from Dr. Natalie Sampson at the University of Michigan, who advised on growing the campaign. Other mentors from his summer internship with the Children's Environmental Health Network offered support



(above) Arin Harkawat is a Warren resident and a senior at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

Photo by WHRHS

on policy framing and legislative engagement. These experiences provided the tools needed to navigate complex advocacy efforts effectively.

ENGAGING LEGISLATORS

Interacting with legislators proved to be a key learning opportunity. Harkawat emphasized the importance of presenting well-researched, clear, and relatable arguments. Legislators sometimes lack expertise in specific environmental issues, making it critical to convey the urgency and practicality of proposed solutions in an accessible manner. This skill proved vital in gaining legislative support.

IMPACT ON CAREER AND FUTURE PLANS

The experience of pushing for a 1,4-Dioxane regulation has deeply influenced the advocate's career aspirations. It enhanced his understanding of environmental justice, policy development, and effective advocacy. Harkawat expressed a commitment to continuing this work by addressing water quality issues, particularly in marginalized communities, and expanding his focus to other environmental challenges. He

aims to measure the impact of their efforts and collaborate with others to drive meaningful change.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Persuading legislators to prioritize 1,4-Dioxane contamination was not without challenges. Harkawat noted that the real hurdle lay in fostering understanding and care for the issue. Identifying and working with the right legislators who shared his vision was critical to making progress. The advocate addressed these challenges by framing the issue as both urgent and solvable, emphasizing its long-term environmental and public health benefits.

MAKING COMPLEX SCIENCE ACCESSIBLE

One of the campaign's successes was simplifying complex scientific information about 1,4-Dioxane to engage a broader audience. Collaborating with peers and asking clarifying questions helped distill the issue into clear and actionable messages. By using human connections and storytelling, he was able to make the topic accessible to diverse audiences.

BALANCING ADVOCACY AND ACADEMICS

Balancing advocacy efforts with academic responsibilities required careful time management and dedication. Much of the advocacy work was done over the summer, allowing him to focus on his studies during the academic year. He acknowledged the importance of resilience, accepting setbacks, and finding motivation in the impact his work could have on others.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, Harkawat envisions a future where environmental justice is prioritized in underserved areas. He plans to expand his advocacy efforts, tackle new environmental challenges, and continue pushing for impactful legislation. His ultimate goal is to ensure cleaner waterways and healthier communities, proving that change starts with a single voice and the determination to make a difference.

To learn more about Arin Harkawat's campaign, please visit:

environmentaljusticecoalition.org.

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MARCH EVENTS LONG HILL TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

Virtual Bingo Night

When: Wednesday, March 12th, 5:30pm

Who: Free for all Long Hill Residents of any age

Join Long Hill Township Parks & Recreation for St. Patrick's Day Virtual Bingo

a night of fun, laughter, and a wee bit of luck!

Play from the comfort of your home and compete for prizes! Don't miss out and register now at register.communitypass.net/longhill Snow Sculpture Contest - Show Off Your Creativity!

Get outside, have some fun, and let your imagination run wild in the snow!

Enter Long Hill Township Parks & Recreation's Snow Sculpture Contest

by submitting up to three photos of your best creations.

Prizes awarded to judges' favorites
Open to all Long Hill Residents - all ages welcome

Free Entry

Contest ends: March 17, 2025

Don't miss out on the frosty fun! Register at register.communitypass.net/longhill

Kantor Park Official Ribbon Cutting

March 26, 4 - 6 p.m.

Join us at Kantor Park to celebrate our new playground and have some fun with the gnomes. Gnome games and family scavenger hunt. Face painting sponsored by the Long Hill Moms Club. The Long Hill Library will have a special StoryWalk in the park. Story Time, and lots more! No pre-registration necessary. Free to all Long Hill Township residents.

Hiring for Summer 2025!

Looking for a fun and rewarding summer job? Long Hill Township Parks & Recreation is now accepting applications for summer positions at Stirling Lake and Summer Rec Camp! Don't miss your chance to be part of an exciting team while making a difference in the community.

Applications are open until April 1, 2025.

For job details and to apply, visit:

longhillnj.gov/pages/employment-in-parks-and-recreation.

UNFORGETTABLE CONCERTS AT DREW

MARCH 30 AT 3 PM: RE-LIVE THE BEATLES

Step into a time machine and relive the magic of the Fab Four's illustrious career. This isn't just a concert—it's a nostalgic voyage that captures the essence of an era and celebrates the music that changed the world! Experience iconic moments like The Ed Sullivan Show, Shea Stadium, the Sgt. Pepper era, and Abbey Road. Enjoy timeless hits like "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," and "Come Together." This immersive performance features dazzling costume changes, exquisite musicianship, powerful vocals, and a stunning multimedia backdrop, transporting you straight back to the 60s.

APRIL 6 AT 3 PM: MICHAEL PATRICK'S RING OF FIRE BAND: A JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE

Prepare to be captivated by Michael Patrick's heartfelt tribute to the legendary Johnny Cash. Over a decade ago, Michael Patrick fell in love with Johnny Cash's music—the simplicity, sincerity, and deep, expressive voice. Enjoy classics like "Ring of Fire," "Walk the Line," and "Folsom Prison Blues." Jenni Bee performs the songs of June Carter Cash, including "Jackson" and "Wildwood Flower." The Ring of Fire Band has shared the stage with Cash Family members and legends like Randy Travis and Clint Black. With annual tours in the South and sold-out shows from NYC to Boston, the Ring of Fire Band keeps Johnny Cash's legacy burning bright.

Don't miss these spectacular performances by New Jersey's best bands! These talented local musicians bring their passion, energy, and unique sound to every performance. Experience the vibrant music scene of New Jersey and support your local artists. Whether you're a fan of rock, pop, doo-wop, or tribute bands, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Join us for an unforgettable musical journey and be part of the excitement!

Tickets are \$30-45 Get your tickets before they sell out! Visit GDPresents.simpletix.com or call 917-567-5842. For group rates and phone orders, email us at GDPresentstix@gmail.com.



Long Hill Parks & Recreation

Join us at Kantor Park to celebrate our new playground and have some fun with the gnomes!

Wednesday, March 26th
4pm - 6pm

Official Ribbon Cutting
Gnome Games and Family Scavenger Hunt. Face painting sponsored by the Long Hill MOMS Club. The Long Hill Library will have a special StoryWalk® in the park, Story Time, and lots more!
Light refreshments.

Come help us celebrate the magical fun of Kantor Park. You can't imagine the fun these gnomes have in store for you...sneaky little guys!

No pre-registration necessary.
FREE for all Long Hill Township children.






Rain/snow date: 4/2, 4pm
Updates on website:
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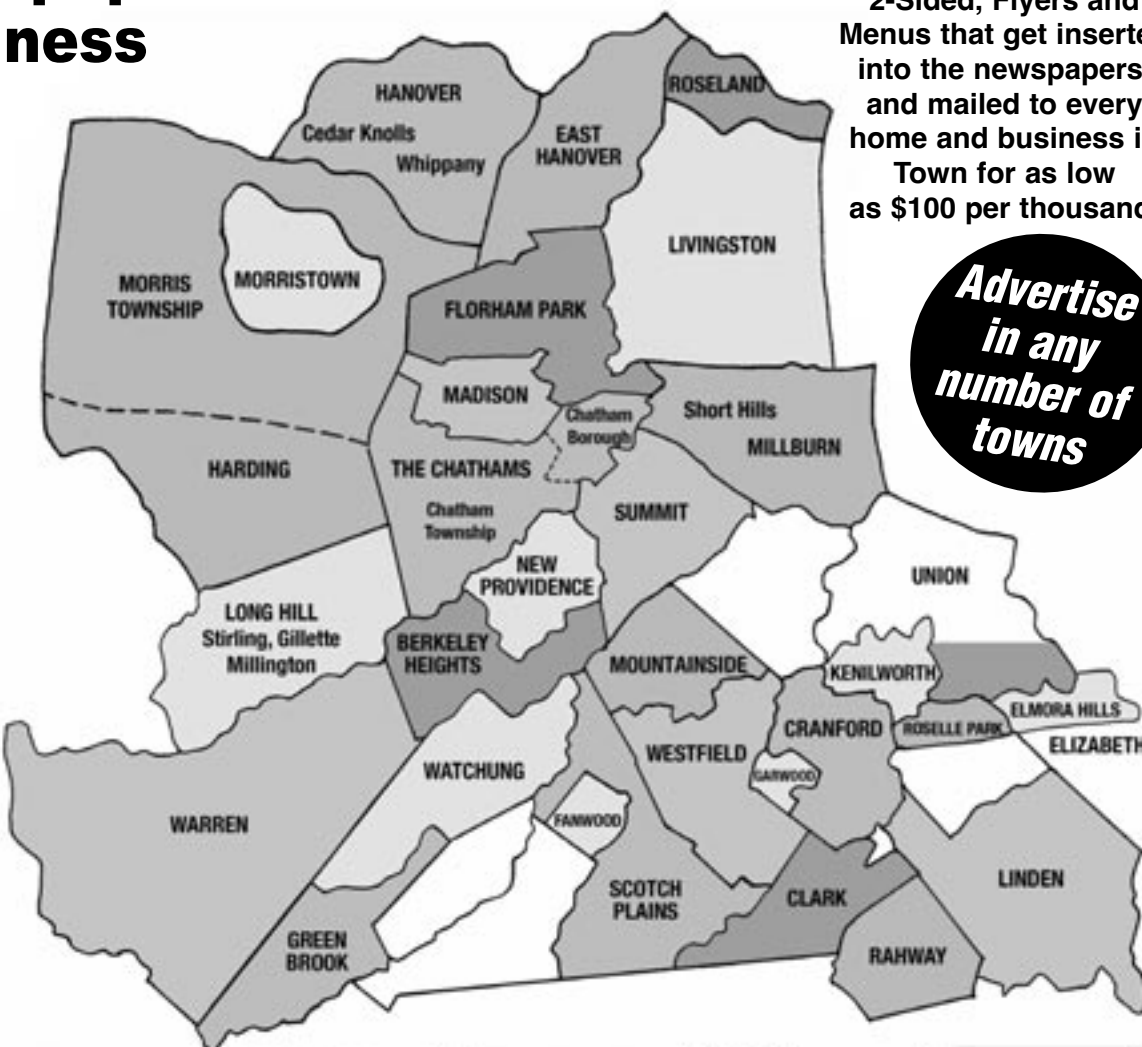
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
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Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am to 8pm, Fri – 10am to 5pm, Sat – 10am to 2pm, Sun 1pm to 5pm

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

Read to a Dog Storytime with Creature Comfort Pet Therapy

Saturday, March 15 @ 10:30am

Join us for storytime with a therapy dog from Creature Comfort. Participants will have a chance to sit independently and read to one of the dogs. No registration required!

Chess Lessons – Drop In

March 15 12:30 pm

Chess Lessons intended for children in Kindergarten through sixth grade who are beginners or have some chess experience.

Registration is not necessary.

Special Piggy Bank Toddler Storytime & Craft presented by Citizens Bank of Stirling

March 20 at 10:30am

Storytime reading of "Just a Piggy bank" by with accompanying craft.

Guitar Lessons for Kids

March 22 12:30 pm

Join us for guitar lessons for children aged 6 to 18. No registration required. Please bring your own guitar. We are NOT able to supply guitars to participants.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Winter Non-Fiction Reading Challenge Through March 20

Pick up your reading challenge sheet at the Library or print off of the website, longhilllibrary.org, to be entered into a raffle for prizes! Earn one raffle entry for every complete sheet. Earn bonus entries for every non-fiction book of which you post a review on the LHT Library Facebook or Instagram page! Make sure you turn your sheet in by 3/20!

St. Patrick's Day Live Concert

Sunday, March 9 @ 1:30pm

Join us for beautiful Irish music in time for St. Patrick's day performed on the cello by Alex Prizgintas. What an exciting way to celebrate Irish spirits and all things green! The unique sound of Alex Prizgintas' electrified cello includes reels and jigs along with giges and traditional Irish tunes. It even features a hit from the Irish rock Group U2, "With or Without You," signatures from Bing Crosby such as "When Irish Eyes are Smiling," and the beautiful hymn "Be Thou My Vision."

Getting Help Paying for College

Wednesday, March 12 @ 7pm on Zoom

Budgeting and paying for college can be a stressful task, made more complex when trying to understand all the types of financial aid that may be available to students and their families. In this workshop, Kate Balboni will outline the differences between need-based and merit-based aid and how families can understand their eligibility for both. Kate will also cover how to browse, select, and apply for appropriate scholarships and how to file the FAFSA and CSS Profile when seeking need-based aid.

NJ Makers Day Event: Purl Power

Saturday, March 22 @ 10am

This is our fourth year partnering with the Gates Avenue Knitters on this fun project.

These experienced local knitters are volunteering their time to teach community members how to knit. Folks interested in learning how to knit (of all ages!) are welcome to stop by and sit down at a table in our large meeting room. There the volunteers will supply the materials and the advice on how to get started. Maker's Day is all about making something- tinkering, learning, thinking and doing. Other fun events throughout the day including the ever-popular badge making!

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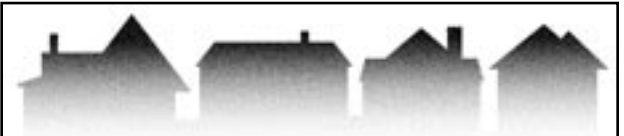
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