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THE JOYFUL SHOPPE OPENS IN DOWNTOWN MADISON

A vibrant new retail and community event destination called The Joyful Shoppe opened its doors in downtown Madison on February 1, 2025. The shoppe offers unique gifts and supports local artisans with a mission to provide “Gifts that Give Back.” The Joyful Shoppe will also be a gathering space for the community, hosting open mic nights, live music, craftmaking and game nights. A portion of all proceeds from both retail and event sales will go to The Support Network, a local Madison 501c3 non-profit organization that aims to reduce isolation and improve mental health by bringing people together to make friends, share resources and have fun.

The visionary behind The Joyful Shoppe is Jenny Stone, a local writer, theater and film producer, and Madison mom. “I wanted to create a space that would bring people together with a shared purpose that benefits the Madison community,” says Jenny. “Building a partnership with The Support Network for this endeavor was a no brainer given how aligned our missions and values are.”

Jenny designed and thoughtfully curated The Joyful Shoppe to warm and welcome all visitors whether you are looking for vintage décor, art or handbags created by local makers or simply a place to have a shared experience. When you enter

the store, you will be greeted by knowledgeable shoppe staff, many of whom are volunteers which will help to ensure a greater portion of sales go to The Support Network. “My hope is that every person who steps foot in The Joyful Shoppe experiences genuine connection and joy and leaves knowing they made a positive impact on our community with their time and money well spent,” says Jenny.

- Upcoming events at The Joyful Shoppe include:
- March 6th @ 6pm: Open Mic Night
 - March 7th and March 21st @ 7pm: Learn to Knit with Ashley
 - March 14th @ 6:30pm: “Meet my Friend” Singles and Wingpeople Event
 - March 16th @ 11am: Brunch and Books
 - March 20th @ 6pm: Singer / Songwriter Coffee House Night with Live Music

For a full list of events and to learn more about The Joyful Shoppe, visit the store at 42 Lincoln Place across from the Madison Train Station, or follow The Support Network on Instagram.

The Joyful Shoppe store hours are Tuesday – Saturday from 11am – 5pm with extended hours for events.

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(above, l-r) Edelwiess Brescia, The Joyful Shoppe Creative Director & Store Stylist; Jen Walters, The Support Network; Jenny Stone, The Joyful Shoppe Founder and Visionary; Magdalena Tarnawska, The Joyful Shoppe Store Manager.

Courtesy photos

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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.

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WHITE HOUSE HISTORY LECTURE – MARCH 18

Madison Historical Society

Designed by an Irish architect, the White House is one of the world's most iconic buildings. It took 8 years to build, was burned down, nearly fell down, and was almost painted black. It has grown in every direction, yet amazingly still looks the same. From President John Adams in 1800 to President Donald Trump in 2025, each US chief executive has lived and worked there. Elvis was there too!

Join us Tuesday, March 18, 2025 @ 7 p.m. at Madison Community Arts Center, 10 Kings Rd., Madison. Enjoy an entertaining and fascinating tour through time of America's Executive Mansion led by Patricia Wells. This program is free and open to the public.

Patricia Wells is an educator, historian, and storyteller whose great pleasure is sharing her love of history. Since retiring, she has been deeply involved in the neighboring Chatham Township Historical Society and some of her favorite topics include – the Great Swamp, the White House, the Pilgrims, and the Revolutionary War.



(above) Earliest known photo of the White House, 1846.

Credit: Library of Congress, John Plumbe, Jr.

CORNERED BEEF FUND RAISER – MARCH 10

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #43

*In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans,
God and Country*

The ladies of American Legion Auxiliary Unit #43 have completed plans for their Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner held annually for close to 60 years. The Auxiliary will serve a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, and Corned Beef Sandwiches on Sunday, March 10 from 1-5 p.m. at the Madison-Florham Park American Legion Post #43, 20 Ridgedale Avenue in Florham Park. For a complete dinner including "home baked" Irish Soda Bread and dessert a donation of \$15 is suggested. Also available will be a Corned Beef Sandwich and sides at a suggested donation of \$10. For a child under 10 years of age the donation will be \$5. Take-out orders will be available starting at noon.

Unit President Fran Derin of Florham Park

invites all residents of the area to join Auxiliary members for dinner on Sunday, March 10 to show support for the volunteer and financial support they provide to area veterans in need. The annual fundraiser has also made it possible over the years to sponsor the following in our local communities: local high school girls to Girls State, an annual leadership development program; supporting college scholarships at various levels of the organization for children and grandchildren of veterans; donations to Family Promise providing help for the homeless in Morris County; and provide donations at Christmas to Toys for Tots and Special Olympics.

The ladies of Unit #43 look forward to seeing many of their neighbors at this annual event. If further details are needed, please contact Unit President Fran Derin at francesderin@aol.com.

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Madison Branch of AAUW

The Madison Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is now accepting applications for its Mature Women's Grant. We are proud of our more than eighty years' heritage of supporting women who wish to further their education. Each year the Branch awards several scholarships to local women. Download the application at our website: madisonareaaauw.org/mature-womans-grant

To apply for consideration the eligibility requirements are (Applicant must meet all requirements):

Be a woman

Be age 25 or over

Be a resident of one of the following NJ towns: Chatham, Chatham Township, East Hanover, Florham Park, Harding Township, Madison, Morristown, Morris Township, Morris Plains or Randolph Township.

Use the grant for education-related expenses incurred in pursuit of a degree or certification.

Grant applications must be received by Monday, April 4, 2025. Please direct any questions to our email account: aauwgrant@hotmail.com

AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century. Our Madison area branch continues to support education with grants, programs that expose teen girls to STEM, topical monthly programs, and member special interest groups such as a book club, a mahjong game, book sales and more. Join us to find purpose, community and friendship at madisonareaaauw.org.



(above, l-r) Alissa Pacheco and Yeosun Lee, two of the four 2024 winners of the the Madison Area AAUW Branch Mature Woman

Courtesy photo

SINGING AT THE THRESHOLD

Garden State Threshold Choir

A choir that rehearses but does not perform. A choir that goes in a very small group to sing to one person at a time. A choir whose mission is to provide, not entertainment, but kindness and comfort, to someone who is dying. That is a Threshold Choir.

Threshold Choir is a nonprofit network of about 200 chapters across the country and abroad. And there is one right here in Whippany, NJ, called the Garden State Threshold Choir.

Founded 25 years ago, Threshold Choir singers go, by invitation, to sing at the bedside of those crossing life's challenging thresholds, especially the final threshold between living and dying.

The Garden State Threshold Choir began in 2017 when Whippany resident Judy Hahn retired, looked for a chapter to join, and, finding none nearby, started recruiting to form a new chapter. "It takes time and patience to establish a new chapter," says Hahn. "And it takes time and patience for each singer to be ready to do this work. What we have is an incredibly dedicated and compassionate group of women."

Arriving in a group of two to four singers at a hospital, nursing facility or home, they carry folding stools and sit by the bed. "Even if the hospice patient is nonresponsive, we believe they can hear us and feel the vibrations of our harmonies," says Hahn. "For those close to the

end, it is said that we are 'singing them home.'"

Threshold Choir has its own unique repertoire of songs, written mostly by members. The songs are simple and short, sung softly a capella, first in unison, then repeated and layered with harmonies. The lyrics speak of rest, comfort, letting go, or about peacefulness and love.

"People wonder how we can sing to a dying person," noted Cedar Knolls resident Bonnie Adams. "But to us it's an honor to be present in that sacred, intimate space. We see the breathing relax; and when the patient is surrounded by family, the songs give voice to their feelings and help them grieve."

The Garden State chapter is accepting inquiries for membership. A singer has to be able to carry a tune, hold her own part in harmony, blend with other voices, be willing to self-monitor and accept gentle feedback, and, above all, communicate kindness with their voice. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings, alternating between Zoom sessions and in-person at the First Presbyterian Church of Whippany.

Threshold Choir is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that honors all spiritual paths and has no religious affiliation. All of the chapter's services are free of charge.

Much more information about Threshold Choir is available on thresholdchoir.org, and about the Garden State Threshold Choir at thresholdchoir.org/Garden_State

Courtesy photo



(above) GSTC members Judy Hahn, Rockie French and Delia Cashin sing at a hospice facility.

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COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS SELEN

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.

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ROTARY CLUBS TEAM UP FOR END HUNGER EVENT - MARCH 8TH

Madison Rotary Club

On Saturday, March 8th, the Madison and Mental Health Rotary Clubs are teaming up to host an fun food packaging event at Grace Church in Madison, NJ. This impactful event aims to assemble and package 40,000 meals for distribution to local food pantries, providing much-needed support to our community members facing food insecurity.

The event will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A team challenge will kick off the event at 9:00 a.m. to see which team can pack the most meals in one hour. "This is a great team building opportunity in addition to being fun" said Joe Smith, one of the event's organizers from Madison Rotary. Each team of ten volunteers or the team's sponsor is asked to donate \$1,000 to help cover the cost of the meals.

Following the team challenge, a second shift will begin at 11:00 a.m. and a third at 1:00 p.m. During each shift, up to 50 volunteers from the community will work across five assembly lines to package apple cinnamon oatmeal. All of the meals packaged during the day will be given to local pantries to distribute to their clients.

Madison Rotary has held this community event several times in the past, but this is the first packaging event since March of 2020, just days before everything shut down due to Covid. In total, Madison Rotary has packaged and locally distributed over 700,000 meals since 2017 and

continues to focus on food insecurity as one of their core missions.

Teams and individuals from the community can sign up to participate on the Madison Rotary website madisonrotaryny.org. Donations to support this event or Rotary's mission can be

made at the same website.

For more information about the event, please email Joe Smith at jtsmith0443@gmail.com.

Visit madisonrotarynj.org for more information about Madison Rotary.



(above) The happy team of Nancy Willis, Lisa Lill, Susan Massengill, Kim Jensen, John Desmond, Doug Willis, Steve Anderson, Steve Jensen, Mary Ficke and Kay Smith at the last Madison Rotary End Hunger event in March 2020.

Courtesy photo

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LOCAL SWIMMERS CELEBRATE 21ST ANNUAL AWARDS BREAKFAST

Masters Yardstick Swimmers

A group of Masters Swimmers from Madison and the surrounding area have now had the privilege of swimming together for more than two decades at the Madison YMCA, the Madison Community Pool, the Summit YMCA and other close by locations. Traditionally, we track monthly swim yardage for the entire year on a user-friendly web site (with support from our web site coordinator Barry Lass). Each of our 70 swimmers has a chance to see how they rank throughout the year in total yards within the group in a monthly newsletter.

As we do every year in January, the Masters Yardstick Swimmers gathered recently at our 21st Annual Awards Breakfast on January 4th- a combined live (at the Kemmerer Library in Harding Township) and online (via Zoom) event- with strong participation (30 in person and 10 on Zoom)! Planned by longtime swimmers Bob Nissen, Joe Donohue, and Richard Clew, with support from Bill Sullivan and Barbara Wattenbach, the multi-media slide show and event highlighted activities of 2024 (aided by our group historian, Barbara Rushman) and brought us together in such a way that all active members could enjoy.

It began with a summary from a questionnaire

on how various participants have progressed and achieved swimming goals throughout the year. We were also entertained with a Surprise Video Tape and Congratulations Message from Rowdy Gaines, 3-time Olympic Gold Medal Winner in Swimming. Rowdy had recently visited the Madison YMCA in the summer of 2024 to address the Madison Mariners Swim Team.

We then assessed our group swimming achievement this year. Collectively, we swam 27.3 million yards in 2024, or 15,525 miles! Since 2004, our cumulative swimming efforts are amazing- logging 398 million yards- or more than 226,000 miles! That is equivalent to swimming “around the world” more than 9 times! Our goal in 2025- to REACH THE MOON- which will now require only 12,500 more miles of swimming yards- well within our reach.

Many of our swimmers enjoy participating in group workouts at the Walker D. Kirby Aquatics Center in its modern eight lane pool at the Madison YMCA. For further information on the pool and swim program, please contact the main desk at the Madison YMCA at 973-822-9622.

We moved on to the highlight of the event- our Annual Awards. Albie Ashbrook of Chatham, Lauren Webster-Garcia of Morris

Township, and Susan Kirk of Califon were each named “Bold Performer of the Year”, for demonstrating improved performance, exceptional effort, and a special commitment to the swimming program. The Team Competition was outstanding, with each of our two squads averaging more than 1 million yards every month. Ultimately, the Moonbound Masters (led by Captain Cindy Viola) bested the Moonstrokers (led by Captain Bill Sjoval).

Finally, our top two swimmers for 2024 were runner up Jennifer Bauman of Parsippany, and Yardstick Winner Jane Ikeda of Mendham, swimming 1,323,895 yards, or 752 miles! Jane was awarded the Doug Clark Championship Yardstick, named in memory of our former “Yardstick Swimmer”.

We all had a great time and were so happy to connect with our swimming friends for the 21st annual celebration. And we will continue our monthly yard tracking in 2025 and are convinced that our program will grow in numbers! Adult swimmers of all levels from beginners to experts are welcome to the Masters programs.

To learn more about our Yardstick Challenge, please contact Bob Nissen at bobnissen@gmail.com.



(above) Row 1- Bree Olivari, Nicole Sullivan, Deborah Fennelly, Lynda Przedpelski; Row 2- Marcia Postallian, Noreen McManus, Bob Nissen, Yardstick Champion Jane Ikeda, Barbara Rushman, Joe Balwierczak, Cindy Viola; Row 3- Bill Sullivan, Chachi Sabatino, Barbara Wattenbach, Bonnie Gannon, Diane Dinsmore, Nicole Bearce, Barry Lass, Andrew Moyad; Row 4- Kristin Kreider, Bill Sjoval, Bill Orton, Phil Ankel, Albie Ashbrook, Susan Kirk, Richard Clew, John Galvin, Richard McKern

MADISON LIBRARY MARCH PROGRAMS

39 Keep Street Madison, NJ 07940.

All lecture programs are online via Zoom unless stated otherwise.

You will receive Zoom instructions and online meeting information in your registration confirmation email in addition to a reminder email prior to the date of the program. Please register at madisonnjlibrary.org

Henri de Toulouse Lautrec: The Mayor of Montmartre

Monday, March 10th @ 7pm

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec was a Post-Impressionist French painter, printmaker, and illustrator who immersed himself in the colorful and sometimes decadent world of Paris's circuses, theaters, cabarets, and brothels.

He recorded his experiences in enticing, elegant, and provocative images, which we will explore as we learn about his brief, extraordinary life. Hosted by art historian, Janet Mandel.

Art Collector Lillie P. Bliss

Tuesday, March 11th @ 7pm

Lillie P. Bliss, was an American art collector and patron. At the beginning of the 20th century, she was one of the leading collectors of modern art in New York. One of the lenders to the landmark Armory Show in 1913, she also contributed to other exhibitions concerned with raising public awareness of modern art. In 1929, she played an essential role in the founding of the Museum of Modern Art. After her death, 150 works of art from her collection served as a foundation to the museum and

formed the basis of the in-house collection. These included works by artists such as Paul Cézanne, Georges Seurat, Paul Gauguin, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso and Amedeo Modigliani.

Frank Lloyd Wright Overview

Tuesday, March 25th @ 7pm

No other architect in the US changed the way we think about the built environment in modern times more than Frank Lloyd Wright. With a career spanning 7 decades, he first made a name for himself with his Prairie Homes, coining the term 'Organic Architecture' and culminating with Falling Waters, built on top of a waterfall! We will explore many of his outstanding designs together and follow the development of his style, use of materials and techniques, including the decorative arts! Hosted by Art Historian, Sylvia Laudien Meo.

How to Look: Impressionism with Jay Shuck

Thursday, March 27th @ 7pm

Survey the art of late 19th century Paris with art historian, Jay Schuck. Examine the major themes and styles of Impressionism through the artwork of Claude Monet, Édouard Manet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and more.

COMMUNITY GENEROUSLY SUPPORTS ITS LIBRARY

Friends of the Madison Public Library

Each year, the Friends of the Madison Public Library (the Friends), a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, reach out to the community to ask its support for the Library through its Annual Appeal. With the 2024 Appeal nearing an end, contributions have now topped \$56,000, an all-time high!

Friends' Co-Chair Kathy Trombacco commented, "We are so moved by the generous response of our community, especially after the months of renovations to the Library!"

In fact, the Library and its patrons rely on these contributions to the Friends for critical supplemental funding. The gifts enable the Friends to support the Library's collection of books, videos and streaming services. Popular items, such as the Summer Reading Program, the Museum Pass program and other special programs and events for children and adults, are also funded by contributions. Thanks to the support of donors, the Friends were also able to contribute \$100,000 towards the Library's recent renovations.

If you would like to join your community in supporting the Madison Public Library through the Friends' Annual Appeal, donations can still be made by visiting the Friends' website www.friendsmadisonnjlibrary.org and making a secure online donation.



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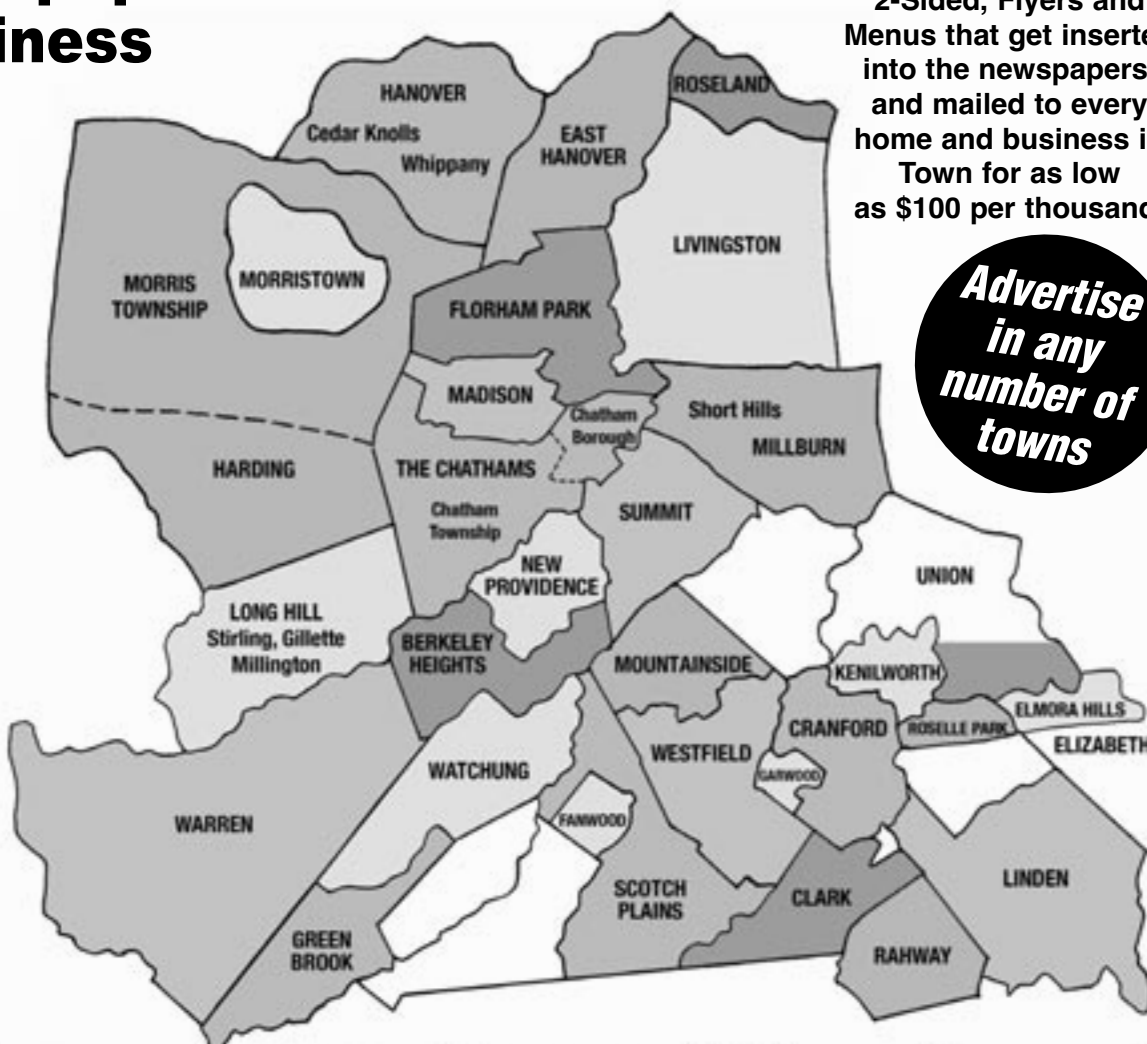
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6 Units 6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE 6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units 6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
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